OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOL.17, NO. 7-SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 1987

Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 10 FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY 8:00 P.M.

A SOLO BIKE TRIP IN FRANCE SPEAKER: MELVIN C. BRENNER

Melvin, a member of South Shore Audubon and a former social studies teacher from Kennedy High School in Plainview, relates experiences from his two week bicycle trip through northern France. His slides reveal the countryside and small towns and villages of the area and the people whom he met.

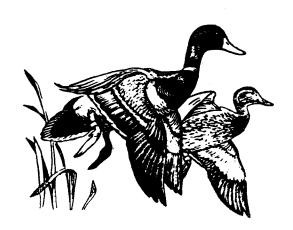
NEXT MEETING - APRIL 14

THE HUMAN-ANIMAL COMPANION BOND

SPEAKER: Mark Stebbins, Director Stress

Reduction Learning Center at

Creedmoor



Conservation

Last week we drove past a wooded parcel of land in Freeport. I have written of this parcel before. It is designated Freshwater Wetlands, Class 11, and is supposed to be protected by New York State law. We were flabbergasted to see the trees marked for cutting on this property. A few phone calls later, and our worst fears were confirmed.

Nassau County had sold this parcel to a private developer, Freeport Brookside Associates. This land cannot be developed without permits issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, or another government authorized through the New York State DEC. We are very concerned that the powerful people who purchased this property will be able to push through the permits.

Freshwater Wetlands are vital for flood and stormwater control, wildlife habitat, water supply, water
quality, fisheries, food chains, open
space, aesthetic appreciation and
education. In our area almost all of
the freshwater wetlands have been
destroyed. Let us see if we can't
pool our energies to save this parcel
from the bulldozers. It is going to
take a lot of work on our part. Please
help. This parcel is located on the
west side of Brookside Ave., north of
Sunrise Highway and is identified as

(continued on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Reagan administration recently recommended in a report by the Department of the Interior that 1.5 million acres of the 2.0 million acre coastal plain of the Alaskan Arctic National Wildlife Refuge be opened for leasing to the oil and gas industry.

This would mean a potential destruction of the coastal plain habitat that is home for the many unique arctic wildlife species, including the porcupine caribou, polar bear, wolverine, snow goose and peregrine falcon, when the fact is that there is only a 19 percent chance of discovering economically recoverable oil in the coastal plain.

National Audubon Society is taking a strong stand against this action. I, too, oppose the drilling for oil on the coastal plain, and hopefully

represent the opinion of South Shore Audubon members. Thus, I have written a letter to the Department of the Interior asking them to retract and redraft their report and resubmit it for public review and comment before it is enacted.

The state of Alaska is the only remaining stronghold of wilderness in the United States, and I am convinced that proper planning can produce a balance between the industrial needs and the environmental requirements of this magnificant wildlife refuge.



WILDLIFE SAFARI

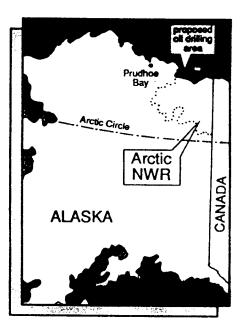
The South Shore Audubon Society is sponsoring a unique wildlife safari to East Africa this summer, the details of which have been revealed in a separate mailing. If you have read the brochure, you are aware of the exciting itinerary through Kenya, from the bustling city of Nairobi to the spectacular wilderness of the national parks and game reserves.

The tour guide, Dr. Richard Van Gelder, a leading mammalogist at the American Museum of Natural History, is well qualified to lead this safari. He has successfully led groups to East Africa for many years, including his own New Jersey Audubon Society, which is joining our trip for a repeat venture.

You can meet Dr. Van Gelder and get a preview of the trip at the New School for Social Research this April, as he presents a six-week course on comparative social behavior of African mammals. You will also have a chance to meet him at our Annual Dinner in June when he will be our guest speaker.

There are many different kinds of African safaris and many different price ranges. While not inexpensive, the trip that South Shore Audubon has chosen gives you a great deal for your money and allows each participant to make a valuable and much appreciated contribution to SSAS at the same time.

If you have any questions regarding the trip, please call Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841.



TRIP TO BRIGANTINE WILDLIFE PRESERVE

SATURDAY, MAY 16 -- 7:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
COST: \$36.00 PER PERSON, INCLUDING BUS FARE, DINNER
AND GRATUITIES

The bus will leave from the Merrick Road Golf Club, Merrick Road & Clubhouse Road (Next to Holiday Park Shopping Center off of Exit 9 Eastbound of the Meadowbrook Parkway), Merrick, N.Y.

Choice for dinner (Please Check)

□ Roast Beef

Chicken Breast Champignon

Bring Your Own Lunch & Drinks

Make Checks Payable To SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY and Mail To:

Mrs. Evelyn Blume 313 Smith Street Merrick, New York 11566 516-378-7122 (After 6 P.M.)

REGISTER EARLY AS THE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE LIMITED TO THE CAPACITY OF THE BUS

SPRING NATURE WALKS TACKAPAUSHA PRESERVE

The earth stands mute, without a voice to sing; But the wind is saying spring.

(Helen Janet Miller)

Starting on March 7, Spring Nature Walks will be held at 9:30 A.M. on alternate Saturdays until June 13, at the Tackapausha Preserve, Seaford, N.Y. The walks are scheduled so that one may enjoy and see the effect of the oncoming of Spring, in all its glory, on the animal and plant life found within the 80-acre site. The walks will be conducted by Jerry Bernstein, volunteer museum naturalist. The dates of the walks are as follows:

March 7May 2March 21May 16April 4May 30April 18June 13

BIRD STUDY COURSE

A four session bird study course entitled "The World of Birds" is being offered at the Merrick Public Library, 2279 Merrick Avenue, Merrick, New York, on Wednesday evenings March 4, 11, 18, and 25, 1987 at 8:00 P.M. The course is designed for those who wish to have a better understanding of what differentiates birds from other classes of animals. Both physical (evolution, morphology, and anatomy) and behavioral characteristics (ability to fly, courtship, feeding behavior, nest construction, etc.), as well as aids to identification of the various families of birds will be discussed. There is no fee for this course and all members and non-members are welcome. The course will be conducted by Jerry Bernstein, Past President of the South Shore Audubon Society. For information call 516-623-8255 516-379-3476.

T-SHIRTS

A GIFT TO ENDANGERED SPECIES

Ten-year-old John Starapoli, a junior member of South Shore Audubon, has a unique method of raising money to help protect endangered species. He makes and sells T-shirts with pictures of the Bald Eagle and Whooping Crane which he himself has designed. He has offered his entire profits to SSAS for the purpose of helping endangered species, including the two abovementioned birds.

John's T-shirts cost \$6.75 each. To order yours, please call him at 599-1569.

PRIORITIES

Several months ago the Board of Directors of South Shore Audubon formed a steering committee, the purpose of which was to recommend projects the chapter could address. At the February board meeting the following recommendations were made and approved.

South Shore Audubon needs to have more people involved in the activities of the chapter. We have a number of non-board positions involving various levels of committment for which members are urged to volunteer. The four priority issues on which SSAS will concentrate are:

- 1. Water Conservation
- 2. Land Preservation
- 3. Solid Waste Recycling
- 4. Tern Warden Program

If you wish to help the environment, to act upon the problems facing the natural world, call me at 223-7947 evenings or see me at meetings.

TOM TORMA

Sec. 54, B1. B, Lots 700 c,d, and e. We need people to write to:

Commissioner Gino Aiello Dept. of Conservation & Waterways Town of Hempstead Point Lookout, N.Y. 11569

Presiding Supervisor Joseph Mondello Town Hall, Town of Hempstead Hempstead, N.Y. 11550

Nassau County Executive Thomas Gulotta County Executive Building 1 West Street Mineola, N.Y. 11501

Harold Berger N.Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation Stony Brook, N.Y. 11790

Mayor Dorothy Storm Freeport Village Hall 46 North Ocean Avenue Freeport, N.Y. 11520

Please send copies of any letters you write to South Shore Audubon Conservation Committee, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, N.Y. 11520

Thank you,

JOAN AND PAUL BUTKEREIT

(On the next page is a copy of the letter I sent to Mayor Storm.)

J.B.



Rare Bird Sightings (212) 832-6523

South Shore Audubon Society

Post Office Box Thirty-One Freeport, New York 11520

Mayor Dorothy Storm Freeport Village Hall 46 N Ocean Ave Freeport, N.Y. 11520

Dear Mayor Storm.

The members of the South Shore Audubon Society are very concerned about the development of the tract of Freshwater Wetlands on Brookside Ave in Northwest FreeDort. This property was formerly owned by the City of New York, then Nassau County, and now FreeDort Brookside Associates, a private developer. In many other communities where such Freshwater Wetlands exist, nature preserves were set up to provide wildlife habitat, and provide a wonderful place for residents to pursue passive hobbies such as birdwatching, nature photography, and environmental education. This parcel of land is protected by New York State Law and is designated Class 2 wetlands. Permits must be obtained from the N.Y.Dept. of Environmental Conservation before any alteration of the land can take place.

We at South Shore Audubon feel the development of this property would be a permanent loss to the quality of Freeport's environment. So much attention has been paid to the careful planning of land use in South Freeport. All of Freeport benefits from being surrounded by Freshwater Wetlands. The village is bounded by Meadowbrook Creek and it's Greenbelt to the east, and by Milburn Creek and this small section of woodland to the west. This Brookside Ave tract is a vestige of the once great Great South Woods. Winter Christmas bird counts have turned up rusty blackbirds, snipe, hairy woodpeckers, downey woodpeckers, Great Horned Owl, and the usual cardinals, bluejays, chickadees, tufted titmice, mockingbirds, house finches and crows. During the spring & fall migrations scarlet tanagers, northern orioles, catbirds, brown creepers, vellowthroat warblers, yellow werblers, cape may warblers, goldfinch and many other species flock to this spot as a safe habitat during their long trips. What a shame to have this parcel be lost forever. We urge you to acknowledge the special qualities of this land and work hard to protect it. I have recently contacted several individuals who are running for Village Trustee. Those individuals have all stated that they wish to see this land preserved and utilized with nature trails. Mrs. Caccitore was the only one who withheld comment until she could research the issue. Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Most Respectfully,

Joan Butkereit

Conservation Chairman

n Sutkeet

WATER CRISIS

PART TWO - ARE THERE ANY ANSWERS?

The problem has proven to be serious. Nassau County has a crisis with both the quality and the quantity of its water. While water quality is a concern, we have the technology to purify the water. By using granulated activated charcoal filters at the wellhead, we can make our water safe. Water quantity problems will prove to be more difficult.

At the present time there is a difference of opinion as to how to solve our water quantity problems. One extreme opinion is to continue development in Nassau County and look for new supplies of water. The other is to stop all development, to keep things as they are now. In truth, no one is advocating either extreme. Most people fall somewhere in between, but leaning toward one opinion or the other. Let's examine the options.

Where can we find new sources of water? Some of the answers proposed are; the New York City water system, the ponds and lakes along Sunrise Highway that were part of the old Brooklyn water system, desalinization, or water from the pine barrens. While these are possible sources of water, they all have problems that go along with them.

New York City has its own water problems. At the present time New York uses 1.5 billion gallons per day. By the year 2020 the city is expected to use 1.6 billion gallons per day. The safe yield of the reservoir system is 1.29 billion gallons per day. New York City is presently considering using Hudson River water as a supply. It has been reported in the newspapers that communities along the river are considering legal action to prevent New York from taking the water.

As a resident of Nassau County, I do not want to drink Hudson River water. I don't think any Nassau residents want to drink Hudson River water or to get involved in a legal battle over that water. I doubt that New York City would be willing to share water with us.

Several years ago Nassau County purchased unused New York City water supply property. This land holds a series of lakes, ponds and streams

along Sunrise Highway. At one time these reservoirs were part of the Brooklyn water system. Now it has been suggested that this system be activated for use by Nassau County. On Long Island all our ponds, lakes and streams are locations where the land surface dips below the water table. The problem is our water table is dropping. With this drop these reservoirs are drying up. It is also known that the old water shed property is contaminated. For these reasons I do not consider these lakes and ponds a good water supply for the future!

Desalinization is sometimes mentioned as a possible source of water. Most experts do not consider desalinization now or in the future an economically feasible source of water. However, it might be possible to get some water by this method by using waste heat from such places as sewage treatment plants.

Under the Pine Barrens on the eastern end of Long Island is a huge source of water. It might be possible to bring water from there, but several problems exist with this idea. Pine Barrens are beginning to be developed and the water available there is subject to the same abuse that our own groundwater is subject to. Pine Barrens also lie within the towns of Brookhaven and Riverhead. governments in these towns are strong believers in home rule. I find it hard to believe that they will be willing to limit development and efforts to increase the tax base so that Nassau County can take water after we have abused our own resources.

What I am saying is that there is no real good source of potable water left for Nassau County. This is not to say that all is hopeless. If we are careful we can still get by on the water resources we have left.

The South Shore Audubon Society has passed a resolution calling for a temporary moratorium on development in Nassau County. During the moratorium a conservation policy and a water management program should be developed. What are some of the options that are available to us?

Nassau County must educate people to the need to conserve. They must set the example by reducing water consumption by 15% in all county facilities. County parks and landscaping should be planned for low maintenance and water conservation. Limits on lawn sprinkling should be imposed.

The towns should require water saving appliances in all new construction. A water use impact statement should be required and considered before any building permits are issued. There should also be a statement from the water suppliers guaranteeing an adequate available supply of water for new construction. Commercial development whould require dual plumbing systems to meet potable and non-potable water needs separately.

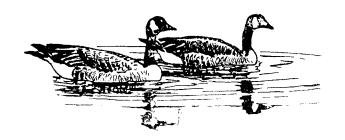
Increase the protection of land that is needed to recharge our deep aquifers. This land, known as Special Groundwater Protection Areas (SPGA's), must be saved. Nassau County should forego further development of Mitchell Field. as this area is in the center of the deep recharge area.

All government agencies should work together to develop a unified policy on a regional level.

Nassau County must implement advanced waste water treatment and recharge programs at all sewage treatment plants.

It is time for all residents. businesses and all levels of government to commit themselves to solving our water crisis!

TOM TORMA



AUCTION for T.R.

An auction and cocktail party for the benefit of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary will be held at the Oyster Bay home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Storrs on Saturday, May 9.

Since an auction is successful only if the items offered are appealing to bidders, all Sanctuary members and friends are being asked to assist by donating valuable and interesting auctionable items.

The Sanctuary hopes to raise money for its educational programs and operating expenses so that it can continue to expand the programs it offers to schools, to the public and to its members. Your cooperation is needed. Tell your friends to give and to attend! Keep the date open.

If you have a donation or would like more information, call:

T.R. Sanctuary......922-3200 Rita Cleary......922-1672 Ayer Bellerman......922-7164 Hugh McQuillan......679-8319

Some suggestions for donations are:

Antiques and Collectibles Rugs China Mirrors Art Items (sculpture, paintings, prints)

Gift Certificates (restaurants, catering, vacation spots) Tickets for theatre or sporting events

Wine and Liquor

Services

car work, splitting wood, catered dinner, tennis lessons, family photo, fishing party, legal services, etc.

If you can donate an item or a service, please call one of the above numbers as soon as possible.

HUGH McQUILLAN

SCHOLARSHIP

The National Audubon Society operates two summer camp programs in the Northeast for adults interested in the natural world. The programs are of one or two weeks duration and are listed below.

South Shore Audubon offers a limited number of scholarships that cover the registrations fees for these programs. If you would like to be considered for one of these scholarships, contact Joe Grupp at (516) 481-4208 or write to him at 660 Edgemere Avenue, Uniondale, N.Y. 11553. The deadline for applying is March 17, 1987. The camp programs are enjoyable and rewarding and help one to better understand and appreciate the world in which we live. Here is an excellent opportunity for SSAS members to enjoy them free of charge.

Greenwich, Connecticut

Introductory Field Ecology
1. June 28 - July 4
2. July 5 - 11

Introductory Field Ecology for Educators
1. July 12 - 18
2. July 19 - 25
3. July 26 - August 1

Hog Island, Maine

- H.J.

Field Ecology
1. June 28 - July 10
2. July 12 - 24
3. July 26 - August 7
4. August 9 - 21

Field Ornithology

1. August 23 - 29

2. August 31 - September 6

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members. We hope you will join us at our monthly meetings, Sunday bird walks and various other activities.

BALDWINMrs Hobson Miller BELLMORE Mr H Y Kesterson FLORAL PARKMrs Bettilu Tubbs FRANKLIN SQUARE ... Pascal Dantonio FREEPORT Miss M Martin GARDEN CITY Jan Chinniici, Gerard Rudolph, Jackk E Smith, John F Taggart HEMPSTEADDorothea Friedrich HEWLETTJennifer Dutton LEVITTOWNCarla and Rich Kleppan LONG BEACH Arthur Findlay, Robert O'Connor MERRICKNancy and Jeff Singer NORTH BELLMORE Ralph N Matragrano PLAINVIEWGlenn A Marrus ROCKVILLE CENTRE .. Milton Harris WEST HEMPSTEADMs Brooke Baldwin WANTAGHMr and Mrs William Beauer, Mr Gaetano DiForti WOODMERE Emanuel Dym

THE MERGANSERS

The January day was reasonably warm and overcast with a few breaks in the clouds, clouds left over from the heavy rain and wet snow that saturated Long Island the day before. The ground was soft and spongy as my wife and I entered Twin Lakes Preserve late in the afternoon. Scope on shoulder and binoculars hanging from our necks, we were ready to observe what the woodlands and ponds had to offer.

There was a good outdoor feeling as we traveled along the preserve's woodland paths. At Forest Lake we observed a few Mallards and stood for a while peering through the scope at a male American Widgeon. The aroma of the damp woodland pierced our senses and added to the pleasure of just being there as we moved south along the western border of the preserve. By the time we reached the south end of Seaman's Pond, the water yielded Mute Swan, Coot, a pair of Hooded Mergansers and a small flock of Ring-necked Ducks for our day's list; while the woodlands contributed the White-breasted Nuthatch, Tufted Titmouse and Downy Woodpecker.

Crossing Park Avenue, we cautiously advanced towards the north corner of Wantagh Pond. The light of the sun was diffuse, evenly spread out by the overcast sky. The wind was gentle, almost calm, so gentle that the trees we were walking under kept it from reaching and rippling the nearby lake's surface. The surface reflected the overcast sky.

As we stepped toward the shore twelve pairs of Hooded Mergansers tensed in alertness to our intrusion, sending the briefest of ripples across the mirrored surface. We froze, remaining as still as possible, almost afraid to breathe, so as not to disturb this very close wild scene. They, too, were motionless for a moment, the males' white crest bordered in black fully expanded and perhaps just a bit more, looking as if they were trying to stretch the white portion over their heads; similar to the way a young boy would pull off a sweater.

Every mark of every bird reflected off the water's surface and each bird's poise and action were identical to the next. As one, they cautiously and tensly began to swim away from our shore towards the pond's center, away from us and possible threat. The dull light on the ever so taut crest and tan flanks made them seem almost ready to explode. Each of the birds, males and females, trailed an ever so small wake that softly disturbed the water, turning the birds' reflected images into a constantly changing mosaic of white and black and tan while the waters before them, still smooth, reflected the lead birds. The birds moved as one just as our spirit soared and became one with the scene. The preserve was to give us more birds to add to our day's list, but, in truth, it was the day of the Hooded Mergansers.

J. GRUPP



PROJECT BIRDWATCH

Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology invites you to participate in Project BirdWatch, a plan to gather information on species densities of the birds in New York State. You can help by recording the birds you see each week on a special computerized form sent to you when you sign up. To defray costs of printing, mailing, and processing, there is an annual participant's fee of \$7.00. This entitles you to receive a supply of reporting forms and additional information about Project Bird-Watch during the first quarter of 1987.

The success of Project BirdWatch depends upon volunteers. Your participation is welcomed. To join, complete the registration form below and send it along with your fee to the Laboratory of Ornithology.

Project BirdWatch Registration Form

Yes, I would like to participate in Project BirdWatch in New York State during 1987. Enclosed is my \$7 participant's fee. Please make checks payable to "Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology--Project BirdWatch." Mail your completed registration form, along with your participant's fee to: Project BirdWatch, c/o Charles R. Smith, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Name:	
Address:	
City:	Zip:
Your pa I am a member of South Sho	rticipation is welcomed. re Audubon Society.
	

NEWS FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON

Acid rain is a very high Society-wide priority for National Audubon in 1987. Legislation to control acid rain has been stalled far too long. Congress appears to be ready to act on this issue, but it's going to take a lot of pressure from Audubon members and other conservationists. Audubon is coordinating a nationwide campaign with other organizations in the National Clean Air Coalition. If you live in a targeted district or a key state you will be receiving information and action alerts from Audubon. Please help.

The <u>Endangered Species Act</u> reauthorization bill passed the House easily last year and though non-controversial, got stuck in the Senate. Audubon intends to make this piece of legislation a top priority and send a clear message to Congress that protection for endangered and threatened species cannot be kept on the back burner indefinitely. We'll need your help to carry that message to Congress.

10

THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY, NATURE PROGRAM

Here are activities which we hope that you will enjoy. Please call us at 922-3200 to Register for the programs. Because our space is limited, REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Admission is \$1.50 for non-members; \$.50 for members, unless otherwise stated.

Grounds are open 9-5 P.M. everyday. The Nature Center is open 1-5 P.M. weekends and 9-5 Monday - Friday.



Sunday, March 1 SALT MARSH BIRDS AND 2:00 - 3:00 P.M. THEIR WORLD

Sat., March 7 WHY A BUG? 2:00 - 3:00 P.M. (Family Program)

Sunday, March 8 NATURE CRAFTS (Children) 1:30 - 2:00 Grade K-2 2:30 - 3:30 Grade 3-5

Friday, March 13 ASTRONOMY NIGHT 7:30 - 8:30 P.M. (Rain or Shine)

Saturday, March 14 1:30 - 2:30 Grade K-2 2:30 - 3:30 Grade 3-5

EARTH SOUNDS (Children)

Sunday, March 15 1:30 - 4:30

INTRODUCTION TO BIRD CARVING

Saturday, March 21 10:00 - 12:00

WINTER WALK (Family)
(Sagamore Hill Nature Walk)

March 21 or 22 Call to check date 1:30 - 2:30 OWLS (Family)

Saturday, March 28 1:30 - 2:30 Grade 3-6

SPRING FLOWERS (Children)

Sunday, April 5 1:30 - 2:30

SPRING WALK (Family)

Saturday, April 11 1:30 - 2:00 Grades K-2 2:30 - 3:00 Grades 3-5

SEEDS ARE GREAT (Children)

BIRD WALKS

No walk if it rains, snows or temperature is 25 degrees or below. STARTING TIME - 9:30_A.M.

Mar.		Twin Lakes Preserve
	8	West End #2, N.E. Corner
	15	Cedar Beach

22 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

29 Tobay - JFK Sanctuary

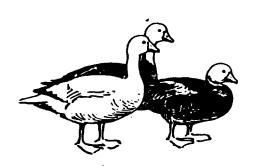
Apr. 5 Twin Lakes Preserve

Freeport, N.Y. 11520

12 Zach's Bay, #4, N.E. Corner

19 West End #2, N.E. Corner

26 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge



South Shore Audubon Society
P.O. Box 31

OFFICERS

persy curotts, rresident)40	
Tom Torma, Vice Pres223	3-7947
Malcolm Marum, Treas75	
Nora Lorenco, Rec.Sec868	1_4505
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889	9-8092
Rose Ermidis, Education78)-02 UC
Myrna Brier, Hospitality76	+-75 23

For 30% to 50% savings on Bushnell and Bausch and Lomb binoculars and scopes, see us at meetings and bird walks or call:

Barbara Tancredi (11 A.M. – 1 P.M.) . . . 354-4524

Bill Herzog (7 P.M. – 9 P.M.) 791-7886

U.S. POSTAGE P.A.I.D. Permit No.131 NON-PROFIT Island Park, N.Y.

MARION YAVARKOVSKY 26 W LOINES AV MERRICK NY 11566



DATED MATERIAL