BLAINESWORLD

#1020
4.11.2016

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Clips/Websites
8. Technology tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

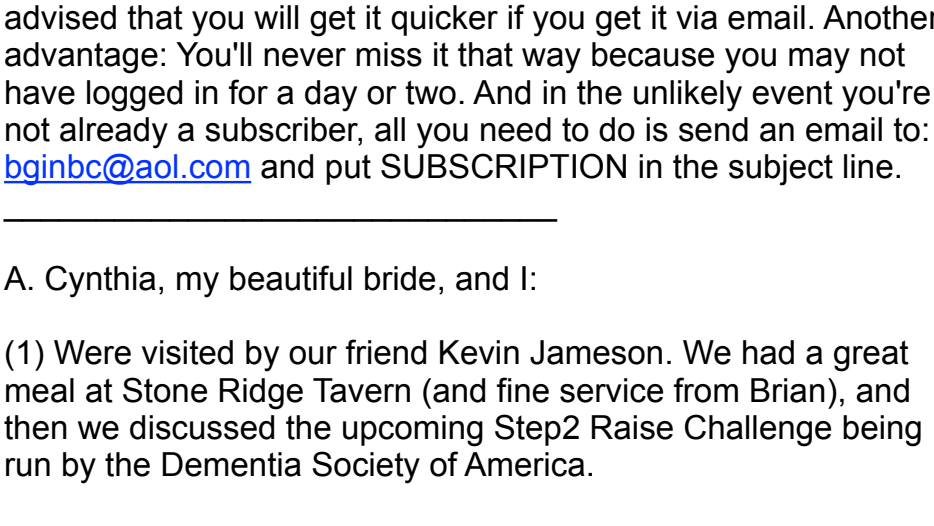
Note: See Section 11 for a sign needed in Asheville and the rest of NC.

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.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Were visited by our friend Kevin Jameson. We had a great meal at Stone Ridge Tavern (and fine service from Brian), and then we discussed the upcoming Step2 Raise Challenge being run by the Dementia Society of America.

We'd all love you to join us in this. It's fun, and it won't cost you a dime. For more information, please click:
Here



(2) Had our friend Steve Byas join us for a fun production of THE RED VELVET CAKE WAR at HART. Pictured, in addition to us: (top left) Strother Stingley and Tabitha Judy, along with Butter--the newest addition to their family; (top right) Leslie and James Lang; (bottom left) Ruth Butler and Kristen Hedberg; and (bottom right) Kier Klepzig. Kudos, also, to the rest of the cast: LaRue Allen, Holly Cope, Bonnie DeMarco, Steve Jarrell and Susan Rudniak, as well as to Judy Dybwad for her spot on direction.

After the show. Steve joined us for a delicious dinner at Pasquale's in Waynesville.

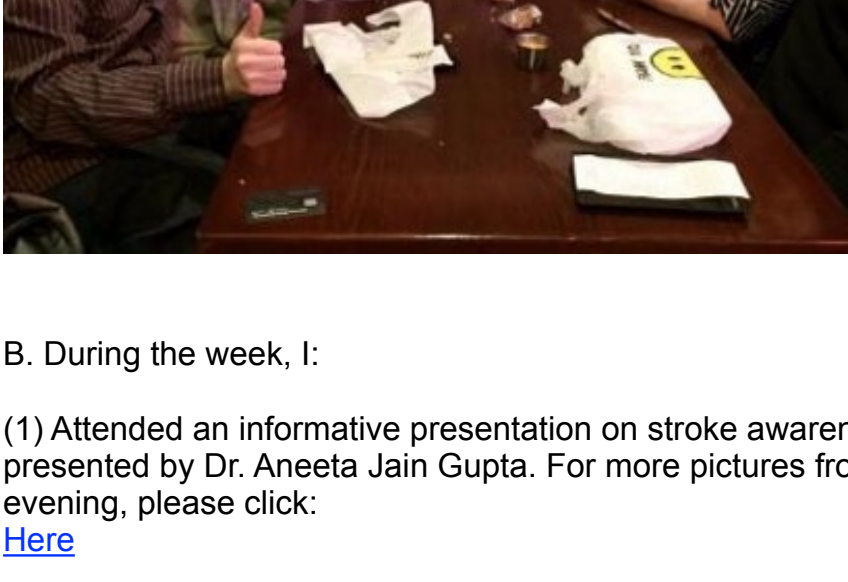
(3) Joined a new friend and neighbor, Pam Harvey (left), for dinner at the Artisan Cafe where we always get fantastic service from Michael--one of our favorite servers in the area. We also enjoyed the enthusiastic greeting we always get from Kris Paxton, the owner (right photo on the left). That night, she knocked our socks off with something she did. Pam mentioned she was cold in the place where she is staying temporarily, so Kris went back to her office and lent her a portable heater.

The Artisan
Working Together With Our Community
Enjoy
Dinner

(4) Had a delightful dinner at the Wild Wok with Ellen and George Pappas, at which time we received fine service from Kendra.

B. During the week, I:

(1) Attended an informative presentation on stroke awareness presented by Dr. Aneeta Jain Gupta. For more pictures from the evening, please click:
Here



Note: Please do attend the next event of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum. (You don't need to be Jewish to do so.)

It will feature a presentation/tour of Deltec Homes.

Date: Monday, May 2

Time: 11:30 a.m., Registration and newtworking
12-1 p.m., Lunch and then presentation/tour
1-1:30 p.m., Additional discussion or networking

***** It is a brown bag lunch event, so bring your own lunch. ****

Location: 69 Bingham Road, Asheville, NC

To RSVP: Please RSVP by sending an email to ashevillejbf@aol.com and put MAY 2 in subject line. In the body of the email, just put down how many will be coming (in addition to yourself) and, also, your contact information in case we need to reach you.

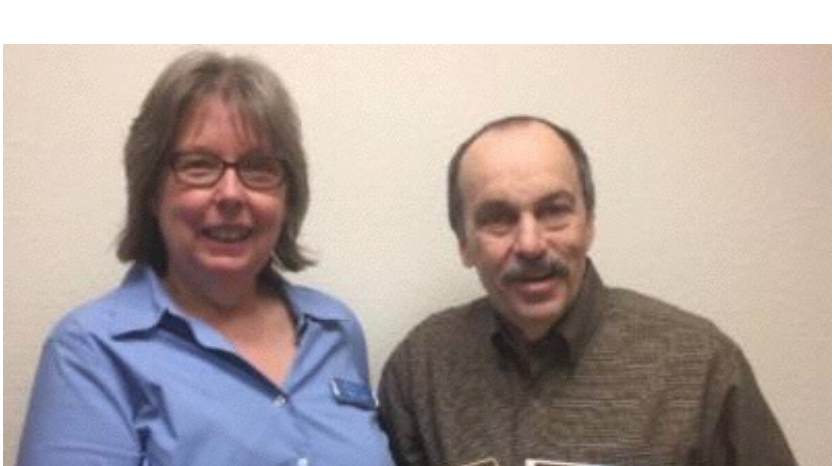
Thank you!

More information on the presentation/tour:

In an age of climate change, environmental pollution and the continual problems of different energy sources, spend time with us as we are exposed to Asheville's home-grown, internationally recognized home-building company that doubles as a scientific institution implementing the very latest techniques in building homes that are truly energy-efficient.

Get a behind-the-scenes tour of Deltec Homes' manufacturing facilities, where you'll see the quality of material, excellent engineering and immense detail that goes into each Deltec home. You'll walk away with a full understanding of what sets them apart from any other homebuilder and how they are building the next generation of home. As a leader in sustainable construction, Deltec will demonstrate to attendees how it builds homes that save energy, reduce maintenance, and have a positive effect on our planet.

(2) Presented a Marketing seminar for Asheville SCORE that was attended by my friend Ginger Heskett, among others. We also shared the great promotional mailing (pictured in front of us) that she had received from Moose Rosenfeld.



C. Reminders:

(1) As you may know, this blog has been nominated for recognition in the Best of WNC competition. I'd be very honored if you would submit your vote for it. To do so is easy. Just click the following link for instructions:
Here

(2) There's still time to register to join the BLAINESWORLD team in the Walk a Mile event on May 7 in Asheville. Or if you can't make it, we'd love to have you as a sponsor. All you need to know can be found by clicking this link:
Here

D. Condolences to:

(1) Regina Watkins and family on the passing of Gary Jent, Regina's brother-in-law.

(2) Reggie Kelly and family on the passing of Sylvia McCloud, Reggie's godmother.

E. Congratulations to:

(1) BJ Leiderman for sharing his insights on struggling with mental illness, Lyme disease and being lucky. To read what he had to say, please click:
Here

(2) Ezekiel Christopoulos for receiving the Bronze President's Volunteer Award from SunTrust Bank for over 100 hours of service in 2015.

(3) Natalie Kramer on becoming Asheville Realty Group's newest agent. Should you wish to work with her, she can be reached at 828.242.5360 or via email:
natalie@ashevillerealtygroup.com.

(4) Dollie Beddingfield Halford on her recent marriage.

(5) Doug Hauschild on his appointment to the Board of Director of the Asheville Community Theatre.

(6) Norm Kent on being named one of the 8 Best Activists in Broward County, FL. To read more, please click:
Here

(7) Iva M. in FL, winner of Contest #7: a copy of ESCAPING POVERTY: INSPIRATIONAL TRUE STORIES, edited by Alex Norris and Karen Best. All told, there were 5 entries. And that reminds me that it's now time to introduce:

***** CONTEST #8 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of EAT PRAY LOVE MADE ME DO IT: LIFE JOURNEYS INSPIRED BY THE BESTSELLING MEMOIR by various authors--including Asheville's very own Emily Shaules (who autographed the copy that will go to the winner).

It contains early 50 stories from readers of Elizabeth Gilbert's bestseller. I found many of these quite touching, and I think you will too. The book was reviewed favorably in BLAINESWORLD #1019.

To enter: Send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #8 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 25, at 9 p.m.

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

This week, it goes to Jensen Gelfond--owner of Asheville Digital Lifestyle.

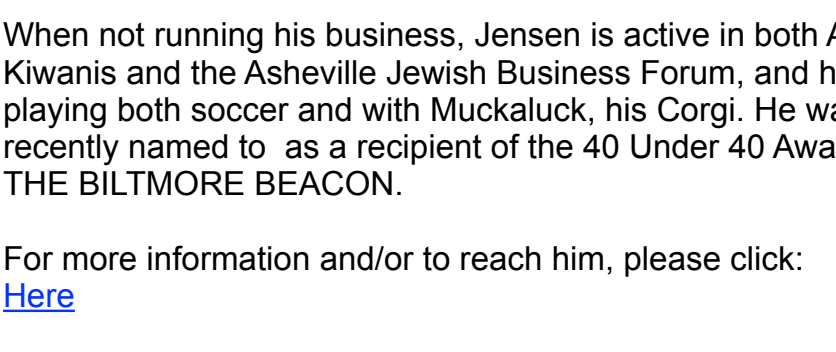
That's him pictured in front of Cynthia's new computer that he recently helped us both buy and then set up.

He has been our go-to computer guy for the last several years, but also who we contact for help with our iPhones, iPads and virtually anything else involving technology.

He not only knows his stuff, but he is very patient in answering any and all questions. We also like the fact that he is available via the phone and can often solve many of our problems remotely.

When not running his business, Jensen is active in both Asheville Kiwanis and the Asheville Jewish Business Forum, and he enjoys playing both soccer and with Muckaluck, his Corgi. He was also recently named to as a recipient of the 40 Under 40 Award by THE BILTMORE BEACON.

For more information and/or to reach him, please click:
Here



Back to Top

2. FYI

18 steps to a new financial plan
by Jonathan Clements

You could pay $2,000, and sometimes much more, for a financial adviser to develop a full-blown financial plan. Or you could spend an hour cruising the Internet.Thanks to the proliferation of online calculators, it's now possible for ordinary investors to piece together their own lifetime financial plan.

Want a roadmap to guide you through 2016 and the years that follow? Check out the 18 steps below. Depending on your situation and how much financial progress you have already made, some steps may be unnecessary.

For the rest of this informative article, please click:
Here

FYI, part 2

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

(1) Len E. in NC: Saw Eye In The Sky. (2) John D. in PA: Congrats on your adoption of Lovey. (3) It's Not Cancer: Doctors Reclassify a Thyroid Tumor.

Back to Top

3. Joke 1

Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?" ... Jason: "Seven." ... Teacher: "No, listen carefully. If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?" ... Jason: "Seven." ... Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?" ... Jason:
"Six." ... Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?" ... Jason: "Seven!" Teacher: "Jason, where in the world do you get getting seven from?!" ... Jason: "Because I already have a freaking cat!"

Back to Top

4. Reviews

A. Saw DEMOLITION, a drama about a successful investment banker whose life begins to crumble after his wife dies in a tragic car wreck. Jake Gyllenhaal is excellent in the leading role, and so is the rest of the case (Naomi Watts, Chris Cooper and a young actor by the name of Judah Lewis). The film meanders at times, but overall, it was watchable. I wouldn't run out to see it in the theatres, but it would be worth seeing on Netflix or via a rental. Rated R.

B. Out on DVR is SHORT TERM 12, a riveting drama about a compassionate woman who works as a supervisor for at-risk teens. Brie Larson, who won a well-deserved Oscar for her work in ROOM, is every bit as good here. She is an amazing actress. I also liked the performances of John Gallagher Jr., as her kindhearted co-worker and boyfriend, and Kaitlyn Dever as one of her charges. I've just added this to my list of all-time favorite films. Rated R.

Note: If you'd like to get this listing of my favorite films, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject lone.

C. Read SELLING RULES! 52 WAYS TO ACHEIVE SALES SUCCESS (Brigantine Media), written by Murray Raphel and illustrated by Steve Hickner.

I must admit to having a certain bias toward this book, in that Raphel has been a longtime friend--and my marketing guru, too. I've read and enjoyed his 11 other books, and I've also had the pleasure of hearing him speak several times.

He rocks. And so does this book.

It takes his half-century of experience and condenses it into 52 rules (actually, 53 if you include the PS) that can be used by anybody to improve his or her sales techniques. And if you don't think any of these apply to you, think again. Murray reminds us the "everyone sells," regardless of profession.

I gained much from reading SELLING RULES!, so it's hard to find just one tidbit to share here. But I'll try:
Our theory is that there are only two reasons people buy what you have to sell:
(a) Solutions to problems or
(b) Good feelings.

Solutions to problems: "Lose eight pounds in one month." "Increase your production ten percent in one year." "Reduce the time you spend shopping and cooking."

Good feelings: When a customer gets two dozen pictures of her child from the photography studio for the same price as one dozen. When you receive free two-day shipping for any order. When you buy a pair of shoes for yourself, a pair of shoes is donated for a child in need. What can you afford to give to your customers to make them feel better about their purchases?

If you're looking for an ideal gift for an upcoming graduate or for somebody already in the selling profession, you won't go wrong with this book.

D. Heard THE BREAKS OF THE GAME (Hachette Audio) by David Halbertstain and read by Nicholas Tecosky and Brian Troxell.

Halberstain, long one of my favorite authors, focused this book on the event-filled 1979-80 basketball season of the Portland Trail Blazers.

Though that took place over 35 years ago, I got a kick out of revisiting tales of Bill Walton, Jack Ramsey and many others who I followed at that time.

The book also put the growth of professional basketball into perspective, and it made me better appreciate the physical demands that all athletes go through.

Back to Top

5. TV alert

A. THE NIGHT MANGER: Premieres Tues., April 19, at 10 p.m. on SUNDANCE
According to TV GUIDE, "John le Carré's 1993 novel has been updated into a thrillingly suspenseful Mission Impossible of a six-part geopolitical miniseries. The magnificent Hugh Laurie stars as a diabolical arms merchant."

B. PATTON OSWALT: TALKING FOR CLAPPING: Via NETFLIX, beginning on Fri., April 22
Oswalt's new stand-up comedy hour touches on both misery and defeat.

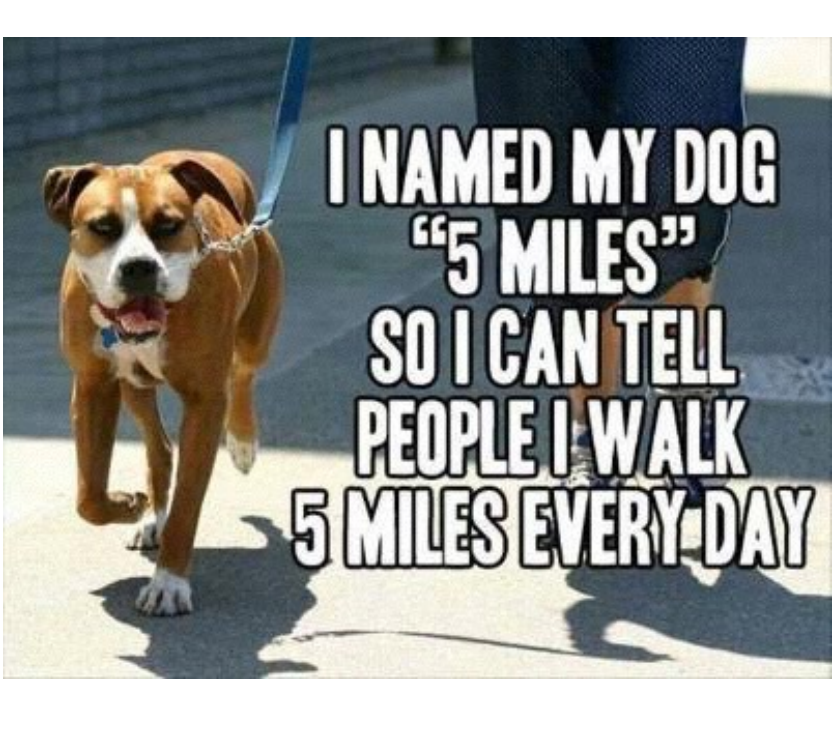
C. MAJOR LEAGUE LEGENDS: Sat., April 23, from Noon-4 p.m. on SMITHSTONIAN
A four-part docu-series begins with an episode on Hank Aaron. Subsequent programs are on Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and Ted Williams.

D. REBELLION: Miniseries premieres Sun., April 24, at 9 p.m .on SUNDANCE
This dramatic showcase is about the 1916 Easter Rising insurrection in Ireland.

Back to Top

6. Joke 2

Now that we have a name, we just need to get a dog!



Back to Top

7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Lisa Z. in PA: Blaise surprise
Here

Note: Special thanks to crossingbroad.com for providing the above link.

(2) Jerry Springer: The Opera
Here

(3) Elvis Presley: Unchained Melody
Here

(4) Chacha the Chimp Escapes Japanese Zoo, Then Takes a Fall
Here

B. Looking for a rental? If so, please click:
Here

I tried this for Asheville and was impressed that it came up with 85 listings, especially given the fact that rentals are hard to come by in this area.

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

Back to Top

8. Technology tip

Free tools to keep those creepy online ads from watching you
by Brian X. Chen and Natasha Singer

Say you're doing a web search on something like the flu. The next thing you know, an ad for a flu remedy pops up on your web browser, or your video streaming service starts playing a commercial for Tylenol.

The content of those ads is no coincidence. Digital ads are able to follow people around the Internet because advertisers often place invisible trackers on the websites you visit. Their goal is to collect details on everywhere you go on the Internet and use that data to serve targeted ads to your computer, smartphone and connected television.

For the rest of this informative article, please click:
Here

Back to Top

9. Joke 3

"What do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked the woman on her birthday, which had set a record for her town. . . . After a long pause to think about it, she replied, "No peer pressure."

Happy Birthday

Back to Top

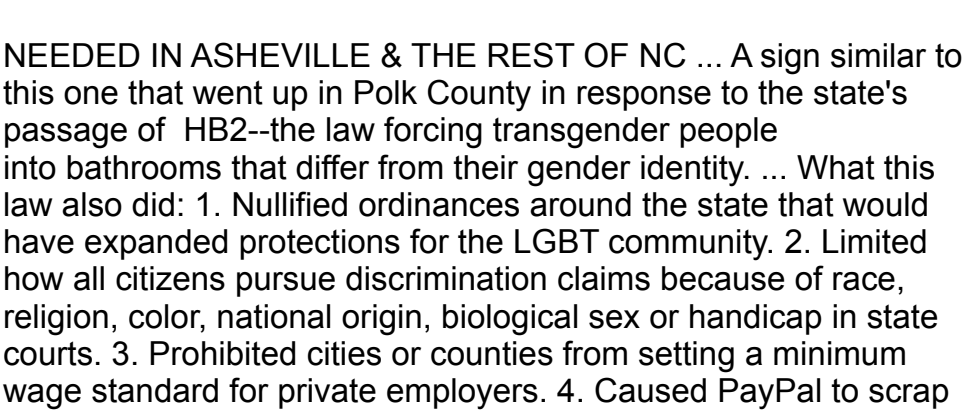
10. A quote I like

"What you do today can improve all your tomorrows."--Ralph Marston, creator of The Daily Motivator. For more information about this inspiring website, please click:
Here

Back to Top

11. Thought for the day

NEEDED IN ASHEVILLE & THE REST OF NC ... A sign similar to this one that went up in Polk County in response to the state's passage of HB2--the law forcing transgender people into bathrooms that differ from their gender identity. ... What this law also did: 1. Nullified ordinances around the state that would have expanded protections for the LGBT community. 2. Limited how all citizens pursue discrimination claims because of race, religion, color, national origin, biological sex or handicap in state courts. 3. Prohibited cities or counties from setting a minimum wage standard for private employers. 4. Caused PayPal to scrap plans to build a facility n Charlotte. 5. Led Bruce Springsteen to cancel a concert in solidarity with those protesting the bill.


Welcome to
NORTH CAROLINA
DUE TO OUR STANCE ON LGBT RIGHTS
PLEASE SET YOUR CLOCK BACK 100 Years
PLANTINGPEACE.ORG

Back to Top

12. Advance planning department

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

A. NC events

(1) David Joe Miller in NC: Once again, our very popular OPEN MIC! is coming up on APRIL 20th at Buffalo Nickel. (2) An Evening of the Blues with Chuck Beattie.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Peace, Love and Doo-Wop! with Jeff Dershin at the keyboard. (2) Film Noir Detective Tale Mixes with Music and Romance in "City of Angels."

PS. Tax returns this year are not due on April 15 (as I reported last week), but instead the correct date is Mon., April 18. Thanks, Len E. in NC, for bringing this to my attention. I wondered why this was the case and found out the following:
The regular tax return filing deadline is April 15. However, due to the Washington D.C. Emancipation Day holiday being observed on April 15 instead of April 16, 2016, Tax Day is on the following Monday.

Source: Here

My take is that whenever you file them, you'll be thinking along these lines ...

THE IRS
Like the sign says... it's all THEIRS.
Reynolds

And whatever you do, make it a wonderful week!

Back to Top