BLAINESWORLD

#997
11.2.2015

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1. Reflections

Note: See Section for 8 for a short, but oh-so-useful technology tip.

Also, if you're planning to read this via Facebook, please be advised that because of a change that company 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:

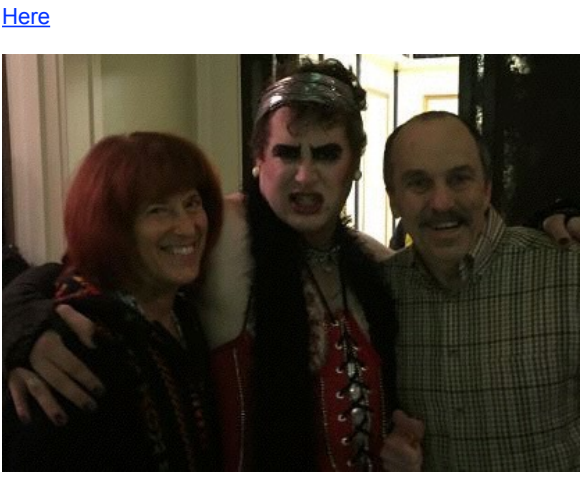
(1) Had a blast at the Halloween gig of Unit 50, one of our favorite local bands, at 550 Tavern in Fletcher. In case you don't recognize us, we're in the top photo. In the bottom photo are our friends Karen Mazza (who won second prize in the costume contest) and Jeff Baker.

Note: Jeff's also a guitarist with Unit 50. He rocked, as did BK Wardrep--another guitarist with the group.

(2) Loved seeing Bradshaw Call (top photo) in the ROCKY HORROR SHOW at the Masonic Temple. We were joined by our friends Tom and Marcy Gallagher (in the bottom photo with two other outstanding members of the cast); l-r: Tom, Taylor Aldrich, Tiffanie Boone and Marcy).

Kudos to all the others on stage who were so enthusiastic in their dancing and singing: Luke Haynes, Jacob Walas, Heather Gallagher, Lyle Laney, Chris Kirby, Zac Landolt and Lyndi Hewitt; Tina Pisano-Foor and the rest of the Phantoms; and Lenora Thom for her musical direction. The direction by both Lyle and Jacob was also noteworthy.

Note: The show runs through November 8. For tickets, please click:
Here



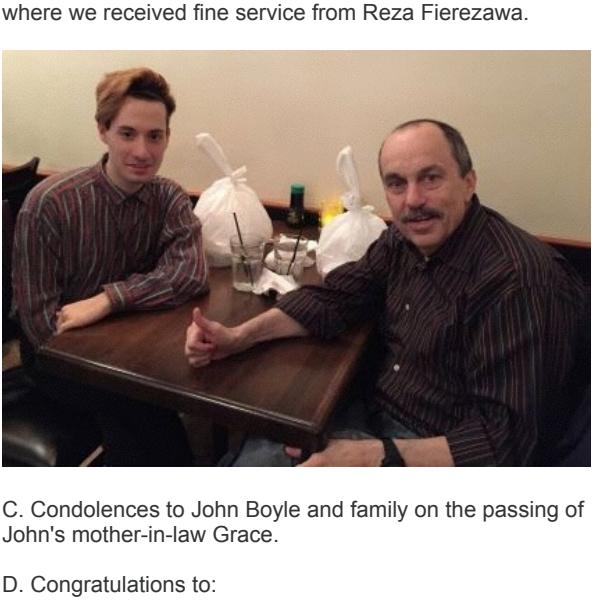
(3) Found a great place for Paleo protein bars that Cynthia says are delicious: Biltmore Coffee Traders. That's Jenna in the middle.

B. During the week, I:

(1) Had the pleasure of joining my friends Howard Debs (left) and David Debs for chicken and waffles at my favorite eatery for such a meal: King Daddy's Chicken and Waffle.

(2) Heard an excellent presentation on leadership from Scott Burnette, Asheville's outstanding fire chief. He spoke at a recent meeting of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum that was held at Claying Around. (Thanks, Leigh Cohen, for hosting us.)

(3) Joined my friend Tristan Cameron for a tasty dinner at Wasabi where we received fine service from Reza Fierezawa.



C. Condolences to John Boyle and family on the passing of John's mother-in-law Grace.

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Mike Yow on the fact that his recently published book, SAVAGE KINGDOMS CORE RULEBOOK, is now in hardcover. It is excellent Christmas gift for fans of medieval fantasy, especially those who enjoy role-playing games (such as D&D). Check it out by clicking:
Here

(2) Sue Schor on the newest addition her family--grandson Mason Wyatt Ginsberg.

(3) Angie Flynn-McGiver on earning her Master of Arts Degree in Organizational Development and Leadership from Fiedling Graduate University.

(4) Aaron Means on being named the "2015 Solution Provider of the Year" for the SE by Constant Contact.

(5) Rock Eblen on reaching Number 9 on the ReverbNation Electronica charts for Asheville, NC, with his song, "What Ya Get." To listen to it, please click:
Here

(6) David Joe Miller on having his six words of advice published in BEST ADVICE IN SIX WORDS.

Note: Here's what he had to say: "When you tell a story, listen."

(7) Kenneth Shinozuka on receiving the WebMD Health Hero Prodigy award.

E. Reminders:

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

***** CONTEST #23 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of A COMPLAINT FREE WORLD: TAKE THE 21-DAY CHALLENGE by Will Bowen.
According to PUBLISHERS WEEKLY:
Bowen is a minister with a very simple message: quit complaining. If you do, you'll be happier and healthier. Hence his Complaint-Free World challenge; the goal is to stop for 21 consecutive days. Why 21? That's how long it takes to break a habit, according to Bowen.

I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #583 and really liked it.

To enter, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com. Put CONTEST #23 in the subject line and include your mailing address in the body of the email.

All entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

(2) Plan to see Cynthia and many other talented women in "Talking to God" on Sunday, Nov. 22. For more information, please see #3 in Section 12 (below).

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

This week, it goes to Melanie Fisher (pictured below)--my very helpful virtual assistant.

I had previously been blessed to have Monica Hester in that position for some six years. When Monica left to take a job that could provide her with more hours, I was grateful for the fact that she arranged a replacement; i.e., her sister Melanie.

Melanie has been absolutely great. She makes calls for me and, also, researches some of the information I use in the BLAINESWORLD blog you're now reading. In addition, she provides assistance to the Asheville Jewish Business Forum.

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2. FYI

Kristalyn B. in NC: How To Live This Year As If It Were Your Last by Nico Pitney

On their first night in class, the students receive alarming news. They have only nine months to live.

The news is fictional. But the nine-month course, titled "How To Live This Year As If It Were Your Last," helps students consider the myriad ways their lives would change if the timeline were real.

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

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Kevin J. in PA: Seth Rogen Publicly Shames Senators After They Walk Out On His Testimony
Here

(2) Corinne G. in PA: What do retired guys do ?
Here

(3) Chanh M. in TX: Ukraine's Got Talent AMAZING DANCE !
Here

(4) Steph B. in NC: Having a bad day, sing this!
Here

B. Other

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

(1) 97-Year-Old Cries Tears Of Joy After She Finally Gets Her High School Diploma. (2) The evolution of simplicity. (3) The ambivalent marriage takes a toll on health. (4) Major benefits for students who attend live theater, study finds. (5) Micaheleen L. in PA: I want to let you know that I went to the dermatologist this week. (6) The 17 most controversial TV episodes ever. (7) The World Café - Percolating Possibilities.

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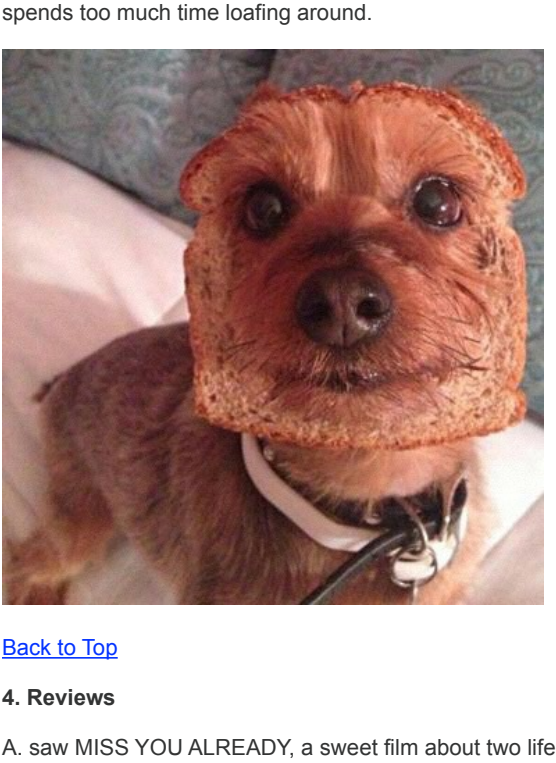
3. Joke 1

This inbred's name is Toast. He's a terrible watchdog because he spends too much time loafing around.



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4. Reviews

A. saw MISS YOU ALREADY, a sweet film about two lifelong friends whose lives change when one gets hit with life-altering news. Drew Barrymore is fine in one of the leading roles, but I enjoyed the work even more of Toni Collette in the other key part. Their respective husbands, Dominic Cooper and Paddy Considine, were also quite good. Be forewarned: Bring hankies. Rated PG-13.

B. INSIDE OUT is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #978 follows:
Saw INSIDE OUT, Pixar's latest animated film about a girl who is forced to move from her happy Midwest life when her father starts a new job in San Francisco. The change forces her to deal with a range of emotions, including joy, fear, anger, disgust and sadness. I thought it was OK, but not deserving of the fantastic reviews that many critics have given it. In addition, many of the jokes are too sophisticated for the intended audience. Rated PG.

Note: Before INSIDE ACT, there's a Pixar short called LAVA. It tells the story of Uku, a lovely volcano who dreams about being sent someone to love. I actually enjoyed it more than the main feature. The accompanying song is beautiful. To hear it, please click:
Here

C. Read NOW I KNOW; THE REVEALING STORIES BEHIND THE WORLD'S MOST INTERESTING FACTS (Adams Media) by Dan Lewis.

The author, a trivia buff, writes a daily email called "Now I know." This book seems to have taken the best of such pieces and put them together in a fashion that made for reading that was both fun and informative.

I learned about such things as what happens to luggage that is lost by the airlines, why you can't get a hot dog at McDonald's and where they have the world's strangest traffic signals. (They're in North Korea in case you were wondering.)

I also liked how Lewis included a fact, as well as the story behind that fact and a related bonus fact. Sometimes these bonuses were even more interesting than the original piece; e.g.:
Ken Jenning's incredible JEOPARDY! run almost got derailed before it truly started. ... He wrote [in response to "She's the first female track and field athlete to win medals in five different events at a ingle Olympics"] Who is Jones?--a somewhat ambiguous response. Trebek immediately stated that the judges "will accept that; in terms of female athletes, there weren't that many." (The right Jones? Marion.)

This book now has me hooked to the extend that I'm going to go to the author's website and sign-up to get a daily dose of such information.

D. Heard SHIFT FOR GOOD: SIMPLE CHANGS FOR LASTING JOY INSIDE AND OUT (Hachette Audio), written and read by Tory Johnson.

The author, a GOOD MORNING AMERICA contributor and author of THE NEW YORK TIMES bestseller THE SHIFT, wrote this book as a follow-up to her earlier effort that dealt primarily with how she lost 62 pounds in a year.

In this, she applied the principles she developed in losing weight to such other areas as work, relationships and money. Johnson provides many useful tips, including these five questions that will help you shift for good:
Step One: How fed up are you, really?
Step Two: What are you willing to give up?
Step Three: What's your plan?
Step Four: What's your daily accountability?
Step Five: How will you develop patience and celebrate your victories?

Although SHIFT FOR GOOD was directed at women, most all of it can also be applied to men.

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5. TV alert

A. SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE: Saturday, Nov. 7, at 11:30 p.m.
It should be a fun episode, especially given the fact that Donald Trump is hosing it.

B. FLESH AND BONE: Sunday, Nov. 8, at 8 p.m. on STARZ
This 8-part ballet drama is "flat-footed," at parts, notes TV GUIDE. But "when everyone's on their toes creating art through dance, there's grim authenticity in the bloodied feet and backbiting, bitchy insecurity."

C. AGENT X: Sundays at 9 p.m. on TNT
According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, the show is "a light and fast-moving version of an American-in-peril America-in-peril espionage thriller" that I'll check out if for no other reason than it stars both Sharon Stone and James Earl Jones.

D. LIVE FROM LINCOLN CENTER, featuring ACT ONE: Friday, Nov. 13, at 9 p.m. on PBS. (Note: PBS dates and times often vary, so check local listings.)
Lincoln Center Theater presents the play about Broadway legend Moss Hart, based the book that Frank Rich in New York called "the greatest showbiz book ever written."

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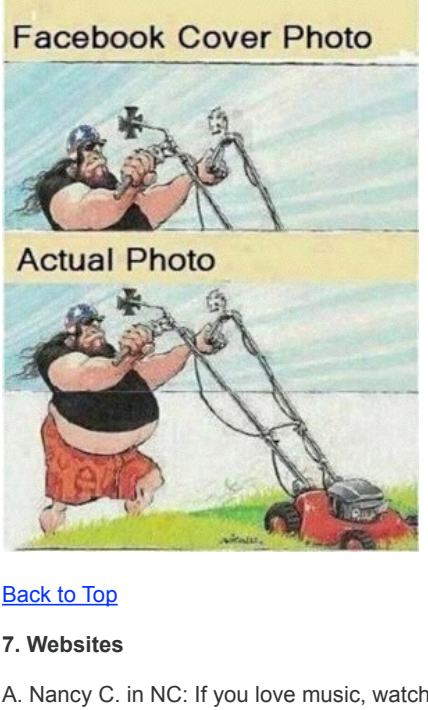
6. Joke 2

Snagged! Good reminder 'bout the fact that you can't believe all you see on social media--and on dating sites, too!



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7. Websites

A. Nancy C. in NC: If you love music, watch this. Hamlisch was a mensch, a prodigy, funny as hell, and talented beyond belief. His only noticeable fault? He died way too early!

Marvin Hamlisch: What He Did For Love
Here

B. Sally B. in NC: This is interesting, but somewhat biased and sexist I would say. I scored a 31. Think I recognized a photo of a young Marlon Brando in there

Can You Read People's Emotions?
Here

Note: I scored a 79, but then again, I was never very good in math!

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

When you text somebody, include both your first and last name. Often, I'll get a text and if there is no name attached to it, I have no idea who sent it.

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9. Joke 3

A priest and a rabbi get into a car accident. They both get out of their cars and stumble over to the side of the road. The rabbi says, "Oy vey! What a wreck!" ... The priest asks him, "Are you all right?" ... The rabbi responds, "Just a little shaken." ... The priest pulls a flask of whiskey from his coat and says, "Here, drink this. It will calm your nerves." ... The rabbi takes the flask, drinks it down and says, "Well, what are we going to tell the police?" ... "I don't know what your are going to tell them," replies the priest. "But I'll be telling them that I wasn't the one drinking."

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10. A quote I like

"I think everybody has to have four things in their life to be complete. First, everybody needs something to do--something you have a passion for. Second, everybody needs someone to love. Third thing, everybody needs something to hope for--something that you're really striving to accomplish. But the fourth thing is everybody needs someone to believe in."--Lou Holtz (born 1937), American football coach and analyst

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11. Thought for the day

A 24-year-old boy, seeing out from the train's window, shouted, "Dad, look the trees are going behind!" The father smiled, while a young couple sitting nearby looked at the boy's childish behavior with pity. ... Suddenly, the boy again cried out, "Dad, look the clouds are running with us!" ... The couple couldn't resist and asked the boy's father, "Why don't you take your son to a good doctor?" ... The man smiled as he replied, "I did, and we are just coming from the hospital. My son, blind from birth, just got his eyes today." ... Every single person on the planet has a story. Don't judge people before you truly know them. The truth might surprise you.

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12. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following NC events in full, please click:
Here

(1) Paul Hanke: Keeping It Real. (2) 5th Annual Asheville Faerie Arts Festival. (3) Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike. (4) Talking to God. (5) Exhibit of photographs by Maureen Simon. (6) Rabbi Tirzah Firestone. (7) ART.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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