BLAINESWORLD

#995
10.19.2015

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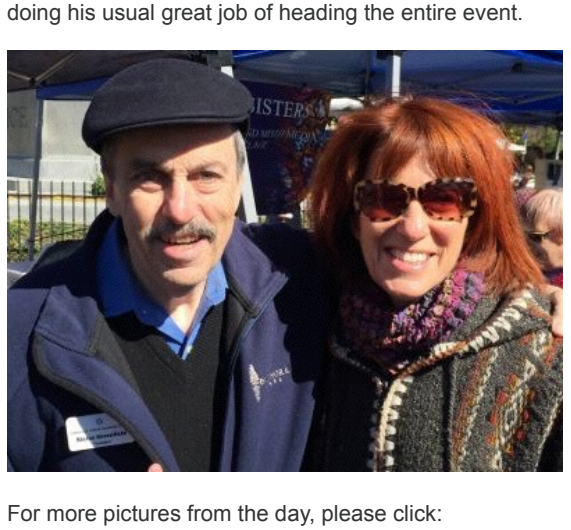
1. Reflections

Note: Please see Section 2 for a life-saving recommendation.

Also, if you're planning to read this via Facebook, please be advised that because of a change that company recently made, I can no longer post the whole issue there. And in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, you can make sure you don't miss an issue by clicking:
Here

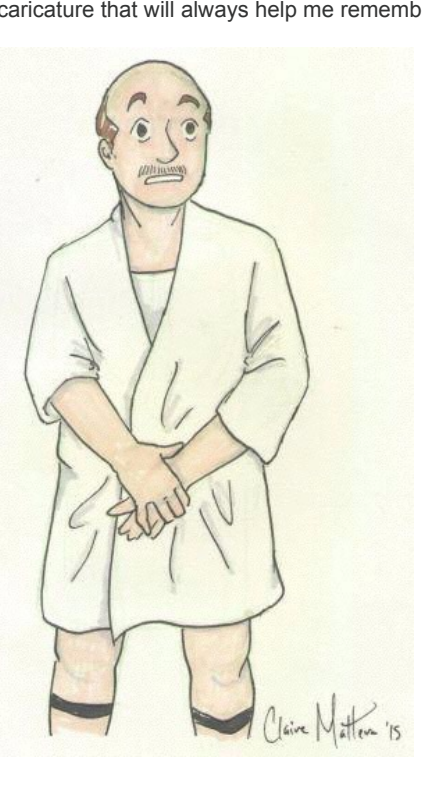
A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a blast at the HardLox Jewish Food and Heritage Festival in downtown Asheville, at which time we saw many friends. We also got to split a corned beef sandwich that was good and then noodle pudding and potato pancakes that were both superb. Kudos to Marty Gillen for again doing his usual great job of heading the entire event.



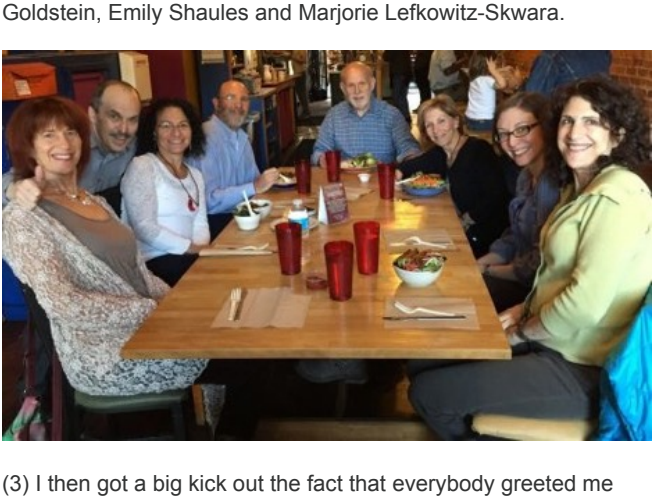
For more pictures from the day, please click:
Here

B. We're continuing to enjoy my role as Mr. Hilltop in Asheville Community Theatre's smash production of YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN.

(1) Special thanks to Claire Mattera, a talented illustrator, for the following
caricature that will always help me remember my time on stage:



(2) On one night before the show, we joined several members of our "framily" (friends we consider our family) for a tasty dinner at Rosetta's Kitchen. Pictured, l-r: Cynthia Greenfield, Blaine Greenfield, Amy Suben, Marc Suben, Mark Goldstein, Robin Goldstein, Emily Shaules and Marjorie Lefkowitz-Skwara.



(3) I then got a big kick out the fact that everybody greeted me after the show, taking pictures. I've never been approached by even paparazzi, so having a bunch was quite something. Pictured, l-r: Leslie Lang (also in YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN with me), Cynthia Greenfield, Blaine Greenfield, Marvin Sadovsky, Annemarie Brown, Emily Shaules, Marjorie Lefkowitz-Skwara, Marcy Gallagher, Tom Gallagher and Jensen Gelfond.

(4) On another night, other friends showed up. Pictured, l-r: Brian Biro, Carole Biro, Blaine Greenfield, Terri Crosby and Eric Russ.

C. Invitations to:

(1) Come to Community Choreography Projects' latest production, "Talking to God?" ... Date: Sunday, Nov. 22 at Jubilee! Doors open at 5 p.m. begins at 5:30 p.m. ... $10.00 Tickets on sale at the door. ... Pictured, l-r: Cynthia Greenfield, Barbara Brady, Marjorie Lefkowitz-Skwara and Bonnie Sibner.

(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 p.m.

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.

Note: There are no seats available if you try to register online. But if you want to come in, I can still probably squeeze you in. If you'd like to be my guest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put OCTOBER 31 in the subject line. Include your name, email address and phone numbers in the body of the email.

(4) Still enter ...

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

One lucky winner will received a prize to be determined. There may even be two such prizes, based 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 could again go as Raggedy Andy and Ann as we once did. (See below.) But it might be fun to try 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 Thursday, Oct. 29.

D. Condolences to

Condolences to Jeremy Lerner and family on the passing of Jeremy's sister.

E. Congratulations to:

(1) Leah Wong Ashburn on her interview about her company, Highland Brewing Company that was started by her father Oscar Wong. It ran on WUNC. To listen to it, please click:
Here

(2) Tebbe Davis on his appointment to the Asheville Gallery of Art's board of directors and, also, on being named as chair of the marketing committee.

(3) Joshua Robinette Whitt on being named featured recitalist in Europe this coming May.

(4) David Dowd and Reeni Lindblöm on their wedding.

(5) Asheville for making THE STEVE HARVEY SHOW
Here

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

This week, it goes to Vicki Meath (pictured below)--Executive Director of Just Economics.

Vicki has served in that position since August of 2010. Since coming to Just Economics, she has helped to lead the organization in passing local living wage policy, building the largest voluntary Living Wage Employer Certification Program in the country, and developing a grassroots leadership and community organizing training called Voices for Economic Justice.

She recently presented a thought-provoking poverty simulation to a combined meeting of Carolina Jews for Justice/West and the Asheville Jewish Business Forum. Participants had to see what it was like while only receiving minimum wages for their work. For pictures from that event, please click:
Here

And a few months earlier, Vicki gave an informative presentation to the aforementioned organizations on the living wage movement in Asheville.

For more information on the excellent work done by Vicki and/or Just Economics, please click:
Here

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2. FYI

Molly K. in NJ: My PSA for today: Larry [my husband] had a mole on his temple for years. It started growing and in August, the family doc removed what he insisted was benign! Five days later, Squamous Cell Carcinoma! He had Mohs surgery today. Large hole requiring 8 stitches!! USE SUNSCREEN!!

My two cents: Get thee to a dermatologist for a checkup--on a regular basis, too. ... A few years back, I was lucky (if you can believe that) to find out that I had melanoma--between my toes of all places. Had it not been caught early, I might not well have been writing this now!

And if you're looking for a good dermatologist in the Asheville area, I have one of the best in Dr. Todd Wilkinson. For more information about his practice, please click:
Here

When I lived in central New Jersey, Dr. Judit Stenn was my dermatologist. She was the one who discovered the melanoma. For more information about her practice, please click:
Here

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Annemarie B. in NC: Ray Jessel on America's Got Talent
Here

(2) Steven S. in FL: Dead Husband Walking
Here

(3) Janeen R. in PA: Meaning of American Pie
Here

(4) Luisa Omielan ... Thigh Gap
Here

(5) How to survive working with cats
Here

B. Other

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

(1) American Cancer Society, in a Shift, Recommends Fewer Mammograms. (2) Ruth P. in NC: We heard about that terrible caterpillar while we were up in Canada.(3) Chanah M. in TX: Here's another reason to get a flu shot during pregnancy. (4) Tom O. in NJ: We should review community theater productions honestly. (5) Lady Gaga and the Life of Passion. (6) Curious result hints about cause of dementia. (7) Mike M. in NC: You have to go see Steve Jobs. (8) Natalie K. in PA: The Martian - loved it. (9) Stop Googling, Let's Talk.

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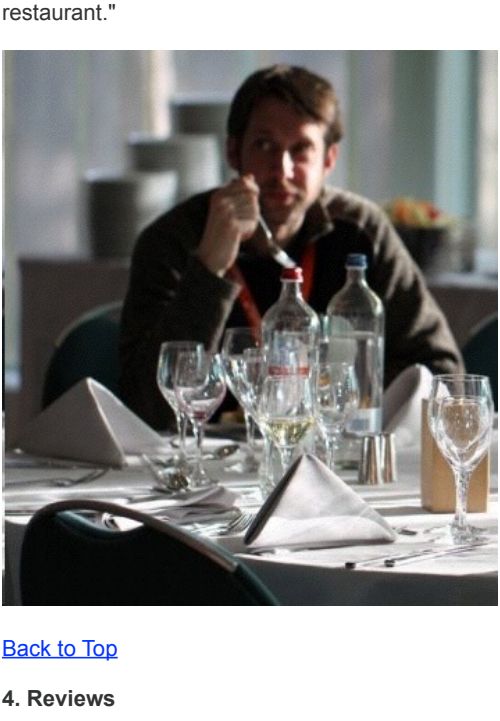
3. Joke 1

A couple was out having a romantic dinner. They were gazing lovingly at each other and holding hands. The waitress, taking another order at a nearby table, suddenly noticed the woman slowly sliding down her chair and under the table--but the man stared straight ahead. . . . The waitress, thinking this behavior a bit risque and worried that it might offend other diners, went over to the table and tactfully said to the man, "Pardon me, sir, but I think your wife just slid under the table." . . . The man calmly looked up at her and said, No, she didn't. She just walked into the restaurant."



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4. Reviews

A. Saw WOODLAWN, a fact-based film about a high school football team in 1973 that helped unite Birmingham, Alabama--a town that had been torn apart by racial hatred. The beginning is terrific, and there are a lot of fine football scenes. It then dragged a bit, especially toward the end, and it could have used a tighter job of editing. But overall, I liked it, and if you are not put off by its evangelical message, you might as well. Rated PG.

B. Out on DVD is SOUTHPAW. My review from BLAINESWORLD #983 follows:
Saw SOUTHPAW, a boxing film about a fighter who is on top of the world when disaster strikes. It seemed very realistic to me, and I was blown away by Jake Gyllenhaal's performance. The fight scenes are as realistic as any I've ever seen. I also liked the storyline, but if boxing turns you off, definitely don't see this. Rated R.

Note: I wanted to get the reaction of my friend, John D. in PA, in that he had been both an amateur and professional boxer. Here's what he had to say about SOUTHPAW:
My wife and I actually saw it last weekend. I was hesitant to go because with my current health state I knew I would have trouble trying to sit in the movie theater seats, so it was painful but I really wanted to see it.

I also liked it. Not just a boxing film. What I really appreciated is that Jake G actually underwent professional boxing training. If one is a student of boxing they can always tell if someone truly knows how to properly throw a punch, bob and weave , slip a punch, etc. He certainly was trained well, which really made it realistic as far as the art goes.

C. Read LADY AND SIERRA'S STORAGE SHED SUMMER (America Star Books), written by James Andrew Freeman and illustrated by Anna Gaul.

It is a heartwarming tale of dogs, squirrels, rabbits, a little girl, her father and their shared backyard. In reading, you get into the minds of the various animals as they interact in both conflict and in concert.

I've enjoyed the author's other books. This, I believe, is his first children's book. I hope it is not his last.

And the illustrations by Gaul are superb. They added to my enjoyment of this fable that children will enjoy, as well as their parents and grandparents.

D. Heard VIGILANCE: MY LIFE SERVING AMERICA AND PROTECTING ITS EMPIRE CITY (Hachette Audio), written and read by Ray Kelly.

The author, who had been the longest-serving police commissioner in the history of New York City, vividly describes his 50 years of law enforcement experience.

He oversaw the police response to the 1993 World Trade bombings and 9/11 attacks, as well as handling of a murder rate that had spiked to over 2,000 per year. In addition, he had to deal with many other terror plots, various politicians and national leaders and the controversy over the stop-question-and-frisk program.

I'm only sorry that he never took the recommendation of New York Senator Charles Schumer to become FBI Director in 2011 and then Secretary of Homeland Security in 2013. Instead, he became President of Risk Management Services at Cushman & Wakefield in 2014, thus ending a remarkable career of public service.

If you know anybody in the field of criminal justice or contemplating such a career, VIGILANCE should be must reading.

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5. TV alert

A. SUPERGIRL: Mondays at 8 p.m. on CBS
The Man of Steel's spirited cousin soars into the spotlight as TV's newest hero.

B. WORD SERIES: Begins Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 7:30 p.m. on FOX
Go, Mets!

C, IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD WORLD: Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 5:15 p.m. on TCM
Milton Berle, Sid Caesar, Buddy Hackett, Phil Silvers and Jonathan Winters, among others, search the countrywide in search of buried treasure in this madcap comedy.

D, THE BRAIN WITH DAVID EAGLEMAN: Wednesdays at 10 p.m. on PBS (Note: Times and dates often vary on PBS stations, so check local listings.) For more information on this series, please click:
Here

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6. Joke 2

Two hours into my first day of work as a Walmart greeter, a very loud, unattractive, mean-acting woman came in with her two kids. Hearing her swear at them, I said, "Good morning, welcome to Walmart. Nice kids you have there. Are they twins?" ... The mom answered, "Hell no, they ain't twins. The oldest one's 9, and the other one's 7. Why would you think they're twins? Are you blind or stupid?" ... I replied, 'I'm neither blind nor stupid, M'am. I just couldn't believe someone slept with you twice. Have a good day, And thank you for shopping at Walmart." ... My supervisor said I probably wasn't cut out for this line of work.

How may I help you?

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7. Websites

A. Boris Johnson: Mayor of London and Consummate Sportsman
Here

And then there was this other time when he got caught on a zip wire
Here

B. Cat Helps Dog Pull Off Daring Escape From Kitchen
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: A good iPhone app that helps you find your car is "Locate my car."

Other free apps include:
Google Maps (used to be Google Local) - you can just type in the name of a place without a full address. I like better than MapQuest.
Pandora for radio (although I refuse to pay a monthly fee for commercial free).
Shazam - hold it up to radio, and it gives you name and artist.
Gasbuddy - find gas stations and prices near your location.
Shopping List - can put your grocery list on there as you get low on items and never have to worry about leaving list at home.

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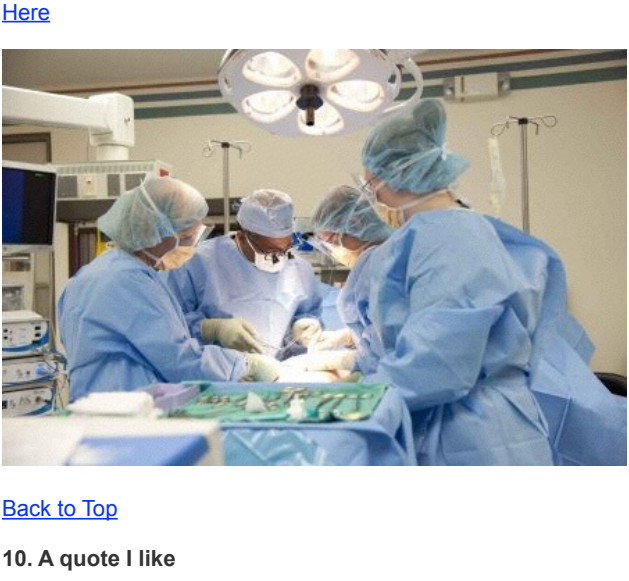
9. Joke 3

THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR IN SURGERY: 1. Oops! Hey, has anyone ever survived 500 ml of this stuff before? 2. Oh no! I just lost my Rolex. 3. Wait a minute, if this is his spleen, then what's that? 4. I wish I hadn't forgotten my glasses. 5, Nurse, did the patient sign the organ donation card? 6. Darn! Page 47 of the manual is missing. ... For others, please click:
Here



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10. A quote I like

Life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it.--Charles R. Swindoll (born 1934),evangelical Christian pastor, author, educator and radio preacher

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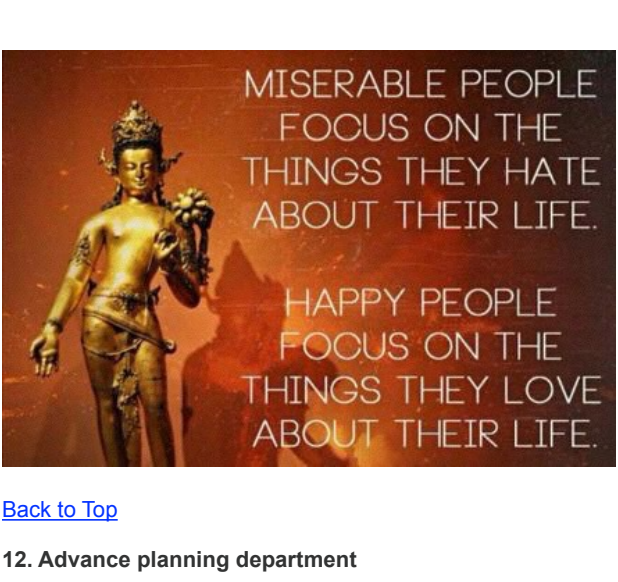
11. Thought for the day


MISERABLE PEOPLE FOCUS ON THE THINGS THEY HATE ABOUT THEIR LIFE.
HAPPY PEOPLE FOCUS ON THE THINGS THEY LOVE ABOUT THEIR LIFE.

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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) Unit 50. (2) Reader's Theater production of THE WINSLOW BOY. (3) Forte back in Asheville.

B. PA/NJ event

VIOLET--A MUSICAL

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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