

BLAINES WORLD

#1207
11.04.2019

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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) Got a kick out of the following play that I wrote about on Facebook: You're in luck, in that you have four more chances to see DINNER WITH FRIENDS at Attic Salt Theatre next weekend (Nov. 8-10). ... This engrossing play about two married couples received the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. It features outstanding performances from Jeff Catanese, Matt Edwardsen, Lara Hollaway and Christy Montesdeoca, and Catanese deserves extra additional kudos for his fine job as director. Costumes by McKinney Gough were spot on, as was Chris Kingsley's handling of stage manager duties. ... For tickets, please click: [Here](#).
#audiencereview



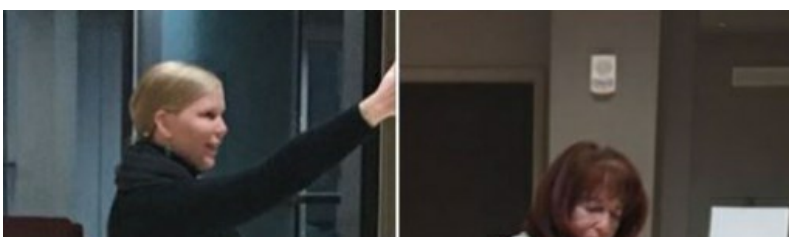
(2) Joined our friends Tom and Marcy Gallagher for dinner at Pacific Pagoda, a Chinese restaurant that is becoming our favorite such eatery in the area. We especially enjoy the friendly service we receive from Jennifer.



B. Come meet the Fincklestin family and others at The Sublime Theater's world premiere of MY CRAZY MY LOVE, now at The BeBe Theatre though Nov. 23. ... According to a press release, The show is "a domestic phantasmagoria with song and dance." It has both comedic and dramatic elements, along with terrific performances from Steven Samuels, Kathy O'Connor, Julian Vorus, Olivia Stuller, Emmaleigh Moriniti, Lydia Congdon and Art Moore. ... Kudos to playwright John Crutchfield for his latest effort, as well as to these others who helped make the production such a success: Samuels who also served as director; Holiday Childress, composer; Kristi DeVille, choreographer; and Rachel McCrain, assistant director/stage manager. ... For tickets, please click: [Here](#). #audiencereview



C. That's Cynthia with her friend Roberta Anderson (left) at a recent Story Choreography workshop. There's one session left this coming Monday, Nov. 11, at 4 p.m. Walk-ins welcome. Pay at the door or pre-register. No experience needed. Just a willingness to show up and join in! ... For more information, please click: [Here](#).





D. Catch this past Wednesday's BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM by clicking: [Here](#). Guests: (first half) Kevin Frazier and Cortland Mercer; and (second half) Michelle Beitzel and Hank Eder. ...Note: The video kicks in about 8 minutes into the show. If you'd like to hear the entire interview, please click: [Here](#).

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



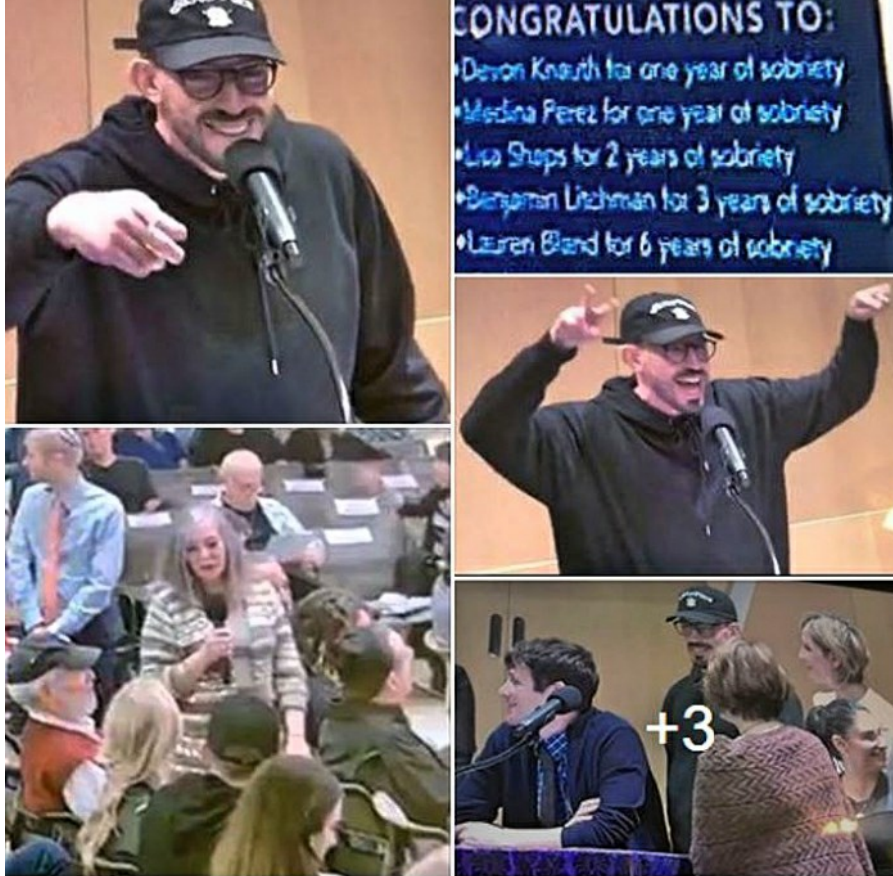
E. Condolences to:

- (1) Jim Chewing and family on the passing of Nancy, Jim's sister.
- (2) Ariella St Clair and family on the passing of Ariella's mother.

F. Congratulations to:

- (1) Patrick Fitzsimmons on his re-election to the Weaverville Town Council.
- (2) Michael Gelb on his latest article in CEOWORLD magazine. To read it, please click: [Here](#).
- (3) Amber Riddle on her new job at the Poseidon Spa at the Grand Bohemian Hotel.
- (4) Judy and Michael Chadwick on the birth of Seth, their second grandson.
- (5) Will Jones on his new job at Mission Hospital.
- (6) Benjamin Litchman (pictured below) on his third year of sobriety. He got to celebrate this occasion with family and friends at Beit T'shuva in Los Angeles. They were fortunate to hear him speak. You can also by clicking: [Here](#). ... His mom, Joyce Litchman, spoke as well. You can hear what she had to say by clicking: [Here](#). ... And to see all seven pictures at full size, please click: [Here](#).





G. Correction: Last week's issue mentioned my personal board of directors. These were folks who have made a difference in my life and who I contact for advice about a wide range of topics. ... There was one misspelling. The corrected spelling is Doug Hauschild. ... More importantly, I inadvertently left the following names off this list: Maureen McCreadie, John Murray, Danny Brice, Sherry Shapiro, Annemarie Brown, Carole Biro, Marcy Gallagher, Sunny Ruble, Bonnie Sibner, Walela Dobroski and Steven Shulman. ... Sorry 'bout that!

H. PLEASE HELP DEPARTMENT ... vote for our previous dining room (at our Biltmore Lake home) in a competition sponsored by Beverly-Hanks. It is pictured below, and it is also the one on the bottom left when you vote by clicking: [Here](#).

Doing so will enable us to get more exposure, especially if we win.

Note: To find our more about the home, as well as to send additional pictures, please click: [Here](#).



I. Invitations:

(1) Join me at the Open House of Asheville Personal Training, the magnificent new facility of my trainer (Michelle Kuhn, pictured below). The date: Saturday, Nov. 16, from 10 a.m.-12 noon at 8 Glenn Willow Dr, STE 30, Arden, NC. ... For more information, please click: [Here](#).



(2) Anybody want to join me in Return to Bethlehem?

Come experience the marketplace as it might have been when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Be a part of the story ... that came true!

I've always thought this would be fun to do. There are no rehearsals. You just show up, and they tell you what to do.

Note: I'm looking to do it on Thursday night, Dec. 5, from 6-8:30 and/or on Sunday, Dec. 8, from 2 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

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

If interested, let me know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE by sending an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put Bethlehem in subject line. In the body of the email, include your name and phone number.

(3) The entry date has been EXTENDED, so there's still time to enter ...

*** CONTEST #23 ***

One lucky reader will win a copy of THE COACHING HABIT: SAY LESS, ASK MORE & CHANGE THE WAY YOU LEAD FOREVER by Michael Bungay Stanier.

To quote Nir Eyal, author of HOOKED: "THE COACHING HABIT is a succinct and practical handbook for getting the best from others and yourself."

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #23 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., Nov. 11.

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

Thanks, Cynthia Greenfield, for making this week's nomination: Warren Fluharty (pictured below in front of the one of the paintings he has helped us choose for our new home in Fairview) is extremely knowledgeable in the area of decorating. He is extremely creative, and we trust him with his many ideas that all seem to work out beautifully. We could not have put our house together without his amazing support. ... Warren also helped us decorate our Biltmore Lake home. We recommend him strongly. you can visit him at his furniture showroom, located at 6 Fairview Road in Asheville. Or give him a call at 828.273,1101.





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2. FYI

Ever run out of battery power for your cellphone and have nowhere to plug it in? Or wondered what you lost the electricity in your home and your cellphone had no charge? ... The solution: Get yourself a portable charger. This is a lightweight power bank or mobile battery pack that you can carry anywhere. ... You simply charge it up at home, throw it in your bag or your pocket and connect it to your phone whenever it needs a quick battery boost. ... I just got an Aker PowerCore 13000 Power Charger and am very pleased with it. Methinks you would be, too.

FYI, part 2

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

(1) Marie Verilla: Husband Gives Wife a Birthday Cake Shaped Like Her Favorite Thing: a Giant Amazon Package. (2) Ready. Set. Write a Book. (3) Ken Greenfield: It's like paraphrasing a Groucho Marx quote: any board that would have me. (4) Andy Scarpati: Love your gratitude, friend. (5) Mark Beloyan: I love the quote in today's society. (6) Padma Dyvine: What a wonderful idea! (7) Sue Hinkle: Oh I love that! (8) Avoid Burnout Before You're Already Burned Out.

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3. Joke 1

MR. HELPFUL here ... use this decorating technique today and through the end of the year ... and if you're like me, and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way), HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



"Holiday decorating—done."

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4. Reviews

A. Saw LAST CHRISTMAS, a romantic comedy about a salesclerk who encounters the man of her dreams. It feels like a Hallmark movie--and a not very good one at that. The two leads, Emilia Clarke and Henry Golding, have little chemistry. And the surprise ending is one that can be guessed long before the film is over. Rated PG-13.

B. Thanks, Mike Martinelli, for posting the following review:

HARRIET ***

Wonderful true story of how Harriet Tubman escaped slavery and all she did to free other slaves. Great performance by Broadway and Tony winner for The Color Purple, Cynthia Erivo. And Broadway Tony winner for Hamilton, Leslie Odem Jr. There's also as well a great cast ensemble. Look for it to be nominated at SAG for best cast ensemble.

C. Thanks, Michael Dequina, for sending me this video he shot at the world premiere of OPENING NIGHT a few years ago: [Here](#).

Note: I reviewed this film in last week's issue. In thinking some more about it, I've just added it to my list of all-time favorites. If you'd like to get this list, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

D/ Heard FURIOUS HOURS: MURDER, FRAUD, AND THE LAST TRIAL OF HARPER LEE (Random House Audio), written by Casey Cep and read by Hillary Huber. ... This book is an enthralling combination of a true-crime thriller, courtroom drama and miniature biography of Harper Lee. ... If you were a fan of TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, you'll like this one. It will also give you some insight into why there Lee never wrote a second book.

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5. TV alert

A. MODERN LOVE: Now available via Netflix

I mentioned it previously, but that was before I began watching this anthology series. I've now finished it, and I very much enjoyed it. You will, too, largely because of a star-studded cast that includes such notable actors as Jane Alexander, Emmy winner Tina Fey, Andy Garcia, Oscar winner Anne Hathaway, Dev Patel and John Slattery.

This series is based on articles that appeared in THE NEW YORK TIMES. To read some of them, please click: [Here](#).

B. SESAME STREET'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL: Sunday, Nov. 10, at 3:30 p.m. on HBO FAMILY

Kermit the Frog makes a special appearance, along with celebrity guests including host Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Whoopi Goldberg and Patti LaBelle.

Note: The above show will also be run on PBS (check local listings [Here](#)) on Sunday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m.

C. THE 53RD ANNUAL CMA AWARDS: Wednesday, Nov. 13, at 8 p.m. on ABC living legend Dolly Parton returns to the CMA Awards, joining Carrie Underwood (a host since 2008) and Reba McEntire to emcee Nashville's biggest night.

D. RED: Friday, Nov. 15, at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at pbs.org) Award-winning stage and screen actor Alfred Molina reprises his critically acclaimed performance as the American abstract expressionist painter Mark Rothko in playwright John Logan's Tony Award-winning 2010 play.

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6. Joke 2

WARNING: Do not swallow bubble gum! (Thanks, Roberta Gurwood, for sharing.)





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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Natalie Kaye: You'll Never Walk Alone/Climb Every Mountain-Rebecca Robbins, Claudia Pellegrini: [Here](#).

(2) Davyne Dial: Leonard Cohen - Everybody Knows (Live in Dublin): [Here](#).

(3) These unusual talents will leave you speechless: [Here](#).

B. You've probably seen stuff from BuzzFeed that has been posted by others, but if you want to check out the website directly, please click: [Here](#).

You'll find a wide variety of listicles, as well as articles containing, funny photoshopped pictures, GIFs and quizzes. Among some recent ones that caught my attention were the following:

There's Someone In Your Life You Should Be Spending More Time With, And This Quiz Will Reveal Who

34 Things For When You Need A Little Pick-Me-Up

Order A Meal At Wendy's And We'll Guess Your Age And Height

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

Last week, I discussed how to loop a YouTube video on your desktop or laptop if you want to play music over and over. It is easy to do. . . . For some reason, doing this on your smartphone isn't quite as simple. But according to TECHWISER, "There are some workarounds to loop a video right inside the YouTube app, for both Android and iOS. Although it's in no way perfect like the web version, it gets the job done." . . . To find out how to do this, please click: [Here](#).

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9. Joke 3

WHY MEN ARE HAPPIER THAN WOMEN: (1) Your ass is never a factor in a job interview. (2) Your last name stays put. (3) Same work, more pay. (4) Wrinkles add character. (5) Wedding Dress, \$2,000; Tux rental, \$150. (6) A five-day vacation requires only 1 suitcase. (7) Your underwear is \$10 for a three-pack. (8) The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades. (9) Your world is your urinal. . . . For 28 other reasons, please click: [Here](#).





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10. A quote I like

"To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong."--Joseph Chilton Pearce (1926-2016), American author of a number of books on human development and child development

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11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Jan Anderson Robbins, for sharing her recent Facebook post:
Community Theater has been a part of my life for many years! It has been my salvation and my joy. It is not comprised of one or two people that are irreplaceable but of many communities within that community. Every show comprises a smaller community of people volunteering hours of time for the enjoyment of the larger community. The contributions of the theater community are priceless to all people. To try to destroy or cause drama underneath the community is a waste of good energy. If one community theater doesn't work for you .. find one that does and invest your energy positively!

And to Carol Deurmitt for sharing her comment:
Yeah, the drama belongs ON the stage. Period. It's COMMUNITY theatre. No one is getting paid. We are doing this for FUN. It seems a lot of people forget that. Weird. And boards filled with what my former neighbor lovingly called "pips." That's "previously important people." ... Long live happy, positive, narcissist-free community theater.

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12. Advance planning department

To read more about the following events, please click: [Here](#).

A. NC events

(1) At 35below: THE GOD OF HELL. (2) At The Magnetic Theatre: IN THE NICK OF TIME--MOPAC MEETS AGAIN! (3) At the Be Be Theatre: MY CRAZY MY LOVE. (4) Sunny Ruble: Womansong concert.

B. PA/NJ event

At Kelsey Theatre: JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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