

#1077
5.15.2017

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

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had a fun-filled "Mystery Night" outing with our family. That where somebody in our close group of friends plans something that we will do, but doesn't tell the others. ... This time, we wound up at Escapism Asheville. Our goal was to escape a locked room before a bomb went off. ... Also, we didn't succeed. But we had a lot of fun. Thanks, Mary Gallagher, for the delightful surprise. ... Pictured, Jr. Blaine Greenfield, Carole Biro, Annemarie Brown, Cynthia Greenfield, Marvin Sadosky, Mary and Brian Biro. Behind Carole is some spy who was monitoring our activities.

The folks who ran Escapism Asheville were great. For more information, please click: [Here](#)



(2) From there, we all went for some tasty Mexican food to The Cantina at historic Biltmore Village. Joining us was Tom Gallagher (fourth from the left).



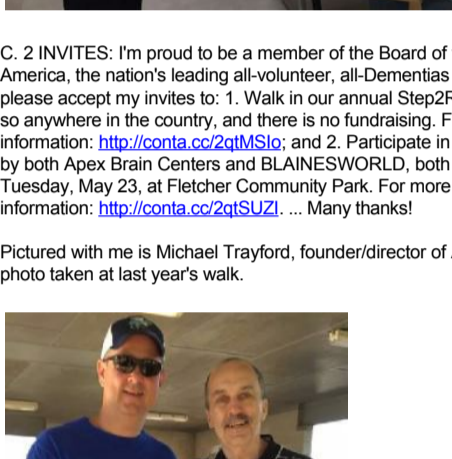
(3) Joined our friends Amy and Marc Suben at a lovely party to celebrate Marc's 60th birthday. ... I was honored to have gotten the chance to make the following toast: I'd like to talk about a guy who is cool, friendly, clever and good looking, too ... but you know enough about me. ... It is now my pleasure to talk about Marc Suben, the man of the day, who as many of you know, is quite the runner.

That reminds me of how Cynthia, my beautiful bride, first met him. Turns out that Marc was running in Asheville one bright spring day when he passed a tennis court. He notices that a ball flies over the court and seeing nobody running after it, he picks it up. Having nowhere to put the ball, he stuffs it into his running shorts and resumes his running. ... Cynthia was also running that same day, and she soon finds herself running along side Marc. He notices her, they exchange greetings, and he sees that she can't take her eyes off his crotch area. So he looks down, points and says, "Tennis ball." ... Cynthia, being the very sympathetic person that she is, replies, "Oh, that must be very painful. I once had tennis elbow." So that's how Cynthia met Marc.

I met him shortly thereafter. Liked him right off the bat. And now feel honored to present this birthday toast. ... Please join both Cynthia and me in hoping that you, Marc Suben live well until your 120th birthday. ... Then on that date, and not a minute before, may you die in bed with your lovely wife Amy, who becomes so distraught that she quits her job at Hooters. ... L'Chaim

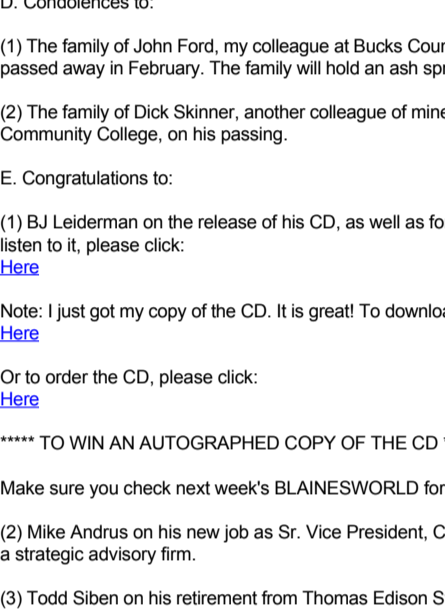


(4) Had a fantastic meal at 131 Main where Cynthia ordered a ribeye steak, which she contends is the best in Asheville, and I got a cheeseburger, which I also believe is the best in town.

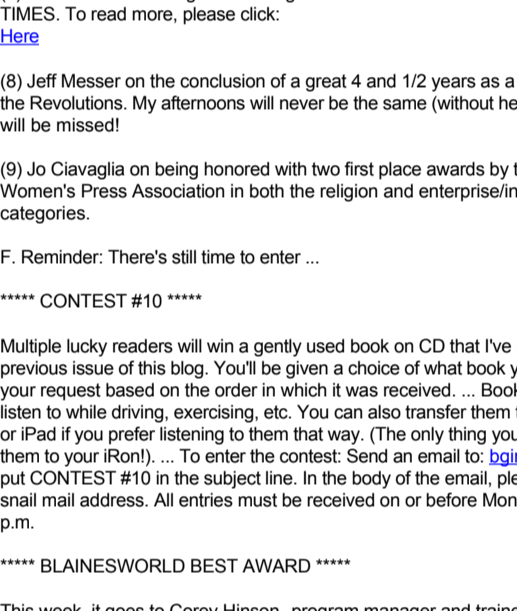


B. During the week. I:

(1) Hosted the following two guests on my radio show from Wednesday on WPVM: Garrett Artz (on the right in photo), Executive Director of RiverLink, in the first half. ... and Sallay Williamson (on the left in photo), Development and Communications Manager at Open Hearts Art Center, in the second half. ... Also, congratulations to Emry Balkken, head of the planning committee for Walk a Mile, on winning last week's BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD. ... To listen, please scroll down to the 5.17.2017 show when you click: [Here](#)

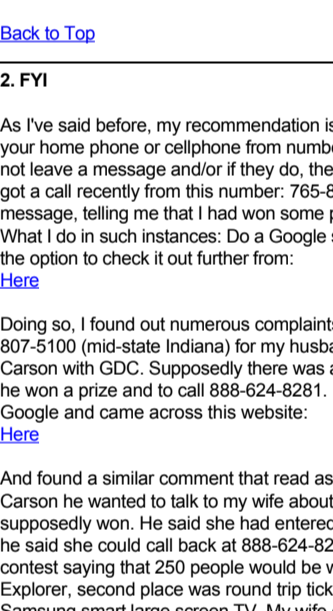


(2) Heard Lori Bura give an informative presentation to the Asheville Jewish Business Forum, in which she described the fine work done by Jewish Family Services of WNC. ... Special thanks to artist Robin Morris for the painting she donated as a door prize. ... Hope you'll come to our next meeting on Thursday, June 22, at 'ao Buffet. (Details to follow.)



C. 2 INVITES: I'm proud to be a member of the Board of the Dementia Society of America, the nation's leading all-volunteer, all-Dementias nonprofit charity. ... As such, please accept my invites to: 1. Walk in our annual Step2Raise campaign. You can do so anywhere in the country, and there is no fundraising. For more information: www.step2raise.org; and 2. Participate in an annual walk sponsored by both Apex Brain Centers and BLAINESWORLD, both the radio show and blog, on Tuesday, May 23, at Fletcher Community Park. For more information: <http://apex.org/2017/05/23/>. ... Many thanks!

Pictured with me is Michael Trayford, founder/director of Apex Brain Centers, in a photo taken at last year's walk.



D. Condolences to:

- (1) The family of John Ford, my colleague at Bucks County Community College, who passed away in February. The family will hold an ash spreading ceremony on July 21.
- (2) The family of Dick Skinner, another colleague of mine from Bucks County Community College, on his passing.

E. Congratulations to:

- (1) BJ Leiderman on the release of his CD, as well as for a great interview on NPR. To listen to it, please click: [Here](#)
Note: I just got my copy of the CD. It is great! To download it, please click: [Here](#)
Or to order the CD, please click: [Here](#)
***** TO WIN AN AUTOGRAPHED COPY OF THE CD *****
- Make sure you check next week's BLAINESWORLD, for details.
- (2) Mike Andrus on his new job as Sr. Vice President, Consulting for JF & Associates, a strategic advisory firm.
- (3) Todd Siben on his retirement from Thomas Edison State University, as well as his new career as head of Higher Education Consultants NJ. If you are looking for somebody for help with Prior Learning Assessment or College Advisement Consultant, he is the guy to contact. He can be reached at 609.577.3579. advicme@aol.com
- (4) Katie Morris on earning her master's degree from Florida Atlantic University.
- (5) Daniel Barsoum on his new job with B2B Soft where he'll be leading the product development organization.
- (6) Candice Owen for being named as a "Memorable Educator" for Transylvania County Schools.
- (7) Jason Isivan on the great coverage of his new Frostbite store in the CITIZEN-TIMES. To read more, please click: [Here](#)
- (8) Jeff Messer on the conclusion of a great 4 and 1/2 years as a radio host on 880 the Revolutions. My afternoons will never be the same (without hearing his show). He will be missed!
- (9) Jo Ciavaglia on being honored with two first place awards by the Pennsylvania Women's Press Association in both the religion and enterprise/investigative categories.

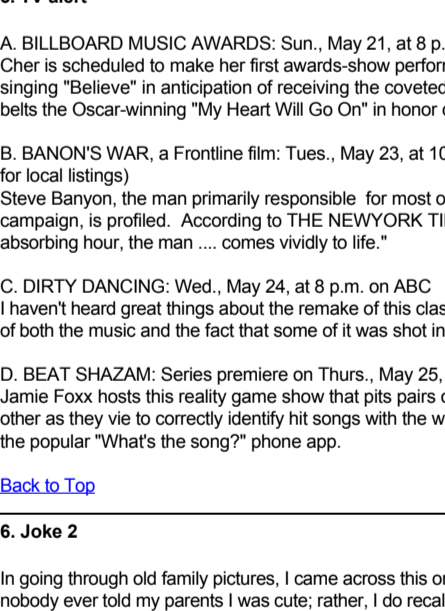
F. Reminder: There's still time to enter ...

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

Multiple lucky readers will win a gently used book on CD that I've reviewed in a previous issue of this blog. You'll be given a choice of what book you want, and I'll fill your request based on the order in which it was received. ... Books on CD are great to listen to while driving, exercising, etc. You can also transfer them to your iPod, Phone or iPad if you prefer listening to them that way. (The only thing you can't do is transfer them to your iPhone). ... To enter the contest: Send an email to: blg@bc@aol.com and put CONTEST #10 in the subject line. In the body of the email, please include your snail mail address. All entries must be received on or before Monday, May 22, at 9 p.m.

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

This week, it goes to Corey Hinson—program manager and trainer extraordinaire for The Mediation Center. ... I recently had the privilege of being introduced by Corey (in the center of the picture below). She did an excellent job of not only training me, but also Becki Woolf (in the left of the picture) and five other individuals in community mediation techniques and skills. ... Corey is also a superb practitioner, having mediated over 2,000 disputes. ... Should you want to get more information about The Mediation Center, please click: [Here](#)



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2. FYI

As I've said before, my recommendation is that you do NOT pick up phone calls on your home phone or cellphone from numbers you don't recognize. ... Most who call will not leave a message and/or if they do, they are probably spammers. For example, I got a call recently from the number: 765-807-5100 and the person did leave a message, telling me that I had won some prize in a contest that I never entered. ... What I do in such instances: Do a Google search on just the number. When I did, I had the option to check it out further from: [Here](#)

Doing so, I found out numerous complaints—including this one: Got a call from 765-807-5100 (mid-state Indiana) for my husband (used his first name only) from Jay Carson with GDC. Surprisingly there was a Nov. 14th entry (that we don't recall). Told he won a prize and to call 888-624-8281. I then checked out that 888 number via Google and came across this website: [Here](#)

And found a similar comment that read as follows: Got a call today 3/22/2017 from J Carson he wanted to talk to my wife about winning a Grand Discovery contest she supposedly won. He said she had entered last Sept 17 in Jordan, NC. As she was out he said she could call back at 888-624-8281. He further added details about the contest saying that 250 people would be winners with one grand prize of a Ford Explorer, second place was round trip tickets and third prize winners of a Samsung smart large screen TV. My wife does not recall entering any contest so I googled the number!

FYI, part 2

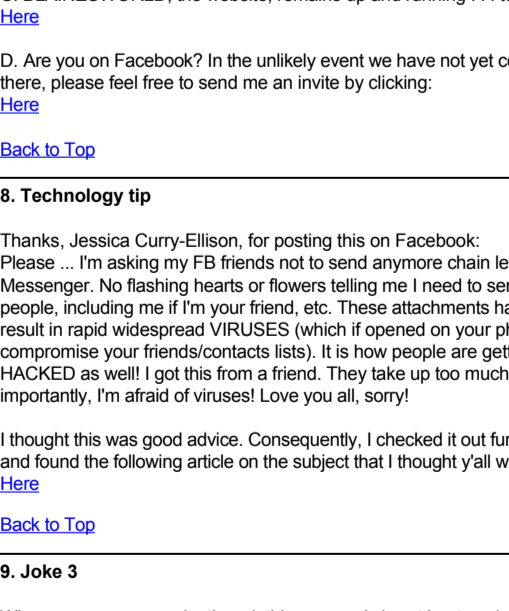
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: [Here](#)

- (1) U Can't Talk to Ur Professor Like This. (2) Grandbabies: The Great Reward for Aging. (3) Jason Isivan: Wonderful reading as always! (4) Join me in supporting Mike Y's latest effort. (5) Are Men With Beards More Desirable? (6) The Mystery of the Wasting House-Cats. (7) 50 Side Jobs to Help You Make an Extra \$500 or More This Month. (8) To Raise Better Kids, Say No.

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3. Joke 1

UFO caught on tape! (Thanks, Ginger Heskett, for sharing)



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4. Reviews

A. Saw DECODING ANNIE PARKER, now available on disc/streaming. It's a story based on real events about Parker, a three-time cancer survivor and the geneticist Mary-Claire King whose discovery of the breast cancer BRCA gene mutation is considered one of the most important discoveries of the 20th century. ... Samantha Morton is terrific in the leading role, and I also liked the performances of both Helen Hunt and Rashida Jones. The subject might seem depressing, but this film is anything but that. ... Rated R, though certainly appropriate for mature teenagers.

B. Read IF I ONLY KNEW THEN ... LESSONS FROM OUR MISTAKES (Grand Central Publishing) by Charles Grodin and friends and friends of friends. ... The author, an actor I've long admired, asked 62 celebrities about lessons learned the hard way. ... Suzyn Waldman, a New York Yankees Radio broadcaster, shared this insight: "Instead of saying to myself that everyone makes mistakes, I focused on why it happened. From that day forward, I never went in as a child, especially when his friendliness so frequently went unrequited. But he didn't care if his clichés and corny jokes didn't get a smile from one person, they might from the next. So now, to the chagrin of my own teenage children, I do the same. It has made me a happier person."

C. Heard HOW TO MAKE PEOPLE LIKE YOU IN 90 SECONDS OR LESS (Listen & Live Audio), written and read by Nicholas Boothman. ... The author, a lecturer and licensed master practitioner of neurolinguistic programming, presents many useful ideas on how to mold this time to any area of your life that you want to improve—finance, romance, sports, career, you name it. Know what you want. Find out what you're getting. Change what you do until you get what you want. This is terrifically easy to remember because a certain Colonel had the good sense to open a chain of restaurants using the abbreviation KFC for a name. Every time we see one of his signs, we can ask ourselves how well the development of our communication skills is going. ... I'd especially recommend HOW TO MAKE PEOPLE LIKE YOU for those hoping to be in a relationship. Much of the advice presented here is relevant to that situation.

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5. TV alert

A. BILLBOARD MUSIC AWARDS: Sun., May 21, at 8 p.m. on PBS (check pbs.org for local listings)
Cher is believed to make her first awards-show performance in more than 15 years, singing "Believe" in anticipation of receiving the coveted Icon Award, and Celine Dion bells the Oscar-winning "My Heart Will Go On" in honor of Titanic's 20th anniversary.

B. BANON'S WAR, a Frontline film: Tues., May 23, at 10 p.m. on PBS (check pbs.org for local listings)
Steve Bannon, the man primarily responsible for most of Trump's presidential campaign, is profiled. According to THE NEWYORKTIMES, "In this hard-eyed and absorbing hour, the man ... comes vividly to life."

C. DIRTY DANCING: Wed., May 24, at 8 p.m. on ABC
I haven't heard great things about the remake of this classic film, but I'll watch because of both the music and the fact that some of it was shot in nearby Lake Lure, NC.

D. BEAT SHAZAM: comedy premiere on Thurs., May 25, on Fox
Danie Fox hosts this really game show that pits players on contestants against each other as they vie to correctly identify hit songs with the winner going against Shazam, the popular "What's the song?" phone app.

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6. Joke 2

In going through old family pictures, I came across this one. I still can't say I understand why nobody ever told my parents I was cute; rather, I do recall their folks say, "My, what a baby!" whenever they saw me in my stroller. (Thanks, Alyson Miller-Greenfield, for sharing.)

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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

- (1) Bruce Lang with accompaniment from Richard Shulman: Hallelujah [Here](#)
- (2) Herb Spiegel: Britains Got Talent - amazing 80 year old singer [Here](#)
- (3) Bettina Yiannakourou: Wil Ferrell USC Commencement Speech | USC Commencement 2017 [Here](#)
- (4) Peter, Paul and Mary "Don't Laugh at Me" [Here](#)
- (5) Cynthia Greenfield: Jennifer Hudson - I'm Changing (scene from DREAMGIRLS) [Here](#)

B. Do you wonder: How Stuff Works

If so, please click: [Here](#)

You'll find out such things as:
10 Myths About Gluten
10 Tax Credits for Single Parents
How Charitable Tax Deductions Work
Do artificial sweeteners raise your blood sugar?

I also liked the section on Quizzes and the fact that you could take them without giving your email address (and not have to share any information). Some of them were interesting, including:
Name That Scientific Character Quiz
The Ultimate Relaxation Quiz
Hypnosis Quiz
The Evolution of the iPod Quiz

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

Thanks, Jessica Curry-Ellison, for posting this Facebook: Please ... I'm asking my FB friends not to send anymore chain letters through Messenger. No flashing hearts or flowers telling me I need to send the message to 10 people, including me if I'm your friend, etc. These attachments have been found to result in rapid widespread VIRUSES (which if opened on your phone could compromise your friends/contacts lists). It is how people are getting their accounts HACKED as well I got this from a friend. They take up too much memory. More importantly, I'm afraid of viruses! Love you all, sorry!

I thought this was good advice. Consequently, I checked it out further and found the following article on the subject that I thought you'd would find of interest: [Here](#)

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9. Joke 3

When a woman wears leather clothing, a man's heart beats quicker; his throat gets dry, he goes weak in the knees, and he begins to melt. (Thank you, Every wonder why? ... She smells like a new truck. (Thanks, Joe McDermott, for sharing.)

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10. A quote I like

Good reminder! (Thanks, Michelle Baker, for sharing.)

Note: If you have difficulty seeing the quote in the illustration, it reads: "Now is no time to think of what you do not have. Think of what you can do with what there is."—Ernest Hemingway, THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA

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11. Thought for the day

Can anyone learn to be nice? No doubt it is harder for some people than for others, but anyone can make progress and see benefits. One simple strategy for doing so is mimicry: Imitate the nicest person you know.

In my own case, that was my father. My dad died fairly young, at age 66. Hundreds of people who had known him over the years showed up at his funeral, and everyone I spoke to offered more or less the same observation: He was a truly nice man. Not a bad legacy, I thought. So I set out to imitate a few of his habits.

The most salient was his cheerful interaction with total strangers. He made banter with supermarket clerks, bellmen, bus drivers—everyone. "Hot enough for ya?" he'd ask, especially in winter. This mortified me as a child, especially when his friendliness so frequently went unrequited. But he didn't care if his clichés and corny jokes didn't get a smile from one person, they might from the next. So now, to the chagrin of my own teenage children, I do the same. It has made me a happier person.

Source: "Nice people really do have more fun" by Arthur C. Brooks in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. To read the whole article, 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. NC events
- (1) Ash Devine: Blues Legend Andy Cohen with Ash Devine in Concert. (2) Magic, Mirth & Meaning Show.

B. PANJ event

Disney's "The Little Mermaid" at MCCCS Kelsey Theatre.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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