BLAINESWORLD

#1028
6.6.2016

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1. Reflections

Note: See Section 8 for a great translation aid.

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) Met my brother Ken and his wife Lavelle for a lovely dinner at The Old Edwards Inn in Highlands.

Afterward, en route home, we passed this scenic waterfall.

(2) Had tasty hamburgers and great service from Jessica at Juicy Lucy's.

B. During the week, I:

(1) Attended a meeting of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum at the Governor's Mansion. It featured a terrific presentation from Drew Jones, Co-Founder and Co-Director of Climate Interactive, a top-rated (12th in world out of 210; 3rd in the US) on "Climate Change." Nearly 60 people attended

Thanks to Andi Block for taking care of the event arrangements, Joel Mazelis for lining-up the speaker, Anthony Cerrato for providing great food from Strada; Oscar Wong for generously providing the beer from Highland Brewing, and Trish Smothers and Scott Barnett (both with the Governor's Office) for their help in making the event the success that it was.

Pictured, l-r: Joel Mazelis Drew Jones and Blaine Greenfield. For other pictures, please click:
Here

(2) Saw the World Premiere of a musical, BRAVE NEW WORLD, the North Carolina Stage Company where I was met by my friend Sky Simonov. The performance was excellent, and I was particularly impressed by the five musicians who were offstage. I wouldn't be surprised if this show makes it to Broadway sometime in the future.

(3) Was impressed by Cynthia. She made her acting debut with the Autumn Players, appearing at a local elementary school. Regretfully, I didn't catch her appearance this time. I'm hopeful that I might see her in the future.

C. Congratulations to:

(1) George Pappas on the publication of his book, THE LITERARY AND LEGAL GENEALOGY OF NATIVE AMERICAN DISPOSSESSION.

(2) Lucas Gregg on his graduation from SCAD.

(3) Ilene and Tino Procida for their successful pizza party that helped raise awareness about the problem of sex trafficking. For more information, view this clip that appeared on WLOS:
Here

(4) Lois Belle Carr and family on the birth of Olivia Ann Carr, Lois' granddaughter.

(5) Pat Achilles on being part of the Bucks County Illustrators' new book, FANTASY TALES.

(6) Steven Shulman on his being interviewed on TRTV's RealTalk With The Cummings.

(7) Jason Odell Williams for having his new play, CHURCH & STATE, chosen by th National New Play Network for its 60th World Premiere.

(8) Laresa Griffin (belatedly) on job as Director of Development for Safelight, the new name for the merged organization of Mainstay and The Healing Place in Hendersonville. This organizations works with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

(9) Ezra and Rachel (Cynthia's niece) Shanken on the birth of their two baby boys, Baby A and Baby B. They will be officially named at the Bris.

(10) Marilyn Sholin on receiving another 25 MERIT Bar from the Professional Photographers of America.

(11) Jerry Gross on having received an award from the Lower Bucks Chamber of Service for his service as an Ambassador.

(12) Anne Lukach on the birth of Harper Lily, her new granddaughter.

(13) Cara Cotelese on her appointment as Chair of the Electronic Media Department at Kutztown University.

(14) Chris S. in PA, winner of Contest #11: an autographed copy of FAULT LINE, the latest CD from the Zuzu Welsh Band--compliments of Zuzu. All told, there were four entries. And that reminds me that it's now time to introduce:

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

One lucky reader will win a copy of MEETINGS THAT WORK by Brian Tracy. In this slim, but useful book, the author shares ideas that can be used to make all types of meetings more effective. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #1024 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #12 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 20, at 9 p.m.

D. Reminder: Please mark down in your calendars to 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.

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

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

Talented vocalist Rhoda Weaver will also be performing that evening.

There is NO charge to attend.

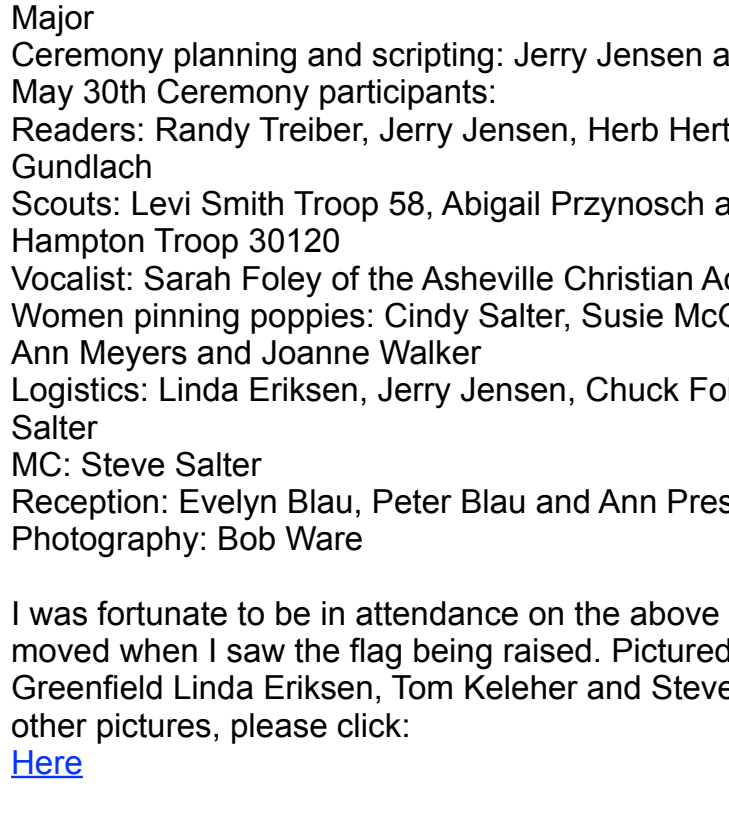
For more information, please click:
Here

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

This week, it goes to the Biltmore Lake Veterans Group for spearheading the effort that led to construction of a flagstaff in our community.

This project involved many individuals going back many months. Special kudos to the following individuals for their efforts that came together in an impressive dedication ceremony on May 30:
Application design and site plan: Linda Eriksen, Tom Keleher and Steve Salter
Fundraising donations and expenditures: Randy Treiber and Ron Leslie
Flagstaff procurement and installation: Tom Keleher and Bob Major
Ceremony planning and scripting: Jerry Jensen and Steve Salter
May 30th Ceremony participants:
Readers: Randy Treiber, Jerry Jensen, Herb Hertner and John Gundlach
Scouts: Levi Smith Troop 58, Abigail Przynosch and Sophie Hampton Troop 30120
Vocalist: Sarah Foley of the Asheville Christian Academy choir
Women pinning poppies: Cindy Salter, Susie McGee, Donna Izor, Ann Meyers and Joanne Walker
Logistics: Linda Eriksen, Jerry Jensen, Chuck Foley and Steve Salter
MC: Steve Salter
Reception: Evelyn Blau, Peter Blau and Ann Prescott
Photography: Bob Ware

I was fortunate to be in attendance on the above date and was moved when I saw the flag being raised. Pictured, l-r: Blaine Greenfield Linda Eriksen, Tom Keleher and Steve Salter. For other pictures, please click:
Here



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2. FYI

Kudos to John Oliver for forgiving $15 million in medical debt.

He announced this recently on this always interesting show, LAST WEEK TONIGHT WITH JOHN OLIVER, ON HBO.

For more information, please click:
Here

Or to just view the above show, please click:
Here

FYI, part 2

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

(1) Graduating and Looking for Your Passion? Just Be Patient. (2) Tom Orr in PA (with a REQUEST FOR HELP). (3) 5 Things That Give Self-Driving Cars Headaches. (4) The path to a billion dollar show. (5) Period. Full Stop. Point. Whatever It's Called, It's Going Out of Style. (6) The end of reflection. (7) Lucas in NC: Want to prevent cancer?

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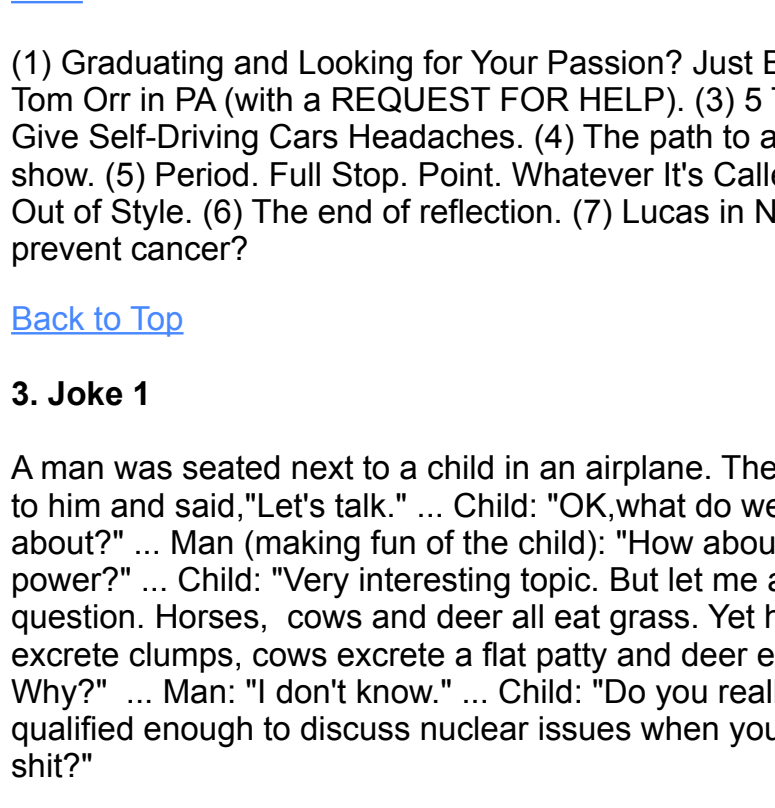
3. Joke 1

A man was seated next to a child in an airplane. The man turned to him and said,"Let's talk." ... Child: "OK,what do we talk about?" ... Man (making fun of the child): "How about nuclear power?" ... Child: "Very interesting topic. But let me ask you a question. Horses, cows and deer all eat grass. Yet horses excrete clumps, cows excrete a flat patty and deer excrete pellets. Why?" ... Man: "I don't know." ... Child: "Do you really feel qualified enough to discuss nuclear issues when you don't know shit?"



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4. Reviews

A. Saw ME BEFORE YOU, a sweet drama about a small town Englishwoman and the wealthy, paralyzed Londoner who hires her as his caretaker. Emilia Clarke and Sam Claflin have great chemistry in the leading roles, and methinks this is a film that most will enjoy. Rated PG-13.

B. Out on DVD is HAIL, CAESAR! My review from BLAINESWORLD #1010 follows:
Saw HAIL, CAESAR!, the latest film written and directed by four-time Oscar-winning filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen. It is a funny satire about Hollywood's Golden Age that you'll enjoy if you are a TCM junky. All those in the cast shine, but I especially liked the work of Channing Tatum in one dance scene that has me still smiling long after I've left the theatre. Rated PG-13.

C. Read THE HIRSCHFELD CENTURY: PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST AND HIS AGE (Knopf) by Al Hirschfeld and edited by David Leopold.

The author, an American caricaturist best known for his portraits of celebrities and Broadway stars, had an amazing career that spanned some 80 years.

This book covers it all via more than 360 of his black-and-white color drawings, but also with engaging stories of such celebrities as Ethel Merman, Benny Goodman, Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney, Katharine Hepburn, the Marx Brothers, Barbra Streisand, Elia Kazan, Mick Jagger, Ella Fitzgerald, Laurence Olivier and Martha Graham, to name just a few.

It also contained engaging behind-the-scenes stories about such productions as FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, WEST SIDE STORY, RENT, GUYS AND DOLLS, THE WIZARD OF OZ, GONE WITH THE WIND, etc.

In addition, there were many valuable tidbits of advice. Perhaps my favorite came from this chapter on playwrights in his book, SHOW BUSINESS IS NO BUSINESS:
Hirschfeld advised that after a play has been written, writers should "practice in front of a mirror the formal manners of theatre speech ... open your mouth wide, throw your head back, extend your arms to receive a completely strange woman who will embrace you on meeting and scream, 'Darlin!' The trick here is to get your 'Darling!' in before hers. This is no easy thing to do, but it is worth the effort. You will be respected not only as a playwright, but as a man of the theatre."

If you're a theatre junkie or know of one, read THE HIRSCHFELD CENTURY. You'll then want to keep it out, so that you can often look back at it.

D. Heard TOO SOON OLD, TOO LATE SMART: THIRTY TRUE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW NOW (Recorded Books), written by Gordon Livingston and narrated by James Jenner.

The author, who had served in Vietnam as a surgeon, returned to the U.S. and began work as a psychiatrist. He is also a parent who in one 13-month period, lost his eldest son to suicide and his youngest to leukemia.

Out of these and other experiences in his lifetime, Livingston developed these beliefs to remind us that while we can't escape what has happened to us, we are responsible for who we would want to be and where we want to go.

He presents each one, then elaborates on it in a few pages that will get you thinking.

For example, I especially enjoyed reading his thoughts about happiness:
The three components of happiness are something to do, someone to love and something to look forward to. Think about it. If we have useful work, sustaining relationships and the promise of pleasure, it is hard to be be unhappy.

Other topics that I liked included the following: The statute of limitations has expired on most of our childhood traumas. Feelings follow behavior. The problems of the elderly are frequently serious but seldom interesting.

And this one that I found especially relevant: Nobody likes to be told what to do.

So I won't tell you that you must get TOO SOON OLD, TOO LATE SMART, but if you do, you'll find it be quite thought-provoking.

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5. TV alert

A. TO TELL THE TRUTH: Premieres on Tues., June 14, at both 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. on ABC
Host Anthony Anderson revives this game-show classic that has game-show legend Betty White as one of the panelists.

B. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Premieres Tues. , June 14, at 9 p.m. on TNT
According to TV GUIDE, "This twisted crime-family saga stars a vibrant Ellen Barkin as decadent den mother Janine "Smurf" Cody, whose tribe of boys will do (and rob) anything to please her. The strong cast includes Scott Speedman and Shawn Hatosy as squabbling siblings who play rough and for keeps."

C. AMERICAN MASTERS profiles George Plimpton: Fri., June 17, at 9 p.m. on PBS. (PBS dates and times often vary, so check local listings.)
This is a repeat of an excellent epsiode about the participatory journalist. I've seen it previously, and I give it a strong recommendation.

D. CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL'S HIDDEN HEROES: Sundays at 8 a.m. CBS
Hidden cameras capture good deeds performed by heroes in action.

Note: I believe this is a syndicated show. If so, please check your local listings for a time and station that the show appears near you.

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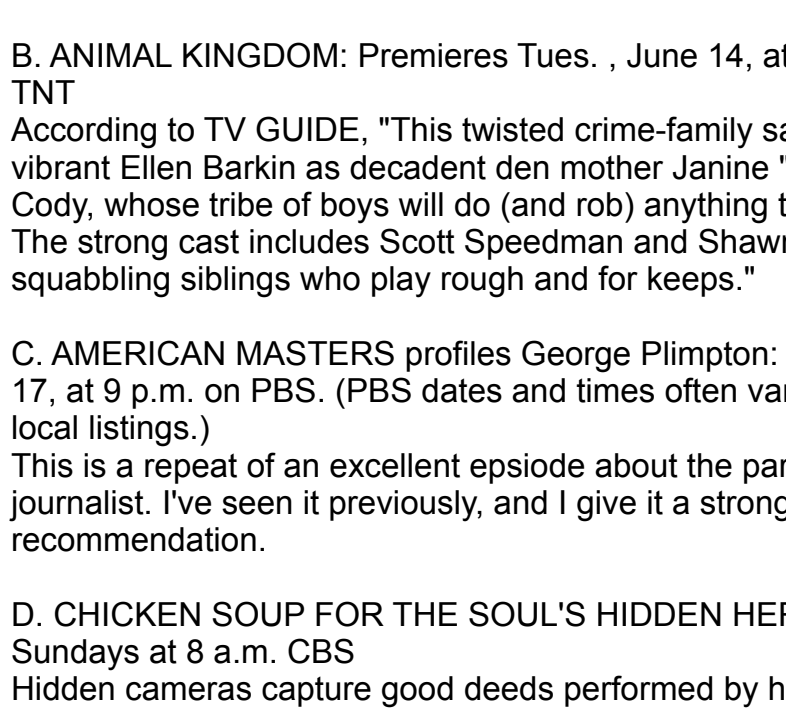
6. Joke 2

The Donald finally reveals all you need to know!



"My team of advisers is so fantastic it's unbelievable."

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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Robert Robinson: He lives in you
Here

(2) Jean D. in PA: Jay Leno parodies Taylor Swift's '22' music video as '63'.
Here

(3) Theresa P. in NC: North Carolina town adopts 45 orphan boys
Here

(4) Joey N. in NJ:: "I LOVE TO SINGA" AL JOLSON in 'THE SINGING KID' with Cab Calloway
Here

B. Want to make personal finance simple? Check out this Intuit-owned site that monitors bank accounts, credit cards, loans and investments safely in one place. Users set budgets in different areas (Bills & Utilities, Food & Dining, Mortgage & Rent, etc.) and Mint automatically categorizes charges, so you can better keep track of spending. To view it, please click:
Here

To read the pcmag.com review, please click:
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

Using Google, a quick way to translate foreign words is to type '"translate" the word you want translated into the language you want. So. for example, '"translate pomme to English" returns the result apple, and "translate pomme to Spanish" returns the result manzana.

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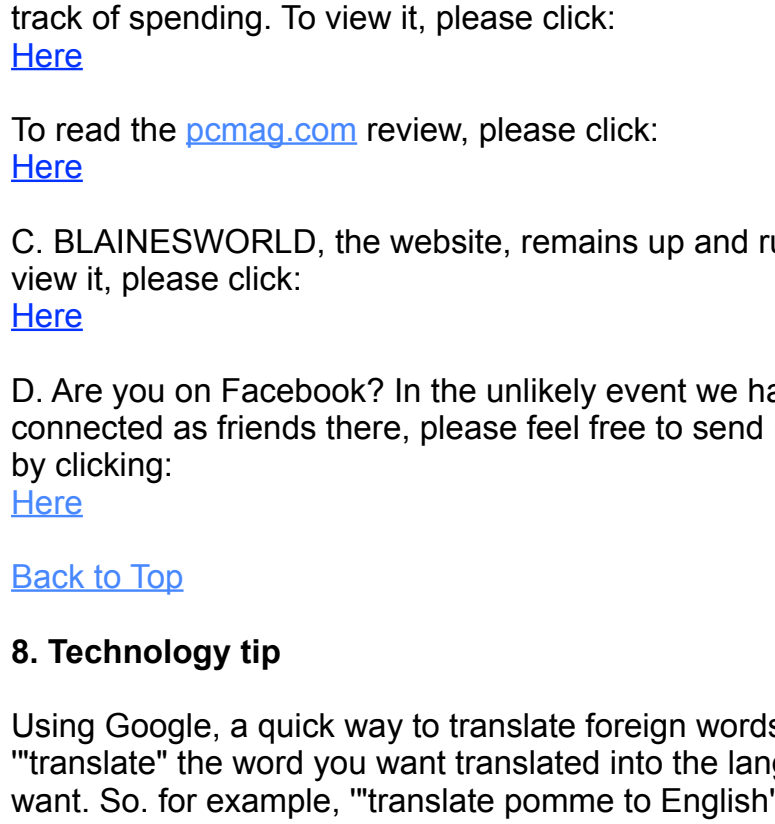
9. Joke 3

This guy brings his best friend home, unannounced, for dinner after work. His wife screams her head off while his friend sits open- mouthed and listens to the tirade. . . . "My bloody hair and makeup are not done, the house is a mess, the dishes aren't done. Can't you see I'm still in my pajamas, and I can't be bothered with cooking tonight! Why the f**k did you bring him home, you stupid idiot, without first calling?" . . . He replied, "Because he's thinking of getting married."



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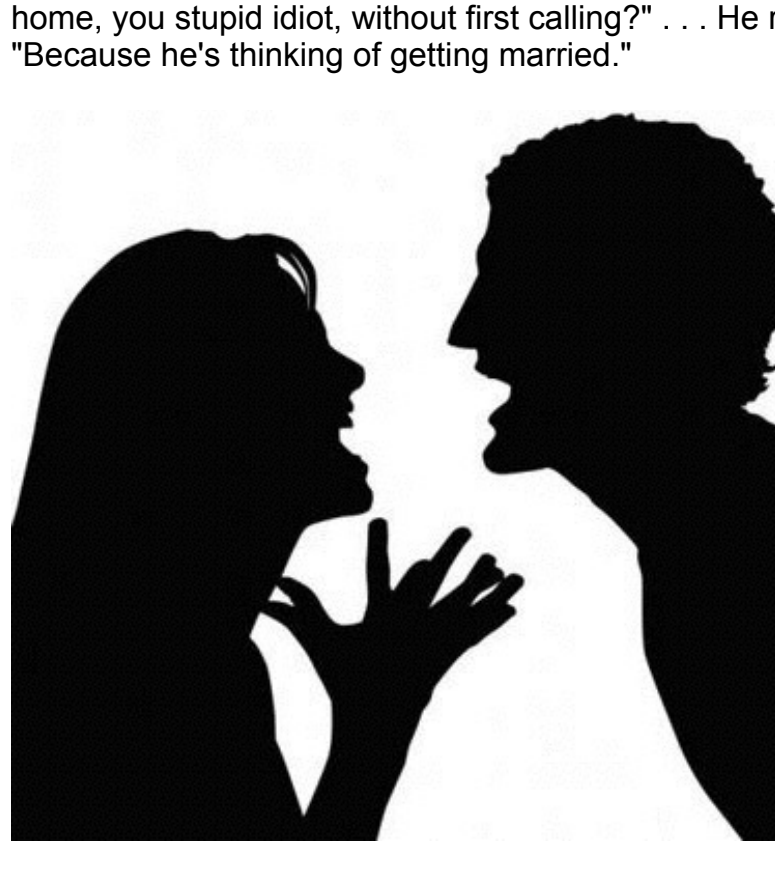
10. A quote I like

Gordie Howe (1928-2016), R.i.P. He was a Canadian professional hockey player who played 26 seasons in the National Hockey League and 6 seasons in the World Hockey Association. Nicknamed "Mr. Hockey," Howe is considered one of the greatest ice hockey players of all time.

For more of his quotes, please click:
Here

And for his obituary, please click:
Here



"You've got to love what you're doing. If you love it, you can overcome any handicap or the soreness or all the aches and pains, and continue to play for a long, long time."

Gordie Howe

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11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Amy S. in NC, for sharing the following from:
Here

Note to Self: "What is my purpose in life?" I asked the void. "What if I told you that you fulfilled it when you took an extra hour to talk to that kid about his life?" Said the voice. "Or when you paid for that young couple in that restaurant? Or when you saved that dog in traffic? Or when you tied your father's shoes for him? Your problem is that you equate purpose with goal-based achievements God or the universe or morality isn't interested in your achievements ... just your heart. When you choose to act out of kindness, compassion and love, you are already aligned with your true purpose, No need to look any further."

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12. Advance planning department

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

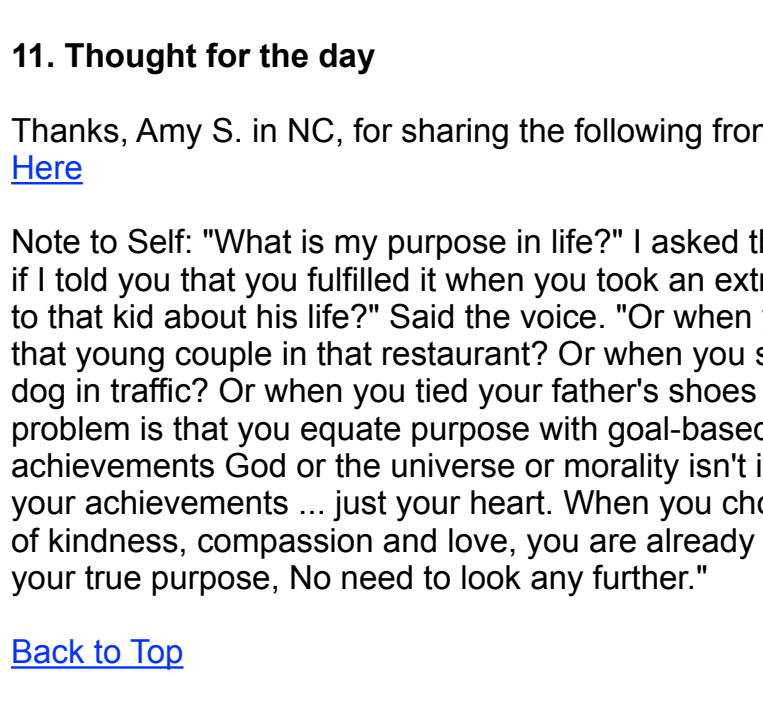
A. NC events

(1) David Joe Miller presents SKINNY DIPPING. (2) Dark Horse Theatre presents SIDESHOW. (3) Deep River to appear at Isis on Sun., July 3. (4) Don't miss Maureen Simon at the WWBC Conference. (5) An evening of mindreading at NC Stage. (6) Forty Fingers and a Missing Tooth at The Hop. (7) Different Strokes! presents THE MOUNTAINTOP.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Mart Shatto to appear in Bucks County. (2) HAMLET and BONNIE & CLYDE at Kelsey Theatre. (3) FANTASY TALES, a Bucks County Illustrators Society Showcase. (4) Bucks Sparkles.

PS. Hope y'all make it a fantastic Flag Day (my favorite holiday) on Tues.,
June 14 ...



"That's not quite what we're loooking for, Betsy."

Make it a wonderful week, too!

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