

You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not tooo risqué (typically in Sections 4, 7 and 10); contests; reviews of shows, movies and books; quotes, etc. ... Please feel free to share it with 437 of your closest friends and relatives.. ... And In the unlikely event that you or they are not already a subscriber, just click the following link to be added to the free mailing list: [Here](#).

#1425

1.1.2024

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I got ready for the New Year with my new "look," as can seen below. In case you missed the news last week, I shaved my COVID beard that had been part of me for almost three years.



B. We had a nice time at the holiday party of our friends Madison Brightwell and her husband Ray Hope.

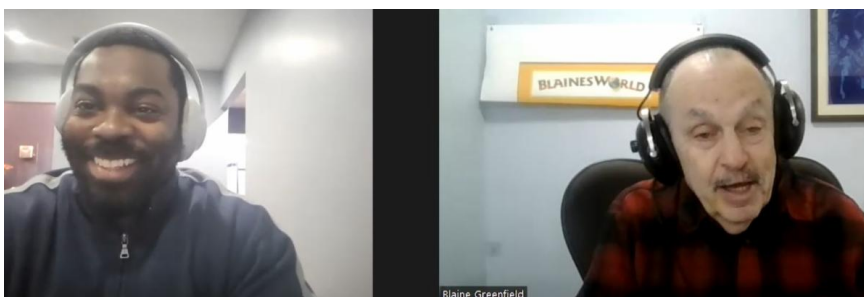


C. I had the pleasure of hosting two webcasts this past week. Both can be seen and/or viewed on the respective dates by clicking: [Here](#).

(1) 12.26.2023: Kaleo Wheeler, Director of The Heart of Aloha; and Speaker/Storyteller, Spiritual Teacher and Spiritual Mentor to Women



(2) 12.27.2023: Caleb Owolabi, Founder and Co-Owner of Caleb Showroom; and Documentarian



D. What a pleasure to celebrate Christmas with Kismet, our amazing cat. He even get a birthday hat to wear, in that it was exactly one year ago that we adopted him!



E. Congratulations to Madison Brightwell on the fact that her book, THE WORLD BEYOND THE ROSEBUD TREE, achieved Best Seller status on Amazon. For more information about the book, click: [Here](#).

F. Thanks to:

(1) All those who replied to my recent survey about Zoom broadcasts. 13 were in favor of having my guest on screen with me at the same time (to my left), while 9 said they liked the person speaking to be the only person on screen. What I'll be doing is sort of a compromise. I'll keep the guest on screen with me; i.e., unless they are performing a song or telling more than a short story, poem, etc. In that latter case, I'll then just feature the guest.

(2) Y'all for putting up with me for mailing out two separate BLAINESWORLD blogs last week. I felt the second one (#1424) was necessary to explain why some folks seemed to get two Facebook friend requests.

If you did not yet get and/or read the above, please do so by clicking: [Here](#)

You'll also get some useful advice that can help to prevent you from having other Facebook problems.

(3) Dana Kagan for pointing out that I messed up the caption on a joke from last week's issue. What follows is the corrected version:

I didn't sleep well last night, so I made my coffee this morning with Red Bull instead of water. I got halfway to work before I realized I forgot my car.



G. Announcing this week's ..

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

It goes to Mosaic Cafe, 1 Town Square Blvd, Asheville.

The food there is always terrific, as evidenced by the smiles in the pictures below from two recent visits: top, Cynthia with me; and bottom left, my friend Steve Kimmel with me.

The service is outstanding, too. In the bottom right picture, that's Dominic on the left and Connor, one of the managers, on the right.

My only disappointment: This eatery used to be open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday until 7 p.m., but by the time you get this, that will no longer be the case. They will be back to the regular hours: 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday to Friday; and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.



2. Invites

A. Reminder: Tomorrow is the last chance to enter ...

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

Three lucky readers will each win a package with three spice blends from Karen's Spice Kitchen, my friend Karen Paley's business. To find out more about this cool prize that will enable you to create authentic international meals, click: [Here](#).

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST 19 in the subject line. Include your name and mailing address in the body of the email. All entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024.

B. Want to be a guest on my BLAINESWORLD webcast? It can now be seen on YouTube or you can listen to it on your favorite webcast player.

Even if you've been a guest before, I'd welcome the opportunity to speak with you again. I now tape via Zoom, usually in the early evening.

For more information about the webcast, click: [Here](#)

If you have news you'd like to share and/or a story to tell, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put GUEST

in the subject line. In the body of the email, include both your name and phone number.

C. Are you interested in shows, movies, TV, etc.? ... If so, I encourage you to join a group I've formed on Facebook that's called Entertainment. To do so, all you need to do is follow the instructions when you click: [Here](#).

D. Come join Cynthia for the course she'll be teaching for Arms Around ASD this week: Move Your Body on Wednesday via Zoom or in person.

To attend this course and/or any other that is being offered, scroll down to Calendar when you click: [Here](#).

3. FYI

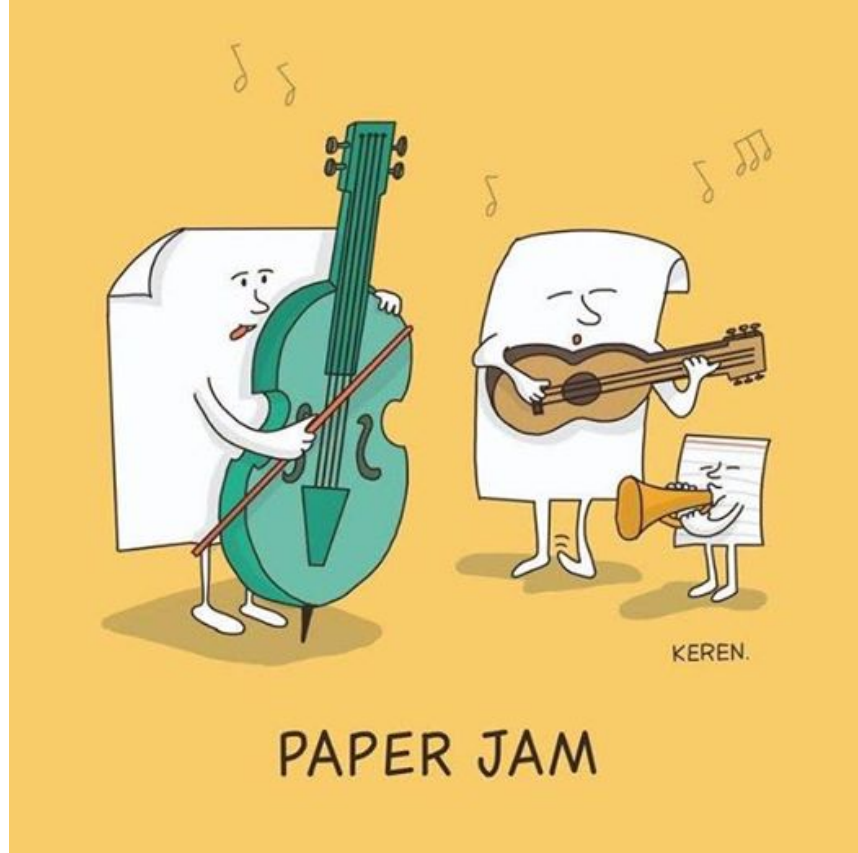
And one more for you ... get your hankies out as you watch the following: [Here](#).

If you're like me, and you celebrate all holidays because there's more food, fun and friends that way, my hope is that you made it a MERRY CHRISTMAS! (Thanks, Robinson Fox, for sharing the meme, and Jan Correa for sharing the clip.)



4. Joke 1

They should all be reamed!



5. Reviews

A. I liked **THE BOYS IN THE BOAT** a lot more than Cynthia did. The film tells the real-life underdog tale of the University of Washington JV crew team that somehow managed to win a gold medal at the 1936 Olympics. Joel Edgerton stars, along with a bunch of actors I had never seen before. I got a kick out of cameo performances from the actors playing Jesse Owens and Adolf Hitler. Rated PG-13.

B. We were both disappointed with **MAESTRO**, the biography about Leonard Bernstein, that we saw at Grail Moviehouse but is now on Netflix. The film tells the lifelong relationship between Leonard Bernstein and Felicia Montealegre Cohn Bernstein and features fine performance by Bradley Cooper and Carey Mulligan, respectively. We were also impressed by makeup artist Kazu Hiro's work. But overall, the film felt flat, and I learned little about Bernstein's background. Rated R.

Note: To read more about how Hiro transformed Cooper into Bernstein, click: [Here](#).

C. **LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND**, now on Netflix, is an apocalyptic thriller that gets off to a strong start, then fades after about 30 minutes. I became bored with it long before the ending, despite a watchable cast that included Julia Roberts, Mahershala Ali and Ethan Hawke. Rated R.

6. TV alert

A. **SUITS**: Now on Netflix

This addictive legal drama ran for nine seasons. Thanks to a recommendation from my friend Tom Gallagher, I've become hooked.

Mr. Curious here: I'm still only on Season 1. Has anybody else watched and enjoyed this show? And if so, did you stay to watch all nine seasons?

B. **OPRAH AND THE COLOR PURPLE JOURNEY**: Now on Max

In this documentary, Oprah Winfrey, who got an Oscar nomination in 1985's *The Color Purple*, gives you a behind-the-scenes inside lowdown on the 2023 musical version she coproduced with Steven Spielberg, which is a front-runner for two Oscars and a longer shot for about 10 more.

C. **M*A*S*H: The Comedy That Changed Television**: Monday, Jan. 1. on Fox at 8 p.m.

Filmmaker John Scheinfeld got highly personal, never-before-seen interviews with the cast and creators, and the clips of classic *M*A*S*H* moments will crack you up and fill you with nostalgia.

D. 2023 ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY: Monday, Jan. 1, on ABC at 8 p.m. See performance highlights and standout moments from the musical event honoring Kate Bush. Sheryl Crow. Missy Elliott, Rage Against the Machine. the Spinners, Chaka Khan. Blood, Sweat & Tears founder and Dylan sideman Al Kooper, the late George Michael, Willie Nelson and more.

7. Joke 2

An ornithology student crammed for his final exam. He studied for days. When he got to take it, he walked into the room and saw 25 pictures of birds' feet pinned up on the walls.

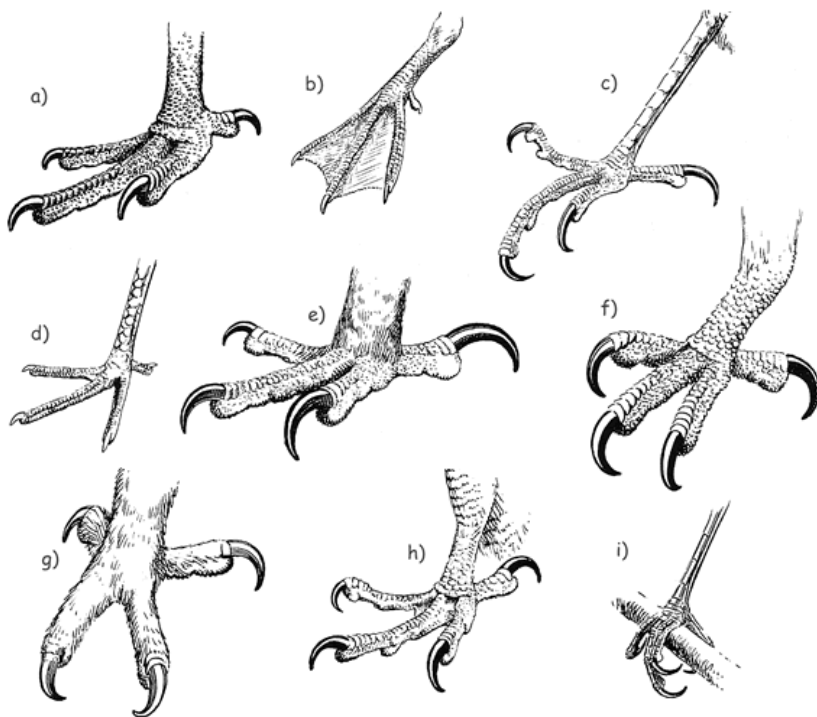
He told the professor that he had studied for a long time, but never did he expect to have to identify a bird from its feet alone. He added that no one will pass this test. The professor replied, "Well, that's the final."

The student said, "I can't even identify one of these, so I'm not going to take the test. Just flunk me."

So the professor responded, "As you wish I will give you a zero on the final. What's your name?"

The student rolled up his pants leg, stuck out his leg for the professor to see and said, "You tell me."

(Thanks, Kathy Byers, for sharing.)



8. Clips/Sites

A. The Turtles are arguably the greatest rock group of all time!

(1) As mentioned previously, this section will feature music by The Turtles--either their recordings and/or covers of their music by others.

I'd especially love to see any recording you may have done of "Happy Together."

Send it to: bginbc@aol.com and put THE TURTLES in the subject line.

Note: Even if you did not do a recording, I welcome anything done by others--not only of "Happy Together," but any other Turtles' song.

(2) For this week, please view this cover from Russ Willoughby: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

Thanks, Cathy De Troia, for sharing:

Christopher Walken is one of my favorite actors and quite the dancer: [Here](#).

C. And also check out these other clips at your convenience:

(1) Peter Maffay, "You," one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Howard Smith: Hymns (12.31.2023): [Here](#).

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: My Sweet Lord: [Here](#).

(4) To hear George Harrison sing the above, click: [Here](#).

(5) Never too old to dance: [Here](#). (Thanks, Declan Sheehey, for sharing.)

(6) Cool tapping: [Here](#). (Thanks, Lisa Dake, for sharing.)

D. Here's a website that you might want to check out:

To shop smarter, not harder, take a peek at Retail Me Not for all the latest discounts and deals at your favorite online stores by clicking: [Here](#).

Among the ones you'll find: The Children's Place, Expedia, UGG, Wayfair and Pizza Hut (30% all pizza orders).

E. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click: [Here](#).

F. 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](#).

9. Technology tip

A clipboard manager makes your online life easier.

If you're not familiar with this temporary storage location, Windows users can click this link for more information: [Here](#).

And Mac users can click this link to find out more: [Here](#).

10. Joke 3

A nurse walks into a bank, preparing to endorse a check. She reaches in her pocket and pulls out a rectal thermometer and tries to write with it.

She looks up at the teller, pauses for a moment, then realizing her mistake, she says, "Well that's great. Some asshole's got my pen."

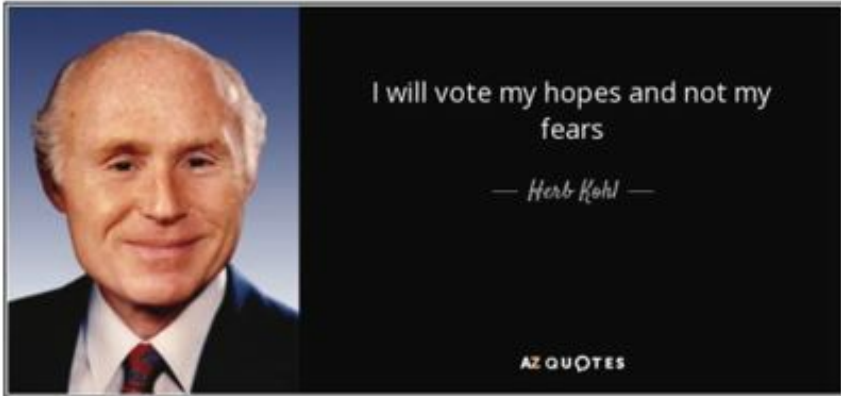
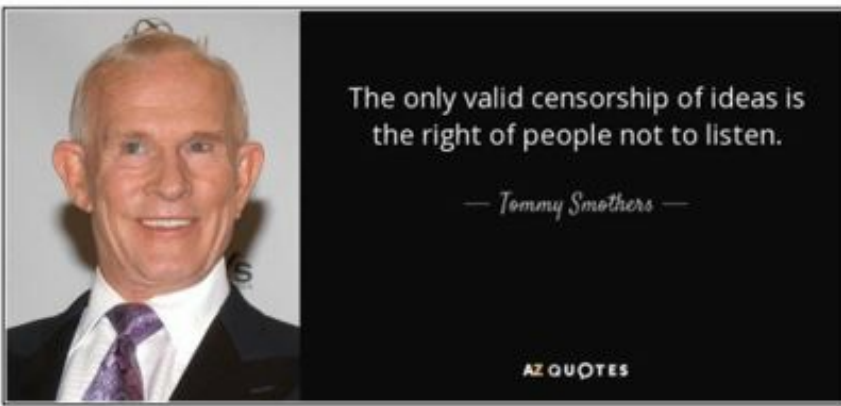


11. Three quotes I like

Top: Thanks, Tom Smothers (1937-2023), for your life as an American comedian, actor, composer and musician, best known as half of the musical comedy duo the Smothers Brothers, alongside his younger brother Dick. For more information about his life, click: [Here](#).

Middle: Thanks, Herb Kohl (1935-2023), for your career as an American businessman, philanthropist and Democratic senator from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was also a co-founder of the Kohl's department store chains and a longtime owner of the Milwaukee Bucks. For more information about his life, click: [Here](#).

Bottom: Thanks, Tom Wilkinson (1948-2023), for your career as an English actor. Known for his roles on stage and screen, he received numerous accolades, including a BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe Award and a Primetime Emmy Award, as well as nominations for two Academy Awards and two Laurence Olivier Awards. For more information about his life, click: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/-full-monty-batman-begins-actor-tom-wilkinson-dies-75-rcna131694?fbclid=IwAR080QFvH26ZELMS13UM4cF-oYrvFKpDt8kzD53D6EkYcdZOtbIDANt334I>.



"All good actors are easy to work with. It's the ones that aren't very good who tend to be very difficult."--Tom Wilkinson



12. Thought for the day

PLEASE JOIN ME IN THIS ACTIVITY

Benjamin Franklin was famous for a self-improvement plan wherein he made a list of 13 things in his life that needed work. He then attempted one each day for a full week. After 13 weeks, he would start the list all over again. He'd multiply this by four to get 52, the number of weeks in a year.

So this New Year's Eve Day, I sat down and developed my own list of 13 things that I plan to start working on tomorrow.

Care to do this with me?

MY PERSONAL LIST OF GOALS FOR 2024

1. I will communicate exclusively in memes.
2. I will binge-watch my favorite show while eating a pint of ice cream all by myself.
3. I will only celebrate obscure holidays.
4. I will finish all the DIY projects I started and abandoned in 2019.
5. I will be unashamed about the fact that I wear pajamas in public.
6. I will eat dessert first at every meal.
7. I will harness every bit of willpower I have to not hit the elevator button repeatedly in a futile attempt to make it go faster.
8. I will share inappropriate jokes at the most awkward moment possible.
9. I will learn how to juggle and recite the alphabet backward simultaneously.
10. I will step on the scale and give myself a high-five no matter what the numbers say.
11. I will go to a rock climbing facility and watch other people fall.
12. I will take up darts or some other sport that requires no cardio whatsoever.
13. I will give up blaming the family pet for every strange smell in the house (especially when I know it came from me).

PS. Make it a fabulous 2024!

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