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The LIMac



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www.limac.org

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LIMac was established in 1984,
when the Mac was introduced.

**Annual dues
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(The first meeting is free.)
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January Meeting *Scott Randell*

For January, our own tech guru Bradley Dichter, completed his Mac IOI segment on Apple's *Mail* application. This installment focused on Signature and Stationery and editing mail.



Brad showed how to automatically add your signature to the message. To do this you must create a signature by choosing Preferences in the Mail drop down menu, and then clicking Signatures. You can customize your signature with a specific font, add a graphic, link to web sites and even add a separator line. You can just copy and paste in elements from a web site. You can associate a different default signature with each mail account.

If you would like to make your e-mail more decorative, you can use the included stationery templates to dress it up. You can make these available by clicking on the Show Stationery icon on the far right of the Toolbar. Just choose your template, and type in the designated spaces. If you typed the body copy first, it will be placed into the stationery form. If you didn't type any body text, you will see the placeholder formatted text you can then select and edit. Equinox sells Stationery Pack sets that add more choices for \$14.95 to \$59.95.

Next, Brad talked about adding URLs (links) and forwarding e-mails. He made a point to explain that you should add angle brackets on either side of very long URLs. You do this because if a raw URL happens to wrap to the next line, nothing in the second line will be recognized. Using the angle brackets, (<url>) tells Mail to include everything between them.

To conclude, Brad fielded a large number of *Mail* related questions from the members. As always his presentation was stellar and all of us in attendance learned a great deal. 🐭

FEBRUARY Meeting *Bradley Dichter*

The February general meeting's main presentation will be in three parts. First, Herbert Friedman will be doing a short presentation of the \$29.95 *Geometer's SketchPad*® by Key Curriculum Press. Most Americans have come to hate geometry because it is memorization of one proof after the other with no real appreciation of what geometry is about. Sketchpad Dynamic Geometry software gives students a tangible, visual way to learn mathematics that increases their engagement, understanding, and achievement. And it's not just for geometry. Use it for elementary and middle school math, algebra, precalculus, and calculus. Needs Mac OS 10.4 or newer.



Then Scott Randell will be demonstrating *TextExpander* from Smile Software. Mac OS 10.6's Language and Text System Preference panel - Text tab includes a basic version of this software, whereby the system can automatically replace some typed text with something longer.

February Meeting continued on Page 4

Bradley's Tech Session



Bradley Dichter
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► **I just got an iPad for presentations. Is there any app or device one can use on the iPad that can show everything going on the screen like we use at LIMac?**

■ It's not capable of display mirroring like a Mac. Maybe a iPad 2 with a different video sub-system. I read a rumor report about a supposed iPad 2 case with openings that suggest a potential Mini DisplayPort connection on the top. Of course the rumors also say the iPad 2 will have a higher res than the current XGA resolution display. The Apple iPad Dock Connector to VGA Adapter is limited to the few apps that offer limited usage of this function, like Apple's *Keynote* app for slideshows and for watching unprotected videos. It's also limited to landscape use, which is not surprising considering the projectors. There is the \$0.99 app called *Expedition* from FunForcer which is an alternate web browser which offers VGA out. For the same type of web tasks, you could also try, for 99 cents, *web2vga* from Bubble (NI) Ltd. Filling another gap, you can try *Projector!* from UltiaApp which, for \$4.99 allows you to project PDF files, Microsoft Office files and iWork files and plain and RTF files. It's very limited and doesn't work well. Sorry, but the current iPad, while cheap and light, can't replace a MacBook Air. What we do, is use a USB video cam at the iPad. Taking a suggestion from Dave Marra, we use the IPEVO Point 2 View USB Document Camera. While it does require a Mac, that works for our purposes. You can find any number of visual

presenters with video output you could connect to a projector. They tend to be \$500 or more for a decent one like a Elmo HV-110u. Less ideal, but we first tried a regular video camcorder over the shoulder of the person using the iPad. Luckily our HD projector has multiple inputs.

► **I have a PowerBook G4 I use for music and photos. Lately the SuperDrive keeps rejecting any CD I put in. I tried a lens cleaner and that helped for a couple of times. Is it easy to replace the drive?**

■ I'd have to say no, it's not easy. You have to take out about two dozen tiny screws of various types, to open the case, and pull the drive out. Other World Computing calls the skill level to perform the procedure; "involved." (As opposed to "Straightforward" or "Easy.") They have some instructional videos to help, as well a screwdriver set. You don't say if you have a Titanium or a Aluminum PB G4, but an experienced technician should take about 12 minutes. An inexperienced guy will probably take more like 40 minutes and hopefully won't loose any screws and not have any left over. The slot-load drive itself is about \$88 at OWC. If you want someone else to do the replacement, I see iResQ will do it for \$129.99, so consider that \$42 labor. Figure another \$18 for return shipping. As the machine is old, the Apple Store won't help, but other authorized places probably will. Locally I'd check with CompuMac on Merrick Rd. in Wantagh or Computer Microsystems on Northern Blvd. in Manhasset or BC Communications

Bradley's Tech Session continued on Page 3

President's Message



Bill Medlow
President
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As good as the present day Macintosh computers are, they have not been able to help me with the vast amounts of snow or the shoveling we have had since the end of December.

As near as I can figure I have cleared over 28,000 square feet of snow in varying amounts and it is still January.

LIMac is busy putting together our lineup for 2011 meetings. We will have some very interesting presentations; one of which will be given by Apple's very own Dave Marra (cue applause). The board members are talking about a flea market during the summer (maybe a good time for lemonade?), and also a meeting where each member can bring a friend.

Scott Randell has been successful in reaching out to software manufacturers for new boxed software to become part of our raffle on a regular basis. If you have any ideas for the raffle or presentations, please talk to any of our directors. Also please take note of the subtle changes our editor, Al Zygier has made with the FORUM. This is a true contemporary newsletter, fit for the screen and in print (see special notice on Page 6). Not that I need to, but you can't say enough about someone who comes up with an idea, funds it himself and then implements it himself. That is Donald Hennessy who initiated the LIMac door prize. Our best on-going presenter for last year was Bradley Dichter with his ongoing Mac 101 presentations. The only thing Bradley cannot do is wire a Mac to get rid of snow, maybe one day. The rest of our LIMac's Directors contribute in their own way, always making a difference and always helping our organization to move forward in a most positive way. We are ready and geared up for a new year!

Bill

on Depot Rd. in Huntington Station or Tekserve near the Flatiron district of Manhattan.

► **What kind of laptop would you recommend for running Adobe Creative Suite 4 or 5 including Photoshop? I'd say the 17" is too large.**

■ Generally desktop publishers run several programs at once, so the MacBook and 13" MacBook Pro's limit of 4 GB of RAM is a problem, as is its limited 1280 x 800 screen resolution, I'd have to bump up to the 15.4" MacBook Pro with a 4 GB RAM upgrade. The 1440 by 900 resolution is much better than the 1152 x 768 of the old 15.2" PowerBook G4. I'd probably suggest the base 2.4 GHz model for \$1799. Apple would want another \$400 to replace the RAM with 8GB. If you don't mind putting in your own memory (10 Phillips #00 screws), then OWC sells the 8 GB kit for just \$109.99 You just need a external HD for Time Machine backup of the internal 320GB 5400 rpm drive. If you have another \$579.99 in the budget, what would be very cool is to pull the Apple supplied 5400 rpm drive, put it in a external FireWire 800 case and put in a 240 GB OWC Mercury Extreme Pro SSD drive. That would make a bigger difference by far than spending money on the faster processor models. A more convenient but more expensive option is to buy a Apple Time Capsule for wireless backup as well as wireless Internet access. You can buy the bare SSD for \$530 as you won't need the 320 GB original drive. I see a refurbished 1TB previous generation model for sale for \$179. It's still a dual band model that won't get slowed down by 802.11g clients like a

wireless printer. Considering the future of AirPrint from a iPhone or iPad, the HP Photosmart Plus (B210a) for \$150 (\$50 after Apple's rebate) or the HP Officejet 6500A Plus (E710n) for \$100 after rebate make a great companion all-in-one. (Just watch out, they may need a firmware update for the AirPrint/HP ePrint function.) To be fair also, any wireless printer can lose connection to the wireless network, so you may have to re-establish the connection via a temporary USB cable. If the location permits, you can connect these printers to the USB port of the Time Capsule to avoid this.

► **I have a Mac mini with a Sony monitor. It was fine but lately after it goes to sleep, when I hit a key to wake it up, all I get is a blue screen. I have to hit the power button on the back to get back to work. Do I have to get a new monitor?**

■ Generally getting a Mac to properly resume from sleep depends on what was running when it went to sleep, which includes background stuff in your /Library/StartupItems folder and what devices are connected. It could also be a font problem which you can check with *Font Book* for duplicates and/or damaged fonts. Try restarting, don't run anything but the Finder and try putting the Mac to sleep and waiting about 20 seconds and wake it. That will eliminate any programs you have run. Leaving a web browser open usually will cause a sleep issue. A lot of USB devices and scanner drivers can cause sleep problems like this. I can't let my Mac go to sleep for an extended time. Particularly for a energy miser computer like a Mac mini, I'd just change the settings in the System

Preferences - Energy Saver and change the Computer sleep to Never. You can leave the Display sleep as it is. The setting for 'Allow power button to put the computer to sleep' could be the problem. You may try turning that off. You seem to be relying on the power button to wake up the computer. So no, your monitor is not the problem.

► **Can you recommend a inexpensive network black and white laser printer?**

■ Generally I find HP laser printers are the most physically durable, but they tend towards the higher price ranges. I've found the Brother line to be OK and a good value at the lower prices. The HL-2270DW is about \$138 to \$150 elsewhere and offers wired and wireless networking as well as duplexing and is very compact, so great for the home user. They also have a higher end worthwhile model, the \$432 HL-6060DN, which steps up to a 500 sheet tray plus a proper 100 sheet multi-purpose tray instead of a single sheet slot. You lose the WiFi but gain Postscript emulation and 32 MB of RAM, it's better for small desktop publishing groups. With the growing use of iPhone, iPod touch and iPad users, the new AirPrint function has me suggesting the HP LaserJet Pro M1536dnf a \$200 multi-function laser. It's network ready including wireless, and has a 35 page automatic document feeder for the fax, scanner and copy functions. No Postscript but only *QuarkXPress* needs that. It duplex prints at 600 dpi and scans at 1200 dpi via the glass and sheet feeder.

► **How about a network photo printer?**

■ Generally I think Epson's printers offer the best color. They don't offer any letter/legal photo printers that are only printers with

networking. So that leaves the Artisan series: 810, 725 and 835. These 6 color printers produce a very nice image and the 835 also prints on inkjet printable CD/DVDs and is a fax machine too. It duplex prints. It connects to wireless networks via the top speed 802.11n, which is a big plus. If you favor a more compact unit, the Artisan 725 loses the ADF, duplex and fax functions. It's the same \$200 price as the 835, so I tend to favor the 835.

At the same price range, and again no print only model, Canon offers the PIXMA MG6120 with 6 color duplex printing and also with 802.11n wireless and wired networking. HP has nothing in photo printers. You could just get the \$99 Epson Artisan 50, a non-network ready printer with 6 colors and turn on printer sharing on the USB connected Mac or use a Airport Express or Extreme's USB printer sharing function.

► **How about the SharePort function of my D-Link wireless router?**

■ I've never seen it work with Macs. You have to install the *SharePort Utility* on each Mac to use it, but I never got it to work. Maybe it was the model printers I tried. I remember reading one case where an Epson Stylus Photo R340 worked for one guy running Snow Leopard and *SharePort Utility 3*, but most reports were unstable or unusable.

► **I need to make about 30-50 sub-folders inside a folder to organize some photos?**

■ I'd just press command-shift-n in the Finder and keep the command and shift down and tap the n key quickly 30-50 times. It should just take a couple of seconds. Each folder will be uniquely named. ↴



Say replacing BD with Bradley Dichter or (c) with the © copy-right symbol. *TextExpander* can replace your abbreviation with whole paragraphs of boilerplate text or include images. Smile offers a 90 day money-back guarantee for their \$34.95 application. The latest version is 3.2.2 for Snow Leopard users exclusively, but Tiger and Leopard users can use version 2.8.1. If you upgraded from version to version 3, it's just \$15.

Time permitting, Bradley will show us the user group bulletin board. Just click on the Register link below the logo, agree to the terms and then pick a user name and password and supply your e-mail address. You will be sent an e-mail with a confirmation link. You can then go back to the bulletin board and Log in. It sets a cookie, so you won't have to do that every time. There are already a series of forums to help direct your posts. There is a Forum for follow-up questions from previous Q&A sessions or presentations. There is a technical questions forum. Why wait for the next month's Q&A session? There are forums for the MacBasics and DTP/Photoshop SIGs and For sale and wanted sections too. There is a link to "View posts since last visit" that should help find what's new on the board. ↗



DAN DANGLO



"You don't need a grief counselor just because your computer died."

User Group Offers



George Canellis
User Group Ambassador &
Vice President

VirusBarrier X6 is the only antivirus program for Mac that includes full anti-malware protection together with firewall, network protection, anti-phishing, anti-spyware features and more. This innovative interface also scans your iPhone, iPod and iPad for malware, and includes more than 100+ amazing features. For more information, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zNofO3pr3c> This special Apple user group offer will get 20% off on Intego *VirusBarrier X6* – standard pack (including one-year full protection for 2 Macs); the regular price is \$49.95. Purchase from: <https://secure.intego.com/buynow/> Rebate code: [REDACTED] This offer is valid through February 15, 2011.

The Data Rescue Center was founded in 2009, and is a division of Prosoft Engineering. They are dedicated to bringing you the very best hard drive and data recovery service options, all at an affordable and fair price for individuals and businesses. The Data Rescue Center has a wide range of tailor-made data services to offer you, from migrating healthy data to different media and digital devices, through to photo archiving. Do you have old pictures at home that you would like to preserve and have them on your computer? The Data Rescue Center can professionally scan them using today's top professional scanning technology. This photo archiving

special for Apple User Group members is priced at only \$0.20 per picture. To take advantage of this special offer, email or call: http://www.thedatarescuecenter.com/contact_us.html or 1-877-501-4949. This offer is valid through February 28, 2011.

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form from [REDACTED] then send the completed order to sales@macvideotraining.com, or fax it to 888-615-9510. This offer is valid through April 30, 2011.

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Freeway gives you all the legendary ease-of-use and features that launched

the desktop publishing revolution. You can quickly and effortlessly lay out your website, embed images and content, then publish your work as standards-compliant HTML. Upload to your server, MobileMe or to a folder. You supply the creativity, *Freeway* handles the code. LIMac members can buy *Freeway Pro*, regularly \$249 for \$186.75, and *Freeway Express* for \$59.25, a 25% discount. Build your website now. <http://www.softpress.com/store> Promo code: [REDACTED]

PowerMax.com, the engine behind The Apple MUG Store, is pleased to announce a new process for Apple user group members. Instead of going to the Apple MUG Store website to view a limited selection of items, members can now go directly to the PowerMax website to peruse and purchase almost 50,000 products. By identifying the user group you belong to (either on an online order or over the phone), PowerMax will continue to accumulate points for LIMac to use. In addition to great deals, free UPS shipping is offered on any order over \$50. Be sure to take advantage of this win/win deal: <http://PowerMax.com>

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Adam and Tonya Engst of *TidBITS* are continuing their sixteen years of supporting user groups with a special 10% discount for all orders in their new *Take Control* electronic book series. *Take Control* ebooks provide highly practical, tightly focused, inexpensive help from leading Macintosh authors. Titles are delivered in PDF layout with active links, and are optimized for viewing and printing. The user group code to take advantage of this generous offer is [REDACTED]. <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com>

Do you own or work in a Mac-based small business that has grown out of it's computerized checkbook? Have you grown tired of creating invoices using *InDesign* or *Word*? If you think you are ready to move beyond your shoebox, MYOB has the right tool for you at a great MUG discount. MYOB, Inc., the leader in Mac small business management, has just released *MYOB FirstEdge*,

a new Mac only product that will help you run your business quickly and easily. MUG members get \$25 off the regular price of \$99 on *First Edge* or \$100 off *AccountEdge*. <http://www.myob.com/us/>

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\$31. Downloaded version's regular price is \$29, user group price \$23. [REDACTED]

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Board of Directors doing the two-step at our 2010 Holiday Party.

The door prize that Membership Chairman Donald Hennessy buys and gives away free at the meeting, was a Big One at the January 14th meeting. "We want to encourage our members to come down - bring a spouse, - bring a friend. Each person attending gets a FREE door prize ticket."



David Ross and the Big door prize for January: a Huge mouse !

SPECIAL NOTICE

This edition is made for viewing on your computer screen. If you want to print this version I have now compensated for some printers that don't print too close to the edge, if however, you wish a more printer friendly edition without all the colors just email me at azygier@nyc.rr.com and I'll be happy to send you one. (Al Zygier)

TechTool Pro Review *Scott Randell*



I would like to start out by thanking Micromat Software for supporting our user group by donating raffle copies (one each) of *TechTool Pro 5* (latest version is 5.0.7) and *TechTool Protogo*. *TechTool* is not new to the Mac. I have been using it since 1994, when the latest system was 7.5.3. Once I used it for a while. I could never be without it.

The system requirements for the present version of *TechTool Pro* are as follows:

- PowerPC G4 processor or newer.
- Mac OS X 10.4.9 or greater.
- DVD-ROM drive.

- 512 Megabytes RAM or higher.
- Quartz Extreme graphics support.

Versions of *TechTool Pro*, 5.0.6 and higher are *Snow Leopard* compatible.

What is *TechTool Pro*? Well, if you are not familiar with it, I can start out by telling you that it is the “Swiss Army Knife” of Mac utilities. With it you can perform tests on vital hardware components, as well as system software tests. In addition, *TechTool Pro* can repair many software problems, and perform maintenance tasks which need to be done on a regular basis.

The hardware tests include:

- CPU (processor(s))
- USB ports
- Network (both wired and wireless):
Network Check 1—This test checks the availability of the network services
Network Check 2—This test checks whether a network host name is reachable using the current network configuration. It should be noted that the tests do not check the hardware of the network, as this requires specialized test equipment.
- FireWire bus
- Random Access Memory (RAM)
- Hard Drive(s)
- VRAM (Video RAM)

The length of time required to perform some of these tests varies with the type of test, and how thorough you need to

be. Any intermittent problem requires a longer test. Many times this will necessitate running the test overnight. This applies to some of the RAM tests, and some of the hard drive tests.

The software tests not only tell you have a software problem, but many times can repair the problem. These include: Volume Structure (Directory,) which should be done at least twice a year, and File Structure.

TechTool Pro provides the following tools to help you perform maintenance tasks:

- eDrive—Create or remove the eDrive partition. This is a bootable partition.
(Note: you can add any other utilities you use to this partition.)
- Volume Rebuild—Rebuild and repair a volume’s directory.
- File Optimization—Defragment files on a volume.
- Volume Optimization—Consolidate free space on a volume.
- Data Recovery—Damaged volume or Trash data recovery.
- Wipe Data—Securely delete data from a volume.
- Volume Journaling—Enable or disable file system journaling
- Disk Permissions—Verify or repair disk permissions.
- Video—Monitor calibration and iSight verification.
- Audio—Manipulate and monitor the audio signal.

I have used many of these tools, and have found they work as advertised. I also found, as you will, that after a directory rebuild and optimization, volume and file, there is a noticeable increase in speed when opening applications and data files. You might not use all of these tools, (most of us will not need the security provided by “Wipe Data,”) but you will use enough of them to justify the purchase price.

TechTool Pro will help you find hardware problems, detect and repair software problems, and do the maintenance you should be doing to keep your Mac running in top form. If you own no other utility, own this one. It does it all, and does it all well. New users can purchase *TechTool Pro 5.0.7* for \$99.99, and owners of any prior version of *TechTool Pro* or *Drive 10* are entitled to an upgrade price of \$59.99. To purchase either of these, or for more information go to: <http://www.micromat.com/>



Sore Eyes *Helen and Sheldon Gross*



Helen and Sheldon Gross

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Note: Sore Eyes site referrals are for your information only. Neither the Grosses nor LIMac endorse any of the sites or their products.

OK. Apple released iOS version 4.2 for the iPad. They also sent an email to registered iPad users telling us how to update. We did so and it worked.

There are 2 major requirements we were waiting for. First and foremost, we wanted to print. Secondly, we wanted to be able to group all the apps in folders. There are so many that it's hard to find what you are looking for. So we tried.

Of course we tried this out on the first day the update was released.


We have a local area network in our home. We have 2 printers. There's a year-old Canon printer, a PIXMA iP4300 attached to the network, through a USB cable to the Airport and a Brother multifunction printer plugged directly into a desktop Mac mini. The Canon is a network printer installed as a shared printer.

Printing didn't work. We called Canon, and waited forever through level one, two and three techs. No one at Canon had the slightest idea what we were talking about. Brother had already stated

that the printer would not work through the network, but required a direct usb connection.

Then we called AppleCare. They were very polite and spent quite a bit of time with us. However their conclusion was that there are a limited number of printers that are newly designed to recognize the iPad and they are all (12 at this point) HP printers. (I hate HP printers, but that's another story).

Our favorite son and personal techie arrived for Thanksgiving. He scoured the net and found a third party program, *Printopia* that guaranteed it would work, but only for Mac computers. They offer this program as a free trial for a week. We tried it and it works. We bought the full program that same night. The full price is \$9.95 We're delighted. Printing is possible from email, *Safari* and any application that has an arrow.

As for the folders, apparently every iPhone user knows how to deal with that problem. You simply make the app icons wiggle and then put one on top of another. That way you have a folder with several apps in it and you can rename the folder anything you want. We'll save this for another time. 



General meeting time schedule:

Meetings are held at

The New York Institute of Technology,
Building 300 (Anna Rubin Hall),
Old Westbury, Long Island.

For more detailed information about this location go to limac.org

Meetings start promptly at 7:00 P.M.

Bradley's Q&A: 7:00 – 7:30 P.M.

MacBasics Q&A: 7:00 – 7:30 P.M.

Beginner Q&A meetings

Photoshop SIG: After general meeting

Retouching and restoration techniques

Featured Presentation: 7:30 – 8:20 P.M.

followed by announcements and raffle drawings.

Mac Basics

For the February SIG meeting, the MacBasics SIG will focus on Pages part of Apple's iWork suite. Pages can be used for simple word processing, as well as for more involved page layout. From letters to friends (sent by "snail-mail") or résumés, to effective garage sale fliers and trifold pamphlets, Pages is a "can-do" program.

► In bad weather, call (516) 686-7789.

► The next LIMac board meeting will be at the Plainedge Library, (516) 735-4133, on Wednesday, February 16th, at 7:45 P.M. For more detailed information about this location go to limac.org

Renewal

Membership renewal for 2011 takes place from October onwards. A bonus discount was passed by the Board of Directors a few years ago: Bring in a new dues-paying member and get a \$12 discount off your membership renewal. Bring in three new members and your renewal is free!

Bringing in a new member also includes getting a past member back into the group.

Make your \$36 check out to LIMac and bring it to the next meeting, or mail to LIMac, Post Office Box 2048, Seaford NY 11783-0180

How to better visually enjoy the Forum: Your Editor prefers you to use *Adobe Reader 9* as long as your Mac meets the requirement of Mac OS 10.4.11 or newer. PostView 1.8 (\$22) works from Mac OS 10.2 all the way up to 10.5 for PowerPC and Intel based Macs.

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Seaford, NY 11783-0180