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FIND JOY IN THE JOURNEY

I was so excited to see my new garden pop up this spring, as I wrote in a previous article. As is typical in life, I was met with some great beauty and some disappointment. My knock-out roses are blooming as I write this, and my ice plants are happily slowly spreading.

The fig tree I bought my husband online a few years ago was planted last October with the rest of the garden and is thriving. We have numerous fruits already starting and are hoping to make some fig jam in the near future. This tree is a comfort to us, as it reminds



Newly Plant Fig Tree

us of relatives lost and fond memories of delicious dishes with figs prepared in many ways. I also bought a Meyer lemon tree that survived us moving it in and out of the garage for the past year, and a good friend gifted us an olive tree in memory of my Dad. These are the positive signs of life and love I see in my garden, along with sounds of birds enjoying the feeders and bees returning to pollinate.

On the flip side, we lost many butterfly bushes, echinacea, and a beautiful laurel and dogwood trees. The main reason for these losses was too much water in these areas. As is the case with any new garden it is a learning opportunity and a



Ice Plant (in shadow)

chance to investigate perhaps other options. Working with my landscape architect, we are talking about some ideas to add more beauty in a place that will be very wet for many years ahead. In doing a little research I was pleased to find many online resources such as..... <https://www.bhg.com/gardening/flowers/perennials/flowers-for-wet-soil/>, and have used this need for replacement plants as an excuse to shop for more plants and discover new nurseries. Another good friend gave me a nursery gift card to honor my Dad and provide me with a little self-care as she knows my garden, no matter the season, is my happy place. 😊

In the end, I am finding joy in the journey of starting a new garden. I wore a t-shirt with this slogan to the Historical Society Garden this past week, and truly believe this mantra. I try to find the joy in all experiences and perhaps it is the nurse educator in me, but I also try to learn something new. The destination can be grand, but the journey is usually the place that brings me most fulfillment.

So here's to more planting and finding joy in whatever journey you are on!