

**From:** Blainesworld blaine@blainesworld.net  
**Subject:** blainesworld 1500 (Please read Sections 1A & 2 for news about Cynthia's sister.)  
**Date:** June 8, 2025 at 5:35 PM  
**To:** hank@hankeder.com



# BLAINESWORLD

You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not toooo 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](#).

#1500  
6.9.2025

## In this issue

1. Reflections
2. Cynthia's Corner
3. Invites
4. FYI
5. Joke 1
6. Reviews
7. TV Alert
8. Joke 2
9. Clips/Websites
10. Technology Tip
11. Joke 3
12. Two Quotes I Like
13. Thought For The Day

## 1. Reflections

A. With love and gratitude, Cynthia and I remember her beloved sister, Joyce Litchman, who passed away peacefully on Monday night. Joyce was a remarkable woman whose kindness, strength and spirit touched everyone who knew her. Though she will be deeply missed, her legacy lives on in the hearts of all who loved her. Her funeral was held on Wednesday. You can read more about her extraordinary life by clicking: <https://tinyurl.com/mu58d24f>.

Note For more about Joyce, please read Section 2, Cynthia's Corner. And then join me in thinking about Joyce by reading Sect. 13.





B. Thanks to y'all for reading this milestone edition of the BLAINESWORLD blog: #1500!

If you're a new reader of this missive, here's what it's all about: a weekly blend of humor, inspiration, reviews, shout-outs to amazing people and things that make life just a bit brighter. It's part newsletter, part conversation and 100% from my heart.

And please let me know if you were a reader back when it first launched on October 13, 1996 under the name STUFF. I'd love to hear from you.

C. If you like BLAINESWORLD, kindly help spread the word about it by encouraging your 437 closest friends and relatives to subscribe by clicking this link: [Here](#).

All they have to do is give their email address and then they'll be added to the free mailing list.

### **PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD**



D. Writing this while still in New Jersey with Cynthia, my beautiful bride, for Joyce's funeral.

(1) We had a great trip up via United Airlines. In particular, the seats were about the roomiest we've ever had.

(2) In addition, we appreciated the wheelchair service that was provided. It made it possible for Cynthia to get around the airport without too much difficulty. (Both her knee and back seem to be getting better, but she is still not back to where she wants to be.)

(3) We also have been pleased with the car rental company we're using: STIX. Our rental vehicle, a Nissan Rogue, is oh-so roomy and has us thinking the it might well be the next vehicle we buy.

(4) We are also loving the place we are staying at: Sonesta Simply Suites in Morris Plains and especially the fact that we have a full kitchen with a refrigerator/freezer. We will definitely seek a Sonesta property the next time we travel.

(5) Lastly, and perhaps best of all, we got to have lunch at the Whippany Diner. It was Joyce's favorite diner, and we could see why. We loved being able to chose items from a 12-page menu, and our meals were delicious.

were delicious.



E. We had a blast at a barbecue at the home of Cynthia's nephew Benjamin Litchman, his wife Chloe and their two children, Sonny and Frankie (top photos). We also got to celebrate the birthdays of Cynthia's nieces Rachel Shanken and Dari Litchman (bottom photo).



F. On Saturday, we brought in some tasty food from Nikko Japanese Restaurant.





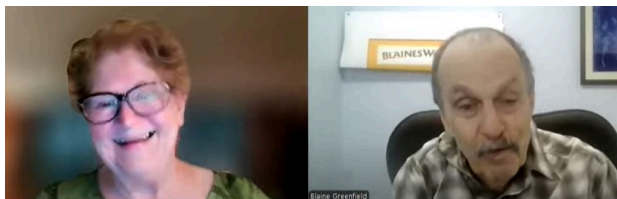
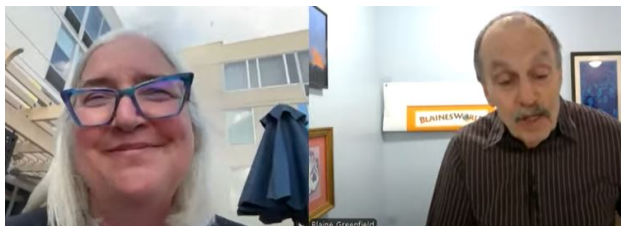
G. And afterward, we got flavorful ice cream from Last Licks in East Hanover. In honor of Joyce, we also got her favorite flavor: chocolate chip. I'm just sorry that more places don't offer it anymore.



H. During the week, I got to host two BLAINESWORLD webcasts. They can be viewed by clicking: [Here](#).

(1) Top: 6.2.2025 - Delia Bailey--Coach, Instructor and Trainer

(2) Bottom: 6.3.2025 - Catherine Yael Serota--Author, Storyteller, Mentor, Philanthropist



I. Announcing this week's ...

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

This week, it goes to Extra gum, which is a long-time favorite of mine or good reason—it offers a burst of

flavor that actually lasts. Whether you're a fan of classic Peppermint and Spearmint, tasty Winterfresh (my favorite), the sweet zing of Polar Ice, the fruity fun of Sweet Watermelon or Berry Burst or even the tropical twist of Piña Colada (yes, it's a thing, but I haven't been able to find it yet), Extra delivers consistent chewability and breath-freshening power. It's sugar-free, easy to carry and perfect for everything from post-coffee breath to mid-afternoon pick-me-ups. A small stick with a big impact—Extra lives up to its name.

For more information, click:  
<https://www.extragum.com/>.

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## 2. Cynthia's Corner

Joyce, My Sister, and Life and Death

What is death? The absence of life. The monitors stop. Breath stops. And then, the heart. The experience of touching my sister's face afterward was powerful—so different from life. I looked for her there, but instead found stillness: heavy, solid lifelessness. It helped me realize—that is not her.

Like in the song "Going Home" by Leonard Cohen, her body was a suit she once wore, now clammy and absent of energy, of life force. I love the words of that song:

"Going home without my sorrow,  
Going home to where it's better than before,  
Going home without my burden,  
Going home without this costume that I wore."

To listen to the whole song, click  
[Here](#).

My nephew Benjamino—as I call him—and Joyce's husband Marty spoke so raw, so real, so beautifully of the presence and power of the life force that my sister was.

Joyce was a force. She was strong, powerful, generous. She stood in her truth.

So many people showed up at the funeral and Shiva. I loved speaking to the many friends she had—from her new community to lifelong friends from childhood. Hearing their stories expanded my vision of who she was. It made her even more real to me.

If it weren't for Joyce, I would not be here.  
If it weren't for Joyce, I would not have felt so lonely.  
If it weren't for Joyce, I would not have laughed so much.

Where are you now, Joyce? That feels like an important question.

Are you in the deep quiet I felt at the cemetery as you were lowered into the ground, and we threw dirt on your grave? Are you in the line of mourners we walked between—those two rows of people who supported us, touched us, cared for us, loved us?

So much love.  
So much absence of Joyce.  
I will keep looking. And one day, we will find each other again.

Please, if you choose, share any ideas or experiences of your own on this topic.

Warmly,  
Cynthia (Greenfield)  
[cgreenfield1001@aol.com](mailto:cgreenfield1001@aol.com)

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## 3. Invites

A. Last chance to enter

A. Last chance to enter ...

**\*\*\*\*\* CONTEST #7 \*\*\*\*\***

One lucky reader will win a copy of Sovereign Oak by my friend Moe Davis.

And yes, this is the same Moe Davis who is a retired Air Force Col. stepping back into familiar turf--running for Congress in North Carolina's 11th Congressional District. For more information about that, click: <https://smokymountainnews.com/news/item/39515-moe-davis-enters-nc-11-congressional-race>.

To quote from the Amazon description about the book:  
Sovereign Oak, a historical novel set in the Blue Ridge Mountains outside of Asheville, North Carolina, tells the story of three historical events that took place in the Swannanoa Valley between the late 1700s and the late 1800s. These three short stories, which are based on actual events, lay the groundwork for the main story, a modern-day fictional tale of a couple who move to Asheville expecting to live quiet and uneventful lives in retirement ... until their past catches up with them and suddenly their lives are in danger. Will they be saved? And who ... or what ... might save them?

To enter the contest, send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put CONTEST #7 in the subject line. Include in the body of the email your name and mailing address, so that if you win, Moe can send you a copy of this book. Entries must be received on or before the 9 p.m. on Mon., June 9.

B. 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. Send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com), if interested, and put WEBCAST in the subject line. And for more information, click: <https://www.blaineworld.net/>.

C. 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.

D. 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.

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#### 4. FYI

A. With 7 Words, the Pilot on Our Delayed Delta Air Lines Flight Won Over a Plane Full of Cranky Passengers:  
<https://www.inc.com/jason-aten/with-7-words-the-pilot-on-our-delayed-delta-air-lines-flight-won-over-a-plane-full-of-cranky-passengers/91193916>

B. How Much Money Do You Need to Retire Comfortably in Your State?:  
<https://www.entrepreneur.com/money-finance/how-much-money-do-you-need-to-retire-comfortably-in-your/491643>

C. Harvard-trained investor: I've repeated this 6-word mantra daily since I was 20:  
<https://www.cnbc.com/2025/05/30/investor-alexa-von-tobel-daily-mantra-ive-used-since-i-was-20.html/>

D. This Common Butter Alternative May Be Worse for You Than Butter, New Study Suggests?  
<https://www.eatingwell.com/margarine-diabetes-heart-disease-study-11744653>

E. 8 Morning Habits That Are Sabotaging Your Health, According to Experts:  
<https://www.realsimple.com/morning-habits-bad-for-your-health-11744763>

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#### 5. Joke 1

They're uploading this to TikTok with the caption: "Found a historical artifact."



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## 6. Reviews

A. *The Harder They Fall* is a bold, stylish and unapologetically Black Western that reinvents the genre with swagger and soul. Featuring a powerhouse cast including Jonathan Majors, Idris Elba, Regina King and Zazie Beetz, the film blends classic cowboy action with a fresh soundtrack and razor-sharp dialogue. Director Jeymes Samuel delivers a visually stunning ride that pays homage to real-life Black historical figures while rewriting the rules of the Wild West. It's very violent, vibrant and deeply satisfying—a cinematic shootout where representation rides tall in the saddle. It's now on Netflix. Rated R and be forewarned: all the killings might turn you off.

B. Netflix's *The Killer* is an electrifyingly violent and meticulously crafted thriller from David Fincher, anchored by a steely Michael Fassbender as a nameless assassin. The film opens with a chillingly precise Parisian sniper mission and dives into a visceral spiral as a hit gone wrong pulls him into brutal revenge and global chaos. Fincher's signature slick visuals and cold modernity are on full display—surveillance-tech, corporate settings, even *The Smiths* soundtrack lending an eerie calm amid blood-soaked set pieces. The violence is swift and shocking—particularly a savage Florida mano-a-mano tussle and a staircase kill so clinical it's downright chilling. Not for everybody because of all the killings. Rated R.

### C. Book review:

*Never Have Your Dog Stuffed: And Other Things I've Learned* by Alan Alda is a warm, witty and deeply human memoir that balances humor with heartfelt reflection. Alda recounts his journey from a quirky childhood (yes, involving a taxidermied pet dog) to his life in show business, offering keen insights with charm and self-deprecating honesty. His storytelling is engaging throughout, and his voice—both literally and narratively—makes the Kindle book especially enjoyable. That said, I did miss the visual elements; without the printed book's photos that I would have liked to have seen. Still, Alda's sincerity and humor more than make up for it, making this a thoughtful and entertaining listen.

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## 7. TV Alert

A. 2025 Tony Awards (CBS on June 8 at 8 p.m.)  
Eight actors over 50 are nominated for Broadway's top honor, including George Clooney, Mia Farrow and Audra McDonald.

B. Tyler Perry's *Straw* (Netflix)  
The latest Netflix original movie by Tyler Perry, 55, stars Taraji P. Henson, 54, as a hard-luck single mother

pushed to the breaking point when she's unable to buy medicine for her sick young daughter

C. A Working Man (Prime Video)

Sylvester Stallone, 78, produced and co-wrote this two-fisted action hit about a terrorist fighter turned construction worker (his *The Expendables* costar Jason Statham, 57) who must rescue his boss's teen daughter from sex traffickers using his particular set of skills.

D. *The Clock* (Turner Classic Movies on Tues., June 10, at 1:30 p.m.)

A G.I. en route to Europe falls in love during a whirlwind two-day leave in New York City. Judy Garland and Robert Walker star. Place article copy here. Be sure to make the articles short and concise as people tend not to read much more than a couple of paragraphs. Place article copy here.

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## 8. Joke 2

Breaking news: Local man chooses humor over longevity!



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## 9. Clips/Websites

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 @jugo1209 performing it by clicking:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/yPWWLZsmJ2I>.

Note: Feel free to submit your choices for greatest recording artists, music, etc. I'll try to run what you send me in in section 8C (below).

B. Video of the week

Queen performing at Live Aid in front of 72,000 people in Wembley Stadium, London on the 13th July, 1985. The event was organized by Sir Bob Geldof and Midge Ure to raise funds for the Ethiopian famine disaster. Broadcast across the world via one of the largest satellite link-ups of all time, the concerts were seen by around 40% of the global population.

To view this amazing show, click:

to view this amazing show, click:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLIAp5nr0q0>.

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

(1) Judy Collins, "Both Sides Now," one of my favorites:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQOuxByR5VI>

(2) Howard Smith Jr.: Hymns (6.8.2025):  
<https://www.facebook.com/hs.smith.73/videos/9667972163315070>

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: Tony Levin:  
<https://www.facebook.com/neilratnerrockdoc/videos/578609491578810>

(4) Neil mentions "Steam." You can see that song performed by clicking:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvrRLD3wmcw> .

(5) Every living thing needs love:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/8g1vdqncfjyv1qv1y29y/Every-living-thing-needs-love..mp4?rlkey=5qbcbkhj0d7dq3nnnn70x0t0x&e=1&st=ltje2q7t&dl=0>

(Thanks, Jonathan Berg, for sharing.)

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

Duotrigordle is like Wordle on steroids. Instead of just one puzzle, you get 32 of them to solve at the same time. Every guess you make changes all 32 puzzles, making you feel like an octopus trying to guess words.

To play it, click:  
<https://duotrigordle.com/>.

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 looking for my name: Blaine Greenfield. You'll know it is me by the fact that I have a blue shirt and that, naturally, I have a thumb up. .

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## 10. Technology Tip

The Volume Buttons on Your iPhone Have Countless Hidden Features  
by Sean Cate

We are all well-acquainted with the iPhone and how it's changed over the years. But even though the device has just three places to press, the iPhone volume buttons aren't limited to just managing sound. These buttons hide a range of functions beyond their simple, surface-level role.<sup>1</sup> Let's explore the untapped potential and discover how these buttons can be used for a multitude of tasks.

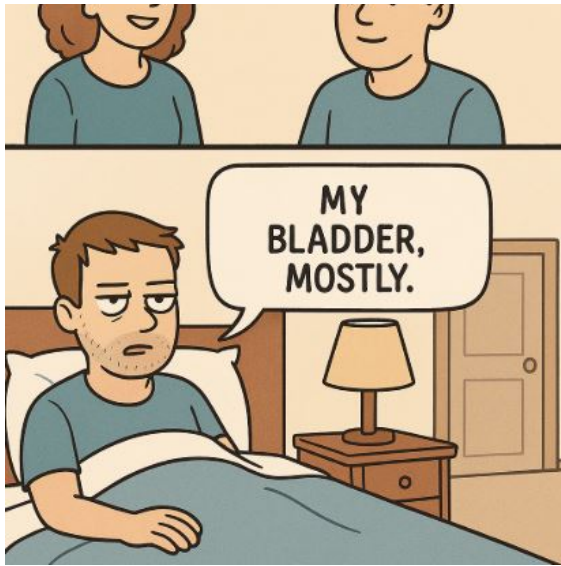
For the rest of this informative article, click:  
<https://tinyurl.com/3mwmp3ns>.

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## 11. Joke 3

Methinks this guy needs an alarm clock that plays music, so he can listen to Wham!'s "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go." If you also want to hear this classic song, you can do so by clicking:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plgZ7gMze7A>.



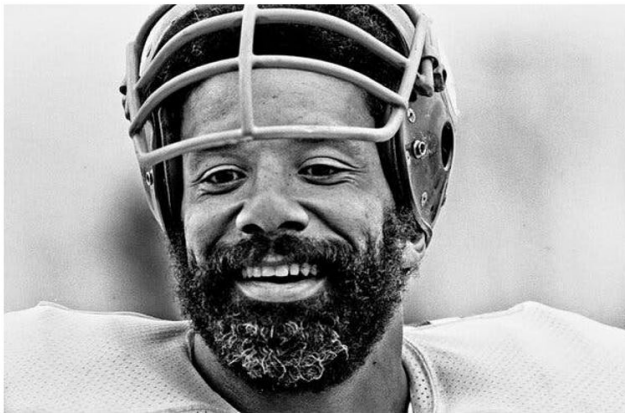


## 12. Two Quotes I Like

A. Thanks, Jim Marshall (1937-2025), for your career as an American professional football player who was a defensive end in the National Football League for 20 seasons, primarily with the Minnesota Vikings. He recovered an NFL career-record 29 opponents' fumbles. He also holds the league career marks for most consecutive starts (270) and most games played (282) by a defensive player. For more information about his life, click:

[https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/03/sports/football/jim-marshall-dead.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.NE8.9QAB.cxleGSh63x2T&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/03/sports/football/jim-marshall-dead.html?unlocked_article_code=1.NE8.9QAB.cxleGSh63x2T&smid=url-share).

**"It took a lot of guts for me to go back on that field because I took football very seriously, and I had made the biggest mistake that you could probably make."--Jim Marshall [discussing the fact that he once ran 66 yards the wrong way into his own end zone for a safety after scooping up a fumble]**



B. Thanks, Étienne-Émile Baulieu (1926-2025), for your career as a French biochemist and endocrinologist who was best known for his research in the field of steroid hormones and their role in reproduction and aging. He has been nicknamed the "father" of the abortion pill mainly as a result of his work on the abortion-inducing drug RU486 (Mifepristone). For more information about his life, click:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/31/health/etienne-emile-baulieu-dead.html?smid=url-share>.

**"I have never been 'for abortion,' but rather 'for the right to abortion.' I support life and women's right to choose."-- Étienne-Émile Baulieu**





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### 13. Thought For The Day

The following poem is often read at funerals. The author, Henry Scott-Holland (1847-1918), a priest at St. Paul's Cathedral of London, did not intend it as a poem, it was actually delivered as part of a sermon in 1910. The sermon, titled, "Death the King of Terrors" was preached while the body of King Edward VII was lying in state at Westminster.

Death Is Nothing At All  
by Henry Scott-Holland

Death is nothing at all.  
It does not count.  
I have only slipped away into the next room.  
Nothing has happened.

Everything remains exactly as it was.  
I am I, and you are you,  
and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched, unchanged.  
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.

Call me by the old familiar name.  
Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.  
Put no difference into your tone.  
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed together.  
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.  
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.  
Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow upon it.

Life means all that it ever meant.  
It is the same as it ever was.  
There is absolute and unbroken continuity.  
What is this death but a negligible accident?

Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?  
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,  
somewhere very near,  
just round the corner.

All is well.  
Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.  
One brief moment and all will be as it was before.  
How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we meet again!

(Thanks, Bettina Yiannakourou, for sharing.)

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**PS.** Make it a great week!

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