

BLAINES WORLD

#1251
9.7.2020

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1. Reflections

If somebody sent this to you and/or in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber to this weekly blog, here's all you need to do to be added to the free mailing list: Just send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Continued to hunker down in Week 26 of the corona pandemic. We did manage to get out for a terrific outdoor meal at Village Wayside in Biltmore Village where we received excellent service from Kate.



(2) Are fortunate to be able to get tasty ice cream from Hilltop Ice Cream, which lucky for us, is just across the street.

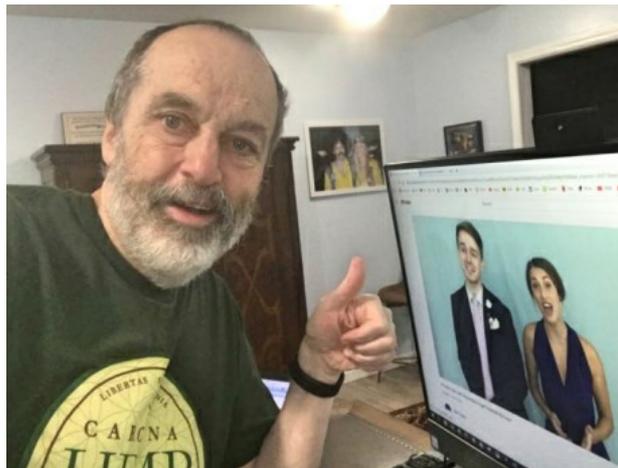


(2) Had a fun visit from our former Biltmore Lake neighbors: (front row) Grant Randall

and Ginny Plaistead; and (back row) Tracy and Ed Hackett. We all enjoyed the pizza from Sky Mountain Pizza.



B. I got to see a tuneful Zoom benefit concert for SART, featuring the talented Maximilian Koger and Natalie Brouwer.



C. Catch the most recent BLAINESWORLD show. by clicking: [Here](#). ... Guests: Honor Moor, writer and producer of Grimm's Fairy Tales 2021; and John Russell, executive director, Montford Park Players.



D. Congratulations to Berta Ditillo, winner of Contest #17: a copy THE EMPATH'S SURVIVAL GUIDE: LIFE STRATEGIES FOR SENSITIVE PEOPLE by Judith Orloff, MD. All told, there were seven entries. .. And that reminds me it is now time to introduce ...

..

One lucky reader will win a copy of A MONSTER CALLS by Patrick Ness. According to LIBRARY MEDIA CONNECTION, [This is] "A masterpiece about life and loss that will stay with the reader long after the final page is turned."

Note: It is beautiful and achingly sad story for readers over the age of 12. It was both featured and recommended on Oprah's 2012 Kids Reading List, and it is a book that adults will also enjoy.

To enter, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #18 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, September 21, at 9 p.m.

E. Reminders:

(1) You can still register for my Asheville SCORE seminar on marketing that will take place on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 10 a.m. It will be a Zoom seminar, so you can enjoy it from the comfort of your home, and it is free. All you need to do is sign-up by clicking: [Here](#).

(2) 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 Robert Carrington--an employee in the deli department at the Ingles on 29 Tunnel Road in Asheville. ... He is always most helpful and very friendly whenever we go to that store. ... He also has a great smile, though in this picture, you can't really see it (yet even with his mask, you can still see the sparkle in his eyes). .. Ingles is lucky to have him and so are all his customers!



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2. FYI

On November 7, 2000, when I was living in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, I had to wait 3.5 hours to vote in the Gore-Bush presidential election. The state did not have early voting--and still doesn't.

Fortunately for me, North Carolina does have early voting, and I always take advantage of it. I have never had a problem with it, and I trust it completely.

But this time around because of coronavirus and other concerns, I have requested an absentee ballot. And I will personally drop it off at the office of my local Board of Elections.

To request an absentee ballot if you haven't done so already (for any state), please click: [Here](#).

To require whether it has been sent to you in North Carolina, please click: [Here](#).

For more information on how to drop your completed ballot off if you don't want to wait for the early voting period, please click: [Here](#).

The good news is that if you vote on or before Election Day, your votes WILL be included in the results from that day; i.e, you don't have to be concerned that they will be held until a later day--or at least not in North Carolina. For more information, please click: [Here](#).

Note: As I have done in the past, I will probably share my BLAINESWORLD endorsement(s) ... probably in the near future. However, if you can't wait for them, I encourage you to start doing your own research on the subject.

For more information, especially on the presidential race, I urge you to look at both Trump and Biden ... and consider such questions as the following:
How many Democratic leaders have switched to vote for Trump? And how many Republican leaders have switched to vote for Biden?
What do fellow politicians of their respective parties have to say about their own party's candidate?
What do all family members of each candidate have to say about them?
What do both military and intelligence leaders have to say about each of the candidates?
What do former employees of each candidate have to say about them?
How many lawsuits have been filed against each candidate?
How many books (from former associates, relatives or employees of each candidate) have been written about them?
Are you just a one-issue voter or are you willing to consider a wide range of issues before you consider who is the best candidate?

FYI, part 2

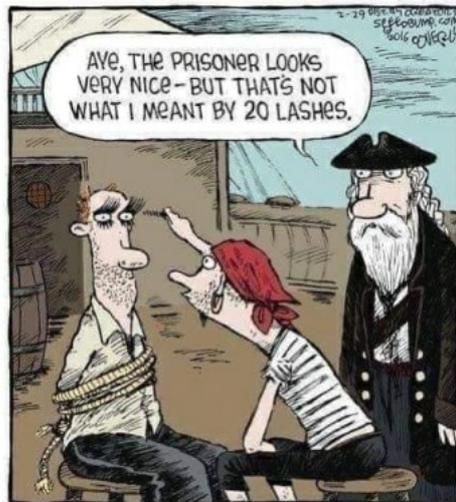
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: [Here](#).

A. Is Telemedicine Here to Stay? B. How to Ace an Online Job Interview. C. Is Your Blood Sugar Undermining Your Workouts? D. Ken Greenfield: You'd think there might be some attribution regarding the Underground Cafe. E. Mike Ginsberg: Thank you for sending this out. F. Francie Sabell: Thank you so much, Blaine! G. Arlene Ditzler: Thanks for the congratulatory post regarding Lucy's birth & for the article about the Flu shot. H. Connor Ray: I had to chuckle after watching the YouTube video of "old people on zoom."

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3. Joke 1

Seth Godin had it right when he said, "Following directions is overrated." ... Today, I just want you to follow one direction; i.e., make it a HAPPY INTERNATIONAL TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY. ... For more information about this parodic holiday that's celebrated every September 12, please click: [Here](#). (Thanks, Jean Dolan, for sharing.)



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4. Reviews

A. Saw THE FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS on HBO, a comedy with music about a debt-ridden advertising executive in New York who travels back to his small town in Alabama to attend his aunt's funeral and to cash in on an inheritance. But to get the money, he must first lead the local church gospel choir to success at a national competition. ... As you can imagine, the film is quite predictable, but it did feature winning performances from Cuba Gooding Jr. and Beyoncé Knowles. I liked it. Rated PG-13.

B. Liked JUST THE WAY YOU ARE on TCM, a dramedy about a handicapped flute player who wants to discover if men will be attracted to her if she can hide her disability. Kristi McNichol and Michael Ontkean have great chemistry together. Rated PG.

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5. TV alert

A. COASTAL ELITES: Sunday, Sept. 13, at 5 p.m. on HBO
This collection of mostly comic monologues from master satirist Paul Rudnick features a cast that includes Bette Midler, Dan Levy, Issa Rae, Sarah Paulson and Kaitlyn Dever.

B. DANCING WITH THE STARS: Returns on Monday, Sept. 14, at 8 p.m. on ABC
Celebrity dancers include Olympic skater Johnny Weir, former NBA star Charles

Oakley and actress Anne Heche. I'll miss longtime hosts Tom Bergeron who has been replaced by Tyra Banks.

C. WE ARE WHO WE ARE: Monday, Sept. 14, at 10 p.m. on HBO
Notes TV GUIDE: "Luca Guadagnino (Call Me by Your Name) brings his brand of art-house sensuality and sensitivity to an intimate drama series about disaffected teens whose growing pains are amplified by their unusual living situation-as modern-day Army brats living on a seaside base in Italy." ... The always watchable Chloë Sevigny is one of the stars.

D. ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS: Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 8 p.m. on CBS
Keith Urban hosts the 55th annual ceremony with performances from Tim McGraw, Miranda Lambert and Luke Combs.

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6. Joke 2

If you're like me and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way), belated wishes for what I hope was a HAPPY LABOR DAY!



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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 Mark Ronson, King Princess - (From Lucifer Season 5): [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

Max Major Warps Reality With Mind-Blowing Mentalism - America's Got Talent 2020: [Here](#).

Note: I watched the trick when it was performed on TV and was amazed when I had the same image that the others in the audience had. ... Mr. Curious here: If you follow Major's directions when he performs, let me know if you come up with a similar image.

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

(1) Cynthia Greenfield: Snow Patrol Reworked - Chasing Cars Live at the Royal Albert Hall, a song that has quickly become one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Donna Suggs: This young lady has so much confidence and sass. Too cute: [Here](#).

(3) Marvin Sadovsky: More Old Jews Telling Jokes: [Here](#).

(4) Watch 70 Cast Members From International Titanic Productions Sing "We'll Meet Tomorrow": [Here](#).

D. Here's a website that you will also want to check out: The Oatmeal, created by Matthew Inman. To view it, please click: [Here](#).

It is a popular humor website that caters to the avid comic lover and quiz taker. Some of the material may be on the risqué side, but if that describes you, I dare you not to

laugh when you scroll down to see Positive Vibes Only.

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

Look out for mistakes that could kill your phone

While there is technology built in phones that sense sudden drops and automatically lock things down, it isn't foolproof. A simple drop can cause damage that isn't visible to the naked eye in the components or connectors. Decreased battery life and increased heat may become an issue.

Plus, if you plan on reselling your phone, a good case will keep the metal looking shiny and new. It would be best if you had a good shock-absorbing case.

For the rest of this informative article, along with five recommendations for cases, please click: [Here](#).

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9. Joke 3

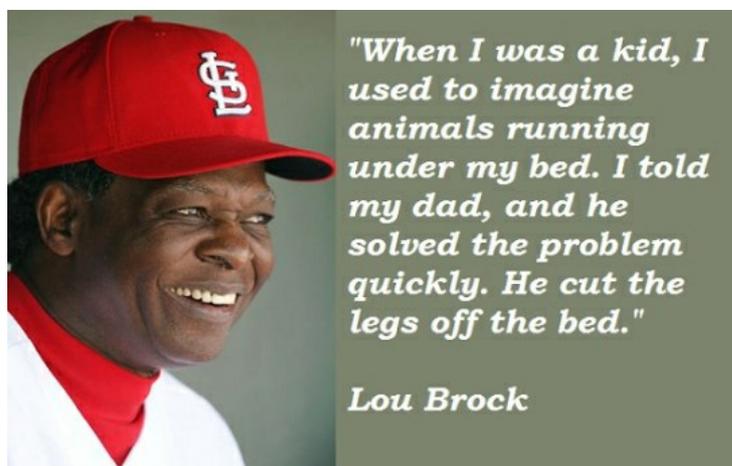
Proof positive that the quarantine is getting to some folks. (Thanks, Carole Biro, for sharing.)



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10. A quote I like

Thanks, Lou Brock (1939-2020), for your Hall of Fame baseball career. I'm grateful for the many thrills that I got watching you. . . . For more information about Brock's life, please click: [Here](#).



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11. Thought for the day

This letter will knock your socks off.

Our friends, Linda and Thomsen Guth, will be moving from the Asheville area to be

closer to their grandchildren. We will miss them, but at the same time, we're happy for them.

Thomsen told me that there was a lot of competition for homes where they wanted to move--and that they had already lost out on two possible sales.

Linda added: "It seems bidding wars are 'what is happening' in real estate now. There were two other offers at the same time as ours. I figured a little schmaltz couldn't hurt. The agent said the owners got tears in their eyes when they read it because they were doing the same thing. And they decided to accept our offer.

What follows is what Linda wrote, reprinted with her gracious permission:

Dear Owners of 615 Church St.,

Our daughter found your home advertised on Realtor.com, and she and her family toured it today. We have been pouring over the photos and have fallen in love with it. They live in Franklin.

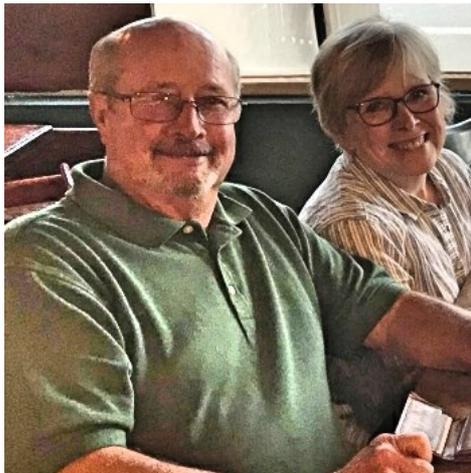
We have been living in Asheville, NC, for the past few years and though we enjoy it, we decided it was very important to move closer to our youngest grandchildren. The virus and the quarantine have taught us how quickly time flies and how much we need to be closer to the little ones as they grow up.

I am a nurse and my husband has a handyman business (retired contractor), which he hopes to continue after we move. The shop is just what he needs to work in and teach our grandson how to build things.

We have looked at a lot of houses in the general area and not found any that appeal to us as yours has. Our grandchildren have already decided which room will be theirs when they come to spend the night. The kitchen and eating area are just wonderful, I love all the cabinets and shelves. In fact, there is nothing we do not like about your home.

We are sending an offer and hope you will consider us as the couple you would want to take over and love your home.

Linda and Thomsen Guth



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12. Advance planning department

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

A. Michele Louzon: The American Drive-In Movie Theatre. B. Katie Jones: Crimes, Missed Demeanings and Video Tape. C. Jazz Night at One World West, featuring Peggy Ratusz.

PS. If you're like me, and you celebrate all holidays (because there's more food, fun and friends that way), what can be seen below is my wish for a "good year" for anybody who is Jewish and/or knows somebody of that faith. ... For more information about both these holidays, please click: [Here](#).



*On Kosh Hashanah it is written . . .
On Yom Kippur it is sealed.
May it be written and may it be sealed
that you have a new year that brings
fulfillment and joy, peace and prosperity
health and wisdom.
Shanah tova!*

And make it a wonderful week!

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