

Am I Thankful? Despite Today's Challenges, Let Me Count the Ways...

As I compose this column on the Monday before Thanksgiving, I can't pass up the opportunity to put aside other topics and dwell on what I'm thankful for.

It starts, naturally, with gratitude for living in this great country and more specifically in Colorado. Prior to returning here in 1991, I lived in Brooklyn, NY, the memory of which makes me all the more appreciative of our better weather and safer streets. I love living in Colorado.

In school I studied Russian, among other languages, and I visited the Soviet Union several times, always returning with a renewed and deeper appreciation of our free enterprise system.

Speaking of school, I am thankful for my education, which began at St. Anne's Episcopal School in Denver, where Sister Irene herself taught me first and second grade. My parents sacrificed to send me to other great

schools and ultimately to MIT, for which I am eternally grateful.

Great teachers at both public and private schools nurtured in me a

love for, and command of, the English language that has served me well in all my careers, beginning with an internship at the *Washington Post*, where I was taught journalism. Nothing has served me as well professionally as the ability to write. My parents, both great writers themselves, also played no small role in my literary development.

I entered real estate, like most agents, later in life and got off to a fast start thanks to the training I received from Rich Sands at Coldwell Banker. From there I moved to RE/MAX Alliance, where I would still be if I hadn't seen the opportunity to convert the former Jake's Diner on South Golden Road into a real estate office but RE/MAX International wouldn't allow it to be a branch of

RE/MAX Alliance. I'm still grateful to broker/owner Chad Ochsner for his support and friendship.

Now I (along with Chad) am on the Board of the Jefferson County Association of Realtors, and I was recently appointed to the Rules & Regulations committee of Denver's MLS. These positions have given me further opportunity to learn from other, more seasoned Realtors.

My company is most ably administered by Diana Ramos, who worked for me in New York and moved here with my company (and her family) in 1991. Thank you, Diana, for returning to work for me after I created Golden Real Estate.

Space doesn't allow me to begin thanking the many other professionals, including affiliates, who have contributed to my career. I also have a profound appreciation for those who have hired me as their agent, whether to buy or sell a home. Thank you, one and all.

Call or email Jim Smith (right) to receive this column each week by email.

This Week's Featured New Listing:

Updated Ranch Near Old Town Arvada

There's a lot to like about this 3-bedroom, 3-bath brick ranch at 8695 W. 51st Avenue, on the corner of Dudley Street, just south of Old Town Arvada. Being a guy, I'll start with the oversized, heated 2-car garage which measures 720 sq. ft. Being an investor, I'll also mention that the nearly half-acre lot is actually two separate lots, each zoned for a duplex. My wife Rita would like the updated kitchen with newer appliances and a garden window. We'd both enjoy the new addition with its huge master suite and its gorgeous master bath, and the second master suite for guests. Although this home was most recently a rental, it was the seller's primary residence for about 30 years, and the pride of ownership is apparent. It's not open this weekend, but I'm around if you'd like a private showing. You can take a video tour on its website (above).



REAL ESTATE TODAY



By JIM SMITH, Realtor®

Jim Smith

Broker/Owner



Golden Real Estate, Inc.

DIRECT: 303-525-1851

EMAIL: Jim@GoldenRealEstate.com
17695 South Golden Road, Golden 80401

WEBSITE: www.GoldenRealEstate.com

GOLDEN REAL ESTATE

Serving the West Metro Area

Visit www.GreatGoldenHomes.com to browse all Golden Real Estate listings.
Find 100 or more previous columns archived online at www.JimSmithColumns.com.