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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: bjnlbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Are continuing to hunker down in Week 2 of the corona pandemic. And in case you're wondering what we are doing now that we can't eat out at restaurants, Cynthia has prepared several delicious meals. In fact, just looking at this grilled cheese and bacon sandwich has me getting hungry as I write this.

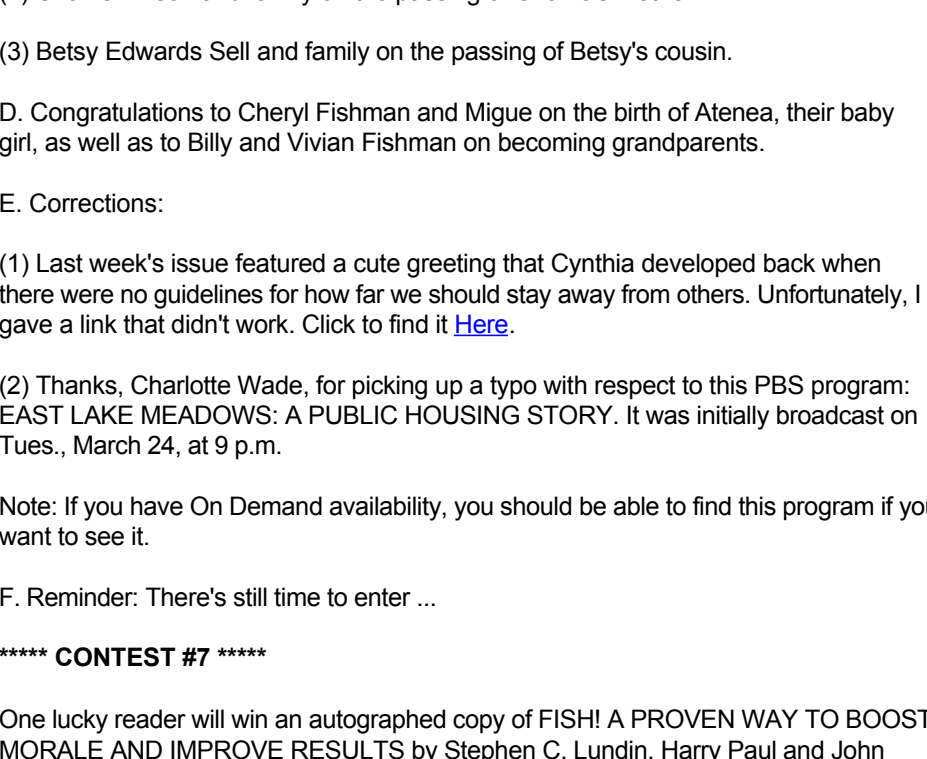


(2) We are also trying to walk every day. Recently, we took a nice trek at the Folk Arts Center where we were joined (six feet away from us) by our friends Tom and Marcy Gallagher.

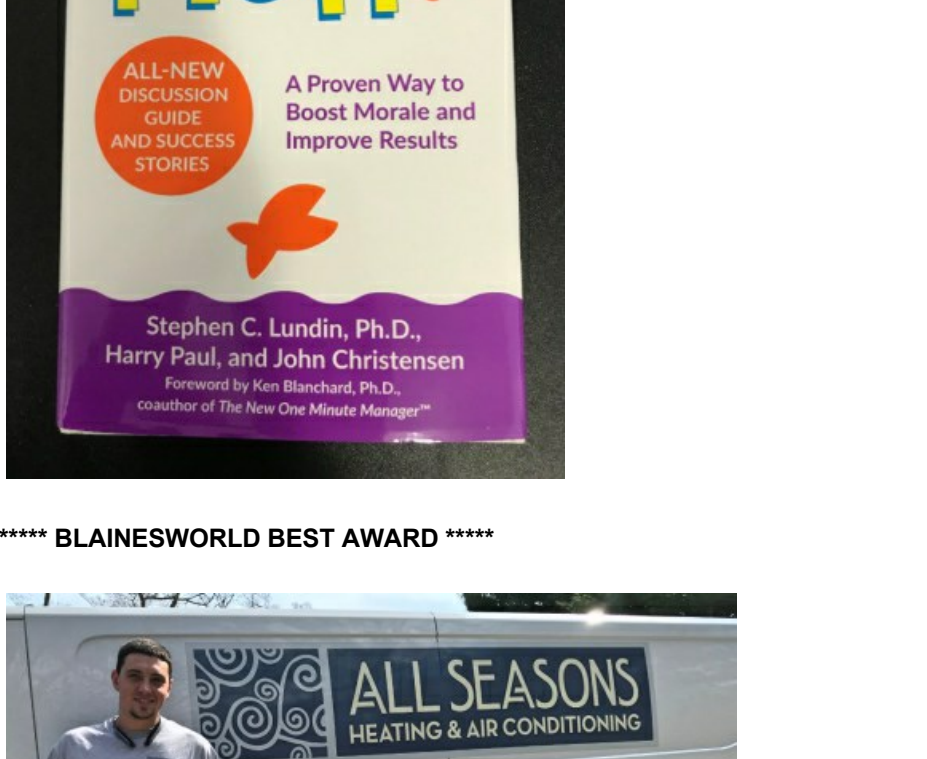


B. Before all hell broke loose because of the pandemic:

(1) I had the pleasure of emceeing the Happy Together troupe in an amazing performance at the Abbey of St. Thomas. Pictured, l.r. Jessica Johnson, Ryan Garcia, Carol Duermitt, Jay Ponton and Ellen Pappas. (Not pictured: Richard Shulman) ... To see this particular song that they are singing, please click: [Here](#).



(2) Afterward, we had some tasty pizza at Blaze Pizza where we joined by George Pappas (second from left). The purpose was to plan an upcoming April show at Attic Sait that has been unfortunately postponed. Just as soon as there's a new dates, we will let you know.



C. Condolences to:

- (1) Lily Bartleson and family on the passing of Jana Marie Bartleson, Lily's mother.
- (2) Charlie Wilson and family on the passing of Charlie's mother.
- (3) Betsy Edwards Sell and family on the passing of Betsy's cousin.

D. Congratulations to Cheryl Fishman and Migue on the birth of Alenea, their baby girl, as well as to Billy and Vivian Fishman on becoming grandparents.

E. Corrections:

(1) Last week's issue featured a cute greeting that Cynthia developed back when there were no guidelines for how far we should stay away from others. Unfortunately, I gave a link that didn't work. Click to find it [Here](#).

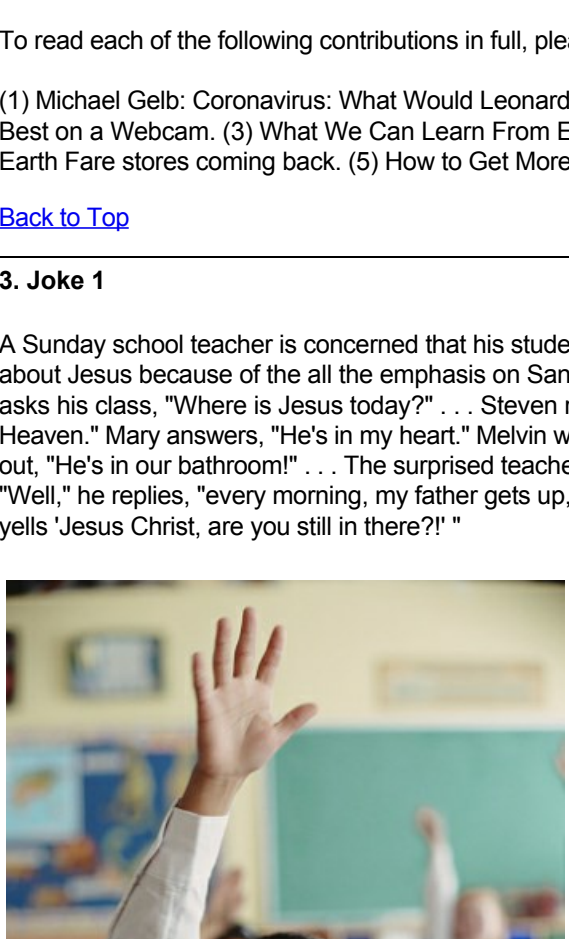
(2) Thanks, Charlotte Wade, for picking up a typo with respect to this PBS program: EAST LAKE MEADOWS: A PUBLIC HOUSING STORY. It was initially broadcast on Tues., March 24, at 9 p.m.

Note: If you have On Demand availability, you should be able to find this program if you want to see it.

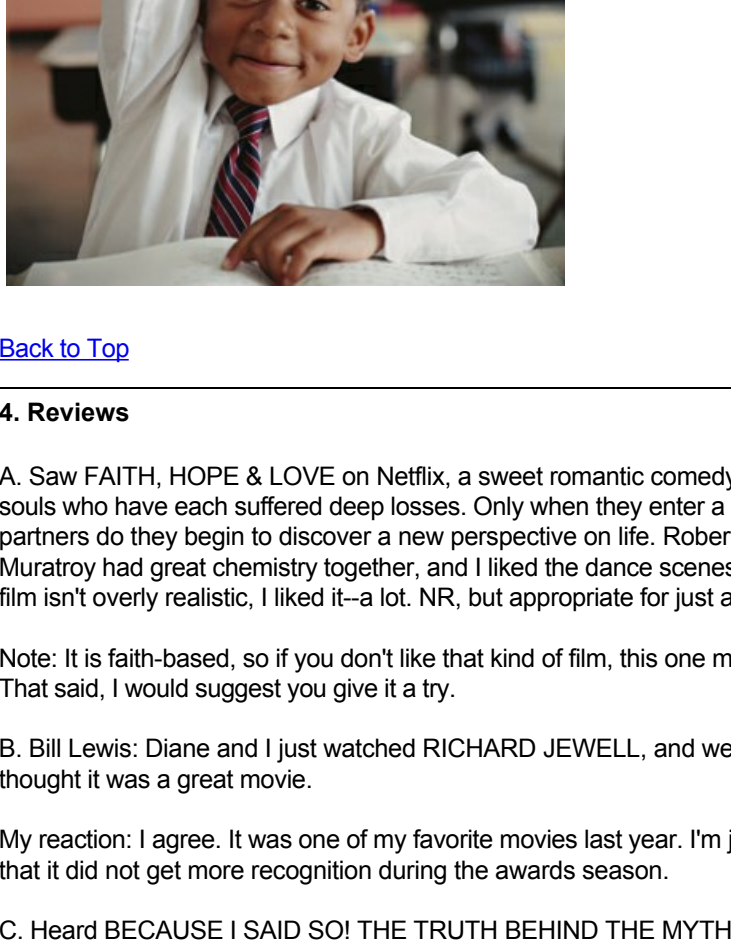
F. Reminder: There's still time to enter ...

***** 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: bjnlbc@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 Aran Pelly--a service tech with All Seasons Heating and Air Conditioning. ... We recently had our system serviced, and we were told by a company (that shall remain nameless) that we had used for several years that we now had major problems. We were also told that we had to shut down the system at once, and it wouldn't be safe to run until we bought a new system at a cost ranging from \$12-15,000. ... I had my doubts about this recommendation, especially since the system had been running fine. And I could not see any of the problems that were being pointed out to me. ... So I contacted my home warranty company for its recommendation and was told to call All Seasons for a second opinion. Aran came out the very next day, inspected everything and found no problems. A few days later, I had him come back out to install an iWave-R Residential Air Cleaner. ... I have found both Aran and All Seasons to be extremely professional, as well as friendly, and look forward to continue to use the company for all our heating and air conditioning needs.

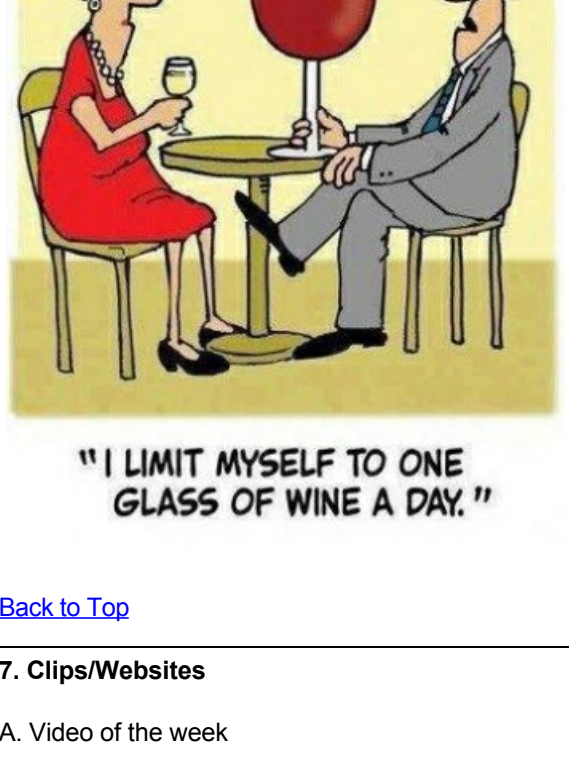
For more information, click: [Here](#) or call: 828.651.9998.

SPECIAL THANKS to Pat Hannigan, my heating and air conditioning guru, for his advice from afar with respect to the recommendations we had been given.

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2. FYI

MR. HELPFUL HERE ... you may be singing "Happy Birthday" twice as you wash your hands, but frankly, I'm a bit tired of that song ... and much prefer this one that I've just found: "Twenty Seconds" ... To see me performing it, click: [Here](#) ... It was written by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman, the duo who have written songs for the Broadway musicals HAIRSPRAY and CATCH ME IF YOU CAN, the film musical MARY POPPINS RETURNS and for television, SNASH, among other tunes. ... For more information, lyrics, piano tracks and sheet music in varying keys, please click: [Here](#).



FYI, part 2

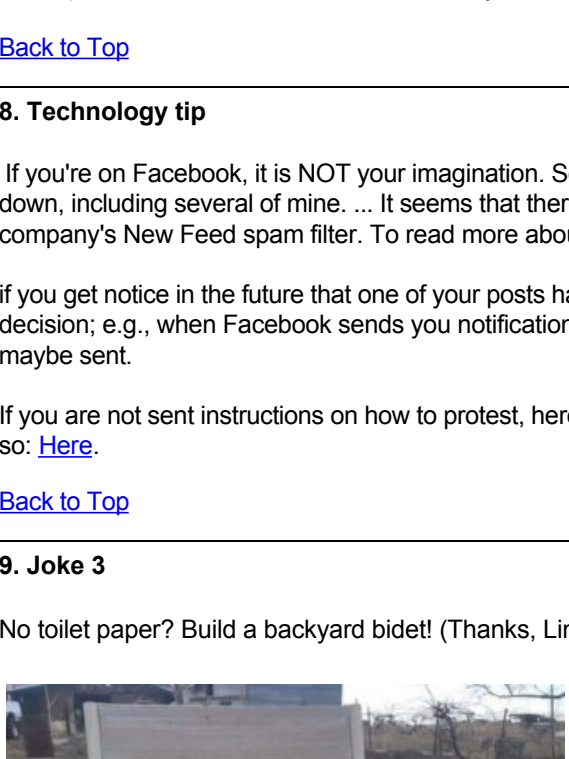
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: [Here](#).

- (1) Michael Gelb: Coronavirus: What Would Leonardo Advise? (2) How Look Your Best on a Webcam. (3) What We Can Learn From European Dog Culture. (4) Some Earth Fare stores coming back. (5) How to Get More Sleep Tonight.

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3. Joke 1

A Sunday school teacher is concerned that his students might be a little confused about Jesus because of the all the emphasis on Santa Claus, gift-giving, etc., so he asks his class, "Where is Jesus today?" ... Steven raises his hand and says, "He's in Heaven." Mary answers, "He's in my heart." Melvin waves his hand furiously and blurts out, "He's in our bathroom!" ... The surprised teacher asks Melvin how he knows this. "Well," he replies, "every morning, my father gets up, bangs on the bathroom door and yells 'Jesus Christ, are you still in there?!"



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4. Reviews

A. Saw FAITH, HOPE & LOVE on Netflix, a sweet romantic comedy about two lost souls who have each suffered deep losses. Only when they enter a dance contest as partners do they begin to discover a new perspective on life. Robert Krantz and Peta Muratroy had great chemistry together, and I liked the dance scenes. And while the film isn't overly realistic, I liked it--a lot. NR, but appreciate for just about any age.

Note: It is faith-based, so if you don't like that kind of film, this one might not be for you. That said, I would suggest you give it a try.

B. Bill Lewis: Diane and I just watched RICHARD JEWELL, and we both loved it. We thought it was a great movie.

My reaction: I agree. It was one of my favorite movies last year. I'm just disappointed that it did not get more recognition during the awards season.

C. Heard BECAUSE I SAID SO! THE TRUTH BEHIND THE MYTHS, TALES, AND WARNINGS EVERY GENERATION PASSES DOWN TO ITS KIDS (Tantor Audio), written and read by Ken Jennings. ... The author, best known as the winner of 74 games on JEOPARDY, is a very funny guy. In this book, he combines both humor and fact as he examines whether your parents actually knew best when they advised you not to sit too close to the television or swallow your gum or crack your knuckles. ... In addition, he analyzes such other advice as the following: Don't cross your eyes or they'll stay like that! Feed a cold, starve a fever! Don't touch your Halloween candy until we get it checked out! Never run with scissors. Don't look in the microwave while it's running! And [that] will go down on your permanent record. ... My only regret is that this book wasn't available when I was growing up. Had it been, I could have at least responded to many of the things that my parents warned me about. Yet as I'm typing that last sentence, I'm also smiling since I now recall telling my daughter many of these same things.

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5. TV alert

Note: Make sure you also see Sect. 12 (at the bottom of this blog) for other things that can be viewed from your TV screen.

A. LITTLE BIG SHOTS: Returns on Sunday, Mar. 29, at 8 p.m. on NBC
Actress Melissa McCarthy has taken over for Steve Harvey as host of this feel-good show that always manages to put a smile on my face.

B. Thanks, Donna Giovanetti, for the heads up on this program:
Elton John is teaming with iHeartMedia and Fox for the "Living Room Concert for America," a music event to support health professionals and first responders. John will headline the event, which will feature performances from Alicia Keys, Backstreet Boys, Billie Eilish, Billie Joe Armstrong, Mariah Carey, Tim McGraw and more to be announced. ... The concert will air commercial-free at 9 p.m. EST March 29 on Fox during what was originally the broadcast slot for the HeartRadio Awards.

C. ZOEY'S EXTRAORDINARY PLAYLIST: Sun. March 29, at 9 p.m. on NBC
Watch this episode of my favorite new TV show this season and see Zoey (the fabulous Jane Levy) suddenly become the one breaking into song and dance.

D. AFTER TRUTH: THE DISINFORMATION AND THE COAST OF FAKE NEWS: Fri., April 3, at 12:55 a.m. on HBO
This documentary focuses on several high-profile fake news stories from recent years. I've already seen it. It is excellent.

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6. Joke 2



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7. Clips/Webistes

A. Video of the week

Walela Dobroski: A must listen. Credible, clear, concise explanations and simple rules like become a hand nazi and wear a simple surgical mask or bandanna TO TRAIN YOURSELF NOT TO TOUCH A Y FACE!

Note: It features Dr. David Price of Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York City who shares information in a Mar. 22 Zoom call with family and friends on empowering and protecting families during the COVID-19 pandemic. To view, please click: [Here](#).

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

- (1) One of my all-time favorites: Edith Piaf, Non, je ne regrette rien: [Here](#).
- (2) Elsten Torres - Girl (Official Video): [Here](#).
- (3) You and Me. Written by Tom Giraldi. Performed by Emie White. [Here](#).
- (4) Patty Dnto: Ray Croce (at outdoor concert): [Here](#).
- (5) Robert Thomas (song on the Day You Were Born by clicking this link: [Here](#).

Note: Mine was "(Ghost) Riders in the Sky: A Cowboy Legend" by Vaughn Monroe and His Orchestra. What's cool about the site is that it also lets you listen to the original version of the song.

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

If you're on Facebook, it is NOT your imagination. Some posts have been taken down, including several of mine. ... It seems that there has been a massive bug in the company's New Feed spam filter. To read more about this, please click: [Here](#).

If you get notice in the future that one of your posts has been taken down, protest that decision, e.g., when Facebook sends you notification. Follow any instructions that you maybe sent.

If you are not sent instructions on how to protest, here's some information on how to do so: [Here](#).

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9. Joke 3

No toilet paper? Build a backyard bidet! (Thanks, Linda Williams, for sharing.)

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10. A quote I like

Thanks, Terrence McNally (1938-2020), for your many contributions as an American playwright, librettist and screenwriter. In particular, I enjoyed MASTER CLASS and RAGTIME and was looking forward to seeing Different Strokes production of LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION! For more information about his life, please click: [Here](#).

"Young people have got to start their own theater, really. All good theater is a kind of mom-and-pop operation. Start your own theater."--Terrence McNally

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11. Thought for the day

To find out more about this untitled prose poem and its author, please click: [Here](#). (Thanks, Sunny Cook, for sharing.)

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12. Advance planning department

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

- (1) Katie Jones: Playwriting Basics 5-week course. (2) Joseph Hainsworth: Productions from the VIRTUAL Logos Theatre. (3) ProEnglish Theatre: Absurd Comedy Night. (4) Jennifer Bennett: The National Theatre is going to stream a free play every Thursday night.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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