BLAINESWORLD

#1018
3.27.2016

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1. Reflections

Note: See BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD at the end of Section 1 for a clip that has to be seen to be believed.

Also, if you're reading this via Facebook or Linkedin, please be advised that you will get it quicker if you get it via email. Another advantage: You'll never miss it that way because you may not have logged in for a day or two. And in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, all you need to do is send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

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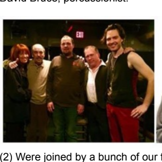
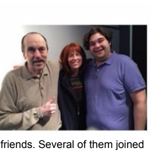
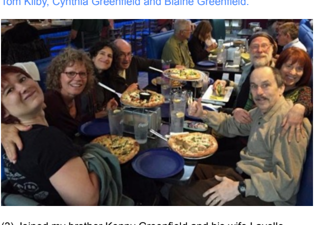
A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Saw a fantastic production of NEXT TO NORMAL at 35below. Pictured (left photo), l-r: Cynthia Greenfield, Blaine Greenfield, Daniel Hensley, Mike Yow and Dylan Henley; and (right photo) Isaac Fulk, musical director. Not pictured were these other performers: Beverly Todd, Lilly Mills and Archer Faust. Kudos, also, to Rock Eblen for his spot on direction, as well as to the other members of the crew: Karen Covington-Yow, stage manager; Amanda Levesque, props; Kayla Zuskin, guitars; and David Bruce, percussionist.

(2) Were joined by a bunch of our friends. Several of them joined us for delicious pizza at Mellow Mushroom where we received fine service from Charlie. Pictured, l-r: Amanda Levesque, Darlene Kucken, Marjorie Lefkowitz-Skwara, Majo John Madden, Tom Kilby, Cynthia Greenfield and Blaine Greenfield.



(3) Joined my brother Kenny Greenfield and his wife Lavelle Olexa for an outstanding lunch at LaPrade's Chophouse (left photo) in Clarksville, GA. On the way back, we found an antique/candy store (right photo) that we'll best remember for a salted caramel piece of chocolate that we split--and then regretted that we hadn't gotten more.

(4) Went to the Smoky Park Supper Club in Asheville for the first time with our friends Brian and Carole Biro. The food was great, and so was the service form Adam. We are already planning a return visit!

B. During the week, I:

(1) Joined my friend Steven Liebenhaut for tasty milkshakes from Cook Out, at which time was also discussed the upcoming Walk a Mile event. Our hope is that you can join the BLAINESWORLD team. For more information on how to do so, please click:
Here

(2) Was walking with Cynthia, and we found a baby turtle walking on the paved road behind our home. About two weeks ago, we found a baby frog.

Mr. Curious here: If you found a similar turtle or frog on the road, what is the best way to deal with it?

C. Reminders:

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

***** CONTEST #7*****

One lucky reader will win a copy of ESCAPING POVERTY: INSPIRATIONAL TRUE STORIES, edited by Alex Norris and Karen Best. The book provides an honest and candid look--from the perspective of those who experience it--what it is like to be impoverished. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #1015 and found it interesting.

To enter: Send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #7 in the subject line. In the body of the email, please include your name and snail mail address. All entries must be received on or before Monday, April 11, at 9 p.m.

Note: The deadline on the above has been extended one week since I omitted some details last week.

(2) Come join us ...

The risks of and warning signs of Strokes will be discussed at the April event of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum on Monday, April 4, at the Overlook Restaurant at the Crowne Plaza Resort, 1 Resort Drive, Asheville.

Note: You don't have to be Jewish to attend.

Prior to the 6 p.m. program, there will be networking and registration at 5:30 with additional networking time from 7 to 7:30.

Dr. Aneeta Jain Gupta, Board certified in Neurology, will discuss stroke prevention and treatment not only for older adults but for young and middle-aged adults as well.

Dr. Gupta is owner of Carolina Neurology Center in Hendersonville and is also Board certified in Clinical Neurophysiology and Board certified in Sleep. She is affiliated with Mission Hospital in Asheville and a staff neurologist at Pardee Hospital, Hendersonville.

She took her residency in neurology at Duke University Medical Center in Durham and is a frequent speaker on the management of seizures throughout Western North Carolina

There is no charge for members of the Jewish Business Forum and guests to attend, but registration is required. Attendees will be responsible for their own meals.

So we can get an approximate count, please send an email to: ashevilleJBF@aol.com and put April 4 in the subject line. In the body of the email, include your name and if you'll be bringing any guests. (If so, please advise how many.)

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Arlene Higgins on the birth of Shepherd, her new grandson.

(2) Tanya Richmond on becoming a partner and part-owner with Michael Smull at Support Development Associates.

(3) Maureen Simon on being chosen for the Art Walk in Asheville that will take place on both April and 3.

(4) Colby Coren on being chosen to sing the National Anthem at the Asheville Tourists game on May 6.

(5) Kelly Christianson on being named Executive Director at Friends of the WNC Nature Center.

(6) Christine L. Hess on her marriage to David Wolff.

(7) Dalton Woody on his marriage to Allison Brooke.

(8) Reed Bilbray, franchise owner of Zaniac Asheville, an immersive STEM facility, on the upcoming April 19th grand opening. To read about it, please click:
Here

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

This week, it goes to John Profaci--a polyglot who knows and can use some 23 languages.

To see this amazing ability for yourself, please click:
Here

Kudos, also, to my friend Steven Marinoff for coming up with the idea for the above video and then taping it.

Personally, I think John's story needs to be seen by others. So please feel free to share this clip, as well as to suggest any media (TV shows, newspapers, etc.) that you think might have an interest in it. I'll forward your ideas to both John and Steven. I'm sure they would be grateful for any help that you could provide.

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2. FYI

Thanks, Carole C. in NC, for this video clip that provides useful information on stem cell treatments (the procedure that Cynthia just went through):
Here

Note: Cynthia is continuing to make progress with her knees. If you'd like more information about the excellent doctor she used, Dr. Daniel Eglinton, please click:
Here

FYI, part 2

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

(1) Great online course for nurses, especially those needing CNEs. (2) Paula L. in NY: Thanks for the newsletter. (3) Pat H. in PA: Sorry I missed your trip up here. (4) Delores C. in GA: Happy Easter! Please send me the link to your site. I would still like to donate. (5) Police body cameras: What do you see? (6) Exercise and strong bones. (7) Baby teeth deserve care while they're there. (8) Don't grade schools on grit.(9) Why do we think we're better investors than we are?

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3. Joke 1

First, a certain political candidate moved to restrict immigrants. I wonder if this is what's coming next!

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4. Reviews

A. Saw THE LADY IN THE VAN, a fact-based drama about the relationship between writer Alan Bennett and a woman who "temporarily" parked her van in his driveway and proceeded to live there for 15 years. I had seen the coming attractions, and that was one reason why I didn't like the film; i.e., I had already seen all the key parts. Also, Maggie Smith was OK in the leading role--but I've seen her play too many similar parts in seemingly the same way. Rated PG-13.

B. BROOKLYN is now out on DVD ... my review from BLAINESWORLD #1001 follows:
Saw BROOKLYN, a sweet story about a young Irish immigrant who comes to America. After an initial period of homesickness, she finds love--only to be called back to Ireland. She must then choose between the two countries. Saoirse Ronan is outstanding in the leading role, as is Emory Cohen as her Italian love interest. The "look" of 1950s Brooklyn is very realistic. Rated PG-13.

Note I just added this film to my list of all-time favorites. If you'd like to get a copy of that list, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

C. Read I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE TO EVERY TEACHER I EVER HAD: MY YEAR AS A ROOKIE TEACHER AT NORTHEAST HIGH (Crown Archetype) by Tony Danza.

This is the true story of the actor who, at the age of 59, chose to become a teacher in a tough, inner-city school in Philadelphia. Though he initially did this to be the basis of a reality TV show, Danza continued with the project even after the show got canceled after just 7 episodes.

The book grabbed me from the very beginning. Danza captured what teaching is all about and grew to appreciate what it's like to be in front of a classroom.

This one passage, quoting another teacher, says it all:
"I have a hundred and fifty students," she vents, "five classes a day. Some are trying to get out of gangs, or have brothers who've been shot or killed by gangs, or fathers in prison. Some have no one--and they actually homeless." I get more agitated. "I try to be there for them, but it's impossible. There just aren't hours in the day. Paperwork alone! I give a quiz every week. If I spent one minute grading each one, that would be one hundred and fifty minutes, and believe me, you need more than one minute on anything in school. So what's left over? Does anybody ever think about that? If I don't give kids the extra attention, they take it the wrong way. They think I don't care. But where is all the energy supposed to come from?"

What really impressed me was the fact that Danza only taught the one section the entire year, yet he threw himself into the rest of the day (and his students' lives). He also made me grateful that there are so many dedicated teachers.

If you're a teacher or know of one, please then read this book. It would also make a great gift for anybody contemplating going into education.

D. Heard THE LAND OF STEADY HABITS (Hachette Audio), written by Ted Thompson. Note: The narrator was uncredited.

It's the story of Anders Hill, a man entering his early sixties who seemingly has it all in the "land of steady habits"--the nickname for the affluent suburbs of Connecticut where he lives. However, he abandons both his career and family for a new condo and new life, only to find that the life he rejected may well be the one he needs.

The author captures middle age angst quite well. His writing reminded me of John Updike's style, and it left me looking forward to his next book.

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5. TV alert

A. AMERICAN IDOL: AMERICAN DREAM: Series concludes Tues.-Thurs/, April 5-7, on FOX at 8 p.m.
There's a 90-minute retrospective on Tuesday, then the finalists perform on Wednesday and one last Idol will be crowned on Thursday. I'm rooting for Dalton Rapattoni, but I'd be surprised if La'Porsha Renae didn't win.

B. THE PEOPLE V. O.J. SIMPSON: AMERICAN CRIME STORY: Season finale on Tues., April 5, at 10 p.m. on FX
Although I know how it ends, I'll still be watching. The acting in this show has been amazing.

C. THE LOST WEEKEND: Sat., April 9, at 8 p.m. on TMC
Ray Milland won an Oscar for his portrayal of an alcoholic writer, and the film also was named Best Picture of the year (1945).

D. 2016 MTV MOVIE AWARDS: Sun., April 10, at 8 p.m. on MTV
This 25-year-old award show is a fun because of such categories as Best Onscreen Kiss.

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6. Joke 2

A market researcher was greeted at the door by a young woman with three small children running and hanging around at her feet. He says, "I'm doing some research for Vaseline. Have you ever used the product?" . . . She replies, "Yes. My husband and I use it every time we make love." . . . The researcher, taken aback, says, "Usually people lie to me and tell me that they use it on a child's bicycle chain or to help with a gate hinge. I admire you for your honesty. Since you've been frank so far, can you tell me exactly how you use it?" . . . The woman answers, "We put it on the doorknob to make it so slippery the kids can't come in."

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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Nelson S. in NC: Alan King's The Middle East Story, 1980's
Here

(2) A Bride And Her Bridesmaids Surprise Wedding Guests In The Cutest Way
Here

(3) Dan B. in PA: She lives next door to a mosque. She bought a husky. He is very nice and does not bite. She is now getting complaints from the imam next door. She doesn't know why.
Here

(4) The greatest news reporting fails
Here

(5) Arlene D. in PA: Jackie Evancho -To Believe
Here

B. Here's Giftr (note the two letter r's), which is a new service site that helps you track all the rewards cards and gift cards in your wallet, digitally, so you never ever let one with $1.54 left on it languish unused again. Because that's just what the retailers count on.
Here

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

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:
Here

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8. Technology tip

Ever have an email address, but want to know the name of the person who sent it? The following reverse email search seems to work fairly well:
Here

Note: I only spend a few minutes checking it out. Methinks that if you want more information, you'll be asked to pay some money--and I wasn't interested in that option.

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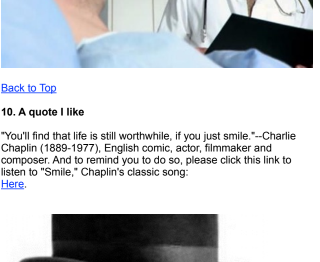
9. Joke 3

A man wakes up after being in a coma. ... His doctor tells him: "It's going to be all right. But the firemen who saved you from the wreckage sawed off half of your penis during the rescue. They have decided to give you $18,000 compensation for it. As you know, medical science has advanced a lot. We can recreate your penis at a price of $2,000 per inch. But we want you to discuss this with your wife since having a non-standard penis length can cause great stress in a marriage." ... The man agrees to do this. He comes back in two days and says to the doctor, "We're getting granite counter tops."



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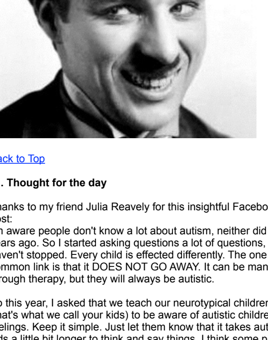
10. A quote I like

"You'll find that life is still worthwhile, if you just smile."--Charlie Chaplin (1889-1977), English comic, actor, filmmaker and composer. And to remind you to do so, please click this link to listen to "Smile," Chaplin's classic song:
Here.



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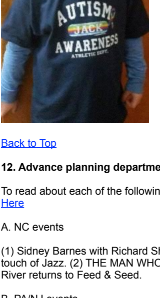
11. Thought for the day

Thanks to my friend Julia Reavely for this insightful Facebook post:
I'm aware people don't know a lot about autism, neither did I six years ago. So I started asking questions a lot of questions, and I haven't stopped. Every child is effected differently. The one common link is that it DOES NOT GO AWAY. It can be managed through therapy, but they will always be autistic.

So this year, I asked that we teach our neurotypical children (that's what we call your kids) to be aware of autistic children's feelings. Keep it simple. Just let them know that it takes autistic kids a little bit longer to think and say things. I think some parents makes things sound a lot more difficult than they really are especially to our children.

One of the things our children value most is time and patience. So when children are playing together and it looks like my child is not paying attention to your child, it's because he's just trying to process his surroundings. And by that I mean just to list a few: where am I, who's talking, should I be looking at them, do I need to talk back, what are they talking about, what's that loud noise, look at all those pictures on the wall, was that a bus I saw just drive by, all these things are going through their heads and it takes so long for them to process just one sentence .

So just being patient goes a long way. Not asking for special treatment from your children, just a little extra special time and patience. Today is Autism Awareness Day. I asked that maybe today you spend a little time with your family, talking about mine.



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12. Advance planning department

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

A. NC events

(1) Sidney Barnes with Richard Shulman: Motown Blues and a touch of Jazz. (2) THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER. (3) Deep River returns to Feed & Seed.

B. PA/NJ events

Note: None to report this week. If you're in this area and would like me to run something, please send it to: bginbc@aol.com and put EVENTS in the subject line.

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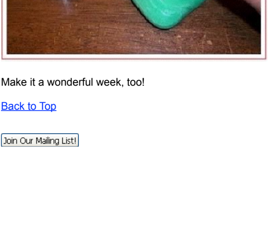
PS. Happy APRIL FOOL'S DAY to you and yours . ... For a fun prank: 1. Get some clear fingernail polish. 2. Put it all over a bar of soap. 3. Leave it in the shower or by the sink. ... It won't lather!



Make it a wonderful week, too!

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