

#1226
3.16.2020

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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) Are hunkered down because of the coronavirus. We're safe and well--and pray that you are as well.

(2) Right before our self-quarantine went into effect, we got to enjoy the abbreviated run of TRAITOR. After one of the performances, Cynthia came up with a way to greet our friends Marcy and Tom Gallagher. (See below.) To see this greeting in action, please click: [Here](#).

Note: For more information about TRAITOR, please see the BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD at the end of this section.



(3) And after the show, we had a terrific dinner at Fresh Woodfried Pizza.

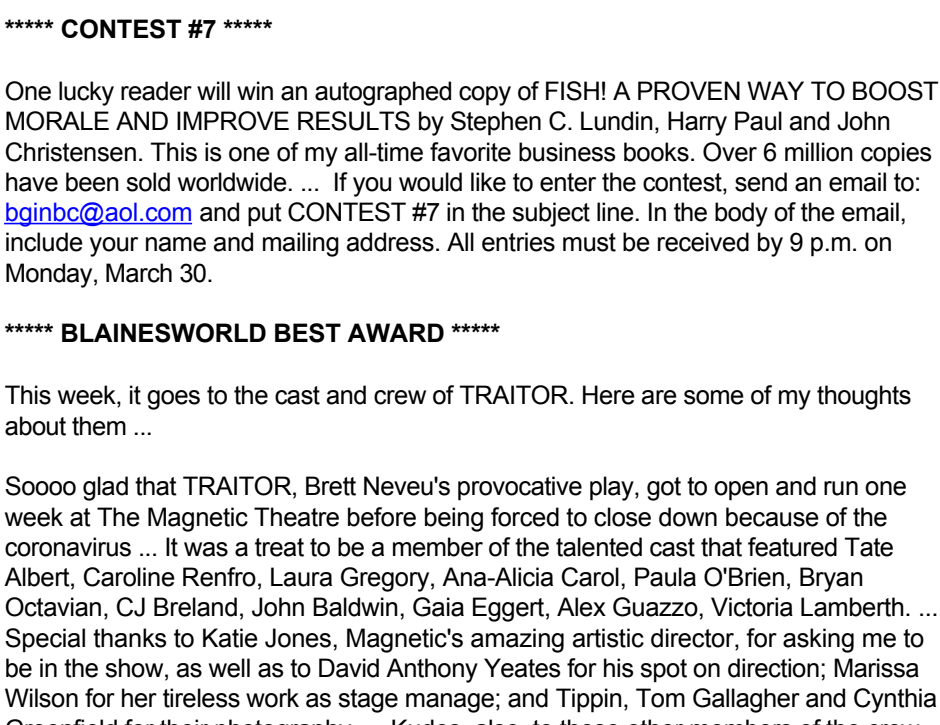


B. I had a fun time at the The Magnetic Theatre's 2020 Season Artist Event. Jason Scholder (top photo), as always, performed a very fun set, and it was good seeing Daniel Moore (left) and Jered Shults (right).



C. Alas, the BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM shall return just as soon as things return to anything approaching normalcy. Details will be posted on my Facebook page, as well in this blog.

UPDATE: I'm presently looking at the possibility of using Zoom to make the show available online. If you have any experience with this remote conferencing service, please send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put Zoom in your subject line. I'd like to possibly pick your brain on the subject.



D. Congratulations:

- (1) Sara DelBeato and Chris Conner on their engagement.
- (2) Rachel Lewis and Jesse Balasco on their engagement.
- (3) Victor Ferraru on passing the New York law exam.
- (4) Marcy Gallagher and Phyllis Sisenwine, both winners of Contest #6: a copy of IGNORE YOUR CUSTOMER: THE SIMPLE PLAYBOOK FOR DELIVERING THE ULTIMATE CUSTOMER SERVICE EXPERIENCE by my friend Micah Solomon. All told, there were four entries. And that reminds me it is now time to introduce:

******* CONTEST #7 *******

One lucky reader will win an autographed copy of FISH! A PROVEN WAY TO BOOST MORALE AND IMPROVE RESULTS by Stephen C. Lundin, Harry Paul and John Christensen. This is one of my all-time favorite business books. Over 6 million copies have been sold worldwide. ... If you would like to enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #7 in the subject line. In the body of the email, include your name and mailing address. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Monday, March 30.

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

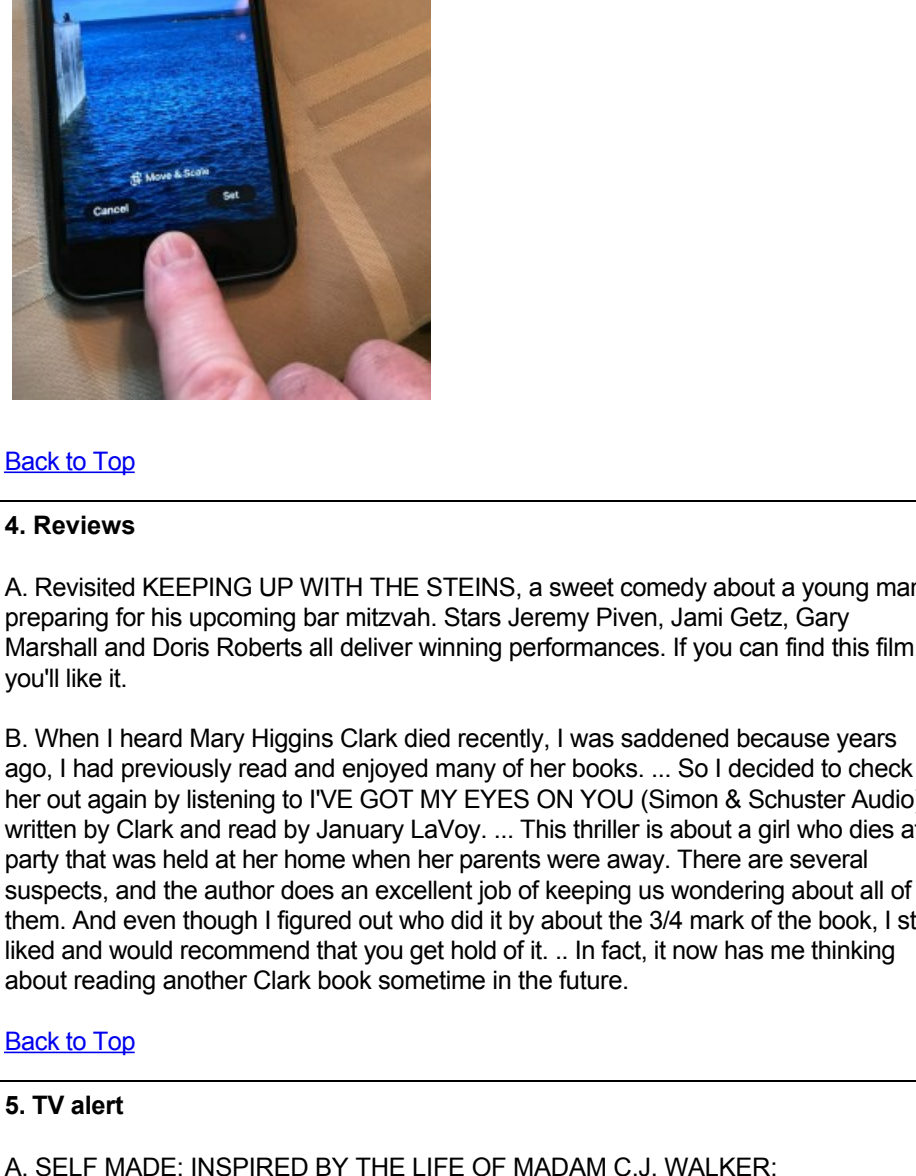
This week, it goes to the cast and crew of TRAITOR. Here are some of my thoughts about them ...

Soooo glad that TRAITOR, Brett Neveu's provocative play, got to open and run one week at The Magnetic Theatre before being forced to close down because of the coronavirus ... It was a treat to be a member of the talented cast that featured Tate Albert, Caroline Renfro, Laura Gregory, Ana-Alicia Carol, Paula O'Brien, Bryan Octavian, CJ Breland, John Baldwin, Gaia Eggert, Alex Guazzo, Victoria Lamberth. ... Special thanks to Katie Jones, Magnetic's amazing artistic director, for asking me to be in the show, as well as to David Anthony Yeates for his spot on direction; Marissa Wilson for her tireless work as stage manager; and Tippin, Tom Gallagher and Cynthia Greenfield for their photography. ... Kudos, also, to these other members of the crew for all their hard work in making the TRAITOR the success that it was: Tippin, dramaturg; Abby Auman, lighting designer; Mary Zogzas, sound designer; Jessica Johnson and Tyler Johnson, set designers; Samantha LeBrocq, costume designer; and Caroline Daniels, props master.

Also, please see these two videos: 1. BLAINESWORLD show with several cast members. [Here](#); and 2. Audience members after one of the shows. [Here](#).

See below for some pictures that I thought you'd like to see. Pictured with us: (top photo) Ana-Alicia Carol; (left) David Anthony Yeates; and (right) Marissa Wilson. To view others, please click: [Here](#).

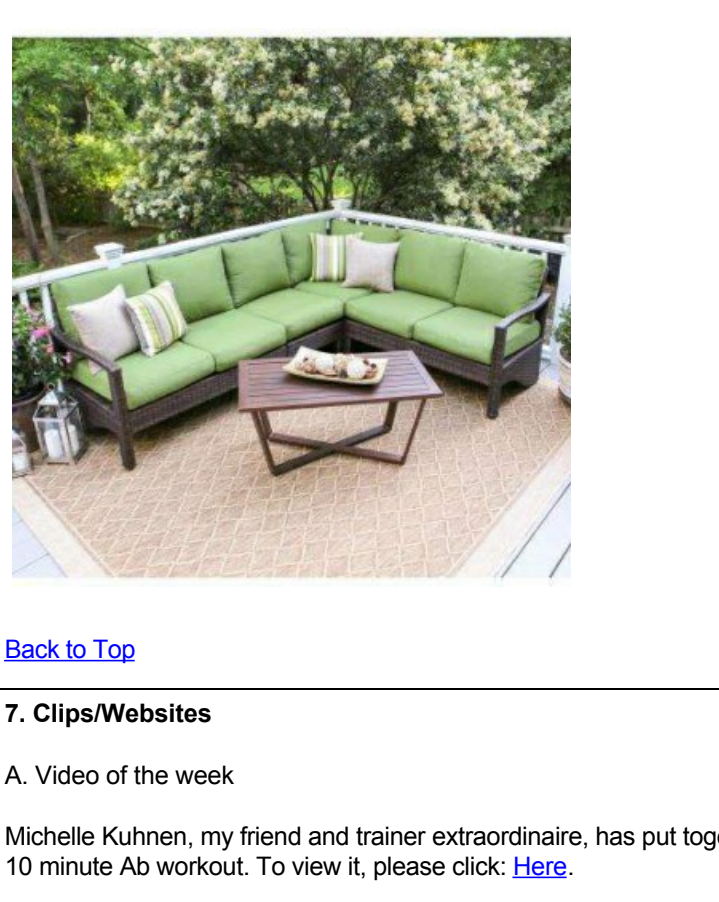
Note: If you want to save any picture to your computer, right click your mouse.



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2. FYI

Like me, you are probably getting a lot of information about the coronavirus. Some of it may be legitimate; a lot of it probably isn't. ... Recently, I was sent an email that was supposedly from "The Stanford hospital board" with such advice as: 1. Take a deep breath and hold your breath for more than 10 seconds; and 2. Take a few sips of water every 15 minutes. ... To note: There's much misinformation in this email, and it did NOT come from Stanford. ... I checked this out with Snopes, you can also do so by clicking: [Here](#). And if you don't trust Snopes, here are two other sources for you: [Here](#); and [Here](#)... My best advice for you comes from Michael Conrad who played St. Phil Eserhaus in HILL STREET BLUES: "Let's be careful out there."



FYI, part 2

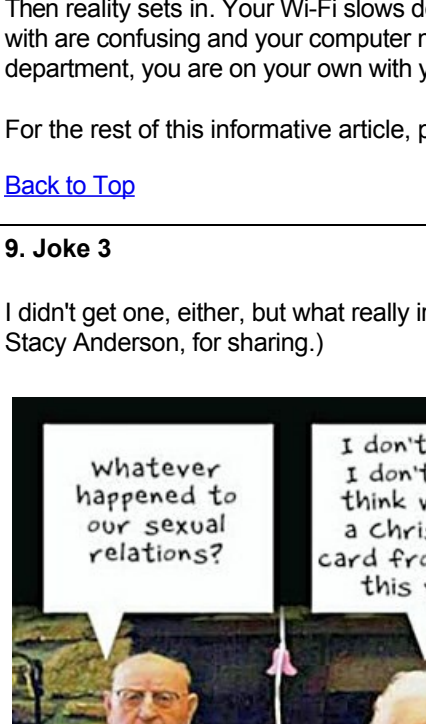
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: [Here](#).

- (1) Cappy Tosetti: So nice reading your happy news. (2) Patricia Diesel: I'm so happy for you. (3) Mark Jones: A Sense of Loss as Movie Theaters Close. (4) Carole Stiller: Always enjoy your newsletter. (5) New York Performers Improvise as Coronavirus Keeps Crowds Away. (6) How to Clean Your Home for Pandemic. (7) Marilynnne Herbert: How the World Will Look After the Coronavirus Pandemic.

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3. Joke 1

I've been washing my hands so hard this past week that my iPhone won't recognize my fingerprint. (Thanks, Michael Hennessey, for sharing.)



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4. Reviews

A. Revisited KEEPING UP WITH THE STEINS, a sweet comedy about a young man preparing for his upcoming bar mitzvah. Stars Jeremy Piven, Jami Getz, Gary Marshall and Doris Roberts all deliver winning performances. If you can find this film, you'll like it.

B. When I heard Mary Higgins Clark died recently, I was saddened because years ago, I had previously read and enjoyed many of her books. ... So I decided to check her out again by listening to I'VE GOT MY EYES ON YOU (Simon & Schuster Audio), written by Clark and read by January LaVoy. ... This thriller is about a girl who dies at a party that was held at her home when her parents were away. There are several suspects, and the author does an excellent job of keeping us wondering about all of them. And even though I figured out who did it by about the 3/4 mark of the book, I still liked and would recommend that you get hold of it. ... In fact, it now has me thinking about reading another Clark book sometime in the future.

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5. TV alert

A. SELF MADE: INSPIRED BY THE LIFE OF MADAM C.J. WALKER: Available on Netflix
This four-part Netflix starring Octavia Spencer tells the true story of the legendary hair-care entrepreneur, who became the nation's first female self-made millionaire. I've watched the first two episodes and really enjoyed them.

B. EATING HISTORY: Two brave souls taste-test vintage food. Tonight, they consumer a 1979 bag of Fritos corn chips.

C. EAST LAKE MEADOWS: A PUBLIC HOUSING STORY: Documentary premiere on Tues. March 31, at 9 p.m. on PBS
Stories both hopeful and hellish pack this thoughtful look at the low-income Atlanta community that opened in 1970 and demolished by 2000.

D. LITTLE BIG SHOT: Sun., March 29, at 8 p.m. on NBC
Melissa McCarthy has taken over for Steve Harvey in this feel-good show that's a treat to watch.

E. Kathryn Long: Have you ever checked out the Australian TV series "A Place to Call Home"? Axel and I are quite addicted. We are watching it through Acorn TV, but I think it is also available through Netflix.

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6. Joke 2

QUESTION FOR THE DAY ... What's Irish and stays out all night? ... ANSWER ... Paddy O'Furniture. ... And now that you know that, if you are like me, and you celebrate all holidays because there's more food, fun and friendship that way, HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

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7. Clips/Websites

A. Video of the week

Michelle Kuhn, my friend and trainer extraordinaire, has put together this terrific 10 minute Ab workout. To view it, please click: [Here](#).

Note: She has some other good ones that you also might want to check out by clicking: [Here](#) and [Here](#).

For more information about her, please click: [Here](#).

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

- (1) Harry Chapin, one of my all-time favorite performers with not just one song ... but you can catch his full concert by clicking: [Here](#).
- (2) Dayne Dial: The Italian Airforce gives a Big Emotional lift to their Nation: [Here](#).
- (3) Jayce Litchman: The CORONAVIRUS Lament - A Randy Rainbow Song Parody: [Here](#).

C. Dawn Westmoreland: Take a trip to your favorite NYC museums with these virtual tours: [Here](#).

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

E. 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

The Tech Headaches of Working From Home and How to Remedy Them
by Brian X. Chen

Working from home because of the coronavirus pandemic may sound like a luxury. Freedom to cook lunch. Time to do laundry between tasks. Respite from that loquacious co-worker.

Then reality sets in. Your Wi-Fi slows down to a crawl, the new software tools you work with are confusing and your computer mouse is a piece of junk. Without an I.T. department, you are on your own with your tech problems.

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

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9. Joke 3

I didn't get one, either, but what really irked me was their failure to send a gift! (Thanks, Stacy Anderson, for sharing.)

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10. 2 quotes I like

A. Thanks, Kenny Rogers 1939-2020, for your career as an American singer, songwriter and actor that gave me much joy over the years. ... For 20 of his top songs, please click: [Here](#). ... And for more information about his life, please click: [Here](#).

B. Thanks, Max von Sydow (1929-2020), for your prolific 70-year career in European and American cinema, television and theatre. In which you appeared in more than 150 films and several television series in multiple languages. I'll especially remember you for your appearances in THE EXORCIST, HANNAH AND HER SISTERS, AWAKENINGS and THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY. For more information about his life, please click: [Here](#).

"The offers I get are for grandfathers, uncles--and they often die very quickly in the script."--Max von Sydow

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11. Thought for the day

Care to join me in doing this? (Source: [Here](#).)

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12. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following event in full, please click: [Here](#).

National event

Marilynnne Herbert: Here's a Collection of Digital Concerts and Events to Keep You Sane This Weekend

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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