

#1231
4.20.2020

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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:

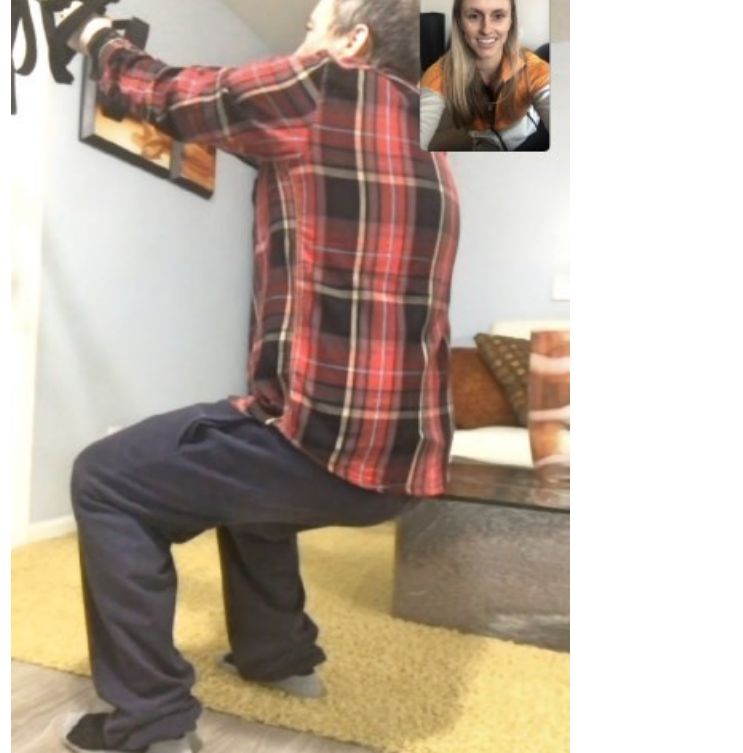
(1) Are continuing to hunker down in Week 6 of the corona pandemic. And we're even getting to enjoy some of Cynthia's cooking. (She's a lot better cook than she gives herself credit for!). That's us in front of one of her specialties.

You won't have to beg for the recipe, either, because here it is:
Cynthia's Superb Orange Chicken

- Ingredients:
- 2 eggs
 - 2 teaspoons water
 - 1 cup bread crumbs
 - 1/8 teaspoon pepper
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 1 pound chicken breasts
 - 1/2 cup vegetable oil
 - 1 cup hot water
 - 1/4 cup honey
 - 1 cup orange juice
 - 3/4 teaspoon ginger

- Directions:
- 1. Beat eggs and water.
 - 2. Dip chicken in egg.
 - 3. Mix bread crumbs, salt and pepper.
 - 4. Brown chicken in oil.
 - 5. Put browned chicken in baking dish with cover.
 - 6. Mix hot water and honey.
 - 7. Add orange juice and ginger.
 - 8. Pour mixture over the chicken.
 - 9. Heat at 325 for 45 minutes.

Note: For best results, add Cynthia's "secret" ingredient: lots of love!



(2) Got to spend some quality driveway time with Scout Gallagher, our friends' amazing new Aussiedoodle. Seeing Marcy and Tom was pretty nice, too.

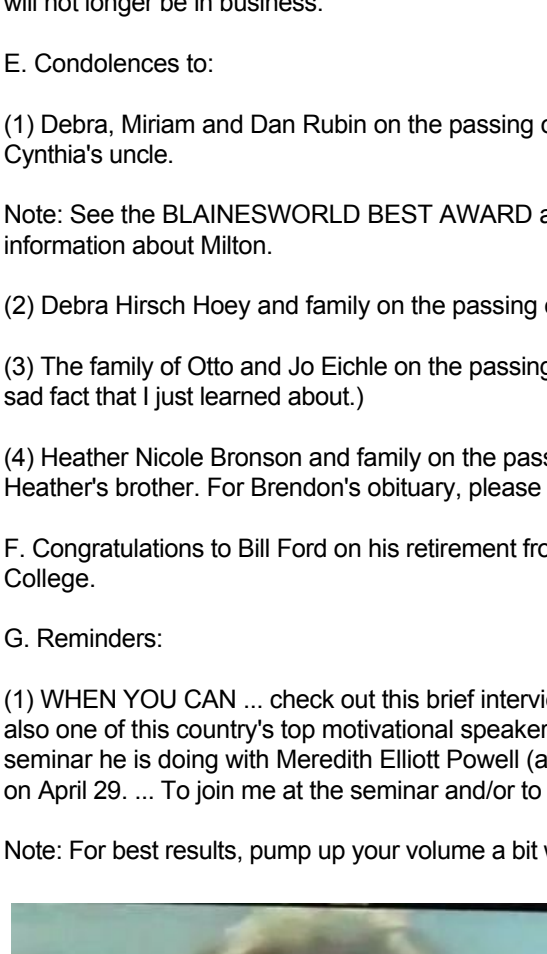


B. I'm managing to keep busy with a bunch of activities:

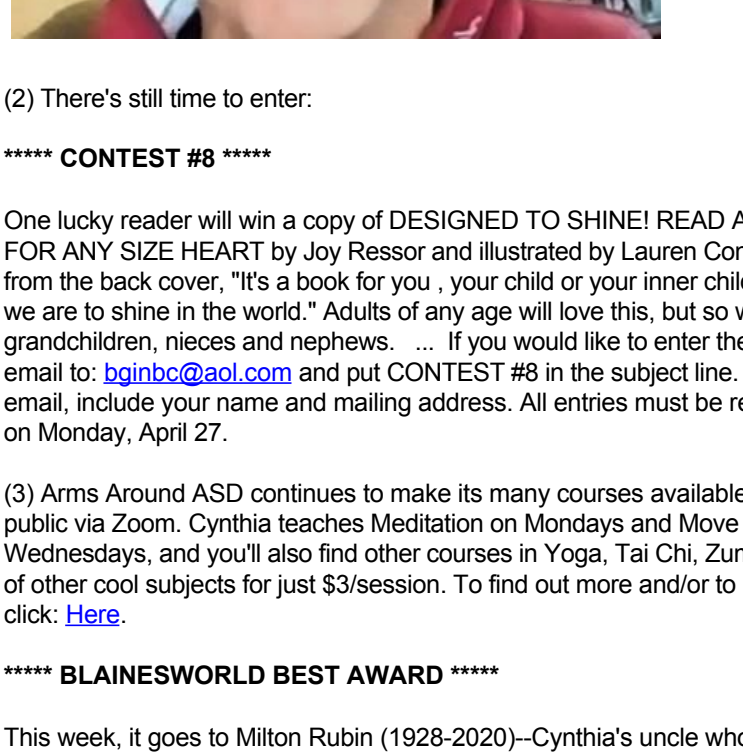
(1) Thumbs up to The Magnetic Theatre for bringing live theatre back to Asheville with its terrific Zoom production of BEAUTIFUL CAGES by Jamie Knox. ... Direction from Katie Jones was spot on, and kudos to all those in the stellar cast: Kay Galvin, Molly Graves, Anna State, Miles Rice, Ava Atwood, Aaron Barr, Mandy Bean, Jason Phillips, George Awad, Hannah Williams and Daphne Phillips-Sprague. ... I'm hopeful that we can soon get out and about, so that this twisted story of forbidden love and family secrets can be mounted in a full production--and y'all can see how good it is!



(2) I resumed my workouts via Facetime with Michelle Kuhn, my terrific trainer.

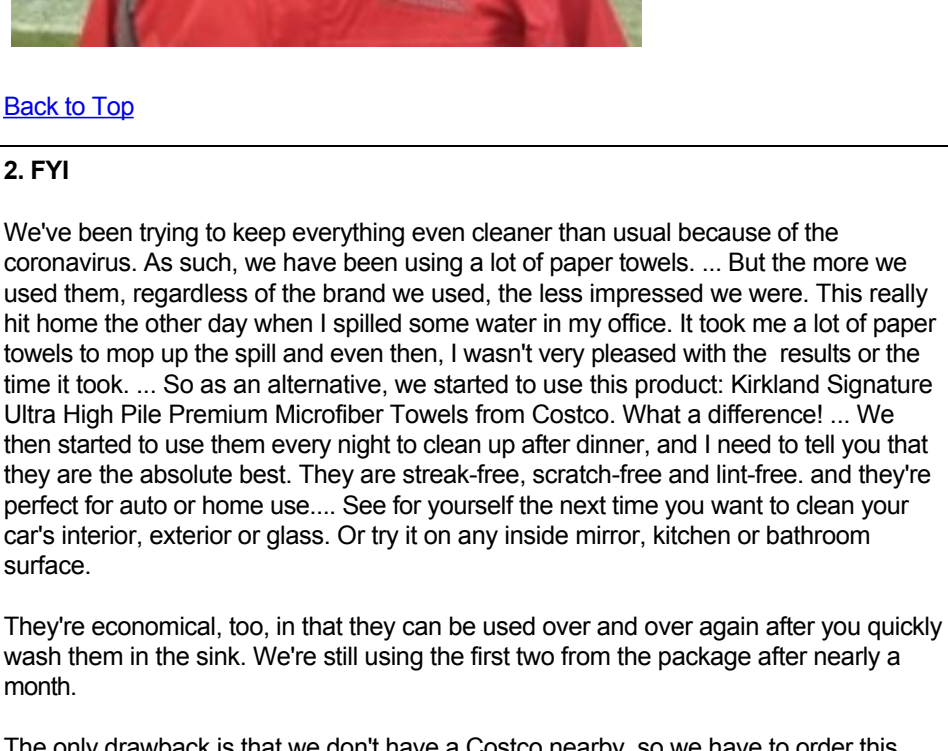


(3) And not wanting to have Cynthia be the only one taking care of dinner, I did the next best thing: braving the elements to pick up takeout from Vinnie's. Our meal was soooo good.

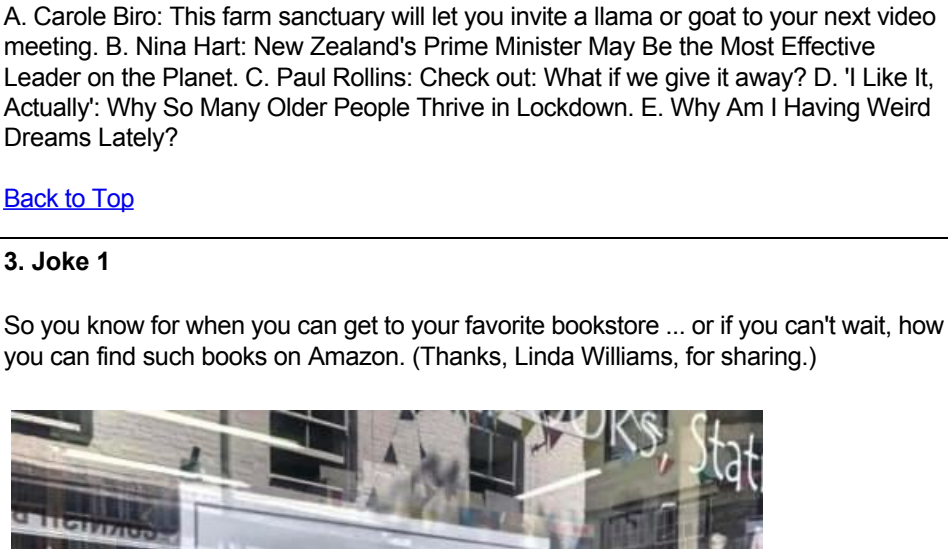


C. I hosted two of my WPVM radio shows this past week:

(1) BLAINESWORLD show, 4.22.20: Guests: (first half) Jamie Knox, playwright and actor, and (second half) Dan Beckmann, and Erin Dearth, both with the Spring Theatre Digital Performance. To view it, please click: [Here](#).



(2) Catch this special BLAINESWORLD ON THE ROAD show, featuring Harry Paul--motivational speaker extraordinaire. He discusses the bestseller he authored: FISHER A PROVEN WAY TO BOOST MORALE AND IMPROVE RESULTS, a book that has sold over 6 million copies. To view it, please click: [Here](#).



Note: Special thanks to Grail Moviehouse for sponsoring the above.

D. I'm a sucker for the contests that ask for your opinion. They promise a prize that often looks appealing; consequently, I often enter them. ... Much to my pleasant surprise, I recently won 50 free movie passes to The Carolina Cinemark in Asheville. ... I won them just in time for them to be shut down by the pandemic. With my luck, by the time I can use them, they'll be expired or (perish the thought!) Carolina Cinemark will not longer be in business.

E. Condolences to:

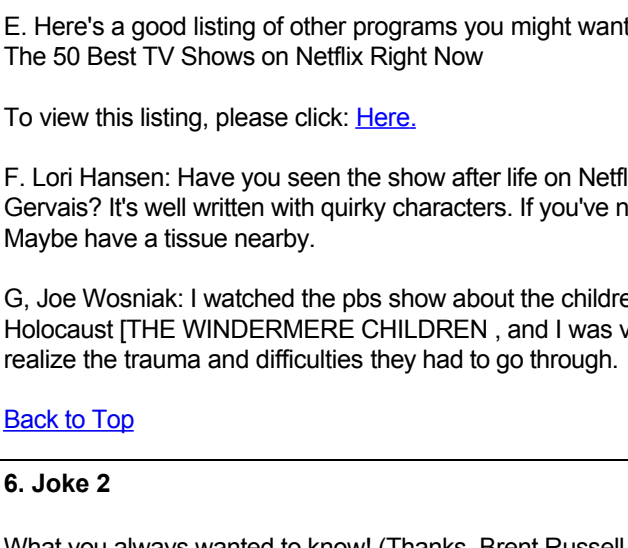
- (1) Debra, Miriam and Dan Rubin on the passing of Milton Rubin, their father and Cynthia's uncle.
- Note: See the BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD at the bottom of this section for more information about Milton.
- (2) Debra Hirsch Hoey and family on the passing of Debra's mom.
- (3) The family of Otto and Jo Eichle on the passing of both Otto and Jo last year. (A sad fact that I just learned about.)
- (4) Heather Nicole Bronson and family on the passing of Brendon Patrick Boyle, Heather's brother. For Brendon's obituary, please click: [Here](#).

F. Congratulations to Bill Ford on his retirement from Bucks County Community College.

G. Reminders:

(1) WHEN YOU CAN ... check out this brief interview with Brian Biro, my friend who is also one of this country's top motivational speakers. He is inviting you to a FREE seminar he is doing with Meredith Elliott Powell (another friend and fantastic speaker) on April 29. ... To join me at the seminar and/or to find out more, please click: [Here](#).

Note: For best results, pump up your volume a bit when watching.



(2) There's still time to enter:

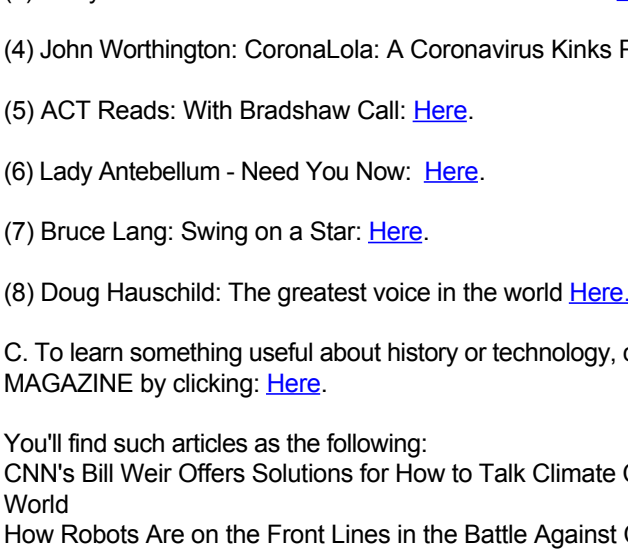
***** CONTEST #8 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of DESIGNED TO SHINE! READ ALOUD RHYMES FOR ANY SIZE HEART by Joy Ressor and illustrated by Lauren Cornell. ... To quote from the back cover, "It's a book for you - your child or your inner child about loving who we are to shine in the world." Adults of any age will love this, but so will their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. ... If you would like to enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #8 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, April 27.

(3) Arms Around ASD continues to make its many courses available to the general public via Zoom. Cynthia teaches Meditation on Mondays and Move Your Body on Wednesdays, and you'll also find other courses in Yoga, Tai Chi, Zumba and a variety of other cool subjects for just \$3/session. To find out more and/or to register, please click: [Here](#).

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

This week, it goes to Milton Rubin (1928-2020)--Cynthia's uncle who died on April 22 after a valiant battle with Covid-19. ... He was a sweet, gentle man with a great smile who loved spending time with his family. Also, he was especially kind to us and made us feel important. ... In addition, he inspired us by how he worked out two hours daily at the gym until near the end of his life. ... For his obituary, please click: [Here](#).



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2. FYI

We've been trying to keep everything even cleaner than usual because of the coronavirus. As such, we have been using a lot of paper towels. ... But the more we used them, regardless of the brand we used, the less impressed we were. This really hit home the other day when I spilled some water in my office. It took me a lot of paper towels to mop up the spill and even then, I wasn't very pleased with the results or the time it took. ... So as an alternative, we started to use this product: Kirkland Signature Ultra High Pile Premium Microfiber Towels from Costco. What a difference! ... We then started to use them every night to clean up after dinner, and I need to tell you that they are the absolute best. They are streak-free, scratch-free and lint-free, and they're perfect for auto or home use. See for yourself the next time you want to clean your car's interior, exterior or glass. Or try it on any inside mirror, kitchen or bathroom surface.

They're economical, too, in that they can be used over and over again after you quickly wash them in the sink. We're still using the first two from the package after nearly a month.

The only drawback is that we don't have a Costco nearby, so we have to order this product by mail and pay extra for both shipping and to be a member. Still, this particular product is worth it.

Note: I just found out it is also available via Amazon, but at a significantly higher price. So utilize the Costco website even if you have to pay extra for both shipping and not being a member. To access it, please click: [Here](#).

***** Mr. CURIOUS HERE *****

Are there any other Kirkland products that you recommend we check out?

FYI, part 2

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

A. Carole Biro: This farm sanctuary will let you invite a llama or goat to your next video meeting. B. Nina Act: New Zealand's Prime Minister May Be the Most Effective Leader on the Planet. C. Paul Rollins: Check out: What if we give it away? D. I Like It, Actually: Why So Many Older People Thrive in Lockdown. E. Why Am I Having Weird Dreams Lately?

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3. Joke 1

So you know for when you can get to your favorite bookstore ... or if you can't wait, how you can find such books on Amazon. (Thanks, Linda Williams, for sharing.)

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4. Reviews

A. Saw JUSTINE on Netflix. This bittersweet drama is about a woman whose life is disrupted when her military husband is killed. Obsessed with mourning, her life falls apart until she gets hired as a nanny for a feisty 8-year-old with spina bifida. Stephanie Turner is impressive, not only for the fact that she starred in the film, but also because this was her directorial debut. ... This film grew on me. Check it out. ... I look forward to seeing more from her. Rated NR, but probably appropriate for anybody over the age of 12.

B. Saw MISS VIRGINIA on Netflix. This true story is about a struggling inner-city mother who sacrifices everything to give her son a good education. Uzo Aduba is outstanding in the leading role, and I also liked the work of Niles Fitch (always so good in THIS IS US) as her son and Matthew Modine as Congressman Cliff Williams. It's a feel good drama that is worth your time. Rated NR, but probably appropriate for anybody over the age of 12.

C. Here's an article that I thought you would like to read: [Inaudible Chatter] Closed Captioning Becomes Hit With TV Viewers

To do so, please click: [Here](#).

Let me know if you use such captions and if you do, please share your opinion of them.

Note: See if you can read the above. You might get an invite to subscribe to the paper. If you do, click the "X" to get rid of that box, and you should be able to read the article if you can't and want to, please send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put JOURNAL in the subject line, and I'll send you a copy.

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5. TV alert

A. THE TWILIGHT ZONE: Now on Netflix
I'm loving the fact that I can revisit the first five seasons of this anthology of sci-fi and suspense tales that explore "a fifth dimension beyond that which is known to man." It was one of my favorite shows when I was a child growing up.

B. AMERICAN IDOL: Sun, April 26, at 8 p.m. on ABC
The top 20 singers compete from their homes all across America (including Canada), filming their performances on iPhones as they vie for viewers' votes. Judges Katy Perry, Luke Bryan, Lionel Richie, host Ryan Seacrest and mentor Bobby Bones also weigh in from remote locations.

C. UPLOAD: Season premiere on Fri., May 1, on Amazon Prime
According to Matt Roush in TV GUIDE, "My idea of TV GOODIE is a show like UPLoAD, a fantastical comedy in the tradition of THE HEAVEN PLACE and FOREVER that is every bit as endearing as it is endlessly clever. ... Fast-paced, very funny and ultimately life-affirming, UPLoAD is (you guessed it) is to die for."

D. INSIDE THE VATICAN: Thurs., April 28, at 9 p.m. (check local listings at [pbs.org](https://www.pbs.org))
Security gardeners, nuns and Pope Francis himself share details of what goes on at Vatican City headquarters of the Catholic Church.

E. Here's a good listing of other programs you might want to check out:

The 50 Best TV Shows on Netflix Right Now

To view this listing, please click: [Here](#).

F. Lori Hansen: Have you seen the show after life on Netflix [After Life] with Ricky Gervais? It's well written with quirky characters. If you've not seen it, I recommend it. Maybe have a tissue nearby.

G. Joe Wosniak: I watched the pbs show about the children who survived the Holocaust [THE WINDERMERIE CHILDREN], and I was very moved by it--and didn't realize the trauma and difficulties they had to go through.

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6. Joke 2

What you always wanted to know! (Thanks, Brent Russell, for sharing.)

Social Distancing Pickup Lines:

If COVID-19 doesn't take you out... Can I?

Is that hand sanitizer in your pocket or are you just happy to be within 6ft of me?

Since all the public libraries are closed, I'm checking you out instead.

You can't spell virus without U and I.

Baby, do you need toilet paper? Because I can be your Prince Charming.

I saw you from across the bar. Stay there.

Without you my life is as empty as the supermarket shelf.

Hey Babel! Can I ship you a drink?

You can't spell quarantine without "U R A Q T".

I really can't stay.

Baby it's COVID-19 outside.

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7. Clips/Websites

A. Video of the week

David Troy Francis: Oklahoma. To see him performing it, please click: [Here](#).

David is also my very talented friend. To spread cheer and joy in these troubled times, he is posting other video clips every so often. To view them, please click: [Here](#).

And when you check out the above, please consider joining me in making a contribution to support his efforts.

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

- (1) Leonard Cohen, Suzanne, one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).
- (2) Carole Biro: I Want to Know What Day It Is - Foreigner Parody: [Here](#).
- (3) Gerry and the Pacemakers: You'll Never Walk Alone: [Here](#).
- (4) John Worthington: CoronaLola: A Coronavirus Kinks Parody: [Here](#).
- (5) ACT Reads: With Bradshaw Call: [Here](#).
- (6) Lady Antebellum - Need You Now: [Here](#).
- (7) Bruce Lang: Swing on a Star: [Here](#).
- (8) Doug Hauschild: The greatest voice in the world: [Here](#).

C. To learn something useful about history or technology, check out SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE by clicking: [Here](#).

You'll find such articles as the following:
CNN's Bill Weir Offers Solutions for How to Talk Climate Change in a Contentious World
How Robots Are on the Front Lines in the Battle Against COVID-19
Digging Into the Past of Fint Optimism for the Future

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

For a short, informative tutorial on how to adjust the audio and videos setting in Zoom, please click: [Here](#).

The above helped me solve a problem I was having, i.e., when I recorded my radio show, the BLAINESWORLD sign behind me was mirrored and could not be read properly. To prevent this from happening if you have something behind you or are showing printed material, go to Settings, then Video and under My Video, uncheck Mirror my video.

When under My Video, I also make sure to uncheck the Touch up my appearance option. The reason is that most of the time, I look so bad that if I clicked this box, undue pressure would be placed on my computer. And my computer would crash.

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9. Joke 3

Marvin was laying in a hospital bed, wearing an oxygen mask over his mouth. "Nurse," he mumbles. "Are my testicles black?" The nurse raises his gown, carefully moves his member out of the way, takes a close look and announces, "Nothing is wrong with them, sir." The man pulls off the mask and says slowly, "Thanks for that. It was lovely. But listen very, very closely ... are-my-test-results-back?" (Thanks, Joe McDermott, for sharing.)

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10. A quote I like

Thanks, Kristalyn Buryan, for sharing this one:
"Let the beauty of what you love be what you do."--Rumi (1207-1273), Persian poet

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11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Nancy Clark, for sharing this beautiful clip:
The story of 2020

It can be viewed by clipping: [Here](#).

Source: Author unknown; if you know who wrote this and/or where it came from, please let me know.

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12. Advance planning department

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

A. Michael Hennessey: Shakespeare's Globe is streaming 'Romeo and Juliet' for free for the next fortnight. B. B. Edwin Arnaudin: The next Asheville Movie Guys event will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 27, featuring a virtual discussion of Sam Mendes' Oscar-winning "1917."

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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