

BLAINESWORLD

#1245
7.27.2020

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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 continued to hunker down in Week 20 of the corona pandemic, but we were soooo happy to be visited by my Bettina Yiannakourou--my nephew David Greenfield's lovely wife. That's us, overlooking Asheville on the roof of Hemingway's Cuba Restaurant and Bar. The bottom left has us pictured in front of an indoor mural at the eatery and afterward, we all went out for some delicious ice cream at Kilwins.



B. I had two BLAINESWORLD radio/Facebook Live shows this past week on WPVM.

(1) Ashleigh Phillips, singer and actor; and (second half) Jessica Ayala, area director and publisher, N2 Publishing. To view it, please click: [Here](#).





(2) Dr. Michael Trayford, founder and director of clinical operations at Apex Brain Centers. To view it, please click: [Here](#).



C. Congratulations to:

(1) Dr. Michael Trayford and Apex Brain Centers for receiving a Sky High Growth Award from the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce.

(2) Bill Munoz on being hired as an adjunct instructor at UNCA to teach courses in Stage Management and Stage Combat.

(3) Amy Baker on the opening of Doggie Style Gourmet, a food truck that will be serving New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. For more information, please click: [Here](#).

(4) Edie Weinstein on being interviewed for an article that appeared in THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER. To read it, please click: [Here](#).

(5) Tom Gallagher, winner of Contest #14: a copy of THE CASE FOR CULTURE: HOW TO STOP BEING A SLAVE TO YOUR LAW FIRM, GROW YOUR PRACTICE, AND ACTUALLY BE HAPPY by Eric Farber. All told, there were three entries. And that reminds me that it is now time to introduce ...

******* CONTEST #15 *******

One lucky reader will win a copy of my friend Richard Shulman's LIFE SEASONS, his new CD. To quote from one Amazon reviewer: "Life Seasons" is the twenty-eighth album by Richard Shulman, a composer/keyboardist/pianist who creates music intended to be a positive influence for himself, audiences and society. ... The thirteen tracks on "Life Seasons" are a mix of vocal and instrumental pieces that tell stories about each of the annual seasons, often metaphors of the seasons of life. They also express the depth of love possible from sharing life over many years. ... There is great deal of variety in the music of "Life Seasons"--something for just about everyone!

To enter, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #15 in the subject line. In the body of your email, include both your name and mailing address. All entries must be received on or before Mon, August 10, at 9 p.m.



Richard Shulman *Life Seasons*



D. You're invited to ...

****** JOIN CYNTHIA ******

In either of the two virtual courses she teaches for Arms Around ASD: Meditation on Mondays and Move Your Body on Wednesdays. To attend these 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 Michael Gelb--my longtime friend who is also both an amazing author and motivational speaker. That's him below, leading an enlightening webinar on MindMapping that I had the pleasure of attending.

I first met Michael over 20 years ago when I read his book HOW TO THINK LIKE LEONARDO DA VINCI: SEVEN STEPS TO GENIUS EVERY DAY. It instantly become of my all-time favorite books, and shortly thereafter, I adopted it for one of the texts we used in a creativity course that I taught at Bucks County Community College until my retirement.

I then got to meet Micheal a few times, hired him for two seminars and even got to interview him a few times on my various radio shows. In addition, I've read and reviewed most every other book he has written.

If you'd like to join me in becoming a fan of Michael's work, please sign-up to find out more by clicking: [Here](#).



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2. FYI

Thanks, Honor Moor, for this reminder:
Parents of college students: Make sure they order their absentee ballot.

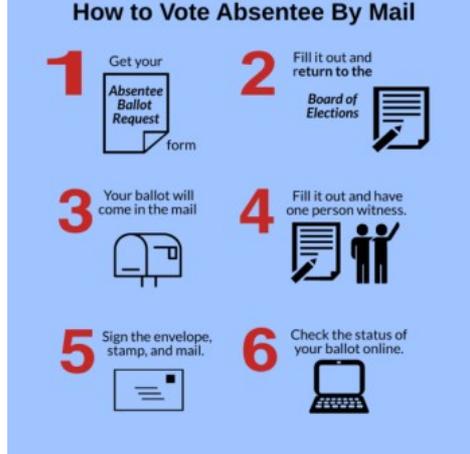
Note: Good reminder, not only for parents--but for everybody else, too.

See below for step-by-step instructions.

If you live in Buncombe County, NC, click here to do the above: [Here](#).

For those not living in Buncombe County, here's information for you:
NC: [Here](#).

Nationwide (and also for voter registration): [Here](#).



***** UPDATE *****

Last week, I mentioned an outstanding product called the Big Bite Thing for anybody suffering from mosquito or other bites..

Thanks, Steve Darter, for locating the segment when this was profiled on SHARK TANK. If you'd like to see it, please fast forward to the 15:19 mark when you click: [Here](#).

FYI, part 2

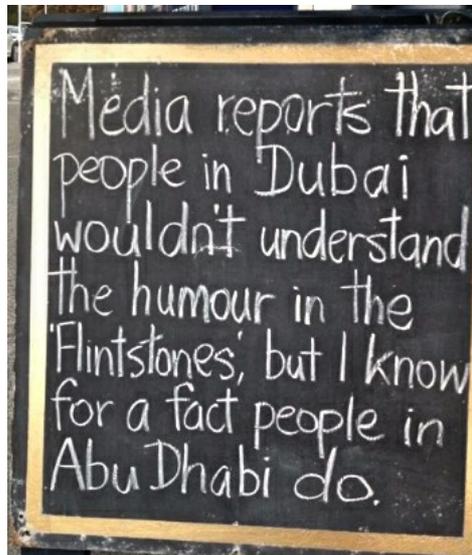
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: [Here](#).

A. Karen Mazza [responding to my list of my favorite films]: What a list! B. Herb Spiegel: In no particular order [my favorite films]. C. Janeen Ravkin: i like your shirt under 1-B! D. Maria Porambo [with an offer to check out in the second paragraph]. E. Flu shot may lower risk of Alzheimer's. F. A Brief History of 'Karen.' G. Is Your Blood Sugar Undermining Your Workouts?

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3. Joke 1

These same folks allegedly quote Fred Flintstone every morning. To hear what they're saying, please click: [Here](#).



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4. Reviews

A. Saw DREAM OF KINGS, a powerful drama, on TCM. Anthony Quinn, superb as always, plays a marriage counselor who ekes out a living as a neighborhood marriage counselor in the Greek community of Chicago. His goal in life is to take his dying son to Greece, but his own stupidity gets in the way of his doing so. Inger Stevens, Irene Pappas and Sam Levene are also superb in this film that I liked at lot. Rated R.

B. Saw DOUBLE PLATINUM, a made-for-TV drama with music, on Netflix (but was only on through the end of July)
Diana Ross plays a major star in pop music who, in pursuit of her career, gave up her only child. They meet up, years later, as the daughter--played by Brandy Norwood--has become a gifted young singer on the rise. There's some excellent music, but the production values were lacking, and the story was hokey. Nevertheless, the film was watchable if you're a fan of either of the two stars. Rated PG.

Note: If interested, click this link to ask Netflix to bring the above or other films

back: [Here](#).

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5. TV alert

A. TOUGH AS NAILS: Wed., August 5 at 8 p.m. on CBS
I've always wondered what it's like to be a lineman. Tonight I'll find out as contestants take the latest challenge and attempt to rescue someone who's stranded atop a pole.

B. DON'T: Thurs., August 6, at 9 p.m. on ABC
Members of a four-person team attempt to win a cash prize of \$100,000 by not getting shocked for flubbing a true-false question and not budging when host Adam Scott fires objects at them with a slingshot.

C. IN THE HEIGHTS; CHASING BROADWAY DREAMS: Fri, August 7, at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at [Here](#))
This GREAT PERFORMANCES installment follows Lin-Manuel Miranda (before HAMILTON) as he and others ready their Latin-and hip-hop musical for Broadway.

D. RICHARD JEWELL: Sat., August 8, at 8 p.m. on HBO
Clint Eastwood directs this sad, true story of a security guard who found a bomb at the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta. He was first hailed as a hero and then he became a suspect. Kathy Bates was nominated for an Oscar for her work as Jewell's mother. I think Paul Walter Hauser should have received a nomination for his work in the leading role.

Note: RICHARD JEWELL is on my list of favorite films. If you'd like to receive a copy of this send, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

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6. Joke 2

Going through some family pictures, I came across this one that brought back sweet memories! (Thanks, Ginny Manning, 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 performance from Justin Diaz by clicking: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

Thanks, Lois Rosenthal, for sharing this one:
Lois Rosenthal: Keb' Mo'.....Put a Woman in Charge: [Here](#).

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

(1) Village People - YMCA OFFICIAL Music Video, one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Ashleigh Phillips: Eva Cassidy's version of this Sting song! FIELDS OF GOLD: [Here](#).

(3) Cynthia Greenfield: Seal - Love's Divine (Official Music Video): [Here](#).

(4) Natalie Kaye: CLAUDIA PELLEGRINI Fiddler Medley: [Here](#).

(5) Paul Marks: All About That Bass - Postmodern Jukebox European Tour Version: [Here](#).

D. Here's a website that you will also want to check out: TED, the organization that brings you the fabulous TED talks. It is the perfect locale if you're in the mood to see something interesting (and learn, too). You can access it by clicking: [Here](#).

You've probably seen TED talks, from time to time, but here they all are in one location.

I also like the Editors' picks toward the top. Recent ones included:

3 secrets of resilient people

The difference between being "not racist" and antiracist

How to let go of being a "good" person--and become a better person

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

How to Backup iPhone Photos to Google Photos, for Free
by Rajesh Mishra

Apple offers merely 5GB of iCloud storage for free, which is too little to accommodate all the photos and videos. Let alone backing up your entire iOS device. Of course, you can always upgrade to a premium iCloud storage plan (starts at \$0.99/month for 50GB), but not everyone wants to buy a subscription. And this is where Google Photos becomes a viable alternative for those willing to store their entire photo library in cloud storage for better management and universal accessibility. If that's you, follow along to learn how you can backup your iPhone and iPad photos to Google Photos for free.

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

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9. Joke 3

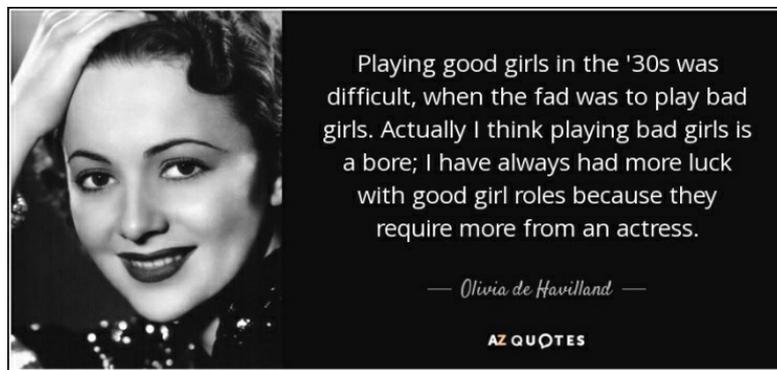
Methinks this would get even more folks to wear masks. (Thanks, Carole Biro, for sharing.)



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10. A quote I like

Thanks, Olivia de Havilland (1916-2020), for your entertaining work in 49 feature films, theatre and television. You'll be remembered for your two Oscar wins, but perhaps your most significant role involved filing and winning a suit against Warner Bros. that reduced the power of studios over their performers. For more information about her



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11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Stephanie Hickling Beckman, for this terrific question that you recently posted on Facebook:

Performer-type friends. From your heart- how much do you miss performing and connecting with an audience right now?

I was touched by many of the answers, but especially by this one from Carol Duermit that she has graciously allowed me to use:

I knew I wanted to act and sing from the time I could talk. I was never permitted to be in any plays or join a choir and was told constantly growing up that I needed to keep my day job when I would try to sing for my parents. I memorized the musical Pippin but never got to see it. I never was permitted to audition for a play. And I got married and he wouldn't let me audition or do plays either. I got married again and this one let me do a play but constantly gave me grief the entire time and held me to doing only one a year, so at 30 I did my first show. Everyone above me in this thread knows how that felt. That feeling that you're where you want to be with people that you want to be with. The feeling that you would go to rehearsal all day every single day and never really even care if you did a performance you just love memorizing lines and becoming a character. You love learning new songs and seeing how you can express them. And then you get to do a show in front of people and you hear them laugh or you hear them quietly cry. And then... You hear them applaud. And you feel like you just climbed a mountain. And you get to climb that mountain every single night during the Run of a show and you get to stand on top of the mountain and take a deep breath and realize what you've accomplished. So I've gotten to do that and felt like the luckiest person in the world. So lucky that even though it took 30 years to get there, I finally did and I was finally allowed to do what I loved. And all I can be now ... as sad as I am ... is grateful that I ever got to do this at all. I have always been so grateful that something I loved so much was also something I was good enough to be able to do. I've never had a moment of conceit about being able to sing a song or memorize a line I just felt so very, very eternally grateful that what I was able to do matched up with what I wanted to do and that they finally came together. I'm sitting here crying at work. I love my job. But I absolutely love the theater and I love performing. But nobody can take away any of the plays any of us have already done or any of the songs any of us have already sung. I love all of you.

Note: I also thought you might like to see my answer:

Cynthia, my beautiful bride, often asks me a similar question: How much do I miss theatre? ... I didn't realize how much I did until I recently saw HAMILTON on the Disney channel. It had me in tears. ... Just reading all these comments has me feeling the same way. Although I wouldn't quite put me in the performer category (having just three small parts in the past five years), I do proudly consider myself a big fan of the work done by y'all in the Asheville theatre community. Thank you for that. ... I look forward to seeing you back on stage where you belong, hopefully in the near future. In addition, I look forward to again both writing about you in my BLAINESWORLD blog and having you on my WPVM/Facebook Live show. ... And perhaps most importantly, I can't wait to give you this big thumbs up ...



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12. Advance planning department

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

A. Jason Scholder: Bunch of Jokers. B. Chuck Fink: Stories From Heaven and Earth.
C. Jenny Bunn: Costume Drama: A Fashion Show 2020.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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