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You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not tooo risqué (typically in Sections 4, 7 and 10); 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](#).

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#1344  
6.27.2022

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## 1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I saw ELVIS (see Sect. 5A) with our friends Bobbie and Karen Allison and then went for a delicious meal at Dickey's Barbecue Pit, 1636 Hendersonville Rd., Asheville. That place is rapidly becoming one of our favorite eateries in the area.



B. Fun times at MAGNETIC MAGIC & MAYHEM, the fundraiser for The Magnetic Theatre. Kudos to all those who helped make the event the success that it was.



C. Please watch the BLAINESWORLD show by clicking: [Here](#). ... Guests: (first half) Chaplain Vanessa James, Buncombe County Jail Ministry; and (second half) Katie Kasben, Under One Sky Village Foundation.



D. A trip down memory lane ... That's Cynthia on our recent trip to New Jersey at the Whippany Diner, joined by her sister and brother-in-law, Joyce and Marty Litchman, and her friend Edina Hegguler.



E. Congratulations to Lucas York for his appearance in an Ingles commercial. To view it, include: [Here](#).

F. Announcing this week's ...

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

It goes to Chewy Pet Company, the online retailer we've used for many years.

Service from this company is superb, and you always get a live person when you call.

We also get a kick out of the fact that whenever placing an order, they ask her about how her cats are doing.

But when Lovey passed, they outdid themselves. They gave us a full refund for our past two purchases, then told us to donate the unused food to a local shelter. We did this, making one stop at Brother Wolf (below) and another one at the Asheville Humane Society.

What's cool is that in some cases, Chewy even sends flowers with a gift note signed by the the representative on the phone. We didn't get any this time around, but in retrospect, we preferred the refund.

For more information about this amazing company, click: [Here](#).



## 2. Invites

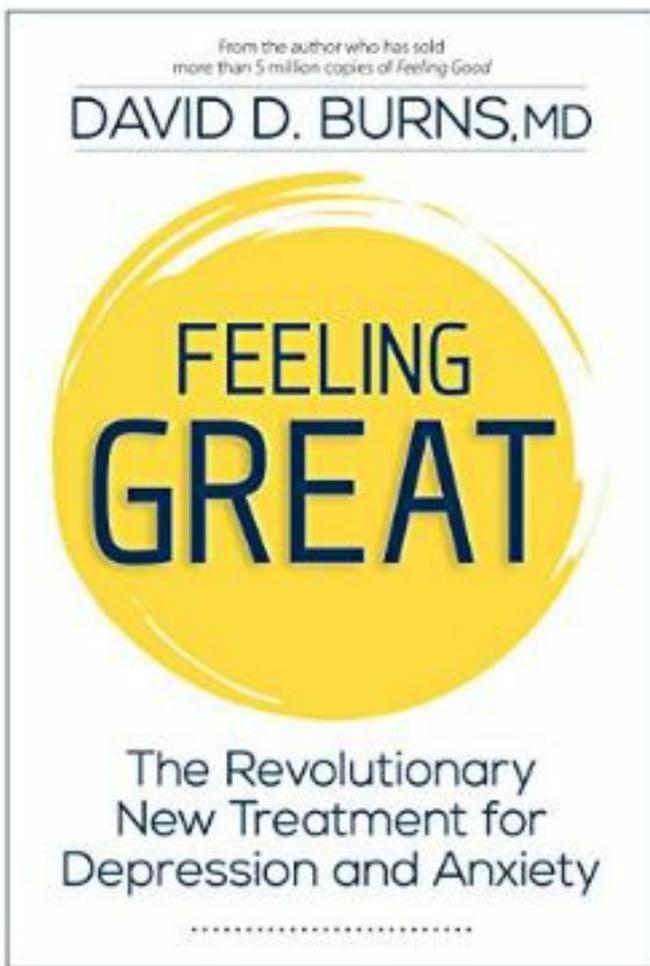
A. Reminder, there's still time to enter ...

\*\*\*\*\* **Contest #10** \*\*\*\*\*

One lucky reader will win a copy of **FEELING GREAT: THE REVOLUTIONARY NEW TREATMENT FOR DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY** by David D. Burns, MD.

To quote Leslie Sokol, PhD, author of *The Comprehensive Clinician's Guide to Cognitive Behavior Therapy*. "Using the tried and true principles of CBT, Dr. Burns' TEAM approach brings a helpful new perspective on helping individuals overcome their own resistance and embrace goals of change. The positive reframing map helps people in distress identify how their negative feelings may in fact have benefits and reflect some beautiful things about them as an early step in aiding people onto the path of learning how to more accurately examine their thinking and reduce distress."

To enter the contest, send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put **CONTEST #10** in the subject line. In the body of your email, include your name and mailing address. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Mon., June 27.



B. Want to be a guest on my BLAINESWORLD show, now seen on both Facebook and LinkedIn? If you have news you'd like to share and/or a story to tell, send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put GUEST in the subject line. In the body of the email, include both your name and phone number.

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 evenings.

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

And please click "Like" when you do check out this link.

C. 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 follow the instructions when you click: [Here](#).

D. Come join Cynthia for the two courses she'll be teaching for Arms Around ASD this week via Zoom: Meditation on Monday and Move Your Body on Wednesday. To attend these and/or any of the other courses, scroll down to Calendar when you click: [Here](#).

Note: For others, see Sect.13 (at the bottom of this issue).

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### 3. FYI

HEADS UP! ... I received the following from Barrie Barton, a friend many of you may know. It caught my attention because of a handwriting requirement that may well invalidate your future votes if your handwriting is anything like mine.

It asks you to do two things: 1. Complete a simple form that will take you less than five minutes to complete; and 2. A request to forward this form to your North Carolina friends.

Note: This is being proposed in North Carolina. Other states have or are proposing similar legislation. For more information, click: [Here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

Please forward this to your North Carolina friends, as well as to those in other states who may be negatively impacted because of their handwriting.

Imagine This....

You submit an absentee ballot. A republican poll worker pulls your ballot and compares your original signature (when you registered maybe decades ago). If those signatures differ - your ballot, and therefore your vote, is tossed.

Your voice is needed NOW! With the very real prospect 1000's of ballots can be tossed under a signature-matching protocol - respond now.

A voter may have changed their name since they registered to vote.

A voter may have developed a medical condition that affects their signature.

Or a voter may have registered many years ago with their current signature looking very different from the signature on file.

Call To Action - 5 Minutes to participate.

This is urgent – all public comments must be submitted by July 5. We need thousands of North Carolina voters to push back on this proposed change using the NCSBE comment portal.

CLICK BELOW FOR THE COMMENT PORTAL: [Here](#).

Feel free to use the example script below or make your own.

To: NC Board of Election

Under no circumstances should this Declaratory Ruling proposed by the NC Republican Party be accepted. Access to voting is a constitutional and fundamental right of all Americans. Barriers like this will disenfranchise voters who want to participate in democracy and have their voice recognized in the election process.

I registered to vote \_\_\_\_\_years ago and know for certain my handwriting has changed since I was \_\_\_\_\_.

I implore you to disregard the voting barrier proposal and make the voting process easy and accessible for all.

Thanks!

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HERE'S THE FULL PRESS RELEASE ...

June 15, 2022 – The NC State Board of Elections (NCSBE) has opened a public comment period in response to a Request for Declaratory Ruling proposed by the NC Republican Party. The proposed Declaratory Ruling would allow individual members of county boards of elections to verify signatures on absentee ballots.

The public comment period closes on July 5, 2022.

The proposal would authorize county boards of elections to scrutinize voter signatures on absentee ballot request forms and absentee ballot return envelopes, to determine whether to count those ballots in North Carolina elections. This could overrule the authority of the NCSBE to require uniform ballot review methods across all counties so that all voters, regardless of residency, have an equal right to have their vote count. In short, disparate voting standards could be implemented for voters across the state, as individual county board members could be allowed to determine whether a voter's signature on an absentee ballot container envelope or request form matched their signature on file.

A hearing is scheduled for July and then this will make its way through the courts – with the goal of this being implemented in time for the November midterms.

This is urgent – all public comments must be submitted by July 5. We need thousands of North Carolina voters to push back on this proposed change using the NCSBE comment portal.

North Carolinians are voting in record numbers – they have faith in their elections and in the officials who work so diligently to count our votes. This Request will undermine that faith.

Please voice your personal concerns about the very real prospect that your ballot could be thrown out under a signature-matching protocol. If you changed your name since you registered to vote, if you have developed a medical condition that affects your signature, or if you first registered to vote in our state many years ago, your current signature may look different than your signature on file. Many League members have served as precinct officials and attended Board of Election meetings. Please share your experience when you submit your public comments and tout your confidence in our current election process and in the hard-working people who manage the voting process, review all ballots, and ultimately count North Carolina's votes.

**Your handwriting  
may well prevent  
you from voting!**

**Please read above  
to find out why and  
what you can do  
about this.**

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#### 4. Joke 1

I'm now in the mood for a hot dog! (Thanks, Jean Dolan, for sharing.)



Mr. Drinks On Me  
@Mr\_DrinksOnMe

"Have you heard of Murphy's law?"

"Yeah."

"What is it?"

"If something can go wrong, it will go wrong."

"Right. Have you heard of Cole's Law?"

"No, what is it?"

"Thinly sliced cabbage."

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## 5. Reviews

A. Cynthia and I both liked ELVIS, the biopic about the life and music of Elvis Presley as seen through the prism of his complicated relationship with his manager Colonel Tom Parker. Austin Butler is superb in the leading role and an almost unrecognizable Tom Hanks as Parker is equally outstanding. The music rocks, as does the cinematography. I thought the film was overlong. Rated PG-13.

Note: Butler really did sing in the movie. To find out more, click: [Here](#).

B. Saw THE MAN FROM TORONTO on Netflix. It's a 2022 comedy action film involving a case of mistaken identity that forces a bumbling entrepreneur to team up with a notorious assassin in hopes of staying alive. Kevin Hart and Woody Harrelson team up well as the aforementioned duo, but overall, the movie is flat. And though I liked Kaley Cuoco in THE BIG BANG THEORY, her performance here didn't amount to much (probably because of the script that just wasn't very funny). The best moments were in the opening scene. Rated PG-13.

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## 6. TV alert

A. CIVIL: BEN CRUMP: Now on Netflix

Nadia Hallgren, Emmy nominee for the Michelle Obama documentary BECOMING, presents her doc on civil rights lawyer Ben Crump, who represented the families of Trayvon Martin, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery.

B. CITIZEN ASHE: Sun. June 26, at 9 p.m. on CNN

Arthur Ashe, tennis great and human rights activist, is profiled in this documentary.

C. THE UPSHAW'S (Season 2): Returns to Netflix on Wed., June 29

Wanda Sykes plays the big sister of an Indianapolis woman (Kim Fields) married to a car mechanic (Mike Epps) who she thinks could use some improvement.

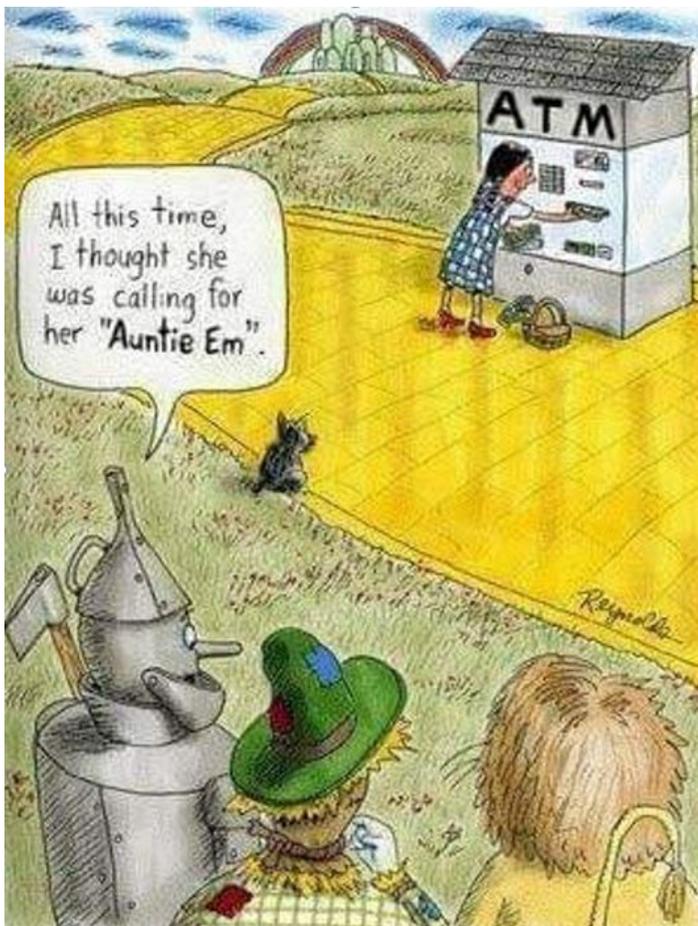
D. JAILBREAK LOVERS: Movie premier on Sat., July 2, on Netflix

When a woman brings her rescue dog program to a Kansas correctional facility, an inmate unleashes such strong feelings in her that she helps him escape in a pet crate. This actually happened in 2006!

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## 7. Joke 2

At long last ... the scene that was cut out of THE WIZARD OF OZ! (Thanks, Ed Hackett, for sharing.)



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## 8. 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: [bjinbc@aol.com](mailto:bjinbc@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 2022 version from Shindig @ Jammin at The Clock Live: [Here](#).

#### B. Video of the week

Thanks, Jonathan Berg, for sharing this clip:

**96-year-old Dick Van Dyke still has the moves.** He and his wife made this video for Valentine's Day. Just in case you're curious – and I bet you are -- she's 46 years younger. They've been married since 2012. [Here](#).

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

(1) Cher, "Bang Bang," one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Howard Smith: Sunday hymns (6.26.2022): [Here](#).

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: Jeff Beck: [Here](#).

(4) In the above clip, Neil recommends watching Beck perform with Jennifer Batten. If you'd like to do this, click: [Here](#).

(5) Susan Mann: When you buy a cat to get rid of the rats in your garden! [Here](#).

(6) Paul Marks: Puppy playing with a butterfly is the most wholesome thing you'll see all day: [Here](#).

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

Want to know what your home is currently worth? Or check out a place where you might want to live? ... Zillow remains the easiest way to do this. ... All you need to do is click: [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](#).

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### 9. Technology tip

Did you know that you can use your voice in Google Docs? It's free, and it works surprisingly well.

Open a new document in Google Docs, then enable Voice Typing from the Tools menu. Then start dictating. Voice Typing recognizes commands like "comma," "period" and "new paragraph" as well.

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### 10. Joke 3

Update on what I'm doing since my retirement ...

**Please note that I am now self-employed. So if you see me talking to myself, do not disturb. I am having a staff meeting.**

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### 11. A quote I like

Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005) was an American politician who in 1968 became the first black woman elected to the United States Congress. Chisholm represented New York's 12th congressional district, a district centered on Bedford–Stuyvesant, for seven terms from 1969 to 1983. She also became the first Black candidate for a major-party nomination for President of the United States, and the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's nomination.



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### 12. Thought for the day

Thanks, Chaplain Don Johnson (with the Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry), for graciously allowing me to run the following that he recently posted on Facebook:

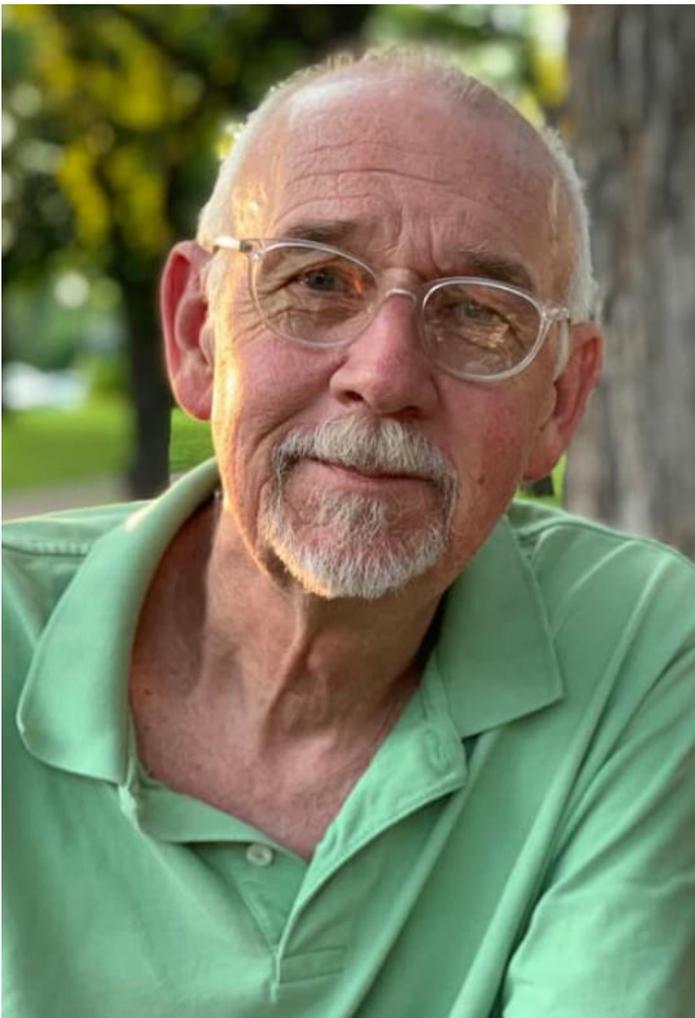
The names we use to speak to each other matter. Jail has a language all of its own. I am learning to call

incarcerated people “detainees” and not “inmates.” “Inmate” denotes someone who has already been tried for a crime and sentenced to a period of time behind bars. “Detainee” denotes a person who has been arrested and charged with a crime but has not been tried or found guilty. Officers prefer to be called “officers” and not “guards” because they have many more responsibilities and skills than just guarding detainees. We are slowly learning to re-name sports teams, that formerly had names that disparaged Native Americans.

I love how Jesus declares that he chooses to call us “friends” and not “slaves” in John 15:15 “Friend” is an elevated status and relationship from servanthood and slavery. A “friend” is one who is on the inside and knows what is going on with the other person. “Friendship” implies transparency and even vulnerability. The Greek word for friend, “philo,” means “beloved, prized, and trusted confidant.”

At yesterday’s Covenant Ministerium meeting, the president, Rev. Taylor Burgoyne, spoke eloquently about the “trust crisis” that is going on in our nation and culture. We have learned to distrust elected leaders who lie to us. We have learned to distrust companies that exploit us and our environment. We have around us a climate of mistrust regarding medical facts and health care. The “trust crisis” has certainly entered the church where congregations are polarized over political hot buttons and distrust anyone who has a different viewpoint.

So the challenge for us moving forward in this toxic and combative environment is to call each other the same name Jesus calls us: “friends”. Friends are not threats but trusted collaborators. I need friends around me with whom I can trust and feel safe. I need friends with whom I can disagree and still respect each other. I need to be a friend to other people whom God has put around me. I do not think it was accidental that the original term used for this denomination was “Mission Friends.”



### 13. Advance planning department

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

A. Jeff Catanese: Montford Park Players present THE LITTLE PRINCE at Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre. B. Sharon Lewis: Deep River 30th Anniversary at Isis Music Hall. C. Gordon Pendarvis: The Foothills Jazz Society. D. Blaine Greenfield: BLAINESWORLD show is moving!

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

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