

BLAINES WORLD

#1105

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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) Had a blessed Thanksgiving at our friends Carole and Brian Biro where we were accompanied by other family members. We enjoyed a fantastic meal, along with these other holiday traditions: walk, gratitude circle and telephone charades. See below for pictures from the day; for others, please click:

[Here](#)





(2) Got to enjoy the beautiful weather we've been having via a walk around Biltmore Lake.



(3) Picked up our friend Connor Rae at the Asheville Airport upon his return from a trip to California. We've always wanted to do that; i.e., greet somebody at the airport with a sign--making it possible to find us in such a big crowd.

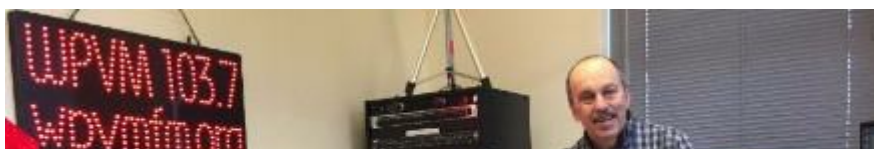


(4) Enjoyed a tasty dinner at Texas Roadhouse.



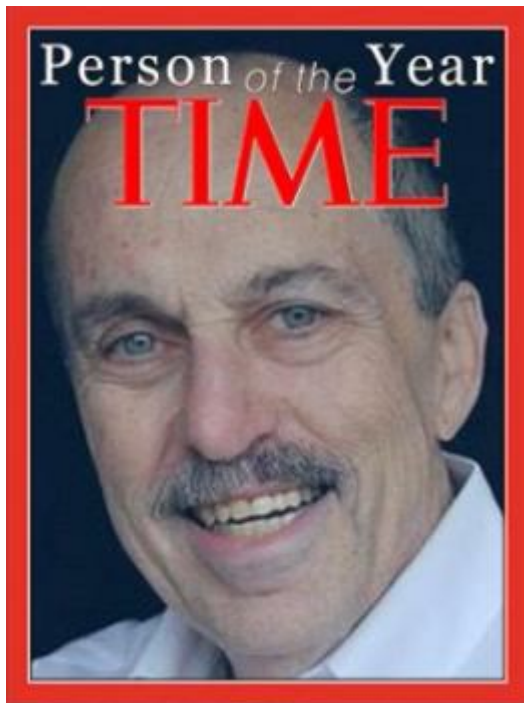
B. WPVM/FM invites you to listen to the BLAINESWORLD show from Wed., November 29, 2017. ... Guest (first half): Tina FireWolf , Facilitator of Remembering / The Cosmic Farm Girl; for more information: <http://tinafirewolf.com> ... Guest (second half): Carl Silverstein, Executive Director for the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy; for more information: <http://Appalachian.org>. Picture, l-r: Tina FireWolf, Blaine Greenfield and Carl Silverstein.

To listen to the show, please click: <https://tinyurl.com/y7mcsflu>






C. No offense, President Trump, but you didn't win the award this year because I did. Guess it's because of my charm, wit, intelligence and blushing some here, humility! (Thanks, Julia Reavely, for sharing.)



D. Found a new favorite street in the Candler, NC, area. (Thanks, Blaine Kerr, for sharing.)





E. Condolences to Gerry Heaslip and family on the passing of Bill Heaslip, Gerry's husband. I was also a longtime friend of Bill's and appreciated his longtime leadership of the Bucks County Community College Federation of Teachers. For his obituary, please click:

[Here](#)

F. Congratulations to:

(1) Lori Horn-Postal on having her home named as Home of the Week by the CITIZEN-TIMES. To read more (and to see some pictures), please click:

[Here](#)

(2) Tracy Johnston-Crum on her appearance on WLOS, discussing the Gingerbread House Competition. To view her appearance, please click:

[Here](#)

(3) Betty Tsai for receiving Congressional recognition award for having created the Salute to Mothers Scholarship, which has given more than \$120,000 to Bucks County mothers pursuing further education over the past 10 years.

(4) Chall Gray on having his newest establishment, Little Jumbo, make it to the list of 10 Best New Restaurants in Asheville. For more information, please click:

[Here](#)

(5) Sarah Deborah Benoit on being named 2017 Woman Executive of the Year by the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce.

(6) Elsten Torres and Los Damn Ramblers for the release of their new song, "Santa Cross The Border. " To view it, please click:

[Here](#)

(7) Juliet Matthews on the birth of Keiko Natalie Matthews.

(8) Teresa Breakey on her new permanent, part-time job as Assistant to the Legal Department at Haywood County DHHS.

(9) Drez Ryan on the commercial he did for WNCAP. To view it, please click:

<https://vimeo.com/245018773>

G. Reminder: There's still time to enter ...

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

Two lucky readers will win a book (courtesy of Brian Smith) by Doug Elliott, a naturalist, herbalist and storyteller. So if you're "into" any of these subjects, this is the contest for you! ... To enter, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #24 in the subject line, then include your snail mail address in the body of the email. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 4.

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

Thanks, Arlene Ditzler, for submitting this nomination:

I received the best "Buying my 1st new car experience" from Davis Honda in Burlington, NJ. Salesman Peter Shin and Sales Manager Steve Drovich, offered all I wanted and more. It was obvious that they would do whatever it took to make me

happy and satisfied. I cannot say enough about the level of customer service they provided. No typical car salesman tactics at Davis Honda. 40 Route 130 W., Burlington, NJ. Ask for Peter Shin at 609-386-2600, x 3333; tell him Arlene Ditzler referred you. You won't be sorry.

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2. FYI

Emily Shaules: Unlimited movies in theaters for \$10 a month? Hell yes!!!! And I checked __all the Asheville theaters are participating, even the Fine Arts and Grail.

I read about the above on Facebook and then Edwin Arnaudin, my favorite movie critic, provided some additional clarification on using the card. (Thanks, Edwin!) See below for some of his comments:

Unlimited = one per day; no 3D; day-of ticket purchases, all in person. That said, I saved around \$70 using it last month.

You can ONLY get them the same day you're seeing the movie (i.e. you can't purchase opening night Star Wars tickets today).

My understanding is that you can get your ticket earlier in the day at the theater, but I've yet to try that out.

When I go to Biltmore Grande, I just "check in" on the app on my phone, then go pick my seats at the self-serve kiosk like usual, but swipe my MoviePass card instead of a debit/credit card. At the Carolina, there's no kiosk, so you check in but then have to interact with a human.

You have to be within 100 yards of the theater to check in via the app. Then you have 30 minutes to get your ticket.

"The company reports that it works by buying movie theater tickets for its subscribers directly from exhibitors at whatever price they offer. That means that MoviePass is operating at a loss, and playing the long game. Sure, most movie theater owners would rather you buy their own loyalty programs. But if you balked at the idea for fear of ripping off your local indie picture house, feel free to proceed sans guilt."

The actual act of acquiring a ticket is much smoother than it sounds.

For more information, please click:

[Here](#)

And to sign-up, please click:

[Here](#)

Note: I just ordered a MoviePass. If you get one, too, let me know--and let's catch a movie together!

FYI, part 2

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

[Here](#)

(1) Bob Harris: Saw your standup routine ... very funny. (You can still see it via the accompanying link.) (2) Lee Tomlinson: With all due respect. . .Steve Martin you're not. (3) Ariella St. Clair: Had a scammer call claiming to be from my mortgage company. (4) Bray Creech: Love "Reserved" and "Disturbed" name cards. (5) Exercise May

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3. Joke 1

My wife asked, "Whatcha doin' today?" ... I answered, "Nothing." ... She said, "You did that yesterday." ... I replied, "I wasn't finished." (Thanks, Vera Brown, for sharing.)



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4. Reviews

A. Saw *THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI*, a dramedy about a woman trying to track down the murderer of her daughter. Frances McDormand may well win another Academy Award for her performance in the leading role, and Sam Rockwell also deserves strong consideration for his work as a dimwitted police officer. Woody Harrelson and Peter Dinklage are also quite good in this film that has a terrific ending. Rated R.

B. On Netflix, I caught *HOLY HELL*--a powerful documentary about a Los Angeles cult known as The Buddhafield. I was fascinated to learn how the leader, Michael, managed to keep his followers in line for well over 20 years--and that the group still exists today even after disturbing facts about it came out. Not rated, but I wouldn't recommend it for anybody under the age of 15. It might be an excellent film for parents to watch and discuss with mature teenagers.

Note: Thanks to my friend, Phillippe Andre Coquet, for recommending the above. He is also featured in it, having been a longtime member of the cult. For more information, please read this *ESQUIRE* interview that he's quoted in:

[Here](#)

C. Read *PORTRAITS OF COURAGE: A COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S TRIBUTES TO AMERICAN WARRIORS* (Crown Publishing Group), written and illustrated by President George W. Bush who can be seen hard at work in the picture below. ...The former president only took up painting seriously after he left the White House, and this beautiful book shows that he has come quite far in a relatively short time. He portraits of 98 wounded men and women all catch your attention, and their stories will move

you. ... As he notes: I studied the stories and photographs of the warriors. As I painted them, I thought about their backgrounds, their time in the military, and the issues they dealt with as a result of combat--many from visible injuries, others from invisible wounds such as post-traumatic stress (PTS) and traumatic brain injury. ... I painted these men and woman as a way to honor their service to the country and to show my respect for their sacrifice and courage." ... Perhaps what I liked about the book was that President Bush will donate his net author proceeds to the George W. Bush Presidential Center, a non-profit organization whose Military Service Initiative works to ensure that post-9/11 veterans and their families make successful transitions to civilian life with a focus on gaining meaningful employment and overcoming the invisible wounds of war.



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5. TV alert

A. SHE'S GOTTA HAVE IT: Now available via streaming on Netflix

This reboot of Spike Lee's 1986 breakthrough film of the same name is, to quote THE NEW YORK TIMES, "the same, but different: sharper, more pointed. ... It's transfixing. It's daring. It is, maybe, a bit much. But Mr. Lee keeps taking in his subject, turning and turning, waiting a little longer to catch her from every angle."

B. 50 YEARS OF 60 MINUTES: Sunday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. on CBS

Take a retrospective look at memorable moments and interviews, conducted by correspondents who became almost as well known as their subjects.

C. THE CAROL BURNETT 50TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL: Sunday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. on CBS

Co-stars Vicki Lawrence and Lyle Waggoner reflect on their favorite sketches. They're joined by such fans and friends as Jim Carrey, Kristin Chenoweth, Stephen Colbert, Jane Lynch and frequent guest Bernadette Peters.

D. THE NEWSPAPERMAN: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF BEN BRADLEE: Monday, Dec. 4, at 8 p.m. on HBO

Tom Hanks will soon play Bradlee in the much-anticipated film, THE POST. But if you can't wait for that, catch this special about one of the most celebrated and notorious newspaper editors of all time.

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6. Joke 2

Amen--and awomen, too! (Thanks, Jean Dolan, for sharing.)



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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Bonnie Sibner: Larry David on Judge Judy

[Here](#)

(2) Samantha Freeland: Emmanuel Kelly The X Factor 2011 Auditions

[Here](#)

(3) Nelson Sartoris: Never do this in a hotel

[Here](#)

(4) The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain--the Good, the Bad and the Ugly!

[Here](#)

(5) Shelly Jacobs: Watch toddler with no arms and legs walk

[Here](#)

Note: For more information about the above, please click:

[Here](#)

B. For some neat stuff about art, technology, science, visual culture, design, music, cities, food, architecture, sports, endless nonsense, and carefully curated current events, click:

<https://kottke.org/>

To quote from the website: Founded in 1998, kottke.org is one of the oldest blogs on the web. It's written and produced by Jason Kottke and covers the essential people, inventions, performances, and ideas that increase the collective adjacent possible of humanity. ... Basically, it's the world's complete knowledge, relentlessly filtered through

my particular worldview, with all the advantages and disadvantages that entails.

Among the posts that caught my attention were the following:

The best books of 2017

Road signs suck. What if we got rid of them?

Scrabble pros recount their bet and worst plays

My recent media diet, special Amsterdam edition

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

Thanks, Jensen Gelfond (my amazing computer guru who can be reached at 828.354.0371 or via jensen@ashevilledigitallifestyle.com), for telling me about this program:

DeskPins

DeskPins can be used to make any application topmost, that is, to keep it above all other windows. Just grab a pin from the DeskPins icon in the system notification area and click on any window. This functionality is identical to the "Always on Top" setting found in some programs. With DeskPins you can add this feature to any program.

It has quickly become one of my favorites. Methinks you'll feel the same way, too, if you give it a shot. To get it, please click:

[Here](#)

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9. Joke 3

I finally realized it ... people are prisoners of their phones. That's why they are called cellphones. (Thanks, Amy Gordon, for sharing.)



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10. A quote I like

Jim Nabors (1939-2017), R.I.P. ... He was an American actor and comedian--best known for his endearing character, Gomer Pyle, on both THE ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW and GOMER PYLE USMC. He was also an amazing singer as can be seen by viewing this clip:

[Here](#)

For his obituary, please click:

[Here](#)

Go-o-o-o-lee!



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11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Cappy Cosetti, for sharing the following:

Talking about death and dying can be uncomfortable for many Individuals. Mentioning a loved one's name to a grieving parent, spouse or friend can also be difficult; people are afraid it might cause more sadness or heartache..

As a widow, I'm well aware of these uneasy feelings others might have when talking about my husband, Jim. This was especially relevant the first year after his death. People would shy away from saying his name, or simply talk about everything else except Jim.

I tried to ease their fears by sharing something a pastor mentioned to me. He explained by saying each shared story about a loved one is like a piece of a quilt ... unique and special. Imagine all the stories sewn together ... forming a blanket that covers and comforts the emptiness in one's heart.

Everyone is different, but for me hearing stories about Jim was such a comfort. I still relish hearing his name and how he touched the lives of others. Each story adds to the quilt that continues to warm my heart.

So, if someone you know is grieving, be there in the moment to listen, and be there to share the stories. It's a gift that they will treasure always.

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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) Linda Pohl: If you have heard of the MBTI (Myers-Briggs Type Indicator) but never taken it or attended a Personality Type workshop, now is your chance. (2) Jeff Catanese: Montford Park Players present A CHRISTMAS CAROL. (3) Judith Loniak: HOLIDAY ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW. (4) Rosanna Fox: The First Annual AABA Holiday Extravaganza.

(2) PA/NJ event

Actors' Net of Bucks County: The Charitable Sisterhood Christmas Spectacular.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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