

News

Sifting through memories and more with The Move Managers

BY LISA HOLDREN

When you hire The Move Managers, you hire two professional women who know that hearts are often heavier than boxes of possessions on moving day.

Jan Somers and Willie Linsk joined forces to create a specialized business that works with seniors and their families or friends when it's time to downsize, move to a new residence or prepare a home for sale.

"I couldn't have done it without her," client Randy Port said of Somers, praising her compassion and support. "There was lots of stress moving my mother to an assisted living home. Best money spent to do tedious, difficult work in less than three weeks."

It's all done with kindness, sensitivity, firmness and finesse, on-time and on-budget. Somers tends to be the one to soothe the anguish, pump up sagging spirits and untie emotional knots, while Linsk sorts out the practical details, organizing and arranging the endeavor from A to Z.

"Willie is an artist when it comes to packing," client Julie Aron said. "I could never get so much to fit in one box."

Having moved four dozen times between the two of them, it's amazing that these two women ever met.

Somers, a psychotherapist with a Certificate in Gerontology, moved to California from Colorado to be closer to her aging father. Via friends and professional meetings, she met Linsk, a calm, tailored business woman with over 30 years' experience as a project



Willie Linsk and Jan Somers.

administrator and event planner.

From Pasadena to Beverly Hills, West Hollywood to the San Fernando Valley, Somers and Linsk have turned clients into friends. Even after the move has been completed, they follow-up with a friendly phone call to make sure everything is in order. They even send clients a "Happy Summer" card, instead of the typical holiday card.

Celebrating their first anniversary, Somers and Linsk remember their first job, a referral from a friend. "We've learned a lot since then," Somers noted with a sigh and laughter. "One toilet overflowed and the client walked in on me in the other one, the furniture wouldn't fit in the truck, then the truck broke down."

"We wondered what else could go wrong," Linsk added, rolling

her eyes. "The moving company paid for a hotel and storage for six wardrobe boxes for the elderly couple."

The work of The Move Managers is not about boxes – it's about the people, their homes, their families and lives.

Somers and Linsk know how uniquely personal and private the process can be. A diamond ring found in the refrigerator wrapped in tin foil, hundred dollar bills stashed in box springs – each case presents details that could be easily overlooked.

"Clients are surprised sometimes at what we find," Linsk said. "As for the hundreds of pairs of chopsticks and foil celery twisters we found jammed into two kitchen drawers, well, no one needed to know...Would you want to know your parent did that?"

Norine Boehmen, a professional fiduciary, praised The Move Managers. "My client had lived in one room since the 1970s," she said. "They came, cleaned it out in six hours. It was seamless as possible, very efficient, very professional. They come to you and they're on time and responsible."

Linsk explained how three large, sturdy, blue plastic bags play a central role: keepers, give-away, and trash. She holds up each item and asks, "Do you still want this?"

She knows a client might have trouble deciding whether it's more important to keep the Lalique vase or the linen tablecloth given as a wedding gift 50 years ago.

"If the client wants to take the tablecloth and donate the vase, that's okay. Seniors oftentimes think they are what they have; they identify with certain objects."

Even when adult children come to their parents' home during the move, they can find it difficult to downsize. The bedroom that was theirs 35 years ago, and has since become something else, still has memories and maybe long-forgotten belongings.

These women understand that it's all about letting go with benevolence.

One lesson learned is to tie-up the bags at night. "If we don't, by morning, things have jumped into a different bag and there's not much trash," Somers and Linsk say in unison, laughing together. ✨

Learn more about The Move Managers by calling (818) 753-7737 or visiting www.themovemanagers.com.

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