

## Those Lightbulb Moments

*By Marilyn Reeves*

On a warm summer day back in 1969 I was standing at the ironing board ironing a shirt, when I was suddenly struck with an epiphany – one of those so-called ‘lightbulb moments’ of absolute clarity that tells you that a major change is coming and what you must do to bring it about. Despite the heartache, despite the risk, it was time to strike out in a new direction. So after 6-1/2 years of trying to make a mismatched marriage work, I finally decided to ask for a divorce. Time would confirm that it was the right decision for both of us.

The next time that happened to me was in 1988. I had gone to work for a print shop where I had learned to set type – the most satisfying work I’d ever done. After the shop shut down I tried couple of other jobs, but I really missed typesetting. Then one day it suddenly came to me: I should go into business for myself! So I took a chance and borrowed enough money to buy my own typesetting machine and sub-leased a small space from another company in Cherry Creek North that also served the printing industry. A couple of years later I moved my equipment to my home but continued doing the work I loved for several more years.

Then one fall day in 2003 I was standing out in front of the little house in southeast Aurora where I had lived for twenty-four years, looking at the lawn which was gradually being overtaken by weeds, the garage door that needed to be replaced, and the house itself that was in need of a paint job. Suddenly I experienced another epiphany: “I’ve got to move!” And I needed to find a condo, not a house. I was done doing yardwork.

I began by checking on line for available condominiums. The website was dominated by ads for places in Windsor Gardens. So I contacted a realtor who showed me a number of available units and fell in love with the one overlooking the bench on the little triangle surrounded by apple trees. I knew that was the one for me. But first I had to sell the house.

At first I tried selling it ‘as is’ and even found a buyer, but the contract fell through when the wife quit her job. Well, what to do? I really wanted that condo! My son suggested that I take out a home equity loan on the house and go ahead and buy the condominium in a leap of faith that the house would sell. Which is exactly what I did. After I moved, I spent another \$5,000 fixing up the old place until it looked so good I almost wanted to move back in. The first week it went back on the market I had two interested buyers – the old house sold right away.

Once in a while life leads you to a point where you must make a change. There is always risk involved and the way ahead might not be easy, but some things are simply meant to be. I just wait for those ‘light bulb moments’ – those sudden epiphanies – to tell me when it’s time.