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**1. Reflections**

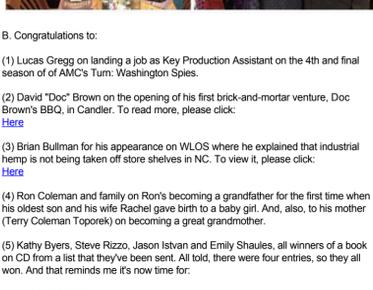
Also, if you're reading this via Facebook or LinkedIn, please be advised that you will get it quicker if you get it via email. Another advantage: You'll never miss it that way because you may not have logged in for a day or two. And in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, all you need to do is send an email to: [bjmbc@aol.com](mailto:bjmbc@aol.com) and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had a blast at the annual Holiday Party of the Blimmore Lake Homeowner's Association that was a big success. It featured music from the Heater Masterlerton Quartet, along with food by Lisa Ronan and the Chef's Kitchen. Special thanks to the Community Recreation & Events Committee for all its work in making the evening the success that it was. For more pictures, please click: [Here](#)



(2) Joined our friends Jonathan and Sandi Freedberg for a great dinner at Wasabi (left photo) where we received excellent service from Reza. From there, we went to see SNOWBOUND at Asheville Community Theatre. Kudos to Mark Jones (right photo) for his spot-on direction, as well as the entire cast that included such friends as Wraylen Wood, Mandy Bean, Jessica Garand, Mike Yow and Ross Albertson. And special thanks to Charlotte Street Computers for both sponsoring the show and making tickets available to the Asheville Jewish Business Forum.



(3) Had a tasty dinner at Stone Ridge Tavern where Jamie did a fine job as our server. Pictured (left photo), I-r: Blaine Greenfield, Cynthia Greenfield, Grant Randall, Ginny Pleistad and Connor Roy. From there, we went to a fun-filled program at our Blimmore Lake Clubhouse on Laughter Yoga (right photo) that was led by Amy Loy who is in the center. For other pictures, as well as the chance to see Amy "in action," please click: [Here](#)



B. Congratulations to:

(1) Lucas Gregg on landing a job as Key Production Assistant on the 4th and final season of AMC's Turn: Washington Spies.

(2) David "Doc" Brown on the opening of his first brick-and-mortar venture, Doc Brown's BBQ, in Candler. To read more, please click: [Here](#)

(3) Brian Bullman for his appearance on WLOS where he explained that industrial hemp is not being taken off store shelves in NC. To view it, please click: [Here](#)

(4) Ron Coleman and family on Ron's becoming a grandfather for the first time when his oldest son and his wife Rachel gave birth to a baby girl. And, also, to his mother (Terry Coleman Toporek) on becoming a great grandmother.

(5) Kathy Byers, Steve Rizzo, Jason Istvan and Emily Shauls, all winners of a book on CD from a list that they've been sent. All told, there were four entries, so they all won. And that reminds me it's now time for:

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

One lucky will twinner win a copy of DISRUPTIVE MARKETING: WHAT GROWTH HACKERS, DATA PUNKS, AND OTHER HYBRID THINKERS CAN TEACH US ABOUT NAVIGATING THE NEW NORMAL (AMACOM) by Geoffrey Colon. The author, a digital marketing pioneer, contends that traditional marketing has changed. And what has worked in the past won't continue to work in the future ... I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #1045 and enjoyed it. ... To enter the contest: Send an email to: [bjmbc@aol.com](mailto:bjmbc@aol.com) and put CONTEST #26 in the subject line. In the body of the email, please include your small mail address. All entries must be received on or before Monday, January 2, at 9 p.m.

C. I hope you can join the Asheville Jewish Business Forum at this event: Networking in the New Year

Take a meaningful step towards a fruitful 2017 with an evening of making connections at the Asheville Jewish Business Forum's January networking event. Join us at Pack's Tavern for an optional dinner and/or drinks, then get into the spirit of new beginnings with networking designed to help you create connections and build skills. No special skills or prior knowledge are required—simply an open-minded attitude about learning something new about the people around you.

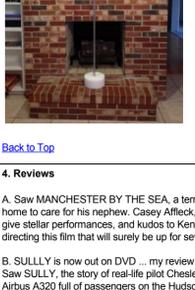
Date: Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017  
5:30-6:30 p.m., dinner and/or drinks  
6:30-7:30 p.m., networking event  
Location: Pack's Tavern, 20 S Spruce St, Asheville  
Free public parking after 5 p.m. in the outdoor lot on Marjorie Street, adjacent to Pack's Tavern

Jensen Gelfond (below) will be leading the session.

Jensen's background: Jensen Gelfond is the owner of Asheville Digital Lifestyle, which provides help and teaching for Mac, PC, Smartphones, entertainment systems and more on-site at your home or business. ADL is best known for a hands-on, patient approach to teaching entrepreneurs, small business owners and anyone looking to use their technology more effectively and joyfully. Jensen is an Evemote Certified Consultant and provides paperless productivity training. ADL also provides traditional IT services such as troubleshooting, computer setup, and technology project management.

\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE RSVP, SO WE CAN NOTIFY THE RESTAURANT \*\*\*\*\*

Please send an email to: [ashevillebf@aol.com](mailto:ashevillebf@aol.com) on or before January 6 and put JANUARY 10 in the subject line. In the body of the email, include your name, phone number and if any others will be coming in addition to yourself. Guests are always welcome, and you don't have to be Jewish to attend.



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

Thanks, Carol Seufert in PA, for submitting this week's nomination: Glenn Kiczales, Senior Loan Officer, with Citizens Bank. Here is what she had to say about him:

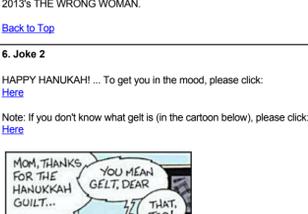
I had some difficult situations, and time and time again, Glenn tirelessly went the extra mile. He explained everything as patiently as if I was the only one who had ever asked each question, yet he is extremely knowledgeable about EVERY aspect of the process. I always felt that Glenn was on my side. This man will do everything he can to see that you get your loan. He can be reached at: [Glenn.Kiczales@citizensbank.com](mailto:Glenn.Kiczales@citizensbank.com).

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**2. FYI**

Looking for the perfect belated Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Valentine's Day, birthday or "just because" gift? Here it is: A personalized romance novel that will enable your many fans and friends to become main characters in a hot and heavy, not-so-classic western designed to answer the question: Will love stand the test of time? ... Orders are now being taken just in time for the perfect belated Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Valentine's Day, birthday or "just because" gift. Use the following code, and you'll even save 25%: HoHo25%. ... To order, please click: [Here](#)

Pictured, top left: Tom Gallagher, alter ego of the book's author, and his faithful partner Marcy, top right: the book cover, and our reaction after reading through page 2 of the wild version. We had to stop there—or I would have never been able to finish this week's issue.



FYI, part 2

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:

[Here](#)

(1) Michaelaen L. in PA: Thought for the day reflects my thoughts as well. (2) Bray C. in NC: I'm bummed that you didn't like Office Christmas Party. (3) Deborah B. in NC: Beautiful, Blaine. (4) Ange M. in PA: Alleluia on your thought for the day. (5) Kathy B. in FL: If anyone has a Sirius radio account, they have a special rate right now til 12/31 of \$30 for 6 months (plus tax of about \$7). (6) The year in pictures 2016. (7) Jason I. in NC: Love seeing your continuing adventures! (8) Why you will marry the wrong person. (9) Mike M. in NC: FENCES \*\*\*12. (10) Todd S. in NJ: Saw Collateral Beauty.

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**3. Joke 1**

HAPPY FESTIVUS to the rest of us on December 23rd! As you probably know, I celebrate all holidays because there's more fun, friends and family that way ... If you're in the area, come join us around our Festivus pole (see below), which as you can see, we spare no expense to decorate. We'll be listening to grievances, performing feats of strength, making contributions to the Human Fund and singing such classic songs as the following:

[Click here](#)

In the unlikely event you don't know the story behind the holiday or need to be reminded of it, please view the SEINFELD clip that started it all by clicking: [Here](#)



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**4. Reviews**

A. Saw MANCHESTER BY THE SEA, a terrific drama about a who man must return home to care for his nephew. Casey Affleck, Lucas Hedges and Michelle Williams all give stellar performances, and kudos to Kenneth Lonergan for both writing and directing this film that will surely be up for several Oscar nominations. Rated R.

B. SULLY is now out on DVD ... my review from BLAINESWORLD #1042 follows: Saw SULLY, the story of real-life pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger who landed an Airbus A320 full of passengers on the Hudson River. Tom Hanks is terrific in the leading role, and Aaron Eckhart is also excellent as his co-pilot. The crash scene was thrilling, as was the rescue afterward. Rated PG-13.

C. Read SICK IN THE HEAD: CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LIFE AND COMEDY (Random House) by Judd Apatow. The author, now one of the most successful filmmakers in Hollywood, began his career by hosting a show for his high school radio station so he could interview such comedy heroes as Garry Shandling and Jerry Seinfeld. Though he no longer is with that same station, he has never stopped interviewing comedians—including Mel Brooks, Jon Stewart, Roseanne Barr, Harold Ramis, Louis C.K., Chris Rock, Lena Dunham and dozens of others. ... This book brings all those conversations together in a delightful fashion. There were also some jokes, such as this one told by Albert Brooks: "Thank God, I consider myself lucky that I live after anesthetics. Can you imagine those days?" Sit down. Tuesday we're taking off your arm." ... But what made the book stand out for me was the advice that is contained throughout that applies not only to comedians, but to virtually anybody. For example, Steve Martin had this to say about getting an Oscar: "Nora Ephron said once, I don't care who you are, when you sit down to type the first page of your screenplay, in your head you're also writing your Oscar nomination speech. And when you're an actor and you're giving your performance you're also thinking, You know, I think Al can win an Oscar. I'm going to win an Oscar for this." ... Lastly, what perhaps most impressed about the book was the fact that Apatow has pledged all proceeds to organizations that provide free tutoring and literacy programs.

D. Heard THE WRONG SIDE OF GOODBYE: A HARRY BOSCH NOVEL (hachette Audio), written by Michael Connelly and read by Titus Welliver. ... The author has written 28 bestselling novels and one work of nonfiction. I've read many of them and have previously enjoyed them. This book gets off to an exciting start. Bosch is called in to investigate the disappearance of a reclusive bioinformer's child. I was really giddy into that story when a second one about a serial rapist began. ... Unfortunately, the endings to both plots left me not completely satisfied. THE WRONG SIDE OF GOODBYE isn't terrible. It's just that I expected more from a character who has long been one of my favorites.

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**5. TV alert**

A. SENSE8: A CHRISTMAS SPECIAL: Via Netflix, starting on Friday, Dec. 23 This series follows the intermingled fate of eight international characters, linked physically and psychically. It returns for a two-hour special. The second series launches May 5.

B. CHASING CAMERON: Via Netflix, starting on Tuesday, Dec 27 This docuseries follows Internet celebrity Cameron Dallas and his social media friends on a world tour.

C. THE 39TH ANNUAL KENNEDY CENTER HONORS: Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 9 p.m. on CBS This year's sterling lineup of honorees include James Taylor, Al Pacino, gospel great Mavis Staples, Argentine pianist Martha Argerich and the Eagles.

D. MOMMY, I DIDN'T LIKE IT: Sunday, Jan. 1, at 8 p.m. on Lifetime Dana Miskler returns as the falsely accused Elen Plaineview in this sequel to 2013's THE WRONG WOMAN.

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**6. Joke 2**

HAPPY HANUKKAH! ... To get you in the mood, please click:

[Here](#)

Note: If you don't know what gelt is (in the cartoon below), please click: [Here](#)



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**7. Clips/Websites**

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

(1) Elsten Torres: Damn Rambling Xmas [Click here](#)

(2) Deep River: Poor Pitiful Me [Click here](#)

(3) Chris S. in PA: One of the most touching scenes in any movie [UP] [Click here](#)

(4) Natalie K. in PA: Light One Candle [Click here](#)

(5) Sid Caesar & Imogene Coca: Auto smashup [Click here](#)

B. Consider using Outlook.com for Web-based email apps. It has a clean interface, excellent organizational tools, support for aliases and no ads (if you're looking at messages from other people in your contact list). ... Best of all: You can manage various email accounts without switching between apps. ... To sign-up, please click: [Here](#)

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**

Chandler S. in NY: Ya'll apparently my Facebook is doing some weird sh't where it is tagging friends in other peoples photos when they clearly aren't there. Anybody know what this is all about or how I can fix it?

Comments

You've probably been hacked. Aside from changing your password (I always told you that "Blaine'sOnHillivaCoastGuy" probably wasn't the best one to use from a security standpoint), here are some other things to consider:

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**9. Joke 3**

MERRY CHRISTMAS! ... Here are a bunch of songs to get you in the mood:

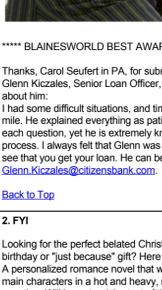
[Click here](#)



SANTA PREFERS THE COOKIES FROM COLORADO & WASHINGTON STATE

For the story behind the three wise men, please click: [Here](#)

And for a sweet song composed for the ukulele, "Frankincense Myrrh Gold," please click: [Here](#)



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**10. A quote I like**

Henry Heimlich (1920-2016) was an American thoracic surgeon and medical researcher. He is widely credited as the inventor of the Heimlich maneuver, a technique of abdominal thrusts for stopping choking. For his obituary, please click: [Here](#)



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**11. Thought for the day**

Bob Dylan's speech at the Nobel Banquet, in which he accepted the Nobel Prize for Literature was read by Azita Raji (United States Ambassador to Sweden). It follows: Good evening, everyone. I extend my warmest greetings to the members of the Swedish Academy and to all of the other distinguished guests in attendance tonight.

I'm sorry I can't be with you in person, but please know that I am most definitely with you in spirit and honored to be receiving such a prestigious prize. Being awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature is something I never could have imagined or seen coming. From an early age, I've been familiar with and reading and absorbing the works of those who were deemed worthy of such a distinction: Kipling, Shaw, Thomas Mann, Pearl Buck, Albert Camus, Hemingway. These giants of literature whose works are taught in the schoolrooms, housed in libraries around the world and spoken of in reverent tones have always made a deep impression. That I now join the names on such a list is truly beyond words.

For the rest of the speech, please click: [Here](#)

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**12. Advance planning department**

To read about each of the following events in full, please click:

A. NC events

(1) THE MUSICAL OF MUSICALS (THE MUSICAL), (2) Zuzu Welsh Band at White Horse Black Mountain.

B. PANJ events

(2) Musical Revue, 'Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris,' Comes to MCCC's Kelsey Theatre.

PS. HAPPY KWANZZA! ... To get you in the mood, please click: [Here](#)

And if you want to learn more about the holiday, please click: [Here](#)



I'm Dreaming of a White Kwanzaa!

Make it a wonderful rest of the week, too!

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