

Mary Lou Heard MEMORIAL GARDEN TOUR 2025

49 Magnificent Gardens in Full Bloom Await Garden Enthusiasts

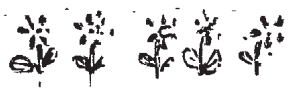
May 3rd & May 4th

10am - 5pm

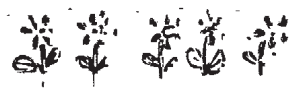
heardsgardentour.com

Locally World Famous Newsletter, Edition No. 22 in memory of Mary Lou Heard's Spring Garden Tour.

A personal, informative & affordable tour guide. GARDEN EXHIBITOR listing published for your visual pleasure...developed by a "Real Gardener" not a "Real English Teacher"



GARDEN TOUR INFORMATION



Drum Roll Please !!!!

The Mary Lou Heard Foundation welcomes you to Tour 2025! This annual self-guided tour is hosted by real gardeners who generously consent to share their personal creations. Our committee has been privileged to visit in advance and see fabulous gardens and hear the stories of our generous hosts. They speak of the joys of gardening and sharing theirs with you, our honored guests. Our hosts find great satisfaction in knowing their many efforts will surely help others. In today's uncertain times, many, many families are finding themselves suddenly in need. We ask for you to keep them in mind. Your donation to the Mary Lou Heard Foundation ensures that a hand is there to help mothers and their children in crisis.

TOUR HISTORY - Those of us who knew Mary Lou Heard sometimes forget that there are quite a few people who never had the pleasure of meeting her. This woman was absolutely dedicated to gardening. In 1985, Mary Lou opened Heard's Country Gardens, a soon-to-become-beloved nursery in Westminster. Many years passed, until finally in the summer of 2002, Mary Lou had to close Heard's due to the illness that shortly claimed her life. On page 2 you will find the message Mary Lou wrote for her last newsletter. She speaks for herself so much better than anyone else could, and we want to share her, and her story with you: our honored guest.

In 1994, Mary Lou dreamed up a garden tour by and for real people, a tour, "for the rest of us," so a yearly event was born that brought out thousands of guests who gave generously to Mary Lou's favorite charity, The Sheepfold. After her passing, we asked ourselves, when the Mary Lous of the world are lost, how will charity organizations like these go on? The tour is continued today in Mary Lou's name because she was so devoted to giving back for the help she received during a very rough time and saw the benefits of helping others like herself. Your donation is a free-will offering.



We humbly ask that you let your heart dictate what to give & that you dig as deeply as you can. Net proceeds go entirely to the 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. Or Venmo @ Mary Lou-Heard.

... AND THANK YOU!!!
THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!

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

ABOUT THE SHEEPFOLD-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 The Sheepfold's mission. They provide a loving residence, life training, and referrals. For more info, visit their website @ www.thesheepfold.org.

2025 Featured Cover Story:

Written by: Jennifer McInteer
Inspiration refers to the act or power of moving the mind or emotions, or to something that excites or encourages someone. For me, gardening (and seeing other people's gardens) is inspiring. Hmm...What originally got me interested in gardening? I believe the first seeds of inspiration came from seeing the beautiful grounds of Butchart Gardens in British Columbia. I was lucky enough to visit the gardens every summer as a kid and always wanted to create a garden of my own. This musing about inspiration got me curious about what originally inspired other people to garden. I checked in with our Garden Tour Board of Volunteers and here's what they shared... Sarah says, she grew up with her parents gardening. So, when the time came that she and her husband were able to buy a home of their own (and then visited the San Juan Capistrano Mission gardens)-their dreams and inspiration became a garden to keep! Vicki says, she started gardening at around 5 years old when she and her mother planted dozens of poppies around the edge of the ranch house her father had just finished building. She was

delighted seeing all the beautiful flowers and loved getting her hands in the dirt. Jan says, she had the pleasure of spending a month every summer at her aunt and uncle's farm. Because Jan was a city gal, the farm was enchanting--especially her aunt's beautiful vegetable garden. To this day, every time she smells fresh dill it takes her back to that very garden. Cindie says, she and her hubby Bob come from gardening families, so they were basically born with soil under their fingernails! Cindie's mom took her to Mary Lou's secret garden center when she had problems growing sweet peas. It was here that she learned about the garden tour that became their pre-Mother's Day tradition! Laura says, she has a vivid memory of her great grandmother coming to visit her when she was about 4 years old. GG found a little patch of a backyard planter and there they planted the first vegetables that Laura ever grew and she was mesmerized by the simple beauty of it. Autumn says, she has millions of sweet childhood memories of her loving grandparents, that had an amazing large garden with fruit trees and more flowers than should be allowed in one yard. Her grandfather was a beekeeper and the scent and smell of honey and the scent of roses brings her back to that time.

If I may be so bold, Mary Lou Heard's life inspired a garden tour that is still going strong 23 years after her passing, and we are all so excited to be a part of her legacy.

Whether you are discovering us for the first time, are an experienced Master Gardener, or are a "Loyal, Wouldn't Miss It for the World" tour go-er; it is our very great pleasure to offer 49 inspiring "real gardens by real people." This is largest number of gardens on the tour - ever. May the gardens inspire you, create core memories, and breathe life into your body & soul like it does to ours.



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

It seems like just yesterday. It's hard to believe it's been nearly 20 years. I remember thinking that I would be happy if I can have even one year to garden. I don't know if I ever had a newsletter that was harder to write, even though I've always wanted to tell you how much I've felt blessed being allowed to do what I love and share it with others. This newsletter is still difficult, so bear with me please...

It was in the late 70's and I had been through a divorce that literally pushed me over the edge. My world came to an abrupt halt, and no matter how hard I tried to regain my footing, I just slipped further and further away. When it became clear 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 be like building a life all over again, one painful step at a time.

I discovered gardening when I was in the hospital. It was just the smallest patch of earth, but there was such peace there. It 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 so 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 light of morning and stay there all day. My heart was at peace, and though I didn't know it at the time, the long road to healing had begun.

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. Does God actually care enough to give us the desires of our heart? Well, you tell me.

It might have only been a "passing prayer" that you say as an after thought, but as the world pushed harder for me to take my place... I asked, "Please Lord, just let me garden for my life's work" - as path led unto path, that prayer would come to mind. I didn't care how - I just wanted to spend my life there in the garden.

I began selling herbs and flowers at the swap meet on the weekends, and attended horticulture classes and gathering and planting my plants during the week. I couldn't see where it was going, but the swap meet had become a sort of "mini" business. The plants and flowers that I would take were now everywhere, covering every bush and patch of lawn that belonged to our four unit apartment. I wasn't too surprised when the landlord said it had to go. Problem was I had nowhere to go and no money to offer if I did locate a place. I thought I had gone up and down every street in Orange County when I turned down an out-of-the-way street

just to see where it led. I happened upon a piece of property with an out-building on it. I sat there for the longest time just looking at it. Although the building and grounds had fallen into disrepair, it looked like a doll house to me. I could feel my heart jump. It took all the courage I could muster to knock on the door and ask for a chance to rent a portion of their property.

The young man explained the property was owned by his Grandfather and handled 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." Now 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 don'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 sleep a wink that night. The young man answered the door and invited me in. "Did you decide?" Not wanting to appear too anxious. "Yes, my Uncle thinks it would be good." "Really?" I answered.

This was probably not one of my notable conversations because I was totally speechless and floating 10 feet off the ground. I wondered if he noticed? With a few other details and a handshake - I was on my way. Now if you were to ask me if I had a plan - I did not. I only knew that I felt I was being given a gift from God and I was going to be allowed to garden. - for how long... I don't know. It didn't matter to me. This dear family did not know me from Adam and had put total faith and trust in me and given me the opportunity of a lifetime... an everyday occurrence? I don't think so. Not in this world.

I threw myself into the clean up effort (I was never short of elbow grease), put a coat of paint and some curtains on the building, and it became my cottage. I couldn't wait to get there in the morning, and I hated to leave at night. I was gardening, and my heart was at peace. My love for the garden was insatiable, and all the years I spent reading garden and seed catalogues were beginning to find a home. What I couldn't get at the wholesale growers I 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.

I knew I would have to make the additional space pay for itself, but somehow I would have to make it work. Friends tried to talk me out of it using all logic of a business person. The location was not right. I would never be able to recoup my investment. The family or the city could come at anytime and pull the rug out from under me. My answer was always the same. If I'm allowed to garden even one more year, I will be happy. As always it was a handshake agreement. They believed in me, and there was nothing I would

do to let them down. That was 1985.

There were obstacles. Many obstacles. Some that even threatened to shut us down. In the beginning I would literally shake as I would see the city car drive up and walk across the gravel carrying official forms. No, it was not always a smooth ride, but one by one I came to learn and trust someone greater was clearing the way for us.

There were always plenty of chores. Enough so that you could never say you were done. At the end of each day I would look around at trays full of plants all "cleaned up" like little children with freshly scrubbed faces and in clean pajamas ready for bed. I would be covered in dirt and exhausted - but it was a wonderful feeling. All my energy spent in tasks that I loved - I wouldn't realize how tired I was until I finally sat down for the first time. I ached - but felt good. I usually fell asleep before I had a chance to watch a single television program.

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 gardening, flowers that I remembered from my childhood. We loved every minute of it, even though there were many times I literally held my breath to keep the doors open and pay the bills.

I was used to Saturdays as being as quiet as the other days, but on this particular Saturday I looked up to see people lining up by the front gate!!! 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 where you are now." 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 to the store. They would bring their 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, it 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 the likes of which I could not contain... and we grew.

Sometimes I would stand alone in the gardens after everyone had gone home and in the quiet - survey all that I saw and remembered the broken, 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 He had put back together... and I would hear Him say "Behold my handy work!"

It was so much more than I ever imagined even possible. I loved to talk about flowers. Their

very special attributes, such as their nodding heads or their diminutive nature. Oh, they were all so special to me, but finding other people that wanted to talk about flowers? I always assumed things like that would be too frivolous for anyone to take time out of their busy day to indulge in. Does God give us the desires of our heart? Make 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 Heard's Gardens and you blessed us. I know I speak for 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 crew 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. They were right by my side throughout the ordeal and without a word of complaint they took on the additional workload and kept the place running without ever missing a beat. To the public it looked like business as usual, but it was not. They have carried the store for two years. As my strength has slipped away from me, they became the "wind beneath my wings" quietly holding me up so that I could be the one to fly. There are no words that I can find that would adequately say thank you to them. We had all hoped that this thing would have run its course and allowed me to bounce back, but it has not. Though there are still many more gardens in my heart that have to be planted - the body is calling for rest. Saying good-bye is the hardest thing I have ever had to do.

Once again,
Thank you and God bless,
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.

Sticky Notes:

Visits us on the web at:
heardsgardentour.com

Planning Your Tour

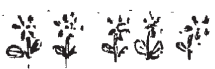
The gardens will be open from 10am-5pm, rain or shine. Gardens are listed by number in geographical order from furthest North to furthest South. Find the gardens that most speak to your heart. If one is not to your taste, then please move on to another. Others surely will surprise and inspire. Remember, some gardens are designated either Saturday or Sunday, and many are open both days. To get a preview, see our website: www.heardsgardentour.com. The "Gardens" page offers photos of all the gardens, as well as a description for your convenience as you plan your tour. Enjoy your adventure!!!

Access = 

Description Key -

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

At each garden, please see our DONATION JARS which have lovingly been hand decorated by the children of The Sheepfold--yep, they should be easy to find!!!



1. Annette Hadjimarkos & Diane Higgs

4450 Faculty Ave.
Long Beach 90805

Open: Saturday & Sunday (10-3)

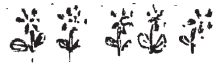
Access: 70%

NEW-M/SD/OL/EC/BW

Welcome to the neighborhood known as "The Village". The front garden of this "Village" home is wild, eclectic and mostly drought tolerant. There are succulents mixed with bunny tail grass, palm trees, lavender, milkweed, day lilies and flowering sweet pea vines. The bunny tail grass dries in the summer and provides a bit of shade for any delicate succulents. Walk up the driveway into a backyard shaded by an old podocarpus tree where you will find several outdoor living areas. Take the pathway to a back dining area passing by 50-year-old camelia bushes, Australian tree ferns, clivia, cala lilies,

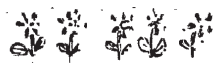
and a few tropical plants. Meander past the leptospermum bush/tree where tillandsias, Spanish moss and schizanthus (poor man's orchid) are hiding in the branches. Peek behind the foliage next to the garden shed and you will find the owner's worm farm, the site of the worm castings (aka: worm poop) factory that provides fertilizer for the garden's soil.

Editor's Note: There is permit parking on Saturday morning from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon, so guests can park on Centralia (just around the corner).



2. Sonia Savoulian
3355 Lemon Avenue
Signal Hill 90755
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 100%
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. Six years ago, the front lawn was removed to be replaced with a decomposed granite island and a dry creek bed. In the backyard, a small lawn remains that is paired with another DG 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 begins with pink blossoms on the redbud trees. Spring brings cascades of orange California poppies. Several plants bring pops of purple blooms from spring through until fall. Cactus and succulent flowers do their part to add to this floral chorus. Adding their own splashes of color and interest is a large collection of Talavera planters, varieties of butterflies and even some canines. Come step inside Sonia's inviting and colorful palette.



3. Mikki Popovich
3411 Brayton Ave.
Long Beach 90807
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 75%
BW/OL/SD

Feeling that the curb appeal for the home was unfriendly, Mikki designed the current iteration of her front landscape. Building a rounded entryway to the home added a more alluring welcome.

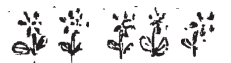
Working with the criteria specified by the Long Beach Lawn to Garden Program, she had all the grass removed, reconfigured her entrance, added a border wall to create a friendly and comfortable courtyard. She planted drought-tolerant, California native plants, focusing on bee, butterfly, and hummingbird-friendly varieties.

Five separate gardens capture the different types of plants. In Mikki's succulent garden, several varieties of echeveria grow, as well as sticks of fire, jades, and aloes. Another garden flowers with aromatics like lavender and sage to attract and support bees and butterflies. In the native plants garden, butterfly bushes and "Hot Lips" sages mingle with other drought-tolerant plants. Fond lilies and water cabbage dwell in the water garden.



4. Lori, Dan, & Clara Basheda
5244 E. Coralite Street
Long Beach 90808
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 70%
C/BW

The first garden of this 1950 house was planted after a visit to Mary Lov Heard's own country/cottage nursery in Westminster. Cut to 25 years later and the gardens are a bit wild and wonderful. Wander through a romantic tangle of poppies, foxgloves, blue bachelor buttons, Queen Anne's lace, larkspur, scented geraniums, delphiniums, clarkia, corn cockle and other old-fashioned cottage favorites. Mounds of sweet peas mix with fragrant wisteria to climb the front yard picket fence each May. Step through an English Eden Climber Rose entrance to the backyard where Blushing Susan and Raspberry Smoothie vines drape wooden fences. Sawed off tree stumps serve as tables for coffee cups and swings are covered in quilts. Twenty David Austin Roses (Heritage, Lark Ascending, Royal Jubilee, & Bathsheba) along with the old Comte de Chambord Portland Rose perfume the air. Tucked here and there are drought-tolerant natives: purple sage, bright yellow milkweed, lacy white oak leaf hydrangea, fragrant incense bush and a giant orange bells tree--all providing food for butterflies and birds. If you're lucky you might even see the resident bunny hopping through the backyard.

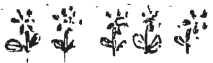


5. Mike Kirsch
1612 E. 3rd St.
Long Beach 90802
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 90% wheelchair accessible
C/EC/BW

The courtyard garden in this vintage 1920's Spanish 6-plex in old Long Beach is an eclectic mix of just about everything. It has a cottagey 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 rusted arbors clad with a variety of climbing roses and flowering vines lead you through a veritable maze of small garden "rooms". There's lots of color running amok in the various beds and an abundance of garden art ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous--making it a "Flea market find" attraction which is ever-evolving. A small fountain attracts visitors and wildlife alike with its subtle music. Come, enjoy and celebrate Mike's 16th year as a host gardener. He's very honored to do so!

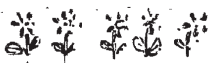
Editor's Note: Do yourself a favor and visit this MUST SEE garden (and gardener)!





6. Marietta Malan
2525 E. 2nd Street
Long Beach 90803
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 98%
New-C

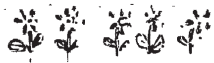
Welcome to our historic 116-year-old Dutch Colonial Revival home. Japanese boxwood lines a white picket fence showcasing a cottage garden bursting with tulips, roses, foxglove, exotic hibiscus and Shasta daisies. Enter through the welcome gate to your right where you'll discover plenty of surprises- like the delightful, child-size fairy house. Oh, the secrets kept here! Joyful soirées happen under the wisteria-covered arbor and gazebo, magically hidden from the city. As you step along the paved paths you'll notice more themes, quietly guarded by more faithful boxwood. There is an orchard of fruit trees with a sitting area ready for afternoon tea, the vegetable "room" protected from visiting squirrels, and a charming home for the family's pet hens. It's so tranquil, yet lively with whispering fountains, colorful flora, happy chickens, butterflies, and piped-in orchestral sounds - this garden has French country soul! Across the hens' bridge view a bedazzled succulent fountain and tiny greenhouse. Then follow the shade path, back to the gazebo, for homemade refreshments. This happy gardener thanks you for stopping by.



7. Kye & Elena Osti
925 Coastline Drive
Seal Beach 90740
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 100%
SD/T/O/L

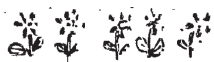
Elena & Kye's garden is composed of succulents and a mixture of tropical plants including colorful bromeliads, 40-something pineapple plants & plumerias in different colors. All of the plants have been chosen to add a variety of color and bring out the beauty of the yard. The gardeners created a low-maintenance front & backyard with a focus on today's need for more water in the world. The property is made up of 3 different garden rooms, with each flowing into the other as if you were someplace 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 is going to fly out where I can do yoga." Come enjoy the gardens in this tranquil paradise and be on the lookout for all of the Buddhas in this serene yard.



8. Dede & Dwight Warren
2737 W. Bridgeport Avenue
Anaheim 92804
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 70%
BW/C/SD/M/O/L

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 planting beds. Over 50 roses, several lavender plants, and a border of jasmine perfume the air. Drought-tolerant lamb's ear, little ollies, and rosemary lend a hand to the cottage garden look-all while keeping water use down. A small kitchen garden fills the courtyard. You enter the Mediterranean-style backyard through a long succulent filled walk, shaded by four large magnolia trees. The 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 previously little used side yard is now a prominently featured cast iron greenhouse surrounded by fuchsia, jasmine, roses and ferns. This Certified Wildlife Habitat is designed to encourage pollinators, wildlife, and tour participants alike.



9. Ron, Ryan & Martha Heiman
9372 Hillview Road
Anaheim 92804
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 75%
ED/O/L/T/SD/BW

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: Italian, Drought-Tolerant, Grassy Amphitheater, Tropical, and

Fruit Orchard-in all-a relaxing place to visit and linger. You'll meet numerous whimsical characters such as Bella Boulder Belly peeking out from a canopy in the Tropical Garden and Senor Rustio playing an accordion for you at the pool. Wander from front to back, you will see over 350 trees and countless plants from many parts of the world. View the cycads from South Africa to the South Pacific, Fishtail Palms from Thailand, and many cacti 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 pin-tailed whydahs. Great believers in recycling, the Heimans catch rainwater in barrels to water their gardens. The cement that once surrounded the tennis court has become planters and the asphalt from the court became a hill in the Tropical Garden.

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



10. Todd & Laura Lockwood
2527 E. Whidby Lane.
Anaheim 92806
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 50%
O/EC/ED/AI/BW

She loves to play in the dirt. He can build anything his imagination can think of. And they both can't pass up a project! Step through the side gate and into a pea gravel pathed vegetable and herb garden complete with a compost bin and an automated greenhouse. Out back you pass an "art wall" and find your way into an outdoor living room. The pergola wall unit is ever-changing and a fun new place to decorate for each holiday. Take a look at the unique chandelier in the patio cover and you will see the exact spot where multiple generations of hummingbirds have built consecutive nests. Tillandsia is the new pet plant that is finding its way into little hidden spots and as the focal point of the water feature. The multi-trunked jacaranda is so loved, that when it started pulling up the planter wall and patio it was time to get a new planter wall and patio! There are little mini gardens including jungle and Asian inspired ones. New this year is the addition of a lawn level deck that offers a secluded spot to read, meditate or even take a nap and a hummingbird art scavenger hunt for

those who like a little gamifying of their garden touring. Walk on through the arbor to the "orchard" featuring vertical hanging succulent pockets and complete your tour through a secret garden.



11. Jodi & Scot Daniels
918 East Doral Court
Placentia 92870
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 80%
O/EC

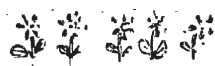
Affectionately dubbed "Scojo Resort" by friends and family, Scot and Jodi Daniels have been lovingly tending their suburban garden for over twenty years. Along with roses, succulents, and boxwood hedges, their yard dazzles with flowering bulbs year-round including lilies, dahlias, freesias, amaryllises, gladiolas, and irises. Two dwarf magnolia trees line the driveway, with a large potted wisteria adding color and texture to the hardscape. A favorite tree is the weeping juniper featured in a raised backyard planter. Two Japanese camellia trees fill the air with a delightful fragrance when in bloom. Potted ficus, Japanese maples, and a 4-in-one citrus tree line a pool-side planter.

Scot immerses himself in an array of potted bonsai that he works to shape each spring. Inherited from grandparents and parents, two large hanging staghorn ferns and two hoyas have adorned the family's patios for over four decades.

To create more space for planting in their tight, but inviting space, Scot and Jodi built several hanging container gardens bubbling over with a variety of succulents. The Daniels love hosting gatherings and sharing their garden. The pool and surrounding garden provide a verdant and tranquil getaway that makes Scojo Resort a destination for family and friends.



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12. Karen & Mark McCoy
4659 Avocado Avenue
Yorba Linda 92886
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 50%
New-C/ED/OL/BW

Inspired by Filoli gardens, this once Flat backyard was transformed by the introduction of arbors, steps, and raised beds to encourage discovery and movement throughout the property. The remnants of an avocado grove and multiple citrus trees planted by the original owners were incorporated into the design. Seasonal changes alternately expose and obscure views creating an ever-changing landscape of color and interest, as well as the production of fruits and vegetables for the gardeners' delights, and sustenance for wildlife. Within the garden walls, bouquets are gathered, parties are hosted, and respite is taken; while outside the eastern wall, spare cuttings are planted and spare seeds are cast about and given the chance to flourish--or not.

*Editor's Note: parking available on the horse path or the street above has plenty of side parking.



13. Tom & Ylanda Bass
5160 Via Carretas
Yorba Linda 92886
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 50%
New-C/OL/BW

The inspiration for this garden was to create a place to feel like a peaceful retreat. Large trees in the yard limited the sunny areas, so every sunny area was used to grow garden roses as well as fragrant flowers and flowering bushes that attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Even the pool was created to look like a large pond where ivy and bushes overran it a bit. Fountains attract birds and birdhouses have been homes for blue birds

and wrens for many years. The back part of the yard has a long stream that is a favorite place to host many gatherings and even a wedding with family and friends. A metal arbor growing a rose and a small gazebo over a fountain are treasured pieces from the Mary Lou's Heard's Nursery. The small pink greenhouse is a place to relax, enjoy nature, and to grow seedlings.

Editor's Note: This charming, MUST SEE garden has something for everyone!



14. Alana Fugnetti
5500 Paseo Joaquin
Yorba Linda 92886
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 75%
New-C/M/OL/SD/BW

Discover a new gem on this year's garden tour! This enchanting garden features a formal front yard with a brick patio, beautifully complemented by California native plantings. A charming brick path guides you to the back yard, where Mediterranean and native garden influences come together in harmony.

Relax in an informal seating area by the fire pit, surrounded by lush, overgrown plants that create a cozy, secluded atmosphere. As you stroll further, you'll find more formal seating adorned with elegant teak and Polywood, set against a backdrop of delightful cottage plantings.

Keep an eye out for playful bunnies and serene water features along the way. A path through the pool area leads to a spiral staircase, bringing you to the upper level, where 45-year-old trees stand tall on one side, while lavender and succulents thrive on the other.

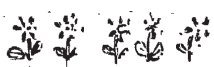
Don't miss the hidden patio up top—a perfect spot for a peaceful nap or a moment of tranquility amidst the beauty that surrounds you.

Editor's Note: This one is a MUST SEE with a one-of-a-kind upper deck that has to be seen to be believed!



15. Jack & Barbara Brewer
5690 Scotch Pine Ridge
Yorba Linda 92886
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: No wheelchair access
T/SD/OL

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 (wait, she still moves plants when she gets a better idea!) Jack painstakingly (once again) covered the front and back yard with 250 bags of mulch. This 'Queendom' as their son has so aptly named the yard, has become a peaceful place that soothes Barbara's body, mind and soul on the weekends, after a week of working as a therapist. As the plants overpopulate the yard, friends are gifted with the extra plants and sometimes even have their entire space landscaped. Just check out the neighborhood, and you will see her signature style! Welcome to the solitude of color, running water, butterflies, and hummingbirds.



16. Susan & Scott Lund
17791 Seminole Way
Yorba Linda 92886
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 40%
M/OL/AI

Welcome to the Lund Family Garden! This warm and elegant garden brings elements of Napa Valley and the Mediterranean countryside together for the ultimate peaceful experience. The garden is remote and quiet, yet never fails to have an inviting atmosphere. Bathed in sunlight, the earthy colors of green from the lush plant life, and brown from the warm rustic stone, create a picturesque oasis for a backyard. Further into the garden, the sound of a stream serves as perfect ambient noise, making one feel as if they were in a forest instead of a suburb. The garden has a spacious dining area, along with a traditional stone pizza oven, sure

to entertain the whole neighborhood. Beyond the dining area, secret stairs lead to the upper gardens, perfect for a more intimate setting where a couple could reconnect, a small family could play, or an individual could meditate and find internal peace surrounded by external tranquility. For all that enter the garden, time stops, as they forget their worries and their stresses and are embraced by the nature that has always been there. The Lund Family Garden is more than a garden--it's a sanctuary.

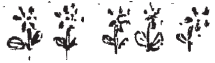


17. Lana & David Chang
17907 Mariposa Ave.
Yorba Linda 92886
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 75%
AI/C/EC/F/OL

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 hedges of thyme, rosemary, and lavender. The back gardens include 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 wrought 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 stairs branch 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 birdbath. There is a small fairy garden under the willow tree which is often missed on a walk through. There are many butterfly host plants and nesting bluebird houses.

Editor's Note: Worth the drive! This one is a MUST SEE!

Sticky Notes:

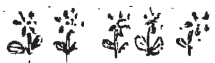


18. Steve Velez
15461 Devonshire Circle
Westminster 92683
Open: Sunday Only (1-5)
Access: 90%

Welcome to a peaceful corner of the world: The Velez Jungle House! This garden will be celebrating its 63rd anniversary with you.

Ralph J. Velez II started planting in 1962. When you come today, you will see many specimens of palm trees, as well as unusual plants and flowers from around the world. Many are labeled with the year they were planted, the size of container it was, and the botanical name. There is a section called the California Rainforest. This is an enclosed greenhouse that's 18 feet high growing plants from the tropical regions of the world with higher humidity and heat.

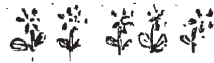
Editor's Note: This UNIQUE garden was featured on the television program "Visiting with Huell Howser". The link can be found at: TheVelezJungleHouse.com.



19. Ken & Theresa Anderson
15641 Toway Lane
Huntington Beach 92647
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 40%
C/M/ED

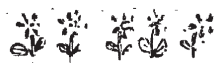
Welcome to Hedgehog Haven! Here is a garden designed to welcome birds, bees, butterflies and anything else looking for food, shelter, or just a place to sun themselves. This cross between Mediterranean and cottage garden styles includes green shrubs for structure,

herbaceous perennials, vegetable beds, water features, a greenhouse and a variety of hidden surprises to discover. Although hedgehogs are not native to our country...if you see one, please direct him to this garden!



20. Susan & Dave Datko
5121 Linda Circle
Huntington Beach 92649
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 100%
EC/C/ED/OL

Step through the side gate and under the large Ficus tree into an eclectic garden dominated by a massive mulberry tree and a coral tree. Set on slightly over a quarter acre, you'll find several varieties of roses and an explosion of colorful Peruvian lilies around the property. Dave and Sue have also incorporated several fruit trees into the mix. Look for banana, mango, strawberry guava, Fig, and dwarf pomegranate trees; as well as a 60-year-old orange tree and a massive Granny Smith apple tree. Look carefully because something interesting lurks around every corner. Succulents, cactuses, air plants, orchids, bougainvillea and much more can be found on the sprawling, park-like grounds.



21. Greg & Vicki Brown
Middlesworth
16521 Charleville Circle
Huntington Beach 92649
Open: Saturday Only
No Wheelchair access
EC/SD/OL/BW/C

When Greg and Vicki purchased this house, the yard was all dirt, dying cypress trees, and a broken-down sundeck. Today, the garden has emerged as an outdoor living space with multiple garden vignettes. The courtyard of artificial turf, filled with Australian violet, azaleas, camellias, and pittosporum trees. Stroll down the side yard to the "secret garden" filled with succulents growing in re-purposed vessels and fresh herbs. The Donkey Tail plant is from a 1974 cutting. Spend time on the patio with hanging annuals, or sit on the redwood deck and listen to the wind chimes in the ornamental pear growing through the deck. The gardeners let the sod go, in favor of what Greg calls "playground grass" - a drought-friendly

mixture of whatever blows in from the golf course. The two 60-foot, terraced flower beds are filled with Floribunda roses and annuals, as well as lime, lemon and blood orange trees. Venture up 20 stairs to the third level and enjoy the climbing Cecile Brunner roses and sit in the pergola to watch the golfers or the sunset.



22. Doreen & Keith Kushner
17202 Cobra Lane
Huntington Beach 92647
Open: Saturday Only
Accessible except for a 4" step
SD/EC

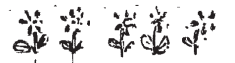
This is truly a personal work of art. Every pattern is created with thousands of cuttings individually placed, like the strokes of a brush. The front yard includes a small lawn with a curving border beyond which are thousands of jade cuttings of various shades of red, yellow, and green; four types of mature palm trees; succulents & cacti of diverse colors and textures; asparagus ferns; sticks on fire; variegated shrubs; and other water-friendly plants. In the back, there is no grass. Instead, you will find a succulent paradise with many varieties of cactus, echeveria, aloe, lithops, euphorbia, baby toes, graptopetalum, haworthia, kalanchoe, pachyphytum, sansevieria, sedum, semperivivum, senecio, stapelia, split rock, agave, and more! There are inventive handmade planters and two seating areas upon river rock which are bounded by a wandering flagstone path extending to the side of the house and the rear of the yard. There are treasure boxes and ribbons of succulents, each telling its own story. At the base of a mature Ficus is a large octopus rendering with carefully placed stones of alternating colors. Finally, silver carpet and attic treasures dot the yard, adding areas of interest everywhere. Guests of past tours have been overheard saying, "Holy smoke", "Wow, look at that!" and "So creative".



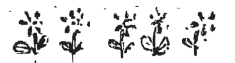
23. Ron & Claudia Bitzer
6892 Rook Drive
Huntington Beach 92647
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 100% front yard and
BW/SD/ED/M/OL

The Bitzers love entertaining, but their house is a small Cal Classic. The solution came in the form of Bitzer's outdoor paradise. Welcome to their renovation! The front and back yards are 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 accented with local desert flora. Three garden beds provide nutritious, organic vegetables and herbs year-round. Edible nopal (cactus), lime, mandarin orange and lemon trees line the side yard. The front yard is a butterfly and hummingbird sanctuary centered around a towering Long John Grevelia. The Bitzers invite you in. Bienvenidos! Willkommen! Welcome!



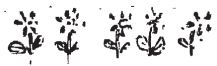
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24. AJ & Barbara Wilson
5482 Maryport Drive
Huntington Beach 92649
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 50%
New-C

Inhale the powerful scent of an abundance of sweet peas that adorn the gardens of this large corner lot. Once you enter through the side gate into the shaded covered side patio, notice the preponderance of blues, birds, birdhouses, and birdcages. A few homes off the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, sea breezes drift across the ocean, the beach, the wetlands and into this cool shady spot adorned with coleus, ferns, succulents and avian memorabilia. Stroll through into the backyard for more of the same, an English Country Garden with more species of flowers than you can count. This hummingbird haven is a visiting spot and nesting area for large numbers of hummers. Originally started 35 years ago with this in mind, numerous varieties of salvias, pentas, abutilon, mallow and larkspur dot the front and backyards. Not to be missed is the Pretty in Pink Memorial "Grandma's Garden" corner complete with an old-fashioned rose suggested by Mary Lou herself.





25. Helen & Denny Bolen
8761 La Zana Ct
Fountain Valley 92708
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 100%
C/F/OL

Bolen's Cottage welcomes you with bright flowers and undulating walks of brick and stone bordered by split-rail fences. At the front door, there's a courtyard replete with vines, 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. pretend critters). There are swings in the backyard covered with bower vines which are inviting to young and old alike. You will find beautiful shades of amaryllis and a variety of clematis. Helen always says, the Queen of the Garden is their spider lily. Birds and butterflies love this place—Helen and Denny hope you will too!

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



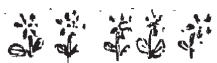
Poetic Interlude:
for you the faithful Tour Guide
Consumer. Your treat for
reaching the halfway mark of our
descriptions.

Seeds and Gardens

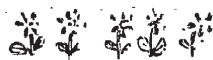
If words are seeds,
let flowers grow
from your mouth,
not weeds.

If hearts are gardens,
plant those flowers
in the chest of the ones
who exist around you.

-R.H. Swaney



Sticky Notes:



26. Kathie & Ron Ferree
8484 Shamrock Cir.
Huntington Beach 92646
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 80%
C/ED/OL

Tucked within, but not a part of a condominium complex, this three-quarter acre garden features trellises, gazebos, fountains, a pond, a working full-sized waterwheel, and irrefutable horticultural bliss. This property was transformed from a 1930's-era working farm to a beautiful Colonial Garden. As you walk along winding brick pathways, you will see more than 40 trees of various species and over 100 roses artfully arranged among numerous perennials and annuals. Many of the plants began life in the large vintage greenhouse. The beauty of several garden "rooms" is complemented by the sweeping views of southeastern Orange County from over the top of the long, white picket fence.

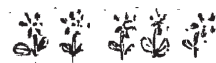
Kathie continues to ask, "Why should we be on the garden tour AGAIN? People have already visited it!" Ron answers, "Our garden is always changing," (as are all). And for once, Ron was right. In the Fall of 2015, the garden was hit by a fairly powerful storm when a "downspout" toppled two 70' trees, part of a concrete wall, and trellises, giving Kathie a "blank canvas" in this now new part of the garden.

Editor's Note: Kathie, creative-type, planner and doer, with the assistance of her "newly promoted" Phd (patient hole digger), "Ron" have created one of the most popular and botanically stunning gardens in all of O.C. themselves. This is a MUST SEE!!!



27. Shannon Silveria-Mohr
19781 Scenic Bay
Huntington Beach 92648
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 90%
New-C/ED

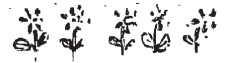
Tucked away just a mile from the beach, lies a magical property featuring four gardens. The front garden is a delightful tapestry of herbs, flowers, and vegetables. As you step through the gate, a fragrant jasmine wall greets you. It is bordered by strawberries and complimented by iron bistro furniture—a perfect place for sipping tea. The jasmine wall meanders along the side of the house, creating a space for gathering with friends and family under twinkling bistro lights, surrounded by fragrant lemon trees. Turn the corner and as you step into the backyard, you'll be in a floral haven where all sorts of blossoms spring forth from seeds and bulbs. Garden boxes brim with fresh vegetables, while the air is sweetened by the gentle scent of sweet peas climbing their trellises. In one corner, a whimsical greenhouse nestled beside an orange tree beckons you. Be prepared to leave "The Flower Cottage" with a heart full of inspiration.



28. Kathy & Lynn Ericksen
8557 Phoenix Ave.
Fountain Valley 92708
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 50%
C/OL/BW

Kathy's garden is her interpretation of an English garden and a rosarian's delight. It is abundant with critters, vibrant colors, and aromatic scents. As you enter the front, you will find a variety of roses, a mixture of dahlias, irises, and seasonal annuals. She also shares a little patch of her neighbor's front flower bed to grow some organic veggies. The sitting area out front is a pleasant

gathering place for neighbors and friends to share a glass of wine while enjoying the view. The backyard also has an English Flair with an Italian style fountain surrounded by azaleas, calla lilies and hydrangeas on the west side. In the early morning, you will find squirrels and birds stopping by for a drink. Birdhouses and feeders have been placed throughout the garden for bird watching. While strolling through, stop and take a look at the lovely Lady Gouldian Finches in the aviary. Feel free to sit a bit and enjoy the birds, flowers, and squirrels.



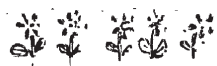
29. Debbie Freeman
9109 Cardinal Ave.
Fountain Valley 92708
Open: Saturday Only
Access: Front partial, Back 75%
BW/C/OL/T

Walk out of the big city and enter through a white picket fence and bower arch of pink roses to find yourself in an English garden adorned with hydrangeas, impatiens, daisies, tulips, roses, milkweed, geraniums, and tiger eye. This is a pleasant surrounding not only for butterflies and birds, but a full shade Liquid Amber tree arbor bordered by white wooden lawn furniture promises hours of conversation and relaxation. For privacy you can stroll into a quiet, tropical backyard with mature multi-trunk Arbutus Marina tree, several palm trees, a display of many shades of plumeria, an approximately 55-yr old 250-pound fern, marigolds, and an orchard including olallieberries the granddaddies love to pick. This relaxing setting includes a playhouse with bench and shade tree, a BBQ fire pit with beautiful brickwork, a huge waterfall, a bar, and a green lawn surrounded by flower beds with lots of succulents and color. All of this provides evidence of a resident gardener who unwinds from busy working hours by lovingly tending her vernal artistry throughout the year.



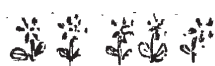
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@Mary Lou Heard Garden Tour





30. Jennifer & Steve McInteer
9681 Flounder Drive
Huntington Beach 92646
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 50%
C/EC

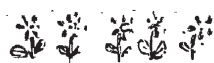
A crowded cottage garden filled with a market finds and custom welding by the hubby. This moon garden - which means white flowers only - has a tendency to cheat with a little purple and pink, but still retains its sense of peace and calm. The famous mulberry tree shades the front yard, and begonia filled birdcages adorn the backyard. Cement statuary (aka "The Fat Kids") are everywhere, dressed in their best rhinestones. The backyard was completely redone in 2021 and includes a folly, a walk thru rose arbor, and a greenhouse. The garden room will be open and is a feast for the eyes of all maximalists. If you love stuff, this garden is for you!



31. Jerry Edwards
12301 Walnut Avenue
Garden Grove 92840
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: gravel paths not easy with a wheelchair
New-C/F/EC

A true garden is never static! Having lived in a 1947 "fixer-upper" for almost 40 years, both the Edwards' garden and house have been works of love--and angst, frustration, worry, and wonder! The early years saw the backyard garden divided into two grassy areas with flower borders full of roses, bulbs, and young fruit trees. Enough tomatoes were grown each year to last through the winter. As the trees and bushes matured, sun-loving plants gave way to more ferns, begonias, tillandsias, and other more shade-loving plant varieties.

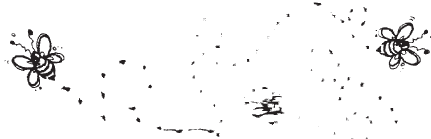
During COVID (not the best time to have started a renovation project!) a new addition resulted in the covered patio being transformed into a vine-covered pergola. Nestled throughout the garden are homes for fairies, pots of interesting succulents, Bonsai, and annual flowers. At the back of the garden, Eddie the African Sulcata tortoise keeps a watchful eye for anything growing in his domain. Janet, Jerry, and Eddie welcome you to their garden!



32. Karen & Jim Mittendorf
910 W. Riviera Dr.
Santa Ana 92706
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 75%
BW/SD/OL

A lot has been packed into this garden and with every step there is something more to see. The Mittendorfs are gardeners at heart and love sharing their passion with family, friends, and other gardeners. Walk up the shady brick path to the iron gate and fencing that was bought while on a road trip in El Paso. Just inside is a cozy spot to enjoy an evening fire amongst some of their favorite Japanese maples and listen to the soothing sounds of the pond waterfall. Continue around the garden shed, through the rabbit run to the backyard. Have a seat on the garden wall and hear the sounds of the waterfall table filling the dogs' water bowl. They love to BBQ, eat al fresco next to the pond filled with koi, and sometimes enjoy a movie night on the couch.

This yard is a series of spaces, each a little different, but all planned to be a cohesive garden experience with carefully selected California water-wise plants, seating areas, and water elements that make walking through the garden an adventure, but also one that invites you to linger along the way.



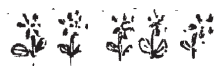
33. Nena Niessen
2031 N. Ross Street
Santa Ana 92706
Open: Sunday Only
Not wheelchair accessible
C/OL/ED

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 visit of many 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 arbors and tree-lined and shaded passages. Don't forget the edible area where you will find fruit trees and raised beds for vegetables.



34. Beth & Kelly Thomas
925 N. Lowell Street
Santa Ana 92703
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 75%
T/OL/ED

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, utilizing every available space of the corner lot. 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 restored antique high-top table next to a year-round "ornament" tree. There is a fire pit seating area with an antique building fan that has been converted to canopy lighting. And last, but definitely not least, is an elevated vegetable garden filled with tomato and pepper plants and a persimmon tree divided by a jasmine trellis that is overlooked by a cozy, shaded porch. Come get a true taste of Southern California outdoor living.



35. Diane & Robert
Von Gerichten
339 E. Palmyra Ave
Orange 92866
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 10%
C/OL

In 1907 a 2-storey home was built in the heart of what was to become the Historic District of Old Towne Orange. Ninety years later Diane & Robert bought the home, proceeding to renovate it with the vision of transforming their property into a suggestion of the English cottage gardens Diane admired as a young girl on her many trips back to her mother's homeland. Theirs is a free-

spirited garden with touches of formality & elegance in artful vignettes, tasteful statuary, antiques, & custom gazebos. The 24" box trees the couple planted 24 years ago have beautifully matured and offer shade, structure, and even a little mystery as a backdrop for a tiny pond framed by an iron Gothic church window. The front yard features a custom iron "folly" as a dramatic focal point and mature English roses spill beyond the picket fence. In the enchanting backyard you'll discover a winding stone pathway, raised beds brimming with color, and lots of curves with destinations that challenge the parameters of this intimate space! Welcome guests may possibly be invited to tour the downstairs and inevitably be exuberantly greeted by Banjo, the Australian Shepard... (Gypsy's successor). This designer's sanctuary has appeared in several magazines over the years, including "Romantic Homes" & "Cottage Style".

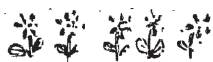
Editor's Note: This is a MUST SEE cottage beauty!!



36. Linda Gartner
5504 E. Valencia Drive
Orange 92869
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 100%
C

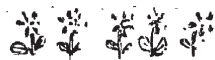
A traditional white picket fence frames the large front yard and supports abundant annuals and perennials. Window boxes overflow, framing the front windows that can be seen through flowering shrubs and flowers. A boxwood hedge lines the front side yard, where you can find comfy seating and crepe myrtles that provide shade for daffodils and pots of annuals. A large sycamore, azaleas, violets, and mature camellias add to the ambiance. The sprawling front garden is a thriving sanctuary for monarch butterflies and bluebirds, a joy to see amid the stunning spring display. Espaliered apple trees will lead you through a rose laden arbor. Eden climbing roses, clematis vines and baskets surround a patio laced with wisteria, roses, azaleas, and ferns. Annuals and perennials border the entire backyard and provide a beautiful and restful setting. The gardener invites you to come and enjoy and hopes this labor of love will delight and inspire you. She also offers much thanks to her long-time friend, Sharon, for her help in getting ready for the tour.





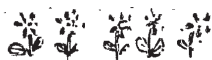
37. Chris Hurley
5739 E. San Juan Drive
Orange 92869
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 90%
New-SD/T

After having the dried-out lawn removed and replaced with an array of drought tolerant foliage, the owner of this property found the selection to be a bit - boring. The last few years have been spent replacing these average plants with their more exotic succulent cousins. Cut to today and this garden is anything but boring and is instead filled with succulents that you may have never seen before. "The more unusual the better", is the way this gardener looks at it. There is even a little pocket in this fabric of summer dry- the entryway that houses a water feature and traditionally indoor plants that lend this area a tropical feel. This entire garden has definitely gone through a total transformation.



38. Lynda & Darrel Cook
165 S.A Street
Tustin 92780
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 90%
OL/EC

This charming, historic California Bungalow home was built in 1915 and is a part of the historic overlay district in Old Town Tustin. It is surrounded by an equal parts charming & entertaining garden space for long summer night dinners. Every inch of yard space in this Old Town Tustin craftsman home is creatively designed with the desire to have the feel of a mini version of dining at the Roger's Gardens Farmhouse Restaurant. A massive pine tree that is surely 100 years old makes its stately appearance as you enter the backyard. The playhouse that belonged to this couple's daughters is now being lovingly used by their 1st granddaughter. It continues to be a house of love.

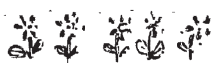


39. Roselyn & John Dear
12371 Zig Zag Way
Tustin 92780
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 65%
New-SD

After periods of severe drought conditions, the homeowners replaced most of their landscape plants with arid-adapted plants over the course of several years. The garden features a variety of succulents arranged over many landscaped beds. Many of the plants are labeled, making it feel as if you are walking through an exhibit. The abundance of pathways provide access to most areas of the garden. An arroyo in the front garden not only mimics a natural desert drainageway, but is functional as well. A variety of wildlife find areas of the garden suitable as their natural habitat. The garden was recently showcased on PBS, and was a winner of the 2019 Roger's Gardens California Friendly Garden contest.

Editor's Note: Treat yourself to the resort style walkways through this summer dry perfection—A MUST SEE!

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



40. Dan & Kathie Wickham
1 Los Pioneros
Rancho Santa Margarita 92688
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 75%
BW/SD/ED/F/OL

The Wickhams bought their newly built home 38 years ago...and the gardening has never stopped! The yard has many elements: shade trees, fruit trees, a vegetable garden, mini gardens, and a cactus and succulent collection. In the middle of it all is a log cabin that was added a few years ago. Their desert tortoises named Myrtle and Buddy sometimes "help" by trimming newly added bedding plants! The garden is designed to be a peaceful place to relax while attracting butterflies, bees, and hummers. They would love to have you stop in and stay a while!



41. Elaine Larsen
23816 Coronel Drive
Mission Viejo 92691
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 50%
C/EC/OL

This is a garden you have to see. The cottage-style front intrigues you and your senses as to what is to come. Let your ears follow the music to the surprise that awaits you: a hidden paradise in the suburbs. Turn the corner and before you is a secluded garden with a 40 foot multi-pool waterfall tumbling down the slope. Everywhere you look there are charming gathering areas with quiet getaway spots and elevated decks to enjoy the view. The garden is filled with a multitude of flowering plants and spots of whimsy. Pots and baskets change with the seasons. The colors are not limited and Mother Nature has contributed some of her own wishes. The music surrounds all of the greenery and it is your choice to pause and linger at a sunny spot to relax or a shaded area where you can read a good book while listening to the soothing sounds of the water. There is no reason to leave. You can find peace and contentment here.



42. Imee & Hily Barragan
23702 Lagarto
Mission Viejo, CA 92691
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 70-80%
BW/C/SD/EC/M/OL

When Imee and Hily bought their house in 1998 the front and back yards were in rough shape with overgrown Ficus trees, cypress shrubs and plenty of lava rocks. They knew it was going to take a lot of work to bring it up to date, but Imee had a vision for the blank canvas to create a European garden look. Today, that vision has come to fruition - the front garden courtyard invites you to an elegant entrance under an arbor covered with Eden roses (Imee's favorite!). There are over 140 roses, boxwoods, iris', foxgloves, hydrangeas, geraniums, lavender's, and seasonal annuals throughout the garden. A collection of antique cherub statues, fountains, and vintage outdoor furniture are found throughout the garden. The latest addition is Imee's "She-Shed" which was built with reclaimed materials including a vintage door and windows. The backyard has been transformed into an entertainment sanctuary that has hosted various tea parties and fundraisers.

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43. Donna & Steve Milazzo
24361 Via Madrugada
Mission Viejo 92692
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 100% (Front Garden Only)
C/BW

This garden invites you to enter under a graceful arbor covered with Eden roses flanked by a custom fence (she designed/he built) that serves as a backdrop for more plantings that change with the seasons. A stepping stone path to the left is edged with dwarf boxwood and allows for a closer view of roses, foxgloves, sweet peas, poppies, and corncockle that provide cut flowers for many gifted bouquets. The gardener is a long-time rose lover and the garden includes hybrid tea, miniature, shrub, and David Austin roses. Two more roses may be found scrambling across a trellis that frames the garage doors. Across the driveway you'll find a charming bench under a rose-covered arbor (great photo spot!), plus towering hollyhocks, French lavender, alstroemeria and more roses. Through the gate you will pass through a series of grapevine-covered arbors and see shade-loving plants including many hydrangeas and a fountain that the birds never leave! The back hardscape was completed recently, and plantings include many evergreen shrubs, as well as olive and forest pansy trees. Several owner-built structures along the back fence provide privacy and places for vines to grow, while brick pathways invite visitors to take a peaceful stroll. Look closely and you may even find a few bunnies keeping watch over their domain!

Editor's Note: Love roses and sweet peas? Then this garden is a MUST SEE for you! But, this cul-de-sac has very limited parking. We suggest that visitors park on Via Medono or park further north on Via Madrugada near the Liimatainen garden.





be lucky enough to spy a fairy in the raised fairy garden village. Each year there is something new blooming along with the roses - it may be parrot tulips from Amsterdam, sweet peas, sunflowers, or hollyhocks all guarded by snail statues that were inherited from her mom's garden along with Cindie's collection of vintage watering cans. Come through the next gate and you'll find their rose gardens (two regular and one miniature) as well as more fairy communities starting at the sea shore, through La Paws Dog Park, and ending in the Long Dog Campground. You'll also find several communities of gnomes at work and play. Keep your eyes peeled for Peep and Heinrich, as well as for the resident doxies, Belle and Chuck who keep their owner's garden free from those pesky squirrels and crows!

44. Peggy & Lance Liimatainen
24311 Via Madruga
Mission Viejo 92692
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 90%
C/SD/ED/EC/OL

Peggy and Lance want to welcome you to their gardens. The home was in rough shape when it was purchased; but is now an oasis full of outdoor living spaces, ponds, colorful flowers, and drought tolerant plants. The front yard, in particular has gone through some big changes since last year. The new agstone courtyard is surrounded by fences covered with Eden Roses and includes a cozy seating area. You will also find a large Crepe Myrtle surrounded by beautiful landscaping which includes many a drought resistant plant, that has become a hummingbird haven. More changes can be found when you enter the back yard with the addition of English-style tumbled pavers, curved walkways and a pergola. Here you will also find two separate ponds. The large pond is filled with plants and large koi, while the smaller pond is filled with beautiful lilies and aquatic plants. There are more than a few outdoor rooms that take advantage of the beautiful landscaping throughout the yard including an art/guest studio and a new 30'x12' screened in porch. This porch has become one of the most popular spaces to hang out with protection from the sun, the rain, and those pesky mosquitos in the summer. You will also find two raised beds for veggies and berries. The Liimatainens have created a place to relax and enjoy anytime of the year.

45. Cindie & Bob Reilly
24432 Diamante
Mission Viejo 92692
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 100%
C/F

Welcome to the Reilly's Americana themed cottage style garden which has three separate garden areas for Cindie, Bob and their son Shaun's green thumbs to dig in. The very front consists of a small succulent and torch cactus garden, climbing red Mandevilla, and a climbing Red Eden rose as well as a Dynamite Red Crepe Myrtle amongst lavender, hydrangea and agapanthus. Come through the gate into the courtyard very quietly and you might

46. Catherine & Mark Chamberlin
27391 Lost Trail Drive
Laguna Hills 92653
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 20%
C/SD

Located in Nellie Gail Ranch, this new to the tour garden sits on a half-acre and rises beautifully up a large hillside. Along the way up this hillside, there are several small terraces and seating areas to enjoy all that this space has to offer. You will find yourself surrounded by a colorful mix of roses and perennials. Since the uppermost area is quite sunny, it plays home to bright succulents and blooming trees. Included in your journey, you will find formal hedges and wild areas to be explored that create a colorful landscape of mixed flora and wonderful pockets of surprises.

Editor's Note: This unusual sloped garden is a fan favorite and a MUST SEE!

47. Mary Jane Fletcher
29581 Via Valverde
Laguna Niguel 92677
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 90%
New-C/SD/BW

Nestled into Southern Orange County suburbia is a Certified Wildlife Habitat that has been tamed. Walking along the right side of the house, past a shade garden and continuing on, you'll pass a young fern garden of maidenhair, mother, and rabbit's foot ferns. Then you'll see a peaceful terrace that overlooks a "natural" meadow featuring a manzanita tree, gaura and chondropetalum amid perennial grasses swaying in the wind. Just past the terrace is a more formal gravel garden of clipped boxwoods and an espaliered rose. Retracing your steps, you'll arrive at the front gate where a 'Buff Beauty' climbing rose welcomes you into the strolling garden

pathways. Its cottage garden plants, such as hydrangeas, roses, and penstemons are paired with an interesting mix of low-water plants like phormium, euphorbia, duranta and sephora, among others. If you arrive between 11:30 and 1pm there's a good chance you'll be able to enjoy seeing butterflies playing in the strolling garden.

48. Colin & Julie Stokes
1 Garcilla Drive
Rancho Mission Viejo 92694
Open: Saturday & Sunday
Access: 90%
New-SD/BW/M/EC/OL

Colin and Julie welcome you to their Mediterranean-inspired garden in the new community of Rancho Mission Viejo. This is a special place where native plants nestle among water features, sculptures and a truly unique reflexology path. It's said that Englishmen love their gardens, and Colin is no exception. When his wife isn't digging up plants that she thinks are weeds (only to later find out they are not), she can be a useful assistant as long as specific instructions are given. Their garden is constantly evolving, based on how each plant copes with the "challenging" soil quality. The garden provides year-round interest both to its custodians, and to the birds and butterflies they share it with. They would love to welcome you to their Zen oasis, and perhaps provide a little inspiration for those homeowners contemplating a landscaping project of their own.



49. Karen Morgan Newe
247 Calle Familia
San Clemente 92672
Open: Saturday Only
Access: 30%
A/I/T

This yard is often described as "Zen" due to a tranquil and calm aesthetic. If you have been to this house on a previous tour you get to see how the front garden has been re-imagined to remove a thirsty lawn while maintaining the previous

Japanese style. Come see how California natives, grasses, succulents, and other low-water plants combine perfectly with bonsai'd black pines, Japanese maples, and wisteria. A beautiful wooden gate leads to a lovely front courtyard with staghorn ferns, Japanese maples, mondo grass, and a bamboo/rock water fountain. Move on to a second courtyard with a fountain that continues the Japanese style of bringing nature indoors. The comfortable outdoor space is highlighted by a dining deck made of ipe hardwood. Succulents are a favorite for bordering the lawn and the raised vegetable bed. The single side yard includes Hawaiian ti plants, palm trees, plumerias, white ginger, banana trees, bromeliads, a wooden tiki, potted citrus trees, a worm bin, and a potting bench. Whimsy can be found throughout with fish swimming in a bed of succulents, a succulent window-shutter, and Zen statues.



Poetic Interlude:
for you the faithful Tour Guide
Consumer. Another treat for
reaching the last page of our
descriptions.

Who Loves a Garden

Who loves a garden
Finds within his soul
Life's whole;

He hears the anthem of the soil
While ingrates toil;

And sees beyond his little sphere
The waving fronds of heaven clear.

-Louise Seymour Jones

STICKY NOTES:



**** 2025 ****
**** Supporting MLHMG T Nurseries ****

Brita's Old Town Garden
225 Main Street
Seal Beach, CA 90740

Plant Depot
32413 San Juan Creek Road
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Green Thumb Nursery
23782 Bridger Road
Lake Forest, CA 92630

Potting Shed
10 Plaza Square Suite 102
Orange, CA 92866

H&H Nursery
6220 Lakewood Blvd
Lakewood, CA 90712

Ricardo's Nursery
6850 Atlantic Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90805

Laguna Hills Nursery
1829 North Tustin Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Roger's Gardens
2301 San Joaquin Hills Road
Corona Del Mar, CA 92625

M&M Nursery
380 N Tustin Avenue
Orange, CA 92867

Tree of Life Nursery
33201 Ortega Hwy
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Orange County Farm Supply
1826 West Chapman
Orange, CA 92868

Upland Nursery
1518 N Tustin Avenue
Orange, CA 92867

The Mary Lov Heard Foundation
****Garden Etiquette & Suggestions****

*Pets are not permitted on the tour.

*The tour is smoke and vape free.

*When parking, please be sensitive to neighbors and any special parking requests.

*Do not collect seeds or cuttings.

*Restrooms are not available at gardens, plan accordingly.

*Stay on marked walkways and paths, and do not enter areas the hosts have not opened to tourgoers.

*Photos are encouraged. Feel free to post on social media. Tag us @maryloheardmemorialgardentour on Facebook or Instagram.

*Wear comfy shoes, sunscreen, and maybe even a fun hat.

*Visit your favorite style of garden or try out something completely new. With 49 gardens to choose from your options are almost endless!!

*Use the 2025 Tour Google Map available on our website to help you navigate your route.

*Scroll through the photo gallery on our website to get a sneak peak at the featured gardens as you plan your day.

There is no ticket to buy for this Premier SoCal Garden Tour. That's right!! NO ticket to buy, but we do carry on Mary Lov's legacy by collecting donations to a charity that was near and dear to her heart-The Sheepfold.

At each garden, please see our DONATION JARS which have lovingly been hand decorated by the children of The Sheepfold--yep, they should be easy to find!!!

You can also donate securely on our website: heardsgardentour.com or with Paypal, by check to "The Mary Lov Heard Foundation" or Venmo @marylov-heard

****Interested in becoming a host??****
Send your name, address and phone number to:
info@heardsgardentour.com

We can schedule a visit to your garden and answer any questions you may have about the hosting process.

Our 7 Board Members vet gardens all summer long as we get ready for the next big show!

****Like what you see? ****

Tell the Real Gardener!

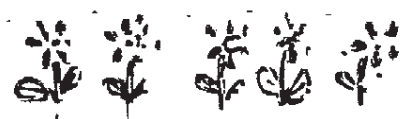
We could not do this tour without the incredible generosity and hard work of each and every one of these "Real Gardeners"!!!

Help our tour and mission grow. Share about us with someone you know who loves gardens!

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook
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Sign up for our newsletter to receive interesting, fun, and informative articles that come out (almost) monthly all year long.

Become a host!!
Meet great people and support a great cause.



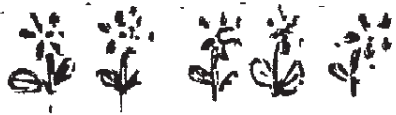
Spring has sprung!!! Take your inspiration and head to one of our sponsor nurseries to check out their amazing selection and get that much closer to the garden of your dreams!!!

See you on the road!!!
Aunt Flora Says
"Thank you, Thank you,
Thank you!"

Keep in touch. Sign up for our newsletter @ heardsgardentour.com. Just scroll down to subscribe now and put in your name and email address.



*No.	City	Host(s)	Sat	Sun	Category Description	*No.	City	Host(s)	Sat	Sun	Category Description
19	HB	Anderson	X		C/M/ED	22	HB	Kushner	X		SD/EC
42	MV	Baragan	X		BW/C/SD/EC/M/OL	41	MV	Larsen	X	X	C/EC/OL
4	LB	Basheda	X	X	C/BW	44	MV	Liimatainen	X		C/SD/ED/EC/OL
13	YL	Bass	X		NEW-C/OL/BW	10	A	Lockwood	X	X	OL/EC/ED/AI/BW
23	HB	Bitzer	X		BW/SD/ED/M/OL	16	YL	Lund	X	X	M/OL/AI
25	FV	Bolen	X	X	C/F/OL	6	LB	Malan	X	X	NEW-C
15	YL	Brewer	X	X	T/SD/OL	12	YL	McCoy	X		NEW-C/ED/OL/BW
21	HB	Brown-Middlesworth	X		EC/SD/OL/BW/C	30	HB	McInteer	X	X	C/EC
46	LH	Chamberlin	X	X	NEW-C/SD	43	MV	Milazzo	X		C/BW
17	YL	Chang	X		AI/C/EC/F/OL	32	SA	Mittendorf	X	X	BW/SD/OL
38	T	Cook	X		OL/EC	49	SC	Morgan-Neuwe	X		AI/T
11	P	Daniels	X	X	OL/EC	33	SA	Niessen		X	C/OL/ED
20	HB	Datko	X	X	EC/C/ED/OL	7	SB	Osti	X		SD/T/OL
39	T	Dear	X		NEW-SD	3	LB	Popovich	X		BW/OL/SD
31	GG	Edwards	X	X	NEW-C/F/EC	45	MV	Reilly	X		C/F
28	FV	Ericksen	X		C/OL/BW	2	SH	Savoulian	X		SD
26	HB	Ferree	X	X	C/ED/OL	27	HB	Silveria-Mohr	X	X	NEW-C/ED
47	LN	Fletcher	X	X	NEW-C/SD/BW	48	RMV	Stokes	X	X	NEW-SD/BW/M/EC/OL
29	FV	Freeman	X		BW/C/OL/T	34	SA	Thomas	X		T/OL/ED
14	YL	Fugnetti	X		NEW-C/M/OL/SD/BW	18	W	Velez		X*	T
36	O	Gartner	X		C	35	O	Von Gerichten	X		C/OL
1	LB	Hadjimarkos	X*	X*	NEW-M/SD/OL/EC/BW	8	A	Warren	X	X	BW/C/SD/M/OL
9	A	Heiman	X	X	ED/OL/T/SD/BW	40	RSM	Wickham	X	X	BW/SD/ED/F/OL
37	O	Hurley	X	X	NEW-SD/T	24	LB	Wilson	X	X	NEW-C
5	LB	Kirsch	X	X							* Special Time Restrictions

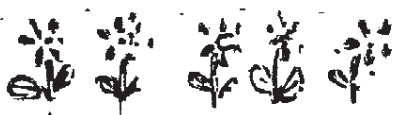


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 Visits us on the web at: heardsgardentour.com
 There you'll see our gallery of photos!!!



There will be a 2026 Garden Host signup sheet at each garden during this weekend. Please consider it—we work at this all year long and it is one of the most worthwhile causes in all of SoCal.

Map Your Day(s) by determining which gardens to visit here:

- * Numbers indicate furthest North (1) to furthest South (49)
- * Listed alphabetically here to aid in searching for a favorite gardener
- * Organize your tour by city, region, or garden type

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

A - Anaheim / FV - Fountain Valley / GG - Garden Grove
 HB - Huntington Beach / LH - Laguna Hills / LN - Laguna Niguel
 LB - Long Beach / MV - Mission Viejo / O - Orange / P - Placentia
 RMV - Rancho Mission Viejo / RSM - Rancho Santa Margarita
 SC - San Clemente / SA - Santa Ana / SB - Seal Beach
 SH - Signal Hill / T - Tustin
 W - Westminster / YL - Yorba Linda