

#1218  
1.20.2020

**In this issue**

- [1. Reflections](#)
- [2. FYI](#)
- [3. Joke 1](#)
- [4. Reviews](#)
- [5. TV alert](#)
- [6. Joke 2](#)
- [7. Clips/Websites](#)
- [8. Technology tip](#)
- [9. Joke 3](#)
- [10. Two quotes I like](#)
- [11. Thought for the day](#)
- [12. Advance planning department](#)

**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: [bjnbc@aol.com](mailto:bjnbc@aol.com) and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

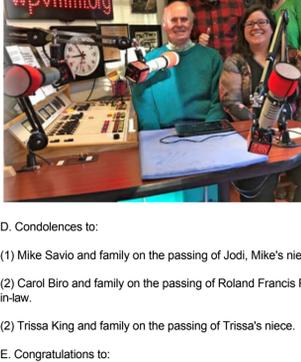
- (1) Hosted our friend Bonnie Sibner for a spirited game of What Do You Meme?



- (2) Enjoyed our first visit to Asiana Grand Buffet where we had a delicious meal.

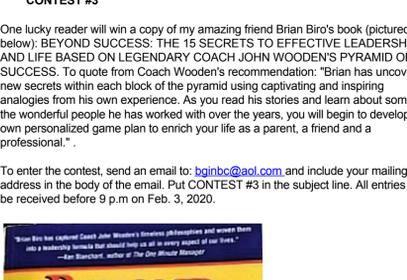


B. Don't you love this picture of Cynthia with her friend Kath Mallon at Arms Around ASD? (Thanks, Martha Skinner, for the photo.)



C. Catch Wednesday's BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM that featured (first half) Dave Bates and Tasha Pepi; and (second half) Katie Jones and Jim Julien. To view it, please click: [Here](#).

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



D. Condolences to:

- (1) Mike Savio and family on the passing of Jodi, Mike's niece.
- (2) Carol Biro and family on the passing of Roland Francis Pihlala, Carole's brother-in-law.
- (2) Trissa King and family on the passing of Trissa's niece.

E. Congratulations to:

- (1) Fred Weiss on his retirement as a practicing dentist. Gotta love his post on Facebook: "Finally got it right."
- (2) JJ McCarrson is with Jennifer O'Rear on the birth of their daughter Dellilah.
- (3) Candice Dickinson on her new position as Production Manager, Volunteer Coordinator and Box office Manager at HART.
- (4) Jackie Snow, winner of Contest #2: a copy of my friend Brian Biro's book: THERE ARE NO OVERACHIEVERS. .... All told, there were 9 entries. And that reminds me that it is now time to announce ...

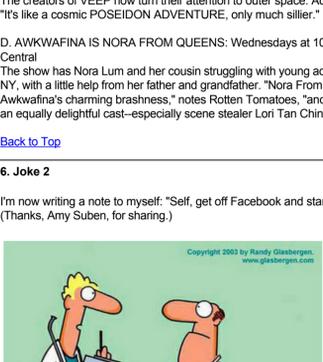
**\*\*\*\*\* CONTEST #3 \*\*\*\*\***

One lucky reader will win a copy of my amazing friend Brian Biro's book (pictured below): BEYOND SUCCESS: THE 15 SECRETS TO EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND LIFE BASED ON LEGENDARY COACH JOHN WOODEN'S PYRAMID OF SUCCESS. To quote from Coach Wooden's recommendation: "Brian has uncovered new secrets within each block of the pyramid using captivating and inspiring analogies from his own experience. As you read his stories and learn about some of the wonderful people he has worked with over the years, you will begin to develop your own personalized game plan to enrich your life as a parent, a friend and a professional."

To enter the contest, send an email to: [bjnbc@aol.com](mailto:bjnbc@aol.com) and include your mailing address in the body of the email. Put CONTEST #3 in the subject line. All entries must be received before 9 p.m on Feb. 3, 2020.



F. YOUR BIG CHANCE ... if you want to stop hearing about the fact that our magnificent Baltimore Lake home (pictured below) remains for sale, please share the following information with your many fans and friends, as well as with anybody you know who might be interested in moving to the Asheville area. ... For more information, please click: [Here](#).



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

This week, it goes to Blanche—a cashier at the Ingels on Tunnel Road in Asheville. She is both friendly and hard-working, and she always manages to put a smile on my face whenever I go to that store. ... In fact, even though there are closer supermarkets nearby, I'll often go out of my way just to have Blanche take care of me at the register. ... I have known Blanche now for several years. She used to work at another retail establishment, and while there, I felt the same way about her; i.e., she is just a fantastic employee. That place's loss is Ingels' gain!

[Back to Top](#)

**2. FYI**

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, federal agencies will enforce the REAL ID Act, which requires a REAL ID, U.S. passport or another federally approved identification to board commercial flights and enter secure federal buildings.

So if you're reading this, my strong recommendation is that you find out more about this topic by clicking: [Here](#).

At least for the time being, you could avoid getting the REAL ID by using your passport. But that's a pain having to carry it with you all the time, e.g., when entering a federal building.

Note: You need to do this in person. It can't be done online. But the good news is that you can make an appointment—at least in North Carolina—by calling 919.715.7000.

If your wait to get through, you might have to wait as I did for some three months. But the wait was worth it, in that Cynthia and I got through the process in less than half an hour. Others were waiting for their appointments for some two hours.

FYI, part 2

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

- (1) I Married You For Better Or Worse, But Not For Lunch. (2) How 'West Side Story' Was Reborn. (3) Kay Galvin: Google Your Privacy.

[Back to Top](#)

**3. Joke 1**

Is this sign really necessary?



[Back to Top](#)

**4. Reviews**

A. Enjoyed KNIVES OUT, a comedic murder mystery that pays tribute to mystery mastermind Agatha Christie. Just about everyone is a suspect in the murder of renowned crime novelist Harlan Thrombey. All in the ensemble cast were good, but in particular, I liked the performances of Daniel Craig (in a role quite different than when you've seen him as James Bond) Don Johnson and Michael Shannon. You'll be kept guessing until the end. My only criticism: The film runs 130 minutes. It could have been easily been shortened, especially at the end. Rated PG-13.

B. Nina Denninger: After turning away from the impeachment hearings in disgust I decided to escape in Netflix. I watched a documentary called "Unacknowledged". EVERYONE ON THE PLANET NEEDS TO SEE THIS. PLEASE MAKE TIME TO WATCH IT. It reveals how, for years, the military/industrial complex has withheld highly advanced technological information from us that can dramatically alter our world and completely revolutionize the way we human beings view one another. Powerful, powerful stuff. If any of you watch it I would love to hear what impact it has on you.

C. Read ROBIN (Holt and Co.), a terrific biography about Robin Williams by Dave Itzkof. ... The book traces his life from first being a stand-up comic to his breakout role in MORR & MINDY and through his always, watchable performances in countless films. ... It also shows how Williams struggled mightily with both addiction and depression, and provides information about the debilitating condition at the end of his life. ... I'm just grateful that he ignored the advice his father gave him, as he commented on when he won the Best Supporting Oscar for his role in GOOD WILL HUNTING: "He hosted his trophy skyward to thank 'my father, up there the man who, when I said I wanted to be an actor, he said, wonderful, just have a backup profession like welding."

[Back to Top](#)

**5. TV alert**

A. CHEER: Now on Netflix  
At a community college in a central Texas city, a cheerleading program competes for championships nearly every year. Here's what THE NEW YORK TIMES had to say about it: "The touching and tense reality series 'Cheer' documents the pressures faced by the school's coach, who tries to put the best team on the mat while managing injuries, egos and the dreams of kids who mostly come from poor and working-class backgrounds."

B. THE 62ND ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS: Sunday, Jan. 26, at 8 p.m. on CBS  
Alicia Keys returns for a second time as host of the music industry's most prestigious awards night, airing live from L.A.'s Staples Center.

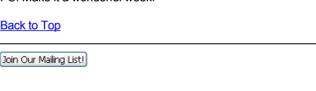
C. AVENUE 5: Sundays at 10 p.m. on HBO  
The creators of VEEP now turn their attention to outer space. According to TV GUIDE, "It's like a cosmic POSEIDON ADVENTURE, only much sillier."

D. AWKWFAPINA IS NORA FROM QUEENS: Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m. on Comedy Central  
The show has Nora Lum and her cousin struggling with young adulthood in Flushing, NY, with a little help from her father and grandfather. "Nora From Queens showcases Awkwafina's charming brashness," notes Rotten Tomatoes, "and surrounds her with an equally delightful cast—especially scene stealer Lon Tan Chinn."

[Back to Top](#)

**6. Joke 2**

I'm now writing a note to myself: "Self, get off Facebook and start exercising!"  
(Thanks, Amy Suben, for sharing.)



[Back to Top](#)

**7. Clips/Websites**

A. Video of the week  
Want to join me in taking this course: Jeff Catanese Masterclass Background Artist for Artistic Background Acting? To find out all about it, please click: [Here](#).

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

- (1) Mary Hopkin - Those Were The Days, one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).
- (2) Georgia Reichard: My tiny best friend: [Here](#).
- (3) Paul Marks: Simon Sings With Garfunkel Again: [Here](#).

C. Spotify is cool, but the catalog favors popular artists. If you want to discover artists who are not that popular but produce great music, check out Forgetfly by clicking: [Here](#).

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](#).

[Back to Top](#)

**8. Technology tip**

From Camera Roll to Canvas: Make Art From Your Photos  
by J. D. Biersdorfer  
Tired of the usual attract-getting filters you use to make your photos pop with stronger contrast or deeper color saturation? If you want to make a different type of eye-catching picture, consider an app that turns your images into artwork.

With the right app, you can render your favorite photo into a digital version of paint on canvas, giving it a whole new look and feel. But you don't have to stop there: You can print your creation on canvas for home display or as a unique gift. And you can do it all on your smartphone or tablet. Here's how.

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

[Back to Top](#)

**9. Joke 3**

A bus stops and two men get on. They engage in an animated conversation. .... The lady sitting next to them ignores them at first, but her attention is galvanized when she hears one of them say the following: "Emma come first. Den I come. Den two asses come together. I come once-a-more! Two asses, they come together again. I come again and pee twice. Then I come one lasta time. .... The lady can't take this any more. "You foul-mouthed sex obsessed pigs," she says indignantly, "in this country, we don't speak aloud in public places about our sex lives." ... "They, cools down lady," said the man. "Who talkin' abouta sex? I'm a justa tellin' my fienda how to spell 'Mississippi.'" (Thanks, Janeen Ravkin, for sharing.)



[Back to Top](#)

**10. Two quotes I like**

A. If you're like me and you celebrate all holidays because there's more fun, food and friends that way, please also take a moment this Martin Luther King Jr. Day to remember Dr. King for all that he did to advance the civil rights movement.



B. Thanks, Jim Lehrer (1934-2020) for your many years of superb service as executive editor and news anchor for the PBS NEWS HOUR, as well as for your role as a debate moderator during US. presidential debates. For more information about his life, please click: [Here](#).

"My own view, there is a need for and a demonstrated need for more journalism than there ever has been."—Jim Lehrer



[Back to Top](#)

**11. Thought for the day**

This has me hoping that I may be remembered this way ...



[Back to Top](#)

**12. Advance planning department**

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

A. NC events

- (1) Lau Magie: Monsters Under The Bed: Defeating My Inner Demons. (2) Hosted by Philippe Andre Coquet and Tasha Pepi, piano support by pianist Bob Strain: ON BROADWAY. (3) Dave Bates: SEVEN SINGERS SINGING.

B. PAWN event

Natalie Kaye: Keith Spencer in BROTHERS ON BROADWAY.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

[Back to Top](#)

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