

#1212
12.9.2019

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

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

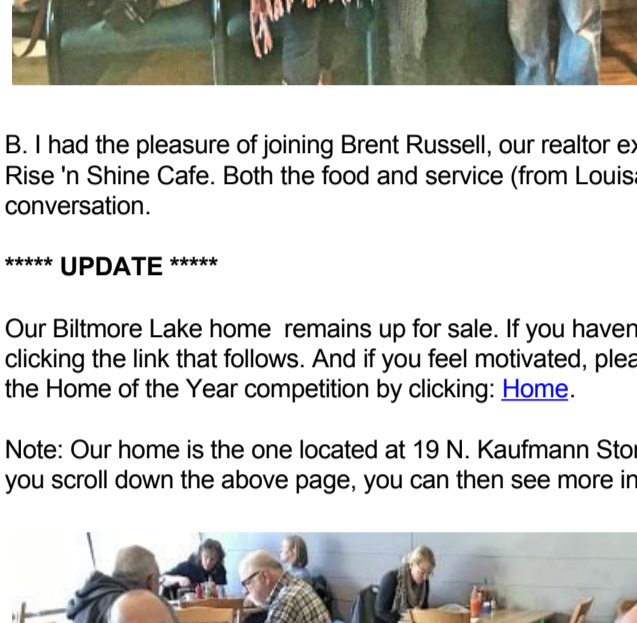
(1) Saw a Christmas program we'll never forget: CHRISTMAS BELLES at Brevard Little Theatre. It runs through Dec. 15. ... This hilarious show will have you laughing from beginning to end, in large part because of the performances from all those in the talented cast: Cheryl Waikup, CC Blackburn, Matilyn Hull, Fred Justice, Willow Walker, Tate Albert, Victoria Lamberth, Sally Burnett, Andy Thompson, Mark Thompson and Joan Rinchisen. In addition, it should be noted that Beth Norris' direction was spot on. ... For ticket information, please click: [Here](#). #audiencereview



(2) From there, we went to Mills River Restaurant and liked our tasty dinners, as well as the friendly service we received from Kaisha Gash. We also enjoyed speaking with Nick, the owner.



(3) Were impressed by the fine job done by our friend Marcy Gallagher (left) in leading a recent service of the Jewish Secular Community of Asheville. Also pictures: Tom Gallagher (second from left) and Walecia Dobroski (second from right).



(4) Were joined by our friend Ellane Chandler at an excellent production of HANDLE WITH CARE, a Jewish Christmas story at NC Stage in a run that has been extended until Dec. 29. This sweet, romantic comedy, written by Jason Odell Williams with Hebrew written by Charlotte Cohn, will both make you laugh and touch you. ... Barbara Bloomberg, Aaron Brakefield and Ben Mackel are all excellent in their roles, but it is the performance of Anna Slate that will knock your socks off. She basically learned Hebrew in two weeks for the show. And Patricia Snoyer Black's direction was spot on. ... For tickets, please click: [Here](#). #audiencereview



B. I had the pleasure of joining Brent Russell, our reator extraordinaire, for lunch at Rise 'n Shine Cafe. Both the food and service (from Louisa) were terrific, as was the conversation.

***** UPDATE *****

Our Biltmore Lake home remains up for sale. If you haven't yet seen it, take a look by clicking the link that follows. And if you feel motivated, please feel free to vote for it in the Home of the Year competition by clicking: [Home](#).

Note: Our home is the one located at 19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way in Biltmore Lake. If you scroll down the above page, you can then see more information about it.

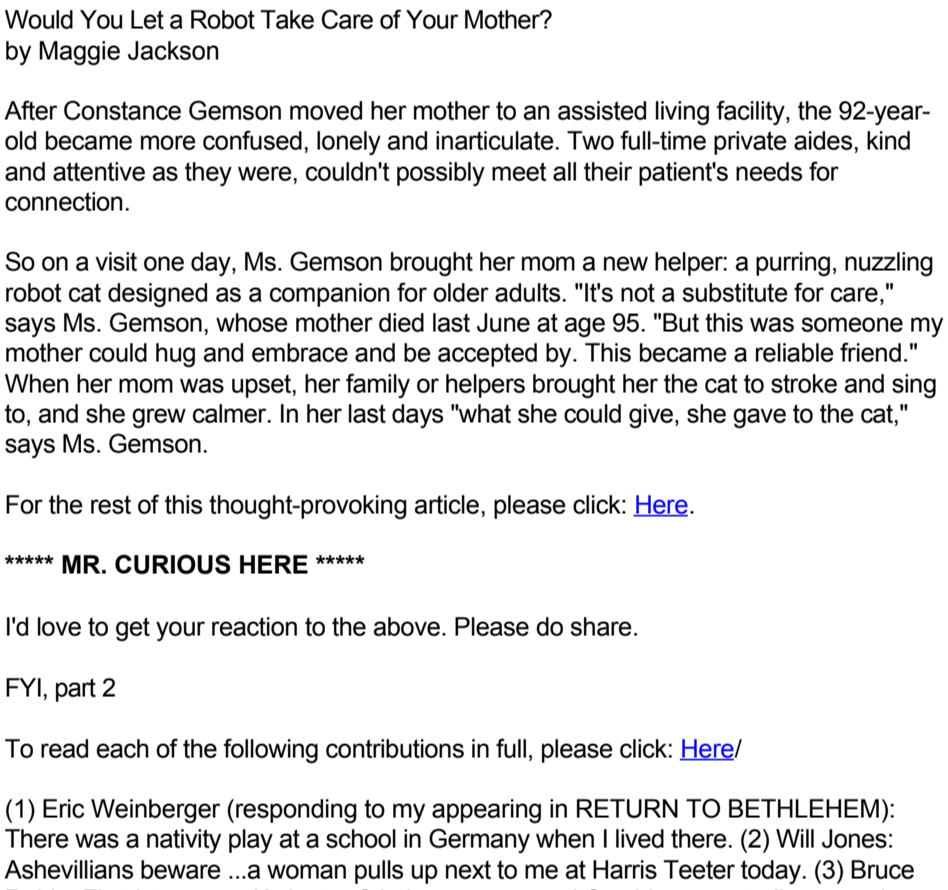


C. I also had the pleasure of joining Comelia Powell (top left) and Davyne Dial (behind Comelia) at a recent Holiday Party at 34 Wall Street, the building that houses the WPVM radio station.



D. It was a busy week for me at the station, in that I hosted three separate shows. ... (Top photo) Guests were Randy Robins, Jason Scholder and Eric Finch. To view that one, please click: [Here](#). ... (Bottom left photo) Guests were Nina Hart and Rhoda Weaver. To view that one, please click: [Here](#). ... (Bottom right photo) Heather Nicole Bronson, Karen Covington-Yow, Frank Davis, Kai Elijah Hamilton, Tasha Pepl, Miles Rice, Mike Yow, Miriam Hughes and not pictured, Spike Manton, at the Center for Art and Education. To view that one, please click: [Here](#).

Note: Special thanks to Grail Moviehouse for sponsoring the above. To find out what's currently playing, please click: [Here](#).



E. Congratulations to:

(1) Edie Weinstein on being featured in an article in THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER. To read it, please click: [Here](#).

(2) Janice Hart, winner of Contest #25: a copy of the LONGEVITY PROJECT: SURPRISING DISCOVERIES FOR HEALTH AND LONG LIFE FROM THE LANDMARK EIGHT-DECADE STUDY by Howard S. Friedman and Leslie R. Martin. ... All told, there were nine entries. And that reminds me it is now time to announce:

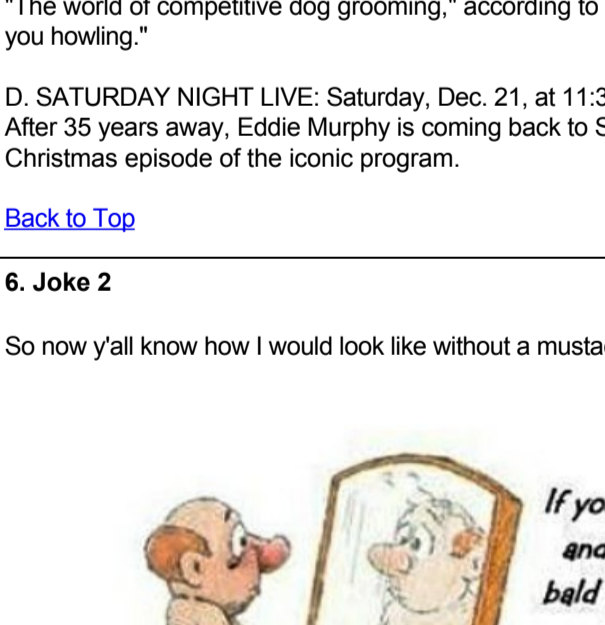
***** CONTEST #26 *****

One lucky reader will win an attractive 2020 calendar from Germany--compliments of my German friend Michael Glaesser. To enter the contest, send an email bjnbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #26 in the subject line, then include your name and mailing address in the body of the email. ... All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 23.

F. Please visit me at Kilwin's Chocolates, Fudge & Ice Cream, 26 Battery Park, Asheville, this coming Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 18 and 19, and/or next Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 23 and 24--all dates from 1-4 p.m. I'll be the honorary fudge guy, giving out samples of this heavenly treat that will make your mouth water!

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

This week, it goes to Stephen Nesbitt (pictured on the left) and his excellent company: Spring Mountain Lawn and Landscaping. ... We have used this firm ever since we moved into our fairview home in September and have been very impressed with the fact that our yard is looking better than ever. ... Stephen is both friendly and knowledgeable. He is ably assisted by his father (pictured on the right) and brother. ... He can be reached at this number: 828.702.8921.



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2. FYI

Would You Let a Robot Take Care of Your Mother?
by Maggie Jackson

After becoming Gemson moved her mother to an assisted living facility, the 92-year-old became more confused, lonely and inarticulate. Two full-time private aides, kind and attentive as they were, couldn't possibly meet all their patient's needs for connection.

So on a visit one day, Ms. Gemson brought her mom a new helper: a purring, nuzzling robot cat designed as a companion for older adults. "It's not a substitute for care," says Ms. Gemson, whose mother died last June at age 95. "But this was someone my mother could hug and embrace and be accepted by. This became a reliable friend." When her mom was upset, her family or helpers brought her the cat to stroke and sing to, and she grew calmer. In her last days "what she could give, she gave to the cat," says Ms. Gemson.

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

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

I'd love to get your reaction to the above. Please do share.

FYI, part 2

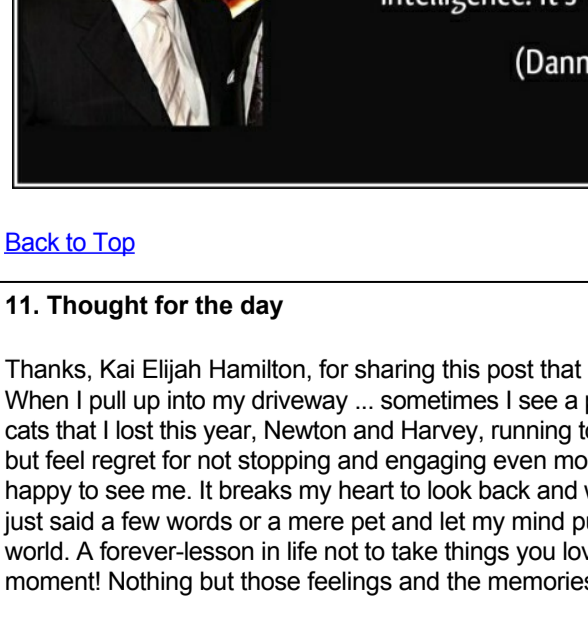
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: [Here/](#)

(1) Eric Weinberger (responding to my appearing in RETURN TO BETHLEHEM): There was a nativity play at a school in Germany when I lived there. (2) Wil Jones: Ashevilleans beware... a woman pulls up next to me at Harris Teeter today. (3) Bruce Rubin: First let me say it's just unfair the way you and Cynthia can eat all over and never gain. (4) Katy Dowdalls: I especially like the Advent Calendar of Kindness. (5) Janet Hart: Loved the pictures of you in Return to Bethlehem.

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3. Joke 1

Give your child what he or she wants ... "Frozen" stuff for the holidays!



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4. Reviews

Netflix is coming up with some amazing movies. The following two, in particular, should be seen if you get the service. Or if you don't, invite yourself to a friend's home who gets it.

A. MARRIAGE STORY is probably my favorite film of this past year. It is the story of a stage director and his actor wife who struggle through a grueling coast-to-coast divorce. The dialogue is particularly outstanding. ... Adam Driver and Scarlett Johansson are superb in the leading roles, as are Laura Dern, Alan Alda and Ray Liotta in supporting performances. Rated R.

Note: This has been added to my list of favorite films. If you'd like to get a copy of that list, send an email to: bjnbc@aol.com and put FILMS in the subject line.

B. THE IRISHMAN is a biographical crime thriller that follows Frank Sheeran as he recalls his past years working for the Bufalino crime family and his possible involvement with this good friend Jimmy Hoffa's disappearance. Robert De Niro and Al Pacino both shine as Sheeran and Pacino, respectively, and I hope Pacino gets an Academy Award nomination for his work. It was also great to see Joe Pesci back on screen. Rated R.

Note: In thinking some more about the above, I got a kick out of this tweet from @jethrojamon: Marriage Story (2h 17m) is actually longer than The Irishman (3h 30m) because then you have to try (21m) then think about your past relationships (31m) then cry again (15m) then lie in bed contemplating (1hr) wow Netflix is really pushing the boundaries of cinema.

C. I thought you might enjoy this article: The 50 Best Movies on Netflix Right Now. To view it, please click: [Here](#).

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5. TV alert

A. UNDERGROUND: Available now via Netflix
Ryan Reynolds stars as a mysterious billionaire who brings together a team of vigilantes to take down a brutal dictator.

B. KENNEDY CENTER HONORS: Sunday, Dec. 15, at 9 p.m. on CBS
Honorees include SESAME STREET, Linda Ronstadt, Sally Field, Earth, Wind & Fire, and conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, each saluted by celebrity presenters and performers.

C. WELL GROOMED: Documentary premiere on Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 9 p.m. on HBO
"The world of competitive dog grooming," according to TV GUIDE, "is sure to have you howling."

D. SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE: Saturday, Dec. 21, at 11:30 p.m. on NBC
After 35 years away, Eddie Murphy is coming back to Studio 8H to host this week's Christmas episode of the iconic program.

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6. Joke 2

So now y'all know how I would look like without a mustache.

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7. Clips/Websites

A. Video of the week

Thanks to my friend Elstein Torres for sharing his latest video: Fill Your Heart With Christmas. It is terrific--and so is the advice. To view it, please click: [Here](#).

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

(1) Ben E. King: "Stand By Me," one of my fall-time favorites: [Here/](#)

(2) Maria Porambo: Now that's laughter!: [Here](#).

(3) Husky sings with baby: [Here](#).

C. If you want to find what's odd, bizarre and strange on the internet, check out Oddee: [Here](#).

By doing so, you'll be able to find out more about such things as the following:
Why Are Las Vegas Pigeons Wearing Cowboy Hats?
10 Weird Requests Mail Santas Hear
Simple Ways to Improve Your Cat's Behavior at Home

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

E. 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

How To Send Large Videos
by Ryan Dube

If you've recorded a video and you want to send that large video file to friends or family, you may find it's a bit more difficult than you might have thought.

Video files can get very large, very quickly. There are lots of options to send other types of large files, but video files are different. Those techniques may work for smaller video files, but for larger ones they won't work.

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

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9. Joke 3

My kind of party! (Thanks, Kim Chandler Smith, for sharing.)

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10. A quote I like

Thanks, Danny Aiello (1933-2019), for your memorable performances in such films as THE PURPLE ROSE OF CAIRO, MOONSTRUCK and DO THE RIGHT THING. For more information about his life, please click: [Here](#).

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11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Kai Elijah Hamilton, for sharing this post that he ran on Facebook: When I pull up into my driveway ... sometimes I see a phantom in my mind of the two cats that I lost this year, Newton and Harvey, running to greet me outside. I can't help but feel regret for not stopping and engaging even more than I did. They were so happy to see me. It breaks my heart to look back and wonder what they thought as I just said a few words or a mere pet and let my mind pull me back into my own little world. A forever-lesson in life not to take things you love for granted... relish in the moment! Nothing but those feelings and the memories are ever meant to last.

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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 Thompson Plays Buckley. (2) MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET at Asheville Community Theatre.

B. PA/NJ event

CALENDAR GIRLS at Kelsey Theatre.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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