

BLAINES WORLD

#1116
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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 and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Have been spending a lot of time looking at cars for the both of us. We wound up purchasing a Kia Soul for Cynthia. It's in the back of the picture, That's Krishna Arrington, the sales consultant at Paramount Kia of Asheville, who made the purchase a pleasant experience. If you want to join us in buying a Kia, you won't go wrong working with Krishna. She can be reached at karrington@paramountainauto.com; cell: 828.747.1348. And feel free to mention our name.

Note: Thanks to everybody who has made suggestions and/or given us advice on the process. We are next looking at purchasing a Nissan Rogue Sport for me. Any thoughts on that?





(2) We loved JEEVES TAKES A BOW at NC Stage--and you will, too. The good news: The run has been extended through Feb. 25. Tickets can be obtained by clicking:

[Here](#)

Pictured with us: (top) Scott Treadway, (bottom left) Charlie Flynn-McIver and (bottom right) Michael MacCauley. Kudos, also, to the rest of the stellar cast: Maria Buchanan, Lauren Fortuna and John Hall, and also to director Angie Flynn-McIver and stage manager Catori Swann.



B. WPVM/FM invites you to listen to the BLAINESWORLD show from Wed., February 14, 2018Guest (first half): Peggy Ratusz, singer, songwriter, vocal coach and

freelance feature music writer for WNC Women Magazine; for more information: <https://www.womenwhomademusichistoryconcertseries.com>Guest (second half): Lauren G. Foster, founder of Be Happy First, as well as happiness and health coach; for more information: <http://www.behappyfirst.org> ... Pictured, l-r: Peggy Ratusz, Blaine Greenfield and Lauren G. Foster .

To listen to the show, please click:
[Here](#)



C. During the week, I:

(1) Had the good fortune of catching Different Strokes! production of ALABAMA STORY at the Bebe Theatre. Do yourself a favorite and catch this arresting drama before its extended run ends on Feb. 24. Some few tickets still remain. They can be obtained by clicking:

[Here](#)

Pictured, l-r: Sonia D-Andgrea, Joshua Moore, Blaine Greenfield, John Preseton Mendenhall, Sephanie Hickling Beckman (director), Daniel Henry and David Mycoff. Not pictured Molly Graves, Nathan Singer (stage manager) and CJ Breland (costumes).



(2) Saw the Magic, Mirth & Meaning Show at the Vanishing Little Theatre, featuring some terrific magic from Gil Carlson, Eric Schweitzer, Chris Oaks and Jacob Behill. ...
. Make sure you click this link to see some other pictures, along with a clip of Chris performing:

[Here](#)



C. Condolences to:

(1) Robert Player and family on the passing of Rochelle, Robert's mother.

(2) The family of Marty Allen, the comedian with the crazy hair that I've always admired. (See below.) I also enjoyed watching him on Ed Sullivan and other shows. For his obituary, please click:

[Here](#)





(3) The 17 victims of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Note: I simply don't buy the concept that something can't be done about the above. I think a LOT can be done. For several excellent suggestion, please click:

[Here](#)

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Heather Bronson on becoming the Barista Champion for Patton Avenue Starbucks.

(2) Aaron Wesley Means on having his company, ACTIVATE, named as a 2017 Double Award Winning Constant Contact Partner.

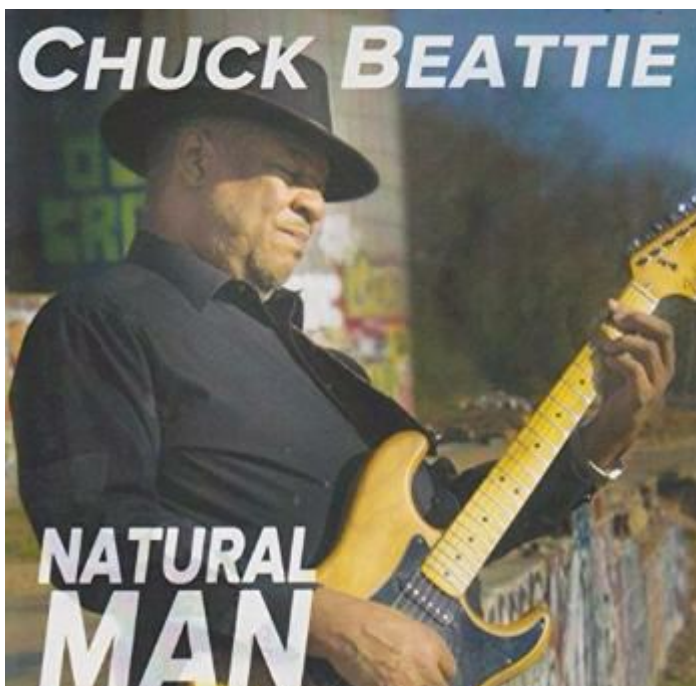
(3) Coy Theobalt, winner of Contest #4: the official Super Bowl LII program (featuring the Eagles and Patriots). All told, there were 12 entries. And that reminds me that it's now time to introduce ...

***** CONTEST #5 *****

One lucky reader will win an autographed copy of my friend's fantastic CD: CHUCK BEATTIE NATURAL MAN. To sample clips from it, please click:

[Here](#)

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #5 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. 26, 2018.



E. Please join me at ...

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, 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.

Pictured: Me with Jay Hill, the tireless guy who manages PachaKucha Asheville.



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

This week, it goes to Hillary Park--owner of a Korean restaurant, Happy Bibimbap House, in Salem, Oregon.

I first heard about this remarkable woman (who cooks for those in need) via a video clip sent to me by Melissa ML Collins-Ander:

[Here](#)

For more information, please click:

[Here](#)

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2. FYI

What to Do When There's an Active Shooter
by Christine Hauser

With mass shootings in schools, theaters, churches and workplaces, experts in threat assessment have come up with advice about what to do.

This is a grim topic for an advice article, and the odds that you personally will be a victim of a mass shooting are low. But experts say mass shootings have become so frequent and deadly in the United States that people should think in advance about how they will respond if the worst happens.

For the rest of this must-read article, please click:

[Here](#)

FYI, part 2

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

[Here](#)

(1) 3 simple habits linked to weight loss. (2) The secret behind Adam Rippon's Olympic abs. (3) For a better marriage, act like a single person.

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3. Joke 1

Something to try the next time I'm at Starbucks! Wanna join me? (Thanks, George Hartpence, for sharing.)



Today in Starbucks when I placed my order, I gave the name "Spartacus" as a joke. When they called my name to pick up my order I stood up and yelled, "I am Spartacus!" Everyone turned to look at me. Then an old man sitting in the corner stood up and yelled, "No. I am Spartacus!" Then one by one, everyone in the Starbucks stood up and yelled, "I am Spartacus!"

Today's gonna be a good day.

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4. Reviews

Looking at cars (see Section 1A) has restricted my movie-going time, and also there just aren't that many films I've really wanted to see, so I'll recommend the following two titles that I've seen, respectively, via Netflix and on TCM.

A. HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS is a completely predictable comedy from 2003 that nevertheless held my interest, largely due to the fine performances of both Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson. They have great chemistry together. I also liked the work of Kathryn Hahn in one of her first roles. Rated PG-13.

B. LOST HORIZON, the 1973 musical remake of the classic, isn't nearly as good as the original about the land of Shangri-La. And some say it is one of the biggest flops of all time. ... Yet I found it quite watchable, and I enjoyed several of the songs by Burt Bacharach and Hal David. Less enjoyable was the choreography that accompanied it. I thought that was pretty poor. ... Peter Finch tries vainly in the title role. He's fine, but just can't compare to Ronald Colman's 1937 performance.

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5. TV alert

A. THE JOEL MCHALE SHOW WITH JOEL MCHALE: Available via Netflix, starting on Sunday, Feb. 18

The former COMMUNITY star returns in a weekly comedy-talk format has him reacting to current events and pop culture with video clips and celebrity guests.

B. GOODBYE, MR. CHIPS (original 1939 version):

Thursday, Feb. 22, at 8 p.m. on TCM

Robert Donat won a Best Actor as the beloved teacher at a British boarding school.

C. GREAT PERFORMANCES: Friday, Feb. 23, at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at www.pbs.org)

Alan Cumming hosts the 17th annual Movies for Grownups Awards.

D. SEVEN SECONDS: Available via Netflix, starting on Friday, Feb. 23

This 10-part urban crime melodrama stars Regina King as a Jersey City mom desperate to get retribution for her teenage son, killed when his bike is truck by a white cop whose corrupt partners convince him to cover up the incident.

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6. Joke 2

Is this the same store that offers a kingdom for a horse? (Thanks, Carol Duermit, for sharing.)





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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Ed Nasta: Your food is shrinking

[Here](#)

(2) Richie Ejueyitchie: Why you love me

[Here](#)

B. There's a lot of good travel information at Citizens of the World, which can be reached by clicking:

[Here](#)

Among the posts that caught my attention were the following:

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE: WHAT PROFESSIONAL SURFER SALLY FITZGIBBONS CAN'T TRAVEL WITHOUT

ROXY JACENKO ON BALANCING WORK, HEALTH & KIDS (& ALSO SHOWING LIFE WHO'S BOSS)

WILD VS MILD EPISODE 1: WANT TO KNOW HOW TO RUIN A PERFECTLY GOOD HIKE?

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 Break Up With Your Phone
by Catherine Prince

The moment I realized I needed to break up with my phone came just over two years ago. I had recently had a baby and was feeding her in a darkened room as she cuddled on my lap. It was an intimate, tender moment - except for one detail. She was gazing at me ... and I was on eBay, scrolling through listings for Victorian-era doorknobs.

I'm not going to try to explain this particular personal passion. The point is that a good 15 minutes had probably passed before I finally caught sight of my daughter looking at

me, her tiny face illuminated by my phone's blue light. I saw the scene as it would have looked to an outsider - her focused on me, me focused on my phone - and my heart sank. This was not the way I wanted things to be.

For the rest of this informative article, please click:

[Here](#)

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9. Joke 3

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! ... Consider doing something sweet for your loved one as I did last year. My wife loves romantic evenings. She also loves bubble baths and candles, so I went all out to prepare this for her. . . . She wasn't impressed, but maybe you'll get a better reception than I did. (Thanks, Ed Nasta, for sharing.)



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10. A quote I like

Thanks, Becky Gautreaux, for sharing:

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts."--
Winston Churchill (1874-1965), British statesman, army officer and writer, who served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955

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11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Colby Coren (pictured below on the left), for permission to use your Facebook post of February 3, 2018:

I've been a big guy as long as I can remember. I've heard all the jokes and often laughed at them, because I knew they weren't what defined me. I have never let my size stop me from going after things with everything I've got. I don't let the number on the scale define my quality of life! (We're working on making that number go down!! Yay us!!) but last night an encounter really got to me...

I've heard the "Fat Albert" joke a million times and made it my self more times than I can count. But as I'm walking into the movies with a friend last night, I hear it from a group of drunk adults. I let it roll, kept walking, and waved (and by wave... I mean a less than Christ like "California Howdy! Look... nobody's perfect!!)

And typically that would've been the end of it, I would've forgot about it and moved on. But I couldn't... I don't know if it's the fact that I am working hard to do something about it or what... but I couldn't shake it all night and still into this morning.

Well, my alarm on my phone goes off this morning and I forgot I had set it to "This is me" from The Greatest Showman. As I woke up and was listening to the lyrics...

When the sharpest words wanna cut me down
I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out
I am brave, I am bruised
I am who I'm meant to be, this is me
Look out 'cause here I come
And I'm marching on to the beat I drum
I'm not scared to be seen
I make no apologies, this is me

I remembered, I'm not defined by the words of a group of drunken adults. My worth doesn't come from the opinions of complete strangers. My worth and my value come from God and from those who love me for who I am!

So today, don't let the world define who you are!! Look up, look inward, and look to those who love you most!!

Note: For the entire song that Colby quotes, please click:

[Here](#)



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12. Advance planning department

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

[Here](#)

A. NC event

Barrie Barton: Friends: Making Sharing Loving Losing

B. PA/NJ events

The Robeson Songbook: A Negro Spiritual and Gospel Celebration

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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