

BLAINES WORLD

#1106
12.4.2017

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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: bjinbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Joined our friends, I-r, Ellane Chandler and Cappy Tosetti for a tasty dinner at Laughing Seed Cafe.





(2) From there, we went with Ellane to see our friend Barrie Barton (center) give a terrific talk at PechaKucha Night! From what we heard afterward, the unidentified picture taker also enjoyed it!

Note: I'm slated to speak to this group on Friday, Feb. 23. Stay tuned for details.



B. WPVM/FM invites you to listen to the BLAINESWORLD show from Wed., December 6, 2017. ...Guests (first half): Kimberly Childs, author of REMEMBER ME AS LOVING YOU, accompanied by reader Linda Rose Macfarlane; for more information: kimberly1948@gmail.comGuest (second half), Jeff Messer, writer, director, playwright and a whole bunch of other things—including being a monster at Trivial Pursuit; for more information: ... upstge@yahoo.com. ... Pictured, l-r: front row: Kimberly Childs and Linda Rose Mcfarlane; and back row: Blaine Greenfield and Jeff Messer.

To listen to the show, please click:

[Here](#)





C. The Bernsteins are back, and I was lucky to catch them in the opening night performance of THE 34TH ANNUAL BERNSTEIN FAMILY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR at The Magnetic Theatre. Cast mainstays Tracy Johnston-Crum, Glenn Reed (left photo), Erik Moellering and Darren Marshall (right photo) were joined by newcomer Sarah Felmet to provide a fun-filled evening of comedy, music and dancing. ... Kirby Gibson even made a surprise guest appearance all the way from Chicago. And Lucia Del Vecchio's direction was spot-on. ... The show runs through Dec. 22, but unfortunately, all the remaining performances are sold out.



D. PLEASE HELP DEPARTMENT (serious request) ... see a product below called Kratom. You familiar with it? You ever try it? You know anything about it? ... I've been told that it is good for managing chronic pain, but there might be side effects. Or that it can even become slightly addictive. ... Any and/or all help would be most appreciated. Please feel free to contact me at: bginbc@aol.com and put KRATOM in the subject line. ... Many thanks!



E. Condolences to:

(1) The family and friends of Nick Jordan on his passing. I'll best remember him for his service to Asheville SCORE (and for the fact that he was the guy who brought me into the organization). For his obituary, please click:

[Here](#)

(2) Sarah Fowler and family on the passing of Sarah's Uncle Edward.

F. Congratulations to:

(1) Steven Seidner on his new position as Sales Representative at DCN Hyundai in Monmouth Junction, NJ.

(2) George Pappas on having completed the Wood Badge Training program in the World Boy Scout movement and, also, for all the great work he has done training adult leaders to develop programs for the Daniel Boone Council in Asheville.

(3) Gild Calderwood on receiving the Mark Doucet Volunteer of the Year Award for excellence in volunteer service to people living with HIV/AIDS in Western North Carolina.

(4) Katherine Sandoval Taylor on her commercial for Ingles. To view it, please click: [Here](#)

(5) April Johnson for the beautiful photography she did for 2018 Brother Wolf Animal Rescue calendar. To read more about it, as well as to see some of the pictures and to find out how to order, please click: [Here](#)

(6) Sunny Cook and Lora Ristau--both winners of Contest #24--a copy of book by Doug Elliott, a naturalist, herbalist and storyteller. All told, there were 4 entries. And that reminds me that it's now time for:

***** CONTEST #25 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of REMEMBER ME AS LOVING YOU: A DAUGHTER'S MEMOIR by Kimberly Childs. To learn more about this engrossing book, listen to her on my radio show (see Section 1) or read my review (Section 4). ... To enter, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #25 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. 18.

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

This week's award goes to Cappy Tosetti--volunteer extraordinaire in the Asheville area.

To quote her, "Volunteering has always been a big part of my life." ... She is especially involved with the Haywood Street Congregation in such activities as the following: Greeter at the Wednesday and Sunday Welcome Table, Arts and crafts companion on Wednesday afternoons at Respite, Member of the Communications committee, Coordinator of the Garden Party, Coordinator of MAT (the group that makes mats that matter) and Decorator for holidays, and she helps cook for the monthly Respite Covenant meal.

In addition, at Jubilee, she helps with Room at the Inn, and she chairs the Homeless & Affordable Housing team. ... And (pictured), she is dressed as Miss Marple for a class she teaches at McCall Lifelong Learning: "Agatha Christie: The Woman Behind the Mysteries."

She also heads her own business, Happy with Cappy Pet House Sitting, that can be reached at .828.707.7203.

I'm both pleased and honored to call her my friend.



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2. FYI

Can't Get Started? Work for Five Minutes (& No More)
by Tanner Christensen

We tend to procrastinate at the start of a project either because of fear or uncertainty (or some combination of the two). In order to overcome the daunting or unclear start of any project, Andrea Bonior recommends we give ourselves a five-minutes rule for getting started. The catch is that you can't work for more than five minutes.

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

And for an actual five-minute online timer, please click:
[Here](#)



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

[Here](#)

(1) Janeen Ravkin: I hope you do not mind this e-mail, but I think you should know. (2) Andy Scarpati: LOVE THE TIME COVER! (3) John Murray: How do you play telephone charades? (4) You're Getting Better with Age. Your Makeup Should, Too. (5) The Power of Touch, Especially for Men. (6) The Future IsPurple.

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3. Joke 1

An old man, lying on his deathbed, hasn't uttered a word for days. At long last, his daughter hears him whisper very faintly, "kugel". ... She leans closer and asks, "Dad, what did you say?" ... Again, he whispers very faintly, "kugel." And then adds, "I smell kugel. Please see if you can get me a tiny taste of kugel." .. The daughter goes into the kitchen and returning a few moments later, tells her father, "Mom says the kugel is for the shiva." (Thanks, Brad Morris, for sharing.) ... Note: If not Jewish and/or you don't get the joke, here are two definitions for you: 1. kugel: a crusty baked pudding made of potatoes or noodles, pictured below; and 2. shiva: a period of seven days' formal mourning for the dead, beginning immediately after the funeral.

And thanks, Nancy Clark, for providing a recipe for Cherry Almond Kugel--something she makes. It sounds so delicious that I can almost taste it as I type this. To see the recipe, please go to Section 3 when you click:

[Here](#)



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4. Reviews

A. Saw OUR SOULS AT NIGHT, a new film out that's currently available via Netflix. It's the sweet story about a couple, Robert Redford and Jane Fonda, whose spouses had both died years ago. They had been neighbors, but had little contact; i.e., until she seeks to establish a connection. If you're looking for a feel-good film for the holidays, this would certainly be a good choice. Though rated NR, it would be appropriate for any mature teenager.

B. Thanks, Mike Martinelli, for this recommendation:

Lady Gaga wrote an amazing song that was for a documentary, which is on Netflix, called THE HUNTING GROUND. It is about sexual abuse in college dorms. I highly recommend that you Google the song, and if you have Netflix, watch the documentary. It will be an eye-opening experience.

Note: I took Mike's advice and saw the documentary. It was very powerful and should be seen. Afterward, I found the song and was moved by it. You will be, too, if you click:

[Here](#)

C. Read REMEMBER ME AS LOVING YOU: A DAUGHTER'S MEMOIR (She Writes Press) by Kimberly Childs. ... I must admit to having a bias about this book, in that Kimberly is a friend. Yet that said, I enjoyed it thoroughly. ... I was fascinated to learn about her amazing life, which had her move as a child between her glamorous, alcoholic mother's world of London and her grandparent's Kentucky farm that even had an outhouse. She then experienced being a hippie in the 1960s in San Francisco before becoming part of the group of a guru, Sri Chinmoy, for over 10 years. ... Eventually, she made her way to Asheville, NC, where she now resides, and where she has also lost her voice. Yet through it all, she has managed to maintain a positive outlook on life--in large part because of her regular practice of meditation.--How Kimberly has managed to both grow and heal herself show that this can be done, regardless of your circumstances.

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5. TV alert

A. ENCORE!: Sunday, Dec. 10, at 10 p.m. on ABC.

This tuneful special, produced by and featuring Kristen Bell, reunites the cast of a high-school musical production of Sondheim's Into the Woods and challenges them to perform it again 20 years later. One difference: They'll have Broadway directors, choreographers and vocal coaches to help them prepare for the spotlight.

B. NEWSPAPERMAN: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF BEN BRADLEE: Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m. on HBO (check HBO listings for other dates and times)

Home movies, photographs, archival footage and interviews provide insight on the life and career of the journalist. I've recently seen this documentary. It is excellent.

Note: After seeing it, my friend Arthur Mayhew shared the following excerpt from his upcoming memoirs:

Me and Ben Bradlee

Ben--we were not on a first-name level but he's dead now, so it doesn't matter--was the iconic editor of the Washington Post when its coverage of the Watergate scandal led to President Nixon's resignation in 1974.

I had taken a job at the American Press Institute in Reston, VA, in 1975. API was the premiere mid-career newspaper training organization, running around 20 one- and two-week seminars per year on a variety of newspaper departments (news, advertising, etc.)

For the rest of the above, please go to Section 5 when you click:

[Here](#)

C. THE FAKE NEWS WITH TED NELMS: Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 10 p.m. on Comedy Central

Ed Helms portrays Ted Nelms, a faux anchor, and he delivers ridiculous headlines with the utmost sincerity.

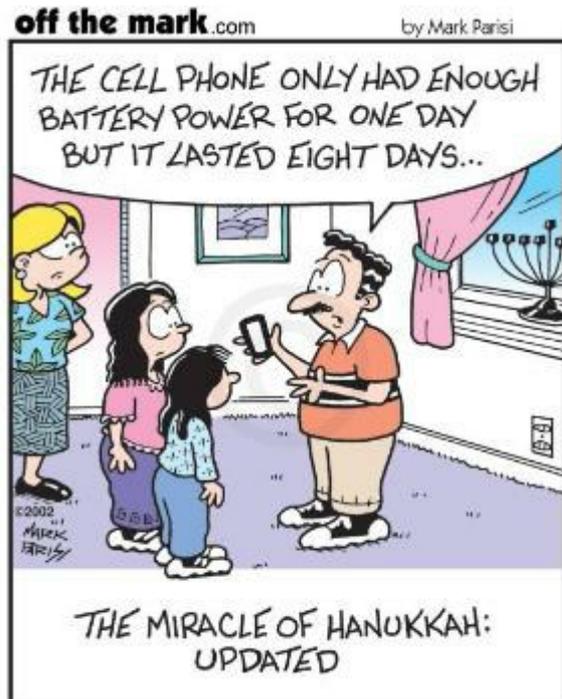
D. A CHRISTMAS STORY LIVE! Sunday, Dec. 17, on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. on Fox

If you have the holidays blues, shake them by spending some time with the dysfunctional Parker clan.

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6. Joke 2

If you're like me, and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way): HAPPY HANUKKAH! ... The holiday begins on Dec. 12 and runs through Dec. 20. And in the unlikely event you forgot, the number to remember is 39R, which is my jacket size. Gifts are always appreciated on this day and all other days throughout the year.. (Thanks, Gary James, for sharing.)



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7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Tina FireWolf: 'All I Want for Christmas' Carpool Karaoke

[Here](#)

(2) Jean Dolan: This is my favorite version of it [the above song]

[Here](#)

(3) Janeen Ravkin: Lost in the Fifties- Another Time, Another Place

[Here](#)

(4) Lions Circle Trapped Baby Elephant UNTIL Another Elephant Family Shows Up

[Here](#)

B. To find out more about American's national parks, check out More Than Just Parks:

[Here](#)

When you do, you'll be able to get a visually stunning journey through America's national parks.

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

Jensen Gelfond: The Top Personalized Start Pages for Your Web Browser by Daniel Nations

A personalized start page is a web page that you can customize to show certain RSS feeds, websites, bookmarks, apps, tools or other information. You can use it to kickstart your web browsing by automatically opening up a new window or tab to this page that's been designed by you and with your interests in mind.

There are lots of different options out there, each with its own unique set of features. Have a look through the list below to see which one might give you the customizable options that you're really looking for.

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

Mr. Curious here: I used to love iGoogle as my start page. It was, unfortunately, discontinued in 2013, and I have since used MyYahoo and not been all that impressed with it. The above article gives some alternatives. I'd be curious if you use any of them and/or something else. Please advise.

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9. Joke 3

Just what you need to start your day right! (Thanks, Sharon Lewis, for posting.)

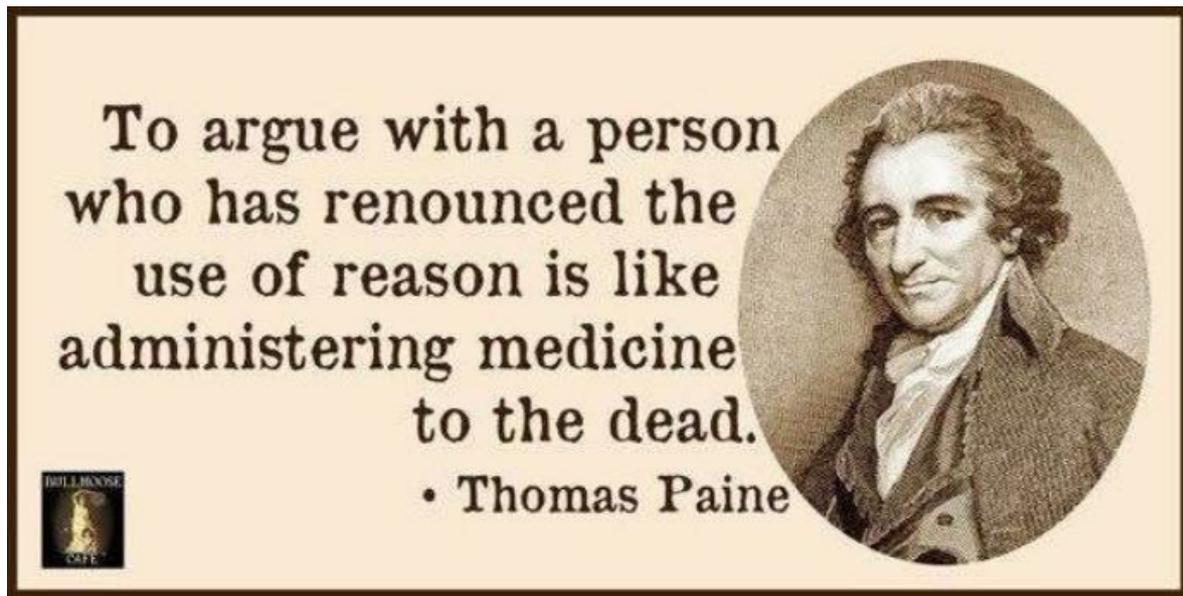


Eggs Benedict served on a hubcap
because there's no plate like chrome for the hollandaise

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10. A quote I like

Thomas Paine (1737-1809) was an English-born American political activist, philosopher, political theorist, and revolutionary. He was also one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. (Thanks, David Joe Miller, for sharing.)



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11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Lois Rosenthal, for sharing this:
God Bless the Parents Who Drugged Us!

The other day, someone at a store in our town read that a methamphetamine lab had been found in an old farmhouse in the adjoining county and he asked me a rhetorical question, "Why didn't we have a drug problem when you and I were growing up? "

I replied: I had a drug problem when I was young: I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals.

I was drug to family reunions and community socials no matter the weather. I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults.

I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the preacher, or if I didn't put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me.

I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profane four-letter word. I was drug out to pull weeds in mom's garden and flower beds and cockleburs out of dad's fields.

I was drug to the homes of family, friends, and neighbors to help out some poor soul who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothesline, or chop some firewood; and, if my mother had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, she would have drug me back to the woodshed.

Those drugs are still in my veins; and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say, and think.

They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin; and, if today's children had this kind of

drug problem, America would be a better place

Source: Author unknown. If you know who wrote this and/or where it came from, please let me know.



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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) Jeff Catanese: Montford Park Players present A CHRISTMAS CAROL. (2) THE TWELVE DATES OF CHRISTMAS at NC Stage.

B. PA/NJ event

Journey to the Land of the Sweets in Dance Connection's 'The Nutcracker' at MCCC's Kelsey Theatre.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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