

# BLAINESWORLD

#1156  
11.19.2018

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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](mailto:bjnbc@aol.com) and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) had the pleasure of attending the marriage of Tom Crook and Carol Duermit. It was held at the Fields of Blackberry Cove—a beautiful setting for an equally beautiful couple. . . For more pictures from the event, please click: [Here](#)



(2) Saw a terrific production of 13, presented by ACT/Tanglewood Youth Theatre's Youth Production Class at Asheville Community Theatre. Kudos to Mark Jones, director; Sarah Fowler, musical director; Jessica Garland, choreographer; and the rest of the crew for helping make it the success that it was. Sam Collett, Graham Podraza and Abby Russ were standouts in the cast that included 12 others who also shined in this delightful musical. To see the pictures (below) at full size, please click: [Here](#)



(3) Joined our friends Tracy and Ed Hackett for a great meal at All Souls Pizza where we received friendly service from Emily.

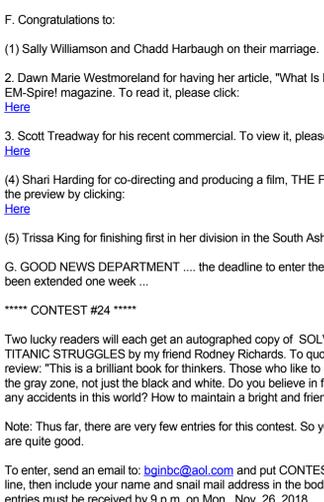


B. Catch the BLAINESWORLD radio show from WPVM from Wednesday, Nov. 21, by clicking this link: [Here](#)

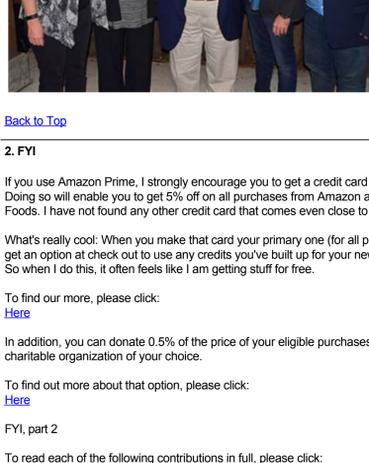
You'll see Jason Istvan, FOUNDER of Frosbite Ice Cream, in the first half, and from the upcoming play A LION IN WINTER at Brevard Little Theatre, Jennifer Memolo, Actress, and Jonathan Forrester, Director, in the second half.

To listen to the radio broadcast, please click: [Here](#)

Pictured, l-r: in the front row: Jason Istvan and Jennifer Memolo; and the rear row: Blaine Greenfield and Jonathan Forrester.



C. Thumbs up for The Sublime Theater's world premiere production of TRNZ, a metamorphic musical written by John Crutchfield and directed by Steven Samuels. . . . To describe the play, I quote Samuels: "Everything about TRNZ is delightfully weird. Nothing is what it seems. Nothing is what you expect. And though its themes are important and serious, and the framework is realistic, the presentation is wildly theatrical and the ultimate effect is high comedy." . . . I enjoyed the performances of Terry Daraky, Olivia Stuller, Laura Tratnik and Julian Vorus, as well as the original music and sound design by Mary Zogzas, choreography by Kristi DeVille, sets and lighting by Don Baker, costumes by Kayen McKnight and Tate Albert's work as board operator. . . . Kudos, also, to Dakota Mann, stage manager, and Lydia Congdon, assistant stage manger/dance captain, who both even made it on stage in a final dance number that's a lot of fun.

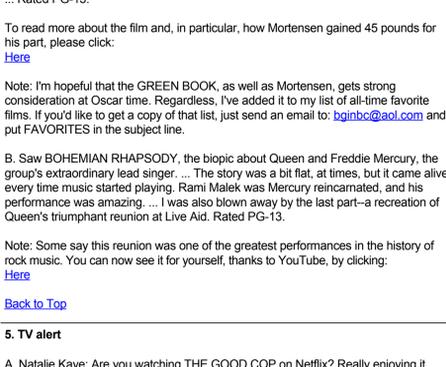


D. During the week, I also:

(1) Solved all the world's problems with my fellow Breakfast Club members, l-r: Brian Biro, Marvin Sadovsky and Tom Gallagher. We went to Abeja's House Cafe for the first time and very much enjoyed our meals.



(2) Met with Richard Shulman, pianist extraordinaire, to discuss some of his upcoming gigs. We ate at Famous Toastery, a relatively new eatery in Asheville, and liked both the food and service (we received from Michael).



E. Condolences to James Wade and family on the passing of Eddie Wade, James' brother.

F. Congratulations to:

- (1) Sally Williamson and Chadd Harbaugh on their marriage.
- (2) Dawn Marie Westmoreland for having her article, "What Is Hypnosis?" published in EM-Spirel magazine. To read it, please click: [Here](#)
- (3) Scott Treadway for his recent commercial. To view it, please click: [Here](#)
- (4) Shari Harding for co-directing and producing a film, THE FARMHAND. Check out the preview by clicking: [Here](#)
- (5) Trissa King for finishing first in her division in the South Asheville Turkey Trot.

G. GOOD NEWS DEPARTMENT .... the deadline to enter the following contest has been extended one week ...

\*\*\*\*\* CONTEST #24 \*\*\*\*\*

Two lucky readers will each get an autographed copy of SOLVING THE WORLD'S TITANIC STRUGGLES 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."

Note: Thus far, there are very few entries for this contest. So you are odds of winning are quite good.

To enter, send an email to: [bjnbc@aol.com](mailto: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. 26, 2018.

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

This week, it goes to John Russell—Executive Director and CEO of Montford Park Players, North Carolina's longest running Shakespeare Festival. He also serves on the board of the North Carolina Governor's School Foundation and North Carolina Arts Council.

At the National Council on Outdoor Theatre, he was recently awarded with the 2018 Mark R. Sumner Award recognizing significant contributions to outdoor drama. Pictured below, l-r: Marina Hurley-Graham, Unto These Hills Artistic Director; Betsy Horth, SETC Executive Director; John Russell, Jeff Gibson, SETC President; and Brandon Smith, Tecumseh! CEO.

If you're never been to a production of the Montford Park Players, you don't know what you are missing. There is never an admission fee, and when you get there, you'll be warmly greeted by John. In addition, you'll get to hear his curtain speech and make a pledge that you'll never forget (to not use your cellphone).

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



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### 2. FYI

If you use Amazon Prime, I strongly encourage you to get a credit card from Amazon. Doing so will enable you to get 5% off on all purchases from Amazon and Whole Foods. I have not found any other credit card that comes even close to that.

What's really cool: When you make that card your primary one (for all purchases), you'll get an option at check out to use any credits you've built up for your new purchases. So when I do this, it often feels like I am getting stuff for free.

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

In addition, you can donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

To find out more about that option, please click: [Here](#)

FYI, part 2

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

- (1) Ken Greenfield: "The Clinton Affair" should be handled as an "EXTRA."
- (2) Brace Yourself in Act II; Trigger Warnings come with the show.
- (3) The Grammar Guru Will Solve the World's Problems.
- (4) Steven Shulman (with lot for sale in Asheville, NC).
- (5) Regular Exercise May Keep Your Body 30 Years Younger.

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### 3. Joke 1

HAPPY TURKEY DAY to you and yours. My hope is that you'll join me in celebrating this holiday because when you do, you'll have more food, fun and friends that way. (Thanks, Linda Williams, for sharing.)



I'm going to save a lot of money on Christmas  
by discussing politics at Thanksgiving dinner.

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### 4. Reviews

A. Loved GREEN BOOK, the real-life story about an Italian-American bouncer who drove a world-class black pianist on a concert tour from Manhattan to the Deep South. On the flip, they encounter both racism and danger, and they also become friends. . . . The film had me laughing, but it also had me touched. An almost unrecognizable Viggo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali are outstanding in the leading roles. . . . Make sure to stay through the credits for an update on what actually happened after this trip. . . . Rated PG-13.

To read more about the film and, in particular, how Mortensen gained 45 pounds for his part, please click: [Here](#)

Note: I'm hopeful that the GREEN BOOK, as well as Mortensen, gets strong consideration at Oscar time. Regardless, I've added it to my list of all-time favorite films. If you'd like to get a copy of that list, just send an email to: [bjnbc@aol.com](mailto:bjnbc@aol.com) and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

B. Saw BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY, the biopic about Queen and Freddie Mercury, the group's extraordinary lead singer. . . . The story was a bit flat, at times, but it came alive every time music started playing. Rami Malek was Mercury reincarnated, and his performance was amazing. . . . I was also blown away by the last part—a recreation of Queen's triumphant reunion at Live Aid. Rated PG-13.

Note: Some say this reunion was one of the greatest performances in the history of rock music. You can now see it for yourself, thanks to YouTube, by clicking: [Here](#)

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### 5. TV alert

A. Natalie Kaye: Are you watching THE GOOD COP on Netflix? Really enjoying it.

Note: Tony Danza and Josh Groban star in this comedy-drama murder-mystery. This reviewer also liked it: [Here](#)

B. DIRTY JOHN: Sundays at 10 p.m. on Bravo  
This dramatization of a true-crime podcast stars Connie Britton and Eric Bana. According to a TV GUIDE, this is Britton's "best role since leaving Nashville." She plays a four-times-divorced Orange County real-life housewife who should have known better than to be swept off her feet by a charming doctor.

C. GREAT PERFORMANCES: HAROLD PRINCE: THE DIRECTOR'S LIFE: Tuesday, Nov. 27, at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org))

This retrospective looks at the career of theater producer and director Harold Prince, a career that spans 60 years and 21 Tony Awards. It features Stephen Sondheim, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Mandy Patinkin, John Kander, Susan Stroman and Angela Lansbury. . . . I just saw it and loved it. Methinks you will, too. . . . You can also watch it on your computer by clicking below: [Here](#)

D. CONAN WITHOUT BORDERS: JAPAN: Wednesday, Nov. 28, at 10 p.m. on TBS  
Conan O'Brien visits Conan Town, a village named after an anime detective, takes an etiquette lesson and, in a first, rents an entire house. About the latter, he notes: "There are services for people who want companionship. I was intrigued by this, so I rented a wife, daughter and husband. I made my Japanese father apologize for things my father had done in the '70s."

E. Follow-up to a previous recommendation: Check out THE KOMINSKY METHOD, a new comedy about an aging teacher (Michael Douglas) and his agent (Alan Arkin). I've now seen the first few episodes and liked them very much. Methinks you will, too, for the chemistry between Douglas and Arkin, as well as for the scenes about the how acting is taught. . . . For the trailer, please click: [Here](#)

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### 6. Joke 2

Sooo sad . . . especially given the fact that eating romaine lettuce has hospitalized 13 people, and the vegetable was pulled from grocery stores across the country. . . . Yet there have been 314 mass shootings in 2018, so far, and you can still get a gun at Walmart. (Thanks, Maria Alicia Medrano Armington, for sharing.)



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### 7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

- (1) Michael Gelb: Deborah Domanski sings O Holy Night [Here](#)
- (2) Linda Williams: If you're feeling down, watch this [Here](#)
- (3) Lois Rosenthal: How to Find the Perfect Relationship | Adam Rao [Here](#)
- (4) Mark Jones: Jolene (New String Version from Dolly Parton) [Here](#)

(5) Thanks, Herb Spiegel, for putting a pianist named Evan Lee on my radar screen. He shared a Facebook video clip with me, but since not all folks have Facebook, I found this other clip that show this youngster's brilliance. [Here](#)

B. Check out The Goalcast. To quote from the website: Goalcast is an inspiring community for achievers dedicated to helping you improve all aspects of your life. We provide you with practical advice, resources and the motivation to help you realize your full potential.

We believe that aspiring towards your true goals and eventually reaching them is the most important factor for living a better, happier and more meaningful life. Anyone has the potential to reach their goals no matter how ambitious and we hope to be a source of motivation for people on their journey towards success.

You can find this website by clicking: [Here](#)

There are some great quotes (e.g., also see Section 10). But what I liked best were the videos—such as this one: [Here](#)

Peter Dinklage: How Do You Find the Moments That Define You? [Here](#)

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

Do you have a domain name for yourself, company or organization? If so, make sure you know when that expires and that you also know how to renew it.

An organization I belonged to (that shall remain nameless) had a valid website for many years. But after several changes in leadership, the renewal notices seem to have been sent to some officer that was no longer around. The organization then became dormant for a period of time.

Yet the organization's Facebook page still remained up and running, and if you viewed it, you could find the website that wasn't being used.

That became apparent when all of a sudden, the organization's new leadership started getting complaints about the fact that if you went to the website, you would instead find yourself at a porn site.

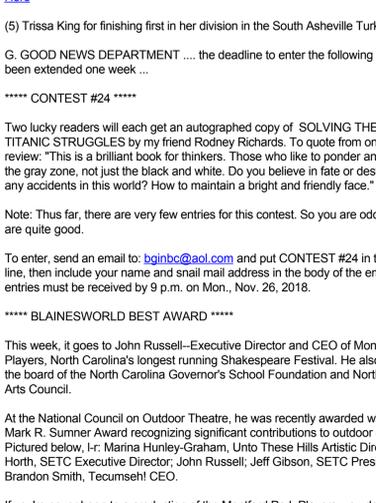
To make sure this doesn't happen to you, here's a website to look up your website to find out when the domain name expires: [Here](#)

And for more information on this very important topic, please click: [Here](#)

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### 9. Joke 3

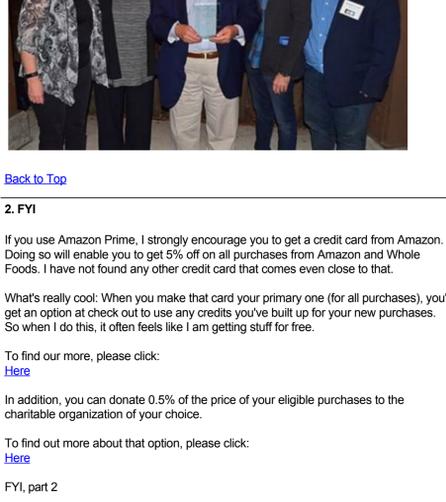
Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of de-feet.



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### 10. A quote I like

Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890) was a Dutch Post-Impressionist painter who is among the most famous and influential figures in the history of Western art.



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### 11. Thought for the day

Communicating in Times of Stress  
by Brian Biro, America's Breakthrough Coach

Recalling a Thanksgiving church service I once attended, I remembered being struck by the beautiful message the minister delivered about dealing with stress and adversity.

She said: "This Thanksgiving, I suddenly realized that perhaps we should give our greatest thanks for all the obstacles and setbacks we have faced along life's path, for it is from these that we have grown the most."

For the rest of this informative blog entry, please go to Section 11 when you 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) ABCCM's RETURN TO BETHLEHEM CELEBRATES 35TH YEAR. (2) Asheville Choral Society.

B. PA/NJ event

THE LION IN WINTER.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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