

BLAINESWORLD

#1234
5.11.2020

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

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Are continuing to hunker down in Week 9 of the corona pandemic. ... Whenever possible, we get out to take a walk with friends. ... That's us in the top photo with Marcy Gallagher and Scout, our fearless leader. ... Tom Gallagher was also with us, but he was too busy taking pictures and serving as our nature guide. ... In the bottom photo, he pointed out that we were looking at a Jack-in-The-Pulpit (Arisaema triphyllum).



(2) Trying out new face masks in the living room of my home. Thanks to our friend, Edina Heppguler, for making them for us.



(3) Enjoying a driveway visit with our friend Judy Ray.

Note: You can sign-up for Cynthia's Meditation and/or Move Your Body classes, offered through Arms Around ASA, by clicking: [Here](#).
Go to the bottom half of the page and look at her May offerings, as well as many others that you might find of interest.

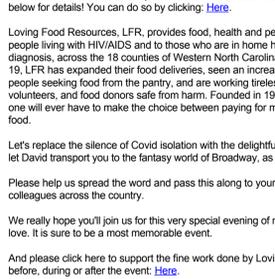


B. Zoom has enabled me to see some mighty fine entertainment.

(1) Thanks, Different Strokes! for your excellent Zoom reading of Jamie Knox's "Buried Under Shallow." It was soooo good to be able to see some live theatre--and this production made me realize how much I miss seeing your plays in person. ... Thumbs up to all those in the stellar cast: Molly Graves (pictured), Jon Stockdale, Nelson Wedick, Daniel Henry, Rya May Atwood, Scott Keel, Julia Cunningham and Stephanie Hicking Beckman, as well as to Jamie for both the play and her spot on direction. ... I'm hoping that Asheville will soon get to see this show in a full production!

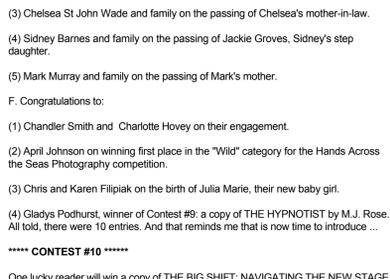


(2) Thumbs up for this fabulous concert, featuring Paula Hanke and the Perfect Mix: Michael Filippone, James Vandenberg and Jeffrey Rudolph. ... To view it, please click: [Here](#). ... And while you're at it, join me in sending appreciation by clicking: [Here](#). ... Special thanks to Karen Kopeck Engle for hosting the event.

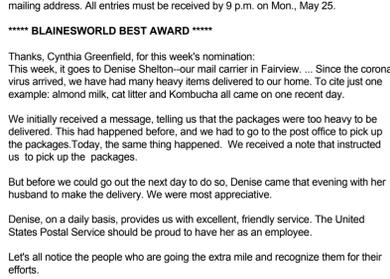


C. Zoom has also enabled me to keep doing my BLAINESWORLD radio show on WPVM. This past week, I had two such shows.

(1) Brent Wyatt, executive director at Loving Food Resources; and David Troy Francis, pianist extraordinaire. To view their interviews (and to see David play several songs), please click: [Here](#).



(2) Ari Paul, an outstanding mentalist and magician. To see his interview (and to see him do a cool trick), please click: [Here](#).



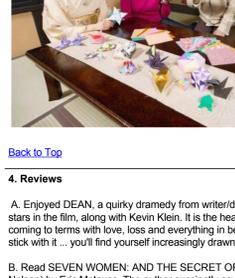
Note: Special thanks to Grail Moviehouse for sponsoring the above.

D. You're invited to attend both of the following virtual events:

(1) **Ari Paul: Free mentalist show that will amaze you!**

Are you ready for an adventure in mind-reading and sleight of hand?
If so, come see Ari Paul in a Zoom performance on this date: Thursday, May 21, at 7 p.m. (Arrive anytime after 6:30 p.m.)
This link will have all the information you need to get in: [Here](#).

Note: Ari is a VERY FUNNY entertainer who has been featured on Fox News, ABC and NBC and been hired by and performed for companies such as Comcast, OVC, The Philadelphia Phillies and numerous major hotels. (See Section C2 to see him perform a trick.)



(2) **David Troy Francis: Free Virtual Concert**
Sunday, May 24, from 6-7 pm.

See below for a letter about the concert written by one of the organizers. Please share!

Dear Friends,
Please join us for the very best "Virtual concert" you'll see all year. Live from the living room of David Troy Francis and Michael Boustead, a free piano concert featuring some of your favorite Broadway tunes.
David is teaming up with WPVM host, Blaine Greenfield to present this joyful evening as a benefit to Loving Food Resources, LFR, located in Asheville, NC. As it continues to be unsafe for us to gather in person, we invite you to do the next best thing.
Let's have cocktails together from our homes, and tune in to this special concert!
Sunday, May 24, at 6 at 6 p.m.
The 45-minute concert will be presented on Vimeo and Facebook. Go to David's link below for details! You can do so by clicking: [Here](#).

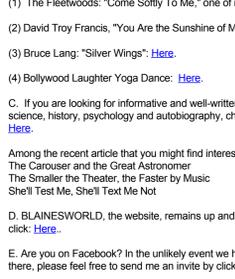
Loving Food Resources, LFR, provides food, health and personal care items to people living with HIV/AIDS and to those who are in home hospice care with any diagnosis, across the 18 counties of Western North Carolina. In responding to Covid-19, LFR has expanded their food deliveries, seen an increase in the number of people seeking food from the pantry, and are working tirelessly to keep their patrons, volunteers, and food donors safe from harm. Founded in 1991, LFR ensures that no one will ever have to make the choice between paying for medicine, or paying for food.
Let's replace the silence of Covid isolation with the delightful 'Sounds of Music', and let David transport you to the fantasy world of Broadway, as only he can.

Please help us spread the word and pass this along to your friends, families and colleagues across the country.

We really hope you'll join us for this very special evening of music, community, and love. It is sure to be a most memorable event.

And, please click here to support the fine work done by Loving Food Resources before, during or after the event: [Here](#).

PS. David has prepared a special video invitation for the event. To view it (and hear him play the piano), please click: [Here](#).



E. Condolences to:

(1) Frank Zipperer and family on the passing of David B. Zipperer, Frank's brother.
(2) Ed MacConnell and family on the passing of Avraham Shimon MacConnell, Ed's father.

(3) Sidney St John Wade and family on the passing of Chelsea's mother-in-law.

(4) Chelsea Barnes and family on the passing of Jackie Groves, Sidney's step daughter.

(5) Mark Murray and family on the passing of Mark's mother.

F. Congratulations to:

(1) Chandler Smith and Charlotte Hovey on their engagement.

(2) April Johnson on winning first place in the "Wild" category for the Hands Across the Seas Photography competition.

(3) Chris and Karen Filipiak on the birth of Julia Marie, their new baby girl.

(4) Gladys Podhurst, winner of Contest #9: a copy of THE HYPNOTIST by M.J. Rose. All told, there were 10 entries. And that reminds me it is now time to introduce ...

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

One lucky reader will win a copy of THE BIG SHOOT: NAVIGATING THE NEW STAGE BEYOND MIDLIFE by Marc Freedman. ... According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, " [This is] "an imaginative work with the potential to affect our individual lives and our collective future." ... THE WALL STREET JOURNAL states the book is "an invaluable and inspiring read."

If you would like to enter the contest, send an email to: bjnbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #10 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 Mon., May 25.
***** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD *****

Thanks, Cynthia Greenfield, for this week's nomination:
This week, it goes to Denise Shelton--our mail carrier in Fairview. ... Since the corona virus arrived, we have had many heavy items delivered to our home. To cite just one example: almond milk, cat litter and Kombucha all came on one recent day.

We initially received a message, telling us that the packages were too heavy to be delivered. This had happened before, and we were working to get the post office to pick up the packages. Today, the same thing happened. We received a note that instructed us to pick up the packages.

But before we could go out the next day to do so, Denise came that evening with her husband to make the delivery. We were most appreciative.

Denise, on a daily basis, provides us with excellent, friendly service. The United States Postal Service should be proud to have her as an employee.

Let's all notice the people who are going the extra mile and recognize them for their efforts.
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2. FYI

Mr. Curious here: Are you still awaiting your Economic Impact Payment (aka stimulus payment)? To date, Cynthia and I haven't received a dime--and are wondering if anybody else is in the same situation.
I was able to track down a site that supposedly could be used to check status of the above: [Here](#).

Whenever I've tried it, I keep getting the same error message: "payment status not available." There is no reason that should be the case.
Just today, I was able to find another site that can hopefully give me the information about my status. I'll be trying it later. If you also want to do so, please click: [Here](#).

Note: Please let me know if any of this helps you track down your payments.
FYI, part 2

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

A. Jeanie Linders: Replace the butter with mayo on the grilled cheese ... yummy! B. Eisten Torres: Exciting airport. C. A 92-Year-Old Piano Teacher: Won't Less Students Miss Bach in the Pandemic. D. 7 Tips for Watching Birds During the Spring Lockdown. E. How to Stay Optimistic When Everything Seems Wrong.
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3. Joke 1

With so many sporting events being canceled, they're having to organize the World Origami Championship ... It will be on PaperVie.

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4. Reviews

A. Enjoyed DEAN, a quirky dramedy from writer/director Demetri Martin who also stars in the film, along with Kevin Klein. It is the heartiest tale about a father and son coming to terms with love, loss and everything in between. The pace is leisurely, but stick with it. ... you'll find yourself increasingly drawn into the story. Rated PG-13.

B. READ SEVEN WOMEN: AND THE SECRET OF THEIR GREATNESS (Thomas Nelson) by Eric Metaxas. The author succinctly covers the lives of seven great women--Joan of Arc, Susanna Wesley, Hannah More, Saint Maria of Paris, Corinne ten Boom, Rosa Park and Mother Teresa--and makes you appreciate how their lives affected so many others. ... In particular, I liked the chapter on Parks because it made me realize how much she accomplished in her lifetime. ... I especially liked this quote from Metaxas: "When I consider the seven women I chose, I see that most of them were great for reasons that derive precisely from their being women, not in spite of it, and what made them great has nothing to do with their being measured against or competing with men. In other words, their accomplishments are not gender-neutral but are rooted in their singularity as women."
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5. TV alert

A. Whatever you do, don't miss the following:
Kay Calvin, one of my favorite local actors, has a recurring role in STARGIRL. The season premieres on Mon., May 18, on the DC Universe streaming service and on Tues., May 19, it can be seen on The CW at 8 p.m.
B. THE MISERY INDEX: Thursdays at 10:30 p.m. on TBS.
This game show asks viewers to guess how therapists rated mortifying moments on a scale of 1 to 100. Online dating and a surgery gone wrong will be covered tonight.

C. JERRY SEINFELD: 23 HOURS TO KILL: On Netflix.
The comedian takes the sage in New York and tackles talking vs. texting, bad buffets vs. so-called "great" restaurants--and the magic of Pop Tarts. I've already seen this one and can tell you it is very funny!

D. Honor Moon: BECOMING on Netflix
I really enjoyed this documentary. I am glad she [Michelle Obama] made the point she was disappointed that not everyone showed up to vote in 2016. This documentary touched on the hearts of how we still cannot believe the swift change from their time in the White House. And also, how many great people go through various fundamental shifts in life.

E. Mike Martinelli: We watched it [HOLLYWOOD] last week and loved it. Another great one: THE POLITICIAN on Netflix.

Note: We finished watching HOLLYWOOD. It seemed to get better and better each episode. Our only disappointment: There were only seven episodes. Look for Dylan McDermott, Patti LuPone and Jim Parsons, among others, to get strong consideration for Emmy Awards.
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6. Joke 2

Alias, I read this too late ... and I now have covfefe! (Thanks, Hank Eder, for sharing.)

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7. Clips/Websites

A. Video of the week
"Waiting for Clouds" is the 5th video/single off of my friend Eisten Torres' album: WATTHEENDOFLOVE album: [Here](#).

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

- (1) The Fleetwoods: "Come Softly To Me," one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).
- (2) David Troy Francis, "You Are the Sunshine of My Life": [Here](#).
- (3) Bruce Lang: "Silver Wings": [Here](#).
- (4) Bollywood Laughter Yoga Dance: [Here](#).

C. If you are looking for informative and well-written articles on such subjects as science, history, psychology and autobiography, check out Nautilus by clicking: [Here](#).
Among the recent article that you might find interesting:
The Carouser and the Great Astronomer
The Smaller the Theater, the Faster by Music
She'll Test Me, She'll Test Me Not

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 are on Zoom a lot, especially if you run meetings, you can avoid problems by checking your internet speed. And having others in the meeting do the same.

I saw the need for this recently when doing my radio show. About half way through, I saw a message on my screen that told me that the person I was interviewing had "low bandwidth." As a result, the interview was very choppy, and I had to redo it.

To avoid this happening to you, here's a way you can check your internet speed in under 30 seconds. The speed test usually transfers less than 40 MB of data, but may transfer more data on fast connections.

To run the test, you'll be connected to Measurement Lab (M-Lab) and your IP address will be shared with them and processed by them in accordance with their privacy policy. M-Lab conducts the test and publicly publishes all test results to promote internet research. Published information includes your IP address and test results, but doesn't include any other information about you as an internet user.
To begin, please click this link and go to the top where it says Internet speed test: [Here](#).
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9. Joke 3

I hope you celebrate the day with your mom if she's still around or, if not, you get to recall fond thoughts about her. And when you do, make sure you also remember these two rules she taught you for a happy marriage: 1. The wife is always wrong; 2. When you feel she is wrong, slap yourself and read the first rule again.

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10. 3 quotes I like

A. Thanks, Jerry Stiller (1927-2020), for your funny TV roles on both SEINFELD and THE KING OF QUEENS, as well as in such movies as HAIRSPRAY and THE RITZ. ... But I'll perhaps best remember him for teaching me about Festivus. If you'd like to see his instruction on that subject, please click: [Here](#). ... And for more information about his life, please click: [Here](#).

B. Thanks, Fred Willard (1933-2020), for always bringing a smile to my face in such films as THIS IS SPINAL TAP, BEST IN SHOW and ANCHORMAN; and in such TV programs as FERNWOOD 2 NIGHT, EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND and MODERN FAMILY. ... For more information about his life and to see several clips of him, please click: [Here](#).

C. Thanks, Don Shula (1930-2020), for your career as a professional football player and coach that led to your induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1997. ... Although the two teams you coached in your career, the Baltimore Colts and Miami Dolphins, often beat those I rooted for, I was impressed by the fact that watching them in action would almost always mean that I'd see a well-played game. ... For more information about his life, please click: [Here](#).

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11. Thought for the day

US Navy Admiral William H. McRaven, one of the most decorated US commanders, delivers a fine a motivational speech as you'll ever hear.
Please watch it. And encourage others to do the same, especially your children and grandchildren and nieces and nephews.
To watch it, please click: [Here](#).

I now plan to read his book: MAKE YOUR BED: LITTLE THINGS THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE ... AND MAYBE THE WORLD. For more information about that, please click: [Here](#).
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12. Advance planning department

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

A. Official Barber Shop Chronicles. B. The Magnetic Theatre: Meisner Technique Online.
PS. Make it a wonderful week!
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