

BLAINES WORLD

#965
3.23.2015

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1. Reflections

Note: See Section for 2 for a useful tip to keep in mind when you see a doctor.

Also, if you're reading this via Facebook and/or in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, you can make sure you don't miss an issue (and you get it earlier, too) by clicking:

<http://tinyurl.com/ozgmxgs>

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had the pleasure of having Carole Biro join us for a tasty dinner at 131 Main.



B. I was busy:

(1) Seeing many talented performers at Bioflyer Production's Asheville Talent Slam. Pictured with me (top photo) Kristalyn Bunyan who handled ticket-taking duties with aplomb; (bottom left photo) Rock Eblen who did an excellent job as both emcee and producer; and (bottom right photo, l-r): Jesse Barry, Meghan McHone and Jeff Messer who did fine work as judges.





(2) Catching a magnificent production of AMADEUS, presented by both Asheville Community Theatre and NC Stage Company. Allen Law (pictured) was great as Mozart, and equally good were Michael MacCauley and Rebecca Morris as, respectively, Salieri and Mozart's wife. Kudos, also, to Angie Flynn-McGiver for her spot on direction; Susan Brown-Strauss for her costume design; and such other local favorites as Strother Stingley, Scott Treadway, Doug Hauschild, Pat LaCorte and Mike Yow, among others, for their role in making the production the success that it was.



(3) Getting recognized by Asheville SCORE for having completed five years as a member. Pictured with me: left, Jerry Hicks and right, Ron Ashe (our chapter's hard-working president).



C. Reminders:

(1) Walk a Mile Asheville is rapidly approaching! You can still join me on May 2, along with the incomparable BJ Leiderman (we're both pictured below) and others on the BLAINESWORLD team by clicking:
<http://www.firstgiving.com/team/288560>



And even if you can't make it that day, please consider making a contribution to support our efforts via the above link to raise funds for Our Voice, the non-profit group that serves all individuals in Buncombe County affected by sexual assault and abuse through counseling, advocacy and education.

(2) There's still time to enter ...

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

One lucky reader will win a copy of Kaleo Wheeler's CD: ULANA, THE WAY OF THE HEART.

Kaleo Wheeler is a Musical Storyteller and has created a brilliant hybrid of song and story by fusing her rich and warm voice with her intoxicating gift for storytelling. Kaleo's music covers a range of song styles, and she sometimes accompanies herself with the deeply soothing and relaxing vibrations of her small harp. In concert, she also shares an ancient form of storytelling from the Hawaiian tradition - their traditional hula, Her CD is a musical odyssey of her personal spiritual journey reflected in songs from several different traditions that have impacted her life and with several original songs.



To listen to samples of her delightful music, please click:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/kaleowheeler>

To enter: Put "CONTEST #7" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name AND snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2015.

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Gary Taylor, owner of one of my favorite eateries in Asheville (Café 64), for the great review and pictures in THE CITIZEN-TIMES. To read it, please click:
<http://www.citizen-times.com/story/entertainment/dining/2015/03/23/dining-review-breakfast-cafe/70337590/>

(2) Micheleen Lee on winning her age group by 15 minutes in the Yuengling Shamrock Marathon/Anthem Half Marathon in VA Beach.

(3) Ezekiel Christopoulos on being named Branch Manager of the West Asheville Office of SunTrust. In addition, Ezekiel was promoted to Assistant Vice President for the bank.

Note: If you're looking for an excellent, customer-oriented banker, do contact Ezekiel. He can be reached at 828.232.5611.

(4) Eric Martinez on being featured in an ad for the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce.

(5) Laurie Satran on her new job as Social Media Strategy Manager for Starr Restaurants.

(6) Sharon Butler on the fact that her book, "Conquering Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and Other Repetitive Strain Injuries: A Self Care Program, " has reached its 20th anniversary

of continuous publication. It has gone through 13 printings and has reached nearly 50,000 people worldwide.

E. Condolences to:

(1) Olivia Grant and family on the passing of Charlene, Olivia's cousin.

(2) Vincent Genna and family on the passing of Vincent's cousin.

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

This week, it goes to Robert Rapier--a customer service representative with Verizon Wireless.

In general, I've been pleased with Verizon and have been a customer for nearly 20 years.

On the rare instances, I call for help, it is usually top notch. That was the case the other day when Mr. Rapier helped me.

I seemingly was using a high amount of data ... or make that my daughter and her husband were. And, as a result, I was soon going to be over my monthly allotment.

It turns out that all I had to do was go to Settings, then Cellular Data and then turn off Cellular Data to restrict all data to Wi-Fi. (It seems they had not been doing that.)

In addition, Mr. Rapier found a special promotion that Verizon was offering that gave me an extra gig of data usage for 12 months. He even made that retroactive, so I wouldn't be over for the current month.

He was also very friendly during our entire session.

I was most impressed with the service that he provided, and I think Verizon should be proud to have such an employee.

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2. FYI

I'm blessed to have a very fine physician, Dr. Michael Weizman. On a recent visit, he gave both Cynthia and me some excellent advice; i.e., when seeing another doctor or specialist, make sure to send any test results to your primary physician. That way, he or she has them and can better help diagnose whatever may be the current problem. For information about Dr. Weizman (or about his practice, Our Family Doctor), please click:

<http://www.ourfamilydoctorasheville.com/physicians/michael-weizman-asheville-family-doctor/>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Michelle B. in NC: The Gainesville Tornadoes thank their unexpected fans
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=34&v=VCdqwowpr4Q>

(2) Ellen P. in NC: Jim Jefferies On Gun Control
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=10&v=1QrRurrsi74>

(3) Mark G. in NC: David Russell (Classical Guitarist): Toccata-Assad.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nX-zsrk02M>

(4) Judy M. in NC: Uptown Funk Treadmill Dance--Carson Dean
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWu9o5zrj3g>

(5) Dover Police DashCam Confessional (Shake it Off)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XFBUM8dMqw>

B. Other

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Rk>

(1) Retirement in a Community. but Which One? (2) Stacy A. in NC: Robin Williams' Death Report Finds Lewy Body Dementia. (3) George P. in NC: The myth of the job stealing immigrant. (4) Jean R. in PA: The Irrationality of Alcoholics Anonymous. (5) Spirituality vs. Science? A Rebuttal to The Atlantic Article. (6) Seep Training at 8 Weeks: Do You Have the Guts?

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3. Joke 1

MR. CURIOUS HERE: Did the Winslow Township, NJ, police charge this building with obstruction? Methinks that Gov. Christie is now the one who should be calling for a major investigation of something that just happened in his state, especially because of all the traffic jams that will be caused by folks having to go elsewhere for donuts. For more information, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/lbv5rut>.



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4. Reviews

A. Saw THE SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL, a follow-up to the BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL. It was again good to see all the familiar characters return and, also, to have Richard Gere effortlessly join the cast. The beginning was fun, then it dragged--only to be saved by a great dance scene at the end. The ending seemed to clear the way for a third film in the series, but methinks I may have had enough with this one. Rated

PG, though probably of not much interest to anybody younger than 13.

B. Out on DVD is THE INEVITABLE DEFEAT OF MISTER & PETE, a powerful urban drama about two youths from the Brooklyn projects who attempt to fend for themselves on the streets after their parents are arrested. They need to search for sustenance while attempting to avoid the violence that plagues their neighborhood, as well as attempts by child protection services to track them down. Skylan Brooks and Ethan Dizon are both outstanding in the leading roles. I urge you to find and view this film. Rated R.

Note: I've added it to my list of favorite films. If you'd like to see the others that I have included, please send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

C. Read LIFE IS NOT ENOUGH: THE MEMOIR OF A CONTENTED MAN (Denro Classics) by Robert Brown.

The author, who is slightly older than I am, shares his insights on a variety of subjects--including love, family, friends, life, death and dreams.

I could relate to much of what he said. In addition, it continually got me thinking. In particular, I found this following passage especially significant:

The general course of my life is guided by only three questions, two to be answered in the affirmative and the other in the negative:

Does it contribute?

Is it right for me?

Does it hurt anyone else?

Doing my best has me answering these three questions with three affirmatives:

Does it contribute?

Is it right for me?

Does it uphold everyone else?

Then I know my life is more than enough. Personal wisdom is the method, living my life well is the result.

In reading this book, I felt like Brown was speaking to me personally. I now want to read some of his 10 other books.

D. Heard THE DOGS WHO FOUND ME: WHAT I'VE LEARNED FROM PETS WHO WERE LEFT BEHIND (Blackstone Audio), written by Ken Foster and read by Patrick Lawlor.

The author never meant to adopt an abandoned dog. But then he meant Bando. As he writes: "I adopted Brando not because I was worried he might be put to sleep, but because after several days of visiting him I couldn't stand the idea of him living with someone other than me. " He concludes: " Within a few days I had developed a feverish dog-crush."

Foster proceeds to share the stories of other abandoned dogs and how they helped him survive New York City after 9/11, the evacuation of New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina and the day his heart nearly stopped for good.

Some of the stories in this book are touching; others will make you smile. I especially liked the instructions for would-be rescuers ("What to Do When You Find a Dog"), as well as the list of organizations and other resources for dog rescue.

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5. TV alert

A. If you miss COMMUNITY, Season 6 is now being broadcast on Yahoo Screen. You can access it via the following two methods:

(1) Turn on one of your smart-TV platforms (Roku, Apple TV, Xbox 360, etc.), then find the icon that says "Yahoo Screen" Select it and start watching.

(2) On your PC, tableY or laptop, log on to screen.yahoo.com and click on COMMUNITY.

B. GOING CLEAR: SCIENTOLOGY AND THE PRISON OF BELIEF: Sunday, March 30, at 8 p.m. on HBO

The history and controversial practices of Scientology are the focus of Oscar-winning documentarian Alex Gibney's latest expose.

C. CANCER: THE EMPEROR OF ALL MALADIES: 3-part series, beginning on Monday, March 30, at 9 p.m. on PBS

According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, "This absorbing series, directed by Barak Goodman, has as an executive producer, Ken Burns, who knows something about how to make a documentary about a war and how to make history come alive." ... Note: PBS times and dates sometimes vary, so check local listings.

D. THE COMEDY CENTRAL ROAST OF JUSTIN BIEBER: Monday, March 30, at 10 p.m. on COMEDY CENTRAL

Kevin Hart serves as roastmaster, which is reason enough for me to watch.

E. Also, if you live in NC, here's a great recommendation from my friend Zuzu Welsh: "Be sure to tune in to watch NORTH CAROLINA WEEKEND on UNC-TV on Thursday, April 2, at 9 p.m. to see a bit of the Zuzu Welsh Band live from The Town Pump." ... Note: PBS times and dates sometimes vary, so check local listings.

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6. Joke 2

SNAGGED! Pictured is Republican Iowa state Rep. Ross Paustian, reading this sexual self-help book during a House session in the state legislature. During the same session, Republican Rep. Clel Baudler was caught watching Netflix on his laptop. ... I'm not making this stuff up; it really happened. For more information, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/m9r7cw9>.



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7. Websites

A. Thanks, Kurt L. in NC, for the sharing these video clips from the excellent Slowhand (Eric Clapton) Hits Seventy Benefit that held recently at White Horse Black Mountain:

(1) Tears In Heaven: Vocalist, Rhoda Weaver; Organizer, Zuzu Welsh
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/lys933jnuoo4z74/2015-03-14%2022.19.14.mp4?dl=0>

Note: My favorite part can be seen at the 2:47 mark! Look for yourself to find out why.

(2) Running On Faith: Vocalist, Aaron Price; Guitarist & Organizer, Zuzu Welsh
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/x0g8ct8629rw3fy/2015-03-14%2022.26.26.mp4?dl=0>

B. Mistletoe kissing contraption
<http://www.coolystone.com/media/11133/Mistletoe-Kissing-Contraption/#.VJCa8jJ16Fa>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net/>

If you're in business and want to outthink your competition (rather than outspend it), see an article I wrote on that topic entitled "The Loyalty Ladder." You can find it by looking at Consulting on the left and then Article Samples.

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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield



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8. Technology tip

Thanks, Vickie G. in NC, for posting this article on Facebook:

13 TRICKS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD DO ON YOUR IPHONE
<http://www.brainjet.com/random/7985/13-tricks-you-didnt-know-you-could-do-on-your-iphone?org=t#slide/0>

In particular, I found this one useful:

Airplane mode

If you turn on airplane mode when you're charging your phone (regardless of whether you're in the air or not) your phone will charge almost twice as fast. It's perfect for when you're at a bar and need a quick charge to keep the night going.

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9. Joke 3

Great save!



Yesterday, I was walking down the street holding hands with my wife. I suddenly dropped her hand, and grabbed my cell phone to take this picture. She hit me in my chest and wouldn't talk to me the rest of the day. Last night she asked me "How could you?" I said "How could I not? It's not every day you see a dog driving a car."

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10. A quote I like

Marilyn Monroe (1926-1962) was an American actress, model and singer who became a major sex symbol and starred in a number of commercially successful motion pictures.



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11. Thought for the day

Unconditional love!

My 84-year-old grandmother apologized for having to wear her nightgown in front of us. I said it was no problem and that it actually looked very comfortable, so she immediately offered one to me. It's not like I could have rejected this generous gift...



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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Rk>

A. NC events

(1) Asheville Jewish Business Forum, featuring Tebbe Davis. (2) WEST SIDE STORY. (3) Performing Arts Laboratory events. (4) Pizza Pandemonium. (5) PRIVATE LIVES.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Chris Bursk Explores 'The Play of the Mind' as Part of Lecture Series. (2) NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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