

#957

1.26.2015

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1. Reflections

Note: See Section 3 for a picture that seems to be going viral much to my dismay.

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:

(1) Had the pleasure of dining at Vinnie's with (l-r) Carole Biro, Dave Blumlo and Judy Blumlo. The food, as always, was great. And so was the service we received from Jessa.



(2) Enjoyed a fantastic production of ELEMENO PEA at HART's Fletcher Studio. Pictured in the front row: Scott D. Bean and Strother Stingley, and in the rear row: Jennifer Russ. Not pictured: Chelsey Lee Gaddy and Christy Bishop, the rest of the talented cast. Kudos to Buffy Queen for her spot on direction.



(3) I finally got to try fried gator tail at Stone Ridge Tavern, an item my friend Chuck Hollinshead (pictured below) had been raving about for years. It was OK, though I don't know if I would rush out to have it again--in large part because the restaurant has so many other delicious items that I enjoy more. Leigh, our server, was excellent.



(4) And Cynthia (pictured below with Mona Hegarty) is excited to be learning Zentangle® from Michelle Marshall--a very fine instructor. To learn more about what this entails, sign-up for the:
Basics Introductory Class

Imagine having fun, being peaceful, creating, improving fine motor skills, focus and self-esteem. This can happen with an easy-to-learn and relaxing method of drawing beautiful designs using structured patterns called Zentangle®. Great for non-artists and artists. There are no mistakes!!!!

Class schedule for Feb./March and sign up on:
www.marshallartsavl.com



B. Congratulations to:

- (1) Hayley and Damian Wells on the birth of Jasper Roper Wells, their son. (And congratulations, also, to John and Pansy Roper, the proud grandparents.
- (2) Chip Madera on the birth of Micah Miles Malone, his first grandson.
- (3) Bill McMannis on the birth of Marshall Brian McMannis, his second grandson.
- (4) Jeff Silcox on his new job as District Manager at Sika Sarnafil USA.
- (5) Randy Noojin on his play, *Hard Travelin' with Woody*, winning Best of Fest at the Maui Fringe Theatre Festival.
- (6) Laurie Satran on being chosen one of the first 1000 photographers invited to join the @pxcollective community, thus getting the chance to expose her work among some of the most talented emerging and established artists on the web.
- (7) Athena Destiny Sarantis on getting accepted into the BFA Acting program at UCF.
- (8) Michelle Baker on a great interview on FINDING ASHEVILLE. To listen to it, please click:
<http://findingasheville.com/2015/01/19/learning-speak-michelle-baker-author-canoe/>
- (9) Mike Andrus for being named to the Action Martial Arts Magazine's Hall of Honors as an "Ambassador of Goodwill to the Martial Arts."

C. Correction: In last week's issue, I reported that three of the poems written by Howard Debs were recently published. That part is true. However, I incorrectly typed the name of the publication that published these poems. The correct name is REMARKABLE DOORWAYS. Sorry 'bout that, Howard!

Also, I'm happy to report that Howard has just been accepted for listing in the DIRECTORY OF POETS AND WRITERS as a result of the amount of his work published in recognized periodicals. To see the listing, please click:

https://web.archive.org/web/20150128231741/https://www.pw.org/content/howard_debs

D. Condolences to the family of Rod McKuen. He passed away on January 29. Once described the "the unofficial poet laureate of America," McKuen's music often touched me. I especially liked his renditions of these two songs:

"Seasons in the Sun"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtESZkGAI0I>

"If You Go Away"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGbAD8E9SDc>

To read his obituary, please click:

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/30/arts/rod-mckuen-prolific-poet-and-lyricist-dies-at-81.html?_r=0



E. Reminders:

(1) Come join me for the Super Bowl party at the Biltmore Lake Clubhouse 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 if you're a member of the community.

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

(2) Steven T. in PA: HEARTS for SART fires up again on Valentine's Day Saturday, Feb 14th and we're pulling out all the stops to make this year's celebration bigger and better than ever:

- Cash Bar

- Heavy hors d'oeuvres & delectable desserts

- Silent auction for all tastes and budgets (featured item: 4 days/3 nights at a 4bed/3bath luxurious mountain lodge near Wolf Laurel)

- The vim & verve of the musical foursome Forte with Liz Aiello, Carol Duermit, Katherine Sandoval Taylor & Beverly Todd. You know the house will rock.

When and where details: Asheville Masonic Temple on Broadway starting at 7 p.m.
Tickets online:
www.sartplays.org

or at the door. Singles & couples welcomed & encouraged.

(3) There's still time to enter ...

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

One lucky reader will win an autographed copy of the great debut album from Zuzu (pictured below): THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED.



To hear one of the songs from it, please click:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_UdEFsGSs2Q

To enter: Put "CONTEST #3" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@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.

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

Thanks, Sherry S. in PA, for your Facebook post that put Mason Wartman on my radar screen. He is this week's winner. To find out why, kindly see the article that follows:

How You Can Pay It Forward With Pizza in Philadelphia

Jan 7, 2015, 12:05 PM ET

By SUSANNA KIM via GOOD MORNING AMERICA

The people of Philadelphia are paying it forward with 8,300 slices of pizza at a restaurant that allows customers to buy a \$1 slice for the hungry.

Pizza starts at only \$1 at Rosa's Fresh Pizza, which opened on S. 11th Street in Philadelphia in December 2013.

Mason Wartman, 26, started the restaurant with \$250,000 in savings after leaving his job on Wall Street in sell-side equity research.



For the rest of this cool story, please click:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/pay-forward-pizza-philadelphia/story?id=28058310>

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2. FYI

Thanks, Mike A. in PA, for sharing the following:

NOTICE: In our efforts for funding using Indiegogo we selected a person who said they offered media services. The person identified himself as Jay Adams, Media consultant for the Atlanta Falcons. We recently found out that the person we were dealing with was a fraud. They were not even located in the US. The real Jay Adams knew nothing about this. We then filed a complaint with Indiegogo and they notified us that there was fraudulent activity with that account and they suspended it. We then needed to contact PayPal. They told me on the phone we would receive a credit. They recently denied that and refused to credit my account. BE VERY CAREFUL USING PAYPAL and look closely at their rules. They are inconsistent and we have filed a complaint against them. I now had to cancel my credit card associated with Paypal. What a hassle. In addition, Paypal said one thing and did another. Disappointing.

Mike then complained to Paypal, and here's the insulting response he got:
This is part of the message I received!!! Thank you for contacting PayPal Customer Support. My name is Wayne and I am happy to assist you with the request that was placed to offer you a one-time courtesy credit. I am sorry to announce that I am unable to approve a courtesy credit from PayPal for \$160.00 As you have now been made aware that services and other intangible purchases are not covered by PayPal purchase protection. I have notified the agent's direct report that reportedly gave you that information for development purposes. It was not the conversation with the agent that caused the \$160.00 to not be covered or a change in the outcome of the claim itself. You are still encouraged to pursue your consumer rights outside of PayPal.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Rich O. in PA: Glass Prison
<https://soundcloud.com/rich-orth/glass-prison-06-13-11-1-37pm>

(2) Annemarie B. in NC: 80 years of happy
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebD_drWYVal#t=121

(3) Nelson S. in NC: The war on ballsacks
<http://thedailyshow.cc.com/videos/88j6k5/the-war-on-ballsacks>

(4) Joyce S. in NC: Cat Explains The Super Bowl In This Hilarious 'Dear Kitten' Video!
<http://blog.theanimalrescuesite.com/dearkittensuperbowlgame/#VtAJ1he5efFexdkc.99>

(5) Arlene D. in PA: Kids who lost the fight against sleep
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bllVYLygYOI>

(6) Patty A. in PA: Sleeping dog with three kittens
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwq5Y2FjcG0>

(7) Chris F. in PA: You Shall Not Pass, Dog!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7znl_Kpzbs

(8) Dan B. in PA: Naval aviation from the cockpit
www.youtube.com/embed/wfOD2y_AD_w?feature=player_embedded

B. Other

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Ok>

(1) Howard D. in FL: Congrats on another stellar issue of BW. (2) Len E. in NC: Here in Sarasota, FL, I saw another great movie that few people will see or even know about: SPARE PARTS. (3) Brian S. in NC: Thanks so much for including a link to my poem in this week's Blainesworld. (4) Bill K. in CA: Love the jokes and updates. (5) Lisa Z. in PA: Good tips and jokes. (6) Marty S. in PA: Love the thumb up in all of the pix! (7) How to Start a Business With Very Little Money. (8) Nelson S. in NC: Native American Council Offers Amnesty to 220 Million Undocumented Whites.

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3. Joke 1

BIT PEEVED HERE ... this picture of me shoveling snow got out and is now all over the Internet!



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4. Reviews

A. Saw AMERICAN SNIPER, the true story of Chris Kyle--the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history. Bradley Cooper is amazing in the leading role. He continues to impress me with the range of his work (think first about THE HANGOVER, followed by SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK, AMERICAN HUSTLE and then this ... wow!). The story, out of necessity, is a violent one, but it is also thought-provoking, and I recommend it highly. Kudos, also, to director Clint Eastwood. Rated R.

B. THE JUDGE is now out on DVD . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #946 follows: I enjoyed seeing Robert Downey Jr. play the role of a big city lawyer in THE JUDGE, in that I've always enjoyed his acting--but had gotten a bit tired of seeing him in IRON MAN-type roles . . . here, he returns to his childhood home to help defend his father, Robert Duvall, who is accused of murder . . . the plot is a bit contrived, yet overall, the film held my interest . . . I also liked the work of Vera Farmiga . . . I wasn't crazy about the production values . . . methinks they could have spent some more money on such things as shooting scenes in a more realistic diner that had me laughing every time I saw the "waterfall" that was supposedly right next to it . . . rated R, though I have no idea why . . . it would be appropriate for any mature teenager.

C. Read THE BROKEN CHRISTMAS TREE (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform) by D.W. Rigsby.

This novel tells the story of 12-year-old Danny, a boy growing up in hard times in

Southern Ohio. He is particularly worried about his mom who seems to have given up on Christmas.

So he sets out on an incredible journey with his best friend Cluster that kept me engrossed from the start. I also liked the author's writing style, including this one passage that had me recalling my newspaper delivery days as a child: He places a stack of twenty papers on his lap and folds the first paper in thirds. He rolls the paper up in a flash, using his fingers to coax the multilayer pages forward to create a role. Once it's rolled, he tucks the ends inside of the paper fold to secure it. Then he places his fingers in the bottom of the layered swirl and twists the whole thing tightly.

There's a supernatural twist to the story and though I'm not ordinarily a fan of this genre, I very much enjoyed this book. It is quite touching, and I grew to really like both the main character and Cluster. There is also a great ending.

I'm now looking forward to Rigsby's next effort.

D. Heard MY SONG: A MEMOIR (Random House Audio) by Harry Belafonte with Michael Shnayerson and read by Belafonte and Mirron Willis.

The author, a talented actor and singer, grew up in poverty in Jamaica and then Harlem. He did not have an easy childhood, but it gave him the drive to make good. So after a stint in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he began as an actor. Shortly thereafter, he was spotted in a musical and soon became one of the world's most popular singers.

However, stardom was never enough for Belafonte. He also became active in the civil rights movement, as well as in countless other social and political causes.

I always admired Belafonte as an entertainer. After listening to this book, I now admire him even more for all he has done to make this a better world for us all.

In addition, I enjoyed learning about his friendship with such notables as Paul Robeson, Martin Luther King, Eleanor Roosevelt, Sidney Poitier, John F. Kennedy, Marlon Brando, Robert Kennedy, Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Tony Bennett and Bill Clinton, among others,

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5. TV alert

A. BREAKING GREENVILLE: Thursdays at 10:30 p.m. on TRUTV

This new reality show profiles the ratings duel between two local TV stations in Greenville MS.

B. SHAKESPEARE UNCOVERED: Fridays at 9 p.m. on PBS. (Note: PBS times and dates often vary, so check local listings.)

Each episode explores a play and is narrated by an actor who performed in it.

C. THE GRAMMYS: Sunday, Feb. 8, at 8 p.m. on CBS.

Current diva Arland Grande will be joined by past, present and future diva Madonna, among others. I'll also be watching to see Common team with John Legend on their Oscar-nominated song "Glory" from SELMA.

D. BETTER CALL SAUL: Premieres Sunday, Feb. 8, at 10 p.m. on AMC, then in regular time slot of Monday, Feb. 9, at 9 p.m.

To quote TV GUIDE, is a "marvelously original and instantly engrossing hybrid of origin story, prequel and spinoff" [to BREAKING BAD].

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6. Joke 2

Forget about the TV show, KIDS SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS. It's really dogs who do!



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7. Websites

A. As y'all know by now, it is my belief that "Happy Together" is the greatest rock song of all time. Here's a cover that methinks you'll enjoy viewing:

Me and My Cello - Happy Together (Turtles) Cello Cover - ThePianoGuys

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKC-IRhvdNY>

B. To get you in mood for the Super Bowl, check out:

(1) 2015 Budweiser Super Bowl XLIX Commercial "Lost Dog" (Puppy)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B22nkVEUnSU>

(2) Go Daddy spoof of the above that got pulled:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql9wq2ZDoKM>

(3) Top Ten commercials

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nc648kFFZhM>

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

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

To read an informative piece I put together on how to get at the truth on the Internet, click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "On what to believe."

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield



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8. Computer tip

Dana K. in PA; Feel free to share this with your readers. In response to your last Newsletter (dealing with folks getting information when your screen is locked) ...

How to display ICE (In Case of Emergency) contact on your iPhone, Android, or BlackBerry lock screen

If you have stored ICE (In Case of Emergency) contacts in your phone, you probably noticed that your phone treats them like any other contact. This means that emergency responders won't be able to access your contacts if your phone is locked. Also, if you're an Android user using a custom ROM, there's a chance an emergency responder won't even know how to access your contacts. In an emergency, every moment is important. You can, through a few easy steps, display emergency contact information, along with any other information you select, on your phone's lock screen. This means that it will be available just by turning on the screen, making it quickly and easily available in the case of a real emergency. Who knows, this might actually help you get your device back in case it's lost or stolen.

For the rest of this informative article, please click:

<http://mikebeach.org/2011/11/15/how-to-display-ice-in-case-of-emergency-contact-on-your-iphone-android-or-blackberry-lock-screen/>

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9. Joke 3

In Spain, a couple is at a restaurant. They see a big procession pass that's led by a waiter carrying a big tray. Arriving at another table, he takes off the top and everybody claps when they see these two huge balls. The couple, now curious, asks: "What's that?" . . . The waiter explains, "We have a tradition that when the bull is killed, we eat his balls. They are his tastiest part." . . . The couple thinks, "What the hell?" So they order the balls, too. A few minutes later, the waiter comes back without much fanfare. He puts the dish on the table and instead, the couple sees two very tiny balls. "What are these?" they ask. . . . "Well, the bull. Sometimes he wins."



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10. A quote I like

The quote, taken from the film about the real story of Chris Gardner's life, has one typo; i.e., THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS is the correct title. As to the reason behind the misspelling, please click:

<http://www.faqoverflow.com/english/15505.html>



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11. Thought for the day

When It Takes a Dentist's Chair to Disconnect

By ERICA REISCHER
DECEMBER 31, 2014

I was at the dentist because I had a cracked tooth that I had long put off fixing, partly because my schedule was already brimming over, and mostly because I didn't really want to have the procedure anyway. After months of stalling, I had finally scheduled the appointment and resolutely blocked out my calendar for the entire afternoon. I was anticipating that afternoon with dread, but I was in for a surprise.

Let me say unequivocally that the dentist's office was the last place I wanted to be, and certainly the last place I would ever think of as a refuge. But as I reclined in the dentist's chair, unable to do anything but lay there in a mild stupor thanks to the anesthetics and a pair of busy hands moving around my mouth, I realized with some irony that this was the closest thing I'd had to a vacation in months: no computers, no phone calls, no emails, no smartphones.

For the rest of this interesting article, please click:

<http://parenting.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/12/31/when-it-takes-a-dentists-chair-to-disconnect/>

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12. Advance planning department

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

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

A. NC events

(1) Join master storyteller David Novak. (2) Zuzu Welsh Band. (3) Tina FireWolf at Malaprops. (4) Two new foot fitness classes. (5) BJ Leiderman Band House Party. (6) Panel discussion on the Freedom Summer and the history of the civil rights movement. (7) Cheryl Sullivan's Inception Point Therapy® Workshop. (8) Michelle Baker at Asheville Jewish Business Forum.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) We Shall Not Be Moved, concert featuring Keith Spender. (2) LEND ME A TENOR at MCCC.

PS. OH-SO-TOUCHING STORY (to get you in the mood for the big game on Sunday, Feb. 1) ... After many years of trying, a die-hard fan finally gets one ticket to the Super Bowl--but his seat is in the nosebleed section. ... So after just a few plays, he wants to see if he can find a seat closer to where he can see better. He treks all the way down from Row 179 to the very front of the stadium where he finds one empty seat. He asks, "Is anybody sitting there?" ... The guy next to it answers, "No, because my wife just died." ... "Sorry to hear," says the first fan. "How come you didn't bring a friend or relative with you?" ... The guy replies, "Oh, they're all at the funeral."



And make it a wonderful week, too!

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