

From: Blainesworld blaine@blainesworld.net
Subject: blainesworld 1496 (See Sect. 8B for a tearjerker not to be missed.)
Date: May 11, 2025 at 4:41 PM
To: hank@hankeder.com

B



You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not tooooo risqué (typically in Sections 5, 8 and 11); contests; reviews of shows, movies and books; quotes, etc. ... Please feel free to share it with 437 of your closest friends and relatives.. ... And In the unlikely event that you or they are not already a subscriber, just click the following link to be added to the free mailing list: [Here](#).

#1496
5.12.2025

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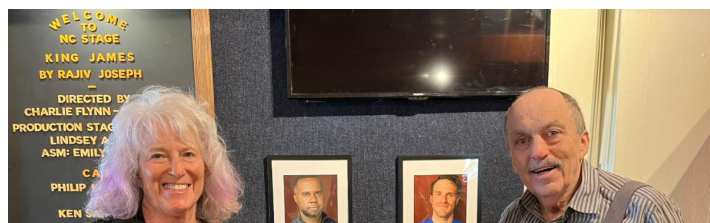
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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I both agree that Rajiv Joseph's King James at NC Stage Company in Asheville is a slam dunk of a production, offering a heartfelt and humorous exploration of male friendship through the lens of basketball fandom. The play follows two Cleveland Cavaliers superfans whose bond evolves over 12 years, paralleling LeBron James's career highs and lows. Actors Philip Kershaw and Ken Sandberg deliver outstanding performances, capturing the nuanced dynamics of their characters with authenticity and passion. Charlie Flynn-McIver's direction is spot spot on. And afterward, we found the talkback led by Maria Buchanan to be most enlightening.

King James runs through May 18. For tickets, click:
<https://northcarolinastagecompany.thundertix.com/events/230694/performances>.

Special kudos to Faith Giles, NC Stage's audience relations assistant, and Jack McKnight, house manager, for helping us with seat selection and making sure that Cynthia (still limping around with a both a bad knee and troublesome back) was made as comfortable as possible. Their assistance was much appreciated.





B. We then went for a delicious dinner at The Bier Garden. I liked my fish and chips, and Cynthia said her Caesar salad with salmon was as good as any she has had lately.



C. Kismet, our amazing cat, was miffed that we did not take him to either the show or dinner. So he spent the day camped out on a zero gravity chair that we just got. ... The good news: As can be seen it's super comfortable. ... The bad news: It's no longer ours.





D. I hosted two BLAINESWORLD webcasts this past week. Both can be viewed by clicking: [Here](#).

(1) Top: 5.5.2025 - Carolina Quiroga--Storyteller, performer, teacher-artist, writer

(2) Bottom: 5.6.2024 - Rev. Sean Palmer--Executive Director, YMI Cultural Center



E. Congratulations to:

(1) Spencer Hilgeman and Melissa Jones-Hilgeman on the opening of their second Hilltop Ice Cream Shop at 235 Weaverville Road, Woodfin. Folks in that part of town are now in luck, in that they will get to see what we have been raving about in Fairview.



(2) Yermi Kurkus and his wife on the newest addition to their family: a beautiful baby boy.

(3) Delia Lytle Bailey on being certified as a Wellness Coach by the National Academy of sports Medicine.

(4) George Awad for doing such a great job on his recent interview on WLOS. To view it, click: <https://www.facebook.com/100092574177872/videos/9762092777213519>.

F. Announcing this week's ...

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

This week, it goes to Spot Shot Instant Carpet Stain Remover. This product is a game-changer for anyone dealing with stubborn carpet stains. It works quickly and effectively, tackling everything from pet accidents to coffee spills with minimal effort. What really sets it apart is that there's no need for scrubbing—just spray, blot and watch the stain disappear. Unlike some other removers, it doesn't leave behind a sticky residue or strong chemical smell.

Even Kismet likes it. When asked for his opinion, he said, "Meow, meow, meow," which translated means: "It's a must-have for maintaining clean carpets without hassle and consistently outperforms any competing brand my cat parents have ever tried."



2. Cynthia's Corner

The Monster Transformed

We are all drawn toward our own unique experiences in our lives. I, personally, have been drawn toward deep, meaningful, spiritual-type experiences.

There was this exercise I learned once where you imagine a part of you that is not on your side. You know that voice or part of you that seems to be cruel to you--not helpful. You imagine that being in whatever form comes to mind it could be a monster, a figure from a movie or someone you know holding a certain posture. You know this person well. It lives with you in your head space. Imagine that being sitting in a chair opposite you.

You ask this being what it needs from you. And then you feed it what it needs. And watch to see if this figure transforms in any way.

My monster was my mother who taught me not to trust the world. Be safe. People are not on your side. Don't get excited about things. They will disappoint. Don't have dreams.

What my mother wanted for me is what every mother wants for her child. To be safe in this world. To be guarded so as not to get hurt. She always thought I was too open and would get tricked by the world and hurt.

Well, I decided to go the opposite way. I decided to trust and to try so many wonderful, juicy experiences in my long lifetime. I went on numerous retreats. I spent much time at Kripalu and Omega. Silent retreats, meditation. I experienced many inspirational shamans. Wise friends. Learned about yoga and movement experiences. Taught movement classes. Yoga centers. Many massage workshops. Practiced massage of all kinds. Inspiring others and being inspired. At 53 years old, I became open to a third marriage, which has been the charm. Blaine has been the bestest. bestest man in the world for me. With it all, there are still times, I distrust as my Mom had taught me.

What my demon needed from me was safety...the safety every Mom wants for their child. My Mom did not want to hurt me, but what she taught me made my world smaller.

When I fed my demon (my mother with her constricting advice) safety, she turned into a baby herself. My mom who is no longer with us, turned into MY baby. The baby I then wanted to create a safe haven for.

It is worth it, knowing that all parts of us are for our benefit.

Please share if you would ... what does your demon look like? And what does it want from you? Can you feed it what it needs from you? And how does it transform when you do? Share please. Even a tiny bit. Love hearing from you!

PS. This video is a preview to next week's topic: interspecies connections. It is MUST WATCH for a heartfelt smile:

[Here.](#)

Cynthia Greenfield
cgreenfield1001@aol.com

3. Invites

A. Join us for the 2nd Annual Blue Ridge Storytelling at the Center for Pioneer Life! Experience a day filled with captivating tales from renowned storytellers. To purchase tickets, click:
<https://www.pioneerlife.org/event-details-registration/2nd-annual-blue-ridge-storytelling-summit>.

(Thanks, Kiesa Kay, for sharing.)



JUNE 28TH | 10AM – 2PM | \$10
134 Joe Young Rd. Burnsville NC, 28714

B. Reminder, there's still time to enter ...

******* CONTEST #6 *******

One lucky reader will win a copy of MINDFULNESS TRAINING FOR THOSE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA, CHRONIC ILLNESS OR AN AGING BRAIN by Jarem Sawatsky.

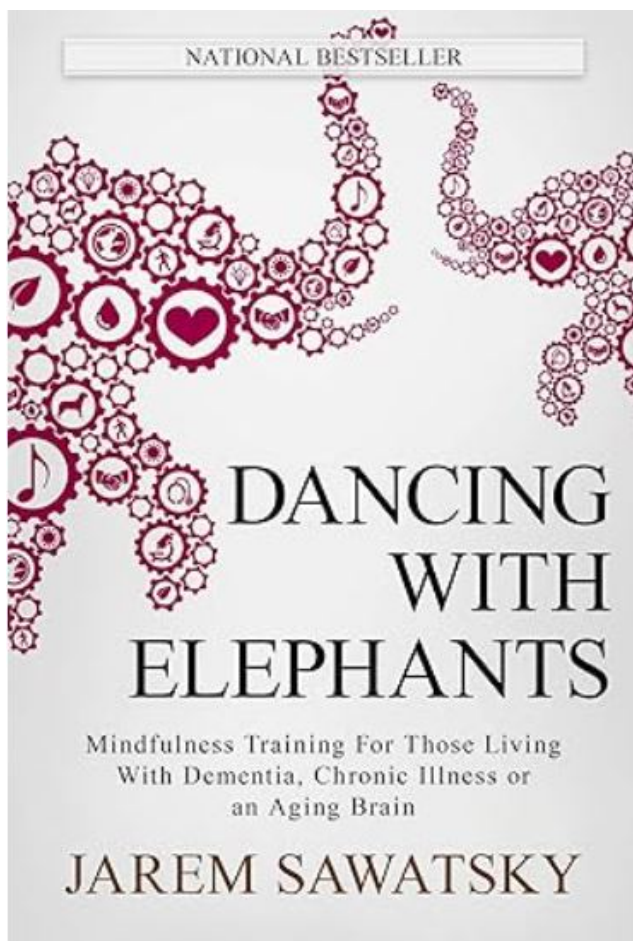
To quote from the description from Amazon:

Want to enjoy the life you are living, even as you face major life challenges?

Is your mind succumbing to age? Is your body failing you? Can you ever find joy, peace or fulfillment in these challenging conditions? The answer is a resounding YES.

Author Jarem Sawatsky saw the countless guides out there for those caring for the ill and healing the curable, but when he was diagnosed with Huntington's Disease he found there was nothing for those living with an incurable illness. He quit his job as a professor and devoted his life to exploring the possibilities of living with chronic conditions. Now he's bringing his findings and insights to you in this empowering mindfulness guide.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #6 in the subject line. Include in the body of the email your name and mailing address, so that if you win, I can send you a copy of this book. Entries must be received on or before the 9 p.m. on Mon., May 19.



C. Leadership Asheville 44 Applications are now being accepted through the end of May, 2025. To find out more about this terrific organization and/or to get an application, click:

more about this terrific organization and/or to to get an application, click:
[Here](#).

Note: I previously participated in Leadership Asheville and recommend it strongly. I'd be honored to nominate you for a slot. If interested, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put LA in the subject line.

D. Want to be a guest on my BLAINESWORLD webcast? It can now be seen on YouTube or you can listen to it on your favorite podcast player.

Even if you've been a guest before, I'd welcome the opportunity to speak with you again. I now tape via Zoom, usually in the early evening.

If you want to join me, let me know. And for more information about the webcast, click:
<https://www.blainesworld.net/>.

E. I'm back on Facebook after having been hacked. If we are not currently friends there (or if we lost contact because of the hack), please friend me by looking up: Blaine Greenfield. You'll see a picture of me in a blue shirt with, naturally, my thumb up. This is my Facebook ID:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100092574177872>.

F. Are you interested in shows, movies, TV, etc.? ... If so, I encourage you to join a group I've formed on Facebook that's called Entertainment. To do so, all you need to do is follow the instructions when you click:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/245515070390413>.

Note: Please also use the above to promote any shows you're involved in.

4. FYI

A. If You Can Do These Things in Your 70s, You're Truly Lucky:
[Here](#)

(Thanks, Cynthia Greenfield, for sharing.)

B. To interrupt someone who won't stop talking, do 3 simple things: 'Others will appreciate you':
[Here](#)

C. The worst thing to say to a new mom:
[Here](#)

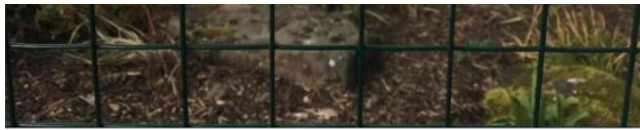
D. Harvard-trained couples therapists married nearly 50 years: Never, ever do these 5 things if you want a happy, successful relationship
[Here](#)

E. Do You Need to Unplug Your Appliances? Here's What We Know:
[Here](#)

5. Joke 1

Be forewarned ...





6. Reviews

A. Tall Girl 2: Netflix

This film offers a heartfelt continuation of Jodi Kreyman's journey, delving deeper into themes of self-doubt and personal growth. As Jodi navigates newfound popularity and the pressures of leading her school's musical, the film portrays her internal struggles with anxiety and self-acceptance. The ensemble cast shines with expanded storylines that add depth to supporting characters, enhancing the narrative's richness. While some critics have pointed out the film's predictable plot and occasional tonal inconsistencies, many viewers appreciate its positive messages and relatable portrayal of teenage challenges. Cynthia and I both liked it. Rated TV-PG.

B. Ruby's Choice: Prime Video

This heartfelt Australian drama sensitively portrays the challenges of dementia through the story of Ruby, played by Jane Seymour. When Ruby moves in with her daughter's family, her teenage granddaughter, initially resentful, gradually develops a deep bond with her grandmother, uncovering long-held family secrets. The characters are authentic, and there are strong performances, particularly by Seymour and Jacqueline McKenzie. It is a touching watch for those who appreciate emotionally driven narratives. Cynthia and I both enjoyed it. Rated PG.

C. Thanks, Terry Scholl, for forwarding this recommendation from her husband Mel:

You should send a note to Blaine recommending Heart of Champions on Netflix. I would think he would enjoy it.

Note: I did--more so than Cynthia. This drama, based on a true story, focuses on an Ivy League college rowing team struggling with dysfunction and personal conflicts. Common Sense Media rated it age 13+.

7. TV Alert

A. Ozark: Netflix

I just finished all four seasons of this series and found it very engaging. It is right up there with Breaking Bad and Better Call Saul as being something not to miss. Only one word of caution: It is rather violent, in parts, so if that bothers you then you might want to skip watching. Jason Bademan, Laura Linney and Julia Garner, among others, all are outstanding.

B. 60th Academy of Country Music Awards: Prime Video (no Prime membership required)

Reba McEntire hosts the ACM awards show for the 18th time with performances by Wynonna Judd, 60, Lainey Wilson, Miranda Lambert, Blake Shelton, Jelly Roll, the Backstreet Boys and more.

C. Nonnas: Netflix

Vince Vaughn stars in this light-hearted comedy about a man who loses his mother and decides to honor her "food is love" memory by opening an Italian restaurant. Where's the comedy, you ask? How about this: He hires four feisty Italian grandmas (including Susan Sarandon) as the restaurant's "new" chefs. Joe Manganiello and Linda Cardellini costar.

D. Octopus! Prime Video

Phoebe Waller-Bridge (Fleabag) narrates a very offbeat take on the nature documentary, one that features stunning wildlife footage as well as commentary from a host of experts, including octopus obsessive Tracy Morgan, 56. Yes, the comic actor from SNL and 30 Rock is a dedicated octopophile.

8. Joke 2

Who needs a treadmill when you've got a pizza oven and poor judgment?





9. Clips/Sites

A. The Turtles are arguably the greatest rock group of all time!

(1) Their recording of "Happy Together" proves it

(2) As you may know, I welcome clips of them and/or others singing this classic song. For example, this week, you can see it performed by students from an a chorus group that I have not been able to identify: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

This father of the bride planned the surprise of a lifetime for his daughter at her wedding! Kaitlyn grew up a huge Disney fan and loved the songs "A Whole New World" from the movie Aladdin and "Reflection" from Mulan. At her wedding, her Dad hired Lea Salonga, the actress who was the singing voice for Jasmine in the original Aladdin film, to sing "A Whole New World" for their Father-Daughter dance! Such an unbelievable moment that they will remember forever!

To view it, click:

[Here](#).

(Thanks, Jonathan Berg, for sharing.)

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

(1) Sam Cooke, "Cupid," one of my favorites:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlx8HfLvaeY>

(2) Howard Smith Jr.: Hymns (5.11.2025):

<https://www.facebook.com/hs.smith.73/videos/1349922969617742>

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: Donovan:

<https://www.facebook.com/neilratnerrockdoc/videos/480114018460886>

(4) Neil (above) tells the story of "Mellow Yellow." I never get tired of hearing that song. If you want to join me in listening to it, click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfaNi3WrTC0>.

(5) How to make your woman laugh:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/nv303i7mgtqd3wub5dj5h/Man-of-the-house.mp4?rlkey=q74gsxtrr9w0fessln5okzg2a&st=09sivgga&dl=0>

(Thanks, Jonathan Berg, for sharing.)

D. Here's a website that you might want to check out:

Engrish.com is packed with funny English mistakes from all over the globe. Often found in product instructions, signs, menus and packaging, these "Engrish" mistakes are sure to bring a smile to your face with their unintended meanings and humorous miscommunications.

To view the website, click:

[Here](#).

E. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<https://www.blaineworld.net/>.

F. 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:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100002574177872>

10. Technology Tip

What is the Geek Squad scam and how can you avoid it?
by Crissy Joshua

In 2023, consumers submitted around 52,000 reports of scammers posing as Best Buy or its tech support brand, Geek Squad, according to data collected by the Federal Trade Commission—that's more than any other company. While these numbers may sound jarring, understanding how a Geek Squad scam works can help you avoid falling for them.

The Geek Squad email scam involves fraudsters impersonating Geek Squad (Best Buy) representatives to steal personal information or trick people into paying for fake services. Geek Squad is a legitimate tech support company owned by Best Buy that helps with tech setups and repairs. Scammers take advantage of the company's good reputation by sending phishing emails masquerading as Geek Squad emails.

To read the rest of this informative article, click:
[Here](#).

Note: In the article, you'll also see numerous links that will take you to an option to buy LifeLock by Norton. This is a legitimate product that has good reviews, but some of the company's premium plans are expensive. And there are other options for you to consider. As with the case of anything you purchase, do your research.

11. Joke 3

A woman is enjoying a good game of bridge with her girlfriends one evening when she cries out, "Oh, no! I have to rush home and fix dinner for my husband! He's going to really be angry if it's not ready on time."

When she gets home, she realizes she doesn't have enough time to go to the supermarket, and all she has in the cupboard is a wilted lettuce leaf, an egg and a can of cat food. In a panic, she opens the can of cat food, stirs in the egg and garnishes it with the lettuce leaf just as her husband is pulling up. She greets her husband and serves what she has just made for him.

To her surprise, the husband is really enjoying his dinner. "Darling, this is the best dinner you have made for me in 40 years of marriage. You can make this for me any old day."

So every bridge night from then on, the woman made her husband the same dish. She told her bridge cronies about it, and they were all horrified. "You're going to kill him!" they exclaimed.

Two months later, her husband died. The women were sitting around the card table playing bridge when one of the cronies said, "You killed him! We told you that feeding him that cat food every week would do him in! How can you just sit there so calmly and play bridge knowing you murdered your husband?"

The wife calmly replied, "I didn't kill him. He fell off the mantel while he was cleaning himself."





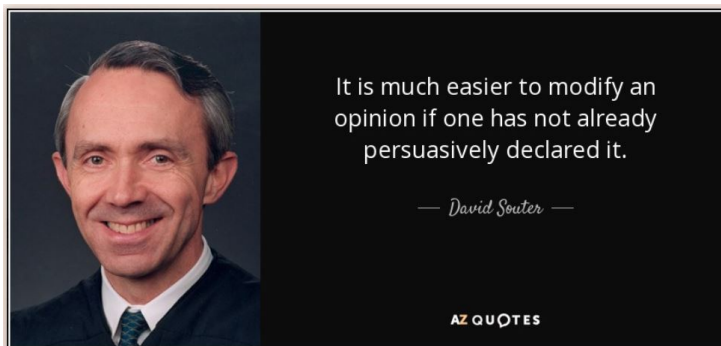
12. Two Quotes I Like

A. Thanks, James Foley (1953-2025), for your career as an American film director. His 1986 film *At Close Range* was entered into the 36th Berlin International Film Festival. Other films he directed include *Glengarry Glen Ross*, based on the play of the same name by David Mamet, and *The Chamber*, based on the novel of the same name by author John Grisham. He also directed the two sequels to *Fifty Shades of Grey*: *Fifty Shades Darker* and *Fifty Shades Freed*. For more information about his life, click: <https://deadline.com/2025/05/james-foley-dead-fifty-shades-madonna-house-of-cards-1236390352/>.

"I think in terms of what fascinates me and what intrigues me and what I feel is engaging for the year that you spend making the movie, what's personally engaging, not adhering to any kind of conventions."—James Foley



B. Thanks, David Souter (1939-2025), was an American lawyer and jurist who served as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1990 until his retirement in 2009. For more information about his life, click: <https://www.wmur.com/article/david-souter-obituary-new-hampshire/64726069>.



13. Thought For The Day

Now you know their secret!

If you're like me, and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way), HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



PS. Make it a great week!

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