
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](#).

#1373
1.9.2023

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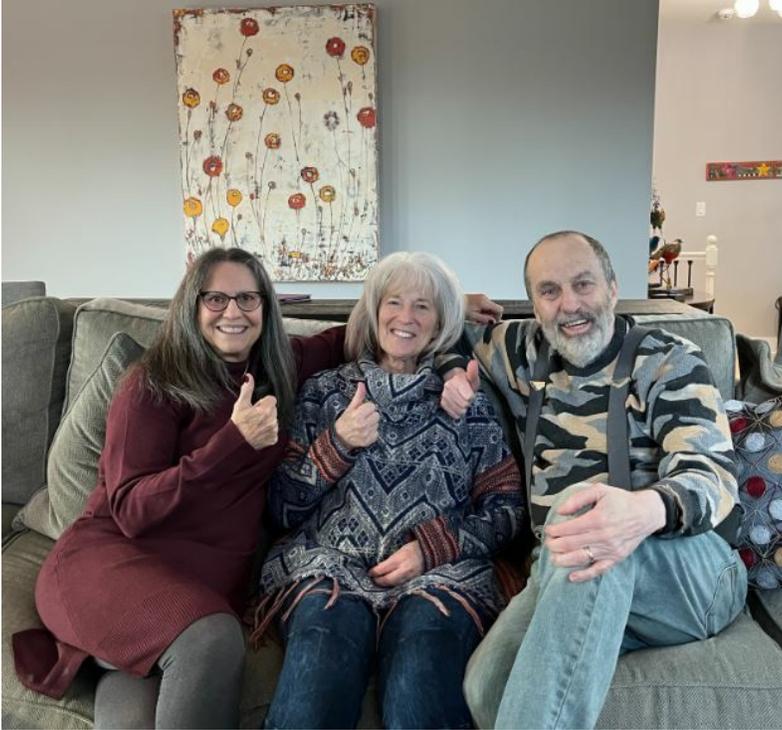
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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had to cancel our planned New Year's Eve party because of the water outage that hit both Fairview and South Asheville for most of the week. So instead, we got together with our friends Sunny Ruble and Roger Hecht for a tasty dinner at Mills River Restaurant where we received fine service from Carmen.



B. We then welcomed in the New Year on the next day with a delicious brunch at our friend Bonnie Sibner's home.



C. UPDATE ON KISMET & 3 QUESTIONS ... The cat we got on Christmas has made an amazing adjustment, and we are soooo happy to have him in our family. ... But he seems to need a lot of brushing. We actually enjoying brushing him, too, but he doesn't seem to like it as much as we do. ... So please advise via an email to: bginbc@aol.com if you have any answers to the following questions: (1) Any ideas on making him more receptive to brushing? (2) You use a local cat groomer who preferably makes house calls? (3) And, if so, what is that groomer's contact information? MANY THANKS!

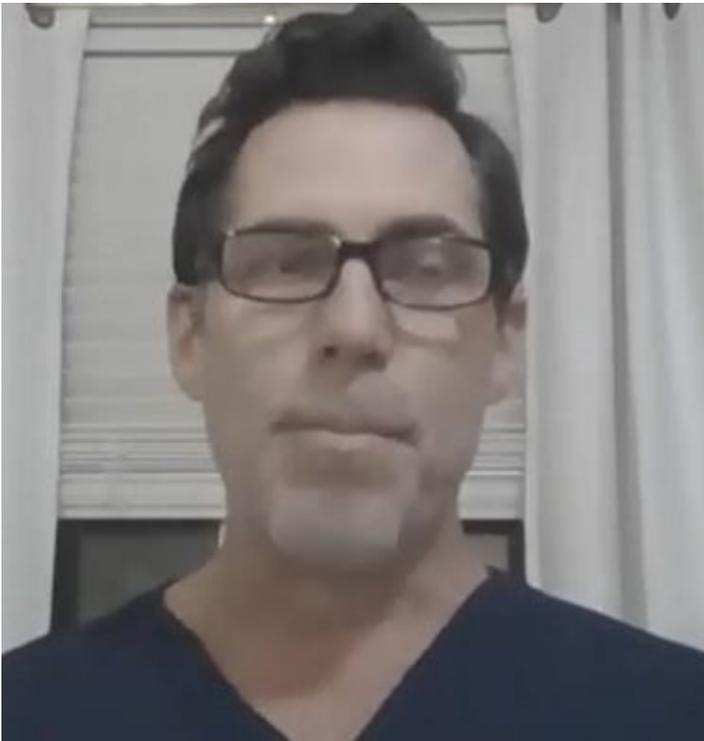


D. Send greetings to our latest addition: five plants belonging to our friends Brian and Carole Biro. We are taking care of them until the Biros complete their move from the Asheville area to Ruckersville, Virginia.



E. I had the pleasure of hosting three BLAINESWORLD podcasts this past week.

(1) The first featured Steve Solana, Physical Therapy Director at Brooks-Howell Home ... To view it, click: [Here](#) and look for the one dated 1.4.2023. ... You'll then have the option to view it on YouTube or listen to it on your favorite podcast player.



(2) The second featured TJ Shimeld, magician extraordinaire. ... To view it, click: [Here](#) and look for the one dated 1.6.2023. ... You'll then have the option to view it on YouTube or listen to it on your favorite podcast player.



(3) The third featured guests Mike Yow, Daniel Henry and Madison Garris. They discuss THE 39 STEPS, the play that runs at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts from Jan. 20-29. ... To view it, click: <https://www.blainesworld.net/> and look for the one dated 1.7.2023. ... You'll then have the option to view it on YouTube or listen to it on your favorite podcast player.



F. Hot off the press: My column for The Fairview Town Crier.

Note: if you live in the Fairview area, please see the last part for how to submit items.

Home (n.): Where you trust the toilet seat.

A man is on trial for armed robbery. The jury comes back with the verdict. The foreman stands, clears his throat and announces, "Not guilty."

The defendant leaps to his feet. "Awesome!" he shouts. "Does that mean I get to keep the money?"

*

I finally realized it ... people are prisoners of their phones. That's why they are called cellphones.

*

Money can't buy happiness, but it keeps the kids in touch!

*

I'm so poor, I rub cologne on my shirt. When people say, "Oh, you smell good, what is that?" I say, "page 14."

The worst time to have a heart attack is during a game of charades.

—Demetri Martin, comedian

"The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person's determination."

—Tommy Lasorda

I'm so happy. You know your body hasn't changed much when you can still fit into something that you used to wear 10 years ago. I mean, sure, it's just a scarf, but you've got to stay positive!

*

You are dust, and you will return to dust ... That's why I do not dust. It could be someone I know.

Readers are invited to submit funnies. Thanks, Cynthia Greenfield, for the following riddle:

**What did the grape say when it was crushed?
Nothing. It just let out a little wine.**



Blaine Greenfield is publisher of the BLAINES WORLD blog and host of a podcast with the same name. Send items for possible inclusion in a future issue to bginbc@aol.com.

G. Condolences to:

(1) Tom Sofield and family on the passing of Natalie Sofield, Tom's grandmother.

(2) Eric Phelps and family on the passing of Eric's mother.

H. Congratulations to Ruth Ann Foss and Paul Miler on their engagement.

I. Announcing this week's ...

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

This week, it goes to Rusty Bowers--the former top Republican in Arizona's house of representatives who stood up to Donald Trump's attempts to overturn the 2020 presidential election and was punished for it by being unseated by his own party.

This past Friday, he was among 12 people who were awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal by Joe Biden at the White House at a ceremony to mark the second anniversary of the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the US Capitol.

The award goes to those who performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or their fellow citizens.

For more information about this award, click: [Here](#).

2. Invites

A. CONGRATULATIONS to Robin Schoen, winner of Contest #20: a copy of HIGHER SELF EXPRESSION:

All told, there were four entries. And that means it is now time to introduce ...

***** CONTEST #1 (for 2023) *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of THE BREATHING BOOK: GOOD HEALTH AND VITALITY THROUGH ESSENTIAL BREATH WORK by Donna Farhi.

To quote from the Amazon description:

Internationally renowned yoga instructor Donna Farhi presents a refreshingly simple and practical guide to reestablishing proper breathing techniques that will dramatically improve your physical and mental health. Complete with more than seventy-five photos and illustrations, The Breathing Book offers a thorough and inspiring program that you can tailor to your specific needs. Whether you need an energy boost or are seeking a safe, hassle-free way to cope with everyday stress, you will find answers here.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #1 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. 16.

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 evening.

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. Come join Cynthia for the two courses she'll be teaching for Arms Around ASD this week: Meditation on Monday via Zoom and Move Your Body on Wednesday via Zoom or in person. To attend this and/or any of the other courses that are offered, scroll down to Calendar when you click: [Here](#).

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

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

3. FYI

Warning about delta-8

Cynthia had done some research on the above product. She liked that it supposedly helped with pain relief and, also, that it could provide for a better night's sleep.

So she started taking it, but her experience this past week convinced her never to take it again.

One night, at 2 a.m., she woke up when experiencing hallucinations, vomiting, tremor, anxiety, dizziness and confusion.

It may well have been the worst night of her life.

The next day, she went back to the drawing board and did a lot more research. If you'd like to find out more, Cynthia urges you to read the following two articles:

What is delta-8? [Here](#);

and

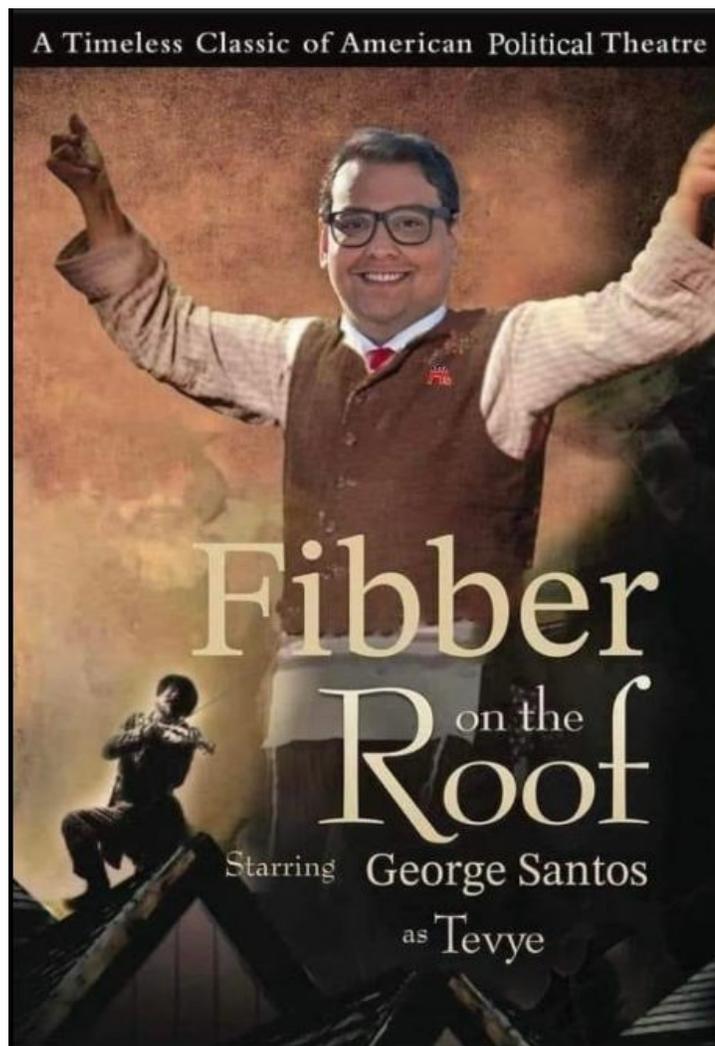
5 Things to Know about Delta-8 Tetrahydrocannabinol – Delta-8 THC: [Here](#).

In addition, she spoke to the manager of the store where she got the delta-8, and he said that there had been reports of others experiencing similar reactions with real marijuana.

Note: Cynthia and I would both be interested if you or somebody you know has had any negative reactions from using this product. If so, please send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put DELTA-8 in the subject line.

4. Joke 1

Can't wait to see this. (Thanks, Mike Martinelli, for sharing.)



5. Reviews

A. Cynthia and I both liked A MAN CALLED OTTO, a sweet drama about a grumpy widower whose only joy comes from criticizing and judging his neighbors. Tom Hanks is excellent in the leading role, and his

performance is matched in almost every scene by an actor we had never seen before: Mariana Treviño. Yes, much of the film is predictable, but suspend your judgment, and you'll find yourself delighted by its charms. Rated PG-13.

B. Thanks, Cynthia, for the recommendation to see *THE GOOD HEART* on Netflix. This 2009 drama is about a cantankerous but ailing bartender who takes a kindly young homeless man in under his wing. Paul Dano and Brian Cox are both outstanding in the leading roles. Rated R.

6. TV alert

A. *THE WHITE LOTUS*, Season 2: Now streaming on HBO Max

Mike White's Emmy-winning series returns for Season 2, following various guests over the span of a week in the White Lotus's Sicily location. Cynthia and I both liked this, maybe even more than we liked Season 1. And we're both looking forward to Season 3, but will probably have to wait until the end of 2023 or early 2024.

SPOILER ALERT: Is the HBO series setting itself to fail? For the answer to this question, click: [Here](#). But your best bet is to wait until you have seen all seven episodes of the current season.

B. *EMILY THE CRIMINAL*: Now on Netflix

If you thought Aubrey Plaza was fantastic in *THE WHITE LOTUS*, wait until you see her in this masterful action thriller about a broke artist with an MFA, a criminal record, no job offers except insulting unpaid interns, a hair-trigger temper and a new career as a thief no man can intimidate.

C. *80TH GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS*: Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 10 p.m. on NBC

Emmy-winning comedian Jerrod Carmichael hosts the show that has Julia Roberts, Kevin Costner and Jamie Lee Curtis among the contenders.

D. *WILDCAT*: Now on Prime Video

This documentary is about a British Afghan war vet, tormented by PTSD, who went to Peru's Amazonian jungle, met a woman who rescued a baby ocelot orphaned by loggers and fell in love with the woman and the ocelot. AARP calls it "heartwarming."

7. Joke 2

Here's my one and only New Year's resolution for 2023 ...

**I've decided to leave
my past behind me.**

**So if I owe you
money...**

**I'm sorry, but I've
moved on.**

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 around 2020 from Fast Birds: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

Jon and Susan took a trip to Las Vegas for a fun vacation. Susan thought they were just going to see the famous fountains. Little did she know that this would be lead to one of the most creative proposals ever performed, just for her!: [Here](#). (Thanks, Jonathan Berg, for sharing.)

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

(1) Dee Clark, "Raindrops"--one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Howard Smith, Hymns (1.8.2023): [Here](#).

(3) Sweet Caroline: [Here](#). (Thanks, Evelyn Blau, for sharing.)

(4) This elephant has a sense of humor: [Here](#). (Thanks, Perry Dror, for sharing.)

(5) Kevin Konkrete Davis: [Here](#). (Thanks, Terri Crosby, for sharing.)

(6) Singing dog: [Here](#). (Thanks, Peter Tamm, for sharing.)

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

You're probably familiar with BuzzFeed for such lists as the following:

16 Expert-Backed Ways To Combat SAD This Winter That Go Beyond Just Getting More Sunlight
25 Times People Sent Reeeeaally Awkward Texts, Like I Would Literally Crumble From Embarrassment
19 People Who Are Having A Way, Way, Way, Way, Way, Way, Way, Way, Way, Way Worse Week Than You

But check it for interesting posts on these other topics, including Quizzes, TV & Movies, Shopping, Videos, News Tasty.

To do so, 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

You can control who sees your Facebook posts—everyone, friends, friends of friends, or just specific people. If you have "friends" you don't want snooping on all your posts, restrict their access. Go to the profile page of the friend you want to restrict. Click the Friends button in gray (three-dot menu > Friends on mobile), and select Edit Friends List > Restricted. That friend will no longer see what you post unless it's a public post. You can check who's on this list by going to: [Here](#) (opens in a new window) and clicking Restricted.

Source: [Here](#) (#8).

10. Joke 3

On his January 8th birthday one year, Elvis Presley was asked by his beloved mother Gladys whether there was anything special he would like.

He answered, "Momma, I just want to know one thing: What's your reaction when folks call me by my nickname, Elvis the Pelvis."

She replied, "Well, son, I'm not crazy about it. But I'm just grateful I didn't name you Enis."



11. A quote I like

Thanks, Anita Pointer (1948-2022), for your career as an American singer-songwriter, best known as a founding member of the vocal group the Pointer Sisters. ... She co-wrote and was the lead singer on their hit song "Fairytale", which garnered them their first Grammy Award in 1975. She was also the lead singer on many of their other hits, including "Yes We Can Can," "Fire," "Slow Hand" and of my favorites, "I'm So Excited" that you can listen to by clicking: [Here](#). ... For more information about her life, click: [Here](#).

"It's not the hits or misses that are the most important. It's the experience I've had, the lives I've touched, and the memories I've made."—Anita Pointer



12. Thought for the day

What a Waste

The Story:

A mother camel and her baby were lying down, soaking up the sun.

The baby camel asked his mom, "Why do we have these big bumps on our back?"

The mom stopped to think and then said, "We live in the desert where there is not much water available. Our humps store water to help us survive on long journeys."

The baby camel then stopped to think and said, "Well, why do we have long legs with rounded feet?"

His mother replied, "They are meant to help us walk through sand."

The baby asked a third question, "Why are my eyelashes so long?"

The mother replied, "Your long eyelashes offer you protection from sand when it blows in the wind."

Finally, the baby said, "If we have all of these natural abilities given to us to walk through the desert, what's the use for camels in the Zoo?"

The Moral:

The skills and abilities that you possess won't be useful if you're not in the right environment.

You've probably heard of a professional who ditched his or her career to follow their dreams—or the person who remains unfulfilled in their job, but doesn't try to make a change.

If you're stuck in a career that isn't the right fit, you have to do some self-reflection to realize where your strengths lie that are going to waste.

Turn to people that you know the best as well as professionals in any given market so you can start thinking about what may be better for you

Think big and remain open to new ideas.

Source: [Here](#).

13. Advance planning department

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

A. Sharon Lewis: DEEP RIVER PLAYS THE EAGLES. B. Connie Hurst: Your donation of \$10, \$20 or more will help us cover the cost required to bring professional theatre to our community. C. Victoria Lamberth: Mac Arnold & Plate Full O' Blues. D. Victoria Lamberth: Calendar Girls. E. Jimmy Ferraro: Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre. F. Sarah Kohrs: Tumor Kohrs at White Horse Black Mountain. G. Joe Carroll: LIARS CLUB. H. Jamie Knox: Characterization and the Body Workshop. I. Floria Comeaux: Now looking for interns and theatre help. J. TJ Shimeld: Ricky Boone's 63rd birthday/magic show.

PS. Make it a great week!

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