

Garage Sale Gal

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC



What?! Not everyone loves garage sales?

Lynda Hammond

I'm offended. I'm hurt (excuse me while I dry my eyes).

Deep breath. Okay. I can talk now.

I love writing these columns on garage sales and I'm thrilled the *Arizona Republic* prints them each Friday. But I gotta tell you I'm appalled, outright disgusted, by one of the articles this paper recently ran—I mean, gosh, I just don't know how it made it past the editors. It ran a couple weeks ago in the Chandler Republic titled, *If it's Saturday, it must be a garage sale*. The author is Andrew Schwartzberg—a garage sale(sob).. hater.

Here's an excerpt: *"there is something about garage sales I find just a little bit unsettling."* *"..somehow the notion of paying money for somebody else's junk just doesn't sit well with me."* *"And what of the person whose stuff you're going through? Are they selling you items contaminated with bubonic plague?" Creepy."*

Okay, okay, so he doesn't like garage sales. We get it. But hey, Andrew, I've been there, too. I was once a garage sale snob. I was reformed, however, when I went to my first sale and bought an old copper boiler—I love that thing. So, Andrew if you want to experience the "high" of finding a great treasure for mere pennies here's some help on battling your troubling phobia.

An anecdote for Andrew and others harboring a fear of garage sales

1/Just go- It's like jumping in freezing cold water in wintertime. Take the plunge. Going to your first garage sale can open up a whole new world.

2/Stay open to the possibilities- It can happen in the blink of an eye. You walk up to a garage sale—thinking to yourself—"what am I doing here?" but your attitude changes when you spot it...the toy your grandparents gave you for your birthday in 1967. You lost it and always wanted another one. And there it sits in the driveway, by the lawnmower and clothing. Price tag: \$1.

3/Buy it- Fork over the dollar and take it home. Wash it (gotta scrub off the kooties) and enjoy.

I didn't see Andrew's article when it first ran. I'd been out of town. But a few of my loyal Garage Sale Gal column readers sent it to me. Barb Young of Phoenix calls his article "grounds for a friendly rivalry".

Now, I don't see this as a rivalry at all. Bottom line, Andrew is entitled to *his* opinion and I'm entitled to the correct one!



ANDREW SCHWARTZBERG

On the left we have-- Lynda Hammond a true garage sale lover, a "gal" who knows how to find a bargain--like this Longaberger basket she found at a garage sale in Hawaii for just \$3. On the right-- Andrew Schwartzberg, a garage sale dissenter, one who finds garage sales "creepy" and is fearful of catching a disease at a sale. Can these two battle it out in a friendly manner? Stay tuned!

MY FAVORITE FIND

Do you have a garage sale find you love? Something that makes you smile when you look at it? Share it with us. Send us your picture. Include your name, email address and phone number and email it to: Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Watch for the story of *your* treasure in this column!

Lynda Hammond is a former television broadcaster who left the anchor desk for the love of garage sales. Contact her at Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com. Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.

#####