

# BLAINES WORLD

#1204  
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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](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

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A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had a blast at Arms Around ASD's fabulous event, "Hop 'til You Drop." Kudos to Michele Louzon and all the other volunteers who made the event the success that it was. ... Note: To see any and/or all of the pictures at full size, please click: [Here](#).



(2) Enjoyed our annual visit to HARDLOX: Asheville's Jewish Food & Heritage. Thanks to Marty Gillen and all the other volunteers who helped make the event the success that it was. ... To see pictures at full size, please click: [Here](#).



(3) Saw the world premiere of THE LEGACY OF AMELIA ALDEAN at The Magnetic Theatre. This romantic ghost story is directed with aplomb by Katie Jones and has a terrific cast, including (pictured) Shane Dinan, Maximilian Koger, Carin Metzger, Miles Rice, Emily Tucker and Kay Wise-Denty. ... Also excellent (and not pictured) were Stephanie Nusbaum and Jason Williams. And kudos to the scenic design by Tyler Johnson and the costume design by Kimbo Bates. ... Do yourself a favor and catch this play before its run ends on Oct. 20. For tickets, please click: [Here](#).



(4) Had the pleasure of hosting our friends Ginny Plaisted and Grant Randall for dinner at our home.





## B. OOPS DEPARTMENT:

(1) Part 1 ... with the confusion of our move, I never got to run this picture of us having dinner with our friends Tom and Marcy Gallagher at Zen Sushi. The food was excellent, as was the service we received from Ranier.



(2) Part 2 ... somehow, this picture also wasn't run. Here's what I originally posted on Facebook: You're in for a treat if you see the world premiere of THE EDUCATION OF TED HARRIS, a provocative drama by Asheville's very own Jamie Knox. It is her first play that's been produced, and it is a winner. ... Kudos to Stephanie Hickling Beckman for her taut direction, as well as to all those in the stellar cast: Jim Abbott, Kaelyn Brandt, Daniel Henry, Anna Lyles, Alexandra McPherson, David Mycoff and Samantha Spiegel. You'll also enjoy the fascinating post show discussion led by Zakiya Bell Rodgers. ... And adding to your enjoyment is the fact that is at the the Tina Mcquire Theatre at Wortham Center for the Performing Arts, a new facility that is perfect for the work of Different Strokes!



C. Catch this past Wednesday's BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM, featuring Paul Gerber and Rodney Smith. To view it, please click: [Here](#).

Note: Special thanks to Grail Moviehouse for sponsoring the above. To find out what's

currently playing, please click: [Here](#).



D. Condolences to:

- (1) Clay MacCormac and family on the passing of Clay's dad.
- (2) Kai Elijah Hamilton and family on the passing of Kai's Aunt Gwen.

E. Congratulations to:

- (1) Carle Robbins on passing his PA Brokers exam.
- (2) Jessica Garland Lowe is and Derek Lowe on their marriage.

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

\*\*\* 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 one of the best books I've ever read on customer service.

To enter the contest, send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto: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.

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

This week, it goes to Thomsen Guth--our handyman extraordinaire. He has helped us immensely, first with our move from Biltmore Lake and then with our move to Fairview. ... You name it, and he can do it: repairs, build cabinets, hang stuff, etc. ... He is a very creative guy in terms of solutions that he comes up with that have made our respective lives easier, and he is also both friendly and knowledgeable. ... I'm reluctant to tell others about him, in that I don't want to have him become too busy that he can't help us out when we need him, but Mr. Nice Guy that I am, here's his phone number: 803.804.6038. (Thanks, Brent Russell, for the referral.)





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## 2. FYI

Have you ever booked a trip, then had to cancel it because of illness or some other condition?

If you have travel insurance, you may be able to get your money back ... but even that can be tricky. Airlines are often reluctant to make returns, and you frequently have to battle them even if you have purchased the insurance.

I have come across two articles that will give you some additional information on possibly moving to a new flight or getting a refund. For more information, please click: [Here](#), as well as [Here](#).

I've also been told that Southwestern is a great carrier, in that it allows you to make changes up to an hour before a plane departs.

And Mr. Curious here: When you travel, have you purchased travel insurance? If so, what has been your experience with it?

FYI, part 2

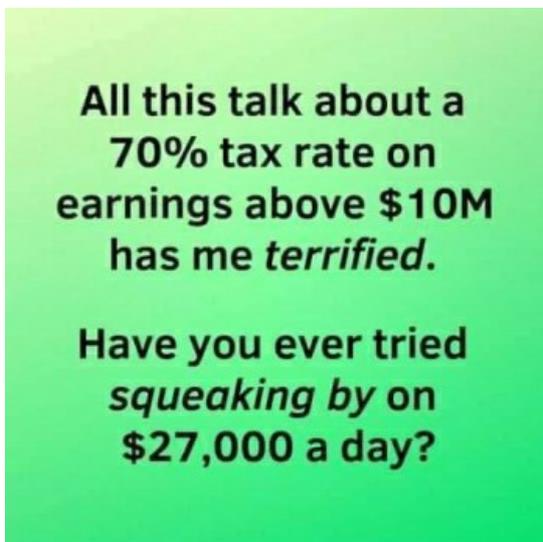
- (1) Parents Should Limit Sports Participation for Children, Trainers Say: [Here](#).
- (2) PreCheck, Global Entry or Clear? How to Get Through Airport Lines Faster: [Here](#).
- (3) The Genius Behind the Grateful Dead: [Here](#).
- (4) Dog ownership and old life: [Here](#).
- (5) When the Student Newspaper Is the Only Daily Paper in Town: [Here](#).

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## 3. Joke 1

It would be tough, but I'd love the chance to give it a shot ... even if it meant I'd have to give up some things; e.g., fueling my 150-foot yacht, caviar and truffles, etc. (Thanks, Ginger Heskett, for sharing.)



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## 4. Reviews

A. Find MEN DON'T LEAVE, a 1990 drama about a woman who is forced to move when her husband dies. The film stars Jessica Lange and features terrific performances from Chris O'Donnell and Joan Cusack, among others. This sweet, touching film will be well worth your time. Rated: PG-13.

Note: I have included it in my list of favorite films. If you'd like a copy of that list, send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

B. Heard IF YOU ASK ME (AND OF COURSE YOU WON'T) from Penguin Audio, written and read by Betty White. The actor presents her funny insights on love, life,

celebrity and everything in between. Listening, you'll feel you are sitting down with White over coffee at a dining room table. I liked it—a lot, and you will too. ... In particular, I liked her theory on weight loss. It is easy to lose one pound. But if you find yourself gaining weight, if you hit the 5-pound mark, then it is time to buckle down and get serious. Anything over that is difficult to lose.

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## 5. TV alert

A. THE LAUNDROMAT: Now available via Netflix.

When her idyllic vacation takes an unthinkable turn, Ellen Martin (Academy Award winner Meryl Streep) begins investigating a fake insurance policy, only to find herself down a rabbit hole of questionable dealings that can be linked to a Panama City law firm and its vested interest in helping the world's wealthiest citizens amass even larger fortunes. According to critic Anne Brodie. "Streep is breathtaking, and must be seen to be believed."

B LIVING WITH YOURSELF: Now available via Netflix

Catch Paul Rudd in this fantasy-comedy. According to TV GUIDE, "Wild twists in every brisk episode make for a thrillingly funny ride."

Note: I've seen the first two episodes and am intrigued enough to watch some more.

C. WATCHMAN: Sunday, Oct. 20, at 9 p.m. on HBO

This all-reality fantasia revisits the world of the cult graphic novel 30 years later.

D. MRS. FLETCHER: Series premiere on Sunday, Oct. 27, at 10:30 p.m.

A single mom, searching for self-fulfillment after her son heads to college, explores the seedier side of the internet. I'll watch this limited series because of the fact that it stars the always terrific Kathryn Hahn.

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## 6. Joke 2

Glad I never applied to that company 'cause if that was the requirement to get a job, I never would have been hired. (Thanks, Scott Patrick, for sharing.)



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## 7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Brian Biro: Don't Let The Old Man In - Toby Keith: [Here](#). (2) Paul Marks: 5-year-old pianist in Russia: [Here](#). (3) Del Shannon: Runaway (one of my favorite songs): [Here](#).

B. If you need a short break, check out This Is My Website Now by clicking: [Here](#).

You'll find a collection of small games, all of which can be played in less than 10 minutes. I checked this out and found one I liked: Decision Maker. It is great for helping you when you need to make a decision quickly.

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

Mistakes that shorten the life of your gadgets  
by Kim Komando

Spill one cup of coffee, and you fry your laptop. Drop your tablet while taking a photo, and it can plunge to its doom. Lose your grip on a smartphone, and your \$1,000 device could slip through a drainage grate and disappear forever.

Most of us can't afford to regularly replace our devices, which is why we have to take good care of them. I have tons of practical tips on my site to help. Some popular ones are how to clean your camera, improve your Windows performance and remove viruses from your iPad or iPhone.

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

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## 9. Joke 3

A little boy said aloud, "Two plus five, that son of a bitch is seven. Three plus six, that son of a bitch is nine." ... His mother gasped, "What are you doing?" ... The boy answered, "I'm doing my math homework." ... "And this is how your teacher taught you to do it?" the mother asked. ... "Yes," he answered.... Infuriated, the mother called school the next day and asked, "What are you teaching my son in math?" ... The teacher replied, "Right now, we are learning addition." ... The mother asked, "And are you teaching them to say two plus two, that son of a bitch is four?" ... After the teacher stopped laughing, she answered, "What I taught them was two plus two, THE SUM OF WHICH is four." (Thanks, Kathryn Long, for sharing.)



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## 10. A quote I like

Thanks, Rep. Elijah Cummings (1951-2019), for your many years of distinguished public service--first as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates for 14 years and then since 1996 as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for Maryland's 7th congressional district. ... For more information about this remarkable man, please click: [Here](#).

"My life is based on pain, passion and purpose."--Elijah Cummings





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### **11. Thought for the day**

Thanks, Paul Marks, for sharing this clip:  
A rich young woman

To view it, please click: [Here](#).

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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) Barrie Barton: Story Choreography Workshop. (2) Linda Williams: Team Building Information Session. (3) Ellane Chandler: UPPER HAND. (4) IT DIDN'T HAPPEN by Judy Calabrese.

#### B. PA/NJ event

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN at Kelsey Theatre at Mercer County Community College.

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

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