BLAINESWORLD

#074
5.25.2015

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1. Reflections

Note: See Section for 1D for a fun contest to enter.

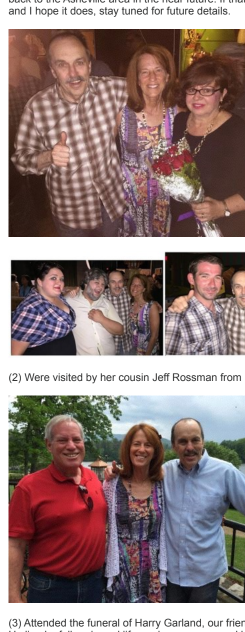
Also, if you're reading this via Facebook and/or in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, you can make sure you don't miss an issue (and you can get it earlier, too) by clicking: http://tinyurl.com/oqmwpx

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Saw our friends Ellen Pappas (top photo) and Holly Harmon and Isaac Fulk (bottom photo, left) and Jonathan Forrester (bottom photo, right) in Performing Arts Laboratory's hilarious production of SORDID LIVES.

Others in the show were also outstanding, including Tiffany Yates, Dylan Henley, Paula Buck, Tasha Pepsi, George Heard, Kayla Morrison, Waetchel Call and Don Cook. And kudos to Daniel Hensley for his outstanding direction, as well as to Alexander Pappas for his fine work as technical director.

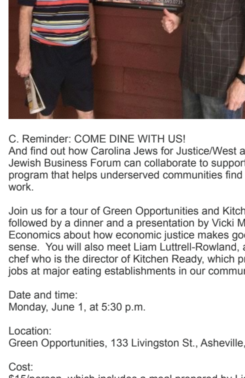
I understand that plans are underway to bring SORDID LIVES back to the Asheville area in the near future. If that does happen, and I hope it does, stay tuned for future details.



(2) Were visited by our cousin Jeff Rossman from New Jersey.

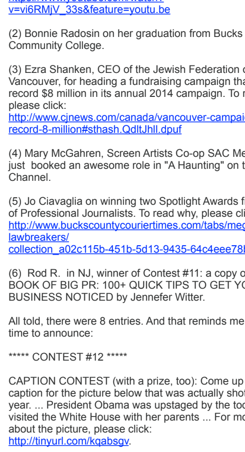
(3) Attended the funeral of Harry Garland, our friend and neighbor. He lived a full and good life, and we were moved by the singing of one of his students (Madison Fiedler). En route, we also got to check out a real store in Linville: Old Hampton Store & Barbeque.

(4) Checked out Pacific Pagoda Sushi & Grill in Asheville for the first time. That's us in front of a fish tank at the entrance to the restaurant. The food was good, and the decor is attractive. We'll be back.



B. I joined my friend Mike Martinelli for a tasty lunch at Cracker Barrel in Arden. From there, we went to ALWAYS ... PATSY CLINE at Flat Rock Playhouse. This production was very powerful, and Jacqueline Petroccia was excellent as Cline; Linda Edwards, as always, brought laughter to her role as Louise; and Lisa K. Bryant's direction was spot on.

Note: The show runs through May 31, so if you get this on or before that date, you're in luck. You can still get tickets by clicking: http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?organ_val=27967&event_val=HH75



C. Reminder: COME DINE WITH US!
And find out how Carolina Jews for Justice/West and the Asheville Jewish Business Forum can collaborate to support a unique program that helps underserved communities find meaningful work.

Join us for a tour of Green Opportunities and Kitchen Ready, followed by a dinner and a presentation by Vicki Meath of Just Economics since August of 2010. Just Economics is a nonprofit whose focus is on economic justice; justice makes good business sense. You will also meet Liam Luttrell-Rowland, a young chef who is the director of Kitchen Ready, which prepares folks for jobs at major eating establishments in our community.

Date and time:
Monday, June 1, at 5:30 p.m.

Location:
Green Opportunities, 133 Livingston St., Asheville, NC

Cost:
$15/person, which includes a meal prepared by Liam Luttrell-Rowland. There is also a vegetarian option available when you register.

Pre-registration is REQUIRED on or before May 31, in that a final meal count is needed by that date. To register, please click the link below:
http://www.ashevillejewishbusiness.com/events.html

Then click the Buy Now button, pay by PayPal or your credit card and choose what type meal you want.

About the speaker:
Vicki Meath has served as the Executive Director of Just Economics since August of 2010. Since coming to Just Economics, she has helped to lead the organization in passing the largest living wage policy, building the largest voluntary Living Wage Employer Certification Program in the country, and developing a grassroots leadership and community organizing training called Voices for Economic Justice.

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Alex Schnapper on this appearance in Real Estate Radio Network. To listen to what he had to say, please click:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHBRMV_53d&feature=youtu.be

(2) Bonnie Radcom on her graduation from Bucks County Community College.

(3) Ezra Shanken, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, for heading a fundraising campaign that raised a record $6 million in its annual 2014 campaign. To read more, please click:
http://www.cjnews.com/canada/vancouver-campaign-raises-record-6-million#sthash.GdhLthIt.dpuf

(4) Mary McGahren, Screen Artists Co-op SAC Mentor, on having just booked an awesome role in "A Haunting" on the Discovery Channel.

(5) Jo Caravaglia on winning Spotlight Awards from the Society of Professional Journalists. To read why, please click:
http://www.buckscountycouriertimes.com/news/taxbreakers/collection_a02c115b-461b-5d13-9435-84c4aee78bb7.html

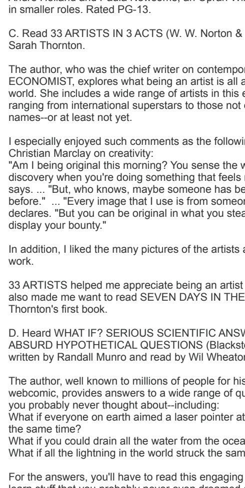
(6) Rod R., in NJ, winner of Contest #11: a copy of THE LITTLE BOOK OF BIG PR: 100+ QUICK TIPS TO GET YOUR SMALL BUSINESS NOTICED by Jennefer Witter.

All told, there were 8 entries. And that reminds me that it's now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #12 *****

CAPTION CONTEST (with a prize, too). Come up with a funny caption for the picture below that was actually shot in April of this year ... President Obama was upstaged by the toddler when she visited the White House with her parents ... For more information about the picture, please click: http://

To enter the contest, post a reply on my Facebook or send it to bgimbo@aol.com and put CONTEST #12 in the subject line ... One lucky winner will receive a copy of Jeff Messer's RED STATE, WHITE GUY BLUES--a terrific book about NC politics. All entries must be received on or before 6 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 2015. Please include your snail mail address with your entry.



E. Condolences to:

(1) Amy Townsend and family on the passing of Amy's dad.

(2) Jodi Gorfman and family on the passing of Josh's mom.

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

This week, it goes to Bryant Webster and Walt Currie--lawyers, respectively, with Stone & Christie and Campbell Shatley, PLLC.

I had a dispute with a local business that involved a large sum of money that I was owed.

Though I had a permanent note, the money was being paid in dribs and drabs--and the business was, at one time, some six months behind in payments.

So based on excellent advice I received from Bryant, I took the business to Small Claims Court. The nice thing about this is that I didn't need Bryant to represent me there; i.e., it was easy to take care of all the paperwork myself.

Shortly before I was due to make my appearance, Walt (a personal friend) called me and asked if I would be willing to participate in mediation. He was also friends with members of the organization, and he had been asked to see if he could help bring about some sort of amicable settlement.

I said, "Sure." Having long been a fan of mediation--and having served as a mediator for some 25 years for the New Jersey court system.

The result: After a relatively few conversations and emails, Walt was able to successfully mediate a close to the dispute ... one that left both sides satisfied and, hopefully, still friendly with each other. Or at least that's how I feel.

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2. FYI

Ever wonder about what the wise woman didn't get when betting a spouse or partner?

Consider one such bet that Cynthia and I recently had ... about how many parking spaces we would find in the Wall Street garage. They fixed the number on a big sign, but we made the wager a block before our arrival.

We also determined the prize in advance; i.e., the loser would give the winner a kiss. That way, we both would win--and did!

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Ice M. in FL: A text message killed her in a deadly crash. When I saw what it said, I was speechless:
http://theshrug.ne/a-text-message-killed-her-in-a-deadly-crash-when-i-saw-what-it-said-i-was-speechless/

(2) Rock E. in NC: See what researchers found when they tested a bottle of Fiji Water against a glass of tap water:
http://www.upworthy.com/watch-what-researchers-found-when-they-tested-a-bottle-of-fiji-water-against-a-glass-of-tap-water

(3) Walter B. in NC: Lindzee Fox - Amelymetrical Illusion
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmFmYUAym9M

(4) Drew Lynch: Stuttering Comedian Wins Crowd Over - America's Got Talent 2015
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5tMb6_gbvg

(5) Chris Jones: Howie Mandel Gets Hypnotized to Shake Hands - America's Got Talent 2015
http://www.usmagazine.com/entertainment/news/americas-got-talent-chris-jones-hypnotizes-howie-mandel-video-2015275

Note: For an update on the above, please click:

B. Other

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: http://wp.me/p1gBEx-1UU

(1) Jim C. in NJ: What's your 60s song? (2) Bill K. in CA: Thumbs up, Blaine. (3) Travel Industry Responds to Rise in Solo Sojourners. (4) Catherine O. in ME: Thanks for another great issue. (5) Ingrid S. in PA: Thank you Blaine for your feature in the newsletter.

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3. Joke 1

To help save the economy, the government has announced that the Immigration Department is now deporting seniors--instead of illegals--in order to lower Social Security and Medicare costs. Older people are easier to catch and will not remember how to get back home. I started to cry when I thought of you ... Then it dawned on me. It's probably too late for tears. That's you in the back of the bus, blocked by some of the other heads, isn't it?

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4. Reviews

***** GET PSYCHED *****

Watch the Trailers: 14 Movies Coming This Summer
http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/05/01/movies/03movie-trailers-feature.html

A. Saw FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD, a drama based on Thomas Hardy's classic novel. It is the story of an independent and headstrong woman who attracts three very different suitors in England in the 1870s. I enjoyed it, and the scenery was beautiful. Rated PG-13.

B. BLACK OR WHITE is now out on DVD ... my review from BLAINESWORLD #068 follows:
Saw BLACK OR WHITE, a story based on real events about a grandfather who suddenly has to take care of his beloved granddaughter. He must also deal with the fact that the paternal grandmother wants custody of the child. I really got into this film, and I thought the acting from Kevin Costner (in his best work in years) was excellent. In addition, I got a kick out of Octavia Spencer and other actors in smaller roles. Rated PG-13.

C. Read 33 ARTISTS IN 3 ACTS (W. W. Norton & Company) by Sarah Thornton.

The author, who was the chief writer on contemporary art for the ECONOMIST, explores what being an artist is all about in today's world. She includes a wide range of artists in this engaging book, ranging from international superstars to emerging talents.

I especially enjoyed such comments as the following from Christian Marclay on creativity: "Am I being original this morning? You sense the wonder of discovery when you're doing something that feels new," he says. "But, who knows, maybe someone has been there before." "Every image that I use is from someone else," he declares. "My job can be compared to a scavenger. It's all about what you steal and how you display your bounty."

In addition, I liked the many pictures of the artists and/or their work.

33 ARTISTS helped me appreciate being an artist a lot more. It also made me want to read SEVEN DAYS IN THE ART WORLD, Thornton's first book.

D. Heard WHAT IF? SERIOUS SCIENTIFIC ANSWERS TO ABSURD HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS (Blackstone Audio), written by Randall Munro and read by Wil Wheaton.

The author, well known to millions of readers of his popular webcomic, provides answers to a wide range of questions that you probably never thought about, including:
What if everyone on earth aimed a laser pointer at the moon at the same time?
What if you could stand at the sun for a minute?
What if all the lightning in the world struck the same place?

For the answers, you'll have to read the book. You will learn a lot, and you'll also get a laugh out of it. For example, when asked: What happens if you set off a nuclear bomb in the eye of a hurricane? Would the storm cell be vaporized?

He replies, quoting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: "Needless to say, this is not a good idea."

I've previously not viewed Munro's website, but this book has me wanting to do so.

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5. TV alert

A. UNREAL: Mon., June 1, at 10 p.m. on LIFETIME
According to TV GUIDE: "This brisk, incredibly cynical and quietly enjoyable drama goes behind the scenes of a fictional BACHELOR-like dating competition."

B. THE SECRET LIFE OF MARILYN MONROE: Tues., June 2, at 8 p.m. on LIFETIME
This two-part miniseries explores the private life of the cultural icon. Part 1 airs at the above time and is immediately followed by Part 2.

C. 2015 ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY: Wed., June 3, at 8 p.m. on HBO
Highlights from the annual ceremony, which honored the music of Ringo Starr, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts and others.

D. NIGHTINGALE: Sat., June 6, at 10 p.m. on HBO
David Oyelowo (so great in SELMA) is a character study of a pathologically lonely war veteran's slow descent into paranoia.

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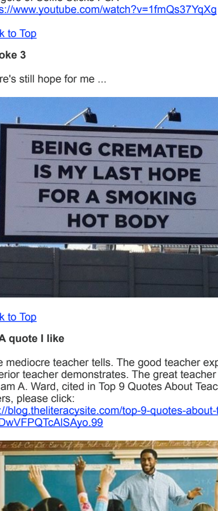
6. Joke 2

If you weren't an English major or you were sleeping when the difference was taught, you can now learn it by clicking:
http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/words/less-or-fewer



"What can I say? I was an English major."

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7. Websites

A. Cynthia G. in NC: GoPro: Waltz On The Walls Of City Hall
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHBRj_LcCRY&feature=youtu.be

B. Joan O. in PA: "Weird Al" Yankovic - Mission Statement
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuV_UG6MdO4

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

If you want to see reviews of books I've read (and enjoyed for the most part), please click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Websites." My reviews can be found under "Book and Music Reviews."

D. Are you on Facebook? If we have not yet connected as friends there, please feel free to send me an invite by clicking:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Like us on Facebook

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8. Technology tip

Thanks, Mary M. in NC, for this oh-so-important warning: The Dangers of Selfie Sticks PSA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bQpD7VqXg

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9. Joke 3

There's still hope for me ...

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10. A quote I like

"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."--William A. Ward, cited in Top 8 Quotes About Teaching. To see the others, please click:
http://blog.thefamousnote.com/top-8-quotes-about-teaching/#Q6GkVlYZUt25duo.99

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11. Thought for the day

Good reminder that we need to be grateful for all that we have ...

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12. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following events in full, please click: http://wp.me/p1gBEx-1UU

A. NC events

(1) Will H. in NC: The Hahn of Horse Sense. (2) A Different Stroke PRC presents Coyote On A Fence, by Bruce Graham.

B. PA/NJ event

The 27th Annual Tyler Tasting Party

C. National event

The Flower Power Cruise, featuring The Turtles.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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