

BLAINES WORLD

#1238
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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) Are continuing to hunker down in Week 13 of the corona pandemic. ... We did manage to go out for our first meal since this all began, enjoying delicious cheeseburgers and fries from Farm Burger. ... During the week, we also were able to get our hair done for the first time in over three months.



(2) Celebrated the birthday of Rachel Shanken, Cynthia's niece, along with her husband Ezra and a bunch of other relatives and friends via a Zoom call.



(3) Continued to experience delight in Cynthia's cooking. She even let me help make one of her specialties: slob gob.

And because we hate hearing you beg, here is the recipe for it:
Cynthia's slob gob

Ingredients:

1. Best chopped meat you can buy. Use lots.
2. Pasta of your choice.
3. Tomato sauce (homemade or store bought).
4. Add onions and spices to taste.

Directions:

1. Mix everything.
2. Put in a baking pan and bake it for 30 minutes.
3. Or you can just put it into separate servings and microwave, and this also turns out just fine.

Note: For best results, add Cynthia's "secret" ingredient: lots of love!



B. I'm wondering if I should adopt a new nickname; i.e., Mr. Fixit? Here I am, putting back a kitchen shelf that had become dislodged. Pretty impressive work, if I do say so myself.





C. Thanks, Love Bubble (Peggy Ratusz, Paula Hanke and Hank Bones), for a terrific evening of songs. In case you missed the show and/or want to see it again, please click: [Here](#) And as you do, please join me in showing the group some appreciation--and love--by clicking: [Here](#).



D. BLAINESWORLD, the radio show on WPVM, featured the following two guests you won't want to miss: C. Robert Jones, playwright; and Chelsey Gaddy, artistic director of Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre. To view it, please click: [Here](#).



E. Congratulations to:

(1) Elsten Torres on being a newly elected Governor of the Florida Chapter of The Recording Academy.

(2) Kay Galvin on her appearance on STARGIRL, a TV show on The CW.

(3) Chandler Smith on being named Artistic Director for the Great Smoky Mountain Murder Mystery Dinner Show in Pigeon Forge, TN.

(4) Mary Summers on having her informative blog entry, "For the Love of Bees," published in GreenWorks. To read it, please click: [Here](#).

(5) Helene and Ron Peyton on the birth of Noal William, their grandson.

(6) Kelli Brown Mullinix on being appointed Local Licensed Pastor to First UMC Hendersonville.

F. Upcoming dates to remember:

(1) Five lucky winners will win a book on CD. If you still have a CD player at home and/or in your car, this is the contest for you. Here are the five books that I have available as prizes: (1) LOW PRESSURE by Sandra Brown; (2) THE WAR LOVERS by Evan Thomas; (3) THE BRAVE by Nicholas Evans; (4) THE BRIDE COLLECTOR; and (5) CLEOPATRA: A LIFE by Stacy Schiff. ... Note: To find out what each book is about, visit: [Here](#).

If you would like to enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #11 in the subject line. In the body of the email, include your first, second and third choices for the book on CD you'd most like to win. Also, please include your name and mailing address. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Mon., June 15.

(2) Join Cynthia in either of the two courses she teaches for Arms Around ASD: Meditation on Mondays and Move Your Body on Wednesdays. To attend these information and/or any of the others (that are open to the public), scroll down to Calendar when you click: [Here](#).

(3) Join me in this year's Step2Raise Challenge for the Dementia Society of America by clicking: [Here](#).

Note: When you register, I'd love have you join the BLAINESWORLD team. Or another option is to start your own team.

(4) The fabulous Bruce Lang will appear in a virtual concert for SART on Friday, June 26, at 7:30. Details to follow on the Facebook pages of Bruce Lang, SART and yours truly, but if you can't wait to get them, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put BRUCE LANG in the subject line.

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



This week, it goes to John Ager (pictured on the right at an event we both attended a few years ago)--my representative for the 115th district in the NC House of Representatives. ... He has done an excellent job representing not only me but all residents since his election in 2015. .. However, something he just did really impressed me. ... I had a fairly large pothole (pictured on the right) on the street where

I live. I tried to track down who was responsible for its repair and got conflicting reports with many people telling me that my street wasn't even included in Buncombe County. ... So I posted the question in the Fariview Nextdoor and within two days, I got 50 responses. One was from John. He immediately got involved in the situation, contacting the NCDOT on my behalf. By the next day, the pothole was repaired. ... Now that's service. ... Thanks to John, as well as to the DOT, for the way this matter was handled!

Update about the above individual: Some geese were unfortunately run over by a car in our neighborhood a few weeks ago. When informed about this by a friend of mine, John jumped in with suggestions about how to solve the problem of getting cars to slow down on Charlotte Highway. He also requested to be kept in the loop, so as to possibly be of assistance in the future.

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2. FYI

Spectrum is the company we use for both our internet and cable TV service.

We're pleased with the internet service, but not overly crazy about the cable TV service. Aside from there being a terrible box (that doesn't even let you tape the same programs upstairs and downstairs), we were paying for a lot of stations that we never used--and could not get the one, Turner Classic Movies, that we really wanted.

Fortunately, I recently discussed an option that Spectrum doesn't publicize: Spectrum TV Choice. It is a live TV streaming service available only to Spectrum internet customers. It offers a trimmed-down channel lineup (10 cable channels of your choice plus local channels) and a lower monthly price (\$24.99 per month) than traditional cable TV plans.

This was just what we wanted, so we switched over to it. We not only save a lot of money, we also get Turner Classic Movies.

Note: If you don't have Spectrum, check with your local cable company to find out if some similar plan is offered.

FYI, part 2

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

A. Honor Moor: Know The Signs: How to tell if your grandparent has become an antifa agent. B. Karen Mazza: Oh my gosh, the cake joke it's hilarious! C. Jean Dolan: [satire] A NOTE REGARDING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK FROM YOUR UNIVERSITY'S VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS. D. How to Have Friends Over. E. 5 Rules to Live By During a Pandemic. F. When Will It Be Safe to Sing Together Again?

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3. Joke 1

Reminds me of some insurance policies I've had. And it has me writing a note to myself: "Self, read any future policies before you purchase them, especially the part in 6 pt. font size on the back of page 111." (Thanks, Joe Hodgson, for sharing.)





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4. Reviews

A. Saw SUNRISE IN HEAVEN on Netflix. It's a faith-based true story about a couple who get married and start living together despite the disapproval of the girl's father. Flashbacks are used effectively to move the story along and while I won't tell you what happens (it would ruin the suspense), I will tell you that this is a film I think you might enjoy. Corbin Bernsen and Dee Wallace star, along with two younger actors I had never seen before: Caylee Cowan and Travis Burns. Rated NR, but appropriate for anybody over the age of 12.

B. Natalie Courtman Flank: if you love CHORUS LINE as much as me, you will love, EVERY LITTLE STEP: THE MAKING OF A CHORUS LINE. It is on Amazon Prime. Enjoy!!!

C. Read FINDING CHIKA: A LITTLE GIRL, AN EARTHQUAKE, AND THE MAKING OF A FAMILY (Harper) by Mitch Albom. ... The author had previously written TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE, one of my all-time favorite books. That was about what can be learned from a dying individual who had lived a long life. In CHIKA, Albom learns life lessons from a very young Haitian girl found in an orphanage. The story is both beautiful and gut wrenching. I recommend it highly.

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5. TV alert

A. DA 5 BLOODS: Now available via Netflix
Spike Lee looks through the memories of a squad of aging African-American veterans, led by a strong case including Delroy Lindo and Chadwick Bosman.

B. MAE WEST: DIRTY BLONDE: Tues., June 16, at 8 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at pbs.org)
This AMERICAN MASTERS profile takes a look at the provocative screen actor.

C. GREAT PERFORMANCES: ANN: Fri., June 19, at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at pbs.org)
Holland Taylor received a Tony nomination for this one-woman play that she both wrote and stars in about Ann Richards, the charismatic governor of Texas from 1991 to 1995.

D. PERRY MASON: Season premiere on Sun., June 21, at 9 p.m. on HBO
Matthew Rhys stars in a drama that takes a look at the early years of the classic TV courtroom lawyer. Jonathan Lithgow also is in the cast.

E. Thanks, Mike Martinelli, for sharing the good news that ZOEY'S EXTRAORDINARY PLAYLIST has been extended for Season 2. For more information, please click: [Here](#).

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6. Joke 2

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocaine during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.





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7. Clips/Websites

A. The Turtles, 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 find this cover version from 2018 that I was part of: [Here](#).

Other performers were Ryan Garcia, Ellen Pappas, Walter Goodrich, Phillippe Andre Coquet, Carol Duermit, Ruth Planey and Richard Shulman.

B. Video of the week

Thanks, Tom Giarldi, for sharing this beautiful song that he both wrote and did the music for: "Memories My Yesterday." Jenna O'Neill is the singer. It can be viewed by clicking: [Here](#).

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

(1) The Thymes: "So Much in Love," one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

Mr. Curious here: The above group performed this song at a high school prom I attended in 1967, but I'm now not sure what school it was--either Lawrence High School or Hewlett High School. If you know, please drop me a note with the correct information.

(2) Aaron Ybarra: Digital Church- 3 John: [Here](#).

(3) Ashleigh Phillips: Danny Boy: [Here](#).

(4) A Great Big World - Where Does the Time Go: [Here](#).

(5) Cynthia Greenfield: That Old New Jersey: [Here](#).

(6) Natalie Kaye: "You'll Never Walk Alone" Virtual Choir/Orchestra 15 Countries: 300 People: [Here](#).

D. Website of the week ... check out Apartment Therapy by clicking: [Here](#).

You'll get unique ideas about how to make your home look pleasing to the eyes. Plus, it also offers some killer tips and the visual tours of people's apartments and homes, so that you can get inspiration from them to design your abode beautifully.

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](#).

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8. Technology tip

Cynthia Greenfield: I love a product called Screen Mom. It is a natural screen cleaner that is odor free, streak free and ammonia free, as well as anti-static. The cost is a little over 1 penny per spray.

It is perfect for all TVs, Laptops and phones.

I've tried other products that supposedly did the same thing, but nothing compares to Screen Mom. For more information, please click: [Here](#).

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9. Joke 3

Let's hope that when things return to normal, this gender pay gap becomes a thing of the past.



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10. A quote I like

"This is a moment, and we have had moments like this before where people are paying attention. And that doesn't mean that everything will get solved, so don't get disheartened, because this is a marathon, not a sprint. But the fact that people are paying attention provides an opportunity to educate, activate, mobilize and act. And I hope we are able to seize this moment."--Former President Barack Obama at a virtual town hall on June 3, 2020





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11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Brian Biro, for your gracious permission to run the following from your recent newsletter:

A New Vision for a Healing Virus!
by Brian Biro

In the past three months I have seen more fear, uncertainty, disruption, and discouragement than ever before in my sixty-five years. Covid-19 struck our world like a runaway train causing devastation to families around the world directly impacted by loss of life and intense illness. For millions of others, the devastation has been economic, debilitating lifestyles with the suddenness of a high-speed car crash. Then, just as the loss of life from the virus spiraled past 100,000 in the US, we have been punched even harder in the gut by the perhaps even more insidious diseases of racism, cruelty, and violence.

Never before have we more needed to heal, to hope, to hear one another, and to remember that the pursuit of happiness must be available to all.

For the rest of this insightful piece, please go to Section 1 when you click: [Here](#).



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12. Advance planning department

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

A. Steve Anderson: Special chorus guests. B. One Act Festival at The Magnetic Theatre. C. Josh Goforth at White Horse Black Mountain.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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