



Everyday objects become personal art in Carmelita Moe's garden.
Photos: Myra Mayman

Carmelita Moe's Garden of Revelation

By Myra Mayman
For the *Beacon*

If you drive down Route 11 by Plains Road in East Andover at the 45-mile-per-hour speed limit, you might miss the garden surrounding a wood-shingled Cape. The greyhound sitting under a chandelier, the tree of bottles, the caged softballs, and thousands of other carefully arranged objects are participants in the sculpture garden of Carmelita Moe. Originally from Southern California, Carmelita Moe has lived in Andover for the past 10 years.

About four years ago, when she was 66, she put together some signs that seemed to point her way to heaven, her own "Route 66." Since then she has added arrangements of objects and assemblages of bits and pieces she has gleaned, foraged, received as gifts, and occasionally purchased. She has connected them by paths of shiny marble scraps from a marble yard to create her Garden of Revelation. She was initially inspired by the junk pile of her neighbor, the late Paul Jurta, who never threw out anything. She has dedicated her garden to him.

Not a degree-certified artist, she never wanted to enter the professional art field. She was a kindergarten teacher who took art classes over the years as they interested her and as they were available. "It was something that I loved," and so she did it.

Of her sculpture garden made of



what many people would call junk, she says, "Beauty exists on many levels." She remembers being moved by cemeteries in India where people who owned almost nothing would commemorate their loved ones with a piece of glass. "There's a beauty to someone putting all they had" in a place of thought and memory. That memory has inspired her own glass gardens and totems made from globes, bottles, shades, and vases.

She also recalls trips to Tijuana where people were living in houses made of cardboard which they had carefully adorned with what other people would think worthless, and she was struck by

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