

Declutter Without Losing the Memories

EVERY ITEM LANDS IN ONE OF FOUR BOXES

Keep

Fits the new floor plan

Pass on

Named for a person, dated

Donate or sell

Useful, just not to you

Let go

Recycle, shred, discard

Work one room at a time and finish it before opening the next. Two hours a day beats a lost weekend.

WORK IN THIS ORDER

Garage, attic, and spare closets first — the decisions there are easy and the progress is visible. Kitchen and linens next. Bedrooms, photographs, and the china cabinet last, once you have your rhythm.

KEEP THE MEMORY, NOT ALWAYS THE OBJECT

Photograph the piece and write down its story. Give each person one memory box and let them fill it. Ask family early what they would genuinely use — most answers are kinder than you expect.

WHERE IT GOES LOCALLY

Habitat for Humanity ReStore and Goodwill take furniture and household goods. An estate sale earns its fee when whole rooms are staying behind. I can connect you with a senior move manager for the packing.