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1. Reflections

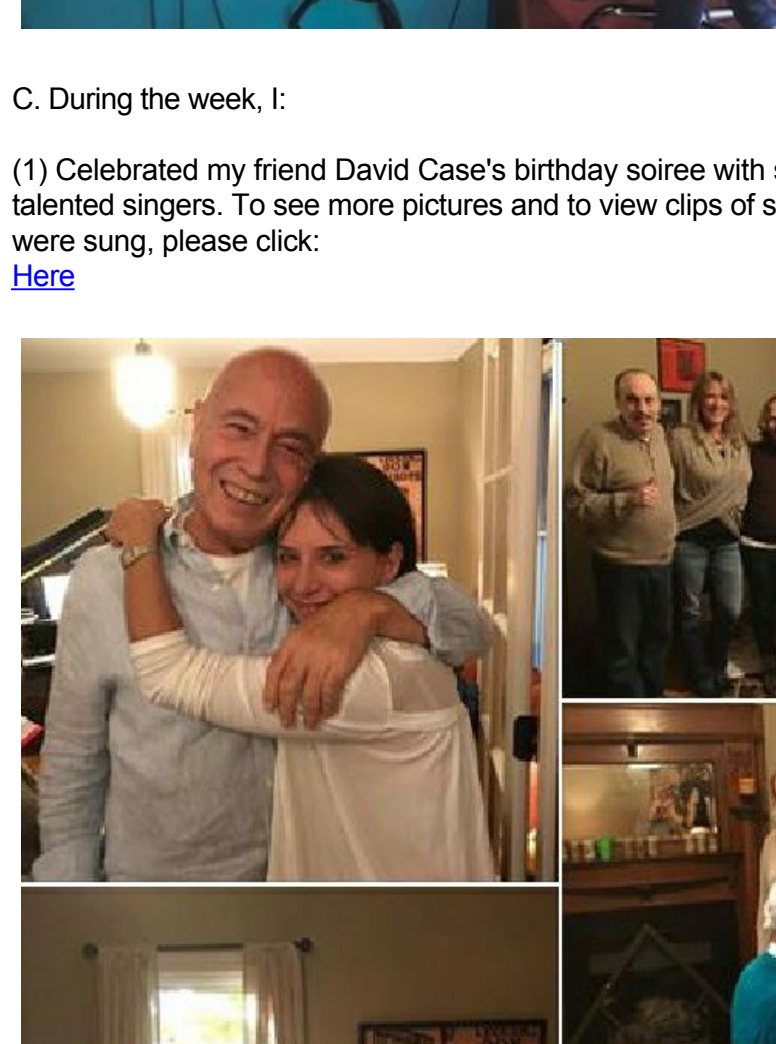
If you're reading this via Facebook or LinkedIn, please be advised that you will get it quicker if you get it via email. Another advantage: You'll never miss it that way because you may not have logged in for a day or two. And in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, all you need to do is send an email to: bjnbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Joined our neighbors (and friends), Beth and Steve Byas, for a delicious dinner at La Strada.



(2) Checked out Galactic Pizza, the new eatery near us. You can tell by our smiles that we enjoyed our visit. We'll be back.



(3) Attended the unveiling of our beloved friends, Dave and Judy Blumlo. We so miss them.

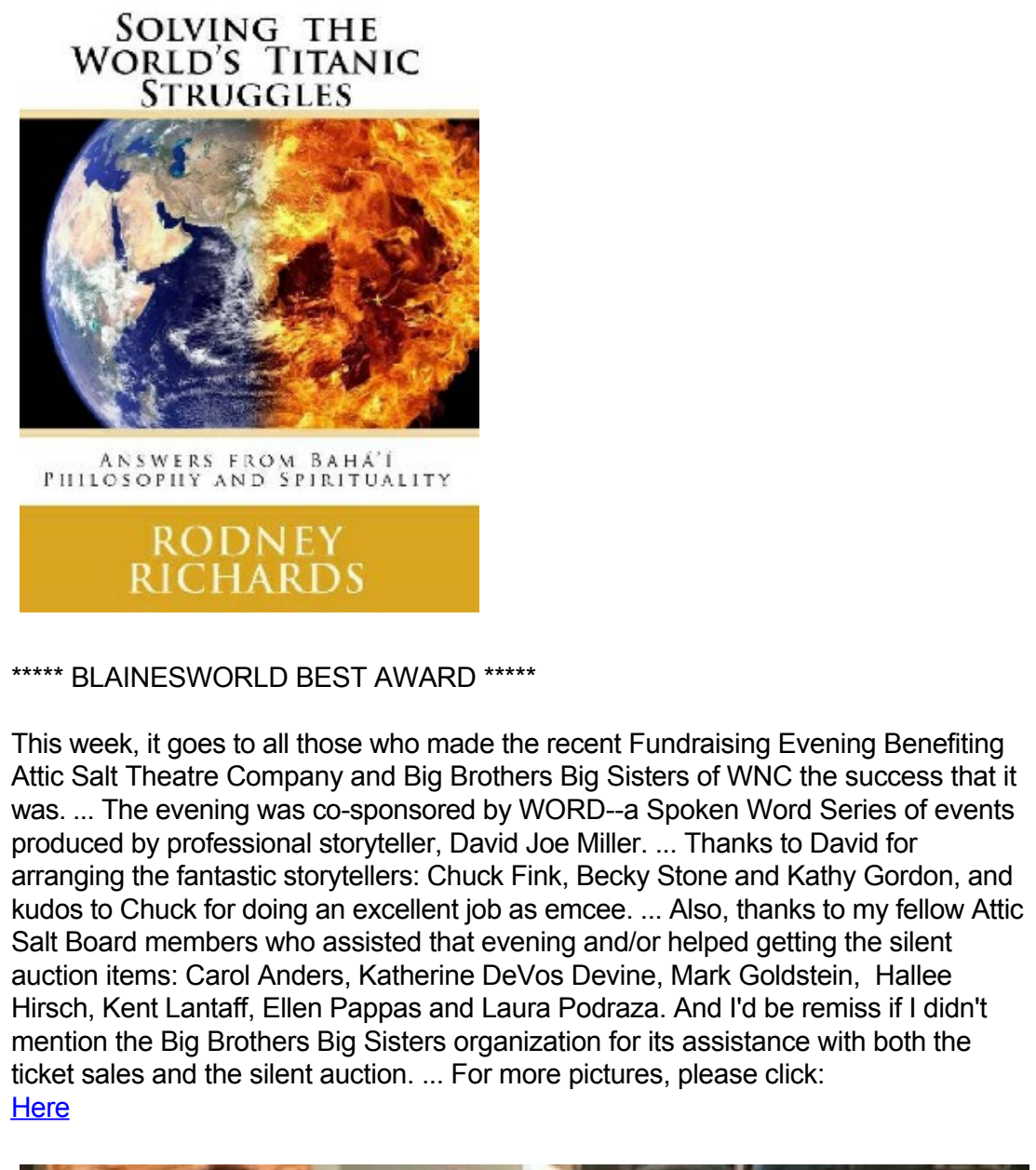


B. WPM103.7 invites you to listen to the recent BLAINESWORLD show featuring Brenda Lilly (left), writer, producer and director in the Film and Television Program at Western Carolina University in the first half, and Marilyn Ball (right), host of the iHeart radio show, Speaking of Travel, and owner of 12Twelve Marketing in the second half. To do so, please click:
[Here](#)

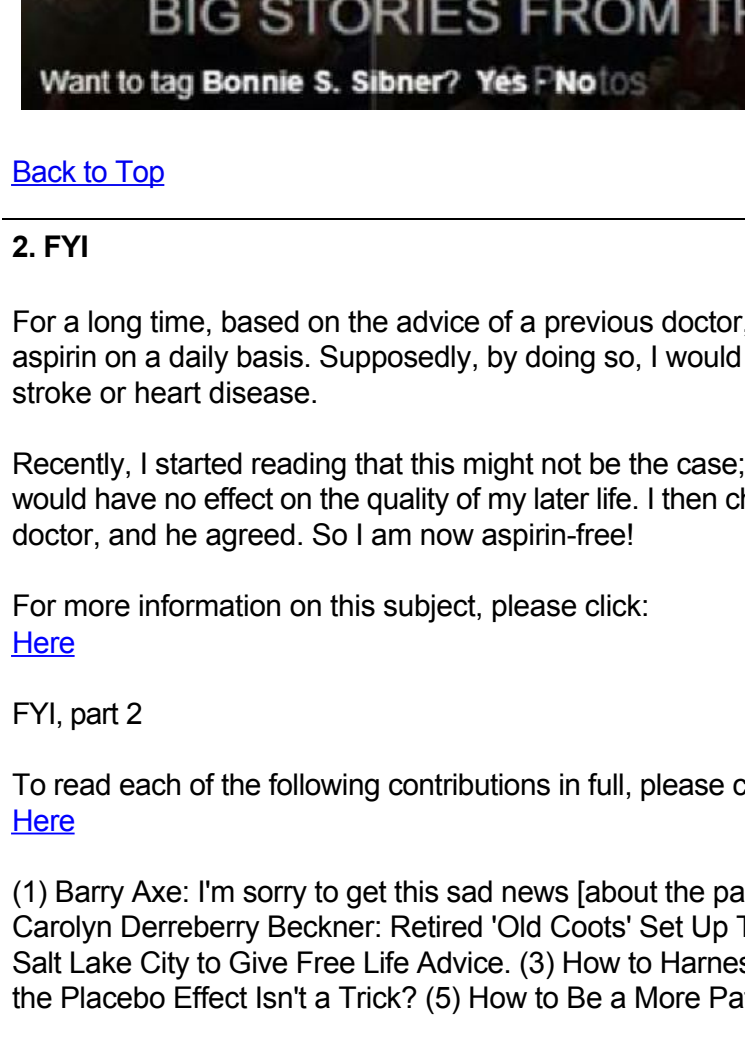


C. During the week, I:

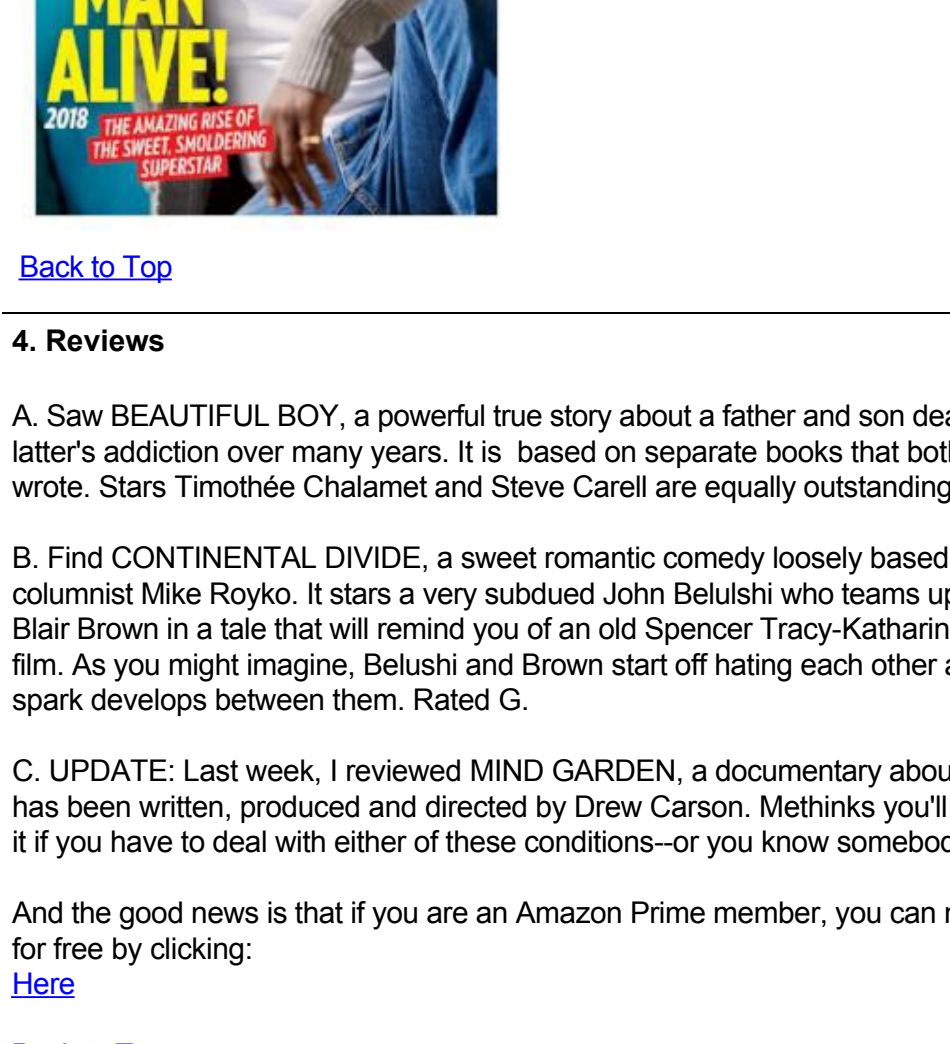
(1) Celebrated my friend David Case's birthday soiree with some of Asheville's most talented singers. To see more pictures and to view clips of some of the songs that were sung, please click:
[Here](#)



(2) Saw Michael Lilly deliver a bravura, one-man performance in THE THE MAN IN THE BRIGHT NIGHT GOWN, now playing at 35below through Nov. 18. ... Lilly plays the words of Maya Angelou (1928-2014), a man who after he lays his father to rest, has one last conversation with him in a play that's both funny, in parts, and also quite touching.... Kudos, also, to Brenda Lilly for her taut direction, as well as to Jan Powell for deftly handling both stage manager and sound design duties. ... The theatre is a small one, so if you don't want to miss this show that will resonate with you long after you've seen it, get your tickets now. They can be obtained by clicking:
[Here](#).



(3) Had the pleasure of seeing the final dress rehearsal of THE MISANTHROPE and can tell you that I got a big kick out of seeing how playwrights Andrew Gall and Megan Powell brought the action forward into the 21st century by substituting the French courtiers with rock musicians, pop divas, Becky Stone and Kathy Gordon. ... Gall, who did a fine version of directing this version of the play, has managed to get laughs out of all the members of his talented casts: Jason Phillips, Mary Katherine O'Donnell, Eugene Jones, Heather Bronson, Jered Shults, Tippin, Daniel Henry and Daniel Moore. ...This update of the Moliere farce runs through Nov. 18 at The Magnetic Theatre. For tickets, please click:
[Here](#)



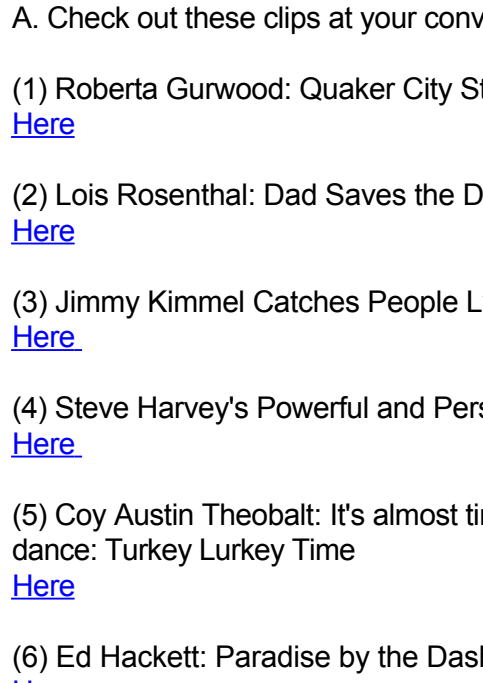
D. Congratulations to:

- (1) Barry Axe on his retirement as a Professor in the Management Department at Florida Atlantic University.
Note: Barry was my favorite business professor when I was a student at Rider University. I'm grateful that we have stayed in touch ever since then.
- (2) Risa Reavely on her new front desk job with JAG Physical Therapy.
- (3) Chandler Smith on being nominated for a BroadwayWorld Award in the Best Actor In A Play category for last season's TUNA CHRISTMAS at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre.
- (4) Jenni Robinson Fox, winner of Contest #23: a copy of TOUGH CUSTOMER, a novel by Sandra Brown. ... All told, there were five entries. And that reminds me it is time to introduce ...

**** CONTEST #24 ****

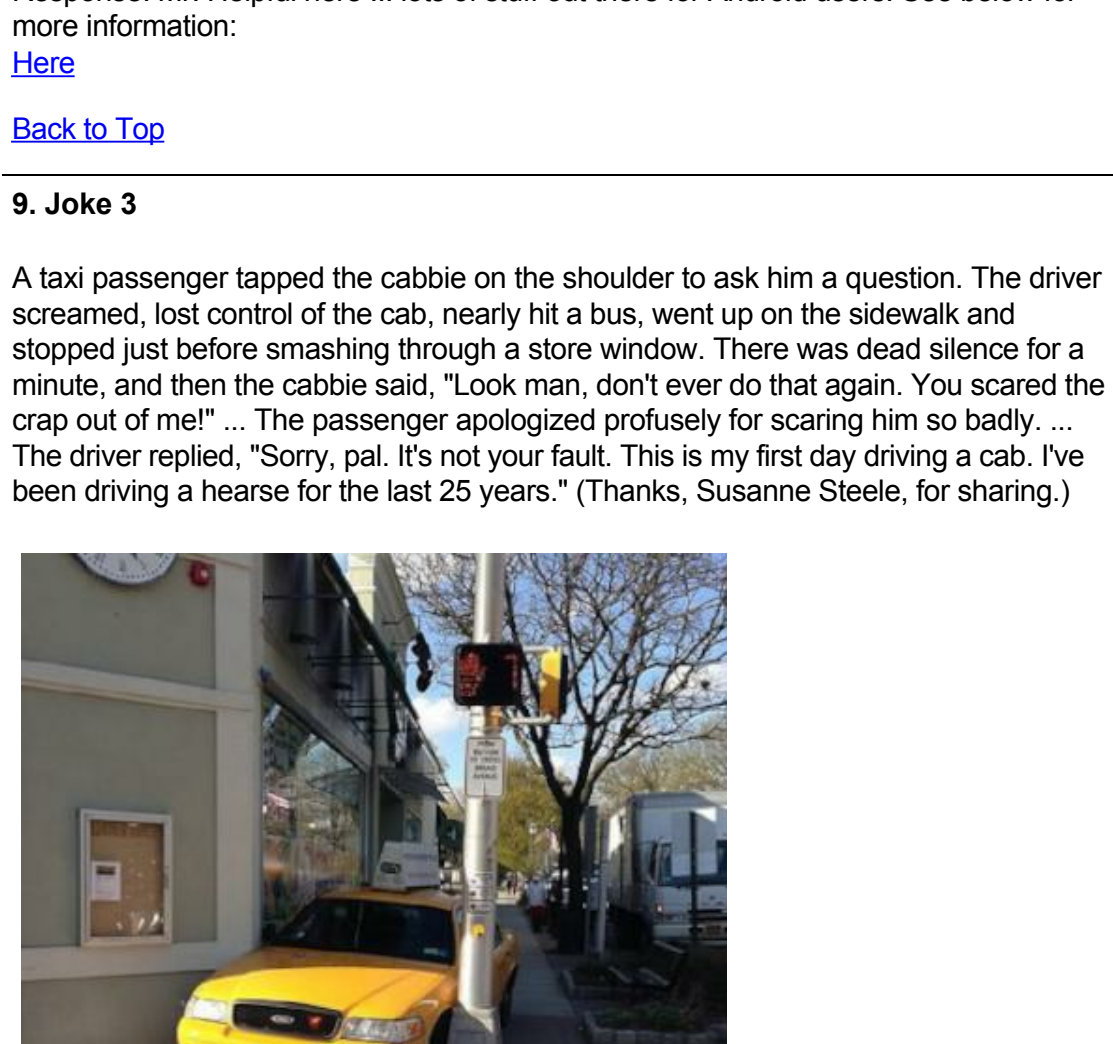
Two lucky readers will each get an autographed copy of SOLVING THE WORLD'S TITANIC STRUGGLES: ANSWERS FROM BAHAI PHILOSOPHY AND SPIRITUALITY by my friend Rodney Richards. To quote from one Amazon review: "THIS IS A BRILLIANT book for thinkers. Those who like to ponder and wander in the gray zone, not just the black and white. Do you believe in fate or destiny? Are there any accidents in this world? How to maintain a bright and friendly face."

To enter the contest, send an email to: bjnbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #24 in the subject line, then include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email.... All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Mon., Nov. 19, 2018.



**** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD ****

This week, it goes to all those who made the recent Fundraising Evening Benefiting Attic Salt Theatre Company and Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC the success that it was. ... The evening was co-sponsored by WORD—a Spoken Word Series of events produced by professional storyteller, David Joe Miller. ... Thanks to David for arranging the fantastic storytellers: Chuck Fink, Becky Stone and Kathy Gordon, and kudos to Fank for doing an excellent job as emcee. ... Also, thanks to my fellow Attic Salt Board members who assisted that evening and/or helped getting the silent auction items: Carol Anders, Katherine DeVos Devine, Mark Goldstein, Hallee Hirsch, Kent Lantaff, Ellen Pappas and Laura Podraza. And I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization for its assistance with both the ticket sales and the silent auction. ... For more pictures, please click:
[Here](#)



2. FYI

For a long time, linted on the advice of a previous doctor, I had been taking baby aspirin on a daily basis. Supposedly, by doing so, I would reduce the chances of a stroke or heart disease.

Recently, I started reading that this might not be the case; i.e., that taking the aspirin would have no effect on the quality of my later life. I then checked with my current doctor, and he agreed. So I am now aspirin-free!

For more information on this subject, please click:
[Here](#)

FYI, part 2

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

- (1) Barry Axe: I'm sorry to get this sad news [about the passing of Al Sternberg]. (2) Carolyn Derreberry Beckner: Retired 'Old Coots' Set Up Table at Farmer's Market in Salt Lake City to Give Free Life Advice. (3) How to Harness Your Anxiety. (4) What if the Placebo Effect Isn't a Trick? (5) How to Be a More Patient Person.

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3. Joke 1

I WUZ ROBBED! ... Nothing against Elba (who was so good in THE MOUNTAIN BETWEEN US), but I'm still bummed that I again did not get named this year. ... That makes, 27 straight years without such recognition. I guess that's why they invented next year. (Thanks, Carrie Kimbrell Kimzey, for sharing.)

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4. Reviews

A. Saw BEAUTIFUL BOY, a powerful true story about a father and son dealing with the latter's addiction over many years. It is based on separate books that both of them wrote. Stars Timothee Chalamet and Lewis Carey are equally outstanding. Rated R.

B. Find CONTINENTAL DIVIDE, a sweet romantic comedy loosely based on columnist Mike Royko. It stars a very subdued John Belushi who teams up well with Blair Brown in a tale that will remind you of an old Spencer Tracy-Katherine Hepburn film. As you might imagine, Belushi and Brown start off hating each other and then a spark develops between them. Rated G.

C. UPDATE: Last week, I reviewed MIND GARDEN, a documentary about anxiety that has been written, produced and directed by Drew Canyon. Methinks you'll want to see it if you have to deal with either of these conditions—or you know somebody who does.

And the good news is that if you are an Amazon Prime member, you can now view it for free by clicking:
[Here](#)

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5. TV alert

A. IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: Available now via Amazon Prime
You no longer have to wait for the classic Frank Capra film to appear on TV with all those commercials. In addition, you have the choice to see it in the original black-and-white or in a colorized version.

B THE PRICE OF EVERYTHING: Monday, Nov. 12, at 8 p.m. on HBO
This documentary looks at the question of how we price the value of fine art.

C. Country fans should enjoy these two shows:

(1) REAL COUNTRY: Season premiere on Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 10 p.m. on USA
Shania Twain, Travis Tritt and Jake Owen will each mentor a stable of diverse, hand-picked artists out to win a \$100,000 prize and a gig at the Grand Ole Opry.

(2) THE 52ND ANNUAL AMA AWARDS: Wednesday, Nov. 14, at 8 p.m. on ABC
Carrie Underwood and Brad Paisley return for their 11th year of country music's massive celebration, live from Nashville.

D. THE KOMINSKY METHOD: Available via Netflix on Friday, Nov. 16
Michael Douglas and Alan Arkin star, along with Nancy Travis, in this dramedy about an older, L.A.-based acting coach.

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6. Joke 2

You no longer have time if you're reading this now, in that voting has already concluded. But keep this in mind—especially when it is time to vote in the 2020 election!

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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

- (1) Roberta Gurwood: Quaker City String Band plays Hevenue Shalom Alechem [Here](#)
- (2) Lois Rosenthal: Dad Saves the Day by Joining Daughter's Ballet Performance [Here](#)
- (3) Jimmy Kimmel Catches People Lying About Already Voting in the Midterms [Here](#)
- (4) Steve Harvey's Powerful and Personal Response to Stuttering [Here](#)
- (5) Coy Austin Theobalt: It's almost time, so once again I'll share my favorite song and dance: Turkey Lurkey Time [Here](#)
- (6) Ed Hackett: Paradise by the Dashboard Light [Here](#)

B. Pinterest is cool for folks who want to share their photos, but sometimes, those who do so test the bounds of reason. To see for yourself, please click:
[Here](#)

You'll see such pins as:
52 Everyday Items to Reuse to Save BIG
Musical instruments for those who don't carrot all about how stupid they look
Parent Fail (for bacon-flavored instant baby formula)

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

UPDATE on last week's tip [about apps for iPhones] ... Barbara Firestone wrote, "Not my socks as I believe it's just for iPhone and I have an Android!"

Response: Mr. Helpful here ... lots of stuff out there for Android users. See below for more information:
[Here](#)

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9. Joke 3

A taxi passenger tapped the cabbie on the shoulder to ask him a question. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, went up on the sidewalk and stopped just before smashing through a store window. There was dead silence for a minute, and then the cabbie said, "Look man, don't ever do that again. You scared the crap out of me!" ... The passenger apologized profusely for scaring him so badly. ... The driver replied, "Sorry, pal. It's not your fault. This is my first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years." (Thanks, Susanne Steele, for sharing.)



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10. A quote I like

Veterans Day takes place on Sunday, Nov. 11. To help you remember it, I cite the words of Maya Angelou (1928-2014), the great American poet, singer, memoirist and civil rights activist: "How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!"

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11. Thought for the day

As you may know, I love living in Western North Carolina for its weather, natural beauty and the fact that there is so much to do here. ... Yet some of the things that happen in the area often leave me dismayed.

That was certainly the case recently when part of Parkway Playhouse's excellent production of THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, ABRIDGED was performed at Mitchell High School. It was stopped immediately when a staff member realized there was drinking, inappropriate language and portrayal of a suicide. Others objected to a kiss between two males.

For more of the story, please click:
[Here](#)

My reaction, as I posted on Facebook, was as follows:
The real problem here: We should fault the school's administration for not having a proper book burning before the show ever made it to the stage. Or maybe those involved should have been burned at the stake?... As for praying about what happened, I'd personally prefer spending my time protesting over school shootings, treatment of the LGBT community, etc.—and then doing something to bring about change.

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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) Mark Jones: Broadway Boot Camp. (2) BLUE WINDOW at Attic Salt Theatre Company.

B. PA/NJ event

At Kelsey Theatre: A CHRISTMAS STORY: THE MUSICAL

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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