BLAINESWORLD

You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not toooo risqué (typically in Sections 4, 7 and 10); contests; reviews of shows. movies and books; quotes, etc. ... Please feel free to share it with 437 of your closest friends and relatives.. ... And In the unlikely event that you or they are not already a subscriber, just click the following link to be added to the free mailing list: Here.

#1379
2.20.2023

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I wanted to share one more picture from the recent gathering at our home, at which several of our friends got to meet our amazing cat Kismet who was somewhat preoccupied. (Thanks, Walela Dobroski, for bringing him this fish.)

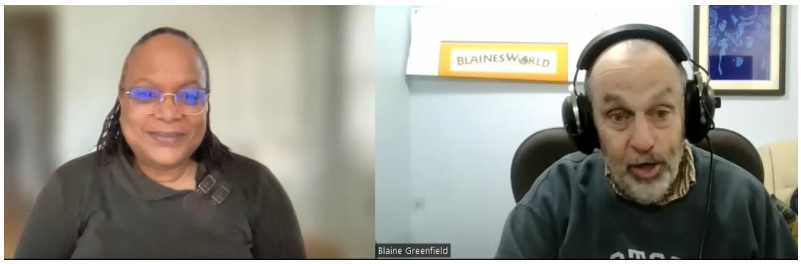
B. The Magnetic Theatre has another winner in HAPPYLAND, an original rock opera by Brayden Dickerson and Zach Knox. Featured are toe-tappin' tunes performed by all in the talented, enthusiastic cast: Dwight Chiles, Paula O'Brien, Elise Harvey, Evan Eckstrom, Bill Chameides, Tiffanie Boone, Gina McDaniel, Morgan Miller, Sharvis Smith and Quinn Terry. ... They are backed by outstanding live music from Asheville's very own Smooth Goose: Dickerson, Knox, Tyler Mack and Will Miller. ... Jason Phillips directed with aplomb, and Jamie Knox' choreography was dead on. ... HAPPYLAND runs through Feb. 25. For tickets, click: https://tinyurl.com/2vay7h6c.

C. Afterward, we went with our friends Tom and Marcy Gallagher for some delicious pizza at Fresh West Pizza West.

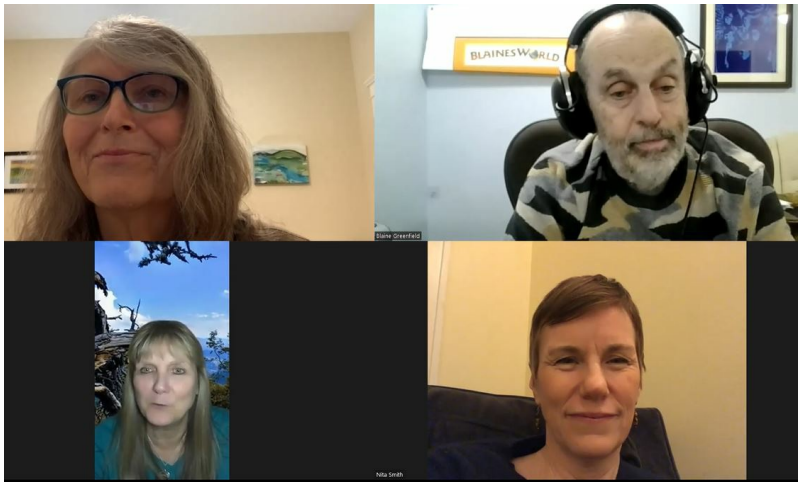
D. I got to have a nice visit with a former student, Lisa Jaffee (left), when she came to Asheville with her friend Kelly Giordano. We had a lovely brunch at Early Girl Eatery on Wall Street.

E. Please catch any and/or all of the following BLAINESWORLD podcasts when you click: Here.

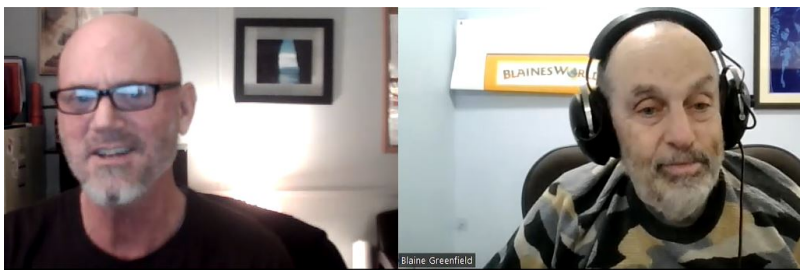
(1) 2.8.2023 - Guest: Candace Taylor, director extraordinaire.



(2) 2.14.2023 - Guests: Sharon Lewis, Sandy Howard and Nita Smith--members of the band Deep River



(3) 2.15.2023 - Guest: Jeff Baker, Substance Abuse Counselor and Naturopathic Physician



F. Congratulations to:

(1) Madison Garris, an incredibly talented performer, who has joined the cast of At the Cafe as Caroline, the server And Kai Strange, also a wonderfully talented actor, has joined as Dylan, the young man.
Note: You can keep find out all about the above new musical by liking and sharing this page: Here.

(2) Taryn Gresham on her new job as manager at the Blue Ridge Restaurant at The Omni Grove Park Inn.

(3) William and Kyrstin Ezzell on the birth of their son Julian.

(4) Dane Whitlock on his new position as the Marketing and Communications Director for Maine State Music Theatre.

G. Announcing this week's ...

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

It goes to Chobani Flip Yogurt.

There are many tasty flavors, including Almond Coco Loco, Cookie Dough, Cookies & Cream, Peanut Butter Cup, Salted Caramel Crunch and S'more S'Mores to name just a few.

It is not cheap and the portions are small, but the price becomes reasonable if you buy it in a family variety pack.

For more information, click: Here.

Note: To make for more re normal portion size, as well as to enhance the flavor, I add coconut to this product when I eat it.

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2. Invites

A. The deadline has been EXTENDED to enter ....

******* CONTEST #3 *******

One lucky reader will win an autographed copy of UNSENT POSTCARDS, a collection of poems by my friend Nelson Sartoris.

To quote one reviewer: "The poems in this book resonate with me as someone who is also approaching the twilight of my years. They made me think and evaluate my role in life and in the world. Very thought provoking."

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #3 in the subject line. In the body of your email, include your name and mailing address. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 20.

B. Please LIKE and SHARE the Facebook page for At the Café, the new musical written by Marcy Gallagher with music by Sarah Kohrs that will have its world premiere at The Tina McGuire Theater at The Wortham Center for the Performing Arts on August 18-20 and 25-27. For more information, click: Here.

C. Want to be a guest on my BLAINESWORLD podcast, now seen on YouTube or you can listen to it on your favorite podcast player? If you have news you'd like to share and/or a story to tell, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put GUEST in the subject line. In the body of the email, include both your name and phone number.

Even if you've been a guest before, I'd welcome the opportunity to speak with you again. I now tape via Zoom, usually in the early evening.

For more information about the show, click: Here

D. Are you interested in shows, concerts, movies, TV, etc.? ... If so, I encourage you to join a group I've formed on Facebook that's called Entertainment. To do so, all you need to do is follow the instructions when you click: Here.

E. Come join Cynthia for the two courses she'll be teaching for Arms Around ASD this week: Meditation on

Monday via Zoom and Move Your Body on Wednesday via Zoom or in person. To attend this and/or any of the other courses that are offered, scroll down to Calendar when you click: Here.

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3. FYI

Mom's simple trick for defusing her toddler's tantrum is going viral because it works
by Rachel Paul Abrahamson

If toddler tantrums are testing your patience, try doing zoomies. Not only will your kid stop crying, but you also feel calmer, according to one Georgia mom.

Zoomies, or frenetic random activity periods (FRAPS), is the term used to describe when dogs suddenly start racing around to burn off energy.

For the rest of this informative article, click: Here.

FYI, part 2

Ayala Jody Zonnenschein is organizing this fundraiser on behalf of Ariella St. Clair, one of my Lawrence High School classmate ...

Ariella St Clair, is awaiting surgery on March 27. She will then need help to pay for 3 or more month of daily help to sustain her goal and chicken farm.

If you'd like to join me in helping her, please click: Here.

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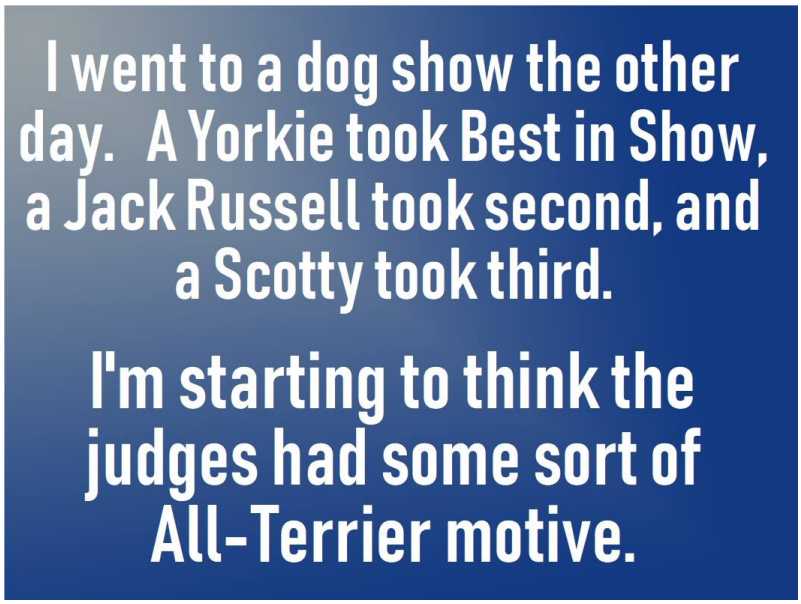
4. Joke 1

I was soooo disappointed that a Clab, my favorite, didn't win. And in case you're not familiar with the breed, it's a dog who is constipated, has laryngitis, is anorexic and also bald. (Thanks, Jean Dolan, for sharing.)



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5. Reviews

A. Cynthia and I saw OSCAR NOMINATED ANIMATED SHORTS at Grail Moviehouse and liked one the most: THE BOY, THE MOLE, THE FOX AND THE HORSE, an adaptation of author and illustrator Charles McKay's book about friendship that explores the meaning of kindness, courage and hope.

This snippet of dialogue especially touched us:
What do you want to be when you grow up?"
"Kind."

We also got a kick out of the warning that preceded MY YEAR OF DICKS ... something to the effect that if you were with young children, you should take them out of the theater. The short is about a 15-year-old who is determined to lose her virginity. The best part was when she confides in her mom, who, instead of valuing the trust, flips out and runs to her husband whose advice is truly cringe worthy.

Note: We always get a kick out of going to the Grail. Owners
Steve White and Davida Horwitz are oh-so-friendly, and they show a wide variety of films that you can't typically find elsewhere.

B. I saw DADDY'S LITTLE GIRLS on Netflix and enjoyed this romantic drama about a mechanic who struggles to make ends meet while he raises his three young daughters alone. Idris Elba, as always is excellent, and he is ably supported by Gabrielle Union. But it is Tasha Smith as the evil ex-wife who steals almost every scene she is in. Find this one if you can. Rated PG-13.

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6. TV alert

As you'll see, there are several recommendations for Apple TV+. We've just added this service and are finding lots of good stuff on it, plus the pricing is reasonable. Best of all: When you sign-up, you can get a free trial period. I believe ours was for three months.

A. HELLO TOMORROW!: On Apple TV+
Billy Crudup plays a guy selling time-shares on the moon in a future where it's easy to visit.

B. SHARPER: On Apple TV+
Julianne Moore plays a woman wooed by a Manhattan billionaire (John Lithgow) whose shy son is targeted by fiendishly ingenious confidence men and women. There are many twists and turns that will keep you guessing until the very end. I liked it.

C. SHRINKING: On Apple TV+
Harrison Ford plays his greatest-ever comedic role, one with emotional depth, as a gruff but kindly psychotherapist recently diagnosed with Parkinson's. He's like a wise father-figure boss to his younger therapist colleague (Jason Segel). I'll be watching, if for no other reason than the fact that it ha been created by several TED LASSO alums.

D. THE UPSHAWS SEASON 3: On Netflix
This became a number 1 Netflix comedy. It is about a Black blue-collar Indiana comedy and stars Wanda Sykes and Mike Epps.

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7. Joke 2

Methinks this guy could always get a job with a group called Lah-Lah, playing along with the following song that you can hear by clicking: Here. (Thanks, Elaine Bilk, for sharing.)

8. 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: bginbc@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 cover from Miley Cyrus: Here.

B. Video of the week

"Castigo," my friend Elsten Torres' latest release: Here.

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

(1) Harry Nilsson, "Without You," one of my all-time favorites: Here.

(2) Howard Smith: Hymns (2.19.2023): Here.

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: Bob Marley: Here.

(4) Neil (above) recommended to listen to some Marley. You can do the same when you click "Legend": Here.

(5) Olivia Newton-John and Dolly Parton, “Jolene”: Here. (Thanks Mark Jones, for sharing.)

(6) United States Navy Band: "Somewhere Over the Rainbow": Here. (Thanks, Janet Zofchak, for sharing.)

D. Here's a website that you might want to check out:

Have an odd story. Share it on ODDEE by clicking: Here.

You'll find a collection of weird, odd and totally strange stories. Among them:
Meet South Carolina’s Illegal Pinball Wizards
Lost Engagement Ring Found in the Toilet 21 Years Later
21 Of The World’s Most Interesting Customs

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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9. Technology tip

Wasting Too Much Time on Facebook? Take Control With Quiet Mode
by Jason Cohen

Social media is designed to keep you hooked. The endless scrolling. A constant stream of notifications. The low-stakes temptation of opening an app. It all works together to suck you in and keep your attention for longer than what could be considered a harmless distraction.

If you feel like you're ready to pull back without fully unplugging, Facebook offers a built-in tool called Quiet Mode that can help you manage your time on the platform. To get started, tap the hamburger menu in the mobile app and head to Settings & privacy > Settings, then choose Your Time on Facebook under the Preferences section.

For the rest of this informative article with many other useful tips, click: Here.

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10. Joke 3

The moment when you realize it's time for a diet. (Thanks, Tee Gerardi, for sharing.)

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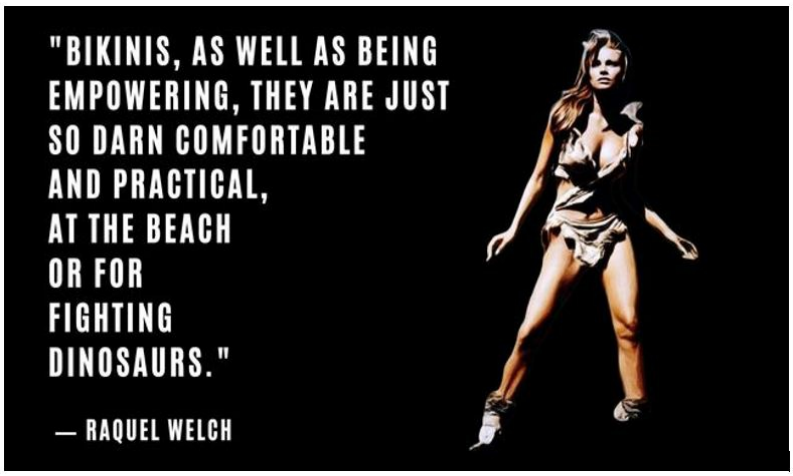
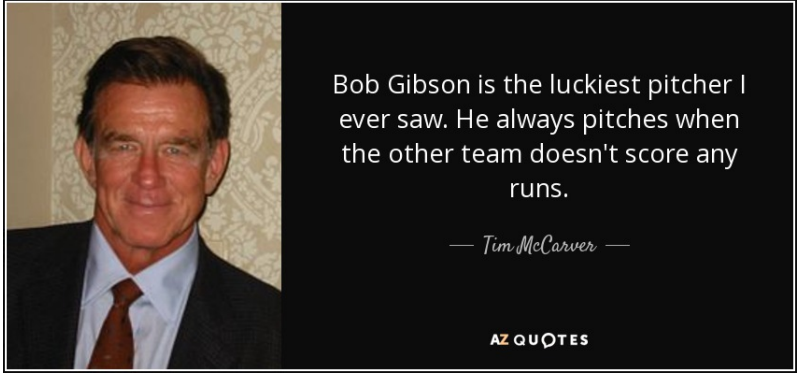
11. Two quotes I like

A. Thanks, Raquel Welch (1940-1023), for yoar career as an American actor in many films, including FANTASTIC VOYAGE, ONE MILLION YEARS B.C., BEDAZZLED, KANSAS CITY BOMBER, THE THREE MUSKETEERS and 100 RIFLES. She made numerous television appearances, and she also was on stage in such shows as WOMAN OF THE YEAR and VICTOR/VICTORIA. For more information about her life, click: Here.



B. Thanks, Tim McCarver (1941-2023), for your career as an American professional baseball player and television sports commentator. He was one of the few major leaguers to have appeared in four different decades. After his playing career was over, McCarver was named the recipient of the Ford C. Frick Award for broadcasting, and in 2016 he was inducted into the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame. For more information about his life, click: Here.



PS. Make it a great week!

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