

# Reality of Moving. Ups and Downs

By Lois Tager



**Having recently moved from California to Arizona, the reality of what one needs to accomplish when relocating and why, certainly can be considered one of life's lessons.**

We retired from our respective positions and decided to retire to Arizona for a number of reasons. Cost of living was an important factor and real estate is far more affordable in Arizona. It was also important to move to a warm climate and nearer to children and grandchildren. Arizona answered all of our concerns.

I must admit that leaving the Bay Area after 36 years was a huge concern, however, I was determined to go with a positive attitude.

One very difficult part of the move was deciding what you no longer needed and where to dispose of it and staging your home in preparation to sell.

Four months prior to our move, we started the “packing” process. Purchasing boxes, labeling each box and storing the boxes take time and diligence. Our “shed” in the back of our home and garage became the receiver of the boxes.

Packing up is a tiring and laborious job. We found it necessary to hire a strong handyman to help with moving the heaviest boxes. We also separated the items no longer needed in our new home. Consignment stores took some of the furniture and the Salvation Army was our “go to” place for all charitable donations.

During this time, we contacted three moving companies for estimates. One was a local mover, one a long distance carrier and the third was a long distance, small, family owned mover.

To our surprise, prices varied quite a bit. We were concerned about insurance and storage until ready to physically move into our new home. Some companies were not able to store our belongings but would turn them over to a company in AZ.

We felt that one mover should be responsible for all our “stuff,” therefore; we chose a company who was able to store our belongings in CA and ship them directly to us when able to move into our home in AZ.

There are many opinions about staging a home. Some people, realtors especially, feel that when you stage a home properly, the property looks bigger, cleaner and more inviting.

Some pack up everything in the home including furniture and bring in a staging company. Since we decided to remain in our home until the house sold, we chose to stage the home with our own furniture.

Our realtor worked with us as to what to keep and what to store. Family pictures were removed from the house as well as a number of paintings. The paintings that were kept for staging were lowered. The end result was that the home was beautifully presented and looked uncluttered and open. We were fortunate to sell our home within three weeks.

We have now been in our new home four months and truly love the area. Seeing our youngest grandson and one at Arizona State University is a gift we cherish. Thank goodness for the GPS system which helps me learn the area and find destinations without frustration. We found our new neighbors to be welcoming and a true blessing.

Moving to a new home, whether near or far can be daunting.

Believing that new and wonderful experiences are yet to be discovered is a recipe for happiness.