

From: Blainesworld blaine@blainesworld.net
Subject: blainesworld 1506 (See Sect. 1B to see my wedding proposal to Cynthia.)
Date: July 20, 2025 at 5:18 PM
To: hank@hankeder.com

B

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](#).

#1506
7.21.2025

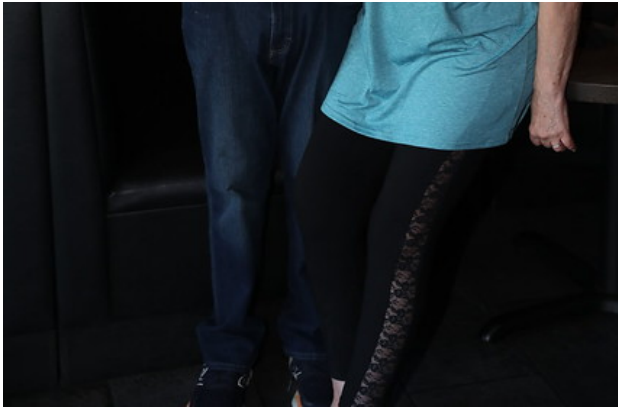
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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a blast at our 20th Wedding Anniversary party at The Madness in Asheville. Our only regret was that more of you weren't able to join us.





B. I even got on one knee to propose to her. (Something I had not done when we first got married.)

You're in luck!

You can even see the whole ceremony by clicking:

[Here.](#)

Thanks, Tom Gallagher, for your oh-so profound words of wisdom. And thanks, Jessica Vasquez, for what you had to say at the end.



C. Entertainment was provided by the fabulous Zach Knox, pictured below with the equally fabulous Bonnie Solomon. What was sooooo cool: Many of our other friends followed Bonnie's lead and came up to sing their own numbers with Zach.

To see just some of these performances, click as indicated:

1. Mellow Yellow

Zach Knox on keyboard

<https://youtu.be/olWgvLul5N8>

2. Yellow Submarine

Hank Eder with Zach Knox on keyboard

<https://youtu.be/6S27wWfGEtw>

3. Harvest Moon

Beth Mayberry with Zach Knox on keyboard

https://youtu.be/cLT2_7iEjM

4. Anniversary Wishes

Padma Dyvine and Will Redish

<https://youtu.be/AkW9hfGJMtE>

5. Can't Help Myself

Zach Knox on keyboard

https://youtu.be/g_r58uanL8E

6. That'll Be The Day

Mark Jones with Zach Knox on keyboard

https://youtu.be/qcHFZwhn_vM

7. Lovely Day

Jensen Gelfond and Beth Mayberry with Zach Knox on keyboard

<https://youtu.be/6a8TwSoQPEM>

And lest your forget ... arguably the greatest rock song of all time:

8. Happy Together

ALL with Zach Knox on Keyboard

[Here](#)

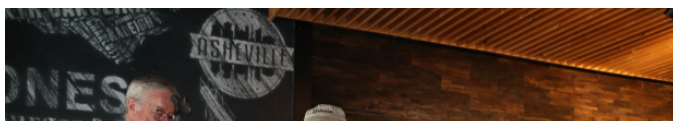
Note: Thanks, Kevin Jameson, for taping the above.

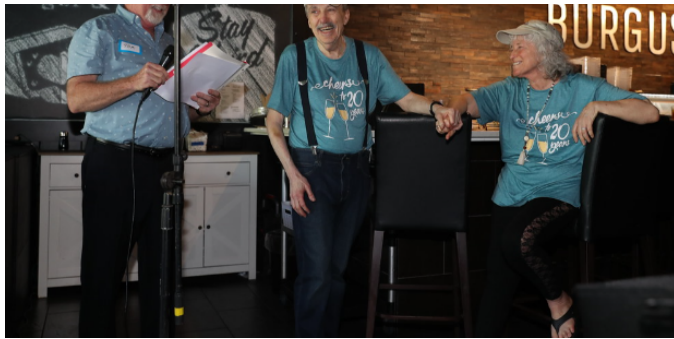


D. For other pictures from the day taken by Paul King, my talented photographer friend, click:

[Here](#).

I especially liked this one of Tom having us exchange vows.





E. And if you still want more pictures, click this link to some taken by some of our friends: [Here](#).

Pictured below: A Hershey Bar in this wrapping--our gift to all who joined us.

Note: See Section I for one final picture from the day.



F, REVIEW: Noises Off Delivers Hysterical Mayhem at Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre by Blaine Greenfield--Chief Encouragement Officer (CEO), BLAINESWORLD

If laughter truly is the best medicine, then the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre's current production of Noises Off should come with a warning label: excessive hilarity ahead.

Running through July 20, this expertly timed farce-within-a-farce takes everything that can go wrong in live theatre--and gleefully runs with it. Under the razor-sharp direction of Jeff Catanese, this production embraces the chaos with a level of polish that's nothing short of impressive.

The ensemble cast is uniformly excellent with each actor bringing both sharp comedic timing and physical precision to the stage:

Jon Stockdale anchors the madness as the exasperated director Lloyd Dallas, masterfully juggling egos, disasters and misplaced sardines

characters, and misplaced sardines.

Christy Montesdeoca is pitch-perfect as Dotty Otley, whose performance as housekeeper Mrs. Clackett is delightfully layered with frustration and farce.

Chandler Peveto brings explosive energy to the role of Gary Lejeune. His increasingly unhinged monologues draws some of the biggest laughs of the performance.

Amanda Clifton shines as the ditzy yet determined Brooke Ashton, never missing a beat (or a misplaced contact lens).

Daniel Henry is wonderfully flustered as Frederick Fellowes, whose fear of blood and confusion with entrances adds to the escalating absurdity.

Shelley Nielsen gives a witty performance as the ever-optimistic Belinda Blair, playing peacemaker amidst the chaos.

Mikhale Sherrill is hilariously frazzled as Poppy Norton-Taylor, the assistant stage manager with a breaking point just around every corner.

Cody Eugene runs himself ragged (hilariously) as the ever-frantic Tim Algood.

Daniel Sandoval delivers a scene-stealing turn as the inebriated Selsdon Mowbray, whose timing is as brilliant as it is unpredictable.

The behind-the-scenes talent deserves equal applause. Stage Manager Cary Nichols and Assistant Stage Manager Claire Daniel keep the complex backstage action flowing seamlessly. The ingenious set, designed and built under the guidance of Production Engineer Carew Henry and Lead Carpenter Elijah York, deserves a standing ovation of its own—it's practically a tenth cast member.

A special nod to the show's clever play-within-a-play structure: Be sure to check out the Playbill within the Playbill for the fictional farce Nothing On. It is especially helpful for understanding the deliciously disastrous second act that you never actually see performed.

Final verdict:

SART's Noises Off is a first-class comedic romp that's flawlessly executed and filled with nonstop laughs. Whether you're a theatre lover or simply in need of a some unfiltered fun, this production hits every note--and then drops the sardines.

For tickets, click:

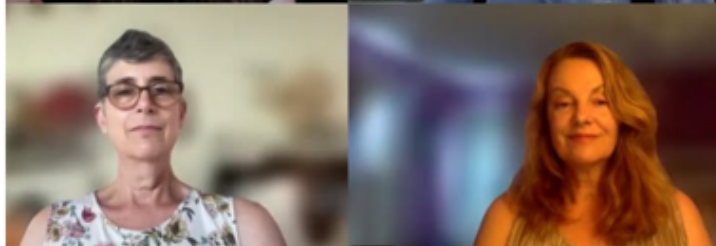
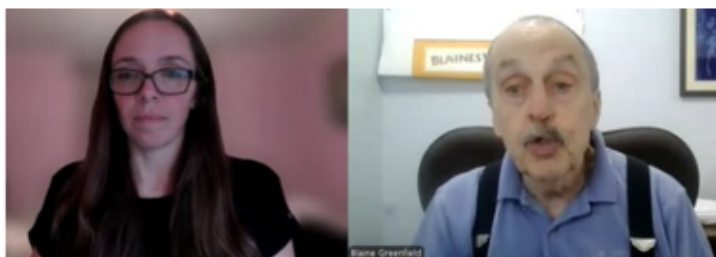
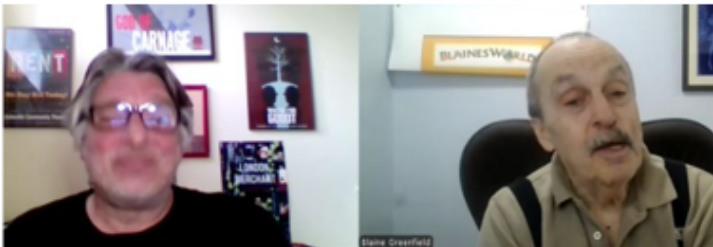
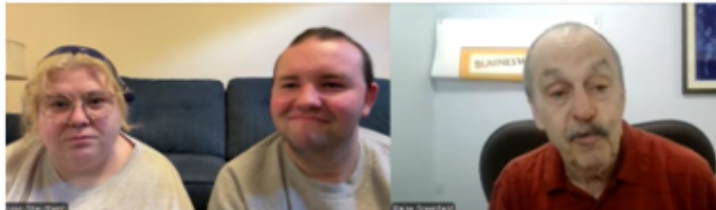
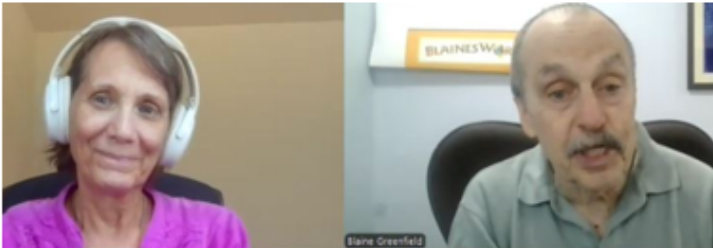
<https://sartplays.ludus.com/index.php>.



G. I hosted four BLAINESWORLD webcasts this past week. To view them, click:

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

- (1) Top: 7.18.2025 - Nancy "Niiti" Gannon, children's author
- (2) 2nd from top: 7.17.2025 - Rowan Bishop & Marée Starling discuss Something Rotten!
- (3) 3rd from top: 7.16.2025 - Jeff Catanese--Founder, Asheville Theater Alliance
- (4) Bottom: 7.15.2025 - Cindy Pearce, Dara Kiely & Nina Tovish discuss the Asheville Toastmasters Club



H. Congratulations to:

- (1) Babs Mountjoy on her book, REMNANTS OF FIRE, having placed as finalist in the 2025 National Excellence in Story Telling (NEST) Contest.
- (2) Asheville Community Theatre on receiving the Special Recognition Award from AACT (American Association of Community Theatre), honoring far-reaching contributions to the field.

(3) Ashleigh Graham Brown on the fact that 'I'll Just Drive' debuted this month on The Bluegrass Unlimited Top 15 Bluegrass Albums.

(4) Elsten Torres on being featured in Voyage Magazine (Miami). To read the really cool article, click: https://voyagemia.com/interview/rising-stars-meet-elsten-torres/?fbclid=IwY2xjawLI5u1leHRuA2FbQlxMABicmlkETFxQllxSkRIY1Via0xvc0paAR7c8T8APquPb3Pydq47Hz4y6dxMDW9r9EvLuFhvw0QiBCtydXhPYCAsU0EhYg_aem_Za5db9wwnEeCqRwLnLrF9A.

(9) Janice Guazzo on her new job with The Garner Woman's Club.

I. Announcing this week's

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

This week, it goes to The Madness--the restaurant in Asheville where we had our aforementioned party.

The food was terrific, as was the service we received from (l-r) Caroline Cano, the manager, and servers Terra Sereno and Sean McCarthy.

The eclectic menu featured delicious burgers, sandwiches and sushi, along with several tasty desserts.

It is one of our favorite restaurants in the area.

Note: The Madness also has a Candler location that's equally excellent.

For more information, click: <https://themandnessavl.com>.



2. Cynthia's Corner

What a Golf Coach, a Wise Friend Named Connor, and a Fluffy Puppy Named Bodhi Taught Me

Lately, my mind has been acting like it's had too much coffee. It jumps from the past—rehashing things I should have said or done—to the future, building elaborate what-if castles in the sky. Planning, judging, evaluating... stirring up a nice pot of anxiety in the process.

Sound familiar?

A wise friend named Connor once told me:

“Your anxiety is action turned inward—and your anxiety is cured with action.”

That little phrase stuck with me. Because yes, my mind may spin—but my freedom starts in the present. When I pause, breathe, and choose one clear step forward. Not five. Not a future I can't predict. Just one.

It reminded me of a scene from the Apple TV+ series *Stick*, where Pryce Cahill, a delightfully unconventional golf coach, teaches a boy a little philosophy he calls the Grossweiner Law (yes, really). He says:

“Forget your last golf shot. It doesn’t matter anymore. Focus on the one ahead... It’s like he knew that was the only thing he could control—his swing in the moment.”

And there it was again—the same wisdom, this time wearing golf shoes.

Be present. Take the swing. Then let it go—like the ball after you hit it... you don’t know yet where it will land.

Lately, I’ve been especially anxious about getting a dog. His name is Bodhi—a fluffy white Bolognese (not the sauce). And while he may be tiny, the decision has felt huge. Will we bond? What if it’s too much? What if I mess it up?

My mind, being its overachieving self, wants to solve every possible problem before they even arrive. But the Grossweiner Law—and Connor—reminds me:

I can’t live tomorrow’s moments today.

What I can do is stay awake, grounded, and open. Be present for this moment. Take the next right action. Then let it go.

And trust that the ball—and the life I’m shaping—will land exactly where it’s meant to. And as Bodhi might say, if he could: “Just throw the ball already.”



(Pictured: a Bolognese dog, but not Bodhi. You’ll meet him in the next month or so.)

Here’s a song that helps me let go and trust the moment:
“Every Little Thing is Gonna Be Alright” – Bob Marley

Lyrics are included, so you can sing along with me when you click:
[Here](#).

And if there’s anything in your life calling you to stay in the moment or take one brave swing, I’d love to hear it.

Warmly,
Cynthia (Greenfield)
cgreenfield1001@aol.com

A. Announcing ...

***** CONTEST #9 *****

One lucky reader will win an autographed copy of *Never2Late: How A Lifestyle Reimagination Can Save Your Life!* by my friend Neal Bendesky.

To quote one Amazon reviewer:

there are thousands, if not millions, of self-help books out there. However, if you want to hear it from someone who's life was literally saved by the positive changes he'd made, *Never2Late* is the book for you. After suffering sudden death and surviving cancer, Bendesky takes you down the path he took that took him from being mistaken for Santa Claus to 199Guy! If you've tried everything and nothing has worked, give *Never2Late* a try. This easy to follow strategy coupled with the determination to succeed is a sure fire path to a healthy lifestyle.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #9 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 Mon., August 4.

Note: Diane Hinz was the winner of Contest #8, a copy of *Poems of The Laughing Buddha*. All told, there were eight entries.

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. Couples who 'truly trust' each other regularly use these 7 phrases, says Harvard-trained psychologist—they're 'relationship goals':

[Here](#)

B. The One Item You Should Never Put in a TSA Bin—and What to Do Instead:

[Here](#)

C. Happiness researcher shares his '90-second rule' to live a better, more fulfilled life—it helps when you're angry or upset:

[Here](#)

D. I'm 79 years old and the 'father of functional medicine': Here's my daily routine for a healthy life:

[Here](#)

E. I tried Denmark's No. 1 secret to happiness for a year. It truly changed my life—and even made me more confident:

[Here](#)

5. Joke 1

This is how I first found out that my wife was oh-so brilliant. (Thanks, Jonathan Berg, for sharing.)



6. Reviews

A. Superman (2025) at The Carolina Asheville

The film tries to be everything at once—sci-fi epic, emotional drama, and superhero spectacle—but ends up feeling like a chaotic mash-up that never quite lands. The tone swings wildly, the final act is a CGI overload, and the ensemble cast is so crowded that most characters feel like afterthoughts. Despite a few strong moments, it leans too heavily on bizarre sci-fi tropes like pocket universes and kaiju battles, which dilute Superman's core story. The emotional beats are rushed, often overshadowed by noisy action scenes, leaving the film more exhausting than inspiring. Rated PG-13 for violence, action, and language.

B. A Widow's Game: Netflix

This gripping thriller is based on a true story, following a nurse who manipulates her lover into murder. With strong performances and a chilling unraveling of lies, it keeps you hooked from start to finish. A must-watch for true-crime fans. Rated TV-MA for mature themes, language, sex, and violence.

C. The Heart Knows: Netflix

The film is a tender and uplifting Argentinian romance on Netflix about a wealthy CEO whose life is transformed after receiving a heart transplant, leading him to the donor's widow and their vibrant neighborhood—his journey is heartfelt, beautifully acted by Benjamín Vicuña and Julieta Díaz, and rich with emotional resonance as he embraces community, purpose, and love. It may follow a familiar storyline, but its sincerity, warm performances, and themes of redemption make it a quietly powerful watch. TV-14 for suggestive material and mild violence.

7. TV Alert

A. Billy Joel: And So It Goes (HBO Max)

Billy Joel: And So It Goes (HBO Max)

Illness has forced the 76-year-old Joel to cancel this summer's tour, but fans get something even better: a rave-reviewed, psychologically penetrating two-part documentary. It highlights not only Joel's superb music but the life stories that sparked his hits.

B. Untamed: Netflix

From Mark L. Smith, the brilliant writer of *The Revenant* and *American Primeval*, comes this wilderness mystery-thriller series about a young woman who's brutally murdered in Yosemite. Eric Bana, Sam Neill and Rosemarie DeWitt head the cast.

C. Ballard, Season 1: Prime Video

In this hit Amazon series, a spinoff of *Bosch*, detective Renée Ballard (Maggie Q) is exiled to the basement of the LAPD as punishment for informing on a bad cop.

D. Moonstruck: Turner Classic Movies on Tuesday, July 22, at 8 p.m.

Cher sparkles in this romantic comedy about love, family, and fate in an Italian-American household—warm, witty, and totally beguiling.

8. Joke 2

Clearly, she's not a crybaby ... she's a wry baby. (Thanks, Donnie Roland, for sharing.)

i'm convinced this baby may have drugged its family



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, this week, you can see The Turtles live from a Westbury, NY, concert in 2024 by clicking: [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

LA apartment tour with Neil Sedaka

You'll love the mini-concert he gives, as well as his quote at the end: "I still can't believe I'm Neil Sedaka ... it's like another person."

To view the clip, click:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?mibextid=wwXlfr&v=1461359294523955&rdid=mCDUBBwY6VNFcEQI>.

(Thanks, Donna Shapiro Goldberg, for sharing.)

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

(1) The Ronettes - Be My Baby, one of my favorites:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-dr1PZZMds&list=RDe-dr1PZZMds&start_radio=1

(2) Howard Smith Jr.: Hymns (7.20.2025):

<https://www.facebook.com/hs.smith.73/videos/1256209402897611>

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: James Brown

<https://www.facebook.com/neilratnerrockdoc/videos/1075936154112442>

(4) Thanks, Neil, for motivating me to revisit "Pappas Got a Brand New Bag." You can do the same by clicking:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dlog5teZUNw&list=RDDlog5teZUNw&start_radio=1.

(5) Hilarious video show 17 year old teenagers baffled by rotary phone:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHNEzndgiFI>

(6) When she started singing, I knew it was going to be different:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=1054815753091277>

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

Paper Toilet lets bored internet users experience what it's like to be a cat in a bathroom, pulling at a roll of toilet paper and watching the rest fall into the abyss. If you also want to do this, click:

[Here](#).

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

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

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:

<https://www.facebook.com/blaine.greenfield.2025/>.

10. Technology Tip

Windows 10 stops receiving updates in October. Here are your options.
by Rick Rouse

You've probably heard by now that Microsoft is going to stop supplying updates of any kind for Windows 10 on October 14, 2025, and that includes the all-important security updates.

How this change will affect you will depend on the type of PC that you own right now, your personally acceptable level of risk and how you typically use your computer.

For the rest of this informative article, click:

[Here](#).

Note: To get more such information, get Rick's Tech Tips Newsletter by clicking:

[Here](#).

11. Joke 3

When the car is fine, but your friend group is the real problem.

SALESMAN: This car can fit 6 passengers without any problems.

ME: BUT I'm not ssure I even know 6 people with no problems.

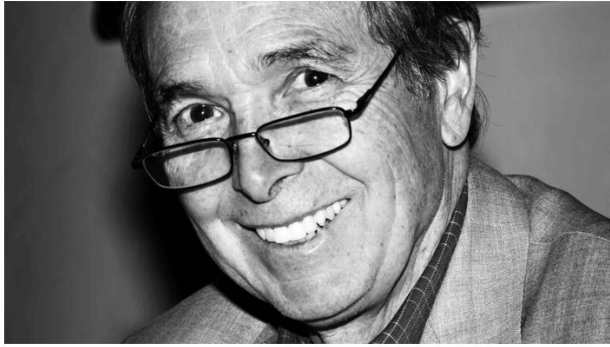


12. Two Quotes I Like

A. Thanks, Martin Cruz Smith (1942-2025), for your career as an American writer of mystery and suspense fiction, mostly in an international or historical setting. He was best known for his series featuring Russian investigator Arkady Renko, who was introduced in 1981 with Gorky Park and most recently appeared in Independence Square and Hotel Ukraine. For more information about his life, click:

<https://apnews.com/article/martin-cruz-smith-dead-obituary-gorky-park-ab7591618c49766b363aeb9c6de9f5a1>.

“Writing itself is so intensely boring, in the social context: You’re all by yourself, nobody else is there. That’s one reason why I pick characters that I’m going to like.”--Martin Cruz Smith



B. Thanks, Alan Bergman (1925-2025), for your career, along with your wife Marilyn Bergman, as an American songwriting duo who wrote music and lyrics for numerous celebrated television, film, and stage productions. The Bergmans enjoyed a successful career, honored with four Emmys, three Oscars, and two Grammys. For more information about this life, click:

https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/18/arts/music/alan-bergman-dead.html?unlocked_article_code=1.Xk8.Zuvz.-EIU0a31ieqz&smid=url-share.

“The actual process of writing the lyric is like two potters passing clay back and forth. At the end of the song, we rarely know who wrote what.”--Alan Bergman



13. Thought For The Day

JOIN ME IN STARTING YOUR DAY LIKE THIS! ... “Every day, think as you wake up, today I am fortunate to be alive, I have a precious human life, I am not going to waste it. I am going to use all my energies to develop myself, to expand my heart out to others; to achieve enlightenment for the benefit of all beings. I

am going to have kind thoughts towards others, I am not going to get angry or think badly about others. I am going to benefit others as much as I can.”--14th and current Dalai Lama (Thanks, Donna Allen, for sharing.)



PS. Make it a great week!

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