

You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not toooo 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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#1403

8.7.2023

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## 1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a fabulous week, visiting friends and relatives up North.

(1) We met my daughter Risa Reavely and her friend Honey Woloff for a tasty breakfast at the Caldwell Diner in Caldwell, NJ (top picture).

(2) We then spent a lot of time with her sister Joyce Litchman and brother-in-law Marty, during which time we had several meals together. That's us at Nonna's in Florham Park, NJ, where we had a delicious Italian meal (bottom left picture).

(3) And when we had a rare evening alone, we hit the Ritz Diner in Livingston, NJ (bottom right picture). That had always been one of Cynthia's favorite eateries when she lived in New Jersey. Our meal there had me seeing why this was the case.



B. With Joyce and Marty:

(1) We saw BARBIE (top picture). For my review, see Sect.5A. Our only disappointment: The theater didn't have a Barbie Dollhouse for us to pose in to show you.

(2) Afterward, we had another great meal at the Whippany Diner (bottom left picture). Are you beginning to get the impression that we like diners?

(3) And we had some fabulous ice cream at Last Licks in Whippany (bottom right picture).





C. We also got to celebrate Marty's 89th birthday with him and other family members. That's Frankie, his adorable granddaughter (top left left picture).





D. On another day, we had a blast at Eppes Essen Deli & Restaurant in Livingston, NJ, where we attended a meeting of Cynthia's Cousins Club. We enjoyed both the company and having a true Jewish deli meal.





E. I was able to get to Bucks County, PA, for a few short days.

(1) On one of them, I met my friend Bill Lewis for breakfast at Jake's Eatery--still one of my favorite eateries in that area (top picture).

(2) On another day, I met with other friends and former students for ice cream at Zebra Striped Whale in Newtown (bottom picture). The ice cream was as good as ever!





F. On one of the nights:

- (1) I joined friends Kevin Jameson and Ann Redfield and Chic and Joni Dowburd for a fun dinner at Poco's Restaurant in Doylestown, PA (top left picture).
- (2) From there, we went upstairs to the Comedy Cabaret. That's Kevin and me posing in front of a picture of us at the same locale over a decade earlier (top right picture).
- (3) We then all saw that night's show, and I have to say it was one of the best I've ever seen at the Comedy Cabaret--and I've seen a bunch. Taylor Mason, the headliner (bottom picture), knocked our socks off with his comedy, ventriloquism, keyboarding and singing. What versatility! We also enjoyed the comedy of Tim Conniff and Glenn Freezman, as well as the set from newbie Kevin Tiers.





G. Lastly, i was glad to get back to New Jersey to see my buddy Nate Himelstein. We loved visiting the Yogi Berra Museum in Montclair (bottom left picture) and had a marvelous visit and meal at his club, the Cedar Hill Country Club in Livingston.



H. Upon my return to North Carolina, I got to see one show. See below for what I wrote about it on Facebook.

YOU'RE IN FOR A TREAT! ... That is, if you're lucky enough to get to see YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN--now at Parkway Playhouse through Aug. 13. ... This family-friendly musical is delightful and features terrific singing and dancing from all those in the talented cast: Reed Atherton, Ellsworth Sullivan, Graham Podraza, Kelli Hall, Joby Lavery and Riley Oswald. Kudos to Marci Bernstein for her spot on direction, as well as to Lynda Shuler for her music direction and Morgen Joplin for her choreography. .. Tickets can be obtained by clicking:

[Here.](#)





I. I also hosted one BLAINESWORLD podcast. My guest was Jan Lowe--Director, Leadership Asheville at UNCA. ... To view or listen to the podcast, navigate to: [Here](#) and look for the one dated 8.4.2023. ... You'll then have the option to view it on YouTube or listen to it on your favorite podcast player.



J. Condolences to Tom Crook and family on the passing of Thomas Crook, Tom's father.

K. Congratulations to:

- (1) Marcy Gallagher on being a guest on The Overlook podcast with Matt Peiken. To listen to it, click [Here](#).
- (2) Jenna Biro on her new position Project Manager at Brian Biro Enterprises, LLC.
- (3) Cara Cotellese on being picked as an influencer by her students at Kutztown University.
- (4) Keynon Lake and his My Daddy Taught Me That organization for being named 2023 Program of the Year by the North Carolina Gang Investigators Association. For more information, click: [Here](#).

L. Announcing this week's ...

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

It goes to Asheville Fire Chief Scott Burnette who retired June 1 after serving as chief for the last 14 years. His career as a firefighter lasted more than 28 years.

Burnette said he is proud of the strides the Asheville Fire Department made in staffing levels during his time as fire chief, improving firefighter safety and on-scene capabilities.

Among his many accomplishments:

- \* Advocating for the addition of Fire Station 13 (slated to open in June 2023) to improve response times in Stumptown, Montford, Five Points, and Richmond Hill neighborhoods.
- \* Increasing staff to a minimum of four firefighters on each engine and ladder truck which improved firefighter safety and on-scene response capabilities.
- \* Restructuring the Fire Marshal's Office (code enforcement) to be more efficient and effective, improving staff retention and supplying career advancement opportunities in this division.



\* Implementing Rapid Intervention Companies: three engines with teams of highly trained firefighters equipped with the tools needed to rescue a downed firefighter.

\* Maintaining Asheville Fire Department accreditation status by the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

\* Earning a Class 1 Insurance Rating, given to only the top one percent of fire departments across the country, resulting in lower insurance rates within Asheville city limits.

\* Increasing Asheville Fire Department applicant diversity by nearly 25 percent.

\* Increasing the department's capabilities to a higher EMT-Advanced level allowing them to administer life-saving intravenous medications and perform advanced life-saving procedures, increasing positive outcomes in our community.

\* Receiving the Community Service Award by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation for the department's efforts to increase resilience and mental health wellness resources support for the department.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Chief Burnette a few times on both my radio show and my podcast. He was always an informative guest, and I know he will be missed--not only by me, but by all of Asheville.





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## 2. Invites

A. Please help fund a new musical with a message

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; and Elliot Rosse, Intern.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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](#).

B. Please join me at this new book event on Friday, Aug. 11, from 7-8 p.m. at the Weaverville Community Center.

My friend Madison Brightwell will read from and discuss THE WORLD BEYOND THE REDBUD TREE, her new novel.

Madison hopes to inspire readers of the book to think about how we can all contribute to making this world a better place.

Note: I'll be emceeding the event. It promises to be a fun, interesting evening.

C. The deadline for this contest has been EXTENDED ...

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

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

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.

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., Aug 7.

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### 3. FYI

Apple Secretly Looks for Candidates Who Are Willing to Say These 3 Little Words  
by Kelly Main

Apple is notorious for its brilliant, yet undercover interview tactics that sift through the nation's most sought-after talent quickly to zero in on those that display not only the most topical knowledge and first-hand

experience, but also the character that embodies Apple's ideal employee. Whether interrupting a candidate to randomly ask, "Is coconut a fruit?" (and the genius reason why) or employing odd tests such as the pre-interview social assessment, the interview process at Apple is far more strategic than a list of well-crafted interview questions and highly qualified candidates.

In other words, Apple has developed a meticulously designed hiring process.

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

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#### 4. Joke 1

Prison break caught on camera.



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## 5. Reviews

A. Cynthia and I saw *BARBIE* with her sister Joyce and her husband Marty, and were definitely the oldest folks in the audience. We all liked this satire about what it's like to be a perfect being in a perfect place; i.e., unless you have a full-on existential crisis. Or you're a Ken. . . Margot Robbie shined as Barbie (and certainly looks like her), and Ryan Gosling was quite good as Ken. The sets were terrific. Rated PG-13.

B. We liked *THEATER CAMP* even more. This mockumentary is set at the fictional AndirondACTS, an upstate New York summer camp that has seen better days. When it is nearly run into the ground, staff and students band together to stage a masterpiece that keeps their beloved summer camp afloat. Ben Platt and Molly Gordon head an outstanding cast that also featured impressive work from Noah Galvin, Jimmy Tatro and Ayoe Ederbiri. Rated PB-13.

If you've ever been a theater kid or the parent of one, you **MUST** see this film.

Note: It is currently running at Grail Moviehouse through this week and next.

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## 6. TV alert

A. *SUPERFAN*: Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on CBS

In this unscripted reality show, contestants strive to prove they love Gloria Estefan, LL Cool J. Little Big Town, Pitbull, Shania Twain or Kelsea Ballerini more than anybody on Earth.

B *HOW TO BECOME A CULT LEADER*: Now on Netflix

Game of Thrones' Peter Dinklage narrates a hit docuseries that provides tongue-in-cheek advice for achieving mind and soul control over your followers with half-hour episodes on the Manson Family, Peoples Temple, Heaven's Gate and more.

C. *THE LOST FLOWERS OF ALICE HART*: Now on Amazon Prime's ad-supported Freevee service  
Sigourney Weaver stars as a strong-willed flower farmer who takes in her young granddaughter, Alice, after a mysterious fire kills her parents. The seven-part miniseries, based on a best-selling novel and streaming in weekly installments follows Alice into young adulthood as she begins to question her past and her connection to the natural world.

D. *GOOD OMENS*, Season 2: Now on Prime Video

The angel Aziraphale (Michael Sheen) and the demon Crowley (David Tennant), who formed an unlikely alliance to prevent Armageddon in the first season, team up once again after the angel Gabriel (Jon Hamm) goes missing. This second installment is based on the unfinished sequel by the original novel's coauthors, Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett.

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## 7. Joke 2

Tip of the day! (Thanks, Mike Martinelli, for posting.)

**Don't wait until you're on  
your death bed to tell people  
how you feel.**

**You could be too weak to  
raise your middle finger.**

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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 Allen Stone: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

Dance Me To End of Love | Argentine Tango by Lindsey and Ricardo

Hard to believe this kind of steam could come from a married couple: [Here](#). (Thanks, Jonathan Berg, for sharing.)

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

(1) Neil Diamond, "If You Go Away," one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Howard Smith: Hymns (8.6.2023): [Here](#).

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: On August 1, 1971 – George Harrison's Concert for Bangladesh took place at New York's Madison Square Garden. While star-studded benefit concerts would become a common occurrence over the next decade, The Concert for Bangladesh marked the very first event of its kind. Organized by the Beatles alum, alongside Ravi Shankar, the event raised funds and awareness for victims of famine and war in the South Asian country. Over two shows, 40,000 attendees enjoyed a supergroup of players, including Leon Russell, Eric Clapton, Bob Dylan, Billy Preston, members of Badfinger, and Harrison's former bandmate, Ringo Starr. Recordings of the concert would top the UK chart the following year and earn Harrison a Grammy Award.

To see a clip about the concert, click: [Here](#).

(4) Bob Hope And USO Troupe On Tour 1945 Solomon Islands Archival Stock Footage: [Here](#). (Thanks, Glenn Golcher, for sharing.)

(5) Did anyone know Harry Chapin wrote a Sequel to Taxi?  
Harry Chapin – Sequel: [Here](#). (Thanks, Lauren Steiner, for sharing.)

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

Want to fill your heart with joy and forget about the world? Check out Live Kitty Cam by clicking [Here](#).

This is a live webcam set up at Kitten Rescue Sanctuary in Los Angeles. If not much is happening in the room you're watching, you can always switch to another one.

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

Learn keyboard shortcuts

They can drastically increase your productivity by reducing the time you spend on common tasks. For example, on a PC, you can use Ctrl + C to copy and Ctrl + V to paste.

For others, click: [Here](#).

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## 10. Joke 3

When you know it's time to get a different tattoo artist ...

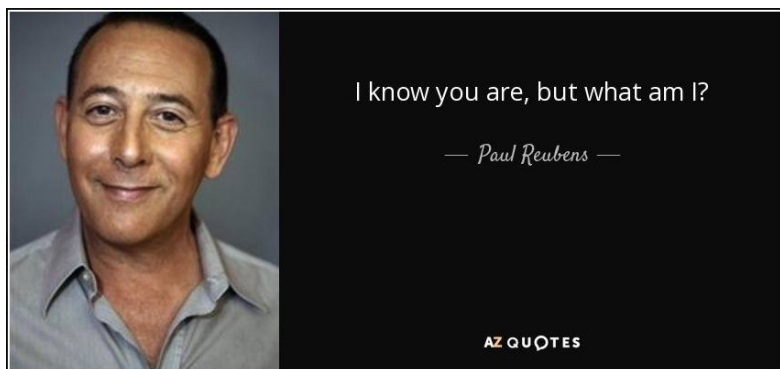


THE DAY GARRY REALISED HE NEEDED A HEARING-TEST

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## 11. A quote I like

Thanks, Paul Reubens (1942-2023) for your career as an American actor and comedian. He was best known for creating and portraying the character Pee-wee Herman. Reubens was nominated for 14 Emmy Awards during his career, winning twice. For more information about his life, click: [Here](#).



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## 12. Thought for the day

### Buridan's Ass

A hungry ass finds himself between two equally large and delicious-looking bales of hay.

He looks from one to the other and back again, unsure which to choose.

This goes on for a long while until, unable to make a decision, the poor old donkey dies of starvation.

Moral of the story:

Take action! Don't linger too long on the precipice of a big (or small) decision when the outcomes are positive.

Source: [Here](#) (#10)

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

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