

#11052
11.21.2016

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1. Reflections

Note: if you're reading this via Facebook or LinkedIn, please be advised that you will get it quicker if you get it by 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: lgainbo@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Celebrated her outstanding performance in "Our Stuff: Trinkets, Treasure or Time to Let Go," a Story Choreography Presentation directed with aplomb by Barrie Barton. Kudos to all the other performers: Bonnie Sibrier, Christy Carville, Rob Campbell, Jay Joslin, Amanda Levesque, Barbara Brady, David Wright, Elaine Chandler, Joann Rose, Suzanne Lowe, Maureen Simon, Julia Gaunt, Cappy Tosetti and Jen Worthen.



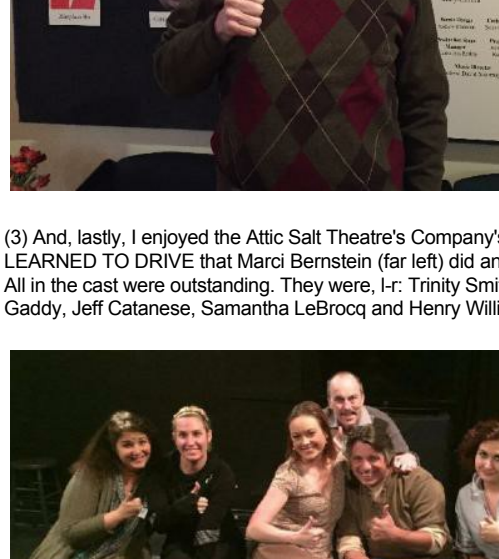
(2) Afterward, many of our friends joined us for a tasty meal at Early Girl Eatery. The food was great, as always—and so was the fine service we received from All. Our group had a great time!



For other pictures from both the performance and our meal, please click: [Here](#)

B. During the week, because Cynthia was so busy with rehearsals for the above, I got to experience a first for me: three plays in three days.

(1) Although I'm not ordinarily a big Shakespeare fan, I was blown away by the Montford Park Players' production of JULIUS CAESAR. Pictured with me were two of the stars: Jane Hallstrom (left) and Tressa King (right). Devon Ray, Meron Weidick and all the others in the cast were equally as good, and Scott Keel's direction was spot on.



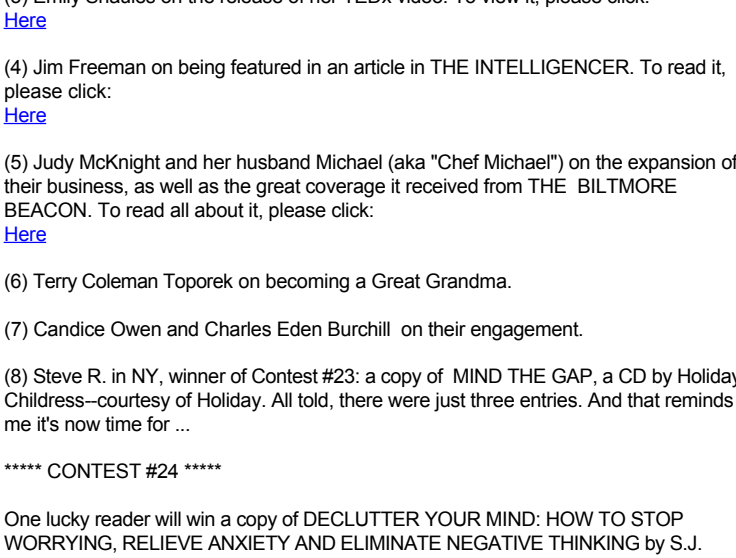
(2) The next day, I saw CURVY WIDOW—a musical that had its world premiere at NC Stage Company. It was based on a book by Bobby Goldman, and it starred Nancy Opel. Drew Brody was responsible for the music and lyrics. David Flynn directed. I wouldn't be surprised if this tuneful show eventually becomes a big hit.



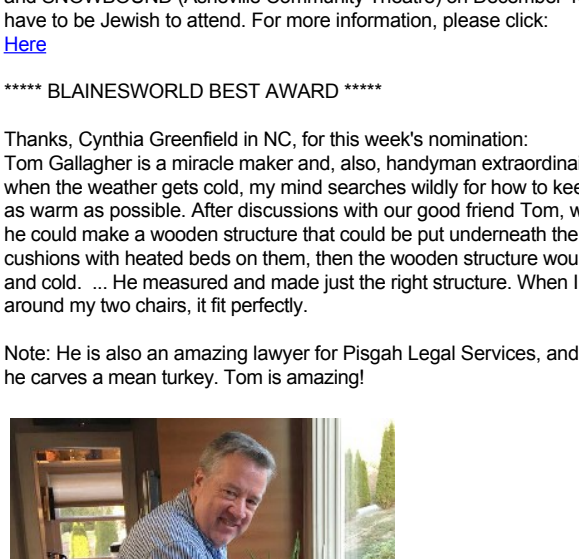
(3) And, lastly, I enjoyed the Attic Salt Theatre's Company's production of HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE that Marci Bernstein (far left) did an excellent job of directing. All in the cast were outstanding. They were: L: Trinity Smith Keel, Chelsea Lee Gaddy, Jeff Olanese, Samantha Ledroq and Henry Williamson III.



C. I also got to join my friend David Joe Miller for some great food and fine service from Ashley at King Daddy's Chicken & Waffle. Cynthia wasn't able to join us, so I brought her home some fried chicken and coleslaw. Do you think she enjoyed it?



D. And I participated in my last meeting as a resident Board member of the Biltmore Lake Homeowners Association. I've been honored to have served my community in this capacity for the past six years. Pictured with me: Gary Bien, the other resident Board member who did a great job for the last two years.



C. Condolences to:

- (1) Taylor Aldrich and family on the passing of Robert "Bobby" Russell Aldrich, Taylor's grandfather.
- (2) Mike Martinelli and family on the passing of Edith (Zull) Martinelli, Mike's Aunt Edith.

D. Congratulations to:

- (1) Sharon Fahrner for her book, A HOME IN SHALOMVILLE, winning the Bob Terrell Award from the Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society. Please see Section 4C for a review.
- (2) Kelly Christianson on her engagement to Steve Shanafelt.
- (3) Emily Shaules on the release of her TEDx video. To view it, please click: [Here](#)
- (4) Jim Freeman on being featured in an article in THE INTELLIGENCER. To read it, please click: [Here](#)
- (5) Judy McKnight and her husband Michael (aka "Chef Michael") on the expansion of their business, as well as the great coverage it received from THE BILTMORE BEACON. To read all about it, please click: [Here](#)
- (6) Terry Coleman Toporek on becoming a Great Grandpa.
- (7) Candice Owen and Charles Eden Burchill on their engagement.
- (8) Steve R. in NY, winner of Contest #23: a copy of MIND THE GAP, a CD by Holiday Childress—courtesy of Holiday. All told, there were three entries. And that reminds me it's now time for ...

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

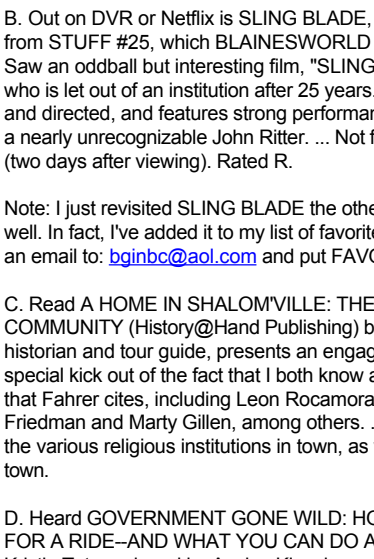
One lucky reader will win a copy of DECLUTTER YOUR MIND: HOW TO STOP WORRYING, RELIEVE ANXIETY AND ELIMINATE NEGATIVE THINKING by S.J. Scott and Barrie Davenport. This book is for anyone who recognizes how their untamed thoughts are interfering with their focus, productivity, happiness and peace of mind. ... I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #1044 and enjoyed it ... To enter the contest: Send an email to: lgainbo@aol.com and put CONTEST #24 in the subject line. In the body of the email, please include your small mail address. All entries must be received on or before Monday, Dec. 5, at 9 p.m.

D. Reminder: You're invited to be my guest at either or both of the following two events sponsored by the Asheville Jewish Business Form: Chanukah Party on December 7 and SNOWBOUND (Asheville Community Theatre) on December 15. ... You do NOT have to be Jewish to attend. For more information, please click: [Here](#)

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

Thanks, Cynthia Greenfield in NC, for this week's nomination: Tom Gallagher is a miracle maker and, also, handyman extraordinaire. ... Every year, when the weather gets cold, my mind searches wildly for how to keep my outdoor cats as warm as possible. After discussions with our good friend Tom, we decided that if he could make a wooden structure that could be put underneath the chairs that have cushions with heated beds on them, then the wooden structure would keep out wind and cold. ... He measured and made just the right structure. When I went to put it around my two chairs, it fit perfectly.

Note: He is also an amazing lawyer for Pisgah Legal Services, and in his spare time, he carves a mean turkey. Tom is amazing!



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2. FYI

Quit Social Media. Your Career May Depend on It.
by Cal Newport

I'm a millennial computer scientist who also writes books and runs a blog. Demographically speaking I should be a heavy social media user, but that is not the case. I've never had a social media account.

At the moment, this makes me an outlier, but I think many more people should follow my lead and quit these services. There are many issues with social media, from its corrosion of civic life to its cultural shallowness, but the argument I want to make here is more pragmatic: You should quit social media because it can hurt your career.

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

FYI, part 2

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

- (1) How Not to Overplay on Black Friday? (2) How Fake News Goes Viral. (3) Dan S. in PA: Here's some other ways to deal with the election results. (4) Joe H. in NC: Using humor as a coping tool. (5) 'Hamilton' Duel: Addressing the President-Elect on His Own Blunt Terms. (6) Ed K. in PA: Happy Thanksgiving and thanks for your blog. (7) Elaine C. in NC: Thank you, thank you, thank you! (8) Terry V. in NC: Love your blog! (9) Ray P. in PA: Always enjoy your commentary. (10) Roberta G. in PA: 7 Interesting Facts You Need to Know About Your Blood Type! (11) Karen M. in NC: This [A MAN CALLED OVE] was so darn cute. (12) Ginger H. in NC: How to recognize a fake news story.

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3. Joke 1

A man was crossing a road one day when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess." He bent over, picked up the frog, and put it in his pocket. ... The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I'll tell everyone how smart and brave you are and how you are my hero." The man took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it, and returned it to his pocket. ... The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will be your loving companion for an entire week." The man took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it, and returned it to his pocket. ... The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you for a year and do ANYTHING you want." Again the man took the frog out, smiled at it, and put it back into his pocket. ... Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess, that I'll stay with you for a year and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?" ... The man said, "Look, I'm a computer programmer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog is cool."

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4. Reviews

A. Saw LOVING, the true story of an interracial couple who married and then spent the next nine years fighting for the right to live as a family in their hometown. The case eventually went all the way to the Supreme Court. Joel Edgerton (so fine in THE GIFT) is excellent here, too, as is Ruth Negga. The film dragged, especially in the beginning, but picked up at the end. And I would recommend it, if for no other reason than the history lesson it contains. Rated PG=13.

B. Out on DVR or Netflix is SLING BLADE, a film I reviewed back in 1996. My review from STUFF #25, which BLAINESWORLD used to be called, follows: Saw an oddball but interesting film, "SLING BLADE," about a mentally retarded man who is let out of an institution after 25 years. It stars Billy Bob Thornton, who also wrote and directed, and features strong performances by country singer Dwight Yoakam and a nearly unrecognizable John Ritter. ... Not for everybody, but I am still thinking about it (two days after viewing). Rated R.

Note: I just revisited SLING BLADE the other day and found that it has held up quite well. In fact, I've added it to my list of favorite films. If you'd like a copy of this list, send an email to: lgainbo@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

C. Read A HOME IN SHALOMVILLE: THE HISTORY OF ASHEVILLE'S JEWISH COMMUNITY (History@Hard Publishing) by Sharon C. Fahrner. ... The author, a historian and tour guide, presents an engaging history of Jews in Asheville. I got a special kick out of the fact that I both know and am friendly with many of the individuals that Fahrner cites, including Leon Rocamora Jr., Bill Leiserman, Frank Goldsmith, Kerry Friedman and Marty Gallen, among others. ... I also found it interesting to learn about the various religious institutions in town, as well as about many of the businesses in town.

D. Heard GOVERNMENT GONE WILD: HOW D.C. POLITICIANS ARE TAKING YOU FOR A RIDE--AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT (Hachette Audio), written by Kristin Tate and read by Avalon Kingsbury. ... The author, an investigative journalist with a commitment for advancing libertarian policies, covers major issues facing our country—including our educational system, social business creation, over regulation, etc. In doing so, she presents numerous eye-opening examples that will have you questioning the role of government in our lives. ... Fortunately, Kingsbury's breezy writing style prevents the book from being a real downer. And her last chapter, "What We Can Do to Fix America Now," will give hope to all who read it that things can be turned around.

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5. TV alert

A. MICHAEL CHE MATTERS: Available via Netflix, beginning on Friday, Nov. 25. The SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE Weekend Update anchor takes on such subjects as gun control, Black Lives Matter and white girls dancing.

B. COMEDY BANG! BANG! Friday, Dec. 2, at 11 p.m. on iFC. IFC's talk-show satire ends its six-year run by airing back-to-back episodes. Look for a surprise announcement from "Weird Al" Yankovic.

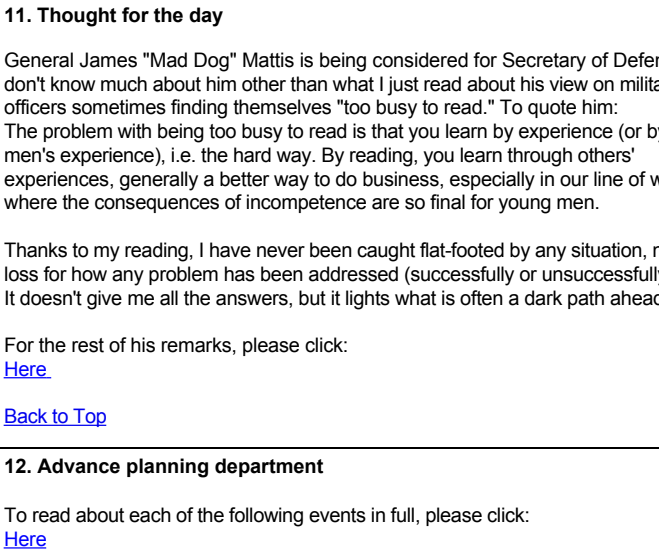
C. ROCK, RHYTHM AND DOO WOP: Saturday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m. (PBS dates and times often vary, so check local listings at: www.pbs.org.) Performers include Little Anthony & the Imperials, Little Richard, Jay & the Americans, the Five Satins, Jerry Butlers and Lloyd Price.

D. BEST BOY: Saturday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. on TCM. Oscar-winning story of a developmentally challenged man.

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6. Joke 2

It just dawned on me why Mayberry was so peaceful and quiet ... nobody was ever married!... Here are the single people that come to mind: Andy, Aunt Bea, Barney, Floyd, Howard, Goober, Gomer, Sam, Ernest I Bass, the Darlin family, Helen, Thelma Lou and Clara. ... In fact, the only one married was Otis, and he stayed drunk.



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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

- (1) Jean D. in PA: Fact checking online is more important than ever [Here](#)
- (2) Bonnie S. in NC: Movie Dance Scenes Mashup [Here](#)
- (3) Herb S. in NJ: Halle! Halle!Halle! of Leonard Cohen [Here](#)
- (4) Carol S. in PA: What if gender roles in advertising were reversed? [Here](#)
- (5) Paul M. in NC: Belly knocks over table [Here](#)

B. Want to get into blogging? Or make a change from what you are currently doing? ... A lot of folks use WordPress, but there's another option: Ghost. There is a classic online platform you can pay for, while the other is a free downloadable option where you can install it on your hosting account and work with its source code. To learn more, please click: [Here](#)

And for those interested in trying out WordPress, please click: [Here](#)

My recommendation: Check out the free options on both WordPress and Ghost. Then determine what works best for you. As always, I'd be interested in your reaction(s) [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

The Secret to Better Phone Photos: New \$29 Lenses That Saved My Holiday

You know that nagging feeling you get when you go on holiday and think you've forgotten something? For me it was all too real. Because the thing I'd forgotten was one of the most vital things I needed to pack.

To find out more, please click the following advertorial: [Here](#)

MR. CURIOUS HERE: Though I don't typically run ads for other products, this one caught my attention. ... And has me wondering: How do you bought this lens or something similar? If so, what's your opinion? I

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9. Joke 3

Methinks they didn't spend a lot of time outdoors!

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10. A quote I like

Florence Henderson (1934-2016), R.I.P. She was an American actress and singer with a career spanning six decades, best remembered for her starring role as matriarch Carol Brady on the ABC sitcom THE BRADY BUNCH from 1969 to 1974. For her obituary, please click: [Here](#)

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11. Thought for the day

General James "Mad Dog" Mattis is being considered for Secretary of Defense. I don't know much about him other than what I just read about his view on military officers sometimes finding themselves "too busy to read." To quote him: The problem with being too busy to read is that you learn by experience (or your men's experience), i.e. the hard way. By reading, you learn through others' experiences, generally a better way to do business, especially in our line of work where the consequences of incompetence are so final for young men.

Thanks to my reading, I have never been caught flat-footed by any situation, never at a loss for how any problem has been addressed (successfully or unsuccessfully) before. It doesn't give me all the answers, but it lights what is often a dark path ahead."

For the rest of his remarks, 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) Bernstein Family Christmas Spectacular. (2) Heaven in Your Pocket.
- B. PANJ events
- (1) 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.' (2) The Man Who Came to Dinner.

PS. HAPPY TURKEY DAY! ... Aside from being grateful for the fact that my ancestors were "allowed" to stay in this country many years ago, I'm also grateful to y'all for reading my BLAINESWORLD blog.

Make it a wonderful rest of the week, too!

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