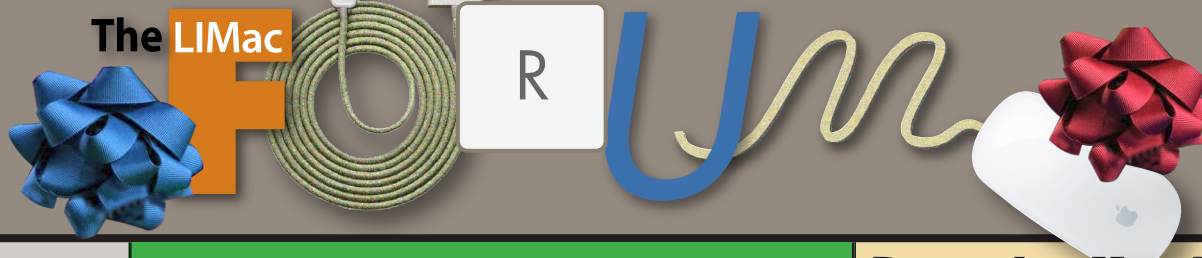


# NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG ISLAND MACINTOSH USER GROUP A not-for-profit, volunteer, member-supported organization

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December 2012  
[www.limac.org](http://www.limac.org)

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(Program Coordinator)  
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LIMac was established in 1984,  
when the Mac was introduced.

Annual dues  
for membership are \$36.

(The first meeting is free.)

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## December Meeting Rick Matteson

DECEMBER  
14  
MEETING

Our December meeting is traditionally a Holiday Party and this year is no exception. After a brutal end to October and a cancelled November meeting, we all could use a little cheering up, so get ready for this winter's main event. We ask that members bring "something to nosh." You know a "snacky" kind of thing like crudites, chips, pretzels, nachos, fruit, pizza, bagels or some other finger food to share (please avoid more cakes and cookies). LIMac will provide a festive cake and beverages (soda, coffee and tea) or you may bring your own—but nothing alcoholic or in glass containers, please).

But, wait...there's more! It's holiday shopping time again and we've got some ideas for that Apple or gadget user on your list. A few of LIMac's board members will do a brief "show and tell" of some of their favorite Mac, iOS or tech hardware, software and accessories. What they'll show you is going to be just like your own holiday gift parties...it's a surprise (unless of course, you've looked in Mom and Dad's closet or under their bed). We'll also let you in on some of the best Holiday Gift Guides on the Web and from various tech publications and blogs. So sharpen your pencil and have your note pad ready!

But, wait...there's still more! Brad will host a Q&A and we'll have a great raffle prize (an iPad mini). There will also be entertaining background music to get you in the holiday spirit

There will be no SIGs in December, but they'll return in January.

Hope to see you at the party. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanzaa to all! 🐭

## Bradley's Tech Session



Bradley Dichter  
Technical Advisor  
bdichter@optonline.net

*This is a synthetic column, as there was no Q&A session in November.*

▶ **We have a Buffalo TerraStation ES NAS which is very slow and I understand will stop being accessible if we update our Macs to Lion or Mountain Lion because Apple removed SMB access. What would you suggest as a replacement for high performance? We use about 260 GB of data.**

■ A nice little Mac mini server will do nicely, but the trick is fast data access, so I'd use a LaCie 512GB SSD Thunderbolt Little Big Disk external drive for the data. It's very fast access time because of the RAIDed SATA III 6Gb/s solid state drives connected by the fastest interface would offer connected Macs and Windows clients the best possible response. If you ever need more storage, you can daisy chain another 512GB unit. You can repurpose the four 1TB drives from the NAS into a OWC Mercury Elite Pro Qx2 FireWire 800 for backup. Just add a compact display, USB keyboard and mouse, plug it into the UPS and put in OWC RAID box, reformat and backup. The server is way easy to configure. As long as the network switch is gigabit Ethernet, the access will be better than local storage. You can even add a second gigabit Ethernet connection via a Thunderbolt adapter if your switch supports port aggregation. This would help

if more than one user accesses the server at the exact same time.

Of course the server can serve more than just files, so it will be a great value to any other intranet uses like a FileMaker server, wiki server or web-based project management system.

▶ **Why would I buy the new iPad mini for \$329 when I can get the iPad 2 for \$399 or a refurb iPad 2 16GB with 3G for \$399? It just seems too small to see well.**

■ While they both have the same resolution screen and can run the same iPad optimized apps, and use the same A5 chip, the iPad mini has some advantages. First off it's almost half the weight. Secondly, and this may not be a plus for some users, as it is smaller, most notably in width, you can hold it in one hand and tap on it freely with the other hand. The iPad 2 tends to be held in both hands, forcing you to tap on it with just the thumbs. That is assuming you are walking around with it, as opposed to having it on a flat surface or propped up in some kind of stand. Also the cameras are better on the mini and supports FaceTime over cellular if you get the WiFi + Cellular models. The iPad mini has stereo speakers on the bottom, whereas the iPad 2 is mono. One popular feature the iPad mini supports that the iPad 2 does not is the Siri personal assistant first seen with the iPhone 4S. Finally the mini uses the new style Lightning connector as opposed to the phasing out legacy 30 pin connector. That seems the better move going forward, admittedly

*Bradley's Tech Session continued on Page 3*

## President's Message



Bill Medlow  
President  
archbill@optonline.net

*I am writing this President's Message on November 29th, one month after the Hurricane Sandy devastated parts of Long Island. Along the south shore, the water rose 15 feet in places, damaging entire communities. Donald Hennessy said he watched the water come up his street and onto his lawn before retreating. Bernie Flicker told of the water coming up to the front of his house. On the north shore, we saw endless numbers of trees and power poles knocked down and in many cases taking the electric/cable system out of commission. A week later we had a nor easter/snow fall which damaged more trees and wires. With everyone trying to get back into action we found that gas stations were either without electricity or the gasoline supply was cut off from the original storm, forcing many to wait on long 3+ hour lines.*

*Through this experience, I understand that the majority of members were also without electricity for around 12 days and cable (usually telephone, Internet and TV) for an additional day or two and even more. Some members were more fortunate and some not. Everyone had a tale to tell - what an experience! Through the powerless days we found the local library a great source of electricity to recharge your cell phone, flashlight batteries and get on the Internet for information and connections, be it very slow because of the number of people on the same service. The cell phone had its own issues as connections were difficult because it was the only way to call for many days and many tower antennas were also damaged from the storm.*

*All in all, for me, it wasn't too bad an experience, except for the one night that the inside temperature reached 48°F. Looking back it was an interesting vacation and for some, it was very unfortunate. With all of this, LIMac cancelled the November general meeting and we hoped that was all that was lost. We should remember that people died and many had homes damaged or lost completely. If you can help, please do so. Help in any way you can with clothing, an older computer or anything else. Each of our communities has a donation center to help victims of Sandy, so please help where you can.*

that could limit your present choices as it's pretty new. OK, so to be fair, you could say, for you, the iPad mini's case which has very slender frame on the left and right sides is a problem, and it's larger physical size makes it easier to type on the iPad 2. One little potential gotcha against the iPad mini. It requires for some reason, Mac OS X 10.6.8 or newer, while the older designed iPad 2 can work with Mac OS X 10.5.8 and iTunes 10.5. That could make all the difference if you are stuck with a vintage iMac G5 which can't run 10.6.8. One good thing I checked out is the new \$29 Apple EarPods, work with both the iPad 2 and the iPad mini. Don't confuse the new headset introduced with the iPhone 5 with the older Apple Earphones with Remote and Mic used with the iPhone 4 and 4S. Considering the various advantages and the \$70 savings, I think most people would choose the iPad mini over the iPad 2 unless they have some current connectivity problem with analog audio output or big fingers and no love of a stylus.

► **What do you think of the new iMacs?**

■ The 21.5" models are not even RAM upgradable, but they do at least have a decent 8GB of memory. The standard 1 TB hard drive is a generous capacity but it's only a 2.5" format 5400 rpm drive so the performance there is sub-par compared to every iMac before. The sound quality is poorer, so you may consider a \$40-130 powered computer speaker system. There is no sound input jack, but that shouldn't upset most users and USB audio converters are not expensive. The SDXC slot is now on the back, where it is hard to get at. Apple took out the FireWire 800

port, so keeping your external FireWire backup drives will require the Thunderbolt to FireWire adapter for another \$29. Somewhat surprising, Apple gives you two Thunderbolt ports even on the 21.5" model, probably to make up for the lack of FireWire. The USB ports are upgraded to all USB 3.0 specs, so that is a welcome plus. That opens the door to buying inexpensive external hard drives with fast USB 3.0 interfaces instead of FireWire connections. Still, USB file transfers will require the CPU's attention, while a Thunderbolt to FireWire transfer does not, so backups thus connected will be less intrusive on the hourly basis that Time Machine prefers.

Having USB 3.0 ports also allows users to take advantage of the new USB 3.0 flash drives. You see USB 3.0 is about three times faster than USB 2.0. I see high performance card readers, no doubt preferred by DSLR users with CompactFlash cards. Especially the new 1000x speed (150 MB/sec) Lexar Professional cards. I suspect we may see some USB 3 scanners, but most don't need more than USB 2 supports. There are a couple of specialty USB 3.0 scanners now. I also see industrial cameras with USB 3.0. I have heard of a problem for Windows machines that would have a problem when some printers are connected to a USB 3.0 port. Interposing a USB 2.0 hub resolves that problem. Not that you are likely to have many USB 3.0 devices just yet, but there are 4 port and 7 port USB 3.0 hubs should you need to connect many of these. Most USB 3.0 ports and plugs can be identified by the blue insulator, but Apple didn't do that on the iMac.

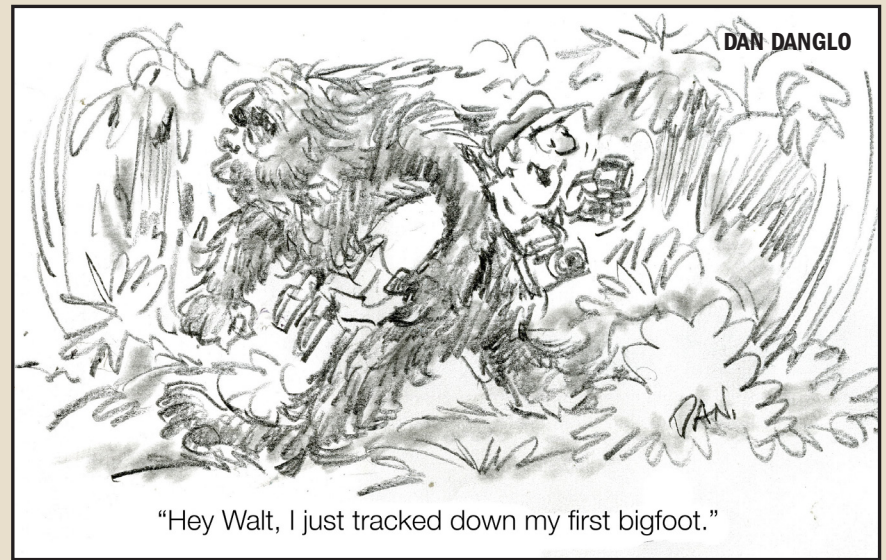
The screen is nicer than before with greatly reduced reflections. The base price

has risen to \$1299. If you are looking for a compact iMac, then consider the faster 2.9 GHz model with the somewhat faster graphics processor but do a Configure To Order online and add the Fusion drive upgrade for another \$250. That unfortunately makes the machine a hefty \$1749

For that kind of money, if you can fit it, I'd go for the 27" iMac. It's base model is as fast as the faster model of the 21.5" but it's graphics chip is better still and the 1TB hard drive is a proper 7200 rpm 3.5" style. You can in fact upgrade the new 1600 MHz speedy SDRAM on the 27" model yourself. Good thing too, that OWC is selling a max RAM upgrade to 32 GB for a third of what Apple charges. Apple still offers for \$250, the option to replace the 1 TB hard drive with a 1 TB Fusion drive. What is well worth noting, but not shown on Apple's web site, is this 1TB Fusion

drive uses a 7200 rpm part, mated to 128 GB flash storage and not the slower 5400 HDD used in the 21.5" model and the Mac mini. Exclusive to the 27" is the option to get either a 3 TB 7200 rpm HDD for \$150 or a unique 3 TB Fusion drive for a whopping extra \$400. (Still cheaper than a base model Mac Pro.) By the way, the 3 TB fusion drive also has a 128 GB flash drive mated to a 7200 rpm drive. Apple dropped the option they had on the previous generation where you could have both a SSD and a HDD (as well as a optical drive)

So in summary, the new 27" iMac looks pretty good, with a third party RAM upgrade and external speakers. Check out the Logitech Speaker System X553 2.1 system. Stylish but compact companion for your iMac. ↗



## User Group Offers



**George Canellis**  
User Group Ambassador &  
Vice President  
gwc11713@optonline.net

*iBank 4* is the acclaimed, Mac-only alternative to Quicken. You can transfer your *Quicken* account data and start tracking checking and savings accounts, credit cards, investments and loans in minutes. *iBank 4* also syncs to iOS apps for iPhone and iPad (sold separately), so you can manage all of your finances on the go. For a limited time, Apple User Group members can save 20% off *iBank 4* (regularly \$60) as well as all software purchases made at the IGG Software web store - including *iBiz 4* (time-tracking and billing for freelancers, regularly \$40) and *iBiz Professional* (the networkable multi-user version for small offices, regularly \$100). All software is downloadable, with free user manuals, free support, free trial copies, and an industry-leading, 90-day money-back guarantee.

To learn more: <http://www.iggsoftware.com> This offer is valid through December 31, 2012.

The L5 Remote is the best-selling, highest-rated universal remote for iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch. You can use this app-driven accessory to control your TV, DVD, audio, and other home entertainment devices. It is easy to create fully-customized, touch screen remotes on your iOS device in minutes with drag-and-drop ease, or download

them from the web (requires iOS 3.0 or later). With a suggested retail price of \$59, this Apple user group special price is only \$29.95, half the regular cost. Get more information, and order: [www.L5remote.com](http://www.L5remote.com) This offer is valid through December 31, 2012.

TinyLightbulbs provides the perfect home for cool innovations by hosting a diverse community of independently funded products. TinyLightbulbs is a great gateway for increasing sales and exposure to targeted customers. They offer these great products:

- Gripzila (universal stand) - <http://www.tinylightbulbs.com/gripzila.html>
- AirClip (nano watch) - <http://www.tinylightbulbs.com/the-airclip.html>
- Dockem (phone mounting system) - <http://www.tinylightbulbs.com/dockem.html>

Apple user group members throughout the world can receive 20% off these accessories.

Get your great products: <http://www.tinylightbulbs.com> This offer is valid through December 31, 2012.

*Juiced.GS* is the longest-running print publication dedicated to the Apple II. Quarterly issues feature reviews of new hardware and software, tutorials for using the Apple II in a modern environment, coverage of annual conventions, and interviews with the industry's founders. User group members can receive 10% off their total or-

der (includes subscriptions, back issues, PDFs, CDs, and calendars). Web site: <http://juiced.gs/store/> This offer is valid through December 31, 2012.

Dolly Drive is more than just *Time Machine* in the cloud. It is a multi-destination *Time Machine* backup for multiple Macs, both online and local. It will file sync, provide virtual hard drive storage, and create a bootable local clone. Because it's designed for people who love using Macs, it's all in one place, with one app. When you try Dolly Drive for business or the home, Apple user group members receive 20% off for one year of Dolly Drive (data centers in U.S. and Europe) available in sizes from 50 gigabytes to 8 terabytes, starting at \$3 per month. Backup today: <http://www.dollydrive.com> This offer is valid through January 1, 2013.

*SlideShark* from BrainShark, Inc. is a free app that converts *PowerPoint* presentations to view on your iPad. It is easy to use and designed with professionals, educators, and students in mind. It preserves animations, fonts, graphics and colors, and allows you to tap or swipe to advance animations and slides. With *SlideShark* you can view and present your slideshow on the iPad the way it was meant to be seen (and show on your TV with the iPad 2). See a demo at <https://www.slideshark.com/> Members of Apple user groups are

invited to download the app for free. Additionally, you'll also get 25% additional storage for free with this offer.

Too many passwords to remember? *iPassword 3 for Mac* is a password manager that goes beyond simple password storage by integrating directly with your web browser to automatically log you into websites, enter credit card information, fill registration forms, and easily generate strong passwords. As an Apple user group member, you are entitled to get the single user *iPassword* on the Mac for \$29.99, well below the normal retail price of \$39.99 (\$52.49 for the 5-user family version, which is usually \$69.99). You also get a 25% discount on everything in the Agile store. *iPassword* is separately available for the iPhone or iPad (\$9.99) and iPad/iPhone combo (\$14.99) from the Apple iTunes Store.

Get 40% off books and videos from O'Reilly, Microsoft Press, No Starch, Paraglyph, PC Publishing, Pragmatic Bookshelf, Rocky Nook, SitePoint, or YoungJin books and 50% off ebooks you purchase directly from O'Reilly. Order from the O'Reilly Store online or by phone at 1-800-998-9938. <http://www.oreilly.com/store/>

*User Group Offers continued on Page 5*

*User Group Offers continued from Page 4*

Eltima Software is a global software development company, specializing in *Flash* software development for Mac users. All flashers will see the true value of *Flash Decompiler Trillix for Mac*, *Flash Optimizer for Mac* and *SWF & FLV Player for Mac*. With these products, managing *Flash* files is easy: decompile, compress or just play them back. Regular prices for Eltima's *Flash* software range from \$19.95-\$99.95. Using the coupon code gives user group members 20% off. Get your *Flash* products here: <http://mac.eltima.com/>

*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, 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>

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 accumu-

late 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>

RadTech manufactures and distributes an array of best-in-class accessory solutions for Apple computers, iPhone, iPod and Cinema Displays, all designed to keep you connected and protected in style. Experience the RadTech difference through their unique product line and legendary customer support. LIMac members get 20% off all products. Start saving now: <http://www.radtech.us>

Apple user group members receive a 35% discount when they shop at peachpit.com. Just enter the user group discount coupon code at checkout. Ground shipping is free! (This discount cannot be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes such as the Peachpit Club.) <http://www.peachpit.com>

No matter what Apple devices you're using, there's a *Take Control* ebook that will help you polish your skills, work more efficiently, and increase your productivity. Check out our highly practical, tightly focused ebooks covering OS X, Macintosh applications, the iPad and iPhone, 802.11n networking, and more! Written by the most-trusted names in the Mac world and published by Adam and Tonya Engst of TidBITS, *Take Control* ebooks provide the technical help you need now. *Take Control* ebooks are available for immediate

download in PDF format (for Macs and iPads), and with EPUB (for iPhone and iPod touch) and Mobipocket (for Kindle) versions available after purchase. An exclusive 30% off their already low prices is offered to Apple user group members on all *Take Control* ebooks. Purchase *Take Control* books

TidBITS: <http://www.tidbits.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/>

You don't have to put up with unwanted junk email. *Spamfire* from Matterform Media removes unwanted commercial and pornographic email from your in-box. It works with any POP3 email account and any email program (support for IMAP, Hotmail and AOL is still in development). *Spamfire* uses intelligent, fuzzy-logic filtering to identify spam and protect messages you want to keep. Automatic internet updates ensure you always have the most advanced spam protec-

tion available. *Spamfire* works in OS 9 and OS X and is a Mac-only product. Mac User Group members can purchase *Spamfire* for just \$23, more than 20% off the regular price. Box & CD version's regular price is \$39, user group price is \$31. Downloaded version's regular price is \$29, user group price \$23.

Macworld offers MUG members a special subscription offer. Macworld magazine is the ultimate Mac resource! Each issue is packed with industry news, future trends, practical how-tos, in-depth features, tips and tricks, and more; Macworld provides the tools Mac professionals and enthusiasts need. Best of all, you can depend on their unbiased, thorough product reviews and buying advice. Stay informed about what's new, exciting, important. Become a Macworld reader. Normal Price: \$27.97 UG Price: \$15.00 for 12 issues.





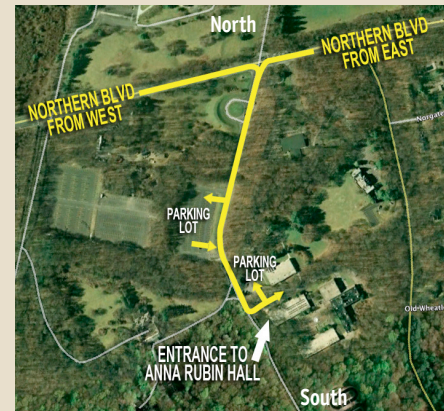
### Your holiday shopping can give a gift to LIMac!

The holidays are coming up and many of you are going to be doing some (or most) of your shopping online. Wouldn't it be great if LIMac could reap some benefit from your holiday shopping? Well LIMac can!

For those of you who are familiar with GoodSearch (<http://www.GoodSearch.com>) and have been using it with LIMac as the organization of choice, thank you. If you're unfamiliar with GoodSearch it's a search engine where one cent for each search will be donated to the non-profit organization of your choice. And since LIMac is a non-profit organization your searching can send some cold, hard cash to LIMac.

GoodSearch also has GoodShop <http://www.goodshop.com> which is a click through

shopping site where LIMac can make some really serious money. Please go through GoodShop for all of your holiday (and everyday) shopping & LIMac can earn upwards of 25% and more of your purchase. Over three hundred stores to choose from, including Amazon, MacConnection, Brookstone, Budget Car Rental, eBay, Eddie Bauer, Land's End, J&R, Macy's, Orvis, Target, Apple Store & the Apple iTunes Store. Bookmark this special link, <http://www.bit.ly/ShopLIMac> and every time you go to GoodShop via this link, LIMac will automatically receive the donation from your merchant of choice at absolutely no cost to you. So please remember to use our GoodShop link... <http://www.bit.ly/ShopLIMac> whenever you shop online.



#### 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](http://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.**

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

followed by announcements and raffle drawings.

**After general meeting**

**iOS SIG:** None this month.

**Mac Basics SIG:** No Mac Basics SIG this month.

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

▶ The next LIMac board meeting will be at the Plainedge Library, (516) 735-4133, on January, 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 P.M. For more detailed information about this location go to [limac.org](http://limac.org)

## Renewal

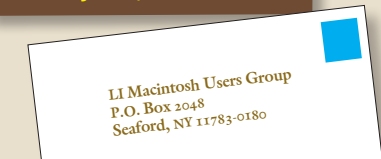
Membership renewal for 2012 takes place from October onwards. A bonus discount was passed by the Board of Directors a few years ago: Bring in a new dues-paying member and get a **\$12** discount off your membership renewal. Bring in three new members and your renewal is free!

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.

**For a Year's membership  
Send your \$36 check to:**



#### SPECIAL NOTICE

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