

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](#).

#1349
8.1.2022

In this issue

1. Reflections
 2. Invites
 3. FYI
 4. Joke 1
 5. Reviews
 6. TV alert
 7. Joke 2
 8. Clips/Websites
 9. Technology tip
 10. Joke 3
 11. Two quotes I like
 12. Thought for the day
 13. Advance planning department
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I enjoyed our dinner at Piazza, located at 4 Olde Eastwood Village Blvd in Fairview. The food was good and surprisingly, the French fries were just about as good as any place we've ever had them. Our only mistake: We did not order dessert. All that were on display looked fantastic.



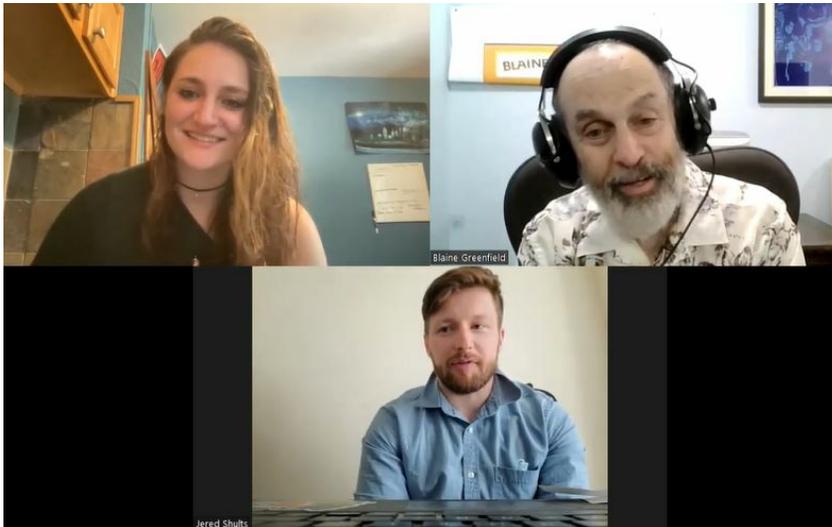
B. YOU'RE IN LUCK! ... You still have until Aug. 13 to see Montford Park Players' modern take on MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING--one of Shakespeare's greatest comedies. ... John Russell (top left photo) got everybody laughing, as he always does, when he had the audience pledge not to use their cellphones. ... Dwight Chiles (top right photo) directed the play with aplomb. ... And all those in the talented cast (bottom photo) distinguished themselves with outstanding performances: Matt Wade, Fable Day, Patrick Nguyen, Matilyn Hull, Ariel Robinson, Eric Vik, Paula O'Brien, Jayden Parton, Joshua Kerber, Emily Tucker, Lateasa Bond, Kai Strange, Sacred Stone and Gaia Eggert.



C. Catch this week's BLAINESWORLD show by clicking: [Here](#). .. Guests: (first half) Shana Kriewall, Facility Manager, Harvest House; and (second half) Thomas Calder, Editor, Mountain Xpress Newspaper.



D. There was a second BLAINESWORLD show this week. ... Guests: Jered Shults and Lilly Mills discuss Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood, running at Parkway Playhouse from July 30-Aug. 13. ... To view it, click: [Here](#). ... For tickets, click: [Here](#).



E. Condolences to the family and friends of Joseph Parra who passed away several months ago. (I just read about this sad fact recently.) To read a tribute that was written about him, click: [Here](#).

F. Congratulations to:

- (1) Scott Fisher and Kirby Gibson on their marriage.
- (2) Chuck and Elaine Beattie on the birth of Rosalie Joyce Beattie, their new granddaughter.
- (3) Blake Anthony Ellege and Holly Mckenney on their marriage.
- (4) Flori Pate for her appearance on WLOS, talking about all the great work that Food Connection does for the community. To view the clip, please click: [Here](#).

G. Announcing this week's ...

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

It goes to Amy (pictured below with my friend Tom Gallagher), our favorite server at Cracker Barrel, 34 Tunnel Road, Asheville. Not pictured: Brian Biro, the other member of our Breakfast Club, who joins us whenever he is in town.

Amy is always both helpful and friendly, and as you can see, she has a winning smile.

Our breakfasts there are always great, and I especially like the fact that you can order a small size of certain items; e.g., the delicious blueberry pancakes. In addition, I appreciate likes that you can get real maple syrup--and it is always served hot.

Prices are also very reasonable.

Note: All the other employees are equally friendly at this location, as is the management.



2. Invites

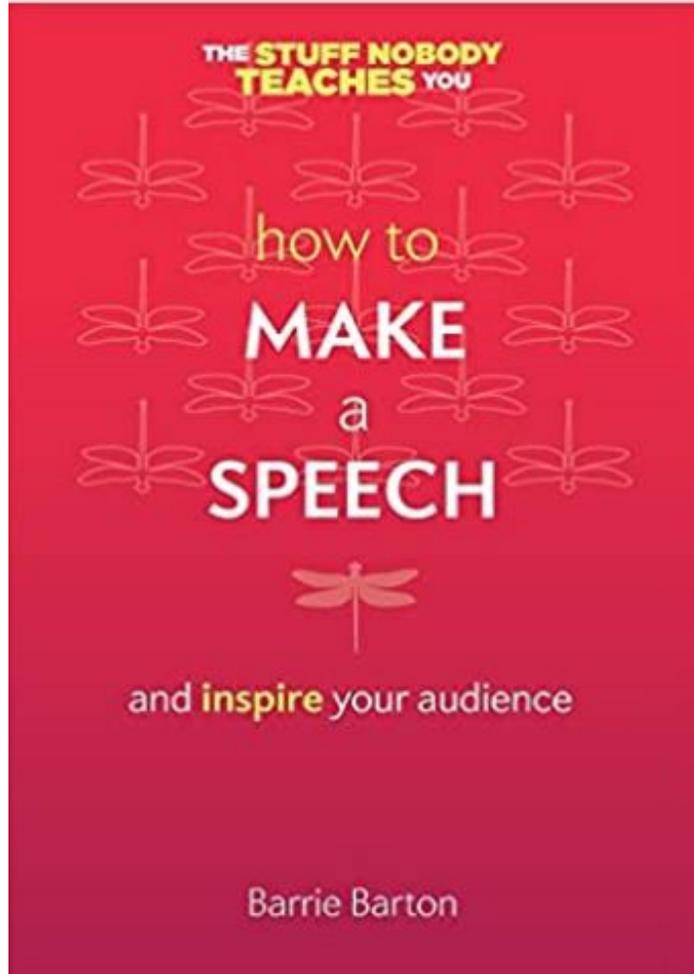
A. There's still time to enter ...

******* Contest #12 *******

One lucky reader will win a copy of HOW TO MAKE A SPEECH AND INSPIRE YOUR AUDIENCE by Barrie Barton. If you want your speech to be both engaging and memorable, this is the book for you.

To quote one reviewer, "My conference speech was a massive hit. Over 1,300 people heard it, and probably 200 people came up to me and told me how much they enjoyed it. I couldn't have done it without Barrie!"

To enter the contest, send an email to: 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 9 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 1.



B. Want to be a guest on my BLAINESWORLD show, now seen on Facebook YouTube and LinkedIn? If you have news you'd like to share and/or a story to tell, send an email to: 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 (that you can also attend in person). 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).

3. FYI

Have Better Conversations With Friends—or Anyone
by Elizabeth Bernstein

I was driving with my teenage nephew Noah recently when he blurted out: "Can we talk?"

We were on our way to meet friends, chit-chatting about the music on the radio and where to go for lunch.

Absolutely, I told him. What did he want to discuss?

“Oh, I don’t know,” Noah said. “Just something more interesting.”

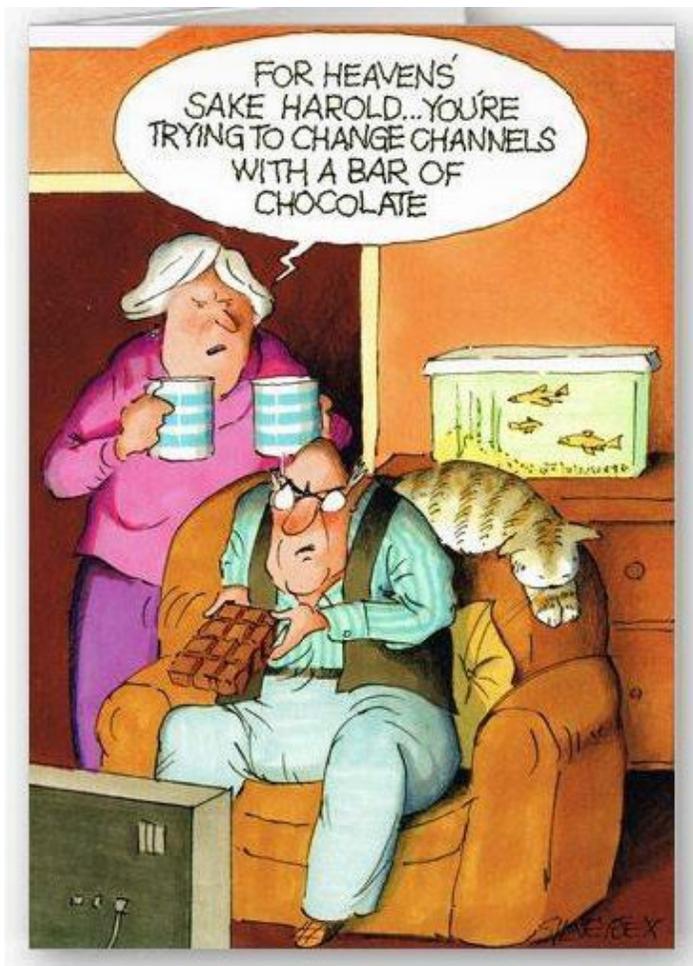
It’s time to deepen our conversations.

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

Note: If a paywall prevents you from reading the above, you can instead read it by clicking: [Here](#).

4. Joke 1

This would never happen to me because I would have eaten the chocolate long before it made it to the living room. ... And besides, everybody knows the real reason they invented TV remotes ... to be picked up when the phone rings. (Thanks, Elaine Bilk, for sharing.)



5. Reviews

A. Cynthia and I saw VENGEANCE, the directorial debut from writer and star B.J. Novak (THE OFFICE). The film, a darkly comic thriller, tells the story of Ben Manalowitz, a journalist and podcaster who travels from New York City to West Texas to investigate the death of a girl he had briefly hooked up with. Novak is quite good in the leading role, and I also liked the work of both Ashton Kutcher, playing against type, and Boyd Holbrook. The first half was terrific, but the ending left something to be desired. Rated R.

B. I very much liked BLUE BAYOU, a film that I saw on HBO that's also available on Amazon Prime (but I don't think it is free there). From award-winning writer/director Justin Chon, it is the moving and timely story of a uniquely American family fighting for their future. Chon is outstanding in the leading role and is very believable as a Korean adoptee raised in a small town in the Louisiana bayou who discovers that he could be deported from the only country he has ever called home. Make sure you watch the ending credits. Rated R.

6. TV alert

A. BEAUTY QUEEN OF JERUSALEM: Now on Netflix

Cynthia and I are halfway through this 10-episode series follows a family of Spanish Sephardic Jews living in Jerusalem in the early 20th century. We are loving it.

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

B. THE REHEARSAL: Currently streaming on HBO and HBO Max

The follow-up to NATHAN FOR YOU sees the comedian Nathan Fielder helping ordinary people prepare for momentous life events. If you liked NATHAN (and I was a big fan), you'll also like this show. I got a kick out of the first two episodes and look forward to future shows.

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

C. SUMMER UNDER THE STARS: Begins Monday, Aug. 1, at 6 a.m. on TCM

Elvis Presley leads off a month-long tribute to a different star. Jean Arthur is featured on Tuesday, Aug. 2, and she is followed by Sidney Poitier on Wednesday, Aug. 3.

D. CMA FEST: Wednesday, Aug. 3, at 8 p.m. on ABC

"Worth a Shot" duet partners and pals Dierks Bentley and Elle King cohost this three-hour concert special that also features Carrie Underwood and Billy Ray Cyrus, among others.

7. Joke 2

Someone posted on Facebook that she had just baked some synonym buns. I replied, "You mean just like the ones grammar used to make?" ... Now I'm unfriended. (Thanks, Linda Williams, for sharing.)



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 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 version from my friend Hank Eder (pictured below) that he performed at the Mars Hill Farmers and Artisans Market: [Here](#).



B. Video of the week

Joni Mitchell performs "Both Sides Now" at the Newport Folks Festival: [Here](#). (Thanks, Chelsey Gaddy, for sharing.)

For more information about her amazing appearance, click: [Here](#).

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

(1) Milton singing "The Man Song" by Sean Morey, one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Britain's Got Talent: [Here](#). (Thanks, Mark Jones, for sharing.)

(3) Hallelujah · By Bon Jovi: [Here](#).

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

Learn how everything works at HowStuffWorks by clicking: [Here](#).

Cool site to find information about such things as the following:

No Bridesmaid? No Problem. You can Just Hire one.

10 Classic Swimming Pool Games

How to Escape a Sinking Car

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](#).

9. Technology tip

The Default Tech Settings You Should Turn Off Right Away

by Brian X. Chen

There's a catchy saying going around with a valuable lesson about our personal technology: The devil is in the defaults.

The saying refers to the default settings that tech companies embed deep in the devices, apps and websites we use. These settings typically make us share data about our activities and location. We can usually opt out of this data collection, but the companies make the menus and buttons hard to notice, likely in the hope that we don't immediately tweak them.

Apple, Google, Amazon, Meta and Microsoft generally want us to leave some default settings on, purportedly to train their algorithms and catch bugs, which then make their products easier for us to use. But unnecessary data sharing isn't always in our best interest.

For the rest of this informative article that ran in THE NEW YORK TIMES, click: [Here](#).

10. Joke 3

Bullying has got to stop! (Thanks, Ed Hackett, for sharing.)



11. Two quotes I like

A. Thanks, Tony Dow (1945-2022), for your career as an American actor, film producer and director. He was

best known for his role in the television sitcom Leave It to Beaver, which ran in primetime from 1957 to 1963. For more information about his life, click: [Here](#).

"What do you want to go doing that [thinking] for. It's not even a school night."--Tony Dow as Wally Cleaver, speaking to his brother Beaver



B. Thanks, Paul Sorvino (1939-2022), for your career as an American actor, opera singer and sculptor. He often portrayed authority figures on both sides of the law, best known for his work in the 1990 gangster film GOODFELLAS and in the TV series LAW & ORDER. For more information about his life, click: [Here](#).

"There are many people who think I'm actually a gangster or a mafioso, largely because of 'Goodfellas.' "--Paul Sorvino



12. Thought for the day

A Wise Man's Jokes

A wise man once faced a group of people who were complaining about the same issues over and over again. One day, instead of listening to the complaints, he told them a joke and everyone cracked up laughing.

Then, the man repeated the joke. A few people smiled.

Finally, the man repeated the joke a third time—but no one reacted.

The man smiled and said, "You won't laugh at the same joke more than once. So what are you getting from continuing to complain about the same problem?"

The Moral:

You're not going to get anywhere if you keep complaining about the same problem but do nothing to fix it. Don't waste your time complaining, expecting other people to continue to react to your complaints. Instead, take action to make a change.

Source: [Here](#).

13. Advance planning department

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

A. Victoria Lamberth: Call for Directors. B. Kenneth Davis: From This Day Forward. C. Katie Davis: Obstructure.

PS. Make it a great week!
