

#1168
2.4.2019

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

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I got to visit with Aspen. Since Cynthia became his official dog godmother, rarely a day goes by when she doesn't see him.



B. During the week, I:

(1) Got to meet with friends for some terrific hamburgers at the Tap Haus, which is located on top of Whole Foods in Asheville. Pictured, l-r: Ryan Garcia, Blaine Greenfield, Ellen Pappas and Nick Garcia.

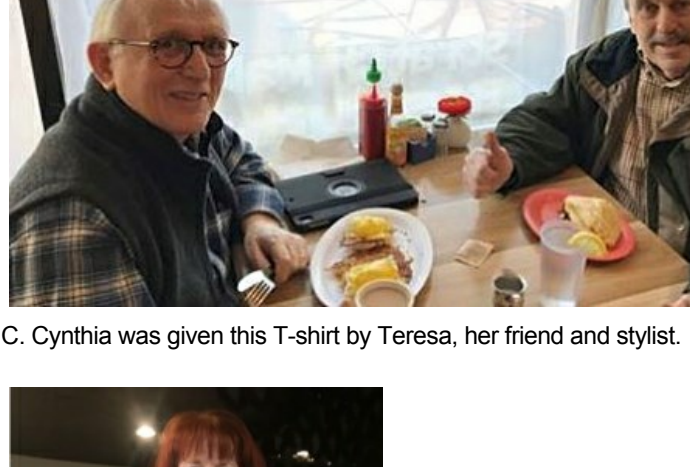
We discussed the upcoming Happy Together Revue (see details in next week's issue) and, also, began planning Happy Together + One. For more information, please click: [Here](#)



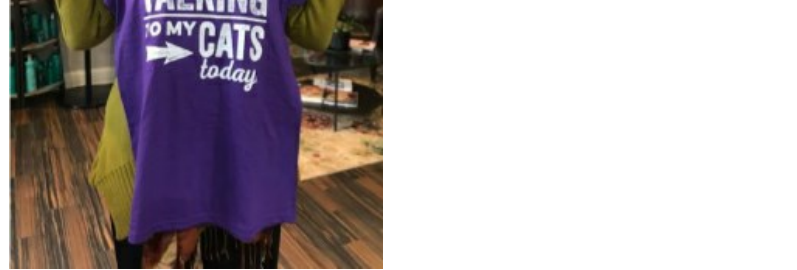
(2) Went for breakfast at Ziggy's Bakery & Deli with, l-r: Marvin Sadovsky, Blaine Greenfield, Tom Gallagher and Brian Biro. The bagels were tasty; the company was even better.



(3) Attended a Rotary luncheon at the Renaissance Hotel with Davyne Dial, WPVM's dynamic general manager.



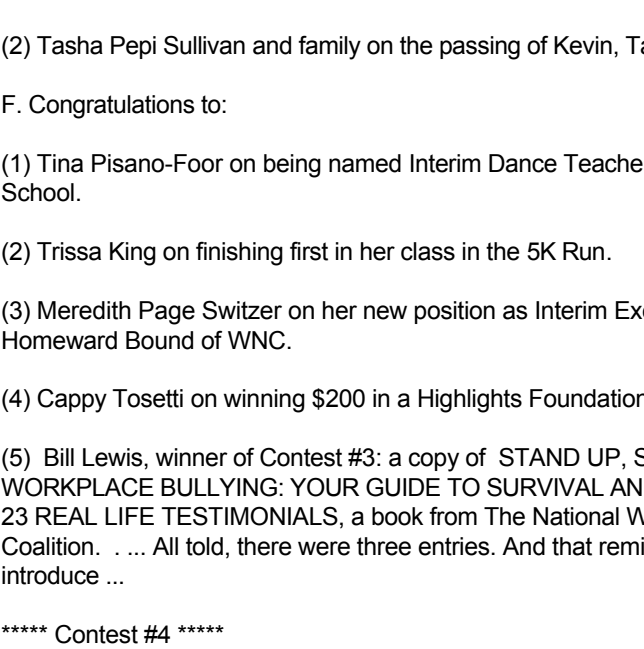
(4) Had two separate, tasty lunches at Rise 'n Shine with Jeff Bachar (top) and Jeremy Lerner (bottom). I'm pleased to say we solved all the world's problems at both.



C. Cynthia was given this T-shirt by Teresa, her friend and stylist.



D. WPVM invites you to listen to the BLAINESWORLD show from Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019. ... The guests were Marcy Gallagher (left), owner of the Kilwins in downtown Asheville, and Laura Boswell (right), singer/songwriter extraordinaire. ... To view the show via Facebook Live, please click: [Here](#).



E. Condolences to:

(1) JP Reavely and Julia Reavely on the passing of Michael Wilson Reavely, their brother.

(2) Tasha Pepi Sullivan and family on the passing of Kevin, Tasha's brother.

F. Congratulations to:

(1) Tina Pisano-Floor on being named Interim Dance Teacher at TC Roberson High School.

(2) Trissa King on finishing first in her class in the 5K Run.

(3) Meredith Page Switzer on her new position as Interim Executive Director of Homeward Bound of WNC.

(4) Cappy Tosetti on winning \$200 in a Highlights Foundation writing contest.

(5) Bill Lewis, winner of Contest #3: 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. ... All told, there were three entries. And that reminds me it is now time to introduce ...

***** Contest #4 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of THE (HONEST) TRUTH ABOUT DISHONESTY: HOW WE LIE TO EVERYONE--ESPECIALLY OURSELVES by Dan Ariely. To quote Mehmet Oz, MD: Vice-Chair and Professor of Surgery at Columbia University and host of The Dr. Oz Show: "Dan Ariely ingeniously and delightfully teases out how people balance truthfulness with cheating to create a reality out of wishful-blindness reality. You'll develop a deeper understanding of your own personal ethics-and those of everybody you know."

To enter the contest, send an email to: bjnbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #4 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. 18.

G. Correction: Thanks, John Tarka, for sending the following email: I, too, saw Upside, and agree that the original French film on which it is based is better. That film's title is The Intouchables. Note: My bad ... I didn't include the latter name. It is definitely worth seeing and is far superior to UPSIDE.

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

This week, it goes to Gift--our favorite server at Yao Buffet and Sushi Grill in Candler. That's her pictured at our New Year's Eve party last month. She did an excellent job of taking care of us and all the others who were in attendance. ... Gift has a great smile, and she always does her best to enhance our dining experience. We also like the other employees there, as well as the meals made at the Hibachi grill.



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2. FYI

The Gift of Shared Grief
by Margaret Renkl

It's hard to know what to say to people in mourning. Say something anyway. ...

A condolence letter is a gift to the recipient, but it's a gift to the writer, too. Remembering someone you loved is a way of remembering who you were, a way of linking your own past and present. Even when you love only the survivor - even if you hardly knew, or never met, the mourned beloved, others' or our own. Writing a condolence letter is an act of shared humanity. It needn't be perfect, and it needn't be a tome. It's enough to say: "I'm so sorry. I know how much you loved her. I miss her, too."

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

FYI, part 2

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

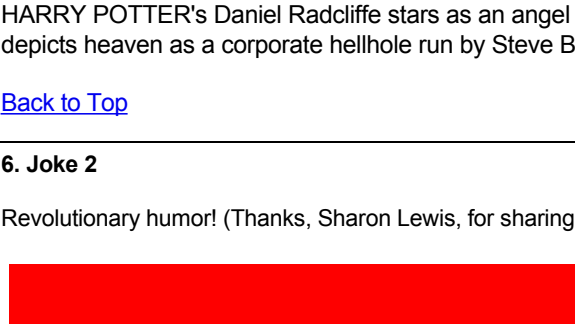
[Here](#)

(1) 6 Steps to Turn Regret Into Self-Improvement. (2) Linda Williams: This zoo will name a cockroach after your ex. (3) Pat Hannigan: How to read an audience sounds like a good book. (4) Rick Pine: As I prepare to watch today's Superbowl, I thought I would let you know that I can guarantee that your wish will come true. (5) A High-Tech Pill to End Drug Injections.

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3. Joke 1

I always wondered about this. Now I know. ... The things you learn online! (Thanks, Lucille Eckert, for sharing.)



... and that is WHY the chicken crossed the road.

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4. Reviews

A. Saw A DOG'S WAY HOME, a drama about a dog who gets separated from her owner and sets off on 400-mile journey to get back to the place she calls home. Along the way, she meets a series of both new friends and challenges. I found it mildly interesting. Dog owners and young children might find it too sad for their liking. Rated PG.

B. Read ERNIE: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY (Citadel) by Earnest Borgnine, the versatile actor who took on Frank Sinatra in FROM HERE TO ETERNITY, had us cry at his Oscar-winning role in MARTY and kept us laughing in television sitcom MCHALE'S NAVY. Along the way, he appeared in such other popular films as THE DIRTY DOZEN, BAD DAY AT BLACK ROCK, THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE and bunch of others acting well into his 90s. ... This engaging book gives a behind-the-scenes look at all the above, as well as the author's recollections about working with such icons as Spencer Tracy, James Stewart, Kirk Douglas, Montgomery Clift, Gary Cooper, Janet Leigh, Raquel Welch, Gene Hackman, Rock Hudson, Sammy Davis, Jr., Tony Curtis, Alan Ladd, Glenn Ford and Burl Lancaster. ... Much of his writing is upbeat and quite often humorous--even when referring to his five marriages. He has mostly good things to say about everybody with the key exception of Ethel Merman, his third wife of just 32 days. I'm glad that Borgnine at least got it right with last wife, Tova Traesnaes, who he was married from 1973 until his death in 2012. ... If you're a movie fan, you will love this book.

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5. TV alert

A. RUSSIAN DOLL: New series now available via Netflix According to VULTURE, it "is an ideal weekend binge. It's eight episodes that clock in at under 30 minutes each, telling a self-contained story that is at once funny and twisted and scary. It's a Groundhog Day-style premise, a story about a woman named Nadia (Natalia Lyonne) who keeps dying and waking up again in the middle of her 36th birthday party."

B. THE 61ST ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS: Sunday, Feb. 10, at 8 p.m. on CBS Alicia Keys hosts the music industry's biggest event, which features Diana Ross making here 75th birthday with a special performance. Dolly Parton will also be on stage, performing new work while her classics are sung by +Little Big Town, Maren Morris, Kacey Musgraves and Katy Perry.

C. WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR? Monday, Feb. 11, at 10 p.m. on HBO The life and legacy of Fred Rogers, the beloved host of the popular children's TV show MISTER ROGERS, is examined. I can't believe it did not receive a documentary-feature Oscar nomination.

Note: It did make my list of favorite movies. If you would like to get a copy of this list, please send an email to: bjnbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

D. MIRACLE WORKER: Series premiere on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 10:30 p.m. on TBS HARRY POTTER's Daniel Radcliffe stars as an angel in a workplace comedy that depicts heaven as a corporate hellhole run by Steve Buscemi as God.

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6. Joke 2

Revolutionary humor! (Thanks, Sharon Lewis, for sharing.)



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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Susan Steele: Huon Valley Bushfire Tribute Video 2019: [Here](#)

Note: Please join me in extending prayers to Susanne and all those affected by the fires in Tasmania. And thanks to her brother--one of the many brave folks fighting them.

(2) Natalie Kaye: Keith Spencer sings "This is the Moment" from Jekyll and Hyde: [Here](#)

(3) Paul Marks: Stand By Me: [Here](#)

And for the rest of the story behind the above performance, please click: [Here](#)

(4) The Best of Jacques Brel: [Here](#)

B. Looking for a gift idea that's unique. The products here range from a few dollars to a thousand. There's something for everyone at This is Why I Am Broke. To check it out yourself, please click: [Here](#)

Among the items that caught my attention were the following:
The NoPhone Air (a coast-efficient model that comes with 0 GB storage capacity)
Pre-Fabricated Shipping Container Home
Frank Money Wads
The Most Stuff Oreo Cookies

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

Mike Yow: Unfortunately, this [BLAINESWORLD] often goes to my spam folder and so I see it a bit latish. But I still see it.

Response: Gmail is a pain in this respect. But here's the solution, not only for this blog ... but for other stuff you want to see. You need to make sure your email goes automatically into your Primary Tab and not into Promotions.

To find out how to do this, please click: [Here](#).

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9. Joke 3

A college grad was being interviewed for a job with a major company. The personnel manager asked, "Based on your Liberal Arts Degree with a 2.6 GPA, what are you looking for in the way of a salary?" ... "I feel that I should start at around a hundred thou with immediate benefits," replied the grad. ... "That sounds about right and your benefits package will include a month's vacation, fourteen paid holidays, a prepaid 401K, a thousand shares of option stock, company car, expense account and use of the company plane." ... "You must be kidding!" shouted the gleeful grad. ... "Of course I am, but you're the one who started it."

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10. A Quote I like

Thanks, Albert Finney (1936-2019), for your fine performances in so many films that I enjoyed, including SCROOGE, TOM JONES, ANNIE, ERIN BROCKOVICH, THE DRESSER and some 39 others. He was also a noted TV and stage actor. For more information about this gifted English actor's life, please click: [Here](#)

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11. Thought for the day

The train ride

Life is like a journey on a train with its stations, with changes of routes and with accidents!

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. As time goes by, other people will board the train, and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize that they vacated their seats! This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all the passengers, requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way - Love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty, we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life without us. I wish you a joyful journey for the coming years on your train of life. Reap success, give lots of love and be happy. More importantly, be thankful for the journey!

Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers on my train!

Source: Author unknown; if you know who wrote this and/or where it came from, please let me know. (Thanks, Paul Marks, for sharing.)

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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) My Big Fat Italian Wedding Murder. (2) The Basics of Stand Up Comedy, with Art Sturtevant. (3) Footloose.

B. PA/NJ event

4 WEDDINGS AND AN ELLVIS.

C. Virtual event

Sunny Cook: Storymaking & Storyshaping in a Divided World

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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