BLAINESWORLD

#977
6.15.2015

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1. Reflections

Note: See Section 7A for a website you'll want to check out.

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

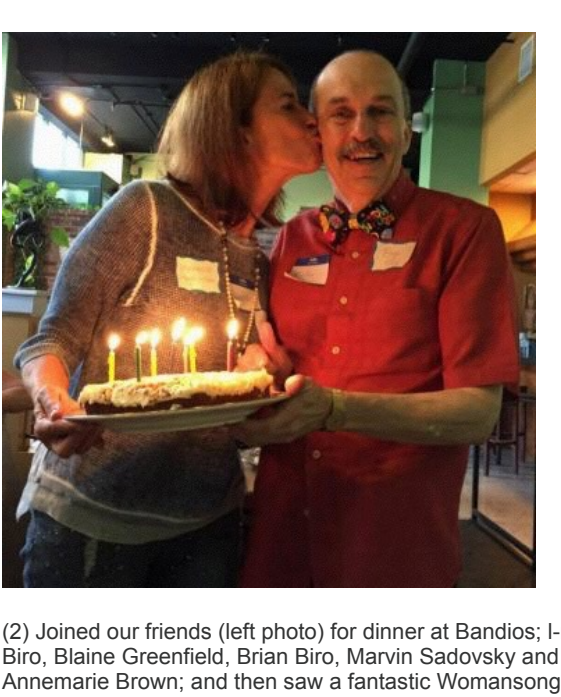
A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Celebrated my surprise "almost 60" birthday party with a bunch of friends at the Asheville Pinball Museum (top photo) and dinner at Thai Tara (bottom photo). The pinball was a lot of fun, and the food was great. For more pictures, please click:
https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153339577644757.1073741869.519364756&type=1&l=2e6426df92

Kudos to Tom Gallagher for having the highest pinball score that day. He won a T-shirt for his efforts.

And whatever you do, don't miss this stirring rendition of "Happy Birthday" sung by the incomparable Annemarie Brown:
https://youtu.be/iAXuqOaPEXw

Note: The above surprise had to do with the fact that we didn't tell anybody about the fact that they were going to be playing pinball until they met us at the museum. Also, in case you're wondering, I'm now actually 66 ... but most folks don't think I'm a day over 65. To me, that makes me "almost 60."



(2) Joined our friends (left photo) for dinner at Bandios; l-r: Carole Biro, Blaine Greenfield, Brian Biro, Marvin Sadovsky and Annemarie Brown; and then saw a fantastic Womansong concert that had another friend of ours, Sunny Ruble (next to me in the right photo) as one of the many talented singers.

(3) Enjoyed seeing another friend, Ellen Pappas, in a delightful production of DUETS. She was great, as was Bruce Martin (her co-performer) and Lenora Thom (the musical director).

B. During the week, I:

(1) Attended Asheville SCORE's Sponsors Appreciation event at MG Road. Picture with me, l-r: Steve White and Duane Adams. For more pictures, please click:
https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153327475654757.1073741868.519364756&type=1&l=6092d5a875

CHAMPAGNE
MG ROAD
NIGHT'S SPECIALS

(2) Survived the audition for BUSINESS SINGS BROADWAY (see also Section C and the BLANESWORLD BEST AWARD winner) and, afterward, celebrated that fact with two other survivors (Annemarie Brown and Marvin Sadovsky) over a tasty lunch at Zen Sushi.

C. Reminders:

(1) PLEASE HOLD THE DATE: Saturday, July 11, at 7:30 p.m. ... you'll get to see me perform in BUSINESS SINGS BROADWAY, a tuneful fundraiser forAsheville Community Theatre. I'll be joined by my other friends in this picture: L-R, front row: George Pappas, Annemarie Brown and Bruce Martin; L-R, back row: Blaine Greenfield, Mike Martinelli, Doug Hauschild, Marvin C. Sadovsky and Keith Challenger, along with many other local Asheville personalities. ... For tickets, please click:
http://tinyurl.com/pxn6jot

ASHEVILLE
Performing Arts

(2) There's still time to enter ...

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

One lucky winner will receive a copy of PROOF OF HEAVEN: A NEUROSURGEON'S JOURNEY INTO THE AFTERLIFE by Eben Alexander, M.D., the true story of what happened when a neurosurgeon's brain was attacked by a rare disease. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #943 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #13" 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, June 22.

Note: In the unlikely event you don't already get my BLAINESWORLD blog, just send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line. You'll then get my weekly missive that contains jokes, hopefully not toooo risque; websites; information about both Asheville and my old stomping ground (PA/NJ), etc.

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Ann Geddes upon her retirement from Bucks County Community College after 35 years of service.

(2) Sally Butcher on her Summa Cum Laude graduation from the Paralegal Studies program at South College, as well as on her new job as
financial technician for the U.S. District Court.

(3) Katie Morris on her acceptance into Florida Atlantic University's Master of Nonprofit Management program, as well as on her new position as a Graduate Assistant in FAU's Donor Relations and Stewardship Department.

(4) Tom Gallagher on being recognized for the great work he does for Pisgah Legal. To read more, please click:
http://www.hendersonvillelightning.com/news/4093-tenants-drop-claims-in-return-for-promise-of-repairs.html#.VYB4rYbhBIg.facebook

(5) Howard Debs for being published in I Am Not A Silent Poet : "Baltimore Mom Proves Violence Is America's Answer" and in Dissident Voice: "Ferguson-Rashomon."

E. Condolences to:

(1) Lisa Angelo and family on the passing of Louis Giuffrida, Lisa's father. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in his memory to: Annunciation B.V.M. Church, 10th and Dickinson Sts., Philadelphia, PA 19147.

(2) Cory Adam and family on the passing of Neil Lavey, Cory's spouse. Memorial contributions in Neil's name may be made to: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Foundation, P.O. Box 781352, Philadelphia, PA 19178.

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

This week, it goes to Lenora Thom--musical director of the upcoming BUSINESS SINGS BROADWAY. (See above.)

To see why I nominated her, please read the following email I recently sent her:
Many thanks for spending time with me today for my "audition."

It was a actually a life-changing experience for me!

As I told you, when I was 5 or 6, my mother took me to see a music teacher about the possibility of getting me lessons. The fact that I never had any left a lasting impression on me; i.e., that I had no talent for singing.

I thereafter never sang a full song (other than "Happy Birthday") until last year's "Business Sings Broadway." But because of you, as well as Jerry, I got through that experience--in large part because it didn't require me to sing just by myself.

So when you had me come in today , I was apprehensive at first. But you made the experience both easy and fun. In addition, I even found myself getting emotional when you had me sing "You'll Never Walk Alone" because you had me doing something I never thought I would do.

Your positive comments afterward were also very much appreciated.

Note: Lenora Thom also heads a very successful music studio. For more information about both her and studio, please click:
http://lenorathom.com/

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2. FYI

Thanks, Vickie in NC, for sharing the following heads up:
SCAM: IRS called yesterday - left a message - I LUCKILY wrote down the number that they were calling from (thank God for Charter's * 69 - service) - and then I called the # they left - he said there was a LAWSUIT against me and started asking me personal questions (DO NOT GIVE OUT ANY INFO ON THE PHONE - do not tell them SS Numbers, etc.).

I said "are you really the IRS" - he answered the phone that way (by the way) - and he said "F" off and hung up.

I called the Sheriffs department - and they "know" all about it - but you all need to know that when you answer the phone, you need to be careful! DO NOT GIVE OUT INFO TO ANYONE that you are not "SURE" of/

Was gonna file a complaint w/ the fraud division (federal government) but couldn't get through. Buncombe County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit - says they are investigating calls like this!

Note: At around the same time, I got a similar call from this number: 917-267-7945.

I investigated it via this website:
http://800notes.com/Phone.aspx/1-917-267-7945

Here was one of many similar responses:
Mary
14 Jun 2015
Left a robo call caller id - unknown name 1-917-267-7945. Pretending to be the IRS that we were being sued for taxes to resolve by calling them back. The IRS would never call you. They are scammers - don't give any info.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Bill K. in CA: Roy Orbnson - I Drove All Night
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5N9IHqqGcA&feature=share

(2) Carol S. in FL: Bark to order
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja-XjciJKkE

(3) Carol S. in PA: Cute corgi puppies
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eb1tO_B74xE

(4) Annemarie E. in NJ: Smart phones in the future
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M073lPmxK1M

B. Other

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

(1) Chuck S. in NJ: Accidental engineering: 10 mistakes turned into innovation. (2) Carol S. in PA: Eating Chocolate Associated With Lower Risk Of Stroke, Heart Problems. (3) How to Pick a Cellphone Plan for Traveling Abroad. (4) Marty D. in PA: Ever watch "The Butler"? (5) What It's Like as a 'Girl' in the Lab. (6) Ken G. in GA: Saw the movie [LOVE & MERCY] as well. (7) Bill K. in CA: First, hoping you had a fun filled birthday, and a great year ahead. (8) Marty S. in PA: I forwarded your newsletter to my older brother in Berks County.

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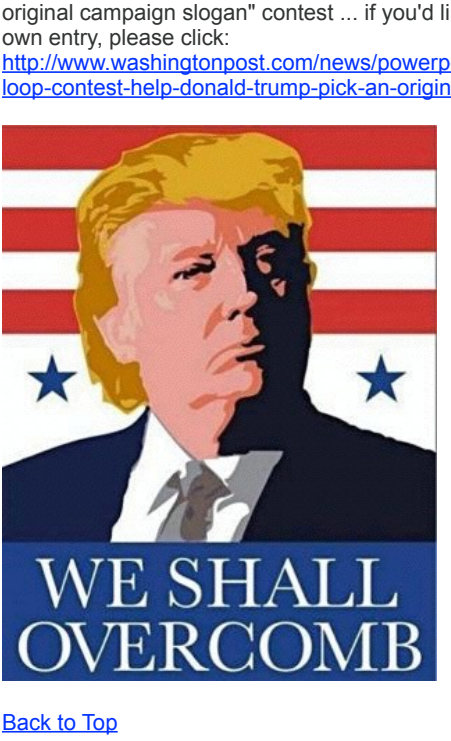
3. Joke 1

Better, for sure, than TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT! Methinks it could even be a winning entry in the "Help Donald Trump pick an original campaign slogan" contest ... if you'd like to submit your own entry, please click:
http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2015/06/17/loop-contest-help-donald-trump-pick-an-original-campaign-slogan/



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4. Reviews

A. Saw SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS, a sweet drama about a widow who discovers that life can start again if you're just open to the possibilities. Blythe Danner is superb as the woman who decides to embark on a friendship with her poor maintenance guy at the same time she enters into a new love relationship with Sam Elliott (who is also excellent). Rated PG-13.

B. THE WRECKING CREW is now out on DVD ... my review from BLAINESWORLD #975 follows:
Saw THE WRECKING CREW, a documentary about the unsung musicians who provided the sound behind many of the hits of the 1960s and early 1970s. You won't know many of their names, but you will recognize the songs from Nancy Sinatra, The Monkees, The Byrds and The Beach Boys, among others. It is also the perfect film to see before viewing LOVE & MERCY (the just-released biopic about Brian Wilson). Rated PG.

C. Read WORD PLAY: HOW WORDS CAPTIVATE, ILLUMINATE, INTIMIDATE, INFORM AND IMBUE US WITH INTELLIGENCE (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform) by Glenn Bassett.

The author, a retired professor, has written this book as a layman's introduction to psycholinguistics. He shows how words can and are used to shape behavior in such diverse fields as politics, advertising, economics, science and philosophy.

I especially thought his insight into the middle east was on target: The Arab way is expressed simply as "Me against my brother, me and my brother against my cousin, me, my brother and my cousin against the world." ... The law that regulates tie irregular social fabric is, literally, The Word. The Quran and religous fatwa determine what is good and just. There are no secular courts to assure consistent interpretation of the law. ... Interpretation of The Word shifts with social and environmental circumstance.

In addition, I liked his inclusion of several academic studies and how he succinctly summarized them.

D. Heard THE LIFE AND LEGEND OF CHRIS KYLE: AMERICAN SNIPER, NAVY SEAL (Hachette Audio), written by Michael J. Mooney and read by Brian Troxell.

This is a short, easy-to-read or listen to book about the man who became a legend among his Navy SEAL brethren.

I would have liked to have seen more about his experiences while overseas, but I guess that's why they invented the very fine movie about his life: AMERICAN SNIPER.

For those not familiar with Kyle's story, this is a perfect introduction to it.

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5. TV alert

A. REQUIEM FOR THE DEAD: AMERICAN SPRING 2014: Mon., June 22, at 9 p.m. on HBO
Deaths from gun violence in the spring of 2014 are spotlighted.

B. POV: Mon., June 22, at 10 p.m. on PBS (Note: PBS times and dates often vary, so check local listings.)
"Out in the Night" profiles four black lesbian friends who, according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "are fascinating examples of citizens who become collateral damage amid the complementary interests of politically motivated judges, prosecutors, police and even tabloid headline writers."

C. ANOTHER PERIOD. Premieres on Tues., June 23, at 10:30 p.m. on COMEDY CENTRAL.
I love how TV GUIDE describes this show: "If DOWNTOWN ABBEY and KEEPING UP WITH THE KARDASHIANS had an illicit love child, it'd be
[this show]," a "new mockumentary about an absurdly wealthy family living large in early 1900s Newport, RI."

D. REAL SPORTS WITH BRYANT GUMBEL. Tuesday, June 28, at 10 p.m. on HBO
Tonight's show is slated to focus on head trauma in youth soccer.

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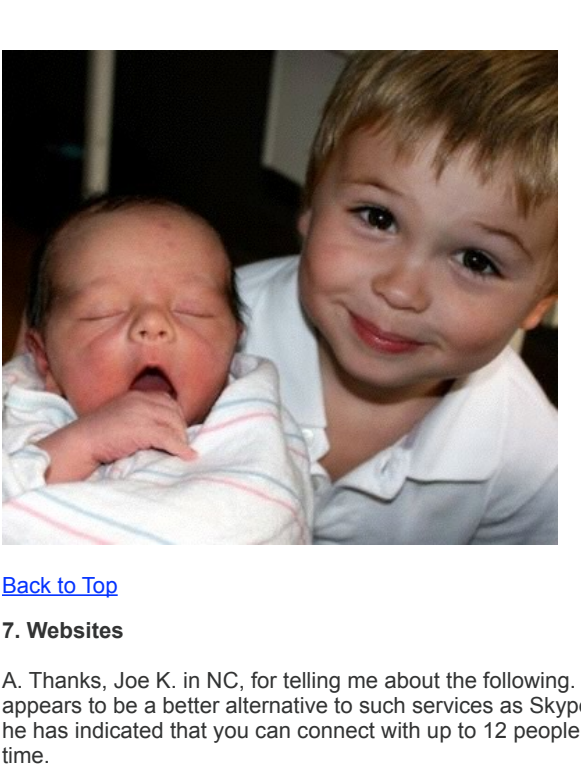
6. Joke 2

When I was born, my brother told me to not let my folks circumcise me. He warned, "If they do, you won't be able to walk for two years." ... I couldn't speak at the time, so I tried to make this request with my eyes. My parents ignored me and had the procedure done. ... And damned if my brother wasn't right; I couldn't walk for two years!



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7. Websites

A. Thanks, Joe K. in NC, for telling me about the following. It appears to be a better alternative to such services as Skype. And he has indicated that you can connect with up to 12 people at a time.

Connect with friends and family on any device.
ooVoo is everywhere. We're available on Amazon Fire Phone, Android Smartphone, Android Tablet, iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, Mac, Windows Phone, and PC.
http://www.oovoo.com/

For more information, check this review:
http://video-chat-im-software-review.toptenreviews.com/oovoo-review.html

Note: If anybody has tried this and/or is familar with this, please let me know what you think about it.

B. Tera B. in NC: Deputy sits in hot car for 25 minutes!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dnq8Sz_wHCM&feature=youtu.be

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

If you want to know what you can find here, read what's in the box at the very top of this page.

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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Like us on Facebook

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8. Technology tip

Is your broadband service acting up? With a smartphone and a Twitter account, you might be able to skip the lengthy wait times on hold for a customer-service representative and use your cellular connection more productively.

For the rest of this useful tip, please click:
http://tinyurl.com/po93vhh

Note: The above also gives advice on what to do if you don't have a Twitter account.

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9. Joke 3

A dedicated Teamsters union worker was attending a convention in Las Vegas and decided to check out the local brothels. He finally found one where the Madam said, "This is a union house. We observe all union rules." ... The man asked, "And, if I pay you $100, what cut do the girls get?" ... "The girls get $80. and the house gets $20." ... "That's fair," the union man said and handed the Madam $100. He then looked around the room, saw a beautiful blonde and said, ""I'd like her." ... "I'm sure you would, sir," said the Madam, ""but Ethel here has 67 years seniority and according to union rules, she's next!" ... And now you know why unions are losing membership!

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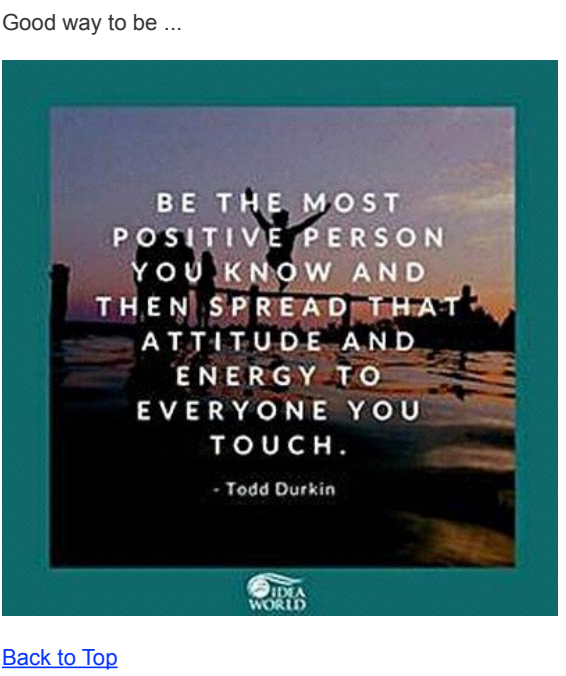
10. A quote I like

Good way to be ...


BE THE MOST POSITIVE PERSON YOU KNOW AND THEN SPREAD THAT ATTITUDE AND ENERGY TO EVERYONE YOU TOUCH.

- Todd Durkin

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11. Thought for the day

Make the Ordinary Come Alive
by William Martin

Do not ask your children
to strive for extraordinary lives.
Such striving may seem admirable,
but it is the way of foolishness.
Help them instead to find the wonder
and the marvel of an ordinary life.
Show them the joy of tasting
tomatoes, apples and pears.
Show them how to cry
when pets and people die.
Show them the infinite pleasure
in the touch of a hand.
And make the ordinary come alive for them.
The extraordinary will take care of itself.

Source: THE PARENT'S TAO TE CHING: ANCIENT ADVICE FOR MODERN PARENTS

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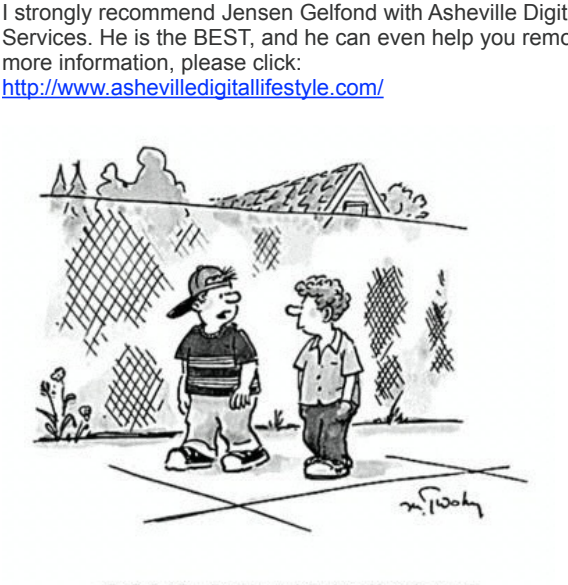
12. Advance planning department

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

(1) Barbara Brady in NC: Come to my talk!: WALKING THE CAMINO: A SPIRITUAL QUEST. (2) ESLEY: THE LIFE AND MUSICAL LEGACY OF LESLIE RIDDLE. (3) SART presents: PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES. (4) CJ Breland in NC: Asheville, if you have not seen our current production [COYOTE ON A FENCE], get your tickets now. It has been extended through June 27. (5) Walter Beals in NC: Fix the 40th Finger!

PS. HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! ... If you're a dad or if your dad is still around, this would be the perfect gift for him . If you only have the memory of your dad, think how he would have appreciated such a gift. (Mine would have!) ... And if you're looking for somebody to supply such support for cellphones, computers, etc., I strongly recommend Jensen Gelfond with Asheville Digital Services. He is the BEST, and he can even help you remotely. For more information, please click:
http://www.ashevilledigitallifestyle.com/



"For Father's Day, I'm giving my dad an hour of free tech support."

Also, make it a fantastic first day of summer (on Sun/, June 21) ... and enjoy the rest of your week!

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