

BLAINES WORLD

#1181
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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) Recently spent a fun-filled few days in the NJ/PA area and, while there, managed to find time to attend three fantastic parties. Full details and plenty of pictures in next week's blog.

Note: I'm sorry for the delay in getting out this issue, but the above is my excuse for it being late--and I'm sticking by it.

(2) Before we left, we got to join our friends Steve and Beth Byas for a tasty lunch at Rejuvenation Cafe. Our only regret is that they were in town for just a short time, but that's why they invented July when they'll next be in town. That will also be the time that Steve will be a much-anticipated guest on my radio show.



B. During the week, I:

(1) Was joined by my friends Shelley and Mark Lieberman (on the right) for some delicious pizza at the new Favilla's New York Pizza in Hendersonville. Also pictured on the far left: Andy Favilla and next to him, Joe Guercio. Thanks, Dustin Mann, both taking this picture and his fine service.



(2) From there, I went with the Liebermans to an invited dress rehearsal of OLEANA at Hendersonville Community Theatre. Tate W Albert (far left) and Mckenzie Eury (second from left) gave powerful performance in this drama. Special kudos to Lora Ristau (third from left) for her taut direction in what was also her directorial debut.

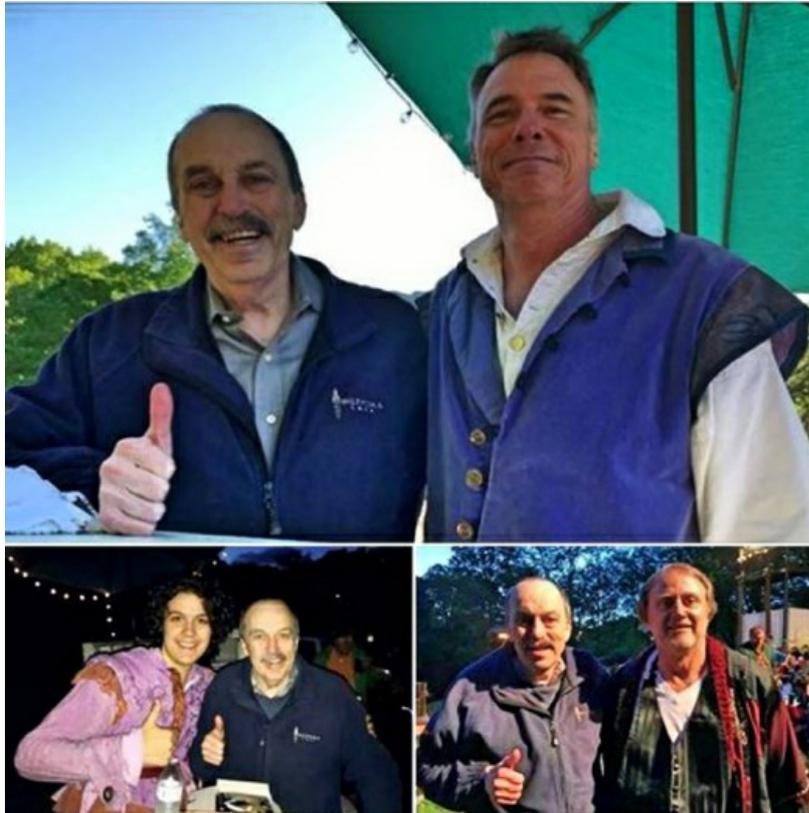


(3) Phillipe Andre Coquet (first row, far right) is outstanding as Bascom Lamar Lunsford, the "Minstrel of Appalachia," in ALONG ABOUT SUNDOWN--now at Parkway Playhouse through May 18. His singing and dancing, along with all others in the talented cast of 15, will have you clapping and smiling the whole night long at this tuneful musical written by Sandra Lunsford Mason and Brenda Lunsford Lilly ... The direction of Michael Lilly (second row, third from right) is spot-on, as is the musical direction/vocal arrangement of Jan Powell (second row, far right). ... For tickets, please click: [Here](#).



(4) Thumbs up for excellent performances from David Broshar (top photo), Haven Volpe (bottom left photo) and Steven Turner (bottom right photo) in SHAKESPEARE

IN LOVE, the season's first production from the Montford Park Players. I was also impressed by the equally outstanding work of my other Facebook friends, including Mandy Bean, Daniel Henry, Scott Keel, Trinity Keel, John Preseton Mendenhall, David Mycoff, Jered Shults, Will Storrs, Emily Tucker and Devyn Ray Vellarreal. ... Kudos, also, to Julie Richardson for her taut direction, Victoria Smith for her beautiful costume design and Traci Wallace for her fine job as stage manager. ... And I'd be remiss if I didn't recognize the effort of Whiskey Fintan Keel who as Spot the dog stole almost every scene he was in. ... As an added bonus, you'll even get to see some thrilling fireworks, magic and sword fighting. ... Catch this show before its run ends on May 25. For more information, please click: [Here](#).



C. Catch this week's BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM to see guests: (first half) Richard Shulman, Composer, Pianist, Recording Artist and (second half) Carey Hamash, Event Founder/Coordinator of The Asheville Food Truck Showdown. To do so, just click: [Here](#).



D. I was honored to be a guest host for Mark Lieberman on THE WORLD ACCORDING TO MARK. Guests: (first half) Sarah Rubin and Marilyn Hubbard from Womansong of Asheville.; and (second half) Dr. Ashley Lucas, Owner/Founder of PHD Weight Loss. To view that show, please click: [Here](#).





E. Condolences to Carol Shimp and family on the passing of Joanne Cohen, Carol's daughter.

F. Congratulations to:

(1) Christine Hagedorn on co-presenting at the the SEPCHE and Teagle Foundation-sponsored 2019 Faculty Development Teaching & Learning Symposium on "Extending our Reach for Better Learning Experiences."

(2) Christina McGinley on having attained Certified Fund Raising Executive (CRFE) status.

G. Invitations:

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

***** CONTEST #10 *****

One lucky reader will win two badges to the VIP Tasting Experience at the Asheville Food Truck Showdown on Saturday, May 19, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. What you'll get: Exclusive access to the Anderson Nissan VIP Tent during Tasting Experience. A sample from ALL 18 trucks, 2 beverages (including your choice of beer, cider, soda, or water) and a Tyvek bracelet permitting adult beverage purchases throughout the day. And the right to vote for the 2019 VIP Taster's Choice Award Winner.

Note: The actual event runs from 12-7 p.m. It will take place at the WNC Agricultural Center (the BOONE Building), 761 Boylston Highway, Asheville, NC. For more information, please click: [Here](#).

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST 10 in the subject line. In the body of the email, make sure you include your name and snail mail address, as well as your phone number for this particular contest. All entries must be received before 9 p.m. on Monday, May 13.

Note: Even if you don't enter the contest and/or win the price, this is an event you won't want to miss! There's great food, several top bands and a play area for kids. See the aforementioned link for more information.

(2) Cynthia and her friends will be in LOST AND FOUND: A STORYTELLING PERFORMANCE presented by Story Choreography Projects. ... Date: Sunday, May 19, at Jubilee Community, 46 Wall St. Performances at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15. They can be purchased at the door or via Eventbrite. ... For more information: barrie@standanddeliverasheville.com.

(3) Come see me make a cameo appearance in HANDS ON A HARDBODY at Asheville Community Theatre from June 7-30. For tickets, please click: [Here](#).

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

Thanks, Cynthia Greenfield, for this week's nomination:

This week, it goes to Molly--the beloved dog of our neighbors Grant Randall and Ginny Plaisted..... Molly touched many, many lives--actually most everyone that she met. It was simply who she was: love. Molly was a friend to everyone here on Kaufmann Stone Way where she lived.

One of her favorite things I noticed was how she would lie on her back, show her belly and implore you to "Rub my belly.please!"

Molly changed my impression of dogs forever. I had been bit by a dog when I was a child and remained fearful of them until I met Molly. I have never felt safer with any animal. Total trust. I cannot thank Molly more for helping me with that.

I personally will think of Molly often. She was an angel to me.

In addition, I am sure whoever met Molly was touched by her love.



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2. FYI

Thanks, Sunny Cook, for sharing the following interview:

Gretchen [Rubin]: What's a simple activity or habit that consistently makes you happier, healthier, more productive, or more creative?

Laura [Gassner Otting]: I hang out with "family," those people who aren't the family I was born to—they are lovely but geographically distant—but the friends I have made as an adult who have become my close knit kibbutz. These are the people who know my hopes and dreams, who see my stress and anxiety, who cheer me on during my successes and pick me up during my failures. They don't keep score, they don't play the comparison game, they know we are all on our own path. They bathe in emotional abundance, rather than scarcity. I am better for the fact that they are in my life, and I work hard every day to make sure that I uplift them in return.

Note: This reminds me of what Cynthia and I; i.e., hang with members of our family.

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

FYI, part 2

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

(1) Bill Moore: Almost All the Colleges I Wanted to Go to Rejected Me. Now What? (2) Tom Seaver Will Always Be the Essential Met. (3) Slow Enough to Be a Sponsored Runner. (4) Westminster Dog Show Photos: Who's a Good Dog? All of Them.

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3. Joke 1

You like what I'll be wearing to celebrate this holiday?



4. Reviews

A. Saw AT THE HEART OF GOLD INSIDE THE USA GYMNASTIC SCANDAL (HBO Documentary Films), a true-crime documentary about the case of Dr. Larry Nassar. He served as the osteopathic physician for the U.S. women's Olympic gymnastics team for two decades and while doing so, sexually abused numerous female athletes. It was shocking and made me--and hopefully others--aware of the need for change to make sure this never happens again. Rated NR, but probably not appropriate for younger teenagers. Their parents, though, must see this film, especially if their children participate in sports.

B. Natalie Kaye: We just saw Red Joan in the movies today. Highly recommend it.

C. Enjoyed ORDINARY MAGIC: PROMISES I KEPT TO MY MOTHER THROUGH LIFE, ILLNESS, AND A VERY LONG WALK ON THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO (Amazon Digital Service) by Cameron Powell. ... This poignant book has two parts. The first involves the author's mom who decides to forgo chemo to deal with cancer by trekking 500 miles through the Pyrenees and parts of France and Spain and Basque country. And the second details the heart-wrenching way cancer tears apart a family. ... This one passage, in particular touched me: "The best things in life--health, resilience, longevity, happiness-- come when we seek meaning rather than merely avoiding discomfort, when we cultivate gratitude and compassion in place of complaint or resentment. I knew that my accompanying my mother on this adventure would be the best thing for her healing--and also the best thing for her belief, should things later get difficult, that she had at least lived, by which we mean lived with meaning." ... It turns out the this adventure was also the best thing for the author. ... Note: A review copy of this book was provided by the publisher.

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5. TV alert

A. ORSON WELLES MARATHON: Opens on TCM on Mon., May 13, at 8 p.m. First up: the eyes of Orson Welles, a 2018 documentary that explores the filmmaker's original drawings. Then see how they influenced the following films: THE TRIAL at 10 p.m., CONFIDENTIAL REPORT at 12:15 a.m., CITIZEN KANE at 2:15 a.m. and THE LADY FROM SHANGHAI at 4:30 a.m.

B. STILL LAUGH-IN: THE STARS CELEBRATE: On Netflix, starting on Tues, May 14. Original cast members Lily Tomlin (reprising her iconic characters of Ernestine and Edith Ann), Jo Anne Worley and Ruth Buzzi return with a newer vintage of famous Laugh-In fans--including Tiffany Haddish, Neil Patrick Harris, Margaret Cho, Tony Hale, Mary McCormack and many, more more.

C. THE BIG BANG THEORY: Concludes on Thurs., May 16, on CBS at 8 p.m. The beloved hit sitcom has an hour-long finale that promises many surprises and at least one celebrity cameo. Immediately following is a behind-the-scenes special, UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY: A BIG BANG FAREWELL, at 9:30 p.m. and a cast reunion on THE LATE SHOW WITH STEPHEN COLBERT at 11:30 a.m.

D. CATCH-22: Series premiere on Fri., May 17, on Netflix. This new six-hour miniseries stars George Clooney that, according to TV GUIDE, "sharply captures the appropriately cynical tone of broad satire, interrupted by the sheer terror of airborne combat."

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6. Joke 2

Question of the day ...





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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Chuck Taft: Ceili and I singing "High Hopes" together: [Here](#).

(2) Herb Spiegel: Is this the best flight announcement ever? [Here](#).

(3) Kathryn Long: Have a look at this 92-year-old. She's fabulous! [Here](#).

B. 100,000 Stars will show you a representation of the galaxy with stars in it. You can take a tour which starts from the Sun and takes you to the outer edges of the galaxy while also teaching you valuable insights. It is very cool. To view, please click: [Here](#).

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

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: [Here](#)

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8. Technology tip

Want to find anything on my computer quickly? use Everything, a piece of Windows PC software that bypasses Windows search with a lightning quick interface and real-time results for all of the files and folders in your local storage device or any subsection of it.

You'll love it!

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

I'm not a Mac user, but it seems that Spotlight is similar. For more information about that, please click: [Here](#).

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9. Joke 3

Two old guys were sitting on a park bench one morning. Sam, 87, had just finished his morning jog and wasn't even short of breath. Harry, 80, was amazed at the guy's stamina and asked him what he did to have so much energy. Sam says: "Well, I eat rye bread every day. It keeps my energy level high, and I have great stamina with the ladies."... So on the way home, Harry stops at the bakery and asks: "Do you have any rye bread?" ... The saleswoman replies, "Yes, there's a whole shelf of it. Would you like a loaf?" ... Harry: "I want five loaves." ... Saleswoman: "My goodness, five loaves! By the time you get to the second loaf, it'll be hard." ... Harry: "I can't believe everybody knows about this shi*t but me."



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10. A quote I like

"He who laughs last didn't get the joke."--Charles de Gaulle (1890-1970), French army officer and statesman who led the French Resistance against Nazi Germany in World War II and chaired the Provisional Government of the French Republic from 1944 to 1946 in order to establish democracy in France.

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11. Thought for the day

Soooo true for every mother I have ever known. And if you're like me, and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way), HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



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12. Advance planning department

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

A. NC events

(1) Jenny Bunn: Hands on a Hardbody - The Documentary. (2) Katie Jones: Buncome Tower by Peter Lundblad.

B. PA/NJ event

Lisa Zaglin: Spring Open House at Aark.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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