BLAINESWORLD

#1026
5.23.2016

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1. Reflections

Note: See Section for 1C for 3 invitations to those living in or planning to visit Western North Carolina.

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) Saw a fantastic production of LEGALLY BLONDE at Haywood Arts Regional Theatre, starring Taylor Aldrich (pictured below). In addition, it featured many other performers/friends who we have grown to like, including Calintha Briggs, Ruth Butler, Holly Ann Caldlwell, Tristan Cameron, Sarah Fowler, Luke Haynes, Kristen Hedberg, Candice Owen, Karyn Panek and Emily Warren. Mark Jones did an excellent job with the direction, Lyna Shuler's work as music director was outstanding, Jessica Garland's choreography was superb and Karen Covington-Yow kept everybody in line as the stage manager. For more pictures, please click:
Here

Good news: The show runs through June 12, so you can still catch a performance. For tickets, please click:
Here

(2) From there, we went with friends to Pasquale's for a tasty dinner that featured fine service from Summer Creson. Pictured behind us, l-r: Tom Gallagher, Marcy Gallagher, Brian Biro, Carole Biro and Lynne Villa.

B. During the week, I went up North to:

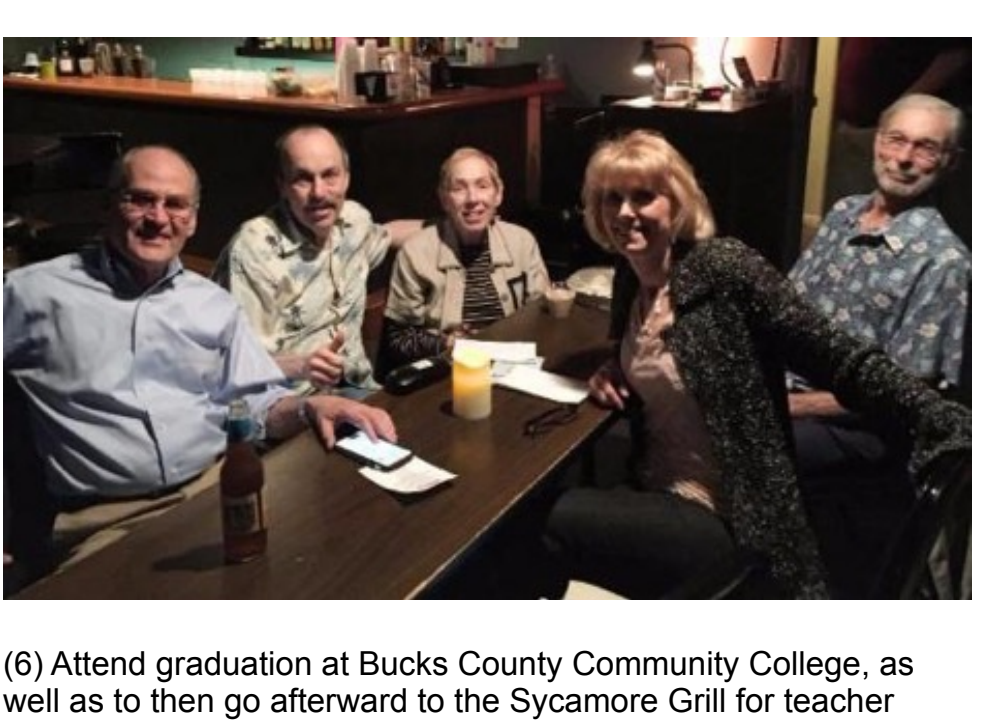
(1) Join my daughter Risa and son-in-law JP Reavely at the Tropicana Diner in Elizabeth, NJ, where I was able to get a delicious Monte Cristo sandwich even though it wasn't on the menu. Our server, Carolina, was very friendly.

(2) Attend a Board meeting of the Dementia Society of America at Piccolo Trattoria in Doylestown. I had previously been to that eatery's Newtown location and enjoyed it. This spot was just as good. We all enjoyed the excellent service we received from Heather. Pictured, l-r: Kevin Jameson, Ann Redfield, Natalie Kaye, Blaine Greenfield and Eric Hopkins.

(3) Meet my friend Jim Freeman for lunch at Moish and Itzy's in Newtown, a place I had frequently gone to when I lived in Bucks County. It was as good as ever and so was the service we received from Donna.

(4) Accompany other friends for dinner at Poco's in Doylestown where he had fine food and service from Chris ... what could be better? Pictured, l-r: Phyllis Miller, Natalie Kaye, Blaine Greenfield, Ivan Winegar and Jeff Dershin.

(5) Then go upstairs to see several funny comedians at the Comedy Cabaret.



(6) Attend graduation at Bucks County Community College, as well as to then go afterward to the Sycamore Grill for teacher union's annual party. The food and drink were both great, but best of all was the chance to get together with many of my friends from my teaching days. That's me with Joann Corn. For other pictures, please click:
Here

C. Invites:

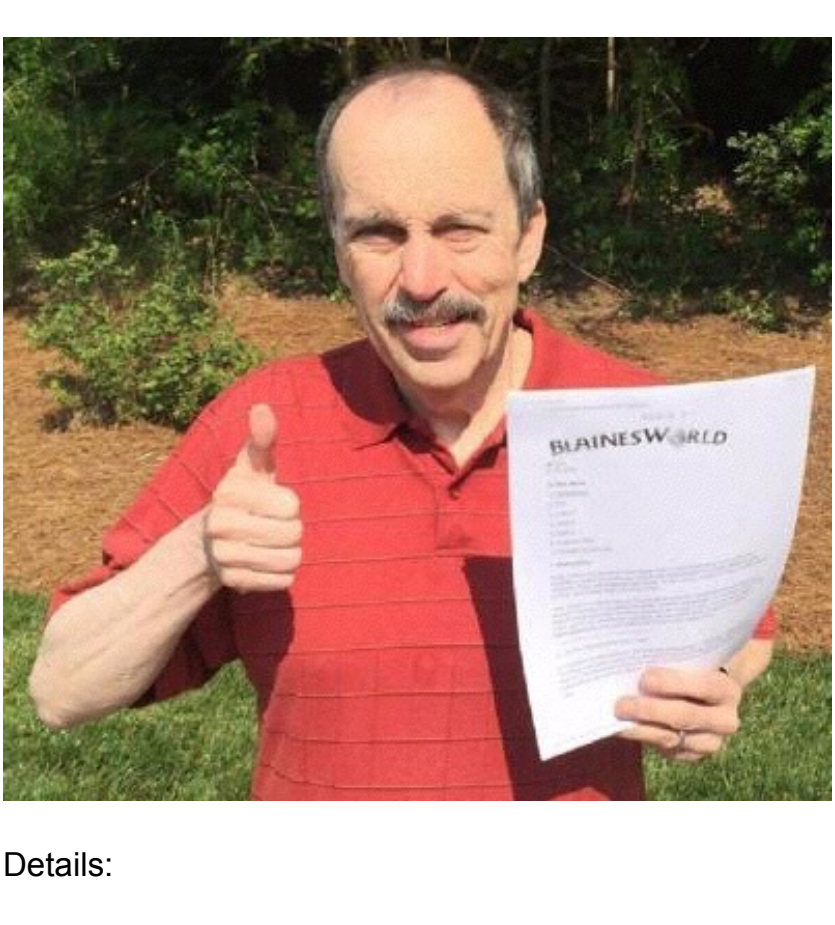
(1) Please join me to celebrate the World Premiere of MR. POSITIVITY, a 10-minute play written by Sunny Cook and based on the life and times of yours truly, Blaine Greenfield.

Date: Sunday, June 26
Time: 5:29 p.m.-8:31 p.m.
Location: The Mothlight, 701 Haywood Rd, West Asheville, NC

Cast members include Taylor Aldrich, Jeff Messer, Ellen Pappas, Carol Duermit, Rodney Smith, Steph Beckman, Chelsey Lee Mirheli, Kirby Gibson, Badi Mirheli, Dan Clancy and Emily Shaules.

Talented vocalist Rhoda Weaver will also perform earlier in the evening. If you're not yet familiar with her music, please click:
Here
or:
Here

And lastly, the evening will serve as a belated celebration of the 1000th issue of my BLAINESWORLD blog. (In the unlikely event you're not yet a subscriber, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.)



Details:

1. No charge for admission.
2. Food and drink will be available for purchase.
3. Please feel free to bring a guest.
4. Doors open at 5:29 p.m.
5. Rhoda Weaver to begin performing at 6:02 p.m.
6. MR. POSITIVITY will start at 7:28 p.m.
7. Evening ends at 8:31 p.m. or whenever you need to leave.

*************************** PLEASE RSVP *****************************

That way, we can have enough chairs, playbills, etc. You can do so by sending an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put JUNE 26 in the subject line, along with how many will be joining you.

This exciting evening is not to be missed!

PS. In honor of that 1000th issue of BLAINESWORLD, the first 100 arrivals will receive their very own left- and right-handed pencils! If you have no idea of the difference between the two pencils, come on June 26 to find out.

(2) You're being cordially invited by Blaine Greenfield (left) and Dr. Michael Trayford to participate in a STEP2RAISE Awareness Event to raise Dementia & Brain Health Awareness.

Date: Wednesday, June 8, 2016
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Fletcher Park (by the Pavilion), Fletcher, NC

There is NO CHARGE to participate

Details:

1. This is the only Asheville event this year that's part of nationwide effort for a combined 36,000,000+ steps--enough to virtually "walk across America" several times. Walk for an hour, a day, a weekend, or all 44 days. Take 1 step or 10,000 steps. With more than 6 million people living with some form of Dementia in the US today, every step counts.

2. You don't need to have a fitness tracker to participate, but if you do have one (or you have the app on your smartphone), we'd love you to have your steps counted. All you need to do is register by clicking:
Here

3. Children are welcome to join, as are pets.

4. If you want to walk 10,000 steps that evening, great. (Count on that taking 60-90 minutes.) But feel free to walk as long or short amount of time as you want.

5. Bottled water will be provided for all participants.

6. The first 25 people who pre-register will get both a visor and Dementia Society of America awareness band for free.

7. Please pre-register, so we have an idea of how many to expect. But if you can't, just come on down for a fun time.

************************************ TO REGISTER *********************************

Send any email to: bginbc@aol.com and put June 8 in the subject line. In the body of your email, include your name and how many others will be joining you. That's it!

PS. Questions? Please send an email to Blaine Greenfield: bginbc@aol.com or give him a call at 828.633.1049.

(3) Come to the next event of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum at the Governor's Mansion in Asheville, NC

Wednesday, June 1
5:30-6:30 p.m.: Registration and Dinner
6:30 p.m.: Presentation by Drew Jones, Co-Founder and Co-Director of Climate Interactive, a top-rated (12th in world out of 210; 3rd in the US) climate change think tank
7:30-8:30 p.m.: Networking

You don't have to be Jewish to attend, but you must pre-register. For more information, please click:
Here

D. Condolences to:

(1) John Rosella and family on the passing of cousin Immaculate Cardone Pomeroy, John's cousin.

(2) Coy Theobalt and family on the passing of Barbara Theobalt, Coy's grandmother.

(3) Gayle Barsky Rosen and family on the passing of Jeff Sacks, Gayle's brother-in-law.

E. Congratulations to:

(1) Marie Cooper, Sherry Eichert and Mary Ellen Bornak on their retirements from Bucks County Community College.

(2) Anthony Atherton and Duane Adams for having graduated as members of the Class 34 of Leadership Asheville.

(3) David "Doc" Brown on the fact that his store, Doc Brown's BBQ, will soon be opening in Candler. For more information, please click this great article about him:
Here

(4) Ezekiel Christopoulos on sharing his story in the following publication:
Here

(5) Norm Kent and the entire Florida NORML chapter for winning NORM's national award for state chapter activism for 2015.

(6) Chandler Smith for his upcoming appearance on several episodes of PEOPLE'S COURT this season.

(7) Victor Fearau on being chosen to write for the ABA LAW Student magazine, as well as being appointed as social media assistant for the American Bar Association's Law Student Division.

(8) Asheville for making being cited in cntraveler.com's "best things to do list." To view it, please click:
Here

(9) Asheville, again ... this time for being featured on CNN's UNITED SHADES OF AMERICA. To view the episode, please click:
Here

(10) Asheville Homeschool Co-op Odyssey of the Mind for taking 4th in the World competition.

(11) Steve R. in NY, Jude D. in NJ, Marilyn G. in NJ, Dee M. in PA, Lynn V. in NC and Chris S. in PA--all winners of Contest #10: a choice of a Book on CD from a list of gently used CDs that I've used for previous reviews.

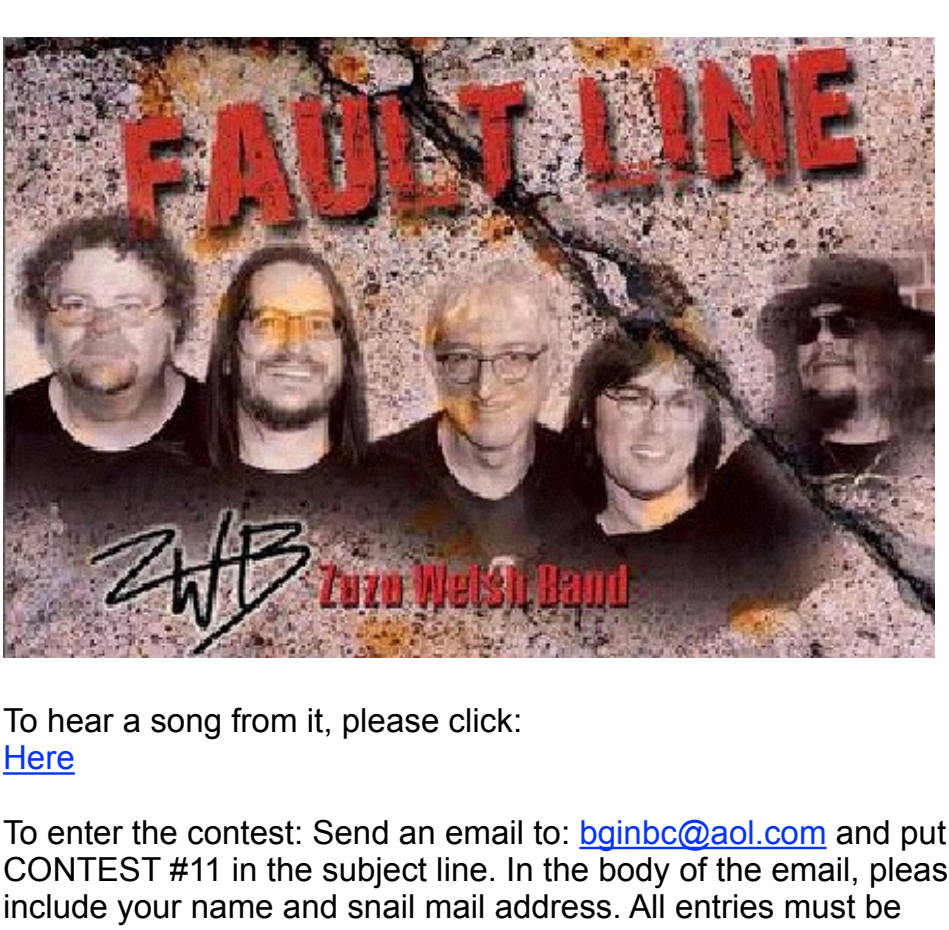
They each came up with a caption for this picture that ran in both BLAINESWORLD #1024 and 1025: a big dog with a cute baby.

Their captions, respectively, were:
"Ruff! Don't even think of waking up my best friend."
In the arms of Morpheus ...
Protective custody
Most baby sitters get 15$ per hour. All I'll get is a dog biscuit.
Unconditional Puppy LOVE!!!!
"I'm a watchdog ... I got this covered."

And I'm now reminded that it is time for me to introduce:

***** CONTEST #11 *****

One lucky reader will win an autographed copy of FAULT LINE, the latest CD from the Zuzu Welsh Band--compliments of Zuzu.



To hear a song from it, please click:
Here

To enter the contest: Send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #11 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, June 6, at 9 p.m.

F. Correction: Last week's issue mentioned in "My Intimate Companion ~ My Body," a Movement Theatre presentation that Cynthia was in. It also mentioned the director, Barrie Barton, but her name was spelled wrong. It is correct here.

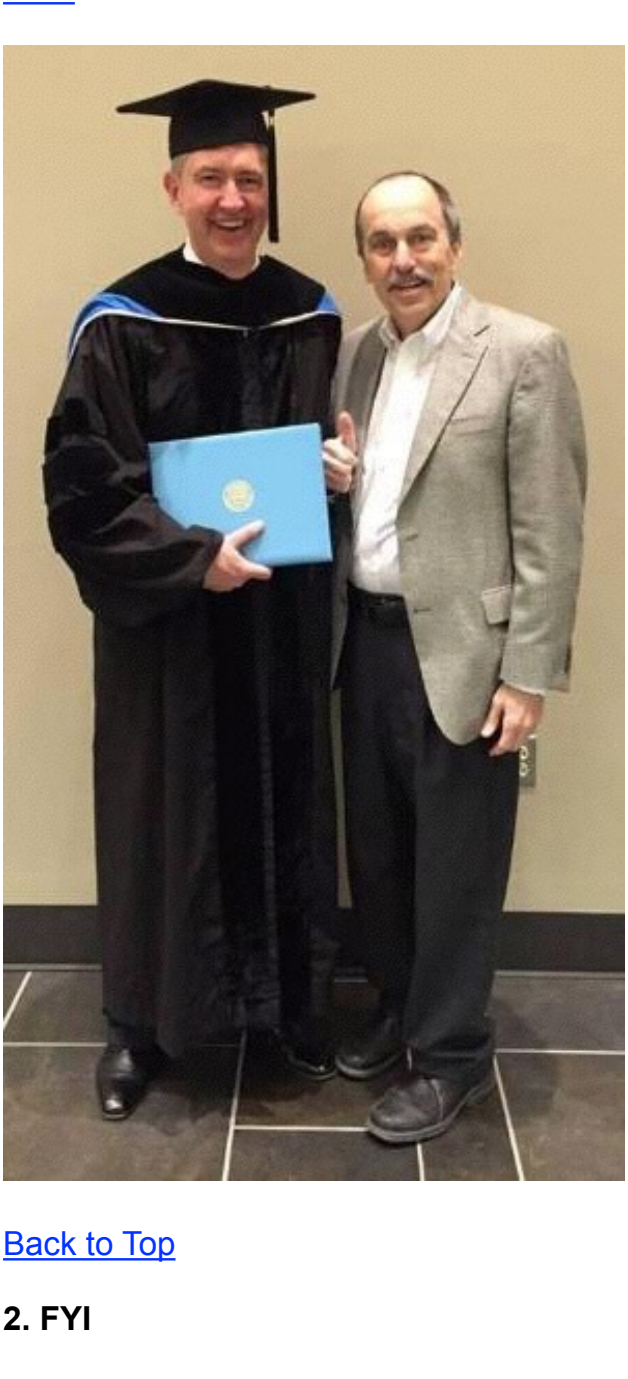
***** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD *****

This week, it goes to Kevin Jameson--a former student (as well as longtime friend) who is both founder and president of the Dementia Society of America.

Starting as a young entrepreneur from the age of 18 and having launched several start-up businesses in the security industry, Kevin carried on his career as a sales and marketing executive, which has included over 25 years with major corporate divisions of ADT, BOSCH and Honeywell International.

Author, inventor and patent holder, Kevin has traveled to Europe, Asia, India, Australia, the Middle East, Africa, South and Central America, and throughout North America to see how the world really lives. Kevin also has a personal story and connection to Dementia (and Alzheimer's) and leads the fight against the dreaded disease with actions and words.

He recently was the commencement speaker at Bucks County Community College's 50th graduation (see picture below), at which time he received an honorary doctorate. For more pictures, as well as to hear his inspriing speech, please click:
Here



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2. FYI

Which rock stars will historians of the future remember?
by Chuck Klosterman

Classifying anyone as the "most successful" at anything tends to reflect more on the source than the subject. So keep that in mind when I make the following statement: John Philip Sousa is the most successful American musician of all time.

Marching music is a maddeningly durable genre, recognizable to pretty much everyone who has lived in the United States for any period. It works as a sonic shorthand for any filmmaker hoping to evoke the late 19th century and serves as the auditory backdrop for national holidays, the circus and college football. It's not "popular" music, but it's entrenched within the popular experience. It will be no less fashionable tomorrow than it is today.

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

Mr. Curious here: Does anybody agree with me that the above had one major omission; i.e., no mention of the Turtles--arguably the greatest rock band of all time?

And if you don't agree with my opinion, please click:
Here

FYI, part 2

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

(1) Henry W. in NY: "The Man Who Knew Infinity" is an absolute gem of a movie.
(2) Cappy T. in NC: Just love your news Blaine. (3) Dana K. in PA: We saw this play [ALL THE WAY, which is being shown on HBO] with Brian Cranston on Broadway 2 years ago. (4) Steve R. in NY: I received the audiobook. (5) Arlene D. in PA: Thank you so much, Blaine! I'm really looking forward to receiving and reading this book. (6) The downside of smoothies. (7) Are You Successful? If So, You've Already Won the Lottery. (8) It isn't easy to figure out which foods contain sugar. (9) Marcy G. in NC: I have known Ash [Devine] for several years, and she is an amazing person and artist. (10) The hidden price of mindfulness. (11) Sorry, there's nothing magical about breakfast. (12) Winifred H. in NJ: Congratulations on your 1000th issue.

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3. Joke 1

A group of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, accompanied by two female teachers, went on a field trip to the local racetrack (Churchill Downs) to learn about thoroughbred horses and the supporting industry (bourbon), but mostly to see the horses. ... When it was time to take the children to the bathroom, it was decided that the girls would go with one teacher and the boys would go with the other. The teacher assigned to the boys was waiting outside the men's room when one of the boys came out and told her that none of them could reach the urinal. Having no choice, she went inside, helped the boys with their pants, and began hoisting the little boys up one by one, holding on to their "wee-wees" to direct the flow away from their clothes. As she lifted one, she couldn't help but notice that he was unusually well-endowed. Trying not to show that she was staring, the teacher said, "You must be in the 5th grade!" ... "No, ma'am", he replied. "I'm riding Silver Arrow in the seventh race, but I appreciate your help."

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4. Reviews

A. EYE IN THE SKY, a film still currently out in theatres
B. RACE, a film on DVR
3. 121 FIRST DATES by Wendy Newman, a book
D. CITY OF BONES by Michael Connelly, a book on CD

Note: For the above reviews, please go to Section 4 when you click:
Here

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5. TV alert

A. ROOTS: Premieres on Mon., May 30, at 9 p.m. on HISTORY, A&E and LIFETIMES
According to TV GUIDE, "this four-part remake (through Thursday) of the blockbuster 1977 miniseries is slickly streamlined and impeccably cast as it tells the story of proud African warrior Kunta Kinte (forceful newcomer Malachi Kirby), sold into slavery but instilling a thirst for freedom in successive generations."

B. AMERICA'S GOT TALENT: Returns on Tues., May 31, at 8 p.m. on NBC
This show has long been one of my favorites. I'll be especially interested in watching it this year to see how Simon Cowell does as the replacement judge for Howard Stern.

C. MAYA & MARTY: Premieres on Tues., May 31, at 10 p.m. on NBC
Maya Randolph and Martin Host the latest attempt to revive the comedy-variety genre. There will also be a gallery of sruprise guests, as well sketches and musical numbers.

D. CAROL BURNETT'S FAVORITE SKETCHES: Fri., June 3, at 9 p.m. on PBS (PBS times and dates often vary, so check local listings.)

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6. Joke 2

A woman was telling her friend, "It was I who made my husband a millionaire." ... "And what was he before you married him?" asked the friend. ... The woman replied, "A multimillionaire."

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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Steve B. in AZ: Dear Elders, I'm Sorry
Here

(2) Robin S. in PA: I'm that Jew
Here

(3) Bill K. in PA: Greek bank robbery
Here

B. Watch All of James Corden's Carpool Karaoke Sessions
Here

See the very first one that featured Mariah Carey, then Justin Bieber, Adele, Sia, etc. I love them all, but perhaps my favorite is Corden with Stevie Wonder. That's #12 if you want to skip ahead.

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

The following article also applies to anybody wishing to make calls abroad; e.g., from the United States. In particular, Cynthia is starting to use WhatsApp (mentioned below), and she has told me it's great.

A traveler's guide to taking a smartphone abroad
by Brian X. Chen

The summer travel season will soon be upon us, with notions of escape, unplugging and faraway lands.

But while the idea of disconnecting from technology when abroad seems relaxing, the stress of visiting a foreign country without a smartphone connection can quickly counteract the benefits of a digital detox. After landing in an unfamiliar place, you may realize that an inability to look up mobile maps or places to eat on a phone can be crippling. Relying on a printed tourist guide may feel primitive and immediately inform muggers that you are holding lots of cash.

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

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9. Joke 3

My collection of kitchen utensils includes one whose intended purpose was always a mystery. It looks like a cross between a metal slotted spoon and a spatula, so I use it as both. When not in use, it is prominently displayed in a decorative ceramic utensil caddy in my kitchen. ... The mystery of the spoon/spatula was recently solved when I found one in its original packaging at a garage sale. ... It's a
pooper-scooper.

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10. A quote I like

The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.--Walt Disney (1901-1966), American entrepreneur, animator, voice actor and film producer

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11. Thought for the day

According to scientists, the bumblebee's body is too heavy and its wing span too small. Aerodynamically, the bumblebee cannot fly. But the bumblebee doesn't know that and it keeps flying. ... .When you don't know your limitations, you go out and surprise yourself. In hindsight, you wonder if you had any limitations. The only limitations a person has are those that are self-imposed. ... Don't let education put limitations on you.

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12. Advance planning department

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

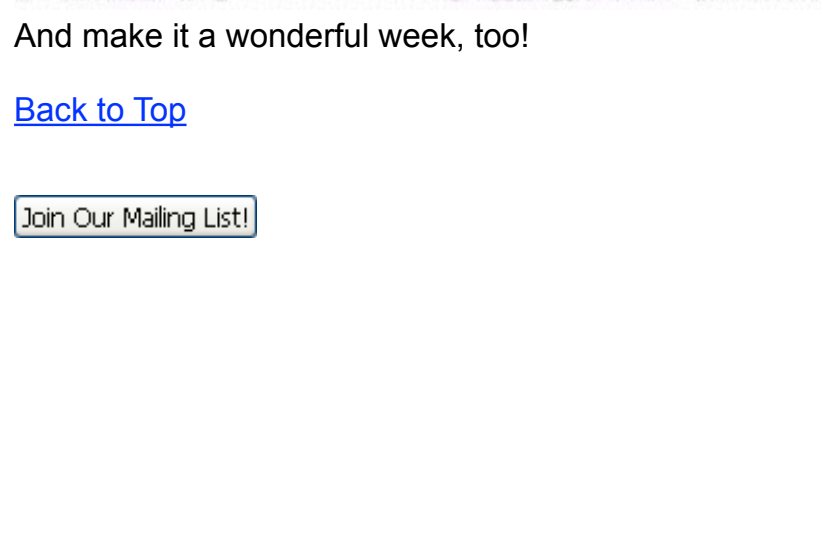
A. NC events

(1) Steep Canyon Rangers Concert. (2) Picnic in the Park. (3) Ash Devine and The Family Band. (4) Womansong Concert.

B. PA/NJ event

Bucks Sparkles.

PS. I won't be complaining, either ... I'll be too busy remembering all those who died while serving in the armed forces. ... HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY to you and yours!


I'M NOT GOING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE HIGH COST OF ANYTHING THIS WEEKEND.
IRAQ
AFGHANISTAN
KOREA
PEARL
IWO JIMA
PERSIAN GULF
INCHON
OKINAWA
VIETNAM
NORMANDY
THE BULGE
MIDWAY
KHE SANH
TET
THE ARGONNE
VERA CRUZ
GETTYSBURG
VALLEY FORGE
Jeff Heller

And make it a wonderful week, too!

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