

BLAINES WORLD

#1203
10.7.2019

In this issue

- [1. Reflections](#)
- [2. FYI](#)
- [3. Joke 1](#)
- [4. Reviews](#)
- [5. TV alert](#)
- [6. Joke 2](#)
- [7. Clips/Websites](#)
- [8. Technology tip](#)
- [9. Joke 3](#)
- [10. A quote I like](#)
- [11. Thought for the day](#)
- [12. Advance planning department](#)

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) Loved Asheville Community Theatre's production the tuneful musical, THE WIZARD OF OZ--and so will you. ... Jerry Crouch's direction was spot on, as was Sarah Fowler's music direction and Alexa Edelman's choreography. ... Kudos to my other Facebook friends in the talented cast and crew: Anne Garen, Carina Lopez, Jill Summers, Faith Creech, Dillon Giles, Mark Jones, John O'Neill, Jay Mitchell, Missy Stone, Shane Clemmer and Misty Theisen, as well as to everybody else.. ... The show runs through Oct. 27. Get your tickets by clicking: [Here](#).



(2) We went to the above production with our friends Brian and Carole Biro who then joined us for an excellent dinner at Wasabi where Reza, as is often the case, took care of us with her friendly service.





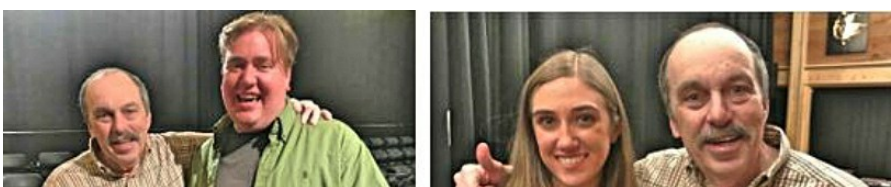
(3) Had a tasty dinner at Nachos & Beer, a Tex-Mex restaurant located just down the road from us.



(4) Were helped in our unpacking duties by your friends, l-r: Susan Markowitz, Walela Dobroski and Marcy Gallagher.



B. You have until Sunday, Oct. 13, to see THE CRUCIBLE at HART's Daniel and Belle Fangmeyer Theatre. This powerful drama, produced in association with Mountain Art Theatre, is a partially fictionalized story of the Salem witch trials that took place in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. ... The performances from, clockwise, Dwight Chiles, Madison Garris, Hanni Muerdter and Henry Williamson III were outstanding, as was the direction of Isaac Klein (far right in the bottom right picture). And kudos to all the others in the stellar cast who are not pictured: Anna Denson, Tom Dewees, Pam Elder, Zacary Landolt, Allen Law, Samantha LeBrocq, Art Moore and Becky Stone. ... For tickets, please click: [Here](#).





C. A recent picture of Cynthia ... just because. She always gets a big kick out of pets we encounter in our daily lives.



D. This week, there were two BLAINESWORLD shows on WPVM. Judy Calabrese, Philippe Coquet and Jeff Messer (top photo) were in one. You can view part of their interviews by clicking: [Here](#). ... Michelle Louzon and Steve Linton (bottom photos) were in the other. You can listen to their entire interviews by clicking: [Here](#).

Note: Special thanks to Grail Moviehouse for sponsoring the above. To find out what's currently playing, please click: [Here](#).





E. Condolences to Roberta Gurwood and family on the passing of Rusty Crain, her daughter Ricki's husband.

F. Congratulations to:

(1) Davyne Dial, WPVM general manager, on her successful presentation to the Grassroots Radio Conference on "Social Media Savvy." To read more about it, please click: [Here](#).

(2) Barbie Angell on her inclusion in the new book, A LOOK AT ASHEVILLE, as well as to Rodney Smith for taking the fantastic picture that accompanied the piece.

(3) Suzanne Wright on her new position as President at Smooth Transitions of Northwest Washington.

(4) Bill Gregg on his new position as Associate Producer of a new theatre in Fort Myers called Players Circle.

(5) Kathryn Mallon, winner of Contest #21: a copy of a book on CD: THE LION, a noel by Nelson DeMille. All told, there were three entries. And that reminds me that it is now time to introduce:

*** CONTEST #22 ***

One lucky reader will win a copy of EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE, EXCEPTIONAL PROFIT: THE SECRETS OF BUILDING A FIVE-STAR CUSTOMER SERVICE ORGANIZATION by Leonardo Inghilleri and my friend Micah Solomon. This was on of the best books I've ever read on customer service.

I especially liked this one passage:

To help launch their Ritz-Carlton luxury hotel brand, initially, founding President and Chief Operating Officer Horst Schulze and his team decided on a set of ideal phrases for use in conversation with customers, then trained employees to use those phrases. The frequent use of certain phrases helped unify their employees around a shared identity and contributed to a distinctive "Ritz style" that the public could easily recognize: phrases like "my pleasure," "Right away," "Certainly," and -a personal favorite-"We're fully committed tonight." (Translation: "We're booked solid, bub!") The list of words and phrases to be avoided included folks, hey, you guys, and okay.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #22 in the subject line. Include your name and mailing address in the body of the email. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Mon., Oct. 21.

G. Correction: Part of last week's issue was incorrectly labeled BLAINESWORLD #1402. The correct number was #1202. Sorry 'bout that!

H. Invitations:

(1) As you may know, our home at 19 N Kaufmann Stone Way, Biltmore Lake, NC, is for sale. Please help me in finding the right buyer for our neighborhood. Pass this message along to anyone you think might be interested.

To learn more, please click: [Here](#).

(2) My next Marketing seminar will take place on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 9-12 noon at AB-Tech in Candler. It is free, but you must preregister to attend.

For more information, please click: [Here](#).

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

This week, it goes to Chad Murphy (pictured below)--a technician extraordinaire with Champion Comfort Experts. ... We've used Champion ever since moving to Western North Carolina and have been quite pleased with the service. But if he is available, we request Chad to take care of our unit. He is both friendly and professional, as well as quite thorough. We also appreciate the fact that he always

takes time to answer our many questions. He is a real asset to the company! .. For more information about Champion, please click: [Here](#).



[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

What Shamu Taught Me About a Happy Marriage
by Amy Sutherland

As I wash dishes at the kitchen sink, my husband paces behind me, irritated. "Have you seen my keys?" he snarls, then huffs out a loud sigh and stomps from the room with our dog, Dixie, at his heels, anxious over her favorite human's upset.

In the past I would have been right behind Dixie. I would have turned off the faucet and joined the hunt while trying to soothe my husband with bromides like, "Don't worry, they'll turn up." But that only made him angrier, and a simple case of missing keys soon would become a full-blown angst-ridden drama starring the two of us and our poor nervous dog.

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

FYI, part 2

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

(1) Jimmy Ferraro: The Hendersonville Community Theatre is SEEKING experienced Stage Directors, Musical Directors and Choreographers for paid positions. (2) Pat Hannigan: Congrats on so many issues. (3) Ellane Chandler: I ordered a gift for my sister online, then saw that I missed an opportunity to call the customer service rep and request assistance with paying my bills. (4) Jackie Snow: Any sign of your kitties returning yet? (5) Arlene Ditzler: I really appreciated the article by by Melanie Pinola about digital records to leave behind. (6) Suzanne Write: Wow, I don't think I've ever gotten a flu shot, and I can't really remember getting the flu. (7) Get a Dog, Live Longer?

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

Better than the choice I was given last month ... regular or jalapeno! (Thanks, Katy Dowdalls, for sharing.)





[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. Saw THE BACHELORS on Netflix, and I encourage you to find this dramedy about a mourning father who moves across the country with his teenage son after the early death of his wife. It might sound depressing, but it's actually both touching and funny. J.K. Simmons is outstanding in the leading role, as is Josh Wiggins as his son. I also liked the work of Julie Delpy, Odeya Rush and Kevin Dunn. Not rated, but appropriate for 13 and up.

Note: I've added it to my list of favorite films. If you'd like a copy of this list, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

B. Annemarie Brown: That movie (AD ASTRA) was just flat. I think THE MARTIAN was better, as was I think that space movie (GRAVITY) with Sandra Bullock and George Clooney. This one is flat and actually boring. I would not recommend it.

C. Heard GET YOUR SH*T TOGETHER: HOW TO STOP WORRYING ABOUT WHAT YOU SHOULD DO SO YOU CAN FINISH WHAT YOU NEED TO DO AND START DOING WHAT YOU WANT TO DO (Hachette Audio), written and read by Sarah Knight. ... The "anti-guru" author has written this book as a follow-up to her first book, THE LIFE-CHANGING MAGIC OF NOT GIVING A F*CK. In that one, she introduced readers to the joys of mental decluttering. This book takes you a step further, giving excellent tips on organizing the f*cks you want want and need to give while showing you the power of negative thinking, tools for getting your life together and ideas on how to spend less and save more. ... For example: "By getting competitive with your partner, we're not talking about playing a doubles tennis match. Instead, being competitive in this context means competing to be the most loving and thoughtful person in the relationship." ... I also liked this tip: "Namely, ask [your boss] her what it is you need to do to reach your professional goals. For instance, if your dream is to become a director in your department, then explicitly ask your boss what you would need to do to be considered for such a position. Though this might seem like obvious advice, far too many of us keep quiet. Because we don't ask the right questions, we end up guessing how to prove to our seniors that we're ready for more responsibility."

...

Be forewarned: As you might expect from the book's title, there are obscenities. So if that bothers you, don't read it.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. MODERN LOVE: Now available via Amazon Prime Video
This 8-episode anthology of true-to-life romances is based on the NEW YORK TIMES column of personal essays about relationships of all sorts. According to TV GUIDE, it "is likely to warm, break, tickle or lift your heart--sometimes all at once."

B. THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS SCANDAL: Sunday, Oct. 13, at 8 p.m. on Lifetime
Ripped from the headlines, this docudrama is about a consultant who ropes wealthy families into a scheme to cheat the college-admissions system.

C. 2019 CMT ARTISTS OF THE YEAR: Wednesday, Oct. 6, at 8 p.m. on CMT
Live from Nashville, the country music network pays tribute to Carrie Underwood and others. And Reba McEntire receives the Artist of a Lifetime award.

D. PATSY & LORETTA: Saturday, Oct. 19, at 8 p.m. on Lifetime
Patsy Cline and Loretta Lynn were friends in real life, as can be seen in this tuneful tribute.

6. Joke 2

Great news ... Apple now supports windows!



[Back to Top](#)

7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Thomsen Guth: Let's Twist Again - Laurel and Hardy: [Here](#)

(2) Paul Marks: Lady Gaga sings Elton John's "Your Song": [Here](#)

(3) Best gender reveal fail ever: [Here](#)

B. Cool interesting stuff features what is odd, weird, bizarre, strange or unusual. To check it out, please click: [Here](#).

You'll find out information about such things as the following:

Charles Ponzi, one of the most famous con men in American history

The strange disaster at Lake Peigneur

The South Malabar Gramin Bank Robbery

David Lang, the man that disappeared into thin air

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/](#)

[Back to Top](#)

8. Technology tip

Kathy Webb: Anyone else being harassed by calls from Appicare? Five calls in the last hour. The one I answered, I asked them to stop calling. I got cursed out in really foul language. This happens every few weeks ... just sick of it.

My response: 1. Do NOT answer the calls. When you do and then respond, you then go on what's known as a "sucker's list." Folks now you answer your calls, so they sell your name to other companies looking to reach live bodies. 2. A better approach can be found by clicking this link: [Here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

A man loved money more than anything. Just before he died, he told his wife, "When I

die, I want you to take all my money and put it in the casket with me. I want to take my money with me." His wife promised she would. ... At his funeral, just before the casket was closed, his wife put a box in the casket. The wife's friend said, "I know you weren't foolish enough to put all that money in there." ... She replied, "I can't lie. I promised him I would do just that." ... "You put all that money in the casket with him?" her friend asked. ... "I sure did," said the wife. "I wrote him a check." (Thanks, Steven Shulman, for sharing.)



[Back to Top](#)

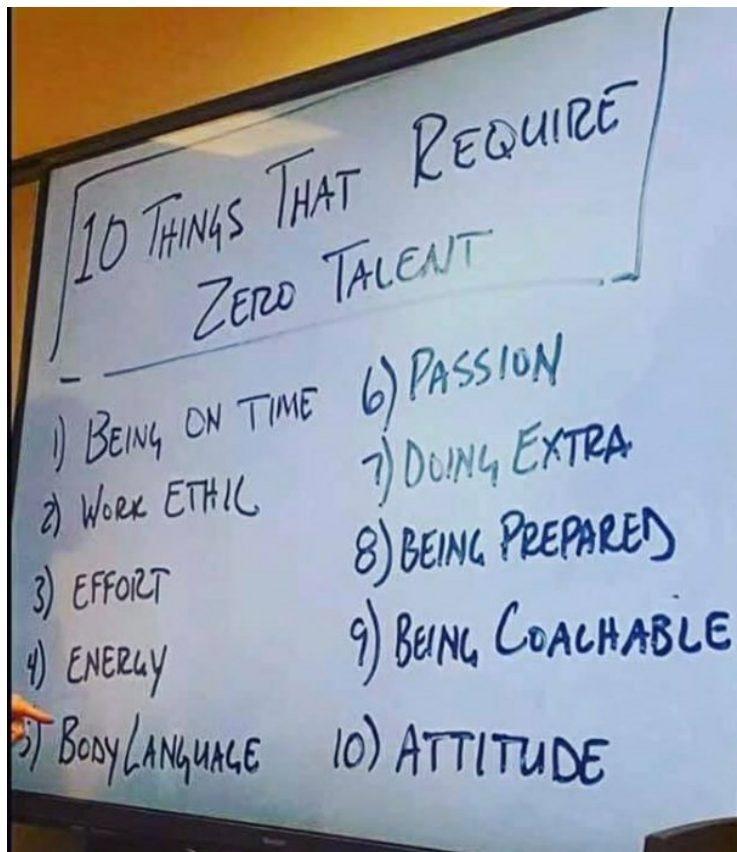
10. A quote I like

To me, creative projects are like having a 10-burner stove with pots on 9 burners at various states of boil. And I have only one spoon to stir with. And why isn't there a pot on the 10th burner? I'm waiting for the right thing to come along.--Jeff Messer, long time theatre guy, radio guy, comic book geek, dad and husband

[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

I'd add a #11 to this list: COMMON SENSE. ... What I like best about all these things: They require NO MONEY. (Thanks, Daniel Sandoval, for sharing.)



[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

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

A. NC events

(1) THE LEGACY OF AMELIA ALDEAN at The Magnetic Theatre. (2) IT DIDN'T HAPPEN: AN EROTIC ODYSSEY. (3) UPPER HAND. (4) Stay Small to Succeed Workshop.

B. PA/NJ event

THE BIG BAD WOLF

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

[Back to Top](#)

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