We humbly ask that you let your heart dictate what to give & that you dig as deeply as you can. Not proceed to enliven our charity. We are often asked, “What should I give?” The answer is, give what your heart and wallet allow. Cash or checks made out to Mary Lou Heard Foundation or MLHF are joyfully gathered at any garden. Leave your entire donation at one home, divide it between two homes, or leave a donation at each home. You decide. You may also make your donation at our website, heardsgardentour.com just click on the “Donate Button”. There you will also see our gallery of photos!!!..AND THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!

The Mary Lou Heard Foundation: Supporting the people who provide love and safe refuge for mothers and their children in crisis – one family at a time.

ABOUT THE SHELTER: More often than we know, a woman must wake her children and flee in the middle of the night with just the clothes they are wearing. Where can she go at this hour??? By morning the children will be tired, hungry and frightened. Rebuilding these lives while keeping mother & children together & safe is an monumental task. This is The Shelter’s mission. They provide a loving residence, life training, and referrals. For more info, visit their website at www.thesheepfold.org.

We are deeply honored as the 2024 Featured Story: Tour Tales: Tales told by Jennifer McInteer. Blessed to join the Mary Lou Heard Foundation in 2015. Became Board President in 2021.

What does it take to plan the annual Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour, you ask? For starters, it takes seven very well meaning volunteers working 12 months of the year (well, really 10 months of the year ’cuz we kinda take September and December off). We try to stay true to Mary Lou’s vision of “real gardens by real people”, while modernizing a bit by including such things as summer dry gardens, GPS maps and social media. We begin by setting gardens all Spring and Summer. We make the big decisions about past, present, & future for opening their garden so that more gardeners can enjoy the fruits of their labor. How will you organize your tour experience? By garden type? By geographic area? By city? By NEV gardens or old favorites? There are 38 to choose from. Get on out there and ENJOY!!
I turned down an out-of-the-way street down every street in Orange County when locate a place. I thought I had gone up and nowhere to go and no money to offer if I did. I came to a small patch of lawn that belonged to our four unit building. I thought my plants during the week. I couldn’t see the garden, and for the first time in many years, I was in great disrepair, and sometimes I would just stand there and survey all that needed to be done. It wasn’t too long before I was on my hands and knees pulling weeds and lost in chores. Time passed quickly when I was in the garden, and for the first time in many weeks, there were no tears. It became my special place. I would throw on my clothes at the first sign of light and make my way there. My heart was at peace, and though I didn’t know it at the time, the long road towards healing began.

Discharge day came, and it was time to face the world again, but I would never forget what happened in the garden. I came to know God there. . . I was not alone. No matter how difficult what lay ahead, I was not alone. I just had to keep on going to give us the desire of our hearts? Well, you tell me.

It might have only been a “giving prayer” that you say as an afterthought, but as the world pushed harder for me to take my medicine, it resulted in a sort of “mini” business. The young man explained the property was owned by his Grandfather and handed by his Uncle. It would be a week before they could get me an answer. I could hardly breathe. At least he didn’t say, “No.” I know all I had to do was wait . . . and pray.

Well, the day arrived. I had all I could do to wait for a decent hour. After all, I didn’t think it would have set very well with them if I had knocked on the door at 5:30 AM, but I could have because I didn’t think I was going to knock. “The young man answered the door and waited it out.” Did I decide? “Not wanting to appear too anxious. “Yes, my Uncle thinks it would be good.” Really? I answered.

This probably was not one of my most thoughtful acts, but I was very much so, I wanted to take a bunch of flowers and plants and flowers that I would be interested in the entire front half of the property including the building. I jumped at it.

I knew I would have to make the additional space for itself, but somehow I would have to make it work. Friends tried to tell me to use it of using all of an office business. The plants and flowers that I would take were very easy for me to cover. The last day would have to be the last day, and the year I spent teaching garden and nurseries, working the garden, working the house. I was not going to get there. I was happy, and my heart was at peace. My life for the garden was unstable, and all the time I spent teaching garden and nurseries. I got behind in the building. What I don’t know is that I was not going to get the wholesale growers who would grow myself, from seed. The joy was almost more than I could stand, so when the family that owned the property came to see if I would be interested in the entire front half of the property including the building - I jumped at it.

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It was in the late 70’s and I had been through a divorce that literally pushed me over the edge. My whole came to a abrupt halt, and no matter how hard I tried to regain my footing, I just slipped further and further away. When the news came that I could not even handle any of the simple tasks of caring for my 10 year old daughter, I was hospitalized. I’m certain there was no other choice, but it also meant that it would become a living thing all over again, one painful step at a time.

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I threw myself into the clean up effort (I used to do) . . . and given me the opportunity of a lifetime. . .

By anybody’s standard the store was humble at best. Our goal was to offer old-fashioned flowers, plants and herbs. Plants that would help people discover the joy of flowers that thrived in my childhood. We loved every minute of it, even though there were many times I literally held my breath to keep the store open and pay the bills.

I was vowed to Saturdays being as quiet as the other days, but on this particular Saturday I locked up to see people lining up by the front door! A sea of people. More people than I had ever seen at the store at one time. One lady was clutching an article in her hand. I asked her how she had heard about us? Why because of the article in the paper. “Here, you can keep it. I know who you are.” Unbeknownst to me a reporter from the Orange County Register had come in looking around and written about us. She even explained how to find us, and people came. Once again I knew we had been blessed.

As the days went on, people began coming every week. They came to see the store, and talk with the friends and the friends would bring friends. It seemed I was always running out of stock. Since I was too small to have any vendors deliver to me, I meant that I had to take my truck up to Santa Barbara to pick up stock. First it was once a week, then twice and then three times. The flood gates of heaven opened and poured out a blessing to this work which I could not contain - and we grew.

Sometimes I would stand alone at the gardens after everyone had gone home and in the quiet - survey all that I saw and remembered the brickery, wounded woman that asked to be allowed to garden for my life’s work. And I would look around at all the beauty I saw - including the woman whose life I had put back together. . . and I would hear Him say “Behold my handiwork!”

It was so much more than I ever imagined even possible. I loved to talk about flowers. Their very special attributes, such as their reddish heads or their distinctive nature. Oh, they were all so special to me, but finding other people that wanted to talk about flowers? I always assumed that this would be too frivolous for anyone to take time out of their very busy day to indulge in. "Don’t you give us the desires of our heart? Make me no mistake.

You have become more than customers to us — you have become friends. We laughed with you when you had joy to share and cried with you when you hurt. You made it possible - you are Mary Lou’s Gardener and you blessed us. I know I speak of all of us when I say “Thank you.” Thank you for standing by us when conditions were less than ideal. Thank you for your loyalty and friendship. Thank you.

I always knew our access was special - we were more like family than co-workers, but I never knew how special until June of 2000 when I was diagnosed with colon cancer. Their work right by my side throughout the ordeal and without a word of complaint they took on the additional workload and kept the store running without ever missing a beat. To the public it looked like business as usual, but it wasn’t. They have carried the store for two years.

As my strength has slipped away from me, they became the "word beneath my wings" quietly holding me up to that I could be the one to fly. There are no words that I can find that would adequately say thank you. For them. We had all hoped that they would have run its course and allowed me to bounce back, but it just hasn’t. Though there aren’t still more gardener in my heart that have to be planted - the body is calling for visit. Saying goodbye is the hardest thing I have ever had to do.

Once again, Thank you and Goodbodes, Mary Lou

Ed: Heard’s Country Garden officially closed in the Summer of 2002 after a lively and much-attended sale and send off. After spending the summer with her family, Mary Lou Heard left us on September 18, 2002. She was 57 years young.

Mary Lou wrote the following for her last newsletter, published Spring 2002.
Planning Your Tour

The gardens will be open from 10am-5pm, Friday or Saturday. Gardens are listed in geographical order from furthest North to South. Find the garden that most speaks to your heart! If it is not to your taste, then please move on to another. Others truly will surprise and inspire. Remember, some gardens are designated either Saturday or Sunday, and many are open both days. To get a preview, see our website: www.heal.theardentour.com. The “Gardener” page offers photos of all the gardens, as well as a description for your convenience as you plan your tour. Enjoy your adventures!!!

Description Key:
- C - Cottage
- E - Edible
- F - Family Friendly
- M - Mediterranean
- OL - Outdoor Living
- BW - Butterfly & Wildlife
- ED - Edible
- TC - Tower Cactus
- EC - Edible
- C/EC - Edible and Cottage
- M - Mediterranean
- OL - Outdoor Living
- SD - Succulent Display
- SD/T - Succulent Display/ Tower Cactus
- OL/T/SD - Outdoor Living/Tower Cactus/Succulent Display
- SD/OL/T - Succulent Display/Outdoor Living/Tower Cactus

A. Each garden, please see our ATTRACTIONS JARS which have lovingly been hand-decorated by the Children of The Sheepfold—yes, they should be easy to find!!!

B. Sonia Savoulian

C. 3939 Lemon Avenue

D. Signal Hill 90755

E. Open: Saturday Only

F. Access: 100%

G. NEW-SD

Reflecting the historic character of her nearly 100-year-old Spanish Revival home, Sonia’s garden is perfectly suited for our Southern California climate. For years ago, the front lawn was removed to be replaced with a decomposed granite island in a dry creek bed. In the backyard, a small lawn remains that is painted with another DC island surrounded by drought-tolerant plants. The landscape blends together native plants, succulents, cacti, and low-water shrubs and trees which fill the yard with colorful blooms throughout the year. Late winter wakens with pink blossoms on the redwood trees. Spring brings cascades of orange California poppies. Several plants bring pops of purple blossoms from Spring through Fall. Cactus and succulent flowers do their part to add to the floral chorus. Adding their own splashes of color and interest is a large collection of Talavera planters, varieties of butterflies and even some cameras. Come step inside Sonia’s inviting and colorful palette.

Editor’s Note: Interested in Summer Dry? Then this one is a must see for you!

C. Michael Kucher

D. 1612 3rd Street

E. Long Beach 90802

F. Open: Saturday & Sunday

G. Access: 90%

H. wheelchair accessible

I. C/EC/BW

The first garden of this 1920 house was planted after a visit to Mary Lou Heards own country/cottage nursery in Westminster. Cut to 25 years later and the garden is a bit wild and wonderful. Wander through a romantic tangle of poppies, fritillaries, blue bachelor buttons, Queen Anne’s lace, larkspur, scented geraniums, delphiniums, clematis, and other old-fashioned favorites. Mounds of sweet pea mix with fragrant wisteria to climb the front yard picket fence each May. Step through an English Climber/Robin’s Rose entrance to a gipsy tunnel that leads to the back yard where blanketing Sand hill and Raspberry Smoothie vases drape wooden fences. Saved off tree stumps serve as tables for coffee cups and swans are covered with quilts. A dozen David Austin roses (Heritage, Lark Ascending, Royal Jubilee, & Butlins) along with the old Comtes de Clambert Fortitude Rose perfume the air. Licked in wonder, looking down intoセンセーショナルなvisions, space and time is suspended. Witnessing its splendor is enough to lift your spirits. The front yard is loaded with various beds and an abundance of garden art. There’s lots of color running amok in the garden from Spring through Fall. Cactus and succulent flowers do their part to add to the floral chorus. The occasional resident cat or two! Several collections. Galvanized treasures and limited palette of pink, purple, and white. A view that speaks to the soul and the spirit.

Editor’s Note: Do yourself a favor and visit this must see garden!

2. Lori, Dan, & Clara Bashore

3. 5244 E. Coralite Street

4. Long Beach 90808

5. Open Saturday & Sunday

6. Access: 70%

7. C/EBW

The first garden of this 1920 house was planted after a visit to Mary Lou Heards own country/cottage nursery in Westminster. Cut to 25 years later and the garden is a bit wild and wonderful. Wander through a romantic tangle of poppies, fritillaries, blue bachelor buttons, Queen Anne’s lace, larkspur, scented geraniums, delphiniums, clematis, and other old-fashioned favorites. Mounds of sweet pea mix with fragrant wisteria to climb the front yard picket fence each May. Step through an English Climber/Robin’s Rose entrance to a gipsy tunnel that leads to the back yard where blanketing Sand hill and Raspberry Smoothie vases drape wooden fences. Saved off tree stumps serve as tables for coffee cups and swans are covered with quilts. A dozen David Austin roses (Heritage, Lark Ascending, Royal Jubilee, & Butlins) along with the old Comtes de Clambert Fortitude Rose perfume the air. Licked in wonder, looking down intoセンセーショナルなvisions, space and time is suspended. Witnessing its splendor is enough to lift your spirits. The front yard is loaded with various beds and an abundance of garden art. There’s lots of color running amok in the garden from Spring through Fall. Cactus and succulent flowers do their part to add to the floral chorus. The occasional resident cat or two! Several collections. Galvanized treasures and limited palette of pink, purple, and white. A view that speaks to the soul and the spirit.

Editor’s Note: Do yourself a favor and visit this must see garden!

The courtyard garden in this very hip 1920’s Spanish 6-plex in long Beach is an eclectic mix of just about everything. It has a cottage feel with lots of roses, perennials, and old-fashioned heirloom annuals. You’ll find lots of butterfly-attracting flowers and places to sit and enjoy the birds, squirrels, and the occasional resident cat or two! Several collections. Galvanized treasures and limited palette of pink, purple, and white. A view that speaks to the soul and the spirit.

Editor’s Note: Do yourself a favor and visit this must see garden!

4. Bill & Majella Maas

5. 12062 Foster Road

6. Rossmoor 90720

7. Open: Saturday & Sunday

8. Access: 90%

9. ED/EC

Step through an English Eden Climber Rose entrance to a gipsy tunnel that leads to the back yard where blanketing Sand hill and Raspberry Smoothie vases drape wooden fences. Saved off tree stumps serve as tables for coffee cups and swans are covered with quilts. A dozen David Austin roses (Heritage, Lark Ascending, Royal Jubilee, & Butlins) along with the old Comtes de Clambert Fortitude Rose perfume the air. Licked in wonder, looking down intoセンセーショナルなvisions, space and time is suspended. Witnessing its splendor is enough to lift your spirits. The front yard is loaded with various beds and an abundance of garden art. There’s lots of color running amok in the garden from Spring through Fall. Cactus and succulent flowers do their part to add to the floral chorus. The occasional resident cat or two! Several collections. Galvanized treasures and limited palette of pink, purple, and white. A view that speaks to the soul and the spirit.

Editor’s Note: Do yourself a favor and visit this must see garden!

The front yard that boasts an enchanting, scaled down hobbit village with several water features and is dappled with many salvias and English perennials. Faced on the cultivated stone walls follow you down a cobble path that leads you to a fantasy rear yard that continues the whimsical themes. Notice the “tree people” on your way to meander over the bridge of a large water feature. As you are on your quest to discover why a baby bear is peeking into an open window. A look at all the faces on the walls and trees leads one to wonder, “What could they be thinking?!?!” This 15 time prize winner of the Compton “City Wide Pride” has been showcased several times on EPS and just been shown on local cable’s “These Curious Times.” In addition to being used as a backdrop for several television spots and news features, Hovew Flowers of California’s Gold time filmed this home and garden. Not to be missed. Bring your camera and the sense of wonder from that child still within you.

6. Kye & Elena Osti

7. 925 Coastline Drive

8. Seal Beach 90740

9. Open: Saturday Only

10. Access: 100%

11. SD/T/OL

Elena & Kye’s garden is a competed of succulents and a mixture of Tropical plants including colorful bromeliads, 40- something pineapple plants & plumerias in different colors. All of the plants have been chosen to add a variety of color and bring out the beauty of the yard. The gardeners created a low-maintenance front & backyard with a focus on today’s need for more water wise in the world. The property is made up of 3 different garden rooms, with each flowing into the other if you were somehow else in the world. The front area is loaded with succulents that make you want to stop and view, but when walking into the courtyards, most people say “This is not what I expected to see.” A guest once shared a wonderful comment with the Osti family. She said, “The yard is beautifully staged in a relaxing way & feels like a yoga mat not going to fly out when I can do yoga.”

A break to regroup after a walk with 2013 winner, the Ostis are back to share their tranquil paradise. Come and enjoy the gardens and be on the lookout for all of the butterflies in this serene yard.

7. Dede & Dwight Warren

8. 2757 W. Bridgport Avenue

9. Anaheim 92804

10. Open: Saturday & Sunday

11. Access: 70%

12. NEW-BWC/SD/OL

The California drought persists in bringing this garden renewed life as the front yard continues to evolve from a large, water-thirsty lawn to ever-expanding plantings of various sizes, several gardeners are working on this older yard by introducing local native perennials, adding several native plants. A rubber band to cover the original garden, this garden opens with an outdoor living space. Beyond that you will find lush garden beds, a water fountain, fruit trees, and several places to sit and enjoy the view. Hidden from sight in a previous limited side yard is now a permanently viewed greenhouse surrounded by local native perennials and old-fashioned heirloom annuals. This Certified Wildlife Habitat is designed to encourage pollinators, wildlife, and other plant life participants alike.

Beauty is as much about how and whether you look as what you see.—John Green
Come and see how an old tennis court was converted into 5 distinctive gardens. They are a Certified Wildlife Habitat home and an Official Monarch Butterfly Way Station. Gardens include Mexican, Southwestern, Cactus, Bermuda, Japanese, and Tropical, all in a relaxing place to visit and linger. You’ll meet numerous whimsical characters such as Bella Boulder, a beautiful peeling out of a canopy in the Tropical Garden and Seven Rustio playing an accordion for you at the pool. Wandering from front to back, you can see over 550 trees and countless plants from many parts of the world. View cascades from South Africa to the South Pacific, Folktale Films from Thailand, and many native to the Southwest. It is something special when even the wildlife finds this a great place to visit, like our winged friends the Cooper’s hawks, barn owls, generations of Anna’s hummingbirds and even a pair of par-tailed woodpeckers. Great beliefs in recycling the Humans catch snowmelt in barrels to water their gardens. The cement that once covered the tennis court has become planters and the asphalt from the court has become a hill in the Tropical Garden.

The birth of Barbara’s succulent and drought-tolerant yard was generated by the water shortage, but became an opportunity for the artist to mix color, texture and a wide variety of succulents to create a real life landscape canvas. Jack painstakingly hooked up a drip system for 62 individual plants in the yard after he moved the electrical system for the fountain from one side of the yard to the other. Once Barbara had moved the plants a million times to her satisfaction for balance (worts, the still moves plants when the gets a better idea) Jack painstakingly once again covered the front and back yard with 250 loops of mulch. This ‘Queenston’ at their ion has to stilled named the yard, has become a peaceful place that soothes Barbara’s body, mind and soul on the weekends, a week off from work. The garden is remote and magnetic beach sand. The rock swimming pool’s steps lead off to a pathway across the back slope and a woodland garden. A bench on the slope overlooks a cutting garden which features an arbor covered with morning glory over a planted bricklaid. There’s a small fairy garden under the willow tree which is often misted with a water mist. There is an arched rock bridge overlooking a small water garden and a pathway through the back yard leading to a cottage garden which includes a playhouse. Across from the playhouse is a white iron gate leading to a secret garden with a fountain. There is a sensory garden complete with a trampoline and magnetic beach sand. The rock swimming pool’s steps lead off to a pathway across the back slope and a woodland garden. A bench on the slope overlooks a cutting garden which features an arbor covered with morning glory over a planted bricklaid. There’s a small fairy garden under the willow tree which is often misted with a water mist. There is an arched rock bridge overlooking a small water garden and a pathway through the back yard leading to a cottage garden which includes a playhouse.

The Lund Family Garden is more than a tranquil getaway that makes ScoJo Resort a destination for family and friends. It’s a must see!

Editor’s Note: This entertainer’s dream is a must see!

The Daniels love hosting small family gatherings and sharing their garden. The pool and surrounding garden provide a vibrant and tranquil getaway that makes ScoJo Resort a destination for family and friends.

Editor’s Note: This entertainer’s dream is a must see!

The entire garden is a little over half an acre, not including the residence and has been divided into several garden areas beginning with a potager garden in front of the house with beds of Thompson’s roses, wisteria, and lavender. The back garden includes the main garden featuring rose arbors, a pergola, & a willow tree and has been the site of over twenty weddings of friends and family. There is an arched rock bridge overlooking a small water garden and a pathway through the back yard leading to a cottage garden which includes a playhouse. Across from the playhouse is a white iron gate leading to a secret garden with a fountain. There is a sensory garden complete with a trampoline and magnetic beach sand. The rock swimming pool’s steps lead off to a pathway across the back slope and a woodland garden. A bench on the slope overlooks a cutting garden which features an arbor covered with morning glory over a planted bricklaid. There’s a small fairy garden under the willow tree which is often misted with a water mist. There is an arched rock bridge overlooking a small water garden and a pathway through the back yard leading to a cottage garden which includes a playhouse.

Welcome to the Solace Resort! This one is a must see!
own story. At the base of a mature ficus and ribbons of succulents, each telling its extending to the side of the house and the sansevieria, sedum, sempervivum, senecio, haworthia, kalanchoe, pachyphytum, paradise of cactus, echeverria, aloe, lithops, no grass. Instead, you will find a succulent water-friendly plants. In the back, there are thousands of jade cuttings of various lantana, California natives, butterflies, and gardeners let the sod die, in favor of what to watch the golfers or the sunset. The deck. Venture up the stairs to the pergola ornamental pear growing right through the backyard features three areas: a shaded lounge and Mediterranean inspired landscaping. The backyard features three areas: a shaded lounge bordered by bamboo and olive trees, a dining area bordered by split-rail fences. At the front, there’s a courtyard replete with varieties, roses and a fairy garden. The property features an English garden look with a wide variety of flowers and an array of critters (i.e., prettier critters). There are swings in the backyard corner. The house itself which is waiting to young and old alike. You will find beautiful shades of amaranth and a variety of domestic Helen always says, the Queen of the Garden is their spider lily. Birds and butterflies love this place—Helen and Donny hope you will too.

Editor’s Note: This garden has been on every Mary Lou Heard Garden Tour since 1994!

17. Ron & Claudia Bitzer 6832 Rock Drive Huntington Beach 92647 Open: Saturday Only Access: 100% Front yard and 20% backyard due to gravel bordered cement pads

The Bitzer’s love entertaining, but their house as a small Cal-Classic. The solution came in the form of Bitzer’s Outdoor Paradise. Welcome to their creation! The front and back yards a re-filled with California native and Mediterranean inspired landscaping. The backyard features three areas: a shaded lounge bordered by bamboo and olive trees, a dining area under the 50+ year old Valencia orange tree, and a sitting area accessed with local desert flora. Three garden beds provide nutritious, organic vegetables and herbs year-round. Edible cactus (agave, lyme, mandarin orange, and lemon trees in the yard). The front yard is a butterfly and hummingbird sanctuary centered around a towering Long John Grapewine. The Bitzer’s invite you in. Bienvenidos! Welcome! Welcome to a peaceful corner of the world! The Bitzer Jungle House! This garden will be celebrating its 62nd anniversary with you! Ralph J. Velez II started planting in 1962. When you come today, you will see many aspects of palm trees, as well as much other plants and flowers from around the world. Many are labeled with the year they were planted, the size of container it was, and its botanical name. There is a section called the California Rainforest. This is an enclosed greenhouse that is 15 feet high and growing plants from the tropical regions of the world with higher humidity and heat.

Editor’s Note: This UNIQUE garden was featured on the television program “Visiting with Huell Howser.” The link can be found at: TheVelezJungleHouse.com

18. Steve Velez 15461 Devore Street Westminster 92683 Open: Saturday & Sunday (1-5) Access: 50% 

Welcome to a peaceful corner of the world! The Velez Jungle House! This garden will be celebrating its 62nd anniversary with you! Ralph J. Velez II started planting in 1962. When you come today, you will see many aspects of palm trees, as well as much other plants and flowers from around the world. Many are labeled with the year they were planted, the size of container it was, and its botanical name. There is a section called the California Rainforest. This is an enclosed greenhouse that is 15 feet high and growing plants from the tropical regions of the world with higher humidity and heat.

Editor’s Note: This UNIQUE garden was featured on the television program “Visiting with Huell Howser.” The link can be found at: TheVelezJungleHouse.com

19. Helen & Danny Bolin 8761 La Zara Court Fountain Valley 92708 Open: Saturday & Sunday Access: 100% C/F/L

Bolin’s Cottage welcomes you with bright flowers and cascading walls of brick and stone bordered by split-rail fences. At the front door, there’s a courtyard replete with varieties, roses and a fairy garden. The property features an English garden look with a wide variety of flowers and an array of critters (i.e., prettier critters). There are swings in the backyard corner. The house itself which is waiting to young and old alike. You will find beautiful shades of amaranth and a variety of domestic Helen always says, the Queen of the Garden is their spider lily. Birds and butterflies love this place—Helen and Donny hope you will too.

Editor’s Note: This garden has been on every Mary Lou Heard Garden Tour since 1994!

20. Patty Debowski 17824 Santa Anita Circle Fountain Valley 92708 Open: Saturday Only Access: 60% C/SW/ED/LIF

Meander down brick and gravel pathways to discover lush herbs, vegetables, flowers, strawberries, and fruit trees all tucked in together without a single blade of grass. Breathe in the aroma of stephanotis, red hibiscus, and herbs. The house library opens to the “Library Garden” that contains a koi pond, rose filled parterres and fruit trees. From a sitting area under a sprawling grapefruit tree overlooking the koi pond, the visitor can listen to the flowing water or watch the hummingbirds that frequent the water feature to get a drink.

Designed around the idea that gardens are extensions of living spaces, this garden wraps around the house. This allows the indoor space to flow into the outdoor spaces and creates multiple garden areas. There are two front garden areas—a public one behind a rose arbor, and a private one tucked behind a custom designed wrought iron gate. The private rose garden contains several iron sculptures and a flowing corner fountain. The formal setting/ living area is bordered by fruit trees and flowers that lend privacy to the sitting areas and define the spaces. The entire back fence of the property is painted to create an illusion of depth that merges into the garden and skyline. The back garden that is adjacent to the kitchen area of the house has the continuation of the fruit trees and garden and the informal dining area surrounded by overflowing hanging baskets and herbs. The house library opens to the “Library Garden” that contains a koi pond, rose filled parterres and fruit trees. From a sitting area under a sprawling grapefruit tree overlooking the koi pond, the visitor can listen to the flowing water or watch the hummingbirds that frequent the water feature to get a drink.

Every dollar counts (be sure to change 100%!!), please dig deep and at generously as you are able. Checks accepted, and you may use Venmo or PayPal at: heardgardentours.com

21. Jan Kamenster 9765 Red River Circle Fountain Valley 92708 Open: Saturday Only Access: 75% C/ED/LIF

This garden is a perfect example of a well-planned and executed garden, perfect for those with limited space. The garden is packed with plants and flowers from around the world, with a focus on those that thrive in Southern California. The garden features a variety of succulents and cacti, as well as a large collection of perennials and annuals. The garden is designed around a central water feature, with stone paths and seating areas throughout. This garden is a treasure trove of beauty and tranquility, and is a perfect spot to relax and enjoy the beauty of nature.
A garden always teaches many of life’s important lessons:

1. Always be patient. Small plants grow in time and are more cost effective.

2. Build a strong foundation. Continually add to the base and the garden will gain momentum.

3. Change happens when you're least expecting it. Can you say Santa Anas?

The Riersons began their garden 30 years ago with a desire to create an escape for their family from the stresses of daily life and have continued creating it ever since. The garden has kept its cottage feel, but has added some new additions since they were last on the tour in 2018, giving it a “NEW” feel even for veteran MLHMG enthusiasts. An aviary houses their curious pigeons and a front yard potager garden feeds the Riersons and their neighbors. Julie hopes to someday use it as a teaching garden to help children as well as adults learn some of their own “life lessons” and experience the joy of gardening for themselves.

Welcome to “Miniature Jurassic Park”!

This is where lizards enjoy sundrenched as their adults) learn some of their own “life lessons” and experience the joy of gardening for themselves.

Welcome to Jeri’s Cottage Garden in Floral Park! It’s a newer garden, but looks like it has been evolving for years due to letting annuals go to seed and then happily pop up wherever they want to. Among the cottage favorites you can find here are tulips, foot tall delphiniums, Shirley poppies, and David Austin roses all surrounded by a covered patio filled with vintage iron furniture and treasures that have been collected and curated throughout the years. You can also expect to find plenty of wine colored with hydrangeas and rhododendrons and vintage succulents. There is even a vegetable garden and old potting shed filled with more vintage garden beds. The Garden Room that is filled with many McCoy pots, vintage furniture, and the like will be open for some additional browsing. With so much to see here, you will just have to come by and enjoy it. Jeri and her garden would love to meet you!

A Garden of Love:

First impression...this place is loaded. As you enter from the street side, what a rich variety of sizes, shapes, colors and scents call you to this small area. Continue on and enter through the gate to take in the full scope of its beauty. It’s a conglomeration of humble plantings with surprises in most of the objects, funky finds, and here and there another charming little plant. As they shimmer and glisten, just bask in the warmth of their beauty as they seem to speak to you. “Look at me! I am loved!” Though some are small, nothing in this well-loved garden is insignificant. Each plant has its role to play as they shine and thrive, reflecting the glory of being loved and cared for.

The style of the garden at this Tudor Revival house is relaxed with the intent to get you to spend some time out in nature. A place where you can get lost in your thoughts while admiring the vast number of birds looking for food. The garden includes many different pathways that invite you to keep exploring. You will see formal hedges, drought-tolerant plantings, ferns, roses and camellias as you make your way through arcs and tree lined pathways. Don’t forget the edible area you will find fruit trees and raised beds for vegetables.

This garden is located at a 1928 Spanish Revival in the historic Washington Square neighborhood of Santa Ana. The entrance to this garden is on 10th St. in the back of the house next to the detached garage. The Thomas' welcome you to four separate areas dedicated to outdoor living, visiting every available space of the courtyard. You will find a cool, shady and tropical outdoor living room with a large water fountain. Evening meals are enjoyed in the outdoor dining area at a historic antique high-top table next to a year-round "ornamental" tree. There is a fire pit seating area with an antique building fan that has been converted to carry lighting. And last but definitely not least, is an elevated vegetable garden filled with tomato and pepper plants and a pergola with a vine or two from citrus to apples, avocados to cherimoya to mango. Fruit is not overlooked by a cozy, shaded porch. Come and get a true taste of Southern California living.
California Cottages is the best way to describe the Kowalski garden. There is a stone patio out front with plenty of shade from a 60-year-old oak, and a large hedge of viburnum to hide the view of the traffic while enjoying time with family and friends. Meander through the side gates that lead to the back yard where you will find eclectic collections of watering cans, bird feeders, and succulents. The entrance space continues with a large patio and plenty of flowers to color the scene.

31. Cindy & Mike Kowalski
14842 Devonshire Avenue
Tustin 92780
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 70%
NEW-BW/C/EC

Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour 2024

Every dollar counts (loose change too!!!!), please dig deep and as generously as you are able. Checks accepted, and you may use Paypal or Venmo at: heardsgardentour.com

32. Miriam Johnson
& Bob Ledbetter
1852 Pennington Avenue
Tustin 92780
Open: Sunday only
Access: 90%
C/ED/OL

Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour 2024

Anna Pinnegar is an avid gardener and a nature lover who enjoys spending time outdoors. She has been collecting and growing flowers and plants in her garden for many years. Mary Lou Heard was a strong advocate for environmental conservation and worked hard to create a beautiful and sustainable garden that would inspire others. The garden is now open to the public as a way to honor Mary Lou's legacy and continue her work towards creating a more sustainable future.

33. Michelle Bates
1821 Ridgeboro Place
Tustin 92780
Open: Sunday only
Access: 75%
C/OL/ED

Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour 2024

A few years ago, the city offered a rebate to homeowners to “water-wise” their yards by removing half of their lawns, replacing old sprinklers with low water efficiency sprinklers, and using drip irrigation. After 30 years of always wanting to landscape their front lawns, this was the Bates’ perfect opportunity to do just that, as well as make their back yard water wise. Michelle planned everything from laying out the design, to picking out the water wise plants, choosing the color scheme, and installing outdoor lighting. She had the contractor do the work, but Michelle placed every plant and tree where she liked it. The Bates’ back yard is like a little piece of Mother Nature—a place to enjoy all of nature’s splendor and beauty. Michelle has created her own country garden with several fruit trees and berry bushes. She loves making delicious jams with the fruit and cooking with the vegetables and herbs she grows. The garden expresses Michelle’s love for horses, her enjoyment of watching birds and her imagination, as seen in the little fantasy garden in the middle of the yard. The garden is a magical place where she can relax and enjoy the outdoors.

34. Susan, Becky & Ryan King
14 Cervantes Court
Irvine 92602
Open: Saturday only
Access: 80%
NEW-BWC/ED/OL/F

Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour 2024

If you like flowers, this cottage garden is for you! A true labor of love, this vibrant garden began as bare, rocky dirt that has blossomed into a floral wonderland. The first thing you will see is the front yard with its gentle slope completely covered in blooming including irises, freesias, felicia, coreopsis, sage bushes, sweet peas and so many more! Stroll around to the back yard where you will be greeted by blooming flower beds planted with roses, hedges, and mosses. Michelle spent all the time in the garden, and a bird bath makes the yard very popular with our feathered and winged friends. Butterflies and hummingbirds are a frequent sight. Enjoy the restful areas, natural stone paths, bee-coverd arbor and the planter full of seasonal produce. You many even find a fairy garden or two!
Map Your Day(s) by determining which gardens to visit here:

- Numbers indicate furthest North (1) to furthest South (39)
- Listed alphabetically here to aid in searching for a favorite gardener.

**Garden Description Key**
- C - Cottage / F - Fairy Garden / AI - Asian Inspired
- BW - Butterfly & Wildlife / EC - Eclectic
- ED - Edible / M - Mediterranean / OL - Outdoor Living / SD - Summer Dry (i.e. Drought Tolerant) / T - Tropical

**City Key**

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**2024 -- Supporting MLHMGT Nurseries**

- Brita’s Old Town Garden
  225 Main Street
  Seal Beach, CA 90740
- Green Thumb Nursery
  23722 Bridger Road
  Lake Forest, CA 92630
- H&H Nursery
  6220 Lakewood Blvd
  Lakewood, CA 90712
- Laguna Hills Nursery
  1829 North Tustin Avenue
  Santa Ana, CA 92705
- M&N Nursery
  380 N Tustin Avenue
  Orange, CA 92867
- Orange County Farm Supply
  1826 West Chapman
  Orange, CA 92868
- Plant Depot
  32413 San Juan Creek Road
  San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
- Potting Shed
  10 Plaza Square, Suite 102
  Orange, CA 92866
- Ricardo’s Nursery
  6850 Atlantic Ave.
  Long Beach, CA 90805
- Roger’s Gardens
  2301 San Joaquin Hills Road
  Corona Del Mar, CA 92625
- Tree of Life Nursery
  33201 Ortega Hwy
  San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
- Upland Nursery
  5195 N Tustin Avenue
  Orange, CA 92867
- Site One - Village Nursery
  10500 Garfield Ave
  Huntington Beach, CA 92646
- Site One - Village Nursery
  1982 N Tustin
  Orange, CA 92867
- Potting Shed
  10 Plaza Square, Suite 102
  Orange, CA 92866
- Ricardo’s Nursery
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  Long Beach, CA 90805
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  1982 N Tustin
  Orange, CA 92867

**Sticky Notes:**

See you on the road!!!
Aunt Flora Says
“Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!”

The Mary Lou Heard Foundation, a 501(c)3 Public Charity

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