

# BLAINESWORLD

#1160  
12.17.2018

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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: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Enjoyed spending a night out with our friends Brian and Carole Biro. We first had a tasty dinner at the Twisted Crepe.



And then we loved LIVE FROM WVLR RADIO THEATRE: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE that was adapted by Willie Repoley and directed by Charlie Flynn-McIver at NC Stage. The show had us both laughing and crying.



(2) We also saw Attic Salt Theatre's excellent production of BLUE WINDOW that was directed by Jeff Catanese. We were accompanied by our friends Judy Ray and Tracy Loveless.

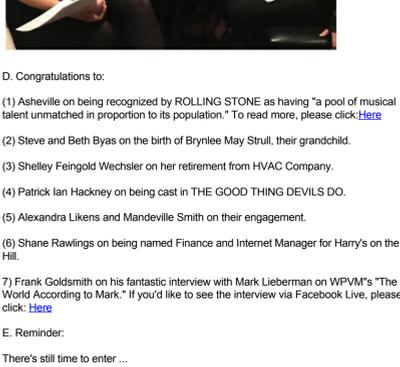


B. WPVM/FM invites you to listen to the BLAINESWORLD show from Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018 ... You'll hear Katie Jones, Artistic Director of The Magnetic Theatre and Managing Director of the Asheville Fringe Arts Festival, in the first half, for more information; [Here](#); and Jeff Bachar, Executive Director of Parkway Playhouse, in the second half, for more information: [Here](#) ... to listen to the broadcast, click: [Here](#) ... to view part of the interview with Katie via Facebook Live, click: [Here](#); and to view most of the interview with Jeff via Facebook Live, click: [Here](#)



### C. During the week, I:

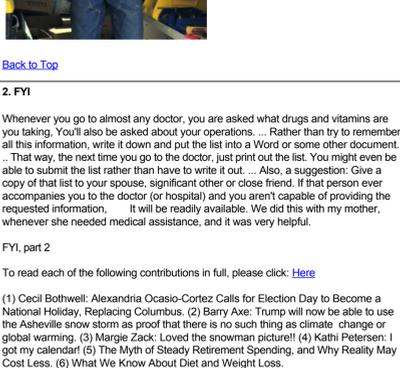
(1) Was honored to be named to the Board of Directors for WPVM and then elected as secretary of the Board. Below are pictures from our recent meeting/reception. To see them all at full size, as well as some others, please click: [Here](#)



(2) Attended our Biltmore Lake community's Holiday Open House. To see these pictures at full size, please click: [Here](#)

In case you're wondering why I have a big smile in the top picture, it has to do with something that my friends Bob and Leslie Player (on the far left) have done ever since their daughter's Bat Mitzvah. At that event, Bob's mother wasn't smiling for the photographer. So because they had paid a good amount of money for the pictures, they pinched her butt to get her to smile. It worked then and as can be seen, the technique also worked with me.

Special thanks to the Community Recreation and Events Committee for sponsoring the event, as well as to Richard Shulman and his group for providing the music and realtor Marilyn Wright for the special desserts.



(3) Attended our first planning meeting for the Happy Together Revue, which will be held on February 8 and 9. Hope you can make it! ... It was held at DelVecchio's Pizzeria and as can be seen by the smiles, we all enjoyed the pizza.



### D. Congratulations to:

- (1) Asheville to be recognized by ROLLING STONE as having "a pool of musical talent unmatched in proportion to its population." To read more, please click: [Here](#)
- (2) Steve and Beth Byas on the birth of Brynlee May Strull, their grandchild.
- (3) Shelley Feingold Wechsler on her retirement from HVAC Company.
- (4) Patrick Ian Hackney on being cast in THE GOOD THING DEVILS DO.
- (5) Alexandra Likens and Mandeville Smith on their engagement.
- (6) Shane Rawlings on being named Finance and Internet Manager for Harry's on the Hill.
- (7) Frank Goldsmith on his fantastic interview with Mark Lieberman on WPVM's "The World According to Mark." If you'd like to see the interview via Facebook Live, please click: [Here](#)

### E. Reminder:

There's still time to enter ...

\*\*\* Contest #26 \*\*\*

One lucky reader will win an attractive panorama Weimar area from Germany that's accompanied by an informative guidebook from the area—compliments of my friend Michael Claesser. To enter the contest, send an email [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put CONTEST #26 in the subject line, then include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email. ... All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Mon., Dec. 24.

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

This week, it goes to Matt Vore, plumber extraordinaire with DWV Contractors, who has serviced our home since we moved to Biltmore Lake nearly a decade ago. ... No matter what the job, big or small, Matt had done an excellent job for us. He has fixed leaks, toilets and sinks and perhaps most importantly, installed Cynthia's favorite Valentine's Day gift of all time: a hot water heater. ... He is both friendly and knowledgeable, and we recommend him highly. He can be reached at 828.674.2243.



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### 2. FYI

Whenever you go to almost any doctor, you are asked what drugs and vitamins are you taking. You'll also be asked about your operations. ... Rather than try to remember all this information, write it down and put the list into a Word or some other document. ... That way, the next time you go to the doctor, just print out the list. You might even be able to submit the list rather than have to write it out. ... Also, a suggestion: Give a copy of that list to your spouse, significant other or close friend. If that person ever accompanies you to the doctor (or hospital) and you aren't capable of providing the requested information, ... It will be really available. We did this with my mother, whenever she needed medical assistance, and it was very helpful.

FYI, part 2

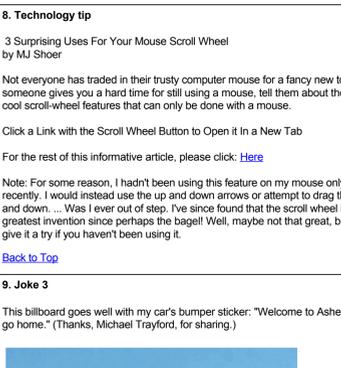
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: [Here](#)

- (1) Cecil Bothwell: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Calls for Election Day to Become a National Holiday, Replacing Columbus. (2) Barry Axe: Trump will now be able to use the Asheville snow storm as proof that there is no such thing as climate change and global warming. (3) Margie Zack: Loved the snowman picture!! (4) Kathi Petersen: I got my calendar! (5) The Myth of Steady Retirement Spending, and Why Really May Cost Less. (6) What We Know About Diet and Weight Loss.

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### 3. Joke 1

Life isn't fair! (Thanks, Linda Williams, for sharing.)



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### 4. Reviews

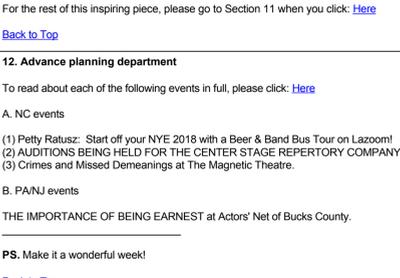
A. Revisited SHATTERED GLASS, a fascinating 2003 film that told the true story of journalist Stephen Glass. He was the 20-something whiz kid who quickly rose from a minor writing post in Washington to become a feature writer for such publications as ROLLING STONE and the NEW REPUBLIC. ... All was going well until an editor caught on to the fact that much of what he was writing was made up. ... Hayden Christensen is fine in the leading role, but the rest of the supporting cast is outstanding: Peter Sarsgaard, Chloe Sevigny, Rosario Dawson, Melanie Lynskey, Steve Zahn and Hank Azaria. ... Rated PG-13.

It is a must see if you are a journalist—past, present or future. Those who are news junkies will also want to see it.

I've added it to my list of favorite films. If you'd like to get that list, send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

B. Heard WONDER GIRL: THE MAGNIFICENT SPORTING LIFE OF BABE DIBRICKSON ZAHARIA (LLC Dreamscape Media), written by Don Van Natta Jr. and narrated by Hillary Huber. ... This dressing biography is about a nearly forgotten American superstar athlete who achieved All-American status in basketball and won gold medals in track and field at the 1932 Olympics. She then became a golfer who won more consecutive tournaments than any golfer in history. ... I especially enjoyed the parts about how she even attempted to become a performer on stage, as well as how she was perhaps the greatest self-promoter of her time. Her efforts reminded me of what Muhammad Ali did some 40 years later.

Even in her teens, it was obvious that she was unlike any other athlete, as the author points out: "Babe is her nickname," the editors of the 1928 PINE BURR yearbook wrote. "She plays with an ease and grace rivaling that of a dancer to tally goal after goal for the Purple during the season." The following year, "Babe was called the 'star ... who very seldom misses the basket." The third surgeon shut them up when he said, "You're all wrong. Politicians are the easiest to operate on. They have no guts, no heart, no brains and no spine. And the head and the butt are interchangeable." (Thanks, Ginger Heskett, for sharing.)



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### 5. TV alert

A. COWBOYS FOR CHRISTMAS: Tuesday, Dec. 25, starting at 11 a.m. on Sundance Tomorrow early Wednesday, you can see such classic Westerns as CHINO, 3:10 TO YUMA and MCLINTOCK.

B. KENNEDY CENTER HONORS: Wednesday, Dec. 26, at 9 p.m. on CBS 2017 honoree Gloria Estefan hosts the celebration of the arts, honoring a Reba McEntire, Cher, Philip Glass. Wayne Shorter and for the first time, a special Kennedy Center Honor goes to a groundbreaking work, Broadway blockbuster Hamilton.

C. GREAT PERFORMANCES: THE BERNSTEIN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AT TANGLEWOOD: Friday, Dec. 28, at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at [Here](#)) Composer Leonard Bernstein is remembered with a 100th birthday bash hosted by Audra McDonald.

D. THE TWILIGHT ZONE: Sunday, Dec. 30, starting at 11 p.m. Though early Tuesday morning, you can see 112 of the anthology's 156 episodes, remastered in high def.

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### 6. Joke 2

Three surgeons are discussing who makes the best patients to operate on. ... The first surgeon said, "Electricians are the best. Everything inside them is color-coded." ... The second surgeon said, "No, I think librarians are. Everything inside them is in alphabetical order." The third surgeon shut them up when he said, "You're all wrong. Politicians are the easiest to operate on. They have no guts, no heart, no brains and no spine. And the head and the butt are interchangeable." (Thanks, Ginger Heskett, for sharing.)



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### 7. Clips/Websites

Note: You may have never checked this section of the blog before, but if that's the case, I am glad that you are here now. I try to post several of the top videos I come across each week, including some that feature friends of mine (#2 and #3). Others (#1) will knock your socks off. Some will have you laughing out loud (#12) if you've never seen them before. And on some, I'm just curious as to your reaction; e.g., (7) you prefer the same clip with a different song (#13 vs. #14)?

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

- (1) Linda White: 22 musicals in 12 minutes: [Here](#)
- (2) Sarah Fowler: 6-handed piano trio: [Here](#)
- (3) Glen Yost: "You need some MAGIC... you just don't know it yet": [Here](#)
- (4) Roberta Gurwood: Bear trapped in van in Asheville (see also the accompanying article): [Here](#)
- (5) Package Thief vs. Glitter Bomb Train (best part begins at 5:42 mark): [Here](#)
- (6) Dancing delivery man (just watch until the 24-second at 5:42): [Here](#)
- (7) Linda Williams: You've Gotta Love Millennials - Micah Tyler: [Here](#)
- (8) Travis Kelly: Monty Python: The Oscar Wilde Sketch: [Here](#)
- (9) Patty Alexander: New video shows what cigarettes really do to your lungs: [Here](#)
- (10) Ed Hackett: These Men Risked Their Lives to Build 1920s New York Skyscrapers: [Here](#)
- (11) Lucille Eckert: O Come All Ye Faithful - Epic Flash Mob Carol: [Here](#)
- (12) Beware of the doghouse: [Here](#)
- (13) Lois Rosenthal: The magic of a smile: [Here](#)
- (14) And the above commercial also with this song: [Here](#)

B. You've often seen stuff from BuzzFeed that others have posted, but if you don't want to wait to find something good, just go to the website directly by clicking: [Here](#)

You'll find listicles, articles containing funny photoshopped pictures and GIFS that are both humorous and a good time waster.

For example:  
18 Roommates Who Had Worse Roommates Than You  
21 Hilarious Church Signs From 2018 That'll Make You Laugh  
These 15 Pups Are Probably More Excited for Christmas Than You  
21 Insults On "The Golden Girls" That Were Straight-Up Savage

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](#)

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### 8. Technology tip

3 Surprising Uses For Your Mouse Scroll Wheel by MJ Shoer

Not everyone has traded in their trusty computer mouse for a fancy new touchscreen. If someone gives you a hard time for still using a mouse, tell them about these three cool scroll-wheel features that can only be done with a mouse.

Click a Link with the Scroll Wheel Button to Open it In a New Tab

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

Note: For some reason, I hadn't been using this feature on my mouse only until recently. I would instead use the up and down arrows or attempt to drag the mouse up and down. ... Was I ever out of step. I've since found that the scroll wheel is the greatest invention since perhaps the bagel! Well, maybe not that great, but seriously, give it a try if you haven't been using it.

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### 9. Joke 3

This billboard goes well with my car's bumper sticker: "Welcome to Asheville ... now go home." (Thanks, Michael Trayford, for sharing.)



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### 10. A quote I like

Thank you, Penny Marshall (1943-2018), for all the times you had me laugh as a result of your work as an actor on LAVERNE & SHIRLEY and other TV shows. ... To see some examples, click: [Here](#)

If you then let the clip continue to play, you'll see others. ... But I became an even bigger fan of yours when you became a director of such films as BIG, AWAKENINGS and A LEAGUE THEIR OWN. ... To read Marshall's obituary, please click: [Here](#)



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### 11. Thought for the day

The 12 WAYS of Christmas by Brian Biro

Remember that what you focus on is what you CREATE! So, control that wonderful controllable called your VISION and focus more on what you WANT than what you don't want! It takes practice, but you can focus more on the solution than the obstacle, more on faith than fear, more on WE GO than ego, and more on being in love than having to be right! Your vision becomes reality!

Live with extraordinary energy! Every day is a gift and it takes energy to unwrap that precious present and to make the most of each moment. The secret is to control the controllable called your ENERGY! Where are you living each day on the 10-point energy scale, where 1 is comatose, and 10 is a child on Christmas morning? If you're not quite living at 10, two simple secrets will move you up the magical scale!

For the rest of this inspiring piece, please go to Section 11 when you click: [Here](#)

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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) Petty Ratusz: Start off your NYE 2018 with a Beer & Band Bus Tour on Lazoomb!
- (2) AUDITIONS BEING HELD FOR THE CENTER STAGE REPERTORY COMPANY.
- (3) Crimes art Missed Demeanings at The Magnetic Theatre.

#### B. PA/NJ events

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST at Actors' Net of Bucks County.

#### PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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