BLAINESWORLD

#1034
7.18.2016

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1. Reflections

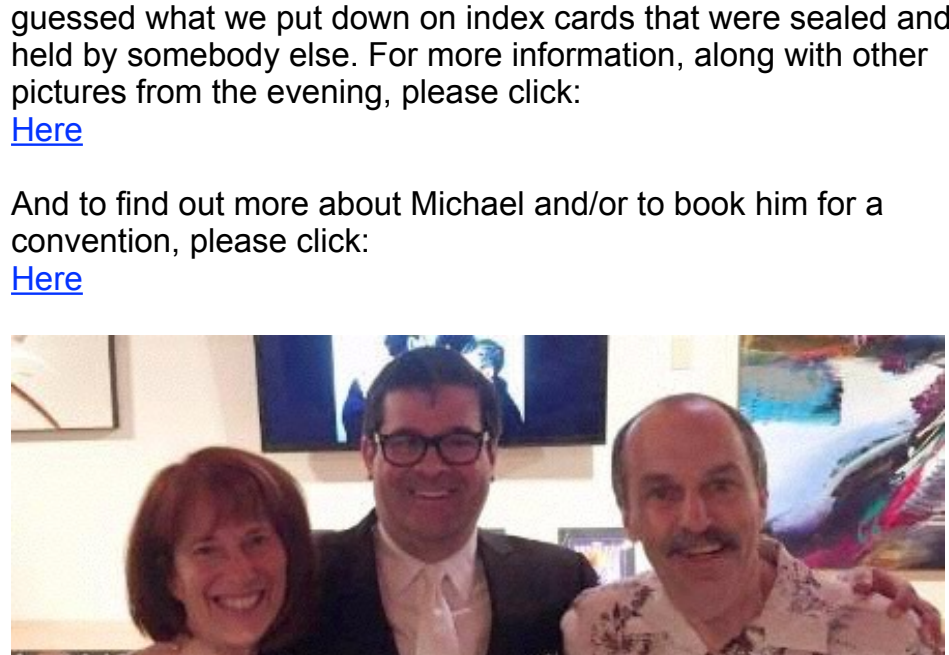
Note: Please see Section 7B for a website that help you block out unwanted noise

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) Were mesmerized by Michael Spremulli's mindreading performance at NC Stage Company. We still don't know how he guessed what we put down on index cards that were sealed and held by somebody else. For more information, along with other pictures from the evening, please click:
Here

And to find out more about Michael and/or to book him for a convention, please click:
Here



(2) Enjoyed Asheville Lyric Opera's magnificent production of MAN OF LA MANCHA, along with our friends Karen Mazza and George Pappas. Pictured: Scott Wichael who was excellent as Sancho. Kudos, also, to David Malis and Donata Cucinotta as, respectively, Don Quixote and Aldonza, as well as to David Craig Starkey for his stage direction, Lyle Laney for his choreography and Dominic Aquillino for his fight direction. And I'd be remiss if I also didn't cite the work of two members of the orchestra: Vance Reese, bass, and Fred Lemmons, clarinet.

From there, we went to Champa--our favorite Asian restaurant in downtown Asheville. I particularly like their pineapple fried rice that they make for me with brown rice, coconut sauce and chicken, and the fact that Alex Pasaribu gives us great service. Pictured, l-r: Cynthia, me, George Pappas, Karen Mazza and Jeff Baker.

(3) Dined at the Smokey Park Supper Club where we had steak sandwiches that were as good as we've ever had. We always great service there and this night was no exception--thanks to Andrea.

(4) Dined, also, at The Local Joint with our friends Tom and Marcy Gallagher. They have great sandwiches and, also, a carrot cake that will make you want to forget any diet you may be on. Anastasia was our friendly server.

B. During the week, I had the pleasure of meeting with two of my SCORE clients: Tom Healy and Samantha Healy. They are showing me a better hospital gown that they have invented. For more information, please click this article that Samantha has written:
Here

Note: We met where we usually meet: Atlanta Bread on Merimon. I just heard that they will be closing that location. Bummer!

C. Condolences to:

(1) Ariel Casale.and family on the passing of Ariel's grandmother.

(2) The family of Dr. Charles Rollins on the passing of Dr. Rollins, Bucks County Community College's first President. There will be a memorial service for him at the College on Aug 2 at 4 p.m. in the Solarium in the Rollins Center.

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Jason Odell Williams on the great review of his new play, CHURCH AND STATE. To read it, please click:
Here

(2) Steve Sullivan on his promotion to Professor at Bucks County Community College.

(3) Reggie Kelly on his appearance on the TODAY show. You can see it by clicking:
Here

(4) Joe McDermott on passing his real estate course in Pennsylvania.

E. Invitations to:

(1) Still enter ...

***** CONTEST #15 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of FEEDBACK RULES! 52 WAYS TO LISTEN TO YOUR SHAREHOLDERS by Doug Maudenberg and Brian Numaninville. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #1030 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #15 in the subject line. In the body of the email, please include your caption and, also, your name and snail mail address. All entries must be received on or before Monday, July 25, at 9 p.m.

(2) Attend the next meeting of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum:
David Feingold, general manager of WCQS and CEO of Western North Carolina Public Radio, Inc., will be the speaker at the August 3 event at Crowne Plaza, 1 Resort Drive, Asheville.

His topic will be "WCQS: An Independent Voice For Challenging Times."

Registration and networking will be at 5:30 p.m. with the program starting at 6 o'clock with additional networking at 7 p.m.

Guests (both Jewish and non-Jewish) are always welcomed to attend the Jewish Business Forum events. To register for this event, please hit REPLY to this email. In the body of the email, include your name, along with a phone number where you can be reached in case registration is closed. Let us know if you will be bringing anybody with you.

For additional information, contact Blaine Greenfield, president of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum, at bginbc@aol.com or via phone:828.633.1049.

For registration information, as well as the chance to win a beautiful painting, please click:
Here

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

This week, it goes to Ann Gottfried, medical lab technician, at Our Family Doctor in Asheville.

She is the person I see when I have to give blood, which is typically once a year.

I often times have problem with the procedure; in fact, I'm the only person I know who has been banned from Red Cross Blood Drives! (I used to run them at Bucks County Community College. One time, near closing, I went to give blood. I fainted. They were not happy because they were getting ready to pack up. They asked me not to come back.)

But I digress ...

The other day, I saw Ann prior to my annual physical. She had me out of there within five minutes--and left me smiling, too, that I survived without any problems.

What's also good: It is now two days later, and I don't even show any bruising.

I wouldn't say that I will be looking forward to giving blood next year, but because of Ann, I no longer fear having to do so.

Ann is part of an excellent practice that also features Dr. Michael Weizman, my physician; Dr. Meredith Polansky, Cynthia's physician; Dr. Andrea Preston who we have both seen from time to time; Brandy, one of many fine medical assistants; and everybody else there. For more information about Our Family Doctor, please click:
Here

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2. FYI

Why Land and Homes Actually Tend to Be Disappointing Investments
by Robert J. Shiller

Buy land: They're not making it anymore. That often repeated adage sounds like good financial advice.

But over the long run, it hasn't been. Despite solid price increases over the last few years, land and homes have actually been disappointing investments. It's worth considering why.

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

FYI, part 2

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

(1) Can running make you smarter? (2) Why Jet Lag Can Feel Worse When You Travel West to East. (3) Repeat After Me: Cold Does Not Increase Odds of Catching Cold. (4) Ed H. in NC: I actually met this fellow, Bob Mazur [the real-life guy that THE INFILTRAOR was based on], a couple of years ago in Tampa. (5) What Google learned from its quest to build the perfect team. (6) The incalculable value of finding a job you love. (7) Jean B. in PA: Blaine, You are quite a remarkable guy!

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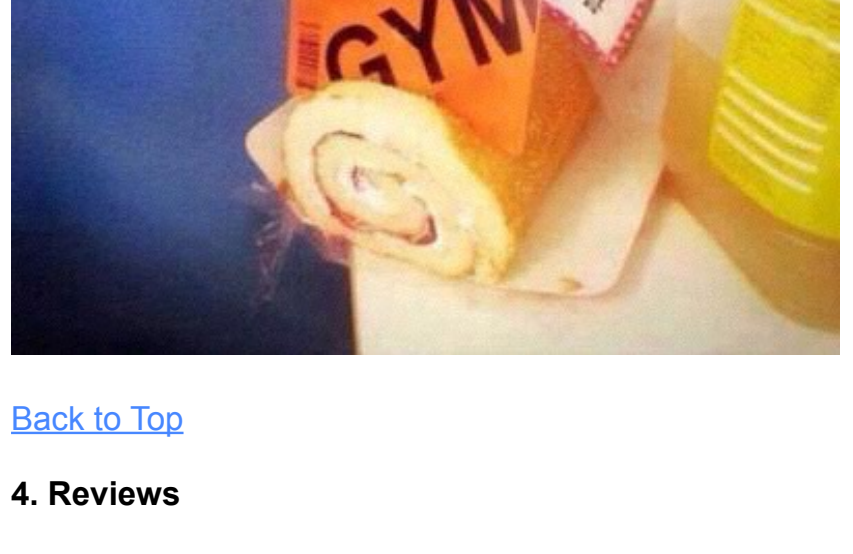
3. Joke 1

My kind of exercise!



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4. Reviews

A. Saw CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE, a predictable but occasionally funny comedy that pairs Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart as two high school classmates whose lives took different turns upon graduation. The action scenes aren't very well done, but the film was saved by the great chemistry between the two stars. You'll also enjoy the cameo appearances by unbilled actors, as well as the sweet ending. Don't rush out to see it in the theatres, but methinks you might enjoy it as a rental as long as you're not expecting anything great. Rated PG-13.

B. SING STREET is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #1024 follows:
Saw SING STREET, a sweet drama with music about a 14-year-old boy who forms a band to win the heart of a mysterious older girl in Dublin in the 1980s. There's great music and fine acting from newcomers Ferdia Walsh-Peelo and Lucy Boynton. If you're in the mood for a feel-good film, catch this one. Rated PG-13.

C. Read HOW DO I KEEP MY EMPLOYEES MOTIVATED? THE PRACTICE OF EMPATHY-BASED MANAGEMENT (River Grove Books) by George Langelett.

The author, a professor of management and economics at South Dakota State University, contends that rather than just focus on what's in the best interest of the organization, managers should work to help "each employee mature and become successful through professional development" and that will be "the best investments any organization can make."

Throughout the book, there were great examples of paired discussions--the first showing a typical back and forth, and the second showing a better response that used empathy.

And I especially liked one section that featured 30 examples of how an empathetic manager might respond to 30 different commonplace human emotions. Among them:
Employee: Bored
Manager: "It would have been hard for me to not fall asleep."

Employee: Embarrassed
Manager: "I would have turned bright red if that had happened to me."

Employee: Frightened
Manager: "Whoa! I would have freaked out."

Employee: Overwhelmed
Manager" "Wow, where do you even start?"

Typically, I'll skim over an Appendix in a book, but Langelett includes an excellent one that include a great journey through theories of motivation. In addition, I liked both the worksheets that he included, as well as his recommendations for further reading.

D. Heard THE CRUCIBLE (L.A. Theatre Works) by Arthur Miller and starring Stacy Keach, Richard Dreyfuss, Hector Elizondo, Michael York and Ed Begley, Jr., among others.

This was an excellent full-length version of Miller's classic play about the with-hunts and trials in 17th century Salem. Written in 1952, it reflected the anti-communist hysteria that engulfed the United States at the time.

What's scary is that in many respects, it reminds me of what's now happening with respect to the anti-immigration stance being held by many Americans.

My only regret is that there aren't more such plays available in this format.

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5. TV alert

A. AMERICA'S GOT TALENT: Tues., July 26, at 8 p.m. on NBC
The popular competition show moves into its live phase with the 12 contestants appearing on the Dolby Theatre stage to compete for viewers' votes.

B. SING IT ON: Season premiere on Wed., July 27, at 9 p.m. on POP
Four university singing teams compete in this reality a cappella series.

C. LOOKING: THE MOVIE: Thurs. July 28, at 9:30 p.m. on HBO2
Canceled after two seasons, this slice of San Francisco gay life finds closure in this special movie.

D. LAST CHANCE U: Miniseries premiere on Fri, July 29, via streaming on NETFLIX
MITT director turns from politics to college football, turning his attention to new recruits of East Mississippi Community College--an undefeated team know for helping elite athletes who have been held back by academic or behavioral issues.

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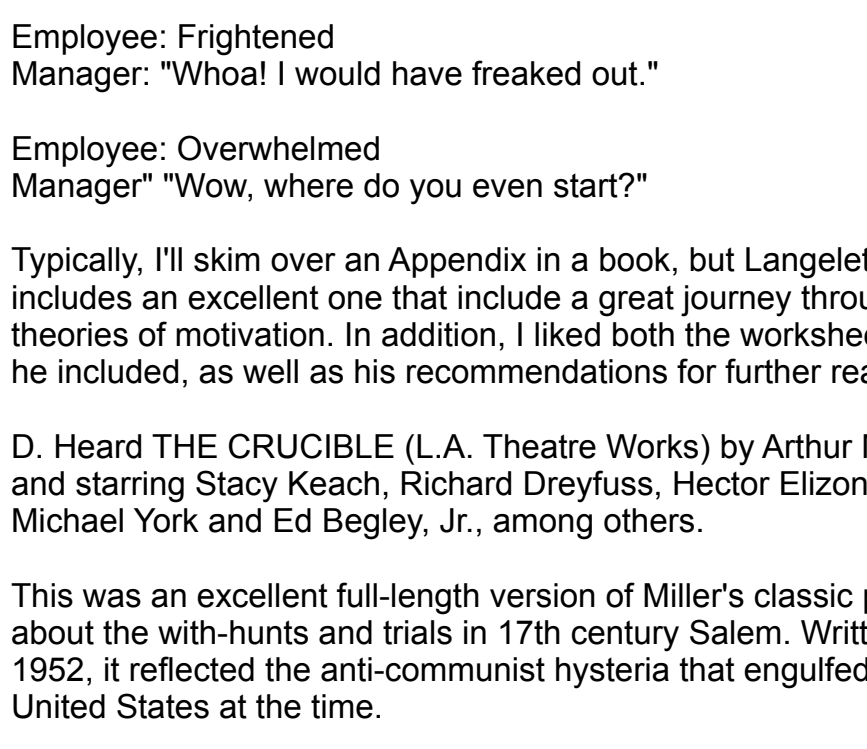
6. Joke 2

Just what you don't want to hear! Right up there with a surgeon crying, "Ooops" in the middle of your operation.


...YOU'VE GOT THE WHOLE PLANE TO YOURSELF! THE LARGE GROUP GOING TO THE PSYCHIC CONVENTION ALL CANCELED AT THE LAST MOMENT!
11/27
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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Suzanne R. in NC: This spoof of Melania Trump's RNC speech is absolutely hilarious
Here

(2) And Suzanne R. in NC, again: "Trumped" Starring Matthew Broderick & Nathan Lane
Here

(3) Carole B. in NC: First Lady Michelle Obama Carpool Karaoke
Here

(4) Arlene S. in PA: Gershwin-Wonderful ... you will really enjoy this!
Here

B. If you have noise disturbance around you, just plug in your headphones and select the ambient sounds you would prefer. (You can also listen to this via your computer.) Choices include Rain, Wind, Thunder, Birds and many others. To listen to them, 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

Something NOT to do ...

Wife texts husband on a cold winter's morning: "Windows frozen, won't open." ... Husband responds: "Pour some lukewarm water over it and gently tap edges with hammer." ... Wife texts back, 5 minutes later: "Computer really messed up now."

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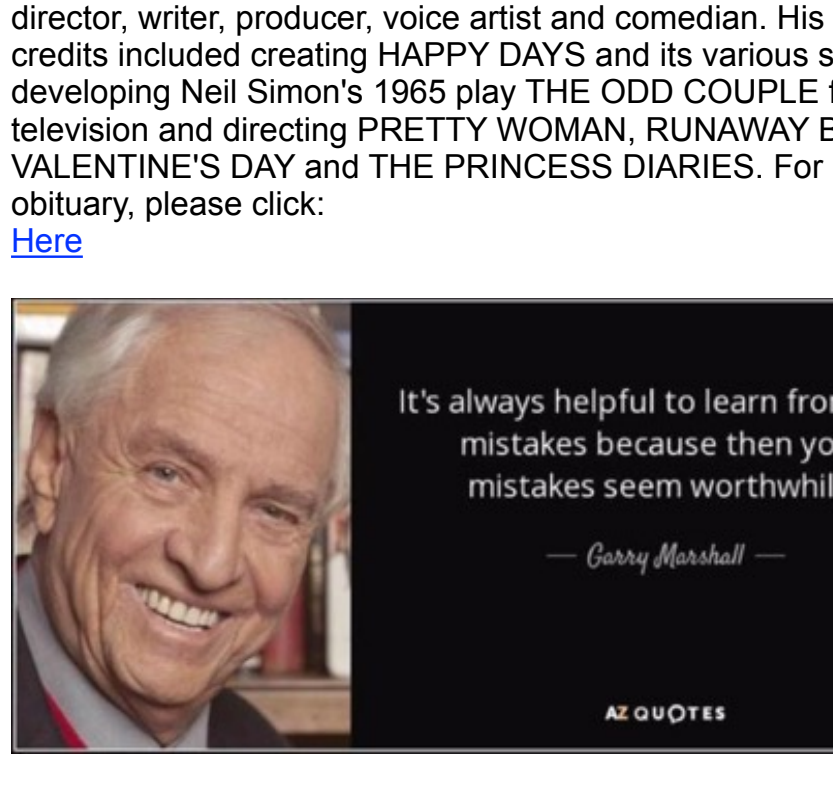
9. Joke 3

EROTIC SEX . . . a Japanese couple is arguing about what hot things they want in the bedroom. Husband exclaims: "Sukitaki. mojitaka!" ... Wife replies: "Kowanini! mowi janakpa!" ... Husband says angrily: "Toka a anji rodi roumi yakoo!" ... Wife on her knees, literally begging: "Mimi nakoundinda tinkouji!" ... Husband shouts angrily: "Na miaou kina Tim kouji!" ... I can't believe you just sat there trying to read this as if you understood Japanese. You'll read anything as long as it's about sex. Sometimes I worry about you.



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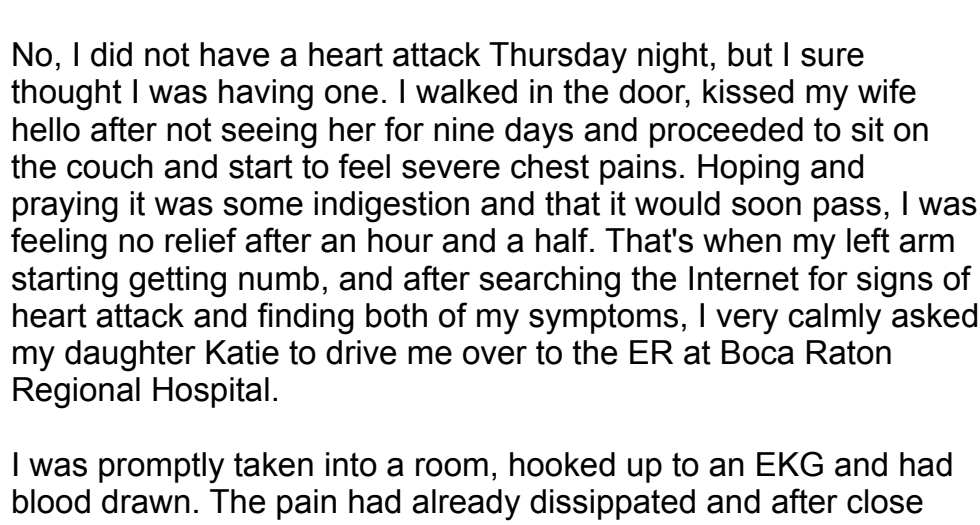
10. A quote I like

Garry Marshall (1934-2016), R.I.P. He was an American actor, director, writer, producer, voice artist and comedian. His notable credits included creating HAPPY DAYS and its various spin-offs, developing Neil Simon's 1965 play THE ODD COUPLE for television and directing PRETTY WOMAN, RUNAWAY BRIDE, VALENTINE'S DAY and THE PRINCESS DIARIES. For his obituary, please click:
Here



It's always helpful to learn from your mistakes because then your mistakes seem worthwhile.

— Garry Marshall —

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11. Thought for the day

Thanks my Florida friend, Brad Morris (pictured with his lovely wife Iva), for allowing me to run the following that he recently posted on Facebook:

Did I Have a Heart Attack Thursday Night?

No, I did not have a heart attack Thursday night, but I sure thought I was having one. I walked in the door, kissed my wife hello after not seeing her for nine days and proceeded to sit on the couch and start to feel severe chest pains. Hoping and praying it was some indigestion and that it would soon pass, I was feeling no relief after an hour and a half. That's when my left arm starting getting numb, and after searching the Internet for signs of heart attack and finding both of my symptoms, I very calmly asked my daughter Katie to drive me over to the ER at Boca Raton Regional Hospital.

I was promptly taken into a room, hooked up to an EKG and had blood drawn. The pain had already dissipated and after close examination, they suggested I check in overnight for observation and additional blood work. Of course my first reaction was to go home, but my wife the nurse who showed up at the ER after being called by Katie insisted that I stay the night.

After explaining that I had just spent the past five weeks running back and forth to Asheville to move a house full of furniture, they feared that I may have developed a clot in my leg from all those twelve hour drives, but a CT Scan revealed no clotting.

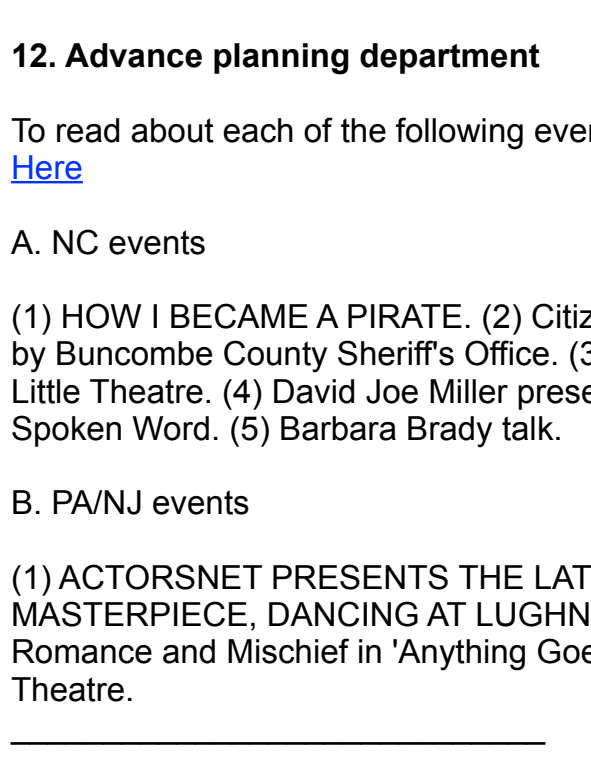
I did indeed stay the night, had additional blood drawn and then had an echo cardiogram which ultimately revealed no heart damage. So I DID NOT HAVE A HEART ATTACK. What I did have was major stress and luckily, had no side effects.

So what's the moral of this story? Actually there are several. The first of which is if you are feeling any of the possible symptoms of a heart attack, by all means go and get checked out just to be sure. This is not the type of thing you want to ignore.

Other morals of this story are that I had 24 hours of time laying in that hospital bed with time to ponder my life, and ultimately, what would have happened to my family if I had lost my life. The key is to make all of your preparations now, for a will, a living will, any financial or personal arrangements that your family might need in the event that you are no longer there to care for them.

And the final message in all of this is to live your life to the max each day, as if it were your last. Give to others, love your family and friends and enjoy all the amazing wonders that this life has blessed us with.

Brad Morris
Florida Real Estate Broker
561.289.4451



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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) HOW I BECAME A PIRATE. (2) Citizen Academy, sponsored by Buncombe County Sheriff's Office. (3) GODSPELL at Brevard Little Theatre. (4) David Joe Miller presents: A celebration of Spoken Word. (5) Barbara Brady talk.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) ACTORSNET PRESENTS THE LATE BRIAN FRIEL's MASTERPIECE, DANCING AT LUGHNASA. (2) Board a Ship to Romance and Mischief in 'Anything Goes' at MCCC's Kelsey Theatre.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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