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BLAINESWORLD

You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not toooo risqué (typically in Sections 5, 8 and 11); 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.](#)

#1527
12.15.2025

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia my beautiful bride, and I enjoyed a recent dinner with our friend Jennifer Conlon at Pacific Pagoda. The food there is always excellent, as is the service we get from Sally. We also like the large portions, which almost always enable us to have a second meal a few days later at home.



B. Bodhi also had a good time while we were gone, as he got to play with Elsa (left) and Taz (right)--Jennifer's two dogs. But they were all glad when we returned, too, as that's when they got plenty of snacks.



C. Review: A Holiday Farce That Knows How to Make You Laugh
By Blaine Greenfield. Chief Encouragement Officer (CEO), BLAINESWORLD

DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW, written by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten, is a fast-paced holiday farce now playing at Hendersonville Theatre.

Set at the Snowflake Inn during a wildly eventful Christmas season, the play piles eccentric guests, overlapping crises, and nonstop chaos into a tightly packed romp of laughs. It is broad, brisk, and unapologetically silly in the best possible way.

All four parts are funny, but two moments had me laughing out loud. The first is the escalating, no-holds-barred battle between the two sisters, which keeps topping itself. The second is the shamelessly abridged version of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, which flies by at warp speed and lands every joke.

The cast does an excellent job overall, with most actors juggling multiple roles seamlessly and energetically.

Lydia Kytte (Trina Walcott) anchors the show with terrific comic timing and just the right amount of frazzle as the long-suffering innkeeper.

Cat Rondeau (Lou Ida, Donna Jo, Paulette, Frankie) is a standout, switching characters with ease and delivering consistently big laughs.

Karen Covington-Yow (Cuddles, Lenora, Twink) brings strong physical comedy and clear character distinctions to each role.

Mike Yow (Blinky, Ainsley) stands out for his nimble performance and confident character switches.

Jamie Gorsuch (Hoyt, Raynerd) offers warmth, humor, and a reassuring steadiness in the middle of the mayhem.

Brenda Craig (Ennis, Honey Rae) is consistently funny, creating two clearly defined and enjoyable characters.

Sara Hall (Della, Rhonda Lynn) rounds out the ensemble with polished performances and well-placed humor.

A special mention goes to Doug Sparks (Mr. Boykin). Though not onstage, his voiceover exchanges with Kytte are consistently hilarious and perfectly timed.

The production itself is in very good hands. Abigail Dover Thomas, Director, keeps the pace brisk and the comedy crisp. MJ Greene, Stage Manager, ensures the many moving parts stay on track, and Kayren McKnight, Costume Designer, adds vibrant, well-chosen costumes that contribute to the show's humor.

Bottom line. If you're looking for pure holiday fun and plenty of laughs, this one delivers.

Dashing Through the Snow runs through December 21

lasting through the snow falls through December 21.

Get tickets:
[Here](#)



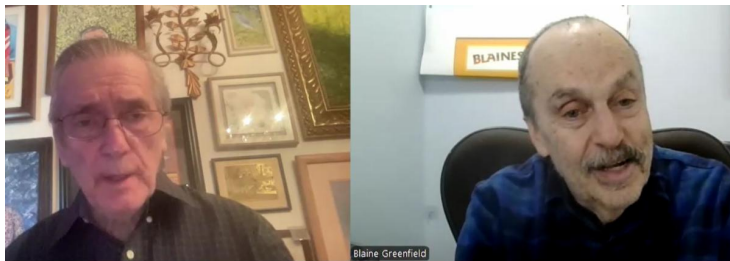
Opening night was a big success at the Snowflake Inn

D. I hosted two podcasts this week. They can be heard and/or seen by clicking:
www.blainesworld.net

(1) 12.8.2025 - Chandler Schroeder--Head of Operations, Visiting Angels of Western North Carolina



(2) 12.11.2025 - Bernard J. Taylor--Playwright, Author, Composer



F. Condolences to:

(1) Jeanlu Ryersbach and other family and friends of Robert Schram on his passing.

(2) The family and friends of O'Neal Shelton on his passing.

G. Congratulations to Raven Sterling on being named Global Environmental Sustainability Woman of the Year.

H. Announcing this week's

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

This week, it goes to the bottle opener (below).

It is advertised for those with weak hands and seniors with arthritis, but believe me ... it is for ANYBODY who has difficulty opening water bottles, as well as jars.

About this item:

* Advantages: 1.No more sore hands or slipping tools—our stainless steel sawtooth grips firmly without hurting your hands.2. The grip locks securely onto lids from 0.2 inches to 5.3 inches (5mm–135mm) wide, 3.whether it's a small bottle or a stubborn vacuum-sealed jar. The ergonomic handle is long enough to give you real leverage, making tough lids easy to pop. Oh, and it looks great too—with a clean, modern design that feels solid in your hand.

* 2. Let the Opener Do the Work – Not Your Wrists: Forget struggling or twisting until your wrist hurts. The dual stainless-steel teeth bite into the lid for maximum grip, while the non-slip contoured handle gives you better control and leverage. Open jars with half the effort, thanks to smart engineering and reliable materials.

* 3. One Tool Fits All – From Pickle Jars to Soda Bottles This isn't just for one size—our opener works on nearly any lid up to 5.3 inches. Whether it's your protein shake bottle, pasta sauce jar, or a tightly sealed mason jar, it opens it. Ideal for people with limited hand strength, arthritis, or post-surgery recovery—finally, something that helps without asking for help

* 4. Consistently Reliable – No Slipping, Jamming, or Failing. Tired of openers that slip, strain, or break down? We get it. Unlike rubber grips that slide or under-cabinet openers that only work on tiny jars, this tool delivers—every single time. No batteries, no motors, no malfunctions. Just solid, smart design that works when you need it to.

You're going to love it!

To purchase, click:

[Edit](#)





The thing that keeps us moving forward. Being active. Having projects or simply plans. What is that thing that keeps us moving forward?

The answer to that question has me thinking about the word "inspiration." About excitement and motivation also--the reason to live and do the things that move us.

What is that thing that moves you? The thing that got you to go to school, to get an animal, to learn the tango, to take up a new activity. But what is that feeling that starts it all.

For me, it often begins as a small spark. A tiny tug somewhere inside those whispers, What if? It isn't loud. It rarely arrives fully formed. It feels more like the first glimmer of a possibility. A soft curiosity. A moment of noticing that something lights up my spirit, even if only a little.

And that little lift matters. It opens a door, even a crack. It invites movement. Sometimes it grows into a plan, a habit, a passion. Sometimes it fades, and that is fine too, because even the brief sparks teach us something about who we are and what we long for.

Inspiration doesn't always roar. More often, it taps us lightly on the shoulder. A book. A conversation. A color. A memory. A longing to be just a little more alive. It's the gentle rhythm beneath our days that reminds us there is still so much to explore, to try, to feel.

And maybe that's the real invitation: To notice the sparks when they appear. To honor them. To follow them just enough to see where they lead. Because inspiration, at its heart, is our spirit reaching toward what nourishes us most.

Please feel free to share your thoughts on what inspires you.

Warmly,
Cynthia (Greenfield)
cgreenfield!001@aol.com

PS This clip really nourished me. It also inspired me to want to share it with you:
[Here](#)

3. Invites

A. Time is running out to enter ...

***** CONTEST #14 *****

One lucky reader will win an autographed copy of my friend Mark Lund's excellent book, CRITICAL LEADERSHIP PLAYBOOK: 10 HIGH STAKES SKILLS FROM THE ICU TO LEAD BOLDLY, BUILD THRIVING TEAMS, AND ACHIEVE WEALTH.

To quote from the Amazon description:

Unlock the Secrets of High-Stakes Leadership and Transform Your Team. In a world where uncertainty reigns and pressure mounts, how do exceptional leaders not just survive, but thrive? How do they build teams that perform miracles under fire, innovate in the face of impossible odds, and consistently deliver extraordinary results?

This book is your ultimate guide to mastering the art of leadership in the most demanding environments. Drawing from over three decades of experience leading high-performing, cross-functional teams in life-or-death situations, Dr. Mark E. Lund distills the essence of extraordinary leadership into ten indispensable

skills that will revolutionize how you lead.

This isn't just another leadership book—it's a battle-tested playbook for those who dare to lead when the stakes couldn't be higher.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #14 in the subject line. Include in the body of the email your name and mailing address, so that if you win, I can send you a copy of this book. Entries must be received on or before the 9 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 15.

B. Want to be a guest on my BLAINESWORLD webcast? It can now be seen on YouTube or you can listen to it on your favorite podcast player.

I typically feature guests involved with theater, non-profit organizations, authors, performers or who are just downright interesting.

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 evening.

If you want to join me, let me know. Send an email to: bginbc@aol.com, if interested, and put WEBCAST in the subject line. And for more information, click: <https://www.blainesworld.net/>

C. I'm back on Facebook after having been hacked. If we are not currently friends there (or if we lost contact because of the hack), please friend me by looking up: Blaine Greenfield. You'll see a picture of me in a blue shirt with, naturally, my thumb up.

You can also find me by clicking: <https://www.facebook.com/blaine.greenfield.2025/>

D. Are you interested in shows, movies, TV, etc.? ... If so, I encourage you to join a 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: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/245515070390413>

4. FYI

A. The latest status symbol for the rich and powerful isn't a Birkin — it's a hearing aid [Here](#)

Note: This article has me hoping that prices will drop in the not-too-distant future, in that these hearing aids will benefit all in need of them.





B. Thieves are stealing keyless cars in minutes. Here's how to protect your vehicle.

[Here](#)

C. The 1 Heart-Health Habit You Should Start When You're Young

[Here](#)

D. Millionaire dad: If you teach your kids just 5 things about money, use these 5 phrases

[Here](#)

E. A Huge Dementia Study Just Updated Its Risk List, And These Are The 2 Experts Say You Need To Look Out For

[Here](#)

5. Joke 1

If you're like me and celebrate all holidays (more food, fun, and friends that way): HAPPY HANUKKAH!
And if the cartoon below leaves you scratching your head, this link should clear things up:

[Here](#)



6. Reviews

A. Movies

(1) ELLA MCCAY: (AMC River Hills 10)

This is a political dramedy about an idealistic young woman thrust into high-stakes leadership while trying to balance personal values with public pressure.

Unfortunately, it didn't work for us. This comes from James L. Brooks, a director we usually enjoy, but here the story felt unfocused and surprisingly flat. The film features a strong cast, including Emma Mackey, Albert Brooks, Woody Harrelson and Jamie Lee Curtis, yet their characters never felt fully formed and the writing didn't give them much to work with. We wanted to like it, but it felt flat. MPAA rating: PG-13.

(2) ANYTHING ELSE (Netflix)

ANYTHING ELSE is a neurotic romantic comedy about a young writer whose love life and career are constantly derailed by his own anxieties and the unsolicited guidance of an eccentric mentor. Released in 2003, the film stars Jason Biggs, Christina Ricci, and Woody Allen. I liked it. MPAA rating: R.

B. Book

INSIDE OUT is a candid autobiography in which Demi Moore reflects on her rise to fame, complicated relationships, addiction, and the long work of self-acceptance.

I listened to the audiobook, which Moore narrates herself, and that made the experience especially powerful. Hearing her tell her own story adds intimacy, vulnerability, and emotional weight that really pulled me in. The book is published by HarperCollins, and overall, I liked it a lot for its honesty and openness.

7. TV Alert

A. NURSE JACKIE (Netflix)

This is a dark comedy-drama about a brilliant ER nurse who saves lives with skill and compassion while secretly battling addiction and chaos in her personal life. I'm about 1/3 through the series and am enjoying it immensely. (Thanks to Cynthia for the recommendation.)

B. MAN VS. BABY (Netflix)

The always delightful Rowan Atkinson brings his trademark bumbling, google-eyed charm to this holiday limited series of four 30-minute episodes as a hapless fellow house-sitting a posh London flat who ends up with an unexpected challenge: caring for a lost baby he's rescued from a school's nativity scene.

C. WAKE UP DEAD MAN; A KNIVEW OUT MYSTERY (Netflix)

Writer-director Rian Johnson has assembled an impressive all-star cast for his third and latest Knives Out murder mystery. Daniel Craig, is back on whodunit duty as the Southern-dandy sleuth, Benoit Blanc. This time he's sniffing out the killer of an upstate New York monsignor who may have been murdered by a member of his flock. The list of suspects and eccentric townsfolk includes Glenn Close, Josh Brolin, Kerry Washington, Jeremy Renner, Thomas Haden Church, and Jeffrey Wright. Rated PG-13.

D. FALLOUT, Season 2 (Prime Video)

Nearly two years after this action series introduced us to its postapocalyptic world, we pick up where we left off. Ella Purnell's Lucy, a former bomb-shelter dweller thrust into action-hero mode, is still roaming the Mojave Desert with the Ghoul (Walton Goggins), a former Hollywood star turned trigger-happy bounty hunter with a heavily irradiated face.

8. Joke 2

Add a side of pickles and some bed rest—and he'll be better in no time.



**Your vet won't tell you this,
but if your pup is running a fever,
get some mustard.
It's the best thing for a hot dog.**

9. Clips/Websites

A. The Turtles are arguably the greatest rock group of all time!

(1) Their recording of "Happy Together" proves it

(2) As you may know, I welcome clips of them and/or others singing this classic song. For example, here's John Strauss, Kevin Jameson, Mike Lazanski, Todd Siben, and yours truly from 2016:

[Here](#)

Note: Feel free to submit your choices for greatest recording artists, music, etc. I'll try to run what you send me in in section 8C (below).

B. Video of the week

With baseball's spring training season starting next month, I thought you might want to start rooting for a new team: The Savannah Bananas

The Savannah Bananas are a professional barnstorming baseball team from Savannah, Georgia, known for their "Banana Ball" entertainment style that blends baseball with high-energy, choreographed dances and fan interaction, creating a fast-paced and circus-like atmosphere rather than a traditional baseball experience. The team has gained viral fame for its unique approach, selling out stadiums across the United States, even holding their home games at Grayson Stadium.

If you think the Bananas just play to small, rural crowds: they had two sold-out nights at Yankee Stadium, packing in nearly 100,000 fans over a weekend in September 2023.

Watch them "surprise" Jimmy Fallon during his monologue with a dance routine and invite him to officially become a team member by clicking:

[Here](#)

(Thanks to Jonathan Berg for sharing.)

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

(1) Peter Paul and Mary: "500 Miles" one of my favorites

[Here](#)

(2) Howard Smith Jr.: Hymns (12.14.2025)

<https://www.facebook.com/hs.smith.73/videos/800449936361358>

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: Little Richard

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/2164574970617607>

(4) Your many fans and friends, Neil, can catch Little Richard's fantastic rendition of "Good Golly Miss Molly" by clicking:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AK_jm3Hz1Wk&list=RDAK_jm3Hz1Wk&start_radio=1

(5) Memphis & Roll Over Beethoven - Tom Jones & Chuck Berry | The Midnight Special

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukuDlwUR3CE&list=RDAK_jm3Hz1Wk&index=10

(6) Alex Sampson Nervous Singer Stuns Judges With "Retro" Vocals and Original Song 'Pretty

Baby'<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WV7OOGtFEU8&list=RD6T9zGDdB-jg&index=5>

(7) Teaching mom how to work Alexa

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1668964973767538>

(Thanks to Donna Shapiro Goldberg for sharing.)

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

This is Sand

It is a beautifully simple and creative website that lets you create stunning landscapes with digital sand.

By holding down your mouse button, you can pour different colored sands onto the screen, building up intricate and colorful sandcastles, mountains, and abstract art. The physics of the falling sand is surprisingly realistic and incredibly satisfying.

Try this by clicking:

[Here](#)

E. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<https://www.blainesworld.net/>

10. Technology Tip

10 Hacks Every iPhone User Should Know

By Khamosh Pathak

I'm routinely surprised by just how much technology Apple has managed to pack into the iPhone that I can carry in the palm of my hand. What's even more surprising is that underneath the layers, there's even more than what meets the eye. There's a better, faster way to use the keyboard, there's a faster way to select unread emails to archive, there are better ways to browse the web than just the usual Safari experience, and you can get way better photos out of the iPhone Pro cameras than what the stock Camera app shows you.

The iPhone has become such a default product in all our lives that we just take it for granted. Yes, it's a great way to stay in touch with friends and coworkers, to capture moments, and to doomscroll the night away. But spend some more time, and there's a whole new iPhone experience just waiting for you that will truly transform how your iPhone looks and works.

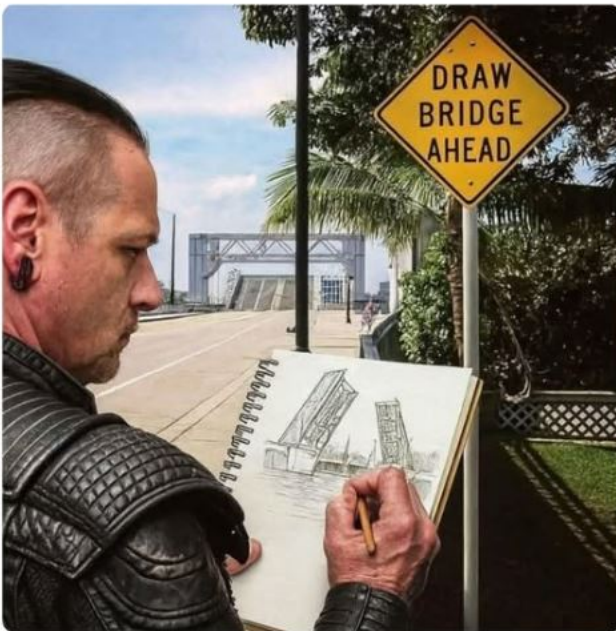
For the rest of this informative article, click:

[Here](#)

11. Joke 3

You've got to hand it to him—this guy doesn't just cross bridges, he sketches them first!

Obeying signs can be time consuming



12. Two Quotes I Like

A. Thanks, Phil Upchurch (1941-2025), for your career as an American guitarist and bass guitarist who has

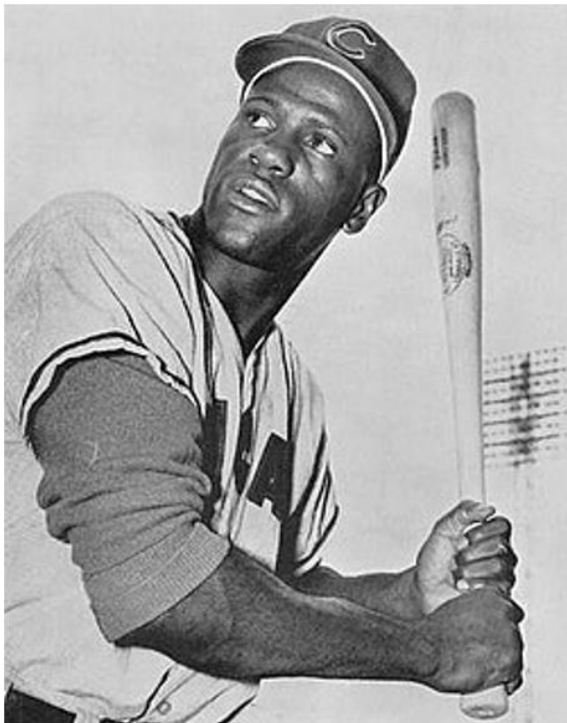
performed and recorded in musical styles including soul music, R&B, jazz, and blues. Over a remarkable career, Upchurch recorded nearly 30 albums and appeared on more than 1,000 recordings. For more information about his life, click: <https://www.billboard.com/music/music-news/phil-upchurch-death-guitarist-michael-jackson-dead-obituary-1236130053/>



“Without some blues, ain’t nothin’ happening. If you don’t dig the blues, you got a hole in your soul.” — Phil Upchurch

B. Thanks, George Altman (1933-2025), for your career as an American professional baseball outfielder who had a lengthy career in both Major League Baseball and Nippon Professional Baseball. A three-time National League All-Star, he appeared in 991 games over nine full seasons in the major leagues. Then, at age 35, he began an eight-year tenure in Japanese baseball, where he would hit 205 home runs and bat .309 with 985 hits. For more information about his life, click:

<https://www.mlb.com/news/george-altman-negro-leagues-majors-japan-dies>



“When I’m going right, it doesn’t matter whether I’m batting against lefthanded or righthanded pitching.”--George Altman

13. Thought For The Day

Join me in celebrating an absolute treasure: Dick Van Dyke turns 100! ... One hundred years of talent, joy, kindness, and that unmistakable grin. If you need a reminder of why he's so beloved, watch this fantastic clip. It's pure Dick Van Dyke magic:

[Here](#)

And while you're at it, check out his tips for living a long, healthy life. They're wise, practical, and delivered with the same warmth he's shared with us for decades:

[Here](#)



PS. Make it a great week!

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