

#1273  
2.8.2021

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## 1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

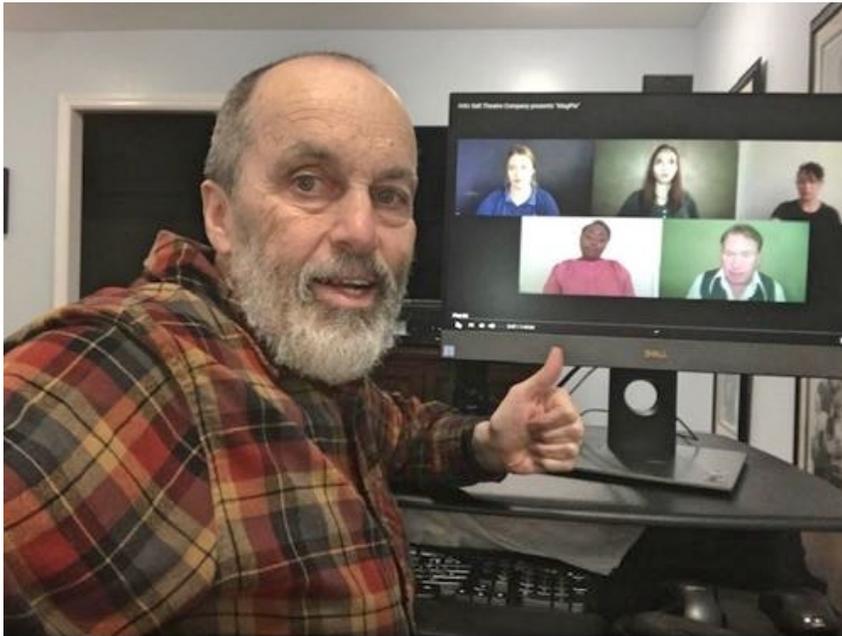
(1) Continued to hunker down in Week 47 of the corona pandemic. Fortunately, we were able to get out to the store, so that we could exchange Valentine's Day cards, Then we put them back on the rack. ... What a sweet, romantic way to spend the holiday. ... Feel free to do this, too--and save money when you do!



(2) On what was beautiful day, we were able to dine outside at Bargello. It was the first time we ate there, but it won't be the last. In particular, the french fries were excellent.



B. Good news! ... You have until Feb. 21 to see a filmed production of MAGPIE put on by Attic Salt. ... Mike Yow, Mathew Edwardsen, Carin Metzger, Ariel Casale, Haley Wilson and Gabby Bailey all gave terrific performances. Leif Brodersen's narration was effective, and Billy Drago's direction was spot on... For tickets, please click: [Here](#).



C. Please catch this week's BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM by clicking: [Here](#). ... The guests were: (first half) David Troy Francis, musician; and (second half): Claudia Pellegrini, violinist, composer, producer and

vocalist.



D. Congratulations to:

(1) Joe McDermott on The Barstool Curmudgeon, his blog. See below for his description of it: The Barstool Curmudgeon hearkens back to the days when newspaper columnists weighed in on issues of the day, in this case through the cantankerous opinions of a one-time mainstream media hack and notorious ne'er do well who has been inflicting his cockeyed commentary on an unsuspecting public for far longer than he ever thought would be tolerated. ... To see his most recent blog post, please click: [Here](#).

(2) Hallee Hirsh-Martin, co-owner of Hole Doughnuts, on the fact that her business was named as having the best doughnuts in the state, according to the national FOOD AND WINE MAGAZINE. For more information, please click: [Here](#).

(3) Mark Lieberman on having his guest column run in the CITIZEN-TIMES. To read it, please click: [Here](#).

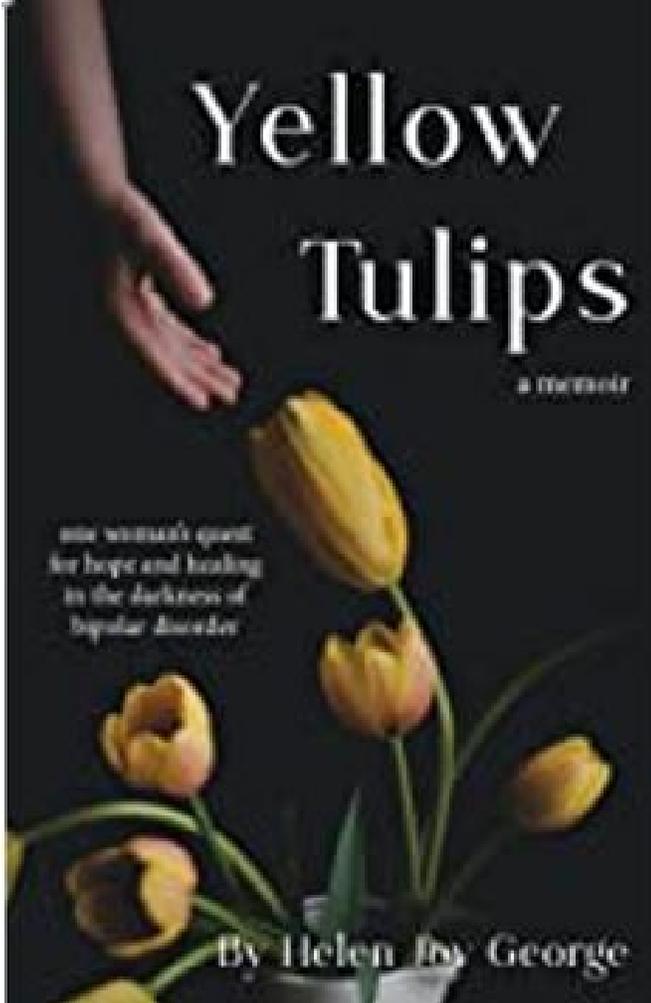
(4) Sherry Shapiro, winner of Contest #3: a copy of OVER 50S SINGLE NIGHT by Ellyn Bache. All told, there were five entries. And that reminds me, it is now time to introduce ...

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

One lucky winner will win a copy of YELLOW TULIPS: ONE WOMAN'S QUEST FOR HOPE AND HEALING IN THE DARKNESS OF BIPOLAR DISORDER by Helen Joy George, a Western NC resident. To quote from the Amazon description:

In a story of remarkable perseverance, Helen Joy writes a memoir of her unusual childhood, her mental breakdown at age 31, and how she fought for a year to stay alive in the mental healthcare system. Yellow Tulips is filled with the ugly truth that is mental healthcare in this country, but is beautifully woven with threads of hope, family, and resilience. This book is a must read for those who want to love others better.

To enter this contest. Send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put CONTEST #4 in the subject line. In the body of your email, include both your name and email address, as well as your mailing address. All entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Feb. 22.



E. Invites:

(1) As many of you may know, I used to be the administrator for a Facebook group called Theatre. Unfortunately, somebody hijacked that group and somehow became administrator without my approval. The result: He or she may now be using your name for other purposes; e.g., for web harvesting (where your information is sold to others). In addition, a lot of garbage was being posted.

So I encourage you to be EXTREMELY WARY about ever posting in the Theatre group again. Instead, I invite you to join and use this a new Entertainment group I formed. This is the place for you to share and/or read about entertainment news that includes the following: 1. Shows. 2. Concerts. 3. Movies. 4. TV, etc.

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

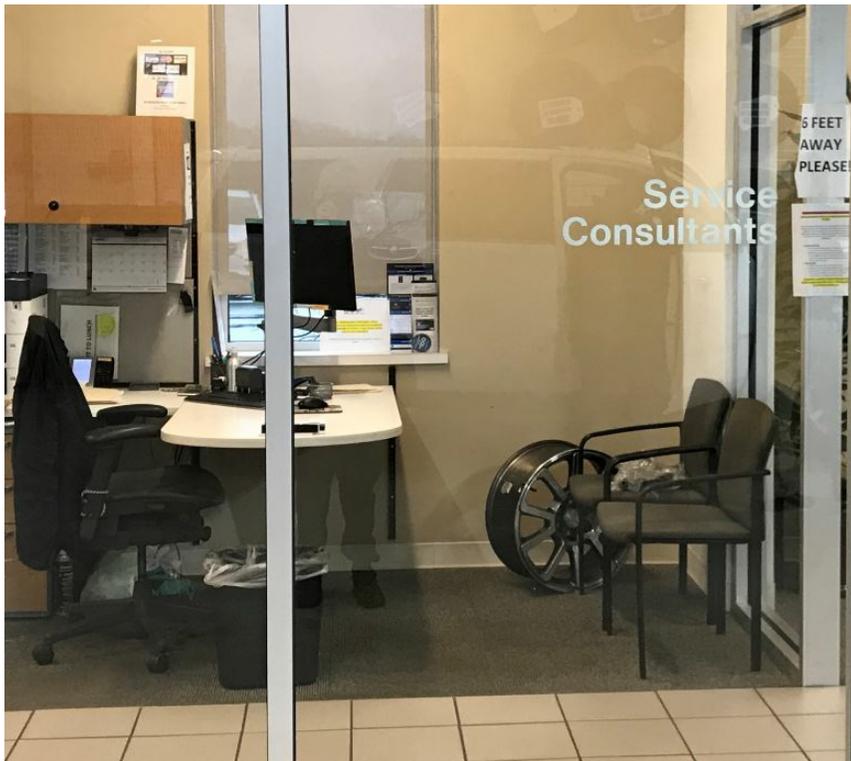


(2) Come join Cynthia in either or both of the virtual courses she'll be teaching for Arms Around ASD this week: Meditation on Monday and Move Your Body on Wednesday. To attend this and/or any of the others (that are open to the public), scroll down to Calendar when you click: [Here](#).

F. This week's ...

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

This week's winners are Donald Ernesty, service manager, and Nathan Reynolds, service adviser, at Harry's On the Hill in Asheville. They are both extremely helpful and friendly whenever I need to get work done on my Buick Encore. I especially like how they almost always get my car back to me even before the time it was promised and, also, how they keep me informed every step of the visit. ... In addition, I'd be remiss if I did not mention the fine service provided by all the office staff at Harry's. ... And I'm grateful for the fact that they offer a free shuttle service, as well as a loaner if service is needed that will take more than a few hours.



## 2. FYI

Imagine, you can now make bacon with no mess and in a lot less time. Just microwave it. ... The Boar's Head brand tastes the same as regular sliced bacon, too. ... Once you try it, you'll never go back to making it the old-fashioned way.



## FYI, part 2

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

A. Jean Dolan: Google VP says she always listens for these 6 things during the job interview. B. Can You

### 3. Joke 1

Pretty impressive, huh? (Thanks, Jan Powell, for sharing.)

**I see people around my age  
mountain climbing...**

**I feel good getting one leg through  
my underwear without losing my  
balance.**

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### 4. Reviews

A. Revisited *GANGS OF NEW YORK*, a 2002 Martin Scorsese movie about the prejudice and hatred Irish immigrants faced upon their arrival in New York City during the Civil War. I again liked it, but should point out that it is extremely violent and so might not be for everybody. Daniel Day-Lewis is outstanding as Bill "The Butcher" Cutting and received a well-deserved Oscar nomination for his performance. I also liked the work of others in the cast, including Leonardo DiCaprio, Cameron Diaz, Liam Neeson, Jim Broadbent and John C. Reilly. All told, the film received 10 Oscar nominations but did not win even one Oscar. Rated R.

B. Read *THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING FUNNY: WHY WE NEED MORE JOKES IN OUR LIFE* (Rowan & Littlefield Publishers) by Al Gini. It is an insightful look at how comedy helps us deal with our problems, and how it serves as a weapon against anxiety and discomfort. ... The book kept my interest as it reviewed such topics as the history of joke telling, what makes a joke funny, dirty jokes, tasteless jokes and ethnic jokes. ... As might be expected, the author also included some of his favorite jokes.

I also liked how he added his thoughts on what makes them funny. To quote him:

I think that the beauty and the larger purpose of ethnic humor is that it shows up our similarities more than our differences. It makes us aware of how much we are alike and how much we share. To me, a good ethnic joke is really a folk tale, a piece of folk wisdom about something that crosses ethnic and racial lines.

That explanation preceded the following joke:

A son calls his (\_\_\_\_\_) mother in Florida.

SON: Hi, Mom! How are you?

MOM: Not too good; I've been weak.

SON: Why have you been weak?

MOM: Never mind.

SON: Mom, what's wrong?

MOM: It's okay, don't worry.

SON: Stop this! Tell me what's wrong?

MOM: All right, I haven't eaten in 38 days.

SON: That's terrible, Why haven't you eaten in 38 days?

MOM: Because I didn't want my mouth to be filled with food if you should finally call!

If you like the idea of giving thought to what makes people laugh, you'll enjoy this book.

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## 5. TV alert

A. JOHN ADAMS: Monday, Feb. 15, beginning at 10 a.m. and running through 6:30 p.m. on HBO2  
The acclaimed 2008 miniseries stars Paul Giamatti as Adams and Laura Linney as his wife.

B. VOICES OF FREEDOM: Monday, Feb. 15, at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at [Here](#))  
This AMERICAN EXPERIENCE entry profiles singer Marian Anderson who was a sensation in Europe but who faced racial discrimination in America.

C. YOUNG ROCK: Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 8 p.m. on NC  
This new sitcom features three fictionalized versions of Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's early life.

D. AUSTIN CITY LIMITS: Saturday, Feb. 20, at 11 p.m. on PBS check local listings at [Here](#))  
Willie Nelson performs in a concert from 2019.

E. Herb Spiegel: See THE DIG [on Netflix].

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## 6. Joke 2

Kids say the darndest things! (Thanks, Linda Williams, for sharing.)



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## 7. Clips/Websites

A. The Turtles are arguably the greatest rock group of all time!

(1) As mentioned previously, this section will feature music by The Turtles--either their recordings and/or covers of their music by others.

I'd especially love to see any recording you may have done of "Happy Together."

Send it to: [bjinbc@aol.com](mailto:bjinbc@aol.com) and put THE TURTLES in the subject line.

Note: Even if you did not do a recording, I welcome anything done by others--not only of "Happy Together," but any other Turtles' song.

(2) For this week, please view this piano version from my friend Howard Smith: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

DC's Giant Pandas enjoy snow storm, sliding down hills at National Zoo exhibit: [Here](#).

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

(1) Dee Cartensen: Can You Hear A Lullaby, one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

Note: If you like the above, you'll also like Cartensen's CD with the same title. It is also a perfect gift to give anybody who has a baby or grandbaby.

(2) Howard Smith on piano, 2.14.21: [Here](#).

(3) Jonathan Berg: [Let's Charleston!:](#) [Here](#).

Note: Love this comment: She was head of the queue when God was handing out legs.

(4) Aaron Ybarra: Digital church, 2.14.21: [Here](#).

(5) Cynthia Greenfield: America the Beautiful: 2020: [Here](#).

D. Here's a website that you'll get a kick out of: Awkward Family Photos: [Here](#).

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

F. 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

You can erase text with a shake of your hand; e.g., if you second-guessed a paragraph-long text message. To quickly erase what you just typed, give your phone a good shake and tap “Undo Typing.” Want it back? You can always shake your phone again and select “Redo Typing” to make the text reappear.

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## 9. Joke 3

His ex was wrong when she said Bob would never amount to sh\*t!

**Last known photo of Bob**



**MAYBE SECOND TO LAST.....**



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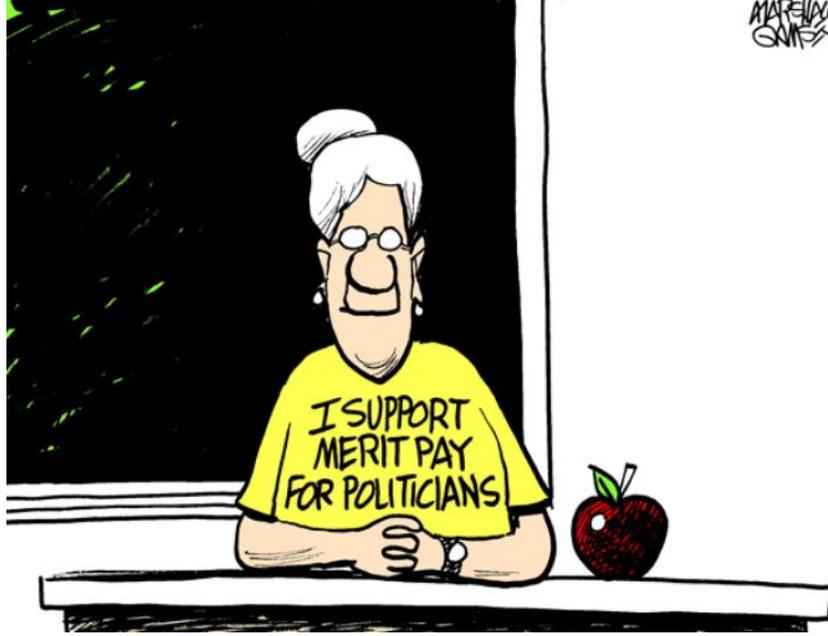
**10. A quote I like**

"Some things I never learned to like. I didn't like to kiss babies, though I didn't mind kissing their mothers.--  
Pierre Trudeau (1919-2000), Canadian politician who was the 15th prime minister of Canada

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**11. Thought for the day**

I'd prefer minimum pay for politicians. They already deserve that! (Thanks, Art Mayhew, for sharing.)



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## 12. Advance planning department

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

A. Mike Yow: LOVE, SART. B. THE BOOK CLUB at NC Stage. C. Larry Parr: HI-HAT HATTIE.

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

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