

#1058  
1.2.2017

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**1. Reflections**

If you're reading this via Facebook or LinkedIn, please be advised that you will get it quicker if you get it via email. Another advantage: You'll never miss it that way because you may not have logged in for a day or two. And in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, all you need to do is send an email to: [lgblnc@aol.com](mailto:lgblnc@aol.com) and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had a blast welcoming 2017 in at a New Year's Eve Party at the Artisan Cafe & Coffee House.



(2) Julia (aka Bradshaw Call) gave a fantastic cooking demonstration that was viewed by Annemarie Brown, Marvin Sadovsky and everybody else who was in attendance. To view it, please click: [Here](#)



(3) The Galloping Gallaghers (Marcy and Tom) had us all singing along as they made their performance debut. To view four of their songs, please click the following links: [Blowin' in the Wind](#)  
[This Land is Your Land](#)  
[My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean](#)  
[Here I Got the Whole World in His Hands](#)



(4) All those in attendance also got their very own personalized fortune cookie.

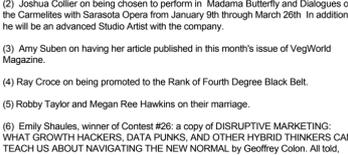


(5) And they got to see the excitement of the ball drop at 7:59 p.m. (so everybody could get home to enjoy their beauty sleep). You can view this, too, by clicking: [Here](#)

Also, for more pictures from the evening, please click: [Here](#)

B. The next day, we were fortunate to be invited to two great parties:

(1) The first was at Barrie Barton's house. She is pictured in the left photo, along with Russ Gowan. On the right: Joanie Lamb and Daniel Barber.



(2) The second was at Randi Robins' house. He is pictured in the left photo, along with Tom Higgins (Tom is singing "Cindy and Chuck").



C. Condolences to:

(1) Jane L. Birnbach and family on the passing of Jane C. Smith, Jane's mother-in-law.

(2) Arlene Higgins and family on the passing of Colleen Higgins, Arlene's mother-in-law.

(3) Gary Charles and family on the passing of Gary's mother.

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Pat Achilles on the wedding of her daughter, Julie, to Brian Bennis.

(2) Joshua Collier on being chosen to perform in Madama Butterfly and Dialogues of the Carnoties with Sarasia Opera from January 5th through March 26th. In addition, he will be an advanced Studio Artist with the company.

(3) Amy Subern on having her article published in this month's issue of VegWorld Magazine.

(4) Ray Croce on being promoted to the Rank of Fourth Degree Black Belt.

(5) Robby Taylor and Megan Ree Hawkins on their marriage.

(6) Emily Shaules, winner of Contest #26: a copy of DISRUPTIVE MARKETING: WHAT GROWTH HACKERS, DATA PUNKS, AND OTHER HYBRID THINKERS CAN TEACH US ABOUT NAVIGATING THE NEW NORMAL, by Geoffrey Colton. All told, there were just two entries. And that reminds me it's now time for:

\*\*\*\*\* CONTEST #1 (of 2017) \*\*\*\*\*

One lucky winner will win a copy of LEADERSHIP by Brian Tracy. The author looks at what transforms a person into the kind of individual who inspires others to follow. ... I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #1050 and enjoyed it. ... To enter the contest: Send an email to: [lgblnc@aol.com](mailto:lgblnc@aol.com) and put CONTEST #27 in the subject line. In the body of the email, please include your small mail address. All entries must be received on or before Monday, January 16, at 9 p.m.

E. Invitations:

(1) I hope you can join the Asheville Jewish Business Forum at this event: Networking in the New Year.

Takes a most useful step towards a fruitful 2017 with an evening of making connections at the Asheville Jewish Business Forum's January networking event. Join us at Pack's Tavern for an optional dinner and/or drinks, then get into the spirit of new beginnings with networking designed to help you create connections and build skills. No special skills or prior knowledge are required—simply an open-minded attitude about learning something new about the people around you.

Date: Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017  
5:30-6:30 p.m., dinner and/or drinks  
6:30-7:30 p.m., networking event  
Location: Pack's Tavern, 20 S Spruce St, Asheville  
Free public parking after 5 p.m. in the outdoor lot on Marjorie Street, adjacent to Pack's Tavern  
Jennifer Gelfond will be leading the session.

\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE RSVP, SO WE CAN NOTIFY THE RESTAURANT \*\*\*\*\*

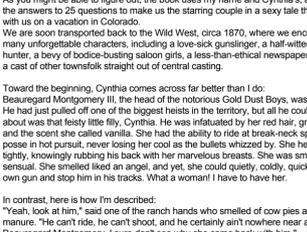
Please send an email to: [ashen@ah@aol.com](mailto:ashen@ah@aol.com) on or before January 6 and put JANUARY 10 in the subject line. In the body of the email, include your name, phone number and if any others will be coming in addition to yourself. Guests are always welcome, and you don't have to be Jewish to attend.

(2) DRAG QUEEN BINGO ... care to join Cynthia and me? ... Should be a fun event on Feb. 10, and it's for a great cause (Brother Wolf) ... We're putting together a table, so if you want to join us, let me know right away because tables usually sell out within 10 days. As always, can reach me via email, [lgblnc@aol.com](mailto:lgblnc@aol.com), or a Facebook message. ... I'm picking up tickets this coming Tuesday, so as to take advantage of a coupon and not have to pay Ticketmaster fees.



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

This week, it goes to Dameon Bonham—a handyman extraordinaire. ... He can be seen (below), sealing our garage floor. He then painted it, as can be seen on the right. It looks great, doesn't it? ... Dameon also helped us with several other small and medium-sized projects, and we're looking forward to having him install a new TV we're getting. He is good with painting, carpentry, electricity and it seems just about everything else. ... His prices are reasonable, and to top things off, he's a real nice guy. To reach him, your best bet is to give him a call at 828.775.4548.



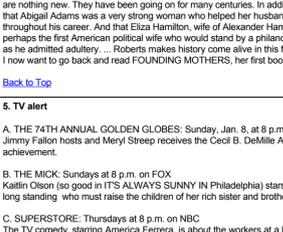
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**2. FYI**

Last week's issue mentioned the need to consider your pets when making out your will. What we've done: Chosen Brother Wolf Animal Rescue to take over their care in the unlikely event that anything should ever happen to us both. According to Denise Bitz, founder and president of the organization, "I believe we are the only rescue in town who has a lifetime care program for people and their pets."

For more information about this outstanding organization, please click: [Here](#)

Something else we've done is to place a sign in our front door window, indicating how many pets are inside the house in case of fire. You can do the same with a plain index card.



FYI, part 2

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

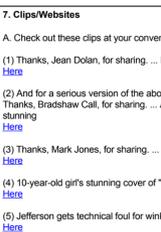
[Here](#)

(1) A month without sugar. (2) How to become a superhero. (3) The best time to re-tune your car? It's probably right now. (4) Bray Creech: Contingency Day is a great idea! (5) Deborah Becker: I confess that I scan more than read my newsletters. (6) Is your workout not working? Maybe you're a non-responder. (7) The year of conquering negative thinking. (8) Mike Martine: Absolutely recommend SING. And proceeds to the Golden Globes award. (9) The film I'm going to see this weekend. (10) Feed your kids peanuts, often and early, new guidelines urge. (11) Kathy Byers: Fill those Amazon boxes.

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**3. Joke 1**

This reminds me of the Mark Twain quote: "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years." ... Now that I'm 67, I relish being home early, so that I can get into my pajamas!



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**4. Reviews**

A. Saw WHY HIM?, an inoffensive comedy about a loving dad and his family who meet the billionaire boyfriend of his daughter. Bryan Cranston and James Franco are both fine in the leading roles, and Megan Mullally is funny as Cranston's wife—but she should have had a bigger role. The film was somewhat ruined for me by the fact that I had seen many of the best scenes via the coming attractions. This is one you can definitely wait for until it comes out on DVR. Rated R.

B. Out on DVR is MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN, a film based on a true story about a 10-year-old girl who has a rare, incurable disease. Her mother, Jennifer Garner in a terrific performance, refuses to give up her fight to find a solution. This faith-based drama held my attention from the beginning until the end, and I recommend it strongly. Rated PG.

C. Loved reading WILD WEST LOVE FEST: A PERSONALIZED ROMANCE NOVEL FEATURING CYNTHIA GREENFIELD AND BLAINE GREENFIELD (YourNovel.com) by Thomas Marcy, my friend who also gives by the name of Tom Gallagher.

As you might be able to figure out, the book uses my name and Cynthia's, as well as the answers to 25 questions to make us the starring couple in a sexy tale that begins with us on a vacation in Colorado.

We are soon transported back to the Wild West, circa 1870, where we encounter many unforgettable characters, including a love-sick gambler, a half-entitled bounty hunter, a bevy of bodice-busting saloon girls, a less-than-ethical newspaper man and a cast of other townsfolk straight out of central casting.

Toward the beginning, Cynthia comes across far better than I do: Besuregard Montgomery III, the head of the notorious Gold Dust Boys, was smitten. He had just pulled off one of the biggest heists in the territory, but all he could think about was that feisty little fella, Cynthia. He was infatuated by her red hair, green eyes and the scent she called vanilla. She had the ability to ride at break-neck speed with a poise in hot pursuit, never losing her cool as the bullets whizzed by. She held him tight "knowing just how to lean back with her marvelous breasts. She was smart and sensual. She smelled like an angel, and yet, she could quietly, coldly, quickly pull his gun and stop him in his tracks. What a woman! I have to have her.

In contrast, here is how I'm described: "Yeah, look at him," said one of the ranch hands who smelled of cow pats and hog manure. "He can't ride, he can't shoot, and he certainly ain't no warrior as pure as Besuregard Montgomery. I sure don't see why she came back with him."

Things get better for me, though—especially in several of the other parts: "Enlightenment moved up to his shiny spot hair and spread over his head, where her fingernails gently moved over his scalp. She could tell by his response that he liked it. If he likes that, she thought, he's going to love this. She moved her other hand lower to the ..."

WAIT, I almost forgot! This blog is sometimes read by impressionable children, so I'm going to have to stop here before their parents object. Or I get too worked up to continue.

So I'll just leave you with these questions: Where did Cynthia's hand wind up? Will we be able to get back to the 21st century? Will our love stand the test of time? For those answers, you'll have to read WILD WEST LOVE FEST! I.e., if you can ever get it out of our bedroom.

Note: This book makes the perfect Valentine's Day, birthday or "just because" gift. And if you purchase your own copy, it would utilize your names and answers. Also, use the following code to save 15% if you order before March 17: 6W0d15% ... To order, please click: [Here](#)

D. Heard LADIES OF LIBERTY: THE WOMEN WHO SHAPED OUR NATION (Harper Audio), written and read by Cookie Roberts. ... The author, a commentator on both ABC News and National Public Radio, draws on personal correspondence, private journals and other primary sources to shed light on many of the heroines who helped shape our nation. ... I found it especially interesting to learn that battles with the press are nothing new. They have been going on for many centuries. In addition, I learned that Abigail Adams was a very strong woman who helped her husband John through his career. And that Eliza Hamilton, wife of Alexander Hamilton, was perhaps the first American political wife who would stand by a philandering husband as he admitted adultery. ... Roberts makes history come alive in this fascinating book. I now want to go back and read FOUNDED MOTHERS, her first book on the subject.

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**5. TV alert**

A. THE 74TH ANNUAL GOLDEN GLOBES: Sunday, Jan. 8, at 8 p.m. on NBC  
Jimmy Fallon hosts and Meryl Streep receives the Cecil B. DeMille Award for career achievement.

B. THE MICK: Sundays at 8 p.m. on FOX  
Kaitlin Olson (so good in ITS ALWAYS SUNNY IN Philadelphia) stars as a towlfe of long standing who must raise the children of her rich sister and brother-in-law.

C. SUPERSTORE: Thursdays at 8 p.m. on NBC  
The TV comedy, starring America Ferrera, is about the workers at a big-box store in St. Louis starts its winter season. ... Mr. Curious here: Did you see this show's previous season? I didn't, but if you did, please let me know what you thought of it.

D. BRIGHT LIGHTS, STARRING CARRIE FISHER AND DEBBIE REYNOLDS.  
Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 12:30 p.m. on HBO  
A portrait of Hollywood royalty Carrie Fisher and her mother, Debbie Reynolds. USA TODAY calls it "a mandatory appointment for any fan of either woman."

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**6. Joke 2**

Good advice, but the patient needs to apply such knee operation. And keep doing this on a regular basis; otherwise, the alternative of a nice gangly would cost a lot of dough.



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**7. Clips/Websites**

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Thanks, Jean Dolan, for sharing. ... Mary Morris - "Snow" an Adele "Hello" Parody  
[Here](#)

(2) And for a serious version of the above: Thanks, Bradshaw Call, for sharing. ... Adele's "Hello" sung as Gaelgic is just stunning  
[Here](#)

(3) Thanks, Mark Jones, for sharing. ... Shit waiters have to put up with  
[Here](#)

(4) 10-year-old girl's stunning cover of "Hallelujah"  
[Here](#)

(5) Jefferson gets technical foul for winking  
[Here](#)

B. To find stuff that's both cool and geeky, visit the Bing Blog by clicking: [Here](#)

Recent posts included:  
Bible references make very weak passwords  
This Wand Remote makes couch surfing magical again  
Registered Democrats who didn't vote cost Hillary the election  
Watch the joy of grandpa receiving light-up sneakers

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**

I recently bought the following TV for Cynthia: Samsung UN60KS8000 60-Inch 4K Ultra HD Smart LED TV (2016 Model) via Amazon Prime, and we are both very happy with it. We particularly liked that there was no extra charge for shipping, and they set it up for free. (That would've had to be the case had it been bought it at Best Buy.)

But what STINKS is the built-in sound that came with the above. It is terribly muffled ... so much so, in fact, that we had to buy a Bose Sound Bar to give us decent sound. Unfortunately, this seems to be the case with most flat screen TVs. To read more, please click: [Here](#)

So be aware that if you purchase a flat screen TV, you're probably going to have to spend extra to also get a sound bar. We paid \$249 for ours and also got that at Amazon.

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**9. Joke 3**

My girlfriend said, "Take off my shirt." So I took off her shirt. ... Then she said, "Take off my skirt." I took off her skirt. "Take off my shoes." I took off her shoes. Now my hose, bra and panties. "And so I took them off. ... Then she looked at me and said, "I don't want to catch you wearing my things ever again."



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**10. A quote I like**

"Whatever you give a woman, she will make greater. If you give her sperm, she'll give you a baby. If you give her a house, she'll give you a home. If you give her groceries, she'll give you a meal. If you give her a smile, she'll give you her heart. She multiplies and enlarges what is given to her. So, if you give her any crap, be ready to receive a ton of shit"—Ernie S. Gray, American author

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**11. Thought for the day**

Language of 2016 Was a "Dumpler Fire" by Rob Kyff

The year gone by, oh what a mess.  
I left our language in distress.  
The venom of election fuss  
With "nasty" insults tortured us.  
From Donald Trump came "torked Hills",  
While she denounced "deplorable."  
He scolded "morons," "hombrics" bad,  
As "lightweights," "losers," just "so sad."  
"Obamacare, repeal, replace"  
Became his mantra, fueled his base.  
Without a hint of circumspection,  
Conjured up a "rigged election."  
Exuding chutzpah, brass and pomp,  
He vowed that he would "drain the swamp."  
The words that haunted Clinton so  
Were "servers," "emails," "hard drives." Woe!  
As Putin hacked her like a snake,  
And stoness on the net were "fake."  
No matter whom we voted for,  
All these terms became a bore.  
Upon election, Trump with might  
Assured us things would be "all-right."  
And pundit's jargon wouldn't quit:  
"Fast-track," "back-in," "surrogate" ...  
With "kill down," "walk-back," "weaportize,"  
A "common-sense approach" was wise.  
Of "move the needle," "dumpler fire"  
Our "moving pants" began to rise.  
And during spring the constant croak heard:  
Both conventions might be "brokered" ...  
And every time they mentioned "Brexit,"  
Attention spans began to exit.  
The p.c. crowd with indignation  
Invited us to "conversational"  
Their "ship" means "relations," very "is,"  
"A hundred percent" is now "hundo p."  
And that's how our language tried to convey  
A year of surprises. What a test to pass?

\* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Rob Kyff, a teacher and writer in West Hartford, CT. He mixes your language sightings. Send your reports of misuse and abuse, as well as examples of good writing, via e-mail to: [Worqguy@aol.com](mailto:Worqguy@aol.com).

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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) ROMEO & JULIET. (2) Conversation that's part of The Ghostlike Project.

B. PANI event  
Late-Nite Improv Jam.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!  
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[Join Our Making List!](#)