

#1264

12/7/2020

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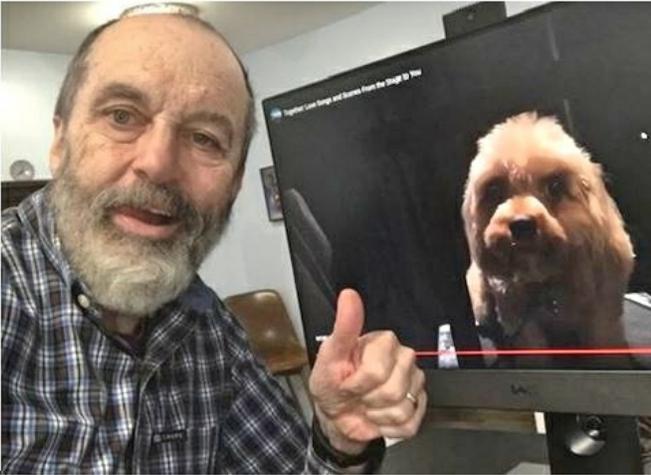
### 1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I continued to hunker down in Week 38 of the corona pandemic. Fortunately, that didn't prevent us from getting some delicious ice cream from The Hop. It never fails to put a smile on our faces.



B. I had the good fortune of seeing two virtual shows this past week:

(1) Thanks, HART, for LOVE WILL KEEP US TOGETHER—a delightful one-act cabaret. Kudos to all the performers: Dominic Aquilino, Clara Ray Burrus, Lyn Donley, Mark Jones and Tabitha Judy (top photo); Cedric (bottom photo), Robin Cloninger and Julie Kinter, as well as to Mark for both his spot on direction and video editing. .... And I'd be remiss if I didn't recognize both Nichole Sumpter and Candice Dickinson for the excellent cinematography. .... You can still purchase tickets to TOGETHER by visiting [Here](#) and clicking Watch Now. ....PS. Make sure you stay around for the bloopers at the end.



(2) Loved Immediate Theatre Project's Zoom production of IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE 2020, adapted by Willie Reoley and directed by Hans Meyer. ... Outstanding performances from Maria Buchanan, Lauren Kriel, Tony Larkin and Willie made it feel like I was actually at NC Stage, enjoying the show. ... You're in luck, in that you can still purchase tickets through December 20. To do so, please click: [Here](#).



C. You can catch this week's BLAINESWORLD radio/Facebook Live show by clicking: [Here](#). ... Guests: Maria Buchanan, actor and owner/maker, The Sudsery Soap Studio; and (second half) Willie Repoley, artistic director, Immediate Theatre Project.



#### D. Reminders:

(1) There's still time to enter:

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

Two lucky readers will each win a copy of my friend Michael J. Gelb's latest book: **MASTERING THE ART OF PUBLIC SPEAKING: 8 SECRETS TO TRANSFORM FEAR AND SUPERCHARGE YOUR CAREER**. ... I'm presently reading it and loving it. ... To quote Mark Victor Hansen, cocreator of the **CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL** series, "My brilliant friend Michael J. Gelb has compressed the wisdom of our profession into a book that will help you get wherever you want to go, faster, easier, and smarter."

To enter, send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put **CONTEST #24** in the subject line. In the body of your email, include both your name and mailing address. All entries must be received on or before Monday, Dec. 14.

(2) Join Cynthia in either of the two virtual courses she teaches for **Arms Around ASD: Meditation on Mondays** and **Move Your Body on Wednesdays**. To attend these and/or any of the others (that are open to the public), scroll down to Calendar when you click: [Here](#).

E. Congratulations to Kay Wise-Denty, this week's:

#### **BLAINESWORLD BEST WARD WINNER**

I recently saw her mention on Facebook that she baked a tasty pear cake and so, kidding around, I asked if she delivered it. Shortly thereafter, I was pleasantly surprised when she showed up at our home with a big enough slap of this cake for Cynthia and me to eat over several days. (True confessions: It only lasted one day.)

I've had the pleasure of seeing Kay in plays at The Magnetic Theatre where she also hosts the **Playreading Club**.

And in her "spare" time, she is a massage therapist and runs an Airbnb. She can be reached at [kay.healthwise@gmail.com](mailto:kay.healthwise@gmail.com) or via her cell: 361.463.1471.



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## 2. FYI

See below. This woman also isn't dead, nor is she a "crisis actress" as thousands of folks are claiming on social media. What she is: A classic example of how online information runs rampant: [Here](#). ... For more information on what's being spread, please read: (1) [Here](#); and (2) [Here](#).

**Margaret Keenan, a 90year-old grandmother from the United Kingdom who became the first person to get the COVID-19 vaccine, is NOT part of a Bill Gates scheme to implant microchips.**



## FYI, part 2

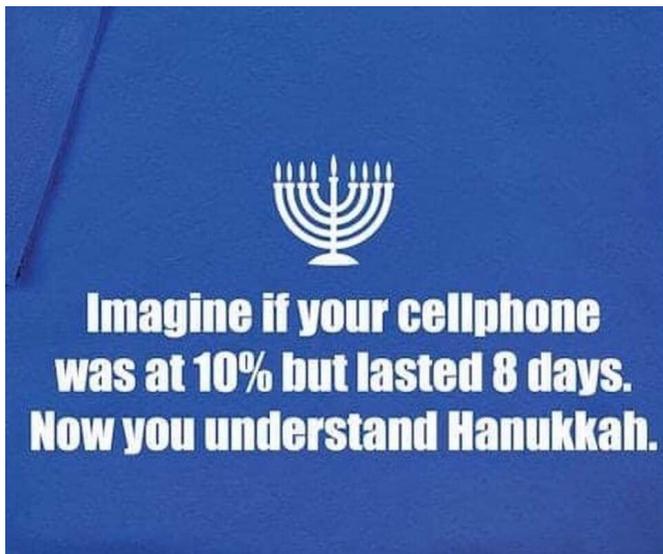
For more information about the the following items, please click: [Here](#).

A. Lara Hollaway: Looking for a delicious last minute holiday gift? B. Garrett Artz: The TEDx talk you recommended was amazing! C. Billie Radosin: This was one of my favorite blogs. D. Eileen Barker: Once again I really enjoy your stories and your jokes. E. Bruce Rubin: Please just a reminder to all at this time. F. No, I Am Not Getting Rid of My Thousands of CDs. G. How Foods May Affect Our Sleep.

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## 3. Joke 1

The things you learn online. ... And if you're like me and celebrate all holidays because there's more food, fun and friendship that way, join me in making it a HAPPY HANUKKAH!



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#### 4. Reviews

A. Enjoyed SOMEWHERE on HBO, a drama about a bad-boy actor who receives a visit from his younger daughter. Stephen Dorff and Ellie Fanning are both outstanding in the leading roles. Rated R.

B. I got a kick out of MR. BELVEDERE GOES TO COLLEGE on TCM, a comedy about the world's greatest genius who finds out that he is ineligible for an honorary award because he never attended college. So he enrolls as a freshman in a major university, becoming the target for "hazing" from an obnoxious upper class-man. Clifton Webb is appropriately stuffy as Belvedere, and Alan Young and Shirley Temple were also quite good. Not rated, but I'd call it PG.

C. Robin Schoen: Some film recommendations for you:

If you enjoyed POINT BREAK, you may appreciate: THE TOWN, directed by and starring Ben Affleck. Also: BLOW THE MAN DOWN and RUMBLE; THE INDIANS WHO ROCKED THE WORLD. And I watched THE TRIAL OF THE CHICAGO 7 ... well done and terrifying.

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#### 5. TV alert

A. Mike Martinelli: I have to say THE PROM on Netflix is absolutely brilliant. Everything you could ever ask for in a musical is in this Adaptation. of the Broadway musical. There is nothing you can say negative about this movie. Brilliant set costumes , choreography and direction. By far, my favorite movie of the year. By far, my favorite movie of the year. Atlas Moonkitty, you outdid yourself, sweet friend. You must have had a blast making this. What an amazing cast: Meryl Streep, Nicole Kidman, James Corden and so many more.

B. MAKE WAY FOR TOMORROW: Sunday, Dec. 13, at 10 p.m. on TCM

Retired married couple Barkley (Victor Moore) and Lucy (Beulah Bondi) struggle through the Great Depression, losing their home to foreclosure. ... This is one of my all-time favorites movies. If you'd like to get a copy of this list, send an email to: bginbc@ao.com and put the word FAVORITES in the subject line.

C. A SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL: Wednesday, Dec. 16, at 9 p.m. on NBC  
A compilation of sketches from Christmas Episodes Past.

D. GARTH & TRISHA LIVE! A HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS EVENT: Sunday, Dec. 20, at 8:30 p.m. on CBS  
Country greats Garth Brooks and Trish Yearwood take requests in this one-hour special.

E. Correction: Correction: Thanks, Walter Weeks, for this question about last week's issue: Where is the Laurel and Hardy show?

Answer: TCM, my favorite channel, will be featuring Laurel and Hardy shorts and movies on Mondays during the entire month of December. For more information, please click: [Here](#).

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## 6. Joke 2

Now you know! (Thanks, Carol Duermit, for sharing.)

**These are 5G coils. They are driving around with them now to infect us all. And if you are wearing a mask, the 5Gs get trapped and you will turn into an Antifa. Wake up people. The media won't tell you about this because Bill Gates made a deal with George Soros using Hillary's email. Think about it. Why else would Obama wear a tan suit?**



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## 7. 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 clip from David Troy Francis (pictured below): [Here](#)

For more information about it:

Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I will soon be celebrating our 17th anniversary (of our first date). .... For that occasion, I had my friend, the incomparable David Troy Francis, make the piano-gram that can be seen below. ... Click to see his rendition of "Happy Together," arguably the greatest rock song of all time. ... If you'd like him to create a unique piano-gram for you for the holidays, a birthday or any other special event, please click: [Here](#). ... You won't be disappointed!



B. Video of the week

Beware of the Doghouse: [Here](#).

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

(1) Roy Clark, "Yesterday," one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#)

Correction: Correction: Thanks, Steve Byas, for pointing out "The Best" was not from Gloria Gaynor, but from Tina Turner. Here's the clip in case you missed it last seek: [Here](#).

(2) "Ice Cream"-Judy Kuhn: [Here](#).

(3) Kirsten Fuchs: Singing Telegrams with Neil Patrick Harris and James Corden (my favorite part is at the 7:42 mark): [Here](#).

(4) The Damnells - I Will Keep The Bad Things From You: [Here](#).

(5) Jonathan Berg: Toby Keith - As Good As I Once Was (Official Music Video): [Here](#).

(6) Howard Smith: December 13, 2020 concert: [Here](#).

D. Here's a website that you will want to check out: The Oatmeal: [Here](#).

Created by Matthew Inman, aka "The Oatmeal," his popular humor website caters to the avid comic lover and quiz taker. Lots of wacky stuff here, but be forewarned that some of it might be considered risqué by some.

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](#).

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## 8. Technology tip

Want to convert a YouTube video to an mp4 file; e.g., to post on Facebook? ... If so, use FLVTO by clicking: [Here](#).

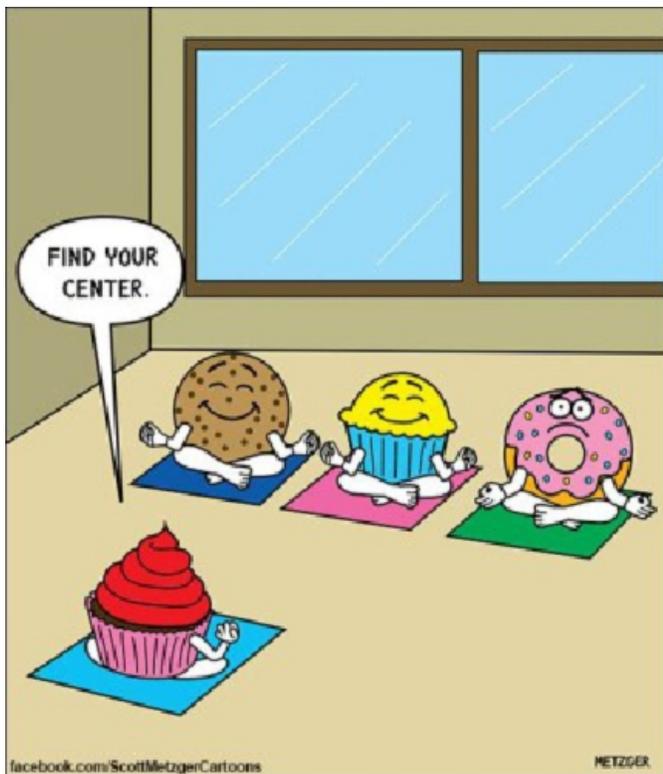
Note: When you do, you're asked to use download an installer. I clicked around and was eventually able to bypass that option.

For a review of this utility and others that do the same thing, please click: [Here](#).

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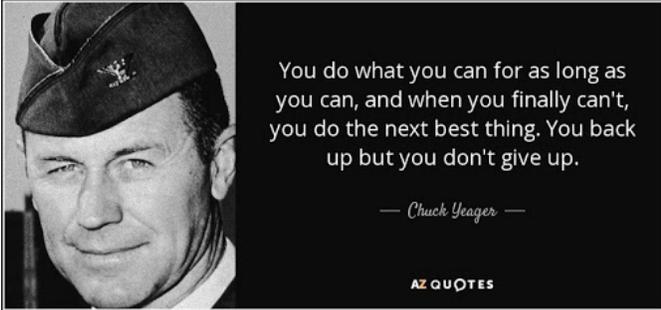
## 9. Joke 3

He's just too holey to do that!



## 10. Two quotes I like

A. Thanks, Chuck Yeager (1923-2020), for your service as a United States Air Force offer. I'll best remember you for your excellent memoir, YAEGER, in which you described how you became the first pilot in history to exceed the speed of sound in level flight. ... For more information about his life, see THE RIGHT STUFF--the movie based on Tom Wolfe's book with the same title. Or please click: [Here](#),



B. Thanks, Dick Allen (1942-2020), for your 15-year baseball career with the Philadelphia Phillies, Chicago White Sox and three other teams. ... I always thought you should have been named to the Hall of Fame. Hopefully, that will be the case in 2021. ... For more information about his life, please click: [Here](#).

"You gotta be careful with your body. Your body is like a bar of soap. The more you use it, the more it wears down."--Dick Allen



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## 11. Thought for the day

An old man lived in the village. He was one of the most unfortunate people in the world. The whole village was tired of him; he was always gloomy, he constantly complained and was always in a bad mood.

The longer he lived, the more bile he was becoming and the more poisonous were his words. People avoided him, because his misfortune became contagious. It was even unnatural and insulting to be happy next to him.

He created the feeling of unhappiness in others.

But one day, when he turned eighty years old, an incredible thing happened. Instantly everyone started hearing the rumor: "An Old Man is happy today, he doesn't complain about anything, smiles, and even his face is freshened up."

The whole village gathered together. The old man was asked: "Villager, what happened to you?"

“Nothing special. Eighty years I’ve been chasing happiness, and it was useless. And then I decided to live without happiness and just enjoy life. That’s why I’m happy now.”

Moral of the story: Don’t chase happiness. Enjoy your life.

Source: [Here](#).

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## **12. Advance planning department**

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

A. John Adams: A CHRISTMAS CAROL. B. Katie Jones: A VERY COVID CHSTIMAS.

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

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