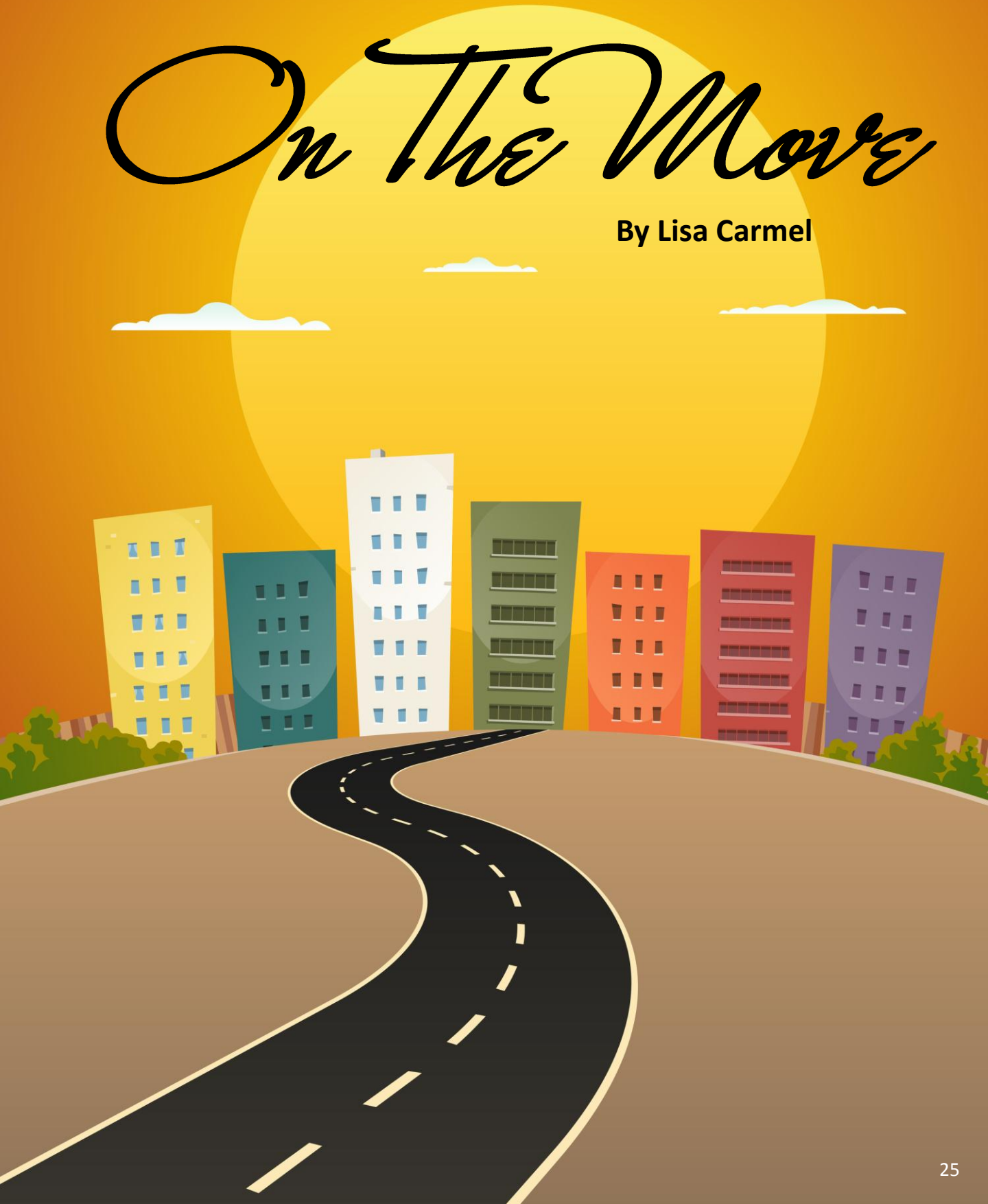


# On The Move

By Lisa Carmel



Great News! You are starting a new job and need to relocate! Whether your move is international, domestic or in-state, there are proven steps you can take to make it successful. An effective relocation translates to a more productive start to your new job and happier family members.

By working with a relocation specialist you get the insider's perspective and the benefit of years of experience about life in the new area, which reduces the likelihood of making a key mistake when choosing a neighborhood or school district. Relocation consultants help you prioritize and focus. They can assist with various registration processes (school or automobile) and many of the other processes that could distract you and your family's transition at this critical time.



What if you are unable to hire a relocation specialist? Here are some easy steps:

#### What are you looking for?

- What is your desired neighborhood – urban or suburban?
- Will you rent? Prepare by having three months worth of rent on hand.
- Will you buy a home? Find a Real Estate Agent and get pre-qualified for a loan
- What is your commute like today? Would you like it to be shorter?
- If you have kids, what about schools? School districts are probably the biggest factor in the price of a home. Do you want public or private?

Compile this information, refer to it often and stay on track. Almost all this information is public - rental prices, commute distances and school performance, can all be found easily.

#### Get familiar with the new location

- Visit your new location
- Be prepared with water and snacks...and MAPS!
- Spend a day getting a sense of the areas you liked online
- Talk to people who live in the area including co-workers, human resources, old college friends, Facebook friends, Linked in network

Research each of the suggested areas - compare them to your model. Make a simple checklist so it is easy to compare the neighborhoods against one another. Remember in the end choosing a new neighborhood is a little like all other things in life – a compromise – keep an open mind.

A blue rectangular advertisement with a white circular logo on the left. The text is white and yellow. It includes contact information and a special offer.

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## Make Appointments

- Make appointments to see housing. This should be the top priority because before you register for school you will need 2-3 forms that prove residency.
- Don't get discouraged - you may have to visit many homes before deciding on the one that will work. Stay persistent.
- Take breaks - enjoy the surrounding areas, take a walk through downtown, try to visualize yourself living in the surroundings.

## Review Criteria

- If you didn't find a place to live, then review your criteria. What should you change? Maybe you need to expand the commute time a little to allow the ability to look at some new neighborhoods. How is your price range? Did you leave yourself a little breathing room?
- Take your new criteria and hit the road again, looking at some new opportunities.
- Stick with it!

## Success

- Chances are you started with a pretty broad scope of areas. By driving around and looking at areas, reviewing criteria and making subtle changes, you narrowed your scope. This should leave you with one or two areas to continually look at until you find your new home.
- This is a good time to tie up the loose ends at the home you will be leaving:
  - Clean things out.
  - Decide what you will take with you.
  - Do you have a house to sell? Put it on the market.
  - Gather medical records, children's school records, original birth certificates, passports, and original marriage certificate.
  - If you have not found the perfect home yet, then consider temporary housing in the new location. This can be one of many large apartment complexes that accommodate month-to-month leases.



### Welcome to your New Home!

- Set up utilities. Get a statement that shows you have initiated service to use for school registration.
- Register children for school.
- Get Involved!

**Relocating to a new community is life changing - new home, new colleagues and new friends. If you're prepared, you can make it stress free and manageable. Live the dream!**

*Lisa Carmel, Managing Partner, Silicon Valley Corporate Relocation, has lived in the Bay Area for over 40 years and has helped many families relocate to the Bay Area from the US, South America, Europe and Asia. She may be reached at [lisa@svcrelo.com](mailto:lisa@svcrelo.com) or at [www.siliconvalleycorporaterelocation.com](http://www.siliconvalleycorporaterelocation.com)*