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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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#1401  
7.24.2023

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## 1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I were fortunate enough to be able to get tickets to Asheville Musical Theatre's first production: TICK, TICK ... BOOM! ... It was terrific because of the performances of Richie Barrella, Kirby Gibson and Mario Pando, as well as Ethan Henry's spot on direction. ... The only thing wrong with the show was that there were only three performances. That said, there's good news; i.e., Asheville Music Theatre is now up and running and will be bringing other great productions to the area. ... For more information, click: [Here](#).



B. We had some tasty pizza at one of our favorite places: Favilla's New York Pizza, located at 5 Regent Park Blvd #107, in Asheville.



C. I saw two separate musicals that will still be running this coming week.

(1) Top photo: Mark Jones (left) and Zoe Zelonky (right) shine in **BAT BOY: THE MUSICAL**, opening tonight and running through Aug. 6 at Asheville Community Theatre. ... This rock musical will have you clapping and laughing--and thinking, too. It is not to be missed! ... All the others in the cast were equally outstanding, including to name just a few: Meg Hale Brunton, Grace Geoffrey, Holli Banks Allie and Alex Shull. ... Stephanie Hickling Beckman's direction was spot on, as was Sharvis Smith's music direction and Kristi DeVille's choreography. And be prepared to be blown away by Jill Summers' set design and Ida Bostian's costuming. ... For tickets, click: [Here](#).

(2) Bottom photo: I love the fact that SART often brings plays to the area that have never been produced here before. I believe that's the case with **GOLDEN BOYS OF THE BLUE RIDGE**, a foot-stomping Bluegrass musical based on the Irish classic **PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD** by John Millington Synge. ... There's plenty of action, lively dancing and excellent performances from Lilah Price, Dillon Giles, Jeff Stone, Tristan Altobelli, Chelsey Lee Gaddy, Ric Cedergren and Jared Wise. ... You're going to especially like the live music from actor/musicians Aaron Price (who also served as music director), Jack Womack, Adam Kampouris and Troy Crossley. ... William Tyler Ezzell directed with aplomb, and he did the spot on costuming. Kyrstin Ezzell's choreography was excellent, as was Braeden Johnson's set design and Andrew Zebroski's lighting and sound design. ... **GOLDEN BOYS** runs from July 20 through July 30. For tickets, click: [Here](#).



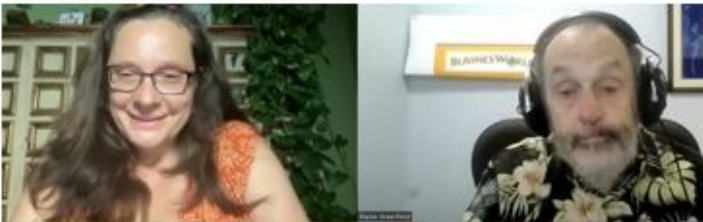
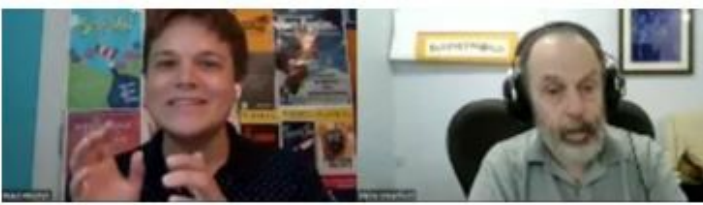
D. I hosted four podcasts this past week. To see or listen to any of them, click: [Here](#) on the indicated dates.

(1) Top photo: 7.20.2023 - Reed Atherton, actor

(2) Second photo: 7.19.2023 - Dr. Oralene Simmons and David King, both with the Dr. Martin Luther King Association

(3) Third photo: 7.18.2023 - Audrey Blackburn--Volunteer Engagement Manager, United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County

(4) Fourth photo: 7.17.2023 - Laura Bernhein, Outreach & Communications Director; Katherine Marx, tutor; and Dulce Rivera, student



E. Our amazing cat Kismet continues to impress us. He has now learned what eye contact is all about--done while sitting in our fruit bowl!



F. Congratulations to:

A. Andi Jefferis on her appointment as a full-time faculty member in nursing at A-B Tech.

B. Ethan Henry on being interviewed on WLOS about the show he has brought to Asheville. To view the clip, click: [Here](#).

C. Debra Geoghan on attaining her CompTIA Network certification.

D. Righteous Luster on his graduation from Mars Hill University.

E. Announcing this week's ...

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

This week, it goes to Jessica Vasquez--our fantastic cleaning person.

She has cleaned our home for over three years.

She not only does a great job, but she is oh-so-friendly. And she also sells cleaning products that we both use and like. And she also makes fantastic soaps.

Several of our friends use her, too, and they are equally pleased with the service she provides.

Jessica can be reached by phone, phone, 828.424.6694 or via email: [elitecleanliving@gmail.com](mailto:elitecleanliving@gmail.com).



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## 2. Invites

A. It is time for my annual Trek Up North.

The details are tentative, but I do know I'll be in Bucks County, PA, on July 28 and 29.

On the 29th, I'll be meeting folks at Zebra Striped Whale in Newtown from 2-4 p.m. for ice cream

And then that night, I'll be going to the Comedy Cabaret in Doylestown, PA. Featured is Taylor Mason, one of the best entertainers you'll ever see. He does ventriloquism, plays the keyboard, sings funny songs and does great stand up .... and there's not one F-bomb in his entire show! You could bring your mom and your grandmother, and they would both laugh and love him.

Tickets are ordinarily \$30, but my friend Andy Scarpati, who runs the place, is offering a reduced rate of \$20. But you need to let me know, in advance, if you will be going.

I'll be in North Jersey from July 30-August 2.

So far, all that's definite there is a trip to the Yogi Berra Museum in the afternoon on August 3.

If you'd like to join me at any of the above events and/or possibly a walk, meal, movie (BARBIE or OPPENHEIMER), show, etc., let me know by sending an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com). Please put TREK in the subject line.

I do hope we can get together!



B. Please help fund a new musical with a message

Blaine Greenfield is organizing this fundraiser on behalf of Marcy Gallagher.

My good friend Marcy Gallagher has written an amazing musical that will soon have its world premiere in Asheville. She also wrote the lyrics for the show. Sarah Kohrs, a local singer-songwriter, composed the music.

The story is about four middle-aged women faced with advancing age and their own personal challenges. Titled *At the Café*, the story provides a more positive view of aging in a society that often sees older women as past their prime. This is an important message for everyone to hear, now more than ever.

Thirteen original songs guide the story, which is told with humor, compassion and relatable experiences.

The cast is comprised of talented local actors Karen Covington-Yow, Roberta Whiteside, Madison Brightwell, Jan Robbins, Kai Strange, and Madison Garris. The incredible production team includes Janice Vertucci-Schreiber, Director; Dave Bates, Musical Director; Cappy Tosetti, Stage Manager; Ellen Pappas, Co-Stage Manager and Choreographer; and Elliot Rosse, Intern.

\*\*\*\*\*

This endeavor, while a labor of love, is also a costly one. And that is where you come in with this GoFundMe campaign.

Several family members and friends have already expressed an interest in helping defray some of the following expenses:

- \* Compensating cast and crew
- \* Renting theater and rehearsal space
- \* Paying copywriting costs
- \* Purchasing props and set pieces
- \* Printing costs
- \* Marketing the show

And a portion of the ticket sales will be donated to Hope Chest for Women, a Western North Carolina non-profit that provides financial assistance to women going through breast or gynecological cancer.

So I'm now asking you to join me in donating what you can. All monies raised will be deposited by Marcy into a

bank account she has established to pay the aforementioned expenses.

To donate now, kindly click: [Here](#).

Please also share this request with others.

All of those involved with At the Café thank you.

With gratitude,

Blaine Greenfield

#1 At the Café fan

(Kindly use the Contact button below if you have any questions.)

PS. This world premiere musical will be performed in the Tina McGuire Theater at the Wortham Center on August 18, 19 and 20, and on August 25, 26 and 27. For tickets, please navigate to: [Here](#).



C. Announcing ...

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

One lucky reader will win a copy of E-TERNITY: A NOVEL.

To quote the description from Amazon:

In book one of the e-Ternity Series Brian's life gets turned upside down when he encounters three strange women on three consecutive days, and a mysterious app that appears on his phone, but can't be opened. Brian soon finds himself swept into a psychospiritual adventure in which dreams become indistinguishable from reality and reality becomes increasingly bizarre. His past life as a spiritual seeker working in a community led by a sometimes brilliant, sometimes brutal, mentor, becomes the key to saving the collective soul of humanity.

To enter the contest, send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put CONTEST #12 in the subject line. In the body of your email, include your name and mailing address. All entries must be received by the new deadline of 9 p.m. on Mon., July 31.

Update on Contest #11: All told, there were three entries. Courtney Yelle was the winner. His prize: a copy of STAND UP TO WORKPLACE BULLYING AND DISCRIMINATION: SOLUTIONS, TOOLS, & GUIDELINES by my friend Dawn Westmoreland.

D. Want to be a guest on my BLAINESWORLD podcast, now seen on YouTube or you can listen to it on your favorite podcast player? 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 evening.

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



E. Are you interested in shows, concerts, 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: [Here](#).

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

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### 3. FYI

68-year-old who 'un-retired' shares the 4 biggest retirement myths 'more people need to talk about' by George Jerjian

Millennials and Gen Z have come of age in an era marked by sweeping change. So their milestones, especially when it comes to retirement, will look different than older generations' did.

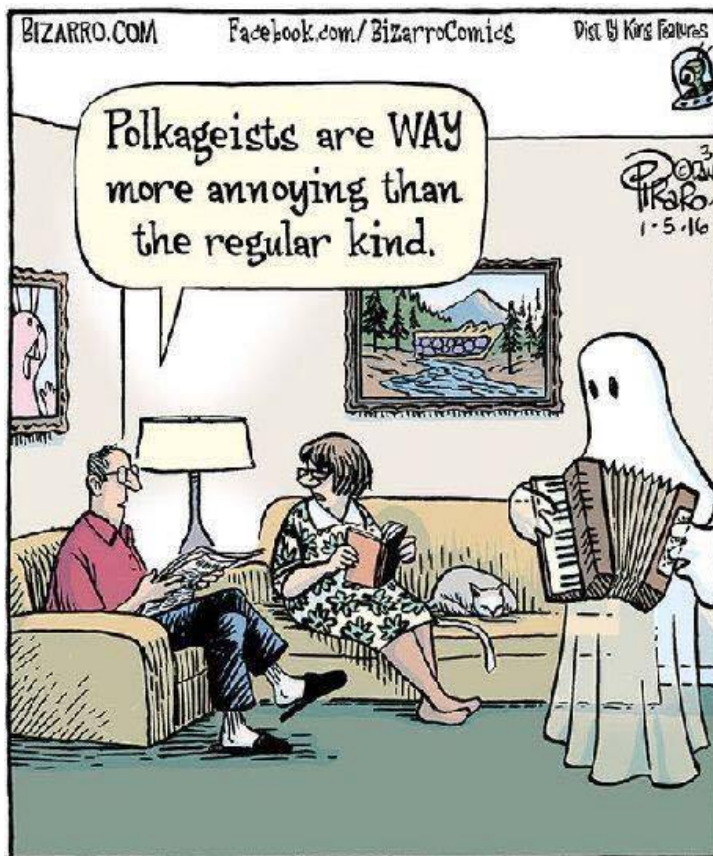
Life rarely turns out exactly how we expect. In my early 50s, I was forced to retire early after a near-death experience to take care of my health. But at 62, after feeling bored, restless and stuck, I un-retired and started a coaching company to help people achieve a more fulfilling retirement than I did.

For the rest of this informative article, click: [Here](#).

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### 4. Joke 1

Factoid of the day ... playing the accordion was "Weird Al" Yankovic's gig before he became famous! Shortly after, he made his first-ever TV appearance. To view it, please click: [Here](#).



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### 5. Reviews

I saw two films this week that both made my favorites list--a rarity.

Note: If you'd like that list, send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

A. SOUND OF FREEDOM, based on an incredible true story, dramatizes the quest of Tim Ballard, a Department of Homeland Security agent who formed Operation Underground Railroad--a controversial private group that battles sex traffickers in Latin America. Jim Caviezel is outstanding as Ballard, and I also thought Bill Camp was terrific as a former criminal who changed his life around to save children. Rated PG-13.

Note: Thanks, Jeff Marcus, for encouraging me to see this film.

My only disappointment: At the very end, there's a code for you to buy tickets for others who might not be able to afford it. I would have much preferred information on how to make a contribution to a group that's currently fighting sex trafficking.

B. I saw THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT on Netflix with Cynthia, and we both enjoyed it. Jason Segel and Emily Blunt star in this contemporary romantic comedy as an engaged young couple who discovers that the more they get to know each other, the more unpredictable their commitment to getting married becomes. Segel and Blunt have great chemistry together, and we also liked the performances of Mindy Kaling, Rhys Ifans, Kevin Hart, David Paymer and Dakota Johnson. Rated R.

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## 6. TV alert

A. THE CLONED TYRONE: Now on Netflix

John Boyega, Teyonah Parris and Jamie Foxx star in this sci-fi-shaded action-comedy as an improbable trio pulled into a nefarious government cloning conspiracy. David Alan Grier and Kiefer Sutherland, have supporting roles.

B. ALMOST PARADISE, Season 2: Now on Prime Video

This action-packed cop show, which streams on Freevee (so there are some commercials), is the first American TV series shot entirely in the Philippines.

C. I'M A VIRGO: Now on Prime Video

Jharrel Jerome stars in an absurdist seven-episode fable about a sheltered Oakland, California, teenager who stands a whopping 13 feet tall.

D. SLAMBALL: Now on ESPN, ESPN+

SlamBall is a trampoline-based sport that combines basketball, hockey, and extreme bouncy-house action for a full-contact, high-flying hoops experience.

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## 7. Joke 2

Now I know why I'm no longer skinny!



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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: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto: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 cover from Bright Time Band: [Here](#)

B. Video of the week

Roy Orbison & Friends, one of the best concerts you'll ever see. From 1988, it included the TCB Band with special guests Bruce Springsteen, k.d. lang and many others. To view it, click: [Here](#).

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

(1) The Supremes, "Baby Love," one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Howard Smith: Hymns (7.23.2023): [Here](#).

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: This week in July 1966 Tommy James and the Shondells had the number-one song in the US with Hanky Panky. Jeff Barry and Ellie Greenwich authored the song in 1963. They were in the middle of a recording session for their group, The Raindrops, and realized they needed a B-side for their single, "That Boy John". The duo then went into the hall and penned the song in 20 minutes. Barry and Greenwich weren't particularly pleased with the song and deemed it inferior to the rest of their work. "I was surprised when [Tommy James' version] was released," After appearances on TV and in clubs in the city, Tommy James took a master of "Hanky Panky" to New York City, where his DJ Bob Mack sold it to Roulette Records. According to James "The amazing thing is we did not re-record the song," "I don't think anybody can record a song that bad and make it sound good. It had to sound amateurish like that. I think if we'd fooled with it too much we'd have fouled it up. .. To listen to it, click: [Here](#)

(4) Lou Rawls Colonoscopy Exam: [Here](#). (Thanks, Jonathan Berg, for sharing.)

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

29a.ch is a fun, interactive site that enables you to paint the cosmos with many colors. It's a great and mesmerizing way to relax and chill out after a long day. To check it out, 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: <https://www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield/>

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## 9. Technology tip

Thanks, Daniel Brice (aka: Digital Handyman; Dan@TechyTech.support, 828-483-0209) for the following tip:

To convert a Facebook video to a .mov file (e.g., to put it on YouTube), use this site: [Here](#).

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## 10. Joke 3

A man is driving when he sees a sign that reads, "Talking Dog For Sale--One Mile." Being curious, he pulls off and finds this dog in a gated area near the house and asks, "Are you the talking dog?"

The dog replies, "Yes I am."

Amazed, the man says, "Tell me about yourself."

The dog answers, "Well, I was born here in the states and was recruited by the CIA where I trained at Quantico. They sent me overseas for a few years to work surveillance on drug busts and then transferred me to the terrorism unit. They finally shipped me home where I finished up my career with TSA at the airport."

The man is stunned. Just then, the owner comes over and the man asks, "Why are you selling this amazing dog?"

The owner replies, " I'll tell you why. He's a compulsive liar."

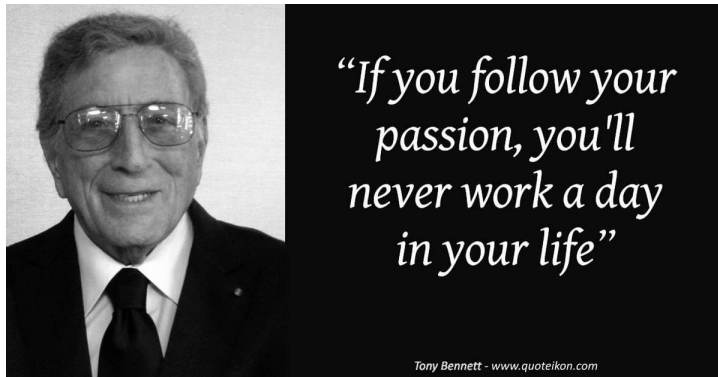
(Thanks, Brad Morris, for sharing.)



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## 11. A quote I like

Thanks, Tony Bennett (1926-2023), for your career as an American singer. He amassed many accolades, including 20 Grammy Awards, a Lifetime Achievement Award and two Primetime Emmy Awards. For more information about his life and to see him sing "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," click: [Here](#).



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## 12. Thought for the day

How to Hunt a Monkey (Inspirational Short Story about Letting Go)

"Do you know how hunters of old used to trap monkeys?" A man asked his child.

"Rather than chasing them up a tree or shooting arrows from below, they'd put a heavy glass jar with a narrow neck on the floor, which had the monkeys' favorite food inside.

"They'd then step back and hide, waiting for the unsuspecting animal to approach.

"When it did, the monkey would reach inside, clench a fist around the food, and try to pull it out. However, the narrow neck of the jar would stop the poor monkey from getting its hand out!

"It'd pull and pull, but to no avail. There was simply no way to get its hand out of the jar without releasing the food.

"Rather than letting go, though, the monkey would persevere, refusing to drop its dinner.

"The hunters would then approach and catch it to enjoy a meal of their own."

"Don't be like that monkey," warned the man. "In life, to fight another day and grow as person, you must know when to quit, when to move on, and when to let go of whatever's holding you back."

Moral of the story:

Sometimes you have to let go and give up what you have now in order to receive something better in the future. Don't let stubbornness be your downfall!

Source: [Here](#) (#1)

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

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