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## Living Homegrown Podcast – Episode 108 Saying Goodbye To a Garden

**Show Notes are at: [www.LivingHomegrown.com/108](http://www.LivingHomegrown.com/108)**

Theresa: This is the Living Homegrown Podcast, Episode 108.

Announcer: Welcome to the Living Homegrown Podcast, where it's all about how to live farm fresh without the farm. To help guide the way to a more flavorful and sustainable lifestyle is your host, national PBS TV producer and canning expert, Theresa Loe.

Theresa: Hey there, everybody. Welcome to the Living Homegrown Podcast. I'm your host, Theresa Loe, and this podcast is where we talk about living farm fresh without the farm. That can mean preserving, small space food growing, and just taking small steps towards living a more sustainable lifestyle. If you want to learn more about any of these topics or my online courses or memberships, just visit my website, [livinghomegrown.com](http://livinghomegrown.com).

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Today's episode is all about moving away from your current garden and the world of possibilities that are possible when you do. I brought back a very favorite podcast guest that I had on episode 71, and that's Rebecca Sweet. When I had Rebecca on the show before, she talked about refreshing your garden design, where you step out into your garden and you look at it with a new set of eyes. Rebecca and I are very close friends. We have both been through cancer. We've both had breast cancer, and we're very supportive of each other along the way.

The other day, I was looking at Rebecca's blog, and she wrote this incredible article about being ready for a change and how she was going to move away from her current garden to a new home. Now, that may not sound like a really big deal, but you haven't seen Rebecca's garden. Rebecca's garden is very well known in the gardening world and in the book author world, because it's one of the most beautifully designed gardens I think I've ever seen. It is so well done

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and so refreshing and relaxing.

People come from all over to tour the garden and to photograph the garden. It actually is a garden that she built from living there for so many years. She actually grew up in this property. Her parents had owned it before, and then, when she ended up getting married a second time, she bought the property from her parents and continued to garden there, so the garden not only is incredibly beautiful, but it has a lot of history for her, a lot of sentimental value and a lot of family history.

When she started writing about how the cancer had made her want to make a shift, and she was moving away, I was so touched by this article that she wrote, I knew I wanted to have her on the podcast to talk about it. I think you'll really get a lot out of this episode, as well, because all of us go through different trials and tribulations in our lives, and, so many times, when you have any kind of traumatic experience, you come out the other side as a different person, and sometimes you're ready for a big change.

Doing something like leaving a garden, there's a lot to think about. What do you take with you? What are you going to do when you get to the new place? I have talked about this recently on a previous episode with Robin Haglund, and that was episode 102, but that was a very different discussion, because we were talking about moving from the city to the country. Here, we're talking about moving away from a garden that you basically built a life around. I think you will absolutely be moved by some of the ideas that Rebecca has for when you have to leave something like this behind, when you have to leave a garden that you love behind and open yourself up to a whole new world of possibilities.

Let me tell you a little bit about Rebecca, in case you missed the other episode that she was on. Rebecca Sweet is the owner of the garden design firm, Harmony in the Garden, which is currently located in Los Altos, California, and she's moving north of there. Her work has been featured in numerous publications, including Sunset Magazine, Fine Gardening, Horticulture, Woman's Day, and Country Living Magazine, as well as regional publications. Now, Rebecca has also been featured on an episode of Growing a Greener World, our PBS television show, with fellow garden designer, Susan Morrison, who I've also had on this podcast. Rebecca and Susan wrote a book together called Garden Up: Smart Vertical Gardening for Small and Large Spaces. Rebecca's latest book, that she talked about on episode 71, was Refresh your Garden Design with Color, Texture, and Form.

Today, we're not talking about, really, any books. We're talking about what it means to leave a garden that you love, and we're talking about some tips and hints on what you need to think about when you do this for yourself. Remember, as always, I will have in the show notes for this episode everything that we talk about, including Rebecca's books and the links that she mentions in

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the show. To get to the show notes, you go to [livinghomegrown.com/108](http://livinghomegrown.com/108). With that, let me share my interview with Rebecca Sweet of Harmony in the Garden.

Theresa: (music playing)

Hey, Rebecca. Thanks so much for coming back on the show.

Rebecca: Thank you, Theresa. I'm thrilled to be here.

Theresa: I think this is going to be a really fantastic episode. Last time when you were here, we talked about revamping your garden and sprucing up an old design, and this is a very different episode, but before we get into the topic, I think maybe we should refresh everyone's mind, in case they missed episode 71 that you were on before. Why don't you tell everybody what it is that you do?

Rebecca: I'm a landscape designer up here in the Bay Area, with my company called Harmony in the Garden. I have been designing residential gardens for--I don't even know how long--over 15 years. In addition to that, I have also written a couple of gardening books, and I have a blog and I do a lot of writing and public speaking, as well, travel around to garden clubs and whatnot, talking about plants. You could say I'm a little bit of a plant nut.

Theresa: In a good way.

Rebecca: In a good way, yes. I eat, live, and breathe plants.

Theresa: Yes, and you're very talented. You wouldn't say that, but I can say that. You're incredibly talented.

Rebecca: Oh, thank you.

Theresa: The garden where you're living right now is a lot of people's dream garden, and that's why this is such an important story. Last time we spoke about reviving an old garden. This time we're going to talk about something different, which is more of a personal story about you moving away from your garden.

Rebecca: Yeah, right.

Theresa: Before we get to the moving part, I think people need to understand what led up to this move. Can you give me a little bit of the back story on that?

Rebecca: Oh, sure, yeah, okay. I live in my childhood home. We moved here when I was 10 and spent my life here. I moved away, of course, when I got married, got divorced, came back, met husband number two, bought this place from my parents, and I've been here ever since. That's in a nutshell. It's been my dream garden. I love this garden with every cell of my body, but in 2014, I was thrown

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a curve ball and diagnosed with breast cancer. That took, as you know, a couple of years, going through chemotherapy, going through all the treatment and mastectomy and all that's entailed with that.

While my garden was my refuge, I loved it and it really carried me through, at the end of those two years, which was about 2016, last year, I was just focused on picking up the pieces, trying to get everything back to normal, yet nothing was normal. I focused on my garden, and, of course, there we go, I fixed everything. Everything looks great, looks like it didn't take a hit, and then focused on myself. My hair grew back, my eyebrows tattooed back on, got reconstruction surgery, so I had my breast put back on, and I joke about ... I kept telling my husband, "I feel like Mrs. Potato Head. Somebody dropped me and everything fell off." I've been trying to pick up the pieces and look normal again and feel normal again.

At the end of the day, it's like I wasn't normal inside. Something had changed. Even though I look the same--nobody in the world would know I'm sick--just things weren't the same. It's such a funny feeling when you really realize kind of like you're a stranger in your own garden. It's weird. It's the craziest feeling.

That took about a full year. Going through cancer treatment, I was feeling the need to get the heck out of here. It's so funny, a lot of people, people that I would just tell that to, so many people say, "Oh, I get it. I completely understand. It's because your garden and your home remind you of all the bad times, the chemo and all that." That's not it at all. That's not it even a little bit. My garden and my home were my safe place. I loved being here. It's just, I don't know, something changed. I changed, and I just wanted more in my life than this little piece of land here. I wanted more.

It took me a while to realize, really, all I want to do is be near my family, and I can't do that where I live here, because, as you know, this area is just ridiculously expensive. My parents live a few hours north of me, and there's no way that they can afford to move back here to be closer to me. Unless my daughter strikes it rich, she's most likely not going to be able to afford to move back in this area, and so I just thought, "Okay, I can move. I can be closer to everybody." Even though it means saying goodbye to this, it means I get to say hello to my family, and the thought of having Sunday dinners with my parents, honestly, it thrills me. I can't even imagine. I'm so excited.

Theresa: Yeah, I can completely relate to everything you said, obviously because of me going through cancer, too, and you were there as a support for me, and then, when you got cancer, I was trying to be a support for you. There was something that you said in a blog post that so hit home, because I think it doesn't even matter if you go through cancer, so much, there's always struggles. Everybody has a struggle in their life.

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Rebecca: Right.

Theresa: There was something that you said, where you said that the one thing that you didn't want to do was to have cancer change you. When you were diagnosed, you didn't want to have cancer change you. I had said the exact same words, "This is not going to change me." I fought it with every tooth and nail, but the fact is, I was a completely different person on the other side of cancer, and I think that that happens to people, whether they go through cancer or some other traumatic experience. When you come out the other side, you have a whole different appreciation for life and the short amount of time we have. I think that was what you were trying to say in that post.

Rebecca: Yeah, it's crazy. I worked harder that year that I was going through treatment than I ever had. I think I even wrote about it. I had my most financially successful year that year, which blows my mind. It's nothing I set out to do. It's just I had so many great projects to design that I had already committed to and I didn't want to cancel and so many great speaking engagements that I did not want to postpone. Oh, I just worked, worked, worked, worked, worked all the time, and it's like, "I am not going to stop this. Okay, I'm bald. I have a scarf on my head, but I'm not going to change."

You're exactly right. After picking up all the pieces and growing my hair back and all that, now everything's changed. It's such a crazy realization that a lot of people, I think, can identify with. Like you said, like yourself and people who have gone through anything traumatic, you can try and hold it together, but you're not going to end up the same. That's probably a guaranteed fact.

Theresa: Yeah, and it was funny. People would say, "Oh, this is going to change you," and I'm like, "No, it's not." I was so determined. It's funny that you said you had your most successful financial year. I was, at the time, really in the middle of ... We were in production for Growing a Greener World on PBS. Being the co-executive producer, I was literally texting directions and everything as they're wheeling me down to surgery. Rick, my husband, had to rip the phone out of my hand, because I was working up to the ... To me, I think, part of it was an escape, because I just dove into my work.

On the other end of it, you kind of like, okay ... It was like putting on a new pair of sunglasses, a prescription pair of sunglasses. The first time you put them on, you're like, "Oh my gosh, I can now really see those tree leaves across the street," and I didn't realize I couldn't see them until I got my new, my upgraded prescription. I felt like that. It was like putting on a new pair of glasses, and I saw the world in a different way.

Rebecca: Mm-hmm (affirmative), mm-hmm (affirmative), a totally different way. I agree. Yeah, I put my house on the market. It's something we had wanted to do, and we thought long and hard about it. I looked at every possible place for at least a

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year and a half. Our house just sold a few weeks ago, and we're making the move.

Theresa: Great. Well, I know that there's got to be a lot of mixed emotions in there, and I know people who love your garden and have visited it on tours, they're immediate reaction is, "Ahh!" (sharp intake of breath), you know, when you say that, but you've lived there your entire life and built this garden, and it has to also ... Although you're leaving it, you're also moving into a new area and a whole new phase of your life, so there's got to be some excitement and some mixed emotion. What are you feeling right now?

Rebecca: Yeah, I have to say it's been surprising how excited I am, almost all the time. Of course, I get hit with bouts of crying, and it's coming more and more the closer we get, but I cannot wait. It's hard to explain. Do you remember, going through chemo, you're just sitting and like stuck in quicksand, and you feel so bad and you can't move forward? It's so hard to move forward. I just remember thinking, "I cannot wait to get through this and move forward." That's what I'm filled with. It's like, okay, I've got control over the situation now, and I'm so excited to see what the future brings, and it's on my terms. New experiences are great. I love it.

I've been living here so many years, and it's wonderful, but there's not a whole lot new here. I've got a lot of the same neighbors that I grew up with. I've walked these same streets, going to elementary school. It's kind of crazy, and I told my husband, "I cannot wait to take walks and to get lost and not really know where I am." I can't wait to get lost.

Theresa: I'm going to be getting a phone call from you, saying, "Okay, I don't know where I am."

Rebecca: Yeah, it's so overrated, getting lost. I'm just really excited about a new garden and new plants to plant and a new ... Well, okay, I'm not excited about the heat where I'm moving to. I'm moving to Granite Bay, and it's really hot there. I don't like the heat, so I'm not excited about that, but everything else I'm really excited about.

Theresa: Yeah, you're excited about the possibilities.

Rebecca: Possibilities, yeah.

Theresa: Yeah, so when you're making a move like this, and you've had a garden in one place for so long, are you taking some of the garden with you?

Rebecca: I am. I have spent so long thinking about which plants I love and have to take with me. At first ... I've been joking with people this whole time, that the poor new owners, when they move in, it's going to be a moonscape, just nothing

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here. You know, I could never do that to my garden, much less to the new owners. Yeah, I've been taking cuttings of plants over the past year, trying to grow them from cuttings. A few of the larger plants I've dug up, before we put our house on the market, and then replaced them with something different. I had to be kind of firm with myself, otherwise I go to the bad side and start digging everything up.

I tell myself, "If I can get it at another nursery, then don't bring it with you, but if it's something that is really unique or something that has a lot of personal memory, then that's the thing to take." I have a lot of plants that I have lugged from my different gardens over the years, because they've had such meaning for me, and those are the ones that are making the trip.

Theresa: Yeah, that's really a good criteria. I like that. It's almost like you're taking a little heirloom that's personally an heirloom to you, and you're carrying it forward.

Rebecca: Exactly.

Theresa: You probably haven't had a chance really to ... Because I know you're packing up right now, so you really haven't had, probably, a chance to assess the new garden very much, but do you have in your mind anything that you're going to do differently at the new place?

Rebecca: Oh, yeah. Oh, I sure do, cannot wait. The new garden, it's beautiful. It's on a larger property. What I have now is a quarter acre, and this one is 0.8.

Theresa: Ah.

Rebecca: Yeah, it's got a huge front yard, and then the backyard is really pretty, but it's primarily ... I would say it's an entertainer's dream, but it's got a ton of hardscape and not a lot of garden beds. It's got the outdoor fireplace and the fire pit, and this patio and that patio, and way too much for me. I cannot wait to get in there and just think about which areas that I'm going to carve out. I've got some heavy footwork to do, carve out a lot of the hardscaping, for sure, and make it more garden-y in the back. I haven't spent a lot of time up there, because the few times we've been to the house, it's been 105 or 109 degrees, and so it's like I'm taking pictures of the garden from inside the window, inside the house through the window-

Theresa: So you don't melt.

Rebecca: So I don't melt. Then I study those at home. I wrote about that in my second book, taking photos of the garden and then studying them and drawing on the photos. I have put that to practice so much with this new house, because it's so hot outside up there, and so I just am looking at all these photos and truly drawing on them and showing the ideas to my husband. This is where I want to

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build an arbor. This is part of the hardscaping I want to carve out, so, yes, I've given it a lot of thought, even though I've only visited a few times. Thank God for photos.

Theresa: Yeah, that was one of the most popular tips that you gave when you were on the podcast before, was about taking a photograph and then xeroxing it, so it's black and white, so you can see the shape of what you've got going. I thought that was such a brilliant tip, and I have used it myself, taking pictures, because you think in your head, "Oh, I totally know what this is going to look like," but you get home and you forget, so that's very good.

Rebecca: Yeah, thanks. Yeah, I'm really putting it to practice here, because there's a lot of established plants, a lot of shrubs and trees, really big things, which are pretty, and then there's just so much possibility, which is exactly what I was looking for. I'm really anxious and excited to start and to try and do exactly what I tell people to do, you know? I'm trying to follow my own instructions, and it's like, okay, start from the beginning. Take those photos and just really live with it. I do plan on living with my garden for a full year before I do too many things to it, because I really want to see it through the year, with the lighting. It changes through the different seasons, and I'm just looking forward to taking my time, yet, at the same time, diving in, if that makes sense.

Theresa: Yeah, you're diving in on some things, but not on others. That was actually one of my questions. I was wondering if you were going to dive in right away or wait, and, if someone were to be moving to a new place, if that's what you advise, to kind of keep low profile at first.

Rebecca: Yeah, it definitely is. I deal with ... A lot of my clients just bought their home for example, and the garden's new to them and they don't like it or it's not their style. I just tell them, "Listen, let's just talk about your ideas," and we'd get started, but I always schedule the actual work to not happen for at least six months, because I really advise people to unpack, move in, settle in, see what views you love sitting and staring at, whether they're from the kitchen or the bedroom or whatnot. Get to know your garden the way it is, as is.

Also, it's what I told ... I was so lucky. I got to meet the people who bought our home here, and we did a walkthrough with my garden. They're so sweet and want to know ... They're so cute. They want to know what they should do with the garden, and I just told them to not do a whole lot for the first year, because there's lots of different things that will come up throughout the year that you may not see right now. While this shrub over here is not very exciting right now, you're going to love it in February, when nothing's happening. They were very excited to hear that, and that's what I tell people. You never know what's in your garden right now, and you might really like this one boring shrub in January and February, so just take your time before ripping plants out.

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Theresa: That's excellent advice. We have property up in Northern California, and there's this view, where you're looking out the kitchen window, and there was this section of the garden, just along the fence, that was bare. I was trying to think, "What am I going to put there? What am I going to put there?" Well, several months later, a ton of peonies came up. We had no idea they were there, and if I had started digging, I probably would have ruined all of them. That was why it was bare, because it was a spot that was saved for something. Definitely wait to see what comes up. You never know what someone might have planted.

Rebecca: Exactly. Sometimes people think, "Okay, why did that previous homeowner do this? It's such a weird thing." In your instance, "Why is this blank right in front of the fence?" Give it time, and you might see that there was a really good reason why something is done that way.

Theresa: Right, and you also might discover that there was no reason, that maybe the plant that had been there had died, but at least you gave it a shot to wait and see before ... Yeah, I would have so regretted it if I'd started digging in and dug up all of those, and the timing would have been the worst timing, because they were just getting ready to come up. I would have ruined them, so ...

Rebecca: Oh, good for you.

Theresa: Yeah, well it was just luck. I just didn't get to it.

Rebecca: Good.

Theresa: Yeah, so it worked out. Now, is this a new climate for you? Is it a same zone, growing zone?

Rebecca: It's pretty similar. It's just they get a little hotter in the summer and not too much colder than we are here, so I can grow a lot of the same plants. Luckily, we have a lot of dappled shade, so that 109 blistering sun, which literally fries the leaves of plants ... They'll be a little bit protected, because of the overhead oak leaves. It's not going to be a radical change, which is great, because I have so many of my favorites that I would hate to not be able to grow.

Theresa: Absolutely. I can imagine that it would be frustrating if you were in a completely different ... because you want to take these plants with you, and then they wouldn't be able to thrive in the new spot, so at least you don't have to worry about that.

Rebecca: We were, about six months ago, eight months ago, taking a few trips up to Oregon. We were thinking we might move up there. I love Portland and some of the areas in Oregon. It's just such a beautiful state, but the thing that was really hard for me is so many of my plants would not be able to grow up there, and I had to really come to terms with that. Everybody else was like, "Oh, the rain,

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the rain." It's like, "Yeah, I know. The rain's fine. It's the plants I can't grow. That's my issue."

Theresa: Yeah, you'd be homesick. You'd be so homesick.

Rebecca: So homesick, yeah.

Theresa: Well, I'm sure it's really exciting to start with a clean slate, but, of all the things that you're thinking of doing, I know you want to rip out some of the hardscape, but what's the idea that you're most excited about that you want to try in the new garden.

Rebecca: Let's see. I would say, quite honestly, I am excited to plant ... because it's a bigger garden and there's longer garden beds that I can create, I'm excited to create big, huge drifts of perennials and evergreen plants, at the same time, trying to keep it somewhat lower maintenance. My husband, just this morning, said, "Are you going to try and create a low-maintenance garden with this next one?"

I said, "Honey, I'll try," but, in my vision, I'm thinking these grand beds, and I don't have those now. I have a lot of little beds that border my garden, and I'm just looking forward to doing that on a bigger scale, growing plants that get a lot larger. I can't wait, because I have the space now.

Theresa: Yeah, oh yeah, absolutely.

Rebecca: I don't always have to look for the dwarf-size plant. I can go for the full-blown size.

Theresa: Yeah, oh I hear you there, because that's what I always have to do. I'm always saying, "How big does it get? How big does it get?"

Rebecca: Right, yeah. "Does it come in a dwarf size?"

Theresa: Yeah, exactly, like Bantam chickens. You're not planning on having any chickens or birds while you're there? I know you have birds right now.

Rebecca: I have birds right now, my beautiful birds that I love. I actually was so fortunate the new homeowners really, really wanted the aviary and wanted the birds. That was really important to me, because I just didn't think that they would survive the trip up there, and that just upset me, so the birds are staying, but we are going to build a new aviary up there, in the shade, of course, and I'll still have birds up there. Chickens, I'm not sure. I would like them. My husband is not a fan, but I did say he could get a pool table--something he always wanted--so I think I'm going to have to barter some chickens for a pool table, because I don't really want a pool table.

- Theresa: Yeah, that works. That totally works. Now, what kind of birds do you have currently, and are you going to get the same birds up there?
- Rebecca: Yeah, I would get the same birds. I have a mix of parakeets and zebra finches.
- Theresa: Okay, fantastic. Now, if someone is making a move like this, and they're going to a completely new area, what do you suggest, aside from waiting and assessing the garden ... They maybe don't know the area and their climate. Is there any resources that they should go to, or should they just maybe go to the local nursery to find out what kind of things work and don't?
- Rebecca: You know, I tell people that a lot anyway, just to go to your local nursery and see what's growing there. What's thriving in the hot sun? What's doing really well? The people that work at nurseries, generally, are really knowledgeable--generally, not always. Find the knowledgeable ones. Find the small mom-and-pop nurseries. They're great. They really care about their plants, and they'll tell you what works and doesn't work. Somebody who isn't maybe as familiar with plants as I am, I would just suggest finding a garden coach, somebody like Robin Haglund or Christina Salwitz. There's lots of garden--or me even ... who do consultations, who could just spend an hour or two in your garden, telling you what they think would do really well, the changes they might make. They can help answer any questions that you have. I think that's a really valuable resource for people.
- Theresa: Yeah, also, if you have a tree, they can tell you how it would best be pruned, when you would prune it, things like that.
- Rebecca: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. I send people to the [apl.org](http://apl.org) website, which is the Association for Professional Landscape Designers. There's a spot on the front page. You just type in your ZIP code, and from there, a list of local designers will pop up, just to find somebody that says, "Yes, I'll come over. I'll easily do an hour or two of consultation for you." You cannot get better advice from somebody who gardens in the area and who knows plants. It's just well worth every penny.
- Theresa: Yeah, you end up saving money, because you won't waste money buying plants that are just going to die, or you won't accidentally kill what you already have.
- Rebecca: Exactly.
- Theresa: That would make a huge difference. That's excellent advice. I guess, the last question I'd like to ask you is if someone is thinking that they're ready for a change, but they are feeling that they might be heartbroken leaving their current garden behind, because you know we all get emotionally attached to our plants-

Rebecca: Oh, yeah.

Theresa: What advice would you give to someone, who's maybe thinking they're ready for a change, but they're a little worried about leaving the garden?

Rebecca: One thing that I found, which just is amazing to me, is if anybody were to have asked me five years ago if I could leave this place, I would never even think about it. The thought would just kill me. When the time is right, it truly will release you. You'll have sad times, but it won't be this just terrible, terrible pain. When I wrote about it in my blog post, I was so touched. I got so many comments from people who had done it previously in their own lives and could relate, and they said so many incredibly empowering and touching comments.

They're absolutely right. When the time is right, you can do it, and it's not going to kill you. There's things that I've done to really make it a happy transition. My advice would be to give yourself plenty of time, as much time as you possibly can. You want to really enjoy your garden, and so I've really reduced the amount of work that I took on this past six months, because I really wanted to enjoy my garden. I spent a lot of time in it, cleaning it up, getting everything just right.

I put together care sheets for the new owners. I really, truly feel at peace leaving, because I've spent so much time getting it as ready as I possibly can to hand off to somebody, and that helps make the transition easier, because you know that it's really got a fighting chance with the new homeowners. To me, that was a lot easier. When the time is right, you'll be able to do it, is my advice. When the time is not right, it's going to be unbearably hard.

Theresa: I love the idea that you did handouts for the new owners. That is such a great idea.

Rebecca: You know, what I did is ... My garden is too complicated to draw a plan. There's just way too many things going on, and so I had kept all the garden tags over the years. What I did is I wrote with a Sharpie on the garden tags. I'll put "far back corner" and notes like, "You're going to love this. Don't cut it down when it's ugly in the winter, because you're going to love it in the spring," or something like that, or, "Don't get rid of this, because you can't find them any longer."

When I handed those off, they were thrilled, because those garden tags quite often, especially the ones from Monrovia that have a photo of the plant on it, somebody can take that tag out and say, "Oh, my gosh, that's that plant right there," and read about the garden tag from the company itself, Monrovia or Proven Winners or something, and then my notes on it, as well. They love that. I'm giving it a really great sendoff, and that makes me really happy.

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Theresa: Ah, I love that, Rebecca. That's just so awesome. It's like a treasure hunt for the new owners, too. They know things are going to come up in certain areas.

Rebecca: Well, okay, it's really funny that you said that. Okay, that's funny, because my daughter, Emily, just graduated college in May, and she, of course, is really sentimental about leaving her childhood home here, so she came home and spent the month of June here. We just did so many things one last time, this one last hike, one last everything. Then, when it came down to the last week, it was really quite emotional for both of us, and so we did something that really made us happy.

The new homeowners, there's two really young boys, which I really wanted young children for this garden, so I got lucky that way. We hid little treasures all around the garden that we know these little boys will find, and we didn't make them easy. We tucked them in rocks, places where little boys are going to be digging, because I have so much garden art, all this stuff that you accumulate. I have ridiculous amounts of it. I have so many shells, and all this, so we hid really pretty shells and marbles and just fun things all around the garden, and that act really, really helped us transitioning away. We're wrapping up this gift for somebody. Yeah, there's definitely treasures hidden around the yard.

Theresa: Aw, that is so good. That is so, so good. I cannot thank you enough for coming on the show and sharing this story. I know it's going to really resonate with people, who maybe have to make this move or who are ready for a change and have been thinking about it. Thank you so much for coming on.

Rebecca: Oh, you're so welcome. Thank you, Theresa. I really appreciate it.

Theresa: (music playing)

Well I hope you enjoyed that interview. I know I found it so touching, the things that she was doing as she was leaving the garden behind. Who wouldn't love to have love notes like that left for you when you are taking on someone's garden that they're leaving for you. Wow! That's just an amazing thing. The people who are going to own that garden are very, very lucky indeed.

Now, as always, I will have in the show notes for this episode everything that Rebecca talked about, her books, links to her website, and any other links that she mentioned in the show. To get to the show notes, you go to [livinghomegrown.com/108](http://livinghomegrown.com/108). Thank you so much to everyone who sponsors the show, because it allows me to bring these stories to you. If you're interested in becoming a sponsor of this show and getting access to behind-the-scenes and other exclusive bonus content, then just visit [livinghomegrown.com/sponsor](http://livinghomegrown.com/sponsor).

Thank you so much for joining me here today. As always, just try to live a bit more local, seasonal, and homegrown. Take care!



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Announcer: That's all for this episode of the Living Homegrown Podcast. Visit [livinghomegrown.com](http://livinghomegrown.com) to download Theresa's free canning resource guide and find more tips on how to live farm fresh without the farm. Be sure to join Theresa Loe next time on the Living Homegrown Podcast.