

# BLAINES WORLD

#1114  
1.29.2018

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

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A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Are starting our search for replacement vehicles. We were recently at the Asheville Sam's Club, but methinks that the one pictured below won't quite cut it. (Thanks, Zen Sutherland, for taking the photo.)





(2) We also looked at the Kia Soul and REALLY liked it. However, in giving it some additional thought, we decided that we'd probably be better off with an AWD vehicle-- and that is not an option with the Soul.

That said, PLEASE HELP:

We now have several questions on buying a car that we'd appreciate any feedback that you might have:

1. Front wheel drive vs. all wheel drive on a car we are thinking about getting?
  - A. How important is that, given that we will have one car with all wheel drive.
  - B. How safe is the Kia Soul?
  - C. Any other thoughts on the Kia Soul?
  
2. We are also thinking about getting another car; e.g., the Toyota Rav4.
  - A. Any thoughts on that?
  
3. Any other recommendations you might have would be greatly appreciated. e.g., on vehicles we should be considering.
  - A. In particular, we are interested in finding out the names of good Asheville dealers in terms of service and price.
  - B. Any salesperson you would recommend?

Many thanks!

Please respond to: [bjinbc@aol.com](mailto:bjinbc@aol.com) and put CARS in the subject line.



B. WPVM/FM invites you to listen to the BLAINESWORLD show from Wed., January 31, 2018. .... Guest (first half): Jerry Crouch, Director at Asheville Community Theatre; for more information: <http://ashevilletheatre.org/>  
... .Guest (second half): Coy Austin Theobalt, Business Owner of A Bit of It All; for more information: <http://bitofitall.com/> ... Pictured, l-r: Jerry Crouch, Blaine Greenfield and Coy Austin Theobalt.

To listen to the show, please click:

[Here](#)



C. During the week, I:

(1) Was fortunate to catch a rehearsal of LOVE, LOSS AND WHAT I WORE at Hendersonville Community Theate's Second Stage. It runs from Feb. 2-11. I had a blast. You will, too. ... Pictured, l-r: Aoife Clancy, Beth Norris, Jennifer Memolo, Carrie Kimzey, Jeanne O'Conner and Charlene Spinks. They were all great. ... Special kudos to Victoria Lamberth for her spot on direction.

For tickets, please click:

[Here](#)



(2) Solved all the worlds' problems over a tasty breakfast at Early Girl Eatery with Judith Loniak (left) and Michelle Monet.







D. Congratulations to:

(1) Alexander McDonald Villarreal on being promoted to General Manager of the O'Charley's in Asheville.

(2) Phillipe Andre Coquet on his play, "Stripped," winning the Fringe Festival Award for "Production That Followed No Rules."

Note: I had the good fortune of seeing the above play. That's me with Phillipe who also directed it.



(3) Denise Bebout Fisher on her retirement as Administrative Assistant at the YMCA of Greater Indianapolis.

(4) David Hopes on having his second novel, THE FALLS OF THE WYONA, chosen as the winner of the Quill Fiction Prize, It will be published this year by Red Hen Press. A brief excerpt appears:

[Here](#)

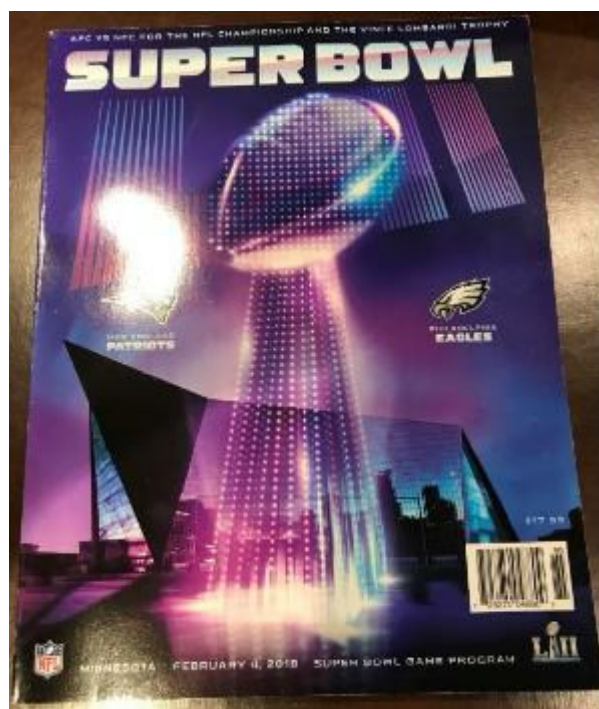
(5) Asheville for being named one of the best cities in the United States by

TRAVELER MAGAZINE. To read more, go to #18 when you click:  
[Here](#)

(6) Ginny Plaisted, winner of Contest #3: a copy AN INSIDE JOB: A PSYCHOLOGIST SHARES HEALING WISDOM FROM YOUR CANCER JOURNEY by Susan Barbara Apollon. All told, there were three entries. And that reminds me that it is now time to announce ... ..

\*\*\*\*\* CONTEST #4 \*\*\*\*\*

One lucky reader will win a copy of the official Super Bowl LII program (featuring the Eagles and Patriots) ... To enter, send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put CONTEST #4 in the subject line, then include your snail mail address in the body of the email. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12, 2018.



E. Get your tickets while they still last for ...

PechaKucha Night Asheville  
Friday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m.  
Grove House, 11 Grove St., Asheville

Thumbs up for this event, which includes a presentation from me on "The Platinum Rule (A Better Alternative to the Golden Rule)."

My friend pictured below, Tina FireWolf, will also be presenting.

If you can join me, and I hope you can, you'll be attending an evening of fascinating presentations from Asheville's most creative and interesting people, all following the beautifully simple PechaKucha 20x20 format: 20 images, shown for 20 seconds each.

PechaKucha means "chit-chat" in Japanese, and four nights a year, it's where folks get together to share their ideas, works, thoughts, holiday snaps and passions. Don't tell them I said it, but it's like a TED Talk ... just more fun!

For tickets, please click:

[Here](#)

Doors open at 7 p.m., and the program begins at 7:30. If there's a sell out, which is often the case, there will be seating room ... so arrive early to claim your seats. Free

parking is available in the lot across from The Grove House while supplies last.



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

This week, it goes to a meal replacement bar--specifically the one from Kellog's Special K. My favorite type is chocolate caramel. It has 12 grams of protein and 5 grams of fiber, and taste is delicious. In addition, I've tried and enjoyed the chocolate peanut butter and strawberry varieties.

For more information, please click:

[Here](#)

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## 2. FYI

I use my Fitbit to help make sure that I get in a minimum of 10,000 steps every day. ... One thing I do every day to aid me in the process is to jump on my mini-trampoline (the Rebounder). I get in a lot of steps this way, and I get in some cardio work at the same time. I also do so while watching MORNING JOE or something else on TV.

For more information about the rebounder I use and like, please click:

[Here](#)

FYI, part 2

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:

[Here](#)

(1) Tom Healy: You might be happy to see Freedom Tether. (2) Laresa Griffin: The joke in section 3.....HAHHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA! (3) Ilene Logelin: First of all, I have to say that the Jackie Mason clip, "Jew in a Restaurant," had me in hysterics. (4) Letter of Recommendation: Rodney Dangerfield. (5) No Longer Writing, Philip Roth Still Has Plenty to Say.

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### 3. Joke 1

The good news is that I still have nearly 11 months to get there! ... I'd write more, but I now have to begin a 20-mile run and then hit the gym for an hour of kickboxing. After a small Watercress Salad for lunch, I'll don my sauna suit for some hot yoga, followed by an hour of jumping rope. ... For dinner, I'll have a cup of Cabbage Soup and get ready for sleep, so I can repeat all tomorrow and every day thereafter for the rest of the year.. (Thanks, Ed Nasta, for sharing.)



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### 4. Reviews

A. Saw CALL ME BY YOUR NAME, a drama about first love between a 17-year-old American-Italian boy and a charming American scholar working on his doctorate. Timothée Chalamet and Armie Hammer are both excellent in the leading roles, and Michael Stuhlbarg made the most of a small part as Chalamet's father--especially in our touching scene toward the end. The scenery was beautiful. ... However, I do think the film dragged in spots, and I definitely feel it could be shortened from its running time of 130 minutes. ... Rated R.

B. Look for STUCK ON YOU on disc or via streaming. It's a comedy from the Farrelly brothers about two twins joined together since birth. Matt Damon and Greg Kinnear are perfect as the brothers, and you'll marvel at how they do things so well together. I laughed a lot while watching it, and you will, too. Rated PG-13.

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### 5. TV alert

A. MOSAIC: Available on all HBO platforms, so even if you missed Episode 1, you can still catch up  
According to TV GUIDE, "Director Steven Soderbergh's mystery series is like a frozen lake: Smooth on the surface, dead-cold beneath. [Sharon] Stone, as she derails emotionally, is excitingly good."

B. A FUTILE AND STUPID GESTURE: Available via Netflix  
Will Forte stars as Doug Kenney, cofounder of the humor magazine NATIONAL



LAMPOON, and Joel McHale plays the Chevy Chase role.

C. SUPER BOWL: Sunday, Feb. 4, at 6:30 p.m. on NBC

Go Eagles! But if football isn't your thing, you can always watch for the commercials, as well as for the following entertainment: Hamilton star Leslie Odom Jr. will belt out a sure-to-be-beautiful rendition of "America the Beautiful" as part of the pre-game festivities, Pink will make her debut Super Bowl appearance when she sings "The Star Spangled Banner." And Justin Timberlake performs the halftime show.

D. THIS IS US: Sunday, Feb., 4, approximately at 10:15 p.m. on NBC (If you're taping this show, make sure you allow plenty of extra time because the Super Bowl may run long.)

This is the episode that promises to reveal much about the night the Best Dad Ever, Jack Pearson (Milo Ventiglimia), perished.

Note: If you've never watched the show, do check it out starting with the above episode. In my opinion, it's the best thing on TV right now. Also, Mr. Helpful here: You can catch up on past episodes by clicking:

[Season 1](#)

[Season 2](#)

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## 6. Joke 2

Methinks that eye doctors would go broke offering a money-back guarantee on such glasses! (Thanks, Vera Brown, for sharing.)



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## 7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Mark Jones: The Greatest Showman - Never Enough  
[Here](#)

(2) Roberta Gurwood: What happens if you drink beer every day



[Here](#)

(3) Lucille Eckert: Helpful parking advice

[Here](#)

(4) Davyne Dial: Never give up!

[Here](#)

Note: The second guy from the top has an amazing resemblance to me in my high school gym days!

(5) Michael Trayford: Chicken Nugget Yoga

[Here](#)

(6) Annemarie Brown: The gift and power of emotional courage

[Here](#)

(7) Edina Hegguler: On teaching students about happiness:

[Here](#)

Note: For more information on the above subject, please see this article:

[Here](#)

(8) Judith Loniak: This cat is so popular he has 10 owners

[Here](#)

(9) Anita Samuel: T.D. Jakes Speaks Out Against Slave Trade In Libya

[Here](#)

(10) Ed Nasta: Peanuts Gang Singing "Freebird" by: Lynyrd Skynyrd

[Here](#)

B. To read some stuff about culture, drinks, food, video and more that you won't find elsewhere, check out Extra Crispy by clicking:

[Here](#)

Among the recent posts that were worth a second look were the following:

You Can Make Scones Without an Oven

Philadelphia Coffee Shop Charges \$5,200 to Customer Wearing Patriots Gear

Free Pizza for People Who Preplan Their Funerals

Mini Mimosa Muffins

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 Improve Your Mobile Photography in 2018

Smartphones have taken the fine art of photography and put it in the hands of anyone willing to hone their skills. Unfortunately for a lot of us, developing those skills could take a long time-time we really just don't have in between careers, personal relationships, and figuring out which new smartphone we want to upgrade to, even

though we just upgraded like, seven months ago.

It's a tough break, really, because what the hell is the point of all this high-quality gadgetry if all we're going to do is take grainy selfies and over-exposed photos of food that, frankly, we probably shouldn't be taking photos of?

For the rest of this informative article, please click:

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### 9. Joke 3

NYPD officer beating an unarmed black man while another officer stands by and does nothing!



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### 10. A quote I like

"I want to be an author when I grow up. Am I insane?" ... "Yes, growing up is highly overrated. Just be an author."--Neil Gaiman (born 1960), English author of short fiction, novels, comic books, graphic novels, audio theatre and films

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### 11. Thought for the day

Elsten Torres: Very often we don't know where the source of inspiration will come from. In the fall of 2017, I was approached by my longtime friend, Gustavo Fernandez, regarding a tragic story based out of Southern California about a mother of 6 who lost her life during a fatal car accident. Gustavo's brother Bobby, lived in the same community as the Evans family and another neighbor, Kevin Loftus, feeling the grief of the entire community began writing lyrics to a song to express his own sadness and that of the neighborhood.

Eventually Kevin and I connected, and I took what he had written and made it into the song "Gideon's Cry." The song is written from Katie's (mother) perspective about how

her absence would especially affect Gideon, her 2- year-old son. With the unconditional help of my dear friend Paris A. Cabezas, Mariano Aponte and a host of some of Miami's finest and most generous musicians, we wound up producing the song together. My hope is that "Gideon's Cry" will make us all feel blessed about the present lives we are living because no matter what your circumstance is, you still have today to be grateful for. Please watch the video:

[Here](#)

All proceeds benefit the Katie Evans Family. You can purchase "Gideon's Cry" at:

[Here](#)

Or donate:

[Here](#)

Please read the rest of the story below:

37-year-old Katie Evans was killed by a drunk driver on Friday, October 6th 2017 as she was returning home from visiting her premature twin girls in the hospital. The driver who hit her crossed the median and crashed into her car just a mile from her home. Katie leaves behind her husband Jacob Evans, her children Spencer (12), Travis (11), Nathaniel (9), Gideon (2) and her preemie twin girls Hannah and Sarah (not even 8 weeks old).



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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) Dana Frankel: Love Asheville Go Local Week. (2) (2) Richard Shluman: Gimme some Lovin' - Kat Williams & the Richard Shulman Trio. (3) Barbara Brady: 3 Ways to Increase Joy in Your Everyday Life.

### B. PA/NJ event

Kitty Getlik: Lights Up on Laughter as Fading Actors Get One Last Shot at Success in

'Moon Over Buffalo' at MCCC's Kelsey Theatre, Feb. 23 - March 4.

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**PS.** Make it a wonderful week!

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