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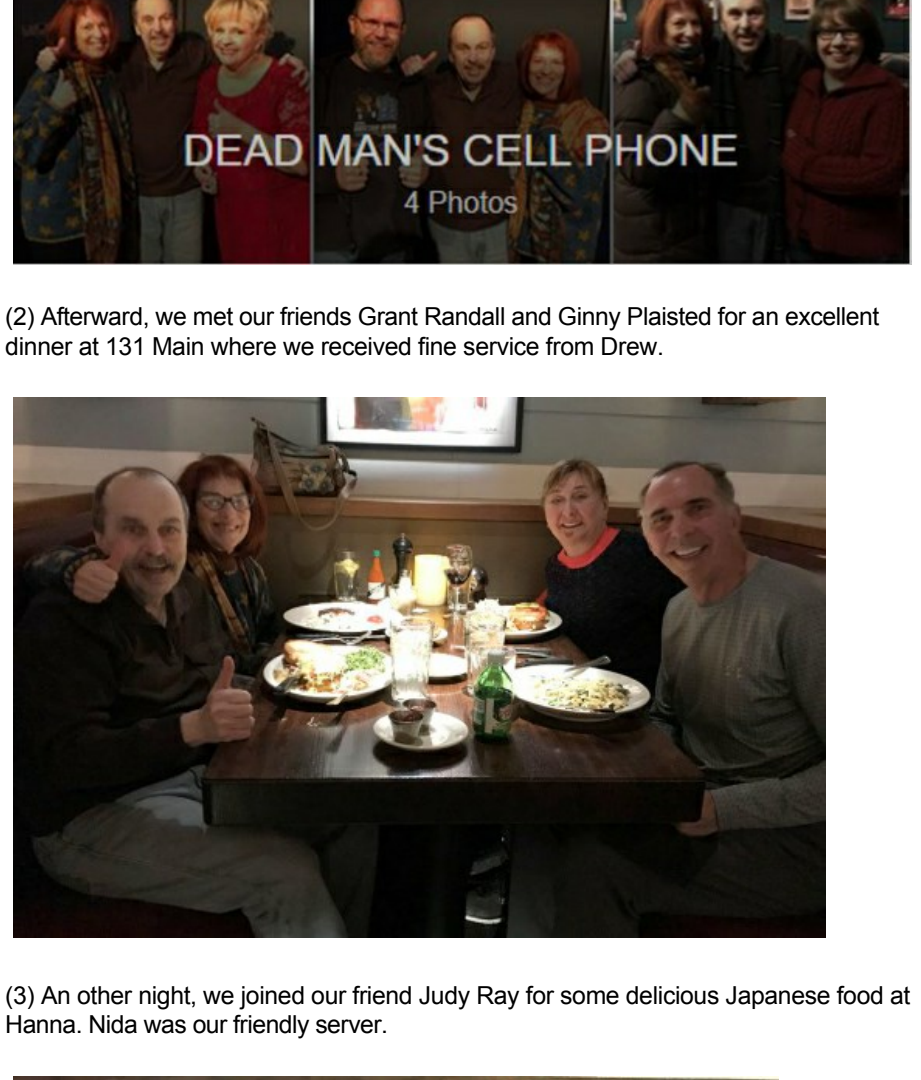
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1. Reflections

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

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

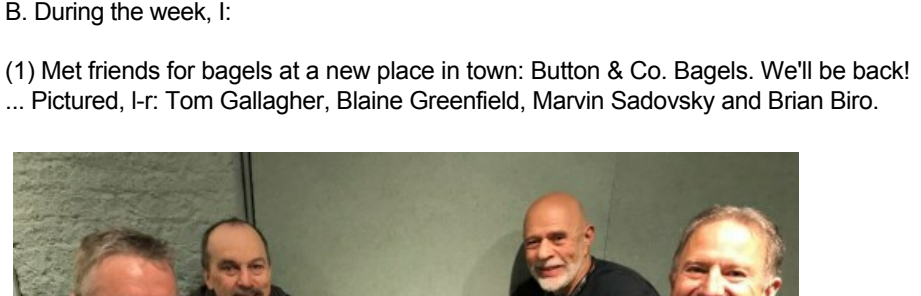
(1) Saw DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE, a quirky comedy now playing at Haywood Arts Regional Theatre. We enjoyed this show because of the fine performances from Laura Gregory, Jeff Messer, Christy Bishop, Lyn Donley, Anna Denson and Charles Mills. Steve Lloyd's tail direction also added to my enjoyment of the play. ... To see the following pictures at full size, please click: [Here](#)



(2) Afterward, we met our friends Grant Randall and Ginny Plaisted for an excellent dinner at 131 Main where we received fine service from Drew.



(3) An other night, we joined our friend Judy Ray for some delicious Japanese food at Hanna. Nida was our friendly server.



B. During the week, I:

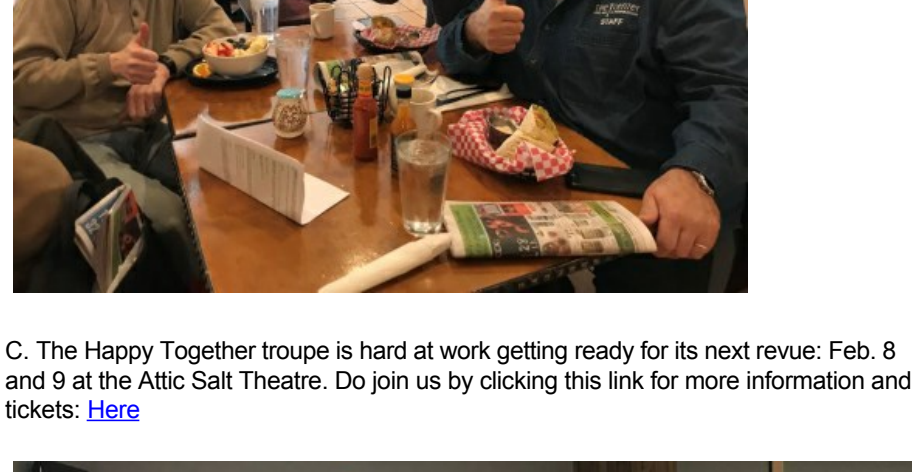
(1) Met friends for bagels at a new place in town: Button & Co. Bagels. We'll be back! ... Pictured, l-r: Tom Gallagher, Blaine Greenfield, Marvin Sadosky and Brian Biro.



(2) Joined other friends, Chandler Smith (middle) and Jimmy Ferraro, for a tasty breakfast at Cafe 64.



C. The Happy Together troupe is hard at work getting ready for its next revue: Feb. 8 and 9 at the Attic Salt Theatre. Do join us by clicking this link for more information and tickets: [Here](#)



D. Condolences to:

(1) Sunny Ruble and family on the passing of Marilayn "Lynn" Garnet Kenner Ruble, Sunny's mother. Click here to read the obituary: [Here](#)

(2) Dwight Chiles and family on the passing of Mark Chiles, Dwight's father.

E. Congratulations to:

(1) Britt Lippard on the birth of Marie Maple Fusting, her baby girl.

(2) Parkway Playhouse on the fact that the cast of Mary Poppins Jr. won the "Excellence in Music Award" at the Junior Theater Festival. And to Aaron Neighbors on winning "Outstanding Individual Performance by a Male."

(3) Doylestown on being named the most beautiful small town in Pennsylvania. (Thanks, Roberta Gurwood, for sharing.) For more information, please click: [Here](#)

(4) Halleee Hirsh-Martin and Ryan Martin on the birth of Elowenn Noel Martin, their son.

(5) Tommy Lanning on his new position as a sales rep. for Alpha Elements. Also, thanks to him for his many years of fine service as our Terminus Representative.

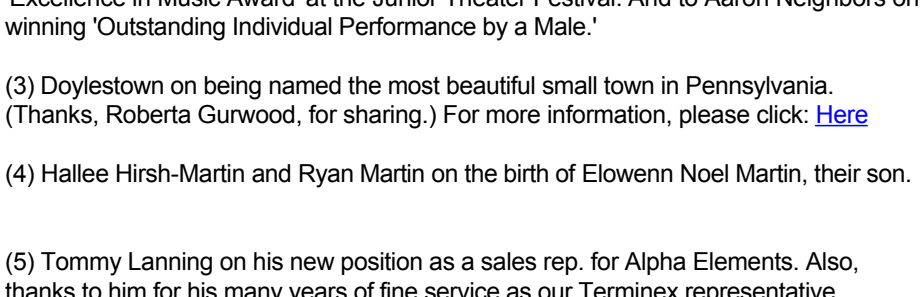
(6) Marcia Whitney on her new position as President & CEO at Verner: A Center for Early Learning.

(7) Tom Gallagher and Ed Hackett, both winners of Contest #2: a copy of HOW TO READ FOR AN AUDIENCE: THE STUFF NOBODY TEACHES YOU, written by James Nave and Allegra Huston. All told, there were four entries. And that reminds me it is now time to introduce ...

**** Contest #3 ****

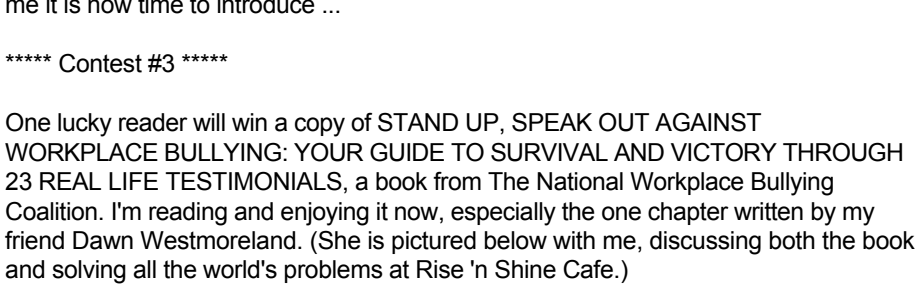
One lucky reader will win a copy of STAND UP, SPEAK OUT AGAINST WORKPLACE BULLYING: YOUR GUIDE TO SURVIVAL AND VICTORY THROUGH 23 REAL LIFE TESTIMONIALS, a book from The National Workplace Bullying Coalition. I'm reading and enjoying it now, especially the one chapter written by my friend Dawn Westmoreland. (She is pictured below with me, discussing both the book and solving all the world's problems at Rise 'n Shine Cafe.)

To enter the contest, send an email to: bjnlbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #3 in the subject line, then include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email. ... All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 4.



**** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD ****

This week, it goes to Jared Mattson--Owner/Operator at Carolina Mountain Pharmacy in Candler and pharmacist extraordinaire ... He is extremely knowledgeable about any questions we have on any medicines or prescriptions, and both he and his staff are friendly. In addition, his business even makes deliveries and when was the last time you saw a pharmacy do that? ... For more information, please click: [Here](#)



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2. FYI

Thanks, Ed Kohlhepp, for the following advice: Here is an example where a married couple can benefit when both parties have had significant lifetime earnings. Let's assume the husband reaches Full Retirement age, FRA, and files for benefits. The spouse, the wife, can collect her benefits at Full Retirement Age, or alternatively, file and suspend her benefits until age 70. This enables her to collect a spousal benefit until age 70 at which time she switches to her own, higher benefit. Thus, the couple can generally collect higher benefits and still increase their lifetime benefits as a couple.

These strategies are complicated and you should visit your Social Security office to understand all of the options.

For more information, please click: [Here](#)

Note: Ed shared the above with me, and it has enabled me to have Cynthia collect a nice check each month. Also, as you've perhaps heard me say, Ed's firm (Kohlhepp Investment Advisors) is the absolute best. For more information, please click: [Here](#)

FYI, part 2

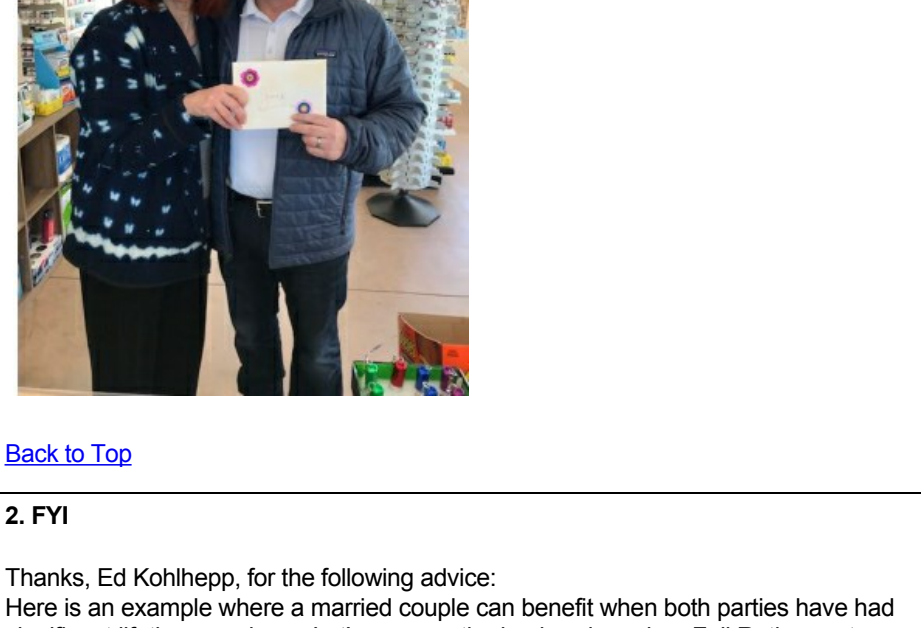
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: [Here](#)

(1) KC: I admit I don't always read everything you publish in Blaine's World but I DID happen to notice the award for the lady who posted the notice in her Little Caesar's store offering free pizza and water. (2) Brad Owen: ABCCM's "SAFE & WARM" CAMPAIGN (3) How to De-Clutter Your Life, the Anya Hindmarch Way. (4) Students Learn From People They Love. (5) 5 Pieces of [Investing] Advice from John Bogle.

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3. Joke 1

ICY conditions in Asheville recently had me thinking about this--and the fact that things could have always been worse. ... Reluctantly, they forced me to cancel my BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM, so that's why you see no mention of it this week.



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4. Reviews

A. Saw HOUSE OF D, a sweet coming-of-age drama about a British boy who looks back at his adolescence in New York's Greenwich Village in 1973. David Duchovny made an impressive debut as a director and screenwriter in this film, and he also stars in it, along with Anton Yelchin, Robin Williams and Tea Leoni. The reviews from critics weren't great, but audiences liked it. And so did Cynthia and I--a lot. We found it on HBO, but you may have to dig some to locate a next broadcast or seek it out via a streaming service. Rated PG-13.

B. Thanks, Tony Fogelman, for this recommendation: If you haven't seen (via Netflix) "The Last Laugh" with Chevy Chase, Richard Dreyfuss and Andie MacDowell, check it out/ F*CKING HILARIOUS! ... For more information: [Here](#)

C. Heard I LOVE CAPITALISM: AN AMERICAN STORY (Penguin Audio), written and narrated by Ken Langone. ... His story is about a poor boy from Roslyn, NY, who grew up to become one of America's wealthiest individuals. I liked much of the book, especially about his teenage and college years, as well as about his legal battle with the disgraced Elliott Spitzer. In addition, I found it interesting to find out how he saw through Bernie Madoff and did not become involved with any business deals with him. ... Some of the book dragged for me; e.g., when the author presented much details about various financing operations. I would have also liked to have read more about Home Depot, a company he helped start. ... Though I ordinarily like the narration to be done by the author of a book, in this case I might have made an exception. Somebody other than the author would have made easier listening. ... Lastly, one word of caution: Lagrone is a devout Catholic. Yes his language in the book, which did not bother me, might be considered offensive to some readers.

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5. TV alert

A. BLACK EARTH RISING: Now available via Netflix. This 8-part thriller is about a legal investigator who, as a child, was adopted by a criminal prosecutor after the 1994 Rwanda genocide. It was a critical hit in the U.K. last fall.

B. RENT: Sunday, Jan. 27, at 8 p.m. on Fox. A live production of the Tony Award-winning musical about seven struggling artists in New York's gritty East Village during a time of great social and political turmoil. ... For more information: [Here](#)

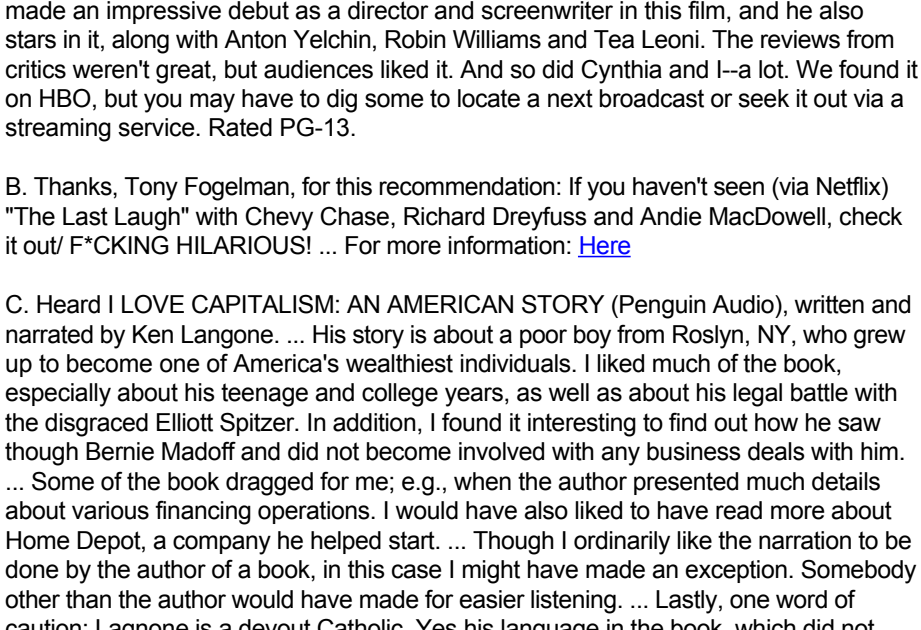
C. I AM THE NIGHT: Premieres on Monday, Jan. 28, at 10 p.m. on TNT. Notes TV GUIDE: "Chris Pine stars in a chilling six-part Hollywood noir from director Patty Jenkins (Wonder Woman), inspired by the true story of Fauna Hodel (India Eisley), who as a teenager in 1965 heads from Nevada to L.A. in search of her birth mother."

D. 31 DAYS OF OSCARS: Beginning on Friday, Feb. 1, on TCM. Every night, beginning at 9 p.m., you can see this massive film festival of past nominees and winners. ... Sunday, Feb. 3, is particularly memorable. You can watch Katharine Hepburn in THE LION IN WINTER AT 8 p.m. and Barbara Streisand in FUNNY GIRL at 10:30 p.m. ... Mr. Curious here: Who do you think should have won the Best Actress award that year? If you don't remember or can't wait to see the results, click: [Here](#)

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6. Joke 2

Dayum this meme! ... The bad news: I now can't get this original version out of my head: [Here](#) ... The good news: Asheville folks are in luck, in that they'll get to see the amazing duo of Ryan Garcia and Jessica Clark Johnson perform a cover version at the Happy Together Revue on both Feb. 8 and 9 at Attic Salt Theatre. (See Section 1C, above, for more information about this event.)



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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

- (1) Roberta Gurwood: Frozen Niagara Falls: [Here](#)
- (2) Annemarie Brown: Dad and son wear "Frozen" costumes, dance to "Let It Go": [Here](#)
- (3) Paul Marks: Mad Manoush - Night Tango: [Here](#)
- (4) Judy Chadwick: What do retired people do all day? [Here](#)
- (5) Maria Alicia Medrano Armington: Beware being scammed by a kid: [Here](#)
- (6) Never too old to exercise: [Here](#)
- (7) The A to Z of Side Effects: [Here](#)
- (8) Zen Sutherland: Zentar, the Fortune Teller: [Here](#)
- (9) Ed Hackett: Help on The Ed Sullivan Show: [Here](#)

B. Steve Darter: Have you heard of HARO (Stands for: Help a Reporter Out)? If not, you might find it interesting to sign up for and respond when appropriate. ... You can do so by clicking: [Here](#)

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

How to Use 'Do Not Disturb' on Your Phone (While Still Letting Important Calls Through) by Whitson Gordon

My family likes to text each other. A lot. So do my co-workers. Group texts and Slack messages constantly buzz day in and day out, and occasionally, texts and calls will come in while some of us are sleeping or busy - which leads to more texts, crying foul at those who have the nerve to wake us up.

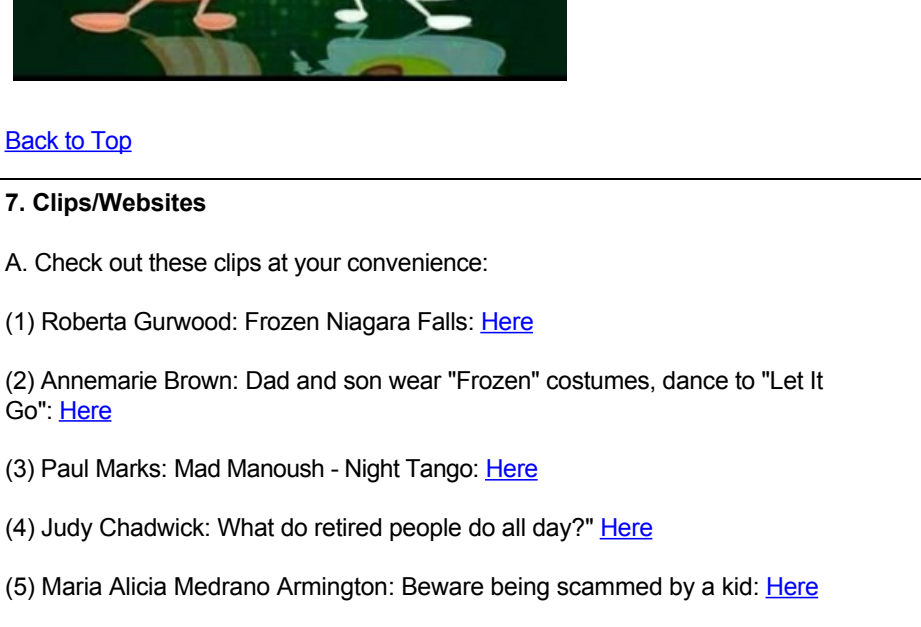
Instead of fighting a losing battle against night texters and bosses who won't stop messaging you after hours, you can use some of your phone's built-in settings to silence those notifications, without worrying about missing the really important ones. Here's how to configure Do Not Disturb mode to let calls through from certain people, at certain times, or only in case of emergency.

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

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9. Joke 3

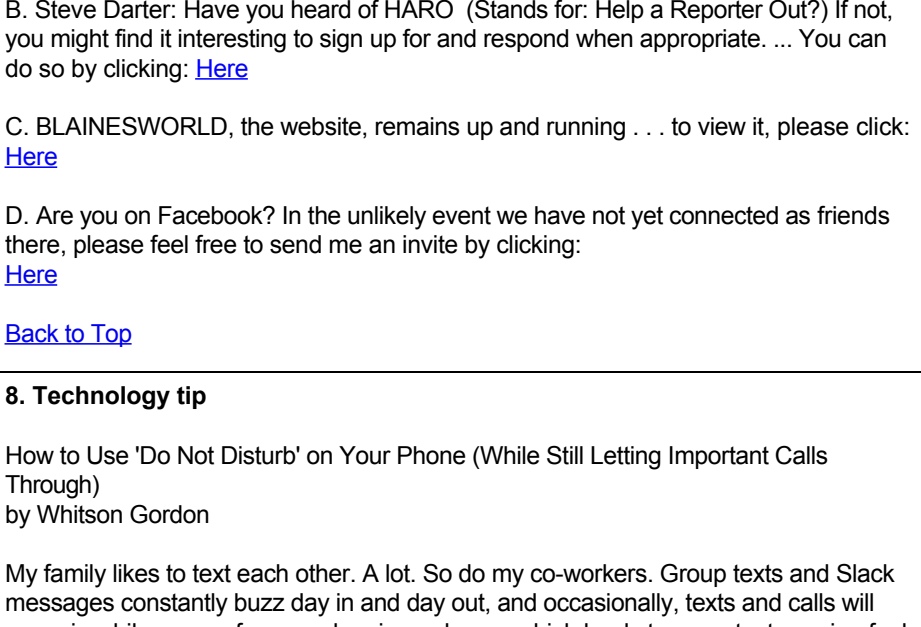
PROTIP: Crop the wording out of the picture, then post on social media and tell everybody that this was the picture you took. ... Also, make sure you save it That way, you won't have to stay up late when the next one happens in 2021. ... For more information: [Here](#). (Thanks, Ellen Pappas, for sharing.)



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10. A quote I like

Hope y'all are got to celebrate Dr. King's birthday as you recognize and appreciate the strides he made, while also recognizing the change still needed.



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11. Thought for the day

People have been coming to the wise man, complaining about the same problems every time. One day he told them a joke and everyone roared in laughter. ... After a couple of minutes, he told them the same joke and only a few of them smiled. ... When he told the same joke for the third time no one laughed anymore. ... The wise man smiled and said: "You can't laugh at the same joke over and over. So why are you always crying about the same problem?"

Moral of the story: Worrying won't solve your problems, it'll just waste your time and energy.

Source: Author unknown; if you know who wrote this and/or where it came from, please let me know.

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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) Jenny Bunn: FOOTLOOSE at Asheville Community Theatre. (2) Kimberly Ross: Dance4Connection Couples Workshop. (3) Glenn Arnette: WHO WILL BE THE "EMCEE" FOR THE UPCOMING PRODUCTION OF "STARBUST" SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 14-30, 2019 IN THE FANGMEYER THEATRE AT HART IN WAYNESVILLE?

B. PA/NJ event

Michael Hennessee: Here is the Book Group lineup for Spring 2019 at Bucks County Community College.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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