

BLAINES WORLD

#1217
1-13-2020

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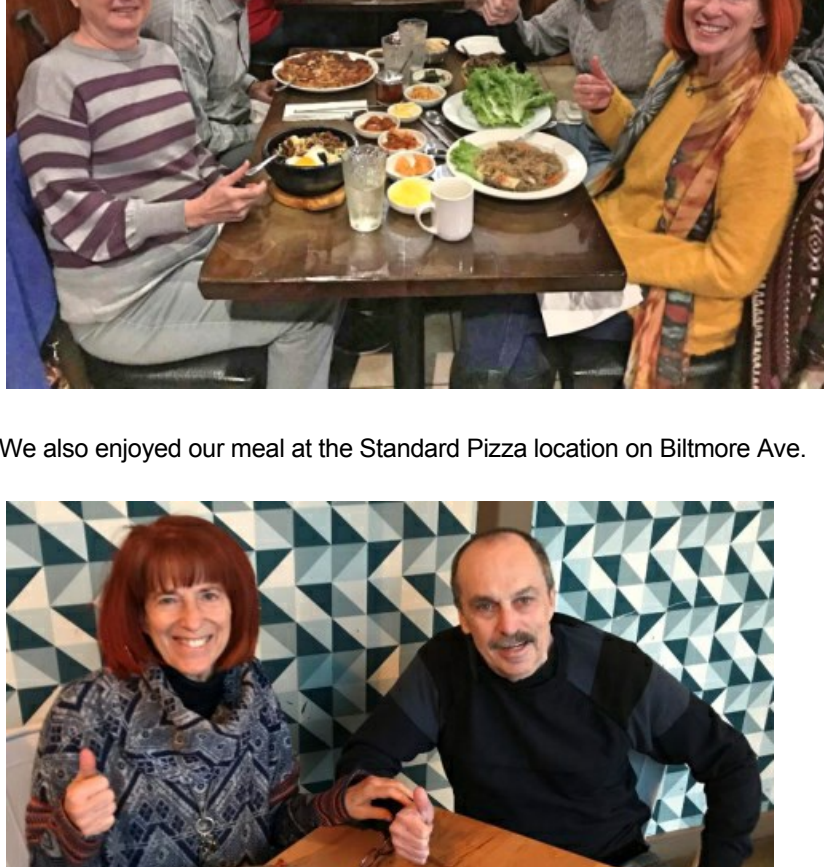
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1. Reflections

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: hginc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a delightful dinner with our friends Ginny Plaisted and Grant Randal at Stonebowl Korean Restaurant where we received excellent service from another Cynthia.

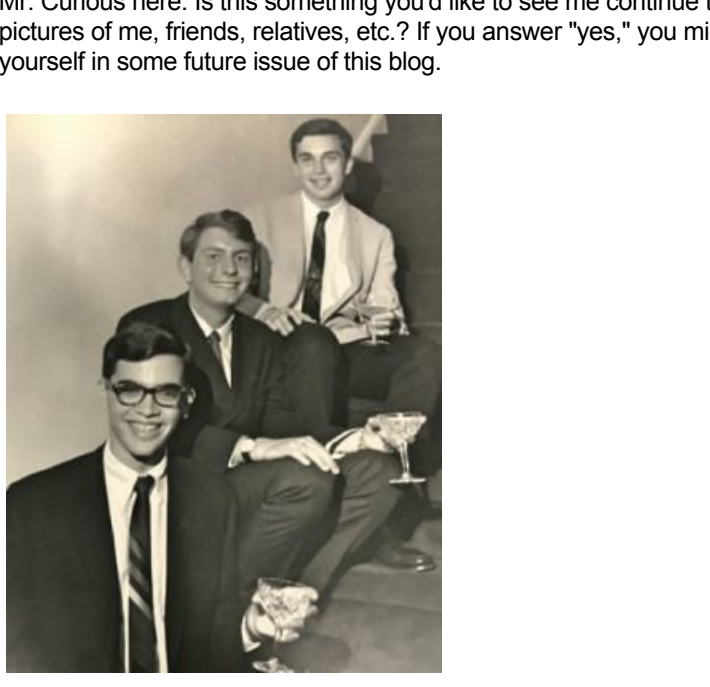


We also enjoyed our meal at the Standard Pizzeria location on Biltmore Ave.



B. Cynthia loves the gift she received from Thomsen Guth, our handyman extraordinaire: a special sign he made with his wife Linda for our cat Lovey. Thanks to you both!

Note: If you need any repair work, building of shelves and bookcases, etc., Thomsen is your man. He can be reached at 803.804.8038.



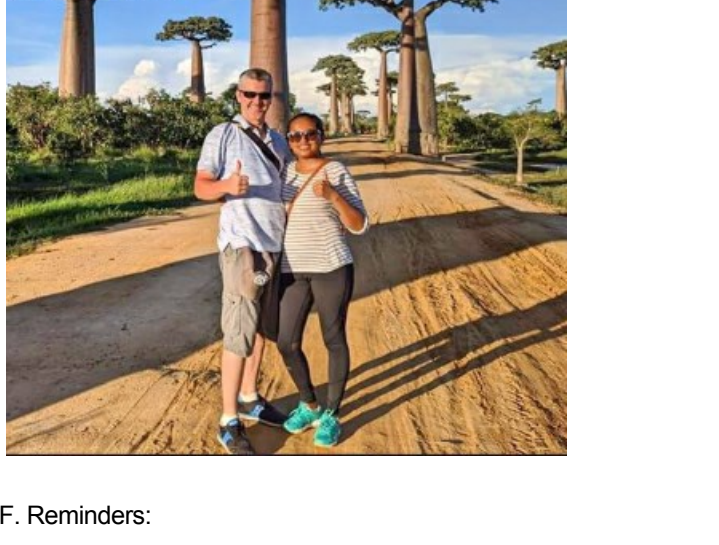
C. THOSE WERE THE DAYS ... with Cynthia's help, I'm going through old pictures. Here is one of me when I even had some hair at my high school graduation party, along with my friends Craig Dreingler (middle) and Stephen Dreyfuss (bottom).

Mr. Curious here: Is this something you'd like to see me continue to run; i.e., old pictures of me, friends, relatives, etc.? If you answer "yes," you might even find yourself in some future issue of this blog.

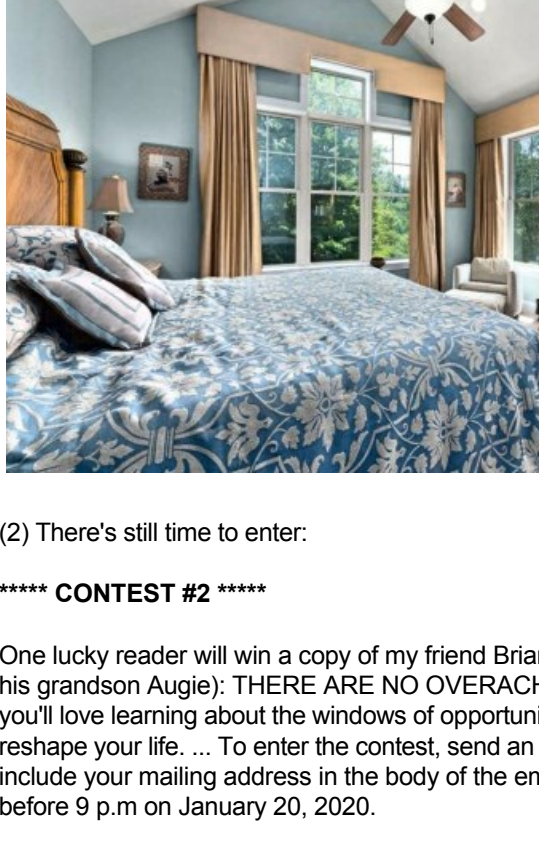


D. Catch this week's BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM. ... Guests: (first half) Lau Magie, writer, singer and actor, Monsters Under the Bed, and Chris Medrano, co-director and tech adviser, Monsters Under the Bed; and (second half) Sharon Lewis, band leader, Deep River, and Gerry Brown, pedal steel player, Deep River. ... To view the show, please click: [Here](#).

Note: Special thanks to Grail Moviehouse for sponsoring the above. To find out what's currently playing, please click: [Here](#).

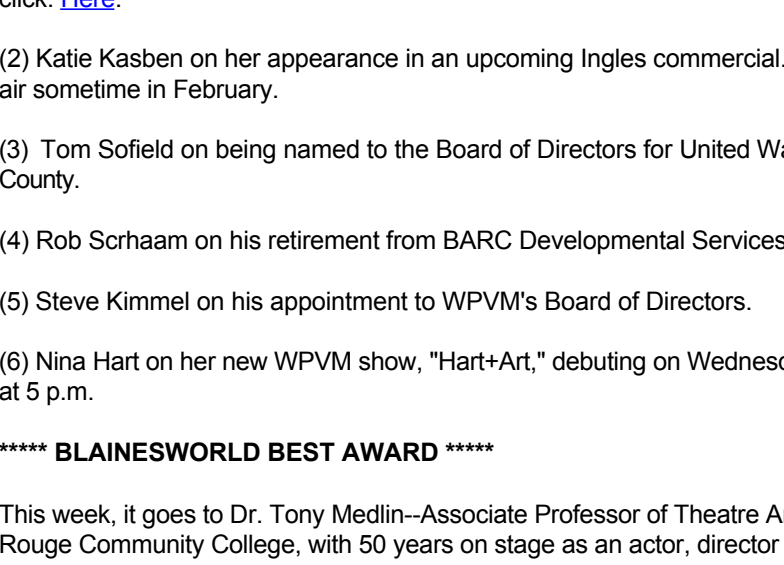


E. WHAT SOME FOLKS WILL DO TO GET INTO BLAINESWORLD! ... That's Ryan Phillips and his lovely wife Sarah Angel on vacation at the famous Bacobab Alley in Morondava, Madagascar. I loved the caption he posted on his Facebook page "This one's for you Blaine Greenfield."



F. Reminders:

(1) Our Biltmore Lake home remains for sale. Here's the magnificent view from the master bedroom. For more information, please click: [Here](#).



(2) There's still time to enter:

***** CONTEST #2 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of my friend Brian Biro's book (being held below by his grandson Augie): THERE ARE NO OVERACHEYERS. I've read it and can tell you'll love learning about the windows of opportunity that can impact, indirect and even reshape your life. ... To enter the contest, send an email to: hginc@aol.com and include your mailing address in the body of the email. All entries must be received before 9 p.m. on January 20, 2020.

G. Congratulations to:

(1) Jeff Messer on being named Artistic Director at Hendersonsville Community Theatre. To read all about the exciting news, please see Section 1 when you click: [Here](#).

(2) Katie Kasben on her appearance in an upcoming Ingles commercial. It is slated to air sometime in February.

(3) Tom Sofield on being named to the Board of Directors for United Way of Bucks County.

(4) Rob Schaam on his retirement from BARC Developmental Services.

(5) Steve Kimmel on his appointment to WPVM's Board of Directors.

(6) Nina Hart on her new WPVM show, "Hart+Art," debuting on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 5 p.m.

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

This week, it goes to Dr. Tony Medin--Associate Professor of Theatre Arts, Baton Rouge Community College, with 50 years on stage as an actor, director and playwright.

I've had the pleasure of seeing him perform in productions at SART and have also enjoyed following him on Facebook. In addition, he has shared with me--and countless others--the following technique for learning lines. (And thanks, Doug Hauschild, for initially bringing this to my attention when you told me that you learned it from Tony when you were in SOUND OF MUSIC.)

Here is the technique, as described to me in a recent email from Tony: I taught this technique for learning lines to many students. It originated with Sir Anthony Hopkins, and I learned about it through a mutual friend.

I got into acting due to the inspiration provided by James Dean and Marlon Brando, but stay in it the inspiration of artists like Hopkins. Hopkins is well known for his dogged dedication to the script. He has said on numerous occasions that he reads a script 200 to 300 times.

This is a technique he used during his earlier career. First, draw a "pizza" pie over a section of lines you want to learn in about a 90-minute amount of time. The circle is cut into eight "slices." Use a card of some kind as an opaque, straight edge to hold over the lines on the script.

Then look at the section just by glancing at the lines. You'll get a few. Start running the lines by drawing your straight edge down the page. You'll see your cue lines, and you respond with your line. If you miss something or can't remember a word or phrase, underline that section with pencil. Don't cheat!

When you get to the end of the section, look at each underlined section and review your mistakes. There's no need to look at what you got right. When you go over the section again, you have to underline your mistakes even if you got it right before.

It takes a series of repetitions, but eventually you will be able to remember all the lines and erase all the pencil marks. This is not the final result, you need to be able to speed through the lines without acting or inflection and without a pause, glitch or hesitation. At that point, color in one slice of the pie.

You need to do that eight times before moving on to the next section and drawing another pie. After working through the entire script with "pies," start over from the beginning of the script with another "pie" and try to work through the entire script with your opaque straight edge and speeding through the lines.

I've never actually completed a total pie for the whole script. I usually get about three slices colored in before the show opens. This process provides specific goals and actually works through a process known as "programmed learning," where you only correct mistakes and not waste time working on things you already know.

I've taught this to many young actors that have used it successfully. You might find that a convenient, opaque straight edge is a checkbook.

I also record cues and lines and burn them on a CD and play it anytime I'm in the car. In addition, I take the script with me everywhere, so if I have a moment like when I'm in the bathroom, I take the script out and review it. And then review it (even when bed right before falling asleep).

I hope this is of some help.

Note: Tony can be reached at wshkspr@hotmail.com or via Facebook at Tony Earnest Medin.



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2. FYI

Thanks, Cynthia Greenfield, for this recommendation: Water: All Natural, Biodegradable, Chlorine & Odor Free Water Bottle & Hydration Pack Cleaning Tablets

To quote her: "I tried these for my coffee mug, and they worked great. I then used them for a water bottle that I wanted to reuse. When I washed it in the dishwasher, it came back just as dirty as when I had put it in. But this tablet did a perfect job of cleaning it. You won't go wrong if you try these."

To order, please click: [Here](#).

FYI, part 2

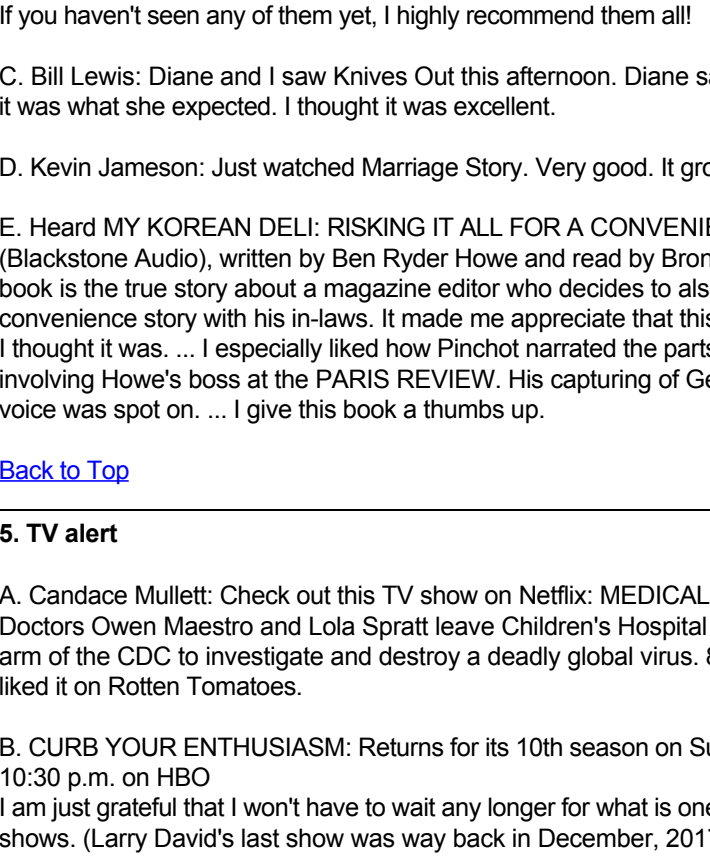
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: [Here](#).

(1) Shelly Jacobs: 95% of tested baby foods in the US contain toxic metals. (2) Trissa King: Transcending Victim Mentality and Taking Back Your Power. (3) Can You Score Against the 'Jeopardy!' Best? (4) Pete Carroll Wants to Change Your Life. (5) Why Kids Shouldn't Sit Still in Class?

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3. Joke 1

Mr. Helpful here with an idea of what to do with your New Year's Eve glasses.



"It's so I can remember what to write on my checks."

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4. Reviews

A. I revisited MRS. DOUBTFIRE, and I'm glad that the film's robin Williams excels as the husband who dresses up in drag to become the family's new nanny in order to see his kids every day. Sally Field and Pierce Brosnan were also quite good in this comedy that was funny, as well as moving. I especially liked the ending because it was not what you might expect from such a film. Rated PG-13.

Note: Perhaps the best scene from a film had Williams doing voiceovers. If you'd like to see that, please click: [Here](#).

B. Sandy Howard: I felt the same about the Richard Jewell movie. I was really impressed and I learned a lot and didn't especially want to see it. Also Sharon and I think he probably had a low normal IQ like 87 or 88. Not that it means anything but he was a good guy. We saw 4 movies this holiday season (loved them all but I've rated them from favorite on down):

Little Women
Richard Jewell
Bombshell
Star Wars

If you haven't seen any of them yet, I highly recommend them all!

C. Bill Lewis: Diane and I saw Knives Out this afternoon. Diane said it was good and it was what she expected. I thought it was excellent.

D. Kevin Jameson: Just watched Marriage Story. Very good. It grows on you.

E. Heard MY KOREAN DELI: RISKING IT ALL FOR A CONVENIENCE STORE (Backstone Audio) written by Ben Rydler Howe and edited by Bronson Pinchot. This book is the true story about a magazine editor who decides to also help run a convenience store with his in-laws. It made me appreciate that this is even harder than I thought it was. ... I especially liked how Pinchot narrated the parts of the story involving Howe's boss at the PARIS REVIEW. His capturing of George Plimpton's voice was spot on. ... I give this book a thumbs up.

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5. TV alert

A. Candace Mullett: Check out this TV show on Netflix: MEDICAL POLICE. Doctors Owen Maestro and Lola Spratt leave Children's Hospital and join a secret arm of the CDC to investigate and destroy a deadly global virus. 86% of the critics liked it on Rotten Tomatoes.

B. CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM: Returns for its 10th season on Sunday, Jan. 19, 10:30 p.m. on HBO. I am just grateful that I won't have to wait any longer for what is one of my favorite TV shows. (LARRY DAVID's last show was way back in December, 2017.)

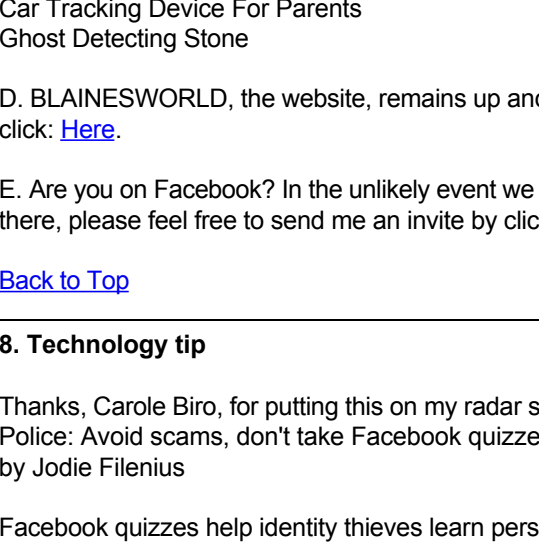
C. AMERICA'S TOP DOG: Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on A&E. Police and civilian K-9 teams are tested on their speed, agility, scenting ability and teamwork by completing a series of tasks on obstacle courses designed by experts to mimic real-life challenges that the furry heroes face every day on the beat.

D. GARY GULMAN: THE GREAT NEGROES: Thursdays, Jan. 23, at 3:25 on HBO Comedy. This funny, sweet comedian offers both candid and touching reflections on his struggles with depression through stand-up and short documentary interludes that provide insight into his mental health journey. I've seen this comedy special and loved it.

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6. Joke 2

"If you had a dollar," quizzed the teacher, "and you asked your father for another dollar and fifty cents, how much money would you have?" "One dollar," answered little Herbie. ... "You don't know your basic math," said the teacher shaking her head. ... Little Herbie shook his head too, "You don't know my daddy."



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7. Clips/Websites

A. Video of the week

Jason Scholler: In order to support my dream to be a comedian, I run a yoga company called Three Minute Egg, selling ECO-Friendly yoga products, made in the USA, that I invented. I've devoted the last 13 years of my life to taking them global. They are used on six continents, in dozens of countries and hundreds of yoga studios by thousands of yogis. If you've used these Eggs, you know how awesome and amazing they are. If you haven't used them, I would encourage you to try. I would be extremely grateful if you took a moment to share this video with your friends and followers. The Three Minute Egg has healed bodies and changed lives. It has brought people to the mat for the first time in their lives, and back to the mat for the first time in years. It's a humbling source of pride for me to have created something from scratch and had it made an impact on so many people. If it's made an impact on you, or even if you just want to help, I would like to ask you to hit the share button. If you feel so inspired, maybe even tell a story of your own about the Eggs having changed your life. It would really mean a lot to me if you did this, and I would be very grateful. Thank you and Namastegg!

To view the clip, please click: [Here](#).

And for more information or to buy this amazing product, please click: [Here](#).

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

(1) "Goodbye Old Girl" from DAMN YANKEES, one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Laughter yoga: [Here](#).

(3) Linda Williams: The Elton John Christmas Commercial is EPIC: [Here](#).

C. This Is Why I'm Broke is a website with a great name and lots of ideas for gifts, ranging from a few dollars to a few thousand. To check it out, please click: [Here](#). There is something for everybody here, including: U.F.O. Floating Home
Car Tracking Device For Parents
Ghost Detecting Stone

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

E. 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

Thanks, Carole Biro, for putting this on my radar screen: Police: Avoid scams, don't take Facebook quizzes by Jodie Fleniuis

Facebook quizzes help identity thieves learn personal information, increasing people's risk of being scammed, according to Prevention.com

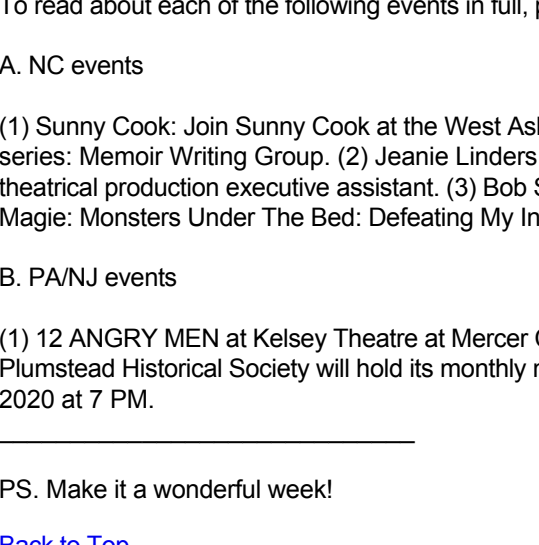
Some quizzes ask questions that are similar to security questions when setting up an account, such as where you were born, the name of the street you lived on, your favorite pet and more. When you answer these questions on the quizzes, you could be giving scammers the answers to hack your accounts.

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

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9. Joke 3

A woman walks into a pet store and sees a handsome red parrot. She asks the cashier how much the parrot is. The cashier says, "I'll sell it, but I should warn you. It was donated by a brotthel, so it might have picked up some colorful language. ... The woman says, "Oh, that's okay." She buys the parrot and takes it home. When she takes the towel off its cage, the parrot looks at her and says, "Awk. New madam. Hello madam." ... A few hours later, the woman's two teenage daughters come home from school. The parrot looks at them and says, "Awk. New girls. Hello girls." ... A couple hours after that, the woman's husband comes home from work. The parrot looks at him and says, "Awk. Hi Phil."



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10. A quote I like

Thanks, Trissa King, for reminding me about this one: "Under any circumstance, always do your best, no more and no less. ... It doesn't matter if you are sick or tired, if you always do your best there is no way you can judge yourself. And if you don't judge yourself there is no way you are going to suffer from guilt, blame and self-punishment." By always doing your best, you will break a big spell you have been under--Don Miguel Ruiz, author of THE FOUR AGREEMENTS

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

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11. Thought for the day

An old man lived in the village. He was one of the most unfortunate people in the world. The whole village was tired of him; he was always gloomy, he constantly complained and was always in a bad mood. ... The longer he lived, the more bile he was becoming, and the more poisonous were his words. People avoided him; because his misfortune became contagious. It was even unnatural and insulting to be happy next to him. ... He created the feeling of unhappiness in others. ... But one day, when he turned eighty years old, an incredible thing happened. Instantly everyone started hearing the rumor: "The old man is happy today, and he doesn't complain about anything. He smiles and even his face is freshened up." ... The whole village gathered together. The old man was asked: "What happened to you?" He replied: "Nothing special. Eighty years I've been chasing happiness, and it was useless. And then I decided to live without happiness and just enjoy life. That's why I'm happy now."

Moral of the story: Don't chase happiness. Enjoy your life.

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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) Sunny Cook: Join Sunny Cook at the West Asheville library for her Free workshop series: Memoir Writing Group. (2) Jeanie Linders: Position available for experienced theatrical production executive assistant. (3) Bob Strain: ON BROADWAY. (4) Lau Magie: Monsters Under The Bed: Defeating My Inner Demons.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) 12 ANGRY MEN at Kelsey Theatre at Mercer County Community College. (2) The Plumstead Historical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, January 20, 2020 at 7 PM.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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