

You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not toooo risqué (typically in Sections 4, 7 and 10); contests; reviews of shows. movies and books; quotes, etc. ... Please feel free to share it with 437 of your closest friends and relatives.. ... And In the unlikely event that you or they are not already a subscriber, just click the following link to be added to the free mailing list: [Here](#).

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#1315

11.29.2021

## **In this issue**

1. Reflections
2. Invites
3. FYI
4. Joke 1
5. Reviews
6. TV alert
7. Joke 2
8. Clips/Websites
9. Technology tip
10. Joke 3
11. A quote I like
12. Thought for the day
13. Advance planning department

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## **1. Reflections**

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a tasty meal at Shogun Buffet.



B. We also had a delicious meal at 131 Main. My chicken sandwich was good, but Cynthia raved about her favorite dish there: a ribeye steak. She also loves their coleslaw.



C. My friend Mike Martinelli introduced me to Abuela's Little Kitchen in Arden. I liked my blueberry pancakes, and Mike said his omelet was excellent. As you can see by the picture of the latter item, they certainly don't skimp on portion size. We were also impressed by the fact that all employees there wore masks.



D. Cynthia got a kick out of walking Bailey, a neighbor's dog.



E. You can catch this week's BLAINESWORLD show by clicking: [Here](#). ... Guests: (first half) Stephen Weese, director, Marvelous Spiral Studios; and (second half) Lyle Rickards, Asheville busker.



F. Condolences to Sidney Barnes and family on the passing of Clella-Ann Zavada. Sydney's wife.

G. Congratulations to:

(1) Kaleo Wheeler, for passing her SC life insurance licensing exam.

(2) Ian Williams on being ordained to the Secret order of Deacons in Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

H. Announcing this week's ...

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

This week, it goes to Brian Turner who announced he will not seek re-election for a fifth term in the North Carolina House of Representatives in 2022.

He had done an excellent job in the above position, and he will be missed.

I've always been impressed by both his energy and enthusiasm, as well as his friendly nature whenever I had the good fortune to bump into him.

I'm hopeful that he returns to public service in the future, as he indicated might be the case in the following post that recently appeared on his Facebook page:

A few minutes ago, I announced that I will not seek re-election to a fifth term in the North Carolina House. It has been a privilege to serve the folks of Buncombe county and I am grateful I was given a chance to make a difference in the lives of the people in our community. Serving in the minority and representing a predominantly Republican district, I am proud to have worked in a bipartisan way to pass important legislation including raising the minimum age of marriage to reduce sex trafficking, extending the statute of limitations of for victims of sexual assault, and the creation of Pisgah View State Park.

The impact of the increasing length of the legislative session and unpredictable legislative calendar is a key reason for my decision. During my tenure I have seen our legislative session lengthen to the point where session in October, November, and December (well past our planned adjournment at the end of June) has become the norm. This is unsustainable.

In the past seven years the legislative session has extended beyond its traditional June adjournment five times with multiple special and "lame-duck" sessions. The pandemic has refocused priorities for so many of

us, including myself. Being home with my wife and daughter most of last year was so meaningful and that combined with the increasing time commitment to be in Raleigh has brought clarity.

I am not ruling out a return to public service in a different capacity. Serving Buncombe county and North Carolina has been life changing and while I am taking a moment to catch my breath, I will always look for ways to make life better for the people of our community and our state.

I hope you know how grateful I am for your support throughout the years.



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## 2. Invites

A. Congratulations to Steve Rizzo, winner of Contest #26: n a copy of LEAP OF REASON: MANAGING TO OUTCOMES IN AN ERA OF SCARCITY by Mario Morino.

All told, there were three entries. And that reminds me it is now time to announce:

**\*\*\*\*\* CONTEST #27 \*\*\*\*\***

One lucky reader will win a copy of ENCOUNTERS by Alana Lorens. Notes one Amazon reviewer:"In this very different novel for Alana Lorens, she tells a chilling tale involving illegal immigrants who escape from their "mules" smuggling them into the U.S. during a violent snowstorm, after their truck crashes. ... Suspense and danger combine to offer a chilling mystery and an exciting read."

To enter the contest, send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put CONTEST 27 in the subject line. In the body of your email, you MUST include your name and address, so that I can send you the prize if you win. All entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 13

B. Want to be a guest on my radio/Facebook Live show? If you have news you'd like to share and/or a story to tell, send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put GUEST in the subject line. In the body of the email,

include both your name and phone number.

For more information about the show, click: [Here](#).

Even if you've been a guest before, I'd welcome the opportunity to speak with you again. I now tape via Zoom, usually in the early evenings.

C. Are you interested in shows, concerts, movies, TV, etc.? ... If so, I encourage you to join a new group I've formed on Facebook that's called Entertainment. To do so, all you need to do is follow the instructions when you click: click: [Here](#).

D. Come join Cynthia for the two courses she'll be teaching for Arms Around ASD this week via Zoom: Meditation on Monday and Move Your Body on Wednesday. To attend these and/or any of the other courses, scroll down to Calendar when you click: [Here](#).

Note: For others, see Sect.13 (at the bottom of this issue).

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### 3. FYI

Cherished Words From Theater's Encourager-in-Chief  
by Laura Collins-Hughes

In the fictionalized movie version of his life, Jonathan Larson ignores the ringing phone and lets the answering machine pick up. Crouched on the bare wooden floor of his shabby apartment in 1990 New York City, he listens as Stephen Sondheim leaves a message — instant balm to his battered artist's soul.

“Jon? Steve Sondheim here,” the voice says in Lin-Manuel Miranda's biomusical “Tick, Tick ... Boom!,” and it really is Sondheim's voice we hear, offering a bit of badly needed praise for the prodigiously talented, profoundly discouraged Larson.

For the rest of thought-provoking article, click: [Here](#).

Note: The illustration (below) shows a letter that Sondheim wrote to Noah Brody and Ben Steinfeld after he saw the production of “Into the Woods” by their company, Fiasco Theater.

STEPHEN SONDHEIM

May 30, 2013

Dear Noah and Ben -

As you must have gathered last night, I thought your work on the show was inventive and exhilarating to a degree I've seldom experienced in the theater. Thank you.

What you and your company do is exactly why people like James and me write. You make me want to write more.

*Stephen Sondheim*

## FYI, part 2

To read the following articles, please click: [Here](#).

A. Which Films Lead the Biggest Best-Picture Race in Years? B. 10 Hotel Tips No One Taught You. C. The 34-year-old increased her salary by \$194,000. D. Train the Police to Keep the Peace, Not Turn a Profit.

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## 4. Joke 1

The things you learn online. ... And if you're like me, and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way), HAPPY HANUKKAH!



Imagine if your cellphone  
was at 10% but lasted 8 days.  
Now you understand  
Hanukkah.

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## 5. Reviews

A. C'MON C'MON is a moving drama about an uncle and his young nephew who are unexpectedly thrown together. It is a bit slow, but it grew on me as I watched it and now think about it afterward. Joaquin Phoenix is superb in the leading role. Look for him to be nominated for an Oscar. An unknown actor (at least to me) by the name of Woody Herman also shines as the young boy, and I also liked the work of Gabby Hoffman. In Robbie Ryan's black-and-white cinematography was spot on, as was the writing and directing from Mike Mills. Rated R.

B. LOVE HARD is a sweet Christmas movie from Netflix that I enjoyed. The story involves an LA girl, unlucky in love, who falls for an East Coast guy on a dating app and decides to surprise him for the holidays--only to discover that she's been catfished. Critics gave it mixed reviews, but most all others on Rotten Tomatoes said they liked it. Netflix gave it a TV-14 rating, which means this film might not be appropriate for ages 14 and under.

Note: If you're like me, you may not be familiar with the term "catfished." I had to look it up. Here's what I found:

INFORMAL•US

lure (someone) into a relationship by means of a fictional online persona. "He was being catfished by a cruel prankster."

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## 6. TV alert

A. LANDSCAPERS: Limited series premiere on Monday, Dec. 6, at 9 p.m. on HBO

According to TV GUIDE, "Gritty, pathos blurs with fantasy in a wrenching true-crime love series" that has four parts.

B. LIVE IN FRONT OF A STUDIO AUDIENCE: Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 8 p.m. on ABC

An all-star cast (including John Lithgow, Kevin Hart, Damon Williams and Ann Dowd reenact episodes from DIFF'RENT STROKES and its spinoff, THE FACTS OF LIFE.

C. ABBOTT ELEMENTARY: Season premiere on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 9:30 p.m. on ABC

This sitcom employs a documentary style as a news crew films a school for a pot on urban education.

D. THE UNFORGIVABLE: Premieres on Friday, Dec. 10, on Netflix

Sandra Bullock stars a woman paroled after spending 20 years for a horrific crime. Viola Davis and Richard Thomas also star.

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## 7. Joke 2

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.



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## 8. Clips/Websites

A. The Turtles are arguably the greatest rock group of all time!

(1) As mentioned previously, this section will feature music by The Turtles--either their recordings and/or covers of their music by others.

I'd especially love to see any recording you may have done of "Happy Together."

Send it to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put THE TURTLES in the subject line.

Note: Even if you did not do a recording, I welcome anything done by others--not only of "Happy Together," but any other Turtles' song.

(2) For this week, please view this big band version from 2017: [Here](#).

#### B. Video of the week

Casting Crowns - Scars in Heaven (Official Music Video): [Here](#).

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

(1) Ray Peterson - Tell Laura I Love Her, one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Howard Smith: Christmas carols (12.5.2021): [Here](#).

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: The Real "Million Dollar Quartet": [Here](#).

(4) Donna Suggs: Hallelujah · Helene Fischer, Rea Garvey (Official music video): [Here](#).

(5) Mark Jones: tick, tick... BOOM! | "Sunday" Official Song Clip | Netflix: [Here](#).

(6) Jonathan Berg: Paul Rudd Dancing to September is the best thing you'll see: [Here](#).

D. Here's a website that you might want to check out:

If you forget to go food shopping, check out My Food Fridge. All you need to do is type in whatever is in your fridge, and it will create a recipe just for you!

To do so, click: [Here](#).

Note: Don't forget ... if you come up with something good, feel free to deliver and/or ship it to yours truly.

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

F. 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](#).

After spending hundreds of hours researching and testing apps, services, and backup drives and interviewing information security experts, we learned the best ways to counter the threats most people face online every day. (And we fixed holes in our own setups, too.) Here's where everyone should start to protect themselves from security breaches and data loss.

There's no such thing as perfect online protection, but these precautions are enough to keep most people's digital lives safe most of the time.

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

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### 10. Joke 3

My teacher pointed a ruler at me and said: "At the end of this ruler, there's an idiot!" ... I got detention after asking which end.

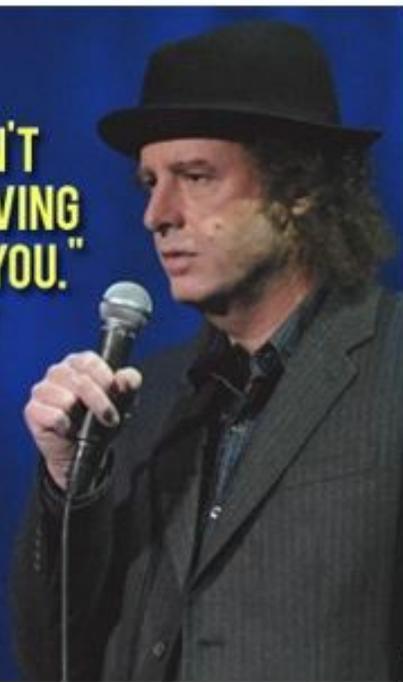


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### 11. A quote I like

Steven Wright (born 1955) is a stand-up comedian, actor, writer, and film producer. He is known for his distinctly lethargic voice and slow, deadpan delivery of ironic, philosophical and sometimes nonsensical jokes. For more of his humor, click: [Here](#).

**"IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T  
SUCCEED, THEN SKYDIVING  
DEFINITELY ISN'T FOR YOU."  
-STEVEN WRIGHT**



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## 12. Thought for the day

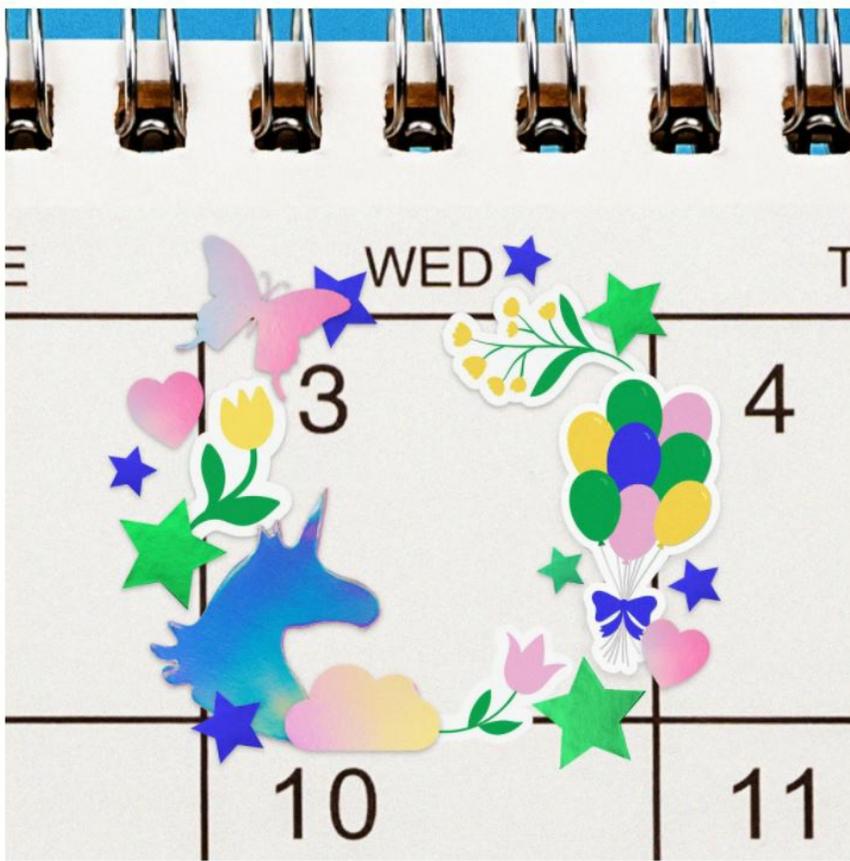
You Can Make Any Day the Best Day of the Year

by Lindsay Crouse

On New Year's Eves when I was in my late 20s, I would ask my friends to reflect on our best days of the year, the times when we had the most fun, felt the most grateful or were happiest.

Sometimes they were the days we expected. Parties, vacations, weddings. But more often, the real best days in hindsight weren't the obvious ones. They were marked by the ordinary: a long conversation with a friend when I realized I wasn't the only one who felt the way I did. That time we were going to miss the train so we sprinted to the point of near collapse — and made it. Staggering home with a Christmas tree so big, it barely fit through the door.

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



The New York Times; Photographs by Anna Eftova, Lexi Claus and Nora Carol Photography via Getty Images

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### 13. Advance planning department

For more information about the following events, please click: [Here](#).

A. NC Stage: Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol: A Play with Music. B. Happy Holidays from Love Bubble!  
C. WHITE HORSE LIVE: Blind Phoenix. D. rileyLive: Dec 8th with special guest Phil Powell!

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**PS.** Make it a great week!

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