

You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not toooo 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](#).

#1372
1.2.2023

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I, are pleased to introduce you to the newest member of the Greenfield family, our Ragdoll cat ...

KISMET



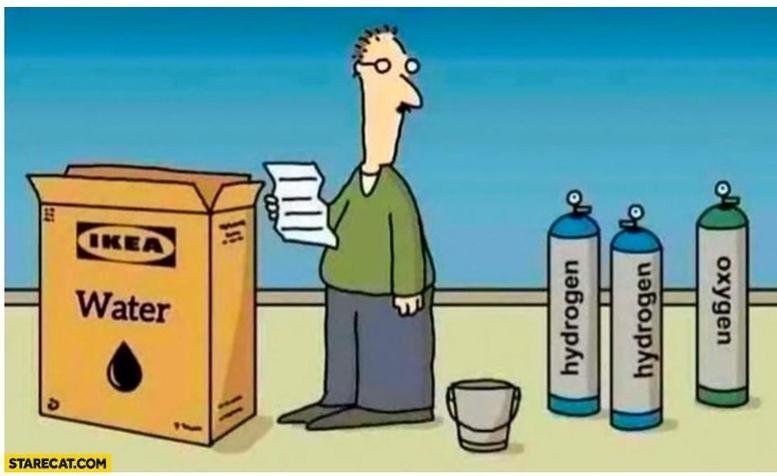
B. Kismet joined us on Christmas Day. So while Cynthia was acclimating him to our home, I got to attend a festive dinner at the home of our friends Tom and Marcy Gallagher, along with Jim and Barb Gallagher, Bonnie Sibner and Evie. Not pictured: Scout.



C. It was a crazy week in Fairview and parts of South Asheville, in that a water outage resulted in there being no water available for drinking or bathing for six days.

Unfortunately, as a result, we had to cancel a New Year's Eve party.

The one good thing: Things returned to normal just before I would have had to test out my handyman skills. (See below.)



D. The weather in the area has also been crazy with temperatures ranging from 1-60 degrees, virtually overnight. Yet we were able to get out for a walk most days and observe this view from the front of our home.



E. In addition, we got to the Asheville Outlets where we had some tasty pizza at Acropolis Pizza Cafe.



F. Please catch this week's BLAINESWORLD podcast, featuring guests (first half) Cindy Pike, owner of Get Lifted Tire & Alignment; and (second half) Jim Karegeannes, founder & owner, North Asheville Tea Garden

and co-owner of Brown Dog Press. ... To view it, click: [Here](#) and look for the one dated 12.27.2022. ... You'll then have the option to view it on YouTube or listen to it on your favorite podcast player.



G. Condolences to George Ferencz and family on the passing of George's Papa.

H. Congratulations to:

(1) Colby Coren and Christine Mukosiej Coren on their marriage.

(2) Jay Mitchell for the ad he created for the Assault Amphibian Memorial Monument Fund. To view it and/or to get information about making a contribution, click: [Here](#).

(3) Bjorn Goller and Haley Grace on the birth of Amelia Scout, their third daughter.

I. Announcing this week's ...

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

Thanks, Cynthia Greenfield, for this week's nomination of Tim Grant with a company called Molly and Friends.

I was looking for a good scratching post. Many of them are not well made.

I found the website for Molly and Friends.

Tim was prompt in getting back to me. He told me that I could order from him and have it delivered, but that it would take 12-16 weeks.

I did not want to wait that long. Tim also told me that they sell his brand of cat trees at Pet Supermarkets. When I requested that he find out what Pet Supermarkets had which scratching posts and how much they were, he proceeded to do exactly that and called me back quickly. He found one in the local Pet Supermarket on Tunnel Road in Asheville.

Tim was extremely pleasant and friendly. How many people would actually find out such information for you?

I cannot think of one business that would do that. The conversation was both fun and successful. I felt as if Tim was a friend.

I will use his company again and tell everybody about it.

When I told Tim that I appreciated what he did and his attitude, he said that "spreading love" is what it is about.

Here is to "spreading love," being of service and doing it with kindness.

Note: For more information about Molly and Friends, click: [Here](#).

2. Invites

A. Please accept my apology for omitting information in last week's blog about ...

***** CONTEST #20 *****

I failed to include the details you needed to enter it, so I have EXTENDED THE DEADLINE for entering it by one week. The prize remains the same.

One lucky reader will win a copy of HIGHER SELF EXPRESSION: HOT TO BECOME AN ARTIST OF POSSIBILITY by Jeff Carreira. To quote from the description in Amazon:

In this book, you will discover that genius is not only a talent that you are born with, it is a human capacity that can be trained and cultivated by anyone. In these pages, you will learn how to nurture your own creative brilliance by examining the unusual lives of luminaries ranging from: Gertrude Stein, Ralph Waldo Emerson and William James, to Anaïs Nin, Philip K. Dick and Captain Marvel. You will compare the genius of Eastern mysticism with the brilliance of Christianity and Islam. You will explore great works of poetry, literature, science fiction, comic books and even extreme sports. There is no realm of human endeavor that can not produce genius.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #20 in the subject line. In the body of your email, include your name and mailing address. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 2.

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

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 evenings.

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

C. Are you interested in shows, concerts, movies, TV, etc.? ... If so, I encourage you to join a new 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. The two courses that Cynthia teaches for Arms Around ASD, Meditation on Monday via Zoom and Move Your Body on Wednesday via Zoom or in person, will resume after the holiday break as follows:

Meditation on Monday, Jan. 9, and Move Your Body this coming Wednesday, Jan. 4.

As always, your best bet is to check the calendar for details by clicking: [Here](#).

E. If we're not yet friends on Facebook, click to send me a friend request: [Here](#).

Note: For other invites, see Sect.13 (at the bottom of this issue).

3. FYI

Self-made millionaire says 90% of your success depends on this single skill: 'Young people are terrible at it'
by Steve Adcock

Before I retired early at 35, I spent 14 years working in technology. In my senior management positions, I interviewed more than 100 candidates. A surprising amount of them didn't even make it to the second round.

But being good at interviews isn't just about landing jobs. Knowing how to develop a rapport with people is crucial in so many facets of your professional life, such as navigating relationships, problem-solving, getting clients, public speaking, and negotiating salaries and raises.

For the rest of this informative article, click: [Here](#).

4. Joke 1

Now we know for sure! (Thanks, Linda Williams, for sharing.)



5. Reviews

A. Do yourself a favor and catch ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL on Netflix. This delightful film brings the classic story back to the screen with a terrific performance from Emma Thompson (virtually unrecognizable because of her makeup) and dazzling dancing. Performances from Alisha Weir and Lashana Lynch were equally outstanding. Rated PG.

Note: Seeing the above I was reminded of the Asheville Performing Arts Academy's stage production of the show that I was fortunate to see in May, 2022. It knocked my socks off, especially because of the stellar direction from Mark Jones and performances from Dwight Chiles, Bradshaw Call and Juan Felipe Botero Berrio, among others.

B. I'm a sucker for holidays movies, and if you are also, you can still catch FALLING FOR CHRISTMAS on Netflix. Cynthia and I both enjoyed this one, which stars Lindsay Lohan as a newly engaged, spoiled hotel heiress who gets into a skiing accident, suffers from total amnesia and finds herself in the care of a handsome, blue-collar lodge owner and his precocious daughter in the days leading up to Christmas. Lohan is quite good in the leading role, and George Young had us laughing because of his overacting.

C. Thanks, Mike Martinelli, for this insightful review:
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance with Somebody ***1/2

Now my number 2 favorite movie of 2022 behind The Fabelmans, if you loved Whitney. then you will love this movie. It provides an honest look at her life including her Lesbian relationship with Robin, which was covered up for years.

Naomi Ackie is perfect as Whitney, and no, she does not do her own singing except the beginning scenes with the Gospel music. The film also brings out her lifelong friendship with Clive Davis, played by the always great Stanley Tucci.

I think my favorite casting in this film is Tamara Tunie from Law-and-Order fame as Cissy Houston. Cissy was a dominating mother like Rose Hovac in Gypsy, but her intentions are with love for Whitney.

The men in Whitney's life, her father and Bobby Brown, were the downfall of her life. Her father was manipulative and a thief. We all know Bobby Brown was a druggie who dragged Whitney down.

All the other supporting cast: Clarke Peters, her father, Nafessa Williams, her girlfriend Ashton Sanders Bobby Brown-- add to a great ensemble cast.

This film deserves to show up for cast ensemble awards, and it did not at Critics Choice. Unfortunately, I don't see it at SAG either, which is really a shame.

6. TV alert

A. EMILY IN PARIS, Season 3: Now on Netflix

To quote CableTV.com:

American Emily's mid-level marketing gig at a French firm could never realistically cover her extravagant wardrobe, but what's realism got to do with it? Emily in Paris is fizzy, fluffy fun, and a "brain vacation" sounds great right now.

B. I HATE SUZIE, Season 2: Now on HBO Max

This dark British comedy has former child star and actress Suzie Pickles (Billie Piper) working to rehab her public image, this time on a reality TV dancing shoe.

C. SURVIVING CHRISTMAS Now on Amazon Prime

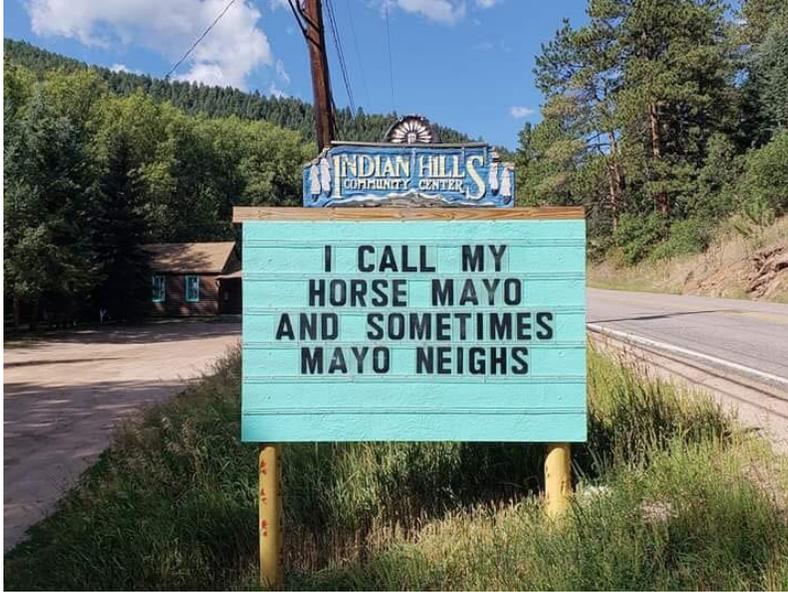
Worth watching because many consider it one of the worst Christmas movies of all time--despite an A-list group of actors, including Ben Affleck, James Gandolfini, Catherine O'Hara and Christina Applegate.

D. NYPD BLUE: Now on Amazon Prime

Don't miss all 12 season of Steven Bochco's incomparable 1993-2005 police drama, starring David Caruso, Dennis Franz and Jimmy Smits, among others.

7. Joke 2

Personally, I find this very punny.



8. Clips/Websites

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 version from 2021 version from Trouvère: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

Best of favorite dance moves: [Here](#). (Thanks, Jan Correa, for sharing.)

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

(1) Peter, Paul and Mary: Light One Candle, one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#). (Thanks, Natalie Joy Kaye, for sharing.)

(2) Howard Smith Jr.: Hymns (1.1.2023): [Here](#).

Note: Please join me in praying for Howard's wife Emily who just had a brain aneurysm.

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: David Bowie and Bing Crosby: [Here](#).

(4) To view the video that Neil mentions, "Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy," click: [Here](#).

(5) The Wexford Carol (Video) · Yo-Yo Ma, Alison Krauss: [Here](#). (Thanks, Susan Markowitz, for sharing.)

(6) Simon and Garfunkel, "American Tune": [Here](#). (Thanks, Jane Hatley, for sharing.)

(7) Dogs with funny habits: [Here](#). (Thanks, Linda Giaquinto, for sharing.)

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

Find facts, trivia and quizzes on Mental Floss--destination for curious people.

To quote from its website:

Since its founding in a Duke University dorm room in 2001, Mental Floss has reached more than 1 billion readers with smart, quirky content presented in a witty, upbeat voice. Our New York City-based team of editors and writers—as well as our worldwide network of contributors—answers life's big questions, uncovers fascinating facts, and finds stories so interesting that our readers absolutely must share them.

When you read Mental Floss, you'll discover amazing things like: why Paraguay loves Rutherford B. Hayes; hilarious Victorian slang you can incorporate into current conversations; the 100 best movies to stream right now; why both ravens and crows form—and hold—grudges; and how a famous board game was used to bust soldiers out of POW camps in World War II.

To view this cool website, click: [Here](#).

And to get the free weekly newsletter, click: [Here](#).

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

Do Scammers Have Remote Access To Your Computer? Do This!

by Ryan Toohill

Soraida Morales was confused when she got a bill for \$399 for virus protection for her computer. She'd never signed up for the service, so she called the number in the email to reverse the charge [*].

But once she was on the phone, the technical support agent convinced her to give him remote access to her computer so that he could "fix" the charge for her. Soraida watched as the agent moved her mouse, downloaded apps, and entered code on her computer.

Then, he stole \$3,000 from her.

Soraida was the victim of a remote access scam. In this type of scheme, fraudsters trick victims into downloading apps that give total control of their computer to the scammers. According to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), tech support scammers cost victims over \$18 billion in 2021 [*].

If you give a scammer remote access to your computer, you need to act quickly.

Here's how to regain control of your computer, identify future remote access scams, and protect yourself from malicious hackers.

For the rest of this eye-opening article, please click: [Here](#).

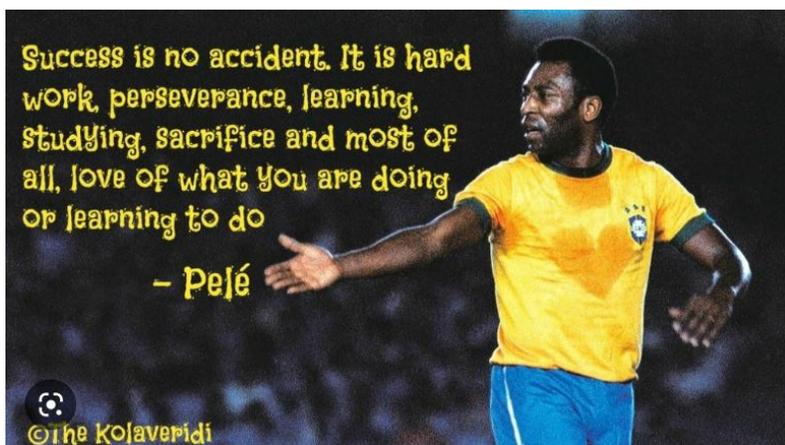
10. Joke 3

Methinks I need to get these shirts for Cynthia and me! (Thanks, Kathy Bademan, for posting.)



11. Two quotes I like

A. Thanks, Pele (1940-2022), for your career as a Brazilian professional footballer that had you widely regarded as one of that sport's greatest players of all time. He played in four World Cups and is the only player in history to win three, but his legacy stretched far beyond his trophy haul and remarkable goal-scoring record. For more information about his life, click: <https://www.cnn.com/2022/12/29/football/brazil-pele-soccer-died-intl-latam-spt/index.html>.



B. Thanks, Barbara Walters (1929-2022), for your careers as an American broadcast journalist and television personality. I always admired your work as a host of numerous television programs, including TODAY, the ABC EVENING NEWS, 20/20 and THE VIEW. For more information about her life, click: [Here](#).

To excel is to reach your own highest dream. But you must also help others, where and when you can, to reach theirs. Personal gain is empty if you do not feel you have positively touched another's life.—Barbara Walters



12. Thought for the day

Good afternoon and welcome to Flight 2023.

We are prepared to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your Positive Attitude and Gratitude are secured and locked in the upright position.

All self-destruct devices: pity, anger, selfishness, pride and resentment should be turned off at this time.

All negativity, hurt, and discouragement should be put away.

Should you lose your Positive Attitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated, you can assist other passengers who are of little faith.

There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight.

God, our Captain, has cleared us for take-off.

Destination - GREATNESS!

Wishing you a New Year filled with new HOPE, new JOY and new BEGINNINGS!

Stay Blessed!

And if you're like me, and you celebrate all holidays (because there's more food, fun and friends that way), my desire is that you make it a HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

(Thanks, Linda Williams, for sharing.)

Best announcement you'll hear when flying in this coming year. (See above.)



13. Advance planning department

For more information about the following events, please click: [Here](#).

A. Connie Hurst: DREAM ON Theatre Works 2023 Season Announcement. B. TJ Shimeld: Ricky Boone 63rd Birthday Magic Show. C. Julie Wharton: Ovation is holding auditions. D. Jimmy Ferraro: Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre.

PS. Make it a great week!

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