BLAINESWORLD

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1. Reflections

Note: See Section 1C for information on the sit down debut of Bill Lewis

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:
Here

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I spent a rare week apart, in that I made my "Annual Trek Up North." It was a lot of fun, but just not the same without her!

B. During the week, I:

(1) Saw my daughter Risa and son-in-law JP Reavely's beautiful new home in West Orange, NJ. I then got to join them for brunch at the Caldwell Diner--one of my favorite such establishments. Too bad we don't have any similar diners in Western North Carolina.

(2) Sang "Happy Together," arguably the greatest rock song of all time, with my friend John Strauss. To view the performance for yourself, please click:
Here

We were joined for oh-so-tasty ice cream at Zebra Striped Whale with many other friends. Two of them, Chuck Schwing and Todd Siben, even joined-in with the music for the afternoon. To view some of the other songs, please click any of the following links:
Here
Here
Here

(3) Met a whole bunch of friends at Poco's in Doylestown, PA, for some great food, then a fantastic Comedy Cabaret show: Pictured with me: Ann Redfield and Kevin Jameson.

www.comedycabaret.com

(4) Participated in the InService program at Bucks County and then attended the first union meeting of the year. It almost felt like old times, especially because I got to take a walk with my longtime friend Maureen McCreadie in Tyler State Park. Afterward, I got a kick seeing this picture in Maureen's office that showed me (around 1986 when I had a beard) with several of my fellow union officers, l-r: Lou Hoelzle, Bill Heaslip, Maureen, Bunny Conn and Sylvia Pearlman.

(5) Met with my trusted financial advisers, Ed Kohlhepp Jr. and Ed Kohlhepp Sr., at Kohlhepp Advisors. When it comes to investment advice, they are the absolute best--and so is their firm. For more information, click:
[Here]

150
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(6) Visited my friend Lisa Zaglin at Aark Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center, the Chalfont-based non-profit center that treats injured or orphaned mammals, songbirds and raptors.

(7) Had dinner at Moish and Itzy's, another of my favorite places, with my friends, l-r: Phyllis Miller, Jeff Dershin, Natalie Kaye and Ivan Winegar. This is another type eatery I'd really like to have in Asheville; i.e., a real good Jewish deli.

From there, we went to Langhorne Players' fantastic production of SPEED THE PLOW. Both Jack Bathke and Emma Wells were outstanding in two of the leading roles; however, an actor by the name of Barry Jay Abramowitz really caught our attention. I hope to see him in future shows when I return to the area. We also appreciated Lorie Baldwin's fine direction.

I got a special kick out of seeing a plaque in the lobby of the theatre. It cited Lois Carr, an actress/director I had previous admired when I lived in Bucks County.

(8) To see the aforementioned plaque, along with plenty of other pictures from
my time in Pennsylvania, please click:
Here

You'll also see me at Livingston Bagel with Marty Litchman, my brother-in-law, eating the best corned beef sandwich; me at DeLorenzo's Tomato Pies with Herb Spiegel, my small business guru, and Al Sternberg, my college professor/longtime mentor, having pizza that can't be topped; me at Jake's Eatery with friends Rod Richards and Brian Cohen, displaying a thumbs up for food that's always great ; me at Colonial Farms with a muffin that can't be beat;etc.

Do you see pattern here; i.e., that I like to go to such places--particularly with good friends?

C. Plan to join me:

(1) Upcoming Asheville Jewish Business Forum event ...

Date: Tuesday September 8
Time: 6-7 p.m. (Come early from 5:30-6 p.m. or stay late from 7-7:30 p.m. for networking)
Location: Highland Brewing, 12 Old Charlotte St., Asheville, NC

Speaker: Leah Wong Ashburn, President of Highland Brewing Company, about her company, which was established in 1984. It was the first legal brewery in Asheville since Prohibition. A tour of the brewery will be available to those who attend.

Cost: $10/member; $15/non-member. Includes food from Fatz Cafe. Beverages at your own cost.

To register, please go to "Register Now" at the bottom of the following page:
Here

Note: If you're not yet a member of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum and you wish to join at this time, there is also a special rate of $50 that includes the cost for this meeting. You save $15 that way.

(2) At YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN! ... I'm honored to have been chosen by Jerry Crouch, director extraordinaire, as one of the special "alternating" stars--rotating weeks with the very talented Mike Martinelli ... the show runs from Oct. 1-25 at Asheville Community Theatre, and I hope y'all can catch me in my two weeks, either Oct. 2-4 or Oct. 16-18.

Note: Save $10/ticket by coming to a special performance on Thursday, Oct. 15, at 7:30 p.m. To get tickets for just that night, make a check out for $18/tickets, payable to "Asheville Jewish Business Forum," and mail it, along with a stamped return envelope, to: Blaine Greenfield, 19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way, Biltmore Lake, NC 28715.

And to get you psyched, check out these 15 things you might not know about YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN:
Here

(Thanks, Chuck T. in NC for sharing the above.)

(3) Sit down debut of Bill Lewis

Date: Saturday, October 10
Time: 9-11 p.m.
Location: Comedy Cabaret, Northeast Philadelphia, 1580 Roosevelt Blvd, Philadelphia, PA

If you're a fan or friend of Bill Lewis, like I am, come see him dazzle the Comedy Cabaret audience. Stay tuned for information on how to get your tickets (it will be posted here in the near future), and to find out how you can pay the discounted rate of just $10/ticket.... In the meantime: 1. Please put the date on your busy social calendar; and 2. Let me know if you'd be interested in the possibility of meeting beforehand for dinner that evening.... Note: If you're not available for this event and would like to get together with me some other time, message me or send an email to: bginbc@aol.com. I'll be "in" from Oct. 7-11. ... Best, Blaine (Greenfield), founder and president emeritus of the Bill Lewis Fan Club ... PS. Please click picture below to see it at full size--and to find out how Bill is preparing for his debut.

D. Oversight department: When I wrote last week's issue, I did not have my program handy from Asheville Community Theatrre's outstanding production of NOW NOW, DARLING. So aside from the fine performances from Jerry Crouch and Steven Turner (that I already mentioned), I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the other cast members--all of whom were excellent: Emily Crock, Kristen Donelle Livengood, Jorja Ursin, Michael Keene, Bruce Gruber, Heather Snipes, Rachel Adams, Cary Nichols and Christian Carmean. Ralph Redpath's direction was spot on, as was the Jack Lindsay's scenic design. And kudos to Deborah Austin for her costume design.

E. Congratulations to:

(1) Tracy Johnson-Crum of the Grove Park Inn on her interview at the 19:23 mark on NC WEEKEND. To view it, please click:
Here

(2) Howard Debs on having his latest poem, "Windows, Doors, And Walls," just published in Poetry Life and Times. To read it, please click:
Here

(3) Jennifer Alivernini on being hired by OEOCRDM. She will be doing
"Reasonable Accommodations."

(4) Eileen Rosenfeld Barker on becoming a grandmother for the first time.

(5) Michelle Louzon on being profiled in SOPHIE MAGAZINE. To read the piece, please click:
Here

(6) Joe Kaplan and Jensen Gelfond on being named to the Board of Directors of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum.

(7) Gwen H. in NC, winner of Contest #18: a copy of BOGUS BALANCE: YOUR JOURNEY TO REAL WORK/LIFE BLISS by Deirdre Maloney. All told, there were just 3 entries. And that reminds me that it's now time to introduce ...

***** CONTEST #19 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of HIDDEN STRENGTHS by Thuy Sindell and Milo Sindell. To quote from the book's description on Amazon.com: "Using assessments, exercises, and case studies, the Sindells help you identify your most promising middle skills and create a plan to turn them into strengths. In today's work environment, not growing and stretching yourself translates into lack of innovation, stagnation, and obsolescence. Relying upon strengths is like relying upon training wheels - at a certain point you need to take them off in order to improve and grow."

I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #979 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #19" 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, September 14.

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

This week, it goes to Matthew Morris (below), an AT&T technician

We recently had an a rare problem with our AT&T U-verse service. Everything stopped working for about an hour.

By the time I called for a repair, service was restored. But the person who answered the phone said she saw a network problem, so she arranged for a repair person to come out the next day.

That person, Travis, did show--on time, too. He inspected everything and said all was working, but told me that I had an old modem. He asked me if I wanted a new one, and when I said "sure," he said since he didn't have any, he would have to call in an order. I was impressed.

I expected to have to wait a few days. But within an hour or so, Matthew called and said he could soon be over.

He quickly replaced the old modem with the new one that can be seen in the picture. At the same time, he told me that I could get rid of the old battery that I had (because it is now part of the new modem).

What's even more impressive was the fact that he then checked all my equipment to make sure it was working properly.

And while doing so, I mentioned that one of my remotes wasn't working properly, so he replaced that. In addition, I had a problem getting the screen to display at full size, so he fixed that too.

I also asked him about my bill, and he checked that as well--telling me what I had to do to remove some of the cable channels that I no longer wanted.

It was about as perfect a service call as I've ever experienced!

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2. FYI

Choosing the Best Smartphone Plan for You
by Brian X. Chen

THE American wireless industry is increasingly redefining the word "simple" in the same way that the food industry rendered the word "natural" absurd.

Consider that when you pick up "natural" pancake syrup from the grocery store, chances are that one of the listed ingredients will be "natural flavoring"--an oxymoron.

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

And for more on the subject, also read;
What Pricing Plan to Get for an iPhone 6
Here

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Edie Weinstein: The Good Men Project Live at The West End August 6th, 2015
Here

(2) Steven S. in FL: When a woman has an opinion
Here

(3) Vera B. in FL: Cat fishing
Here

(4) Ted R. in NC: Astroturf and manipulation of media messages | Sharyl Attkisson | TEDxUniversityofNevada
Here

(5) Bill C. in PA: From Kochblocked.com, a fantastic musical parody of "I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing."
Here

(6) Chanah M. in MO: Baby reveal gone wrong!
Here

(7) Michelle B. in NC: Awesome Parents Sing Disney's Frozen Perfectly While Daughter Ignores Them
Here

B. Other

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

(1) Laura B. in NJ: I kind of disagreed with you about the Joan Rivers book. (2) Mike M. in NC: THE GIFT ***1/2. (3) Rachel Pearlstein in NC: I set up a fundraising campaign for my trip to Nepal. (4) Chuck S. in NJ: E-Cigarettes "Around 95% Less Harmful" Than Regular Smoking. (5) Advice after stock market drop. (6) Lori H. in PA: I saw Learn to Drive with Ben Kingsley and Patricia Clarkson in a sneak peak preview. (7) Cooking With Kids: 5 Reasons You Should Be Doing It.

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3. Joke 1

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

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4. Reviews

A. Saw THE GIFT, a very suspenseful thriller about a young married couple who are going through life as planned until an acquaintance from the guy's high school sends their life into a tailspin. Jason Bateman and Rebecca Hall are both excellent as the couple, but it is the work of Joel Edgerton that really caught my attention. He is not only creepy as the acquaintance, but he wrote and directed this film that will leave you in suspense until the end. Rated R.

B. SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS is now out on DVD ... my review from BLAINESWORLD #977 follows:
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.

C. Read SNAP STRATEGIES FOR COUPLES: 40 FAST FIXES FOR EVERYDAY RELATIONSHIP PITFALLS (Seal Press) by Dr. Pepper Schwartz and Dr. Lana Stanheli.

Schwartz, a professor of sociology, and Stanheli, a relationship and life strategy consultant, contend that you don't need to go through painful therapy sessions that dwell on the negative by analyzing every disagreement you may have. Rather, they present practical skills that bring out happiness, respect and joy in your relationship.

For example, one snap says: Advice is rarely invited, seldom welcome and usually resented, so unless asked, keep your opinion to yourself.

They then elaborate as follows: No one should really give a partner advice, unless it's been requested. Granted, there are some things that affect both partners and so discussion is necessary. But if there is no shared risk or responsibility, it is up to your partner to ask for advice or an opinion--otherwise giving advice really is a provoction and to some extent, an insult.

I especially liked the sample dialogues that were included with many of the strategies. These made it possible to see exactly what couples do when they start falling into behaviors that can become problematic.

To avoid this from happening, all you need to do is follow the advice in such chapters as the following: Discovering Love Language, Giving Compliments, Being Grateful, Celebrating Strengths and Celebrate Every Occasion.

D. Heard THE QUEEN: THE EPIC AMBITION OF HILLARY AND THE COMING OF A SECOND "CLINTON ERA" (Hachette Audio), written and read by Hugh Hewitt.

The author, a national broadcast journalist, is clearly no fan of Hillary Clinton. He devotes much of the book to her past, going over details that most any reader will have heard far too often.

What I did find interesting was Hewitt's "advice" to Clinton that will not be followed by her. Too bad, in that if followed, it would do much to energize the Democrats and peel off both the money and influence typically found on the Republican side.

Among the suggestions that were both given and then explained were the following:
1. A constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College and substituting in its place a direct election of the president by popular vote.

2. A constitutional amendment abolishing the two term limit on the presidency.

3. A constitutional amendment mandating that 5% of GDP be spent on the Pentagon's budget, with safeguards that the money actually be spent on soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines and the equipment they need, and not on absurd "tack-ons" like "green energy" production for military bases.

4. An ironclad commitment to massive development of our own energy resources, via fracking onshore and select development of new offshore resources, via out-of-sight platform drilling.

5. A near-complete amnesty for all illegal immigrants coupled with an ironclad commitment to the immediate construction of a long, double-sided, high fence covering at least half the length of the 2,000-mile, Mexican-American border.

And while I do not agree with all the above, I do find it thought-provoking.

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5. TV alert

ALTHEA: Monday, Sept. 7, at 4 a.m. on PBS (Note: PBS times and dates often vary, so check local listings.)
This AMERICAN MASTERS biography profiles Althea Gibson, the first African-American tennis champion to win at Wimbledon and the U.S. Nationals in the late 1950s.

B. IN THEIR OWN WORDS: Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 8 p.m. on PBS (Note: PBS times and dates often vary, so check local listings.)
Famous figures' quotations are used to show their lives. Muhammad Ali is first up.

C. THE LATE SHOW WITH STEPHEN COLBERT: Series premiere on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 11:35 p.m. on CBS
I'll be curious how he comes across when not playing a conservative anchor. Guests include George Clooney and Jeb Bush.

D. FERRELL TAKES THE FIELD: Saturday, Sept. 12, at 10 p.m. on HBO
A documentary that follows comedian Will Ferrell as he takes the field in five Major League Baseball training games, playing all nine positions for ten different teams in a single day.

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6. Joke 2

A man goes to prison and the first night while he's contemplating his situation, he hears someone yell out, "44." This is followed by laughter from the other prisoners. He thought that was pretty odd, then he hears someone else yell out, "72" and there's even more laughter. "What's going on?" he asks his fellow cellmate. ... "Well, we've all heard every joke so many times, we've given them each a number to make it easier." ... "Oh," he says, "can I try?" ... "Sure, go ahead." ... So he yells out "102," and the place is dead quiet save for a few groans. Confused, he inquires, "Hey, what happened?" ... "Some people just can't tell a joke."

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7. Websites

A. Nelson S. in NC: How much $100 is really worth in every state
Here

B. He Got to That? The Amazing Sports Rallies That Never Seem to End
Here

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
Here

If you're curious as to how many others have visited me here, check out the counter in the bottom left corner of this home 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:
Here

Like us on Facebook

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8. Technology tip

Ever get a code via email; e.g., that you needed to activate software? It is usually 8-18 characters long and it seems whenever you type it, you get at least one character wrong ... or in my case, I can't read my own handwriting. I no longer attempt to copy such codes. I just take a picture of it, then enlarge the picture to make it easy to both see and copy the code.

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9. Joke 3

Hear about the new restaurant called Karma? There's no menu ... you get what you deserve.

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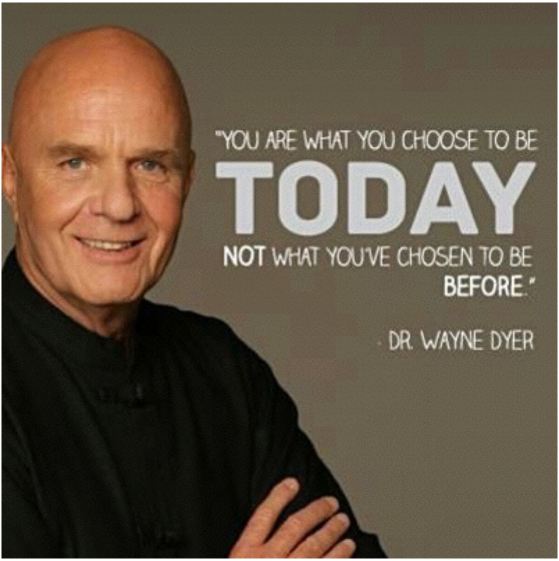
10. A quote I like

WAYNE DYER (1940-2015), RIP ... I first became a fan of his after reading YOUR ERRONEOUS ZONES. It so impressed me that I couldn't wait to share his ideas with my mother. She didn't like what he had to say about first taking care of your own needs (before the needs of others), so I doubt she read the book even though I had given it to her as a gift. ... I then read virtually every other book he wrote and/or caught most of his various CD and tape programs. I saw him, in person, twice and best of all, I even had the honor of interviewing him on a radio show I once hosted. He was an amazing guy. ... For some of his other memorable quotes, please click:
Here


"YOU ARE WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO BE
TODAY
NOT WHAT YOU'VE CHOSEN TO BE
BEFORE."
- DR. WAYNE DYER

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11. Thought for the day

OLIVER SAKS (1933-2015, RIP ... the acclaimed English neurologist and author, known for writing best-selling case histories of his patients' disorders, wrote the following some six months before he died:
I cannot pretend I am without fear. But my predominant feeling is one of gratitude. I have loved and been loved; I have been given much and I have given something in return; I have read and traveled and thought and written. I have had an intercourse with the world, the special intercourse of writers and readers.

Above all, I have been a sentient being, a thinking animal, on this beautiful planet, and that in itself has been an enormous privilege and adventure.

To read more of his thoughts about learning he had terminal cancer, please click:
Here

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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) Barrie Barton in NC: LOCAL MOVEMENT THEATER COMPANY
ANNOUNCES FALL WORKSHOP. (2) BLACK BOX STORYTELLING THEATER presents OPEN MIC STORYTELLING. (3) THE SHAPE OF THINGS. (4) LINDA HOLLINSHEAD'S WALK PAGE (for September 19)

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Laura Beyer in NJ: The Music Mission at my church (Boonton United Methodist) is having a Guitarbegue on Saturday, September 12 from noon until 5:00. (2) "Little Women - The Musical" Delivers Big-Hearted Message at MCCC's Kelsey Theatre Sept. 11-20.

PS. Hope y'all get to enjoy Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 7, with any pet you might have, along with friends, loved ones, etc. It is such a great holiday ... what other day do you get to celebrate work without actually doing any?

We thought you said
it was

LABRADOR WEEKEND.

Also, make it a wonderful week!

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