
You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not tooo 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](#).

#1369

12.12.2022

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are lucky to have The Local Joint located just around the corner from us in Fairview. The food is always excellent, and the service is friendly. Our big smiles were the result of a recent fish and chips dinner we had that was absolutely delicious--as good as we've ever had of that particular dish.



B. YOU STILL HAVE TIME! ... Catch SART's word premier of A SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS through Dec. 18. ... This tuneful story of love, hope and cheer during the holiday season features a book by

Richie Barrella, along with arrangements and original music by Aaron Michael Krueger. William Tyler Ezzell and Chelsey Lee Gaddy co-directed with aplomb. ... And kudos to those in the talented ensemble cast, including among others: Karen Covington-Yow, Madison Garris, Dillon Giles, Daniel Moore, Matt Edwardsen, Mike Yow, Alexis Stephens, Alondra Barrera-Hernandez and Lily Bartleson. ... For tickets, click: [Here](#).



C. I had the pleasure of seeing Tumo Kohrs in concert at the Weaverville Center for Creative and Healthy Living. It was a fabulous show! ... You can watch two of the songs by clicking: [Here](#) and [Here](#). ... Pictured: (top) Tumo Kohrs performing, (bottom left) yours truly with group members Sarah Kohrs and Mark Tuomenoksa and (bottom right) me with Tom Balestrieri, the Weaverville Center's dynamic head.



D. There were three BLAINESWORLD podcasts this past week.

(1) The first featured Gabe Esparza, Associate Administrator for the Office of International Trade at the U.S. Small Business Administration. ... To view it, click: [Here](#) and look for the one dated 12.5.2022. ... You'll then have the option to view it on YouTube or listen to it on your favorite podcast player.



(2) The second featured guests (first half) Jim Poe and Padma Dyvine, both with Henderson County Beekeepers Association; and (second half) Kathy Bademan, certified Laughter Yoga Leader ... To view it, click: [Here](#) and look for the one dated 12.6.2022. ... You'll then have the option to view it on YouTube or listen to it on your favorite podcast player.



(3) The third featured Howard Smith, pianist extraordinaire ... To view it, click: [Here](#) and look for the one dated 12.9.2022. ... You'll then have the option to view it on YouTube or listen to it on your favorite podcast player.



E. CONGRATATIONS to:

(1) Elle Ledford on being named one of November Mustangs of the Month at Smoky Mountain High School.

(2) Carol Lee on her retirement.

(3) Tony Brennan on being named one of the 2023 recipients of the Union County Friendly Sons of St Patrick's annual awards.

(4) Randy Noojin on your new position as Legal Proofreader at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP.

F. CORRECTIONS:

(1) Chelsey Lee Gaddy was recently profiled in MOUNTAIN XPRESS. I apparently gave an incorrect link. Sorry 'bout that. Here is the correct one: [Here](#). (Thanks, Amanda Levesque, for bringing this to my attention.)

(2) And apologies, to Melvin AC Howell who was also profiled. Here is the correct link to read the article about him: [Here](#).

G. Announcing this week's ...

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

This week, it goes to a production called Letters From Home.

Letters From Home will be performing in every state of the United States from January-May of 2023! The show will bring back the style of the USO with a high-energy performance featuring Erinn Dearth and Dan Beckmann!

This duo has performed over 900 shows across the United States for veterans and their families, and performed at the 75th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France.

The show is filled with singing, tap dancing, knee-slapping jokes and audience interaction that make up a spectacular performance geared towards uniting the nation through music.

To find the show nearest you and to keep up on their 50-States Tour blog, visit [Here](#).

Note: I've seen this production previously. It is not to be missed!

2. Invites

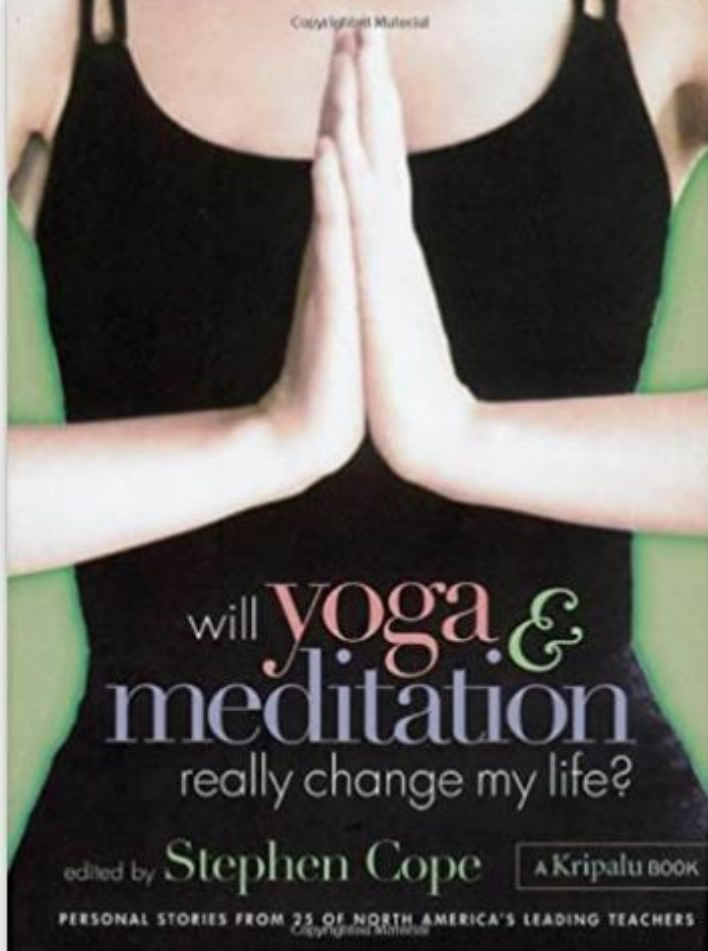
A. There's still time to enter ...

***** CONTEST #19 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of WILL YOGA & MEDITATION REALLY CHANGE MY LIFE: PERSONAL STORIES FROM 25 OF NORTH AMERICA'S LEADING TEACHERS, edited by Stephen Cope. To quote from the book's inside flap:

In this volume of essays, well-known yoga teacher and author Stephen Cope poses these questions to 24 of the most prominent teachers of yoga and meditation in America today. Their answers, collected here in both essay and interview form, reveal an astonishing portrait of one generation's struggle with both the promises and the pitfalls of contemplative practice. Their stories are remarkably moving, real, and human -- and they take us beyond the idealized images we may have of spiritual practice into a realm of authentic personal and social transformation that has the potential to make a profound and lasting impact on our culture.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #19 in the subject line. In the body of your email, include your name and mailing address. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12.



B. Want to be a guest on my BLAINESWORLD podcast, now seen on YouTube or you can listen to it on your favorite podcast player. If you have news you'd like to share and/or a story to tell, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put GUEST in the subject line. In the body of the email, include both your name and phone number.

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.

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

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: [Here](#).

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

E. If we're not yet friends on Facebook, click to send me a friend request: [Here](#).

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

3. FYI

Here's What To Know About OpenAI's ChatGPT—What It's Disrupting And How To Use It
by Arianna Johnson

OpenAI released ChatGPT, its prototype AI chatbot that has gained a lot of traction among the public for its human-like, detailed answers to inquiries—like drafting a contract between an artist and producer and creating

detailed code—and could revolutionize the way people use search engines by not just providing links for users to sift through, but by solving elaborate problems and answering intricate questions.

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

Note: You have to try the above chatbot to believe it. You can do so by clicking: [Here](#). (Then click "Try" at top.)

I did recently and came up with this political joke:

A camel and a donkey are standing in a field. The camel turns to the donkey and says, "Why do politicians always make such a big deal out of their differences when they're all just a bunch of jackasses?"

Even better, in my opinion, was this romantic poem I "wrote" for Cynthia:

My dearest wife, the love of my life,
You are my everything and my heart's delight.
From the moment we met, I knew you were the one,
And I am forever grateful that you are mine.

Your beauty and grace shine like the stars above,
And your kindness and warmth fill my heart with love.
I am so lucky to have you by my side,
And I will cherish and adore you for all time.

Together, we have built a life that is full,
Filled with laughter, joy, and so much love.
You are my partner, my confidante, my best friend,
And I am grateful for the love that we share.

As we journey through this thing called life,
I will stand by your side and be your rock.
I will love and cherish you every day,
For you are the most precious thing in my life.

So on this special day, my dear wife,
I want to tell you just how much you mean to me.
You are my everything, and I am so grateful,
To be your loving husband, now and always.

Note: What's amazing is that every word of the above is spot on!

4. Joke 1

She asked her husband for an 18 carat necklace--and got it! (Thanks, Tee Geradi, for sharing.)



5. Reviews

A. Cynthia and I enjoyed SPOILER ALERT, based on a true story about a couple that falls in love and whose relationship is threatened when a deadly illness threatens their future together. Jim Parson and Ben Aldridge (an actor I hadn't seen before) both excel in the leading roles, and we also liked the work of Sally Field and Bill Irwin as Aldridge's parents. Rated PG-13.

B. We weren't as crazy about THE INSPECTION, a drama about a young, gay Black man, rejected by his mother and with few options for his future, who decides to join the Marines. Cynthia best summarized our opinion when she said it "wasn't terrible." ... Elegance Bratton both wrote and directed this film that was inspired by his own story. Jeremy Pope was excellent in the leading role, and Bokeem Woodbine as the drill sergeant from hell stole just about every scene he was in. Rated R.

6. TV alert

A. Guillermo del Toro's PINOCCHIO: Now on Netflix

This eye-grabbing stop-motion animation adaptation of the Pinocchio story is set in fascist Italy. There's a very impressive list of voice actors, including Ewan McGregor, Christoph Waltz, Cate Blanchett and Tilda Swinton.

B. SCROOGE: A CHRISTMAS CAROL: Now on Netflix

Critics didn't love this animated musical version of Dickens' holiday classic, but audiences did.

C. FALLING FOR CHRISTMAS: Now on Netflix

A rom-com about a blue-collar ski lodge owner (Glee star Chord Overstreet) who looks after a recently engaged, spoiled-rotten heiress (Lindsay Lohan) after a holiday skiing accident gives her amnesia.

D. LA LA LAND: Now on Amazon Prime

The story of two young lovers chasing their dreams--and dancing their hearts out--won six Oscars. It's on my list list of favorite films.

Note: To get the above list, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

7. Joke 2

My English teacher warned me to stay away from this place! (Thanks, Michelle Munson Persons, for sharing.)

**The past,
the present,
and the future, walk into a
bar.....
It was tense.**

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 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 2022 version from Consort Chorale: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

Elsten Torres has another winner! Here's his latest song, "The Holidays": [Here](#).

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

(1) Everly Brothers-All I Have To Do Is Dream, one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Howard Smith: Hymns (12.11.2022): [Here](#).

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: Greg Allman: [Here](#).

(4) Neil (above) mentions the Fillmore East concert. You can check it out by clicking: [Here](#).

(5) Clip for all animal lovers: [Here](#). (Thanks, Bonnie Nechemias, for sharing.)

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

THE ONION, the pioneer of satirical news coverage, has duped people for many years. To view it, click: [Here](#).

Some recent articles that caught my attention included the following:

ABC Reveals All 'GMA' Anchors Have Been Castrated

Family Scandalized After Grandmother Leaves Hot, Young Caretaker Her Cherished Cobbler Recipe

MLB Owners Hold Separate Meeting For Teams Actually Trying To Win Next Season

What's incredible is that many gullible people believe such articles were real. For some of their response, click: [Here](#).

One of my favorites was this response to this headline: Serena Williams Stripped of Titles After it Reveled She's Been Playing With a Racket in Each Hand the Whole Time

Here was the response: I have a hard time believing this. She's been playing since 1995 in front of both live fans and viewers and not one person has noticed she has a racket in each hand?!?!?

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](#).

9. Technology tip

Can you record a call on your iPhone? Here's how (and its legality), explained.
by Caitlin McLean

Recording a conversation can be useful in the short term and in the long run. Whether it's an interview that you want to take notes from later or a call with a loved one you would like to go back and listen to one day, recording your phone conversations can be helpful.

Before you record any conversation, however, you should remember to ask the person or people you are talking to if they are ok with you doing so. Some people, understandably, may not want to be recorded.

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

10. Joke 3

That vet is robin the woman of the real fact; i.e., that her bird is really on heron. But the truth might be too hard to swallow. (Thanks, Elaine Bilk, for sharing.)



11. Two quotes I like

A. Thanks, Kirstie Alley (1951-2022), for your career as an American actor best known for your role as Rebecca Howe in the NBC sitcom Cheers, for which you received an Emmy Award and a Golden Globe in

1991. You also rocked in the sitcom Veronica's Closet, earning additional Emmy and Golden Globe nominations. For more information about her life, click: <https://www.cnn.com/2022/12/05/entertainment/kirstie-alley-obit/index.html>.



B. Thanks, Bob McGrath (1932-2022), for your career as an American actor, musician and children's author best known for playing original human character Bob Johnson on the long-running educational television series Sesame Street. You also will be remembered for your work with Mitch Miller and the fact that you were featured tenor on Miller's NBC-TV television singalong series Sing Along with Mitch for four seasons. For more information about his life, click: [Here](#).

"You're right, Big Bird. It's ... It'll never be the same around here without him. But you know something? We can all be very happy that we had the chance to be with him, and to know him, and to love him a lot when he was here."--Bob McGrath offering words of comfort upon the passing of Mr. Hooper, played by Will Lee, in order to reflect the actor's own passing



12. Thought for the day

Some Admiral Advice
by Dan Rather and Elliot Kirschner

An unwritten rule for giving a commencement address is acknowledging that few of the graduates will remember what is said.

It's the old Abraham Lincoln trick of "The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here." That was of course from the now-immortal Gettysburg Address. There are probably no commencement speeches that measure up to that speech's eloquence (or its brevity). But that does not mean all graduation speeches are soon forgotten.

For the rest of this address (and a clip of William H. McRaven delivering it), click: [Here](#).

(Thanks, Ilene Logelin, for sharing the above.)

13. Advance planning department

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

A. Jeff Catanese: Santa Claus Conquers the Martians. B. Hannah Williams: Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose. C. Kenneth Davis: A Christmas Carol. D. Julie Warton: Auditions for LET ME DOWN EASY. E. La Bourgeois: Readers Theater performance of ANCESTRAL VOICES.

PS. Make it a great week!

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