



# NEW MONTEREY Neighborhood News

December 2010

Next meeting: Monday, December 13 – Hilltop Center – 7 PM

**MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR** – New Monterey is a great neighborhood because it is populated by interesting people. Each month we plan to introduce you to one of those individuals. Let us know if you or one of your neighbors should be our next featured neighbor.

**MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR – ED LEEPER** – A long time New Monterey resident, Ed is mostly known for his “Liquid Books” effort based out of his colorful truck covered with social political commentary messages, often parked at the Alvarado Street Farmers Market every Tuesday.



He is a retired Army veteran, who calls himself a “serial performance conceptual artist.” Although Ed was in the military

for over 21 years, in his personnel jobs he only once saw combat action. He says through the rotations he got to do things that he never dreamed of, like jumping out of an airplane. He “liked getting out of the office.”

Leeper first came to Monterey at Ford Ord in 1955. In 1973, after a period of living in the Bay area and sailing between Sausalito and Baja on a twenty-four foot sailboat, he returned to Monterey. Through some of his “beatnik” friends he met Elizabeth, later his wife and the love of his life, who died in 2004. They sailed to Baja and the sea of Cortez and later settled in her home on Lottie Street, that she had owned since 1949. The house is a part of a series of homes nestled among the Monterey pines built by an experimental architect using big windows, sharp angles, and skylights – a perfect place to nurture creativity.

Ed began acting upon his artistic impulses following a visit to the Vietnam War Memorial, in June of 1986. Overwhelmed by the sheer number of names on the wall (some of whom he knew), he started thinking of the Jewish Holocaust and wondered what it would be like to see 6 million people who were killed. He deliberately set out and made 6 million marks on pieces of paper. It took over three and a half years on 4281 sheets of paper 20 x 13 inches that formed a stack almost six feet tall, and used up to 250 pens. This particular work has been shown in 26 universities and college libraries.

In addition to his highly visible social political art, Ed also has constructed a number of whimsical creations in his garden.

Probably his most public and accessible work is his Liquid Books, which started 15 years ago. Leeper gathers books through donations, and carts them to different locations in his hand-painted truck festooned with various colorful and provocative

*Please see **LEEPER** on page 2*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Mon., December 13** – New Monterey Neighborhood Association - Hilltop Center, 7-9 p.m

**Mon., January 10** – NMNA Board Meeting - Hilltop Center, 7-9 p.m

**Mon., January 24** – NMNA Annual Meeting - Hilltop Center, 7-9 p.m

**FROM THE PRESIDENT** – At our annual meeting, January 24 we will elect a new Board for 2011. The new Board will elect our officers at its February meeting.

To be effective, our association needs at least seven board members, as we do now. Ten would be an ideal number. Please consider volunteering for the Board. We need people who really care what happens to our community and are willing to put some effort in to helping keep this such a special place.

Board members handle several tasks. Most importantly, they should be able to attend our regular monthly meetings. They may also want to represent us at City Hall. They may want to help with neighbors in need. They may want to help write and distribute the newsletter. They may have some good ideas to hatch.

Being on the Board can be a fun, rewarding experience. And giving of oneself is always satisfying. Please consider it and call one of our board members for more information. We need you!

*Howard B. Fosler*

**BACKWATER VALVES** – Sewer line backups are not a good thing. It is best to avoid them by taking one or both of the following steps. First, be sure you have a working overflow outlet beyond the wall of your house. This allows a backup from the street to flow out over the ground rather than into your house. This is not a good result, but one that can save your home from inestimable damage. Secondly, a backwater valve device can stop a backup from the street from entering your house. It may be required by City Code depending on your location in relation to the sewer main. It can cause its own problems, so talk to a plumber to see if you need one.

Remember, your home/renter insurance generally covers water coming down, like a water pipe leak, not up, like a sewer backup or a flood of rainwater. And the City is unlikely to be responsible. Thus, it is a good idea to put drainpipes on a maintenance program to be sure they are cleaned periodically all the way to the sewer main to provide good drainage. Drains back up most often during holidays when people fix big meals and put lots of stuff, like potato peels, down the garbage disposal. Together with accumulated grease and soap residue, potato peels can create an impenetrable barrier to water, so be aware and be proactive.

If a backup is from your sewage, call a plumber. If it is someone else’s, call the City. If in doubt, call 911 and let them sort it out. Sewer problems are mostly avoidable with proper preparation and foresight. \*

**NMNA regular meeting – December 13 – 7 p.m.  
Hilltop Center – Jessie and David**

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signs, and gives them away for free. Often at the farmers market you will see people huddled around his truck.

Ed pursues life with vim and vigor, and a wry smile. He shares his creativity and opinions as he shares his books freely, generously, yet gently. He encourages anyone to drop off books at his carport on 825 Lottie Street, and take some books as well. Enjoy! See [www.newmontereyneighborhood.org/leeper](http://www.newmontereyneighborhood.org/leeper) for more pictures of Ed and his art.



**RAIN IS HERE** – We can expect much more rain and given the experience others are having elsewhere in the world, it behooves us to prepare for the worst. We can avoid many problems by anticipating them and preparing to deal with them. Now, while we are thinking ahead of the crowd, consider these items:

- Are my gutters clear and runoff provided for?
- Am I prepared for electrical power outages and other disturbances? Do I have food, candles, water, medications, an old fashion phone and a cell phone?
- Am I fueling up the car when it hits 1/4 left?
- Do I know who I will call if a tree falls on my house?
- Does the radio have fresh batteries?
- Have my trees been thinned within the last five years?
- Have I coordinated with my neighbors so we know what help we can expect to give and receive?
- Have we planned with our families when and how to communicate in an emergency?
- Do I know who my CERT member is and what she/he can do for me?

Follow your neighborhood on Facebook at:  
New Monterey Neighborhood Association



**NIP NEWS** – Cypress Park Security Light PG&E has put installation of a light in the middle of Cypress Park on their work schedule. People walking through the park at night will feel safer with this light installed.

Lower Presidio Walkway: Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) committee has recommend additional money to complete the Artillery and Private Bolio ends of the walkway that crosses the Lower Presidio Historic Park. A safe and scenic alternative to Lighthouse Curve for bicyclists and pedestrians will be available to enjoy once these final pieces of the walkway in place.

Prescott Sidewalks: Phase I sidewalks and handicap ramps construction is underway. Phase II work between Jessie Street (in Monterey) and Sea View (in Pacific Grove.) will



be next. We hope both phases of the project can be completed while all of the equipment is in the neighborhood.

Spencer 600 Widening: Final design for Spencer 600 block widening was not completed in time for Fall construction, so the project is postponed (again) until late Spring. Apologies to all the neighbors in that block who have been waiting patiently and wondering why.

**REMEMBER** – If you have a problem in your neighborhood or have a question about something, the NMNA is here to help. Feel free to contact any one of the Board of Directors and we can help solve the problem.

**2010 NMNA Board Contacts**

Howard B. Fosler – President – 649-6935  
Barbara Bass Evans – VP – 372-8323  
Brian Greenshields – Secretary – bhgreens@nps.edu  
Bruce Crist – Treasurer – 333-1876  
Sharon Dwight – NIP – 375-0841  
Alexandra Albin – 372-4813 – alex.albin@me.com  
Bob Evans – 372-8323

**NMNA Website**

[newmontereyneighborhood.org](http://newmontereyneighborhood.org)

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