

**From:** Blaineworld bginbc-aol.com@shared1.ccsend.com  
**Subject:** BLAINESWORLD 1520 — Sec. 4A has can't miss rules  
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# BLAINESWORLD

You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not toooo risqué (typically in Sections 5, 8 and 11); 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](#).

#1520  
10.27.2025.

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## 1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I celebrated our first dinner out with Bodhi at The Local Joint. He behaved perfectly and, as a result, will be going out with us many times in the future. And as always, our meals were delicious.



B. I got to solve all the world's problems with my friend Gary Charles over lunch at a Papa Dunks, a new eatery at 1475 Patton Ave., Asheville. We enjoyed our meals, and I look forward to returning in the future.



C. Review: Dogged Utopia's NEVERMORE Mesmerizes from First Note to Final Bow  
By Blaine Greenfield — Chief Encouragement Officer (CEO), BLAINESWORLD

Note: This review reflects the final dress rehearsal—already excellent and likely to be even more polished by opening night.

NEVERMORE: The Imaginary Life and Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe—book, lyrics, and music by Jonathan Christenson—is presented by Dogged Utopia Productions. This troupe deserves credit for bringing this first-ever Asheville-area staging to town and for championing titles that are new to the region or rarely performed. The result is a powerful, impeccably executed production.

In brief: The piece is a stylized, sung-through exploration of Poe's life—his loves, losses, and literary demons—told through gothic vignettes that blur biography and myth. The score and staging move like a fever dream, stitching memory to imagination.

At the center, Eric Martinez (Edgar Allan Poe) is superb—onstage for nearly the entire evening, he anchors the story with a commanding presence and supple vocals; he drives both narrative and emotion with the lion's share of spoken and sung lines. Dominic Aquilino (Rufus Griswold), at times foil and quasi-narrator, matches him with bite and precision, landing key solos and text with crisp intelligence—also outstanding.

Equally fine are the others who populate Poe's world: Clara Burrus (Eliza Poe, Miss Duval, Muddy Clem) threads tenderness and steel across multiple roles; Greta Schulz (Rosalie Poe, Fanny Allan, Sissy Clem) supplies clear, expressive singing and incisive character work; Matt Edwardsen (David Poe, Jock Allan) shapes two pivotal figures with nuance; David Cater (Henry Leonard Poe) makes a smaller role count; and Mandy Bean (Elmira Royster, Miss Duval) brings lyrical warmth and poise. Rounding out the company, Elly Leidner and Jessica Garland contribute ensemble chemistry that enriches the storytelling.

Director Mark Jones offers spot-on direction—pacing that breathes when it should and tightens when it must—striking a balance between theatrical flourish and emotional clarity. Music Director Leonidas Lagrimas keeps the musical engine humming with precision and color, supporting singers while letting the score's shadows glow.

Behind the scenes, kudos to Stage Manager Laura Fuller for keeping the pace and polish, as well as to Lighting Designer Claire Daniels, Lighting Board Operator Jack Cook, and set-construction lead Jeff Fuller for their efforts. Lastly, the entire cast deserves praise for its collaborative costume choices that sharpen character.

Where & When: The BeBe Theatre, Oct. 24–Nov. 2, 2025.

Tickets: <https://doggedutopia.simplenetix.com/>



### Thumbs-up vibes after NEVERMORE's final dress rehearsal

D. Review: Mars Hill's GHOST: THE MUSICAL Delivers a Moving, Magical Night  
By Blaine Greenfield — Chief Encouragement Officer (CEO), BLAINESWORLD

Note: This critique reflects the final dress rehearsal.

Presented by the Mars Hill University Theatre Arts Department, this staging is excellent—both heartfelt and visually striking.

Based on the beloved 1990 film, GHOST: THE MUSICAL tells the story of Sam Wheat and Molly Jensen—young lovers whose connection transcends life and death—woven together with humor, suspense, and an inspiring message about love's endurance.

The four principal performers are all first-rate: Nate Ogden (Sam Wheat) delivers intensity and warmth; Emma Hall (Molly Jensen) brings heartfelt emotion and lovely vocals; Fernanda Guerrero (Oda Mae Brown) shines with sharp comedic timing; and Seabron Echols (Carl Bruner) brings just the right touch of charm and menace.

Strong support also comes from Richard Rivera (Willie Lopez), Niki Vastis (Subway Ghost), and Jacob Bailey (Hospital Ghost)—each adding vivid, memorable moments.

Kudos as well to the 15 additional cast members, whose ensemble work adds depth, energy, and beautiful choral texture to every scene.

Chelsey Lee Gaddy provides excellent direction—well-paced, inventive, and emotionally grounded. Kenneth Scott Eggert's music direction is equally outstanding; he leads a rarity in a college production—a talented seven-piece orchestra (including two violins and a cello)—and the result is simply sublime.

If you loved the movie version of GHOST, you'll love this too. And if you've never seen the film, you'll want to after experiencing this moving and skillfully staged production.

Runs: Oct. 25–Nov. 1

Tickets: <https://mhutheatre.ludus.com>





### Post-show glow at GHOST: THE MUSICAL

E. I had the pleasure of hosting three BLAINESWORLD webcast this past week.

(1) Nate Ogden & Fernanda Guerrero.

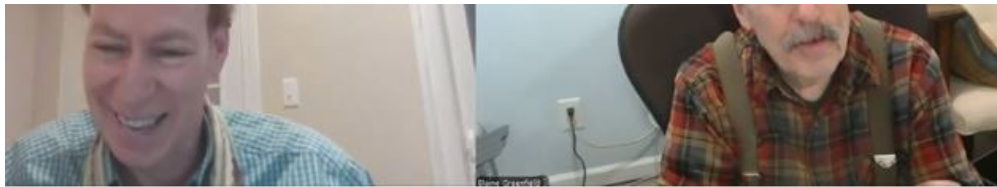
Please view today's BLAINESWORLD webcast, featuring Nate Ogden & Fernanda Guerrero, actors, who discuss Ghost: The Musical. Presented by Mars Hill University Theatre Arts Department from Oct. 25-Nov. 1. For tickets: <https://mhutheatre.ludus.com/index.php> ... To view or listen to the webcast, click: [www.blainesworld.net/](http://www.blainesworld.net/) and look for the one dated 10.20.2025. ... You'll then have the option to view it on YouTube or listen to it on your favorite podcast player.



(2) Ronald Rand

Please view today's BLAINESWORLD webcast, featuring Ronald Rand--Actor, Author, Playwright. ... To view or listen to the webcast, click: [www.blainesworld.net/](http://www.blainesworld.net/) and look for the one dated 10.21.2025. ... You'll then have the option to view it on YouTube or listen to it on your favorite podcast player.





### (3) Dave Bates & Chuck Taft

Please view today's BLAINESWORLD webcast, featuring Dave Bates & Chuck Taft who discuss Magical Moments. This Asheville Senior Chorus concert, under the direction of Chuck Taft, features the music of Dave Bates. Special Guests: Gabriel Coll-Bettencourt & Madison Garris. Performances: OCTOBER 16, 7PM, Givens Estate; OCTOBER 24, 7PM, Weaverville Baptist; and OCTOBER 26, 3PM Reuter Center (UNCA Campus). Free admission. ... To view or listen to the webcast, click: [www.blaineworld.net/](http://www.blaineworld.net/) and look for the one dated 10.21.2025. ... You'll then have the option to view it on YouTube or listen to it on your favorite podcast player.



### F. Correction

Last week's issue had two misspellings in the view of Parkway Playhouse's excellent production of ARSENIC AND OLD LACE. What follows are the corrected spellings for Alesa Bryant and Kaley Sikora . Sorry 'bout that!

### G. Announcing this week's ....

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

It goes to Jack Marlowe, LP Energy Driver for Southern States in Hendersonville.

He keeps our two propane tanks full—always well in advance of when they'd run low. Jack is friendly, enthusiastic, and, as you can see, has an infectious smile. We're also impressed with his company. Learn more about Southern States here:

<https://southernstates.com/a/pages/locations/996/southern-states-hendersonville-agronomy-plant>





## 2. Cynthia's Corner

The Corner I Do Not Like

Sometimes I find myself in a corner I do not like.

It doesn't always seem to be my own doing — though I can't say for sure whose doing it is. This corner I do not like is one where heaviness reigns.

It begins with my body — the aches and pains that refuse to leave. They arrive faithfully, like unwanted guests, at the same time each day. I keep hoping they'll just disappear. I wonder what life will feel like if they don't. How do I stay hopeful and enjoy the good moments when the pain insists on speaking louder?

Yet, even here in this corner, I am not alone. There is Blaine — my beloved. There is Bodhi — my little "love in fur", whom I adore, adore. And the softest, most beautiful, peaceful cat Kismet who shines his presence in our home. But even with such blessings, the heaviness still hums beneath the surface. What will wipe it away? What will free me from the pain that lingers in my body?

Lately, I've been thinking about resiliency. Watching Bodhi has given me a masterclass. He has grown so much — more confident, more trusting with people. When something startles him, he barks, yes, but then he collects himself. And he does it so much quicker than before. He doesn't stay in his corner for long. I want that resiliency too — to experience the body pain, and then gather myself back into balance. To find some kind of equilibrium, however small. The truth is, I do have many moments of non-pain. I'm just not always present enough to notice them.

So teach me, Bodhi.

Teach me how to return to equilibrium.

Teach me how to trust that this corner, too, will not last forever.

Perhaps the way out of the corner isn't to fight it, but to learn to breathe again within it — to notice every small easing, every quiet minute of non-pain, and to let those moments lead me gently back to myself.

Warmly,  
Cynthia (Greenfield)  
[Cgreenfield1001@aol.com](mailto:Cgreenfield1001@aol.com)

PS. If you would like to respond to this with your own personal experience or just a reaction, I'd love to hear from you.





### 3. Invites

#### A. SPRING'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY TOUR!

Since 2016, Spring Theatre's Christmas Tour has warmed hearts across the Triad with an original holiday show that brings joy not only to public theatres, but also to intimate settings like nursing homes and retirement communities. As Executive Director Erinn Dearth shares: "While our entire season is spectacular and enjoyable on so many levels, I most look forward to our small Christmas tour. It is an amazing thing to see joy brought to the elderly with our cast of community members of all ages."

We are currently seeking singers and performers of all ages—kids, teens, and adults—to audition for this heartwarming tradition. Whether you're a seasoned performer or just love spreading holiday cheer, this is your chance to make a meaningful impact through the arts.

For more information, click:

[https://springtheatre.org/holidayrevue.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawNrF3VleHRuA2FibQixMQABHqfgFerW8FWZN3eJUKg9cWMwVGY3RYDLd3jFrLesZo7VbOe14CF1AY9KJ0m7\\_aem\\_4DW8KUEdhlpqVP7dolTX-A](https://springtheatre.org/holidayrevue.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawNrF3VleHRuA2FibQixMQABHqfgFerW8FWZN3eJUKg9cWMwVGY3RYDLd3jFrLesZo7VbOe14CF1AY9KJ0m7_aem_4DW8KUEdhlpqVP7dolTX-A)

#### B. Last chance to enter ...

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

One lucky reader will win a copy of Knock! Knock! Jokes.

This is a book that young kids and grandkids, as well as nephews and nieces, would especially enjoy.

And if the following is your type of humor, you might also enjoy it:

Knock-knock.  
Who's there?  
Needle.  
Needle who?  
I needle a little money please.

To enter the contest, send an email to: [bjinbc@aol.com](mailto:bjinbc@aol.com) and put CONTEST #12 in the subject line. Include in the body of the email your name and mailing address, so that if you win, I can send you a copy of this book. Entries must be received on or before the 9 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 27.

#### C. Want to be a guest on my BLAINESWORLD webcast? It can now be seen on YouTube or you can listen to it on your favorite podcast player.

I typically feature guests involved with theater, non-profit organizations, authors, performers or who are just downright interesting.

Even if you've been a guest before, I'd welcome the opportunity to speak with you again. I now tape via Zoom, usually in the early evening.

If you want to join me, let me know. Send an email to: [bjinbc@aol.com](mailto:bjinbc@aol.com) if interested, and put W/ERCAST in

If you want to join me, let me know. Send an email to: [oginpc@aol.com](mailto:oginpc@aol.com), if interested, and put WEBCAST in the subject line. Include your email address and phone number. And for more information, click: <https://www.blainesworld.net/>

D. I'm back on Facebook after having been hacked. If we are not currently friends there (or if we lost contact because of the hack), please friend me by looking up: Blaine Greenfield. You'll see a picture of me in a blue shirt with, naturally, my thumb up.

You can also find me by clicking:  
<https://www.facebook.com/blaine.greenfield.2025/>

E. Are you interested in shows, movies, TV, etc.? ... If so, I encourage you to join a group I've formed on Facebook that's called Entertainment. To do so, all you need to do is follow the instructions when you click: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/245515070390413>

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#### 4. FYI

A. Note: Don't be turned-off by the headline. Much of what follows applies to both sexes.

GQ's 125 Rules for Modern Gentlemen  
Our guide to manners and etiquette from men in 2025.  
By the editors of GQ

Knowing how to be a gentleman used to be straightforward: There were codes that were passed down, instilled, and strictly enforced. With both social mores and the nature of masculinity itself wildly in flux, that's not exactly the case anymore.

Which is why we at GQ put our heads together and pulled in some wise (and well-behaved) outsiders to craft the ultimate guide to being a well-mannered gentleman in 2025. (This is, after all, Gentlemen's Quarterly.) We've considered both the new predicaments guys might be struggling with in this specific day and age, as well as the classic, evergreen rules that men should still adhere to—and could maybe use a good strong reminder of.

This means we're helping you navigate every thing from the modern landscape of online-dating etiquette to how to act in that all-women Pilates class to when (and when not) to pop a Zyn, while offering you a refresher on everything from thank-you notes to how to be a conscientious human being in public to how to act at a dinner party. The result is a list of 125 rules on how to be your best-behaved self wherever you go in 2025 and beyond. Friends, dates, colleagues, and the people sitting beside you on your next flight all thank you for reading.

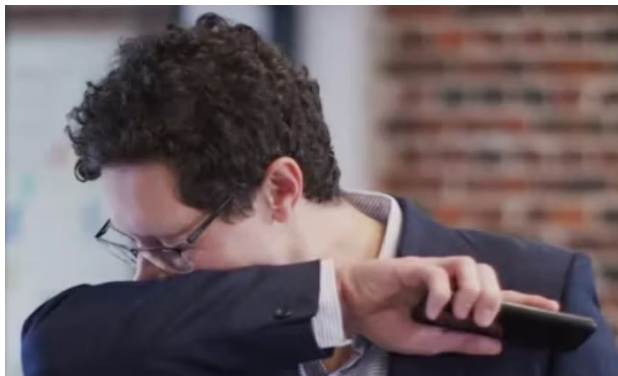
##### Other People

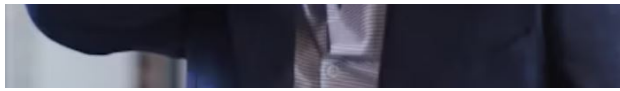
We'll assume you've got the basics of being a self-aware human down—but these moves will show you're uniquely attuned to what other people want, need, and appreciate most.

1. Take out your AirPods when you're talking to someone. Muting doesn't count.
2. Ask before vaping indoors. No matter how sly you think you are, other people do notice.
3. If you're in a situation where you wouldn't smoke or vape, don't pop a Zyn either. And go to the bathroom to remove your Zyn.
4. Everyone loves receiving flowers—but most bouquets are cloying and chaotic. If you have a favorite flower, send a small number of stems. If not, you can't go wrong with a few calla lilies.
5. Always sneeze as if you're at a library or a funeral. And in the crook of your arm, as if you're dabbing.

For the rest of this oh-so informative article, click:

[Here](#)





B. 9 Ways to Combat Self-Criticism

[Here](#)

Note: Also see the clip the beginning of the article.

C. 9 jobs that AI could kill in the next 10 years — and 5 that will thrive

[Here](#)

D. People in strong relationships ask this No. 1 question early on: Expert who's been married 23 years

[Here](#)

E. Why Chick-fil-A Employees Won't Say 'You're Welcome'

[Here](#)

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## 5. Joke 1

Guy even looks like me—my cartoon clone!



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## 6. Reviews

A. CARMELO (Netflix)

This 2025 film is a gentle, uplifting drama that tells the story of Pedro, a rising chef whose life is turned upside down by a serious diagnosis—until he meets Carmelo, a stray caramel-colored dog whose fierce loyalty and intuitive companionship lead him out of despair and into hope. Though it covers familiar territory, its warmth, the chemistry between man and dog, and its rich setting in Brazil elevate it far above simple sentimentality. While the MPAA rating is NR (Not Rated), I'd say it would get a G rating. We liked it.

R. THE SUBSTANCE (Max)

#### B. THE SUBSTANCE (max)

This 2024 release follows Elisabeth Sparkle, a once-famous fitness-TV star who, upon turning 50 and being pushed aside, signs up for a radical procedure that lets her temporarily inhabit a younger, idealized version of herself—only to discover the transformation comes with horrific consequences. I found the first half compelling, and the visuals are striking. Demi Moore and Margaret Qualley are solid, though Dennis Quaid is, for me, over-the-top. Unfortunately, as the story progresses it leans increasingly on shock value, the plotting grows chaotic, and the emotional payoff never recovers the promise of the opening. By the end, I considered it one of the worst films I've seen in a long time. Rated R.

#### C. KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN \*\*

The good things about this movie is the acting is exceptional as are the costumes. The negative is its slow and just does not advance to hold your interest. It is going to be a major box office flop. We were the only two in the theater last night. Several friends saw it at other theaters and said the same thing. It's a shame because I normally love musicals. It's not a movie I would see again. (Thanks to Mike Martinelli for sharing.)

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### 7. TV Alert

#### A. IT: WELCOME TO DERRY (Max)

Set in the world of Stephen King's It universe, this series expands the supernatural vision established in prior big-screen film treatments.

#### B. FINDING MR. CHRISTMAS (Hallmark Channel)

This gently wry, slightly campy holiday competition reality series has 10 guys vie in festive physical and emotional acting challenges for the grand prize: appearing in an upcoming Hallmark holiday movie.

#### C. DOWN CENTURY ROAD (Apple TV, beginning on Oct. 29)

Private investigator Zoë Boehm (Emma Thompson) brings wisecracking wit and intelligent flair to a case involving a missing girl and an explosion in a quiet suburban neighborhood.

#### D. BALLAD OF A SMALL PLAYER (Netflix, beginning on Oct. 29)

This psychological thriller is about a desperate gambler (Colin Farrell) on a bender in Macau. Tilda Swinton plays a private investigator on his tail.

#### E. NOBODY WANTS THIS, Season 2 (Netflix)

Adorable rabbi Noah (Adam Brody) and gentile podcaster Joanne (Kristen Bell) fall deeper in love while seeing whether admittedly agnostic Joanne will or won't convert to Judaism for her boyfriend. We loved Season 1 and are really looking forward to these next episodes.

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### 8. Joke 2

This meme makes my accountant happy.



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## 9. Clips/Websites

A. The Turtles are arguably the greatest rock group of all time!

(1) Their recording of "Happy Together" proves it

(2) As you may know, I welcome clips of them and/or others singing this classic song. For example, this week, you can see this cover from King Princess and Mark Ronson by clicking:  
[Here](#)

Note: Feel free to submit your choices for greatest recording artists, music, etc. I'll try to run what you send me in in section 8C (below).

B. Video of the week

Nina Conti, a very funny ventriloquist, live at The British Apollo  
[Here](#)

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

(1) Billy Joel - Lullabye (Goodnight, My Angel), one of my favorites  
[Here](#)

(2) Howard Smith Jr.: Hymns (10.26.2025)  
<https://www.facebook.com/hs.smith.73/videos/1487148419005650>

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: Elvin Bishop  
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1330548502149034>

(4) Thanks, Neil, for the reminder to check out Bishop's "Struttin' My Stuff." Your many fans and friends can do the same by clicking:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZ7raU-o7AE&list=RDOZ7raU-o7AE&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZ7raU-o7AE&list=RDOZ7raU-o7AE&start_radio=1)

(5) Annie Hall (5/12) Movie CLIP - Awkward Annie (1977)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXy9Lp8bu98>

(6) Frank Sinatra Describes a Hilarious Prank Don Rickles Played On Him  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWvJCYyoDZQ>  
(Thanks to Jonathan Berg for sharing.)

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

Zoom Earth  
Interactive weather map and hurricane tracker  
Shows you precipitation, wind, temperature, humidity, and pressure, and you can also see a live weather map.  
[Here](#)

E. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:  
<https://www.blaineworld.net/>

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## 10. Technology Tip

Apple Just Added A Powerful Anti-Scam Tool To iPhones — Here's How To Activate It  
By Monica Torres

Spammers who constantly call and claim to know us are a daily distraction for too many of us. Unwanted calls from telemarketers and people pretending to be government officials or bank agents are the top consumer complaint, according to the Federal Communications Commission.

But there is a new free call screening tool that can help us reclaim our wasted time.

As part of Apple's iOS 26 software update, released last month, there is a new call screening feature for unknown callers.

To find out more, click:  
[Here](#)

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### 11. Joke 3

Now that's one way to save a buck!



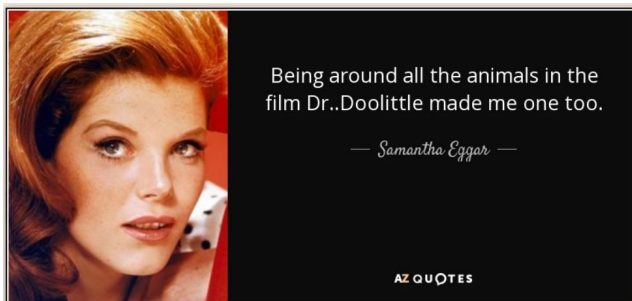
Wife asked me, "What will you give me for our 25th anniversary?" ... I answered, "How about a trip to Paris?" ... She smiled excitedly and replied, "Wow, that's great! How about our 50th?" ... I said, "I'll pick you back up."

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### 12. Two Quotes I Like

A. Thanks, Samantha Eggar (1939-2025), for your career as an English actress. After beginning her career in Shakespearean theatre she rose to fame for her performance in William Wyler's thriller *The Collector* (1965), which earned her a Golden Globe Award, a Cannes Film Festival Award and an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress. She later appeared as Emma Fairfax in *Doctor Doolittle* and the American drama *The Molly Maguires*. For more information about her life, click:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacyremembers/samantha-eggar-obituary?pid=210124111>



B. Thanks, Chris Dreja (1946-2025), for your career as an English musician and photographer. Dreja was best known as the rhythm guitarist and bassist for the rock band The Yardbirds. In 1992, he and the rest of The Yardbirds were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. For more information about his life, click:

<https://ultimateclassicrock.com/yardbirds-chris-dreja-obituary/>

**"They paid me \$15... I thought it was just Christmas money." —  
Chris Dreja (on being paid a small amount for Led Zeppelin's  
first photo shoot)**





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### 13. Thought For The Day

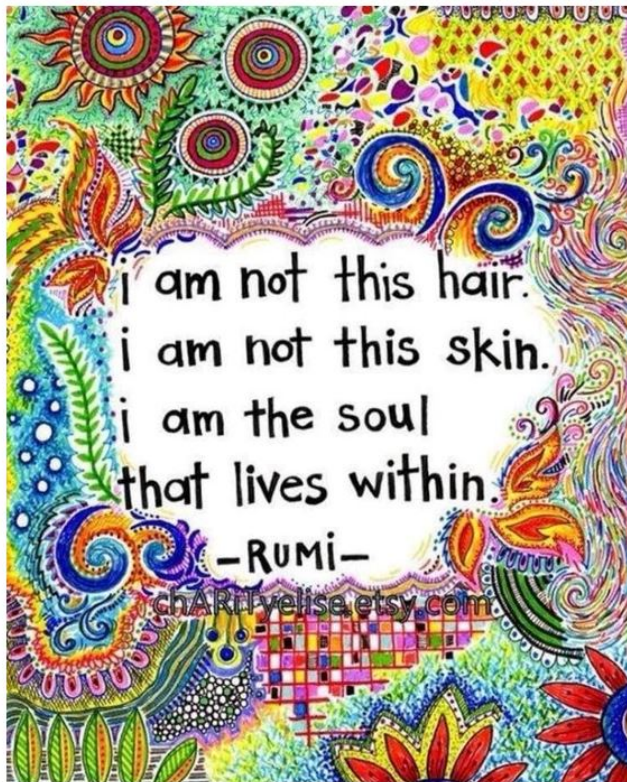
Remembering Mary  
By Susan Marco

When I first realized this, I was in my early 20's...I was a retail store manager, and was hired to take over a store where all 3 managers walked out due to their dislike of the new management. The store was 80 miles (one way) from where I was living and it was at the beginning of Christmas season. To say it was stressful is an understatement, for sure

One of the existing employees, we can call her Mary, was not at all physically attractive...One might even use the word homely or ugly to describe her. At first, to be very honest, I was judgmental of her and her appearance. As time went on, I got to know her and began to recognize her for her traits, her values and her incredible support through a very difficult season. The beauty she held within herself absolutely eclipsed what was visible on the outside. She became beautiful in my eyes! Now, truth be told, I don't think she had any idea of her inner beauty, but the lesson was huge for me at the time.

This story and Mary is someone I still think of when I fall into judgment of my own physical appearance. When I speak harshly about my body, or my attributes, I remember her and turn inward to see my inner beauty and the soul which lives within!

(Thanks to Susan for sharing the above from her Facebook post of 10.14.2025.)



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PS. Make it a great week!

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