
Note: You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not tooo risqué (typically in Sections 3, 6 and 9); reviews of shows, movies and books; quotes, etc. ... Please feel free to share it with your friends. ... 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](#).

#1288
5.24.2021

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are no longer hunkering down after 62 weeks of the corona pandemic. We are now starting to get out a bit and as reported last week, we enjoyed a recent trip up North to visit some friends and relatives. This first picture was at a tasty barbecue at the home of Cynthia's nephew Benjamin Litchman, pictured with his wife Chloe, along with Cynthia's sister Joyce and her husband Marty Litchman.



B. We had a delicious Italian dinner with my daughter Risa Reavely and her husband JP at La Primavera Trattoria in West Orange.



C. Two of Cynthia's cousins, Sandy Dior (left) and Carol Bufano (to my left) joined us for lunch at Joyce's house.



D. On another day, we had lunch with Cynthia's friend Edina Hegguler (to Cynthia's left) who was a big help with moving boxes. Also pictured on the far left: Olive Gaynor, Joyce's helper.



E. And Berta Ditillo (far left), another of Cynthia's friends. visited for dinner one night.



F. Catch this week's BLAINESWORLD show by clicking: [Here](#). ... Guests: (first half) Steve Jencks, owner, Incredible Towns of WNC; and (second half): Scott Lask, founder, chief portfolio & plan designer, The Scott Lask Wealth Management Group LLC.



G. Condolences to:

- (1) Jessica Curry-Ellison and family on the passing of Jessica's mother.
- (2) Stephanie Marzuola and family on the passing of Stephanie's dad.

H. Congratulations to:

- (1) Dawn Marie Westmoreland on being accepted into Leadership Asheville.
- (2) Richard Shulman on having "Life Seasons" take 2nd place in the One World Music Awards for "Best Jazz Album!." You can listen: [Here](#).
- (3) Jeffrey Crespo on being the top producer with the Home Money Works Financial Literacy Campaign.
- (4) Chris Martin on having the good work that he does featured on WLOS. To learn more, please click: [Here](#).
- (5) Carole Stiller and Gladys Podhurst, winners of Contest #10: Each will get a pass for 30 days of unlimited access to The Washington Post.

All told, there were just two entries, so I added an extra prize, so I could make them both winners. And that reminds me it is now time to introduce ...

***** CONTEST #11 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of RISING TO THE OCCASION: THE BEST TOASTS FOR ANY CELEBRATION by Paul Dickson (courtesy of my friend Mike Lazanski) This book has a bunch of good ones, such as this one for a wedding:

Here's to the bride and mother-in-law,
Here's to the groom and father-in-law
Here's to sister and brother-in-law,
Here's to friends and friend-in-law
May none of them need an attorney-in-law.

To enter this contest. Send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #11 in the subject line. In the body of your email, include both your name and email address, as well as your mailing address. All entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Mon., June 7.

I. Invitations:

(1) Are you interested in shows, concerts, movies, TV, etc.? ... If so, I encourage you to join a new group I've formed on Facebook that's called Entertainment. To do so, all you need to do is click: [Here](#).

(2) Come join Cynthia for the virtual course she'll be teaching for Arms Around ASD this week: Move Your Body on Wednesday. To attend this and/or any of the other courses that are open to the public, scroll down to Calendar when you click: [Here](#).

(3) Please vote in the 2021 Best of WNC Readers' Poll that's now open until 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Monday, May 31... ... To register, please go to "Start Voting!" at the bottom of the page when you click: [Here](#). ... I'd be honored if you would vote in these Media categories: Local Radio Personality (Blaine Greenfield in drop-down list) and Local Events Information Source (BLAINESWORLD in drop-down list), as well as for Local Radio Station, noncommercial (WPVM in drop-down list). ... I'd also love to vote for you and/or your business. If you want me to do so, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put VOTE in the subject line. ... PS. Unfortunately, voting is not that simple. You MUST vote in at least 30 separate categories or your ballot will not be counted. Send me an email if you need any help.



J. Announcing this week's ...

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

Kudos to the Montford Park Players for its opening night production of William Shakespeare's A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. ... Set in the late 60s/early 70s, the show featured a little bit of everything: terrific costumes designed by Hannah Williams (who also provided taut direction) and Liz Mason, exciting fight scenes staged by Noah Summer, and catchy guitar tunes performed by Aaron Ybarra. ... But what made this production one

that I'll always remember were the performances from all the members of the talented cast who battled the elements. The weather was fine in the beginning, but about halfway through the first act, the rain started coming. It never let up for the rest of the night. ... Yet somehow Jonathan Robinson, Tasha Davis, Sydney Lyles, Helen Miller, Liz Mason, Bradley Langan, Noah Summers, Jayden Parton, Jonah Creech, Aaron Ybarra, Don McManus and Kai Strange managed to get through the evening without missing a beat. ... A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM runs through June 19 with performances at 7:30 p.m. at Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre. For more information, please click: [Here](#). (Pictured just before the rain: Kai Strange, left, and Aaron Ybarra, right.)



2. FYI

Want to be a professional napper? We'll pay you \$1500 to nap!

by Jasmin Lee

We are sleep obsessed, and our main goal at eachnight is to give you all the assets and information you need to get better sleep each night.

So, we wanted to test a few theories behind the pros and cons of napping to provide our community with some valuable insight. We know that in general different length naps have different benefits, but we are keen to put this to the test, and we need your help!

For more information about this exciting opportunity, as well as an application, please click: [Here](#).

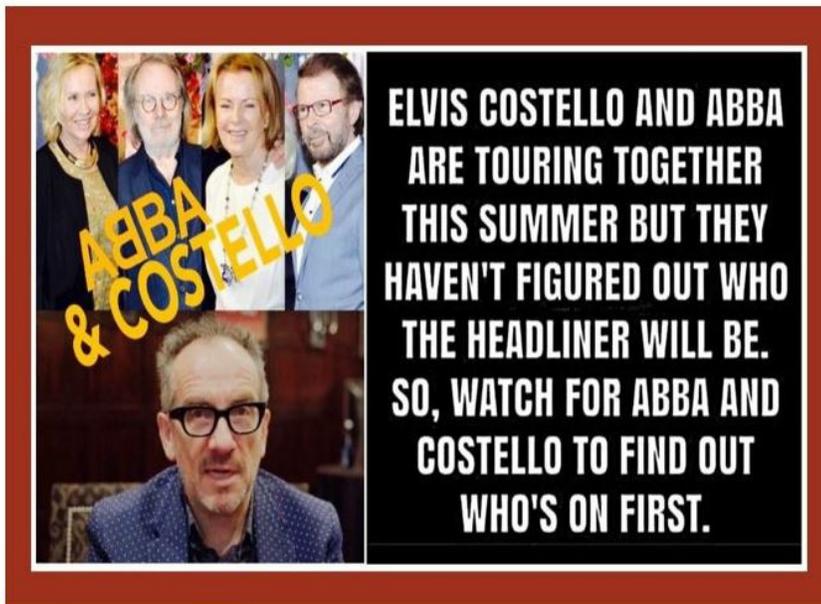
FYI, part 2

For more information about the following articles, please click: [Here](#).

A. Nancy Clark: Kind People Are Suffering From Cruelty Sickness. B. How to Buy Happiness (Responsibly). C. The Secret Psychology of Sneaker Colors. D. Paying the Price for Sun Damage.

3. Joke 1

This had been previously discussed in the classic "Who's on First" routine. To view it, please click: [Here](#). (Thanks, Scott Patrick, for sharing.)



4. Reviews

A. I revisited 1999's *BOWFINGER* and was glad I did. This comedy is about an aspiring filmmaker (Steve Martin) who devises a crazy plan to make his ultimate dream movie. Using a ragtag team that includes a starry-eyed ingenue (Heather Graham), a has-been diva (Christine Baranski) and a film studio gofer (Jamie Kennedy), he sets out to shoot a blockbuster featuring the biggest star in Hollywood, Kit Ramsey (Eddie Murphy)--only without letting Ramsey know he's in the picture, Murphy is terrific in two different role, and I especially liked the ending. Rated PG-13.

B. Jon Stewart made an impressive directorial debut with *ROSEWATER*, a fact-based 2014 film about a journalist interrogated and tortured for 118 days because he smuggled footage of riots in Iran to the BBC. Gael García Bernal, as always, was impressive in the leading role. Rated R.

C. Alex Trebeck's memoir, *THE ANSWER IS ... REFLECTIONS ON MY LIFE* (Simon & Schuster), was one of the best such books I've ever read--and I'm not even a regular viewer of the *JEOPARDY!* show he hosted for 37 seasons.

He was just such a nice guy, much like he seemed to be on television.

Although he was dying when he wrote the book, his story shows that the key is to do what he did; i.e., keep moving forward.

I also liked how he always attempted to have his contestants shine.

In addition, I enjoyed the many pictures.

But perhaps most of all, I enjoyed the tidbits from his show, including his answers to such audience questions as the following:

What's your favorite color?

Gray, it matches my personality.

If you weren't hosting *JEOPARDY!*, what would you be doing?

I think I'd be a good pope. I look good in white.

What are your favorite JEOPARDY! categories:
Geography ... Movies ... Movies about Geography.

Who do you think should replace you?
Someone younger. Someone brighter. Someone funnier. Betty Shite.

And I loved learning about his outlook on life, such as when he reflected on how he would like to be remembered:

I don't think about it much. ... But I suppose if I had to answer, I would say I'd like to be remembered first of all as a good and loving husband and father, and also as a decent man who did his best to help people perform at their best. Because that was my job. ... If you put the focus on the players rather than on yourself, the viewers will look on you as a good guy. If that's the way I'm remembered, I'm perfectly happy with that.

Note: After writing the above, I just had to watch some YouTube clips of Trebeck. Here are two that I think you'll like: [Here](#) and [Here](#).

5. TV alert

A. THE KOMINSKY METHOD: Season 3 now on Netflix

Unfortunately, Alan Arkin is no longer in any episodes of this funny comedy about a self-absorbed acting coach played by Michael Douglas, but I look forward to seeing Kathleen Turner as a regular.

B. BORAT'S AMERICAN LOCKDOWN & DEBUNKING BORAT: Now on Amazon Prime

I found this show scary, especially given the fact that it was necessary for Hillary Clinton to rebut the wild belief that she and other politicians are somehow secret bloodthirsty child torturers... What's also frightening is that QAnon's focus on suspicions of trafficking and violence against kids can manipulate people into believing they're actually supporting something good.

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

C. ZOEY'S EXTRAORDINARY PLAYLIST MARATHON: Beginning Sun., May 30, at 9 a.m. and running through Mon., May 31, on E!

Watch all 25 episodes of the musical dramedy back-to-back. And to find out more about the fate of the tuneful series, please click: [Here](#).

I'm certainly hoping there is a Series 3!

D. THE 43RD ANNUAL KENNEDY CENTER HONORS: Sun., June 6, at 8 p.m. on CBS

TV legend Dick Van Dyke, country icon Barth Brooks, famed actress and choreographer Debbie Allen, singer-songwriter and activist Joan Baez and violinist Midori receive their medals in this show that's always one of my favorites.

E. REBEL is an ABC freshman drama show based on Erin Brockovich's life, created by Krista Vernoff and starring Katey Sagal. It airs on Thursdays at 10 p.m. on ABC, and I've become a big fan of it.

The series combines drama with elements of comedy and deconstructs sexist and ageist stereotypes along its way. On May 14, 2021, one day after the show's 5th episode aired, ABC announced that Rebel will not be back for a second season. We believe the decision to cancel the show was rash! The series was not given enough time to establish itself and to build an audience! The show deserves a second season! If you agree please sign the petition and spread the word: [Here](#).

6. Joke 2

A Mexican magician tells the audience he is going to disappear on the count of 3. He says, "Uno, dos ..." and then ... Poof! He disappears without a tres.



7. Clips/Websites

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

(1) As mentioned previously, this section will feature music by The Turtles--either their recordings and/or covers of their music by others.

I'd especially love to see any recording you may have done of "Happy Together."

Send it to: bginbc@aol.com and put THE TURTLES in the subject line.

Note: Even if you did not do a recording, I welcome anything done by others--not only of "Happy Together," but any other Turtles' song.

(2) For this week, please view this piano tutorial: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

Thanks, Jennifer Hartzog, for the following: A Brief But Spectacular take on dancing into old age: [Here](#).

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

(1) "Till Then" (from 1776):, one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

Note: To see a fine production of the entire play, performed by the Rochester Community Players, please click: [Here](#).

(2) Howard Smith: Hymns, 5.30.21: [Here](#).

(3) Aaron Ybarra: Digital church, 5.30.2021: [Here](#).

(4) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: Jumpin Jack Flash is one of the most popular as well as one of the most covered Rolling Stones songs and you may be surprised how the song came about. [Here](#).

(5) Jonathan Berg: The Tennis Tenors. Grigor Dimitrov, Tommy Haas and Roger Federer give their rendition of the classic hit song from Chicago, "Hard To Say I'm Sorry", during the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells. Video courtesy Roger Federer. Great cameo by Novak Djokovic: [Here](#).

(6) Incredible base running: [Here](#).

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

Original comedy videos have been appearing on Funny or Die for years now, usually starring the Hollywood elite (such as Emma Stone, Jack Black, Charlize Theron, and many others), thanks to big-names like founders Will Ferrell and Adam McKay--the jokers behind the ANCHORMAN films. Even Barack Obama visited. ... To check it out yourself, please click: [Here](#).

When you do, you can even check out "An Open Letter To My Dog Who Won't Stop Licking Himself" by clicking: [Here](#).

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

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: [Here](#).

8. Technology tip

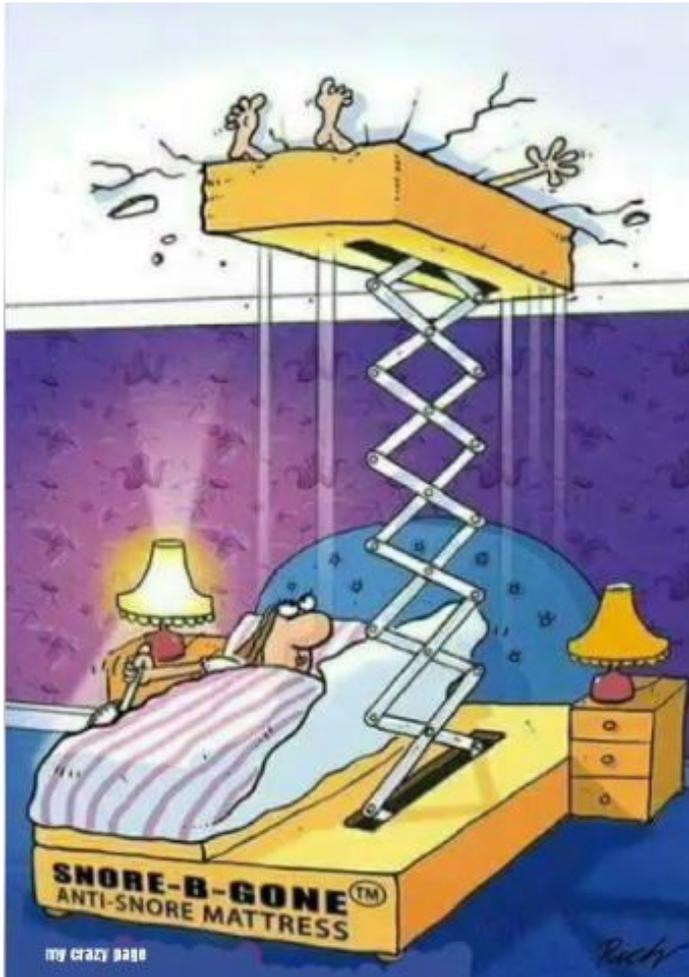
This weekend is your last chance to backup all of your pictures and videos on Google Photos for free by Matt Binder

Pictures from your baby's first birthday. Old photos of grandparents long gone. Videos from your wedding day. If you have a lot of digital pictures and videos scattered around your various computers and hard drives, you'll want to back them up.

And this Memorial Day weekend is your last chance to back them up with a reputable service, absolutely free.

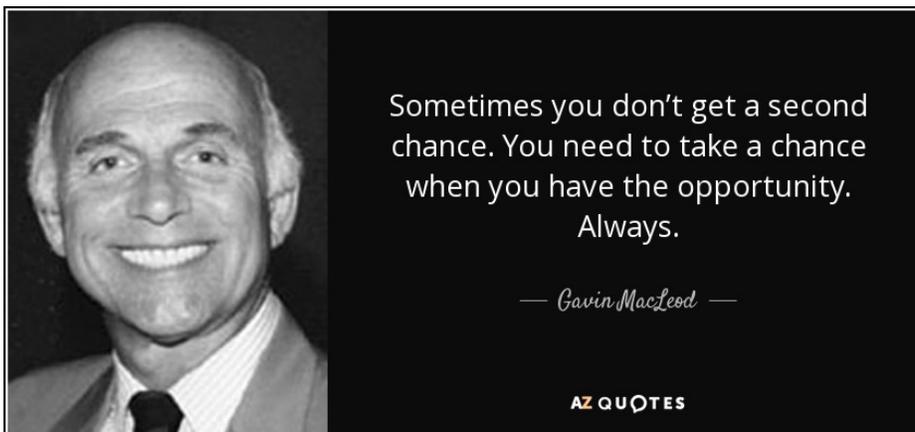
9. Joke 3

Where do I get one? (Thanks, Elaine Lea Goldstein Bilk, for sharing.)



10, A quote I like

Thanks, Gavin MacLeod (1931-2021), for your career as an actor, Christian activist and author. I'll most remember you as Murray in THE MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW and as Captain Stubin on THE LOVE BOAT. For more information about his life, please click: [Here](#).



11. Thought for the day

Roland and Elinore

by Brian Biro*

When my Great Uncle Roland married his dazzlingly beautiful wife Elinore in their early 20's their future seemed filled with happiness and promise. One short year later they were stunned by the vicious onset of polio that left Elinore with a tube permanently inserted through her trachea and the need to use an iron lung to breathe for the rest of her life.

I was just nine years old when I first met Elinore but I will never forget that visit. Though she was bed-ridden and very difficult for me to understand because of her tracheotomy, her smile and warmth touched my heart instantly. It was the first time I had ever been around someone with such severe physical challenges and yet being around Elinore and Roland filled my young spirit with joy and admiration rather than sadness or pity. The love they felt for each other was so rich, so genuine, and so unaffected by the seemingly cruel circumstances they had been dealt by Elinore's polio, that it stirred feelings in me I had never known before.

That moment changed the way I saw the world. For the first time I realized that it's not what happens TO us in life, it's what we DO and DECIDE with what happens. Roland and Elinore lived a love-filled and happy life together for more than 40 years. They relished every precious moment. When Elinore passed away, I realized an even greater truth. I finally understood that when we focus on controlling our controllables...our spirit, attitude, love, and faith...that truly life doesn't happen TO us, but rather life happens FOR us. Often our life doesn't happen as we expect. It can seem unfair, confusing, and even harsh. But no matter the events and apparent obstacles we encounter we are always given the choice to choose faith over fear, to look to grow rather than fall into woe, and to cherish every moment of kindness, compassion, warmth, and love. The greatest gift of all is called TODAY. And tomorrow when you arise, there will be a brand new today waiting for you to choose what to make of it.

* Brian Biro

Husband, father, grandfather, Speaker, author

America's Breakthrough Coach

For more information: [Here](#).

12. Advance planning department

For more information about each of these events, please click: [Here](#).

A. Jeanie Linders: The Very Famous ELECTRA bring Bette Midler alive. B. Brenda Lunsford Lilly: Casting of short plays. C. Jimmy Ferraro: Murder Mystery for Hire.

PS. Make it a great week!
