

# THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

(Lake Trash Removal, Fountains, Education, Lake Expertise)

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## VOLUNTEER LETTER

**OCTOBER TRASH TALK: Rainfall / Trash Levels:** More than double October's normal rainfall fell into our gauge last month, 3.47 inches to be exact. With it came at least 6,880 pounds of trash, a new six year record for October.

The average for October is 2,593 pounds, and the previous high was 3,960 pounds. Once again we see that more rain = more trash. Its out there in the watershed, waiting to be washed down.

Trash was removed on **22 of 31** days by **135 people** who collected **228 bags**.



*What's in the net?*

*Students from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Paul's School brought boots and gloves to 18<sup>th</sup> Street to remove trash brought in by urban runoff.*

*Although its mostly plastic bags, candy wrappers and plastic, they do find an occasional "treasure."*

**Lake Merritt Trash Sold on Ebay:** Its true. Volunteer Sue Cockerham's brother sold a softball she found in the Lake while cleaning up. A gentleman named Tom Vinson bought it for \$18.50 plus \$2 shipping. Go to [www.cockeyed.com/ebay/softball/real\\_ebay.html](http://www.cockeyed.com/ebay/softball/real_ebay.html) for details. Sue loves to remove trash at the Embarcadero "U-Clean-It" station and of course finds lots of balls, many of which she gives to friends with dogs who love to play tennis. The ball was of course properly cleaned and autographed.

We too find balls in the Lake. Anyone want one autographed by Babe Ruth, Joe Dimaggio, Barry Bonds, Ty Cobb, Shoeless Joe and Pete Rose?

**You Too** can find trash and sell it on ebay. Just join us any Tuesday at 10:30 or Saturday at 10 am at the office (568 Bellevue Avenue – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor) or access one of the four "U-Clean-It" stations (lock combination 1-3-1-4 or 5-2-5-5). If you let your imagination be your guide, who knows what you may find, and how much it may be worth? See you at the Lake.

**The Lake Merritt Institute is supported and sponsored by the Oakland Public Works Agency and people like you.**