BLAINESWORLD

#1000
11.23.2015

In this issue

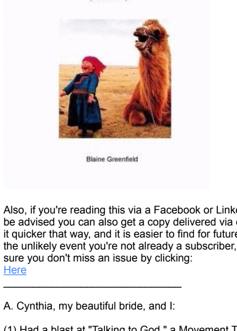
1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Technology tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

Note: As you may have noticed, this is a special issue of my BLAINESWORLD blog; i.e., #1000! ...It started back on Oct. 23, 1996, when it was first called STUFF and has been published every week since.

And as a special thank you to y'all for being a past, present or even future reader, I'd like to invite you to read my first book (see cover below)--a collection of some of the best jokes that have appeared over the years. It is my gift to you; there is no charge. To obtain it, click:
Here

Then click "Download File" at the bottom, and you're all set. Enjoy and feel free to share your reaction(s).



Also, if you're reading this via a Facebook or Linkedin link, please be advised you can also get a copy delivered via email. You'll get it quicker that way, and it is easier to find for future reference. In the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, you can make sure you don't miss an issue by clicking:
Here

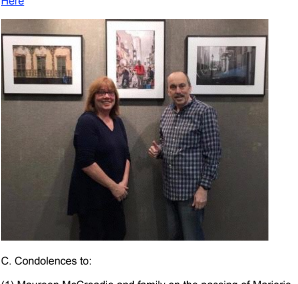
A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had a blast at "Talking to God," a Movement Theatre Presentation directed by Barrie Barton. Cynthia (on the far left in the left photo) was one of the many talented performers, along with Amanda Levesque, Ash Devine, Barbara Brady, Bonnie Sibner, Cappy Tosetti, Chris Tye, Ellane Chandler, Ilene Procida, Marcy Gallagher, Marjie Skwara, Maureen Simon and Tania Boggia. Afterward, she was congratulated by Bradshaw Call (right photo). ... And then a bunch of folks who participated and/or attended went to Early Girl Eatery for some tasty food. That's (in the bottom photo, l-r): Gregg Levoy, Daniel Barber, Ellane Chandler, Robert Thomas and Barrie Barton. Kudos to the manger on duty, Gloria, as well as servers John and Mathew for taking such good care of us. ... For more pictures from the evening, please click:
Here

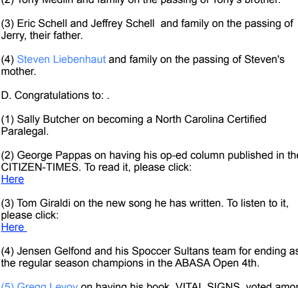
(2) Enjoyed hearing Rabbi Tirzah Firestone speak at Congregation Beth Ha Tephila. That's us with Mark and Robin Goldstein.

B. During the week:

(1) I had the pleasure of visiting my friend Vanessa Freund (second from the left) at the opening of her new CPA firm in Asheville. Barbara and John Schnautz, other friends, were also there.



(2) I received a personal tour of my friend Maureen Simon's superb photographs that are currently on display at UNCA's Ramsey Library through December 16. For more information, please click:
Here



C. Condolences to:

(1) Maureen McCreadie and family on the passing of Marjorie Muriel Henderson McCreadie, Maureen's mother.

(2) Tony Medlin and family on the passing of Tony's brother.

(3) Eric Schell and Jeffrey Schell and family on the passing of Jerry, their father.

(4) Steven Liebenhaut and family on the passing of Steven's mother.

D. Congratulations to: .

(1) Sally Butcher on becoming a North Carolina Certified Paralegal.

(2) George Pappas on having his op-ed column published in the CITIZEN-TIMES. To read it, please click:
Here

(3) Tom Giraldi on the new song he has written. To listen to it, please click:
Here

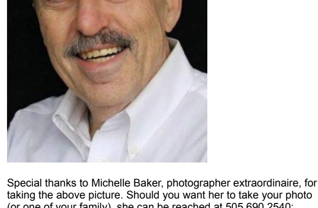
(4) Jensen Gelfond and his Spoccer Sultans team for ending as the regular season champions in the ABASA Open 4th.

(5) Gregg Levoy on having his book, VITAL SIGNS, voted among the "Best Spiritual Books of 2015" by the multi- faith website "Spirituality and Practice."

(6) Eddie Davis on the start of his third career. He is now selling Chevrolet cars and trucks at Sunshine Chevy on Long Shoals.

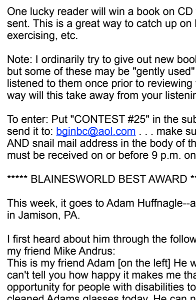
(7) Asheville (pictured below) for being voted #1 place to retire in America by MARKET WATCH. To read a good overview of the city, please click:
Here

Note: To read information about the specific ranking, please go to the page 11 when you click:
Here



(8) Congratulations to Ilene Procida in NC and Jerry Crouch in NC, both winners of Contest #24: a book from a list that they have been sent. Ilene was one of 18 entries submitted via my BLAINESWORLD blog, and Jerry was one of over 200 entries submitted via Facebook.

Your votes helped me choose my next headshot. It was #2 in the list you saw. A cropped version appears below.



Special thanks to Michelle Baker, photographer extraordinaire, for taking the above picture. Should you want her to take your photo (or one of your family), she can be reached at 505.690.2540; email: michellevest@gmail.com.

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

***** CONTEST #25 *****

One lucky reader will win a book on CD from a list that you will be sent. This is a great way to catch up on books while traveling, exercising, etc.

Note: I ordinarily try to give out new books and CDs in contest, but some of these may be "gently used" (meaning that I may have listened to them once prior to reviewing them in this blog). In no way will this take away from your listening enjoyment.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #25" 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, Dec. 14.

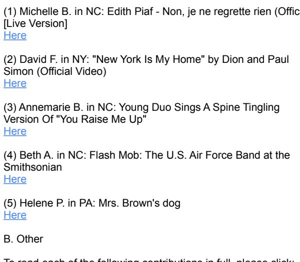
***** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD *****

This week, it goes to Adam Huffnagle--a bagger at the Giant store in Jamison, PA.

I first heard about him through the following Facebook post from my friend Mike Andrus:
This is my friend Adam [on the left] He works at my local Giant. I can't tell you how happy it makes me that Giant has provided an opportunity for people with disabilities to work and thrive. I cleaned Adams glasses today. He can now see through them. I told him I would make sure they were clean every week so he could see better. We laughed. I said "Adam, when was the last time you cleaned these glasses! Who was president?" He laughed and said, "Richard Nixon." I am blessed to be among such wonderful people.

Mike then ran this follow-up post:
I ran into my buddy Adam again today. He is awesome. I really commend Giant for providing an equal opportunity to anyone who wants to work there and thrive. My main reason to shop there isn't the store, it's the people. Adam and others make the experience a rich one.

Note: Kudos to Giant for hiring Adam and several other people with disabilities. To quote Mike again, "They have 4 or 5 people with disabilities and I know them all. They take their job seriously and all try to make a difference."



Back to Top

2. FYI

Thanks to my friend Tera Broughton for this easy way to use coupons. Just take a picture on them on your phone. When you get to the store, you don't need to try to find the coupon ... just show it to the store on your phone. This recently helped Tera at Target, and I'm sure it could be done at virtually any other store.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Michelle B. in NC: Edith Piaf - Non, je ne regrette rien (Officiel) [Live Version]
Here

(2) David F. in NY: "New York Is My Home" by Dion and Paul Simon (Official Video)
Here

(3) Annemarie B. in NC: Young Duo Sings A Spine Tingling Version Of "You Raise Me Up"
Here

(4) Beth A. in NC: Flash Mob: The U.S. Air Force Band at the Smithsonian
Here

(5) Helene P. in PA: Mrs. Brown's dog
Here

B. Other

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

(1) Arlene D. in PA: Blaine, I really appreciated the article by Micah Solomon regarding "No Problem." (2) Natalie K. in PA: Saw Steve jobs. (3) Kathryn L. in NC: Thanks for tip about calendars! (4) How to talk to children about terrorism. (5) Brawn and brains. (6) Walela D. in NC: The future of medicine is food. (7) Ashleigh M. in NC: I made gluten free pineapple upside down cake tonight! (8) Choose to be grateful. It will make you happy. (9) Mike M. in NC: Spotlight ***1/2. (10) HELP REQUEST DEPT.: Our good friends in NC need a place to stay.

Back to Top

3. Joke 1

There was a prison break, and I saw a midget climb up the fence. As he jumped down, he sneered at me and I thought, "Well, that's a little condescending."

Back to Top

4. Reviews

A. Saw SUFFRAGETTE, a fact-based drama about the women who were willing to lose everything in their fight for the right to vote in early 20th century Britain. Carey Mulligan is excellent in the leading role, but overall, I was disappointed in the film. It somewhat dragged for me, and I found the cinematography was very dark. Meryl Streep is billed as being in it, but you'll have to wait until halfway through to see her. And even then, she has a very small role. Rated PG-13.

B. If you're a Meryl Streep fan, though, catch RICKI AND THE FLASH. It is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #984 follows:
Saw RICKI AND THE FLASH, a dramedy about a female rocker who gives up her family for a shot at stardom. Meryl Streep, who learned to play guitar and does her own vocals, is outstanding in the title role. I also liked the performances of Rick Springfield, Kevin Kline and Mamie Gummer (Streep's real-life daughter). The very talented Audra McDonald is somewhat wasted in a smaller role that didn't even involve her singing. There's a great soundtrack, as well as an excellent ending. Rated PG-13.

C. Read LEADERSHIP: THE 5 FUNDAMENTALS FOR RESTAURANT MANAGERS (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform) by Brent Boso.

The author started working in the quick-service industry in 2007 and is now both a full-time director and executive of his local restaurant.

He points out that most new mangers don't take time in their careers to develop skills that are necessary to succeed in any profession. In addition, they don't receive any long-term leadership development.

I especially liked Boso's point with resepect to the need for giving a reason for everything you teach:
Don't just give them the basics of how to make or do something, but give them a 100% explanation and tell them WHY to keep doing it that way. It doesn't take long, and it can be done multiple times a day. Perspective explaining is an on-the-fly mindset you can use.

He then gave several excellent examples, including this one:
The way: When on the Drive-Thru window register, continue to hold a friendly conversation with the guest until the food comes up.
The why: It's absolutely amazing service. It will also help hide the fact that you are waiting on the food.

If you're a beginning manager in the restaurant industry or looking to become one, LEADERSHIP will be worthwhile addition to your library.

D. Heard BOBBY WONDERFUL: AN IMPERFECT SON BURIES HIS PARENTS (Hachette Audio), written and read by Bob Morris.

The author first lost his mother, then his father. He describes both what that entailed and how he felt, and in doing so, he brought back memories of when my parents were approaching the end of their lives.

This is a short book with insights that others will find helpful, particularly if faced with a similar situation. There's some humor in it, too, so you won't find it overly depressing.

Back to Top

5. TV alert

A. THE MAKING OF TRUMP: Monday, Nov. 30, at 9 p.m. on HISTORY
A two-hour documentary examines how Donald Trump went from loudmouthed businessman to loudmouthed business man running for president.

B. RACING EXTINCTION: Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 9 p.m. on DISCOVERY
"This alarming and timely documentary at times plays like a caper thriller," notes TV GUIDE. [It exposes] "the illegal trade in shark fins and mantra ray gills."

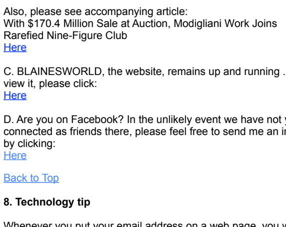
C. THE WIZ LIVE! Thursday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. on NBC
The musical version stars Shanice Williams as young Dorothy, and the cast includes Queen Laitfah, Mary J. Blige and David Alan Grier.

D. A VERY MURRAY CHRISMTAS: Friday, Dec. 4, via Netflix
Bill Murray plays himself in a madcap tribute to variety shows.

Back to Top

6. Joke 2

A rabbi and a priest buy a car together and store it at the priest's house. One day, when the rabbi goes over to use the car, he sees the priest sprinkling water on it. He asks, "What are you doing?" ... The priest responds, "I'm blessing the car." ... So the rabbi says, "OK, since we're doing that ..." and takes out a hacksaw, then cuts two inches off the tail pipe.



Back to Top

7. Websites

A. Sky S. in NC: At last year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, a dance team of elderly ladies stole the show
Here

B. Are You Smarter Than a Billionaire?
Here

Also, please see accompanying article:
With $170.4 Million Sale at Auction, Modigliani Work Joins Rarefied Nine-Figure Club
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

Back to Top

8. Technology tip

Whenever you put your email address on a web page, you will most likely get more spam. Here's why: Spammers regularly visit such pages and collect anything that looks like an email address to include on their mailing lists. ... That's one of the reasons that I never ask for and/or post email addresses on this blog. ... If you want to avoid this from happening, create a separate email address just for those times when you might be tempted to post it.

Back to Top

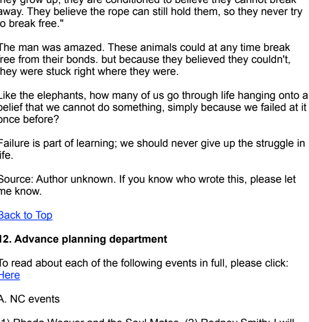
9. Joke 3

A guy is at a bar, staring at his drink. Then a big truck driver comes up, takes the drink and chugs it down. The poor man starts crying. The trucker says, "I was just joking. Here, I'll buy you another drink. I just can't stand seeing a man crying." ... "No, it's not that. This day is the worst of my life. First, I fall asleep, and I'm late to work, so my boss fires me. When I leave, I discover my car was stolen. I get a cab to return home and realize I left my wallet there. I go home and find my wife sleeping with the gardener. I leave, come to this bar and just as I was thinking about putting an end to my life, you show up and drink my poison."

Back to Top

10. A quote I like

PLEASE BE CAREFUL ON FRIDAY, NOV. 27 ... and don't forget what Capt. Kirk said to Mr. Spock: "Those Black Friday sales are the scariest things I've ever had to face."



Back to Top

11. Thought for the day

As a man was passing the elephants in a circus, he suddenly stopped--confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at anytime, break away from their bonds but for some reason, they did not.

He saw a trainer nearby and asked why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away. "Well," the trainer said, "when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free."

The man was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds. but because they believed they couldn't, they were stuck right where they were.

Like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging onto a belief that we cannot do something, simply because we failed at it once before?

Failure is part of learning; we should never give up the struggle in life.

Source: Author unknown. If you know who wrote this, please let me know.

Back to Top

12. Advance planning department

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

A. NC events

(1) Rhoda Weaver and the Soul Mates. (2) Rodney Smith: I will be teaching an intermediate level Photoshop CS 6 class for AB Tech's continuing ed dept. (3) Paula Hanke & Michael Jefry Stevens with David Novak. (4) Carolina Jews for Justice/West, Congregation Beth Israel andCongregation Beth HaTephila are co-sponsoring a program addressing race and police practices.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Join Barry Sysler's family on January 20, 2016 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Green Parrot in Newtown to support Bucks students and help continue Barry's legacy. (2) 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' Is First Up in December at MCCC's Kelsey Theatre.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

Back to Top