

#1057
12/28/2016

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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 blainc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Celebrated Christmas with our friends Marcy and Tom Gallagher, as well with their respective parents and others. It was a lot of fun. For other pictures from the evening, please click: [Here](#)



(2) Found a great new eatery near us: Doc Brown's BBQ in Candler. That's us with David Brown, the owner. As you can see, we enjoyed our ribs.



(3) Delivered Chanukah meals for Jewish Family Services and on one of our stops, had a delightful visit with Esther Cybulsky.

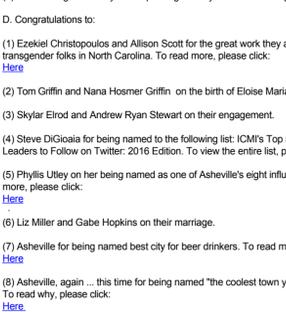


B. During the week, I:

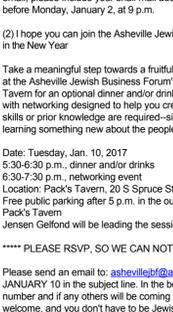
(1) Had a blast at The Magnetic Theatre's THE 45TH ANNUAL BERNSTEIN FAMILY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR, starring Glenn Reed and Tracy Johnston-Crum (top photo), Darren Marshall (bottom left photo) and Kirby Gibson (bottom right photo). Not pictured: Erik Moellering, Voicovers by Steven Samuels added to the fun. And kudos to Jeff Catanese for his spot on direction, as well as to Lucia Del Vecchio, Jim Julien, Peter Lundblad and Genevieve Packer for their hilarious writing.



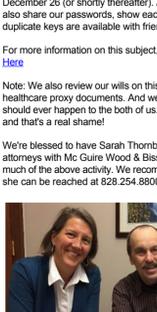
(2) Enjoyed meeting Sarah White Rudisill for lunch at Green Sage and getting to learn about her business. It sounds very exciting, and I like how it affords me the opportunity to save money when I shop online and that I can even use it when I get gift cards. ... If anybody wants to learn more, please click: [Here](#)



(3) Attended a global and community celebration put on by the LEAF Schools & Streets at our Billmore Lake Clubhouse. In particular, the drumming circle was a very cool part of the program. Kudos to Becky Wright, Louise Glickman and the Billmore Lake External Relations Committee for sponsoring this event. ... Pictured: my friend Daryn Slaton. For other pictures, please click: [Here](#)



(4) Thanks, Trissa King, for enabling me to maintain my beloved diet (i.e. a bunch of your tasty oatmeal raisin cookies in each hand). They were sooooo good. (Not pictured is Cynthia. She was too busy taking this picture--and enjoying the rest of the cookies.)



C. Condolences to:

- (1) Daniel Barsoum and family on the passing of Michael, Daniel's brother.
- (2) The family of Doug Rosenstrater on Doug's passing. He was both a friend and colleague of mine at Bucks County Community College.
- (3) JoAnn Calabria Johnson and family on the passing of Aron, JoAnn's brother-in-law.
- (4) Sharon Lewis and family on the passing of Barbara Johnson, Sharon's older sister.
- (5) Bill Hemmig and family on the passing of Mary M. Krize Hemmig, his mother.

D. Congratulations to:

- (1) Ezekiel Christopoulos and Allison Scott for the great work they are doing to help transgender folks in North Carolina. To read more, please click: [Here](#)
- (2) Tom Griffin and Nana Hosmer Griffin on the birth of Eloise Maria Griffin.
- (3) Skylar Elrod and Andrew Ryan Stewart on their engagement.
- (4) Steve DiGloala for being named to the following list: ICM's Top 50 Thought Leaders to Follow on Twitter: 2016 Edition. To view the entire list, please click: [Here](#)
- (5) Phyllis Utley on her being named as one of Asheville's eight influencers. To find out more, please click: [Here](#)
- (6) Liz Miller and Gabe Hopkins on their marriage.
- (7) Asheville for being named best city for beer drinkers. To read more, please click: [Here](#)
- (8) Asheville, again ... this time for being named "the coolest town you've not visited." To read why, please click: [Here](#).

(Thanks, Steven Shulman, for putting the above on my radar screen.)

(9) DiAnna E. Rigoia on becoming officially registered as a wedding officiant in the City of New York.

E. Reminders:

(1) There's still time to enter ...

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

***** LUCKY reader will win a copy of DISRUPTIVE MARKETING: WHAT GROWTH HACKERS, DATA PUNKS, AND OTHER HYBRID THINKERS CAN TEACH US ABOUT NAVIGATING THE NEW NORMAL (AMAJOON) 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: blainc@aol.com and put CONTEST #26 in the subject line. In the body of the email, please include your email address. All entries must be received on or before Monday, January 2, at 9 p.m.

(2) 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
5:30-8:30 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 near Marjorie Street, adjacent to Pack's Tavern
Jensen Gelfond will be leading the session.

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

Please send an email to: ashevillejbf@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, Marcy Gallagher in NC, for this week's nomination: His name is Juan Ortiz. He works at the Cellular Sales store in the Asheville Mall. ... He loved the fact that I was a business owner and said he would send people our way. As a budding entrepreneur, he asked me questions about owning a business and was so excited when I shared my thoughts. ... He was very helpful and interested in his customers. He went out of his way to help me figure out some things on my cellphone without hesitation. His friendly, warm demeanor has refreshed in this hustle-bustle retail world. ... Should anyone want to contact him, his email address is: juan.ortiz@cellularsales.com

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2. FYI

Please consider scheduling a "Contingency Day" with your spouse or significant other. That's when you discuss your finances frankly and openly. ... We now do this on December 26 (or shortly thereafter). At that time, we not only discuss our finances, but also share our passwords, show each other where our files are kept, make sure duplicate keys are available with friends, etc.

For more information on this subject, please click: [Here](#)

Note: We also review our wills on this day, as well as our spirit of new beginnings and healthcare proxy documents. And we discuss plans for our pets in case something should ever happen to the both of us. Too often, pets get left behind in such planning--and that's a real shame!

We're blessed to have Sarah Thornburg (pictured below), one of the many fine attorneys with Mc Guire Wood & Bisette P.A. as the person who has helped us with much of the above activity. We recommend her highly. Should you want to contact her, she can be reached at 828.254.8800; s Thornburg@mwbx.com.

FYI, part 2

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

- [Here](#)
- (1) Mike Martinelli: LA LA LAND ***** (2) How Social Isolation Is Killing Us. (3) Ivan Winegar: Natalie and I Saw ***** with Denzel Washington Killa Davis last night (4) The dumb, delightful world of pet tech. (5) Why Theater Majors Are Vital. (6) 11 ways to be a better person in 2017. (7) How much sugar can you avoid today?

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3. Joke 1

Bill and Marta decided that the only way to pull off a Sunday afternoon quickie with their 10-year-old son in the apartment was to send him out on the balcony and order him to report on all the neighborhood activities. The boy began his commentary as his parents put their plan into operation. "There's a car being towed from the parking lot," he said. "An ambulance just drove by." ... A few moments passed. "Looks like the Anderson's have company," he called out. "Marta's hiding a new bike, and the Coopers are having sex." ... Mom and dad shot up in bed. "How do you know that?" the startled father asked. " ... Their kid is standing out on the balcony too," his son replied.

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4. Reviews

A. Saw LA LA LAND, an enchanting musical about an aspiring actress and a jazz musician who are struggling to make ends meet. Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling have great chemistry together in the leading roles. I loved both the music and the dance numbers. The ending was outstanding. I now have this at the top of my favorite films for 2016. Rated PG-13.

Note: It has also been added to my list of favorite films. If you'd like a copy of that list, send an email to: blainc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

B. Now out on DVD is DENIAL. Here's my review from BLAINESWORLD #1047: Saw DENIAL, the true story about a woman's legal battle when she is accused of being after accusing an author of being a Holocaust denier. Rachel Weisz is fine in the leading role, but Timothy Spall is outstanding as the denier. The trial scene at the end is particularly riveting. It will also remind you of what Matthew McConaughey entitled "You Were Just Having Trouble." He describes a time when he was 12 and he said, "I can't get this dam mower started, Dad!" ... His father interrupted. "You're having trouble." When McConaughey pressed for an explanation, he was told, "Look son, don't ever say you can't do something. That means there's absolutely no way to do it. If you can't do something, how are you ever going to fix something? How are you gonna figure the problem out? How are you gonna ask for help? You're gonna have trouble doing a lot of things in life, but they can be done. If you say 'I can't,' that means there's no solution, you've given up, you've quit. But if you say you're having trouble," that means that even though you may not know at the time how to solve the problem, you know there's a way--you're just having trouble. Let's figure it out." ... I also enjoyed reading Couric's introduction to the book, as well her introduction of each section.

D. Heard THE COW in the PARKING LOT: A ZEN APPROACH TO OVERCOMING ANGER (HighBridge Audio), written by Leonard Scheff and Susan Edmonster and narrated by Gill Hendricks. ... The introduction of this useful book does a great job summarizing what it is all about: You are hitting your hand with a hammer. If you stop, you will feel better. ... The authors present many useful examples, and they will get you thinking that there is a better alternative: i.e. don't get mad, get calm. ... In addition, I liked how they pointed out that confronting an angry person will rarely bring about change. Instead, it might even bring about more anger and an escalation of the situation. ... What might be an alternative approach? Utilize compassion.

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5. TV alert

A. THE NEW CELEBRITY APPRENTICE, this time starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, is back in business on Monday, Jan. 2, at 8 p.m.

B. SIDNEY LUMET: AMERICAN MASTERS airs on Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 8 p.m. on PBS. Check local listings because PBS times and dates often vary.

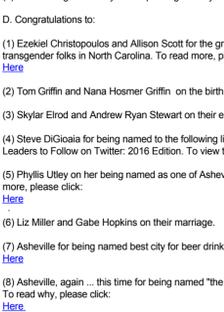
C. ONE DAY AT A TIME, the 1970s classic, returns with a new cast and updated stories on Friday, Jan. 6, via Netflix.

D. Thanks, Cynthia Greenfield in NC, for encouraging me to watch THIS IS US, an NBC drama that is as good as anything I've ever seen on TV. It is about a group of individuals whose lives intertwine in unexpected ways. ... I missed the entire first season, but binge watched it via On Demand and now can't wait until the second season returns on Friday, Jan. 10, at 9 p.m.

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6. Joke 2

On New Year's Eve, Katie stood up in the local pub and said that it was time to get ready. At the stroke of midnight, she wanted every husband to be standing next to the one person who made his life worth living. ... Well, it was kind of embarrassing. As the clock struck, the bartender was almost crushed to death.



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7. Clips/Websites

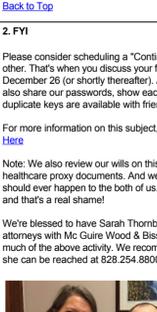
A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

- (1) (Thanks Gil Calderwood, for sharing) [Unlabeled](#)
- [Here](#)
- (2) (Thanks, Charlie Ianni, for sharing) [Humans of Judaism](#)
- [Here](#)
- (3) Sea: Chap Thrills
- [Here](#)
- (4) Jimmy Eat Word: The Middle
- [Here](#)

B. Debbie Reynolds (1932-2016), R.I.P., was an American actress, singer, businesswoman, film historian and humanitarian. To hear some of her most famous songs, please click: [Here](#)

To read her obituary, as well as to see some pictures from her life, please click: [Here](#)

And one of my favorite remembrances of her was the following obituary where she is shown with her daughter, Carrie Fisher, who died one day before she did. Please see Section 11 for more information.



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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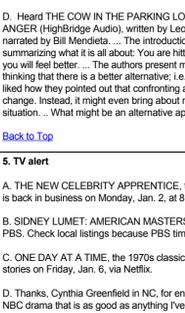
8. Technology tip

Google Drive gives you free cloud storage and file backup for photos, documents and more. Best of all, it's free (depending on how much space you need). Also, you can download it for your smartphone and tablet. To find out more, please click: [Here](#)

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9. Joke 3

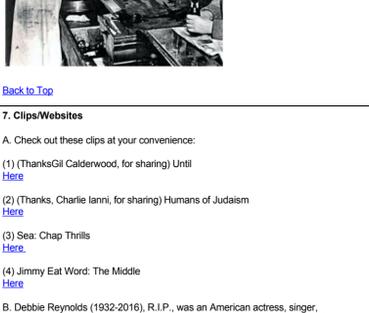
HAPPY HEALTHY NEW YEAR! ... Please join me in setting realistic goals for the coming months. So in addition to those pictured below, I'm adding: 6) Spend no more than 3 hours and 43 minutes on Facebook each day. 7) Do less laundry and use more deodorant. 8) Watch more TV. 9) Remember to write 2017 instead of 2016 on my checks.



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10. A quote I like

George Michael (1963-2016), R.I.P., was an English singer, songwriter and record producer who rose to fame as a member of the music duo Wham! For his obituary, as well as pictures and videos from his career, please click: [Here](#)



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11. Thought for the day

Carrie Fisher (1956-2016), R.I.P., was an American actress, screenwriter, author, producer and speaker. What especially impressed me about was how she handled her bipolar disorder. To quote her: "One of the things that baffles me (and there are quite a few) is how there can be so much lingering stigma with regards to mental illness, specifically bipolar disorder. In my opinion, living with manic depression takes a tremendous amount of balls. Not unlike a tour of Afghanistan (though the bombs and bullets, in this case, come from the inside). At times, being bipolar can be an all-consuming challenge, requiring a lot of stamina and even more courage, so if you're living with this illness and functioning at all, it's something to be proud of, not ashamed of. They should issue medals along with the steady stream of medication."

For her obituary, as well as for pictures from her life, please click: [Here](#)

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12. Advance planning department

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

[Here](#)

A. Sarah White Rudisill: I'm beginning a new private weightloss group starting January 2. B. Zuzu Welsh Band at White Horse Black Mountain. C. GOD OF CARNAGE.

PS. Make it a wonderful week--and 2017, too!

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