

In this issue

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

1. Reflections

Also, 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 on 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: bgjnc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

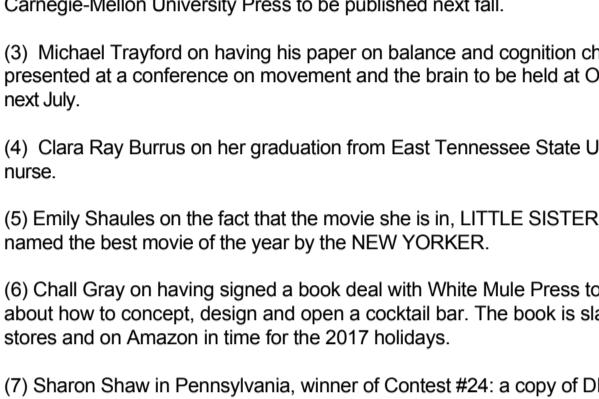
(1) Were joined by our friends Brian and Carole Biro for a trip to Hendersonville Community Theatre to see HEAVEN IN YOUR POCKET, a tuneful musical. The entire cast was outstanding. It included, l-r: Charles Burchill, Candice Owen, Delina Hensley, Andy Thompson and Kate Cluffio (to the right of me). And that's Cynthia on the far right.



(2) From there, we went with Brian and Carole for a delicious dinner at 131 Main. Paige, our server, was excellent.



B. During the week, I met with Bob Bond at my favorite coffee shop in the area: Artisan Cafe. Whatever you get to eat or drink there, it is always excellent. The staff is also very friendly. ... Bob, who does an excellent job as head of Asheville SCORE's marketing efforts, and I discussed marketing--and, at the same time, we solved most of the world's problems.



C. Condolences

- (1) Roseann Procopio and family on the passing of Roseann's sister Diane.
- (2) Jim Daubert and family on the passing of Jim's son Matthew.
- (3) Mandy Bean and family on the passing of Mandy's Aunt Marie.

C. Congratulations

- (1) Kirk Douglas who is about to celebrate his 100th birthday. Thanks, Roberta G. in PA, for sharing the following clip about the occasion: [Please click here to read](#)
- (2) Brian Sneeden on having his first book of poems, LITTLE CITY, chosen by Carnegie-Mellon University Press to be published next fall.
- (3) Michael Trayford on having his paper on balance and cognition chosen to be presented at a conference on movement and the brain to be held at Oxford University next July.
- (4) Clara Ray Burrus on her graduation from East Tennessee State University as a nurse.
- (5) Emily Shaules on the fact that the movie she is in, LITTLE SISTERS, was just named the best movie of the year by the NEW YORKER.
- (6) Chall Gray on having signed a book deal with White Mule Press to write a book about how to concept, design and open a cocktail bar. The book is slated to be in stores and on Amazon in time for the 2017 holidays.
- (7) Sharon Shaw in Pennsylvania, winner of Contest #24: a copy of DECLUTTER YOUR MIND: HOW TO STOP WORRYING, RELIEVE ANXIETY AND ELIMINATE NEGATIVE THINKING by S.J. Scott and Barrie Davenport. All told, there 13 entries. And that reminds me it's now time for ...

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

Eight lucky readers will win a gently used book on CD that I've reviewed in a previous issue of this blog. You'll be given a choice of what book you want, and I'll fill your request based on the order in which it was received. ... Books on CD are great to listen to while driving, exercising, etc. You can also transfer them to your iPod, iPhone or iPad if you prefer listening to them that way. (The only thing you can't do is transfer them to your iRon!). ... To enter the contest: Send an email to: bgjnc@aol.com and put CONTEST #25 in the subject line. In the body of the email, please include your snail mail address. All entries must be received on or before Monday, Dec. 19, at 9 p.m.

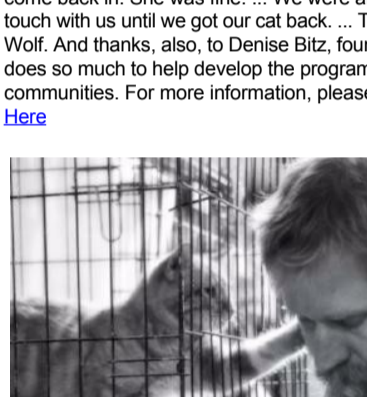
D. The Asheville Jewish Business Forum has reduced-rate tickets to a special performance of SNOWBOUND, the show that is now delighting audiences at Asheville Community Theatre. I'm really looking forward to it because one of my Billmore Lake neighbors, Reed Altherton, is in it. He is pictured (below in the center after a recent show) with his Grammy and Daddy-T, Becky and Tony Stansbury.

The date for this special performance is Thursday, Dec. 15; time: 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are just \$18 for adults and \$12 for children. If interested, send an email to: bgjnc@aol.com or give me a call at 828.633.1049.

******* SPECIAL CONTEST FOR SNOWBOUND TICKETS *******

Three lucky readers will each win a pair of tickets for this December 15th performance. Winners will be chosen on a first-come, first-served basis, so get your entries in now. ... To enter the contest: Send an email to: bgjnc@aol.com and put SNOWBOUND CONTEST in the subject line. In the body of the email, please include your name and phone number.



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

This week, it goes to Eric Phelps--field operations manager for Brother Wolf Animal Rescue. ... The other day, our indoor cat Lovey somehow got outside for the first time in her life with us. She eventually wound up way under our deck, but no matter how hard we tried, we couldn't coax her to come back in. ... We got in touch with Eric, and within the hour, he was at our place because he was concerned that Lovey shouldn't spend the evening outside in what was the coldest night of the year. He crawled way under the deck in an attempt to get her out. When that didn't work, he left us a trap and showed us how to use it. ... Fortunately, Lovey came out a few hours (avoiding the trap) and decided to run around the neighborhood for a few hours before deciding to come back in. She was fine. ... We were also impressed with the fact that Eric kept in touch with us until we got our cat back. ... Thanks, Eric, for all that you do for Brother Wolf. And thanks, also, to Denise Bitz, founder and president of this organization that does so much to help develop the programs and resources necessary to build No-Kill communities. For more information, please click: [Here](#)



[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE: The federal minimum wage (\$7.25) hasn't been raised since 2009, yet the cost of living has increased by nearly 12 percent. ... What's even worse: The federal minimum wages for tipped workers (\$2.13) hasn't been raised since 1991. ... So regardless of how you feel about this subject, please be generous when you tip your server the next time you go out to eat!



FYI, part 2

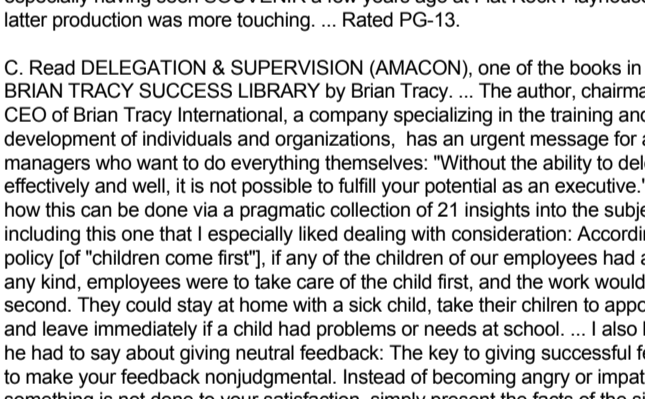
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:

- [Here](#)
- (1) Ruth P. in NC: You've got some pretty funny stuff in here this morning.
- (2) Elanne C. in NC: Thanks so much for the article on talking with a cancer patient.
- (3) Judy C. in PA: If you like sci fi movies, Dr Strange was really good.
- (4) Mike M. in NC: MOONLIGHT ***.
- (5) Can you get too much protein? (6) Cold hands may signal Raynaud's Phenomenon.
- (7) Suzanne R. in FL: For sale: Beautiful two bedroom two bathroom condo in East Asheville.
- (8) Steve R. in NY: Happy Turkey Day to you as well and thank you for the good news.

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

HELP REQUEST DEPARTMENT ... Can I please ask people who are planning to put Christmas lights in their yards to avoid anything red, blue or flashing? Every time I drive past, I think it's the cops and have a panic attack. I have to remove my foot from the accelerator, slam on the brakes, put my seat belt on, throw my phone on the floor, hide my bottle of wine, swallow my joint and hide the gun. It's a major drama. I really appreciate your cooperation and understanding. ... Hugs, Blaine



[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. Saw BLED FOR THIS, the true story of Vinny "The Pazmanian Devil" Pazienza who won two boxing world titles before a near-fatal car accident left him with a broken neck. Though told he may never walk again, he works with his trainer to return to the ring for a miraculous comeback. ... Miles Teller is quite good in the leading role and Aaron Eckhart, virtually unrecognizable, also scores as his trainer. ... But overall, the film was flat, and I was disappointed that there weren't more fight scenes. Rated R.

B. FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS is now out on DVD ... my review from BLAINESWORLD #1037 follows:
Saw FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS, a biopic about a wealthy New York heiress who attempts to become an opera singer despite having a terrible singing voice. Meryl Streep, as usual, was great in the leading role, and I also liked Hugh Grant's work. But it was Simon Helberg (of BIG BANG THEORY fame) who made me laugh the most. His reactions to Streep's singing were the best thing in the film. ... Overall, I liked this story about Jenkins' life, but wasn't as moved by it as I thought would be the case--especially having seen SOUVENIR a few years ago at Flat Rock Playhouse. This latter production was more touching. ... Rated PG-13.

C. Read DELEGATION & SUPERVISION (AMACON), one of the books in THE BRIAN TRACY SUCCESS LIBRARY by Brian Tracy. ... The author, chairman and CEO of Brian Tracy International, a company specializing in the training and development of individuals and organizations, has an urgent message for all managers who want to do everything themselves: "Without the ability to delegate effectively and well, it is not possible to fulfill your potential as an executive." He shows how this can be done via a pragmatic collection of 21 insights into the subject, including this one that I especially liked dealing with considerations: According to this policy [of "children come first"], if any of the children of our employees had a need of any kind, employees were to take care of the child first, and the work would come second. They could stay at home with a sick child, take their children to appointments, and leave immediately if a child had problems or needs at school. ... I also liked what he had to say about giving neutral feedback: The key to giving successful feedback is to make your feedback nonjudgmental, instead of becoming angry or impatient when something is not done to your satisfaction, simply present the facts of the situation as objective information on performance. Don't imply a mistake or say anything that causes a person to feel defensive. ... Though this would be a fine book for any manager's collection, new ones could benefit most from it.

D. Heard CHASE: A BOOKSHOT: A MICHAEL BENNETT STORY (Hachette Audio), written by James Patterson with Michael Ledwidge and read by Danny Mastrogigorio. It's a fast-moving story about a man who plunges to his death from the roof of a Manhattan hotel. Though it initially looks like a suicide, that's not the case when it is discovered that the victim has someone else's fingerprints and \$10,000 in cash. ... The book starts with a book, and there's a lot of action along the way. ... My only regret: This wasn't a full-sized novel. I've enjoyed learning about Detective Bennett and his personal life in other books by the authors. In CHASE, there really much room to cover more than the basic plot.

[Back to Top](#)

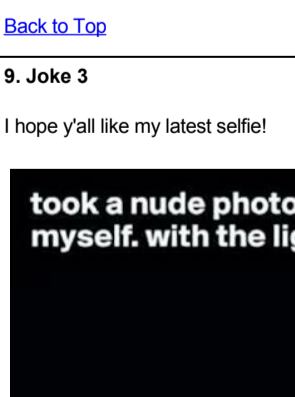
5. TV alert

- A. WHIPLASH: Monday, Dec. 12, at 2:30 a.m. on SUNDANCE
J.K. Simmons is outstanding in this film as the calculating mentor of a brilliant but troubled jazz drama (Miles Teller).
- B. STAR: Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 8 p.m. on FOX
Queen Latifah stars in this series about a female hip-hop group trying to make it big in modern-day Atlanta. Lenny Kravitz and Benjamin Bratt also have key roles. ... Note: After the above series preview, the show returns with new episodes on January 4.
- C. MADONNA: REBEL HEART TOUR: Thursday, Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. on SHOWTIME
Footage of the artist performing around the world.
- D. AMERICA'S GOT TALENT: Monday, Dec. 19, at 8 p.m. on NBC
Nick Cannon hosts as the judges and former contestants come together to celebrate the holidays.

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

After a meeting several days ago, I couldn't find my keys. They weren't in my pockets. Suddenly, I realized I must have left them in the car. ... I immediately called the police and gave them my location. I also confessed that I had left my keys in the car and said that it had been stolen. ... Then I made the most difficult call of all to my husband to tell him: "I left my keys in the car, and it's been stolen." ... "Are you kidding me?" he barked, "I dropped you off!" ... Embarrassed, I said, "Well, come and get me." ... He retorted, "I will, as soon as I convince this police that I didn't steal your car!"



[Back to Top](#)

7. Clips/Websites

- A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

To catch an amazing performance from The Artist Chuck Beattie (aka "Dr. Blues") at the Billmore Lake Clubhouse in Billmore Lake, NC, on 10.28.15, superbly accompanied by Marcel Anton, please click any and/or all of the following links:
[Killing Floor](#)
[Help Me](#)
[Rockit and Tumblin'](#)
[Supstitious](#)
[Grinning In Your Face](#)
[Mojo](#)
[Walking the Dog](#)
- B. Here's a free online spell check for English, French, Spanish, Italian and German. It also features a medical dictionary, word counter and character counter, as well as post to Twitter and printing options. Perfect for homework, blogs, email and more. To access, please click: [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](#)

[Back to Top](#)

8. Technology tip

Do you use certain documents repeatedly like I do in Word? If so, consider pinning them, so that they always appear at the top of Recent Documents. This will save you much time. ... To do this: 1. Open to find your Recent Documents. 2. Hover the mouse over the document you want to pin. A pushpin icon will appear to the right of the document. Click it. 3. The document will stay in Recent Documents. ... To unpin a document, click the pushpin icon again. ... Note: This also works in Office, Excel, PowerPoint and Access.

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

I hope y'all like my latest selfie!



[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

John Glenn (1921-2016), R.I.P. He was an aviator, engineer, astronaut and United States Senator from Ohio who was the first American to orbit the Earth, circling three times in 1962. To read his obituary, please click: [Here](#)

[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

Works for Chanukah and Kwanzaa, too!

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following NC events in full, please click:

- [Here](#)
- (1) Vic A. in NC: Bernstein Christmas Show at Magnetic Theatre.
- (2) Opening Amanda's Closed Door.
- (3) Bradshaw Call returns in SANTALAND DIARIES.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

[Back to Top](#)