

BLAINES WORLD

#1209
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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) Enjoyed our first visit to Hickory Nut Gap Farm where we had some excellent hamburgers (top photo) and made some new friends (bottom photo).





(2) Had a terrific meal at Five Guys. The fries there are as good as we've ever had.



(3) Joined our friend Cappy Tosetti for a fine dinner at Wild Wok where we received excellent service from Emily.



B. I caught the world premiere of MIXED FANDANGO, the latest production from Different Strokes! at the Wortham Center's Tina McGuire Theatre. ... Travis Lowe's romantic comedy was quite touching. All those in the ensemble cast were outstanding: Emmalie Handley, Jason Williams, David Mycoff, Phillippe Andre Coquet, Molly Graves and Aaron Ybarra. I also enjoyed Stephanie Hickling Beckman's direction, Kristi DeVille's choreography and the post-show discussion led by ZaKiya Bell-Rogers. [#audiencereview](#)





C. In addition, I got to attend the Grand Opening of Asheville Personal Training, my friend Michelle Kuhnen's fantastic new gym. And while there, I got to do a Facebook Live video. To view it, please click: [Here](#).

Afterward, I was pleased to find out that I had won one of the door prizes ... a gift certificate from Dick's Sporting Goods.



D. Recently, I had the pleasure of conducting a marketing seminar for Asheville SCORE that was attended by an enthusiastic group that included three of my friends: Eric Finch (left), Cathy De Troia (top right) and Hank Eder (bottom right). Eric dazzled all those in attendance with a demonstration of his new business. To view what those pictured had to say, please click: [Here](#).



E. This week's BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM featured (first half) Laura Wagenknecht; and (second half) Brad Owen. 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](#).



F. Condolences to:

- (1) Cheryl Soloff and family on the passing of Howard G. Soloff, Cheryl's father.
- (2) Family and friends of Bill Parks on his passing.

G. Congratulations to:

- (1) Tracey Johnston-Crum on her appearance on WLOS, discussing the National Gingerbread House Competition. To view what she had to say, please click: [Here](#).

Note: See Section 3 for my entry.

- (2) WPVM on renewal of its FCC license for other eight years and, also, to Tom Gallagher who recorded the required public announcements for the impending license renewal.

- (3) Chelsey Lee Gaddy Mirheli on her appointment as the Interim Artistic Director of SART.

H. Invites:

- (1) THANKS AND FAVOR REQUEST ... Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are most grateful to all those who voted for our Biltmore Lake home in the recent Home of the Month competition. We have made it to the finals! ... Consequently, we would be VERY MUCH OBLIGED if you would vote for us one more time (even if you voted previously) before voting closes on Monday, Nov. 25. ... Voting is sooooo simple. Just click on the following link: [Here](#), then see on the top right: 19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way. Underneath that address, please click "Vote Now." That's all you have to do. There's no need to register. ... WHY VOTE: If we're fortunate to win this final round, our home gets both increased exposure and additional advertising support from Beverly-Hanks. And hopefully, as a result, this will make selling it easier.

Note: Our home is still on the market. If you'd like to see the listing for it, just click the picture above 19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way.)



- (2) There's still time to enter ...

*** CONTEST #24 ***

One lucky reader will win a copy of BEAR AWARENESS: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON TAMING YOUR WILD MIND by Ajahn Brahm. To quote from the book's back cover: " In Bear Awareness English monk Ajahn Brahm answers actual questions from his meditation students--questions you may have had as well. While

most mindfulness meditation teachers praise the benefits of bare awareness, he teaches bear awareness. He helps us make friends with the scary things that come up on the cushion, and he knows how to lift the mood with a well-placed stuffed teddy--or a well-timed pun."

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #24 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. 25.

(3) Want to join me in the following production?

Come experience the marketplace as it might have been when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Be a part of the story ... that came true! ... It is not a paid gig, but one that should be a lot of fun. There are no rehearsals. You just show up, and they tell you what to do. It runs from Dec. 5-8, but you can choose to do any one, two, three or four performances. ... For more information or to register, please click: [Here](#).

Note: If you can join me on Thursday night, put down in the comments section: "If possible, team us with Blaine Greenfield and his group." Let me know if you'll be able to make it then and/or some other day. To do so, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put RETURN in the subject line.

(4) Job offer for you:

Company will pay you \$3K a month to smoke weed, test marijuana products by Hannah Sparks

Dream of being a professional pothead? This unique gig will send your career up in smoke.

New York-based online magazine American Marijuana is looking for a reliable cannabis connoisseur to try the latest goods on the marijuana market, including new strains, vape products, edibles and CBD supplements.

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

And if you want to apply, please click: [Here](#).

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

This week, it goes to Michael Hollifeld--an employee with Able Septic Tank Service. ... We've never had a septic tank before and so knew nothing about how to service one. So when Michael came, we had a lot of questions, and he answered them all. He was both friendly and extremely knowledgeable. He did an excellent job of servicing our tank. And we were especially grateful for his tips on what we needed to do in the future. ... For more information about the company, please click: [Here](#).

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2. FYI

How to Have Closer Friendships (and Why You Need Them)
by Emma Pattee

This excellent article had the following advice that I thought you might like to try: Most of us would consider a close friend somebody we could call in a pinch. But if you, like me, have a romantic partner or live close to family, you might rarely find yourself in a pinch that requires a friend. I recently had to undergo a minor medical procedure and my husband wasn't able to go with me. "Why don't you call one of your friends?" he asked me the night before, naming a couple of friends who might be available. I didn't have a good answer. Sure, these were pretty good friends, but were we medical-procedure close?

When I posed this situation to Dr. Levine, his suggestion was simple: Take them for a test drive. "Ask for help even when you don't need it so that when you truly need them, you'll feel more comfortable reaching out and you'll have a better sense of how they will respond."

He suggested that the next time I had an issue - a tricky work situation or I needed help coordinating a birthday dinner - I should go out of my way to lean on a friend. Not only is this a low-risk way of testing how reliable a friend is, it also builds closeness. "When we give someone a chance to show up for us, we pose an opportunity for greater bonding and closeness," Dr. Levine said.

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

FYI, part 2

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

(1) Julie Stehling: That chandelier!!! (2) Lee White: Asheville's woes are the story of America. (3) How Small Habits Can Lead to Big Changes. (4) Yoga Is Finally Facing Consent and Unwanted Touch.

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3. Joke 1

As can be seen below, I spent countless hours working on my gingerbread house. I also decided to enter it in this year's National Gingerbread House Competition. ... If you'd like to see my effort, stop by anytime from Nov. 20-Jan. 4. For more information, please click: [Here](#).

Update: I didn't win. ... "We wuz robbed," quoting fight manager fight manager Joe Jacobs, who uttered it after his client, Max Schmeling, had clearly out-boxed Jack Sharkey, only to have the heavy-weight title awarded to Sharkey. ... Guess I'll just have to wait until next year!



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4. Reviews

A. Saw THE GOOD LIAR, a thriller about a con man who sets his sights on his latest mark. Ian McKellan and Helen Mirren, appearing for the first time together, are terrific in the leading roles. The film drags a bit, at times, but the twists and turns make it worth watching. Rated R.

B. Saw FIRST MAN on HBO. It's the engrossing biopic about the life of Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the Moon. Ryan Gosling's performance makes you appreciate what Armstrong went through, and Claire Foy is excellent as his wife. But my favorite part of the movie was seeing Willie Repoley, one of my favorite local actors, make an appearance as NASA spacecraft communicator Jim Fucci. Rated PG-13.

C. Heard CHAMPION'S HEART (Mike Yarbro, publisher; available via Audible Audiobook), written by Yarbro and narrated by Tom Gallagher. ... It is the story of a young cowboy who enters the pro rodeo circuit, but finds things aren't easy for him in the beginning. But along the way, he encounters some other riders who help him. He also discovers a beautiful heiress. ... This book has it all: a compelling story, romance and Gallagher's fantastic job of narration. He makes each of the characters come alive. ... The good thing: You don't even have to be a rodeo fan to enjoy CHAMPION'S HEART. I'm not, but just may become one after reading this--and the fact that the author has graciously given a portion of the proceeds to the Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund. This is a fund that helps professional cowboys and their families during hard times.

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5. TV alert

A. DOLLY PARTON'S HEARTSTRINGS: Now available on Netflix
The country legend hosts an eight-episode anthology of stories based on her beloved

songbook.

Note: If you're a Dolly fan, like I am, also check out NBC'S DOLLY PARTON: 50 YEARS AT THE GRAND OLE OPRY on Tuesday, Nov. 26, at 9 p.m.

B. AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS: Sunday, Nov. 24, at 8 p.m. on ABC
Taylor Swift will be honored as Artist of the Decade, and Shania Twain returns to the AMAs for the first time in 16 years to perform a medley. Other performers Jonas Brothers (touring in Boston), Selena Gomez, Camila Cabello, Billie Eilish, Lizzo and Thomas Rhett.

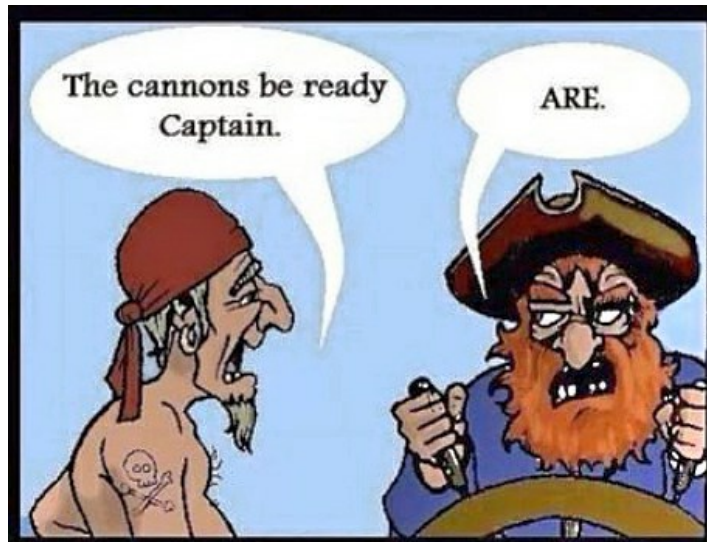
C. KINKY BOOTS: Friday, Nov. 29, on PBS at 9 p.m. (check out local listings [Here](#))
Rejoice with the Tony Award-winning high-heeled hit musical with songs by pop icon Cyndi Lauper and a book by Broadway legend Harvey Fierstein about an unexpected duo that embraces their differences to create an extraordinary line of shoes.

D. YOU LIGHT UP MY CHRISTMAS: Movie premiere on Sunday, Dec. 1, at 8 p.m. on Lifetime
Kim Field reunites with THE FACTS OF LIFE'S Lisa Whelchel, Mindy Cohen and Nancy McKeon in this tale of a woman's bright idea may say save a Christmas-light factory.

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6. Joke 2

Long before there were grammar police there were grammar pirates! (Thanks Joe Hodgson for sharing.)



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7. Clips/Websites

A. Video of the week

Thomsen Guth: Two magic words to say to every wife: [Here](#).

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

(1) Jean Dolan: Leonard Cohen - Anthem: [Here](#).

(2) Nelson Sartoris: How Irish dancing really started: [Here](#).

(3) Gene McDaniels Sings "A Hundred Pounds of Clay" (one of my all-time favorite songs): [Here](#).

C. You see a lot of quotes attributed to Yogi Berra, Albert Einstein and Abraham Lincoln, among others, but do you were wonder who actually said them. I often do, especially before I run something in Section 10 of this blog.

Fortunately, there's an excellent source to trace quotations: Quote Investigator. It can be found by clicking: [Here](#).

I used it to check the following: "If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, we can't help wondering what an empty desk indicates." Take advantage of the excellent

search option at the above website to find out who said it.

D. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click: [Here](#).

E. 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

Stop! Don't Charge Your Phone This Way

by Aimee Ortiz

A dead or dying phone or laptop is enough to send anybody on a mad dash to find a way to charge the device, but you might want to think twice before using that random cable found at an airport charging station or docking into that hotel USB port - hackers could be waiting.

As the busy holiday season approaches, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is warning travelers about a USB charger scam, or "juice jacking."

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

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9. Joke 3

If a man says he will fix it, he will. There is no need to remind him every six months. (Thanks, Susanne Steele, for sharing.)



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10. A quote I like

"We're all a little weird. And life is a little weird. And when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall into mutually satisfying weirdness-and call it love-true love." - Robert Fulghum, American author and Unitarian Universalist minister.

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11. Thought for the day

FAVOR REQUEST: Please read and then do this when I'm no longer around. And for more information about this beautiful poem by Merritt Malloy, click: [Here](#). (Thanks, Carol Duermit, for sharing.)

WHEN I DIE give what's left of me away
to children and old men that wait to die.
And if you need to cry,
cry for your brother walking the street beside you.

And when you need me, put your arms around anyone
and give them what you need to give me.

I want to leave you something,
something better than words or sounds.
Look for me in the people I've known or loved,
and if you cannot give me away,
at least let me live in your eyes and not in your mind.

You can love me best by letting hands touch hands,
and by letting go of children that need to be free.
Love doesn't die, people do.
So, when all that's left of me is love,
give me away.

- Merritt Malloy, Epitaph

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12. Advance planning department

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

A. NC events

(1) Paula Hanke: Etta James: Muse of the Blues. (2) Sam Uhl: Show & Tell & Scan. (3) Victoria Lamberth: CHRISTMAS BELLES.

B. PA/NJ event

Natalie Kaye: JUMP CITY Holiday Concert.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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