



## A Few of Our Favorite Things

As budget cuts loom and the state of the economy casts a dark shadow over city services, we can take comfort in the vast array of community and volunteer efforts here in the East Bay. There are so many events and organizations doing wonderful things all around us that it can be difficult to stay informed about it all. We are currently compiling a list of these gems to be posted on our new website, and would like to share some of our discoveries with you. This is just a small sampling of a few of our favorites, but soon on [marvingardens.com](http://marvingardens.com) there will be an extensive list of events, organizations, services, food, special shops, and businesses that contribute to the vibrancy of our area. If you have a favorite local cause or service you would like to share with us, please let us know!



**North Berkeley Harvest:** Have you ever thought of donating the unused fruit from your fruit trees? These fine people will pick up or harvest your fruit and donate it to local food initiatives such as the Bay Area Rescue Mission, the Berkeley School Lunch Initiative, or if the fruit isn't good enough for humans,

the Performing Animal Welfare Society. Call Natasha at 510-812-3369; <http://northberkeleyharvest.org/>.

**Grant Funding to Plant New Trees in El Cerrito:** The Public Works department has a grant from the State to plant trees for individual residences, neighborhood blocks, businesses and parks throughout the city. This grant will end in May 2010. Hundreds of trees have been planted at no expense to the property owner, with hundreds more left as of this writing, as supplies last. Call the Maintenance Division at 510-215-4369.

**Tool Lending Libraries for Berkeley and Oakland residents and property owners:** The Temescal Branch of the Oakland Library offers over 2,700 tools and conducts workshops and how-to classes. (<http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/Branches/temtll.htm>). The Berkeley tool lending library is on 1901 Russell St., near MLK. ([http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about\\_the\\_library/neighborhood\\_branches/tool\\_lending\\_library/](http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about_the_library/neighborhood_branches/tool_lending_library/))

**Saturday, October 18th: The Kensington Fall Parade, Barbeque and Music Festival:** Every year, a small parade of Kensington Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, nursery school kids, neighbors, and the El Cerrito High Marching Band, among others, march up Arlington Avenue to the Community Center, and then join the town



*Kensington Fall Parade 2008*

to enjoy a barbeque and pumpkin-carving contest. This year, three local jazz bands will be entertaining the group through the afternoon, and the proceeds from the barbeque will benefit the park and Kensington After School Enrichment Program (KASEP). The parade starts from the Ace Hardware parking lot at noon, and the music is scheduled to go until 5pm. Sponsored by Marvin Gardens Real Estate.



*"Ridge Trail at Black Diamond" by Ilikethenight, www.Flickr.com*

**The East Bay Regional Park Trails Challenge 2009** The EBRPD is challenging Alameda and Contra Costa County residents to hike their trails and keep track of their mileage on line. They make trail recommendations and supply directions and maps. If you complete their challenge you get a free pin! A t-shirt and a nifty guidebook with 20 of the best hikes are being given to registrants, postage not included. <http://www.regionalparks-foundation.org/Page.aspx?pid=255>.

**The East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse**, 4695 Telegraph, Oakland. <http://www.east-bay-depot.org/index.html>. Founded by two teachers in the 80's, the Depot is the place to donate the odds and ends that are piling up in the back of your closets and drawers, to buy school supplies for your kids, or to explore materials for your next arts and crafts project. <http://www.east-bay-depot.org/>.

**The Compound Gallery** is home to ten artist studios and over 20 working artists. The main gallery hosts monthly rotating exhibitions which feature a variety of media. The studios provide artists with opportunities to show their work, be involved in an art community, and gain exposure through open studios. The Compound Gallery has a clever subscription program, ART IN A BOX. Each month subscribers receive a new work of fine art by a different local artist. All artwork is contained in an 11" x 17" x 3" box along with the artist's bio. Subscriptions are \$30/month for pick up. <http://artinabox.net/>.