#1142
8.13.2018

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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:

(1) Had a blast at the cast party for the HAPPY TOGETHER REVUE. Thanks, George and Ellen Pappas, for hosting us.

Should you want to see see these pictures at full size, please click:
Here

Note: If you didn't yet get to see pictures or video clips from the Revue, please click:
Here

FAMILIES
BELONG
TOGETHER

HAPPY TOGETHER CAST PARTY
3 Photos

(2) Enjoyed the visit of Steve and Karen Marinoff, our longtime New Jersey friends. We got to take them to some our favorite places in Asheville, including Zen Sushi, The Hop and Cafe 64.

Should you want to see these pictures at full size, please click:
Here

The Marinoffs in Asheville
4 Photos

(3) Ordered take-out from Piazza with our friends Tom and Marcy Gallagher. It was great, as was their company.

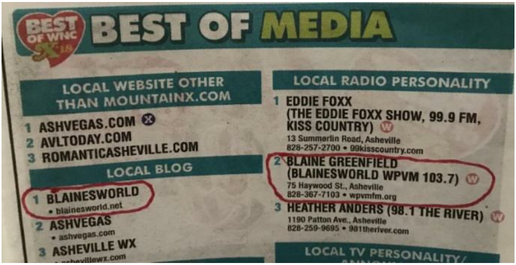
(4) Joined our friends Marvin Sadovsky and Annemarie Brown for a terrific dinner at Mikado Japanese.

B. WPVM/FM invites you to listen to the BLAINESWORLD show from Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018 ... Guests (first half): Daphne Fox-Chinea and Duane Fernandes, both with Hemingway's Cuba Restaurant; for more information: https://www.hemingwayscubaasheville.com/
and (second half) Dawn Westmoreland, head of HR Consultants; for more information: http://www.workplacebullyingsupport.com/ ... . Pictured,l-r: Daphne Fox-Chinea, Blaine Greenfield, Dane Fernandes and Dawn Westmoreland ... To listen to the show, click: https://tinyurl.com/y7pnqls9 ... .To view it via Facebook Live, click: https://youtu.be/NxyOA-1QWPs.

WPVM 10
wpvmfm.org

C. I saw the final production of SART's final play of the 2018 summer season: I-YA-I-YA-O. It was both funny and touching. The direction from Jim Thomas was spot-on, as were the performances (left photo) from, l-r: Brady Wease, Lee Wilson, Jennifer O'Rear and to the right of me, Kay Crews St. Clair, Pat Tomaselli and Phoebe Hall. ... It was also great to see (right photo) Neil St. Clair and Kay, especially since they were also celebrating their 41st wedding anniversary that day.

D. THANKS, Y'ALL ... for your votes in the Best of WNC competition that was sponsored by Mountain Xpress. As can be seen (below), my BLAINESWORLD blog was named #1, and I was named #2 local radio personality. ... In the unlikely event you don't yet get my weekly blog, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line. You'll them get my free missive that contains jokes that are hopefully not toooo risque; information about both Asheville and Bucks County, PA; theatre news; etc. ... And for information about my BLAINESWORLD radio show on WPVM (or if you'd like to be a guest), send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put RADIO SHOW in subject line.



BEST OF WNC X'18

BEST OF MEDIA

LOCAL WEBSITE OTHER THAN MOUNTAINX.COM

1 ASHVEGAS.COM
2 AVLTODAY.COM
3 ROMANTICASHEVILLE.COM

LOCAL BLOG

1 BLAINESWORLD
• blainesworld.net
2 ASHVEGAS
• ashvegas.com
3 ASHEVILLE WX
• ashevillewx.com

LOCAL RADIO PERSONALITY

1 EDDIE FOXX (THE EDDIE FOXX SHOW, 99.9 FM, KISS COUNTRY)
13 Summerlin Road, Asheville
828-257-2700 • 99kisscountry.com
2 BLAINE GREENFIELD (BLAINESWORLD WPVM 103.7)
75 Haywood St., Asheville
828-367-7103 • wpvmfm.org
3 HEATHER ANDERS (98.1 THE RIVER)
1190 Patton Ave., Asheville
828-259-9695 • 981theriver.com

LOCAL TV PERSONALITY/

E. Condolences to:

(1) The family of Jo Renfro Caines Roberts who passed away on August 12. For her obituary, please click:
Here

(2) Elaine Lea Goldstein Bilk and family on the passing of Sylvia Billk, Elaine's mother-in-law.

F. Congratulations to:

(1) Gaia Goldman on her Bat Mitavah.

(2) Colby Coren on becoming a 5th Grade teacher assistant at Clear Creek Elementary School.

(3) Kathy Byers, winner of contest #17. She won a copy of Nicole Rotundo's book, NICOLE'S FABULOUS LIFE. All told, there were just three entries. And that reminds me it is time to introduce ...

***** CONTEST #18 ****

One lucky reader will get an autographed copy of my friend Steven Shulman's just-published memoir: MY UNCLE GLORIA. ... To quote from the book's description on Amazon: Change is always good .... until it's not. My Uncle Butch, the classic "macho" auto junkyard owner, and womanizer, decides at the age of 66 to have a sex change. And somehow, his transformation brings my neurotic and unhinged family back together-for better or worse. But what is it that changed? Was it Butch? Was it me? Or, was it something else? "My Uncle Gloria" digs deep into the core of a dysfunctional family, as they find a way to not only cope with each other but also how to "accept" each other. ... I look forward to reading it! ... To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #18 in the subject line, then include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email..... All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Mon., August 27, 2018.

My Uncle Gloria
A Memoir
Steven Shulman

G. Corrections:

(1) Todd Siben's name was misspelled in last week's issue. Sorry 'bout that.

(2) In the BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD (about Bill Lewis), there was a typo that contained incorrect information about how Bill was injured. He fell while cutting branches at his church. If you missed what was written about him, please click this link to see the issue-and then scroll down to the bottom of Section 1:
Here

H. If you're in the PA/NJ/NY area, please come join me sometime during this coming September 13-18. I'll be taking my annual TREK NORTH, and there's a full slate of activities. Among them: (1) Dementia Society of America's 5th anniversary concert, dinner and recognition gala; (2) Annual get together at the Sycamore Grill, featuring performances from Bill Lewis, John Strauss and Todd Siben; and (3) Presentation at Bucks County Community College on the Platinum Rule. ... .For more information about all these events and more, please click:
Here

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

This week, it goes to Aretha Franklin (1942-2018), R.I.P. ... She was an American singer and songwriter who won 18 Grammy awards. She was also the first female performer to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. ... For more information about this amazing singer--and clips of her songs--please view her obituary by clicking:
Here

For President Obama's spin on "Respect," her classic song, please click:
Here

"We all require and want respect; man or woman, black or white. It's our basic human right."
–Aretha Franklin

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2. FYI

What a lot of people don't appear to understand is that the single easiest way to make friends is to show up when it matters - and the single easiest way to lose friends is to, well, not.

That sounds obvious, but a pattern I've observed again and again among the people in my social circle (a social circle that skews young and urban, to be clear) is that they often don't have close, meaningful friendships. They want them, but they aren't willing to go out of their way to dedicate time and effort to developing these relationships.

Take this scenario. You met someone who seems really cool, and you immediately think you could be good friends. They invite you to hang out again - say, to have drinks with some of their friends you haven't met. You say sure, you'll be there. Then the day arrives. Maybe you've had a long week at work, or you're just not in the mood to meet new people, or you have a few other invites for that night that look more fun. You text them, "Sorry, can't make it tonight." They tell you not to worry about it, they'll see you next time. But days and then weeks and then months pass, and you never become more than acquaintances.

There's nothing wrong with this scenario. You're not going to be friends with everyone! You don't have to be; that's normal. But if you're someone who wants to build deep friendships but consistently chooses to not show up when the opportunity is presented, then maybe it's time to unpack why and to think about what you can do to change that.

The most extreme case of this phenomenon I've experienced happened when a distant acquaintance messaged me saying that she wanted to be friends. So we found a time to have dinner. She messaged me the day we were supposed to meet and said she couldn't make it, and so we rescheduled for the next weekend. That happened six weekends in a row, and each time she bailed last minute. I saved six Saturday nights for this person, and she found reasons not to come to every single one.

Source: "If you're wondering why you've lost friends in adulthood, this is probably why" by Jackie Luo. To read the whole article, and I encourage you to do so, please click: Here

FYI, part 2

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: Here

(1) Bill Lewis: Thank you for the shout out on me making tenure. (Ten years). (2) Candace Mullett: Check out "The Bleeding Edge" on Netflix. (3) Candace Mullett: Van Gogh Starry Night house mural [for autistic child] in Florida can stay. (4) Make Your Daughter Practice Math. She'll Thank You Later.

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3. Joke 1

I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. ... If I had any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place! (Thanks, Sarah Fowler, for sharing.)

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4. Reviews

A. Liked CRAZY RICH ASIANS, a romantic comedy about a couple who discover that money can't buy love--but it can definitely create complications. Constance Wu and Henry Golding have good chemistry in the leading roles. There's a great soundtrack and while things dragged in the middle, the film came together at the end. Rated PG-13.

B. Available via streaming is THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES, a moving tale about a 14-year-old girl who is haunted by the memory of her late mother. Dakota Fanning is fabulous in the leading role, and I also enjoyed the performances of Queen Latifah, Jennifer Hudson, Alicia Key and Sophie Okonedo. And Paul Bettany is terrific as a menacing villain. Rated PG-13.

Note: I've added this film to my list of favorites. If you'd like to get this list, please send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

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5. TV alert

A. CARPOOL KARAOKE: WHEN CORDEN MET MCCARTHY LIVE FROM LONDON: Monday, Aug. 20, at 8 p.m. on CBS
This is an expanded version of James Corden's June sing-along with Paul McCartney. If it is anywhere near as good as that was, you're in for a treat if you watch it.

B. BETTY WHITE: FIRST LADY OF TELEVISION: Tuesday, Aug. 21, at 8 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at pbs.org)
The special covers White's career from the earliest days of West Coast live TV in the 1950s to her Emmy-winning triumphs on The Mary Tyler Moore Show, The Golden Girls and a Saturday Night Live gig in 2010.

c. HACK MY LIFE; Tuesday, Aug. 21, at 10:30 p.m. on truTV
Learn how to turn a record collection into a fun candy bowl, as well as how to deal with slippery shoes.

D. SEASON FOR LOVE: Movie premiere on Saturday, Aug. 25, at 9 p.m. on the Hallmark Channel
Former high school sweethearts compete in a BBQ cook-off.

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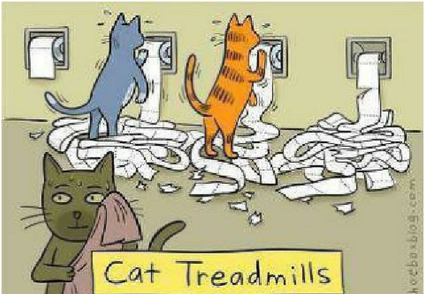
6. Joke 2

At long last: The answer to the question, "How do cats stay so slim?" (Thanks, Elaine Bilk, for sharing.)



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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Lois Rosenthal: Hippy Parents: Tommy Ryan
Here

Note: Are you on Facebook? If so, you should be able to view the above. If you're not on Facebook, here's a shorter version of the above:
Here

(2) Traci Wallace: Good Times Bad Times - LED ZEPPELIN / Cover by Yoyoka , 8 year old
Here

(3) Carole Biro: Dramamine girl
Here

(4) Roberta Gurwood: The desert miracle
Here

(5) Edina Hepguler: New Sky-High Tilt Attraction in Chicago
Here

(6) Victoria Smith: Hidden shoes
Here

B. Handmade Charlotte, according the website:
Offers a daily dose of DIY projects, crafts, recipes, inspiring family spaces, and design inspiration to help families create unforgettable moments. Named one of the Top 50 Design Blogs for Moms by Babble.com, the site has been featured in Martha Stewart Living, Better Homes and Gardens, HGTV, Craftzine.com, Huffington Post, Business Insider and more.

This looks like a great website to check out if you have children or grandchildren. To view it, please click:
He

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
Here

D. 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 Block and Report Spam Calls and Text Messages
by Whitson Gordon

Telemarketers have been a thorn in the side of humankind for decades. And while technology offers more options for blocking unwanted calls, it also makes spammers more agile than ever before. Here's what to do when you get a spam call or text message, and how to avoid them.

If you haven't noticed, scammers have gotten smart. These days, many use computers to "spoof" the number they appear to be calling from, meaning they can call from thousands upon thousands of different numbers to mask their identity. Often, they'll use numbers with the same first six digits as your own number, in order to look like someone in your neighborhood. That makes them notoriously hard to block, but there are some things you can try.

For the rest of this informative article, please click:
Here

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9. Joke 3

SURVEY RESULTS ,,, ,In a recent Harris online poll, 38,562 men across the United States were asked to identify a woman's ultimate fantasy. 97.8% of the respondents said that a woman's ultimate fantasy is to have two men at once. ... While this fact has been verified to be true (after all, it was reported on the internet), it appears that most men do not realize that in the fantasy, one man is cooking and the other is cleaning.

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10. A quote I like

Heard on NPR:"Rather than trying to 'defy' or 'reverse' aging, the French attitude is just to be the best version of the age you are."

Source: Author unknown. If you know who wrote this and/or where it came from, please let me know.

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11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Miles Rice, for granting permission for me to run one of his recent Facebook posts:

Ever wonder why people in customer service usually have gray hair?

It's because they're having to deal with BOOTY HOLE CUSTOMERS.

I challenge all of you reading this to do/say something nice for someone working in customer service EVERY DAY of your existence. Even if they're giving poor service. You don't know what that person may be going through or the kind of customer they might have just dealt with.

We all talk, wanting change. How about we be the change. It's starts within ourselves. Not on a ballot or in a march. Yes, these are good things but if they're not done with pure selfless reasons then they are hallow.

The world needs more Fred Rogers in it.

For those that care*

I recently started management at Regal Biltmore Grande until other business ventures take off. Which, Lord provided, will be soon.

I had my first horrible human being interaction tonight in this new position. If you've known me for any length of time, you know I can be a sensitive human being. I've always been one to feel, and feel deeply. I'm sure some will say that I should just have tougher skin in this role that I'm in now but here's the truth of it.

This person proceeded to cause a scene, calling me names to my employees and tried to belittle me in front of 100's of customers. You could almost hear a lion drop. I was dumb founded and then crushed. I felt lost. I felt like a failure.

Here I am HOURS later wondering what I did to that person and the same conclusion I keep coming to is, nothing.

Why does this eat at me?

That person will forever remember me as the %#**+%< manager. So, I guess it sort of has to do with me caring what people think of me

But then I dug a little deeper ...

No. That's not the core of it. It's that I really do care for everyone. Regardless if I'm not fond of you as a human being. We all have room for improvement. I'm in the front of the line.

See the thing is ... How can I be of help and encouragement to someone if they think ill of me?

You can't please everyone. I know. But it begs the question ...

WHAT WOULD THE WORLD BE LIKE IF WE ALL TRIED TO BE AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO ONE ANOTHER?

Easier said than done but LOVING ain't easy.

I LOVE ALL YOU STUBBORN HUMAN BEINGS.

Miles

*This was a stream of consciousness, so it may not make sense. But there might be some good stuff in here. Maybe.

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12. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following events in full, please click:
Here

A. NC events

(1) Richard Shulman: Sun. Sept 16, 7:30 pm The Richard Shulman Group at White Horse Black Mountain. (2) Lois Lytingale Henrickson: My Grandfather's Prayers. (3) Barrie Barton: The Speaker's Master Class: Elevate and Advance Your Speaking Talent.

B. PA/NJ event

2018 Bucks County Book Festival.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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