BLAINESWORLD

#970
4.27.2015

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1. Reflections

Note: Less sections this week due to space limitations; all to resume next week.

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

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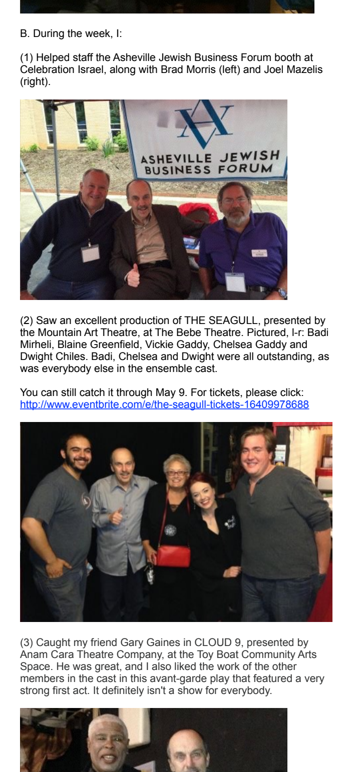
A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

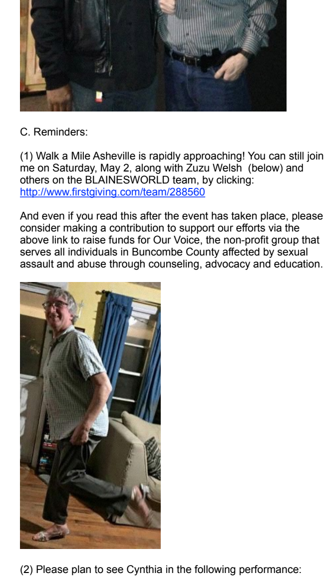
(1) Saw a Asheville Lyric Opera's magnificent production of WEST SIDE STORY.
We are seen pictured with: (top left) Joshua Collier, (top left) Katherine Sandoval Taylor, (bottom left) Taylor Aldrich and Jacob Walas, and (bottom right) Jeff Messer. They were all fantastic.

In addition, we also got a kick out of seeing other local favorites, including Doug Hauschild, Dalton Woody, Katie Cillufo, Strother Stingley and Corey Link.

Our only criticism of the production: We would have liked all the performers to have had microphones. Supposedly, the reason they didn't was that there was an attempt to make the show like it was when originally performed. That makes little sense to me, though, in that if that was the case than theatres wouldn't use air conditioning if it wasn't in existence when a show was originally performed. For more information on this subject, please read "Wearing a Wire at the Opera, Secretly, of Course" by clicking: http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/30/arts/music/wearing-a-wire-at-the-opera-secretly-of-course.html?_r=0

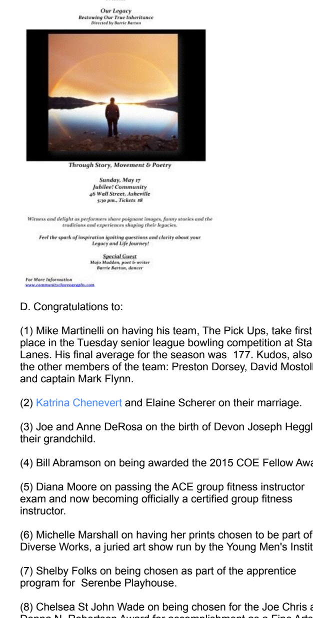


(2) Afterward, a bunch of us went for great hamburgers at Farm Burger. L-R: George Pappas, Ellen Pappas, Blaine Greenfield, Cynthia Greenfield, Carole Biro, Brian Biro and Celeste Lauren.



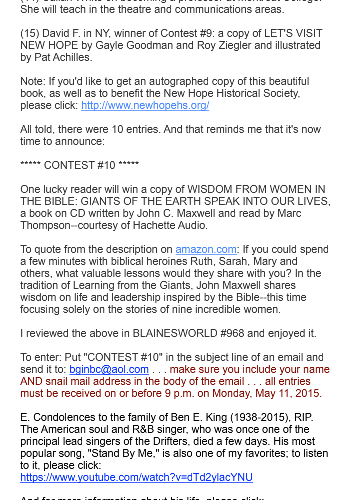
B. During the week, I:

(1) Helped staff the Asheville Jewish Business Forum booth at Celebration Israel, along with Brad Morris (left) and Joel Mazelis (right).

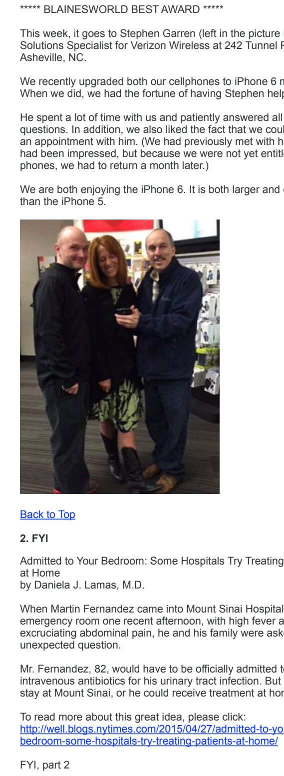


(2) Saw an excellent production of THE SEAGULL, presented by the Mountain Art Theatre, at The Bebe Theatre. Pictured, l-r: Badi Mirheli, Blaine Greenfield, Vickie Gaddy, Chelsea Gaddy and Dwight Chiles. Badi, Chelsea and Dwight were all outstanding, as was everybody else in the ensemble cast.

You can still catch it through May 9. For tickets, please click: http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-seagull-tickets-16409978688



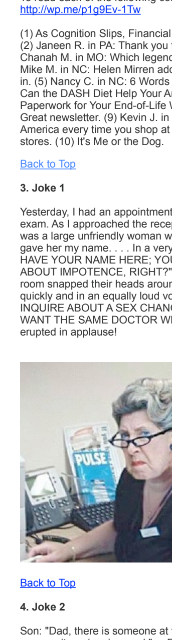
(3) Caught my friend Gary Gaines in CLOUD 9, presented by Anam Cara Theatre Company, at the Toy Boat Community Arts Space. He was great, and I also liked the work of the other members in the cast in this avant-garde play that featured a very strong first act. It definitely isn't a show for everybody.



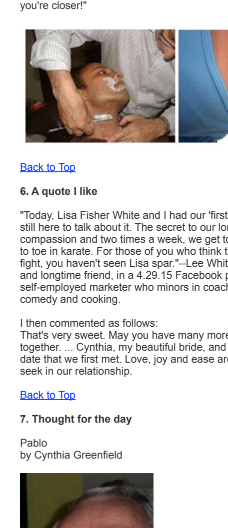
C. Reminders:

(1) Walk a Mile Asheville is rapidly approaching! You can still join me on Saturday, May 2, along with Zuzu Welsh (below) and others on the BLAINESWORLD team, by clicking: http://www.firstgiving.com/team/288560

And even if you read this after the event has taken place, please consider making a contribution to support our efforts via the above link to raise funds for Our Voice, the non-profit group that serves all individuals in Buncombe County affected by sexual assault and abuse through counseling, advocacy and education.



(2) Please plan to see Cynthia in the following performance:



D. Congratulations to:

(1) Mike Martinelli on having his team, The Pick Ups, take first place in the Tuesday senior league bowling competition at Star Lanes. His final average for the season was 177. Kudos, also, to the other members of the team: Preston Dorsey, David Mostoller, and captain Mark Flynn.

(2) Katrina Chenevert and Elaine Scherer on their marriage.

(3) Joe and Anne DeRosa on the birth of Devon Joseph Heggli, their grandchild.

(4) Bill Abramson on being awarded the 2015 COE Fellow Award.

(5) Diana Moore on passing the ACE group fitness instructor exam and now becoming officially a certified group fitness instructor.

(6) Michelle Marshall on having her prints chosen to be part of Diverse Works, a juried art show run by the Young Men's Institute.

(7) Shelby Folks on being chosen as part of the apprentice program for Serenbe Playhouse.

(8) Chelsea St John Wade on being chosen for the Joe Chris and Donna N. Robertson Award for accomplishment as a Fine Arts graduate from Mars Hill University.

(9) Tom Heck on being featured in a great interview in the Makey Makey blog. To read it, please click: http://blog.makeymakey.com/2015/04/21/fireside-chat-tom-heck-epicwin/

(10) Leslie Daniel-Jack on her retirement from CGI.

(11) Katie Morris on her graduation from FAU.

(12) Greg Garrison on being chosen as the Grand Marshall for the 2015 Walk A Mile Asheville event.

(13) Janet StraightArrow on passing both the exams to become a Temporary Licensed Title Insurance producer.

(14) Callan White on becoming a professor at Montreat College. She will teach in the theatre and communications areas.

(15) David F. in NY, winner of Contest #9: a copy of LET'S VISIT NEW HOPE by Gayle Goodman and Roy Ziegler and illustrated by Pat Achilles.

Note: If you'd like to get an autographed copy of this beautiful book, as well as to benefit the New Hope Historical Society, please click: http://www.newhopehs.org/

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

***** CONTEST #10 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of WISDOM FROM WOMEN IN THE BIBLE: GIANTS OF THE EARTH SPEAK INTO OUR LIVES, a book on CD written by John C. Maxwell and read by Marc Thompson--courtesy of Hachette Audio.

To quote from the description on amazon.com: If you could spend a few minutes with biblical heroines Ruth, Sarah, Mary and others, what valuable lessons would they share with you? In the tradition of Learning from the Giants, John Maxwell shares wisdom on life and leadership inspired by the Bible--this time focusing solely on the stories of nine incredible women.

I reviewed the above in BLAINESWORLD #968 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #10" 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, May 11, 2015.

E. Condolences to the family of Ben E. King (1938-2015), RIP. The American soul and R&B singer, who was once one of the principal lead singers of the Drifters, died a few days. His most popular song, "Stand By Me," is also one of my favorites; to listen to it, please click: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTd2ylacYNU

And for more information about his life, please click: http://tinyurl.com/qg42gsz

F. Correction: Thanks, Barbara F. in PA, for picking up two incorrect dates for two TV shows that were mentioned in last week's issue. Fortunately, you can still catch them this week.

(1) THE CASUAL VACANCY: Repeated on Wednesday, May 6, at 8 p.m. (all three parts) on HBO2.

This three-part miniseries features HARRY POTTER author J.K. Rowling's first adult novel.

(2) WHITE COLLAR CONVICTS: LIFE ON THE INSIDE: Repeated on Monday, May 4, at 11 p.m. on CNBC.

Cameras are allowed behind the walls to capture the experience of crooked CEOs, inside traders and embezzlers.

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

This week, it goes to Stephen Garren (left in the picture below)--Solutions Specialist for Verizon Wireless at 242 Tunnel Road, Asheville, NC.

We recently upgraded both our cellphones to iPhone 6 models. When we did, we had the fortune of having Stephen help us.

He spent a lot of time with us and patiently answered all our questions. In addition, we also liked the fact that we could make an appointment with him. (We had previously met with him and had been impressed, but because we were not yet entitled to new phones, we had to return a month later.)

We are both enjoying the iPhone 6. It is both larger and quicker than the iPhone 5.

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2. FYI

Admitted to Your Bedroom: Some Hospitals Try Treating Patients at Home
by Daniela J. Lamas, M.D.

When Martin Fernandez came into Mount Sinai Hospital's emergency room one recent afternoon, with high fever and excruciating abdominal pain, he and his family were asked an unexpected question.

Mr. Fernandez, 82, would have to be officially admitted to receive intravenous antibiotics for his urinary tract infection. But he could stay at Mount Sinai, or he could receive treatment at home.

To read more about this great idea, please click: http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/04/27/admitted-to-your-bedroom-some-hospitals-try-treating-patients-at-home/

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Sam U. in NC: Yep, I play violin like that ... In my dreams. (Street Musician Bryson Andres) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPYGeELPpno

(2) Bruce Jenner Interview 2015 With Diane Sawyer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2REHMN4VMpw

(3) Mother of the year (Baltimore mom) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G80CapEevGQ

(4) Car parked in crosswalk turns out to be a big surprise http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/trending-now/car-parked-in-crosswalk-turns-out-to-be-a-big-surprise-191040648.html

B. Other

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

(1) As Cognition Slips, Financial Skills Are Often the First to Go. (2) Janeen R. in PA: Thank you for the latest Blainesworld. (3) Chanah M. in MO: Which legendary song best describe you? (4) Mike M. in NC: Helen Mirren adds class to any production she is in. (5) Nancy C. in NC: 6 Words That Will End Picky Eating. (6) Can the DASH Diet Help Your Arthritis Symptoms? (7) The Right Paperwork for Your End-of-Life Wishes. (8) Carole B. in NC: Great newsletter. (9) Kevin J. in PA: Help Dementia Society of America every time you shop at 1,587 of the most popular online stores. (10) It's Me or the Dog.

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3. Joke 1

Yesterday, I had an appointment to see the urologist for a prostate exam. As I approached the receptionist's desk, I noticed that she was a large unfriendly woman who looked like a Sumo wrestler. I gave her my name. . . . In a very loud voice, she said, "YES, I HAVE YOUR NAME HERE; YOU WANT TO SEE THE DOCTOR ABOUT IMPOTENCE, RIGHT?" . . . As the patients in the waiting room snapped their heads around to look at me, I recovered quickly and in an equally loud voice replied, "NO, I'VE COME TO INQUIRE ABOUT A SEX CHANGE OPERATION, BUT I DON'T WANT THE SAME DOCTOR WHO DID YOURS." . . . The room erupted in applause!

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4. Joke 2

Son: "Dad, there is someone at the door to collect donations for a community swimming pool." ... Father: "OK, give him a glass of water."

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5. Joke 3

A loud-mouthed Texan sat on the barber's chair and says, "I'll have a shave and a shoe shine." The barber begins to lather his face while a woman with the most beautiful breasts he has ever seen kneels down and starts to shine his shoes. . . . The Texan says, "Honey, you and I should go spend the afternoon in a hotel room." . . . She replies, "Sorry, I'm married, and I'd never be unfaithful to my husband." . . . Texan: "Tell him you're working overtime, and I'll pay you the difference." . . . She:"You tell him; you're closer!"

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6. A quote I like

"Today, Lisa Fisher White and I had our 'first date,' and we're both still here to talk about it. The secret to our longevity; love, trust, compassion and two times a week, we get to gear up and go toe to toe in karate. For those of you who think that might not be a fair fight, you haven't seen Lisa spar."--Lee White, a former student and longtime friend, in a 4.29.15 Facebook post. Lee is also a self-employed marketer who minors in coaching youth sports, comedy and cooking.

I then commented as follows:
That's very sweet. May you have many more happy, healthy years together. ... Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I also celebrate the date that we first met. Love, joy and ease are the three things we seek in our relationship.

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7. Thought for the day

Pablo
by Cynthia Greenfield

My inner Self told me this story needs to be told.

It touched me, and I hope it will touch you.

First, simply the logistics of the story (don't stop here; the best part comes afterward). Blaine and I were walking in Asheville when we saw a man in the street on the ground. He had a cane and had fallen, and he could not get himself up.

Two young people ran to help him and got there first. They tried to pull on his arm to get him up without much success. We arrived a few seconds later. Having some experience with my elderly Mom helping her up and down, I reached under his arm. With the weight of my body supporting him, I was able to help him up. The young people went on their way. Blaine and I walked him slowly to his car, which was a short distance away.

As we were moving toward his car, I asked him his name. He looked at me and said, "Pablo." Our eyes connected, and I saw much warmth sweetness, wisdom, life and humanness in his eyes. I said, "Pablo, that is a beautiful name". He replied, "Oh, do you know Spanish?" I said, "No, but I always wanted to learn it."

I was truly touched by this kind man. Initially, he was just in the category of an old man falling and we were helping him. But when I really looked at him , it changed me. I felt a connection and something that this sweet old man was giving me ... that we are all connected. That this man was whole and kind and perfect and just happened to live in an older body that needed a cane. That as we gave to him, he gave back to us. Or the other way around. That we do not have to feel alone ... Blaine, me, Pablo or any of us!

We get to his car, and you know those cars that have a million bumper stickers on them? Well, he had that car. COEXIST, put money into education not war, Who am I to judge, Choose joy, gay rights, not Democrats or Republicans ... but choosing to help people. He had to have had 50 bumper stickers on his car, all with a beautiful message.

As if Blaine and I were looking at a story of his life and beliefs, we stood there discussing his bumper stickers. Then this kind, sweet man drove off.

So the next time any of us see a man or woman (stranger, family OR friends), and we are quick to categorize and help on a surface level ... or receive on a surface level ... or communicate on the surface ...

Instead, look into that person's eyes. See the wholeness and beauty in people. Mostly, be touched by them ... so that we all leave better off.

I know I was left better off for having walked down the street with Pablo and my beautiful husband Blaine.

Note: Thanks, Don T. in NC, for helping me track down more information about the above individual. Pablo Stone is his full name, and he has long been an amazing peace activist. For more information about him, please click: http://disciples.org/general-assembly/longtime-disciples-missionary-receives-disciples-peace-fellowship-award/

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8. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following events in full, please click: http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Tw

A. NC

(1) SORDID LIVES. (2) David Joe Miller in NC: We've been able to put together a great line-up of storytelling for our [Asheville's Front Porch] summer series. (3)
Upcoming Zuzu Welsh Band appearances. (4) BB&T Presents 'A Community Forum on the New Deferred Action Programs.'

B. National

2015 Happy Together Tour, featuring the Turtles!

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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