

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](#).

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#1370

12.19.2022

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## 1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I celebrated the return to our home with our friends Tom and Marcy Gallagher. For those who may have missed the news, we were displaced for some six months because of a \$5 water leak under the kitchen sink that resulted in us having to get new floors and cabinets.



B. Zen Sushi is rapidly becoming one of our favorite Asheville eateries. The food is always good there, and the other night we enjoyed the fine service we received from Ryan Travers.



C. It's always a treat to get together with my buddy Mike Martinelli for a tasty lunch at LongHorn Steakhouse where we were joined by Cappy Tosetti, our mutual friend. An added treat: Michelle Coulombe was our server. She is definitely up there with the best servers in the Asheville area.



D. DO YOURSELF A FAVOR! ... Catch one of the four remaining performances of The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley, the Multiverse Theatre Collective's splendid production running through Sunday at the Be Be Theatre. ... You'll love following the further adventures of Jane Austen's beloved Price and Prejudice characters, delightfully played by Lauren Otis, Alex McDonald, Hanni Muerdter, Zak Hamrick, Dana Gillihan, Gabby Bailey and Desmond Williams. .... Mandy Bean directed with aplomb. And special kudos to Jason Williams for his excellent work as set designer while also serving as stage manager, lighting designer and sound board designer. ... For tickets, click: [Here](#).



E. BE FOREWARNED! ... You know you're in for a wild ride when Skyler Goff (pictured below), writer/director of CAROLING BY GASLIGHT, gives a curtain speech before his play begins at The Magnetic Theatre unlike any you've ever heard before. In it, he warns about explicit sexual content, language and dialogue that depicts murder, gore, gun use, conspiracy, prostitution, necrophilia, hallucinogens, psychotic breaks and other content not suitable for children. ... Fortunately, all those in attendance cheered, and they then got their money's worth in this outrageously funny reimagining of the Charles Dickens' classic, A CHRISTMAS CAROL. ... All in the large ensemble cast shined, and so as to not miss anybody, here they were: Kai Strange, Jason A. Phillips, Lilly Mills, Ashleigh Goff, Strother Stingley, Adam Olson, Molly Graves, Rachel McCrain, Emily Tucker, Jered Schults and Jenni Robinson.



F. Hot off the press ... my latest column for THE FAIRVIEW TOWN CRIER.

**Tradition (n.): Peer pressure from dead people.**

What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?

The Christmas alphabet has Noel.

\*

**Just burned 2,000 calories. That's the last time I leave brownies in the oven while I nap.**

\*

The guy at the furniture store told me the sofa would seat five people without any problems.

Then it occurred to me, I don't think I know five people without any problems.

\*

**Yesterday, I saw a book called HOW TO SOLVE 50% OF YOUR PROBLEMS ... so I bought two copies.**

Police officer: "Pull over."  
Harry: "No, it's a cardigan. But thanks for noticing."  
—Harry Dunne (Jeff Daniels) in "Dumb and Dumber"

"Someone asked me, if I were stranded on a desert island what book would I bring: 'How to Build a Boat.'"

—Steven Wright

A man went to buy stamps for his Hanukkah cards. He asks the clerk, "Do I have to stick these on myself?" The clerk says, "Well, it'll work better if you stick them on the envelopes."

\*

**What do you call a pencil with erasers on both ends?**

**Pointless.**

\*

*Town Crier readers are invited to submit funnies. Thanks, Cynthia Greenfield, for the following riddle:*

**Q: What time is it when an elephant sits on a fence?**

**A: Time to fix the fence.**



Blaine Greenfield is publisher of the BLAINES WORLD blog and host of a podcast with the same name. Send items for possible inclusion in a future issue to [bgqinbc@aol.com](mailto:bgqinbc@aol.com).

G. Condolences to:

- (1) Debbie Hancock and family on the passing of Bob, Debbie's brother-in-law.
- (2) Jim Roney and family on the passing of Jim's mom.

H. Congratulations to:

- (1) Josephine Thomas and Henry Williamson on the birth of Juliet Marie Williamson, their daughter.
- (2) Honor Moor on her recent appearance on WLOS. To view it, click: [Here](#).
- (3) Justin Gaylard on earning his M.Ed.

I. Correction: Last week's issue reported that Ella Ledford was named as one of November Mustangs of the Month at Smoky Mountain High School. Her first name was misspelled. Sorry 'bout that!

J. Announcing this week's ...

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

This week, it goes to Kathy Schuster (pictured below).

She was nominated by Lisa Zaglin. Here's what I received from Lisa:

I first met Kathy when I was a volunteer at the Aark Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center in Chalfont, PA. She was a dedicated wildlife rehabber there for many years. Kathy's professionalism and commitment to caring for sick and injured wildlife has now earned her the well-deserved role of Clinic Director at Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Stroudsburg, PA.



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## 2. Invites

### A. Announcing ...

#### \*\*\*\*\* CONTEST #20 \*\*\*\*\*

One lucky reader will win a copy of HIGHER SELF EXPRESSION: HOT TO BECOME AN ARTIST OF POSSIBILITY by Jeff Carreira. To quote from the description in Amazon:

In this book, you will discover that genius is not only a talent that you are born with, it is a human capacity that can be trained and cultivated by anyone. In these pages, you will learn how to nurture your own creative brilliance by examining the unusual lives of luminaries ranging from: Gertrude Stein, Ralph Waldo Emerson and William James, to Anaïs Nin, Philip K. Dick and Captain Marvel. You will compare the genius of Eastern mysticism with the brilliance of Christianity and Islam. You will explore great works of poetry, literature, science fiction, comic books and even extreme sports. There is no realm of human endeavor that can not produce genius.

To enter the contest, send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put CONTEST #20 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. 26.

B. UPDATE on Contest #19: Congratulations to Mirra Price for winning the contest--copy of WILL YOGA & MEDITATION REALLY CHANGE MY LIFE: PERSONAL STORES FROM 25 OF NORTH AMERICA'S LEADING TEACHERS, edited by Stephen Cope.

All told, there were six entries.

C. 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](mailto: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](#).

D. 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](#).

E. The two courses that Cynthia teaches for Arms Around ASD, Meditation on Monday via Zoom and Move

Your Body on Wednesday via Zoom or in person, will not be held the next two weeks because of ASD's holiday break. They will both resume in January. Stay tuned for details or check the calendar by clicking: [Here](#).

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

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### 3. FYI

White House announces new COVID-19 prevention efforts, including free tests, vaccination clinics, support for nursing homes

by Karen Weintraub

As COVID-19 cases rise again with the arrival of winter and holiday gatherings, the White House Thursday announced its plans for controlling cases this winter.

Americans will be able to order four more free COVID-19 tests per household, collaborating with communities to open pop-up or mobile vaccination sites, pre-positioning critical supplies like masks, gloves and gowns from the Strategic National Stockpile and providing more support to nursing homes and long-term care facilities to protect the most vulnerable.

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

Note: You can't beat the price for these tests. And ordering couldn't be simpler. I just ordered mine and within minutes, I received an email that said they were being shipped out within the next few days. ... As the article points out, if you have some old tests lying around, make sure you check the expiration dates on them.

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### 4. Joke 1

Today's history lesson. ... And if you're like me, and you celebrate all holidays because there's more food, fun and friends that way ... HAPPY HANUKKAH!



## 5. Reviews

A. **EMPIRE OF LIGHT** is a poignant drama set in an English seaside town in the early 1980s. The story revolves around a single, bipolar cinema employee, brilliantly portrayed by Olivia Colman. Michael Ward, Colin Firth and Toby Jones also excelled in their respective roles. The cinematography was top notch. We enjoyed it--Cynthia a bit more than I did. Rated R.

B. **THE NOEL DIARY** is a predictable, yet quite watchable holiday drama about two lost souls who discover what they've been missing that's now available on Netflix. It was good to see Justin Hartley back on screen (after loving him in **THIS IS US**), and Barrett Doss was good as the woman who undertakes the journey with him. Appropriate for anybody over 12.

## 6. TV alert

A. **THE LAST WORD**: Now on Netflix

In this new German six-part dramedy, the main character deals with her husband's sudden death in a strange way: By becoming a eulogist. Cynthia and I thought the first episode was terrific. The others were good too, though we were a bit disappointed with the last one.

B. **GLITTER**: Now on Netflix

Set in Poland in 1976, three women are experiencing an era of sexual freedom, and sex work isn't frowned upon. According to **DECIDER**, [the series] "makes a real effort to concentrate on its main characters instead of leaning on period clichés, and does so without judgment or a sense of kitsch."

C. Thanks, Gil Calderwood, for the following recommendation:

**MY NEXT GUEST WITH DAVID LETTERMAN AND VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY**: Now on Netflix

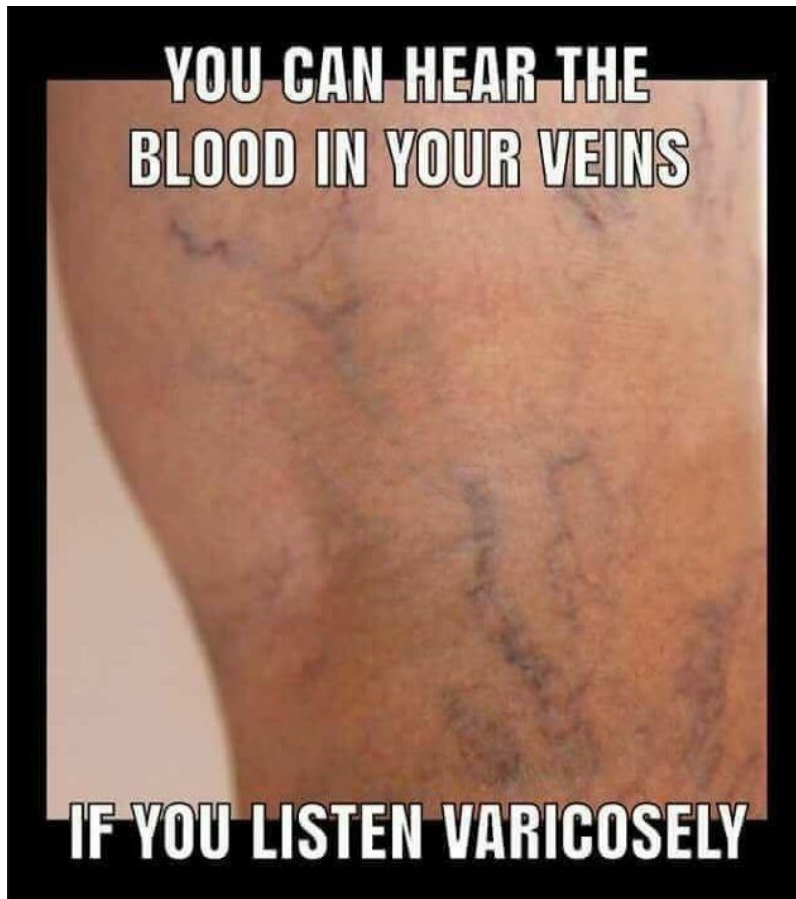
David Letterman journeys to Kyiv, Ukraine, for a stirring, personal and in-depth conversation with President Volodymyr Zelensky. Gil calls it "must see."

D. **HOMEWARD BOUND: A GRAMMY SALUTE TO THE SONGS OF PAUL SIMON**: Wednesday, Dec., 21, at 9 p.m. on CBS

Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood, Dave Matthews, the Jonas Brothers and Billy Porter are part of a stellar lineup

## 7. Joke 2

The things you learn online! (Thanks, Betsy Sell, for sharing.)



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## 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](mailto: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 version from the SATB choir, arranged by Audrey Snyder: [Here](#).

B. Video of the week

Mars Mignon: "Adore You Right Back": [Here](#).

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

(1) Buddy Holly, "Everyday," one of my all-time favorites: [Here](#).

(2) Howard Smith, Hymns (12.18.2022):

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: Jeff "Skunk" Baxter, best known for his work in both Steely Dan and the Doobie Brothers: [Here](#).



(4) To see Baxter in performance, click: [Here](#).

(5) For those who think cats can't be trained--or dogs, for that matter: [Here](#). (Thanks, Lori Lynn Mullett, for sharing.)

(6) Cool dancing to Stayin' Alive: [Here](#). (Thanks, Jonathan Berg, for sharing.)

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

The Oatmeal is one of the best comic strip websites to waste time. See for yourself by clicking The Oatmeal: [Here](#).

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](#).

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## 9. Technology tip

If you've been a Facebook user for a while, then you probably have a folder full of unread messages that you didn't even know existed: the Message Requests folder. This is where Facebook sends all the missives from people you're not currently friends with. It could be filled with old high school flings reaching out or a bunch of Nigerian spammers. Who knows? Only one way to find out!

To review these messages, navigate to Facebook.com, and click the Messenger icon (the word balloon with the lightning bolt) at the top of your Facebook home screen. Click See All in Messenger at the bottom to go full screen. Click the three-dot ellipsis menu icon and select Message Requests. Then you'll see all sorts of messages from strangers.

There may be an entry called See Spam showing those who tried to contact you, but who've likely been kicked off the service after being reported by others. Delete them with joy.

Source: <https://www.pcmag.com/how-to/hidden-facebook-features-only-power-users-know> (#2)

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## 10. Joke 3

Two entrepreneurs were comparing notes on the difficulties of running a small business. "I started a new practice last year," the first one said. "I insist that each of my employees take at least a week off every three months."

"Why in the world would you do that?" the other asked.

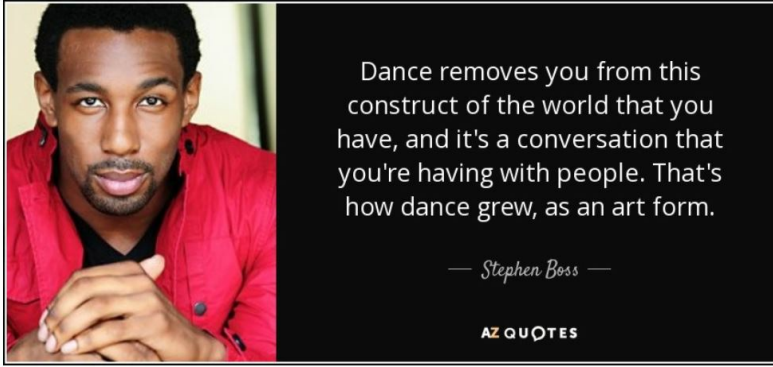
She responded, "It's the best way I know of to learn which ones I can do without."



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## 11. A quote I like

Thanks, Stephen "tWitch" Boss (1982-2022), for your career as an an American freestyle hip hop dancer, choreographer, actor, television producer and television personality. I'll most remember you for being featured on THE ELLEN DEGENERES SHOW as a co-host and co-executive producer. For more information about his life (and a clip of some of his appearances), click: [Here](#).



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## 12. Thought for the day

The reason why dogs don't live as long as people, according to a 6-year-old:"People are born, so that they can learn how to live a good life. Like loving everybody all the time and being nice. Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long. (Thanks, Linda Feinberg, for sharing.)



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## 13. Advance planning department

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

A. Jeff Catanese : Santa Claus Conquers the Martians! B. Chelsey Lee Gaddy: Few seats left for show at SART. C. Jimmy Ferraro: Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre.

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**PS.** Make it a great week!

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