

BLAINES WORLD

#963
3.9.2015

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1. Reflections

Note: See Section 3 for an update on yours truly.

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>

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

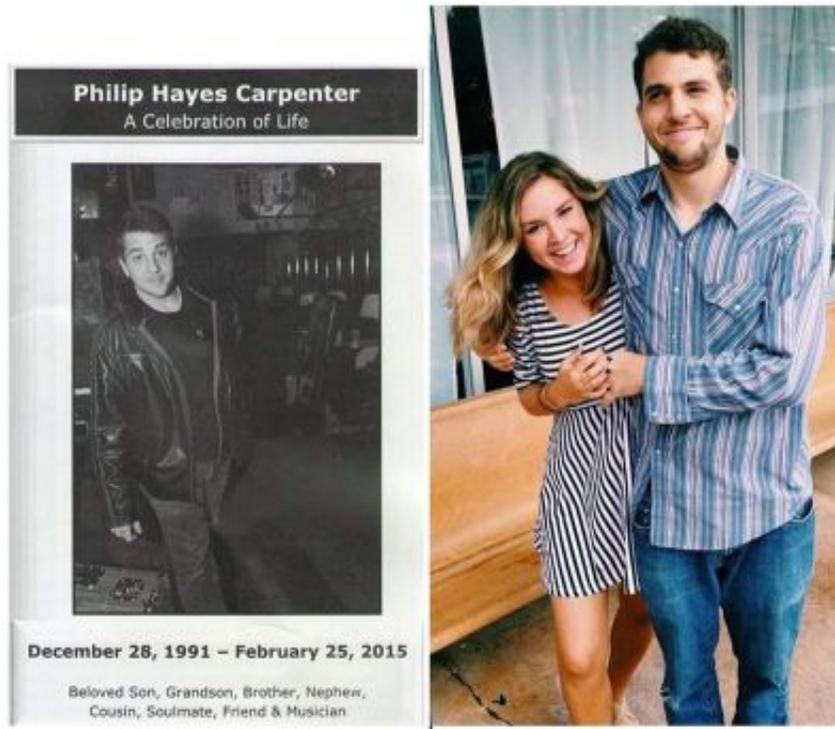
(1) Met Rhino, our friend Lisa Stendig's adorable new Maltese puppy. Pictured with us in top photo, Lisa with Rhino; in bottom left photo, Sky Simonov; and in bottom right photo, Steve and Rebecca Corwin, along with Rhino.



(2) Attended a celebration of the life of Philip Hayes Carpenter, the boyfriend of our friend Jenna Biro, who passed away suddenly. We were touched by the many folks who spoke so lovingly of him, as well as by what Jenna wrote about him in the program: There are so many stories I could tell you about Phil, such as all the kind and sweet things he did for me on a regular basis. I could talk about how talented he was as a musician or how fun he was just to be around and have in my life. But to me, Phil is and

will always be the love of my life. He always told me, "You're my favorite person, I'll always love you, and we're going to be together forever." Philip Hayes Carpenter will never leave our hearts and his beautiful soul will make each day a little better because we've had the privilege of knowing him. I love you, Philip. You're my favorite person, too."

Pictured, l-r: The program cover, and Jenna and Phil.



Note: Please also see the BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD (below) for more information on both Jenna and Phil

B. I saw a very funny production of PLAZA SUITE, presented by The Feichter Studio at Haywood Arts Regional Theatre. Lyn Donley and Waylon Wood were both fantastic in the leading roles, and kudos to Wanda Taylor for her spot on direction.

Picture with me, l-r: Lyn Donley and Waylon Wood.



C. Reminders:

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

***** CONTEST #6 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of **THE INNOVATORS: HOW A GROUP OF HACKERS, GENIUSES AND GEEKS CREATED THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION** by Walter Isaacson.

To quote from the description at amazon.com:

Following his blockbuster biography of Steve Jobs, *The Innovators* is Walter Isaacson's revealing story of the people who created the computer and the Internet. It is destined to be the standard history of the digital revolution and an indispensable guide to how innovation really happens.

I reviewed the above in *BLAINESWORLD* #954 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #6" 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, March 16, 2015.

(2) And Walk a Mile Asheville 2015 is approaching. This year it will take place on Saturday, May 2, at 11 a.m. at the same place as last year: the City/County Plaza (Pack Square Pavilion) in downtown Asheville. Afterward, if you can stay around for a bit, we will probably get together for a brief bite to eat to celebrate our success.

This event supports the great work done by Our Voice, the non-profit group that serves all individuals in Buncombe County affected by sexual assault and abuse, through counseling, advocacy and education.

You are invited to participate in one of two ways:

Join the BLAINESWORLD team in the fun walk. To register, please click:
<http://www.firstgiving.com/team/288560>

then click: Join Team

and/or

Make a donation to support our team's efforts by clicking:
<http://www.firstgiving.com/team/288560>

then click Donate

Pictured, l-r are some of this year's BLAINESWORLD team: BJ Leiderman, Jensen Gelfond, Blaine Greenfield and George Pappas.



D. Congratulations to:

(1) Mark Goldstein on being an Action Business Profile. To view the clip where he as featured, please click:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8I6_1tJUDEA

(2) Trevor Rayshay Perry on making it to the Top 4 of SING FOR YOUR LIFE at the Jungle in Atlanta.

(3) Howard Debs on having two of his poems published. To read his latest in BLUE BONNET REVIEW, "I Don't Look Up At The Sky Anymore", all about youthful optimism, please click:

<http://www.bluebonnetreview.com/poetry/i-dont-look-up-at-the-sky>

and to read "The Ride: Memoriam For Robin Williams," all about what manic depressive

illness might feel like, please click:

<http://www.bluebonnetreview.com/poetry/memoriarn-robinwilliams>

(4) Forty Fingers & a Missing Tooth for their Most Jaw-Dropping recognition at the 37th Groundhog Day Jugglers Festival. To view it, please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfZMyCAF0wQ>

(5) Zuzu Welsh on this upcoming concert. To read the article, please click

<http://www.citizen-times.com/story/entertainment/music/2015/03/08/asheville-musicians-throw-clapton-th-birthday-bash/24626237/>

Note: See also Section 12A for more information.

(6) Asheville for the fact that it might be "America's best small city" for food and drink. Read what BON APPETIT magazine has to say on the subject by clicking:

http://m.bizjournals.com/charlotte/blog/morning-edition/2015/03/n-c-town-might-be-americas-best-small-city-for.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&r=full

(7) Nora Jones for having a beautiful article written about the home that she and her daughter, Vickie Gaddy, live in. To read it, please click:

http://www.citizen-times.com/story/life/home-garden/2015/03/13/home-week-east-asheville-house-full-memories/70263662/?fb_ref=Default

Note: Earlier in the week, my friend Mike Martinelli and I both had a lovely visit with Vickie and her mom Nora.



E. Condolences to:

(1) Jeff Messer and family on the passing of Jeff's father.

(2) Darcy Landy Grabenstein and family on the passing of Darcy's mother.

(3) Carol Oughton on the passing of Woody, her friend.

(4) Tomas A. Fee on the passing of his cousin Pat.

(5) William Marshall and family on the passing of William's father.

(6) Drew Emanuele and family on the passing of Drew's mother.

(7) The family of Gene Patton, aka Gene Gene the Dancing Machine from THE GONG SHOW. Whenever he appeared on what was arguably the greatest TV show of all time, he always brought a smile to my face.

To see him in action, please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACpNVD5GMUw>

And for more information about his life, please click:

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/gene-patton-dead-gong-show-781394>

That's Gene (left), pictured with Chuck Barris--THE GONG SHOW's host.



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

Thanks, Brian Biro in NC, for this week's nomination:

Recently, I had the chance to see first hand the simple human kindness that is humanity at its best. A couple of weeks ago, my daughter Jenna had to face perhaps the toughest experience in life. Her very serious boyfriend passed away suddenly and shockingly at the age of 23 in Athens, GA. He was in his last year at UGA. It was devastating to our whole family, but inexpressibly painful for our daughter. All we could do was be there for her and surround her with love.

Her boyfriend Phil was a tremendous musician and so a memorial with live music was planned to celebrate his life at Nuci Space, a non-profit center established to help young musicians deal with depression. Phil had been an active volunteer there. Jenna spent the days before the memorial, gathering 600 photos of Phil from throughout his life and putting together a wonderful slide show. When she had finished, she copied the photos on a stick-drive and asked me to go to Walmart to get prints made so that we could cover the walls of Nuci Space with these pictures. When Burns, the photo manager at Walmart and a young father of two little girls, helped me, he asked what the photos were for. Here's where his simple human kindness overwhelmed me.

I came back an hour later after dropping off the stick-drive and Burns had gone way beyond the call of duty. He went through every photo and re-cropped those that were a

bit off. He then gave me an enormous discount and without any request, he made several enlargements of photos he thought were especially beautiful for Jenna and Phil's mother, which he simply gave to us. Finally, he asked that we tell Phil's mom to come in to the store any time and ask for him, and he would make her a canvas enlargement photo of whichever picture she wanted. This fine young man demonstrated that love, compassion and kindness are all around us every precious moment.

Note: See also Section 1A for more information about both Phil and Jenna.

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2. FYI

If memory serves me correctly, I recall that March 14, 1592 6:53 was even more epic because it was the first time this ever happened with respect to Pi!

March 14, 2015 - 9:26:53
WILL BE EPIC.
Why?
3.141592653 = π

VIA 9GAG.COM

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Amy G. in NJ: This Kid Has The Best Bar Mitzvah Invitation Ever

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHqCclFaK8g#t=40>

(2) Bruce Lang: Pancho and Lefty, written by Townes Van Zandt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIfiSuDBIE4&feature=youtu.be>

(3) I Don't Look Good Naked Anymore

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOgd9hitEAE>

(4) Memories of the 1950s

<http://nethugs.com/interesting/memories-of-the-1950s/>

B. Other

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

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

(1) Rod R. in NJ: Good luck at seminar your presenting!(2) The Asheville Jewish Film Festival (Sponsorship Opportunities). (3) The Far-Reaching Effects of a Fall.

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3. Joke 1

This has me wondering how'd they find out about me?



The image shows a screenshot of a Wikipedia article for Blaine Greenfield. On the left is the Wikipedia logo and navigation menu. The article title is "Blaine Greenfield" with a sub-header "From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia". The main text describes him as the world's foremost beer expert, who brewed his first beer at age 5 and is currently funding a project to put beers in orbit. A section titled "Achievements" lists that he patented a chemical conversion process to turn urine into beer. To the right is a photo of Blaine Greenfield, a man with a mustache, sitting in front of a bookshelf. Below the photo is a table with his personal details.

Occupation	Beer Tycoon
Residence	Los Angeles
Worth	\$922 Million

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4. Reviews

A. Saw FOCUS, a crime comedy about a con artist who takes on an inexperienced apprentice. The two leads (Will Smith and Margot Robbie) have very little chemistry, but the film was nevertheless entertaining. B.D. Wong shined in a small role. Rated R.

B. Out on DVD (and Netflix) is ELSA AND FRED, a sweet romantic comedy about two older people who discover that it's never too late to love. Shirley MacLaine and Christopher Plummer are delightful in the leading roles. I'm not even sure if this ever got released to the theatres, which is a shame. You'll enjoy it. Rated PG-13.

C. Read THE COMPLETE TIPS FOR ACTORS: 507 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR WORK NOW (Smith and Kraus) by Jon Jory.

The author, a playwright, director, producer, teacher and theatre commentator, has almost 50 years of experience. In this informative book he shares what he has learned with via a series of mostly one paragraph essays on such topics as techniques, building the role and strategy.

In particular, I liked what he had to say about the opening-night syndrome:

I went to my opening last night, and the amphetamine pusher who haunts openings had really done a job! The actors had decided that if the play had been good before, it was really going to be good for press and parents. ... Gone were the rests and pauses, and all rhythm disappeared in the general blur. I sat horrified. ... Moral: Play the show you had in rehearsal.

I also enjoyed reading the tips from veterans at the end, including this one from Ray Fry:

In the first week of rehearsal, try to read the play every day. This will give you a clear idea of the play's structure, through line of the action and your character's contribution

to that action.

What I felt was missing was much of a discussion on learning lines. There was only one brief paragraph on this topic. And there wasn't anything about what to do if you or another performer forgets a line.

Also, I would have wanted to see an index.

D. Heard LETTING GO AND BECOMING: TALKS ON SPIRITUALITY AND MODERN LIFE (Hay House), written and read by Marianne Williamson.

The author, a best-selling author and popular motivational speaker, presents her ideas via a series of live seminars that cover the following topics: 1) Letting Go/Becoming Your Potential; 2) Spiritual Victory/The Power of Forgiveness; 3) Balancing Masculine and Feminine; and 4) Unlimited Power and Possibilities/Praying for Change.

She often quotes A COURSE IN MIRACLES and since I've never gone through that program, I especially enjoyed listening to these CDs. Among the tidbits that I gained from listening were these two:

Don't change the world; change your outlook about the world; and

The best way to remain in the kingdom of God is to focus your full attention in it.

Williamson is a dynamic, humorous speaker. Listening to her added to my enjoyment of the program.

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5. TV alert

A. I HATE CHRISTIAN LAETTNER: Sunday, March 15, at 9 p.m. on ESPN
This portrait of the polarizing basketball star who took Duke to four straight national championships is part of the station's always interesting 30 FOR 30 series.

B. DANCING WITH THE STARS: Season premiere on Monday, March 16, at 8 p.m.
I've never heard of many of the so-called stars, but I will be interested to see how two that I do know: Suzanne Somers and Patti LaBelle. For information on the entire cast, please click:

<http://www.hollywoodtake.com/dancing-stars-season-20-cast-hot-or-not-derek-hough-and-nastia-liukin-are-dwts-favorites-75946>

C. Irish-themed films: Starting at 6. a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, on TCM.
You can begin celebrating St. Patrick's Day by watching such classics as FINIAN'S RAINBOW (5:30 p.m.), ODD MAN OUT (8 p.m.) and RYAN'S DAUGHTER (1:45 a.m. on March 18).

D. ONE BIG HAPPY: Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m.
A lesbian gets pregnant with her best friend's baby in this Ellen DeGeneres-produced sitcom.

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6. Joke 2

Putting politics aside, this has me soooo relieved to finally learn what happened!



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7. Websites

A. Old Man In Nursing Home Reacts To Hearing Music From His Era
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKDXuCE7LeQ>

Note: The above is part of a documentary, ALIVE INSIDE, that I recommend highly.

B. Karen M. in NC: OMG, I love this
Viral Video: Wheelchair-bound guy's hilarious take on body image
<http://wqad.com/2014/10/28/viral-video-wheelchair-bound-guys-hilarious-take-on-body-image/>

Note: For more information about the amazing guy, Sean Stephenson, featured in the above video, please click:
<http://seanstephenson.com/>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net/>

Ever wonder how many others have seen this website? Be prepared to be blown away when you view the counter in the bottom left corner of the home 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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield



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8. Technology tip

If you're a PC user, don't forget to use the "Windows" key. It is almost between the Alt and Ctl keys.

Pressing this key and F will load the Windows "Search" feature, allowing you to search for files and programs on your computer.

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9. Joke 3

It finally happened! So I guess it's now time to get some work done 'cause I can no longer use this as an excuse.



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10. A quote I like

"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop."--Confucius (551-479 BC), Chinese teacher, editor, politician, and philosopher

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11. Thought for the day

To quote Proverbs 17:22: "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."



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12. Advance planning department

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

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

A. NC events

(1) AMADEUS. (2) Musical tribute to Eric Clapton. (3) PRIVATE LIVES. (4) Meta Commerce reading.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Talk by Biologist Faith Zerbe of Delaware Riverkeeper Network.(2) MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.

PS. Amen to this March 17th thought--and awomen, too! Methinks that y'all should join me in making this a HAPPY ST. PATRICKS' DAY, especially if you're like me and you celebrate all holidays. (More food, fun and friends that way.)

It's OK to pretend we're Irish on St. Patrick's Day. We pretend we're GOOD on Christmas don't we?



Make it a wonderful week, too!

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