

#956

1.19.2015

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1. Reflections

Note: See Section 11 for two articles you won't want to miss.

Also, if you're reading this via Facebook and/or in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, you can make sure you don't miss an issue (and you get it earlier, too) by clicking:

<http://tinyurl.com/ozgmxgs>

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I enjoyed JOHN AND JEN at 35below, starring (left photo) Kelli Mullinix and Mark Jones. They were both fantastic. John Crawley (right photo) did a great job on the piano and as music director, and he was even in the play as the umpire.

You can still catch it through January 25th, and you can also listen the music from the original production by clicking:

Act I

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcqLo1kq280>

Act II

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JB73IkviW2c>



B. I also got to see The Magnetic Theatre's world premiere of FOOD AND HOW TO EAT IT, featuring zany performances from Scott Fisher, Katie Langwell, Valerie Meiss and Glenn Reed. Kudos to Steven Samuels, the show's director, who is in the middle of the picture below, along with my friend Steven Shulman on the left.



And I participated in the monthly Board meeting of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum. We were fortunate to have Alan Silverman (far left) join us. He gave us several useful suggestions on how to increase our membership. Others pictured, l-r: Brad Morris, Philip Hendel, Eric Weinberger, Joel Mazelis, Blaine Greenfield and Harris Livingstain.



C. Reminder: If you're a member of the Biltmore Lake community, come join me at the Clubhouse to watch the Super Bowl on Sunday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m. Bring your beverage of choice, as well as an appetizer or dessert to share. Please register online.

And an invitation: If you're not a member of our community, but would like to come as my guest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put SUPER BOWL in the subject line.

Also, a request for help: I'm in the process of helping the hosts for the evening, Brian and Caron Smith, get some prizes for the above; e.g., to give to the person who comes closest to predicting the exact score. Depending on how many prizes I can obtain, we'll have other contests that evening.

I'm looking at such possibilities as meals at local restaurants, show tickets, wine, etc. If you have anything you could donate, I'd be most appreciative. Please let me know by sending an email to: bginbc@aol.com and putting PRIZES in the subject line.

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Steven and Karen Marinoff on the birth of their newest grandchildren, twins Leon and Ethan.

(2) Brian Sneed on having his latest poem, "After a Suicide" published in the new issue of TRIQUARTERLY. To read or listen to it, please click:
<http://goo.gl/VmQCor>

(3) Mike Arriola on his new position as Deputy District Director for the SBA in North Carolina.

(4) Howard Debs on having three new poems published in REMARKABLE DOORWAYS:
"Scraps Of Time" about what is truly important
<http://remarkabledoorways.com/2015/01/scraps-of-time-2/>

"The Butterfly Effect" about what really makes a difference
<http://remarkabledoorways.com/2015/01/the-butterfly-effect/>

"Carrion" about what ultimately matters
<http://remarkabledoorways.com/2015/01/carrion/>

(5) Margie Montet on winning third place in a writing contest run by the Houston Writers' Guild.

(6) Maria Katherine on her engagement to Jason Ervin.

(7) Ray O. in PA, winner of Contest #2 (of 2015), a piece of art done by Tebbe Davis.

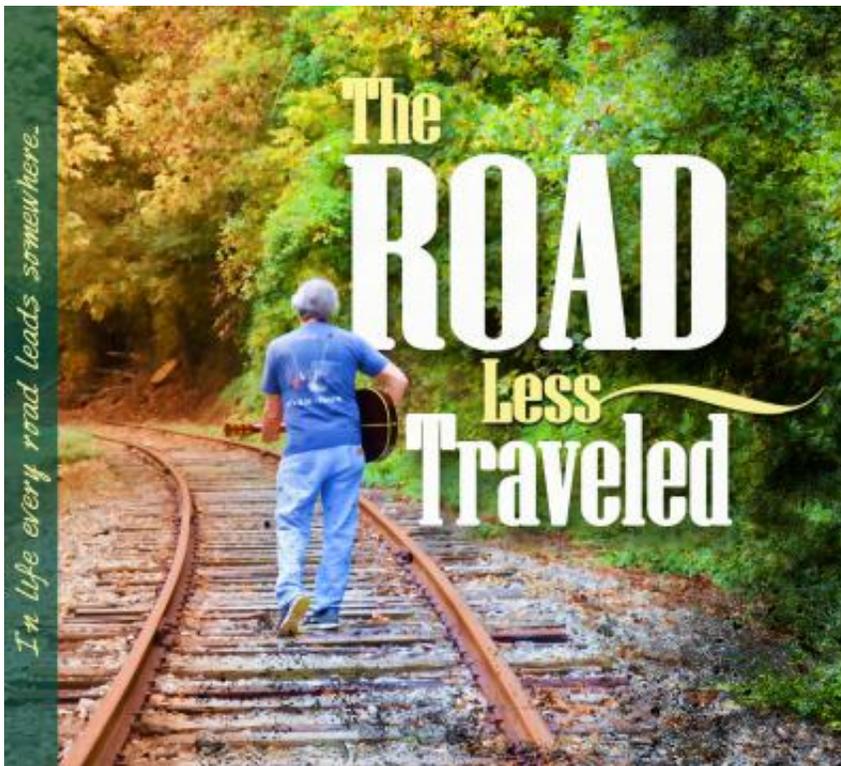
Note: If you have not done so yet, please take a look at Tebbe's art by clicking:
www.tebbart.com

I also recommend you get Tebbe's free newsletter by clicking:
<http://tebbeart.com/email-newsletter>

All told, there were 10 entries. And that reminds me that it's now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #3 *****

One lucky reader will win an autographed copy of Zuzu Welsh's great debut CD: THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED.



To hear one of the songs from it, please click:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9I0I8DUtCAY>

To enter: Put "CONTEST #3" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bjinbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name AND snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 2, 2015.

E. Condolences to:

(1) Jo Ciavaglia and family on the passing of Jo's Aunt Helen.

(2) Randy Noojin and family on the passing of Randy's brother Mark.

***** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD *****

This week, it goes to Barbara and John Schnautz--Asheville SCORE mentors for a combined total of 50 years.

I know this makes them the couple with the most experience of SCORE counseling in the nation, and I believe they may also be the individuals with the most experience ... or if not most, certainly close to the very top.

Barbara and John have held countless leadership positions within the Asheville chapter, and they are still quite active. Personally, they have been a big help to me ever since I joined the organization some five years ago.

In addition, John is co-founder of the Robotics Opportunities Committee of Western North Carolina and, as such, he also supports youth STEM activities.

Pictured (below), l-r: John Kiley, District Director for NC SCORE; Mike Arriola, Deputy District Director for the SBA in NC; Barbara and John Schnautz.



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2. FYI

Last week, I suggested that you put a label on the inside of your eyeglass case; e.g., to give you a fighting chance of having your glasses returned if you ever lose them. Now I'd like to suggest you put a similar label on your cellphones, particularly if you lock them when not in use. That way, if you lose your cellphone, all a person has to do is look for your label with your phone numbers. Obviously, don't include your cellphone number since that would do you no good. But do include a home number, if you still have one, and/or the cellphone number of your spouse or significant other, a good friend, etc.



FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Rock E. in NC: Lay Me Down

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-z0es1Wuik>

(2) Jim H. in NC: Hate your job in Asheville?

<http://www.ashvegas.com/video-hate-your-job-in-asheville-this-short-video-shows-you-how-to-make-work-fun>

(3) Kristi M. in NC: Who knew about the Wrecking Crew...Guess we will find out more when the movie is released March 13!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhl-3EOYTkc>

(4) Justin B. in NC: Selyna Bogino doing the 5 balls longest routine ever!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSR3jhRjzfk>

(5) Carla J. in IN: Adorable baby and kitten

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tFz1jK6sGIU>

(6) It Might As Well Be Spring (State Fair) - Katherine Sandoval Taylor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPHt9zsRFOM>

(7) Arlene D. in PA: Jackie Evancho - Somewhere with Barbra Streisand

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PdIRVERxLI#t=12>

(8) Steven S. in FL: Park City Alpine Coaster POV Roller Coaster in the SNOW Utah Ski Resort

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OETp9nCKI3M>

B. Other tidbits from readers

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1NY>

(1) Christopher Bursk in PA: Trying to start a blog. (2) Mike Y. in NC: Great stuff, Blaine! (3) Deb. D. in NJ: I just read and reviewed The Canoe [at amazon.com]. (4) Elaine B. in PA: I guess you lived there so long you're always in NC mode. (5) Henry W. in NY: Went to see "Two Days, One Night." (6) Jason S. in NC: Nike, JCrew, Under Armour, Brooks Brothers and more coming to Asheville Outlets. (7) Carole B. in NC: Elizabeth Gilbert: Thoughts on writing.

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3. Joke 1

A man suffered a heart attack while shopping. 911 was immediately called. Paramedics rushed the man to the nearest hospital where he had emergency open heart surgery. . . . He awakened in the Catholic hospital. A nun asked him, "Do you have health insurance?" He replied, "No health insurance." . . . She: "Do you have money in the bank?" He: "Not a cent." . . . She: "Do you have a relative who could help out?" He: "I only have a spinster sister, and she is a nun." . . . The nun became agitated and said loudly, "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God." . . . "Perfect," said the patient. "Send the bill to my brother-in-law."

08	1	5860029	SPECIAL PROC 15 MINS	0.00	0.00
08	1	5860030	SPECIAL PROC 30 MIN	0.00	0.00
08	1	5860101	SUBSEQUENT PATIENT ASSESSMENT	0.00	0.00
08	1	5860348	SMALL VOL NEB TX	191.00	191.00
SUMMARY OF CHARGES					
		INT & C	10DAYS@	13962.00	13962.00
		INT & C	7DAYS@	13962.00	97734.00
		PRIVATE	3DAYS@	4633.00	13899.00
		PHARMACY		11869.07	11869.07
		SUPPLY/DEVICES		6684.00	6684.00
		LAB		14795.23	14795.23
		RADIOLOGY/DX		998.00	998.00
		RESPIRATORY SERV		25053.00	25053.00
		EMERGENCY ROOM		1317.00	1317.00
		EKG/ECG		201.00	201.00
		BED STATUS		292.00	292.00
TOTAL OF CHARGES				186804.30	186804.30
T A L S				186804.30	186804.30
NUMBER 14375052		(PLEASE REFER TO ACCOUNT NUMBER ON ALL INQUIRIES AND CORRESPONDENCE)			
Medical Center		QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL UCSF: 415-673-1113 MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 9AM TO 3PM PST			

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4. Reviews

A. Saw THE WEDDING RINGER, a very funny comedy about a guy who is going to marry the girl of his dreams but who doesn't have a best man--or any groomsmen, either. So he turns to a company that provides such individuals for a fee. Josh Gad and Kevin Hart are both outstanding in the leading roles. Forget what some critics may have said about this film. If you go to it, you'll laugh . . . a lot. Rated R, though I think it would be appropriate (and fun, too) for any mature teenager.

B. LOVE IS STRANGE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #940 follows:

LOVE IS STRANGE is a drama about two elderly men who get married after nearly 40 years together. But when one partner loses his job, the couple are forced to sell their

apartment and temporarily live apart until they can find an affordable new home. John Lithgow and Alfred Molina are both excellent in the leading roles, but the film--after a great beginning--was somewhat of a disappointment. It dragged, in spots, and the editing left much to be desired. Rated R, though methinks it would certainly be appropriate for any mature teenager.

Note: If you can, find MAKE WAY FOR TOMORROW--a 1937 movie with a similar theme. It is much better. In fact, it is one of my all-time favorites. If you'd like to see what else on my list, please send an email to bginbc@aol.com and put "FAVORITES" in the subject line.

C. Read THE HUMOR CODE: A GLOBAL SEARCH FOR WHAT MAKES THINGS FUNNY (Simon & Shuster) by Peter McGraw and Joel Warner.

McGraw, founder of the Humor Research Lab at the University of Colorado, Boulder, teamed up with journalist Warner on a search for the secret behind humor. They spanned the globe from New York to the Amazon and hit such other locales as Tanzania, Japan, Scandinavia and Palestine. In addition, they spoke to comedians like Louis C.K., managers of comedy clubs, researchers and a wide range of other individuals who all shared a wide range of viewpoints on what was funny--and why.

Perhaps my favorite chapter was the one that attempted to answer the question: "What's the secret to winning the NEW YORKER caption contest?" So as to not spoil the book for you, I'll just encourage you to read it yourself.

I also got a kick out of the last chapter, in which McGraw attempts to use everything he has learned to attempt stand-up at the largest comedy festival in the world.

And I loved his final thoughts on humor, including these:

Watch fewer dramas and more sitcoms. Join a laughter yoga club. Increase your visits to your local comedy club. ... Surround yourself with the people and things that make you laugh. Seek out interesting places and interesting people. Focus on the friends who make you laugh, not the ones who bring you down. Choose as partner someone with whom you share a sense of humor, somehow who helps you see the lighter side of life.

Reading THE HUMOR CODE will help you do just that!

D. Heard UNLUCKY 13 (Hachette Audio) by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro and read by January LaVoy.

This is another entry in the Women's Murder Club series by these two authors, and it features a killer from the past who has resurfaced. The book begins with a bang, and I found the different story lines to be quite interesting in the beginning.

However, the ending was way too abrupt. And what's worse: Some parts of the story didn't seem to come together--and I was left wondering what happened and why.

Patterson and his various co-authors can certainly crank out books. I enjoy most of them, too, but overall, I was disappointed with UNLUCKY 13.

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5. TV alert

A. NIGHT WILL FALL: Monday, Jan. 26, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

This documentary, which has never previously aired, was put together by the British Ministry of Information and supervising director Alfred Hitchcock. It shows the horrors recorded by soldiers at the German concentration camps.

B. EDISON: AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 9 p.m. on PBS. (PBS times and dates often vary, so check local listings.)

Thomas Edison (1847-1931), the great American inventor, is profiled.

C. KITTEN BOWL II. Sunday, Feb. 1, at Noon on HALLMARK CHANNEL
Ninety adorable kittens are shown in this second annual charity event.

D. PUPPY BOWL XI: Sunday, Feb. 1, at 3 p.m. on ANIMAL PLANET
Watch Teams Ruff and Tuff fight over who gets to play with a choice rope toy.

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6. Joke 2

She look like anybody you know?



'I have to admit, Catwoman — you are not as I expected.'

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7. Websites

A. A State-by-State Guide to the 50 Coolest Things in America

<https://www.yahoo.com/travel/photo-50-cool-things-in-50-states-108152003207.html>

B. Doug H. in NC: Photo booth pranks

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oexzg5-1Q_M

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running ... to view it, please click:

<http://www.blaineworld.net/>

Ever wonder how many others have viewed this website? You can see for yourself by looking at the counter in the bottom left hand of this page.

D. Are you on Facebook? In the unlikely event we have not yet connected as friends there, please feel free to send me an invite by clicking:

<https://www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield>



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8. Technology tip

Francie Black, technology consultant, gave an informative presentation on the "iOS 8 New Features" to our Biltmore Lake Community. I especially liked how she showed us how to make Siri work entirely hands-free by simply saying the words, "Hey, Siri." All you need to do is: 1. Open your iPhone or iPad Settings application, choose General and then Siri. 2. Ensure the switch for "Allow Hey Siri" is turned on. 3. You can then speak to Siri without pressing the home button by saying "Hey Siri" when you're plugged in. ... You can even do this if the screen is locked or if an application is up and running.



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9. Joke 3

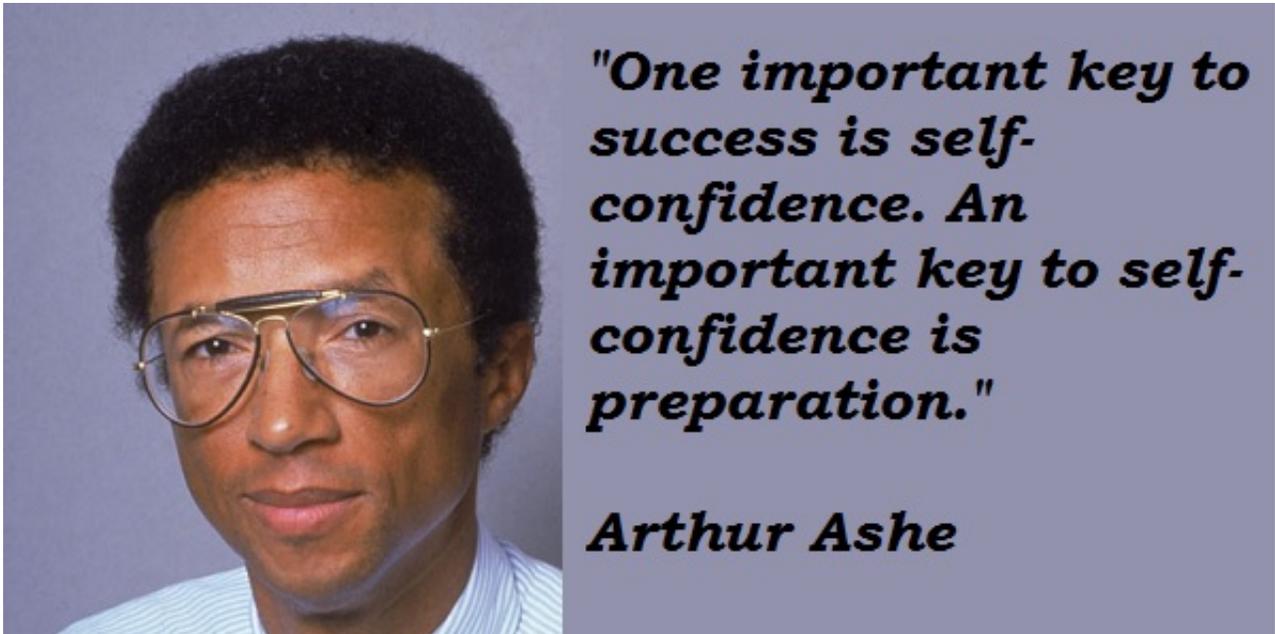
One day while jogging, a middle-aged man notices a tennis ball lying on the road. Being fairly new and in good condition, he picks the ball up, puts it in the front of his running shorts and proceeds on his way. . . . Waiting at the cross street for the light to change, he notices a beautiful young woman run up next to him. She sees the bulge in the his shorts and keeps staring at it. . . . Finally, the guy has to say something, so he points and exclaims, "Tennis ball!" . . . "Wow," says the woman, "That must hurt. I once had tennis elbow, and the pain was unbearable!"



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10. A quote I like

Ashe (1943-1993) was an American professional tennis player who won three Grand Slam titles, ranking him among the best tennis players from the United States. On June 20, 1993, he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by then United States President Bill Clinton, largely because of his efforts to educate others about AIDS.



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11. Thought for the day

To Fall in Love With Anyone, Do This
by Mandy Len Catron

More than 20 years ago, the psychologist Arthur Aron succeeded in making two strangers fall in love in his laboratory. Last summer, I applied his technique in my own life, which is how I found myself standing on a bridge at midnight, staring into a man's eyes for exactly four minutes.

Let me explain. Earlier in the evening, that man had said: "I suspect, given a few commonalities, you could fall in love with anyone. If so, how do you choose someone?"

To read the rest of this informative article, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/11/fashion/modern-love-to-fall-in-love-with-anyone-do-this.html>

Note: The above also cited the following article, which I think you'll find equally interesting:

No. 37: Big Wedding or Small?

Quiz: The 36 Questions That Lead to Love

by Daniel Jones

In Mandy Len Catron's Modern Love essay, "To Fall in Love With Anyone, Do This," she refers to a study by the psychologist Arthur Aron (and others) that explores whether intimacy between two strangers can be accelerated by having them ask each other a specific series of personal questions. The 36 questions in the study are broken up into three sets, with each set intended to be more probing than the previous one.

The idea is that mutual vulnerability fosters closeness. To quote the study's authors, "One key pattern associated with the development of a close relationship among peers is sustained, escalating, reciprocal, personal self-disclosure." Allowing oneself to be vulnerable with another person can be exceedingly difficult, so this exercise forces the issue.

To read more, and I encourage you to do so, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/11/fashion/no-37-big-wedding-or-small.html>

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12. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following events in full, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1NY>

A. NC events

(1) HEARTS FOR SART. (2) SHINING CITY. (3) Total Body Workshop. (4) TABLE 6. (5) Michelle Baker at Asheville Jewish Business Forum.

B. PA/NJ events

BORN YESTERDAY at Actors Net.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!

