BLAINESWORLD

#1030
6.20.2016

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1. Reflections

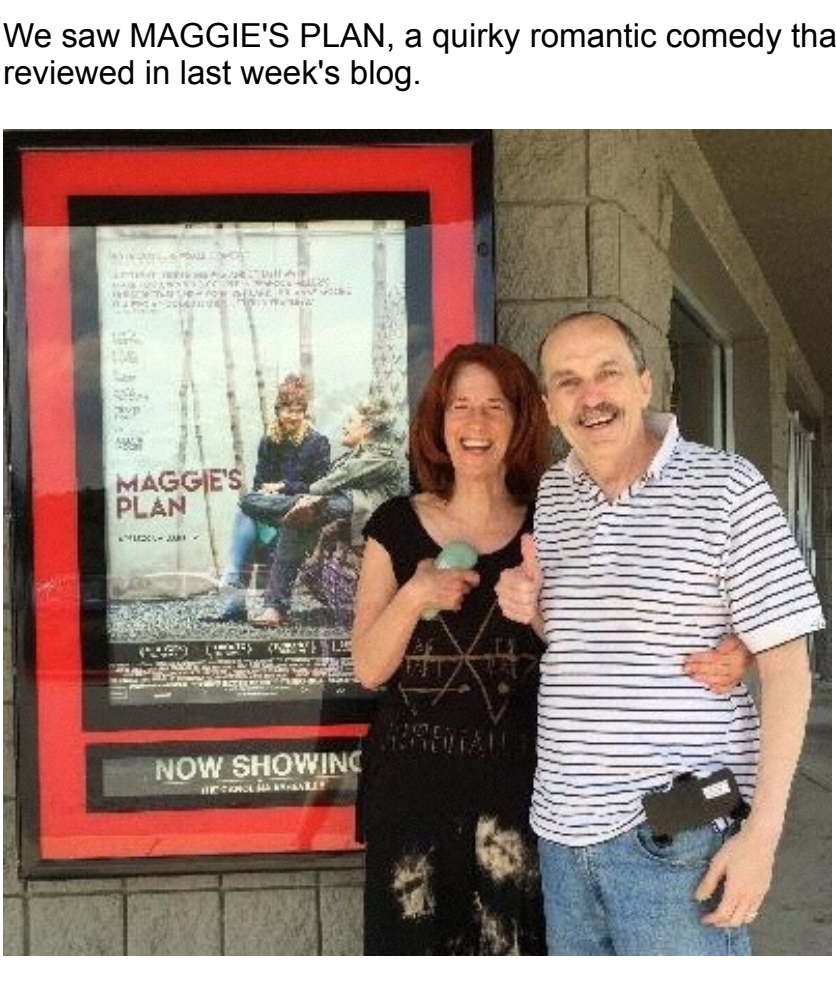
Note: See Section 7A for the first two websites. They are sure to make you laugh!

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) Got to celebrate my recent birthday together. I am truly blessed ... It was my best ever, too, thanks in large part because of the many wishes I received from Facebook friends--and others ... and, also, because I got to spend the day with her.

We saw MAGGIE'S PLAN, a quirky romantic comedy that I reviewed in last week's blog.



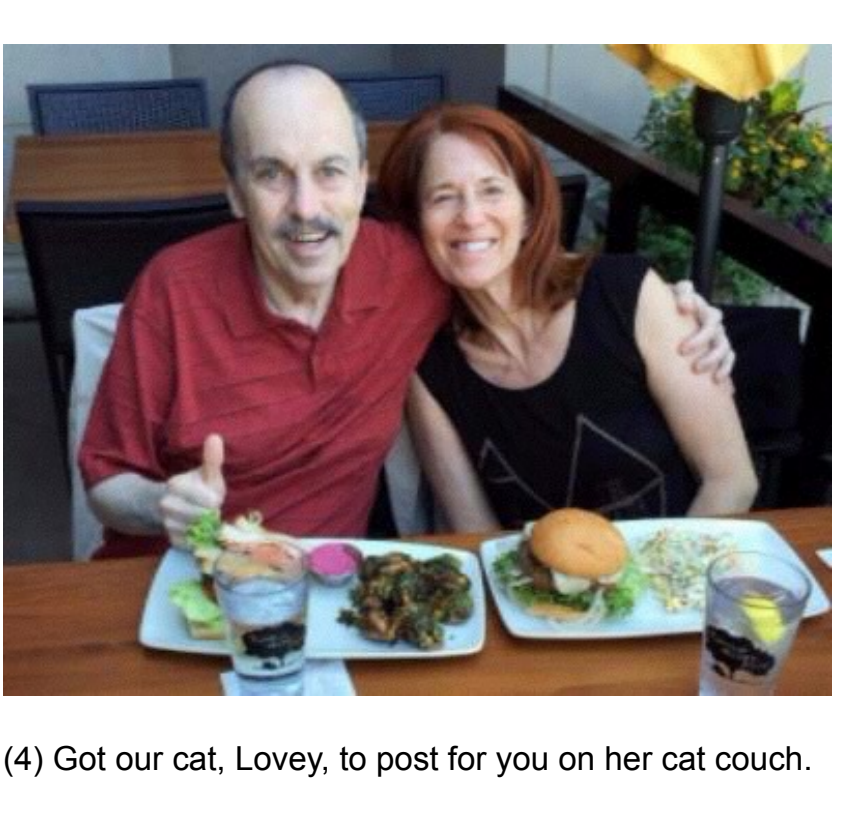
We then feasted on slob gob, a dinner that Cynthia made that contains noodles, ground beef and tomato sauce ... it was soooo good.

Lastly, we unpacked her gift to me: a height-adjustable standing desk that allows me to sit or stand while working. I already love it! For more information, please click:
Here

(2) Spent time with our neighbors and friends, Beth and Steve Byas, who we rarely get to see because they live in Airzona for most of the year. In the top picture, that's us with Beth where we had a tasty Chinese dinner at the Oriental Pavilion.

On another night, we had a delicious dinner with the both of them at 131 Main. Our server, Candy, was excellent.

(3) Had dinner at one of our favorite restaurants in the area, Tupelo Honey South on Hendersonville Road. We always like the food there.



(4) Got our cat, Lovey, to post for you on her cat couch.

B. During the week , I saw BRIEF ENCOUNTERS 2016, a showcase of one-act plays, all new and highly original. I enjoyed seeing Kathy O'Connor (below) in two of them, and I also enjoyed the performances of Jenni Robinson, Chrstine Eide, Cody Magorik, Steven Samuels and Elliot Weiner, among others. Kudos, also, to directors Jennifer Gatti, Adam Arthur and Jamieson Ridenhour, among others.

C. Condolences to:

(1) Mark Milberg and family on the passing of Sy Milberg, Mark's father-in-law.

(2) Michael Hennessey and family on the passing of Thomas (Tommy) Aquinas Hennessey, Michael's brother

(3) Michellle Baker and family on the passing of Rosalind Jane Baker, Michelle's grandmother.

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Fravella's for its fine video review done by George Pappas. To view it, please click:
Here

(2) And to George Pappas for his insightful comments on immigration in the CITIZEN-TIMES. To read them, please click:
Here

(3) The Dementia Society of America for the completion of its first STEP2RAISE campaign to raise Dementia & Brain Health Awareness in America! All totaled, an amazing 44,607,659 steps were walked by hundred of participants throughout the country. For more information about this campaign, please click:
Here

And for more information about the Dementia Society of America, please click:
Here

(4) Ezra Shanken for having his contract extended through 2022 by the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver.

(6) Cecile Kandl and Jim Anderson on their engagement.

(7) Jim Freeman on the publication of his latest book, BIBLICAL TIME OUT OF MIND: MYTHS, MAPS, AND MEMORIES, that he co-wrote with Tom Gage. To order a copy, please click:
Here

(8) Dr. Michael Trayford for being named to the Advisory Council of the Dementia Society of America.

(9) Laresa G. in NC, winner of Contest #12: a copy of MEETINGS THAT GET RESULTS by Brian Tracy. All told, there were five entries. And that reminds me that it's now time to introduce:

***** CONTEST #13 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of TIME MANAGEMENT by Brian Tracy. In this short but insightful book, the author shares his ideas on how to manage time efficiently. The key is to value your life by saying: "My life is something precious and important, and I value every single minute and hour of it. I'm going to use those hours properly." I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #1029 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #13 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, July 4, at 9 p.m.

E. Correction:
In last week's review of THE MOUTAINTOP, I misspelled the name of one of the two stars. It should have been Drez Ryan (and not Dez Ryan). Sorry 'bout that.

F. Reminders:

(1) SUNDAY, JUNE 26, IS THE NIGHT! ... That's when you get to see the World Premiere of MR. POSITIVITY, a 10-minute play written by Sunny Cook (center) about the life and times of yours truly--Blaine Greenfield. I kid you NOT. .... It starsJeff Messer (left) and other Asheville performers including Taylor Aldrich,Ellen Pappas, Carol Duermit, Rodney Smith, Steph Hickling Beckman,Chelsey Lee Mirheli, Ariel Casale, Badi Mirheli, Dan Clancy and EmilyShaules. ... In addition, you'll get to hear Rhoda Weaver sing. ... You can't beat the price: FREE. And the first 100 attendees get their very own left- and right-handed pencils. ... .For more information, please listen to this interview on Jeff's radio show at the 43 minute mark:
Here

Or click:
Here

the Revolution
880am

(2) Please join us at the next event of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum:

Wednesday, July 6
Time: 5:30 p.m., Registration and Networking; 6 p.m., Dinner and Speaker; and 7-7:30 p.m., Additional Networking
Location: Crown Plaza

Feel free to get a drink and/or order off the menu.

Topic: Has current legislature brought new concerns for your business and family in North Carolina? Come join us at the AJBF for an overview of House Bill 2, beyond the restroom issue, and an informative Transgender 101 Session led by Ezekiel Christopoulos.

Speaker: Ezekiel Christopoulos is a leader in the transgender movement, and has presented informational sessions at national, state, and local levels for the past fifteen years. He has addressed various public policy boards, legislative bodies, institutions of higher learning, nonprofits, faith leaders and congregations. His interviews appear in the Washington Post, BBC, and the New York Times. Ezekiel lives in Asheville, NC with his wife, and enjoys outdoor mountain activities, local breweries, and the incredible food culture Western North Carolina has to offer.

Note: You don't have to be Jewish to attend, but you must PRE-REGISTER. To do so, please send an email to: ashevillejbf@aol.com and put JULY 6 in the subject line. In the body of the email, include your name and let us know if any guests will be coming with you.

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

This week, it goes to Jeff Messer (see also Section F1)--the very multitalented radio host, actor, director, playwright, reviewer, etc.

Jeff is a true Renaissance guy. As indicated above, he hosts the popular "The Jeff Messer Show" on 880 the Revolution. He has also written a book, RED-STATE, WHITE-GUY BLUES that I both reviewed and enjoyed a few years back, and he is at work on a second one that will be due out around Election Day.

In addition, he has run his own theater company and has written more than 25 scripts as a playwright, and he has acted in several local productions.

And in his "spare" time, he somehow manages to review theatre for MOUNTAIN XPRESS while also serving as both a loving husband and father.

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2. FYI

Nap time! Researchers say sleeping twice a day is good for you by Scott Stump

It turns out when it comes to sleeping, we're like the new parent who enters from the other side of the carpool lane or the people who apply spray-on sunscreen on a windy day.

We're doing it wrong.

We should be sleeping twice a day in shorter chunks instead of one long block of tossing and turning through the night, according to a pair of Australian researchers.

For the rest of this interesting research, please click:
Here

FYI, part 2

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

(1) How to nap. (2) Closest thing to a wonder drug? Try exercise. (3) Goodbye, password. Banks opt to scan fingers and faces instead. (4) The hottest 13 new restaurants in Asheville. (5) Blackberry Winter Bake Shop. (6) Mark J. in NC: You know you're a theatre geek when ... (7) How the 'dining dead' got talking again. (8) For U.S. parents, a troubling happiness gap.
(9) Summer league team holding 'Second Amendment Education Night.'

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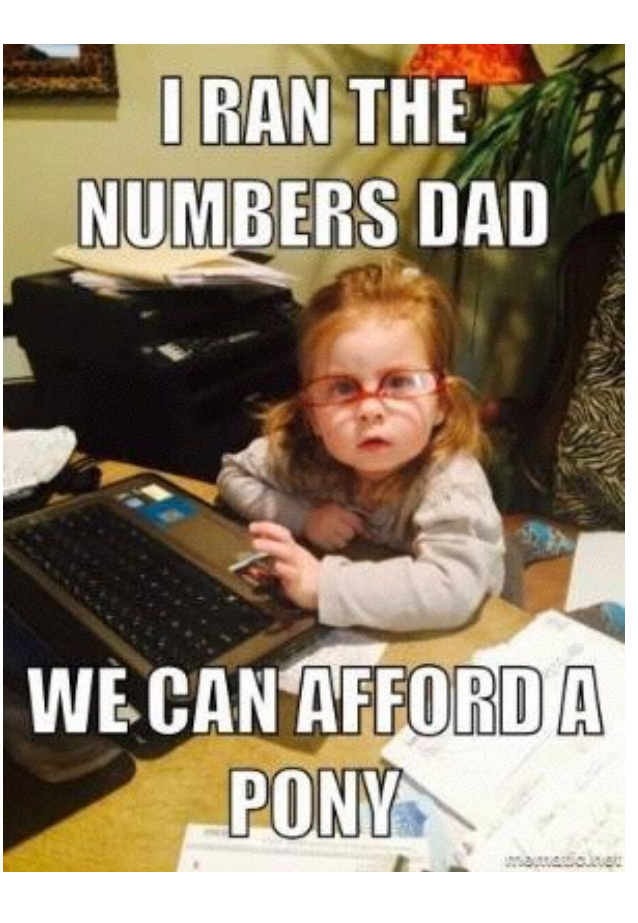
3. Joke 1

Sounds like something my daughter would say. And she's now 37!"


I RAN THE NUMBERS DAD
WE CAN AFFORD A PONY

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4. Reviews

A. Saw THE FITS, a drama about an 11-year-old girl who joins a dance drill team at her local rec center. Soon afterward, her new teammates and friends begin to suffer from fainting episodes. The film got glowing reviews, but I didn't like it at all. There's very little dialogues, and I kept wondering if anything was ever going to happen. Rated NR.

B. Out on DVD is MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 2. My review from BLAINESWORLD #1019 follows:
Saw MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 2, a follow-up to the 2002 smash hit about a Greek family. The entire cast of favorites returns, this time for an even bigger and better Greek wedding that as might be expected, faces many problems along the way. The film contains many stereotypes and is quite predictable, yet overall, it was a lot of fun if you're not in the mood for anything deep. You'll also enjoy how it ends. Rated PG-13.

C. Read FEEDBACK RULES! 52 WAYS TO LISTEN TO YOUR STAKEHOLDERS (Brigatine Media), written by Doug Madenberg and Brian Numainville and illustrated by Steve Hickner.

The authors, both part of the Retail Feedback Group, stress the importance of getting feedback from the stakeholders of your business--customers, employees, members, business partners and more.

They do so by presenting 52 short, thought-provoking rules that apply to organizations of all kinds. In thinking about them, I only wish that they had been available before I've done some surveys.

For example:
If you don't already know the answer in collecting feedback, never ask a question if you can't change the situation afterward. ... Let's say that you are constructing a survey about a retail store. The store has a tight parking lot but there is nothing that can be done to improve the situation. The survey includes a question asking customers to rate the parking lot, and then asks for suggestions about the parking lot. ... By asking the question about the parking lot, the retailer has done nothing but remind the respondent of a problem that can't be fixed.

And then there's this recommendation:
To get to the "why," incorporate open-ended questions as part of the process.

I'm amazed at how often this simply isn't done. Too bad, in that I would have loved to have given the recommendation to such companies to read FEEDBACK RULES!

D. Heard MY LOST BROTHERS: THE UNTOLD STORY BY THE YARNELL HILL FIRE'S LONE SURVIVOR (Hachette Audio) by Brendan McDonough with Stephan Talty and read by John Glouchevitch.

McDonough had been a troubled youth, and he was a heroin addict. But then he enlisted in the Granite Mountain Hotshots, a team of elite firefighters in Prescott, Arizona.And in large part because of the efforts of Eric March, the group's leader, he was able to turn his life around.

He eventually battled a number of blazes, winning the confidence of the men he came to call his brothers.

Then, on June 30, 2013, while McDonough served as lookout, a 3,000-degree inferno trapped his hotshot brothers, killing all 19 of them within minutes.

The book presents a harrowing account of what happened and made me better appreciate the heroism of all firefighters.

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5. TV alert

A. ABC SUNDAY FUN & GAMES: Sun., June 26, at 8 p.m. on ABC
Watch a full night of retro game-show revivals. Steve Harvest hosts CELEBRITY FAMILY FEUD, followed by Michael Strahan hosting THE $100,000 PYRAMID and then Alec Baldwin fronting an all-star MATCH GAME.

B. THE PARENT TRAP: Tues., June 28m at 8 p.m. on TCM
Identical twins change places to reunite their divorced parents after they meet at summer camp for the first time. This is the original 1961 version, and it should be seen for no other reason than to see how well Hayley Mills play each of the twin sisters.

C. GREATEST HITS: Season premiere on Thurs., June 30, at 9 p.m. on ABC
The show, hosted by Arsenio Hall and singer-songwriter Kalesa Ballerini, features current musical artists either signing the songs of their mentors or pairing up with industry icons to perform tunes that defined those decades.

D. If you have Netflix, there's always a lot of good TV to watch. For example, you can catch such oldies as QUANTUM LEAP, THE WONDER YEARS, THE WEST WING, FRIENDS and FREAKS AND GEEKS--to name just a few. For others, please click:
Here

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6. Joke 2

Three Italian nuns die and go to heaven where they are met by St. Peter. He says, "Ladies, you all led such wonderful lives that I'm granting you six months to go back to Earth and be anyone you want." . . . First nun: "I want-a to be Sophia Loren, the most beautiful woman of all time" and <poof!> she's gone. ... Second nun: "I want-a to be Madonna, the best singer ever" and <poof!> she's gone. ... Third nun: "I want-a to be Sara Pipalini, the world's sexiest woman ." ... St. Peter: "I'm sorry, but that name doesn't register." ... The nun then takes a newspaper out of her habit and hands it to St. Peter. He reads the headline and hands the paper back, telling her, "No Sister, this says 'Sahara Pipeline laid by 500 men!' "

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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Neil R. in NC: Presidential graduation speech
Here

(2) Tom Mabe - Telemarketer Prank Call Murder Scene on the Bob and Tom Show
Here

(3) Johnny Cash: I've Been Everywhere - With Lyrics
Here

(4) Losing my mind: Bernadette Peter
Here

B. Are you bored? If so, why don't you Sneeze Dragon? Click as many times as you want to make the dragon sneeze as hard as you want.
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

Mark Zuckerberg Covers His Laptop Camera. You Should Consider It, Too.
by Katie Rogers

Mark Zuckerberg is one of the most powerful men in the world because billions of people give Facebook, which he founded, free access to their personal data. In return, users receive carefully curated snapshots of his life: baby photos, mundane office tours and the occasional 5K.

On Tuesday, observers were reminded that Mr. Zuckerberg, 32, is not just a normal guy who enjoys running and quiet dinners with friends. In a photoposted to his Facebook account, he celebrated the growing user base of Instagram, which is owned by Facebook. An eagle-eyed Twitter user named Chris Olson noticed that in the image's background, his laptop camera and microphone jack appeared to be covered with tape.

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

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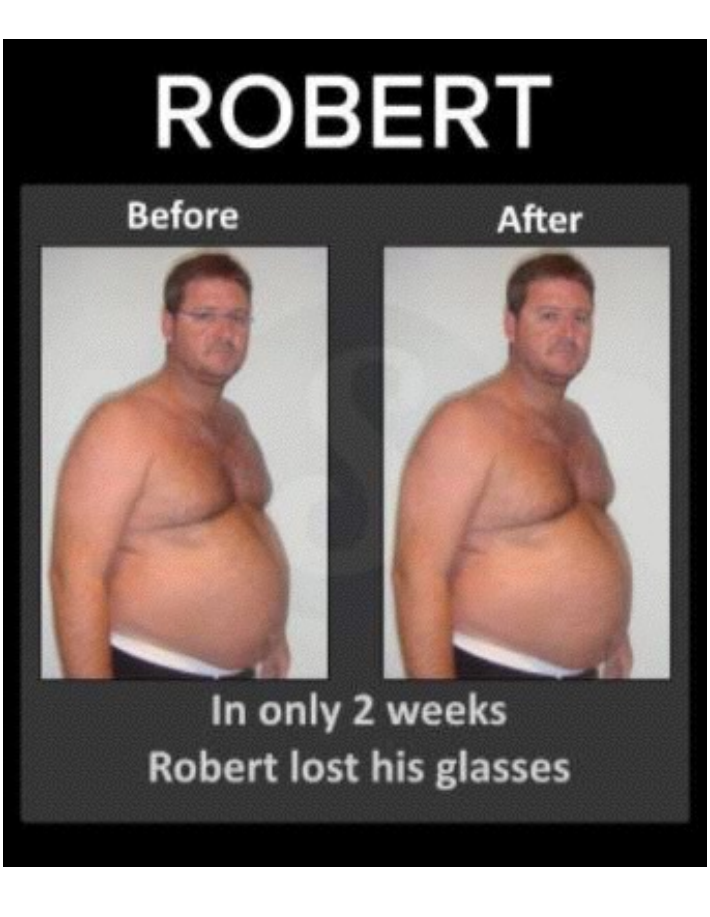
9. Joke 3

I am very impressed with my friend's progress and can't wait to see what happens after 4 weeks!



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10. A quote I like

"For a home party to be successful, I recommend inviting someone who you think is more interesting than yourself. Someone you think is smart. Or someone you think has a better sense of humor than you do."--Hidetwo Takahashi, head of Tokyo's Home Party Association as quoted in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. To read the whole article, "House Parties Could Be Big in Japan if People Knew How to Throw Them," please click:
Here

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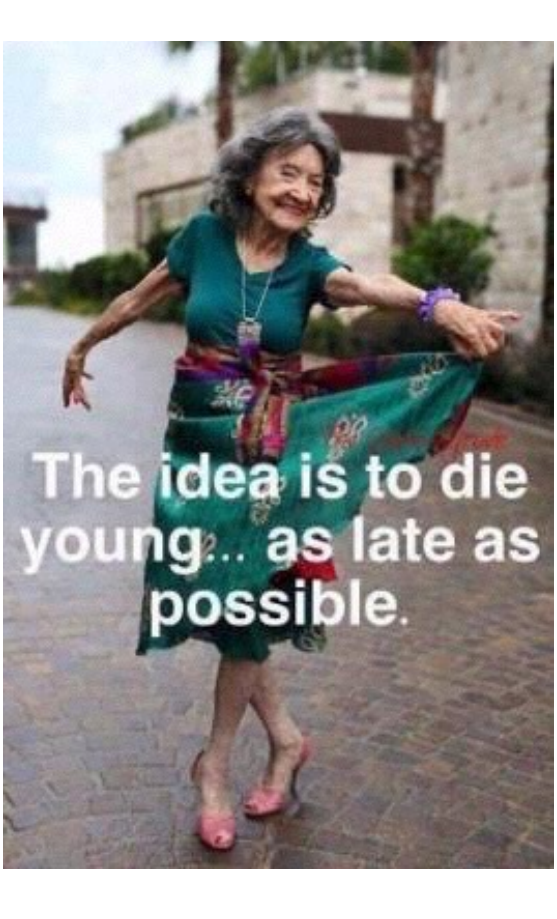
11. Thought for the day

Amen--and awomen, too!


The idea is to die young... as late as possible.

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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) CAPITAL LIAR. (2) Ignition Nights.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Summer Celebration at Bucks County Cabaret. (2) 'Willy Wonka' Musical Promises Sweet Family Entertainment at MCCC's Kelsey Theatre.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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