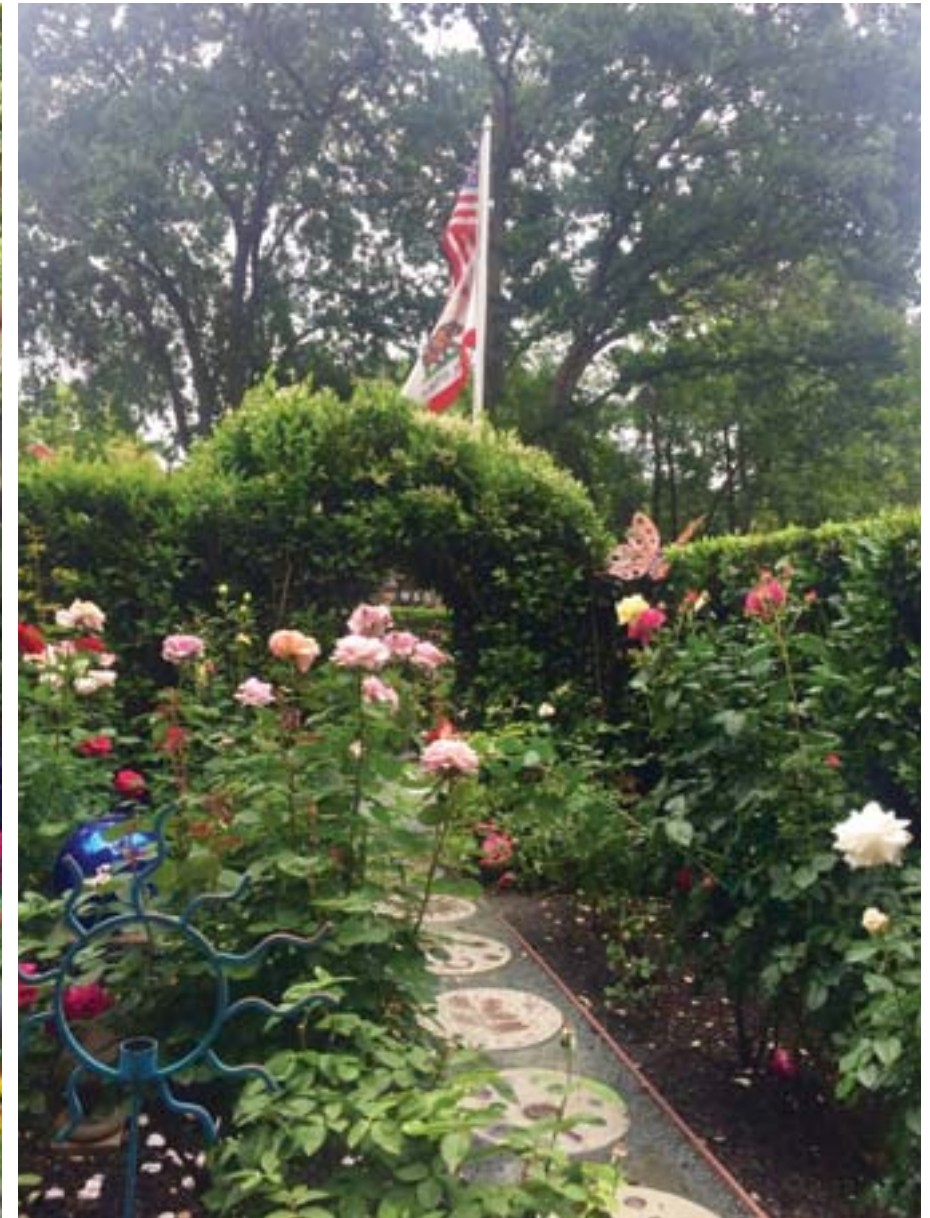




One of nine fountains in the lush landscape.



Handmade stepping stones anchor the rose garden and flag pole.

Gazing balls and a rusted butterfly grace the formal rose garden with the pièce de résistance being the round stepping stones Curtis crafted using a wine barrel ring, concrete, colored glass, rusted tools, horseshoes, and other discarded items that captured his fancy. Fire hydrants, water pumps, street placards, and railroad warning signs dot the landscape as well as inspirational messages.

The result is whimsical, magical, playful and most of all, timeless.

Although his garden is uniquely his refuge, what Curtis adores more than anything

is sharing his garden rooms with friends. With a glass of wine in hand, he graciously guides while explaining the stories behind every artifact and every plant. Of course, if one wants to meander alone, he encourages the exploration. There is no worry about getting lost in this maze as every gate has a unique bell so that he can tell where anyone is at any given moment.

I attempted to glean a bit of gardening advice and came away with these tips:

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