

#1155
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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: bjinbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Spent a short, delightful vacation in Abingdon, VA, where we saw two outstanding plays: THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY and SALLY MCCOY. In the top picture, that's us outside the theatre and below, we can be seen with the cast of both productions.



(2) We also got a couples massage at the The Martha Washington Inn & Spa (where we stayed), followed by a luxurious soak in side-by-side hot tubs. It's a tough life, but somebody has to live it ... so why not us?



(3) We enjoyed several meals at Sister's American Grill at the Inn (top photo). Three menu items stood out: blueberry dressing on the salad, Peanut Butter Crème Brûlée and the oh-so-fluffy pancakes.

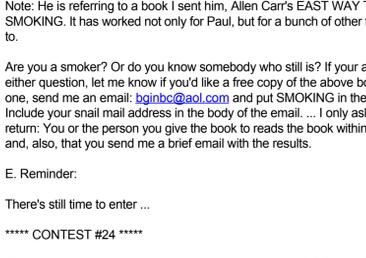


In addition, we had fabulous Reuben sandwiches at 128 Pecan--a restaurant in town. We also received excellent service from Elizabeth.



B. WPVM invites you to view the BLAINESWORLD show from Wednesday, Nov. 14. ... Guests: Hank Eder (left), Public Relations/Marketing guru, in first half; and Jacob Gaiser (right), Musician/Author extraordinaire, in second half. ... To see it via Facebook Live, please click:

[Here](#)

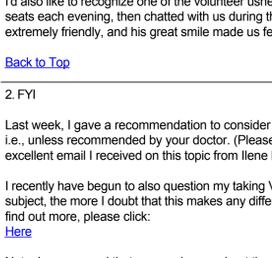


C. Thank you, Roy Clark (1933-2018), for giving us this beautiful song pictured below. To listen to it, and I encourage you to do so, please click:

[Here](#)

Clark was perhaps best known for hosting HEE HAW, the show that brought country music into millions of households each week. To read more about his life, please click:

[Here](#)



D. Congratulations to:

- (1) Michael Arriola for being a great guest on THE Mark Lieberman radio show, "The World According to Mark." To listen to it, please click: [Here](#)
- (2) Michael Trayford on their 2019 "Faces of..." business and creative leaders AT PLAY, as well as in their 2019 "Faces of..." business and creative leaders AT PLAY.
- (3) Holly Ann Caldwell on the birth of her baby girl, Ada Marie.
- (4) Greg and Ashley Garrison on the opening of The Hop in Black Mountain.
- (5) Paul Gallaher on the following announcement:
Also wanted to tell you, I am almost two years smoke free! Thank you for the book!
Note: HE is referring to a book I sent him, Allen Carr's EASY WAY TO STOP SMOKING. It has worked not only for Paul, but for a BUNCH of other folks I have given it to.

Are you a smoker? Or do you know somebody who still is? If your answer is "Yes" to either question, let me know if you'd like a free copy of the above book. If you want one, send me an email: bjinbc@aol.com and put SMOKING in the subject line. Include your snail mail address in the body of the email. ... I only ask two things in return: You or the person you give the book to reads the book within the next month and, also, that you send me a brief email with the results.

E. Reminder:

There's still time to enter ...

***** 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: bjinbc@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 Kenny Davis, House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator at the aforementioned Barter Theatre. On our first night in Abingdon, we dropped by to see where we'd be seeing the shows over the weekend. That's when we met Kenny who was also manning the well-stocked concessions stand that evening. ... As we were debating the tough choices we had to make (cookies or mini MoonPies), we made our decision to go for the cookies--and he graciously threw in a MoonPie "on the house." ... Fortunately for us, a show was in progress, so he had some time to speak to us. He told us all about the town, made several fine recommendations on where to dine, drew step-by-step directions on how to get to each place and overall, blew us away with his helpfulness. In addition, he gave us his card and said to make sure to give him a call if we had any questions.

I'd also like to recognize one of the volunteer ushers: John Hall. He helped us find our seats each evening, then chatted with us during the two intermissions. He was extremely friendly, and his great smile made us feel welcome.

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2. FYI

Last week, I gave a recommendation to consider stopping the use of baby aspirin; i.e., unless recommended by your doctor. (Please see Section 2, part 2, for an excellent email I received on this topic from Ilene Logelin.)

I recently have begun to also question my taking Vitamin D. The more I read about the subject, the more I doubt that this makes any difference in my well being. If you want to find out more, please click:

[Here](#)

Note: I recommend that you read more about the subject, see if you experience any difference when you take Vitamin D and as always, check with your doctor.

FYI, part 2

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:

- (1) Ilene Logelin: I don't know why you got started on a baby aspirin regimen to begin with.
- (2) Nelson Sartoris: Real "fake news": China introduces AI news anchor.
- (3) Ed Hackett: Florida Recount Finally Wraps Up, AI Gore Declared President.
- (4) A Word From Your Officiant (for Better or Worse).
- (5) Barbara Brady: Joy Reboot Program.
- (6) Scott Treadway: Save \$25 on a full Treadshots headshots session.
- (7) George Pappas (commenting on Joke #3 in last week's BLAINESWORLD).

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3. Joke 1

Now you know why you haven't heard from me lately. (Thanks, Michael Trayford, for sharing.)



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4. Reviews

A. Saw BOY ERASED, the disturbing true story of a Baptist pastor's son who is forced by his parents to attend a conversion therapy program to change his sexual orientation from homosexual to heterosexual. There are excellent performances from Lucas Hedges, Nicole Kidman and an almost unrecognizable Russell Crowe (who gained a lot of weight for his part). And I especially admired the work of Joel Edgerton who not only wrote and directed the film, but he also has a key role in it. Make sure you stick around for the credits for a surprising update on what actually happened. Rated R.

B. Heard HEADS IN BEDS: A RECKLESS MEMOIR OF HOTELS, HUSTLES, AND SO-CALLED HOSPITALITY (Random House Audio), written and read by Jacob Tomsky. ... The author has held numerous positions in various hotels, and he shares his experiences and useful tips in this engaging that's also quite touching in parts.

I learned many things in this book, including: "Most guests put money in the wrong hands. If you really want your stay to improve, whom do you think you should tip? The bellman? The doorman? The concierge? Those animals work for tips. Dropping money on them is extremely normal, so unless you make your presence felt with a brick [\$100]. It's not going to elicit much more than a smile and a thank-you. But drop a twenty, a baby brick, on a front desk agent, and something has shifted. It works because, for us, it is a commitment. We become indebted to you."

And perhaps most importantly to be careful about using the water glasses that are in any room. It seems that they are often washed with furniture polish. Why does housekeeping do this, you ask? It does two things: 1. Cuts cleaning time dramatically; and 2. Makes the glasses look cleaner.

HEADS IN BEDS should be read by anybody in the hospitality industry, knows somebody who works in it or who has ever stayed in a hotel--or is planning to do so ... in other words, just about anybody. Methinks you'll enjoy it as much as I did.

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5. TV alert

A. JONESTOWN: TERROR IN THE JUNGLE: Part 1 airs on Sunday at 7 p.m. on Audience TV, followed by Part 2 at 9 p.m. The world looks disbelievingly at Peoples Temple cult leader Jim Jones and the Jonestown settlement in Guyana, South America, where he orchestrated the deaths of 918 people.

B. MY BRILLIANT FRIEND: Begins Sunday, Nov. 18, at 9 p.m. on HBO. A drama about the lifelong friendship between two women. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "This masterwork from HBO isn't the sort whose powers depend on the suspense of plot turns. Every chapter is a profoundly moving world unto itself--a stunning achievement whose every moment lives in all the ways that matter in drama."

C. SALLY4EVER: Sundays at 10:30 p.m. on HBO. THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER call this "a wonderfully sinister look at what happens when a mostly unhappy person in a mostly unhappy life opens the door to a manic pixie dream girl who also happens to be typically awful and hard to shake upon further inspection."

D. CHRISTMAS AT GRACELAND: Wednesday, Nov. 21, at 10 p.m. on Hallmark Channel. Kellie Pickler makes her acting debut as a busy executive who returns to her hometown for work and rediscovered her love of the blues. She sings multiple holiday songs in the film, including six holiday songs made famous by Elvis.

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6. Joke 2

An acquaintance asked me, "Now that you are retired, do you still have a job?" ... I replied, "Yes, I am my wife's sexual adviser." ... Somewhat shocked, she said, "I beg your pardon, but what do you mean by that?" ... "Very simple. My wife has told me that when she wants my fuc'ing advice, she'll ask me for it." (Thanks, Nelson Sartoris, for sharing.)

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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:
(1) Martin May: Queen - Bohemian Rhapsody Parody
[Here](#)

(2) Lynda Ferrell Shuler: The dangers of secondhand glitter
[Here](#)

(3) Ed Hackett: When you meet someone one and find out they're rude
[Here](#)

(4) Lyn Donley: Courtney Hadwin on America's Got Talent 2018 (Audition)
[Here](#)

(5) Ryan Garcia: New Elton John Commercial
[Here](#)

B. For some fun, check out fark.com, a new aggregator launched in 1999 that invites "Farkers" to write funny headlines for the real news. To get there, please click:
[Here](#)

For example, here were some links that caught my attention:
Geniuses who decorate early for Christmas are happier than the Grinches who don't
A Florida company wants to bring a snow park to the Sunshine state
Who painted this giant penis and breasts on two Stockholm apartment roofs?

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

Get Better TV Sound (Without a Lot of Wires)
by Wirecutter Staff

The latest TVs pack better image quality than ever before into impossibly thin bodies, but their designs leave little room for decent built-in speakers. Forget room-rumbling explosions--making out basic dialogue can be difficult on all but the highest-volume settings for many TVs.

That's why Wirecutter's audio experts spend hundreds of hours testing speakers, soundbars, and other audio equipment to find the best options for easily and affordably improving your TV's sound with minimal fuss and wires.

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

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9. Joke 3

I can't believe this picture of me is now all over Facebook! ... Had Roberta Flack seen it back in 1973, her words to "Killing Me Softly with His Song" might well have been different ... Listen to her singing it by clicking:

[Here](#)

Then please advise: Do you like her version or the one below better? (Thanks, Carole Biro, for sharing.)

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10. A quote I like

Thank you, Stan Lee (1922-2018), for the countless hours ... made that, years ... of entertainment you provided me via such fictional characters as the Fantastic Four, Hulk, Spider-Man, Doctor Strange, Daredevil, the X-Men and Black Panther. ... If you'd like to read more about the life of this amazing comic book writer, editor and publisher, please click:
[Here](#)

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11. Thought for the day

Comedians can make a difference ... in fact, we all can! See the clip below to see why that's the case. (Thanks, Roberta Gurwood, for sharing.)
[Here](#)

And for more information, 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) George Pappas: NPR Host of "The State of Things" Frank Stasio will be hosting an interview with me.

(2) Kaleo Wheeler: The 5 Steps to Free Yourself from Holiday Stress.

B. PA/NJ event

Actors' Net of Bucks County: THE LION IN WINTER.

PS: Make it a wonderful week!
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