

Your kids probably do not want your family's furniture or heirlooms

By Gary L. Calligas

A short while ago, I wrote an article about decluttering your home before you move, downsize, or die. It has caused a remarkable interest in more people doing this very difficult task now rather than later. Namely, starting to throw away unneeded items away, sell many items, donate items to local charities, but willing to give them to family and friends. Sadly, what I learned from my own kids and their spouses, they really did not want many of the family heirlooms and even the furniture of the parents and those that was passed down from several generations. I learned that this tendency is pretty common today as these young adults have changing tastes, but more often they lack space in their homes/apartments, and they probably do not have an empty attic space or external storage bin. Today, many young adults are very mobile in the work experience that they don't want to have to move the extra furniture and items from city to city in their upward career paths. So, do remember that many of our children and grandchildren really do not want those things of our family's past even though they might have sentimental value to you and I. Young adults do not want to have or own things of the past, but rather they do want modern high-tech items in their homes and apartments that take up less space and can be easily moved.

When parents, grandparents, and family members pass away, there is the desire to quickly share and give away family heirlooms and furniture; however, it is getting more difficult at that time to dispose of previously valuable furniture, china, jewelry, artwork, antiques, and glassware to family members. This change of acceptance now requires executors of estates to utilize other methods of dispose of those family treasures and items. Some do host estate sales, but others just donate the estate items to local charities. However, there are now some charities who are becoming more selective on what they will accept as donations, so you might end up just throwing the somewhat value items away.

Yes, hosting an estate sale or garage sale is good but requires time and effort. But do remember that selling of antiques and other furniture is becoming more difficult. Surprisingly, these garage/estate sales are most popular to buyers for good quality toys, children books, and children furniture. If you have many high quality and high priced furniture, jewelry, artwork, and oriental rugs, you should consider utilizing the services of a professional senior move manager to help you liquidate these high priced items. The use of their services causes less stress and less time on the family members.

Here are some other suggestions:

1. Start the decluttering of your parents and grandparents home while they are still alive. Ask them to share stories about the furniture, heirlooms, and items which might encourage a family member to appreciate receiving the item, but if no family members wants these notable items, it might even add background information when an estate sale takes place and a potential buyer wants more information about the item.

2. If you are going to sell unneeded items by yourself, then give yourself plenty of item to promote the item for sale as it might take months to sell them.
3. If you have the time, go online to research items on various websites to determine the history and value of the item on the open market, especially for artwork, china, silverware, crystal glassware, and antique furniture and rugs.
4. Get jewelry and coins appraised, as this could take longer than you estimate but as I have found, it might result in some remarkable findings.
5. Ask around your market area, if there are persons who are collectors of items, such as commemorative plates, spoons, pins, tools, glassware, fishing lures, etc. Some of your estate items might be quite valuable to the collectors and also help you pass these family heirlooms to persons who will keep and admire them.
6. Consider taking some items to a local area consignment shop.

We are at a time when seniors and boomers are both downsizing and decluttering. Many of us have purchased, collected, and hoarded lots of items in our homes and storage units. Some of us are now trying to give away them to our kids and grandkids, but many of these young adults are just not interested in receiving them. I challenge each of you to share the stories of these heirlooms and items with your kids and grandkids that they might appreciate the sentimental value, and then accept a few of your family heirlooms to pass down to their families for many years to come.

(Note: Make plans to tune into THE BEST OF TIMES RADIO HOUR on Saturday, February 25th from 9:05 am to 10:00 am CST on NEWS RADIO 710 KEEL, also on 101.7 FM, and streaming live on the internet at www.710KEEL.com and live via the RadioPUP APP on apple and android devices. This radio show will feature internationally known professional organizer and productivity consultant, Marcie Lovett, to how to declutter your home or office.)

Gary L. Calligas is the publisher of *The Best of Times*, a free monthly magazine for mature adults in Northwest Louisiana and is the host of *The Best of Times Radio Hour* which airs at 9:05 am CST every Saturday on NEWS RADIO 710 KEEL or streaming live at www.710KEEL.com or via the RadioPUP on apple and android devices. For more information, please visit www.thebestoftimesnews.com or email gary.calligas@gmail.com.