BLAINESWORLD

#994
10.12.2015

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1. Reflections

Note: See Section 8 for a great way to recover files you thought were lost.

Also, if you've previously read this blog on Facebook, please be advised that the company has changed things around so it is no longer possible for me to post whole issues there. 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 joined our friends Ginny Plasted, Grant Randall and Molly (left photo) for a delicious dinner at their home where we were joined by, among others, Sandy Howard (next to Cynthia in right photo) and Sharon Lewis.

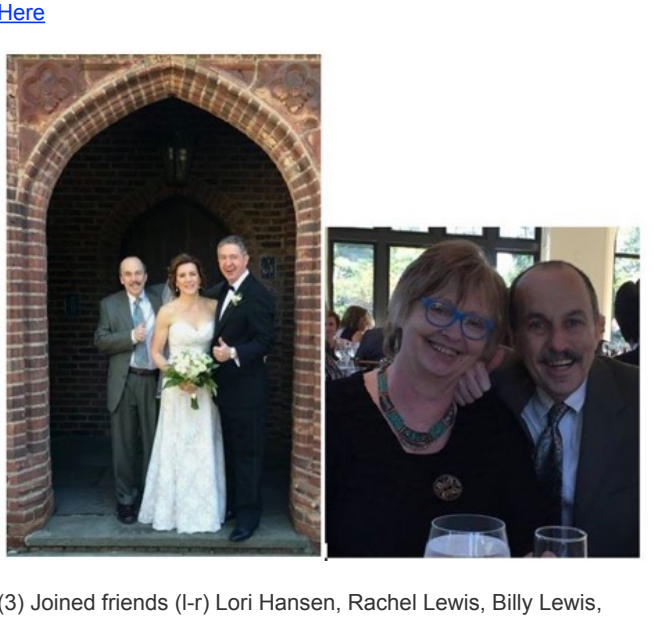
B. During the week, I went up North without Cynthia and:

(1) Saw the fabulous Keith Spencer (left photo with Natalie Kaye) in a concert that Natalie did a great job organizing. At it, I also bumped into Adrienne Clark, my former Bucks County Community College colleague, and her husband Bob.

Note: To learn more about Keith and to hear some of his songs, please click:
Here

(2) Attended the wedding of my friends Kevin Jameson and Ann Redfield where I also had the pleasure of spending time with Kevin's sister Linda Jameson (right photo).

Note: To see more pictures from the wedding and to hear Kevin sing "Love Is Here to Stay" to Ann, please click:
Here

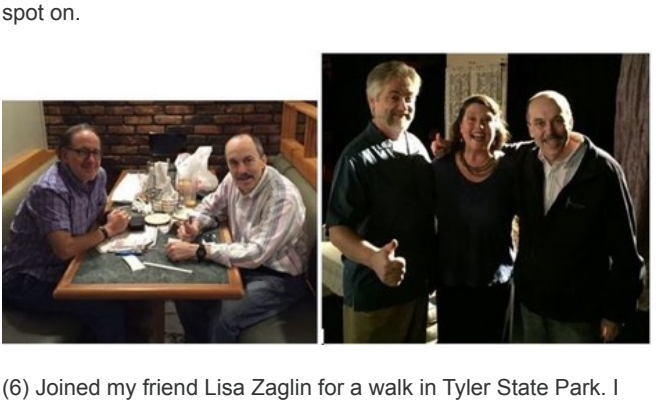


(3) Joined friends (l-r) Lori Hansen, Rachel Lewis, Billy Lewis, Diane Lewis, Bill Lewis, John Worthington , Dianne Worthington, John Worthington and Peter Rigas at the 5 Star Diner in Philadelphia. The food was good; the company was even better!

(4) Went a few doors down, after dinner, to see the sit down comedy debut of Bill Lewis (left photo) where I was joined by my friend Amy McKenna (right photo), among others.

Note: To see more pictures from the event, along with my introduction of Bill and then his fantastic performance, please click:
Here

(5) Caught up with Steven Marinoff (left photo), my longtime college friend, for a tasty dinner at Mastoris--the place that was once my favorite diner when I lived in New Jersey. From there, we went around the corner to see a very fine production of Shakespeare '70: BECKY SHAW. It starred Carol Thompson (right photo, along with her husband George Hartpence who joined us in the audience that night) Sarah Stryker, Michael Krahel, Lili Daniel and Ray Fallon. Curt Foxworth's direction was spot on.



(6) Joined my friend Lisa Zaglin for a walk in Tyler State Park. I used to go there often when teaching at Bucks County Community, in that the entrance was right behind my office. It was cool to again see deer come right up close to you (left photo) and a white caterpillar--a color that I don't ever recall seeing.

Note: In researching this insect, I subsequently found out that it should not be touched. For more information, please click:
Here

(7) Had a great corned beef sandwich when I had lunch with my daughter Risa and her husband JP at Livingston Bagel.

C. Condolences to Jeff Baumeister and family on the passing of Jeff's wife Karen.

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Wendy Humphrey and others at Mercer County Community College for their efforts in winning the VERY prestigious Medallion Awards, presented by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations.

(2) Yvonna Walls and family on the birth of Daniel Ryan, Yvonna's second grandchild.

(4) Deb Scannell, as previously reported, for being named Cover Artist of the Month by THE LAUREL OF ASHEVILLE. You can now read the entire story and many of the images that are not in the magazine by clicking:
Here

(5) Jane L. Birnbach on being featured in the latest issue of ADVANCING PHILANTHROPY. To read the piece, please click:
Here

(6) Donna and Mark Allen on being recognized by the Morrisville Senior Center for 20 years of community service.

(7) Michelle Marshall on having her drawing, My drawing, "Seasons of Life, " chosen on the November cover of WNC Woman.

(8) Bruny Lugo on earning her doctorate in epidemiology infectious diseases and climate from Walden University.

(9) Howard Debs on having his poem, "My friend is Leaving" in Clear Poetry Magazine. To read it and two other poems he has written, please click:
Here

(10) Laurie Satran on being chosen as speaker at @fearlessphillyweek's "Get Fearless" Conference on November 21st. To obtain tickets, please click:
Here

(11) Maureen Simon on having her image chosen for exhibition, Interior Views: The Richardson Olmsted Complex in Buffalo.

(12) Edie Weinstein on being named as a regular blogger for PSYCH CENTRAL.

(13) Joe Calderwood on having his development, Starview Heights in Weaverville, receive a Silver Award for craftsmanship from the Asheville Builders Association and the Parade of Homes.

(14) Emily Shaules for her appearance on NASHVILLE. To view it, please click:
Here

Note: Too bad I can't vote 'cause if I could, Emily would surely win an Emmy Award!

(15) Vanessa Freund for her article, "Self-financing a small business requires a plan," appearing in the CITIZEN-TIMES. To read it, please click:
Here

(16) Kathryn Long and her company Ambiance Interiors on having one of their projects featured in VICTORIA MAGAZINE.

(17) Karen G. in NJ, winner of Contest #21: a copy of LIFE IS NOT ENOUGH: THE MEMOIR OF A CONTENTED MAN by Robert Brown. All told, there were 5 entries.

And before I forget, it's now time to introduce:

***** CONTEST #22 *****

One lucky winner will received a prize to be determined. There may even be two such prizes, determining on the number of entries. You'll have to trust me on this, but methinks you'll be pleased if you win.

It's that time of the year when Cynthia and I are looking for a Halloween costume that we will wear to a concert on October 31. Our criteria: We don't want to spend a lot of money on it, and it has to be easy to make and/or obtain.

I'm thinking that we should get out our trusted rubber chicken again, so we could be two people "walking abreast." (See below.) But Cynthia isn't crazy about that one, so I'm open to something different.

Any ideas? To enter: Put "CONTEST 22" 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, as well as a concise description of the costume.

Note: Even better, please feel free to include a picture of the costume and if you actually wore it, let me know that too.

All entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28.

E. Reminders:

(1) You can still catch my performance in YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN at Asheville Community Theatre through October 25, but be forewarned ... tickets are going fast. To order them, please click:
Here

It has been great seeing so many friends come out to the show, including l-r: Leslie Lang (one of the stars), Cynthia, yours truly, Marvin Sadovsky, Annemarie Brown, Emily Shaules, Marjorie Lefkowitz-Skwara, Marcy Gallagher, Tom Gallagher and Jensen Gelfond.

Note: Please see Mike Martinelli's insightful review of YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN in Section 2 when you click the following link:
Here

(2) Next event of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum
Date: Monday, November 2, 2015
Location: Tops for Shoes, 27 N. Lexington Ave., Asheville, NC
Time: 6-7 p.m. (Time for networking both before and after the meeting)

Speaker: Bob Carr about his family-owned business, the amazing high-end retailer that has been in the Asheville area for 60+ years
For more information about the store, please click:
Here

Cost: $10/member; $15/non-member, which includes food catered by Chabad House

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

When you go to pay, you will have the option to use PayPal. Or if you instead wish to use your credit card, click the "Check Out" option and then on the next screen, click "Pay with a debit or credit card" option at the bottom of the page.

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

(3) Come to my Asheville SCORE seminar:

Date: Saturday, Oct. 31

Time: 9 a.m-12 pm.

Location: AB-Tech Enka Campus, 1459 Sand Hill Rd., Small Business Center, Room 2046, Candler, NC

Topic: Marketing Your Business

Description: This seminar covers positioning and marketing your business. You've opened your doors. How do you position yourself in the market place and secure that piece of business that you need to survive?

This seminar will be taught by Blaine Greenfield. Blaine is a professor emeritus of marketing at Bucks County Community College where he still teaches part-time. He is also an active volunteer in such community organizations as the Asheville Jewish Business Forum, SCORE, ABTech's Small Business Center, the Biltmore Lake Board of Directors and Asheville Community Theatre.

The seminar is free, but you must pre-register to attend. To do so, please click:
Here

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

This week, it goes to Sarah (who handled my Case 955249404)--an AppleCare Telephone Support representative.

My iPhone recently stopped working. Somehow, it had started downloading something and just froze. I went to my local Verizon store and got no help there. They told me to call Verizon, and I also got no help there other than a recommendation to call AppleCare.

That's where I came into contact with Sarah. She was fantastic. She spent nearly two hours with me, and we eventually got my phone working again. I was particularly grateful for the fact that she stayed on the line with me until I made sure all the programs were working properly.

AppleCare should be grateful to have such employees as Sarah!

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2. FYI

How Not to Be a Networking Leech: Tips for Seeking Professional Advice
by Margaret Morford

Businesspeople generally think of networking as a mutually beneficial meeting for both parties. But that's not usually what it is. Far more often, it is one person asking the other for a favor.

I have been a management consultant, business owner and speaker for more than 12 years. Before that, I was a business executive and a trial lawyer. Along the way I have received invaluable advice from others - guidance that educated me and helped me make important professional connections. Because this advice has been such a great help to me, I believe in helping others in the same way, without expecting anything in return.

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

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Joyce L. in NJ: Did you know?
Here

(2) Joe K. in NC: i-Shiva Commercial
Here

(3) Nelson S. in NC: Samsung trucks in Argentina (that save lives)
Here

(4) Janeen R. in PA: Bank robbery in Detroit
Here

B. Other

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

(1) Michael G. in Germany: Thank you for your email.(2) Marilyn S. in NC: Going to tag a bunch of locals with this. THREE Gorgeous healthy kittens two females and one male ready for adoption.(3) Mike Martinelli's insightful review of YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN. (4) The Fats You Don't Need to Fear, and the Carbs That You Do. (5) 27 Ways to Be a Modern Man. (6) A Myth About Refreezing Foods. (7) This Column Is Gluten Free.

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3. Joke 1

I can't believe the National Spelling Bee ended in a tye!

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4. Reviews

A. Saw BRIDGE OF SPIES, a thriller based on the true story of an American attorney given the task of negotiating the release of a U-2 pilot who was shot down over Russia at the height of the Cold War. Tom Hanks is outstanding in the leading role, and I especially liked the cinematography. Don't miss this one. Rated: PG-13.

B. Look for A WALK IN THE WOODS on DVD. It's a romantic drama about a war veteran who isn't helped by having a self-absorbed wife. His life changes, though, when he meets a distraught pregnant woman whose boyfriend has abandoned her. It's not overly believable, but there's a great musical score, as well as winning performances from Keanu Reeves and Aitana Sanchez-Gijon. Rated PG-13.

C. Read EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR THE SOLO ENTREPRENEUR: BACK UP YOUR BUSINESS--BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES (Praeger) by Kathryn Hack.

The author, a solo entrepreneur and the founder a Tiger Communications, a commercial print brokerage firm, came up with the idea for the book when she had a sudden health crisis. It led her to the realization that she needed to do something in case this ever happened again or her business would collapse.

Hack proceeds to take you through every step that you need to develop a plan, ranging from the need to take stock through testing and implementation.

I particularly liked her second part of the book, wherein she presents a specific action guide that you need to follow every step of the way.

I also found her many hints worthwhile, including this one:
Start with small, attainable tasks and set goals in bite-size pieces. This makes the job less daunting, which helps guarantee success. Taking credit for achieving specific goals highlights the evidence that you can go the distance. Instead of thinking constantly about the "road ahead," travel well today and eventually you'll get there. Acknowledging your success keeps you moving forward. Be your own coach, and cheer yourself on knowing five yards at a time leads to touchdowns.

And the chapter on "Keeping the Business Safe" had much useful information, though I wish more had been included on what to actually do if hit with ransomware. (Something that recently happened to me.)

D. Heard THE FIRST CALL FROM HEAVEN: A NOVEL (HarperAudio), written and read by Mitch Albom.

The author, also a broadcaster and columnist, had written several other books, including TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE (perhaps my all-time favorite memoir) and THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN.

His latest effort takes place in Coldwater, MI, a town where people who have lost a loved one begin receiving phone calls from the dead in heaven. Soon, the town becomes a media hotspot, as well as a battleground for both religious and antireligious zealots.

I really got into it, especially in the beginning whenever I heard the phone ring. The sounds were coming from the recorded version of the book, but they sounded very realistic and had me hoping that still another character would be calling in.

In addition,I liked how Albom included a historical thread dealing with Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone into the narrative.

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5. TV alert

A. A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN: Tuesday, Oct. 20, on TCM
A group of feisty women form their own professional baseball league in this comedy that stars Tom Hanks and Madonna.

B. AMY SCHUMER: LIVE AT THE APOLLO: Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 10 p.m. on HBO2
Schumer headlines her first stand-up special with plenty of jokes about sex.

C. NATHAN FOR YOU: Thursday, Oct. 22, at 10 p.m. on COM
One of my favorite shows has Nathan Fielder putting his degree in business and life experiences to help small businesses make a profit through unusual methods.

D. JESS STONE: LOST IN PARADISE: Sunday, Oct. 25, at 9 p.m. on HMM
Tom Selleck returns on a new channel to the moody character he previously played in 8 CBS movies.

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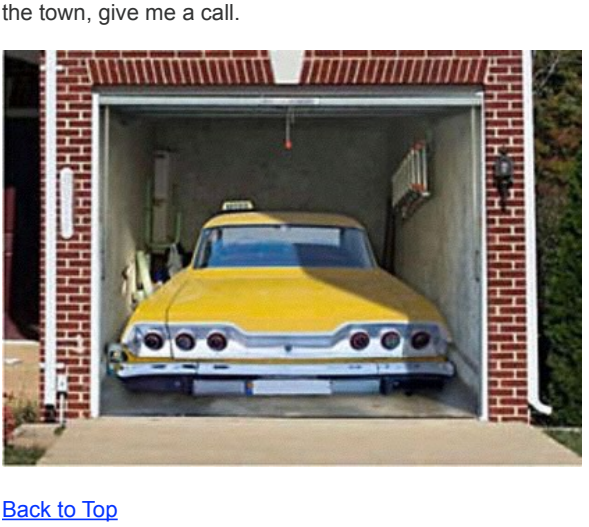
6. Joke 2

I was recently out for an evening with friends and had more than several beers, followed by a couple of bottles of red wine and then a few vodka shots. Although relaxed, I still had the common sense to know I was just slightly over the limit. That's when I did something I've never done before: I took a taxi. ... On the way home, there was a police roadblock. But since it was a taxi, they waved it past, and I arrived safely without incident. ... This was a real surprise to me because I had never driven a taxi before. I don't know where I got it, and now that it's in my garage, I don't know what to do with it. So if you want to borrow it for a night on the town, give me a call.



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7. Websites

A. Stanford WR Francis Owusu College Football Catch Of The Year
Here

B.Larry David as Bernie Sanders
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

Lisa Z. in PA: Pandora Recovery scans your computer's disks for files and folders that have been deleted. It even recovers files from SD cards for those of us who still prefer digital cameras over smartphones. Here are a couple of sites that recommend it and offer a link to download.
Here
Here

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9. Joke 3

My friend Harry's wife was standing in the kitchen, preparing their usual soft-boiled eggs and toast for breakfast, wearing only the T-shirt that she normally slept in. As he walked in, almost awake, she turned to him and said softly, "You've got to make love to me this very moment!" ... Harry's eyes lit up and he thought, "I am either still dreaming or this is going to be my lucky day!" Not wanting to lose the moment, he embraced her and then gave it his all--right there on the kitchen table. ... Afterward, she said, "Thanks," and returned to the stove, her T-shirt still around her neck. Happy, but a little puzzled, he asked, "What was that all about?" ... She explained, "The egg timer's broken."

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10. A quote I like

When Winston Churchill was asked to cut arts funding in favor of the war effort, he supposedly replied, "Then what are we fighting for?"

Note: It's a great quote, but Churchill never said it. What he did say was both longer and somewhat related. For more information, please click:
Here

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11. Thought for the day

A man's favorite donkey falls into a deep precipice. He can't pull it out no matter how hard he tries, so he decides to bury it alive. ... Soil is poured onto the donkey from above. The donkey feels the load, shakes it off and steps on it. More soil is poured....The donkey shakes it off and steps up again. The more the load is poured, the higher it rose. By noon, the donkey finds himself grazing in green pastures.

Moral: After much shaking off (of problems) and stepping up (learning from them), One will graze in green pastures!

Source: Author unknown. If you know who wrote this and/or the source, please notify me.

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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) KING LEAR. (2) Billy Jonas Band. (3) SCARY STORIES. (4) ART at Black Mountain Center for the Arts. (5) Talking to God at Jubilee! (6) THE BOYS NEXT DOOR. (7) An Evening with Deep River. (8) 70th Season at Parkway Playhouse. (9) THE SPITFIRE GRILL.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) MAJOR BARBARA at ActorsNET. (2) Neil Simon's RUMORS at Kelsey.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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