

BLAINESWORLD

#1239
6.15.2020

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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 14 of the corona pandemic.See below for pictures from the fantastic birthday celebration that Cynthia, my beautiful bride, arranged. (top) Proudly displaying the award bestowed on BLAINESWORLD by our friends Tom and Marcy Gallagher: The Lifetime Achievement for Excellence in Blogging, signed by none other than Martin Von Blogsberg, president of The Academy of Bloggers of America; (bottom left) Tom and Marcy, with their amazing dog Scout; and (bottom right) my birthday gift from Cynthia: Rodolfo, the menacing guard dog who now keeps my downstairs office safe.





(2) So y'all know ...



(Just as soon as it is safe to get out and about.)

(3) Loved Cynthia's latest culinary delight: almond butter and banana sandwiches. Since we know you're going to want the recipe, here it is:

Ingredients:

1. 2 slices of bread for each sandwich you wish to make.
2. Almond butter
3. Banana(s).

Directions:

1. Toast bread.
2. Put a large glob of almond butter on one slice of bread.
3. Slice bananas, then put them on the same slice that has the almond butter.
4. Take the other slice of bread and put it on top,

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



B. I had a blast at another White Horse Black Mountain virtual concert. This one featured the Riccardis--a comedy musical duo that you'll love. To quote from their Facebook page:

With over 45 Million views on Social Media, pianist Richard Riccardi and his third and final wife, Sandy, will have you in pain with laughter. That is their goal. Sheer pain. As if you need any more pain. Their blend of Tom Lehrer, Victor Borge, Madeleine Kahn and PDQ Bach, or, if you will, Captain and Tenille, Nichols and May, George Burns

and Gracie Allen will have you nostalgic for the good old days when you had to lick stamps and untangle the phone cord. Cabaret Scenes Magazine calls it "A Musical SNL. ... One helluva rib-tickling and satisfying night out!"

You can still view the concert by clicking: [Here](#).

And if you enjoyed it as much as I did , show White Horse Black Mountain some love by clicking this link: [Here](#).



C. The most recent BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM featured (first half) Katie Jones, artistic director at The Magnetic Theatre; and (second half) Pope McElvy, vice [resident, Changing The Future Outcome. To view it, please click: [Here](#).



D Condolences to:

- (1) Margie Woodard Zack and family on the passing of Ginny Appelbaum,.
- (2) Connor Ray and family on the passing of Dr. John, Connor's stepfather.
- (3) Ruth Raphael and family on the passing of Shirley Gordon, Ruth's sister.
- (4) Colby Coren and family on the passing of Colby's Uncle Chris.
- (5) Kay Galvin and family on the passing of Kay's big brother Mick.

E. Congratulations to:

- (1) Michael Feldman on his new position as Customer Success Manager at Alma.
- (2) Lori Brown on officially becoming a Nana.
- (3) George Pappas on his appearance on WLOS, discussing the Supreme Court's DACA ruling. To view it, please click: [Here](#).
- (4) Elsten Torres on the review of his music in Viva Friday by the Billboard Latin

editors. To read it and to listen to his music, please click: [Here](#).

(5) Deb Dagavarian, Steven Rizzo, Kathy Byers, Marie Verilla, Judy Chadwick and Laura Beyer--all winners of Contest #11, a CD book of their choice. All told, there were six entries, and all those who entered won. And that reminds me that is now time to introduce ...

******* CONTEST #12 *******

One lucky winner win a copy of of DO IT! MARKETING: 77 INSTANT-ACTION IDEAS TO BOOST SALES, MAXIMIZE PROFITS, AND CRUSH YOUR COMPETITION by David Newman. To quote one review: "Wow! This is a terrific book-- loaded with practical, proven and often surprising methods and techniques to dramatically increase your sales."-- Brian Tracy, author of High Performance Selling.

If you would like to enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #12 in the subject line. In the body of the email, include both your name and mailing address. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Mon., June 29.

F. Invitations:

(1) Please join us on Friday, June 26, at 7:30 p.m. on Facebook Live for the first concert in the "Virtually Yours" series that's being co-produced by BLAINESWORLD's Blaine Greenfield.

First up is Bruce Lang, local musician, music director and recording artist. A long-time friend and company member of SART, Bruce spends his time performing in various venues around WNC and operating Big Creek Music, his recording studio in nearby Barnardsville.

To attend, just check back at the above time and date at: [Here](#).

In an effort to cover the operating costs of our company during our Coronavirus intermission, we will be asking you to support our non-profit organization through these virtual concerts. An anonymous donor has pledged up to \$3,000 in matching funds for SART for donations received through these performances. Help us meet our goal and "GO LIVE" with us by joining Bruce in supporting SART!

To do so (even if you can't make the concert), please click: [Here](#).

Thank you.

PS. Rumor central: Bruce may also sing what's arguably the greatest rock song of all time. For a sneak preview of what you're in store for, please click: [Here](#).



(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](#).

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

This week, it goes to Carlene Stepp--the customer service representative at Pryor Insurance. She is the person who gets me an answer whenever I have a question, often within seconds. She is both friendly and helpful. ... I've also enjoyed working with Jason Pryor, president of the company, ever since I moved to Asheville over 10 years ago. ... To quote from the company's website: "Pryor Insurance is a family-owned independent insurance agency with one goal: to provide clients with the best possible insurance coverage at the most competitive rate available." ... If you have any insurance needs, you won't go wrong working with this Pryor Insurance. For more information, please click: [Here](#).

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2. FYI

Facebook wants me to do a fundraiser for my birthday, but that's not where my heart is right now. My heart is wanting nothing more than to love others and to let people know that there is someone out there who cares about what they're going through—even if they don't understand it. We need each other so much right now.

So instead, my request this year is for you to "Pay It Forward."

Consider doing any and/or all of the following:

Buy coffee for that person behind you in line.

Call or text someone you haven't talked to in a while and tell that person that you're thinking about him or her.

Hold the door for a stranger.

Tell someone how much you like what he or she is wearing.

Compliment those you know about the fact that they have inner beauty.

Double what you ordinarily tip in a restaurant.

Come up with additional things you can do for others.

And as often as you can, simply tell someone: "I love you."

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. People need people. Sometimes, we just need to love and, also, to feel loved.

(Thanks, Sarah Fowler, for sharing this terrific idea.)



FYI, part 2

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

A. The Surprising Strategy for Acing a Job Interview. B. What We're Learning About Online Learning. C. The Long Battle Over 'Gone With the Wind.'

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3. Joke 1

If a woman says, "first of all" during an argument, run away because she has prepared research, data and charts, and she will destroy you.



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4. Reviews

A. Saw TALLUAH, a drama available via Netflix. It is an absorbing drama about a young vagrant who cares for a toddler abandoned by her mother. Ellen Page and Allison Janney are both excellent in the leading roles. NR, but appropriate for anybody over the age of 12.

B. Saw DEIDRE & LANEY ROB A TRAIN, a comedy available via Netflix. The story involves a smart high school senior and her younger sister who take to robbing trains when their mother is arrested. I had not seen either of the leading actors, Ashleigh Murray and Rachel Crow, but I was impressed with their work--and this film. NR, but appropriate for anybody over the age of 12.

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5. TV alert

A. DEAD TO ME: Seasons 1 and 2 now on Netflix

This dark comedy stars Christina Applegate and Linda Cardellini as two grieving women who bond during therapy. Cynthia and I loved it, and we're hoping that Season 3 is able to return in the near future.

Spoiler Alert: After you've finished the last episode of Season 2, read this article about the many questions you'll surely have: [Here](#).

B. BULLY. COWARD. VICTIM. THE STORY OF ROY COHN: Mon, June 22, at 4 p.m. on HBO2

A profile of infamous attorney Roy Cohn takes a look at his life and death.

Note: I just saw the above It is excellent.

C. THE LOST BOYS OF BUCKS COUNTY: Mon., June 22, at 9 p.m. on Investigation Discovery

The two-hour true-crime special looks at details of events that rocked this Pennsylvania community.

D. GLORIA: A LIFE: Fri., June 26, at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at [Here](#))

Christine Lahti stars in a staged tribute to feminist trailblazer Gloria Steinem.

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6. Joke 2

What I'm doing to stay in shape while my gym remains closed. (Thanks, Beth Appel, for sharing.)





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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 find this excellent cover from my friend Chuck Schwing: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

Thanks to my friend Elsten Torres for sharing the following:
In March of this year, when the world quickly started to shut down I was surfing through channels and I stopped at a news program just in time to hear the news anchor end his show with the phrase, "Hope you're alright in spite of the world". That night I sat down and wrote down this song. The following day I shared a rough acoustic version of it on a chat with some of my dearest and most talented friends. They were all motivated to lend their musical skills to record on the song remotely from their home studios from across Brazil, Los Angeles & South Florida. I'm a lucky dude to have so many loving, committed, damn talented musical brothers. I couldn't be more happy with the results. I hope you will too.

Video directed/edited: David Narbecki
Mixed, & Mastered: Marcello Azevedo
Drums/percussion: Brendan Buckley
Piano: Rodolfo Castillo
Bass/Acoustic Guitars: Marcello Azevedo
Electric Guitar: Cesar Lemos
Organ/Keys: Iker Gastaminza
Special thanks to all the beautiful extras who sent their videos literally from all over the world to be a part of this special project.

To view it, please click: [Here](#).

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

(1) Al Hibler, "Unchained Melody," one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Doug Snipes: Doobie Brothers: The Doobie Brothers - Black Water (Live in Isolation): [Here](#).

(3) Bruce Lang with brother Billy: On the Sunny Side of the Street: [Here](#).

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

(5) Cynthia Greenfield: I need a Hug Today: [Here](#).

(6) Brent Russell: Rise Up - Andra Day/Cover by Mother and Son (Jordan Rabjohn Cover): [Here](#).

D. Thanks to my friend Erinn Dearth, for telling me about the Good News Network: [Here](#).

To quote from the website:
Since 1997, millions of people have turned to the Good News Network® as an antidote to the barrage of negativity experienced in the mainstream media. Because of its long history, staying power, and public trust, GNN is #1 on Google for good news.

The website, with its archive of 21,000 positive news stories from around the globe, confirms what people already know--that good news itself is not in short supply; the

broadcasting of it is. From our 5-star app, to our new book (And Now, The Good News: 20 Years of Inspiring News Stories), to our weekly Good News Gurus podcast, and Morning Jolt email newsletter, GNN is a daily dose of hope for millions of fans.

Some recent posts included the following:

(1) Charity Dishes Out \$1,000 Checks to Hundreds of Teens So They Can Uplift Anyone They Want to Support

(2) Target Makes Coronavirus Pay Raise Permanent, Setting Hourly Minimum Wage to \$15 - With Extra Bonuses

(3) his Orchestra Performs 'Symphonies' Using Typewriter Sounds-Listen to Their Catchy New Song

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

Thanks, Brian Biro, for asking me about the following email that you need to be forewarned about:

From: [name of a person you know with a correct email address]
To: [your correct name and email address]
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020, 01:12:27 PM EDT
Subject: Re: Stay Safe

I need to get an Amazon Gift Card for my Niece, It's her birthday but i can't do this now because I'm currently out of town and isolated. Please can you get the card from any store around you or visit the website to get it done online, I have tried severally but my payment was declined on the website. I'll pay back as soon as i get back. Please let me know if you can handle this.

I owe you a lot

Thanks

[first name of person who sent it to you :)]

What you need to know: The above is a SCAM. For more information, please click: [Here](#).

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9. Joke 3

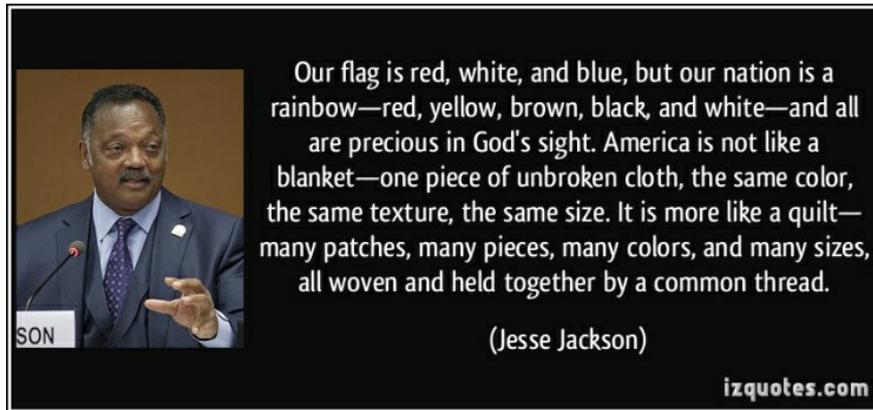
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU BUY ONLINE! If you buy stuff on eBay, check out the seller carefully. ... A friend just spent \$95, plus postage, on a penis enlarger. Bas*ards sent him a magnifying glass. ... And the only instructions said, "Do not use in sunlight."



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10. A quote I like

Something to keep in mind, especially if you're like me and you celebrate all holidays (more food and friends that way) ... and as you do, my hope is that you make it a HAPPY FLAG DAY!



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11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Carol Duermit, for graciously allowing me to include this thought-provoking Facebook post that she recently wrote:

I was adopted as an infant. At the age of 18, I embarked upon a search for my biological parents. Whereas I was never able to garner much information regarding my birth father, and quite honestly I'm not even sure if the person they said it was is indeed him, I was able to find some information about my mother. Of course in the years leading up to the discoveries I made, I engaged in some pretty creative thinking and fantasized about who my biological mother might be. When in fact, I learned about her, and learned about her history it was sobering. It didn't match up to any of my imaginative musings on my heritage.

Rather, whereas the one good thing that came out of my search was to find that my mother was quite musical and played the piano by ear and sang, and that was something that I could feel I inherited genetically, I also simultaneously learned that she had been gang raped as a teenager in Chicago and stabbed in the stomach several times in the process. Her father, my maternal grandfather, was, according to the adoption agency and other relatives that I engaged with, involved heavily in the mafia. He subsequently died in prison sometime after my birth. My maternal grandmother died when my biological mother was 4. My biological mom had two children prior to me with her husband, she divorced, had me out of wedlock and placed me for adoption at the urging of her father, and then went on to have two more children out of wedlock. She raised none of her five children. She ended up being diagnosed as having a mental illness from what I hear and the last I knew of her she was supposedly working at a Salvation Army somewhere in San Bernardino, California.

It is not easy to write these things about my heritage. And I have never written them before. But I write them in the hopes that someone sees that we all hope for a rosy picture of our ancestry whether we grow up being told stories of it or whether we find it out later. And so often our imagination gives way to the harsh reality that our ancestors were not what we hoped and were possibly not people we could really look up to.

I also say this because it must be difficult for people to have looked to their ancestry as a source of pride to be able to come to terms with the fact that maybe it shouldn't be. We are all inextricably linked to one another in our joy and sorrow. While I get extremely angry with people who refuse to see that the people they want to hold in such high regard in history and have always wanted to honor may not be people who are deserving of such due to the atrocities that they committed, I have to also recognize that I am more sad for them. I have to see their anger as a type of pain. A pain that I once experienced myself. It is natural to I suppose, and I did for quite some time, believe that my history would somehow define the type of person that I would become. Once I found these things out I was afraid of myself in many ways. I was afraid that I would be unable to not follow in my biological footsteps. I was afraid that if people knew these things about my genetic history that they would judge me harshly or see me as less than. So there it is.

If this helps just one person to divorce themselves from the notion that they have to perpetuate a false history of their ancestors, if it helps one person to move forward in the year 2020 with a new vision for what this country and this world can be, then it's worth all the tears I am shedding sharing this. Forgive my angry posts. I want better for all of us.





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12. Advance planning department

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

A. Asheville Community Theatre: Win a check for \$10,000 OR a trip for two to London! It's YOUR choice! B. Join us for a 30-day event hosted by Dr. Diana Tyler from APEX Brain Centers where she will guide you through 30 days of one of the most successful health movements of the 21st Century - The Whole30.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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