



BLAINES WORLD

Past Issues 2012:

12.31.2012#849	09.24.2012#835	06.25.2012#822	03.26.2012#809
12.24.2012#848	09.17.2012#834	06.18.2012#821	03.19.2012#808
12.17.2012#847	09.10.2012#833	06.11.2012#820	03.12.2012#807
12.10.2012#846	09.03.2012#832	06.04.2012#819	03.05.2012#806
12.03.2012#845	08.27.2012#831	05.27.2012#818	02.27.2012#805
11.26.2012#844	08.20.2012#830	05.20.2012#817	02.20.2012#804
11.19.2012#843	08.13.2012#829	05.13.2012#816	02.13.2012#803
11.12.2012#842	08.06.2012#828	05.07.2012#815	02.06.2012#802
11.05.2012#841	07.30.2012#827	04.30.2012#814	01.30.2012#801
10.29.2012#840	07.23.2012#826	04.23.2012#813	01.23.2012#800
10.22.2012#839	07.16.2012#825	04.16.2012#812	01.16.2012#799
10.17.2012#838	07.09.2012#824	04.09.2012#811	01.09.2012#798
10.08.2012#837	07.02.2012#823	04.02.2012#810	01.02.2012#797
10.01.2012#836			

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BLAINESWORLD

Teaching

**Dispute
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Radio Show

Newsletter

Blaine's Best

About Cynthia

Welcome to **BLAINESWORLD**, the only official guide to the workings of the mind of yours truly, Blaine Greenfield. **BLAINESWORLD** is the first and only complete work known to modern man that addresses the burning question of what it is, exactly, that I do with my every waking hour. It is also a treasure box of selected gems that I hope will enlighten, enhance and inspire you, my esteemed guest.

Best,
Blaine

What's New at
BLAINESWORLD.NET

What's new? EVERYTHING is new! **BLAINESWORLD** is now officially on the Internet, and your opinion really matters. Whether you're a student, client, coworker, radio fan, loyal newsletter follower, or even a family member, I hope you let me know what you think. Your opinion really matters!

While you're getting your thoughts and notes together, please note our email address, should you wish to contact us: bginbc@aol.com. Please change your contact manager, address book and palm pilot to reflect that address.

If you are a new visitor to our site, please take a few seconds to let us know how you discovered our place. Just click [here](#) and your own email program will be set up to send us your comments. Thank you, in advance.

Upcoming Events

Please see weekly newsletter, Section 12, for events you might want to attend. In the unlikely event you're not already getting this missive, see below (for the "Special Offer").

Special Offer

Sign up for free to receive the infamous **BLAINESWORLD** Newsletter. To get this weekly missive, please [click here](#).



073537⁵ 735⁵ 53

(You may have seen other counters, but I bet none are as impressive as mine.)

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BLAINES WORLD

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BLAINES WORLD

#849

12.31.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I celebrated Christmas at our friend Tammy's house. The steaks she made, as always, were delicious, and it was also fun getting to celebrate the occasion with her parents.



L-R: Betty Strange, Cecil Strange, Tammy Strange, Blaine Greenfield and Cynthia Greenfield

B. In addition, we enjoyed celebrating New Year's Eve by catching an early movie (see Section 4A) and then joining several friends for a potluck supper at the home of our friends Brian and Carole Biro.



L-R: Dave Blumlo, Judy Blumlo, Blaine Greenfield, Cynthia Greenfield and Brian Biro.

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Joshua Collier on his engagement to Hilary Strasburger.

(2) Anne Heck on her presentation at TEDx Asheville. To view it, please click: anneheck.typepad.com

(3) Hayley Roper Wells on being chosen as a 2013 "Rising Star" by the North Carolina section of the Super Lawyersrating service.

(4) Stephen Dreyfuss for his interview that was shown on the French business network BFM Busines. It explained the fiscal cliff negotiations to a French business audience. If you paid more attention in your French class than I did, you can even view (and understand) it by clicking:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=wKvKYpl6ldo

D. Correction

Thanks to Julien in MD for pointing out this mistake in last week's issue . . . I had written:

I've also given up drinking Coke Zero. For some reason, what "they" say seems to be true--at least with respect to me; i.e., whenever I drink it, I seem to gain both some pounds and some inches around my waist. For more information on why this happens, please click:

<http://news.menshealth.com/diet-soda-fat/2012/06/21/>

But in the above, some had received an incorrect link . . . it should now be correct . . . do read the article; methinks you'll find it informative.

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

This week, it goes to Brett Ballard--owner of Ballard Renovations and Home Repair.

Brett does it all, and he does it well. He also does it with a smile.

He can handle any and/or all of the following jobs: painting, sheetrock, siding trim, flooring, garages, tile, decks, windows, doors, addition, light plumbing, basic electricity, roofing, etc.

We recently had him at our place for several handyman-type projects. He got them done quickly, and we found his prices to be most reasonable. I recommend him highly.

His phone number is 828.458.9708; email: 6brettballard@gmail.com.

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

I know some folks don't believe in the need for flu shots, but I'm hoping that this article (and especially the second paragraph) might change their minds:

There's still time for a flu shot
NC already has high levels of influenza
By Julie Ball in the ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

ASHEVILLE - With a severe flu season shaping up in North Carolina, health officials say it is not too late for a flu shot.

Already in North Carolina, 14 deaths have been linked to the flu, according to officials with the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

For the rest of this article, please click:
<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013301020024>

Wanting to know more, I checked with my friend Vic A. (a pharmacist) in NC for his take on the matter . . . in particular, I was interested whether anybody ever died from taking a flu shot . . . here's what he had to say:

I feel everyone should get flu shots, but they are most important for older people and anyone with existing health conditions. There have been flu outbreaks in 2 of the facilities which our pharmacy services . Also, we invited 4 couples to our house for a Christmas party last week and 2 had to cancel because their spouse had been sick with flu-like symptoms. Mary Anne and I get flu shots every year, and I highly recommend them for most people.

Your final statement is correct. I also do not know of deaths from the flu shot, but the flu could kill you.

And, lastly, please see Section 4C for what Dr. Agus has to say on this topic.

FYI, part 2

As always, there's some good stuff here . . . so please at least click the link to skim some of what follows.

Thanks Steven L. in NC, Art M. in PA, Rebecca K. in NY, Steve G. in PA, Steve D. in CT, Marty S. in PA, Wendy A. in PA, Natalie K. in PA, Marcie F. in PA, Mark J. in NC, Chandler S. in TN, Ken G. in NY, Lisa Z. in PA, Ed G. in NC, Terry V. in NC, Tera B. in NC, Ruth in NY, Karen M. in NJ, Julien in MD, Arlene D. in PA and Edie W. in PA for your contributions to this section.

To read each of the them in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-ZJ>

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

One can never be too safe as can be seen by these finalists from the Center for America's 2012 Wacky Warning Labels contest:

On a kids' neck pillow: Warning-Keep product away from infants and children.

On an electric skillet: Warning-Griddle surface may be hot during and after cooking.

On an electric razor: Warning-Never use while sleeping.

On a globe: Warning-These globes should not be referred to for navigation.

On a laptop steering wheel desk: Warning--Never use this product while driving.

[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. I had really been looking forward to LES MISERABLES . . . it's long been my all-time favorite Broadway musical, and loved both the English and French versions of the book, as well as the many different movie releases . . . for this one, Cynthia and I even bought packs of tissues for our friends (see Section 1B) who accompanied us.

The story is set in 19th-century France . . . it involves broken dreams, unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption, and is a timely testament to how the human spirit can survive.

Yet watching it, I didn't cry once . . . for some reason, it just didn't move me as I had thought it would . . . the acting was good enough, and yes, Anne Hathaway does deserve an Oscar for her work . . . I also thought Russell Crowe was quite good, despite the mostly negative reviews that he received, and Sacha Baron Cohen had me laughing whenever he appeared on screen.

I didn't like the orchestration, thinking that much of it was overblown, and the photography had too many close-ups for my liking . . . in addition, I didn't think Hugh Jackman aged particularly well (for most of the film, he looked the exact same age) . . . and both Amanda Seyfried and Eddie Redmayne had hair and teeth that were far too perfect.

Overall, LES MISERABLES isn't terrible; it's just not great . . . rated PG-13.

Please also see Section 2, part 2 of this week's newsletter to see what others have had to say about the film.

Note: The above reminds me of the first time I saw the show on Broadway . . . I was really into it . . . about 30 minutes after it began, I felt somebody grab my leg . . . it wasn't Hilary, my ex, nor was it the guy on the right . . . turns out that I was tapping my foot with such enthusiasm that somebody from the orchestra pit grabbed it to give me the message to "cool it."

B. ARBITRAGE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD # 834 follows:

ARBITRAGE looked great in the coming attractions . . . it appeared to be an exciting thriller about a hedge-fund manager whose life takes a turn for the worse after he is an accident . . . Richard Gere is OK in the leading role; Susan Sarandon appears to have gotten lost on the cutting room floor . . . though advertised with a running length of 1 hour 40 minutes, the film seemed longer . . . it is also a bit too technical at times . . . rated R.

A much better rental: LEGENDS OF THE FALL--a sweeping, melodramatic tale of three brothers, their powerful father and a beautiful woman . . . Brad Pitt became a star in this film, but everybody else (Aidan Quinn, Henry Thomas, Anthony Hopkins and Julia Ormond) was equally outstanding . . . there's great cinematography, too . . . rated R.

C. I read an article by Dr. David B. Agus in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL about aspirin, the wonder drug . . . it made such an impact on me that I got hold of his excellent book, THE END OF ILLNESS (Free Press).

The author contends that we don't have to suffer from debilitating conditions and sickness . . . by the same token, he believes that it is possible to add more vibrant years to our lives.

For this to happen, each one of us must get to know our own bodies in uniquely personal ways, in that there is no master guide wherein "one size fits all."

Yet Dr. Agus does believe in some things for just about everybody:

* Stick to the same-wake schedule seven days a week. Even when you have a late night, get up at your usual time. Regularity-not total hours of sleep-is the key.

* I also recommend that you bring a friend or family member with you when visit the doctor. It creates more accountability; you also have another set of ears. Many of us aren't in an ideal frame of mind when we're in the doctor's office, especially when something is wrong, so having someone else there can make the whole visit more bearable-and memorable. Alternatively, bring a way to record what you hear. Many smartphones today have a recording feature, or you can download an application to do so.

And:

* I'm a big believer in flu vaccines. If not to prevent the flu, then to at least prevent marked increases of inflammation that can come back to haunt us later in life when we grow ever more vulnerable to diseases rooted in inflammation. In 2006, the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology jointly recommended in influenza immunization as part of comprehensive secondary prevention in persons with coronary and other atherosclerotic vascular disease. This was based on evidence from studies that indicated that annual vaccination against seasonal influenza in people with cardiovascular conditions prevents fatal heart attacks and strokes and even reduces the risk of death from any illness. I firmly believe that it should also be part of primary prevention. If you

choose not to get vaccinated every year, then do what you can to avoid contact with others who are sick. Practice good hygiene and stay away from people with runny noses. I don't mean to sound pedantic or unimaginative, but this kind of advice is underestimated, yet vitally important.

Reading THE END OF ILLNESS, you'll find yourself not agreeing with everything . . . but at the very least, it will get you thinking!

D. I remember reading Greg Smith's Op-Ed piece in THE NEW YORK TIMES about his experiences at Goldman Sachs . . . this book, WHY I LEFT GOLDMAN SACHS: A WALL STREET STORY (Hachette Audio)--written and read by Smith--picks up where the newspaper account leaves off.

It details the how the author progressed from a summer internship to become head of the company's United States equity derivatives business in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Along the way, he describes how Goldman Sachs went from taking companies like Ford, Sears and Microsoft public to becoming a "vampire squid" that referred to its clients as "muppets" and paid the government a record half-billion dollars to settle SEC charges.

Smith tried to bring about change, and he even had conversations with nine Goldman Sachs partners over a twelve-month period . . . but when they proved fruitless, he came to believe that the only way the system would ever change was for an insider to finally speak out publicly.

Smith's insights included advice he learned from the beginning of his career:

* We had a rule still in effect for all interns. When you're in the elevator, don't say anything. You never know who might be in the elevator with you.

In addition, he observed:

* Additionally, casinos may be better regulated than some banks.

And he expressed a belief that:

* People should be outraged that there's no political will to fix a problem that hurts everyone, enriches a super minority that has learned to rig the game and could threaten the world with another calamity in a few years time.

That's scary stuff, but something that must be learned by us all to make sure that this type corporate behavior doesn't continue.

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

Two lucky winners will each receive an autographed copy of THE ART HUNTERS HANDBOOK: HOW TO BUY ART AND SELL IT FOR \$1,000,000 by Les & Sue Fox . . . I recently reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD and noted: "This is a fun, interesting book that hooked me from the beginning when I read stories about those who discovered fine art in the most unusual places."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #26" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bjinbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. PORTLANDIA airs on Fridays at 10 p.m. on IFC . . . it's a sketch-comedy program starring SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE veteran Fred Armisen and the musician/actress Carrie Brown . . . according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, it "is bellyachingly funny."

B. THE BIGGEST LOSER returns on Sunday at 9 p.m. on NBC . . . I'll again watch this season, in that Jillian Michaels returns as one of the trainers . . . the show just wasn't the same without her.

C. DOWNTOWN ABBEY also returns on Sunday at 9 p.m. on PBS . . . look for guest star Shirley MacLaine as Lady Crawley's American mother.

Note: Check local listings because PBS dates and times often vary.

d. DECEPTION begins on Monday, Jan. 7 at 10 p.m. on NBC . . . set on New York's Long Island, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL calls it "an addictive new whodunit."

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

A friend of mine was sitting on a lawn chair, sunning and reading, when he was startled by a fairly late model car crashing through a hedge and coming to rest on his lawn. He helped the elderly driver out and sat her down. "My goodness" he exclaimed, "you are quite old to be driving!"

"Yes" she replied calmly. "I am old enough that I don't need a license."

"Oh really," he said, "and why is that?"

"The last time I went to my doctor, he examined me and asked if I had a driver's license." I told him "yes" and handed it to him. He took scissors out of a drawer, cut the license into pieces and threw them in the wastebasket. "You won't be needing that anymore," he said.

"So I thanked him and left."



[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Marilynne H. in NC: Thought you would like this.

Anybody ready for a good heartburn?

NY Delis

<http://vimeo.com/53381762>

Note: I didn't like the above; I loved it. It made me hungry just watching it and made my look forward to my trip up North (see Section 12B), at which time I'll make sure to hit a deli or two--and some diners. Asheville is great except for the fact that it lacks both great diners and delis.

B. This is a great way to start every day just to make sure you've got your head heart, where it belongs.

Enjoy the ride!

<http://www.lshs64.com/enjoytheride.html>

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net/>

If you're looking for a good book to read, click "Blaine's Best" the left and then "Websites" . . . if you got to "Book and Music Review" and click the second paragraph, you'll be taken to a listing of books and CDs that I have reviewed.

Please help department: I'm a Top 1,000 reviewer for Amazon. To help me go up in the ratings, kindly go to:

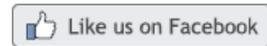
www.amazon.com

Then find some book that I reviewed; e.g., BILL VEECK: BASEBALL'S GREATEST MAVERICK. My review is probably the fifth or sixth down on the right.

Read the review and if you find it helpful, please answer YES to that question that can be found at the bottom. That's all you need to do. Many thanks in advance!

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield



[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

I've recently received multiple copies of this email from Apple:

Dear CYNTHIA GREENFIELD,

To reset your Apple ID password, simply click the link below. That will take you to a web page where you can create a new password.

Please note that the link will expire three hours after this email was sent.

Reset your Apple ID password > (link intentionally disabled)

Though it looked official and might well have come from a legitimate Apple email address, I chose not to respond for the following reasons:

1. The real key: Email was sent to me and not to Cynthia.
2. I received several copies of the same email within a few days.
3. No legitimate company would give you just three hours to respond.
4. I did some research on this and found out that most likely, this is a phishing scam. Or that someone just mistyped his or her email address while trying to do a password reset.
5. I reported it to Apple: spam@me.com. I doubt that I'll get a response, but when and if I do, I'll let y'all know.

Update: Cynthia's computer, which has her iPod information on it, is still operating just fine. And so is mine.

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

My mother never bought my excuse that I was just adjusting my pants (top row, far right) & that the photographer failed to tell us that was when he was going to shoot the picture.



[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

This picture reminds me of what you will get: more friends, more love & more good feelings because you're helping others.



[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

THE WORD GUY
by Rob Kyff*

Whoa and ho, it's New Year's time
And once again we're here
To fashion language into rhyme
With buzzwords of the year.
In this venture, we're all finders.
Word-wise women, fill your "binders"!
Candidates with huge "war chests"
"Doubled-down" in all contests.
They stroked "their bases," "reached out" to all
And even played "inside baseball."

They "walked back" statements, searched "the weeds"
 'Twas "culture war" with "twitter feeds."
 "Working poor," "the two percent,"
 Clichés like these showed their intent
 To stir "class warfare," and incite
 All of us to say, "Let's fight!"
 Legislators joined the fun;
 All compromising they did shun.
 Instead of "reaching 'cross the aisle,"
 Good ol' "gridlock" oozed its bile.
 "Honest brokers" spoke by rote,
 Blocking ev'ry "up/down vote,"
 Kicking issues "to the curb,"
 While "job creators" filled their blurbs.
 That said, they used "that said" too much
 And they were really "out of touch."
 ("As a side note," I could tell
 "Failed policies" did not go well.)
 Obama's "didn't build that" riled,
 While Romney's "Big Bird" never smiled.
 But business, not to be outdone,
 Churned out "platforms" by the ton.
 "One-stop shopping," "concierge,"
 Kept us on our derrières.
 With "wash, rinse, repeat" as mantra,
 They sold shampoos and new Alantras.
 "Turnkey homes" and "sales events"
 "Rebranded" even Pepsodent.
 We "babes" and "bros" chipped in all right,
 With "rockstar," "mindset," "I know, right?"
 We followed everything that "trended,"
 And what we didn't like "unfriended."
 "Force multipliers," "moving forward,"
 Here comes Sandy, churning shoreward!
 Now Dems and Reps are in a tiff.
 We're headed toward the "fiscal cliff"!

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Rob Kyff, a teacher and writer in West Hartford, Conn. He invites your language sightings. Send your reports of misuse and abuse, as well as examples of good writing, via e-mail to Wordguy@aol.com or by regular mail to Rob Kyff, Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254.

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

(1) Asheville Vaudeville is back again, this time with the audience voted theme, "In Hell!" Our special guest emcee is Helena Handbasket from La Zoom's Haunted tours.

When: Saturday January 5th, 7:30 and 10:00 p.m.

Where: Toy Boat Community Art Space (101 Fairview Road)

Tickets are \$15 for the first show and \$12 for the second show.

(2) Dr. Nido Quebein is the featured speaker at Lessons in Leadership on Tuesday, Jan. 29 at UNCA. For more information, please click:

<http://www.wncleaders.com/>

(3) PLEASE HOLD THE DATE (& a request): Thursday, Feb. 14 will be SART's first HEARTS FOR SART fundraiser to be held at "On Broadway," 49 Broadway Ave, Asheville it will feature BJ Leiderman, the NPR composer. Details to follow.

The request: We are also collecting merchandise for a silent auction. By donating a gift certificate or merchandise, you'll be making a tax deductible contribution that will not only help us continue the mission of our theatre, but also gain you valuable exposure at the event. If you can help out, please send an email to sartplays@aol.com and indicate what you might be able to contribute.

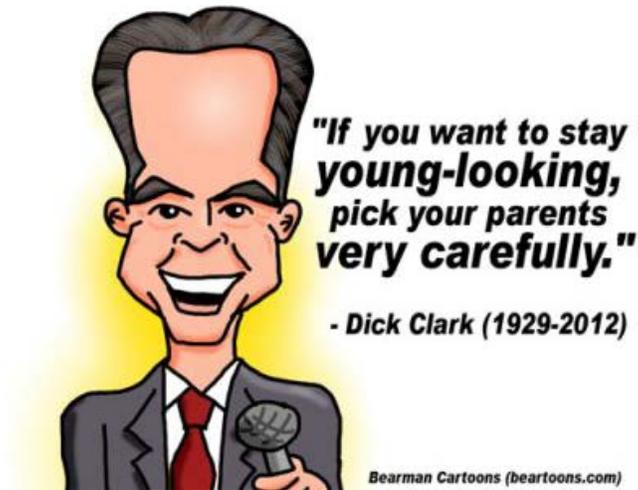
B. PA/NJ event

I'm slated to be "up North" from Jan. 21-27, 2013 and staying in the Bucks County area. One place I know I'll be at: Zebra Striped Whale in Newtown, PA, on Saturday, Jan. 26 from 2-4 p.m. Stop by to say "hello" and get some of that store's oh-so-tasty ice cream

and/or chocolate. An added "plus" will be John Strauss playing his guitar. If you can't make it then, if interested, contact me about the possibility of getting together some other time.

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week! Also, I hope your New Year's Eve, Day and entire is spectacular. . . that said, I know the countdown on the 31st won't be quite the same because this guy won't be there.



To revisit his last countdown, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/acq5alf>

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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BLAINES WORLD



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#848
12.24.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

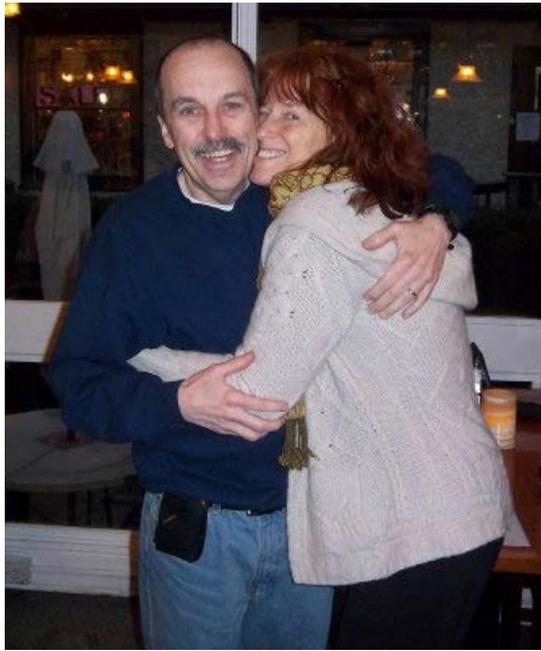
A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are having a grand old time this holiday season.

(1) One of the highlights was a Christmas party at the beautiful home of friends in our neighborhood. Here's a picture of us with them.



L-R: Greg Zack, Margie Zack, Cynthia Greenfield and Blaine Greenfield.

(2) We seem to be dining out even more than usual. Recently, we had delicious burgers at the Corner Kitchen. Tom, our server that evening, was particularly attentive.



For more information about this restaurant that President Obama also enjoyed when he last visited Asheville, please click:

<http://www.thecornerkitchen.com/>

(3) Now in case you are wondering how come we don't gain weight with all the eating out that we do, it's because we do our best to eat smart. We have virtually eliminated desserts, and we never have bread with our meals as a result of asking that it not even be brought to the table. In addition, we ask for dressings on the side (you use less this way), and we often split our respective meals in half as soon as they are served. Another advantage to this: You get to take home some very tasty leftovers for future meals.

I've also given up drinking Coke Zero. For some reason, what "they" say seems to be true - at least with respect to me; i.e., whenever I drink it, I seem to gain both some pounds and some inches around my waist. For more information on why this happens, please click:

<http://news.menshealth.com/diet-soda-fat/2012/06/21/>

B. The above comments have me laughing, in that just as I finished typing them, I saw this picture of my Colorado friend Aly M.'s famous matzo ball soup.



I don't know about you, but just looking at it gets me hungry . . . so after I first saw it, I emailed her and asked for the recipe . . . she shared it and, also, has graciously given me permission to run it in this missive.

Aly's Short Cut Matzo Ball Soup (AKA A Cure for Anything That Ails You!)

(Large quantity - 8 Servings)

Soup Ingredients:

4 Carrots- sliced
2 Stalks of Celery - sliced
½ Large Onion - diced
2 Scallions - sliced
4 T Olive or Vegetable Oil
6 cans of LOW SODIUM Chicken Broth or Chicken Stock (14 oz each)
Pepper to taste
Dill to taste (We like a lot!)

Matzo Balls:

1 Cup Matzo Meal
4 Eggs
4 T Oil
4 T broth or water
Salt (Optional)

1. Heat 4 T of oil in a 4 quart soup pot.
2. Add sliced carrots, celery and onions and sauté for a couple of minutes.
3. Add stock, scallions, dill and pepper. Bring to a boil.
4. While waiting for stock to gently boil, make the matzo balls.
5. Slightly scramble the eggs and mix in the rest of the matzo ball ingredients. Let sit and thicken.
6. Prepare a bowl of water to wet your hands. Form matzo balls and drop them into the boiling soup.
7. Bring the soup to a second, gentle boil and then reduce to a simmer for 20 minutes.

ENJOY while hot and fresh! If you have leftovers, REMOVE THE MATZO BALLS and store in refrigerator separately from the soup (or they will absorb all the liquid)!!

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Tera Broughton on her engagement to James Whittle.

(2) Terry Haraz Valin on the birth of Madyson Rose, her new granddaughter.

(3) Dr. Beth DuPree on her nomination for the Real Awards. To read more, as well as to vote for her, please click:

<http://www.therealawards.com/nominees/1955>

(4) Howie and Barb Fielder for having run a very successful Hurricane Sandy Benefit Concert at the Biltmore Lake Clubhouse. I was fortunate to have been able to attend it and was blown away by the performances from Ben Fiedler, pianist; Kay Nakazawa, violinist; and Madison Fielder, vocalist.

D. Correction: Last week's issue in Section 1A, ran a picture of out-of-state visitors/friends from New Jersey. I mangled the spelling of their names. The correct spelling should have been Harry Dreier and Patti Amor. (Sorry 'bout that!)

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

This week, it goes to Debi Nikla Turner--owner of The Original Papa Nicks Pizza in Mars Hill.

It definitely is the best place to get pizza in downtown Mars Hill; in fact, it's the only place.

But that point aside, the pizza that Debi makes is truly outstanding and compares to any you'll get elsewhere . . . it is always tasty, regardless of whether you get it plain or with any topping you so desire.

Her other food (subs, calzones, garlic rolls, etc.) is also excellent.

And I'm especially grateful to The Original Papa Nicks Pizza for its long- term support of SART.

For more information, please click:

<http://www.originalpapanickspizza.com/>

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

The 2,000-Year-Old Wonder Drug
By DAVID B. AGUS

Published: December 11, 2012 in THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE inexorable rise in health care spending, as all of us know, is a problem. But what's truly infuriating, as we watch America's medical bill soar, is that our conversation has focused almost exclusively on how to pay for that care, not on reducing our need for it. In the endless debate about "health care reform," few have zeroed in on the practical actions we should be taking now to make Americans healthier.

An exception is Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York, who is setting new standards that we would do well to adopt as a nation. In the last several years, he's changed the city's health code to mandate restrictions on sodas and trans fats-- products that, when consumed over the long term, harm people. These new rules will undoubtedly improve New Yorkers' health in years to come.

For the rest of this informative article and to find out more about the wonder drug [aspirin], please click:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/12/opinion/the-2000-year-old-wonder-drug.html?emc=eta1>

FYI, part 2

To read each of the following contributions in full, please go to Section 2 when you click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Zv>

Thanks Maria P. in PA, Mark J. in NC, Walter W. in PA, Robin S. in PA and Nevin T. in NC for your submissions.

Back to Top

3. Joke 1

A grasshopper walks into a bar. The bartender asks him, "What'll it be, grasshopper?"

The grasshopper says, "I don't care. Anything to kill the pain. Being a grasshopper is awful these days."

The bartender thinks of a suggestion. "Maybe you'd like to try this drink. It's named after you."

The grasshopper looks up at the bartender, "You have a drink called Irving?"

Back to Top

4. Reviews

A. THE GUILT TRIP is billed as a comedy about an guy and his mom traveling around the country to sell his invention . . . for me, there just weren't many laughs in it (and most of those I had seen in the coming attractions) . . . Seth Rogin, usually very funny, was not his usually angry self . . . Barbara Streissand was OK, though like Rogin, she was hindered by a lackluster script . . . rated PG-13.

B. PITCH PERFECT is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #837 follows:

PITCH PERFECT is a formulaic romantic comedy that didn't really work for me . . . it's about a group of college students who enter a cappella singing competitions . . . the music was OK, but the jokes just weren't very funny . . . and I had a hard time believing that Anna Kendrick was an entering college student . . . she also had very little chemistry with Skylar Austin, her male counterpart . . . Rebel Wilson, so funny in BRIDESMAIDS, doesn't have enough to do in this film . . . rated PG-13.

A much better rental: Catch NUTS, an underrated 1987 drama based on a true story about a high-priced hooker who has been arrested for the murder of one of her clients . . . Streissand also stars in this, and she is much better than in the aforementioned film . . . in addition, she produced, developed the script and composed most of the music . . . Richard Dreyfus as her lawyer matches her outstanding performance . . . the other actors are top notch, too, including Maureen Stapleton, Karl Malden, Eli Wallach and Robert Webber . . . rated R.

C. WILLPOWER: REDISCOVERING THE GREATEST HUMAN STRENGTH (Penguin Books) by Roy F. Baumeister, a research psychologist, and John Tierney, a science writer, gives you information that can be used to achieve goals in your life that you thought might have been unattainable.

The authors do this by taking research on the topic and breaking it down so that any reader could understand it--and then apply it to his or her daily life:

For example, they cited this one study on weight loss:

* The people who weighed themselves every day were much more successful at keeping their weight from creeping back up. They were less likely to go on eating binges, and they didn't show any signs of disillusion or other distress from their daily confrontation with the scale. For all the peculiar challenges to losing weight, one of the usual strategies is still effective: The more carefully and frequently you monitor yourself, the better you'll control yourself. If it seems like too much of a chore to write down your weight every day, you can outsource some of the drudgery by using a scale that keeps an electronic record of your weight. Some models will transmit each day's reading to your computer or smartphone, which can then produce a chart for your monitoring pleasure (or displeasure).

I also liked how they studied the lives of such diverse personalities as Drew Carey, Eric Clapton and Oprah Winfrey to show how willpower was used to make a difference in what they did . . . one particularly interesting section quoted David Blaine:

* "Getting your brain wired into little goals and achieving them, that helps you achieve the bigger things you shouldn't be able to do," he said. "It's not just practicing the specific thing. It's always making things more difficult than they should be, and never falling short, so you know you can always go further than your goal. For me that's what discipline is. It's repetition and practice."

Even Deborah Carroll (of NANNY 911 fame) is cited with respect to how willpower needs to be brought into play when it comes to parenting:

* "Parents find it hard to administer discipline in public because they feel judged," Carroll says. "They're afraid people will think they're a bad mother. But you have to get that out of your head. I've had people stare at me when I take a child out of a restaurant for being rude, but you can't worry about that. You have to do what's right for the child, and it really is all about being consistent. They have to grow up knowing what's appropriate and inappropriate behavior."

If you are looking to lose weight, stop smoking, better manage your finances, achieve better health or tackle some other task that requires self-control, then WILLPOWER is a book that you should put at the top of your list to read.

D. Heard **IKE'S BLUFF: PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S SECRET BATTLE TO SAVE THE WORLD** (Hachette Audio), written by Evan Thomas and narrated by Brian Troxell.

I was just a mere four years when he assumed the presidency in 1953, so I never really got to follow his career that closely. I do know that we were feeling increasingly threatened by the Soviet Union and China, and that we managed to avoid any international crises during his two terms in office.

Yet from what my parents had told me, this was not due to Ike's brilliance; rather, they and many others perceived him as being somewhat of a bumbling lightweight.

This fascinating book has given me a whole different slant on the man who managed to persevere despite suffering a heart attack, a stroke and intestinal surgery. He did so while also disagreeing with his own generals and other military advisers, some of whom believed a first strike was our only means of survival.

What I do now know is that Eisenhower, a genius at poker and bridge (who had to stop playing after West Point because he had left too many officers insolvent), had his viewpoint prevail . . . and in doing so, he kept us at peace and out of war for eight years--an accomplishment that looks mighty outstanding given what's presently the case in this country.

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

Two lucky winners will each receive an autographed copy of **THE ART HUNTERS HANDBOOK: HOW TO BUY ART AND SELL IT FOR \$1,000,000** by Les & Sue Fox . . . I recently reviewed it in **BLAINESWORLD** and noted: "This is a fun, interesting book that hooked me from the beginning when I read stories about those who discovered fine art in the most unusual places."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #26" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bjinbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. AMISH MAFIA is a docuseries about the men devoted to protecting the Amish community in Lancaster, PA . . . Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on DISCOVERY.

B. NEW YEAR'S ROCKIN' EVE CELEBRATES DICK CLARK has Jenny McCarthy and Fergie hosting a tribute to Dick Clark (1929-2012) who began his "Rockin' Eve" celebrations in 1972. Performers include Neon Trees and Carly Rae Jepsen. Monday, Dec. 31 at 8 p.m. on ABC.

C. GREAT PERFORMANCES: BROADWAY MUSICALS--A JEWISH LEGACY explores the Jewish composers, writers and lyricists who have shaped the modern musical. Tuesday, Jan. 1 at 9:30 p.m. on PBS.

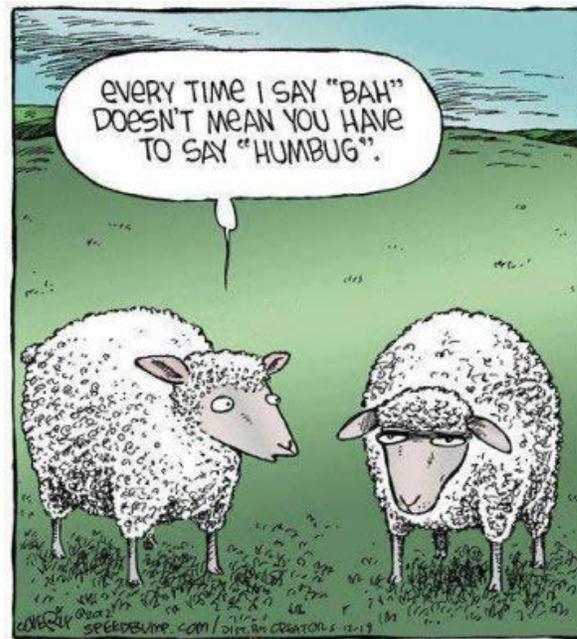
Note: PBS dates and times often vary, so check local listings.

D. KATHY GRIFFIN: KENNEDIE CENTER ON-HERS features the comedian in her latest stand-up special . . . Thursday, Jan. 3 at 10 p.m. on BRAVO.

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

No matter what he says, the sheep on the right can't convince me that this isn't going to be a great Christmas!



[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Prepare to be moved by the short documentary, "Wright's Law," which recently won a gold medal in multimedia in the national College Photographer of the Year competition, run by the University of Missouri.

It can be found by clicking the following link and then going about halfway down the accompanying column:

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/24/laws-of-physics-cant-trump-the-bonds-of-love/?src=me&ref=general>

Recommendation: Please also read the column by Tara Parker-Pope. To quote the first two paragraphs:

Jeffrey Wright is well known around his high school in Louisville, Ky., for his antics as a physics teacher, which include exploding pumpkins, hovercraft and a scary experiment that involves a bed of nails, a cinder block and a sledgehammer.

But it is a simple lecture--one without props or fireballs--that leaves the greatest impression on his students each year. The talk is about Mr. Wright's son and the meaning of life, love and family.

B. Barbara F. in PA: Waaaaaay too funny not to share! Pay attention!! And show this to your spouse:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Twivg7GkYts&feature=youtu.be>

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net/>

If you're looking for a quote you recall having read in BLAINESWORLD, click "Newsletters" to the left and then "Past Issues" . . . at the top of the next screen, you'll find a helpful Search box . . . this came in handy recently when I was trying to find a quote by Bertrand Russell (1872-1970), the British philosopher, logician, essayist, and social critic . . . here it is: "Do not fear to be eccentric in opinion, for every opinion now accepted was once eccentric."

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield



[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

Corinne G. in PA: Wow, tell me this isn't scary! [It's also] interesting and provocative. Watch it to the end.

Click on the following link; it needs sound.

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/F7pYHN9iC9I?rel=0>

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

Eleven people were clinging precariously to a wildly swinging rope suspended from a crumbling outcropping on Mount Everest.

Ten were blonde, one was a brunette.

As a group they decided that one of the party should let go.

If that didn't happen, the rope would break and everyone would perish.

For an agonizing few moments no one volunteered.

Finally the brunette gave a truly touching speech, saying she would sacrifice herself to save the lives of the others.

The blondes applauded.

[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

One thing I learned as a teacher is that I do not have all of the gifts of my students. Instead my gift is to help them awaken theirs, help them own and develop them, release what blocks them, and have the courage and wisdom to walk their own path with humility, grace and power. What joy!--Janet StraightArrow who describes herself as "a Woman of Medicine, Wisdom and Grace offering inspiration and simple, clear ways for people to Be The Medicine in their lives and Live the Power of You!" For more information, please click:

<http://www.bethemedicine.com/>

[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

Guy on the right looks like me in 20 years--only I'd be with a mustache, no pipe and caring for Cynthia, my beautiful bride, even without being angry at her!



[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

(1) Dr. Nido Quebein is the featured speaker at Lessons in Leadership on Tuesday, Jan. 29 at UNCA. For more information, please click:

<http://www.wncleaders.com/>

(2) PLEASE HOLD THE DATE (& a request): Thursday, Feb. 14 will be SART's first HEARTS FOR SART fundraiser to be held at "On Broadway," 49 Broadway Ave, Asheville . . . it will feature BJ Leiderman, the NPR composer. Details to follow.

The request: We are also collecting merchandise for a silent auction. By donating a gift certificate or merchandise, you'll be making a tax deductible contribution that will not only help us continue the mission of our theatre, but also gain you valuable exposure at the event. If you can help out, please send an email to sartplays@aol.com and indicate what you might be able to contribute.

B. PA/NJ event

I'm slated to be "up North" from Jan. 21-27, 2013 and staying in the Bucks County area. One place I know I'll be at: Zebra Striped Whale in Newtown, PA, on Saturday, Jan. 26 from 2-4 p.m. Stop by to say "hello" and get some of that store's oh-so-tasty ice cream and/or chocolate. An added "plus" will be John Strauss playing his guitar. If you can't make it then, if interested, contact me about the possibility of getting together some other time.

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week!

Also, If you're like me, here's hope that you get to celebrate all upcoming holidays . . . more food, fun and friends that way . . . and sometimes, you even get gifts--such as this one from the Greenfields of Asheville.



To see what's inside, please click:

http://host-d.oddcast.com/php/application_UI/doorId=1083/clientId=299?mId=47181783.2

Merry Christmas to you and yours, as well as Happy Kwanzaa!

And an attempt to find out more about the latter holiday, I came across this insightful article that highlights how various notables live their lives around the seven basic principles of Kwanzaa:

<http://tinyurl.com/btwe7kz>



Blaine Greenfield
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BLAINES WORLD



BLAINES WORLD

#847
12.17.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

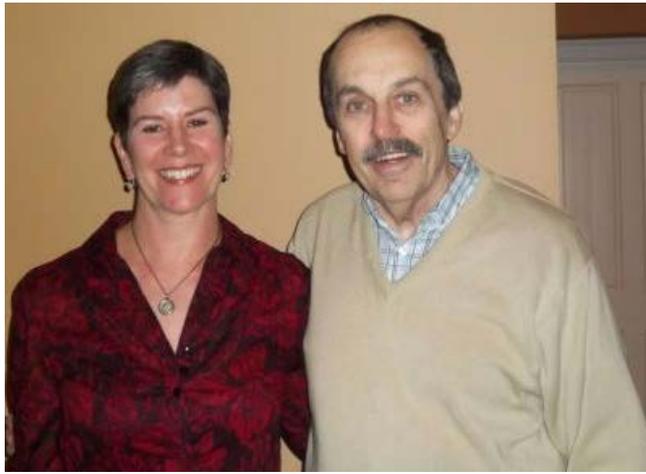
A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride and I:

(1) Continued our annual tradition of distributing Chanukah meals for the Jewish Community Center.



L-R: Seymour & Lotte Meyerson and Cynthia.

(2) Got through her weeklong cold (she's better now!) . . . consequently, that's why you won't see her in any of the following pictures:



At Biltmore Lake's annual Holiday Party with Sally Butcher. Kudos to Mariilynne Herbert and Debbie Widen for chairing this successful event.



Dinner at the Monte Vista Hotel in Black Mountain. It's a beautiful place, and the food is excellent. Prices are very reasonable, too. L-R: Melanie Brethauer, BJ Leiderman, Tom Gallagher, Brian Biro, Carole Biro, Blaine Greenfield and Marcy Gallagher.



At NC Stage after seeing a hilarious production of THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED), starring Scott Treadway, Damian Duke Dominique and Charles McIver. All three had us laughing throughout the evening. Kudos, also, to Angie Flynn-McGiver for an excellent job of directing. L-R: Chuck Hollinshead, Scott Treadway and Blaine Greenfield.



At Asheville Community Theatre after seeing a very funny production of THE SANTALAND DIARIES, starring Daniel Hensley and directed by Betsy Puckett. That's me with Daniel.



I love seeing out-of-state visitors. L-R: Blaine Greenfield, Deborah Domanski and Michael Gelb, outside of the U.S. Cellular Center Asheville where Deborah was going to perform the next day. While she was rehearsing, I got to show Michael around downtown Asheville. He's a wine connoisseur and so I took him to meet Eberhard Heide, owner of the Asheville Wine Market. (Michael said it's an excellent store.)

Note: If you'd like to see clips of Deborah, a very talented mezzo-soprano, please click: <http://deborahdomanski.com/video/>



With other out-of-state visitors at Kilwin's. L-R: Harry & Patty Armor, Marcy Gallagher and Blaine Greenfield. Previously, we had gone to Tupelo Honey for a delicious, southern-style breakfast.

B. Please listen to this song to be reminded of something that **MUST** be done by us all a result of the Newtown shootings; i.e., we can't let the lights go out.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yZ1zxtbOJE>

Also, even if you have heard far more than you wanted to on the subject, I urge you to read these four additional articles:

(1) "Looking for Lessons in Newtown" by Nicholas D. Kristof

<http://tinyurl.com/c7vk9vl> (2) "Do We Have the Courage to Stop This?" by Nicholas D. Kristof <http://tinyurl.com/cupl28y>

(3) "I Am Adam Lanza's Mother" by Liza Long

<http://tinyurl.com/c6axjz2>

(4) "How Not to Talk With Children About the Newtown Shooting" by KJ Dell'Antonia

<http://tinyurl.com/bvnoaxx>

And then press for more gun regulation (note that I did not say we prohibit them), as well as for adequate funding for mental health illnesses.

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Theresa Phillips and family on the birth of Isla Trinity, their new granddaughter.

(2) Micah Solomon on the publication of his article in HARVARD BUSINESS online, "What's New About Serving Customers (and What's Not)." To read it, please click:

<http://bit.ly/XKkA8n>

For a more detailed treatment, read his excellent book: HIGH-TECH, HIGH-TOUCH CUSTOMER SERVICE . . . it is currently being discounted at both Amazon:

<http://amzn.to/M5x9SY>

and at 800-CEO-READ:

<http://bit.ly/Jr38j7>.

(3) JoAnn B. in NC, winner of Contest #25: a CD copy of the unabridged CD version of THE GUARDIAN by Nicholas Sparks . . . all told, there were 13 entries . . . and that reminds me that it's now time to introduce . . .

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

Two lucky winners will each receive an autographed copy of THE ART HUNTERS HANDBOOK: HOW TO BUY ART AND SELL IT FOR \$1,000,000 by Les & Sue Fox . . . I recently reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD and noted: "This is a fun, interesting book that hooked me from the beginning when I read stories about those who discovered fine art in the most unusual places."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #26" in the subject line of an email and send it to:

bjnbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013.

D. Correction

Last week's issue mentioned an amazing street performer in Asheville by the name of Rhoda Weaver. I included one song she sang ("His Eye is On the Sparrow"), but that was actually a mistake . . . it's a beautiful rendition; however, what I really wanted you to hear was her singing "Hallelujah." Here it is:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WELM4f1r-iw>

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

This week, it goes to both Chall Gray and Steven Samuels--owner/producer and artistic director, respectively, of the Magnetic Theatre.

The venue gives original works and the people who make them a home to share with enthusiastic audiences. It is the only theatre in the southeast that presents all original works, and the first professional theatre in the River Arts District of Asheville.

Cynthia and I have seen several shows there since it opened over two years ago, and we're constantly amazed at the quality of the productions. We also get a kick out of always seeing something different--one time a drama, another time a musical, sometimes juggling, etc.

It's also nice to receive warm greetings from both Chall and Steve every time we go there.

In writing this, our only disappointment with the establishment is that the accompanying restaurant/bar portion (The Magnetic Field) will be closing on Saturday.

For more information about upcoming productions, including IMPROV COMEDY BY REASONABLY PRICED BABIES and SKETCH COMEDY ABOUT SEX AND HOW TO HAVE IT!, please click:

<http://themagneticfield.com/>

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

Before Passing Along Valuables, Passing Along Values
Why legacies and life lessons are an increasingly important part of estate planning
by Robert Powell in THE NEW YORK TIMES
December 7, 2012

Todd Fithian recently made a film for his four children.

"I took the time to capture my stories, life lessons and family traditions, many of which have been passed down to me from my parents," says Mr. Fithian, a 43-year-old managing partner of Legacy Cos., a Hingham, Mass., consulting firm to financial advisers. "These things have a trickle-down effect, but rarely do we take the time to capture them."

To read the rest of this interesting article, please click:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324595904578116843265852654.html?KEYWORDS=before+passing+along+valuables#>

FYI, part 2

To read each of the following contributions in full, please go to Section 2 when you click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Z5>

Thanks Roger, Robin S. in PA, Jean H. in PA, Rob S. in PA, Walter B. in NC, Gary J. in NC, Ken G. in NY and Alyson M. in CO for your submissions.

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

I've invented Twofacebook, the antisocial network. You can start being friends with the entire world and befriend people one by one.--Andy Borowitz, American comedian

Note: Borowitz is perhaps best known for creating "The Borowitz Report", which has an audience in the millions. It cracks me up just about every time I see it, and you can get on the free mailing list by clicking:

<https://secure.newyorker.com/services/newsletters/demographics>

[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. Don't expect a typical biography if you go to see HITCHCOCK . . . rather, what you get is a sort of behind-the-scenes look at the making of the film PSYCHO . . . in addition, you'll learn about the role his wife and partner Alma Reville had in his success . . . I liked the performances of Anthony Hopkins and Helen Mirren in the leading roles . . . Scarlett Johansson and Toni Collette were also good in supporting roles . . . what I didn't like were the scenes wherein Hitchcock was supposedly talking to characters that formed the basis of the PSYCHO story . . . rated PG-13.

B. TROUBLE WITH THE CURVE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #835 follows:

TROUBLE WITH THE CURVE is a predictable baseball drama about a scout who may have seen his better days because he's losing his vision . . . enter his daughter, an associate at a high-powered law firm, to help him out--despite his objections . . . Clint Eastwood in the starring role seems to be phoning-in his role; it's just a repeat of his work in GRAN TURINO (a much better film) . . . Amy Adams, as his daughter, is watchable as always but shows very little chemistry with Justin Timberlake who plays a pitcher once discovered by the Eastwood character . . . Matthew Lillard is the villain . . . I love how Justin Souther, a local critic, described his role: "[He] is so obviously up to no good that he should be given a mustache to twirl." Rated PG-13.

A much better rental: THE MAN IN THE MOON is a touching coming-of-age story about a Louisiana teenage girl who falls in love for the first time . . . the only problem is that her older sister falls in love with the same boy . . . this film featured Reese Witherspoon in her film debut . . . she excels in it, and you can see why she was destined for stardom . . . rated PG-13.

C. HOW TO START A RELATIONSHIP: THE ULTIMATE ADVISER FOR FINDING YOUR TRUE LOVE (Kindle Edition) by Milos Mitic is a helpful guide for those interested in doing so.

What makes the book especially interesting is the fact that the author, at the age of 17, fell on ice and suffered a cervical spine fracture that paralyzed him from the neck down. Confined to a wheelchair and in need of help to just get by, he had a lot of time to think about what he thought he could never have; i.e., a satisfying, long-term relationship with a soulmate. That he was able to do is what gives his insights great credibility.

For the entire review, please go to Section 4C when you click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Z5>

D. Heard THE JOHN LENNON LETTERS (Hachette Audio), edited and with an introduction by Hunter Davis.

It features letters, postcards, lists and notes from Lennon, dating back to his childhood and continuing up until shortly before his murder. Many are humorous, but taken as a whole, they also provide a better understanding of what drove the man.

For the entire review, please go to Section 4D when you click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Z5>

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. ODDITIES: CHRISTMAS SPECIAL will tell you about elf hats made of human hair and lots more . . . Saturday at 9 p.m. on SCIENCE CHANNEL.

B. THE YEAR IN PUP CULTURE is a take on the years' major events with dogs and a few cats in the central roles . . . according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Best scene: the doggie Olympics star who decides to curl up and snooze on his balance beam." Saturday at 9 p.m. on ANIMAL PLANET.

C. One of my favorite Christmas movies, THE BISHOP'S WIFE, can be seen on Sunday at 8 p.m. on TCM . . . it's a fantasy about a suave angel (Cary Grant) who comes to Earth to help a bishop, David Niven, and his wife, Loretta Young, raise money for a new church . . . there was a 1996 remake called THE PREACHER'S WIFE . . . Denzel Washington and Whitney Houston star and while it's enjoyable, the original is better.

D. WIVES WITH BEEHIVES features a group of Los Angeles housewives who pride themselves on adherence to the manners, morals and dress of the 1950s . . . Thursday, Dec. 27 at 10 p.m. on TLC.

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

A man in North Carolina had a flat tire, pulled off on the side of the road, and proceeded to put a bouquet of flowers in front of the car and one behind it. Then he got back in the car to wait.

A passerby studied the scene as he drove by, and was so curious he turned around and went back. He asked the fellow what the problem was.

The man replied, "I got a flat tahr."

The passerby asked, "But what's with the flowers?"

The man responded, "When you break down they tell you to put flares in the front and flares in the back. I never did understand it neither."

[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Thanks Mark J. in NC for keeping me aware of the latest that's happening with respect to the LES MISERABLES movie . . . here's the first complete song that I've seen online:
<http://perezhilton.com/2012-12-18-les-miserables-one-day-more-full-performance-clip-tom-hoopers-watch-video#.UNGSAOTBH1>

And for another song that will be in the film (but that was taped elsewhere), please click:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=rIYVHOUa3Vo#!

Note: December 25 is the official opening date in this country.

B. Barbara F. in PA: [Useful dog tricks] Unbelievable! You gotta see this one! You might "almost" want one!
<http://www.youtube.com/embed/PztO-OvzRyg>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net/>

If you want to "Increase your business by 10 percent or more," click Consulting on the left and then Articles . . . that is where you'll find an informative article with that title.

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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield



[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

As I reported a few issues back, I've started using Google Chrome as my Internet browser and been very pleased with the results . . . things are getting even better now as a result of my having discovered the Chrome Web Store . . . check it out to discover the most popular apps, games, extensions and themes by clicking:
<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/category/popular>

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

Sex at 79: I just took a leaflet out of my mailbox, informing me that I can have sex at 79. I'm so happy, because I live at number 73. So it's not too far to walk home afterwards. And it's the same side of the street. I don't even have to cross the road!



[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

Early morning ruminations: At the end of my life the only two things that will matter is what I've left behind and how I've treated every single person who has entered my life. The value of my accomplishments will be measured only in direct proportion to their impact on others. Using this formula as a guide changes everything.--Cecile Kandi, mother, professor and artist

[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

Guy on the right looks like me in 20 years--only I'd be with a mustache, no pipe and caring for Cynthia, my beautiful bride, even without being angry at her!



[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

To read about each of the following events in full, please go to Section 12A when you click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Z5>

(1) Biltmore Lake Benefit Concert Benefit for Hurricane Sandy Victims. (2) Dr. Nido Quebein is the featured speaker at Lessons in Leadership. (3) HEARTS FOR SART fundraiser on Feb. 14.

B. PA/NJ events

To read about each of the following events in full, please go to Section 12B when you click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Z5>

(1) RHYTHM OF THE EARTH now at 2 locations. (2) Comedy on New Year's Eve. (3) Say "hello" to yours truly at Zebra Striped Whale on Jan. 26.

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week!



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BLAINES WORLD



BLAINES WORLD

#846
12.10.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are just too cool. That's us in a picture taken at her niece's wedding a few weeks back:



And still on the subject of "coolness," see yours truly in a picture with my family back when I was about 10. That's me in the front row on the far right. My mother is also in the front row, third from the right. My brother is in the back row on the far right. And my father is in the back row, fourth from the right. (Many thanks to my cousin Joan for sharing this picture that brought back such great memories to me.)



B. We also went with our friends Brian and Carole, Tom and Marcie, and Anne for dinner at Thai Basil in Black Mountain. The food was quite good and very attractively prepared. The only thing I don't quite get: Why they don't offer the option of separate checks for groups of five or more.



L-R: Cynthia, Blaine, Marcie Gallagher and Tom Gallagher

From there, we went to a concert at White Horse Black Mountain--featuring BJ Leiderman and friends. What a show; in fact, it was as good as we've ever seen! That's BJ on the piano and singing was a performer he introduced by the name of Rhoda Weaver. She was amazing!



We were also blown away by BJ's singing and piano-playing, the guitar wizardry of David LaMotte, the vibrant performance from the Screaming Js, the clever songs from David Wilcox, talented Asheville singer-songwriter Chris Smith and appearances from Kellin and Bebe Watson, Bill Berg, Corey Bullman and Mike Ashworth.

To get a sense of some of what we heard, please click any and/or all of the following:

- (1) Rhoda Weaver, "Hallelujah"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzvfPwx4oAM>
- (2) BJ Leiderman sampler

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MU6K8MBr78>

(3) David LaMotte, live concert demo
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZtAzixP0vY>

(4) Screaming Js, "Maybellene"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljGZZUPqnzU>

(5) David Wilcox, "Hard Part"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwhN9YR21BM>

(6) Chris Smith, songs from "Carolina Bound"
<http://www.carolinaboundmusic.com/Music.html>

Lastly, for other great shows throughout the year, make sure you check out White Horse Black Mountain by clicking:
<http://www.whitehorseblackmountain.com/>

Note: BJ is slated to appear at the SART fundraiser/Valentine's Day bash on Thursday, Feb. 14. For more information, please write sartplays@aol.com and put VALENTINE'S DAY in the subject line.

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Walt Currie on his election to a two-year term on the board of directors of the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

(2) Rebecca AxeRosa on her upcoming new job as the Assistant Director of Student Activities and Leadership Programs at Gwynedd Mercy College.

(3) Daniel Hensley on his starring role in SANTALAND DIARIES. For a great picture and article, please click:
http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012312120024&nlick_check=1

Note: I've seen the above show, and Daniel is great in it. You can still get tickets through this coming Sunday by clicking:
<http://www.ashevilletheatre.org/?p=2568>

(4) Alex Shnyder for his induction as the 2013 Bucks County Association of Realtors VP.

(5) Leroy Revis on his graduation from Mars Hill College.

(6) And, lastly, I'm sooooo proud of my son-in-law JP Reavely for having earned his Master in Beer Administration from Cloverleaf Tavern in Caldwell, NJ. That's him, pointing toward his designation.



D. Condolences to:

(1) Linda McLean and family on the passing of Jim Stokoe, Linda's husband. A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. at Jubilee! Community in downtown

Asheville. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that you please consider a donation to Little Pearls (Linda's non-profit organization), Jubilee! Community, Care Partners Solace Center, or any animal welfare or environmental organization you love.

(2) To the families of those killed in the senseless Connecticut shootings.

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

This week, it goes to Lorraine Allen--director of the NJSBDC (New Jersey Small Business Development Center) at the College of New Jersey.

She recently received a State Star award at this year's ASBDC Conference and was honored at a reception for other high performers around the nation.

To quote Brenda Hopper, chief executive officer and state director of the NJSBDC network, "Lorraine has led the Center at the College of New Jersey for several years and has truly developed out of the box initiatives aimed at helping entrepreneurs and established businesses. She is deserving of this recognition."

My take: Brenda is spot on with her comment. I've had the pleasure of knowing Lorraine since my days with the SBDC, both as a consultant and then as president of the State Advisory Board. She was tireless in her efforts to help businesses of all kinds and sizes, and she was always supportive of my efforts. Her constant enthusiasm never ceased to amaze me.

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

Please don't be offended if you fail to receive any holiday greeting cards from the Greenfields. Instead, we prefer saving the money on cards and postage . . . and instead making donations (in your honor) to various non-profit groups that could put the money to better use--or at least in our opinion.

So this year, for example, we will be making a donation to SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre.) This is a group that brings professional theatre to the mountains, and they put on some great shows. The upcoming season should be one of the best ever.

Also, SART is in the same position faced by many other arts organizations; i.e., it raises less than 50% of expenses from actual ticket sales. So that is where contributions come into play.

If you want to join me in helping out, please click:

<http://sartplays.org/>

About half way down, you'll see a section called "BE A LIFESAVER." Click that and then just follow the directions.

And wearing my hat as president of SART's Board of Directors, let me say thanks very much in advance!

FYI, part 2

Gary J. in NC (commenting on the pharmaceutical ad in last week's issue): Here's a picture of our light switch in the living room:



We got it about 20 years ago. When we listed our house for sale 7 years ago, the realtor saw it and said, "You need to take that down." Thinking she may have been offended, we asked, "Why?"

And she answered, "If a buyer sees it, they may want it. And if it's attached to the house, it conveys. I can't tell you how many times something as simple as this stopped a home sale."

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

Warning: Brunette joke follows, so if that type humor offends you, skip it . . . or substitute "blonde" or "redhead" every time you see the word brunette.

The joke:

There's this brunette out for a walk. She comes to a river and sees another brunette on the opposite bank. "Yoo-hoo!" she shouts. "How can I get to the other side?"

The second brunette looks up the river then down the river and shouts back, "You ARE on the other side."

[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. END OF WATCH is a riveting police thriller about two cops who discover a secret that makes them the target of the country's most dangerous drug cartel. Jake Gyllenhaal and Michael Peña are both outstanding as young LA police officers, and the camera work is thrilling. However, please be forewarned: There is non-stop violence in this film. Also, don't consider it you find profanity upsetting. Rated R.

B. TED is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #829 follows:

TED is a foul-mouthed comedy of a grown man (well-played by Mark Wahlberg) who must deal with the beloved teddy bear that he has had ever since a childhood wish came true . . . the film was conceived by FAMILY GUY creator Seth MacFarlane, and he served as writer, director and voice star . . . the first half was very funny; however, it fell apart thereafter--for me at least . . . rated R.

C. THE PUMPKIN PLAN: A SIMPLE STRATEGY TO GROW A REMARKABLE BUSINESS IN ANY FIELD (Portfolio Hardcover) by Mike Michalowicz is a short, powerful book about a situation that the author found himself in when he was trying to grow his first company.

It was making steady money, but Michalowicz found himself working all the time. He barely found time to breathe; i.e., until he discovered a better way to do things.

What happened: He read an article about a local farmer who had dedicated his life to

growing giant pumpkins. Michalowicz came to the realization that the same process could be applied to growing a business, so he tested it on his own company and turned it into a flourishing, multimillion-dollar industry. He then did this for others.

And now in THE PUMPKIN PLAN, he shows everybody how to do this by following these three steps cited in the book's description:

- * Plant the right seeds: Don't waste time doing a bunch of different things just to please your customers. Instead, identify the thing you do better than anyone else and focus all of your attention, money, and time on figuring out how to grow your company doing it.

- * Weed out the losers: In a pumpkin patch small, rotten pumpkins stunt the growth of the robust, healthy ones. The same is true of customers. Figure out which customers add the most value and provide the best opportunities for sustained growth. Then ditch the worst of the worst.

- * Nurture the winners: Once you figure out who your best customers are, blow their minds with care. Discover their unfulfilled needs, innovate to make their wishes come true, and overdeliver on every single promise.

I especially liked the stories of successful entrepreneurs, as well as the author's tips on how this plan could be applied to many other industries.

D. Heard THE 15 INVALUABLE LAWS OF GROWTH (Hachette Audio), written and read by John C. Maxwell.

The author already has three books that have sold more than a million copies. This might well be his fourth.

I don't know how he does it, but Maxwell keeps coming up with new ideas that can be utilized in your daily life and/or business. This latest effort is no exception.

What I especially liked about this one is that it dealt with developing yourself, so that you can be the best person you were created to be. As he notes:

- * Not reaching your potential is like dying with the music still in you.

He then proceeds to present 15 laws, each one of which will get you thinking . . . for example:

- * Most people don't act as quickly as they should on things. This is because of the Law of Diminishing Interest, which says the longer you wait to do something you should do, the greater the odds that you will never actually do it.

However, what's so great about this book is that you aren't just given some boring theory. Rather, you are then presented with concrete suggestions as to how to put it into practice right away.

Perhaps my favorite bit of advice was this suggestion:

- * Stop thinking, "Can I?" And start thinking, "How can I?"

The above is such a powerful concept that I plan to start following right away. Get hold of this book, and you too will find much that you can implement immediately in your life.

E. Free book offer:

HOW TO START A RELATIONSHIP: THE ULTIMATE ADVISER FOR FINDING YOUR TRUE LOVE (Kindle Edition) by Milos Mitic is available for free downloading through Monday, Dec. 17 until 11:59 p.m. All you need to do is click:
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00AHJNMPO>

To quote the author from an email I recently received from him: "I'm disabled since I was 17 after I suffered a spinal cord injury. It took me a lot of struggle to find a girlfriend since I'm in a wheelchair. But that brought me great experience and understanding about how relationships work. I've written this short ebook so more people can benefit from it."

***** CONTEST #25 *****

One lucky winner will receive an unabridged CD version of THE GUARDIAN by Nicholas Sparks . . . to quote BOOKLIST, "The ever-popular Sparks, known for his romantic tales, combines an involving love story with the creepiness of an unpredictable thriller. Julie Barenson survived a negligent mother and is now trying to survive the loss of a loving husband. The man who rescued her by offering her in the small town of Swansboro, NC,

died far too young, leaving Julie with a Great Dane puppy she names Singer and a promise to look out for her. . . . Sparks' tricky tale of romantic suspense starts off slowly but builds steadily to an edge-of-your-seat conclusion that is well worth the wait."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #25" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 16.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR REVISITED is a documentary about the making of the movie by the Beatles, MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR . . . Sunday at 4 a.m. on PBS . . . Note: PBS dates and times often vary, so check local listings.

B. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Nobody dies in KILLER KAROKE, but it's a world of hurt. The singing competition is like a hybrid of MTV's SILENT LIBRARY and JACKASS. If you hated those or don't know what they are, consider yourself warned." Fridays at 9 p.m. on TRUTV.

C. CAROL FOR ANOTHER CHRISTMAS is an 84-minute retelling of Dickens' A CRHISTMAS CAROL that aired only once, back in 1964 . . . the cast featured Ben Gazzara, Eva Marie Saint and Peter Sellers . . . Monday, Dec. 16 at 8 p.m. on TCM, repeated on Saturday, Dec. 22 at 4:15 p.m.

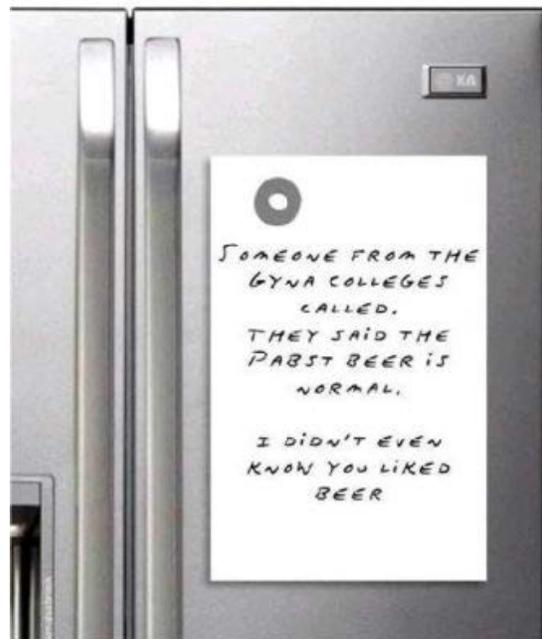
D. PROJECT NIM airs on Thursday, Dec. 20 on HBO at 9 p.m. . . . here's my review from BLAINESWORLD #776:

PROJECT NIM is a thought-provoking documentary about a chimpanzee who became the focus of a famous experiment in the 1970s about whether it would be possible to teach an ape to communicate with language . . . he was taken away from his mother and raised by a human family, but when that didn't work out, he was then taken to a laboratory facility . . . when that also didn't work out, Nim was moved around--perhaps too many times--and his life was never what it would have been had he lived with his mother . . . parts of the film are humorous; others are heartbreaking . . . rated PG-13.

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

Why men shouldn't take messages . . .



[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. The countdown continues. LES MISERABLES opens soon (Christmas Day to be exact). And thanks to Marcie F. in PA, I just learned that the movie will even feature a new song:

<http://BroadwayWorld.com/viewcolumn.php?colid=436088>

B. In the unlikely event you haven't seen this yet . . . or in case you want to see it again . . . here's the worst free throw ever, courtesy of Herb S. in NJ:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-MW5tkTWtQ>

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net/>

Wondering what happens to your name and/or email address if you subscribe to this newsletter? See "Newsletter" on the left and then "Privacy Statement."

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield



[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

For PC Virus Victims, Pay or Else

By NICOLE PERLROTH

Published: December 5, 2012 in THE NEW YORK TIMES

CULVER CITY, Calif. - Kidnappers used to make ransom notes with letters cut out of magazines. Now, notes simply pop up on your computer screen, except the hostage is your PC. In the past year, hundreds of thousands of people across the world have switched on their computers to find distressing messages alerting them that they no longer have access to their PCs or any of the files on them.

The messages claim to be from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, some 20 other law enforcement agencies across the globe or, most recently, Anonymous, a shadowy group of hackers. The computer users are told that the only way to get their machines back is to pay a steep fine.

To learn how to prevent this from happening to you, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/06/technology/ransomware-is-expanding-in-the-united-states.html?emc=eta1>

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

Great idea from comedian Craig Anton:

"I want to take one of those English as a Second Language courses--just go in and blow everybody away on the first day."

[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like



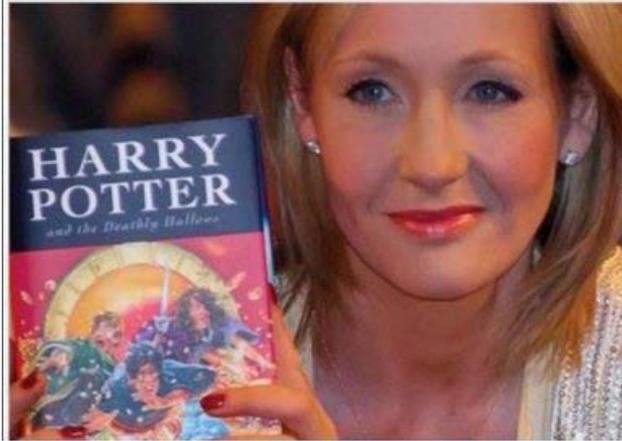
To argue with a person who has renounced the use of reason is like administering medicine to the dead.

Thomas Paine

[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

J.K. Rowling has been a billionaire until this year.
She donated so much of her earnings
to charity that she lost her billionaire status.



My two cents: Good for her. Now wouldn't it be something if politicians did the same . . . instead of spending money on political advertising?

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

NC events

A. Mary Rita S. in NC: I wanted to tell you that the show Katie [Katherine Sandoval Taylor] is singing in is really WONDERFUL, and I know you & Cynthia would enjoy it! There is a young man who plays the violin from NY, and he is amazing! All three featured performers are outstanding talents.

A Celtic Christmas is performed at Flatrock Playhouse's Downtown Theatre, 125 S. Main in Hendersonville. Box office 828-693-0731. Runs through Saturday, Dec. 22. Evenings at 8:00 PM- Wed, Fri & Sat; Matinees at 2:00 PM- Thurs, Sat & Sun \$35 reserved seats. Senior rates available. To purchase tickets, please click: http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?organ_val=27967&event_val=CELT

B. Dr. Nido Quebein is the featured speaker at Lessons in Leadership on Tuesday, Jan. 29 at UNCA. For more information, please click: <http://www.wncleaders.com/>

C. This is the final week to catch THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) at NC Stage. I've seen it and can guarantee that you'll laugh you heads off-- and then laugh some more. For more information, please click: <http://www.ncstage.org/>

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week!



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BLAINES WORLD



BLAINES WORLD

#845
12.3.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a blast at the Brooklyn wedding of her niece Rachel to Ezra Shanken.



The ceremony was beautiful, the food and band were both great, and we enjoyed getting together with family members--many of whom we hadn't seen for quite some time.

We also enjoyed a delicious breakfast the next day at Junior's with Cynthia's nephews Adam and Benjamin. The company was great, as was the food, and we had an especially fine server by the name of Taina.



L-R: Blaine Greenfield, Cynthia Greenfield, Adam Rubin, Benjamin Litchman and Chloe Lipman

B. In addition, we were glad to be able to see my daughter Risa, her husband JP and their Christmas tree.



Not pictured: Bella and Dusty, their cats

C. When "up North," I also had a brief opportunity to visit a few friends in the Pennsylvania area: Natalie Kaye, Mike Lazanski and George Hunter, among others . . . naturally, I had to get some tasty ice cream at Zebra Striped Whale in Newtown and say "hello" to Tom Donahue, one of the co-owners . . . if you can, check out Jersey Shore--a new flavor that combines both vanilla and salted caramel . . . you won't be disappointed.

And to find out more about this outstanding ice cream store/coffee cafe, please click: <http://www.zebrastripedwhale.com/zsw/HOME.html>

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Sonya Nagele on her retirement from the New Jersey court system. She was one of the folks who helped train me as a mediator, and I'll always be grateful for her wise guidance.

(2) George Bruno for having been chosen as a stand-in for Robert DeNiro in a print shoot in New York City.

(3) Norm Ken for having been presented with the AI Horn Lifetime Achievement Award from NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws).

(4) Janet H. in PA, winner of Contest #24--a copy of the unabridged CD version of THE ISLAND by Elin Hilderbrand. . . . all told, there were 8 entries . . . and that reminds me that it's now time to introduce . . .

***** CONTEST #25 *****

One lucky winner will receive an unabridged CD version of THE GUARDIAN by Nicholas Sparks . . . to quote BOOKLIST, "The ever-popular Sparks, known for his romantic tales, combines an involving love story with the creepiness of an unpredictable thriller. Julie Barenson survived a negligent mother and is now trying to survive the loss of a loving husband. The man who rescued her by offering her in the small town of Swansboro, North Carolina, died far too young, leaving Julie with a Great Dane puppy she names Singer and a promise to look out for her. . . . Sparks' tricky tale of romantic suspense starts off slowly but builds steadily to an edge-of-your-seat conclusion that is well worth the wait."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #25" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 16.

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

This week, it goes to J. Scott Hughes--vice president of assurance services with Johnson Price Spinkle PA, an accounting firm in Asheville.

Scott has repeatedly helped SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre) with our accounting needs. He has always done so with both accuracy and speed, and for that we are most grateful. In addition, he has always done so with a smile even when we have needed something right away.

In his free time, Scott enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf, singing, going on mission trips with his church and volunteering. He can be reached at 828.225.3627; scotth@jpspa.com.

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

Gifts That Change Lives

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

Published: December 5, 2012 in THE NEW YORK TIMES

Looking for an unusual holiday gift? How about a \$60 trio of rabbits to a family in Haiti in the name of someone special? Bunnies raise a farming family's income because they, well, reproduce like rabbits - six litters a year! Heifer International arranges the gift on its Web site (heifer.org).

Or for \$52 you can buy your uncle something more meaningful than a necktie: send an Afghan girl to school for a year in his name, through the International Rescue Committee (rescue.org).

For the rest of this informative column, please click:

<http://nyti.ms/R9jz7U>

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

My nutritionist told me to eat a balanced diet. I listened . . . that's me with a cookie in each hand!



[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. Imagine a romantic comedy about a guy who is bipolar and hooks up with a woman who has problems of her own . . . that's the story behind SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK, and the result is a film that I strongly recommend . . . the leads, Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence, are both excellent . . . Robert DeNiro had me laughing in just about every scene he's in . . . and the dialogue is just about perfect . . . rated R.

B. THE ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN .is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #831 follows:

Don't be put off by some poor reviews you may have seen for THE ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN . . . this is a magical story about a happily married couple who can't have a child, so they can only dream of what the experience might be like . . . when young Timothy shows up on their doorstep one night, everybody's life change--including those living in the small town of Stanleyville . . . I liked everything about it, and you will too . . . it's also the perfect film for everybody in the family . . . Jennifer Garner and Joel Edgerton are both good as the parents and CJ Adams scores as their son . . . rated PG.

C. GREEN BEANS & ICE CREAM: THE REMARKABLE POWER OF POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT (GreenBean Leadership Publications) by Bill Sims, Jr. points out that change can take place in your company and/or life--but only if you back it up with something; i.e., positive reinforcement.

I was convinced of this with the author's first example:

* By the time I was a four-year old kid, I had already sampled green beans and concluded they weren't for me. The strings might as well have been wood chips, the way they caught in my throat as I tried to get them down.

Mom was my boss, and I was her newest employee. We had a real labor/management crisis going on. She begged, cajoled, and pleaded. But I was determined not to eat those green beans.

So I crossed my arms, frowned, and pouted, figuring she'd give up and forget about green beans, as she always had in the past.

But this time, Mom had a secret weapon. Now, there was something else on the table besides that dreaded green scourge.

"Billy Joe, if you eat your green beans you can have some . . ."

You guessed it. "Ice cream!"

This sheer stoke of maternal genius changed my behavior forever. In a flash, I saw those green beans, not as an oppressive burden, but as a first-class ticket to that lovely ice cream.

Sure, Mom got what she wanted--a balanced diet for her four-year-old.

And I got ice cream.

Pretty cool.

(Thanks, Mom. You are the best!)

I'm not sure exactly when or how Mom pared back the ice cream, but somehow I came to terms with green beans and accepted them for what they are--pretty healthy and tasty by themselves (oh, Mom learned to buy stringless bean, and that didn't hurt either).

Mom had learned how to change my behavior!

For the rest of this review, please go to Section 4C when you click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-YL>

D. SHADOWBOSSSES: GOVERNMENT UNIONS CONTROL AMERICA AND ROB TAXPAYERS BLIND (Hachette Audio) by Mallory Factor with Elizabeth Factor and read by Mallory Factor is not a book for everybody. Many union members, in particular, will not like it.

But nevertheless, the premise is an interesting one; i.e., that Shoadowbosses--the heads of the gigantic government employee unions that spend billions on politics to keep pro-

union politicians in office--threaten our American way of life.

For the rest of this review, please go to Section 4C when you click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-YL>

Back to Top

5. TV alert

A. Bo Jackson was Heisman Trophy winner, NFL Pro Bowler and MLB All Star . . . you can find out more about him by watching an ESPN 30 FOR 30 movie, YOU DON'T KNOW BO . . . Saturday at 9 p.m. on ESPN.

B. ANATOMY OF A MURDER is an exciting courtroom drama featuring a cast that included James Stewart, Lee Remick and George C. Scott. Duke Ellington Ellington composed the score and also appears on-screen. Sunday at 5:15 p.m. on TCM.

C. MEL BROOKS STRIKES BACK! contains clips of his classic films and TV appearances, as well as lively question-and-answer session with the audience. Monday, Dec. 10 at 9 p.m. on HBO.

D. RESTLESS, starring Charlotte Rampling and Rufus Swell, airs on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 2:30 p.m. on SUNDANCE CHANNEL and is repeated at 10 p.m. . . . it's the tale of a daughter who learns that her mother was a World War II British spy who's been on the run for more than 30 years and is ready to come in out of the cold. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "There's not much, to be sure, likely to spoil the pleasures of this work, one of whose charms is a refreshingly unhurried air even as it goes ripping sharply along, suspenseful to the end."

Back to Top

6. Joke 2

In the last two months, six separate men filled in the "Sex" blank on their job application with some variation of "Depends on who's offering." Two answered, "Yes, please," and one wrote, "No, thank you."

I hired the last one because he seemed polite.

Source: Jennifer Lawson, American blogger and journalist, in LET'S PRETEND THIS NEVER HAPPENED (her autobiography)

Back to Top

7. Websites

A. Compost-Fueled Cars: Wouldn't That Be Great?
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkGMY63FF3Q>

Note: This comes from THE ONION, so please don't take it toooooo seriously.

For more information on the clip, please click:
[http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/culture/2012/10/the-onion-tees-up-ted-talks.html?mbid=nl_Daily%20\(102\)](http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/culture/2012/10/the-onion-tees-up-ted-talks.html?mbid=nl_Daily%20(102))

B. This is the video that Coca-Cola really doesn't want you to see . . . its goal: to show the ill effects of drinking too many sugary beverages. The papa bear in the animated video suffers from erectile dysfunction and type 2 diabetes, which forces him to have a "grizzly" leg amputation. The video ends with the polar bear family pouring their colas into the ocean.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myxwCEGcBYc>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net/>

For a list of films that I've enjoyed . . . and think you might, too . . . click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Favorite Films."

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:
<https://www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield>

Or click the box below.



[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

In the Blink of an Eye

by Richardson Technology* on Monday, December 3, 2012 at 9:54am

One minute your life, computer, and Facebook account were perfect . . . and in the blink of an eye... just a single click of your mouse... suddenly your computer--and it seems your whole life--have been tossed upon the raging seas! You've got a warning screen that's popped up on your screen and it won't go away . . . and now one of your friends is calling your cell and asking what were you thinking when you posted all that weird stuff for everyone to see. You can't get to Facebook because that warning thing on your screen wants your credit card information and won't close, no matter how many times you click on the "Cancel" button.

One minute life is good, the next . . . you've got serious distractions!

To find out why this is so and to learn what you need to do, please go to Section 8 when you click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-YL>

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Jon Richardson. Jon is a website, social media coach, and network consultant to small business owners in Colorado: reach him at RTech451@gmail.com.

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

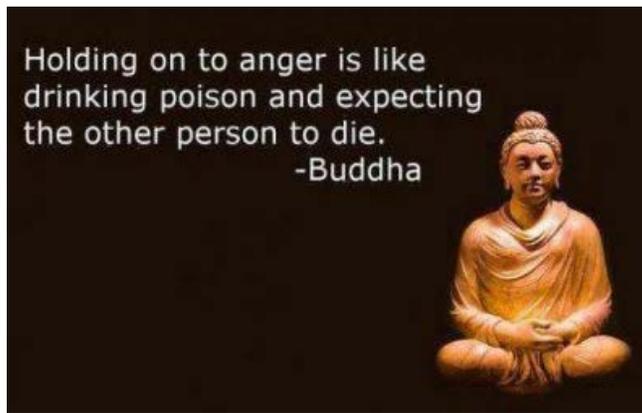
Forget the pharmaceutical advertising you've seen in your doctor's office (pens, pads, etc.) . . . this one should get the top prize. I emailed it my friend in Japan, who also happens to be a surgeon. He wrote back, "If light stay on more than 4 hour, call your erectrician."



[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

Methinks that I'll instead hold on to love . . .



[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

My 1959 pick-up truck
by Roger Clark*



I've been cleaning out my apartment and I stumbled upon some old books and journals: Travels With Charlie by John Steinbeck and an old journal of mine from 1971 to 1980.

This little remembrance is about the way literature can influence and positively change a person's life in a rewarding and edifying way. It is also about how friends can introduce one to a way of living without social constraints. This is also about learning to be free.

For the rest of this charming remembrance and to find out about Roger's red truck, please go to Section 11 when you click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-YL>

* Reprinted with the gracious permission Roger. He is a graphic artist with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection/Historic & Cultural Preservation Office. In addition, he is one very talented artist as can be seen by clicking his website:

<http://www.theartfulroger.net>

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

(1) The featured presenter for the next Lessons in Leadership Main Event on January 29, 2013 will be the legendary . . .

DR. NIDO QUBEIN



Dr. Qubein is a true "Hall of Fame" world-class speaker, business consultant, and author. He is also the esteemed President of High Point University.

Members of the organizing team knew that after getting Brian Biro to present at last year's event, they were really going to have to move it up a notch for 2013. After hearing about the Lessons in Leadership concept and with some friendly prompting, Dr. Qubein kindly agreed to bring his unique presentation style to Western North Carolina. And despite being one of the most sought-after speakers in the market, as with all Lessons in Leadership presenters, he's doing it as a gift to our community.

So, once again we're able to present world-class leadership training at the truly awesome price of just \$20 per person!

Dr. Qubein has such an amazing reputation in the world of business that we're expecting a record attendance for this event. Already, group registrations have exceeded 200 and that's BEFORE the official announcement was even made! This promises to be the biggest, most powerful and best-attended Lessons in Leadership event yet, so we strongly recommend registering yourself and your team as soon as possible!

As for previous events, we've selected PayPal as our credit card payment processing partner. During the online registration process, you'll automatically be redirected to their secure website for payment. YOU DO NOT NEED A PAYPAL ACCOUNT TO USE THIS SERVICE.

To register, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/9wc9vhf>

(2) Vic A. in NC: Went to BERNSTEIN FAMILY CHRISTMAS SHOW this evening [at Magnetic Field]. Very funny. Have you seen it yet?

Answer: Not yet, but do agree with Vic that this is a very funny show. I had seen it previously and liked it. It runs through December 22. For more information, please click:
<http://themagneticfield.com/>

(3) Mark J. in NC: Friends and Family rehearsal of A CHRISTMAS CAROL went very well tonight. Thanks to all who attended. Also a BIG thank you to the cast/crew who has been on this journey with me for the last 2 months. A truly magical show!! Show dates are weekends, December 7 - 16. Tickets are on sale now. For more info, visit:
www.harttheatre.com

(4) Plans are being finalized for a Feb. 14 Valentine's Day bash in downtown Asheville that will be sponsored by SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre). Please do hold that date.

***** HELP REQUEST *****

We will be also having a Silent Auction at the event. I mention it because if you have anything you could donate to the auction, I'd be most appreciative. In return, you'll get an acknowledgment for the contribution that can be used when you do your taxes, plus mention on our website, Facebook, in our Constant Contact mailings, etc.

If you can help out in any way, please send an email to: sartplays@aol.com and put down SILENT AUCTION in the subject line. Then in the body of the email, indicate what you would be contributing. Thanks much!

B. PA/NJ event

Winter Concert
Mercer County Symphonic Band
8:00 p.m., Wednesday December 19, 2012
Directed by Dr. Lou Woodruff

The Kelsey Theatre
West Windsor Campus
Mercer County Community College

[Back to Top](#)

PS. If you're like me and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun, family and friends that way), then Happy Chaunkah to you and yours . . . to get you in the mood, please view Adam Sandler's "Chanukah Song," arguably the greatest song on the holiday ever recorded . . . <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EeC8nTYEwQQ> . . . and make it a great rest of the week, too!



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BLAINES WORLD



BLAINES WORLD

#844
11.26.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I were thankful to be invited to a lovely Thanksgiving dinner at the home of our friends in Weaverville.



L-R: Marvin Sadovsky, Annemarie Brown, Cynthia, Blaine and Anne.

The food was oh-so-tasty. And what was a nice touch was the fact that everybody was asked to share something with the group. I recited the following poem:

He laid her on the table,
So light, clean and bare.
His forehead wet with beads of sweat,
He rubbed her here and there.

He touched her neck and then her breast,
And then, drooling, felt her thigh.
The slit was wet and all was set,

He gave a joyous cry.

The hole was wide . . .
He looked inside,
All was dark and murky.
He rubbed his hands and stretched out his arms,

And . . .

Then . . .

He . . .

Stuffed the turkey.

(What were you thinking? Get your mind out of the gutter!)

B. We also saw INSPECTING CAROL at the Asheville Community Theatre . . it's a comedy about a troupe of actors having all sorts of difficulties putting on their annual production of A CHRISTMAS CAROL. The second act was especially funny.

I got a big kick out of seeing Steven Turner, a friend, do a great job in one of the leading roles. Joan Atwood is also to be commended for an excellent job of directing.

Good news: The show runs through this coming weekend, so you can still see it. For ticket information, please click:

www.ashevilletheatre.org

C. And I got to see the Mars Hill College Theatre Arts Dept. production of PICNIC on its opening night. It was great. Kudos to the entire cast, as well as to Jessica Phelps West for an excellent job of directing and the rest of the production staff.



L-R: Blaine Greenfield, Sarah Richardson, Brently Sproles and Daniel Henry.

You can still catch the show this Thursday & Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. or Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Call the Box Office at 828.689.1239 for tickets.

D. I was saddened to hear of the passing of Zig Ziglar. His classic book, SEE YOU AT THE TOP, greatly inspired my life. In particular, I have always tried to follow his advice: "You can have everything in life you want if you help other people get what they want." He will be missed!



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

This week, it goes to two employees at Bonefish Grill in Asheville--David V., a server, and Stephen Sebastiano, the manager.

We have been to this restaurant before and have always enjoyed the food, as well as the service.

Recently, I ordered something that was not on the menu: i.e., chicken with the request that a coconut coating (similar to what's used on shrimp) be used. Stephen came over and said the chef could not prepare what I wanted, but when I explained it to him, he said that it could be done. And it came out just fine.

Cynthia's shrimp diablo dish came out. It was very spicy; too spicy for her, in fact. David was very gracious in taking it back, actually blaming himself for not giving a heads up that this was a spicy item. He brought her back the same shrimp dish but with a different sauce, and she very much enjoyed it.

However, what really blew us away was when Stephen again came over, this time with a cup of clam chowder. He gave it to Cynthia because he didn't want her to have to wait while I ate my meal.

Our reaction: Wow!

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

Corinne G. in PA: Considering the cartoon you ran in this week's BLAINESWORLD, I thought you might be interested in reading this.

Do American Indians Celebrate Thanksgiving?
DENNIS W. ZOTIGH
November 26, 2012

In thinking about my earliest memories of elementary school, I remember being asked to bring a brown paper sack to class so that it could be decorated and worn as part of the Indian costume used to celebrate Thanksgiving. I was also instructed to make a less-than-authentic headband with Indian designs and feathers to complete this outfit. Looking back, I now know this was wrong.

The Thanksgiving Indian costume that all the other children and I made in my elementary classroom trivialized and degraded the descendants of the proud Wampanoags, whose ancestors attended the first Thanksgiving popularized in American culture. The costumes we wore bore no resemblance to Wampanoag clothing of that time period. Among the Wampanoag, and other American Indians, the wearing of feathers has significance. The feathers we wore were simply mockery, an educator's interpretation of what an American Indian is supposed to look like.

For the rest of this informative article, please click:

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2012/11/20/do-american-indians-celebrate-thanksgiving-146676>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Janeen M. in PA: 64th anniversary/ Vow Renewal/ 100th Birthday
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2LyNAxcRlo>

(2) Susan M. in NJ: Contact Juggling par Akihiro Yanai at Japan Juggling Festival 2012
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA0NAVmD5u4>

(3) Steve G. in PA: Deli Man trailer
<http://vimeo.com/53381762>

B. Other

To read contributions from Ken G. in NY, Walt W. in PA, Natalie K. in PA, Robin S. in PA and Ruth W. in PA, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Yt>

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

Personally, I hope this never happens to me; i.e., that I go out wearing socks with my sandals!



[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. LINCOLN is not a straight biography of the 16th President's life; rather, it focuses on his final months in office when he sought to end the war, unite the country and abolish slavery . . . it was a bit slow in the beginning, but came alive in the second half as I kept thinking about the parallels with his life and what President Obama has tried to do with getting health insurance coverage for all Americans . . . Daniel Day-Lewis is outstanding as Lincoln; I was less impressed with Sally Field as his wife . . . rated PG-13.

B. SPARKLE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #838 follows:

SPARKLE, a remake of the 1976 film with the same name, is about a girl who struggles to become a star while dealing with issues that are tearing her family apart. The music is OK and so is the story, but that said, I recall leaving the theatre not caring too much about any of the characters. Jordin Sparks does well in her first starring role as Sparkle, and I also liked the work of both Derek Luke and Mike Epps. Whitney Houston also has a smaller part that will be remembered as the last thing she did before she died. Rated PG-13.

C. BRAINS ON FIRE: IGNITING POWERFUL, SUSTAINABLE WORD OF MOUTH MOVEMENTS (Wiley) by Robbin Phillips, Greg Cordell, Geno Church and Spike Jones shows you how to inspire excitement and engage your customers in a way that they will advocate for you.

The authors do this through the use of many real examples, but the most amazing one was that of a 360-year-old company. It was able to double its profits in key markets just by tapping into a community that its customers had already formed.

I also liked the many stories that were included--especially this one:

* There's an old (unverified story) of an unannounced visit that President John F. Kennedy made to the space center at Cape Canaveral sometime in the 1960s. Kennedy toured the complex and met a man in janitor's clothing. "What is it you do here?" he asked. The man replied, "Earn a living." Kennedy nodded and moved on. He met another man in janitor's clothing and asked him the same question. "I pick up all the trash," the man said. Kennedy grinned and walked on until he met yet another man in the same outfit and asked the question once again. This time a big smile grew the man's face as he replied, "Mr. President, I'm helping to put a man on the moon."

In addition, this tidbit caught my attention about what marketers need to do:

* When you ask someone's opinion about something, will a response of "I liked it," or "It was okay," cause you to take action and stay at that hotel or dine at that restaurant? Probably not, because like is not a very convincing word. But love and hate are. And you should want people to love you or hate you, because it gives you something worth talking about. Like is a death trap. Like has no emotion. It's a word that people use when they could care less.

And lastly, I thought this bit of advice could be quite helpful to many companies and organizations:

* Another way to love your advocates is, yes, by giving them something. But not necessarily big-ticket items, just a form or recognition in something that nobody else can get except other members. Members of Rage receive their dog tags in a welcome kit. Fiskateers receive their special scissors. Park angels receive wings. Colonial Williamsburg fans receive a replica of an old, historic key to the city. Brains on Fire even has an underground site, where we send advocates to pick out their special Brains on Fire gear. This concept also lends itself to a sense of community. Remember the LIVESTRONG yellow bracelets from the Lance Armstrong Foundation in support of cancer research? When you wore and saw someone else wearing one--say, in an airport or a restaurant--you probably made eye contact and smiled. That person was a stranger to you before, but the commonality gave you a reason to have a conversation. It's a connection point, and that's what these small, cost-exclusive gifts can bring to the movement. And along with that connection point comes a feeling of pride and ownership, which makes advocates feel like rock stars.

BRAINS ON FIRE is not your typical marketing book . . . but if you're open to some new approaches to looking at the way things are done, then you might like it very much. I did.

D. Heard IT'S YOUR BUSINESS: 183 ESSENTIAL TIPS THAT WILL TRANSFORM YOUR SMALL BUSINESS (Hachette Audio) by JJ Ramberg with Lisa Everson & Frank Silverstein and read by Ramberg.

The book is based on MSNBC's long-running series, YOUR BUSINESS . . . It is based on practical advice that has been culled from the thousands of successful small business owners who have appeared on the show.

What makes it especially worthwhile is the fact that tips are given and then there's guidance as to how they can be put to use right away.

I found value in just about every suggestion, but here were just a few of the many that stood out:

* Put yourself in your employee's shoes. Make time to spend an afternoon to some of the more mundane work in your company.

* Insist on employee ownership of projects. Never let an idea leave the room without a champion.

And lastly, there was one that I've often tried to use in my life:

* If a potential client has ultimately decided he or she does not want or need your services, don't let this be the end of your relationship. Keep their need or project in mind and contact them after a week or so with a piece of advice or an article or something that

relates to their project. You can start this email by saying that you just happened to come across this while working on something else and thought they would be interested. This should not be a solicitation for their business, but simply a friendly reminder.

In reading the above, I'm now thinking that I need to do just that; i.e., share this outstanding audio book with somebody who doesn't think my services are needed--at present.

***** CONTEST #24 *****

One lucky winner will receive an unabridged CD version of THE ISLAND by Elin Hilderbrand.

To quote PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY: "At the start of this steamy woman's novel from Hilderbrand (The Castaways), recently divorced Birdie Cousins is busy planning the September wedding of her older daughter, Chess, at the family house on Tuckernuck, a privately owned island near Nantucket. Birdie hopes to spend some quality time with Chess on Tuckernuck in July, but then Chess breaks her engagement to her consummate Ivy League golden boy fiancé, Michael Morgan. . . . This never-never land portrait of the rich and randy will please those looking for a satisfying beach read."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #24" in the subject line of an email and send it to: beginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. PARENTHOOD, according to Matt Roush in TV GUIDE, [is] an exemplar of that endangered TV species, the family drama. . . . [It] has never looked healthier." Tuesdays at 10 p.m. on NBC.

B. A Hollywood director decides to do a serious film, so he dresses as a hobo to experience life in the "real world" in SULLIVAN'S TRAVELS. This is a classic Hollywood satire that gets better with the passing of time. Saturday at 8 p.m. on TCM.

C. THE VICTORIA'S SECRET FASHION Tuesday, Dec. 4 on CBS at 10 p.m. for those interested in the musical performances of Rihanna, Bruno Mars and Justin Bieber. . . . oh, you may also see some beautiful lingerie.

D. Six-time Grammy Award winner Taylor Swift will co-host THE GRAMMY NOMINATIONS CONCERT LIVE, along with two-time Grammy Award winner LL COOL J. Wednesday Dec. 5 at 10 p.m. on CBS.

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

The aspiring psychiatrists were attending their first class on emotional extremes. "Just to establish some parameters," said the professor to the student from Arkansas, "What is the opposite of joy?"

"Sadness." said the student.

And the opposite of depression?" he asked of the young lady from Oklahoma.

"Elation," said she.

"And you sir," he said to the young man from Texas. "How about the opposite of woe?"

The Texan replied, "Sir, I believe that would be giddy-up."

[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Bob P. in NC: It's a short video, but you'll likely watch it more than once. Apparently a woman was filming her son skateboarding, when she was distracted and began filming the old woman crossing the street. You can hear her laughing in the video. <http://dave6.posterous.com/dont-honk-at-old-people>

B. You'll be amazed to see how athletes live at the University of Kentucky. <http://www.coachcal.com/16170/2012/09/no-place-like-home-uks-new-gold-standard-in-housing/>

Note: For more information on the above, check this article:

<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/sportingscene/2012/11/john-calipari-and-the-marketing-of-kentucky-basketball.html#ixzz2CHY5I7hG>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

For some of the folks I like doing business with and/or recommending, click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Choices." Check back to view this listing every so often because I do update it from time to time.

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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield



[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

Ever make a change in a document, then decide you didn't want to make it? To undo any change, press Ctrl + Z. For example, if you cut text, pressing this will undo it. This can also often be pressed multiple times to undo multiple changes. Pressing Ctrl + Y would redo the undo.

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

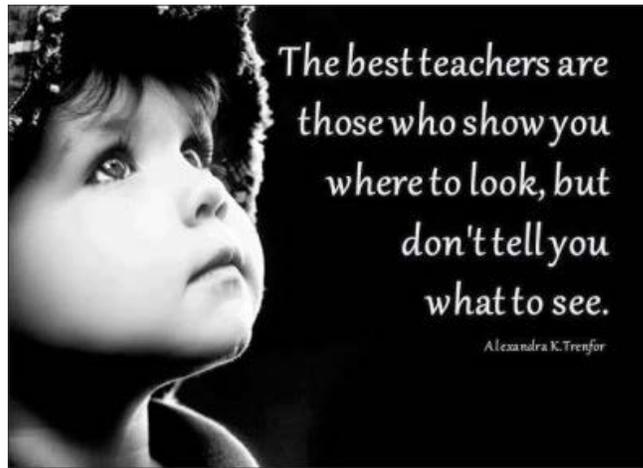
If the Red States are going to get serious about secession, methinks they're going to need all the help they can get . . .



[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

Mr. Curious here: You ever have such a teacher? I did--Dr. Al Sternberg back when I was a Rider University undergraduate. Thanks, Al!



[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

Swimmer, 95, takes gold
by Susan Reinhardt
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES (10.27.12)

Doris Lederer didn't need a slight push. It took a huge heave to force her into the pool, swimming for gold at age 95.

Her friends at Givens Estates Retirement Community convinced her to qualify for the North Carolina Senior Games near Raleigh recently.

They knew this nonagenarian, sharp as a Chef Emeril knife, would blow the others out of the water, even if she was inching toward the century mark.

For the rest of this article by Susan Reinhardt, one of my favorite columnists, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/bm8ln7y>

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. Stuff I'm involved in

Plans are being developed for a Feb. 14 Valentine's Day bash in downtown Asheville that will be sponsored by SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre). Please do hold that date.

***** HELP REQUEST *****

We will be also having a Silent Auction at the event. I mention it because if you have anything you could donate to the auction, I'd be most appreciative. In return, you'll get an acknowledgment for the contribution that can be used when you do your taxes, plus mention on our website, Facebook, in our Constant Contact mailings, etc.

If you can help out in any way, please send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put down SILENT AUCTION in the subject line. Then in the body of the email, indicate what you would be contributing. Thanks much!

B. Other NC events

(1) Daniel Hensley in SANTALAND DIARIES. (2) Box office opens today for A CHRISTMAS CAROL. (3) Next Lessons in Leadership Main Event on January 29, 2013 will be the legendary DR. NIDO QUBEIN.

To read about each of the above, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Yt>

C. PA/NJ events

(1) Pandora Scooter's One Woman Comedy About the End of the World. (2) YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU.

To read about each of the above, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Yt>

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week!



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BLAINES WORLD



BLAINES WORLD

#843
11.19.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had the opportunity to hear Charley Castex--an internationally known psychic consultant--speak in Asheville on the subject of "Intuition."

(2) Among the many ideas we got from his informative presentation:

- * If you can look, listen, feel and focus, and if you can do this 110%, the doors of persuasion will open up for you.
- * You can't choose what you want to hear.
- * Your intuition sometimes tells you what you don't want to hear.
- * Pay attention to your second impression (and not just the first).
- * Start opening differently; e.g., with your left hand.
- * Two things take away from following your intuition: doubt and distraction.

For more information, please click:

<http://charleycastex.com/>

(3) From the presentation, we went with Charley and his wife Kathryn, along with several of our friends, to dinner at Nona Mia. We had been to the restaurant's previous location on Patton Ave.; this was the first time we had been to the Haywood Road locale.



L-R: Marvin Sadovsky, Annemarie Brown, Brian Biro, Connie Ruble, Cynthia Greenfield, Blaine Greenfield, Kathryn, Charley and Carole Biro.

The food was delicious and, in particular, we all enjoyed having gelato for dessert. Peter, our server, was excellent, and we were also impressed by the gracious nature of George,

the manager, who kept checking to see how we were doing. For more information about this eatery that we'll be revisiting, please click:

<http://www.nonamiaasheville.com/>

(4) We also enjoyed discussing a question that Brian threw out to the group: Who was your most memorable teacher--and why?

My answer: Dr. Al Sternberg, my longtime mentor/friend at Rider University (who is still teaching there). Had it not been for him, it is unlikely that I would have ever become a college professor. So Al, if you're reading this, many thanks for all that you have contributed to my life!

B. The next night, we attended "A Night on Broadway" . . . this was a tuneful tribute in memory of the late Paul Schierhorn.



L-R: Morgan St. Clair, Luke Dotson, yours truly, Daniel Hensley and Isaac Fulk.

Kudos to Daniel for arranging the entire event, as well as to these other performers not pictured: Brad Curtioff, Sarah Fowler, Ting Ren Otto, Joseph Barcia and the AHS Trombone Choir.

If you'd like to join me in remembering Paul, please keep in mind that 501(c)(3) charitable contributions are appreciated, made out to the "J-P-W Schierhorn Educational Fund" and deposited into any Wells Fargo Bank into Account # 6887929682 (AHSBA).

Or mail to: Wells Fargo Bank, Weaverville Plaza, 173 Weaverville Blvd., Weaverville, NC 28787.

These memorial funds will go to the Band Programs at two public schools: Asheville's HS and Middle School.

FYI: 100 AHS Band members have been invited to play in D.C. at the President's Inaugural January 2013!

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Brian and Carole Biro on the engagement of their daughter Kelsey to Michael Sanders.

(2) Maria Mason on her recent appearance as a judge in a TREME episode on HBO. (She was so great in not taking any sh*t from David Morse!)

(3) Brian Sneden for having his poem, "The Road," lead off the current issue of BELOIT POETRY JOURNAL.

(4) Mars Hill Theatre Dept. for Reader Grade A for its production of GODSPELL and the fact that it received a Reader Grade of an "A" (from yours truly) in the ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES:

<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012311130011>

(5) Dennis Kwiatkowski on his election to the Biltmore Lake Board of Directors.

(6) Donna Allen on being smoke free for three weeks.

***** FREE OFFER REMAINS *****

If you smoke or know of somebody who smokes, I'm giving away copies of Allen Carr's EASY WAY TO STOP SMOKING . . . this is the absolute best book I've ever read on the subject . . . I've given away dozens of copies of the book over the years, and virtually

everyone who has read it says it has helped them stop . . . I kid you NOT!

But just don't believe me; skim just some of 800-plus customer reviews at amazon.com to see for yourself:

http://www.amazon.com/Allen-Carrs-Easyway-Stop-Smoking/dp/0615482155/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1320456559&sr=1-%202

I'll be giving away books until I run out of them, which is unlikely . . . to obtain: just print your name on the outside of an envelope that's larger than 7 x 10 inches . . . put \$2.77 postage on the outside of the envelope and then mail the postpaid envelope (inside another envelop) to me at this address: Blaine Greenfield, 19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way, Biltmore Lake, NC 28715.

My request: Only request the book for yourself or somebody else if serious about quitting . . . and there's a commitment to read the book within a month of receipt. (Naturally, please let me know about your success afterward.)

(7) Jill Sparks on her new job with an Asheville boutique mortgage firm, PlumDog Financial. (She will be missed at A-B Tech!)

(8) Katherine Sandoval Taylor who will be making her Flat Rock Playhouse debut as the Soprano Soloist in A Celtic Christmas, Dec. 5-22, 2012.

(9) Corrine G. in PA, winner of Contest #23--a copy of the unabridged CD version of BACKSEAT SAINTS by Joshilyn Jackson. . . . all told, there were 6 entries . . . and that reminds me that it's now time to introduce . . .

***** CONTEST #24 *****

One lucky winner will receive an unabridged CD version of THE ISLAND by Elin Hilderbrand.

To quote PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY: "At the start of this steamy woman's novel from Hilderbrand (The Castaways), recently divorced Birdie Cousins is busy planning the September wedding of her older daughter, Chess, at the family house on Tuckernuck, a privately owned island near Nantucket. Birdie hopes to spend some quality time with Chess on Tuckernuck in July, but then Chess breaks her engagement to her consummate Ivy League golden boy fiancé, Michael Morgan. . . . This never-never land portrait of the rich and randy will please those looking for a satisfying beach read."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #24" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2.

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

This week, it goes to Kwik Kopy Printing, 485 Hendersonville Road, Asheville; 828.274.5945.

I have used this firm several times and have always been impressed with its service. The prices are quite reasonable, too.

My most recent job there involved the printing of my two-sided business cards when Hollande became the head honcho in France. See below for the outcome:



Important Telephone Numbers	
Barack Obama.....	202.456.1414
Pope Benedict XVI.....	(011)39.6/6982
Elizabeth II.....	(011)44.1/9304632
Blaine Greenfield (Home).....	828.633.1049
Angela Merkel.....	(011)49.226/561
Vladimir Putin.....	(011)7.2959051
François Hollande.....	(011)33.1.4/2615100
Blaine Greenfield (Cell).....	215.208.0646

Note: Fortunately for me, the recent reelection of Obama meant that I didn't have to get these cards reprinted. That's the one drawback in using them; i.e., when leaders change, they become instantaneously outdated.

D. Correction

In last week's computer tip, I gave information on how to clear your computer screen . . . Walt W. in PA wisely wrote me that you need to do the following if you have a Mac:

On my Mac, hit fn (button on lower left hand side to the left of the Control button) and F11 to clear the screen.

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

We use AT&T U-verse for our cable, phone and Internet service, and we have been very pleased with the service provided by this company--particularly in comparison with two other companies that we have used in the past (that I diplomatically won't cite by name).

When taping HD programs on our DVR, we are limited to only two at a time . . . this also happens, I seem to recall, when I am watching something upstairs and Cynthia is watching something downstairs . . . so in those rare instances, do what we do; i.e., watch TV on the non-HD channels . . . thus, you can watch/tape up to four programs at a time.

This has me remembering that I had it rough as a kid, in that I grew up with a total of three channels from three networks to choose from . . . imagine that!

Note: Look for changes in the cable industry with respect to the bundling of services. Doing this doesn't automatically save you money; e.g., as evidenced by what this one blogger found:

<http://www.freemoneyfinance.com/2010/09/bundling-doesnt-always-save-you-money.html>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Marcie F. in PA: James Cagney and Bob Hope at a Friar's Club Meeting back when actors were real performers.

<http://videos2view.net/Hope-Cagney.htm>

(2) Virginia M. in NC: Paganini's violin concert performed with facial expressions.

<http://www.wimp.com/performedexpressions/>

(3) Zuzu W. in NC: The Zoodles

<http://www.reverbnation.com/thezoodles>

(4) John S. in PA: The Turnips

<http://www.youtube.com/user/TurnipsMusic>

B. Other

Thanks for contributions from Linda H. and Terry V. in NC; Natalie K., Savannah, Ange M., Cathy L., Carole S. and Marty D. in PA; Todd S. in NJ; and Rebecca K. and Ken G. in NY.

To read them, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-XU>

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

"My memory really sucks Mildred, so I changed my password to 'incorrect.' That way, when I log in with the wrong password, the computer will tell me, 'Your password is incorrect.' "



[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. LIFE OF PI, based on a bestselling book, is the tale of a young man who survives a disaster at sea--only to be thrust into an equally perilous journey with a Bengal tiger . . . I loved the beginning; thereafter, it felt a bit overlong (reminding me of the film CASTAWAY) . . . however, the visual effects were spectacular, and I'd recommend seeing the film if only for that reason. The acting--featuring many unknowns, including Suraj Sharma in his first role--was also excellent. Rated G, though I wouldn't recommend it for young children because of some violence involving the various animals.

Note: No animals were hurt making LIFE OF PI. For more information on this topic, read the following interview with director Ang Lee:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/life/movies/2012/11/20/ang-lee-life-of-pi/1630425/>

In addition, I found it interesting to read that Tobey Maguire had a small role in the film, but was removed because of his fame:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/life/movies/2012/11/20/life-of-pi-tobey-maguire/1696157/>

B. You may have to dig a bit to find ONCE AROUND on DVD, but you'll be glad that you did . . . it's a romantic comedy from 1991 that was one of that year's most overlooked films . . . Holly Hunter and Richard Dreyfuss have great chemistry together as a couple who flourish despite opposition from her family . . . Swedish director Lasse Hallstrom made his American movie debut with this winner . . . rated R.

Note: The above had not been on my radar screen when it first came out. Wanting to know more about it, I came across Roger Ebert's review. Part of his last paragraph captures my feelings: "It's an odd, eccentric, off-center study of some very strange human natures, and at every turn it confounds our expectations for them. It's untidy, unpredictable, and made me feel very uncomfortable at times. And it took me all the way through the process of writing this review to discover a surprising thing about this movie, which is that I loved it." For the whole piece, please click:
<http://rogerebert.suntimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/19910118/REVIEWS/101180305>

C. Disclaimer: I'm not an art collector and ordinarily, I'm not even a big fan of art.

I tell you that because things may well change after reading THE ART HUNTER'S HANDBOOK (West Highland Fine Art & Publishing) by Lee & Sue Fox.

This is a fun, interesting book that hooked me from the beginning when I read stories about those who discovered fine art in the most unusual places--such as the following:

* In 2003, New Yorker Elizabeth Gibson was on her way to buy coffee on Manhattan's Upper West Side when she passed a large (38" x 51") modern oil painting sitting at the curb. Twenty minutes after she carried the piece back to her apartment, a garbage truck picked up the rest of the trash. "The painting had a strange power," said Gibson, who is not normally attracted to this type of art. *Tres Personajes* (1970) by the celebrated 20th century Mexican abstract artist Rufino Tamayo (see Artist Profile pages) was identified as a stolen work. The painting had been purchased at Sotheby's in 1977 for \$55,000 by a Houston businessman as a birthday present for his wife. It disappeared in 1987. Thanks to Elizabeth Gibson, it was returned to the owner, who re-sold it at Sotheby's in 2007 for \$1,049,000. Gibson received a \$15,000 reward from the owner and a finder's fee from Sotheby's. The FBI is still trying to find the art thief.

I also liked the fact that the authors helped answer some questions that I always wondered about; for example:

* True or False? "The value of art is based mainly on its beauty." The answer is: False. The value of art is based mainly on the fame of the artist. Yes, it's true that most people consider Claude Monet's landscaped, lily ponds and flower gardens "beautiful" as well as valuable. But it's also true that paintings of large rectangles by Mark Rothko, whether considered beautiful or not, are worth up to \$70 million. While at the same time, "beautiful" landscapes by less famous artists like Fern Coppedge and Hayley Lever are worth only a fraction of the value.

And their "Four Aces of Art Hunter Tips" should help any art collector, present or future, from making some serious mistakes:

* Never assume that a painting isn't worth much just because you don't like it. The value of art may have little to do with what you personally consider "beautiful." Also, a larger painting is not automatically more valuable than a smaller painting. Comparing auction prices, in our opinion, the best way to determine value.

The "Prices Realized" or "Sold At Auction" prices reported throughout this book usually include a 20% "buyer's fee", which is over and above the "hammer" price. When a painting is "sold" at auction, the "hammer price" is the final bid. However, the auction house then charges an additional "Buyer's Fee", usually 20%. So a painting "sold" for \$12,000 often represents a hammer price of \$10,000 plus a Buyer's Fee of \$2,000.

Authenticity and Provenance. Unless a painting is unquestionable genuine, it will be hard to sell in a reputable auction. Experts decide if a painting is genuine. Authenticity is based on recognizing the work of the artist and the provenance or known history of the painting. Often, the age of the canvas, stretcher and frame help determine authenticity, as do invoices, art gallery and exhibition labels.

"Fresh to the Market" Sells. Collectors are excited to bid at auctions on paintings that have not been on the market for at least 10 or 20 years. A painting which was sold at auction in the past few years will generally bring less money when it is re-sold.

I wish I could share more about THE ART HUNTER'S HANDBOOK, but I'm too busy rereading Chapter 4. . . it profiles 120 American, European and Latin American artists to buy for \$5 and sell for \$1,000,000. So if you see me browsing around your curb or in the local Goodwill (where other valuable art has been discovered), you'll know why I'm there!

D. TONY AND SUSAN (Hachette Audio) by the late Austin Wright was originally published in 1993 and then reissued in 2010 to critical acclaim in the UK. I very much liked the CD version that I heard.

The author wrote a book-within-a-book, involving a part-time English teacher, doctor's wife and mother of three who receives the manuscript of a novel written by her first husband. She loves to read, but is apprehensive about reading this one because of the following reason:

* Books always resist her at the start, because they commit so much time. They can bury what she was thinking, sometimes forever. She could be a different person by the time she's through. This case is worse than usual, for Edward coming back to life brings new distractions that have nothing to do with her thoughts.

Yet she sits down to read it, immediately getting into the thriller that begins:

* There was this man Tony Hastings, his wife Laura, and his daughter Helen, traveling east at night on the Interstate in northern Pennsylvania. They were starting their vacation, going to their summer cottage in Maine. They were driving at night because they had been slow starting and had been further delayed having to get a new tire along the way. It was

Helen's idea, when they got back into the car after dinner, somewhere in eastern Ohio: "Let's not look for a motel," she said, "let's drive all night."

That turns out to be a not very good idea because an accident takes place and things begin to go downhill for the Hastings character. Murder ensues:

* Susan Morrow reads to a stop, shocked. You killed them, Edward, she says, you went ahead and did it. What she thought she couldn't bear. She feels stunned with Tony as if she had not seen it coming. A terrible sad crime, though she believes that if they had not died having come this far she would have been disappointed. Poor Tony, how much her pleasure depends on his distress. She has a notion that the pain the scene uncovers, incarnated in Tony, is really her own, which is alarming.

I won't go into any more of the intriguing plot of the novel involving Tony; however, I will say it kept me engrossed throughout. But I also felt the same way about the Susan character, and I enjoyed learning more about her as the book progressed.

Though TONY AND SUSAN was not short at 334 pages, I was actually disappointed when it ended because I was so into the book. In large part, that may have also been due to the excellent job of narration done by Lorelei King and Peter Marinake.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. UNLIKELY ANIMAL FRIENDS profiles animal and human alliances, such as the friendship between a goose and an aging retiree, as well as a boy who befriends a buffalo and her calf. Saturday at 8 p.m. on NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC. Other episodes run through midnight

B. MRS. MINIVER, a moving drama about a middle-class English family learning to cope with war, won six Academy Awards: for Greer Garson, Teresa Wright, director William Wyler and Best Picture, among others. Sunday at 2 a.m. on TCM.

C. ENEMIES WITHIN: JOE MCCARTHY "isn't exactly Thanksgiving holiday fare," notes Dorothy Rabinowitz in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. "It's extraordinary history up close--the senator, the hearing rooms, the times leap from the screen--bounty enough to be grateful for." Sunday at 9 p.m. on the SMITHSTONIAN CHANNEL.

D. THE HOUR has its second season premiere on Wednesday, 11.28 at 9 p.m. on BBC AMERICA . . . according to Matt Roush in TV GUIDE, "[This show that is set in the 50s] is the model of a smart, sleek, and sexy drama about the inner workings of a high-profile news operation."

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

Down at the Veteran's hospital, a trio of old timers ran out of tales of their own heroic exploits and started bragging about their ancestors. "My great grandfather, at age 13," one declared proudly, "was a drummer boy at Shiloh."

"Mine," boast another, "went down with Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn."

"I'm the only soldier in my family," confessed vet number three, "but if my great grandfather was living today he'd be the most famous man in the world."

"What'd he do?" his friends wanted to know.

"Nothing much. But he would be 175 years old."

[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Everybody should know this. Please take the time.

We have all walked by the Red Cross sign in airports indicating where a heart machine is located. Do you know what is in them and how to use it? I did not. Try this video and see what you think. If you pick the wrong choice, the man dies. So choose wisely. You may save a life. I just watched this video and was impressed so I'm sending it with the hope that it'll save lives (maybe mine, yours or someone you love)!

<http://www.heartrescuenow.com/>

B. Check out the Internet Archive. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, involved in building a digital library of Internet sites and other cultural artifacts in digital form. Like a paper library, it provides free access to researchers, historians, scholars and the general public.

<http://archive.org/index.php>

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

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

To see some of my favorite places on the Internet, click "Blaine's Best" on the left and then "Websites."

This list changes continually, so do check back every so often.

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield



[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

To open the Find on any PC, click Ctrl + F,

Note: This is especially helpful when using your Internet browser. It enables you to find text on the current page.

If you're a Mac user and you want to open Find, click Apple + F.

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

Dress code for baby boomers

Now that the boomer generation is getting . . . um . . . older, it's time to help them realize that there are certain combinations of things that just don't go together in today's fashion world. Boomers are strongly urged to avoid the following:

- * Nose rings and bifocals.
- * Spiked hair among bald spots.
- * Pierced tongues and dentures.
- * Miniskirts over support hose.
- * Ankle bracelets with corn pads.
- * Speedos over cellulite.
- * Belly button rings near gall bladder surgery scars.
- * Unbuttoned disco shirts . . . showing a pacemaker bulge.
- * Midriff shirts when you have midriff bulges.
- * Bikinis when you have liver spots.
- * Short shorts revealing varicose veins.
- * Inline skates and walkers.

And very importantly:

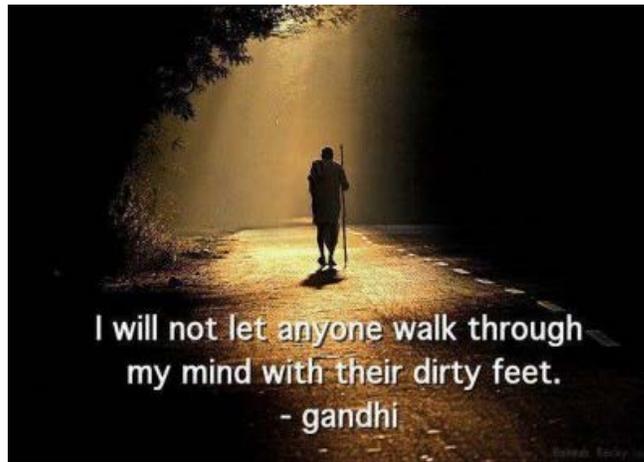
- * Thongs with Depends.

Avoid tragedy! Send this information to a boomer you love today.

[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

My goal for today and every day . . .



[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

A Failed Experiment
by Nicholas D. Kristof in THE NEW YORK TIMES
November 21, 2012

In upper-middle-class suburbs on the East Coast, the newest must-have isn't a \$7,500 Sub-Zero refrigerator. It's a standby generator that automatically flips on backup power to an entire house when the electrical grid goes out.

In part, that's a legacy of Hurricane Sandy. Such a system can cost well over \$10,000, but many families are fed up with losing power again and again.

For the rest of this thought-provoking column, please click:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/22/opinion/kristof-a-failed-experiment.html?emc=eta1>

My two cents: Kristof, as usual, has come up with another winner . . . please read this column, not only to get his ideas on the wisdom of buying generators, but also for what he has to say about our public schools, parks, etc.

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. Stuff I'm involved in

Plans are being developed for a Feb. 14 Valentine's Day bash in downtown Asheville that will be sponsored by SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre). Please do hold that date.

***** HELP REQUEST *****

We will be also having a Silent Auction at the event. I mention it because if you have anything you could donate to the auction, I'd be most appreciative. In return, you'll get an acknowledgment for the contribution that can be used when you do your taxes, plus mention on our website, Facebook, in our Constant Contact mailings, etc.

If you can help out in any way, please send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put down SILENT AUCTION in the subject line. Then in the body of the email, indicate what you would be contributing. Thanks much!

B. Other NC events

(1) INSPECTING CAROL. (2) Performance Workshop. (3) The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged). (4) Asheville Symphony.

To read about each of the above, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-XU>

C. PA/NJ events

(1) Reiki 2 Training. (2) YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU. (3) Health and Fitness Expo.

To read about each of the above, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-XU>

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Enjoy your turkey. And when you do, join me in thinking about what life might have been way back when . . .

Note: Thanks to Pat Achilles for giving me permission to run the above. She's a talented illustrator who draw can create cartoons for you business, targeted for your specific industry niche; for your newsletter; corporate greeting card; or website. For more information, please click:

<http://www.achillesportfolio.com/>



Make it a great rest of the week, too!



Blaine Greenfield
19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way
Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
Phone : 828.633.1049

Contact Us at bjinbc@aol.com

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BLAINES WORLD



BLAINES WORLD

#842
11.12.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Were joined by our friends Marcy and Tom to see our other friend Connie sing in Womansong's 25th Anniversary Concert. She was great, and the show was spectacular!



L-R: Marcy Gallagher, Connie Ruble, Tom Gallagher and Cynthia Greenfield.

(2) Often feel blessed to be able to see sunsets like this! (Thanks Joe Calderwood for sharing this beautiful photo from the deck of your home in nearby Weaverville.)



B. More pictures from the event mentioned last week: ScriptFEST 2012, SART's annual playwrights' conference.



Finalists, L-R: Joel Williams, Larry Parr, Bill Gregg (SART Producing Artistic Director), Sean O'Connor and James McLindon. Not pictured: Sean O'Leary.



Performers Brently Sproles and Jennifer O'Rear, along with yours truly.



And yours truly again, this time with Bradshaw Call and Jennifer O'Rear.

Special thanks to Jon Menick for not only doing an outstanding job as director of one of the plays, but for also proving performers from the Screen Artists Co-Op program that he runs. For more information about this group, please click:
<http://www.storypointmedia.com/services/>.

C. Mr. Curious here: This label (below) appears on an Advil bottle I have at home. I can understand the part that's in the box. However, see what's right below the box. Am I being told that I should have 3 or more alcoholic drinks every day? And that I should take more Advil & for a longer period than directed?

Do Not Use if seal under bottle cap imprinted with
"SEALED FOR YOUR PROTECTION" is broken or missing

* have 3 or more alcoholic drinks every day while using this product
* take more or for a longer time than directed. * The risk of heart
attack or stroke may increase if you use more than directed or for
longer than directed.

D. Condolences to the family of Elaine Choate DeMarco on her recent passing. She had been an excellent philosophy professor at Bucks County Community College.
***** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD *****

This week, it goes to Womansong--Asheville's largest and oldest women's community chorus. (See also Section 1A.)

As a result of now having seen two Womansong concerts, I have become a fan of this group. It is comprised of 75 women who join together in song to nurture and uplift themselves and their community. Their programs are joyous, fun and melodic, and I plan to keep seeing them each year.

Kudos to Debbie Nordeen, artistic director, as well as these other individuals: Althea Gonzalez and Sarah Rubin, assistant artistic directors; Andrea Davis, wise woman council leader; and Lytingale, piano accompanist. And special recognition should be given to Shiner Antiorio, music sign language interpreter. It's hard to keep your eyes off her when she's on stage.

For more information about Womansong, please click:
<http://www.womansong.org/>

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

Self-Help for Skeptics
Train Your Brain to Be Positive, and Feel Happier Every Day: It Only Sounds Corny

by Elizabeth Bernstein
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, 8.28.2012, p. D1

Donna Talarico sat at her computer one morning, stared at the screen and realized she had forgotten-again!-her password.

She was having financial difficulties at the time, and was reading self-help books to boost her mood and self-confidence. The books talked about the power of positive affirmation-which gave her an idea: She changed her various passwords to private messages to herself, like "imawe\$some1" or "dogoodworktoday."

"It's something so simple," says the 34-year-old marketing manager at Elizabethtown College, in Pennsylvania. "It just reinforces that you're a good person. You can do a good job at whatever you are trying to talk yourself into."

Note: Another example contained in the accompanying illustration to the article was "HEYSTUD7." Maybe I should use that one?

To read the rest of this very informative article, please click:
http://online.wsj.com/article_email/SB10000872396390444327204577615330838623276-IMyQjAxMTAyMDEwNjAxODY3Wj.html?mod=wsj_valettop_email

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

At a Caribbean resort, a blonde is asked, "Why do scuba divers always fall backwards off their boats?"

Her reply: "If they fell forward, they'd still be in the boat."

(Methinks that this actually makes sense . . . LOL.)

[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. THE SESSIONS is a grown-up drama about sex that's funny, in parts, as well as poignant in others . . . it's based on the autobiographical writings of journalist and poet Mark O'Brien, confined to an iron lung, who decides to lose his virginity at age 38. John Hawkes is sensational as O'Brien, and he is backed by equally strong performances from Helen Hunt as a sexual surrogate and William H. Macy as a friendly priest. Rated R.

B. MAGIC MIKE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #823 follows: .

MAGIC MIKE, set in the world of male strippers, stars Channing Tatum in a story inspired by his real life . . . he was OK in the leading role, as was Matthew McConaughey in a rare supporting part . . . I did not like the work of Alex Pettyfer as "the kid," and the story just didn't hold my interest . . . I'm surprised that the film got a lot of good reviews . . . though it ran 110 minutes, it seemed longer--much longer . . . rated R.

Note: I was only one of two guys in the theatre. Most of the many women in attendance seemed to like the film, but not Cynthia . . . in fact, here was her spin: "They don't compare to you!" . . . Cynthia also overheard a funny line when we were purchasing tickets: "This is the only time all the women want to see the stripper movie, and all the guys want to see the teddy bear movie [TED]."

***** CONTEST #23 *****

One lucky winner will receive an unabridged CD version of BACKSEAT SAINTS by Joshilyn Jackson.

According to BOOKLIST, "Jackson's absorbing and rewarding fourth novel spotlights Rose Mae Lolly. . . . Rose is now living under the thumb of her abusive husband and his domineering father. A Gypsy in an airport who reads her tarot cards turns Rose's life upside down when she tells Rose that if she doesn't kill her husband, he will surely kill her."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #23" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 18.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. TOP GEAR is a great car show that's also funny . . . you'll find out why, for example, the Pontiac GTO is the best car when you are down to the last few gallons of gas on the planet. (Reason: Because when the end is near, what could be better than a muscle car to remind us that life was good?) Mondays at 8:30 p.m. on BBC AMERICA.

B. BEDAZZLED is an irreverent Faust take-off, written by and starring Peter Cook and Dudley Moore . . . Raquel Welch, wearing next to nothing, also shines in this comedy that airs on Saturday at 10 p.m. on TCM.

C. BREAKING MAGIC, according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "is like blackjack too; it moves so fast that if one illusion fails to excite you, there is another right behind it. . . . That's another great thing about the magic here: In the end all things will be known." Sundays at 10 p.m. on DISCOVERY.

D. Lindsay Lohan as Elizabeth Taylor? See for yourself if she can carry it off on LIZ & DICK, a biopic premiering on LIFETIME on Sunday, Nov. 25 at 9 p.m. TV GUIDE calls it "an insipid love story," but I'm hoping it might prove to be junky fun.

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

No English dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between complete and finished.

However, in a recent linguistic conference held in London, England, and attended by some of the best linguists in the world, Samsunder Balgogin, a Guanese man, was the clear winner.

His final challenge was this: "Some say there is no difference between complete and finished. Please explain the difference between complete and finished in a way that is easy to understand."

He astutely answered: "When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE. But, when you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED. If the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED."

His answer was received with a standing ovation.

[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A My favorite political website/blog is Five Thirty Eight, written by Nate Silver . . . he's the pollster who predicted Obama's win almost perfectly . . . Silver is still writing about politics, but from time to time, he'll write about such other things as "The Statistical Case Against Cabrera for M.V.P." . . . to check it out, please click:
<http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/>

B. To utilize fun photo effects with your pictures, check out this website that I've mentioned before:
<http://photofunia.com/>

I again came across it recently when Diane L. in Pennsylvania was kind enough to put together the following photo. (Thanks, Diane!)



C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blainesworld.net/>

Do you utilize the YOMBER Principle in your daily lives? If not . . . or if you don't even know what it is, you can find out by clicking Consulting on the left and then Article Samples. Letter B will take you to an informative description of the subject.

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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Like us on Facebook 

[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

If you have lots of windows open on your computer and you want quick access to your desktop--or a quick way to hide your work--hit the following keys.

PC: Window key + D

Mac: F11

Note: To get back to where you were, just repeat the above.

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

A golfer accidentally overturned his cart on a steep hilly course. Elizabeth, a beautiful woman, who lived in a posh villa on the golf course, heard the noise and yelled over to him. "Hey fella, are you okay? What's your name?"

"Willis," he replied.

"Willis, better forget your troubles for a bit. Come on up to my villa, rest up and I'll help you get the cart back up later."

"That's mighty nice of you," Willis answered, "but I don't think my wife would like it."

"Aw, come on," Elizabeth insisted. "You could have been badly hurt. You need to rest up a bit." She was very pretty and persuasive, too.

"Well okay," Willis finally agreed, "but my wife won't like it."

After a few cool drinks, and some flirtatious putting lessons, Willis thanked his host.

"I really do feel a lot better now, but I know my wife is going to be very upset."

"Don't be silly!" Elizabeth said with a smile, "she won't know anything about our time

together today. By the way, where is she?"

"Still under the cart, I imagine."

[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

"The greatest things ever done on Earth have been done little by little"--William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925), a leading American politician from the 1890s until his death

[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

The whiner's room
by Seth Godin

When my friend Elly taught in a middle school, he never hung out in the teacher's room. He told me he couldn't bear the badmouthing of students, the whining and the blaming.

Of course, not all teachers are like this. In fact, most of them aren't. And of course, trolling isn't reserved to the teacher's room. Just about every organization, every online service, every product and every element of our culture now has chat rooms and forums devoted to a few people looking for something to complain about. Some of them even do it on television.

The fascinating truth is this: the people in these forums aren't doing their best work. They rarely identify useful feedback or pinpoint elements that can be changed productively either. In fact, if you solved whatever problem they're whining about, they wouldn't suddenly become enthusiastic contributors. No, they're just wallowing in the negative ions, enjoying the support of a few others as they dish about what's holding them back.

It pays no dividends to go looking for useful insight from these folks. Go make something great instead.

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Seth Godin, one of my favorite bloggers. To subscribe to his informative blog on marketing, tribes and respect, please click:

<http://www.feedblitz.com/ff.fbz?Sub=198516>

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

Plans are being developed for a Feb. 14 Valentine's Day bash in downtown Asheville that will be sponsored by SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre). Please do hold that date.

***** HELP REQUEST *****

We will be also having a Silent Auction at the event. I mention it because if you have anything you could donate to the auction, I'd be most appreciative. In return, you'll get an acknowledgment for the contribution that can be used when you do your taxes, plus mention on our website, Facebook, in our Constant Contact mailings, etc.

If you can help out in any way, please send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put down SILENT AUCTION in the subject line. Then in the body of the email, indicate what you would be contributing. Thanks much!

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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BLAINES WORLD



BLAINES WORLD

#841
11.5.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are grateful that our friends and relatives survived Hurricane Sandy . . . it made us realize that we take many things for granted, and that sometimes, we need to reflect on all that we have in our lives.

In particular, we didn't have to deal with any of the terrifying storm damage that can be seen in Section 3 of this week's issue.

We're also grateful that the election season is finally over, assuming they ever finalize the count in Florida. My take is that regardless of who you wanted to win, it is time--make that past time--to move on. We all need to pull together to work toward what's best for the country.

Please see Sections 7A, 10 and 11 for more information on this subject.

B. Recently, we were joined by our friend Tammy for a visit to Pigeon Ford, TN, where we:

(1) Met my other friend Chandler Smith for lunch at Mel's Diner. That's one of the few things we miss living in Asheville (not having good diners), so it was a treat to go to this one. We weren't disappointed, either. For more information, please click:

<http://www.melsdinerpf.com/>

(2) Cynthia, Tammy and I then went to the Titanic Museum . . . it was somewhat interesting, but if you're a Titanic buff, I'd say it's a "must." For more information, please click:

<http://www.titanicpigeonforge.com/>



(3) From there, we went to several discount outlet stores and then to see Chandler at the Great Smoky Murder Mystery Dinner Show . . . he was fantastic, and I urge you to catch him in one of the four shows he'll be performing in through December . . . the food is quite good, too . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.murder-mystery-theater.com/>



(Chandler in front with the gun; Cynthia, third from right; Tammy, second from right; and your truly, far right.)

(4) During the week, I was visited by my friend Chris from Pennsylvania . . . naturally, I had to take him for some good Southern cooking at Waffle House where we had, as you might expect, some waffles!



(5) And I got to again use my rubber chicken Halloween costume, this time when I had pizza with the Showstoppers at Mars Hill College . . . that's me, along with director Neil St. Clair . . . and in case you missed last week's issue when I was in the same costume with Cynthia, this is a picture of me "walking abreast" with Neil.



C. ScriptFEST, SART's annual scriptwriting competition, took up much of the weekend . . . I got to pick up one of the playwrights, James McLindon, at the airport . . . we then went for dinner at the Stone Ridge Tavern, one of our favorite local restaurants . . . the dish I almost always get is one they make especially for me: coconut-encrusted tilapia . . . it's delicious . . . Cynthia and James both ordered and liked the crab cakes . . . Brian, our regular server, did his usual fine job . . . for more information about this eatery, please click: <http://thestoneridgetavern.com/>



A total of five plays were read, and they were all excellent . . . kudos to the five finalists who had their works presented: McLindon, along with Larry Parr, Sean O'Leary, Joel Williams and Sean O'Connor.

Kudos, also, to Sharon Christensen (SART's ScripFEST coordinator) for putting the entire event together . . . she was ably assisted by Bill Gregg, SART Producing Artistic Director; LoriLynn Mullet; and several past and present Board members.

Lastly, the event couldn't have taken place had not so many local performers come forward to donate their time and talents . . . among them were those featured in these pictures, top to bottom: Emily Shaules; Michael Mattison, Toni Lepanto and Eric Martinez; and Callan White and Kelley Hinman.





For more information about ScriptFEST, please click:
<http://sartplays.org/scriptworks.htm>

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Eric Scheffer on the great review of his restaurant, Vinnie's (my favorite Italian eatery in the area), in ASHEVILLE SCENE . . . to read the review, please click:

<http://www.citizen-times.com/viewart/20121101/ASHEVILLESCENE/311010016/Review-Vinnie-s-Neighborhood-Italian>

(2) Randy Noojin for appearing in an episode of BOARDWALK EMPIRE called "The Pony." Look for it on HBO.

(3) Catherine O. in MA, winner of Contest #22--a copy of the unabridged CD version of THE INNER CIRCLE by Brad Meltzer . . . all told, there were 7 entries . . . and that reminds me that it's now time to introduce . . .

***** CONTEST #23 *****

One lucky winner will receive an unabridged CD version of BACKSEAT SAINTS by Joshilyn Jackson.

According to BOOKLIST, "Jackson's absorbing and rewarding fourth novel spotlights Rose Mae Lolly. . . . Rose is now living under the thumb of her abusive husband and his domineering father. A Gypsy in an airport who reads her tarot cards turns Rose's life upside down when she tells Rose that if she doesn't kill her husband, he will surely kill her."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #23" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 18.

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

This week, it goes to Jerry Crouch--director of many excellent musicals at Asheville Community Theatre.

Each year, he seems to outdo himself . . . the performance of HAIRSPRAY a few months ago blew us away.

Previously, we had seen and loved other shows he directed, including CHICAGO and OLIVER.

In addition, he is a very talented actor . . . his performance in THE BIG BANG cracked us up. (We only wish he appeared in more shows.)

And if you have a question, he's a very helpful guy. Recently, Cynthia wanted to know something about recruiting performers. She contacted him and found him most generous with respect to both his time and knowledge.

Jerry is also Salon Manager at Salon Red in Asheville, an upscale salon with down-home

heart.

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

Some entertainment discount books/offers are really good . . . one of my favorites (in Western North Carolina) is the 2013 AIR Passport from Asheville Independent Restaurants . . . for a tax deductible contribution of \$50, you get coupons for one entree from Corner Kitchen, Vinnie's, Frankie Bones, Tupelo Honey and some 40 other eateries. To order, please click:

<http://www.airasheville.org/products/taste-of-asheville-passport-1>

Another one I like is the WNC Insider Card . . . the restaurant listing typically isn't quite as impressive as the above, but you also get 2-for-1 offers at shows, movies and other attractions . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.wncinsider.com/>

Note: Others have told me that they like the Entertainment books. To see if there is one in an area near you, please click:

http://www.entertainment.com/discount/local_editions.shtml

What I like about this option is that you can actually view parts of the book before you decide if you want to buy it.

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

Just released: Picture of some terrifying storm damage from Hurricane Sandy! (Something that the liberal news media has refused to publish.)



[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. Enjoyed FLIGHT, a suspenseful thriller about a seasoned airline pilot (Denzel Washington) who miraculously lands his plane after a mid-air catastrophe . . . while just about every soul on board gets saved, the pilot's behavior raises questions about what really happened on the plane . . . Washington's portrayal had me really caring for his character, and I also thought Nadine Velazquez was most watchable . . . in addition, I liked the many ethical questions that the film raises . . . rated R.

B. RUBY SPARKS is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #832 follows:

RUBY SPARKS is an engaging romantic comedy about a young novelist who achieved success early in his career, but who is now struggling until he creates a character named

Ruby . . . when the character becomes an actual living person, life turns upside down . . . Paul Dano and Zoe Kazan, who also wrote the screenplay, were terrific in the leading roles, and I also liked the work of Chris Messina as Dano's brother . . . the second half dragged just a bit, but the ending brought this film back into the recommend category . . . rated R.

Note: Watching the above I was also reminded of 2007's STRANGER THAN FICTION, another film I enjoyed . . . that one has an everyday office worker, an unusually subdued Will Ferrell, trying to save his life from his narrator (an author writing a book).

C. 2H: THE OFFICIAL SECOND HALF OF LIFE HANDBOOK (Second Half Strategies) by Bill Morton contains a compilation of ideas that will make you both laugh and think about aging.

Morton, head of his own consulting firm that works with organizations and individuals to help them anticipate the challenges and opportunities of finding out what's next, includes many thought-provoking quotes in this book. One of my favorites was the following:

* Anyone who stops learning is old, whether 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.--Henry Ford, 1940

I also appreciated the author's many useful suggestions, such as this one:

* Don't ask if you can help a friend. Inform your friend that you'll be over to help, and if they don't object, be there for them. Acts, more than words, underlie great friendships

Lastly, there were many lists that I'll be revisiting every so often, including a listing of 40 classic movies that show us aging is a good thing, 66 starters for feeling younger than ever and in the Appendix:

* Powerful Thoughts for Powerful 2H Living

1. Forgive everyone everything.
2. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
3. Growing old beats the alternative-dying young.
4. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
5. All that really matters in the end is that you loved.
6. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
7. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
8. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it is still a gift.
9. Make peace with your past so it won't louse up the present.
10. Get rid of anything that isn't beautiful, useful, or joyful.
11. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age.
12. What other people think of you is none of your business.
13. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
14. It is never too late to have a happy childhood, and the second one is up to you, and nobody else.
15. Life isn't fair, but it is still good.

2H won't take you long to read . . . or at least not the first time you read it . . . however, I imagine that it is a book that you'll want to look at it more than once . . . that's certainly my plan.

D. Heard THE POSTCARD KILLERS (Hachette Audio) by James Patterson and Liz Marklund . . . it's a thriller about a New York City detective who is on tour in Europe in an attempt to find his daughter's killer . . . she and her boyfriend had been murdered while on vacation in Rome, and since then, other young couples have been found dead in Paris, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, and Stockholm . . . little connects any of the killers except a postcard that the local newspaper receives before each victim is found.

Several other reviewers didn't like this book . . . I found it moderately suspenseful, and I liked the fact that the publisher did not skimp on the audio . . . it used three separate readers, and they were all quite good.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. MALIBU COUNTRY pairs Reba McEntire with Lilly Tomlin in a fish-out-of-water comedy about a divorced Nashville mom and former singer who moves cross-country with her two impressionable teens to live in her ex-husband's Malibu love shack . . . Fridays at 8:30 p.m. on ABC.

B. WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION, the London courtroom suspenser from the Agatha Christie play, stars Marlene Dietrich, Tyrone Power and Charles Laughton. It's a classic. Sunday at 12 p.m. on TCM.

C. CROSSFIRE HURRICANE, according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, is a "thoroughly captivating Rolling Stones documentary." Thursday, Nov. 15, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

D. THE DUST BOWL, notes TV GUIDE, [features] "heartbreakingly personal stories in this largely oral account of the Depression-era ecological catastrophe that turned the Great Plains into a despairing wasteland." Premieres Sunday , Nov. 18 at 8 p.m. and concludes at the same time on the next night on PBS.

Note: PBS times and dates often vary, so check local listings.

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

An attractive young girl, chaperoned by an ugly old lady, entered the doctor's office.

"We have come for an examination," said the young girl.

"All right," said the doctor. "Go behind that curtain and take your clothes off."

"No, not me," said the girl. "it's my old aunt here."

"Very well," said the doctor. "Madam, stick out your tongue . . . "

[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Jimmy Fallon spoofs Romney's concession speech

<http://www.mediaite.com/tv/jimmy-fallon-spoofs-romneys-bittersweet-concession-call-to-obama/>

The clip is about halfway down the page. It is funny, but also touching.

B. Rod L. in NC: Latest LES MISERABLES trailer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmvHzCLP6ug>

Note: Dec. 14 is the date; i.e., for the above film to open. Get psyched!

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net/>

In case you're wondering what happens with your email address if you ever sign-up for this missive, please click "Newsletter" on the left and then "Privacy Statement."

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield



[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

How to Devise Passwords That Drive Hackers Away

by Nicole Perlroth

Published: November 7, 2012 in THE NEW YORK TIMES

This article has some great tips, including:

- * If your password can be found in a dictionary, you might as well not have one.
- * Never use the same password twice.
- * The longer your password, the longer it will take to crack.
- * Randomly jam on his keyboard, intermittently hitting the Shift and Alt keys.
- * Ignore security questions.

For other tips and the rest of the article, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/08/technology/personaltech/how-to-devise-passwords-that-drive-hackers-away.html?src=me&ref=general>

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

Actual reasons for divorce

- * A man in Hazard, Kentucky, divorced his wife because she "beat him whenever he

removed onions from his hamburger without asking for permission."

* A man in Tarriville, Connecticut, filed for divorce because his wife left him a note on the refrigerator that read: "I have gone to the bridge club. There'll be a recipe for your dinner at 7 o'clock on Channel 2."

* A deaf man in Bennettsville, South Carolina, filed for divorce because his wife "was always nagging him in sign language."

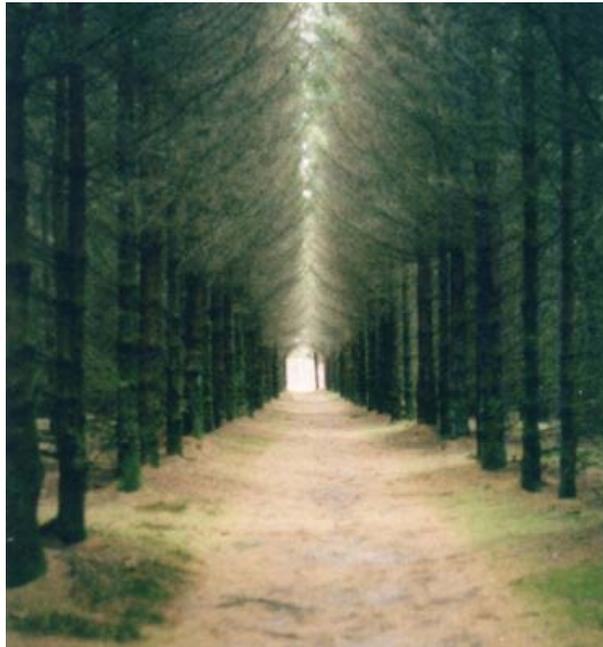
* A woman in Canon City, Colorado, divorced her husband because he forced her to "duck under the dashboard whenever they drove past his girlfriend's house."

* A woman in Hardwick, Georgia, divorced her husband on the grounds that he "stayed home too much and was much too affectionate."

[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

"If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress."--President Barack Obama



[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

I thought Mitt Romney's concession speech was brilliant . . . among the highlights:

* This is a time of great challenges for America, and I pray that the president will be successful in guiding our nation.

* The nation, as you know, is at a critical point. At a time like this, we can't risk partisan bickering and political posturing. Our leaders have to reach across the aisle to do the people's work. And we citizens also have to rise to the occasion.

* And we look to Democrats and Republicans in government at all levels to put the people before the politics.

To read the entire speech and/or to see the video clip of it, please click:

http://bostonherald.com/news/us_politics/view/20121107text__mitt_romneys_concession_speech

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. I'm discussing Marketing with the Asheville Women's Roundtable on Thursday, Nov. 15, at 8 a.m. . . . location: ABTech, Enka campus (Room 2046) . . . if you're a woman business

owner in the area, please join me . . . to do so, please preregister by sending an email to:
ashevillroundtables@yahoo.com.

B. Broadway fun for the family
In memory of Paul Schierhorn

WHERE: St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Asheville

DATE, TIME: Next Sunday, Nov 18 at 6 p.m.

COST: free admission, but an offering will be collected for all proceeds to go to the AHS
and AMS bands

TIMEFRAME: probably 60-75 minutes in length

PROGRAM: lots of singing + hopefully pieces by AHS Brass Quintet, Trombone Choir, Drum
Line!

C. Hold this date: Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013 . . . SART's first annual Valentine's Day bash . .
. location: downtown Asheville . . . details to follow.

Back to Top

PS. Please join me in thanking all our past and present soldiers this coming Monday,
November 12, which is also Veterans Day . . . and please give a pittance of time to listen to
this beautiful song that was written and performed by Terry Kelly:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kX_3y3u5Uo

Make it a great rest of the week, too!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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BLAINES WORLD



#840
10.29.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I were appreciative of the many nice comments about her birthday celebration . . . and for the fact that a few of you even said you wanted to see all the pictures . . . so here they are:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/103827560283401956572/CynthiaSParty10212012?authkey=Gv1sRgCOjH94DH69XEgAE>

B. We've had a hectic, fun-filled time over the past few weeks. As can be seen in the pictures (that go from top to bottom):

(1) Attended a Halloween Party at our Biltmore Lake Clubhouse. Can you guess our costumes? OK, OK . . . if you've given up already, we were "two people walking abreast."

(2) We participated in the Asheville Breast Cancer Walk with our friends Marcy and Tom Gallagher, along with Marcy's sister Bonnie.

(3) Joined Marcy and her family to celebrate her birthday at Strada Italiano.

(4) Visited our friend Joe Stephens at his new business, Rainforest Aqua Massage, at the Asheville Mall by the Food Court. Stop by to say "hello" and to try out the experience. You'll be pleasantly surprised.

(5) Attended "A Taste of SART," along with (l-r): Bradshaw Call as Julia Child, Annemarie Brown and Carole Biro in the front and Marvin Sadovsky and Brian Biro in the back. The event was a blast and what made it even more so was the fact that the SART Board came through, as usual, with a variety of homemade desserts. They were all sooooo tasty; however, my personal favorite was a delicious carrot cake made by Janet Hart. She graciously shared her recipe.

Carrot Cake

Mix and beat well:

- 2 c. sugar
- 1 1/2 c. oil
- 4 eggs

Add to above and mix well:

- 2 c. flour
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp salt

Add:

- 4 c. grated carrots

Add, if desired (I never do): 1/2 c chopped pecans, 1/2 c. raisins

Pour into ungreased 9 x 12 cake pan and bake 1 hour at 325 degrees.

(Or for layered cake - two round cake pans lined with parchment paper bake for 35-40 minutes or until tests done).

Cream Cheese Icing:

- 1 8 oz. pkg cream cheese

1/4 c. margarine
1/2- 3/4 box powdered sugar
1 tsp vanilla

Spread heavily on cooled cake and refrigerate.





C. I also got to:

(1) Participate in our community's Octoberfest celebration (top picture, l-r: Mark Sternal, Franke Bones; Blaine Greenfield; Karen Foley, Bitlmore Lake Recreation; Steve Buchanan, First Restoration; and Craig Fender, Asheville Arborists). Special thanks to Mark, Steve and Craig for their role in helping sponsor the event and making it the success that it was.

(2) Visit with my friends Harry and Mary Paul (bottom picture) from San Diego.





D. Congratulations to:

(1) Marvin Sadovsky on the publication of his article in THE SINGAPORE BUSINESS REVIEW . . . to read "Relationships using Virtual Communication," please click:
<http://sbr.com.sg/media-marketing/commentary/quick-guide-build-relationship-email>

(2) Jennie Giardine-Smith who received an offer of publication from Eternal Press for her novel, OPIUM DREAMS.

(3) Leroy Revis and the rest of his Mars Hill College teammates for being named national clogging champs for the 20th time.

(4) Ruth Ann Foss on the marriage of her daughter Rachel to Jon.

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

This week, it goes to CNN for its coverage of Hurricane Sandy.

For days, I could hardly watch anything else. The camera work was outstanding, and many of the interviews were mesmerizing.

In comparison, whenever I turned to Fox News after day 1 of the storm, it seemed all I got were reports of how Obama mishandled Benghazi.

And speaking of the President, he deserves kudos for how he handled the government's response to Sandy. I was also impressed by Governor Christie--and how even he had to agree that Obama was doing an excellent job.

Note: If you'd like to help Hurricane Sandy victims, you won't go wrong by donating to the Red Cross by clicking:

<http://www.redcross.org/templates/render/render.jsp?pagelid=11400031&scode=RSG00000E017&subcode=paiddonationsbrand&gclid=CNvypJmPs7MCFdKd4Aod4IYAKA>

This is a legitimate organization that I have personally checked out. Whatever you do, please be careful NOT to be "taken" by many of the charity scams that are out there. For more information, please click:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/01/sandy-scams-charity-warnings_n_2060206.html?utm_hp_ref=impact

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

Dr. Andrew Weil recently spoke at UNCA. We were fortunate to be able to get tickets for his presentation, and we enjoyed what he had to say. In particular, we appreciated how he both demonstrated and explained the following technique that can be used when you're upset, you need to fall asleep, etc.

The 4-7-8 (or Relaxing Breath) Exercise

This exercise is utterly simple, takes almost no time, requires no equipment and can be done anywhere. Although you can do the exercise in any position, sit with your back straight while learning the exercise.

Place the tip of your tongue against the ridge of tissue just behind your upper front teeth, and keep it there through the entire exercise. You will be exhaling through your mouth around your tongue; try pursing your lips slightly if this seems awkward.

- * Exhale completely through your mouth, making a whoosh sound.
- * Close your mouth and inhale quietly through your nose to a mental count of four.
- * Hold your breath for a count of seven.
- * Exhale completely through your mouth, making a whoosh sound to a count of eight.
- * This is one breath. Now inhale again and repeat the cycle three more times for a total of four breaths.

Note that you always inhale quietly through your nose and exhale audibly through your mouth. The tip of your tongue stays in position the whole time. Exhalation takes twice as long as inhalation. The absolute time you spend on each phase is not important; the ratio of 4:7:8 is important. If you have trouble holding your breath, speed the exercise up but keep to the ratio of 4:7:8 for the three phases. With practice you can slow it all down and get used to inhaling and exhaling more and more deeply.

This exercise is a natural tranquilizer for the nervous system. Unlike tranquilizing drugs, which are often effective when you first take them but then lose their power over time, this exercise is subtle when you first try it but gains in power with repetition and practice. Do it at least twice a day. You cannot do it too frequently. Do not do more than four breaths at one time for the first month of practice. Later, if you wish, you can extend it to eight breaths. If you feel a little lightheaded when you first breathe this way, do not be concerned; it will pass.

Once you develop this technique by practicing it every day, it will be a very useful tool that you will always have with you. Use it whenever anything upsetting happens--before you react. Use it whenever you are aware of internal tension. Use it to help you fall asleep. This exercise cannot be recommended too highly. Everyone can benefit from it.

Source:

<http://www.drweil.com/drw/u/ART00521/three-breathing-exercises.html?print=1>

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

Two redheads were going to Disneyland. They were driving on the Interstate when they saw the sign that said Disneyland LEFT. They started crying and turned around and went home.

My two cents: Don't you just hate it when redheads are always the butt of such jokes? I mean, what's fair is fair . . . methinks they should sometimes choose brunettes or even blondes!

[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. WON'T BACK DOWN is about two determined mothers who will stop at nothing to change the failing school of their children. . . they must battle the bureaucracy of the school administration, as well as the resistance of the teachers' union . . . many parents are also opposed to their efforts. . . . Maggie Gyllenhaal and Viola Davis were fine in the leading roles . . . what I didn't like were the many unrealistic parts; e.g., the unsympathetic portrayal of many of the teachers, how the union was portrayed as the bad guy, etc. . . . in addition, I didn't think it would be possible for a grant to be put together as quickly as was shown . . . this is not a true story; rather, an opening screen says it is "based on actual events," and that's a big difference . . . overall, I'd give it a mild recommendation . . . it has a PG rating, but there is no way that small children would find this interesting.

B. SAFETY NOT GUARANTEED is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #826 follows:

SAFETY NOT GUARANTEED is a quirky romantic comedy about a mysterious eccentric who believes he has discovered the secret to time travel . . . when he places a classified ad to find a companion to join him, three cynical Seattle magazine employees seek to find the story behind the quest . . . Mark Duplass and Aubrey Plaza are charming as the two main characters, but I also liked the work of Jake M. Johnson and the rest of the cast . . . this is not the film for you if you're big into special effects, though even if that be the case, methinks you'll get a kick out of the rather cheesy ending . . . rated R.

***** CONTEST #22 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of the unabridged CD version of THE INNER CIRCLE by Brad Meltzer.

According to David List at BOOKLIST, "In this political thriller with historical-conspiracy overtones (or perhaps it's the other way around), Meltzer creates his most engaging protagonist in years. Beecher White is an archivist with the National Archives, who stumbles upon an old book hidden away in a room used exclusively by the president. But did the president know that the book (a spelling dictionary that once belonged to George Washington) was there? . . . Meltzer expertly develops the story, throwing in twists and turns at appropriate intervals, and he does an excellent job of putting us in Beecher's corner and making us care about what happens to him. The story has a surprising and satisfying conclusion, and Meltzer leaves the door wide open for a sequel."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #22" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, November 4.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. I haven't seen THE NEW NORMAL yet, but after reading what TV GUIDE had to say about it, I just might have to give a shot: "This sitcom has an actual point of view . . . tackling hot-button issues like gay parenting and marriage with a messy exuberance." Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m. on NBC.

B. SEAL TEAM SIX: THE RAID ON OSAMA BIN LADEN airs on Sunday at 8 p.m. on NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC . . . according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "This is well-executed drams . . . and one of the most exciting items ever to appear on NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC."

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

A thief in Paris stole some paintings from the Louvre. He got past security, stole the paintings and made it to his van. However, he was captured only two blocks away when his van ran out of gas. When asked how he could mastermind such a crime and then make such an obvious error, he said, "Monsieur, that is the reason I stole the paintings .I had no Monet to buy Degas to make the Van Gogh."

See if you have De Gaulle to send this on to someone else. I sent it to you because I figured I had nothing Toulouse.

[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net/>

In case you have ever wondered what this website is all about, your best bet is to view the box at the top of this homepage.

B. 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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield



[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

I had been using Firefox as my Internet browser for a long time . . . however, I've switched over to Google Chrome and been very pleased with the results . . . it seems to be quicker, as well as less balky . . . give it a try if you've never used it and kindly do share your reaction(s).

To download it, please click:
<https://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/browser/>

Note: If you'd like to read a review of Google Chrome and other browsers, please click:
<http://internet-browser-review.toptenreviews.com/>

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

The murder suspect's trial wasn't going well, so his attorney resorted to a trick. "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury," he said. "I have a surprise for you. In one minute the real murderer will walk into this courtroom."

Stunned, the jurors looked toward the door, but nothing happened. The lawyer chuckled. "I lied. But because you all looked with anticipation, that proves there is reasonable doubt as to my client's guilt, and I insist that you find him not guilty."

The jury retired in deliberation, then returned a verdict of guilty.

"But you must have had some doubt," bellowed the lawyer. "You all stared at the door."

"Oh, we looked," said the jury foreman. "But your client didn't."

[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

"Reminder: on Sunday we will gain an hour which we will immediately waste on Facebook."--Andy Borowitz (born 1958), American humorist

Note: His BOROWITZ REPORT never fails to put a smile on my face. You can get it for free by clicking: <https://secure.newyorker.com/services/newsletters/demographics>

[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

Thanks to Steve Gambrell* for allowing me to share the following post that I saw on the Facebook page of his niece (Susan Gambrel Reinhardt, one of my favorites columnists in the ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES):

I gotta say something, and I want ALL my friends on FaceBook to read this. Share it, trash it, delete me, but not until you read what I've gotta say, OK?

We're about to have one of the most significant elections in this country's history. The U.S.A. itself may be about to be changed forever. So, spoiled brats that we are, shouldn't we be working together? IT AIN'T NO FOOTBALL GAME, PEOPLE!

I have NEVER seen such hatred in this country in my 57+ years of living. Obama Haters, Romney haters--Dig DEEP, people! Where is your hatred coming from? Don't you know it's wrong to hate? Don't you know that Jesus compared hatred to MURDER???

Why, then, all this hatred? I have felt hostility from some of my closest friends, because I won't tell anybody who I'm voting for! Ridiculous, people! What are you gonna do with that hatred if YOUR candidate doesn't win? All Republicans are not Christians, not all Christians are Democrats, and this is a POLITICAL race, not a Religious Ritual!

If you're gonna hate me for voting for Obama, then tell me! If you think I'm a cultist if I vote for Romney, TELL ME!! But if you want this country to be what it once was, then TELL EACH OTHER! It's OK to disagree--we're SUPPOSED to disagree, on some issues. People, we're supposed to love each other. To encourage, to lift UP, TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER! TO PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY'S LEADERS!!

If all you seek is someone to blame, blame ME, and get me out of your life! But if you want to be the best UNITED--hear me, I said UNITED STATES of AMERICA, then get that hatred out of your heart, love your neighbor, and work together. It's only by working together that we're gonna bring this country back to Glory.

Now, please, do me a favor. If you think HATRED and bullying belong in this country, then PLEASE delete me, for you are NOT my "friend." But if you agree that only love will get us back, PASS THIS ON!! ONE nation! Now go help somebody that's hurting.

Go visit somebody. Let somebody KNOW that you LIKE 'EM!

* Steve Gambrell is a born-again Christein, U.S. Army Vet. He can be contacted via Facebook.

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

If you're anywhere near Western North Carolina this coming weekend, please join me at SART's 2012 ScriptFEST event: Nov. 2, 3 & 4 at 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 3 & 4 at 2 p.m. . . . all events at UNC Asheville Reuter Center (Manheimer Room) . . . for complete information, please click: <http://sartplays.org/>

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week. And don't forget:



Note: Above is the closest I'll get to making a political endorsement; i.e., in BLAINESWORLD. That said, if you REALLY want to know how I feel & why, send me an email.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINES WORLD

#839
10.22.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Review
5. Joke 2
6. Websites
7. Joke 3
8. A quote I like
9. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I got to celebrate her birthday for a third time this month with a party at the Grovewood Cafe for many of her dancing and other Asheville friends.

(1) The food, as always, was great . . . and if you've never been to this restaurant before, check it out. You'll enjoy the ambiance, as well as the chance to stroll the nearby Grovewood Gallery with its beautifully landscaped sculpture gardens, working artist's studio, collection of rare automobiles from yesteryear and expansive collection of fine American craft at one of the nation's premier galleries. For more information, please click:

<http://www.grovewoodcafe.com/>

(2) See below for some of the pictures from the event. Special thanks to Barrie Barton (third picture in the black and white top) for organizing a flash mob performance that Cynthia didn't know about until she realized that she was the person everybody was singing to . . . here's the song that Barrie used:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehu3wy4WkHs>

And to Ken and Amy LaDeroute (bottom picture), two very talented performers who played music at the party. To find out more about them, please click:

<http://www.affirmationpower.com/Life.html>







B. Space limitations (and all the pictures from Cynthia's party) have made it necessary to eliminate a few sections in this week's issue . . . hopefully, all will make it back into BLAINESWORLD #840 . . . you'll also get details on our breast cancer walk, opportunity to hear Dr. Andrew Weil and a whole bunch of other neat things we have recently been doing. Stay tuned!

C. Mr. Curious here: Our home is on the dry side. We have used humidifiers in the past (and even a bowl of water on the floor has helped), but we are now contemplating the purchase of a whole-house humidifier.

Questions: 1. Do you have any experience with such a purchase? 2. If so, what are your recommendations? 3. Anybody you'd suggest to contact in the Asheville area?

Thanks much!

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Marcy Gallagher on being featured in the an article in the CITIZEN-TIMES:
<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012310190015>

(2) Gene Smith for being named guest poet on Samantha Reynolds' bently website.
Check it out by clicking:
<http://bently.com/guest/gene-smith/>

(3) Mary Elise Jones for having just received a contract to work at Sight and Sound Theatre for its 2013 production of Noah.

(4) Liz Sette and family on the birth of Claire Carmen, their newest granddaughter.

(5) To the following individuals for being named as one of the Best of WNC 2012 by MOUNTAIN XPRESS: Dr. David Graham, chiropractor; Dr. Meredith Polansky, physician; Scott Treadway, local actor; Tracy Johnston-Crum, local actor; Ken Hanke, favorite feature in XPRESS & local arts reporter; and Tony Kiss, local arts reporter.

Also to John Boyle, local print reporter (for coming in first in that category).

And to Flat Rock Playhouse (for being named top attraction in the Hendersonville/Flat Rock area).

(6) Warren F. in NJ, winner of Contest #21--a winner of the book PANIC! by Michael Lewis . . . all told, there were 8 entries . . . and that reminds me that it's now time to introduce . . .

***** CONTEST #22 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of the unabridged CD version of THE INNER CIRCLE by Brad Meltzer.

According to David List at BOOKLIST, "In this political thriller with historical-conspiracy overtones (or perhaps it's the other way around), Meltzer creates his most engaging protagonist in years. Beecher White is an archivist with the National Archives, who stumbles upon an old book hidden away in a room used exclusively by the president. But did the president know that the book (a spelling dictionary that once belonged to George Washington) was there? . . . Meltzer expertly develops the story, throwing in twists and turns at appropriate intervals, and he does an excellent job of putting us in Beecher's corner and making us care about what happens to him. The story has a surprising and satisfying conclusion, and Meltzer leaves the door wide open for a sequel."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #22" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bjinbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, November 4.

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

To read each of the following emails in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/s1g9Ev-3691>

(1) Dina G. in NC: Thank you Blaine for the shout out for Breanna. (2) Joe D. in NY: Breathtaking view of the lake. (3) Barbara F. in PA: Saw that clip [on Romney and Obama showing a sense of humor] and "did" enjoy both quips! (4) Marty D. in PA: Why bother with a landline at all? (5) Todd S. in NJ: Love the art work on the headline! (6) Chris F. in PA: I think every day IS Cynthia's birthday. (7) Debbie G. in PA: Why your name has come up in my life so many times? (8) Janeen R. in PA: I just finished reading an excellent

book. (9) Nelson S. in NC: Some Musings on Avoiding our Next National Shame. (10) Natalie K. in PA: Just saw "The Long Way Home" by Mark Jonathan Harris. (11) Helen H. in NC: I have been blessed to work with Deputy Robyn Michalove.

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

My granddaughter Hannah will turn 6 on Sunday. For the past few months when asked her age, she will say, " I am five and three quarters." She saw this little girl at the park and they were asking each other ages. Hannah told her, Five and three quarters.

The little girl replied, "Well I am five and FOUR quarters!".

Hannah looked at her Mom and said, "Boy she's OLD!"

(Thanks to Joyce S. in CA for sharing this gem.)

[Back to Top](#)

4. Review

ARGO, based on true events, tells the story of a covert operation to rescue six Americans from Iran in 1979 . . . they all posed as part of a production crew, making a science fiction film . . . Ben Affleck, who also directed, is outstanding in the lead role . . . Alan Arkin and John Goodman added some surprising comic relief to an otherwise taut drama . . . and the first 15 minutes were about as exciting as anything I've ever seen . . . rated R, though I I think it would be both appropriate and interesting for any mature teenager.

[Back to Top](#)

5. Joke 2

As a realtor, my friend deals with all types of people.

Recently, he showed a home to a couple who seemed eager to check out the fantastic view from the living room.

But when he dramatically pulled back the drapes, the disappointed husband asked, "Where is the view? Those mountains must be blocking it."

[Back to Top](#)

6. Websites

A. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click: <http://www.blaineworld.net/>

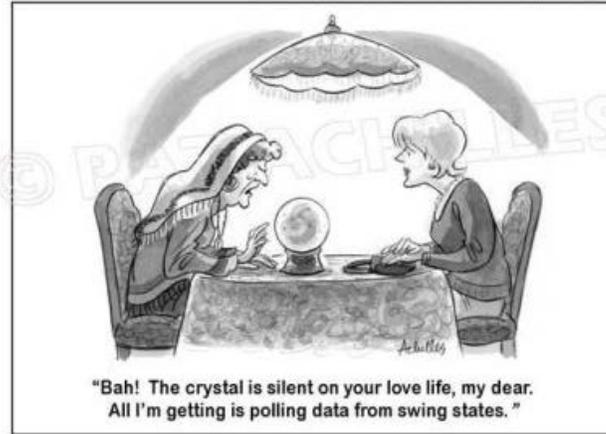
Are you a fan of the Golden Rule? I contend there's something better to utilize; i.e., the Platinum Rule. Read all about it by clicking "Consulting" to the left and then "Article Samples." Selection E, "Down With the Golden Rule!" will take you to an article that I have written on the subject that I think you'll find interesting.

B. 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: www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

[Like us on Facebook](#) 

[Back to Top](#)

7. Joke 3



Note: Above was printed with the gracious permission of Pat Achilles, my talented cartoonist/illustrator friend. To sign up for her FREE cartoon each week (that's guaranteed to put a smile on your face), please click:

<http://achillesportfolio.com/freecartoonsignup.htm>

[Back to Top](#)

8. A quote I like

"Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow."--Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), American essayist, philosopher and poet

[Back to Top](#)

9. Advance planning department

A. Stuff I'm involved in

(1) A Taste of SART

The SART family presents:

A fun evening of entertainment and confections.

WHEN: Sunday, October 28th

WHERE: Owen Theatre, Mars Hill College, 44 College St., Mars Hill, NC

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

Partake of the parody of Julia Child's kitchen.

(Bradshaw Call--pictured below)



Relish a swig of soothing solos.
(Liz Aiello)

Savor the sweet music of Godspell.
(The Mars Hill College "Showstoppers")

Sip the wholesome sounds of gospel music.
(Vicki Sorensen)

Enjoy sound "bites" of the plays for next season.
(Bill Gregg)

End the evening with a sampling of smooth coffee, luscious chocolates and homemade goodies.

Donations are welcomed. Help us pay the royalties for the plays this coming season.

PLEASE RSVP:

So we can plan refreshments, etc., kindly send an email to: sartplays@aol.com and indicate your name and how many will be attending with you. Thank you!
(2) ScriptFEST 2012

SART's 31st Annual Playwrights' Conference

November 2 - 4, 2012

(a weekend of new plays)

Evening Performances: Nov 2, 3 & 4 at 7:30 PM
Afternoon Performances: Nov 3 & 4 at 2:00 PM

UNC Asheville
Reuter Center - Manheimer Room
Asheville, NC

FREE to the public!

SART actors, Mars Hill College Theatre Arts students, and members of The Autumn Players from Asheville Community Theatre will read five new full-length plays selected from those submitted by playwrights far and near with discussions to follow.

To note:

1. If you have any acting and/or directing experience and would like to be considered as a possible performer or director in the above, please send an email to: bgregg@mhc.edu and put "ScriptFEST Volunteer" in the subject line.
2. If you'd like more information on the various plays, please send an email to: sartplays@aol.com and put "ScriptFEST Information" in the subject line.

B. Other NC events

To reach about each of the following events, please click:
<http://wp.me/s1g9Ev-3691>

(1) Hill Harper: "The Wealth Cure: Putting Money In Its Place." (2) Asheville Vaudeville.

C. PA/NC events

To read about each of the following events, please click:
<http://wp.me/s1g9Ev-3691>

(1) A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS at Actors' Net of Bucks County. (2) Dr. Helen Caldicott at Pennswood Village.

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINES WORLD

#838
10.15.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Saw the Mars Hill College Theatre Arts Department's tuneful, energetic production of GODSPELL . . . kudos to director/choreographer to Neil St. Clair, musical director Virginia McKnight and the entire cast, including Chris Caggiano, Justin Gaylard, Sarah Richardson, Brently Sproles, Isaac Fulk, Tyler Winkler, Melanie Morton, Alexis Miller, Heather Bronson, Steven Green, Jennifer Sell and Annie Tesh.



(l-r) Jennifer Sell, Blaine Greenfield and Melanie Morton

(2) Marvel at this view we see every single day we drive into our Biltmore Lake community.



Thanks to Dense Frey for taking and then sharing the above picture.

B. Election time is rapidly approaching; in fact, in North Carolina, you can even begin voting now. Here's the information you need to know if you live in Buncombe County: http://www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Election/News_Detail.aspx?newsID=12201

(1) We're blessed to have several fine candidates running for office. I met with one of them, Tim Moffitt, at a lovely reception hosted by Carol and Tom Keleher.



Tim is up for reelection to the North Carolina House of Representatives. He explained his views on issues facing local residents, and to me at least, what he said made a lot of sense. I especially liked the fact that he didn't bash his opponent, nor did he make it a political talk; i.e., he didn't seem to be pushing the agenda of any party.

(2) The next day, I went to another nice event--this time at the home of Dan and Becky Steves. About 45 neighbors got to together to consider many of the issues in the upcoming Presidential election.

I led the discussion about the economy and job creation, and I was greatly aided by Ron Scheinman who served as the notetaker/reporter for the group.



(l-r) Ron Schinman, Blaine Greenfield, Gil Curl and Bill Moore

Thanks to Margie Zack, Marilynne Herbert and all the others who helped organize this lively event.

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Breeana Gormley for having been chosen to be one of the opening acts for the recent Asheville Symphony performance at Pack Square. She did an amazing job, singing and performing a comedy act.

(2) Four of my favorite Asheville-based businesses, The Hop Ice Cream Cafe, Navitat Canopy Adventures, Vinnie's and Wasabi, for all being Best of WNC 2012 by MOUNTAIN EXPRESS . . . and to Professor Whizz-Pop (aka Tom Hughes) for coming in third in the same competition.

(3) My favorite bagel place in Bucks County, Bagel Junction, for having provided exceptional food and service for 20 years. And though I was saddened to read that the Seidner family just closed the business for good, I'm grateful that I was able to have been a faithful customer. For more information, please click:

<http://newtown-pa.patch.com/articles/bagel-junction-closes-its-doors>

D. Condolences to Kimberly Ross and family on the passing of Kimberly's father.

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

This week, it goes to Robyn Michalove--a deputy with the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office.

I first had the pleasure of meeting Robyn a few years ago when I participated in the Sheriff's Citizen's Academy, which she both organized and ran. It was a valuable learning experience for me, and I was impressed with how she helped make it so.

I then have kept in touch with her, writing or calling every so often with a question about Biltmore Lake. She always got back to me with an answer, often within minutes of the time I contacted her.

Robyn is now working with our community as we investigate the possibility of establishing a Neighborhood Watch Program. With her assistance and if we can generate enough interest, I'm sure it will be a success.

Note: Thanks to Jim Meyer, a member of Biltmore Lake's Safety Committee, for his role in getting the above going. Stay tuned for more information about a January meeting that will be utilized to explain the concept in greater detail.

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

I still maintain one landline for phone service from my home. I don't typically check the bill for that very often (my mistake), so when I did recently, I was surprised to find out that I was paying to have my home phone number listed. It was a nominal amount, but I discontinued the charge immediately. I would just as soon have fewer folks having access to my home number.

And I wonder: When did this change? It used to be that you would pay extra to have your number unlisted.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) Bob P. in NC: Electoral College 101

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/03/opinion/electoral-college-101.html?ref=opinion&_r=0

(2) Kelly C. in NC: OK . . . even if acapella music isn't your thing, AND even if the GangnamStyle fad eludes you (as it does me...), these guys just do not get less awesome.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_nLLECY6m_Q&feature=share

(3) The Fleetwoods - Come Softly to Me (live appearance)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7yh6HFKAMs>

B. Other:

(1) Thanks to Nonie in NY for the following email:

I read your BLAINESWORLD as always, and was touched by this picture [in #535 that

showed a boy in a Halloween costume that featured in wheelchair] and would love more info. The link takes you to your blog, but I don't see the story. My sister was born with Spina Bifida and died shortly after. In my up coming class I am teaching about children with disabilities. This story touches me close to home and would love to share this with the class. Any information is greatly appreciated.

***** CORRECTION *****

Sorry 'bout that. The correct link that contains more information about this heartwarming story (and a video, too) can be reached by clicking:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/01/best-halloween-costume-wheelchair-special-needs-buster-ice-cream-truck_n_1928714.html

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-X4>

(2) Catherine O. in MA: Jokes are the best! (3) Robin S. in PA: Ben Affleck's new film Argo is a must-see. (4) Natalie K. in PA: Have you seen Argo yet? We really liked it. (5) Annemarie E. in NJ: I was surprised that Verizon is actually collecting all kinds of information on how I use my phone. (6) Terry V. in NC: Thanks for your e-newsletters. (7) Barbara H. in PA: Don't hang up on these honest and hard-working people!

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

Police Chief: As a recruit, you'll be faced with some difficult issues. What would you do if you had to arrest your mother?

New Recruit: Call for backup!

[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. SPARKLE, a remake of the 1976 film with the same name, is about a girl who struggles to become a star while dealing with issues that are tearing her family apart. The music is OK and so is the story, but that said, I recall leaving the theatre not caring too much about any of the characters. Jordin Sparks does well in her first starring role as Sparkle, and I also liked the work of both Derek Luke and Mike Epps. Whitney Houston also has a smaller part that will be remembered as the last thing she did before she died. Rated PG-13.

B. BERNIE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #819 follows:

BERNIE is a quirky true-crime comedy about an assistant funeral director in a small town in Texas . . . everybody loved him because he taught Sunday school, sang in the church choir and helped everybody . . . so when he befriended an affluent widow with a sour attitude, it didn't surprise anybody; i.e., until she disappeared for several months . . . when she turned up dead, the townspeople were shocked when Bernie was charged with the murder . . . Jack Black was fine as the main character, and I also liked the work of Matthew McConaughey as the sheriff . . . overall, though, the film didn't do much for me . . . don't rush out to see it, but as a rental, you might enjoy it . . . rated PG-13.

C. Not too long ago, I read and enjoyed THE MISSION MYTH by Deidre Maloney . . . it gave excellent advice for nonprofits on how they could better run their organizations.

So when I saw Maloney's latest book, TOUGH TRUTHS: THE TEN LEADERSHIP LESSONS WE DON'T TALK ABOUT (Business Solutions Press), I jumped at the opportunity to read it in the hope that the author could continue to help me learn to be a more effective nonprofit board member.

I think she has again hit a home run, though it will probably take me some time to determine if some of her many tidbits are as valuable as I think they are.

For example, Maloney urges the reader to keep in mind the following:

* Today . . .

Take notice of every interaction you have. Notice how differently things happen when you go out of your way to be even more pleasant, when you smile from the start, thank people more than once. It doesn't take much, but in the long run you'll get more of what you want.

She also point out that:

* Great leaders know what gives them energy and they increase it. They know what takes it away and they decrease it.

They know the people who boost them up and so they seek them out, see them more. They know those who leave them feeling exhausted and so they plan for their time together strategically.

The simple formula:

More energy = more often.

Less energy = less often.

As simple as these eight words seem, we disregard them, ignore them. We allow ourselves to believe we are trapped in a world where we just have to do certain things with certain people at certain times.

And that's true. Sometimes. But not nearly as frequently as we think it is

Lastly, I liked what the author had to say about trash talking in the office:

* I am constantly shocked at the amount, variety and depth of trash talking I see each day. People do it brazenly, talk about their boss in the middle of the lunchroom, about their terrible organizations right in the middle of a networking event. I've met people for the first time who feel okay trashing a mutual colleague when they have absolutely no clue how I feel about the person.

Whenever I see it or hear it, I take note. And I keep my own mouth shut.

Why? Because I clearly know that a person who talks trash about someone else will undoubtedly talk trash about me, too.

TOUGH TRUTHS is a short but very meaty 104 pages . . . it applies to both profit and nonprofit organizations, and is a book that should be read by any board member--past, present and future.

D. WAR (Hachette Audio), written and read by Sebastian Junger, is a reporter's harrowing account of the fifteen-plus months he spent following a single platoon based at a remote outpost in eastern Afghanistan.

The book is divided into three parts . . . in "Fear," the author considers why or why not soldiers might be afraid to fight; in "Killing," we learn why soldiers kill and how they feel about doing so; and in "Love," Junger attempts to learn why soldiers would be willing to die in combat for their comrades.

Perhaps the latter is true because:

* "As a soldier, the thing you were most scared of was failing your brothers" . . . [in combat] "everything is important and nothing is taken for granted" where "men don't feel the most alive . . . but the most utilized."

Reading WAR made me appreciate what an incredible experience it is to be stationed overseas . . . it also made me grateful for the men and women who risk their lives to keep this country safe.

E. Don't forget: There's still time to enter . . .

***** CONTEST #21 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of the PANIC! THE STORY OF MODERN FINANCIAL INSANITY, edited by Michael Lewis, the author of MONEYBALL, LIAR'S POKER, etc.

According to Mary Whaley in BOOKLIST, "Lewis, author and journalist, presents an anthology of financial writing done immediately before, during, and after the panics that have occurred since 1987, to show how financial markets now operate. . . Informative and timely, it is an excellent book for a wide range of library patrons."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #21" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, October 21.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. LAST RESORT imagines a U.S. government run amok and patriots branded as traitors as they make a last stand on a remote isle with 17 nuclear missiles at their disposal . . . it stars Andrew Braugher . . . notes Matt Roush in TV GUIDE, "All I know is that I'm more than intrigued. I'm gung h [about the show]." Thursdays at 8 p.m. on ABC.

B. To quote from the show's website: With a fresh and irreverent tone, MY LIFE IS A LIFETIME MOVIE will weave together highly cinematic recreations and first person interviews with women in peril who recount their jaw-dropping experiences that are so astonishing and so unbelievable, that they must be true. Thursdays at 10 p.m. on LIFETIME.

C. PARANORMAL PAPARAZZI centers on a crew of six reporters, including Asheville's Joshua P. Warren, who are each tasked with tracking down the strangest, spookiest, most elbow-raising stories from around the world. Fridays at 7 p.m. on the TRAVEL CHANNEL.

D. NIGHT OF TOO MANY STARS; AMERICA COMES TOGETHER FOR AUTISM PROGRAMS has Katy Perry helping Jon Stewart convince viewers to help fund research efforts. Sunday at 8 p.m. on COMEDY CENTRAL.

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

Methinks I should get this sign for my house--and also adapt it for my voicemail greeting!



[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Obama and Romney can BOTH be funny, though you wouldn't know it from the debates so far. Here they are at the recent Al Smith Dinner in New York City.

(1) Obama

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6g2YkTAYQ4>

(2) Romney

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4Cw-UdQNtw>

(3) For more information on the above, please click:

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/19/us/politics/obama-romney-roast-each-other-at-al-smith-charity-dinner.html?src=mv&ref=general&_r=0

B. Jean D. in PA: Rainn Wilson deflates inspirational Facebook statuses in 'Malarious' video http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=bpsn_GljRo4

For more information on the above, please click:

http://todayentertainment.today.com/_news/2012/09/13/13845648-rainn-wilson-deflates-inspirational-facebook-statuses-in-malarious-video#.UFJ_m1tkpoQ.facebook

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

Ever wonder how many other folks look at this website? Wonder no more. Just look at the counter on the bottom left of the page and when you do, prepare to be amazed!

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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Like us on Facebook 

[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

When on Facebook, I enjoy seeing jokes and quotes from such sources as 5150 Quotes, *Clean* Funny Pics, Have a Good Belly Laugh, Quotable Quotes, etc. . . . however, I had indicated that I "like" so many of these that I found them causing me to miss the posts from friends that I find much more interesting . . . so I recently marked "hide" on all these other sources so that I no longer see them . . . the result: I now see what my friends post much more frequently and quite often, they'll highlight the very best jokes and quotes.

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

Late one night, a burglar broke into a house that he thought was empty. He tiptoed through the living room, but suddenly he froze in his tracks when he heard a loud voice say: "Jesus is watching you."

Silence returned to the house, so the burglar crept forward again. "Jesus is watching you," the voice boomed again.

The burglar stopped dead again. He was frightened. Frantically, he looked all around. In a dark corner, he spotted a bird cage and in the cage was a parrot. He asked the parrot, "Was that you who said Jesus is watching me?"

"Yes," said the parrot.

The burglar breathed a sigh of relief, then he asked the parrot, "What's your name?"

"Clarence," replied the bird.

"That's a dumb name for a parrot," sneered the burglar. "What idiot named you Clarence?"

The parrot said, "The same idiot who named the Rottweiler Jesus."

[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

"Success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go."--William Feather (1889-1981), American publisher and author



[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

"There are two tests in life, more important than any other test," he said, his voice growing soft as the sun set behind him. "On Monday morning, when you wake up, do you feel in the pit of your stomach you can't wait to go to work? And when you're ready to go home Friday afternoon, do you say, 'I can't wait to go home'?"

"If you can say yes to both those tests," Mr. Schumer said, "God has been good to you, don't complain."

Source: Chuck Schumer, senior United State Senator from New York, quoted in "Senator, Senator, Make Me a Match: For Staff, Schumer Is Cupid," THE NEW YORK TIMES, 8.18.2012, p. A1

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following events in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-X4>

A. Stuff I'm involved in

(1) A Taste of SART. (2) ScriptFEST 2012.

B. Other NC events

(1) Asheville Jazz Orchestra. (2) The Zoodles.

C. PA event

7th Annual Newtown's Original Brewfest

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINES WORLD

#837
10.8.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Were "up North" last week, first visiting the home where I lived when I was in high school. I had written the current owners, and they were very nice--giving us a complete tour. That's us in front of what used to be my bedroom.



(2) From there, we went to my 45th high school reunion. We had a blast, both dancing the night away and also doing some karaoke singing. (l-r) Henry Goldberg, Della Striker, Cynthia Greenfield, Jane Forrest and Freddie Wool.

Note: If the name Della Striker sounds familiar, it is because you heard me mention it every time I urged you to vote in SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE. Della's daughter, Eliana Girard, won the recent competition.



B. The next night, we celebrated Cynthia's birthday with family and North Jersey friends at Pheasants Landing in Hillsborough, NJ. That's where we had our first date, nearly nine years ago, so it was so cool to return.

The food was excellent, as was the service we received from Diane. If you'd like more information about this eatery, please click: <http://www.pheasantslanding.com/>.

Some pictures from the event included Cynthia making a wish as her friend Berta cheered along with the others who were there.



We also got to celebrate the occasion with Eren H. (center), Cynthia's godson, and Julian G. (right), my grand nephew.



And, as always, we enjoyed getting to see my daughter Risa and her husband JP.



C. I then went to my old stomping ground, Bucks County, for a day to visit some friends from that area . . . naturally, I had to find my favorite deli: Moish and Itzy's in Newtown where I had something I hadn't had since I was a kid; i.e., an order of salami and eggs . . . it was delicious . . . and I also was glad to be able to catch up with my friend Kevin.



D. Congratulations to:

(1) Asheville for being named as one of American's Sharpest, Smartest Cities by Reader's Digest (October, 2012). Why: Spirituality; and volunteerism. The county's 382 churches helped this city's top ranking. One Canadian study suggested

that being spiritual may slow cognitive decline, thanks to increased sociability, less stress, and more happiness. Volunteering also boosts Asheville's brain trust: Last year, volunteers in this 83,000- person city supplied clothes and food to some 41,000 in need. For more information:

<http://www.rd.com/slideshows/americas-10-sharpest-smartest-cities/#slideshow=slide10>.

(2) Kathy B. in FL, winner of Contest #20: who has won three separate thrillers on CD that make up the HARRY BOSCH BOX SET (Hachette Audio) by Michael Connelly. Included are THE NARROWS, ECHO PARK and THE OVERLOOK, all from the same author who wrote THE LINCOLN LAWYER--the book that formed the basis for the popular movie of the same title . . . all told, there were 12 entries . . . and that reminds me that it's now time to introduce: . . .

***** CONTEST #21 *****

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According to Mary Whaley in BOOKLIST, "Lewis, author and journalist, presents an anthology of financial writing done immediately before, during, and after the panics that have occurred since 1987, to show how financial markets now operate. . . . Informative and timely, it is an excellent book for a wide range of library patrons."

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

This week, it goes to Doug Hauschild--our optometrist, in addition to being a longtime member of the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre's Board of Directors.

Doug was recently honored by this latter group for his many years of dedicated service . . . he is stepping down as vice president and at a recent Board meeting, he was presented with a gift certificate to Storm Rhum Bar & Bistro. Pictured (l-r): Patty Higgins, Janet Hart, Doug Hauschild and Blaine Greenfield.



If you need something done, just ask Doug to do it--and he will get it done . . . at SART, aside from being a member on the Board, he has served as an usher at many plays, acted in others and been a sponsor, too.

In addition, he has acted in plays at the Asheville Community Theatre and other local venues, and he is a Cantor at St. Eugene's Church. He also manages to find the time to sing as a chorister and soloist for the Asheville Choral Society.

For more information about his excellent optometry practice, please click: <http://weaверvilleeye.com/>.

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

You Probably Have Too Much Stuff

When a man named Andrew Hyde began an adventure in minimalism, he only owned 15 things. It eventually moved to 39 and now it sits around 60. It all started when he decided to take a trip around the world and sell everything he didn't need. As Mr. Hyde noted on

his blog, it changed his life after a brief period of befuddlement:

I'm so confused by this. When we were growing up, didn't we all have the goal of a huge house full of things? I found a far more quality life by rejecting things as a gauge of success.

For the rest of this thought-provoking piece, please click:

<http://bucks.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/08/13/you-probably-have-too-much-stuff/?emc=eta1>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Corinne G. in PA: The most outstanding way to share a Coke

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEBJmZL8G1E>

(2) A recent issue (in this section) ran a clip featuring the original version of "Heart and Soul" by the Clefones. Here's the group at a PBS special in 2009, sounding as good as ever.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rd_FrtITNsQ

B. Other

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-WI>

(1) Chris F. in PA, Lisa Z. in PA, Marilynne H. in PA, Linda M. in NC, Lana C. in OH, all on "When a Pet Has Suffered Enough." (2) Marleen V. in NC: Another good issue. (3) Vanessa F. in NC: Good stuff Blaine. (4) John W. in NJ: Going to your 45th High School Reunion? (5) Dick W. in NJ (with a REQUEST FOR HELP).

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

A guy goes to visit his grandmother and brings his friend with him. While he's talking to his grandmother, his buddy starts eating the peanuts on the coffee table and finishes them off. As they're leaving, his friend says to the grandmother, "Thanks for the peanuts."

She says, "Yeah, since I lost my dentures, I can only suck the chocolate off 'em."

[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. PITCH PERFECT is a formulaic romantic comedy that didn't really work for me . . . it's about a group of college students who enter a capella singing competitions . . . the music was OK, but the jokes just weren't very funny . . . and I had a hard time believing that Anna Kendrick was an entering college student . . . she also had very little chemistry with Skylar Austin, her male counterpart . . . Rebel Wilson, so funny in BRIDESMAIDS, doesn't have enough to do in this film . . . rated PG-13.

B. THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #815 follows:

THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT is a romantic comedy about a couple who keep getting tripped up on the long walk down the aisle . . . it was too long and also somewhat ruined by the fact that all the best scenes were shown in movie trailers I've been seeing for the past month . . . I did like the chemistry between Jason Segel and Emily Blunt, and the ending was also quite good . . . Rhys Ifan, ordinarily very funny, is virtually wasted in this film . . . rated R.

C. I usually try to be objective before I begin reviewing a book, but I must admit that this wasn't possible in the case of BILL VEECK: BASEBALL'S GREATEST MAVERICK (Walker & Company) by Paul Dickson.

Here's why: Veeck has always been a longtime hero of mine . . . or at least that was the case since when I was 10 years old. I wrote him a letter then and within a week, he answered it. Every so often, I would write him another letter, and I was always amazed that he took the time to respond. He even once made me an honorary Chicago White Sox scout, arranging an introduction to an actual scout for the team.

Consequently, I read every book he wrote, as well as many--if not all--of the books that were written about him. Yet that said, I didn't recall seeing much about him lately until Dickson's excellent book came to my attention.

It provided me with many hours of enjoyable reading about the baseball executive who did much to revolutionize the game. He was the first to integrate an American League team, he put players' names on their jerseys, and he came up with promotions that are still talked about today. For example:

* Fruit and vegetable nights followed. A lady fan who won a basket of peaches returned several nights later with an oversized peach pie, which she presented to Veeck, who spoke about it for months to come. During livestock nights the prizes included turkeys, geese, rabbits, and pigs that often "escaped" onto the field, with the winners expected to chase them. The pigs, needless to say, were greased. One night, the fans were surprised to see an old, swaybacked draft horse on the field awaiting presentation to a lucky fan. The perplexed winner had no idea what to do with the animal, so he was advised to sell it back to the farm from which Veeck had purchased it, allowing the fan to pocket \$15.

Veeck was a guy who always was in a lot of physical pain, but he never complained. Rather, he would make light of the situation:

* "Suffering is overrated-it doesn't teach you anything" was Veeck's mantra, and he turned his missing leg into a sight gag. He took glee lighting a cigarette, pulling up his pant leg, and using the ashtray he had carved into the wood. When he took a bad fall at the Baltimore airport, an attendant asked, "Can I call you a doctor?" "No," he shot back, "it's the wooden leg-get me a carpenter."

I recall being saddened when I heard of his death in 1986. Others felt that way, too, but they remembered him fondly:

* The tributes expressed in the days and weeks following his death attest to his legacy. Tom Boswell of the Washington Post had in 1980 written an anticipatory line about Veeck's passing that was quoted extensively now that he had actually died: "His cause of death should read: Life." Boswell's obituary of Veeck in the Post was equally memorable: "The tombstone will say Bill Veeck lived 71 years. Don't believe it. The old rapsallion must have rolled the odometer over a couple of times."

I loved the book; so much so, in fact, that I read every single note and footnote-- something that I rarely do. If you're a baseball fan or know somebody who is, get hold of BILL VEECK. You'll be glad that you did.

D. DON'T BLINK (Hachette Audio) by James Patterson and Howard Roughan is a Mafia thriller that even contains a nice romantic subplot.

It's the story of a reporter who is conducting a once-in-a-lifetime interview with a legendary baseball bad boy. All of a sudden, it is interrupted by the murder of an infamous mob lawyer.

The reporter then turns his attention to what happened right before him, and that's where things get a bit convoluted. There is an all-out-war between Italian and Russian Mafia forces and NYPD captains, as well as various other conflicts involving district attorneys, mayoral candidates, media kingpins and one beautiful magazine editor.

My preference would have been perhaps a few less characters, but overall, the book came together with a solid ending.

I liked David Patrick's Kelly's narration for the CD version of DON'T BLINK that I heard.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. Connie Britton, according to TV GUIDE "is acting and singing her heart out as the queen on country music on a shaky throne in ABS's irresistibly sudsy NASHVILLE." Wednesdays at 10 p.m.

B. THE GIRL, notes TV GUIDE, is "especially fascinating and disturbing" as it turns Alfred Hitchcock's "movie-star transformation of model Tippi Hedren during the filming of THE BIRDS into a psychological horror story of sexual delusion and directorial abuse" . . . Sunday at 5:15 p.m. on HBO.

C. 9.79* is the latest entry in ESPN's Emmy-nominated documentary series 30 FOR 30 . . . it updates the eight men who ran in the scandal-tainted 1988 Olympic 100-meter final in Seoul, including Ben Johnson who had his gold medal stripped after he tested positive for steroids . . . Sunday at 9 p.m. on ESPN.

D. COMMANDER IN CHIEF: INSIDE THE OVAL OFFICE: KENNEDY AND THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS airs on Thursday, October 18, at 10 pm. on MILITARY CHANNEL. It got an

excellent review in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, which concluded with this statement: "For a very long time most Americans didn't know how perilously close we came to disaster those 13 days of October 1962. Which is why films that tell the story, concisely and factually, as this one does."

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

A blonde, who had acquired two new dogs, was asked by her girlfriend what their names were. The blonde responded by saying that one was named Rolex and the other was named Timex. Her friend said, "Whoever heard of someone naming dogs like that?"

"HELLOOOOO," answered the blond. "They're watch dogs!"

[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Did you see the Biden-Ryan debate? If not, you can catch all the highlights in this short, engaging video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksXRFRUCUatc>

To learn more about the above clip, please read the story about it by clicking:

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/12/opinion/vice-presidential-debate-highlights-songified.html?src=ISMR_AP_LO_MST_FB

B. Jim D. in PA: Here's someone who certainly has not let an old person move into her body. Staying engaged in life is an essential part of aging with passion.

104-Year old hospital volunteer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzPDGQDP3m8>

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

Lana in OH: I have done it again. I am setting a prime example of "Old timers disease" I have lost your wonderful meat loaf recipe . . . oh stop raising your eyebrows!!! Could you resend to me. Thanking you in advance.

Response: To find stuff from old newsletters, click "Newsletters" on the left of the homepage and then "Past issue" . . . you'll see a very handy box at the top that can be used for a search; e.g., for meat loaf . . . that's how I was able to find out that it was originally run in BLAINESWORLD 697. I went there, found the recipe and sent it to Lana.

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

[Back to Top](#)



8. Computer tip

No offense, but I'm not into Farmville or just about any other Facebook app . . . so if I don't respond to any request you might make, please don't take it personally . . . I've just found that such apps often jam up my computer and/or put me on the receiving end of a lot of spam.

What I do--and you can, too--when you get such a request: Click the right checkmark located at the post you're reading. This will "Hide" the post and give you the option to hide similar posts.

For more information, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/92oqq19>

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

A woman was in bed with her lover when she heard her husband opening the front door. "Hurry!" she said, "stand in the corner."

She quickly rubbed baby oil all over him and then she dusted him with talcum powder. "Don't move until I tell you to," she whispered. "Just pretend you're a statue."

"What's this, honey?" the husband inquired as he entered the room.

"Oh, it's just a statue," she replied nonchalantly. "The Martins bought one for their bedroom. I liked it so much, I got one for us too." No more was said about the statue, not even later that night when they went to sleep.

Around two in the morning the husband got out of bed, went to the kitchen and returned a while later with a sandwich and a glass of milk.

"Here," he said to the statue.. "Eat something. I stood like an idiot at the Martin's house for three days and nobody offered me as much as a glass of water."

[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or to lose--Lyndon B. Johnson (1908-1973) 36th US president in an address to the nation on November 28, 1963

[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

Can't
by Edward A. Guest

Can't is the worst word that's written or spoken;
Doing more harm here than slander and lies;
On it is many a strong spirit broken,
And with it many a good purpose dies.
It springs from the lips of the thoughtless each morning
And robs us of courage we need through the day:
It rings in our ears like a timely-sent warning
And laughs when we falter and fall by the way.

Can't is the father of feeble endeavor,
The parent of terror and half-hearted work;
It weakens the efforts of artisans clever,
And makes of the toiler an indolent shirk.
It poisons the soul of the man with a vision,
It stifles in infancy many a plan;
It greets honest toiling with open derision
And mocks at the hopes and the dreams of a man.

Can't is a word none should speak without blushing;
To utter it should be a symbol of shame;
Ambition and courage it daily is crushing;
It blights a man's purpose and shortens his aim.
Despise it with all of your hatred of error;
Refuse it the lodgment it seeks in your brain;
Arm against it as a creature of terror,
And all that you dream of you some day shall gain.

Can't is the word that is foe to ambition,
An enemy ambushed to shatter your will;
Its prey is forever the man with a mission
And bows but to courage and patience and skill.
Hate it, with hatred that's deep and undying,
For once it is welcomed 'twill break any man;
Whatever the goal you are seeking, keep trying
And answer this demon by saying: "I can."

Note: Guest (1881-1959) was a prolific English-born American poet who was popular in the first half of the 20th century and became known as the People's Poet.

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-WI>

A. Stuff involving me

(1) Seminar I'm presenting. (2) A Taste of SART. (3) ScriptFEST.

B. Other NC events

(1) Art A. in NC: Just saw Zelda. (2) Marlisa M. in NC: [ZELDA] was spectacularly done. (3) Mars Hill College Theatre Department production of GODSPELL. (4) Edie W. in PA (on an upcoming event in Asheville).

C. PA/NJ events

(1) Energy Medicine & Yoga. (2) We just posted this - Funny - Jack Nicholson, Ray Romano, Christopher Walken in about a minute & also information about Comedy Cabaret. (3) PLUMSTEAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY. (4) Come and listen to author, anti-war activist and Gold-Star Mother Cindy Sheehan.

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Happy Columbus Day, though be aware of the fact that it has now become a controversial holiday (over the issue of whether he should be honored). For more information, please click:

<http://www.history.com/topics/columbus-controversy>

Also, make it a great rest of the week!

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINES WORLD

#836
10.1.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. Joke
3. A quote I like
4. Thought for the day

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I will probably be "up North" by the time you read this. We'll be going my 45th high school reunion (can you believe that?) and also visiting my daughter, having a second birthday party for Cynthia, etc.

Note: I'm slated to be in the Bucks County area on Monday, October 8 and Tuesday, October 9, so look for me . . . or give a holler if you want to try to get together.

B. We went with a bunch of friends to Strada, a new Italian restaurant in Asheville . . . the food was excellent, and we'll definitely be back . . . for more information, please click:
<http://www.stradaasheville.com/>

From there, we went to see an outstanding production of HAIRSPRAY at Asheville Community Theatre.



(front row) Dave Blumo; (back row, l-r) Brian Biro, Carole Biro, Blaine Greenfield, Cynthia Greenfield, Tom Gallagher, Marcy Gallagher and Judy Blumlo

I had seen the show at Flat Rock Playhouse and liked it; I loved it the other night. You're in luck, too, in that the show runs through October 14. Do make an attempt to see it. For tickets, please click:

<https://www.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?e=8e2680a6ff3ae702c13e454d455e00c0&t=tix>

C. Kudos to the entire cast, including several of our local favorites:



Mark Jones in the middle



Leslie Lang in the middle



Jerry Crouch, the director of the show, on the right

D. You're in luck, part 2: MILF, another local show we recently saw and loved (see BLAINESWORLD #835), has extended its run for an additional week through October 20 . . . for tickets, please click: <http://themagneticfield.com/events>

E. One of the things I love doing is celebrating Cynthia's birthday; in fact, as I like to tell her, every day should be her birthday . . . so we recently had a bunch of neighbors over

for the first of three parties to mark the occasion.



(front row, l-r): Muffy Boswell, Cynthia Greenfield, Blaine Greenfield and Tamar Stonesifer;
(back row, l-r): Terry Boswell and Scott Garland



(l-r): Muffy Boswell, Cynthia Greenfield, Julia Rosa , Terry Boswell, Stuart Kraner, Tammy Strange, Marilynne Herbert

F. Among those not pictured was Linda Hollinshead. She greatly contributed to the day's success by bringing a mouthwatering dessert: peanut butter balls. For a copy of the recipe that she graciously shared, please click #1 at:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-WA>

G. Deftly changing the subject, the aforementioned Tammy blew me away with this one picture she took of Harvest Moon at Biltmore Lake, the community I'm blessed to call home.



H. During the week, a high school classmate (Maralyn Lieberman) visited Asheville with her husband Ed . . . so I naturally had to take them to Kilwin's--one of my favorite downtown spots for ice cream and/or chocolate.



I. VP Biden also stopped by to visit. It was nice of him (left) to spend some time with me at the UNCA campus.



J. I was honored to have been chosen to moderate a panel that was part of the SBA/AARP

National Encore Entrepreneur Mentor Day.



(front row, l-r) Bonnie Fiedler, Eric Scheffer and Anna Marie Brown; (back row, l-r) Oscar Wong, Blaine Greenfield, Maceo Keeling and Dane Barrager

Special thanks to Mike Arriola, SBA Senior Area Manager for Asheville, for doing such a fantastic job in arranging the entire event.

For my take on it, please click #2 for an article that quotes me:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-WA>

K. Lastly, don't forget:

(1) You still have time to enter:

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

One lucky winner will receive a copy of the three separate thrillers on CD that make up the HARRY BOSCH BOX SET (Hachette Audio) by Michael Connelly . . . included are THE NARROWS, ECHO PARK and THE OVERLOOK, all from the same author who wrote THE LINCOLN LAWYER--the book that formed the basis for the popular movie of the same title. An added plus: Len Carious, Tony Award winner, is the narrator.

To quote BOOKMARKS MAGAZINE about one of the above books: Overall, ECHO PARK is a richly imagined and finely crafted piece that grabs the reader on Page One and locks him but a half-step behind Bosch on every page that follows."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #20" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, October 7.

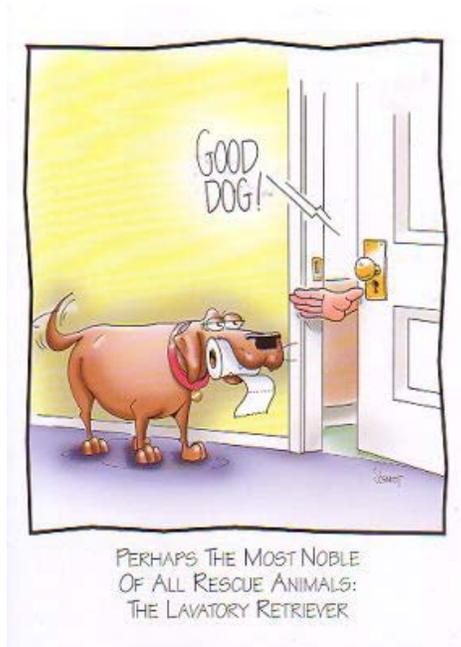
(2) And please join me in a seminar I'm presenting on October 13 on Survival Marketing. For more information, please click #3 at:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-WA>

Note: If you come to the above, you'll learn the difference between a left- and right-handed pencil . . . and one lucky participant will have a chance to win \$500!

[Back to Top](#)

2. Joke 1



[Back to Top](#)

3. A quote I like

If you ask me how long I'll be your friend, my answer will be, "I don't know because I really don't know which one is longer: forever or always." (Beautiful quote from an anonymous source. If you know who said it, please let me know.)



[Back to Top](#)

4. Thought for the day

Carter, the little boy in the picture below, has spina bifida. So his dad used his son's wheelchair as the central feature in the boy's Halloween costume. For more information about this heartwarming story (and for a video, too), please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/95r4quw>



[Back to Top](#)

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINES WORLD

#835
9.24.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

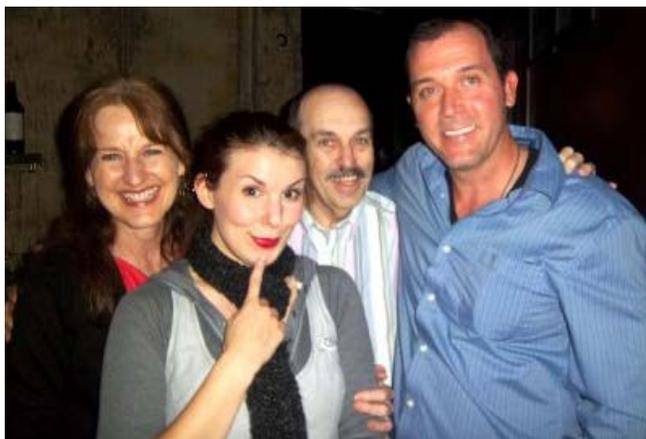
A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I enjoyed the always delicious pizza at Mellow Mushroom with Bill and Judy Morton--our new friends from Washington.



We also went with our friend Theresa to see MILF: THE MUSICAL at the Magnetic Field.

This was a fun show, but one that also carried a punch and there was a very poignant ending . . . the story involves a young guy who is attracted to an older woman, and I'll leave it at that lest I give away too many other details.

Tracey Johnston-Crum was outstanding in the leading role, and all the other members of the cast also shined: Jennifer Russ, Alison Young, Elizabeth Evans, Dan Clancy, James Meador and Sean David Robinson . . . direction by Steven Samuels was top notch, , as was the music by Holiday Childress . . . and Lucia Del Vecchio's book and lyrics left me wondering what's next from this talented individual.



(l-r) Theresa Phillips, Blaine Greenfield, Alison Young and Dan Clancy

You're in luck, in that you can still catch MILF through October 13 . . . for more information and reviews of the show, please click:

<http://themagneticfield.com/>

B. During the week, I attended an outstanding Leadership Asheville Luncheon that featured Doug Blevins as the keynote speaker . . . he wowed the audience with his story of how he became the only person in the history of the National Football League to ever coach without having played football or even walked . . . for more of his incredible story, please click:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WarEZbJSS6w>

Also in attendance was Lauren Tamayo, Olympic Silver Medalist (in team pursuit race cycling) and an Asheville resident, When I asked her what's next, she hinted that she might keep training so she can go for the gold at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. I'm hoping that's the case!



C. Congratulations to:

(1) Vanessa Freund CPA, PLLC on moving to a new location in the Biltmore Park at 28 Schenck Pkwy, Building 2B suite 200.

(2) Asheville again gaining national recognition, this time by Marthastewart.com:
<http://forums.marthastewart.com/925598/asheville-north-carolina-travel-guide/@center/929337/travel/#/925484>

(3) Bruce Katsiff on being chosen as one of the recipients of the 2012 Governor's Awards for the Arts [in Pennsylvania].

(4) Pam F. in PA, winner of Contest #19: the book on CD, SISTERS RED (Hachette Audio) by Jackson Pearce . . . all told, there were 7 entries . . . and that reminds me that it's now time to introduce: . . .

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

One lucky winner will receive a copy of the three separate thrillers on CD that make up the HARRY BOSCH BOX SET (Hachette Audio) by Michael Connelly . . . included are THE NARROWS, ECHO PARK and THE OVERLOOK, all from the same author who wrote THE LINCOLN LAWYER--the book that formed the basis for the popular movie of the same title. An added plus: Len Carious, Tony Award winner, is the narrator.

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To enter: Put "CONTEST #20" in the subject line of an email and send it to:

bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, October 7.

D. Condolences to:

(1) Steve Byas and family on the passing of Steve's mother.

(2) Bruce Stoller and family on the passing of Bruce's brother.

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

This week, it goes to Laresa Griffin (pictured below)--chair of the committee that made the aforementioned Leadership Asheville Luncheon the success that it was.



I had the pleasure to serve on this committee with Laresa. She did a fantastic job, handling all the many details with aplomb. She also kept everybody in the loop with respect to what was happening, and she made you feel like you wanted to become part of what was truly a team effort.

I would be remiss if I didn't also mention the other fine individuals who served on this committee: Barbara Brill, Leisa Capps, Sandy Frederick, Eileen Hutchison, Cathy Kramer, Britt Lippard and Susan Bean.

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

Deciding When a Pet Has Suffered Enough
By JESSICA PIERCE

Published: September 22, 2012 in THE NEW YORK TIMES

ODY died peacefully last year, Nov. 29. He was 14 and a half. Truth be told, Ody didn't just die. I killed him. I paid a vet to come to my house and inject a chemical solution into a vein in Ody's back leg.

People ask me how I knew it was time. There was no watershed, but a slow accumulation of miseries. Ody had been in serious decline for six months. Partial paralysis of his laryngeal muscles made it hard for him to breathe, and he would begin to pant at the slightest exertion. His once deep tenor bark had transformed into a raspy Darth Vader croak. The signals from his addled brain often failed to reach his body, so when I walked him he left a Hansel and Gretel trail of pee and poop behind him. His muscles atrophied, and his walk was crab-like and unsteady. He grew increasingly uninterested in food and people, his two great passions. Worst of all, he began falling more and more frequently

and was unable to get up by himself.

For the rest of this insightful article, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/23/opinion/sunday/deciding-when-a-pet-has-suffered-enough.html?emc=eta1>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Marie V. in NJ: George Fame: Yeh Yeh

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9G3VIA6Q0&feature=related>

(2) Mike T. in NC: No matter how many times I see this video it always reminds me of how insignificant we are compared to mother nature, but at the same time how we can capture all her glory!!!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KV3ozZoQ13M&feature=youtu.be>

(3) Walter B: Sarah Silverman | Let My People Vote 2012 - Get Nana A Gun

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypRW5qoraTw>

Note: Be forewarned. The language may be offensive to some, but the message needs to be heard!

(4) Karen M in NC: Proof That Cats Are Better Than Dogs

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyXJ1sAQtaY&feature=share>

(5) Joe G. in NY: Star Wars Call Me Maybe

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=dBM7i84BTtE

And here's another fun version to watch [featuring the Miami Dolphin cheerleaders]!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=ZIkJFG5Zm6E&feature=endscreen>

(6) Toronto Blue Jays righthander Chad Jenkins made one of the most unusual catches of the season Friday night. Forced to react instinctively when New York Yankees center fielder Curtis Granderson smoked a line drive right back at him, Jenkins quickly put up his glove.

<http://tinyurl.com/9tnkupt>

(7) Did Refs Steal Game From Green Bay Packers vs Seattle Seahawks?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHsUc2zm0KI>

Note: For more on this catch, please click this blog entry:

<http://fifthdown.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/09/25/after-monday-night-fiasco-a-call-for-goodell-to-apologize/?partner=rss&emc=rss>

(8) RIP, Andy Williams (he recently died) . . . and in his memory, "Moon River"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flm4xcOyiCo>

(9) Dionne Warwick: I'll Never Fall in Love Again

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzQBOBoPg04&feature=related>

B. Other

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-W7>

(1) Pat A. in PA: When I first read your subject line [in most recent newsletter], I thought you'd flipped & become a Romney fan! (2) Lana C. in OH: excellent edition....BTW nice shirts you are wearing in the photos. (3) Pat L. in CA: Thank you, as always! I'm definitely going for the peanut butter bars...! (4) Steve G. in PA: Watched "The Newsroom" last night 112th Congress - wow! (5) Laura B. in NJ: Senior discounts: Keep this list--and send a copy to your friends and relatives.

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

"I have good news and bad news," a defense attorney told his client.

"First the bad news. The blood test came back, and your DNA is an exact match with that found at the crime scene."

"Oh, no!" cried the client. "What's the good news?"

"Your cholesterol is only 140."

4. Reviews

A. TROUBLE WITH THE CURVE is a predictable baseball drama about a scout who may have seen his better days because he's losing his vision . . . enter his daughter, an associate at a high-powered law firm, to help him out--despite his objections . . . Clint Eastwood in the starring role seems to be phoning-in his role; it's just a repeat of his work in GRAN TURINO (a much better film) . . . Amy Adams, as his daughter, is watchable as always but shows very little chemistry with Justin Timberlake who plays a pitcher once discovered by the Eastwood character . . . Matthew Lillard is the villain . . . I love how Justin Souther, a local critic, described his role: "[He] is so obviously up to no good that he should be given a mustache to twirl." Rated PG-13.

B. HYSTERIA is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #822 follows:

HYSTERIA is a romantic comedy loosely-based on the true story of the birth of the vibrator at the peak of Victorian prudishness . . . it was both funny and touching, and I liked it a lot . . . there's a fine cast led by Maggie Gyllenhaal, Hugh Dancy (a young Hugh Jackman lookalike) and Rupert Evert . . . rated R.

C. THE CLICK MOMENT: SEIZING OPPORTUNITY IN AN UNPREDICTABLE WORLD (Portfolio Hardcover) by Frans Johansson deals with the fact that every great company and career usually has one defining moment when luck and skill collide; i.e., the click moment.

The author uses countless examples to show where this has happened and, also, he shows how readers can attempt to make such a moment happen.

His basic premise is this:

* Success is random, far more random than we have come to believe. The second [idea to keep in mind] is that there are a number of specific actions that individuals and organizations can take to capture randomness and focus it in our favor.

For example, he cites the example of Starbucks:

* His biggest revelation, however--the one that made him really stop and take notice--came when he tasted a café latte for the first time. The barista pulled a shot of espresso, steamed a frothy pitcher of milk, poured the two together into a cup, and put a dollop of foam on the top. Schultz was floored by what he tasted. It was, he said, "the perfect drink." He realized that despite his employers' expertise in all things coffee, they had missed something huge. Starbucks had it all wrong. Selling equipment and grinding coffee by the bag wasn't the big opportunity. Coffee was meant to be a communal experience, to be shared with friends, not consumed in private. "It was like an epiphany," he said. "It was so immediate and physical that I was shaking." And that was when he realized: no one in America knows about this.

I also liked the story that was a big reason behind the success of JAWS:

* Spielberg said, "The shark not working was a godsend. It made me become more like Alfred Hitchcock . . . when I didn't have control of my shark it made me kind of rewrite the whole script without the shark. Therefore, in many people's opinions the film was more effective than the way the script actually offered up the shark." Spielberg was forced to develop a solution, not because he planned it a certain way but because he had to try something different. The shark not working had an unintended consequence--it made Jaws a much better, more suspenseful movie.

I particularly enjoyed the section toward the end that offered advice on how to harness a click moment. Though I'm not sure that it's quite as easy as: 1. Starting to bet--purposely; and 2. Embracing the randomness, I do think that Johansson's ideas are both thought-provoking and worth trying.

D. ON THE RIGHT TRACK: FROM OLYMPIC DOWNFALL TO FINDING FORGIVENESS (Hachette Audio), written and read by Marion Jones, tells the story of the first woman ever to win five metals at one Olympics.

She was living an idyllic life until 2003 when she lied to federal agents about her use of performance-enhancing drugs and her knowledge of a check fraud scam. She eventually admitted the truth in 2007 and it was then that she was stripped of all her metals and her track-and-field records were wiped from the books.

From there, it was on to incarceration at Carswell federal prison in Fort Worth, TX. Jones managed to keep in shape, and at the same time, she began to get her act together. She took responsibility for the mistakes that she made, and she attempted to share these mistakes with others so that they would not just give up when faced with seemingly

insurmountable obstacles.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK is an especially good book for high school and college athletes to read. In addition, be prepared to be touched as I was by the author's accounts of what prison life was all about, as well as by her attempts to get her life back in order.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. On the premiere episode of THE SUZANNE [SOMERS] SHOW, Dr. Prudence Hall and Suzanne discuss everything you want to know about hormones. Good information for women, as well as for men. Wednesday at 7 a.m. on LIFETIME; repeated at 7 a.m. on Sunday on LIFETIME REAL WOMEN.

Note: I've seen the above episode and found it quite informative. If you like Somers, and I do, you can watch her new weekly show every Wednesday at the same time and on the same station.

B. MADE IN JERSEY airs on Fridays at 9 p.m. on CBS . . . it's a comedy about a beauty from a working-class background, Jersey-born and -bread, who manages to make her way into a fancy Manhattan law firm . . . according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Think LEGALLY BLONDE" meets WORKING GIRL . . . promising for its deft plotting and perhaps above all, its high spirits."

C. NORMA RAE, based on a true story, is about a woman in a minimum-wage job in a cotton mill who sets about to unionize her shop. Sally Field won her first Best Actress Oscar; an additional Oscar went to David Shire and Norman Gimbel for the film's theme song, "It Goes Like It Goes." Sunday at 2 p.m. on TCM.

D. CALL THE MIDWIFE is about a group of young, wide-eyed midwives who lives together in a convent in London's East End in the 1950s . . . "PBS delivers the good," notes TV GUIDE, [in a show that's] "a delight to watch. Fans of DOWNTOWN ABBEY, seeking the next transporting period-drama addiction are in for a treat over the next six weeks." Premieres Sunday at 8 p.m. on PBS.

Note: PBS times and dates often vary, so check local listings.

[Back to Top](#)

Joke 2

This reminds me of when my students would sometimes say in class, "Oh, my God." I'd immediately reply, "Please, that's a bit too formal. You can call me Blaine."



[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Asheville is lucky to have Mark Knollman, not only as a dentist . . . but also as a performer. See him handle both sides of the Willie Nelson/Julio Iglesias duet "To All the Girls I've Loved Before" with Tuxedo Junction by clicking:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgLjwH4cZio>

Good news: You can again catch Mark & Tuxedo Junction in concert on Sunday, October 14 at the Diana Wortham Theatre (from 5-7 p.m.) that will benefit the Downtown Welcome

Table. For tickets, please click:

<http://www.dwthetheatre.com/performances/calendar/2012-2013-rentals/haywood-street-congregation-presents-a-concert-4-hope>

And for more information about Mark, the dentist, please click:

<http://www.drknollman.com/>

B. As incredible as it may sound, I'm going to my 45th high school reunion in a few weeks . . . this clip has me wondering if I'll see this guy there:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QQzusr4IH0&feature=player_embedded#%20%C3%82%27

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

If you'd like to get my spin on how to negotiate, please click "Consulting" on the left and then "Article Samples." Find and read the one entitled "Negotiations 101."

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield



[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

Ever want to send big files to somebody else and gotten the message that the file was too big to send? There are ways to get around this problem; to learn how, please read:

http://email.about.com/od/sendbigfilesviaemail/tp/send_big_files.htm

You'll find out that there are several free websites to help you out . . . one I recently tried--and liked--can be found by clicking:

<https://www.transferbigfiles.com/>

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

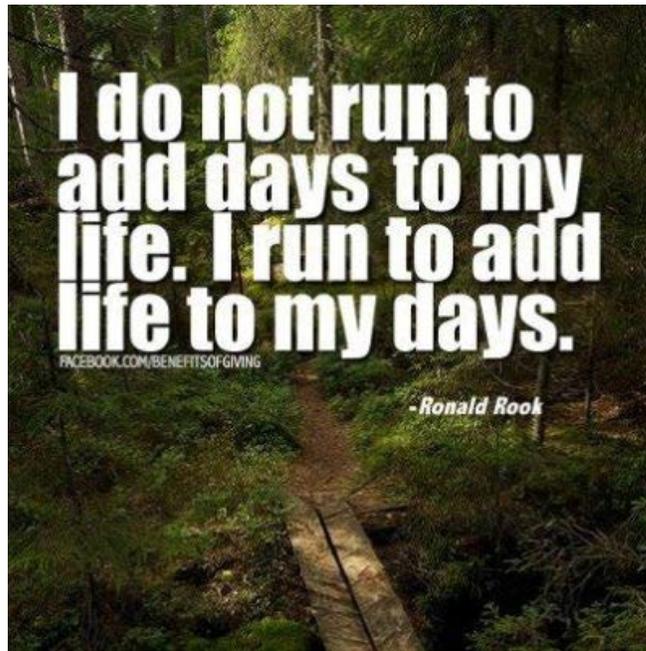
A woman goes to visit a fortune teller. In a dark and hazy room, peering into a crystal ball, the mystic delivered grave news: "There's no easy way to say this, so I'll just be blunt--prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent and horrible death this year."

Visibly shaken, the woman stares at the fortune teller's lined face, then at the single flickering candle, then down at her hands. She took a few deep breaths to compose herself. She simply had to know. She met the fortune teller's gaze, steadied her voice and asked her question: "Will I be found guilty?"

[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

I walk for the same reason!



[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

How would you like to be remembered?

About a hundred years ago, a man looked at the morning newspaper and to his surprise and horror, read his name in the obituary column. The newspapers had reported the death of the wrong person by mistake. His first response was shock. Am I here or there? When he regained his composure, his second thought was to find out what people had said about him. The obituary read, "Dynamite King Dies." And also "He was the merchant of death." This man was the inventor of dynamite and when he read the words "merchant of death," he asked himself a question, "Is this how I am going to be remembered?" He got in touch with his feelings and decided that this was not the way he wanted to be remembered. From that day on, he started working toward peace. His name was Alfred Nobel and he is remembered today by the great Nobel Prize.

Just as Alfred Nobel got in touch with his feelings and redefined his values, we should step back and do the same.

What is your legacy?
How would you like to be remembered?
Will you be spoken well of?
Will you be remembered with love and respect?
Will you be missed?

Source: Author unknown (If you know who wrote this and/or the source, please notify me.)

[Back to Top.](#)

12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-W7>

A. 1 seminar I'm presenting & 1 I'm moderating

(1) Survival Marketing. (2) National Encore Entrepreneur Mentor Day.

B. Other NC events

(1) Mars Hill College students will be performing GODSPELL. (2) Upcoming Zoodles dates. (3) Chuck F. in PA: I'm performing with TAP, The Autumn Players readers theater this weekend. (4) Grassroots Event with Vice President Joe Biden. (5) HAIRSPRAY runs from September 21-October 14, 2012 at Asheville Community Theatre. (6) Bob Hinkle Sings the Songs and tells the Stories of Harry Chapin! Sat Oct 6. (7) Asheville Juggling Festival, the Year of the Hootenanny, October 5-7.

C. PA/NJ event

October 13 Concert with Arlo Guthrie.

PS. Make it a great week!

Fast well if you celebrate the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur. And to help you enter the New Year with a smile, please click:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=00vFNzIXmNU

Back to Top

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINES WORLD

#834
9.17.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I joined friends for a delicious dinner at Vinnie's and then we went to UNCA to hear an engaging presentation by Dan Savage. He is a sex advice columnist that I've long admired, in large part because of his fight against disapproving views on homosexuality. In addition, I give both him and his husband Terry Miller credit for beginning the "It Gets Better Project" to help prevent suicide among LGBT youth. For more information about Savage, please click:
<http://www.thestranger.com/seattle/SavageLove?oid=14780741>



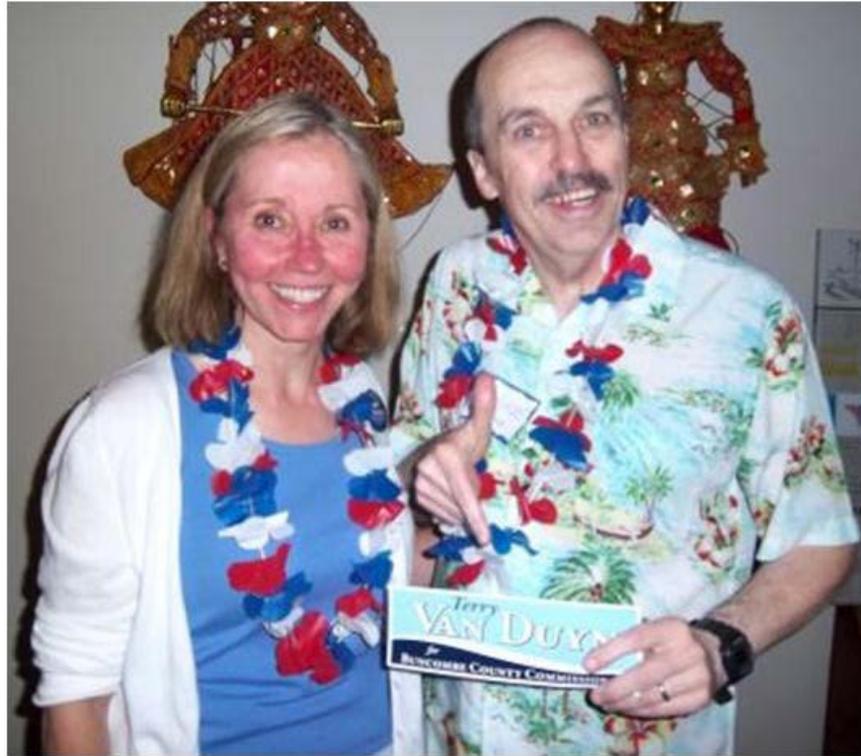
(l-r) Barrie Barton, Blaine Greenfield, Cynthia Greenfield and Julia Rosa

B. During the week, I spoke briefly at a neighborhood gathering on education issues in the upcoming national election.

Note: If you'd like a copy of the highlights of what I had to say, please send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put HIGHLIGHTS in the subject line.

Thanks to Linda Hollinshead for doing an excellent job in moderating the evening, as well as to Margie Zack, Louise Glickman, Marilynne Herbert, Carolyn Tennefoss and others for helping to arrange the everything.

I also got to meet with Terry Van Duyn, a candidate for Buncombe County Commissioner who has my vote. To find out more about this dynamic woman, please click: <http://tinyurl.com/9bwaxsb>



C. I went with my friend Chuck to see THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL at the Henderson Little Theatre. The production was quite moving, and Faye Berry deserves special recognition for her work in a leading role that was very demanding. Sy Berg's direction was right on topic.

You're in luck, too, in that the production runs for another week. For ticket information, please click:

<http://hendersonvillelittletheatre.org/>

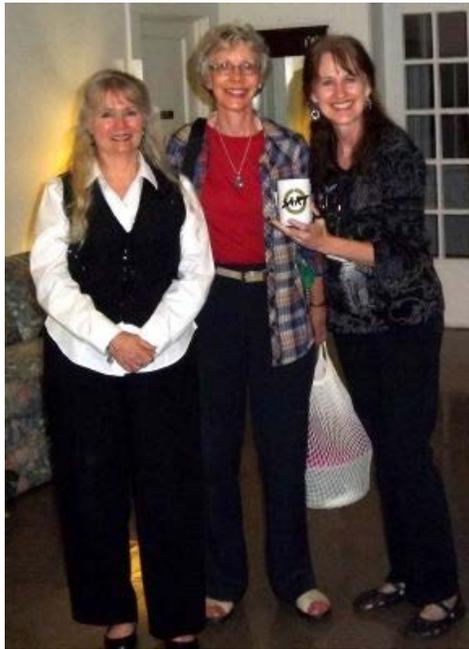
Afterward, we went for dinner at Hannah Flanagan's in downtown Hendersonville. That's the first time I've been there; it won't be the last. We both ordered and enjoyed tasty chicken pot pies. Our accompanying salads were equally good. And the service from Heather was most attentive.

For more information about this eatery that's advertised as "Where everybody's Irish," please click:

<http://theoriginalhannahflanagans.com/>

On another night, I participated in the first Volunteer Recognition Night for those who have helped at SART this past year.

Special thanks to Theresa Phillips for coordinating the work of our ushers and to Sharon Christensen for handling all the readers who participated in our ScriptFEST competition, as well as to all the other Board members who put in countless hours of service to the organization. They also helped this particular evening by providing refreshments.



(l-r) Louisa Menick, Patty Higgins and Theresa Phillips

***** GREAT NEWS FOR BLAINESWORLD READERS *****

Two individuals who attended, Patty and Sharon, were both very kind to share the recipes for the mouth-watering desserts they brought.

(1) Orange Cream Dessert Squares (from Patty)



For the recipe, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-VA>

Peanut Butter Bars (from Sharon)

For the recipe, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-VA>

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Eliana Girard for being named top female dancer in this year's SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE competition. Your votes were much appreciated! (For those of you who may have missed this event that I've been closely following, I was pulling for Eliana from the very beginning because her mom--Della Sriker--was a high school classmate of mine.)

(2) Asheville for again being recognized nationally. This time, it was named as one of the nation's Top Psychic Places by Travel.com, which says it is shaping into a "New Age mecca." For more information, please click:

<http://www.travelchannel.com/interests/haunted/articles/most-psychic-places-in-america>

(3) Dennis Dennis Kwiatkowski for being named as one of the two candidate for the a seat on the Biltmore Lake Board of Directors.

Note: Yours truly was the other person nominated.

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

This week, it goes to Greg Smith--an employee at Discount Shoes, 1282 Bevard Road, Asheville; 828.667.0085.

I am not a big shopping fan. Every few years, Cynthia says it's about that time--and she accompanies me to buy shoes.

This particular store is not far from us. She has gone there before and has always been impressed by the large selection that's available at prices that are somewhat discounted.

Recently, we went there and were fortunate to have Greg come up to help us. He was both friendly and knowledgeable, and he made the whole experience a positive one.

He took shoes down from the shelves and put them back for us, something you don't see happen very much anymore, and he even unlaced the shoes before giving them to me to try on.

The end result: I bought a pair of everyday shoes and a pair of sneakers . . . and was able to make both purchases within 30 minutes.

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

Jo C. in PA: The gift of life is in your hands

The last thing Robert Berue remembers before he died is sweeping freshly mowed grass clippings off the front porch of his Middletown home.

His third heart attack - which turned into cardiac arrest - happened on a sunny Saturday morning in June as some neighbors were outside on their lawns only a few doors away and unaware of what was happening.

For the rest of this informative article (about the use of hands-only CPR) by Jo, please click:

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/local/courier_times_news/the-gift-of-life-is-in-your-hands/article_79138710-ce3c-59db-945d-faadd57eb6df.html?_dc=236259535420.686

And for a good video on how to utilize the above technique, please click:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=zSgmledxFe8

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Mark J. in NC: Melanie Martinez's Audition: "Toxic" - The Voice

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=_4CI6HUx7Qc

(2) Marie V. in NJ: Say a Little Prayer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kafVkPxjLYg&NR=1>

(3) Carol S. in PA: Heart & Soul (Hoagy Carmichael)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8CSjDC18b0>

Note: Above reminded me of one of my favorite versions of song by the Clefstones:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3tViAbf6z0>

(4) Tony M. in LA: LES MISERABLES preview clip (extended first look)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=wwgQjfg0hZw

Note: I can't wait until the film opens in December!

(5) Risa O. in NJ: Dog trying to get a stranger to throw a stick to him

<http://www.wimp.com/throwstick/>

(6) Rod L. in NC: Call Me Maybe - for Choir and Orchestra

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=oFVhSDQmlxs

(7) Tracy S. in NC: Some Zen goodness from the TV show "Life" - on Netflix and NBC.com, recommended. (You can watch episodes online for free.)

<http://www.nbc.com/Life/>

(8) Ruth Anne Wood in Pennsylvani for I'VE BEEN TURNED INTO a CARTOON for one of Joel's PBS movies

<http://vimeo.com/49264467#>

B. Other

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-VA>

(1) Daniel H. in NC: Section 11 was very interesting. (2) Skip G. in PA (with a FANTASTIC BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY, regardless of where you live). (3) Pat H. in PA: No joke [on use of neti pot] I used to have BIG TIME sinus issues. (4) Elaine B. in PA: This "package" [BLAINESWORLD] is always interesting. (5) Sharon B. in PA: I am passing along a link to the new movie, Genetic Roulette. (6) Gordy F. in NJ; Loved it!! (7) Rock E. in NC: Howdy back...if you haven't already, please check out my updated YouTube channel. (8) Jo C. in PA: You know how much I love Factcheck.org so if you have any campaign or fundraising mailers you think contain suspect claims send it to Factcheck's Spin Detectors. (9) Lori in GA: I always think you are a wonder, Blaine! (10) Terri S. in PA (with a REQUEST FOR HELP). (11) Ryan P. in NC: Secrets to longevity offered by healthiest people over 99. (12) Bruce S. in AZ: "Trouble With The Curve" is Clint Eastwood's Father & Daughter (Amy Adams) Story immersed in the baseball scouting world- lots of fun along the way. (13) Norm K. in FL: Only trouble I had with Trouble with the Curve is that the star of it made a jerk out of himself at the Republican convention and it kept impacting film.

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

An Italian grandmother is giving directions to her grown grandson who is coming to visit with his wife.

"You comma to de front door of the apartmenta. I am inna apartmenta 301.

"There issa bigga panel at the front door. With you elbow, pusha button 301. I will buzza you in. Come inside, the elevator is on the right. Get in, and with you elbow, pusha 3.

"When you get out, I'mma on the left. With you elbow, hit my doorbell."

"Grandma, that sounds easy," says the grandson. "But why am I hitting all these buttons with my elbow?"

"What . . . you coming empty handed?"

[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. ARBITRAGE looked great in the coming attractions . . . it appeared to be an exciting thriller about a hedge-fund manager whose life takes a turn for the worse after he is an accident . . . Richard Gere is OK in the leading role; Susan Sarandon appears to have gotten lost on the cutting room floor . . . though advertised with a running length of 1 hour 40 minutes, the film seemed longer . . . it is also a bit too technical at times . . . rated R.

B. THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #818 follows:

THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL is the sweet, touching story about a group of British retirees who decide to move to the less expensive and seemingly more exotic India. Though their new destination is less luxurious than imagined, the group is transformed by their shared experiences. There's excellent acting by an ensemble class; in particular, I liked the work of Bill Nighy who doesn't play his usual outgoing self. Rated PG-13.

C. I was intrigued by the premise behind THE VALUE INVESTORS: LESSONS FROM THE WORLD'S TOP FUND MANAGERS (Wiley) by Ronad W. Chan.

The author, head of an investment management company based in Hong Kong, interviewed 12 value-investing legends from around the world in an attempt to learn how their personal background, culture and life experiences have shaped their investment strategies.

Chan also shared why he got into the field:

* The best advice I have ever received came from my father. When I began searching for a career after finishing college, he advised me to stay away from three potential headaches in business: labor, rent, and inventory.

As any labor-intensive business is likely to lead to office politics, my father advised that I look for a business that requires little manpower. Then, as the high office rents in a world city such as Hong Kong can easily squeeze profits, he said the ideal is to find a business that requires little office space. Finally, as handling any type of inventory requires both manpower and space, an inventory-based business should also be avoided.

Taking his advice to heart and looking for a business that met these three criteria, I found investment management to be a perfect fit. The labor force is my brain, the office need only accommodate a few desks, and the inventory is the investment positions recorded in brokerage accounts.

I found his interviews fascinating, particularly the two with 106-year-old Irving Kahn, who worked closely with the "father of value investing," Benjaim Grham and remains active today; and 95-year-old Water Schloss, described by Warren Beuffet as the "super investor from Grhaham-andDiddsville."

Their advice got me thinking, too. For example, there was this tidbit:

* "When Walter [Schloss] and Edwin were asked in 1989 by Outstanding Investors Digest, 'How would you summarize your approach?' Edwin replied, 'We try to buy stocks cheap.' So much for Modern Portfolio Theory, technical analysis, macroeconomic thoughts and complex algorithms."

And I also liked this one from Kahn:

* "There is nothing wrong with being an emotional person, but when it comes to investing, you need to set your own valuation standard. Then you also need to keep your emotions in check so that you are not affected by the general market. Sometimes, the best thing to do is nothing. But when the market is strong and everyone is telling you to buy, fighting temptation is easier said than done. Similarly, in a market crisis, when everyone is saying the stock market is dead, you need the courage to buy. In many ways, you need to train yourself to become a contrarian!"

The last chapter of VALUE INVESTORS was particularly valuable. It conains Chan's advice on how to become a value investor.

D. RATHER OUTSPOKEN: MY LIFE IN THE NEWS (Hachette Audio), written by Dan Rather with Digby Diehl and and narrated by Rather is the famed journalist's fourth memoir

Ordinarily, I stop reading about anybody's life after the first such book . . . but in this case, since I hadn't read any of the previous efforts, I was interested in finding more about the author that I had watched for a large part of my adult life. I also wanted to know more the controversy that surrounded his leaving CBS in 2005.

RATHER OUTSPOKEN proved to be a fascinating history lesson . . . it covered the tenure of several presidents, as well as skirmishes that took the author throughout the world . . . as for CBS, as I had imagined, he was not impressed with the way the company handled his potentially damning story about then-president George W. Bush's military record--calling management "spineless" and risk-adverse."

In addition, I gained a greater appreciation of what being a journalist is all about . . . and, as a result, I strongly recommend this book to anybody considering entry into that field . . . news junkies will also like it a lot.

***** CONTEST #19 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of the book on CD, SISTERS RED (Hachette Audio) by Jackson Pearce . . . here's what BOOKLIST had to say:

Pearce mixes werewolves and classic fairy tales to create a lushly romantic story of two sisters who hunt the Fenris, werewolves who roam in search of adolescent girls to eat. . . . Readers of Stephenie Meyer, Donna Jo Napoli, and Shannon Hale will enjoy the excitement, romance, supernatural elements, and fairy tale references.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #19" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, September 23.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

You watching any of the new shows on TV this season? If so, please do share feedback on what you like and/or dislike. I'll do the same.

A. Jimmy Kimmel hosts the 64th ANNUAL PRIME TIME EMMY AWARDS on Sunday night at 8 p.m. on ABC . . . I'm rooting for CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM to take best Comedy Series and for Zoey Deschanel to win Best Actress in a Comedy . . . how VEEP and Julia Louis-Dreyfus got nominated in both these categories is beyond me . . . that latter show is terrible.

B. THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK airs on Monday, September 24, at 10 p.m. on TCM . . . this drama about Jewish refugees hiding in WW2 Amsterdam. Shelly Winters won a Supporting Actress Oscar for her performance, the cinematography and art direction/set decoration also earned Academy Awards.

C. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "THE MINDY PROJECT is a romantic comedy about a woman who is addicted to the belief-propagated by decades of chick flicks and television-that there is somebody out there for each of us if only we can find him. . . . It takes a genre full of clichés, adds something fresh and spins it into gold." Tuesdays, starting on 9.25, at 9:30 p.m. on FOX.

D. VEGAS is a new 60s era drama about the mob-ification of Sin City . . . I'll be watching because it stars Dennis Quaid, long one of my favorite actors . . . notes Matt Roush in TV GUIDE, "Seems a safe bet that the charismatic Quaid, as a gruff lion of lamb who takes no gruff from criminals, will be CBS' next breakout star. He gets a powerful showcase in this evocative Western procedural and a terrific adversary in the steely [Michael] Chiklis . . . Tuesdays, starting on 9.25, at 10 p.m. on CBS.

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

On this guy's 86th birthday, his friends decide to surprise him. They engage the services of a beautiful young woman who knocks on his door and says, "Your buddies thought you'd enjoy some super sex!"

The old guy thinks a minute and replies, "I'll take the soup."



[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Stefanie in NC (WITH A FUN NVITE): 2012 Spooky Photo Contest
Dressing up for Halloween? Dress up your furniture too!
<http://www.groovytables.com/photo-contest/>

B. Alyson M. in CO: Write a message in Puppies. Everyone loves puppies.
<http://www.puppytext.com/view11947QGAFWI>

Note: I used the above to create a special link just for you, oh-so-faithful reader. To view it, please click:
<http://www.puppytext.com/view13320BDJCUG>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

If you run a business and want to increase your profits, click "Consulting" to the left and then "Article Samples" . . . See "C" about a concept known as the Loyalty Ladder.

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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Like us on Facebook 

[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

Alison O. in NJ: Just got a call from someone claiming to be Windows Technical Support that my computer has a virus which is hidden...and if I don't get it fixed RIGHT NOW, it will crash. If you get this call, HANG UP. It's a scam. I only wish that Windows Technical Support would call me! I can't even get them on the phone when I need them! If I was in the mood, I would have played along, but I wasn't, so I told them I would call them right back. They gave me a number, 210-757-0606, which I have no intention of calling. This article explains exactly what happened to me....Just an FYI, y'all! Want to protect my trusting friends out there!

Cold Calling Computer Technicians: Don't Fall For A Scam Like This [Scam Alert!]
<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/cold-calling-computer-technicians-fall-scam-scam-alert/>

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

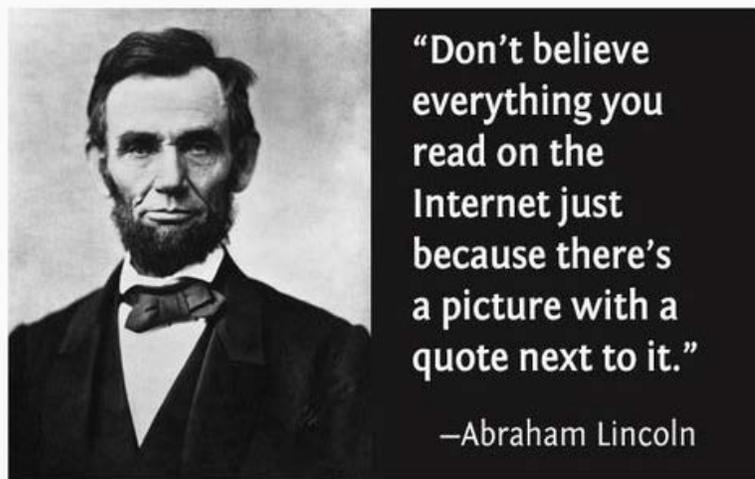
Five rules for men to follow for a happy life (copied from the tombstone of a Utah cowboy)

1. It's important to have a woman who helps at home, cooks from time to time, cleans up and has a job.
2. It's important to have a woman who can make you laugh.
3. It's important to have a woman who you can trust, and doesn't lie to you.
4. It's important to have a woman who is good in bed, and likes to be with you.
5. It's very, very important that these four women do not know each other or you could end up dead like me.

[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

This is true because Honest Abe said it . . .



[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

You won't benefit from anonymous criticism
by Seth Godin*

I recently heard from a TED speaker who was able to quote, verbatim, truly nasty comments people had posted about her talk.

And yet, I've never once met an author who said, "Well, my writing wasn't resonating, but then I read all the 1 star reviews on Amazon, took their criticism to heart and now I'm doing great..."

There are plenty of ways to get useful and constructive feedback. It starts with looking someone in the eye, with having a direct one on one conversation or email correspondence with a customer who cares. Forms, surveys, mass emails, tweets--none of this is going to do anything but depress you, confuse you (hey, half the audience wants one thing, the other half wants the opposite!) or paralyze you.

I'm arguing that it's a positive habit to deliberately insulate yourself from this feedback. Don't ask for it and don't look for it.

Yes, change what you make to enhance delight. No, don't punish yourself by listening to the mob.

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Seth Godin, one of my favorite bloggers. To subscribe to his informative blog on marketing, tribes and respect, please click: <http://www.feedblitz.com/ff.fbz?Sub=198516>

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following events in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-VA>

A. 1 seminar I'm presenting & 1 I'm moderating

(1) Survival Marketing. (2) National Encore Entrepreneur Mentor Day.

B. Other NC events

(1) White Horse Black Mountain presents Lonesome River Band. (2) 2012 Wellness Expo. (3) Asheville Community Show Choir. (4) Heaven on Earth. (5) Zoodles. (6) MILF: THE MUSICAL.

c. PA/NJ events

(1) Mr. Mike teaches a comprehensive 4-hour women's self defense seminar. (2) Dr. Helen Caldicott at Pennswood Village.

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week, as well as a fantastic start to the fall season (that officially begins on Saturday) . . . and to get you in the mood, please click:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fZtEPfZJ4I>

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I joined our friend Tammy for a delicious dinner at the Grovewood Café. We all enjoyed our respective dishes: chicken for me, lamb chops for Cynthia and Trout for Tammy. For more information about this restaurant that we only recently discovered, please click:
<http://www.grovewoodcafe.com/>



B. We also had a tasty dinner recently at Chef Mo's, a place we had often passed but had never frequented. Our mistake. This eatery on Hendersonville Road has a friendly staff and excellent food. I ordered something new (a rarity for me): the veal picatta dish with pasta and loved it. Cynthia had the same thing to say about her beer-battered lobster tail. She also liked her Caesar salad. An added nice touch: Chef Mo, also the owner, stopped by twice--first to welcome us and then to see if everything was OK. For more information, please click:
<http://chefmo.com/>

C. Personally, I had a bittersweet experience at a SART Board meeting. Lori Lynn Mullet, our dynamic Office Manager, will be leaving us after several years of dedicated service. That's me with her, along with Andy Sorenson (left)--our treasurer.



We thanked her for all her hard work and, at the same time, gave her a gift certificate to Storm Rhum Bar & Bistro at 125 S. Lexington Avenue--another place I've been told that I just have to try.

Lori Lynn will be missed by all! Fortunately for us, though, she will be replaced by Katherine Quinn . . . if you came and ordered tickets this past summer, you may recognize the name . . . she was the woman who did such a great job as our Box Office manager.
D. Congratulations to:

(1) Tom and Marianne O'Keefe on the birth of Lennan Shapiro, their grandson.

(2) Hayley Roper Wells and her husband Damian who completed the Mountain Medley Triathlon and who each placed third in their respective fields.

(3) Congratulations to Leonard E. in NC, winner of Contest #18: the book on CD, I CAN SEE YOU (Hachette Audio) by Karen Rose . . . all told, there were 6 entries . . . and that reminds me that it's now time to introduce . . .

***** CONTEST #19 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of the book on CD, SISTERS RED (Hachette Audio) by Jackson Pearce . . . here's what BOOKLIST had to say:

Pearce mixes werewolves and classic fairy tales to create a lushly romantic story of two sisters who hunt the Fenris, werewolves who roam in search of adolescent girls to eat. . . . Readers of Stephenie Meyer, Donna Jo Napoli, and Shannon Hale will enjoy the excitement, romance, supernatural elements, and fairy tale references.

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

This week, it goes to Tammie Whitlock--AVP Banking Center Manager for the Asheville Savings Bank location in Mars Hill, NC.

Tammy has been a big help to the SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre) organization, often going out of her way to provide what seems to be personalized service to us. And how often do you see that any more in banking?

She is great at both returning calls and providing answers, and on behalf of SART, I can say we're most appreciative of all her help.

In addition, I would be remiss if I didn't also mention the service provided by two other employees of the same bank: Emily Wheeler, Customer Service Representative and Rita Ramsey, Customer Service Manager. Together with Tammy, they make up a team that's top notch!

If you'd like to open an account at this branch, drop by 105 North Main St., Mars Hill or call 828.689.2600 to speak to any of the aforementioned individuals.

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

Rare Infection Prompts Neti Pot Warning
By Tara Parker-Pope

Neti pots--those odd teapotlike vessels used to wash out the nasal passage--have won legions of fans who rely on them for relief from allergies, congestion and colds.

But now, after two cases of a deadly brain infection were linked to neti pots, government health officials have issued new warnings about using them safely.

For the rest of this informative article, please click:

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/09/03/rare-infection-prompts-neti-pot-warning/?emc=eta1>

Note: Cynthia is a big fan of the above product and so is my friend Kevin J. in PA. It is something you might want to check out, especially if you have sinus problems.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Kelly C. in NC: One term more (clever Obama parody)
http://www.onetermmore.com/video_subtitles.html

(2) Dan B. in PA: Steve Bridges as President Barack Obama
http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?feature=player_embedded&v=WH_a0cGVRml

Note: Unfortunately, this guy (who also did a very funny impression of George Bush) died on March 3, 2012

(3) Ted R. in NC: 4 Year Old Boy Plays Piano Better Than Any Master
<http://www.godvine.com/4-Year-Old-Boy-Plays-Piano-Better-Than-Any-Master-Wow-1890.html#.UE1tXLYfcZk.facebook>

(4) Rock E. in NC: The Bi*ch Of Living
<http://www.myspace.com/video/rockebien/the-bitch-of-living/108955468>

Note: Above was from SPRING AWAKENING, a show he did a fantastic job of directing and that featured several local favorites, including Daniel Hansley, Stefanie Crane and Tony Fogelman.

(5) A Tribute to "The Great One," Jackie Gleason
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CgNwBh8vOY&feature=youtube_gdata_player

(6) Joe Cocker - You Can Leave Your Hat On
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4b04jq7NB1s>

B. Other

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Ve>

(1) Ellen C. in PA: We tend to like the same films. (2) Nevin T. in NC: Looking forward to latest BW. (3) Nelson S. in NC: Unfortunately, this is not just true for political campaign donor citizenship. (4) Ginger E. in FL: What influences credit scores. (5) Vilasi V. in NJ: News: Just Give In | Psychology Today. (6) Janeen R. in PA: Artists in Devon. (7) Janet S. in NJ: HOW TO STOP BEING YOUR WORST ENEMY. (8) Natalie K. in PA: Just finished watching the last of the Tudor series. (9) Bobbie R. in NC (with a REQUEST FOR HELP).

Back to Top

3. Joke 1

In a convent in Ireland, the 98-year-old Mother Superior lay dying. The nuns gathered around her bed trying to make her last journey comfortable. They tried giving her warm milk to drink, but she refused it.

One of the nuns took the glass back to the kitchen. Then, remembering a bottle of Irish Whiskey that had been received as a gift the previous Christmas, she opened it and poured a generous amount into the warm milk.

Back at the Mother Superior's bed, they held the glass to her lips. The frail nun drank a little, then a little more and before they knew it, she had finished the whole glass down to the last drop.

As her eyes brightened, the nuns thought it would be a good opportunity to have one last talk with their spiritual leader. "Mother," the nuns asked earnestly, "please give us some of your wisdom before you leave us."

She raised herself up in bed on one elbow, looked at them and said: "Don't sell that cow."

[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. SLEEPWALK WITH ME is a romantic comedy about a standup comedian who is struggling to get his career going while also dealing with a stalled relationship and bouts of sleepwalking . . . comedian-turned-playwright-turned-filmmaker Mike Birbiglia based this film on his autobiographically inspired one-man show . . . it's not as great as some of the reviews indicate, but it is definitely watchable . . . and if you're a wannabe comedian or interested in becoming one, then you must see this . . . unrated, but methinks appropriate for mature teenagers over the age of 15.

B. WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #820 follows:

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING surprised me . . . the reviews weren't very good, yet I found myself enjoying this romantic comedy/drama about several couples whose lives all change when pregnancy enters the picture . . . though the various story lines were fairly predictable, they all held my interest in large part because of fine performances from the entire cast . . . and most notably from these actresses: Jennifer Lopez, Cameron Diaz, Elizabeth Banks, Anna Kendrick and Brooklyn Decker . . . if you don't catch it in a movie theatre, methinks it will make for a good DVD rental . . . rated PG-13.

C. I don't have a real desire to be a stand-up comedian, but the profession has always had a strange fascination for me . . . reading COMIC INSIGHTS: THE ART OF STAND-UP COMEDY (Silman-James Press) by Franklyn Ajaye has made me even more interested in the subject.

The author, an Emmy-nominated writer/producer/actor/comedian, begins this informative book with his notes on standup. These include tips on what it takes to become a stand-up comedian, elements of the craft, writing your material, performing and doing television talk shows.

Among his suggestions was this one:

* An important note when putting together your first set: Always put what you consider to be your strongest material last. A strong ending can save a weak beginning, but not vice versa. It's a law of performing-the audience remembers how you end, not how you begin. If you start out bad or tentative, there's always the probability that you will relax more as the performance goes on, so by the time you get to your strongest material, your delivery will be at it's most relaxed and natural-allowing you to see the routine in the right way and end your set with a good laugh.

Ajaye then presents interviews with 17 different comedians, including Richard Belzer, George Carolin, Ellen DeGeneres, Jay Leno, Bill Maher, Chris Rock and Jonathan Winters. Though these interviews were not designed to highlight jokes, there were some funny tidbits--including this from Sinbad:

* My most nervous moment was when I had a gig at an old folk's show. And there was man who sat in the audience the whole time and just looked at me. And his wife was laughing, and he was looking at me. I said, "Man, what are you, deaf?" She said, "Yes, he is." Well, the audience just gasped. And I said, "He's lucky, because he doesn't have to hear you nagging." And she said it to him, and he cracked up. And it saved me.

Lastly, COMIC INSIGHTS concluded with a section called "Searching for Talent" that had interviews with noted comedy club owners Budd Friedman and Jamie Masada, agent Irving Arthur and personal manager Buddy Mora.

I especially liked Friedman's answer to the question of whether someone can be taught to be a good stand-up or is it inbred.

* I think hat people can teach themselves to be a comedian, but how good they get depends on what's inbred in them. I consider David Brenner a manufactured comedian. He worked his ass off developing his act. He started out going on at five in the morning on 44th Street, he taped every show he ever did, and more importantly, he would go home and listen to the tapes. A lot of comics tape their shows, but don't listen to them. Robert Klein was the first that I know of to use a tape recorder. To show you how far back this was, he had a reel-to-reel Wollensak that he would stick in the back room. It was hilarious, when you think about what we use today.

Read COMIC INSIGHTS if you are a comedian or want to be one . . . however, others will like it if they wish to gain insight into a field that's a lot harder than what might appear to the casual observer.

D. Several years ago, I saw RIDING THE BUSINESS WITH SISTER-- a "Hallmark Hall of Fame" TV movie about a mentally challenged woman who spends every day riding the buses in her Pennsylvania city. It starred Rosie O'Donnell and Andie MacDowell, and I remember enjoying it.

The CD version of the book (Hachette Audio) was recently released . . . written and read by the author, Rachel Simon, I was reminded me of what a great story this is . . . Beth, a spirited woman, lives independently and has a boyfriend . . . she is both joyful and feisty, in contrast to her single sister Rachel who hides her loneliness between a busy work schedule.

Things change when Beth asks Rachel to accompany her on the buses for one year. . . Rachel finally grows to accept her sister and, also, learns to slow down and enjoy the ride.

Though not a professional performer, Simon's narration was particularly outstanding . . . when voicing Beth, she really seems like somebody who has an intellectual disability.

In addition, I liked the Afterword that served to update me from where the film left off, as well as the interview with the author that gave me insight into her writing.

Back to Top

5. TV alert

A. KATIE, Katie Couric's new syndicated daytime talk, show, debuts on Monday, September 10 . . . in the Asheville area, it airs weekdays at 4 p.m. on WLOS; for a station near you, click:
<http://www.katiecouric.com/>.

B. THE FORTUNE COOKIE is a very funny comedy about a crooked lawyer who trumps up an insurance case for a cameraman injured at a pro football game. It was the first time that Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau were teamed in a movie, and the latter earned a Best Supporting Oscar for his work. Saturday at 3:45 on TCM.

C. BOARDWALK EMPIRE returns for its third season on Sunday at 9 p.m. on NBC . . . Bobby Cannavale has been added to the cast as short-tempered Gyp Roseti, which means that life could become even more difficult for Nucky (Steve Buscemi).

D. The top four finalists on SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE visit the ELLEN show on Monday, September 17 at 4 p.m. . . . in the Asheville area, it airs at 4 p.m. on WYFF; for a station near you, click:
<http://www.ellentv.com/page/2009/08/21/when-its-on/>

The winners will then announced on Tuesday, September 18 at p.m. on FOX. As you probably know, I'm rooting for Eliana Girard (pictured below)--daughter of Della Striker. a high school classmate.



Note: Thanks very much to all those who voted for her throughout the season.

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2



[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Joyce L. in NJ: Very touching . . . whether it's true or not. J
"The fork" - YOU MUST WATCH! (A beautiful story.)

I make a habit of not watching these movies, but for some reason I did watch this one, and I am not sorry that I did. You be the judge.

<http://spiritclips.com/films/thefork>

B. One song, many great versions

(1) Call Me Maybe - Carly Rae Jepsen (original version)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWNaR-rxAic>

(2) Justin Bieber, Selena, Ashley Tisdale & MORE!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsBsBU3vn6M>

(3) 2012 USA Olympic Swimming Team

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPIA7mpm1wU>

(4) President Obama even gets into the act

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hX1YVzdnEc&feature=endscreen&NR=1&noredirect=1>

(5) Perhaps my favorite version: Sesame Street, Share It Maybe

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qTIGg3I5y8>

(6) And for one more, see the PS after Section 12 in this week's issue.

Note: For an informative article on the topic, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/22/business/media/how-call-me-maybe-and-social-media-are-upending-music.html?src=mv&ref=general>

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

If you're curious what this website is all about, check the box at the top of the home page.

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield



[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

If you're on Facebook or some other such site, and you're getting bogged down (for example, with political posts from friends who don't bother checking to see if they're correct), one easy thing to do is just remove that person from your News Feed. To do so, click that person's name and then you'll see a box to the right that says "Friends." Click that box and a drop down menu appears. Make sure no options are checked--especially the one that says "Show in News Feed." You'll then not have to see what that particular person posted. The end result is that you'll sleep a lot sounder!

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

A husband and wife are shopping in their local Target. The husband picks up a case of Budweiser and puts it in their cart. "What do you think you're doing?" asks the wife. "They're on sale, only \$10 for 24 cans" he replies. "Put them back, we can't afford them," demands the wife, and so they carry on shopping.

A few aisles further on, the woman picks up a \$20 jar of face cream and puts it in the basket. "What do you think you're doing?" asks the husband. "It's my face cream. It makes me look beautiful," replies the wife. Her husband retorts: "So does 24 cans of Budweiser, and it's half the price."

He never knew what hit him.



[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

Money is a measure of your service. If you want more money, give more service.--Jim Donovan, American motivational speaker and author

[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

ONE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WILL LOSE THE ELECTION:

How we can begin to prepare for loss

by Rabbi Mel Glazer*

In less than three months, we will have our annual Presidential election. By then, Mitt and Barak will have criss-crossed America and filled our minds with facts, feelings and funny (and some not-so-funny) stories about themselves, their families, their childhoods, and why we should vote for them.

And then Election Day will come, and one of them will lose. How will his supporters feel about that? That loss will be a grief-moment for half of America. It will be like the death of a loved one, a man we believed in and supported and whose candidacy we argued for, and then he will gracefully concede, for that is the American way. Those who voted for him will then have to grieve his loss, and move on. How will they do that, and how will their grief not consume them?

It will not be a whole lot different than the death of any other loved one, just that this loved one became a public figure, many of us identified with him and with what he stood for. Grief is tough, how shall we accept his "loss" and move on?

I was twelve years old when my Daddy died. But even worse than his death, he was a hard worker who went to work every day before I woke up and returned every night after I was in bed. I never saw him during the week, only on weekends. So the issue was not only that he died, the real issue was that we had no serious father-son relationship. When he died, there wasn't a whole lot of difference for me from when he lived. It was the missing relationship that was so important, and we didn't have one.

So too for America. We are polarized, our leaders can't figure out how to compromise on critical issues that have any kind of impact on our lives. Money, jobs, healthcare, and many more. Problem is, our legislators won't talk to each other nicely, and they won't play well in the sandbox with each other. So, when one side loses, they will be plenty angry. But they're already angry, and it will get worse, which is probably why they lost in the first place!

What do we need to do? Here are three tips about dealing with loss, the loss of a loved one or the loss of an election:

1. We only learn anything important about ourselves by how we respond to the losses in our lives. The losing political party will need to talk about the loss, and what it means to them. That's called grief.
2. Loss is our teacher. So the losing party has to figure out what the "life-lessons" of this loss are. That's called mourning.
3. Teachers should be honored. The winners did better, they must be respected. Not yelled at, and not demonized. That's called healing.

If our leaders won't learn how to play nicely in the sandbox with each other, then it really won't matter who won this election and who lost.

And that would be a loss for us all!

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Rabbi Mel Glazer who has been a Rabbi and Grief Therapist for almost 40 years. He joyfully leads grievors "from mourning to morning" and helps them move forward to a life lived with joy and meaning. He may be reached at griefok@aol.com.

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

To read about all the following events, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Ve>

A. 1 seminar I'm presenting & 1 I'm moderating

(1) Survival Marketing. (2) National Encore Entrepreneur Mentor Day.

B. Other NC events

(1) MLF: The Musical. (2) Asheville Jazz Orchestra.

C. PA/NJ events

(1) The Bucks County Illustrators Society is hosting another event. (2) The Best Man performs Sept. 14 - Oct. 7 at The Heritage Center in Morrisville. (3) Doylestown Arts Festival. (4) Angels in America.

PS. Make it a great week. Also, Shana Tova . . . that is Hebrew for my wish for you for a good year, which begins if you're Jewish on this coming Sunday, September 16 . . . or even if you're not Jewish, join me in celebrating this holiday and all others . . . more food, friends and fun that way, as well as a lot of great music as can be seen by clicking:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gj8nUAdgMw&feature=youtube_gdata_player

[Back to Top](#)

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINES WORLD

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In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

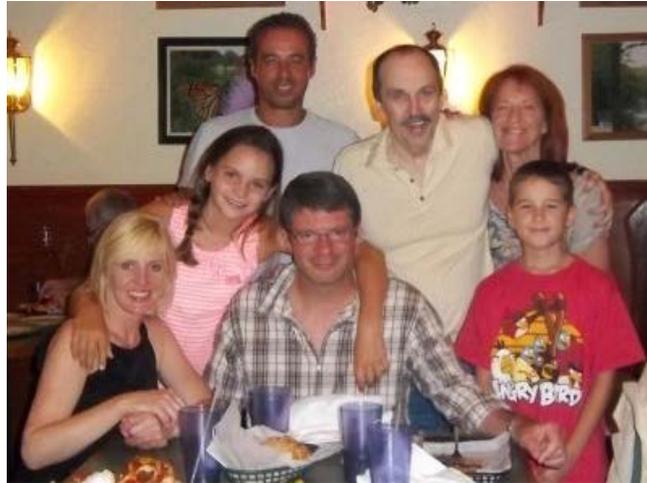
A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a blast at the return of Asheville Vaudeville at the Magnetic Field . . . as always, we got a kick out of the juggling performance from Forty Fingers & a Missing Tooth . . . that's us with two of the members of the troupe that evening, Ingrid Johnson and Walter Beals (not pictured: Keith Campbell).



Our favorite magician, Tom Hughes, was fantastic as the emcee . . . and he even got Cynthia to help with one of his tricks.



B. A few nights later, we joined our friends for dinner at one of our favorite pizza places in the area: Frank's Roman Pizza.



(l-r) front row: Tammy Strange, Ella Kraner, Stuart Kraner and Conor Rosa; back row: Jerry Rosa, Blaine Greenfield and Cynthia Greenfield

C. I'm so proud of the fact that Cynthia will again be participating in the Community Choreography Projects this year. That's her (standing third from the left) in the 2011 performance; our friend Majo is on the far right.



I mention that because plans are currently underway for 2013, and you're invited to join as a performer to be part of the fun. This is something that's open to both males and females, regardless of your level of experience. Non-performers are welcome, too, to help behind the scenes.

To find out more, please read the following email that we recently received:

Embark on a life changing and personally expressive experience by joining the cast for the next collaborative project of Community Choreography Projects: *Dying to Tell A Secret*.

Community Choreography Projects is an open-call community, performance art theater company led by Artistic Director, Barrie Barton. We create collaborative, community-based performance culminating into movement theater pieces. These movement theater pieces are the distilled collection of stories and movements from cast members.

Bring your stories about secrets--the funny, mysterious, noble, tragic and protective ones. Maybe you are someone who puts everything out in the open? Your perspective is welcome too. Or maybe you witness the consequences of others holding a secret and have a perspective to share. The subject is wide and deep and ready for exploration through movement and story-making.

No prior experience is required. Rehearsals are on Mondays beginning Oct. 15, 5:45-8 p.m. All rehearsals are at Jubilee!, located in Asheville.

For information: www.communitychoreography.com; 828.658.1217.

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Tom and Jennifer Orr on their recent marriage.

(2) Richard Shulman on becoming an adjunct faculty member at UNCA and, also, for having provided musical visionary support at the recent Global Summit held in London.

Note: If you're on Facebook, you can see Richard in performance at the Global Summit by clicking the following link and going to August 17:

<https://www.facebook.com/cocreatetheglobalsummit?ref=ts>

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

This week, it goes to Sarah Sparboe Thornburg--an attorney with the Asheville law firm, McGuire, Wood & Bisette, P.A.

Shortly after we moved to the Asheville area, we were fortunate to be referred to Sarah . . . she handled an update of our wills and health proxy forms, and we were impressed by both her and her firm.

Recently, we wanted to update what we had put together previously, so we again turned to Sarah . . . she continued to give us what we thought was very good advice, particularly with respect to our cats.

Sarah manages to also serve as a Board Member of Community Action Opportunities, which manages multiple programs serving Buncombe and Madison Counties; she is the bookkeeper for the Asheville Hockey League; is an elder at First Presbyterian Church of Asheville; and is a past-President of the Claxton Elementary PTO. And she volunteers regularly with Pisgah Legal Services' "Mountain Area Volunteer Lawyer" program.

She can be reached at 828.254.8800. For more information, please click:

<http://www.mwbavl.com/>

Note: In mentioning our cats, I'd like to use this opportunity to urge you to consider your pets and what would happen to them if you were not around.

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

If you live in North Carolina, please read the following tidbit if you want your presidential vote to count this year. (Please also share this with friends and relatives who live in North Carolina.)

It seems that if you want to vote a "straight Democrat" or "straight Republican" ticket, it is not quite so easy as it should be. To quote Snopes:

"Selecting the straight ticket option may not result in their casting a ballot for their party's presidential candidate because presidential selections have to be undertaken separately from the straight ticket voting process. Voting processes vary from region to region, and as far as we know this warning applies only to North Carolina, where straight ticket voting is available for all races except for presidential electors; voters in that state (regardless of party) therefore need to specifically select a presidential candidate in addition to voting a straight ticket."

For more information, please read the entire Snopes post:

<http://www.snopes.com/politics/ballot/straightticket.asp>

And special thanks to Walter W. in PA for bringing the above to my attention!

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Katherine Sandoval Taylor sings "Somebody Somewhere" - The Most Happy Fella
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfQ0v57Eilk>

(2) Marie V. in NJ [posted on Facebook] One from the vault that I know Blaine Greenfield will like :)

The Turtles - "She's My Girl"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU1Q2xkwLbk&list=AL94UKMTqg-9Dbe5XbEzmbAkr8nxUM6P6g>

(3) Joyce S. in CA: Get the Dough Out of Politics!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8LlftYFPo>

(4) Thomas F. in NJ: BJ THOMAS Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t30cX6OGO0U>

(5) Lorre D. in NC: J & J on taking toxic chemicals out of their products
<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch?id=7418324n&tag=showDoorFlexGridLeft;flexGridModule>

And for more information on this important topic, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/16/business/johnson-johnson-to-remove-formaldehyde-from-products.html>

(6) Susan M. in NJ: Amazing! (Annabel Carberry in "A Glass of Red")
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=p-R-0pvQqKg

(7) Rob S. in PA: Now that's a fisherman!
<http://www.youtube.com/embed/nA3LtXnNlto>

(8) Jean D. in PA: Mad Men Perform Rick Astley's Never Gonna Give You Up
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SaFLd-hVKFY&feature=share>

(9) Tony M. in LA: Mary Hopkin - Those Were the Days 1968 Video stereo widescreen
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVdOQvx379Y&feature=share>

(11) Linda H. in NC: Go purple to end Alzheimer's
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZBj-HppkBE&feature=youtu.be>

(12) Angie M. in PA: Deck of cards magic trick
<http://stg.do/91qb>

(13) Janeen R. in PA: I want this dog!
http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=P9Fyey4D5hg

B. Other

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-UI>

(1) Savannah in PA: Your Joy, Happiness, Peace, and your Heaven on Earth are Contagious. (2) Chuck H. in NC: In addition to your list of favorite films, how 'bout going to one if a good one comes to town. (3) Michelle B. in NC: Loved the Erma Bombeck quote. (4) Ingrid S. in PA: I watched 7A. Got a big laugh from it. (5) Gene S. in NC: So funny and true [7A clip]! (6) Paul S. in PA: Like your new web-look. (7) Maya V. in PA: Chance to enter DRN's Inaugural Virtual Canoe Race. (8) Nick M. in VT: When I came upon the group Active Heroes I was impressed with what they were doing to help the members of our military and their families. (9) Cathy in PA (with a part-time job for somebody living near Bensalem, PA. (10) At Cat Video Film Festival, Stars Purr for Close-Ups. (11) Gary J. in NC: What Successful People Do With The First Hour Of Their Work Day. (12) Jeff T. in NC (with a room to sub-let in the Asheville area). (13) Mary C. in NC: Just saw The Intouchables.

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

A man who smelled like a distillery flopped on a subway seat next to a priest. The man's tie was stained, his face was plastered with red lipstick, and a half empty bottle of gin was sticking out of his torn coat pocket. He opened his newspaper and began reading. After a few minutes the disheveled guy turned to the priest and asked, "Say, Father, what causes arthritis?"

"Mister, it's caused by loose living, being with cheap, wicked women, too much alcohol, and a contempt for your fellow man."

"Well, I'll be damned," the drunk muttered, returning to his paper.

The priest, thinking about what he had said, nudged the man and apologized. "I'm very sorry, I didn't mean to come on so strong. How long have you had arthritis?"

"I don't have it, Father. I was just reading here that the Pope does."

[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. RUBY SPARKS is an engaging romantic comedy about a young novelist who achieved

success early in his career, but who is now struggling until he creates a character named Ruby . . . when the character becomes an actual living person, life turns upside down . . . Paul Dano and Zoe Kazan, who also wrote the screenplay, were terrific in the leading roles, and I also liked the work of Chris Messina as Dano's brother . . . the second half dragged just a bit, but the ending brought this film back into the recommend category . . . rated R.

Note: Watching the above I was also reminded of 2007's STRANGER THAN FICTION, another film I enjoyed . . . that one has an everyday office worker, an unusually subdued Will Ferrell, trying to save his life from his narrator (an author writing a book).

B. THE LUCKY ONE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #814 follows:

Something rare happened when watching THE LUCKY ONE . . . I actually liked the film version more than the book by Nicholas Sparks . . . it's a formulaic melodrama about a soldier who returns from a third tour of duty in Iraq, intent on finding a woman in a picture he doesn't even know . . . I think it worked so well because of both the chemistry and acting of the two main characters, Zac Efron and Taylor Schilling (a Jessica Lange lookalike) . . . rated PG-13.

C. A COURSE IN WEIGHT LOSS: 21 SPIRITUAL LESSONS FOR SURRENDERING YOUR WEIGHT FOREVER (Hay House) by Marianne Williamson is certainly not your typical diet book.

Rather, as the title implies, it takes a spiritual approach to the subject--one that's understandable if you're familiar with the author's work . . . she is an acclaimed lecturer and author, perhaps best known for her many years studying and teaching A COURSE IN MIRACLES.

In this book, Williamson points out that the cause of excessive weight is not in your body, it is in your mind. And so when you overeat, you are not doing it to give yourself love; rather, you are doing it because you dislike something about yourself.

To prevent this from happening, some excellent suggestions are given:

* I suggest you rid your kitchen of all trigger foods, for they can still harm you as long as you do not have the will to resist their temptation. If the thought occurs to you that you are throwing away good food that costs real money, remind yourself that too much unhealthy food could in fact cost you your life. Fill your kitchen instead with colorful, nutritious foods; enlist family and friends to help you in this process, if you need their support. Get rid of all that is unhealthy, and make your kitchen a sacred place.

* This is not a journey you should take alone. Perhaps you have a group of like-minded friends who in suffering what you have suffered can share the pain and power of this journey with you. A solitary path will only give more power to fear, while walking this path with others will give it the power and blessing of love. If you feel drawn to this course and want to dive into it more deeply, perhaps you have friends who wish to practice the lessons with you. Connecting deeply to other people is a connection to the Divine.

And my favorite:

* Make copies of that picture of your face atop a beautiful body and put them in various places around your home. Make sure you put them on your refrigerator, a cabinet in your kitchen, and your bathroom mirror. Make your kitchen and bedroom a visual homage to these images. And do not forget to place the picture on your altar. No matter what you think of them, they are imprinting themselves on your subconscious mind.

I also liked the Reflection and Prayer at the end of each chapter in A COURSE IN WEIGHT LOSS.

D. Heard LOVE IS THE CURE: ON LIFE, LOSS AND THE END OF AIDS (Hachette Audio), written and read by Elton John.

The book begins with an account of how he befriended Ryan White, an Indiana boy ostracized by his town and his school because of the HIV infection he had contracted from a blood transfusion. When White died, John came to two realizations: His own life was a disaster. And he had to do something to help stop the AIDS crisis.

So he started the Elton John AIDS Foundation, which has raised and donated \$275 million to date to help fight the disease worldwide. The tale of how this was accomplished was quite impressive and gave me a whole different perspective on the entertainer.

In addition, I enjoyed listening to the stories of his close friendships with Freddie Mercury, Princess Diana and Elizabeth Taylor, among others.

But perhaps the most interesting part about LOVE IS THE CURE had to deal with John's attempts to get politicians and governments involved in the fight against AIDS. In some instances, he was even able to bring about a 180 degree change in thinking about the subject.

Note: If you can find it, catch THE RYAN WHITE STORY--an inspiring 1989 made-for-TV movie about his fight for his right to attend public school . . . both Lukas Haas as White and Judith Light as his mother are outstanding in this heartfelt drama.

***** CONTEST #18 *****

One lucky winner will receive the book on CD, I CAN SEE YOU (Hachette Audio) by Karen Rose.

As noted in PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY, "Virtual reality meets bloody reality in bestseller Rose's spine-tingling 10th thriller, which introduces the Minneapolis PD's Hat Squad, whose members earn snappy fedoras for successfully fighting crime."

ROMANTIC TIMES BOOK CLUB MAGAZINE gave it four stars and commented, "Readers get a top-notch and diabolically clever suspense tale . . . and a tender love story to boot. It's definitely one for your keeper shelf!"

To enter: Put "CONTEST #18" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, September 9.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE concludes its season this coming week, but on a different night . . . please make sure you catch the show on Tuesday, September 11, at 8 p.m. on FOX . . . that will be your last chance to vote for Eliana Girard, daughter of Della Striker--one of my high school classmates . . . results will then be announced on Thursday, September 13, also on FOX at 8 p.m.

To learn more about both Eliana and her mother, please click:

http://wap.pbpulse.com/pulse/db_/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SAVNX6pJ&full=true#display

B. PBS rocks this coming week . . . some of the many programs to watch include:

(1) WHERE SOLDIERS COME FROM, a POV documentary about 10 childhood friends from Michigan who signed up for the National Guard, airs on Sunday at 2 a.m. on PBS . . . according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "The film . . . brilliantly captures the atmosphere and landscape [of Afghanistan]."

(2) Paul McCartney's Live Kisses at 4 a.m.; Jackie Evancho, singing "Music of the Movies" on Sunday at 8 p.m. and JUDY COLLINS: LIVE AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART at 9:30 p.m.

(3) 60 wannabe stage stars from Boston to San Diego descend on Manhattan for BROADWAY OR BUST, a three-part docuseires where they'll be mentored by, among others, Michael Feisntein and SMASH's Leslie Odom Jr.--before competing in the National High School Musical Theater Awards . . . Sundays at 8 p.m. on PBS.

Note: On all the above, PBS times and dates often vary--so check local listings.

C. Catch THE MIRACLE WORKER, one of my all-time favorite movies . . . it's the story of Helen Keller (Patty Duke), an Alabama girl struck blind and deaf as a baby after an elevated fever. Enter Annie Sullivan (Anne Bancroft), a partially-blind woman assigned the task of teaching Helen sign language. Both Duke and Bancroft won well-deserved Oscars for their work. Sunday at 12 p.m. on TCM.

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2



[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Airman returns home, surprises mom
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAp8-DoTsGc>

B. Be grateful and learn to appreciate the good things in life
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mj6cRdIUjU>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net/>

Have you ever wondered how many others look at this website? Wonder no more. Just view the counter in the lower left hand corner of the home page.

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:
<http://www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield>



[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

The Best Google Features You're Probably Not Using
by Thorin Klosowski

Google is a vast machine with all types of apps, programs, and tools. A lot of these-like Gmail and Google Docs-are clearly useful and beloved by many. But hidden inside Google's network are some awesome, lesser-known gems that can make your life easier.

Over the last couple of years Google has experimented with a lot of products. Hidden beneath popular apps like Gmail, Google Search, and Chrome are a lot of cool features that most people don't mess around with. Here are some of our favorite unsung Google features, from Google Drive apps to Google+ to everything in between.

To read the rest of the story, please click:
<http://lifehacker.com/5923588/the-best-google-features-youre-probably-not-using>

Note: You'll learn how to Send and Receive Faxes for Free with Hellofax, Sign Any Document Easily with DocuSign, Edit Photos Right in Your Browser with Pixlr Editor and Aviary, and a whole lot more.

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

Actual sentences found in patients' hospital charts, Part 2 of 2

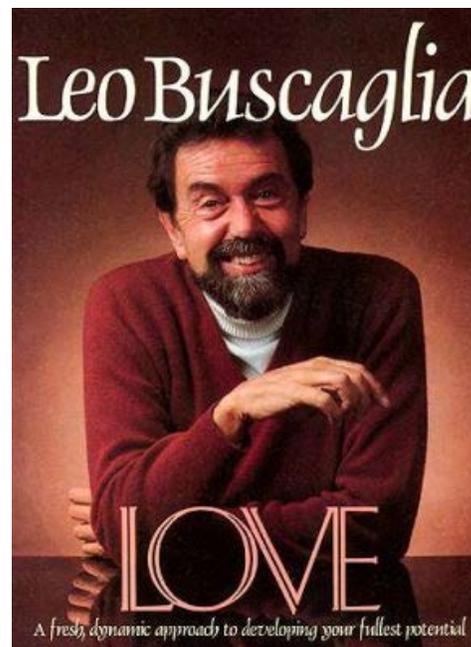
(Concluded from last week.)

16. While in ER, she was examined, X-rated, and sent home.
17. The skin was moist and dry.
18. Occasional, constant infrequent headaches.
19. Patient was alert and unresponsive.
20. Rectal examination revealed a normal size thyroid.
21. She stated that she had been constipated for most of her life until she got a divorce.
22. I saw your patient today, who is still under our car for physical therapy.
23. Both breasts are equal and reactive to light and accommodation.
24. Examination of genitalia reveals that he is circus sized.
25. The lab test indicated abnormal lover function.
26. The patient was to have a bowel resection. However, he took a job as a stockbroker instead.
27. Skin: somewhat pale but present.
28. The pelvic exam will be done later on the floor.
29. Patient was seen in consultation by Dr. Blank, who felt we should sit on the abdomen and I agree.
30. Large brown stool ambulating in the hall.
31. Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities.

[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

"Years ago I had a Buddhist teacher in Thailand who would remind all his students that there was always something to be thankful for. He'd say, 'Let's rise and be thankful, for if we didn't learn a lot today, at least we may have learned a little. And if we didn't learn even a little, at least we didn't get sick. And if we did get sick, at least we didn't die. So let us all be thankful.' "--Leo Buscaglia (1924-1998), American author & motivational speaker who I'll always remember for his belief that hugs are the key to happiness



[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

Improv therapy blog entry
by Jeff Thompson

A couple of friends and I treated ourselves recently to lunch at a nice restaurant. We were seated next to a table of three well-dressed elderly women. The three of them talked very little, breathed very little, and spent most of their meal time gazing around the restaurant, expressionless, seemingly either looking at other people or looking to see if other people were looking at them. What these three ladies had in common that drew them together for a meal, I do not know, but what was obvious to me as an observer was this: they all had very tight skin strapped to their faces and they had tiny, strangely shaped noses.

For the rest of this insightful piece, please go to Section 11 when you click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-UI>

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

To read about all the following events, please go to Section 12 when you click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-UI>

A. 1 seminar I'm presenting & 1 I'm moderating

(1) Survival Marketing. (2) National Encore Entrepreneur Mentor Day.

B. Other NC events

(1) Majo M. in NC: Building Bridges in Asheville. (2) Mary Rita S. in NC: Catch NOISES OFF. (3) Original music series featuring Richard Shulman, piano. (4) MLF: THE MUSICAL. (5) The Zoodles at the Well-Bred Bakery.

C. PA/NJ events

(1) ACTORS' NET LAUNCHES 17th SEASON. (2) Rita Olinnsky in NJ: Are you always asking yourself "how do I fit fitness into my already frazzled day?" (3) BCCC Foundation's 5th Annual Women's Scholarship Tea. (4) Join Gabrielle Strich to learn about the differences between Medicare and Medicaid.

[Back to Top](#)

PS. In honor of Labor Day on Monday, here's one of my favorite songs about working: "16 Tons, performed by Tennessee Ernie Ford:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Joo90ZWrUkU&feature=player_embedded

For a bunch of other songs honoring workers, please click this blog entry:
<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2012/09/02/1127084/-Favorite-songs-Labor-Day-We-Bulit-That-edition>

Happy Labor Day to you and yours; also, make it a great rest of the week!

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINES WORLD

#831
8.27.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Were joined by our friends Connie, Brian and Carole for a flick we all enjoyed (see also Section 4A) and then dinner at what is rapidly becoming one of our favorite eateries: Green Sage, the Hendersonville Road location. The food is both good and healthy, and the employees are always friendly.

It was fun to get together with everybody, especially in that we also got to celebrate Connie's metal-winning success in the Lake Lure Triathlon that she had participated in that morning.



(l-r) front row: Cynthia Greenfield and Carole Biro; back row: Brian Biro, Blaine Greenfield and Connie Ruble

(2) Enjoyed dinner at the El Dorado Latin Grill Mars Hill and then SART's last show of the season, *HARD TRAVELIN' WITH WOODY AND THE HOBOS* . . . it was a tuneful musical starring Randy Noojin as Woody Guthrie, along with Liz Aiello, Bruce Lang and Bucky Hanks.



(l-r) Blaine Greenfield, Liz Aiello and Randy Noojin

Unfortunately, it only had a limited run at SART and is no longer playing there . . . but for more information about the show and where else it will be playing, please click: <http://www.hardtravelinshow.com/#!home/mainPage>

Note: Make sure you see the video clip, which is located about halfway down on the homepage.

B. B. I got a kick out of visiting with one of my Lawrence High School classmates, Helaine Goldberg Frazer, who was in Asheville with Norm Alvy. They wanted barbecue, so I naturally took them to 12 Bones.



Note: If you're thinking of visiting Asheville, do give me a holler. And if you want more information about the area as a vacation destination and/or potential place to live, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put "ASHEVILLE" in the subject line.

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Diana Moore on her appointment as director of online learning at New England College.

(2) Jim Donovan having two books on the Kindle bestseller list at once. "This is Your Life, Not a Dress rehearsal" was #1 in Free in Motivation and "Don't Let an Old Person Move Into Your Body" was #4 in paid.

(3) Steven Feldman on the birth of Amelia Bell Maxymillian-Wheeler, his first grandchild.

(4) Courtney Y. in FL, winner of Contest #17: a copy of EVERYTHING ABOUT ME: A GUIDE FOR MY FUTURE CAREGIVERS (Military Personnel & Families Edition) by Dee Marrella . . .

all told, there were 5 entries . . . and that reminds me that it's now time to introduce . . .

***** CONTEST #18 *****

One lucky winner will receive the book on CD, I CAN SEE YOU (Hachette Press) by Karen Rose.

As noted in PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY, "Virtual reality meets bloody reality in bestseller Rose's spine-tingling 10th thriller, which introduces the Minneapolis PD's Hat Squad, whose members earn snappy fedoras for successfully fighting crime."

ROMANTIC TIMES BOOK CLUB MAGAZINE gave it four stars and commented, "Readers get a top-notch and diabolically clever suspense tale . . . and a tender love story to boot. It's definitely one for your keeper shelf!"

To enter: Put "CONTEST #18" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bjinbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, September 9.

D. Condolences to:

(1) The family of Mort Ginsberg on his recent passing. He had been a longtime friend of mine, as well as a teaching colleague.

(2) Catherine Crusade and family on the loss of George Crusade, Catherine's father.

(3) Mark Frantz and family on the passing of Mark's mother.

(4) Maceo Keeling on the passing of his wife Helen.

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

This week, it goes to Chandler Smith--an actor who has delighted me and countless others when he has appeared on the Owen Theatre stage at Mars Hill College. That's him when he recently returned for a visit:



(l-r) Bill Gregg, Chandler Smith, Brently Sproles and Sarah Richardson

I first saw Chandler in small role in a SART production of AS YOU LIKE IT in July, 2010. He had just graduated high school and I remember saying to myself, "Self, this guy is good!"

Next up was his starring role in a student production of TWO BY TWO. Though only a freshman, he carried the show.

I then had the pleasure of seeing him in SCAPINO, RAINMAKER, JEKYLL & HYDE, VANCE, CHICAGO, CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN, NOT WITHOUT OUR WOMEN and I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE.

However, perhaps my fondest memory of Chandler was when he and Bradshaw Call did a clip for a SART fundraiser that I produced . . . if you look closely, you'll even see yours truly at the 1:34 mark:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yICuxzcJMy8>

I was disappointed that I didn't get to Chandler this summer when he appeared in ROUTE 66 in Detroit, but I am looking forward to seeing him this fall in THE GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAIN MYSTERY SHOW in Pigeon Forge, TN . . . for more information about that performance, please click:

<http://www.murder-mystery-theater.com/>

And then, it's onward and upward for Chandler as he moves to New York City for auditions--and his next big success. Keep his name in mind; he's somebody who may just appear on a stage near you.

You can also read more about him by clicking:
<http://www.williamchandlersmith.com/>

Back to Top

2. FYI

Turn Off the Phone (and the Tension)
by Jenna Worthamp in THE NEW YORK TIMES
August 25, 2012

One recent sweltering afternoon, a friend and I trekked to a new public pool, armed with books, sunglasses and icy drinks, planning to beat the heat with a swim. But upon our arrival, we had an unwelcome surprise: no cellphones were allowed in the pool area.

The ban threw me into a tailspin. I lingered by the locker where I had stashed my phone, wondering what messages, photos and updates I might already be missing.

For the rest of this thought-provoking article, please click:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/26/technology/cutting-the-digital-lifeline-and-finding-serenity.html?emc=eta1>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Corinne G. in NC: John Pinette: Chinese Buffet
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2mTX09cTHg>

(2) Tammy S. in NC: Nanci Griffith , Once in a very blue moon
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_qXlfK4iJg8&feature=share

(3) Janeen R. in PA: How to separate an egg (Disregard the language barrier, just watch the self explanatory video.)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uz2Vnp5ZW4c>

(4) Nelson S. in NC: A Conversation With My 12 Year Old Self: 20th Anniversary Edition
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFGAqrEUaeU>

(5) Ingrid S. in NC: Tiny Tim - Tiptoe Through The Tulips
https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=zcSlcNfThUA

(6) Rock E. in NC from SPRING AWAKENING
<http://www.myspace.com/video/rockeblen/the-bitch-of-living/108955468>

(7) Seth W. in PA: Pier One Training Rap Video Gives New Meaning To Embarrassment
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/28/pier-one-training-rap-video-gives-new-meaning-to-embarrassment_n_1837649.html?utm_hp_ref=comedy

(8) Maya V. in PA: Concerned citizens are already in Albany for anti-frack rally
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hee7KStuKI8A>

(9) Sharon C. in NC: Star Spangled Banner rocks
<http://www.starspangledbannerchallenge.com/>

B. Other

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-TP>

(1) Majo M. in NC (with a REQUEST FOR HELP). (2) Donna M. in NJ: Thanks for putting in the house sale info! (3) Danny B. in NC: Pictures look very nice this issue [830]. (4) Robin S. in PA: Saw Ruby Sparks yesterday. (5) Craig W. in PA: (with a REQUEST FOR HELP).

Back to Top

3. Joke 1

Be forewarned: Brunette joke ahead, so if such humor offends you, please skip to the next section . . .

An airline captain was helping a new brunette flight attendant prepare for her first overnight trip. Upon their arrival, the captain showed the flight attendant the best place for airline personnel to eat, shop and stay overnight.

The next morning as the pilot was preparing the crew for the day's route, he noticed the new stewardess was missing. He knew which room she was in at the hotel and called her up to ask what happened to her.

She answered the phone, crying, and said, "I can't get out of the room!"

"You can't get out of your room," the captain asked. "Why not?"

She replied, "There are only three doors in here," she sobbed, "one is the bathroom, one is the closet and one has a sign on it that says DO NOT DISTURB!"

[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. Don't be put off by some poor reviews you may have seen for THE ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN . . . this is a magical story about a happily married couple who can't have a child, so they can only dream of what the experience might be like . . . when young Timothy shows up on their doorstep one night, everybody's life change--including those living in the small town of Stanleyville . . . I liked everything about it, and you will too . . . it's also the perfect film for everybody in the family . . . Jennifer Garner and Joel Edgerton are both good as the parents and CJ Adams scores as their son . . . rated PG.

B. A SEPARATION is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #808 follows:

A SEPARATION is a complex, fascinating look about the dissolution of a marriage in Iran (that could well take place anywhere else) . . . it deservedly won an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 2012 . . . there are many twists and turns along the way, along with complex legal battles . . . although I saw it several days ago, I'm still thinking about it . . . and I have already placed it on my list of favorite films . . . rated PG-13.

Note: If you'd like the rest of my list of favorite films, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put FAVORITE FILMS in the subject line.

C. Imagine if you could find an investment book that's easy to read, as well as fun . . . that's the case with JACKASS INVESTING: DON'T DO IT. PROFIT FROM IT. (LLC) by Michael Deaver.

I was intrigued by the author's premise; i.e., that much of the investing we do is wrong because it is based on myths that don't turn out the way that we think they should. He then tackles 20 of these myths, showing why this is the case--and suggesting alternative strategies.

In addition, what I really liked about JACKASS INVESTING were the many references to popular culture--including Criss Angel's magic, the rock band Rush and the heavyweight boxing contender "Fast" Eddie Chambers--and how Deaver related them to investment concepts in a truly understandable way.

For example, with respect to the fact that "You Can't Time the Market," this classic TV moment was presented:

* One of my favorite Seinfeld episodes is titled "The Opposite." In it, the inimitable George Costanza, while standing on the beach reflecting on his life, comes to the angst-filled conclusion that "every decision I've ever made, in my entire life, has been wrong. My life is the opposite of everything I want it to be. Every instinct I have in every aspect of life, be it something to wear, something to eat...It's all been wrong."

Going whole-hog with that premise as the basis for a radical and not overly coherent behavior make-over, he immediately begins to do the opposite of everything he thinks is right. The scene takes place at Jerry, George, Elaine, and Kramer's regular coffee shop hang-out. A drop-dead, beautiful woman looks in George's direction and instead of following his normal instinct is to do nothing, he walks right up and introduces himself with the line, "My name is George. I'm unemployed and I live with my parents."

Of course, it worked like a charm. George gets the super-hot girl, moves out of his

parents' house, and lands his dream job, working with Steinbrenner and his beloved Yankees.

We are all George Costanzas--but before the "opposite" revelation.

How often have you done what you thought--perhaps were even convinced--was "right" in managing your money, just to find out you were dead wrong? Buying a "sure thing" that almost immediately sold off. Selling out of a profitable position because it felt good to take a profit, only to see it rise significantly from that point of sale. I'm guessing quite a lot. Well, in actuality I don't need to guess. I know. Because the statistics show that in the aggregate, people lose. And lose big-time.

And if you believe "Government Regulators Protect Investors," Deaver shared this tidbit that I only wish my parents had read when they were both alive:

* John, a long-time friend of our family, called to say that his wife was considering making an "investment" in a "bank deposit" structure that returned 15% per year. At the time interest rates on bank deposits were in the range of 6%, so that naturally triggered my suspicions right out of the gate. His wife was put in touch with the investment group by her aunt, who had handed over money to this company a few years prior.

John asked if I could look into the investment for him. He was concerned about the legitimacy of the opportunity. I started my research by calling the contact they had for the investment, a salesperson in Canada, and initially asked him a couple simple questions, "How are the returns produced and where is the money domiciled?"

The answers raised my immediate concern and triggered a new set of questions. First, the money was being held in a Cayman Islands account. There's nothing wrong with that; plenty of legitimate investments require offshore accounts (my company has managed Cayman-domiciled funds), but his reasoning for the Cayman-domicile was that it was also used as the source of the returns. The salesperson said that because the money was in the Caymans, they weren't restricted by US regulations and could therefore pay out more of their earnings to their investors at a higher interest rate. Also, he claimed they could make better investments, again because of the lack of restrictions, than they could if they were in the US.

Talk about red flags! This was such a pile of BS that it alone was reason enough not to entrust the firm with my friend's money. But I felt compelled to ask one final question: "Was he registered and was the investment registered to be sold in the US?" No, he replied, because he was in Canada and the investment was in the Cayman Islands, they were not required to be registered.

This was total bunk. An investment offered to US residents must be registered with US regulators unless it meets specific exemption requirements. This one did not. On top of the preposterous claim for why they were able to provide such an unnatural return, they had an illegal explanation for why there weren't registered. I called John and gave him a firm, "Stay away!" warning. And he did.

Whatever you do, please don't stay away from this book, if for no other reason than you'll come to realize that:

* Buy low, sell high is clearly an inferior method of trading in that it preserves losses, yet limits profits.

D. FREEDOM FROM PAIN: GUIDED PRACTICES TO OVERCOME PHYSICAL PAIN (Sounds True), written and read by Peter A. Levine and Maggie Phillips, is a book on CD that asks and answers the question: How do I find lasting relief?

The authors, pioneers in the field, do so by addressing something that's crucial to long-term recovery; i.e., the need to heal unresolved trauma within the body

They realize that everybody is unique and that no one approach can work for all listeners. Consequently, they present some 17 different practices that can be tried, including such things as exploring pain triggers, circular breathing, grounding and one my favorite, mindfulness-based pain relief.

I also liked how FREEDOM FROM PAIN dealt with the theory behind pain. Reading it gave me a greater understanding of the fact that pain is unavoidable; suffering is optional.

The narration by Levine and Phillips was OK. However, here is one instance that professional narration would have even made the book more valuable.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. Please continue to watch SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on FOX as long as Eliana Girard is in the competition . . . she is the daughter of Della Striker-- one of my high school classmates . . . if you think she's as good as I think she is, please also vote for her immediately after the show.

And in the unlikely event you missed her most recent performance, please click:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=JlsZosUcUTE

B. REAL SPORTS WITH BRYANT GUMBEL profiles Steve Gleason, the NFL player who blocked a punt that resulted in a touchdown when the Saints played their first home game in New Orleans after a season on the road because of Hurricane Katrina . . . that gave the nation chills . . . what has happened to Gleason since then is every bit as moving . . . watch this episode to find out how he is now dealing with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (or Lou Gehrig's disease) . . . I've already seen it and can tell you that it's not to be missed . . . Saturday at 6 p.m. on HBO2-W, repeated on Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on HBO.

For more information on Gleason, please click this blog entry:

<http://fifthdown.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/08/21/steve-gleasons-story/?partner=rss&emc=rss>

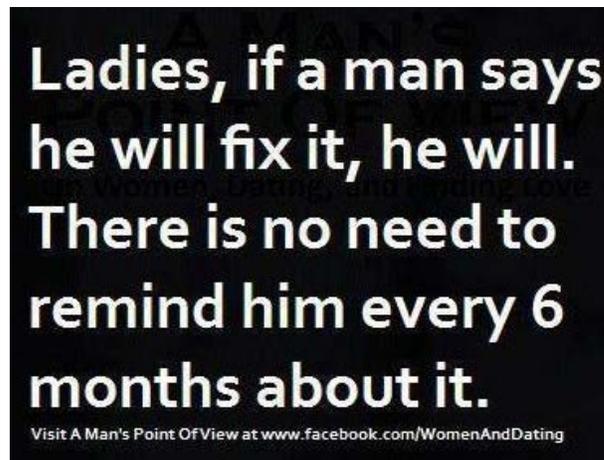
C. COMA, a two-part remake of the hospital thriller flick with the same title, airs on Monday, 9.4 and Thursday, 9.4 at 9 p.m. on both nights on A&E . . . according to TV GUIDE, "It hasn't been this suspenseful to go to sleep since the original INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS.

D. AN ANIMAL #*\$% MY VACATION! is a pain to type, but "is full of useful information no sane person would be likely to need," notes THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. "It's hilarious instruction, nonetheless, delivered with the barest touch of derision." Monday, 9.3 at 10 p.m. on NAT GEO WILD.

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

Fortunately, I still have time to fix that thing Cynthia asked me about 5 months and 29 days ago . . .



[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. The most inspiring thing ever said:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVVvDlv98TA&feature=endscreen&NR=1>

B. Hillary Clinton, not known for her sense of humor, is portrayed as a no-nonsense powerhouse keeping the president and everyone else in mind. Clinton reportedly has loved this.

<http://textsfromhillaryclinton.tumblr.com/>

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net/>

If you ever miss an issue, you can catch it by clicking "Newsletter" to the left and then "Past Issue" . . . in addition, check out the "Search Newsletter" box at the top of that page . . . I used this recently to find a joke about a psychologist once told by Jay Leno:

(from BLAINESWORLD #661): A Canadian psychologist is selling a video that teaches you how to test your dog's IQ. Here's how it works: if you spend \$12.99 for the video, your dog is smarter than you.

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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Like us on Facebook 

Back to Top

8. Computer tip

Natalie H. in PA: How does one clear "notifications" on Facebook? They are old, and I want to clear them. Went to Facebook Help, but of course got none.

Answer: Typically, I don't bother about such things; i.e., clearing such notifications unless they get in my way.

But if they do bother you, try this:

<http://www.sociolatte.com/2010/01/how-to-hide-notifications-on-facebook.html>

Let me know if it works.

More importantly: When I can't find help on Facebook (or anywhere else), I type the question and/or key words into Google. An answer usually appears.

Back to Top

9. Joke 3

Actual sentences found in patients' hospital charts, Part 1 of 2

1. She has no rigors or shaking chills, but her husband states she was very hot in bed last night.
2. Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.
3. On the second day the knee was better, and on the third day it disappeared.
4. The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.
5. The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 1993.
6. Discharge status: Alive but without my permission.
7. Healthy appearing decrepit 69-year-old male, mentally alert but forgetful.
8. The patient refused autopsy.
9. The patient has no previous history of suicides.
10. Patient has left white blood cells at another hospital.
11. Patient's medical history has been remarkable with only a 40-pound weight gain in the past three days.
12. Patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.
13. Between you and me, we ought to be able to get this lady pregnant.
14. Since she can't get pregnant with her husband, I thought you might like to work her up.
15. She is numb from her toes down.

(To be concluded next week.)

Back to Top

10. A quote I like

Erma Bombeck had it right when she wrote, "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and I could say, 'I used everything that you gave me.' "



[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

The Mindset List was originally created in 1998 by Benoit College to help faculty avoid making outdated references. Since then, it has evolved into a list of generational change.

Methinks that this information would also be useful for both parents and grandparents in their communication with the younger generation.

To quote from the College's website: "Members of this year's freshman class, most of them born in 1994, are probably the most tribal generation in history and they despise being separated from contact with friends. They prefer to watch television everywhere except on a television, have seen a woman lead the U.S. State Department for most of their lives, and can carry school books--those that are not on their e-Readers--in backpacks that roll.

"The class of 2016 was born the year of the professional baseball strike and the last year for NFL football in Los Angeles. They have spent much of their lives helping their parents understand that you don't take pictures on "film" and that CDs and DVDs are not "tapes." Those parents have been able to review the crime statistics for the colleges their children have applied to and then pop an Aleve as needed. In these students' lifetimes, with MP3 players and iPods, they seldom listen to the car radio. A quarter of the entering students already have suffered some hearing loss. Since they've been born, the United States has measured progress by a 2 percent jump in unemployment and a 16-cent rise in the price of a first class postage stamp."

The Mindset List for the Class of 2016

For this generation of entering college students, born in 1994, Kurt Cobain, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Richard Nixon and John Wayne Gacy have always been dead.

1. They should keep their eyes open for Justin Bieber or Dakota Fanning at freshman orientation.
2. They have always lived in cyberspace, addicted to a new generation of "electronic narcotics."
3. The Biblical sources of terms such as "Forbidden Fruit," "The writing on the wall," "Good Samaritan," and "The Promised Land" are unknown to most of them.
4. Michael Jackson's family, not the Kennedys, constitutes "American Royalty."
5. If they miss The Daily Show, they can always get their news on YouTube.
6. Their lives have been measured in the fundamental particles of life: bits, bytes, and bauds.
7. Robert De Niro is thought of as Greg Focker's long-suffering father-in-law, not as Vito Corleone or Jimmy Conway.
8. Bill Clinton is a senior statesman of whose presidency they have little knowledge.
9. They have never seen an airplane "ticket."
10. On TV and in films, the ditzy dumb blonde female generally has been replaced by a couple of Dumb and Dumber males.

For the entire list, please click:

<http://www.beloit.edu/mindset/2016/>

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. Invites to my 2 seminars & 1 I'm moderating

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Uf>

(1) Marketing: The Art of Positioning. (2) Survival Marketing. (3) National Encore Entrepreneur Mentor Day.

B. Other NC events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-TR>

(1) Award-winning journalist Amy Goodman. (2) North Carolina Hypnosis Training and Professional Certification Programs. (3) Original Music Series featuring Mark Guest. (4) Asheville Vaudeville.

C. PA/NJ events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-TT>

(1) Open House [for Aark Wildlife Center]. (2) Comedy Cabaret. (3) Phil Across America Stories and Photos Night.

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Blaine Greenfield
19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way
Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
Phone : 828.633.1049

Contact Us at bginbc@aol.com

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BLAINESWORLD



#830
8.20.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke
4. A quote I like
- 5 Thought for the day
6. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

Note: Please excuse the fact that not all the regular features of BLAINESWORLD are in this week's issue due to the fact that there are so many pictures. Next week, the regular format is slated to resume. And if you're reading this via Facebook and don't yet have an email subscription, send your email address to: bginbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line. That way, you'll get issues sooner and also never miss one in case it doesn't appear on your Facebook Wall.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Enjoyed being with friends for dinner at The Asheville Public in the River Arts District.



(l-r) Dave Blumlo, Judy Blumlo, Marcy Gallagher, Cynthia Greenfield, Blaine Greenfield and Tom Gallagher

This is the second time we've been there, and we have enjoyed the food each time. We also discovered a back room to dine in . . . make sure you check it out . . . it's very 50s and 60s. For more information about this restaurant, please click:
<http://www.theashevillpublic.com/>

(2) Went from there with the others to The Magnetic Theatre to see LANDSCAPE WITH MISSING PERSON, an existential rom-com by John Crutchfield. This was an interesting play that had us laughing at spots and thinking at others. The dialogue was fantastic, as was the acting by Crutchfield, Lisa Smith and Jennifer Gatti (who managed to make six different characters each seem different).

LANDSCAPE runs through Saturday, Aug. 25 . . . for more information, please click:
<http://themagneticfield.com/the-magnetic-theatre>

Dan Clancy greeted us at the door that evening.



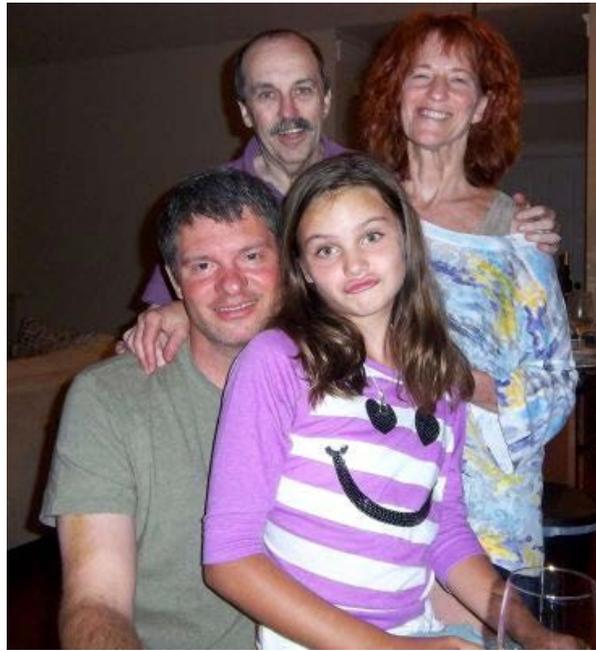
We're looking forward to seeing him, along with Allison Young, in MILF: THE MUSICAL that runs at The Magnetic Field Theatre from September 13-28 . . . for tickets, please click: <http://themagneticfield.com/events>

(3) Celebrated the end of the SART season with a barbecue at the home of our friends Steve Alley (second from left) and Jose Gardia (second from right), owners of our favorite restaurant in Mars Hill: El Dorado Grill.



The food was delicious, and it was fun getting together with many nice folks. What we'll always remember, though, was our trip to their place. They live high up in the mountains. We got somewhat lost, as did a few others, with the result being that we all almost went off the side of a cliff. But as you see, I'm writing this--so we did survive!

(4) Joined our neighbors Tammy and Stuart, along with his daughter Ella, for a tasty meatball and spaghetti dinner cooked by Tammy.

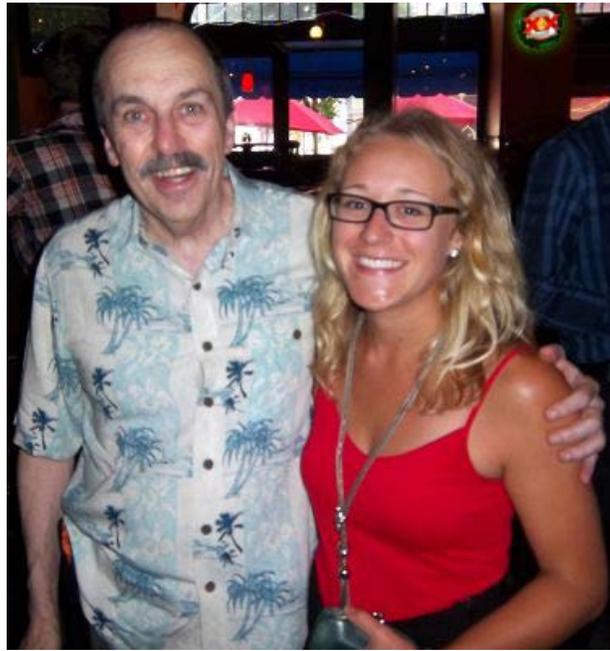


Tammy took the above picture. That's her below with her cat Jasmine and Cynthia.



(5) Saw HOPE SPRINGS, a comedy about a couple who have been married a long time . . . he is happy with the way things are, but she wants to spruce things up so she signs them up for a week of marriage therapy . . . Meryl Streep and Tommy Lee Jones are perfect as the couple, and Steve Carell is effective in a smaller role as their counselor . . . this is definitely a film for mature audiences, not so much because of any sex in it (that's implied but never seen); rather anybody under the age of 50 might just not relate to it much as I did . . . rated PG-13.

B. I got to thank Britt Lippard for her fine work at Leadership Asheville at a recent Fellows After 5 event at Tall Gary Cantina's. She will be missed, but methinks that Leadership Asheville's loss will be DoctorDirectory.com's gain.



C. And I had the pleasure of visiting with a Bucks County friend, Stephen Forbus, who was visiting Asheville along with his dog Gizmo. We all dined outside one of my favorite local eateries: Cafe Ello.



D. Reminder: Continue to watch SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on FOX as long as Eliana Girard is in the competition . . . she is the daughter of Della Striker--one of my high school classmates . . . if you think she's as good as I think she is, please also vote for her immediately after the show.

***** CONTEST #17 *****

One lucky winner will receive the book, EVERYTHING ABOUT ME; A GUIDE FOR MY FUTURE CAREGIVERS/Military Personnel & Families Edition (DC Press) by Dee Marrella, a military wife.

I've read the two other books by this author, EVERYTHING ABOUT ME and WHO CARES, and they have both been most informative . . . the above would especially be helpful if you are in the military and/or if you know somebody who is . . . to quote Daniel L. Cooper, retired vice admiral US Navy & former under secretary for benefits, Dept. of Veterans Affairs:

"Dee Marrella has compiled a comprehensive outline, which can serve as the basis for an invaluable repository of all the information any family, young or old, as well a single people need. It has the potential to be especially beneficial for military and veterans' families as they experience deployments, separations and emergencies. This information can provide immediate relief and direction in difficult, unexpected situation."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #17" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, August 26.

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

Linda L. in NC: If you ever get free tickets to a show during the week that you can't use at the theatre, please think of us! BTW, where is this theatre? Do they generally have good non-musicals?

Answer: When I do have free tickets to shows, I post that information in my online newsletter. If you don't get it and would like to be added to FREE subscription list, just send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in subject line. In addition, I often post such information on Facebook . . . but the problem with Facebook is that if you miss the information in your Newsfeed, you'll never see it. That's why I also encourage folks to subscribe to the newsletter.

Also, for ALL: Another great way to see a show for free is to volunteer at SART (located at the Owen Theatre at Mars Hill College at nearby Mars Hill, NC)--or other local theatres--to serve as an usher. Many times, your help can be utilized.

As for the SART season, this past year we had 5 shows: 2 musicals and 3 non-musicals. I personally thought they were all excellent.

And we have one "extra" event scheduled for this coming Friday to Sunday at 7:30 p.m. each night: HARD TRAVELIN' WITH WOODY AND THE HOBOS . . . it's a live history lesson about the music of Woody Guthrie, starring Randy Noojin as Woody, along with Liz Aiello, Bruce Lang and Bucky Hanks.

To see the trailer for the show, please click:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6SKlru6moc&feature=player_embedded

For tickets (just \$15 each), contact the Box Office: 828.689.1239 or boxoffice@mhc.edu.

Note: I have seen the the above. You're in for a treat if you can see it!

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Ted R. in NC: One of the world's best magic tricks
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ft0RjMts0&feature=share>

(2) Mark J. in NC: Brandi Carlile: Folsom Prison Blues
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjbpLWtu65E>

(3) Donna S. in AL: Sheryl Crow - A Change Would Do You Good
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkjnz_SlGhg&feature=share

(4) Katherine Sandoval Taylor's Channel (bellamusic1127)
<http://www.youtube.com/user/bellamusic1127?feature=mhee>

Note: Lots of other good stuff here!

(5) "Lady Gaga Medley"--Steven Rice & Caroline Batch
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axZMxnGYfAs&feature=plcp>

(6) Natalie K. in PA: A real water bed (funny, even if you don't understand the language)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wm-Ge8LL7o>

(7) Toyota shocks ad world with topless androgynous model
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVwJrAr7GkY&feature=player_embedded

Note: For more information on this ad, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/9d3wwd3>

(8) Chuck Jackson "I Don't Wanna Cry" Prestatyn Weekender2009 (he was 72 at the time)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31STFvJli2o>

And for comparison, here's how it sounded when it was first released in 1961 when he was 24.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yK1i7dTgykU>

Note: Above song is one of my favorites. I just checked and found out that Jackson is still singing. For more information, please click:

<http://www.chuckjackson.org/chuckj/bio.html>

B. Other

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Tb>

(1) Donna M. in NJ (with an offer of \$5,000 to anybody who can help her sell her Robinsville, NJ home). (2) Lorre D. in NC (with a sale to friends in Western NC & elsewhere). (3) Kimberly R. in NC: Just got back from seeing the new film "The Odd Life of Timothy Green" - Wonderful, uplifting, heart warming film. (4) Here's another place to check out in Asheville that's surprisingly reasonable and nice. (5) Natalie K. in PA: We saw the new Meryl Streep movie. It was okay. (6) Mary Rita S. in NC: I know you watch "So You Think You Can Dance" ME TOO! (7) Cheryl F. in NJ (with a REQUEST FOR HELP). (8) Suzanne S. in NC (with office items to sell). (9) Sharon B. in NC: I want to thank you for the chance to win the coupon collection.

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke

During a recent password audit by a company, it was found that an employee was using the following password:

"MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouieDeweyDonaldGoofySacramento"

When asked why she had such a long password, she rolled her eyes and said: "Hello! It has to be at least 8 characters and include at least one capital."



[Back to Top](#)

4. A quote I like



[Back to Top](#)

5. Thought for the day

How I feel about being with Cynthia, my beautiful bride . . .

Pooh: "This is the best part of the day."

Christopher Robin: "What part is that?"

Pooh: "When you & me become we."



[Back to Top](#)

6. Advance planning department

A. Invites to two seminars I'm presenting and one I'm moderating:

(1) Marketing: The Art of Positioning--offered by the Osher Life Longing Institute

Instructor: Blaine Greenfield

Saturday, September 15, 2012, 9A-12P

Fee: \$25/person

CRN: 60099

Material Fee: None

Improve your personal and business success by projecting the right message. Highly successful individuals, companies, and nonprofit organizations all utilize the concept of "positioning"; they make themselves meaningfully different from the competition. Come to this informative and engaging workshop to learn how it's done.

Those who attend will learn to:

Define the term "positioning" and give examples.

Relate the concept to your particular field of interest.

Apply the Four-mula 4 Success and develop an action plan to use it.

For more information and to register, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/cdylzy7>

(2) Survival Marketing--offered by Asheville SCORE

Sponsored by Ruth C. Smith

Saturday, October 13, 2012 - 9:00 AM-Noon

Registration starts at 8:30 AM

Registration: \$30.00

Save \$5 by pre-registering by clicking:

<http://ashevillescore.org/score-seminars/score-seminars-registration/>

To market and grow your business, you need to understand the concept of positioning; i.e., what is it that you do that makes yourself meaningfully different from the competition.

Come to this informative and engaging seminar to learn how it's done.

(3) The one I'm moderating--offered by the SBA to celebrate National Encore Entrepreneur Mentor Day

Panel geared toward people interested in starting a small business, post-retirement.

Date: Tues., Oct. 2, 2012

Time: 9 to 11 a.m.

Cost: Free of charge.

Event Type: The mentor Q&A will feature a panel of five distinguished business owners who will share their stories with aspiring small business owners, aged 50+.

Location: Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College - Enka campus, located at 1465 Sand Hill Road, Candler NC 28715. The event takes place in the large conference room, #2046, in the Small Business Center.

Registration information to follow and/or contact me via bginbc@aol.com. Put OCTOBER 2 in subject line.

B. Other NC events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Td>

(1) The Autumn Players Readers Theatre Showcase presents: George Bernard Shaw's "The Devil's Disciple." (2) Magic nights in Asheville, a weekly magic show!

(3) Jennifer Gatti: Hey everyone, I'm teaching an acting class this fall for AB Tech's Continuing Education program. (4) Maria M. in NC: The Basilica of St. Lawrence will hold a public forum on Friday, 9-7-12. (5) Asheville Vaudeville at the Magnetic Field.

C. PA/NJ events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Tf>

(1) Good reason to get to Mannions Irish Pub in Sommerville, NJ: Jim Roney. (2) THE MAN WHO BOUGHT A COUNTRY at Actors' Net in Morrisville, PA.

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week!

And in the unlikely event you have not done so already, please click to:



Blaine Greenfield
19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way
Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
Phone : 828.633.1049

Contact Us at bginbc@aol.com

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BLAINES WORLD



#829

8.13.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

A. Were joined by our friend Steven Shulman for dinner at our favorite restaurant in Mars Hill: El Dorado Latin Grill.

As always, the food was delicious, and the service from Lora was top notch . . . for more information about this eatery, please click:

<http://www.eldoradolatingrill.com/>

From there, we went to see SART's final regular play of the season: SYLVIA.

What a delight!

It was both funny and touching . . . all in the cast excelled: Toni Lepanto, Randy Noojin, Callan White and Bradshaw Call. Kudos, also, to director Paige Posey and set designer Richard Seagle.



(l-r) Blaine Greenfield, Bradshaw Call and Steven Shulman

You're in luck, in that the play runs for another week . . . do catch it if you can. To see remaining dates and times, please click:

www.sartplays.org

To see a trailer for the show, please click:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3Nqo8eFhY8&feature=player_embedded

To see a review of the show, please click:

<http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20120817/ENT/308170010/-Sylvia-charming-SART?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Entertainment>

And for one final comment, here's what my friend Chuck F. in NC had to say about it:

WOWWWWW! Just returned and found a gem...SART. The girl dog was fantastic in every way. The fellow who played 3 supporting characters co-stole the show with the girl dog. (I wanted to say bi*ch but I didn't want to confuse that term with the wife.) We'll be back many times.

He then added:

To clarify, by the wife I meant the wife role in the play. Otherwise I'm in the doghouse!

***** REQUEST: PLEASE HELP OUT *****

SART, as you may not know, is unique in terms of all local theatres--and even those throughout the country. We pay all our actors and technicians, including those still in college. We don't use any interns or apprentices because we want to support the idea that working in the theatre is a profession--and one worthy of compensation.

Consequently, we'd very much appreciate your considering the following request:

Our 2012 budget is being stretched, given the state of the economy, there are less sponsors than usual, only half of our expenses are actually covered by ticket sales, etc.

Thus far, we've been able to pay all of our employees . . . but we'd very much like to be able to continue paying our student actors and technicians. Doing so not only encourages them professionally, but also gives them a reason to come back next summer to help out.

You can help us reach the above goal by making a tax-deductible contribution to SART. No gift is too small. (Or too large, for that matter.) Rest assured that your generosity is much appreciated.

You can make your tax-deductible donation via our website at the "click to DONATE ONLINE" button:

<http://sartplays.org/wish.htm>

Or you can mail a check to: SART, P.O.Box 1720, Mars Hill, NC 28754 on or before August 23, 2012.

Many thanks for your consideration!

B. We also had the pleasure of attending a reading at Downtown Books & News that featured Majo John Madden, our friend and favorite local poet.



(l-r) Majo John Madden and Cynthia Greenfield

For more information about this talented individual, please click:

<http://www.somethingrises.com/AboutMajo.html>

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Gary Charles on the birth of Gianna, his new daughter.

(2) Tom Edinger on his marriage to Laura Krivulka, now Laura Krivulka-Edinger.

(3) Karen Tessier , president and owner of Market Connections, on being named as one of this year's Downtown Heroes by the Asheville Downtown Association.

(4) Kathryn Long for being covered in VERVE magazine as one of Asheville's most fascinating women

<http://www.vervemag.com/august-2012/2012/7/31/they-fought-city-hall.html>

(5) Cara Cotellese and her Electronic Media students for having earned two nominations for the regional Emmy Awards, announced at XFINITY Live in Philadelphia.

(6) Ed Kohlhepp on being quoted by an Inquirer columnist:

http://articles.philly.com/2012-08-15/business/33201754_1_fiscal-cliff-tax-cuts-capital-gains

Note: Ed is my financial guru and the absolute best with respect to providing financial advice. He can be reached as follows: phone, 215.340.5777 or email, ejk@kohlheppadvisors.com.

(7) Sharon B. in NC, winner of Contest #16: an Asheville Peel to Save Card. All told, there were 8 entries. And that reminds me that it is now time to introduce . . .

***** CONTEST #17 *****

One lucky winner will receive the book, EVERYTHING ABOUT ME; A GUIDE FOR MY FUTURE CAREGIVERS/Military Personnel & Families Edition (DC Press) by Dee Marrella, a military wife.

I've read the two other books by this author, EVERYTHING ABOUT ME and WHO CARES, and they have both been most informative . . . the above would especially be helpful if you are in the military and/or if you know somebody who is . . . to quote Daniel L. Cooper, retired vice admiral US Navy & former under secretary for benefits, Dept. of Veterans Affairs:

"Dee Marrella has compiled a comprehensive outline, which can serve as the basis for an invaluable repository of all the information any family, young or old, as well a single people need. It has the potential to be especially beneficial for military and veterans' families as they experience deployments, separations and emergencies. This information can provide immediate relief and direction in difficult, unexpected situation."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #17" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, August 26.

D. Condolences to the family and friends of Maxine Plummer on her recent passing. Maxine was an excellent Science professor and a colleague of mine from Bucks County Community College. She will be missed.

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

This week, it goes to Dr. Christopher Kennerly--my dentist since I've moved to the Asheville area.

I've been impressed by the work done by both him and his staff, including another dentist (Dr. Jeremy Ledford) . . . everybody in the office has always been friendly, as well as quite professional. His equipment is high tech or at least that's how it seems to me . . . and I appreciate the fact that whenever you have an appointment, you rarely have to wait more than a few minutes.

Recently, I was told that one of my teeth had to be removed because of something known as internal root resorption . . . if you really want to know what that is, please click: http://www.mndental.org/features/2010/06/24/219/causes_and_treatment_of_root_resorption

Dr. Kennerly did the resultant extraction without any difficulty, and both he and Dr. Ledford will be handling the implant work that still needs to be done.

True story: After my tooth was removed, Dr. Kennerly put in a replacement of sorts that included the top part of the original tooth . . . a few nights later, I had a dream that I lost one of my teeth and because I was visiting New Jersey, I had to find a way to get back to see Dr. Kennerly . . . I told Cynthia about the dream and I kid you not, the very next day, the top part of the original tooth broke off . . . when I called Dr. Kennerly to tell him what happened, I was appreciative of the fact that he called me back from his home one night to tell me to come in the next morning to have it recemented . . . he also said that this was the first time in his dental practice that he had ever heard of a patient having such a dream that actually came true!

For more information about Dr. Kennerly, Dr. Ledford or Asheville Dental, please click:
<http://www.ashevilledental.com/>.

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

Karen M. in NC: How to Clear a Blocked Nose

Did you know your body has a natural mechanism for clearing your nose?

Push your tongue against the top of your mouth and place a finger between your eyebrows and apply pressure. Hold it for about 20 seconds and your sinuses will begin to drain.

Note: I wanted to see if any doctors recommended this technique and found out that there was at least this one who did (see the fifth trick):

http://www.menshealth.com/mhlists/diy_health_remedies/printer.php/

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Tony M. in LA: Hey Good Lookin' by Hank Williams

<http://countrymusicnation.com/6228/video-hey-good-lookin-by-hank-williams/>

(2) Stethoscope: See if you can guess what is being advertised before the end of the clip

<http://zanylol.com/ad.html>

(3) Jamin's Downtown Disney Flashmob Proposal

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Su1YLAjty-U>

(4) Trout becoming expert thief of home runs

[http://losangeles.angels.mlb.com/news/article.jsp?](http://losangeles.angels.mlb.com/news/article.jsp?ymd=20120812&content_id=36568020-ebook_id=36568026&vkey=notebook_ana&c_id=ana)

[ymd=20120812&content_id=36568020-ebook_id=36568026&vkey=notebook_ana&c_id=ana](http://losangeles.angels.mlb.com/news/article.jsp?ymd=20120812&content_id=36568020-ebook_id=36568026&vkey=notebook_ana&c_id=ana)

(5) John S. in PA: Song called "True Colors," which he [Bob Horowitz} and I wrote and the Triplets recorded. And it's never been more relevant.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcacygOd5wg&list=UUk2GtsWoQg1gzcU_8w3lyEQ&index=1&feature=plcp)

[v=rcacygOd5wg&list=UUk2GtsWoQg1gzcU_8w3lyEQ&index=1&feature=plcp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcacygOd5wg&list=UUk2GtsWoQg1gzcU_8w3lyEQ&index=1&feature=plcp)

(6) Bruce S. in AZ: Feynman Diagram #10 [he's the one playing]

<http://soundcloud.com/moose61/feynman-diagram-10>

(7) Walter B. in NC: Women in boxes (Behind every great magician is a woman in a box.)

http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/women_in_boxes

(8) Rock E. in NC: Erotic poetry slam (Christine poem)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCB4_nxIGZA&list=UUIMD15tKxxlxKTJ9W-](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCB4_nxIGZA&list=UUIMD15tKxxlxKTJ9W-NFF8g&index=1&feature=plcp)

[NFF8g&index=1&feature=plcp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCB4_nxIGZA&list=UUIMD15tKxxlxKTJ9W-NFF8g&index=1&feature=plcp)

(9) Lucas G. in NC: Asheville High School Class of 2012 Video Tribute

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKmW8W4duoc&feature=youtu.be>

(10) Sharon C. in NC: Kyrie Irving (NBA rookie of the year), dressed-up as an 80-year old, playing hoops on the street in NJ

<http://devour.com/video/uncle-drew/>

(11) Natalie K. in PA: Woolworth Lunch Counter

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xbbcjn4d1cE>

(12) Marty D. in PA: Great commercial. You will never guess this one until the end.

<http://tinyurl.com/6hu2ap4>

B. Other

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Sw>

(1) Terry V. in NC: Loved this installment! (2) Linda S. in NJ: I have a favor to ask. (3) Chris F. in PA: Excellent blog this week! (4) Walter W. in PA: Treme Returns Sunday, September 23. (5) Barbara F. in PA: Pat yourself on the back. (6) Micah S. in PA: Larry McMurtry's Book Auction. (7) Carol S. in PA: 20 Things Your Most Annoying Friends Do on Facebook. (8) Jane H. in NC: Carolina Mountains Credit Union: Making a Difference By Where You Bank. (9) Nelson S. in NC: Are You Smarter Than a Bible School-Educated Louisianan?

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

Warning: Blonde joke ahead that's also a Romney joke. If either offends you, don't read further. Or if it makes you feel better, substitute brunette or redhead whenever you see the word blonde. And use Obama instead of Romney.

A blonde was the sole passenger in a two-seater airplane when the pilot suddenly has a heart attack and dies.

But she knew what to do--she had seen it in the movies! She grabs the radio microphone and calls out: "Mayday Mayday Mayday! Help me! Help me! My pilot had a heart attack and is dead. I don't know how to fly. Help me! Please help me!"

Immediately a calm, reassuring voice replies. "This is Air Traffic Control," he says, "and I have you loud and clear. I will talk you through this and get you back on the ground. I've had a lot of experience with this kind of problem. Now, just take a deep breath. Everything will be fine. Give me your height and position."

She says, "I'm five-foot-four and I support Mitt Romney."

There's a long pause.

"O.K." says the voice on the radio, "I didn't realize you were blonde. Repeat after me: Our Father, who art in Heaven . . ."

[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. TED is a foul-mouthed comedy of a grown man (well-played by Mark Wahlberg) who must deal with the beloved teddy bear that he has had ever since a childhood wish came true . . . the film was conceived by FAMILY GUY creator Seth MacFarlane, and he served as writer, director and voice star . . . the first half was very funny; however, it fell apart thereafter--for me at least . . . rated R.

B. THE HUNGER GAMES is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #812 follows:

THE HUNGER GAMES has certainly gotten a lot of hype . . . so by now, most probably know that it's about a nationally televised event in which teenagers fight for their lives until one survivor remains . . . frankly, by the time the film ended, I could have cared less about who the winner was going to be (though you knew that way before then) . . . I found it a very boring, overlong mess that didn't involve me at all . . . much of the acting was over the top, and I can tell you one thing for sure . . . you won't catch me waiting in line to see the sequel, CATCHING FIRE . . . rated PG-13.

A MUCH BETTER RENTAL: I recently revisited FORREST GUMP, a romantic comedy starring Tom Hanks in an Oscar-winning performance . . . and actually enjoyed it more this second time . . . despite having a below-normal IQ, Gump leads a charmed life as he manages to have a ringside life for many of the most memorable events of the second half of the 20th century--teaching Elvis Presley to dance, defeating the Chinese national team in table tennis, etc. Rated PG-13.

C. RULES OF THE HUNT: REAL-WORLD ADVICE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL AND BUSINESS SUCCESS (McGraw-Hill) by Michael Dalton Johnson is a book that lives up the promise of its subtitle.

The author, a successful entrepreneur with more than 30 years of business leadership experience, shares his insights on a range of topics--ranging from practical skills like negotiating and recruiting to "soft" skills like mental agility and personal growth.

There are many ideas that caught my attention; among them:

* When you see a really good marketing concept or packaging innovation, adapt it to your own use. This does not mean that you should plagiarize copy or design. Use concepts only. I used to go to the post office on Saturday mornings and load up on dozens of unopened direct mail pieces that I would "steal" from the waste bins. I would then take them home and analyze them. I got a treasure trove of brilliant ideas from America's leading direct mail experts. You won't find this real-world instruction in any book.

* Get specific and stay specific.

When setting your goals, don't use general terms, like "increase sales" or "acquire affiliates." Instead, use specific terms such as, "Increase sales by 20 percent," or "acquire five affiliates this quarter." Instead of saying, "Get more publicity," specify by saying, "Send out two news releases this month."

And this one, perhaps my favorite:

* Would you like a table for two?

Knowing how strong the demand is for your product is valuable information and difficult to determine without research. A restaurant consultant developed a fascinating strategy for determining demand.

He goes to a client's restaurant on Friday and Saturday nights at 6 p.m. and monitors the wait time to be seated for the next four hours. If the time to be seated consistently exceeds 15 minutes for a month, he advises his client to raise the price of entrees across the board by one dollar. If the wait time continues to exceed 15 minutes for more than two months, he advises the client to raise the prices of the entrees by yet another dollar.

He maintains that monitoring the time it takes for diners to be seated is a very accurate indicator of what the market will bear. He suggests that wait times should not be made too short. The goal of this strategy is to make more money and not shorten wait times. In fact, maintaining a healthy wait time is a good thing because the restaurant's bar stays busier. Have you ever heard, "If you'll have a seat at the bar, I'll call you when your table is ready"?

Real-world research means money in the bank.

RULES OF THE HUNT is a book I'll refer to often . . . in addition, I'll be recommending it to any of my clients who are currently thinking of starting a business and/or who are running one now.

D. MAN MADE: A STUPID QUEST FOR MASCULINITY (Hachette Audio), written and read by humorist Joel Stein, had me laughing from page 1 about his real-life attempts to acquire as many manly skills as possible in order to be a better father to his newborn son.

To do so, the author does a 24-hour shift with L.A. firefighters, hunts, rebuilds a home, drives a Lamborghini, endures three days of boot camp with the US Army, day-trades with \$100,000 and goes into the ring with UFC Hall of Famer Randy Couture.

I got a special kick out of reading how he gained knowledge to prepare for the above; i.e., by interviewing a panel of experts, including former NFL star Warren Sapp, former MLB All-Star Shawn Green, a 13-year old Boy Scout named Wiggles and a pit bull named Hercules.

I'd recommend this book to any father, past, present or future . . . wives will enjoy it, too, because Stein's writing is not only funny, but it is also quite touching in parts.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. Each episode of COUNTING CARS will feature stories about historic vehicles (from vintage Thunderbirds to classic Corvettes to tricked out motorcycles), chronicling both their transformations as well as the wheeling and dealing of them. The series will premiere Monday, August 13 at 10:30 p.m. on HISTORY before moving into its regularly scheduled Tuesday 10 p.m. slot the following night.

B. I'll continue to watch SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on FOX as long as Eliana Girard is in the competition . . . she is the daughter of Della Striker--one of my high school classmates . . . if you think she's as good as I think she is, please also vote for her immediately after the show.

C. COOPER promises to be a powerful and violent tale of 1864 life in New York City . . . "Not much about the home front during the Civil War has ever made it to any screen," notes THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "certainly not any full one set in New York City. There is one now, and it for all its violence and crude class stereotyping, a considerable achievement." Premieres on Sunday, Aug. 19, at 10 p.m. on BBC AMERICA.

D. ANIMAL PRACTICE is a sitcom about unconventional veterinary practice in New York . . . according to ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY, "You've got to love something that starts with a cat hurling itself off a building to avoid watching an episode of The Wendy Williams Show. I do, anyway. Alas, there's nothing else quite as darkly comic in this sitcom about a

New York animal hospital, although the comment from Betsy Sodaro's animal handler Angela that 'not all dogs go to heaven, sometimes they just end up in the ground' comes close. The pilot repeats on Tuesday, August 21, at 10:30 p.m. on NBC.

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

Gladys failed a Health and Safety course at the Senior Center today.

One of the questions was: "In the event of a fire, what steps would you take?"

"F***in' big ones" was apparently the wrong answer.

[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Jeff T. in NC: OK, this is pure genius. I used to think Jimmy Fallon was just the guy who couldn't keep a straight face around Will Ferrell, but now I'm sold. And Springsteen impersonating HIMSELF. Just brilliant.

Sexy and i know it - Bruce Springsteen & Jimmy Fallon as Neil Young
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5EYIJmixPw&feature=share>

Also:

Whip my hair - Bruce Springsteen and Jimmy Fallon as Neil Young
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRbd12Sv1Ak&feature=plcp>

And more on Fallon (from Jean D. in PA):
Love Fallon!

In this video, he sings "Call Me Maybe" with the artist...but...ALL the instruments played by The Roots of Phila. are those you'd find in a child's classroom. MUCH better sound than the original, imho.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEsPhTbJhuo&feature=youtu.be>

B. Janeen R. in PA: Really cleverly done.

They should be in the Olympics!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=341rybZ42vA&feature=player_embedded

This is actually an HP Printer & Evian Water commercial. But there are only a few seconds which actually bring attention to the HP printer & Evian water. The bulk of the commercial is purely entertainment. And IT IS AMAZING!

I don't know how they do this kind of stuff, but it is flawless. It is so perfectly done that I could not find one thing that would make you think it wasn't real if you didn't know any better.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

In case you're wondering what happens with your name if you sign-up for BLAINESWORLD, click "Newsletter" to the left and then "Privacy Statement."

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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

[Like us on Facebook](#) 

[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

Pat H. in PA: There is a Facebook post of you watching a video on Socialcam about a Huge Pimple. Not sure if you posted it or not. But I'm told that once you view any Socialcam videos, they automatically get posted on Facebook that you watched it. And from what I understand, it's tough to remove yourself from Socialcams link.

Best thing is to not view any more socialcam videos. Otherwise, it uploads what you watched to Facebook. It's kind of embarrassing for people I know, especially who have

children on Facebook. So did you post this video or not? And from what I am being told, are you aware that whatever you watch on Socialcam gets uploaded to your Facebook page?

Response: I did not post the above video. And I'm staying away from any Socialcam stuff. For more information, please click:

Why (and How) to Turn Off Socialcam on Facebook

<http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/upgrade-your-life/embarrassing-socialcam-shares-prevent-them-185909023.html>

Back to Top

9. Joke 3

Abbott & Costello Take on the Real Unemployment Rate

COSTELLO: I want to talk about the unemployment rate in America.

ABBOTT: Good Subject. Terrible Times. It's about 8 percent.

COSTELLO: That many people are out of work?

ABBOTT: No, that's 16 percent.

COSTELLO: You just said 8 percent.

ABBOTT: 8 percent unemployed.

COSTELLO: Right 8 percent out of work.

ABBOTT: No, that's 16 percent.

COSTELLO: Okay, so it's 16 percent unemployed.

ABBOTT: No, that's around 8 percent...

COSTELLO: Waits a minute. Is it 8 percent or 16 percent?

ABBOTT: 8 percent are unemployed. 16 percent are out of work.

COSTELLO: If you are out of work aren't you unemployed?

ABBOTT: No, you can't count the "Out of Work" as unemployed. You have to look for work to be unemployed.

COSTELLO: But they are out of work!!!

ABBOTT: No, you miss my point.

COSTELLO: What point?

ABBOTT: Someone who doesn't look for work, can't be counted with those who look for work. It wouldn't be fair.

COSTELLO: To who?

ABBOTT: The unemployed.

COSTELLO: But they are all out of work.

ABBOTT: No, the unemployed are actively looking for work ... Those who are out of work stopped looking. They gave up. And, if you give up, you are no longer in the ranks of the unemployed.

COSTELLO: So if you're off the unemployment roles, that would count as less unemployment?

ABBOTT: Unemployment would go down. Absolutely!

COSTELLO: The unemployment just goes down because you don't look for work?

ABBOTT: Absolutely it goes down. That's how you get to 8 percent. Otherwise it would be 16 percent. You don't want to read about 16 percent unemployment do ya?

COSTELLO: That would be frightening.

ABBOTT: Absolutely.

COSTELLO: Wait, I got a question for you. That means there are two ways to bring down the unemployment number?

ABBOTT: Two ways is correct.

COSTELLO: Unemployment can go down if someone gets a job?

ABBOTT: Correct.

COSTELLO: And unemployment can also go down if you stop looking for a job?

ABBOTT: Bingo.

COSTELLO: So there are two ways to bring unemployment down, and the easier of the two is to just stop looking for work.

ABBOTT: Now you're thinking like an economist.

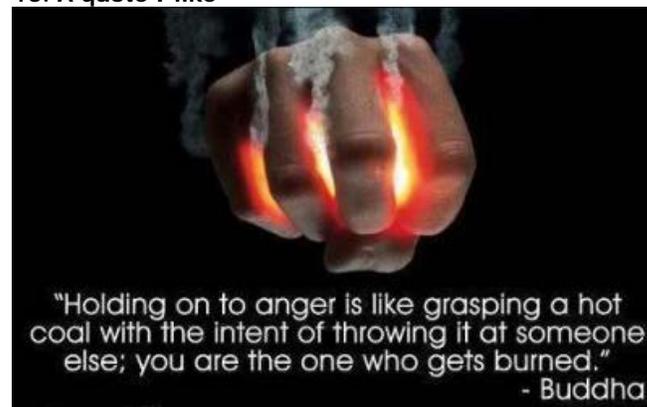
COSTELLO: I don't even know what the hell I just said!

Source: A column by Barry Levinson, best known as a writer, director and producer of movies and television. It appeared in U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT.
<http://tinyurl.com/bpwx36s>

Note: To see the real Abbott & Costello discuss working (vs. loafing), please click:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ET7tyONhytY>

[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like



[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day



[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. Invites to two seminars I'm presenting:

(1) Marketing: The Art of Positioning

Instructor: Blaine Greenfield

Saturday, September 15, 2012, 9A-12P

Fee: \$25/person

CRN: 60099

Material Fee: None

Improve your personal and business success by projecting the right message. Highly successful individuals, companies, and nonprofit organizations all utilize the concept of "positioning"; they make themselves meaningfully different from the competition. Come to this informative and engaging workshop to learn how it's done.

Those who attend will learn to:

Define the term "positioning" and give examples.

Relate the concept to your particular field of interest.

Apply the Four-mula 4 Success and develop an action plan to use it.

For more information and to register, please click:

<http://olliasheville.com/courses/60099-0>

(2) Survival Marketing

Sponsored by Ruth C. Smith

Saturday, October 13, 2012 - 9:00 AM-Noon

Registration starts at 8:30 AM

Registration: \$30.00

Save \$5 by pre-registering by clicking:

<http://ashevillescore.org/score-seminars/score-seminars-registration/>

To market and grow your business, you need to understand the concept of positioning; i.e., what is it that you do that makes yourself meaningfully different from the competition. Come to this informative and engaging seminar to learn how it's done.

B. Other NC events:

(1) At SART: HARD TRAVELIN' WITH WOODY AND THE HOBOS: A live, musical history lesson about Woody Guthrie . . . August 24-26, 7:30 p.m. each night . . . Randy Noojin, joined by Liz Aiello, Bruce Lang and Bucky Hanks, brings to the Owen Theatre stage his acclaimed show that was produced in the 2011 New York Fringe Festival. According to the Huffington Post, "Noojin delivers one of the delights of the fest . . . captures the spirit of Woody . . . solid, entertaining work that should travel far and wide in these hard times, just like Guthrie himself." Tickets are just \$15. To order, call or email the Box Office at 828.689.1239; boxoffice@mhc.edu.

To see a trailer for the show, please click:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4RgZjCCbYc>

Also:

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Sy>

(2) The Zoodles (Jennifer Worthen), Zuzu Welsh and Keith Shauger). (3) Join Beverly-Hanks to Meet the Artist. (4) A Celebration of Little Pearls with Kat Williams & Friends. (5) The Magnetic Theatre presents Landscape with Missing Person (through August 25).

C. PA/NJ events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-SA>

(1) I [Mike Andrus] have a 2 Women's Self Defense Seminars scheduled for next week. (2) Runaway Broadway is running for another week at Bristol. (3) The Sacred Paths Community will be presenting three unique noontime workshops this fall. (4) BuxMont Coalition for Peace Action picnic.

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
Phone : 828.633.1049

Contact Us at bjinbc@aol.com

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BLAINES WORLD



#828

8.6.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(A) Saw SWEET WATER TASTE at SART (see also Section 12A), a play that won the 2011 ScriptFEST competition and was being produced for the first time ever on the Owen Theatre stage at Mars Hill College. Written by Gloria Bond Clunie, it was both funny and touching, and we predict that you will see it at many other theatres in the future.

We absolutely loved it!

So as to not forget anybody, kudos to the entire cast: Reggie Kelly, Becky Stone, Steven Isaac Rice, Tamra Austin, Michael Mattison, Kay Galvin and Chris Allison. They were all superb, as was Bill Gregg's direction and Richard Seagle's set design.



(l-r): Blaine Greenfield, Steven Isaac Rice, Tamara Austin and Cynthia Greenfield



(l-r) Chris Allison, Blaine Greenfield and Michael Mattison

(B) A few days later, I attended a SART Sponsor Reception at the Inn of Mars Hill--hosted by Andy and Vicky Sorenson and sponsored by Legacy Films (Theresa Phillips and her son Ryan Phillips).

It featured Liz Aiello, singing songs from her new Patsy Cline CD. She was accompanied by Bruce Lang. They were both fantastic!



(l-r) Bruce Lang, Liz Aiello and Blaine Greenfield

The purpose of the event was to say thanks to just some of the many folks who have helped make this season the success it has been.

***** REQUEST: PLEASE HELP OUT *****

SART, as you may not know, is unique in terms of all local theatres--and even those throughout the country. We pay all our actors and technicians, including those still in college. We don't use any interns or apprentices because we want to support the idea that working in the theatre is a profession--and one worthy of compensation.

Consequently, we'd very much appreciate your considering the following request:

Our 2012 budget is being stretched, given the state of the economy, there are less sponsors than usual, only half of our expenses are actually covered by ticket sales, etc.

Thus far, we've been able to pay all of our employees . . . but we'd very much like to be able to continue paying our student actors and technicians. Doing so not only encourages them professionally, but also gives them a reason to come back next summer to help out.

You can help us reach the above goal by making a tax-deductible contribution to SART. No gift is too small. (Or too large, for that matter.) Rest assured that your generosity is much appreciated.

You can make your tax-deductible donation via our website at the "click to DONATE

ONLINE" button:
<http://sartplays.org/wish.htm>

Or you can mail a check to: SART, P.O.Box 1720, Mars Hill, NC 28754 on or before August 16, 2012.

Many thanks for your consideration!

B. Congratulations to:

(1) Amy Loy for becoming certified as a laughter yoga/laughter for wellness teacher.

(2) Connie Ruble for having completed the Lake Logan Triathlon, her first international (or Olympic) distance: 1500 m swim (close to a mile), 26 mile bike and 10K (6.2 mile) run. Her time was an amazing 3 hours 6 minutes!

(3) Christina McCaffrey on her engagement to Tony Smith.

(4) Jim Freeman and his softball team for having won the Northampton Men's League Championship for the second year in a row and the fourth time in the last six years.

(5) Britt Lippard on landing a new job with doctordirectory.com as a marketing research project manager.

Note: Britt will be leaving her position as program coordinator with Leadership Asheville. She will be missed!

6. Suzanne Smith Wright on her new position as a broker with Preferred Properties. We used her when we bought our home in Asheville, and we recommend her highly. She can be reached as follows: office, 828.258. 2953; cell, 828.551.4609; email, suzanne@preferredprop.com.

C. Correction to last week's issue, thanks to Sharon C. in NC . . . Section 1D mentioned the Garwood Café in Asheville . . . the correct name is the Grovewood Café . . . for more information about this restaurant that we enjoyed, please click: www.grovewoodcafe.com

D. Still time to enter . . .

***** CONTEST #16 *****

This one is probably geared for folks in the Asheville area and/or if you know somebody who lives there.

One lucky winner will receive an Asheville Peel to Save Card. It contains about 80 coupons, including buy 1, get 1 free deals at Arbys, Cold Stone Creamery, Burger King, Domino's and Papa John's; discounts at Denny's, Friday's, KFC and Fuddruckers; and a whole host of other savings.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #16" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, August 12.

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

This week, it goes to Tony Kiss--entertainment editor of ASHEVILLE SCENE (formerly TAKE 5).

Ever since moving to Asheville, the above has been the first thing I look at on Friday morning to plan my weekend activities.

I find out the latest movies and concerts that are in town, but much more . . . for example, I'll also learn about the beer scene. Though I'm not really a fan of the beverage, I get a kick out of his coverage of that industry and chuckle whenever I see his "other" name; i.e., Beer Guy.

Tony, in particular, has been a big fan of SART. He has given it great coverage and has reviewed many of the plays there.

And I'd be remiss if I didn't also mention the work of Jim Cavener, a reviewer for this same publication . . . he, too, has helped spread the word about SART and many of the other local theatres.

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

Thanks to Marilynne H. in NC for sharing the following message that she occasionally sends out to folks who get too "into" political emails:

You are a dear and valued friend but please don't send me any more anti-(fill-in the name of whatever candidate you want) messages. We see things very differently. I can't change your mind and you can't change mine. Let's enjoy the other aspects of our long-standing friendship minus political issues.

My two cents: It is too bad that we all can't converse on political and other matters in a civil fashion, but alas, it doesn't seem to be the case. I personally enjoy hearing about all sides of various issues. However, I have no tolerance for name-calling. The spreading of outright lies is also something that really bugs me.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Katherine Q. in NC: The Swell Season - Falling Slowly

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSZ6M88MTP4&feature=share>

(2) Serena Williams after beating Maria Sharapova in 2012 Olympics (don't blink; it's only 5 seconds)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5d9z_QrfaBw

(3) Dom Irrera - How to Speak Italian

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URU33qxPtPU>

(4) Me and My Arrow by Harry Nilsson

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0xoDo5mszs>

(5) Old Red Hills of Home (Sung by Steven Isaac Rice)

<http://soundcloud.com/steven-isaac-rice/old-red-hills-of-home-sung-by>

(6) Janeen R. in PA: Memories of WNEW (Channel 5) in NY

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=JEfotdZCguk&pop_ads=null

(7) The Beatles, dancing to "Happy Together"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dw33m2QCp5g>

(8) Springsteen covers of others' songs

<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/culture/2012/07/springsteens-covers.html>

(9) Community Choreography performance from 4.11 (look to see Cynthia throughout the clip)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RH7pJ_9apqM&feature=youtu.be

(10) Maria M. in NC: Apple iPad Art Exhibition in London

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNK_Uq_0Syl

(11) Bob P: Lewis Black on campaign fibs

<http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/tue-july-24-2012/back-in-black---campaign-fibs>

(12) Britt L. in NC: 4 Non Blondes: What's Up

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NXnxTNIWkc>

B. Other

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-RI>

(1) Janet S. in NJ: Thanks for your fun reports. (2) Gary G. in NC: # 10. Cool quote. (3) Barbara H. in PA: Three thoughts about the "new" BlainesWorld. (4) Rock E. in NC: I admire all the community activities you take part in and enjoy your newsletter. (5) Donna S. in AL: I love this one . . . the poem about finding you earlier so that I could love you more and longer. (6) Doug H. in NC: Cool! [quote in BLAINESWORLD #827]. (7) Kimberly R. in NC: We liked the dancing and the message [in STEP UP REVOLUTION] despite the terrible acting. (8) Eileen Z. in PA: The picture of your wife with the two Havanese pups is one of the best ever! (9) Chris F. in PA: I cannot blame you and Cynthia for thinking Havanese are cute. (10) John B. in NC: I like the new format, Blaine. (11) Maria P. in PA: On the diet book . . . there's actually a simple way to eat well. (12) Patricia G. in PA: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR MIDDLE-AGE MOMS. (13) Roseann P. in NJ: Events surround us (her latest blog entry). (14) Edie W. in PA: National Lazy Day. (15) Maria M. in NC (with information on the J-P-W Schierhorn Educational Fund). (16) Walter B. in NC: I thought you might want to mention in your publication my friends Bob & Trish. (17) Laura B. in NJ: If you want to tell people in Northern NJ about Globe Shoes, it might prove to be useful.

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

Employee Notice:

Due to the current financial situation caused by the slowdown in the economy, Congress has decided to implement a scheme to put workers of 50 years of age and above on early, mandatory retirement, thus creating jobs and reducing unemployment.

This scheme will be known as RAPE (Retire Aged People Early).

Persons selected to be RAPED can apply to Congress to be considered for the SHAFT program (Special Help After Forced Termination).

Persons who have been RAPED and SHAFTEd will be reviewed under the SCREW program (System Covering Retired-Early Workers).

A person may be RAPED once, SHAFTEd twice, and SCREWED as many times as Congress deems appropriate.

Persons who have been RAPED could get AIDS (Additional Income for Dependents & Spouse) or HERPES (Half Earnings for Retired Personnel Early Severance).

Obviously, persons who have AIDS or HERPES will not be SHAFTEd or SCREWED any further by Congress.

Persons who are not RAPED and are staying on, will receive as much SH*T (Special High Intensity Training) as possible. Congress has always prided themselves on the amount of SH*T they give our citizens.

Should you feel that you do not receive enough SH*T, please bring this to the attention of your Congressman, who has been trained to give you all the SH*T you can handle.

Sincerely,
The Committee for Economic Value of Individual Lives (E.V.I.L.)

PS. Due to recent budget cuts and the rising cost of electricity, gas and oil, as well as current market conditions, the Light at the End of the Tunnel has been turned off. We apologize for any inconvenience.

My two cents: I had to edit the above with respect to one word; i.e., sh*t, in that some spam blockers won't allow that word to go through.

[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. STEP UP REVOLUTION is the fourth in a series of dance films that I hadn't seen previously . . . that didn't matter, either, because it didn't tie into what had been done earlier . . . in this one, a young professional dancer falls in love with a young man who leads a crew of dancers known as "The Mob" . . . they perform throughout Miami in an attempt to win a competition, but things turn serious and the emphasis turns to saving the neighborhood . . . the dialogue leaves much to be desired, but the dancing was energetic . . . and overall, STEP UP REVOLUTION turned out to be a guilty pleasure . . . rated PG-13.

B. Now out on DVD is JEFF WHO LIVES AT HOME, a quirky comedy about a guy on the way to buy wood glue who looks for signs from the universe to determine his direction . . . en route, he bumps into his family in strange locations and circumstances . . . Jason Segel and Ed Helms were both quite good as brothers, and though this film might not be for everybody (a good friend hated it), I liked it . . . rated R.

C. THE NEW NEW RULES: A FUNNY LOOK AT HOW EVERYBODY BUT ME HAS THEIR HEAD UP THEIR ASS (Blue Rider Press) by Bill Maher is his latest collection of rules--many of which originally appeared on REAL TIME, his TV show.

Some others have been added, and there are also numerous photographs about the individuals or institutions being cited.

The author covers the political scene, but also takes on much of the rest of the society. Not all of the rules are hysterically funny, but many of them will have you laughing . . . for example:

* New Rule: You can't force the ATM to do something it doesn't want to do. Excuse me, lady in front of me at the Citibank ATM, but you've been standing there punching buttons for ten minutes-what are you trying to do, write a novel on it? You hear those beeping noises? That's the ATM saying, "Stop it, you're hurting me." A chicken would have gotten forty bucks out of that thing by now just by pecking the buttons randomly.

I also got a kick out of this one:

* New Rule: Ain't no party like a Wall Street party, 'cause a Wall Street party don't stop. If we're really going to reform Wall Street, can we start by figuring out a better way to do business than having a bunch of sweaty guys screaming and waving pieces of paper with numbers on them? This is supposed to be the most sophisticated financial system in the world, and they look they're trying to lay bets at a cockfight.

And the following had me nodding in agreement:

* New Rule: Food companies must face the facts: One container equals one serving. Look, we're Americans, and that means once we open the bag, there's no stopping us until we're licking stray bits of powdered cheese off the carpet. So stop trying to give us nutritional information based on a fraction of the package. It assumes a talent for two things that we're really not capable of: restraint and math.

If you like Maher, you'll enjoy this book . . . however, be advised that if the use of certain language considered offensive by some bothers, you, then you should probably skip THE NEW NEW RULES.

D/ REPUBLIC, LOST: HOW MONEY CORRUPTS CONGRESS--AND A PLAN TO STOP IT (Hachette Audio), written by Lawrence Lessig is a page-turner that will have you wondering how things have gotten the way they are.

According to the author, an academician:

* The great evil that we as Americans face is the banal evil of second-rate minds who can't make it in the private sector and who therefore turn to the massive wealth directed by our government as the means to securing wealth for themselves. The enemy is not evil. The enemy is well dressed.

He then proceeds to point out all the things that are wrong with the current system, but the most eye-opening to me was this tidbit:

* Congress spends 30% (or more) of its time raising funds to get reelected.

I sort of knew that, but never really thought about it until Lessig pointed it out . . . and the fact that we wouldn't let this take place in education or any other field, but we allow it to happen in Congress.

Fortunately, REPUBLIC, LOST isn't completely depressing . . . I especially liked the Appendix, subtitled "What You Can Do" . . . this one recommendation really struck me as making sense, though I have doubts that it will ever happen in my lifetime:

*Demand that candidates of Congress take a pledge to support small dollar campaigns.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. Don't miss THEIR FINEST HOURS on Saturday at 8 p.m. on NBC . . . according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "This remarkable documentary, set to air during NBC's regular Olympic programming, chronicles the heroism of Britain in the first two years of World War II when, as Mr. [Tom] Brokaw says, 'England stood alone, when England was all that was left between liberty and tyranny. . . . This fine might just be NBC's finest hour of Olympic programming."

B. 42ND STREET remains the classic backstage musical . . . the production numbers are sensational . . . there are great songs, too, including "You're Getting to Be a Habit with Me" and "Shuffle Off to Buffalo" . . . Sunday at 8 p.m. on TCM.

C. COMEDY CENTRAL ROAST OF ROSEANNE has Jane Lynch hosting fellow roasters Seth Green, Sharon Stone and Carrie Fisher . . . Sunday at 10 p.m. on COMEDY CENTRAL.

D. Don't miss SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE on Wednesday, Aug. 15 at 8 p.m. on FOX . . . the top 14 dancers perform a tribute to choreographer Mia Michaels . . . I'll be watching and voting for Eliana Girard (pictured below) , daughter of Della Striker--one of my high school classmates . . . if you think she's as good as I think she is, please also vote for her immediately after the show.



[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

Dr. Leroy, the head psychiatrist at the local mental hospital, is examining patients to see if they're cured and ready to reenter society.

"So, Mr. Clark," the doctor says to one of his patients, "I see by your chart that you've been recommended for dismissal. Do you have any idea what you might do once you're released?"

The patient thinks for a moment, then replies, "Well, I went to school for mechanical engineering. That's still a good field, good money there. But on the other hand, I thought I might write a book about my experience here in the hospital, what it's like to be a patient here. People might be interested in reading a book like that. In addition, I thought I might go back to college and study art history, which I've grown interested in lately."

Dr. Leroy nods and says, "Yes, those all sound like intriguing possibilities."

The patient replies, "And the best part is, in my spare time, I can go on being a teapot."

[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. ScamBusters analyzes the latest scams online, as well as in the real world too. Sign up for their free newsletter to keep up-to-date on new twists being used to rip both you and your elderly relatives off.

<http://www.Scambusters.org>

B. Nelson S. in NC: In this world of troubles, this will make you smile and amaze you. I just can't imagine the travel budget to put this together (but you would think he would have spent a little more on dancing lessons for himself). And the amount of coordination and planning it took at each site is mind-boggling.

Where the Hell is Matt? 2012

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pwe-pA6TaZk>

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

If you've lost sleep wondering what happens when you give your name to sign-up for this newsletter, you have no reason to worry . . . to see why that's the case, click "Newsletter" to the left and then "Privacy Statement."

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield



[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

George W. in PA: I'm able to get your e-mail. However, I'm not able to get the photos. Not sure why. Any suggestions ?

Answer: This sometimes happens to me. Most of the time, it indicates that I have too many programs open and/or using up too much memory. What I then do: Shut down my computer and start it up again. Things almost always works better thereafter, and I can see all photos. Let me know if this solves the problem. And, also, if any other reader has a similar problem, please tell me about it.

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

The woodpecker might have to go . . .



Note: See also Section 11.

[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

Enthusiasm spells the difference between mediocrity and accomplishment.--Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993), American minister and author best known for THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING

[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark . . .

One: Don't miss the boat.

Two: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Three: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Four: Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

Five: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Six: Build your future on high ground.

Seven: For safety sake, travel in pairs!

Eight: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

Nine: When you're stressed, float a while.

Ten: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

Eleven: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Note: See also Section 9.

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre (SART) in Mars Hill, NC

(1) SYLVIA runs from August 9-19. It is a modern romantic comedy about a marriage and a dog. Greg and Kate have moved to Manhattan after twenty-two years of child-raising in the suburbs. Greg's career as a financial trader is winding down, while Kate's career as a public-school English teacher is beginning to offer her more opportunities. Greg brings home a dog he finds in the park - or that finds him - bearing only the name "Sylvia" on her name tag. A street-smart mixture of Lab and Poodle, Sylvia becomes a major bone of contention between husband and wife. She offers Greg an escape from the frustrations of his job and the unknowns of middle age. To Kate, Sylvia becomes a rival for affection. And Sylvia thinks Kate just doesn't understand the relationship between man and dog. The marriage is put in serious jeopardy until, after a series of hilarious and touching complications, Greg and Kate learn to compromise and Sylvia becomes a valued part of their lives.

For the trailer, please click:
<http://youtu.be/C3Nqo8eFhY8>

For dates and times, please click:
www.sartplays.org

For tickets, please contact the Box Office: 689.1239; boxoffice@mhc.edu.

Note: I caught a preview performance of this show and can tell you it's terrific. You'll love it. And here's what two others had to say about it:

* Krsitin A. in NC: We truly enjoyed the play last night and it should be popular as most of the world are dog lovers. Not only is it a clever play but it was well acted . . . all four of the actors were strong so looks like you have a "winner" with this one. It was fun to be there during the rehearsal and not so bad to drive out there at night. We hadn't done that before.

* Art A. in NC: [We] thoroughly enjoyed the play last night. Everyone did a superb job. Playing the dog is not easy, for sure. Bradshaw Call was over the top with his different roles. He was hilarious as Phyllis and the guy at the dog park. . . . It was a very entertaining evening. We will recommend the show.

(2) HARD TRAVELIN' WITH WOODY AND THE HOBOS: A live, musical history lesson about Woody Guthrie . . . August 24-26, 7:30 p.m. each night . . . Randy Noojin, joined by Liz Aiello, Bruce Lang and Bucky Hanks, brings to the Owen Theatre stage his acclaimed show that was produced in the 2011 New York Fringe Festival. According to the Huffington Post, "Noojin delivers one of the delights of the fest . . . captures the spirit of Woody . . . solid, entertaining work that should travel far and wide in these hard times, just like Guthrie himself." Tickets are just \$15. To order, call or email the Box Office at 828.689.1239; boxoffice@mhc.edu.

To see a trailer for the show, please click:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4RgZjCCbYc>

B. Other NC events

To read about each of the following events in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-RK>

(1) Chekov one-act comedies at Hendersonville Little Theatre through August 12. (2) Asheville Police Department is inviting residents to apply for the fall semester of its Citizens Police Academy. (3) A Celebration of Little Pearls with Kat Williams and Friends. (4) Open Heart Art Center Annual Talent Show and Fundraiser. (5) Western North Carolina Historical Association upcoming calendar.

C. PA/NJ events

To read about each of the following events in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-RM>

(1) 7th Annual Newtown's Original Brewfest. (2) Masters of Motown.

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
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BLAINES WORLD

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#827

7.30.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Changed our mind at the last minute and went downtown to check out Bele Chere, the city's annual music and arts festival . . . we went on Sunday, the closing day . . . though the streets were crowded (all told, up to 350,000 people attend the three-day event), we were able to get around without any difficulty. Naturally, we had to work our way over to our friends at Kilwin's.



(l-r) Marcy Gallagher, owner; Cynthia wearing the ice cream glasses; me wearing a moose hat that is worn by the employees who sell a delicious version of Moose Tracks ice cream called Kilwins Tracks; and Kelda Harrison

(2) We also went for lunch at a delightful place called the Garwood Cafe, which is located next to the Grove Park Inn. I enjoyed my tuna melt sandwich, and Cynthia said her BLT was quite tasty. Our server, Brian, was excellent. For more information, please click: www.grovetwoodcafe.com

But what makes the eatery so memorable is the fact that it's part of a string of shops called the Grovetwood Gallery. So after lunch, we walked around to the artist studios, sculpture gardens, homespun museum and an even a car museum.



For more information, please click:
www.groveswood.com

B. Recently, we were in downtown Hendersonville and came across these Havanese dogs that Cynthia just had to stop and pet. She fell in love with them. OK, OK . . . I have to admit that I also found them cute.



C. Congratulations to:

(1) Tony Medlin on being promoted to the Assistant Professor rank at Baton Rouge Community College.

(2) Bill L. in PA, winner of Contest #15: a CD copy of DANIEL X: DEMONS AND DRUIDS by James Patterson and Adam Sadler. All told, there were seven entries in the contest. And that reminds me it is now time to introduce:

***** CONTEST #16 *****

This one is probably geared for folks in the Asheville area and/or if you know somebody who lives there.

One lucky winner will receive an Asheville Peel to Save Card. It contains about 80 coupons, including buy 1, get 1 free deals at Arbys, Cold Stone Creamery, Burger King, Domino's and Papa John's; discounts at Denny's, Friday's, KFC and Fudruckers; and a whole host of other savings.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #16" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, August 12.

D. Corrections to links in BLAINESWORLD #826. Those that follow should work.

(1) Carol S. in PA: Regina Spektor - "Don't Leave Me (Ne Me Quitte Pas)"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWXWivwhi14>

(2) Chuck Fink's 2nd stand-up comedy performance

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAqIEcVOIvg>

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

This week, it goes to Elena Skochko--head of her own company, A1 Cat & Critter Care. To quote Cynthia:

Elena has been pet sitting for my 2 indoor cats and 3 outdoor cats for a few times now. She is exceptional. People often just do their job. Lots of people do their job with a smile. Elena does her job with a smile, a laugh, a giggle with joy, with expertise, with thoroughness, and mostly with love for animals. And when it comes to your own animals . . . that is quite a reassuring feeling when you have to leave them.

Having one animal who is old and sickly, Elena is the only person who is able to give her medication two times per day. Without that, I would not be able to go away.

I have complete confidence and reassurance that my animals are getting the very best attention possible with Elena. She goes way over her required responsibilities by staying with the animals to make sure they are getting company, and by giving each of them what they need.

At the end of the her assignment, Elena wrote a detailed letter--explaining all that she did, step by step, and she also told me the reactions of the animals.

I could not more highly recommend Elena as a pet sitter.

She can be reached at 828.633.0292; email: elenas@charter.net.

Back to Top

2. FYI

Let's (Not) Get Physicals

by Elisabeth Rosenthal

June 2, 2012 in THE NEW YORK TIMES

For decades, scientific research has shown that annual physical exams--and many of the screening tests that routinely accompany them--are in many ways pointless or (worse) dangerous, because they can lead to unneeded procedures. The last few years have produced a steady stream of new evidence against the utility of popular tests.

To read the rest of this thought-provoking article, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/ckxy3mn>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Ken G. in NY: Some of the locals from Asheville

<http://www.youtube.com/v/6RzcvFLPg1A?version=3%22%3E%3Cparam>

(2) Sharon C. in NC: Amazing 6 year old Polka Drummer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ijv0ZakanL0&NR=1>

(3) Janeen M. in PA: The Soaring Survivor: Gary Lenzner

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FumJRmiAQmw>

And:

Canadian National Anthem

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBI68II4Zsc&feature=player_embedded

(4) The best scene in movie history

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=On05op_Md38&feature=related

(5) Charles Aznavour - The Old-Fashioned Way

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7qyMBDDjvU>

(6) 9-year-old Amazing Dance video of Emily, a very talented young girl hip hop dancer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sFmL3tsoeek>

(7) Jeffrey J. Fox and Robert Reiss on THE TRANSFORMATIVE CEO

<http://tv.ibtimes.com/how-to-be-a-transformative-ceo-part-1/7126.html>

Note: This is an excellent book. See BLAINESWORLD #823 (Section 4C) for my review.

B. Other

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-QR>

(1) Sharon B. in NC: Yes, your email is getting through without a hitch. Good work! (2) Carole Currie, former SART Board member, is right on target in this column. (3) Natalie K. in PA: Saw another one I think you recommended "Wit" with Emma Thompson. (4) Herb S. in NJ: Really liked In a Better World which won best foreign Oscar. (5) George B. in PA: My latest piece on EzineArticles.com: Everybody Has a Story. (6) Shari D. in PA: I loved the Michael Josephson "Thought for the Day" quote. (7) Ron A. in NC (looking for a history buff in Western North Carolina). (8) Julien in MD: Job well done; I like the new look. You put in a mammoth amount of work each week. (9) Ruth in NY: Just love the way you refer to Cynthia as your beautiful bride. (10) Dave M. in NC: You can find a lot of McMurty at Mr.Kay's in Asheville. (11) Sandy B. in PA: LOVE IT Blaine [the new format]! (12) Carole S. in NJ: I like the use of your logo on the newsletters. Just gives it a little punch! (13) Terri S. in PA: Borrowing the "Thought for the day." Sooo true! (14) Steven S. in FL (with a request for help from Western NC folks. (15) Sharon C. in NC: Just wanted to thank you for this possible insomnia cure.

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

Two guys are sitting in a bar when one of them casually points to a couple of old drunks sitting across from them and says. "That's us in ten years."

His friend disagrees. "That's a mirror."

[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. THE INTOUCHABLES is one of my favorite films of the year . . . it's the true story of the friendship between a handicapped millionaire and his ex-con caretaker . . . Francois Cluzet is excellent in the former role, but it is the work of Omar Sy in the latter role that has already made it to my list of all-time favorites . . . he's funny, brash and engaging and certainly an actor I want to see again . . . there's a great soundtrack, too . . . rated R, though methinks appropriate for mature children over the age of 12.

B. FRIENDS WITH KIDS is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #807 follows:

FRIENDS WITH KIDS is billed as a romantic comedy that I didn't find very romantic or funny . . . it's the story about a circle of friends whose lives are changed with the arrival of children . . . when the last two singles in the group decide to have a kid together--and date other people--you can predict the ending the minute you see it happening . . . and by the time the film does end, you will have had enough of the these two: Adam Scott and Jennifer Westfeldt (so fine in KISSING JESSICA STEIN) . . . both Jon Haam and Kristen Wiig are wasted in supporting roles; they appear and then disappear before you can get a handle on their characters . . . rated R.

A far better rental: GIFTED HANDS: THE BEN CARSON STORY, a 2009 made-for-TV movie about a pediatric neurosurgeon who overcomes enormous obstacles to study medicine and save lives at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Cuba Gooding Jr. nails the leading role, and I also liked the work of Kimberly Elise as his mother. You'll be inspired by this story. Rated PG.

C. LOSING IT! BEHAVIORS AND MINDSETS THAT RUIN CAREERS: LESSONS ON PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM AVOIDABLE MISTAKES (FT Press) by Bill Lane contains advice that can help you identify your own possible leadership flaws--and then provides pragmatic advice on how to fix, eliminate or overcome them.

The author, a longtime speechwriter for Jack Welch and management expert, makes this book come alive with his use of examples from the real world, including this advice based on his own career:

* I had coasted. I'd done everything perfectly and had kept the boss, Welch, happy. But I needed to have done "more." The best advice I can give anyone in management in

business, organization, politics, the military, or life in general is to fight and strive endlessly to expand your responsibilities and never stop, never coast, never get comfortable, no matter how many people tell you how great you are and how well you are doing.

Lane also covers the topic of how to deal with expense accounts:

* No one I ever heard of was fired for telling the truth on an expense report. They were "nicked," maybe, even for a couple hundred dollars, but not fired. In fact, their superiors and colleagues admired them as truth-tellers.

However, what I'll perhaps most remember about LOSING IT! was this quote from Casey Stengel--and the advice that followed it:

* "I couldn't have done it without my players" -Manager Casey Stengel after the Yankees won the 1958 World Series.

It has been my observation over several decades that the best, most successful and survivable leaders at every level do as Jim McNerney has suggested. They surround themselves with the very best people available, trust them, wander down to their offices to shoot the breeze and learn, and pay the good ones as much as they can. When the successes and triumphs come, they then trot out these people, rather than themselves, to take the bows.

The above might also be viewed as good common sense . . . while you may not gain any from reading this book, you'll at least know what to avoid.

D. SIX WEEKS TO OMG: GET SKINNER THAN ALL YOUR FRIENDS (Hachette Audio), written by Venice A. Fulton and narrated by James Langton, is a trendy diet plan advocated by a British actor whose credentials have been questioned by many.

In addition, I have concerns about the author's continual emphasis on helping people to become skinny. This is something that needs to be monitored, especially by the parents of young women (who seem to be the book's target market).

In general, the key recommendation is:

* To lose weight, eat 120 or less grams of carbohydrates a day. To lose even more, eat 90 or less grams. And to really speed up things, eat 60 or less.

There were tidbits of useful advice, including the following:

- * Eat certain vegetables without any restrictions until your last day alive.
- * To get your carbs down, avoid all liquid carbs.
- * When you see two similar versions of food side to side, choose the higher fiber version.
- * Choose the harder version of something to eat, such as corn on the cob vs. the kind you get at the movies.
- * Avoid foods that have "ose" at the end of them, such as fructose, sucrose, etc.
- * Stay away from foods with sugar in the first three ingredients.
- * Fruit can increase your appetite.
- * Almost all low fat foods will be high on carbs.

If you can carefully analyze what you read in this book and not take everything as the gospel, you'll get some worthwhile idea . . . however, be prepared for the fact that there's a lot of repetition in SIX WEEKS TO OMG . . . Fulton keeps making some points, over and over.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. ALL THE RIGHT MOVIES combines two SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE vets with two DANCING WITH THE STARS vets to form one new Dance company . . . Mondays at 9 p.m. on OXYGEN.

B. LOCKUP is a docu-series that follows prisoners lives behind bars . . . according to TV GUIDE, "There's much to love about LOCKUP. The brilliant editing. The riveting plotlines.

But the real appeal is: Jail's a fun place to visit, but you wouldn't want to live there." Saturday, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., on MSNBC.

C. 3:10 TO YUMA, one of the great Westerns from the 1950s, stars Van Heflin as a farmer who agrees to hold Glenn Ford, playing a captured outlaw, until the train arrives. . . . Monday, Aug. 6, at 8 p.m. on TCM.

D. EVIL TWINS: MY BROTHER'S KEEPER is about identical twins with severe problems. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "The intriguing aspect of this story derives from its serious contemplation of the difficulties that can affect identical twins who fail to achieve identities independent of one another." Thursday, Aug. 9, at 10 p.m. on ID (IDENTIFICATION DISCOVERY).

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

Makes sense to me (and makes me hungry, too) . . .

NEW ENGLISH GRAMMAR 😊

TEACHER: If "can't" is short for "cannot,"
what is "don't" short for?

PUPIL: Doughnut.



Evridiki Dakos

[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. To get the latest updates on the U.S. and world populations, click:
<http://www.census.gov/main/www/popcl.html>

When I first checked on March 1, 2004, the numbers were 292,704,287 population in this country and 6,351,630,428 for the world figures. On July 30, the numbers were 314,059,296 for the U.S. and 7,029,668,587 for the world--up, respectively, 21.35 million and 678.04 million!

Every time you refresh the page, the numbers go higher. In addition, you'll find more information behind the numbers.

B. Carol S. in PA: Love the comments from:
Olympic Opening Ceremony 2012: The 17 Worst Outfits of the Night
<http://tinyurl.com/bwlzw8n>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

In case you're wondering what you can find here, look at the box at the top of the home page (right underneath the logo).

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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Like us on Facebook 

[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

To save ink and paper when printing, shrink your font size; e.g., the difference between 14 and 11 point type is about 27 per cent--yet most people have no problem reading the smaller font. You can also tweak the spacing between lines of text, thus getting more lines on a page and saving paper costs.

Source: Adapted from:

http://askbobrankin.com/save_money_on_printing_costs.html#ixzz1veRU11E5

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

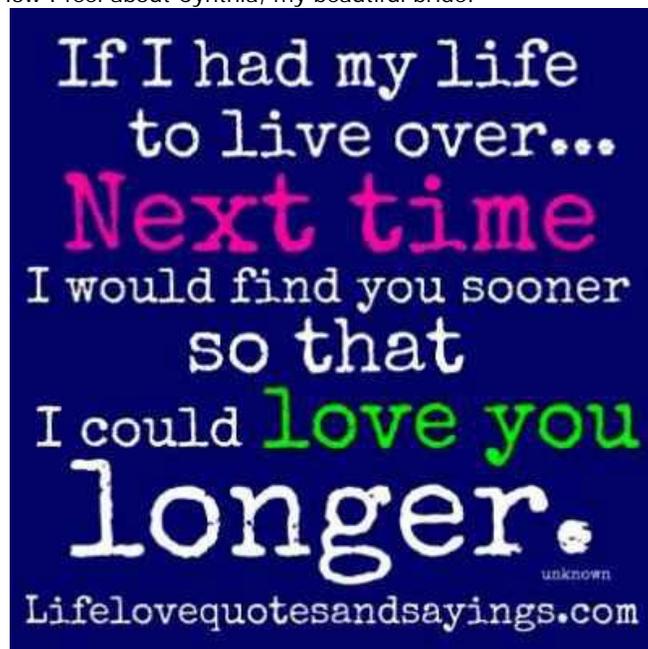
Strolling through an outdoor shopping mall, I was surprised to find a small cemetery smack dab in the middle of the parking lot. "Isn't that odd?" I asked a friend.

She didn't seem nearly as shocked. "That," she said, "is what happens when you shop until you drop."

[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

How I feel about Cynthia, my beautiful bride!



[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

This has me wondering: What do you call the person who constantly gives you an opinion--even when you don't ask for it--and then gets upset when you don't do exactly what he or she says to do?

Askhole

- A person who constantly asks for your advice, yet always does the opposite of what you told them

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre events

Note: Call or email the Box Office for tickets for any of these: 689.1239; boxoffice@mhc.edu.

(1) SWEET WATER TASTE finishes its run on Sunday, August 5. For dates and times, please click:

www.sartplays.org

My two cents: I've seen this show and can tell you that it's absolutely great. Next week's issue will contain more information about it, but in the meantime, I thought you'd like to see the one review from the CITIZEN-TIMES:

<http://tinyurl.com/cn5kqbg>

(2) SYLVIA runs from August 9-19. This modern romantic comedy is about a marriage and a dog. Greg and Kate have moved to Manhattan after twenty-two years of child-raising in the suburbs. Greg's career as a financial trader is winding down, while Kate's career as a public-school English teacher is beginning to offer her more opportunities. Greg brings home a dog he finds in the park--or that finds him--bearing only the name "Sylvia" on her name tag. A street-smart mixture of Lab and Poodle, Sylvia becomes a major bone of contention between husband and wife. She offers Greg an escape from the frustrations of his job and the unknowns of middle age. To Kate, Sylvia becomes a rival for affection. And Sylvia thinks Kate just doesn't understand the relationship between man and dog. The marriage is put in serious jeopardy until, after a series of hilarious and touching complications, Greg and Kate learn to compromise and Sylvia becomes a valued part of their lives.

(3) HARD TRAVELIN' WITH WOODY, a musical starring Randy Noojin as Woody Guthrie, along with Liz Aiello, Bruce Lang and Bucky Hanks, will be at SART from August 24-26 with shows at 7:30 p.m. each night . . . tickets are just \$15.

B. Other NC events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-QT>

(1) Majo in poetry reading on Friday, August 10. (2) Asheville Vaudeville is back at the Mechanic Field (3) Art A. in NC: You must see Guys and Dolls [at Flat Rock Playhouse]. (4) Unit 50 @ Holland's Bar & Grille in Asheville.

C. PA/NJ event

To read about the following event in full, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-QV>

We are currently planning our annual CFPA picnic.

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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BLAINES WORLD

#826

7.23.2012

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Websites
8. Computer tip
9. Joke 3
10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I spent part of last week in northern New Jersey visiting friends and relatives.

(1) We had a blast at the annual summer get together at our friends' house in Lake Hopatcong.



(2) Perhaps the highlight of the day was watching Mark on the train whistle and Gail on the violin perform for all those in attendance.



(3) Cynthia also enjoyed the chance to spend some time with Gail (left) and her other friend Edinah (right).



(4) The next day, we attended the engagement party of Rachel--Cynthia's niece. She is pictured below, along with her fiancé Ezra on the far left.



(5) We even managed to catch up with my daughter Risa and her husband JP for brunch at our favorite diner in Caldwell, the Caldwell Diner. (Come to think of it, it's the only diner in the town.) We then had a brief visit with them and their cats, Bella and Dusty.

B. Congratulations to:

(1) Michelle Baker on the publication of the following two articles:

<http://tinyurl.com/cetsjml>

and

<http://tinyurl.com/bld7f2c>

(2) Pam Williams, somewhat belatedly (sorry 'bout that), on her marriage.

(3) Eliana Girard for her beautiful dancing on SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE. In case you don't ordinarily view the show, you can see two of her recent performances by clicking:

<http://tinyurl.com/cuy4mpj>

and

<http://tinyurl.com/c5po4ud>

Note: I'm rooting for Eliana, in large part because her mother (Della Striker) was one of my high school classmates. Please watch SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE when it next airs on Wednesday, August 15, at 8 p.m. on Fox and vote, vote, vote for Eliana.

C. Condolences to Arlene Ditzler and family on the passing of Arlene's mother.

D. I have been hearing an increasingly growing number of complaints that BLAINESWORLD was not getting to your email box . . . no matter how often I attempted to resolve this difficulty with the company (Lighthouse Hosting) that had been sending out issues, I felt things were only continuing to go downhill.

So I recently decided to make a switch to Constant Contact, the company that handles the email distribution for my work with both SCORE and SART . . . my only regret is that I hadn't done this much sooner.

I believe you should now get all future issues; i.e., if you make sure that they don't go into your spam folders . . . and, also, that I am on your whitelist (meaning that I have been "approved" by you as a legitimate person who is sending you email) . . . for more information on how to do this, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/6ycdhp>

I also made some small design changes in the formatting of each issue. See below (BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD winner) for information on the person who helped me with much of this work.

As always, I welcome your comments and/or suggestions--especially with respect to the above.

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

This week, it goes to Les Gasiewski--a customer service representative with Constant Contact.

He recently helped me develop the template for the issue of BLAINESWORLD that you're now reading. I think it looks good, and I'm hoping that you will find it easier to read than what I have used in the past.

Also, he patiently answered my many questions . . . and he offered to provide future help if I should need it.

I have been blown away by the service provided by this company; consequently, I have switched to using it to mail out this and future issues of BLAINESWORLD.

In addition, I have been impressed by all the help I've previously received from these other Constant Contact employees: Lynn Anderst, a communications consultant, who made a very gracious welcoming call to me when I signed-up for the service; Ron Daniel, another customer service representative, who helped me previously (see BLAINESWORLD #819); and Anita Starnes who conducted two very informative seminars that I had the good fortune to attend.

[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

Natalie K. in PA (in an email from a few weeks back): Thanks for letting me know about the performance of ONCE on the Tony Awards. Did that win best musical? My DVR cut off right before the end. Don't know why that sometimes happens.

Answer: It won best musical; in fact, it won a total of 8 awards. For more information about all the winners and lots of other good information about the theatre, please click: <http://tinyurl.com/cc6k2o5>

As for missing the end of a program, it is really not your DVR's fault . . . what happens: some programs run a bit long . . . this happens with awards-type programs, but also with press conferences, sporting events (quite often), etc.

To work around this, set your DVR for an additional amount of time; e.g., anywhere from 15 minutes to 2 hours, depending on what comes before the show you want to watch . . . then when it comes to watching your desired show, all you need to do is fast forward through what you don't want to see.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Steve T. in NC: Penn Jillette: Does magic have to be live?
<http://tinyurl.com/cxqne33>

(2) Gil C. in NC: How A Few Shady Bankers Cost The World Trillions
<http://tinyurl.com/btsksr2>

(3) Chuck Fink's 2nd stand-up comedy performance
<http://tinyurl.com/cuogu8p>

Note: To view, I believe you need to be a member of Facebook and, also, a friend of Chuck's.

If that's not the case, then you can at least check out Chuck's first performance by clicking:
<http://tinyurl.com/bvtp4k>

(4) Glen Hansard - Leave
<http://tinyurl.com/c5kbkpk>

(5) The Turtles - Can I Get to Know you Better
<http://tinyurl.com/c7pl3ve>

(6) Carol S. in PA: Regina Spektor - "Don't Leave Me (Ne Me Quitte Pas)"
<http://tinyurl.com/bqozyna>

(7) Donna S. in AL: The Police - Every Breath You Take (With Lyrics)
<http://tinyurl.com/dxjogho>

(8) Marie V. in NJ: The Duprees-You Belong To Me
<http://tinyurl.com/d38gebq>

B. Other

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/d7bhlpj>

(1) Vilasi V. in NJ: Happy Anniversary Cynthia and Blaine! (2) Barbara F. in PA: Exactly what do you do with this [computer tip in BLAINESWORLD 825]? (3) Pat H. in PA: Is Vinnie's a chain restaurant? (4) Donna G. in NJ: HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!! The both of you are like teenagers. (5) Pat A. in PA: An exceptionally fun BW, Blaine! (6) Linda S. in NJ: Love the new header. (7) Ruth in NY: Received Issue 825 and starting to read it. What a labor of love....thanks. (8) Nevin T. in NC: Thank you for the hard work, intelligence and humor. (9) Hillary Z. in NJ (with a REQUEST FOR HELP). (10) Linda K. in PA: Asheville Seasons [where we stayed] . . . is beautiful.

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

I just watched my dog chase his tail for 10 minutes and thought, "Wow, dogs are easily entertained." Then I realized I just watched my dog chase his tail for 10 minutes.



[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. SAFETY NOT GUARANTEED is a quirky romantic comedy about a mysterious eccentric who believes he has discovered the secret to time travel . . . when he places a classified ad to find a companion to join him, three cynical Seattle magazine employees seek to find the story behind the quest . . . Mark Duplass and Aubrey Plaza are charming as the two main characters, but I also liked the work of Jake M. Johnson and the rest of the cast . . . this is not the film for you if you're big into special effects, though even if that be the case, methinks you'll get a kick out of the rather cheesy ending . . . rated R.

B. SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN, is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #810 follows:

We both liked SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN, a romantic comedy about an improbable plan to bring the sport of fly-fishing to the desert . . . it works, in large part because of the great chemistry between Emily Bunt and Ewan McGregor in the leading roles . . . if you are looking for a film with no special effects that will just leave you feeling good at the end, this is the one for you . . . rated PG-13.

C. Too often, folks focus on the negative . . . I'm even guilty of this, at times, and so was interested in finding out more about THE UPSIDE OF DOWN TIMES: DISCOVERING THE POWER OF GRATITUDE (Outskirts Press) by Lisa Ryan.

The author, chief appreciation strategist for a company she founded with the great name

of Gtategy, packs a lot of information into the book's 111 pages . . . though it can be read in one sitting, I took longer because I was constantly stopping to jot down notes on things that I need to do on a more regular basis . . . for example, I loved this idea:

* Who has provided extraordinary service to you lately? Take a few minutes and write a note to the individual's manager or to the server themselves. Express your gratitude for the service you received. There is not a better way to make a person's day.

In addition, Ryan presented this great technique for nights when you can't get to sleep:

* In order to incorporate thankfulness into my evening ritual, I created an exercise called "The ABC's of Gratitude." Drifting off to sleep, I choose a random letter of the alphabet and think about something to be grateful for that begins with that letter. Then, I go to the next letter, and so on. For example, "I am grateful for my BROTHER and the heart-to-heart conversation we had today"; "I am grateful for my CALENDAR filling up with speaking gigs" "I am grateful for my DAD and the way he tells me he loves me when he can't find the words to say anything else."

It generally takes about six letters before I fall fast asleep. This is why I no longer start with "A"--I never make it past "F!" As a former insomniac, this is a drug-free way to fill my mind with positivity and drift off to a sound, peaceful sleep.

Lastly, the author shared this gratitude idea that can and should be applied to virtually any marriage:

* The best wedding advice I have ever received originated from my friend Robbie. She said, "Never do something at the beginning of a marriage that you don't want to be doing twenty years from now." That guidance has served me well. For example, we established early in our relationship that Scott would mow the lawn and I would do the laundry. Thankfully, I have never had to use the lawnmower. (I did attempt to use the snow blower on a single occasion, but that unmitigated disaster will never be repeated.) He derives the benefits of being outside as well as having freshly laundered clothing folded neatly for him, and I don't have to worry about outdoor manual labor. It works for us.

I'm so grateful for having read THE UPSIDE OF DOWN TIMES that I'm now going to recommend it to my students, as well as those who attend my seminars, as one simple but oh-so-powerful way to put a smile on the faces of others; i.e., by recognizing their efforts . . . you'll be amazed that it will have you feeling good about yourself, too.

D. BOOKS: A MEMOIR (Tantor Media), written by Larry McMurtry and read by William Dufris, is not a typical memoir in the sense that it doesn't dwell on the author's famed writing career.

Rather, much of the book is devoted to his passion for reading, collecting and selling books. From a childhood that was largely "bookless," he made up for his late start to the point where he now has upwards of 30,000 volumes in his personal library, as well as over 300,000 in his used and antiquarian bookstore.

I enjoyed reading about used bookstores--a business that's becoming a rare thing to find in this country. In addition, I got a kick out of reading about the author's fellow booksellers and bibliophiles, including the one based in California who kept binoculars around so that customers could read the titles on the top shelves.

BOOKS made me think about my lifelong passion for reading . . . and about the fact that though I've seen some of the movies based on McMurtry's works, I had only read one thing he authored . . . I'm now tempted to add to that title; i.e., if I can find something in a used bookstore.

***** CONTEST #15 *****

One lucky winner will receive the CD version of DANIEL X: DEMONS AND DRUIDS by James Patterson and Adam Sadler. To quote from the publisher's book description:

Daniel X is on an impossible mission: to eliminate every intergalactic criminal on the face of the Earth. Using his incredible superpower to create objects out of thin air, he's taken on some of the most fearsome and fiendish aliens in the universe, and now he's aiming to extinguish his next target: the explosive demon of fir, Phosphorius Beta, and his army of flame-weaving henchmen.

Reading level: Young adult. So if you have a child or grandchild in that age range . . . or if you like such books yourself, do enter this contest by following the instructions (below).

To enter: Put "CONTEST #15" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body

of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, July 29.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. THE BARNES COLLECTION, according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "is a fabulous account of Albert C. Barnes (1872-1951)--a successful scientist and businessman, passionate educator and above all the collector and admirer of more than 2,000 pieces of impressionist and other art. . . . the glory of his achievement and assembled works really does make your heart sing." Saturday at 2 a.m. on PBS; repeated on Monday at 4 a.m. PBS stations and times often vary, so check local listings.

B. BAR RESCUE has nightlife consultant John Taffer going to a failing establishment and reading its deluded owner the riot act to change or die . . . Sundays at 9 p.m. on SPIKE.

C. ABOUT FACE: THE SUPERMODELS, THEN AND NOW airs on Monday, July 30 at 9 p.m. on HBO . . . this documentary takes a look at the lives and careers of a number of the world's most well-known models and considers the complex relationship between society's views on youth and beauty . . . Carol Alt, Marisa Berenson, Karen Bjornson, Isabella Rossellini and Christie Brinkley are among those featured.

Note: For an interesting article on the show, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/bmp5657>

D. OPRAH BUILDS A NETWORK follows Oprah behind the scenes for her first year as CEO of OWN . . . Wednesday, August 1, at 9 p.m. (part 1) and 10 p.m. (part 2) on OWN.

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

31 Ways to Have an Extra-Specially Fun Time At Walmart, part 2 of 2

(Concluded from last week.)

16. Contaminate the entire auto department by sampling the spray air fresheners.
17. Nonchalantly "test" the brushes and combs in Cosmetics.

18. When someone asks if you need help, begin to cry and ask, "Why won't you people just leave me alone?"

19. Look right into the security camera, and use it as a mirror while you pick your nose.

20. Take up an entire aisle in Toys by setting up a full scale battlefield with G.I. Joes vs. the X-Men.

21. Ask other customers if they have any Grey Poupon.

22. While handling guns in the hunting department, suddenly ask the clerk if he knows where the anti-depressants are.

23. Switch the men's and women's signs on the doors of the restrooms.

24. Dart around suspiciously while humming the theme from "Mission Impossible."

25. Set up a "Valet Parking" sign in front of the store.

26. In the auto department, practice your "Madonna" look with various funnels.

27. Hide in the clothing racks and when people browse through, say things like "pick me!! pick me!!" and scare them into believing that the clothes are talking to them.

28. When an announcement comes over the loudspeaker, assume the fetal position and scream "No, no! It's those voices again!"

29. Go to an empty checkout stand and try to check people out.

30. Drag a lounge chair on display over to the magazines and relax. If the store has a food court, buy a soft drink; explain that you don't get out much, and ask if they can put a little umbrella in it.

31. Go into the dressing room and yell real loud, "Hey, we're out of toilet paper in here!"

[Back to Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Aaron Judd set himself the task of posting 365 pictures over a year, posting one every day. Each picture would have an inspirational quote on it. The pictures used would usually be of inspirational places or moments in time which capture the beauty of the world.
<http://tinyurl.com/bwfpudj>

B. "If I should have a daughter, instead of Mom, she's gonna call me Point B ... " began spoken word poet Sarah Kay, in a talk that inspired two standing ovations at TED2011. She tells the story of her metamorphosis -- from a wide-eyed teenager soaking in verse at New York's Bowery Poetry Club to a teacher connecting kids with the power of self-expression through Project V.O.I.C.E.--and gives two breathtaking performances of "B" and "Hiroshima."
<http://tinyurl.com/77fzuw3>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/ck848f>

Note: If you're a movie buff like I am, you can see a listing of those that I have liked the most . . . click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Favorite Films."

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:
<http://tinyurl.com/c5bxpl7>



[Back to Top](#)

8. Computer tip

If you change your email address, please tell folks your new address . . . but also include your old address . . . that way, they can delete your old address from their email address books.

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

Two women friends had gone for a girls' night out. Both were very faithful and loving wives; however, they had gotten overly enthusiastic on the Bacardi Breezers.

Incredibly drunk and walking home, they needed to pee and stopped in the cemetery. One of them had nothing to wipe with so she thought she would take off her panties and use them.

Her friend, though, was wearing a rather expensive pair of panties and did not want to ruin them. She was lucky enough to be able to be able to squat down near a grave that had a wreath with a ribbon on it. She proceeded to wipe with that.

After the girls did their business, they proceeded to go home.

The next day, the husband of one of the women was concerned that his normally sweet and innocent wife was still in bed--quite hung over. He phoned the other husband and said, "These girl nights have got to stop. I'm starting to suspect the worst. My wife came home with no panties!"

"That's nothing," replied the other husband. "Mine came back with a card stuck to her butt that said, 'From all of us at the Fire Station. We'll never forget you.' "

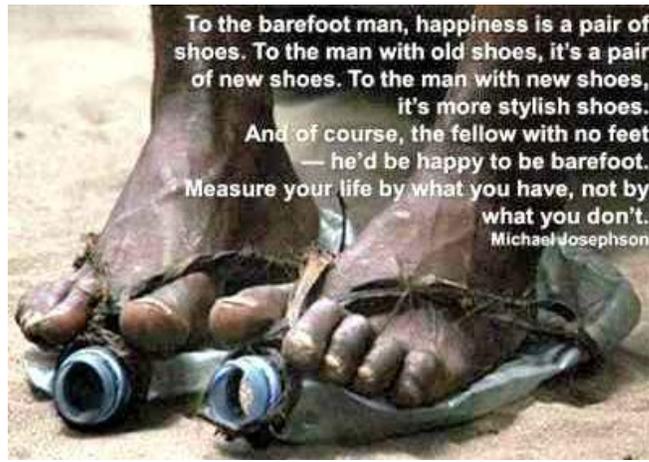
[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

To guarantee success, act as if it were impossible to fail.--Dorothea Brande (1893-1948), American writer and editor

[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day



[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

***** Now at SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre) *****

Sweet Water Taste

By Gloria Bond Clunie (Our 2010 ScriptFEST Winner!)

A Must See for Every Family!

JULY 26TH thru AUGUST 5th

A serious comedy which takes place in Crossroads, North Carolina, a small southern farming community. Within this community lives two families with the same last name although one is African American and one is White. When health and death issues arise, the most difficult question of the twentieth century, the color line, comes into play. All hell and a little bit of heaven break loose when Elijah Beckford, a prominent Southern black undertaker, approaches his wealthy white cousin, Charlie Beckford, and demands to be buried in "the white family cemetery." Sometimes, when addressing such serious issues, if we open our mouths to laugh, we may open our hearts to a wider understanding of humanity and discover unique solutions to the challenges we face in our future.

For the trailer, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/cy56kpc>

Here's what our friends Donna and Ed had to say about it:

Donna: Sorry I missed speaking with you at tonight's performance. I did see you across the theatre early on and wanted to say thank you. So here goes...thank you so very much for inviting us. We thought the play was fantastic!

Ed: I will echo Donna's sentiments... about the play and about our gratitude for your invitation. What a wonderful performance and what a quaint venue. Donna and I have been going to community theatre for over 30 years, and I'd be hard-pressed to think of a more moving, thought-provoking performance!

For tickets, please call the Box Office: 828.689.1239.

To read about each of these other NC events in full, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/bwrr2fv>

(1) Bele Chere takes over downtown Asheville. (2) Chuck Beattie--aka Dr. Blues--plays a set at Nona Mia. (3) LA CAGE AUX FOLLES concludes its run at the Performing Arts Center in Waynesville. (4) BIG RIVER; THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FIN. (5) Improvisation Theory with Jeff Thompson. (6) Sunday Celebrations Now in Black Mountain!

B. PA/NJ events

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

<http://tinyurl.com/cnng8s3>

(1) GYPSY concludes its run at Actors Net. (2) Upcoming at Kelsey Theate in West Windsor, NJ. (3) Hiroshima Day Remembrance.

[Back to Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#825
7.16.2012

In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Proof**
 4. **Reviews . . . TO ROME WITH LOVE**
 5. **Computer tip**
 6. **JOKE 2: 31 Ways to Have an Extra-Specially Fun Time At Walmart, part 1 of 2**
 7. **A quote I like**
 8. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I have been married . . . well, ask me, "How long have you been married?"

My answer: "Not long enough!"

But officially, we hit the 7 year mark last week and so began a week-long celebration . . . or in reality, the continuation of the rest of our lifetime celebrating together.

B. Sometimes, Cynthia will ask me about doing something "special" for our anniversary . . . or a birthday . . . and I'll respond . . . every day is special. And I mean, that, too!

C. So that is why this is a SPECIAL EDITION . . . lots of pictures, plus a report of some of our recent activities. So that means some of this newsletter's regular features have been omitted because of space limitations . . . they will resume next week.

Note: In addition, it has been shortened a bit so that I can complete getting ready for our trip to the PA/NJ area this coming week to attend the engagement party of Rachel, Cynthia's niece. We'll also be visiting my daughter Risa and her husband JP. I mention this because I might be around on Monday, July 23. Contact me if interested in the possibility of getting together.

D. We saw one of our favorite local actors, Scott Treadway, in THE FOX ON THE FAIRWAY at Flat Rock Playhouse.



He had us laughing throughout the play, as did an actress by the name of Jessica DiGiovanni

. . . special kudos to Michael Marotta, the director, who filled-in at the last minute for one of the performers. If they hadn't announced that he was a substitute, we wouldn't have known.

We were joined by our neighbors (Beth and Steve Byas and their family) at both the play and then at dinner afterward at our favorite restaurant in the Hendersonville area, Never Blue . . . I don't think we have every had a bad meal there, and as usual, the fact that we had Christina as our server added to our evening's enjoyment.



(front row, l-r): Beth, Steve, Jesi and Ardell; (back row, l-r): Cynthia, Blaine and Cody

E. On another night, our friends Lorne and Ellie joined us for dinner at Vinnie's and then we went to see an encore performance of my comedy routine, which was an outgrowth of the class I took at the College for Seniors in the spring . . . Randy Robbins (center) our instructor, was fantastic as the emcee, and Doug Ryan (right) was also very funny.



The others in the class were great, too!

To see my routine from when it was first done, please click:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EK9xvbAp-kg>

F. Our friends Rick Pine and Linda Kanner visited from Pennsylvania. We took a walk to the bridge near our home.

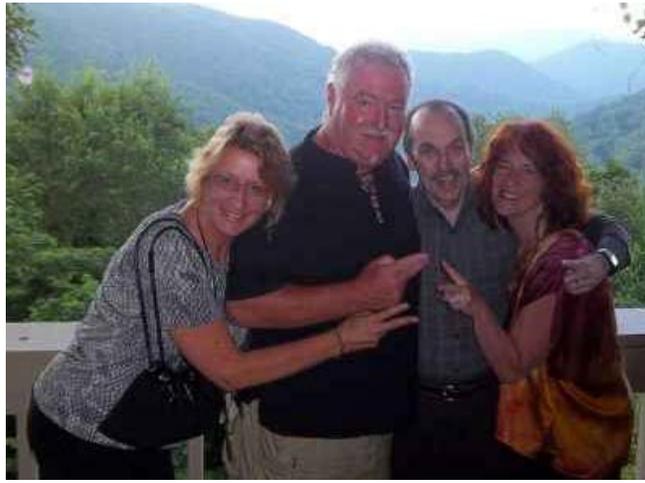


From there, I went with them to see SART's tuneful production of THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA for a second time. Pictured (l-r) are two of the talented members of the cast: Robert McDaniel and Allison Young, joined by me. You can still catch this enchanting musical if you're anywhere near Mars Hill College this coming Friday & Saturday night at 7:30 and Saturday & Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. Call the Box Office at 689.1239 for tickets.



And when we came back, we all went to dinner at the Stoneridge Tavern . . . that's a local eatery we often frequent . . . I especially like a dish they make just for me; i.e., tilapia with a coconut topping. It's delicious.

G. We also attended a SART benefit at the Wolf Laurel Country Club. It's a beautiful facility that provides great picture-taking opportunities.



(l-r) Lori Lynn Mullet, Doug Snipes, Blaine Greenfield, Cynthia Greenfield, all having "too much fun"

After a tasty dinner, most of the cast members from THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA performed a variety of numbers in a show that was simply smashing.



H. Lastly, we went to were invited by our neighbors Steve and Beth (see also Section 1D) to check out their new grill . . . Steve prepared ribeye steaks and Beth made vegetables, exactly as we liked them . . . we shall return; i.e., if invited . . . we then went two houses over to join Muffie and Terry Boswell in celebrating Terry's birthday . . . it was a fun occasion, at which Muffie also invited all our other neighbors to attend.



I. Congratulations to:

(1) Chef Yvan Lemoine, who made it to the final four in the challenge for the Next Food

Network Star. The winner will be announced on Sunday, July 22 at 9 p.m. when the winner will be announced on the final episode on the TV Food Network Channel. For more information, please click:

<http://www.foodnetwork.com/videos/yvans-pilot/103062.html>

(2) Congratulations to Arlene Ditzler in PA, winner of Contest 14: a copy of the CD version of ANGEL by James Patterson. All told, there were 7 entries. And that reminds me that it is now time to introduce . . .

***** CONTEST #15 *****

One lucky winner will receive the CD version of DANIEL X: DEMONS AND DRUIDS by James Patterson and Adam Sadler. To quote from the publisher's book description:

Daniel X is on an impossible mission: to eliminate every intergalactic criminal on the face of the Earth. Using his incredible superpower to create objects out of thin air, he's taken on some of the most fearsome and fiendish aliens in the universe, and now he's aiming to extinguish his next target: the explosive demon of fir, Phosphorius Beta, and his army of flame-weaving henchmen.

Reading level: Young adult. So if you have a child or grandchild in that age range . . . or if you like such books yourself, do enter this contest by following the instructions (below).

To enter: Put "CONTEST #15" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, July 29.

Back To Top

2. FYI

Useful travel tip (in particular, the one from Ms. Warren)

To save time and sanity, he [Tim Ferris] recommends keeping an extra set of phone and computer chargers packed and ready to go so they are never forgotten. Still, even if they are, Ms. Warren of Yelp has a trick she said rarely fails: tell the hotel you want to rummage through the lost-and-found bin. "Every single time I've done this they'll have this huge box full of chargers and all kinds of miscellaneous plugged-in things," she said. "They're just like, 'Please take some of this off my hands.' "

Source: How the Tough Get Going: Silicon Valley Travel Tips

<http://travel.nytimes.com/2012/07/15/travel/how-the-tough-get-going-silicon-valley-travel-tips.html?pagewanted=1&ref=general&src=me&pagewanted=print>

Note: Lots of other good ideas in the above article that applies to travelers everywhere--and not just the Silicon Valley.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Robert M. in NY: My Love Is Like a Red, Red Rose- Pat Boone
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFQ5UH7yhpK>

(2) Dan B. in PA: REMEMBER NADIA COMANECI? This is her granddaughter!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dqz3cUcSmhE>

(3) The Life of Riley
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1B0IPa9-Zc>

(4) Arlene D. in PA: Old TV shows (we sure had some good ones) and songs (you'll be singing along).
<http://www.oldesttelevision.com/>

(5) Longest Laugh in TV History: Lucille Ball & The Eggs
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fr7jcdqli08&feature=related>

(6) Five Key TED Talks
<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/culture/2012/07/five-key-ted-talks.html>

(7) World's fastest magic show defies logic:
<http://www.mandatory.com/2012/07/16/worlds-fastest-magic-show-defies-logic/>

and still on the subject of magic

Magician passes out in front of a live audience:
<http://www.mandatory.com/2012/07/17/magician-passes-out-in-front-of-live-audience-during-performance/#page=1?icid=maing-grid10%7Chtmlws-main->

(8) Sh*t New Age Guys Say, featuring Jeff Thompson
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2S75ZQJTzY>

B. Other

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-PJ>

(1) Art M. in PA: That's not Redneck Horseshoes [shown in BLAINESWORLD #824] . . . that's Texas pony shoes. (2) Ingrid S. in PA: Good advice in #9 Blaine. (3) Pat H. in PA: I did get a laugh from the Redneck Horseshoes. (4) Cheryl F. in NJ (with a REQUEST FOR HELP). (5) Bruce R. in NJ: I would just to love to tell you that I am now 100% jealous of you and your lovely wife for being able to see Light in the Piazza. (6) Amy L. in NC: I did not particularly like the movie, "Moonrise Kingdom." (7) Ed G. in NC: Ironic that we may have been at a local restaurant that has not yet gained your attention. (8) Rick P. in NC (for those in Asheville area): Good morning! We have a new tennis ball machine with 100 fresh new balls that is now available for rent for \$20 per hour. (9) Herb S. in NJ: Joan noticed that The Scottsboro Boys was playing next door. (10) Natalie K. in PA: Saw a very good movie on Netflix I recommend: Ridicule - it's a French movie but very clever.

[Back To Top](#)

3. JOKE 1: Proof

Single women claim that all the good men are married while all married women complain about their lousy husbands.

This confirms that there is no such thing as a good man.

[Back To Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. TO ROME WITH LOVE, written and directed by Woody Allen, is a very funny comedy that has four separate stories--all set in Rome . . . they switch back and forth and while I ordinarily find that technique distracting, it worked here . . . the cast, including Judy Davis, Jesse Eisenberg, Ellen Page, Alex Baldwin and Penelope Cruz, is outstanding . . . however, what I liked best about the film was when Allen appeared in it as a father with a rather crazy view on how an opera should be performed . . . I'm still laughing at that concept . . . rated R.

B. BIG MIRACLE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #805 follows:

BIG MIRACLE is a family drama that won't bore parents or grandparents . . . it uses real-life events to tell the tale of a small town reporter and an animal-loving volunteer who join with rival world superpowers to save a family of gray whales trapped in the Arctic Circle . . . John Krasinski and Drew Barrymore do a nice job in the leading roles . . . rated PG.

[Back To Top](#)

5. Computer tip

Scott T. in NC: Windows Seven users, I followed some of these tips and I'm here to tell you, my pc is kicking some serious bootie. This is some good info if you're noticing your machine slowing down.

<http://www.computingunleashed.com/speed-up-windows-7-ultimate-guide-to.html>

Note: I then asked Scott if there was similar information for Windows XP, and he graciously found me this link:

For Windows XP:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Dramatically-Speed-up-Windows-XP>

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: 31 Ways to Have an Extra-Specially Fun Time At Walmart, part 1 of 2

PLUS A GREAT WAY TO BEAT THE BLAHS!

1. Take shopping carts for the express purpose of filling them and stranding them at strategic locations.

2. Get boxes of condoms and randomly put them in peoples carts when they don't realize it.
3. Set all the alarm clocks to go off at ten minute intervals throughout the day.
4. Run up to an employee (preferably a male) while squeezing your legs together and practically yell at him "Where are your tampons?"
5. Try on bras over top of your clothes.
6. Make a trail of orange juice on the ground, leading to the restrooms.
7. While walking around the store, sing in your loudest voice possible "I smell sex and candy."
8. Walk up to an employee and tell him in an official tone, "I think we've got a Code 3 in housewares" and see what happens.
9. Tune all the radios to a polka station; then turn them all off and turn the volumes to "10."
10. Challenge other customers to duels with tubes of gift wrap.
11. Re-dress the mannequins as you see fit.
12. Test the fishing rods and see what you can "catch" from the other aisles.
13. Put M&M's on layaway.
14. Move "Caution: Wet Floor" signs to carpeted areas.
15. Set up a tent in the camping department; tell others you'll only invite them in if they bring pillows from Bed and Bath.

(To be concluded next week.)

Back To Top

7. A quote I like

People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing.--Dale Carnegie (1888-1955), American writer and the developer of famous courses in self-improvement, salesmanship, public speaking and interpersonal skills

Back To Top

8. Advance planning department

A. NC events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-PL>

(1) Athena D. in NC: Peter pan is soon guys!! (2) LA CAGE AUX FOLLES. (3) Faces of Gospel Music at White Horse Black Mountain. (4) The Fringe Benefit Show.

B. PA/NJ event

To read about the following event in full, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-PN>

Pat Achilles, illustrator and cartoonist, will talk about her experiences with book illustrating to members and guests of the Black Diamond Writer's Network on Saturday, July 21, 2012 at the Tamaqua Public Library, 30 S. Railroad St., Tamaqua.

Back To Top

PS. Make it a great week!

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just send an email to same address and put UNSUBSCRIBE in subject line.

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#824
7.9.2012

In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Riding the bus**
 4. **Reviews . . . MOONSHINE KINGDOM, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: 10 o'clock news (be forewarned--don't read if you are offended by redhead jokes)**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Redneck horseshoes (Anybody care to join me in a game?)**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had the pleasure of seeing THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA at SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre) . . . that's us on the ends, along with two of the stars, Joshua Collier and Katherine Sandoval Taylor, in the middle.



What a fantastic production! Collier and Taylor are dazzling as the couple who meet and fall in love in Italy in 1953, but must deal with the opposition of Taylor's mother--brilliantly portrayed by Liz Aiello.

Kudos to the entire cast, as well as to Jessica Phelps West for her direction, Chuck Taft for his musical direction and Richard Seagle for his scenic design work. For more information, please click to read the review from the CITIZEN-TIMES:

http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20120710/ENT05/307100017/Review-Piazza-powerful-pleasing-SART-Mars-Hill?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Frontpage|p&gcheck=1&nlick_check=1

You're in luck, in that you can still catch this enchanting musical through July 22 . . . for dates and times, please click:

www.sartplays.org

For tickets, please call the box office at 828.689.1239.

***** GOOD NEWS: TICKETS STILL REMAIN *****

For the SART benefit on Sunday, July 15th at the Wolf Laurel Country Club . . . it will feature music selections from THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA and other songs from your favorite artists, including Liz Aiello, Katherine Sandoval Taylor, Timothy Wilds, Beverly Todd and Joshua Collier.

For more information, please click: www.sartplays.org

Tickets are \$50 per person and dinner is included. To order, call the Box Office at 828.689.1239.

(2) We also got to eat at our favorite restaurant in the Mars Hill area, the El Dorado Grill . . . I enjoyed my Pollo Criollo dish, pan-fried chicken in a marinated sauce, and Cynthia really liked the special dish they prepared for her: shrimp with lots of vegetables . . . whatever you do, make sure you order the fried plantains as a side dish or appetizer; they're delicious.

Our server, Lora, was most attentive . . . and she was kept busy because a whole bunch of our neighbors and friends wound up eating there that night, too.



(left row, bottom to top: Arne Stanley, Carol Stanley, Gail Tuch and Lewis Tuch; right row, bottom to top: Jerry Podhurst, Gladys Podhurst, Vivian Smith and Fred Smith)

For more information about this excellent restaurant, please click:
<http://www.eldoradolatingrill.com/>

B. Saw another play we liked a lot:

(1) LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, which is running at HART (Haywood Arts Regional Theatre in Waynesville) through July 29 . . . it's a delightful musical about a gay couple who operate a gender-bending night club in France.

Rod Leigh and Eric Martinez are fantastic in the leading roles, and we laughed every time that Dan Dutterer appeared on stage . . . another of our local favorites, Steven Turner, also handled his role with aplomb . . . and he looked quite fetching in the dress that he wore at the end of the show.

In addition, we had fun meeting the chorus--aka the Cagelles--afterward. What was fun was trying to differentiate the men from the women.



Steven Lloyd's direction was on target, as was Chuck Taft's music direction. For more information about the show, please click the following review:
<http://themountaineer.villagesoup.com/ae/story/a-luscious-la-cage/856443?cid=1798892>

And to order tickets, please click:
<http://www.harttheater.com/tickets.html>

(2) Afterward, we found a new place for us on the main drag in Waynesville: the Tipping

Point Tavern . . . my turkey sandwich with bacon and Swiss cheese was excellent, and Cynthia said the same thing about her Reuben . . . in both cases, we were impressed with the fact that the meat was made there and not processed.

Lisa, our server, was excellent . . . for more information about this eatery, please click:
<http://www.tippingpointavern.com/>

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

This week, it goes to Katherine Quinn--SART's box office manager.

She is the person you get when you call 828.689.1239 and order tickets for any of the fantastic productions being put on this summer by the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre.

You'll find her both extremely helpful and friendly . . . I am continually amazed that she has actually gotten to know many of the customers to the extent that when they call back, she greets them as if they were long lost friends.

If you prefer, you can say "hello" to Katherine when you order your tickets in person by visiting the box office . . . it is located on the bottom floor of historic Owen Theatre at Mars Hills College, 44 College Street, Mars Hill, NC.

And I'd be remiss if I failed to mention the work of Jennifer Sell . . . she is helping in the box office this summer and doing an equally fine job for SART.

[Back To Top](#)

2. FYI

Savannah H. in PA: Would you mind reading this . . . do you think it sounds like a scam?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: robert lansley <robert*****@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 5, 2012 at 12:37 AM

Subject: Re: 2007 Dodge Charger - \$16700 (Southampton, PA (Bucks County))

Thanks for your swift response, I'm seriously interested in buying this for my Father, your asking price is quite reasonable and affordable considering others I've seen lately, I'll take it. I would have loved to come check it out myself but am currently in camp as a Navy instructor for new recruits. I won't be able to leave the base until August 26th. I however squeezed out time to check this posting as all personal dealings are highly restricted here, I really want this as a surprise gift for my Father so I won't let him know anything about this until it gets delivered to him and due to the fact that phone calls making are restricted.

I will be paying you with my PayPal account because it's attached to my bank account and its safe and very secure way to make payment. If my mode of payment is accepted just send me your PayPal email address (PayPal ID) so I can pay in right away. I have a private courier agent that will come for the pick up after payments has been made, so no shipping included. I'll need your name, the pickup address or location and please include your PayPal email address for the payment and send me some recent pictures if available And if you don't have a PayPal account, you can easily go to <http://www.paypal.com/> and sign up. It's very easy. I await your reply ASAP.

Thanks Robert

My two cents: In general, the old adage holds true, "If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is." In this case, that also applies to folks who send you stuff via Craigslist.

I've seen similar bogus things on line for the quite some time now . . . for more information, please click:
<http://theunemployedmom.com/2011/02/09/craigslist-military-paypal-scam/>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Tony M. in NC: Guy spans entire history of rock n' roll with 100 riffs
http://now.msn.com/now/0629-rock-riffs?OCID=MSNNow_OnNet_Now_10001

(2) Michael F. in NV: WAIT TILL YOU SEE THIS GUY!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DbaeaFCaBU>

(3) Texas Rangers, Minnesota Twins scatter after lightning strike, thunder clap (see the clip about half way down page)

http://aol.sportingnews.com/mlb/story/2012-07-09/minnesota-twins-texas-rangers-lightning-delay-video?icid=maing-grid10%7Chtmlws-main-bb%7Cdl3%7Csec1_Ink3%26pLid%3D176802

(4) Sharon C. in NC: One man woman. (Don't give up on this one too quickly. Keep watching. You'll be surprised.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEDydlpirII>

And

A great puppet show

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPvcildDZAE&feature=player_embedded

(5) Ed K. in PA: You can install 8,400 sf of tent in 1 min 8 seconds if everyone moves really fast. Enjoy this simple time lapse!

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10151240115257306>

(6) Eliana Girard and Cyrus 'Glitch' Spencer -- Broadway SYTYCD 7.11.2012

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlRthc4quJM&feature=youtube_gdata_player

My request (of you): If you watch SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE, please vote for Eliana Girard. That's who I am rooting for because I know her through her mother (Della Striker, a high school classmate of mine).

B. Other

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-P9>

(1) Walt W. in PA [sharing a response he got from a friend in response to the computer warning in BLAINESWORLD #823]. (2) Barbara F. in PA: Why didn't you suggest for Cynthia to go see "Magic Mike" with some girlfriends? (3) Ingrid S. in PA: Always enjoy the newsletter. (4) Larry S. in PA: The truth is more evident that we are not created equal, instead we are created equally unequal! (5) George B. in PA: Read my new column: BRUNO'S HAPPY HOUR. (6) Terry L. in NC: Shrub pruning season almost over.

Back To Top

3. JOKE 1: Riding the bus

A man was riding the bus, minding his own business, when the gorgeous woman next to him started to breastfeed her baby. The baby wouldn't take it, so she said, "Come on, eat it all up or I'll give it to this nice man here."

Five minutes later, the baby was still not feeding, so she said, "Come on, honey. Take it or I'll give it to this nice man here."

A few minutes later, the man blurted out, "Come on, kid. Make up your mind. I was supposed to get off four stops ago!"

Back To Top

4. Reviews

A. Forget any glowing reviews that you may have read about MOONSHINE KINGDOM . . . this supposed comedy about two twelve-year olds who fall in love wasn't funny, nor did I find it very interesting . . . in fact, the only thing preventing me from walking out was that I wasn't alone; i.e., I saw it with both Cynthia and a friend (they liked it a bit more than I did, but I don't think a whole lot more) . . . it's very quirky, and though I usually like such films, I didn't care for this one--at all . . . rated PG-13.

B. WANDERLUST is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #806 follows:

WANDERLUST is a goofy film about a couple, amusingly played by Paul Rudd and Jennifer Aniston, who find themselves forced to leave Manhattan when the Rudd character is downsized . . . they wind up in an idyllic community called Elysium, which is made up of colorful characters who see things in a hippie-like fashion . . . there are a lot of laughs along the way, although you probably won't remember too many of them the next day . . . rated R.

C. THE UNFINISHED WORK WEEK: LOST PERSONAL TIME (CreateSpace) by Andrew

Gateriewictz is an insightful book designed for people wanting to regain their evening and weekends.

The author, an expert in the field of neuro-linguistics, points out the average American employee goes through an average of 115 emails per day--and he or she spends 50% of a work day managing such email. Furthermore, 50% of the 30 million PowerPoint presentations given per day are considered a waste of time.

In addition, the brain has the capacity to remember only 8 items of information in an hour, and it takes 8 seconds to transfer information from short term working memory through the brain's hippocampus to long term memory.

What this means is that if you wish to increase productivity, you need to keep in mind that 86% of what is remembered is seen.

According to Gateriewictz:

* Visual short term memory can process up to 15 visual bits of data in 30 seconds. PLUS, the visual short term memory lasts at least 4 times longer than verbal!!!

And:

* If the Key Topic is to be remembered, the type of communication must be changed from verbal to visual. Words have to support sight. Remember, "Eyes remember better than ears."

THE UNFINISHED WORK WEEK then proceeds to make specific suggestions on how to improve many aspects of communication, including email:

* Before composing the Email identify what should be said as briefly as possible. Remember, this is not an English class. No one is grading this term paper. This all about effective communication using the Memory Rules. Use some of the following.

- a. Phrases replace sentences
- b. Use short words (average 5 letters) when possible
- c. Brief supporting bullet points
- d. Long messages are scanned
- e. Short messages are read
- f. Realize the recipient can't see or hear the tone of the correspondence

I especially liked the illustrations toward the end of the book, demonstrating aspects of silent communications--and how best to identify them.

D. Enjoyed listening to SATISFIED CUSTOMERS TELL THREE FRIENDS, ANGRY CUSTOMERS TELL 3,000: RUNNING A BUSINESS IN TODAY'S CONSUMER-DRIVEN WORLD (Tantor Media), written by Peter Blackshaw and read by Lloyd James.

The author discuss how the Internet has brought about a shift in the balance of power for today's customer. Consequently, the consumer is now in charge as a result of consumer-generated media including blogs, video sharing and social networking.

This means that a single disgruntled customer can broadcast his or her opinion to millions within seconds and the only way a company can respond is by creating 100% credibility with all consumers via any means possible.

Blackshaw presents numerous examples from such well-known companies as Toyota, Dell, Nike, JetBlue and Bank of America as to how this should be done, but he also shows many blunders that have happened along the way:

Included was this one that I still remember:

* A single 21-minute call to AOL caused a public relations disaster for the company.

However, much of the book focused on the positive things that are being done by companies, such as when:

* Lands End simplified its guaranteed to: Guaranteed. Period.

In addition, the author cited this classic demonstration of what's simply good marketing:

* Brand loyalty is nurtured by the process of asking customers to participate in the design of the end process. . . . Another successful user participation model was M&M's breakthrough global color vote initiative, in which nearly 10 million customers voted for the new M&M colors.

As the book points out, customers are going to get the word out about your company--both positive and negative . . . you need to be aware of that fact and if you're smart, you will use this information to your advantage.

***** CONTEST #14 *****

One lucky winner will receive the CD version of ANGEL, a Maximum Ride novel by James Patterson . . . to quote from the book's description, "Max Ride and her best friends have always had one another's backs. No. Matter. What. Living on the edge as fugitives, they never had a choice. But now they're up against a deadly force that's racing across the globe, and just when they need him the most--Fang is gone. He's creating his own gang that will replace everyone--including Max.

Reading level: Teens. So if you have a child or grandchild in that age range . . . or if you like such books yourself, do enter this contest by following the instructions (below).

To enter: Put "CONTEST #14" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, July 15.

[Back To Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. COMEDY BANG! BANG! features Paul Rudd visiting Scott Aukerman, and they discuss the fact that they both have an interest in mime. Saturday at 3:15 p.m. on IFC.

B. POLITICAL ANIMALS, notes THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, is a "six-part limited series event, and that's one way of describing it. Another would be to say that it is among the most bizarre, if tasty, concoctions ever presented on mainstream television." Sundays at 10 p.m. on USA.

C. FOUR FEATHERS, A.E.W. Mason's classic adventure novel, has been brought to the screen three times in the silent era and at least three times since . . . this 1939 version about a disgraced officer who risks his life to help his childhood friends in battle is arguably the best one . . . it won an Academy Award nomination for Best Cinematography . . . Monday, July 16, at 12 noon on TCM.

D. BIRDERS: THE CENTRAL PARK EFFECT airs on Monday, July 16, at 9 p.m. on HBO . . . it's a documentary about birds and birders in New York's Central Park.

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: 10 o'clock news (be forewarned--don't read if you are offended by redhead jokes)

Bob walks into a sports bar around 9:58 p.m. He sits down next to this redhead at the bar and stares up at the TV. The 10 o'clock news was just coming on. The news crew was covering a story of a man on a ledge of a large building about to jump.

The redhead looks at Bob and says, "Do you think he'll jump?"

Bob says, "You know, I bet he will."

The redhead replied, "Well, I bet he won't."

Bob placed \$20 on the bar and said, "You're on!"

Just as the redhead placed her money on the bar, the guy did a swan dive off of the building, falling to his death. The redhead was very upset and handed her \$20 to Bob.

"Fair is fair," she says. "Here's your money."

Bob replies, "I can't take your money, I saw this earlier on the 5 o'clock news and knew he would jump."

The redhead replies, "I saw that too, but I didn't think he'd do it again."

[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Bettina Y. in NY: 21 Pictures That Will Restore Your Faith In Humanity

Note: Here's my favorite one:



To see the others, please click:

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/exresident/pictures-that-will-restore-your-faith-in-humanity>

B. Funny Prayer about Getting Old at the Caregiver of the Year Dinner . . . her timing is incredible!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=vPFCn3itBFE#!

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

To learn my "secret" for dealing with irate customers, students, significant others, etc., please click "Consulting" to the left and then "Article Samples" . . . you'll find several that I have written, but make sure you click "B" for the one that takes you to The YOMBER principle. Methinks you'll like this one--much!

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Back To Top

8. Computer tip

If you have a Yahoo account or know somebody who does, encourage them to check if their account has been compromised (as part of a recent leak) by clicking:

<http://labs.sucuri.net/?yahooleak>

For more information about this leak, please read the following:

Yahoo Breach Extends Beyond Yahoo to Gmail, Hotmail, AOL Users

<http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/07/12/yahoo-breach-extends-beyond-yahoo-to-gmail-hotmail-aol-users/?src=me&ref=general>

Even if you don't read the above, here's the key takeaway: "Computer security experts recommended that Yahoo users consider changing their passwords to other sites, as hackers tend to test those passwords across multiple sites."

Back To Top

9. JOKE 3: Redneck horseshoes (Anybody care to join me in a game?)



[Back To Top](#)

10. A quote I like

I am always surprised when people complain about their birthdays. I am always grateful I have another day and year to experience life.--Janet StraightArrow who describes herself as "a Woman of Medicine, Wisdom and Grace offering inspiration and simple, clear ways for people to Be The Medicine in their lives and Live the Power of You!" For more information, please click:

<http://www.bethemedicine.com/>

[Back To Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

Redefining Success and Celebrating the Ordinary
by Alina Tugend

I've been thinking a lot about the ordinary and extraordinary lately. All year, my sons' school newsletters were filled with stories about students winning prizes for university-level scientific research, stellar musical accomplishments and statewide athletic laurels.

I wonder if there is any room for the ordinary any more, for the child or teenager--or adult-- who enjoys a pickup basketball game but is far from Olympic material, who will be a good citizen but won't set the world on fire.

For the rest of this insightful article, please click:

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/30/your-money/redefining-success-and-celebrating-the-unremarkable.html?_r=1&emc=eta1

Note: The above also mentions a graduation speech given by David McCullough Jr., an English teacher, that dealt with this same topic. To view it, please click:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IfxYhtf8o4

[Back To Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Pb>

(1) The College for Seniors "Performing Stand-Up Comedy" class is proudly presenting a second performance. (2) The Good Old Fashioned Variety Show! on Saturday, July 14. (3) Improv Therapy Workshop at Jubilee (free!).

B. PA/NJ events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Pd>

(1) Rich Orth on blog talk radio. (2) Tom Orr at Singers Showcase. (3) ROUSING, RED-HOT MUSICAL GYPSY WRAPS UP ACTORS' NET's 16th SEASON

Back To Top

PS. Make it a great week!

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BLAINES WORLD

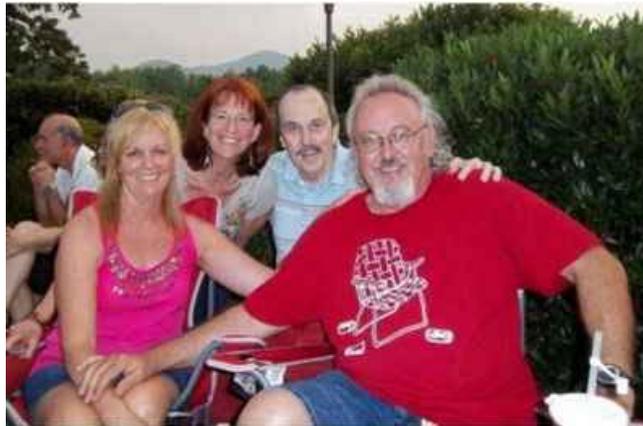
BLAINESWORLD
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In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: An epiphany**
 4. **Reviews . . . MAGIC MIKE, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Making progress**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: The twins**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a blast at our community's Independence Day celebration . . . that's us with (in the middle) with Donna and Ed Goettl, our new neighbors.



The food from Backwoods BBQ, as always, was outstanding . . . and so was the music from Tuxedo Junction, which got Cynthia and our friend Mary Coblenz (left of Cynthia) dancing away.



A special treat was having a local resident, Mark Knollman (in sunglasses), sit-in with the group to do his take on Bob Dylan and many other performers.



Kudos to the Community Recreation Committee for making the event the success that it was . . . and special thanks to Kristi Mizen and Marilynne Herbert who oversaw every detail, as well as to Dave Starkey for being in charge of the clean-up and volunteers, and to Leslie Starkey for the face painting.

B. Earlier in the week, we bid farewell to our friends Dianne and Tom Rebbin . . . they had been among the first folks we met when we moved to Biltmore Lake, and they are now relocating to Kentucky. They will be missed!



To wish them well, the community got together at a lovely party. Special thanks to Sue Runnells, Sandy Teach and Peggy Drane, among others, for taking care of all the details for this gathering and, also, to Fred Teach for doing an excellent job as emcee.



(l-r) Kim Preish, yours truly, Dianne Rebbin and Jim Preish

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Katherine Sandoval Taylor on being profiled in an article in the ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES:

http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20120704/ENT05/307040017?fb_ref=artsharetop&fb_source=timeline

Note: Please also see Section 12A for information on getting tickets to THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA. Katherine, along with a very talented cast, is dazzling audiences in this enchanting musical that runs at Owen Theatre through July 22. For dates and times, please click:

www.sartplays.org

For tickets, please call the Box Office at 828.689.1239. You won't be disappointed!

(2) Lavelle Oxexa, my sister-in-law, whose work was recently highlighted on CBS-TV:

<http://news.yahoo.com/video/newyorkcbs2-15751042/meera-gandhi-founder-of-the-giving-back-foundation-29847032.html>

(3) Dr. Michael Trayford on being named as president of the Asheville Rotary Club.

(4) Marlene Miller. She will be having a one-woman exhibition at the Michener Museum in Doylestown, PA, opening on July 14. For more information, please click:

<http://www.michenermuseum.org/exhibits/miller.php>

(5) The NC Center for Creative Retirement, under the able leadership of Catherine Frank. It has received a \$1 million endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation, and it will receive a second \$1 million endowment when it completes a name change to become the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UNC Asheville.

(6) Darcy Grabenstein on landing a new job as Technical Account Manager (email marketing) with Harte-Hankes in Yardley.

(7) Edie Weinstein. She was named as one of the teachers in the upcoming Spirituality Book Camp. To quote Edie, "It will open your heart and mind to infinite possibilities." Register for free by clicking:

<http://www.vividlife.me/>

(8) Ambiance Interiors on its 35th anniversary, all in downtown Asheville.

For more information, please click:

<http://www.ambianceasheville.com/>

(9) Ryan Fallon for having earned his BBA in Risk Management & Insurance from Temple University.

(10) Linda S. in PA . . . she was the winner of Contest #13: the CD version of MONSTER HIGH by Lisi Harrison. All told, there were 5 entries. And that reminds me that it's now time to introduce:

D. Congratulations, also, to Cynthia for being featured in her first YouTube video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCmN8-aacx4>

Note: For more information about the improv therapy she is describing, please also see Section 11.

***** CONTEST #14 *****

One lucky winner will receive the CD version of ANGEL, a Maximum Ride novel by James Patterson . . . to quote from the book's description, "Max Ride and her best friends have always had one another's backs. No. Matter. What. Living on the edge as fugitives, they never had a choice. But now they're up against a deadly force that's racing across the globe, and just when they need him the most--Fang is gone. He's creating his own gang that will replace everyone--including Max.

Reading level: Teens. So if you have a child or grandchild in that age range . . . or if you like such books yourself, do enter this contest by following the instructions (below).

To enter: Put "CONTEST #14" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, July 15.

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

This week, it goes to Nick Hipp--a service technician with Champion Comfort Experts.

Upon the recommendation of our friend Tammy, we recently contacted Champion to service our air conditioning unit. Nick was the person the company sent, and we were glad that was the case.

Nick arrived on time. He gave our system a very thorough check, said it was running fine and made a few recommendations on how we could get it to work even better. In addition, he patiently answered all our questions.

We also appreciated his recommendation to install a screen over the outside vent, so that birds and bees won't get into the unit.

As a result of this initial visit, we entered into a yearly service contract with Champion. We will request that Nick be the technician who comes out each time.

For further information about Champion Comfort Experts, please click:
<http://www.championcomfortexperts.com/>

[Back To Top](#)

2. FYI

Income-Based Repayment of Student Loans: If Only Borrowers Knew

An income-based federal effort to help the borrowers who need it most has attracted little attention. The Obama administration is taking steps to widen the program's appeal.

To read this informative article, please click:
<http://chronicle.com/article/Income-Based-Repayment-of/132703/?key=TG8gJQRrZSNGZysyMWpAbD1ROHQ7OEH0N38eOH1zbI5VFg%3D%3D>

My two cents: This is one legitimate way to make debt more manageable! Please do share with others who may be impacted by it; e.g., your kids, grandchildren, friends, etc. The whole student loan thing really bothers me. It is a disgrace that so many are into debt as a result of such loans--and have virtually no way to ever get out of the hole.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Sharon C. in NC: Typewriter
http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=G4nX0Xrn-wo&sns=em

(2) "The Gift of an Ordinary Day" by Katrina Kenison
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olSyCLJU300>

(3) Jon R. in CO: Herman's Hermits "I'm Henry VIII, I Am" on The Ed Sullivan Show
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GisCRxREDkY>

(4) Alyson M. in CO: Two - laugh out loud video snippets for political (and humor) junkies!
http://www.cnn.com/video/?hpt=hp_c3#/video/us/2012/06/29/sot-express-meade-obama-scotus-dancing.hln

(5) Nelson S. in NC: Our story in 2 minutes
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrqqD_Tsy4Q

(6) Sally B. in NC: Let Me Stand Next to Your Fire (covered) by Unit 50
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpRPi6NGyOQ>

(7) Beard song
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xe3Vsbsb33Q>

(8) Asheville Downtown Tour with Chikomo Marimba
www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GDTrSatl40

(9) Andy Griffith's stand-up act about football still hilarious nearly 60 years later
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FibbKyBTJX4>

Note: RSVP, Andy!

(10) Sad story& video clip: Gallagher (the watermelon-busting comedian), broke, living in hotels
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/02/gallagher-broke-living-in-hotels-heart-attack_n_1643655.html?utm_hp_ref=comedy&icid=maing-grid10%7Chtmlws-sb-bb%7Cd121%7Csec1_ink%3%26pLid%3D175452

(11) "Weird" Al Yankovic - Amish Paradise
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lofZLb33uCG>

(12) Marie V. in NC: One of my favorites: Johnny Cymbal - Mr. Bass Man
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhkiLoS-aZI&feature=share>

(13) Natalie K. in PA: Nothing brings people together more than music. Som Sabadell flashmob
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBaHPND2QJg>

B. Other

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

(1) Bobbi L. in NC: Problem getting issues. (2) Marty D. in PA: I noticed you always somehow manage to get photographed with all the great looking women (in addition, of course, to your beautiful bride, Cynthia). (3) Natalie K. in PA: I saw MOONRISE KINGDOM over the weekend. It was okay. (4) Kimberly R. in NC: Our new Dance4Events.com is up and running! (5) Tracy in FL: The Turtles 2012 Tour Schedule. (6) Scott P. in PA: The Best Google Features You're Probably Not Using. (7) Jim D. in PA (with a FREE offer).

Back To Top

3. JOKE 1: An epiphany

I used to play sports. Then I realized you can buy trophies. Now I'm good at everything.-- Demetri Martin (born 1975), American comedian, actor, artist, musician, writer and humorist

Note: You may have seen Martin in the movie TAKING WOODSTOCK, as well as on various COMEDY CENTRAL shows. You can read more of his jokes and see some of his videos by clicking:
<http://comedians.jokes.com/demetri-martin>

Back To Top

4. Reviews

A. MAGIC MIKE, set in the world of male strippers, stars Channing Tatum in a story inspired by his real life . . . he was OK in the leading role, as was Matthew McConaughey in a rare supporting part . . . I did not like the work of Alex Pettyfer as "the kid," and the story just didn't hold my interest . . . I'm surprised that the film got a lot of good reviews . . . though it ran 110 minutes, it seemed longer--much longer . . . rated R.

Note: I was only one of two guys in the theatre. Most of the many women in attendance seemed to like the film, but not Cynthia . . . in fact, here was her spin: "They don't compare to you!" . . . Cynthia also overheard a funny line when we were purchasing tickets: "This is the only time all the women want to see the stripper movie, and all the guys want to see the teddy bear movie [TED]."

B. THE ARTIST is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #800 follows:

I enjoyed THE ARTIST while watching it, but didn't think it was all that great . . . however, thinking about it some more now, I'm finding that my overall appreciation for the film is growing . . . the story is about a silent movie superstar . . . with the advent of the talkies, his career falls apart while an extra's takes off . . . their destinies soon become intertwined . . . performances by both Jean Dufardin and Berenice Bejo were outstanding; however, the work of Uggie (a dog) really caught my attention . . . he stole almost every scene he was in . . . I loved the black-and-white cinematography in the ARTIST, as well as its ending . . . rated PG-13.

Be forewarned: There is little dialogue in the film . . . make that very little dialogue . . . so if you're expecting a talkie, you're going to be disappointed . . . in fact, some moviegoers have asked for their money back because they did not know what they were getting into . . . for more information, please click:

<http://newsfeed.time.com/2012/01/18/moviegoers-ask-for-refunds-after-finding-out-the-artist-is-a-silent-film/>

C. THE TRANSFORMATIVE CEO: LESSONS FROM INDUSTRY GAME CHANGERS (McGraw-Hill) by Jeffrey J. Fox and Robert Reiss is a book that features interviews with 44 top executives from some of the most successful corporations in America.

Fox, one of my favorite business authors, and Reiss, founder and host of THE CEO SHOW, have taken the interviews and incorporated them into 32 brief chapters that give advice on such topics as turning around a company, building superior customer service, thinking big and going global, performing while transforming, having a higher purpose and innovating to make everything better.

One of the keys to accomplish this is to:

- * Get the right people. The transformative CEO is like a professional sports team coach: always looking for the best athletes; putting the players in the right positions; making sure every player knows what to do to win. The transformative CEO knows the culture he or she wants, and hires and fires, in the context of that culture. If the CEO makes a hiring mistake, he or she admits it, and fixes the mistake.

In addition, the transformative CEO leads by example:

- * Jim Gillespie was a brand new real estate agent starting out, and he had no money. He represented a poor, elderly couple in selling their house. He sold the house, his second sale, and gave back his entire commission to his clients. Years later, Jim Gillespie is CEO, Coldwell Banker, leading 87,000 global agents and employees.

He or she also is not afraid to seek help, as we demonstrated by the following tidbit that I have often used in my professional career:

- * Have a "Kitchen Cabinet" (first used by President Andrew Jackson in 1832). A kitchen cabinet is one or more honest advisors who are usually not part of the leader's organization. These people never knowingly let the leader make a mistake.

If you want to make a difference in your organization, take my recommendation and read THE TRANSFORMATIVE CEO . . . then pass it forward to as many individuals as you can.

D. Heard YOU'RE HIRED! JOB HUNTING FUNDAMENTALS FOR TOUGH TIMES AND ONE SECRET YOU MUST KNOW TO GET HIRED QUICKLY (Audible.com), written and read by C. Mark Johnson.

While I don't know that there's much of a "secret" contained in this short book, there is some useful advice that job seekers will find helpful.

To improve networking opportunities, for example:

- * Buy an individual membership in the Chamber of Commerce (as opposed to a corporate membership). It can cost as low as \$25. This gives you access to decision-makers at many companies. And if you don't have the \$25, then look for ribbon cutting and business after hour events you can attend for free.

Johnson then proceeds to review some basic things to keep in mind during the job search, including this tidbit that he got from his uncle:

- * People know three things about you when they meet you: 1. How you look, how you act and what you say when you open your mouth Make sure these three things are in order so you can make a favorable first impression.

And when asked:

* When can you start? Always ask back in return: When's the earliest you need me? Then make yourself available on that day.

I would recommend YOU'RE HIRED! to those in the beginning stages of seeking employment; i.e., those who have not had any significant full-time experience. Others might find it a bit too basic.

Back To Top

5. TV alert

A. THE SOUL MAN stars Cedric "The Entertainer" as a domestic bumbler who takes over his father's St. Louis pulpit after a career as an R&B star. Wednesdays at 10 p.m. on TV LAND.

B. Wimbledon concludes with the Women's Final on Saturday at 9 a.m. and the Men's final on Sunday at 9 a.m.--both days on ESPN. . . . I'm especially interested in the latter event because I'll be pulling for Roger Federer to see if he can tie the record with a seventh title in this prestigious tournament.

C. W.C. Fields is bank guard Egbert Souse in THE BANK DICK, an all-time comedy classic . . . Sunday at 8 p.m. on TCM.

D. HARD TIMES: LOST ON LONG ISLAND is a documentary about four couples struggling to survive during long-term joblessness . . . I'll check it out because of the fact that it is set where I grew up . . . according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "It's not easy to forget any of these couples whose daily, panicked, but also movingly resolute encounter with hard times the film captures so vividly." Monday, July 9, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

Back To Top

6. JOKE 2: Making progress

A man walks into a bar and orders a beer. He takes a sip and then tosses the rest into the bartender's face.

"I'm sorry!" he sobs. "I can't help doing that. It's so embarrassing!"

The bartender feels bad for the guy and gets him to agree to see a psychiatrist. Six months later, he's back.

"Are you seeing a psychiatrist?" the bartender asks, handing him a beer. "Yes, twice a week. He's great," says the man, as he throws his beer into the bartender's face.

"Great? You just threw another beer in my face."

"True, but now it doesn't embarrass me."

Back To Top

7. Websites

A. Corinne G. in PA: New I-Pad for dad

A Daughter is visiting her father. She asks: "Tell me dad, how are you managing with the new I-Pad we gave you for your birthday?" This is in German, but no subtitles are needed. It is very funny.

<http://www.snotr.com/video/8965/>

B. Janeen R. in PA: Motorcycle parade: this is spectacular (even if you are not "into" motorcycles)!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BydPsqC1Bgc>

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

If you've never seen me in person, you can get the next best thing by clicking "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Video Clips."

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Back To Top

8. Computer tip

Thousands may get knocked off Internet on Monday
by Lolita C. Baldor, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite repeated alerts, tens of thousands of Americans may still lose their Internet service Monday [July 9, 2012] unless they do a quick check of their computers for malware that could have taken over their machines more than a year ago.

For the entire article, please click:

<http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/articles/washington-142145-internet-knocked.html>

Perhaps more importantly, the article mentions a way to see if your computer is infected. Just check the website run by the group brought in by the FBI:

<http://www.dcwg.org/detect/>

Then go to the second paragraph beginning with "For example" and perform an online test that will only take you a few seconds. If it is determined that your system has been affected, you'll find guidelines on what to do to fix the problem.

Back To Top

9. JOKE 3: The twins

A fellow and his wife in Muskogee, Oklahoma, where the people are all patriots, were blessed with the birth of twins, two identical girls. These twins were born on the 4th of July, and the father, being patriotic, said to his wife, "We will name them Liberty and Justice, after the Pledge of Allegiance."

His wife said, "Are you nuts? You can't have girls going through life with names like Liberty and Justice. We're going to name them regular girl's names like Mary or Jane."

Well, the argument went on for about a month, when a compromise was reached. They would each name one of the girls. The man chose Liberty and the wife picked Elizabeth.

As the girls grew, they were so identical, they kept pulling tricks on people who couldn't tell them apart.

Finally, when they were about 18, a young man took interest in them. He would take one or the other out on a date but he was never sure which one he was with. He decided he would marry one of them, or both if he could get away with it, but he wasn't sure which one he would marry if he could only get one.

He went to the girls' father and explained his quandary. "I love your daughters and want to marry one of them, but I can't tell them apart, so I will leave it up to you. Give me Liberty or give me Beth."

Back To Top

10. A quote I like

It is impossible to live without failing at something unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all.--J. K. Rowling (born 1955), British novelist best known as the author of the Harry Potter fantasy series

Back To Top

11. Thought for the day

Some core principles of improv (and life)
by Jeff Thompson*

Think about a moment in your life that you consider a "peak experience." For me, what comes to mind immediately are moments when lyrics and melody for a new song seem to flow out of me with little or no effort. When this happens, it is as if the song is writing itself. My usual experience of effort, judgment and struggle temporarily drops away.

This has not happened very often to me, but every time it has happened, the songs are

"keepers." Even when I've tried to edit them later, there is seldom anything I want to change. In theater improv, there have been occasional moments like this as well, moments when I just know that everything I say and do is going to fit before I even do it. There is a delightful feel of inevitability to my movements and words, choices are made with delicious fluidity and commitment. As a therapist, these moments happen occasionally as well. From the moment the client walks in the door, I feel "in the zone," connected heart-to-heart with this other person, and the session evolves organically. Or in meditation, sometimes the mind and the breath are effortlessly one, there is little to no trying, I am "being meditated."

These kinds of experiences tend to leave me with far more energy afterwards than I had beforehand, and a sense of joy and satisfaction and okayness that is difficult to describe.

What strikes me about all of these examples is that I would not describe any of them as feeling supernatural in any way, though I would describe them as Spiritual. In the midst of them, I do not feel like an augmented version of myself, but rather a no longer diminished version. I feel returned to a state of wholeness, but not as if something new has been added to me.

This is what I believe we aim for, in improvisation and in life. Our birthright. Our unadulterated, brilliant, perfect selves.

Perhaps paradoxically, though, this is something we can cultivate intentionally. We can work to pave the way to be effortlessly ourselves. We can sharpen our senses, we can train our nervous systems and our intentions, we can clear the clutter that stands in our way, we can cultivate patience and surrender. And then we can wait.

Zen teacher Baker Roshi famously said "Enlightenment is an accident. Meditation makes you accident prone." We might apply this to less lofty goals than full enlightenment (whatever that may be).

Most performers have heard the old injunction to "get out of your own way," but seldom does the suggestion come with instructions on how to achieve this paradoxical goal. The truth is, this is not a feat that can be accomplished directly, through will alone. In fact, the harder one tries to do it, the more the egoic, efforting self is engaged.

The experience of actually getting out of one's own way, the "effortless effort," is something with which we may be graced. Call it the Holy Spirit, call it the Zone, call it a perfect balance between the sympathetic and parasympathetic branches of the autonomic nervous system . . . I don't care what you call it . . . it's still Grace. And Grace only happens when we surrender to something greater than our conscious, controlling will.

But here's the good news: the frequency and intensity of this Gracing are directly proportional to the exertion and clarity of intention with which we have developed our receptiveness, so there is a sense in which we can have some measure of indirect influence.

Please remember, though, not to take it all too seriously. It would behoove us to approach the practice of our crafts and of our lives with the enthusiasm of a child running out of the classroom towards recess. He does this day after day, but not out of a sense of drudgery or because it is "good for him." Play is an end in itself, though it often leads to desirable ends.

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Jeff Thompson, a friend and body-centered psychotherapist who practices in the Asheville area. For more information, please call Jeff at 828.545.8813 or click:

<https://www.facebook.com/jeffthompson>

Jeff also runs Improv Therapy classes every Thursday (6:30-8:30 p.m.) and Friday (3-5 p.m.) at the Sacred Embodiment Center. \$10 per class per person. For directions and parking information, please click:

<http://thesacredembodimentcenter.com/directions/>
Back To Top

12. Advance planning department

A. Stuff I'm involved in . . .

(1) Next on the SART schedule: A LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA, opening July 5 and running through July 22. This enchanting musical won six Tony Awards, including Best Original Score.

For the trailer, please click:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXuO50QVKHE&feature=youtu.be>

For dates and times, please click:

www.sartplays.org

Call the Box Office at 828.689.1239 for tickets.

(2) Hope you can join me at the SART benefit on July 15th at the Wolf Laurel Country Club . . . it will feature music selections from THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA and other songs from your favorite artists, including Liz Aiello, Katherine Sandoval Taylor, Timothy Wilds, Beverly Todd and Joshua Collier.

For more information, please click:

www.sartplays.org

Tickets are \$50 per person and dinner is included. To order, call the Box Office at 828.689.1239.

(3) It will make you smile, laugh, chuckle ...

The College for Seniors "Performing Stand-Up Comedy" class is proudly presenting a second performance at The Grotto in the Highsmith Union on campus on Friday, July 13, 2012. Doors open at 7 p.m.; showtime is 7:30 p.m.

Join instructor Randy Robins and the mirthful troupe of inveterate comics--including yours truly--as they make what for most of them is an encore performance of their stand-up debut. Admission is free, parking is ample, and your presence can only enhance what promises to be a fun time for all.

***** SPECIAL REQUEST IF YOU CAN ATTEND *****

Just so I have a ballpark idea of how many folks will be coming, please send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put "July 13" in the subject line. Also, if you'd like to meet Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and me for dinner beforehand--possibly at Vinnie's--let me know that, too.

B. NC events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Ot>

(1) Good old-fashioned variety show (involving youth). (2) Good old-fashioned variety show (involving adults). (3) Duck auction at Jack of Hearts. (4) Calling all Superheroes! (5) Leadership Asheville's Summer Breakfast Series.

C. PA/NJ events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Ov>

(1) Fundraiser for Fine & Novick for Council. (2) ROUSING, RED-HOT MUSICAL GYPSY. (3) Coming Sept 9: An Evening with Frank Sinatra!

[Back To Top](#)

PS. Hope y'all have a Happy 4th (5th, 6th and rest of the week, too) as you ponder this oh-so-profound question . . .



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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD
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In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: True confessions**
 4. **Reviews . . . HYSTERIA, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Rush job**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Crying baby**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had great fun at SART's production of HARVEY.



(l-r) Cynthia, Blaine, Michael Mattison, Bill Gregg Ben Starr Coates and Harvey

Kudos to Bill Gregg, who directed, and the entire cast for a job well done. You're in luck, too, in that you can still catch the show through Sunday. For tickets, call the Box Office at 689.1239.

And if you'd like to read more, here's the review:

http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20120629/ENT05/306290022/Review-Harvey-great-fun?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Entertainment|s&nlick_check=1

(2) Were joined by our friends Brian and Carole that evening that also featured dining at the El Dorado Latin Grill in Mars Hill.



That restaurant is rapidly becoming one of our favorites in Western North Carolina . . . the food is always excellent, as is the service. (Brad was our server this particular evening.) For more information, please click:
<http://www.eldoradolatingrill.com/>

(3) Then went a few doors down the street to a place called Crumbs and Cream--also billed as the Sweet Spot . . . it is certainly that.



The salted caramels there are delicious, as is just about everything else. I had a piece of the Blondie cake and will definitely consider ordering it again. For more information, please click:
<http://crumbsandcreamnc.com/>

B. The next day:

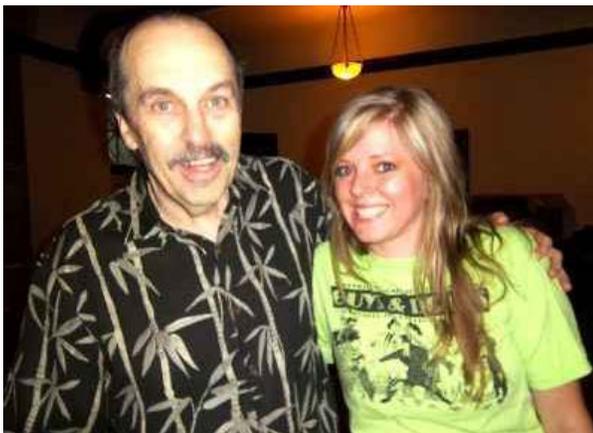
(1) We were joined by our friend Steven for Japanese food at Wasabi. That's us with Reza, our longtime favorite server.



I don't think that we have ever had a bad meal there, and you won't either. We even had a surprise that evening when Reza brought us some ginger ice cream, compliments of the house. It was quite tasty. For more information about this eatery, please click:
<http://www.wasabiasheville.com/>

(2) During the day, when Cynthia was taking a Breema massage course, I caught a Bioflyer Productions performance of SPRING AWAKENING at the Masonic Temple. It blew me away!

Rock Eblen did a fine job directing, and I liked Chuck Taft's musical direction. Daniel Hensley and Taylor Loven were outstanding in the leading roles, and I also enjoyed the work of Tony Fogleman and Stefanie Glynn Crane. That's me with Stefanie who further should be commended for having done the show's choreography with Rock.



Good news: SPRING AWAKENING runs through Sunday, July 1. For advance discount ticketing, please click:

http://www.etix.com/ticket/online/venueSearch.jsp?venue_id=7431

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Eddie Davis on his retirement.

(2) Bruce Katsiff on his retirement. To listen to an interview with Bruce about the occasion, please click:
<http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/item/40315>

(3) Mark Jones and Leslie Lang for landing roles in the upcoming Asheville Community Theatre production of HAIRSPRAY that's being directed by Jerry Crouch.

(4) Carol Anders on being chosen to have a part in staged reading of "Last Stop, Old," set in an active retirement community. July 7 at Asheville Community Theatre. For tickets, please click:
<https://www.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?e=4d6888eea73f86909c35ab5c098afcc3&t=tix>

(5) Emily Shaules for having been cast as the lead in Don't Blink Productions' 48-Hour Film Project. They are showing the films at 4, 7 and 10 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 p.m. this week at Asheville Pizza and Brewing.

(6) Richard Shulman. His musical, A DREAM OF CAMELOT, has been invited to The Global Summit 2012 in London England. In order to pay expenses to bring this transformational musical to London, an Indiegogo campaign has been created. (Please participate!) <http://www.mynewsletterbuilder.com/tools/refer.php?s=6763795296&u=26794160&v=3&key=f77e&skey=0d89d45f5b&url=http%3A%2F%2Ffigg.me%2Fp%2F119010%3Fa%3D673681>

D. Condolences to Molly Kervick and Larry on the passing of Larry's father, Larry Sr.

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

This week, it goes to Rey Hagens--Account Representative (Asheville area) for Groupon.

I used him to help with a Groupon promotion we did for SART. He was very responsive, asking all my many questions and getting us going within a few days.

We were then very pleased with the results, getting some 240 orders.

Rey can be reached at 312.529.4312. His email address is rey@groupon.com.

Follow-up service was then provided by Carol Dreyer, Account Manager, and she too was very helpful.

Back To Top

2. FYI

A few weeks ago, we were having dinner with our friends Muffie and Terry when the server appeared . . . we all were placing our orders, when Muffie came up with what I thought was a fantastic question . . . she asked, "Could you please go back and ask the chef what's his favorite dish to prepare?"

The server did just that back and soon came back with an answer. Muffie took the recommendation (I can't even remember what the dish was) and said it was excellent.

Isn't this a great thing to ask the next time you go out to eat?

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Tim G. in WV: Great dancing
http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=ab9i0s4WEY0&feature=related

(2) Natalie K. in PA: Elaine Stritch sings one of the hits from Stephen Sondheim's Follies.
<http://www.greatshowtunes.com/videos/concert/im-still-here.html>

(3) Jean D. in PA: One Take Over The Line - Lawrence Welk - WTF! (1971)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8tdmaEhMHE>

(4) Watch: Aroldis Chapman celebrates save by turning somersaults (click second picture)
http://aol.sportingnews.com/mlb/story/2012-06-27/aroldis-chapman-somersaults-forward-roll-cincinnati-reds?icid=maing-grid10%7Chtmlws-main-bb%7Cdl6%7Csec1_ink3%26pLid%3D173608

(5) Janery A. in NC: Sherlock's Theme/Taxi Chase (violin) ~ BBC Sherlock
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHDCJmzajQc>

(6) Tammy S. in NC: Moonrise Kingdom Official Trailer #1 - Wes Anderson Movie (2012) HD
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7N8wkVA4_8s&feature=youtube_gdata_player

(7) Arlene S. in PA: Israel is Synonymous with Innovation
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iloSesQB2U>

and

Americans are not stupid (with subtitles)
<http://www.safeshare.tv/v/fJuNgBkioFE>

B. Other

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Nw>

(1) Ruth W. in PA: Mystery guests. (2) Felice W. in NJ: I've been following your exploits in Asheville, a town on my list of possible retirement locations. (3) Jerry R. in NC: Happy birthday Blaine!!! Must feel great being 30 years old. (4) Alan G. in PA: Happy Birthday. Blaine. (5) Marty D. in PA: Happy Birthday, Blaine! You don't look a day over 60! (6) Tom O. in PA: Happy Birthday!!!! Many more in great health and enjoyment of life. (7) Ken G. in NY: Saw the new Woody Allen movie---really enjoyed it: a must see for fans. (8) Donna G. in NJ: Thank you for reporting the latest VISA scam. (9) Pat L. in CA: SUPER, Blaine, as always. (10) Dee in Arkansas: Thank you so much for that bit of info on the Credit Card scam. (11) Maria M. in NC: LOVE your philosophy of living each day to the fullest. (12) Gladys in NY (and NC): Jerry and I saw Harvey on Friday night and we both enjoyed it. (13) Chandler S. in NC: Don't walk, RUN as fast as you can to see Ted!
***** CORRECTION *****

Some readers apparently got last week's issue with incorrect information in it; i.e., it had an incorrect link to the informative information that can usually be found in Section 2, part 2. Here's the link that you should have received: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-MK>

If you go there, you'll find the following tidbits:

(1) Savannah in PA: Car for sale. (2) Vic A. in NC: Went to see the Temps tonight [at Magnetic Field]. Very funny show. (3) Chris F. in PA: Thank for you a delightfully funny (and poignant) Blainesworld 820! (4) Marty D. in PA: Thanks for the scam alert. (5) Mary Lou S. in NC: Thanks so much for your continuing encouragement to try SART. (6) Vilasi V. in NJ: Fabulous issue....loved every bit. (7) Joe D. in NY: Good heads up with the VISA scam. (8) Sandy B. in PA: Tell MBB Cynthia that I absolutely love that sweater, and she really rocks it! (9) Art A. in NC: We loved the show [I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE at SART]. (10) Elizabeth P. in NC: Saw "I Love You. . ." yesterday. Very funny and a well done production. (11) Lana in Ohio: Wonderful edition....as always. (12) Roger C. in PA: Thanks for continuing sending me your fabulous Newsletter. (13) Majo M. in NC: Todd Miller sells and services desktops and laptops and is a wonderful resource. (14) Ingrid S. in PA on the secret to a great photograph she posted on Facebook.

[Back To Top](#)

3. JOKE 1: True confessions

Note: Though the following is directed at woman, men will like it too.

Ladies, this has to be read, laughed at and passed on. There is not a woman alive who won't crack up over this!

I was due for an appointment with the gynecologists later in the week. Early one morning, I received a call from the doctor's office to tell me that I had been rescheduled for that morning at 9:30 am. I had only just packed everyone off to work and school, and it was already around 8:45 a.m. The trip to his office took about 35 minutes, so I didn't have any time to spare.

As most women do, I like to take a little extra effort over hygiene when making such visits, but this time I wasn't going to be able to make the full effort. So, I rushed upstairs, threw off my pajamas, wet the washcloth that was sitting next to the sink, and gave myself a quick wash in that area to make sure I was at least presentable. I threw the washcloth in the clothes basket, donned some clothes, hopped in the car and raced to my appointment.

I was in the waiting room for only a few minutes when I was called in. Knowing the procedure, as I'm sure you do, I hopped up on the table, looked over at the other side of the room and pretended that I was in Paris or some other place a million miles away. I was a little surprised when the doctor said, "My, we have made an extra effort this morning, haven't we?" I didn't respond.

After the appointment, I heaved a sigh of relief and went home. The rest of the day was normal . . . some shopping, cleaning, cooking.

After school when my 6-year-old daughter was playing, she called out from the bathroom, "Mommy, where's my washcloth?" I told her to get another one from the cupboard.

She replied, "No, I need the one that was here by the sink. It had all my glitter and sparkles saved inside it."

Never going back to that doctor. Ever.

[Back To Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. HYSTERIA is a romantic comedy loosely-based on the true story of the birth of the vibrator at the peak of Victorian prudishness . . . it was both funny and touching, and I liked it a lot . . . there's a fine cast led by Maggie Gyllenhaal, Hugh Dancy (a young Hugh Jackman lookalike) and Rupert Evert . . . rated R.

B. 21 JUMP STREET is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #809 follows:

21 JUMP STREET is an update of the TV show of the same name that even features a cameo from Johnny Depp (who starred in the original series) . . . it's an action-comedy that was very funny in the first half . . . however, the second half wasn't nearly as good, and it featured a car chase scene that dragged on way too long . . . I did like the chemistry between Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum who played the two main characters . . . I'm just not sure we need the sequel that seemingly was promised at the end of this film . . . rated R.

C. I loved the premise behind THE RARE FIND: SPOTTING EXECEPTIONAL TALENT BEFORE EVERYONE ELSE (Portfolio

Hardcover) by George Anders.

Just imagine how great it would be if you could locate the next Taylor Swift or J. K. Rowling before anybody else did . . . ironically, as the author points out, Swift was let go because she didn't seem worth more than \$15,000 a year . . . and at least four book publishers passed on the first Harry Potter novel rather than pay Rowling a \$15,000 advance.

Anders, a contributing writer at FORBES, makes his book come alive with numerous examples from a wide range of fields, including sports, theater and acting, high tech, finance, teaching, the military, the FBI and medicine.

I especially liked how he described ways to predict top performance other than just using resumes or grade point averages . . . for example:

* At Camp Mackall, examiners say, the best way to test tenacity is also the simplest: See how candidates hold up during extended marches with little sleep. Soldiers on those marches get plenty of high-calorie meals, they carry lots of water; they receive regular checkups with medics who can bandage up blisters and the like. There's nothing tortuous about any single twenty minute segment. But the marches keep coming. They're long. They occur on short notice. Often the finish line isn't divulged. Even when a target is announced, that may be a trick. The real end will turn out to miles farther. Everything is structured to be a test of willpower.

In sports, top scouts don't always look for the high scorers:

* "You want guys diving on the floor or crashing into the stands, chasing a loose ball," Gibbons explains. "You look for 'effort' people. It makes a huge difference how dedicated they are. You're always asking 'Are they willing to do whatever is necessary to get to the next level?'"

And to find acting talent:

* Rauch and his crew developed the "newspaper audition." Anyone wanting to be in the play was given a copy of the local county weekly, The Slope Messenger, and told to read routine stories as if they were insults...love letters... denials of something embarrassing...and so on. It was an easy, lighthearted test that let newcomers show what kinds of emotions they could convey. Before long, Rauch had his Laertes, his Rosencrantz, and his gravediggers. A few weeks later, the makeshift cast put on seven sold-out performances in the town's 150 seat theater.

If you ever need to hire somebody, I strongly recommend that you read THE RARE FIND . . . by the same token, if you're looking for a job, you'll find out what many employers now know when they seek the right person for their organization.

D. Heard WEST BY WEST: MY CHARMED, TORMENTED LIFE (Hachette Audio) by Jerry West and Jonathan Coleman.

It's an unflinching autobiography of the NBA great, also known by his nickname "Mr. Clutch."

I had followed his career when he was an all-star guard for the Los Angeles Lakers and then an executive with that team . . . what I did not know was the rest of his story; i.e., he was the victim of physical abuse from his father as a child and that he's suffered from depression ever since.

Being a basketball fan, I naturally was interested in the stories of his relationships with such players as Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson, Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant. However, what made the book so much more than a tell-all memoir was how it helped me get to know West as a man . . . in reading it, I felt like I was having a one-on-one conversation with him.

I also found a part at the end of book quite interesting; i.e., the breakdown of all the injuries West had suffered in his career.

In addition, I liked the fact that he did some of the narration--along with his son Ryan.

***** CONTEST #13 *****

One lucky winner will receive the CD version of MONSTER HIGH by Lisi Harrison, THE NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author of THE CLIQUE and ALPHAS. To quote the book description, this is "a fresh twist on high school, romance, and the 'horrors' of trying to fit in. The monster community has kept a low profile at the local high school, but when two new girls enroll, the town will never be the same." Reading level: Ages 12 and up, though I saw one review said that it would be good for the 10+ crowd. So if you have a child or grandchild in that age range . . . or if you like such books yourself, do enter this contest by following the instructions (below).

To enter: Put "CONTEST 13" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, July 1.

Back To Top

5. TV alert

A. ANGER MANAGEMENT marks Charlie Sheen's return to TV . . . he plays a former catcher who becomes a therapist who specializes in treating patients with anger problems. . . . "It's not difficult to picture a fairly wide audience finding something to entertain them," notes THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. Thursdays at 9:30 p.m. on FX.

B. When their older brother marries, six lumberjacks decide it's time to go courting for themselves in one of my favorite musicals: SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS . . . Sunday at 11:30 a.m. on TCM.

C. THE NEWSROOM is a behind-the-scenes look at the people who make a nightly cable-news program . . . it stars Jeff Daniels and the always watchable Emily Mortimer . . . according to TV GUIDE, [it] "is full of itself. But it's also full

of wit, passion, anger, humor and purpose. When's the last time you saw all that wrapped up in a single TV show-- THE WEST WING?" . . . Sundays at 10 p.m. on HBO.

D. ONE NATION UNDER DOG: STORIES OF FEAR, LOSS & BETRAYAL offers an eye-opening, three-part portrait of America's complex relationship with dogs . . . Tuesday, July 3, at 12:50 a.m. on HBO2.

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: Rush job

Be forewarned: This one may bring a little tear to your eyes; i.e., unless you're a golfer. (Then you might understand.)

A man and his wife walked into a dentist's office. The man said to the dentist, "Doc, I'm in one heck of a hurry. I have two buddies sitting out in my car waiting for us to go play golf, so forget about the anesthetic, I don't have time for the gums to get numb. I just want you to pull the tooth, and be done with it!

"We have a 10 a.m. tee time at the best golf course in town, and it's 9:30 already. I don't have time to wait for the anesthetic to work!"

The dentist thought to himself, "My goodness, this is surely a very brave man asking to have his tooth pulled without using anything to kill the pain." So the dentist asks him, "Which tooth is it sir?"

The man turned to his wife and said, "Open your mouth Honey, and show him . . . "

[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Natalie K. in PA: Wonderful Rita Hayworth dance history from movies

Here, Rita, Fred Astaire and other great dancers of the 40s are shown with the dancers of the mid 70s (using modern video technology), and the rhythms and lyrics of Stayin' Alive are just unbelievably correct for both periods of time!!!!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mz3CPzdCDws>

B. You may have loved West Side Story, but methinks it's nothing compared to Web Site Story:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtPb8g8Jl6I>

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

In case you are new to this newsletter or don't get an issue, you can always click "Newsletter" to the left and then "Past Issues" . . . sometimes, it's fun to just browse and find a joke or quote at random; e.g., as I just did from BLAINESWORLD #508:

Hanging on to resentment is letting someone you despise live rent-free in your head.--Jeanne Bice in PULL YOURSELF UP BY YOUR BRA STRAPS

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

[Back To Top](#)

8. Computer tip

Carole S. in N. in NJ wrote about a link in a recent BLAINESWORLD that she couldn't get to work:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-LE>

When she tried to find it, she got this error message: PAGE NOT FOUND.

When and if you ever get the above message, try any and/or all of the following things:

1. Check your spelling; e.g., to see if you made a typo.
2. Make sure you don't have any extra spaces (at the beginning) or punctuation marks at the end.
3. Try again.
4. Turn off your computer, then try again
5. Refresh your browser.

And if all else fails, do what Carole did:

6. Check with person who sent you the link in the first place.

[Back To Top](#)

9. JOKE 3: Crying baby

During a flight, a retired pilot was seated next to a young mother with a baby in her arms. When the baby began crying during the descent for landing, the mother began breast feeding the infant as discreetly as possible. The pilot pretended not to notice and, upon disembarking, he gallantly offered his assistance to help with the various baby-related items.

When the young mother expressed her gratitude, the pilot responded, "Gosh, that's a good looking baby--and he sure was hungry!"

Somewhat embarrassed, the mother explained that her pediatrician said that the time spent on the breast would help alleviate the changing pressure in the baby's ears.

"And all those years," the old captain said, suddenly looking terribly sad, "I just chewed gum."

[Back To Top](#)

10. A quote I like

Did I do the right thing today? Did I say the right thing when people needed it? Just because I'm 97 doesn't make me wiser. What it makes me know is that I have to work harder to know what people need from me. That's my prayer.-- Capitola Dickerson (1913-2012) in a diary entry, written in a journal that she had started that year

Note: This remarkable woman taught piano to thousands of students in Summit, NJ and in her spare time, she worked to promote civil rights. In reading about her, I also found out the following:

Last October, when the early snowstorm knocked out power to most of Summit, Dickerson came to the shelter the town had set up.

"She walked over," he said. "She spent the night at the shelter, but she was busy calling people and checking on them. She was 98 and she was calling to check on her neighbors, instead of the other way around. That's just the kind of person she was."

For more information, please click:

<http://thealternativepress.com/articles/longtime-summit-resident-and-area-music-teacher-c>

[Back To Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

Choosing Inner Peace, start creating new habits to replace old "Bad" habits
by Annemarie Brown

We have house guests this week and I was sharing a technique that I use every single day and sometimes in the middle of the night when I can have an opportunity to solve the world's problems, my own and all of my family's problems. I decided some ago that I DO NOT have to do this anymore! Not a good habit. Now I have a much more resourceful habit when I get into "Stinkin' Thinkin" or reacting.

Here is a great technique to **STOP STOP STOP** those horrible habits that stop you from experiencing your **Evolving Self**. Habits that create more stress.

For the rest of this VERY INFORMATIVE email that I received, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Od>

Note: Annemarie, a friend, has graciously given me permission to share the above. It is something she wrote for her clients. She is a Professional Life Strategist & Transformational Life Coach. To contact her, she can be reached by (phone) 505.490.0086 or (email) amb@annemariebrown.com.

[Back To Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. Stuff I'm involved in

(1) Next on the SART schedule: A LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA, opening July 5 and running through July 22. This enchanting musical won six Tony Awards, including Best Original Score.

It stars such SART favorites as Liz Aiello and Katherine Sandoval Taylor. For more information, please click:

<http://www.sartplays.org/>

Call the Box Office at 828.689.1239 for tickets.

***** FREE tickets Chance #1 *****

If you have NEVER been to a SART play before, please be my guest at the Invited Dress Rehearsal of the above show.

Date: Wednesday, July 4

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Owen Theatre at nearby Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, NC

RSVP on or before July 2 by sending an email to: sartplays@aol.com and put "July 4" in the subject line. In the body of the email, include your name, address and phone number, along with how many seats you want (up to 4). There are only 166 seats in the theatre, so the quicker you respond, the better your chances of getting seats.

Note: If no seats remain, you will be notified of that fact.

***** FREE tickets Chance #2 open to all *****

Via BLAINESWORLD, my online newsletter, I am giving away two seats for any regular performance of A LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA (from July 12-22).

To enter: On or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, July 8, send an email to: sartplays@aol.com and put "CONTEST #14" in the subject line. In the body of the email, include your name, address and phone number.

(2) Hope you can join me at the following SART benefit:



(If you can't read the last line, it says "Tickets available through the SART Box Office: 689.1239.")

(3) It will make you smile, laugh, chuckle ...

The College for Seniors "Performing Stand-Up Comedy" class is proudly presenting a second performance at The Grotto in the Highsmith Union on campus on Friday, July 13, 2012. Doors open at 7 p.m.; showtime is 7:30 p.m. Join instructor Randy Robins and the mirthful troupe of inveterate comics--including yours truly--as they make what for most of them is an encore performance of their stand-up debut. Admission is free, parking is ample, and your presence can only enhance what promises to be a fun time for all.

***** SPECIAL REQUEST IF YOU CAN ATTEND *****

Just so I have a ballpark idea of how many folks will be coming, please send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put "July 13" in the subject line. Also, if you'd like to meet Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and me for dinner beforehand--possibly at Vinnie's--let me know that, too.
B. NC events

To read about each of the following events in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Ny>

(1) Tasha Lief will be singing blues/jazz and old soul at Tressa's Downtown Blues and Jazz. (2) Leadership Asheville/Summer Breakfast Series. (3) The Junior Police Academy. (4) SPRING AWAKENING! (5) Unit 50 @ MR Motorcycle Bike Night. (6) Improv Therapy Workshop at Jubilee (free!)

C. PA/NJ event

To read about each of the following event in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-NA>

Shamanic Sound Healing Circle Ceremony

[Back To Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week!

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#821
6.18.2012

In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE: What a deal**
 4. **A quote I like**
 5. **Thought for the day**
 6. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, celebrated my birthday in fine style over several days. Consequently, so I can share all the details and pictures, you'll find that this is a Special Edition of BLAINESWORLD. And you'll also see that some regular sections have been left out due to space limitations. They will resume next week.

B. On Thursday the 14th, my actual birthday, we were joined by our friends John and Barbara for dinner at The Asheville Public in the River Arts District. My hamburger was good, and Cynthia enjoyed her Reuben sandwich. For more information about the restaurant, please click:

<http://www.theashevillepublic.com/>

From there, we went to The Magnetic Field to see FORTY FINGERS & A MISSING TOOTH PRESENTS . . . THE TEMPS . . . that's me with one of the stars of the show, Ingrid Johnson.



She was fantastic and so were the others: Walter Beals, Keith Campbell and Britt Tyler . . . they were all funny in various skits they performed and their juggling, as always, was top notch. Shows are quickly selling out, so if you want to catch one before the limited run ends this coming Saturday, please click:

<http://www.themagneticfield.com/>

C. I truly appreciated all the good wishes that I received to mark the above occasion. It was nice to hear from so many friends, former students and even high school classmates. It makes me wonder: Was there actually a time before Facebook when folks actually communicated by other means?

As for my reaction, I quote Benjamin Disraeli: "I feel a very unusual sensation--if it is not

indigestion, I think it must be gratitude."

And in case you're wondering, I'm now 63, but a young 63. Most folks don't think I'm a day over 62!

D. The next night, we had our second "Mystery Night." That's an evening when a group of us get together to do something that's planned by one couple and is a surprise to the other two.

(1) Our friends Marcy and Tom were in charge this time. We began by picking a name out of a hat as to where we were going to go for dinner. Carmel's was chosen. My thin-crust pizza with chicken was quite tasty, and Cynthia liked her pasta dish with chicken. However, the highlight of the meal was the dessert: a double chocolate brownie that came with ice cream. It was mouth-wateringly delicious. What was special fun was watching how it moved around the table as six people tried to share it.

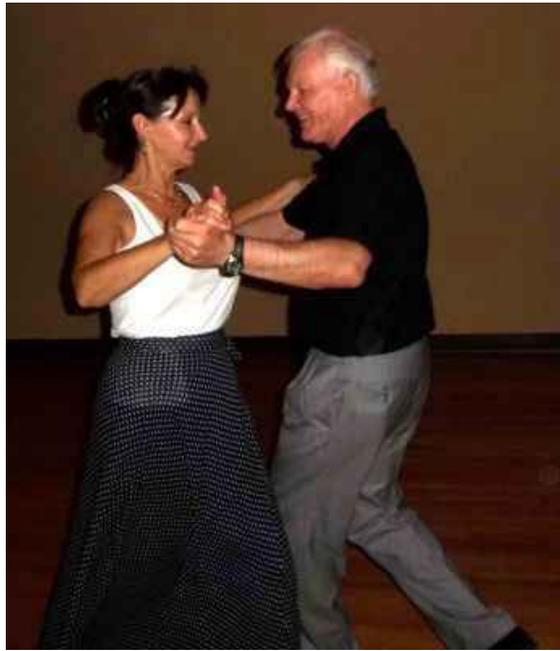


Chastity, our server, was excellent. For more information about this eatery, please click: <http://www.carmelsofashville.com/>

(2) The women then stopped at a funky store, Asheville Shades and Market Basket, at 36 Battery Park Ave., to try on hats.



(3) From there, we went into a building that was available for rent. We walked up a long flight of stairs and when we entered the room at the top, we saw a couple (Ron and Audrey) dancing.



That was when we found out our surprise for the evening; i.e., we were going to have a dance lesson. In the next two hours, we had a blast--first learning the waltz and then the East Coast swing.



I wouldn't say that any of us became experts, but we certainly had a lot of fun.



(l-r) Marcy, Tom, Carole, Brian, Cynthia, Blaine

(4) We ended the evening with a visit to Kilwin's in downtown Asheville, our favorite ice cream/chocolate store in the area, that's run by both Marcy and Tom.



Next time you're in the area, do check this place out; you won't be disappointed.
<https://www.kilwins.com/asheville>

They also run an equally fun store in Black Mountain.
<https://www.kilwins.com/BlackMountain>

E. We continued celebrating my birthday the next day at a performance of THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE at the Asheville Community Theatre. That's us with two of our favorite local actors, Bradshaw Call to the right of me and Jeff Thompson to the left of Cynthia.



As was the case with all the shows we see there, it was very well done. My only regret is that you we'll have to wait until August 10 until we can see what's next on the schedule there: THE ODD COUPLE. For more information, please click:
<http://www.ashevilletheatre.org/>

F. For dinner, we went to the Oriental Pavilion--the place we always go when we want good Chinese food in Asheville. Whatever you do, make sure you ask for Alex to be your server; he's the best. We got a special kick out of our fortune cookies he brought us.



For more information about the restaurant, please click:
<http://www.orientalpavilion.com/>

G. Rereading the above makes me realize how fortunate I am to have Cynthia as my beautiful bride, as well as so many friends and things to do in Western North Carolina. In addition, it made me vow to continue celebrating every day as my birthday--something we'll also do when it Cynthia's birthday comes around in October.

H. Congratulations to Linda K. in PA, winner of Contest #12. Her prize: a baker's dozen Tempo Bars. And that reminds me that it's now time to introduce:

***** CONTEST #13 *****

One lucky winner will receive the CD version of MONSTER HIGH by Lisi Harrison, THE NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author of THE CLIQUE and ALPHAS. To quote the book description, this is "a fresh twist on high school, romance, and the 'horrors' of trying to fit in. The monster community has kept a low profile at the local high school, but when two new girls enroll, the town will never be the same." Reading level: Ages 12 and up, though I saw one review said that it would be good for the 10+ crowd. So if you have a child or grandchild in that age range . . . or if you like such books yourself, do enter this contest by following the instructions (below).

To enter: Put "CONTEST 13" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, July 1.

[Back To Top](#)

2. FYI

SART continues its excellent summer season with a very funny production of HARVEY.

A. To quote from the theatre's website: The story of Elwood P. Dowd who makes friends with a spirit taking the form of a human-sized rabbit named Harvey that only he sees (along with a few privileged others on occasion). After his sister tries to commit him to a mental institution, a comedy of errors ensues. Elwood and Harvey become the catalysts for a family mending its wounds and for romance blossoming in unexpected places. A delightful family favorite, still charming and crowd-pleasing after all these years.

To see a trailer for this show, please click:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQ4Nr_LL3g&list=UUjaPJFEBHLQkI3fZFU_cYew&index=1&feature=plcp

Thanks to Ryan and Theresa Phillips with Legacy Films for producing the above. They both rock. For more information, please click:

<http://www.ourlegacyfilms.com/>

B. You can still get a Groupon coupon to see HARVEY or any other SART show this summer; i.e., if you act quickly. All you need to do is click:

<http://www.groupon.com/deals/gl-southern-appalachian-repertory-theatre?c=dnb&p=3>

C. And to plan out the rest of your summer, please click this link to see the listing for other upcoming shows.

<http://sartplays.org/>

***** JUST ANNOUNCED *****

SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre) is presenting "Italy on the Bald" on Sunday, July 15th at Wolf Laurel Country Club. The evening of fine dining begins with a cash bar at 5:30 pm followed by an Italian dinner at 6:30 pm. The benefit will include entertainment featuring SART favorites --Liz Aiello, Katherine Sandoval Taylor, Beverly Todd and Timothy Wilds -- along with Joshua Collier. You will hear a few musical numbers from the current show in production, The Light in the Piazza and so much more. Audience members will also have an opportunity to bid on a song they'd like to hear. To enjoy this annual benefit for SART, please make reservations through the SART box office: 828-689-1239. Tickets \$50.00 per person.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Micah Solomon: The power of customer service--a Fox Business Editor's Pick

<http://video.foxbusiness.com/v/1684389706001>

(2) Natalie K. in PA: 4 songs from the 2008 revival of the Rodgers and Hammerstein favorite, "South Pacific."

<http://www.greatshowtunes.com/videos/broadway-and-west-end/south-pacific-medley.html>

also:

"Wheels of a Dream" from RAGTIME

<http://www.greatshowtunes.com/videos/broadway-and-west-end/wheels-of-a-dream.html>

and:

Johnny Carson: Dom DeLuise Egg Trick

<http://www.milkandcookies.com/link/138148/detail/>

(3) Jeanne M. in PA: Dreams are whispers from the soul

<http://www.flickspire.com/m/Lgroup/DreamsAreWhispers?Isid=1c4254981b393fab2a4f939c4583f9fc>

(4) Why you should take more breaks at work

<http://video.nytimes.com/video/2012/06/15/business/10000001609150/why-you-should-take-more-breaks.html?ref=jobs>

and for more information, read the accompanying article:

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/17/jobs/take-breaks-regularly-to-stay-on-schedule-workstation.html?_r=1&emc=eta1

(5) Bill M. in NC: TEDxPurdueU: William Sinunu

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TazlyjVasio>

(6) World Book Night USA - April 23, 2012

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTfoEUaybNQ&feature=youtu.be>

Note: This was the project that I participated in recently, in which many readers received a copy of FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS. Look for updates, probably in early 2013, as to whether BLAINESWORLD again gets to participate in this worthwhile endeavor.

B. Other

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-MK>

- (1) Savannah in PA: Car for sale
- (2) Vic A. in NC: Went to see the Temps tonight [at Magnetic Field]. Very funny show.
- (3) Chris F. in PA: Thank for you a delightfully funny (and poignant) Blainesworld 820!
- (4) Marty D. in PA: Thanks for the scam alert.
- (5) Mary Lou S. in NC: Thanks so much for your continuing encouragement to try SART.
- (6) Vilasi V. in NJ: Fabulous issue....loved every bit.
- (7) Joe D. in NY: Good heads up with the VISA scam
- (8) Sandy B. in PA: Tell MBB Cynthia that I absolutely love that sweater, and she really rocks it!
- (9) Art A. in NC: We loved the show [I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE AT SART].
- (10) Elizabeth P. in NC: Saw "I Love You,,,,," yesterday. Very funny and a well done production.
- (11) Lana in Ohio: Wonderful edition....as always.
- (12) Roger C. in PA: Thanks for continuing sending me your fabulous Newsletter.
- (13) Majo M. in NC: Todd Miller sells and services desktops and laptops and is a wonderful resource.
- (14) Ingrid S. in PA on the secret to a great photograph she posted on Facebook . . .

[Back To Top](#)

3. JOKE: What a deal

The old bartender says in a voice that carries across the room, "Come on in and let me pour one for you! What'll it be, gentlemen?"

There's a fully stocked bar, so each of the men orders a martini. In no time the bartender serves up four iced martinis shaken, not stirred and says, "That'll be 10 cents each, please."

The four guys stare at the bartender for a moment, then at each other. They can't believe their good luck. They pay the 40 cents, finish their martinis and order another round.

Again, four excellent martinis are produced, with the bartender again saying, "That's 40 cents, please." They pay the 40 cents, but their curiosity gets the better of them. They've each had two martinis and haven't even spent a dollar yet.

Finally one of them says, "How can you afford to serve martinis as good as these for a dime apiece?"

"I'm a retired tailor from Phoenix ," the bartender says, "and I always wanted to own a bar. Last year I hit the Lottery Jackpot for \$125 million and decided to open this place. Every drink costs a dime. Wine, liquor, beer it's all the same."

"Wow! That's some story!" one of the men says.

As the four of them sip at their martinis, they can't help noticing seven other people at the end of the bar who don't have any drinks in front of them and haven't ordered anything the whole time they've been there. Nodding at the seven at the end of the bar, one of the men asks the bartender, "What's with them?"

The bartender says, "They're retired people from Florida . They're waiting for Happy Hour when drinks are half-price."

[Back To Top](#)

4. A quote I like

Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.-- Stephen Covey (born 1932), author of THE SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE and several other books

Back To Top

5. Thought for the day

Don't expect applause
by Seth Godin*

Accept applause, sure, please do.

But when you expect applause, when you do your work in order (and because of) applause, you have sold yourself short. That's because your work is depending on something out of your control. You have given away part of your art. If your work is filled with the hope and longing for applause, it's no longer your work--the dependence on approval has corrupted it, turned it into a process where you are striving for ever more approval.

Who decides if your work is good? When you are at your best, you do. If the work doesn't deliver on its purpose, if the pot you made leaks or the hammer you forged breaks, then you should learn to make a better one. But we don't blame the nail for breaking the hammer or the water for leaking from the pot. They are part of the system, just as the market embracing your product is part of marketing.

"Here, here it is, it's finished."

If it's finished, the applause, the thanks, the gratitude are something else. Something extra and not part of what you created. To play a beautiful song for two people or a thousand is the same song, and the amount of thanks you receive isn't part of that song.

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Seth Godin, one of my favorite bloggers. To subscribe to his informative blog on marketing, tribes and respect, please click: <http://www.feedblitz.com/ff.fbz?Sub=198516>

Back To Top

6. Advance planning department

A. North Carolina events

To read about each of the following events in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-MM>

- (1) Dashboard Blue, this Friday, 6/22/2012
- (2) SPRING AWAKENING!
- (3) Biltmore Lake Summer ShootOut

B. Pennsylvania/New Jersey events

To read about each of the following events in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-MO>

- (1) Dr. Margaret Flowers and Kevin Zeese
- (2) Taste What Hamilton's Finest Restaurants Have to offer in International Cuisines

Back To Top

PS. Make it a great week!

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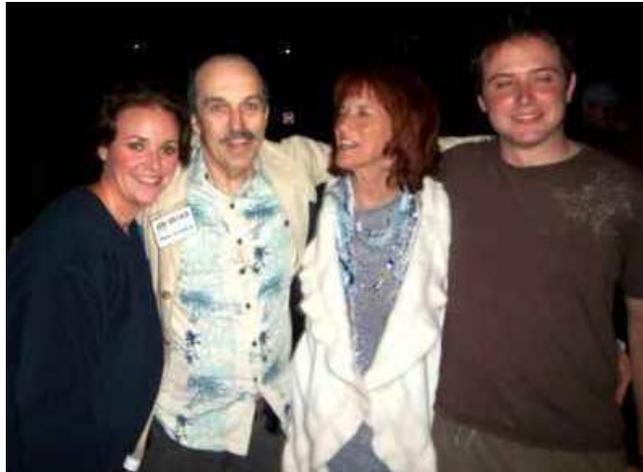
In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Bad luck**
 4. **Reviews . . . WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Three wishes**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Love at first sight**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Saw SART's fantastic production of I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE at Owen Theatre in Mars Hill, NC.



(l-r) Rebecca Phippard, Blaine, Cynthia and Chris Caggiano

Everybody who has seen it has loved it. To read one of the reviews, please click:
<http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20120615/ENT05/306150024/Review-Performances-power-SART-s-Love-You-?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Entertainment|p>

You're in luck, in that you can still catch it through this coming Sunday. Also, you can treat your favorite father (grandfather or even uncle) with one FREE ticket this coming Saturday matinee, Saturday evening or Sunday matinee when you buy one ticket at full price . . . just call the Box Office at 828.689.1239 and when you order your tickets, mention "Facebook discount,"

***** SPECIAL OFFER *****

SART recently offered its first Groupon coupon . . . if you like using these, check it out by clicking:
<http://www.groupon.com/deals/gl-southern-appalachian-repertory-theatre?c=dnb&p=1>

(The deal runs a few more days, and there are still some coupons available.)

(2) Our friends Tom and Marcy joined us at the above. Prior to the show, we had dinner at the El Dorado Latin Grill in Mars Hill . . . the food was outstanding, and so was the service . . . make sure you get the plantains as a side dish . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.eldoradolatingrill.com/>

(3) On another day, we went with our friends Muffie and Terry to Flat Rock Playhouse in Hendersonville to see a tuneful, energetic production of NUNSENSE. Afterward, we went next door to Never Blue for a delicious dinner. For more information, please click: <http://theneverblue.com/>

Christina, our server, was excellent--and she even made it into our group hug picture.



B. Congratulations to:

(1) George Bruno on recently being chosen as the new acting coach/instructor for Plaza 7 Talent in King Of Prussia, PA and NYC. As such, he will be teaching Intro to Acting, Commercial Acting for Adults and Teleprompter/On-Camera Hosting Skills.

(2) Suzanne Smith on her marriage to Michael Wright.

(3) Katherine Sandorval Taylor, chosen to be portraying the legendary Austrian soprano Katherina Cavalieri in Blackbird Theater Company's much anticipated AMADEUS. March 6-23 in Nashville, TN.

(4) Lucas and Cameron Gregg. They put together a video on a 12-hour turnaround, and their efforts won them a pair of tickets to Bonnaroo 2012. To see the video, please click: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEJ_usRg5FY&list=UUVE0BbuukLXvhiQ2KnJtIKw&index=1&feature=plcp

(5) Barbara and John Schnautz, recently honored at the annual Asheville SCORE luncheon for their many years of service to the chapter.



(l-r): Barbara Schnautz, John Schnautz, Don Sinclair

And special thanks to Daniel Hutchins for taking care of all the details for the event, helping make it the success that it was.

C. Condolences to the family of Mary Hamm on her recent passing . . . Mary was a longtime colleague of mine at Bucks County Community and one fine nursing professor-and individual. She will be missed!

D. Reminder: There's still time to enter . . .

***** CONTEST #12 *****

One lucky winner will receive a baker's dozen Tempo Bars: 11 apple-cinnamon and 2 chocolate mint . . . these are quite tasty, and they're high in both protein and fiber . . . they are designed to help maintain "glycemic tempo" throughout your day.

TO ENTER: Put "CONTEST 12" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, June 17.

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

This week, it goes to Sarah Benoit--Internet marketing specialist and owner of Creative Original Online Marketing.

This firm is a leader in the field of search engine optimization (SEO), organic search marketing and web site development. For more information, please click: <http://www.creative-original.com/>

But what makes Sarah rally stand out in my mind is her tireless commitment to providing educational resources to local and regional communities throughout North Carolina and beyond. She has developed and presented seminars, trainings, workshops and classes on a wide variety of online marketing topics, including keyword research, social networking, web marketing, audio and video podcasting, writing for the web, Facebook and more. She currently teaches for Asheville SCORE, the AB Tech Enka/Candler Small Business Incubator, Mountain Bizworks and other business organizations in Asheville and surrounding areas.

And recently, she was named an Honorary Member of the Asheville SCORE Chapter. That's her (below), flanked by Stan Safian on the left and Bob Ganz on the right.



[Back To Top](#)

2. FYI

Pat H. in PA: A friend sent me this. Appears to be credible?

Visa / MasterCard Fraud

Just a heads up for everyone regarding the latest in Visa fraud. Royal Bank received this communication about the newest scam. This is happening in the Midwest right now and moving. This one is pretty slick since they provide YOU with all the information, except the one piece they want. Note: The callers do not ask for your card number; they already have it.

This information is worth reading. By understanding how the VISA & MasterCard telephone Credit Card Scam works, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself. One of our employees was called on Wednesday from "VISA," and I was called on Thursday from "Master Card." The scam works like this:

We all receive emails all the time regarding one scam or another; but last week I REALLY DID get scammed! Both VISA and MasterCard told me that this scam is currently being worked throughout the Midwest, with some variance as to the product or amount, and if you are called, just hang up.

My husband was called on Wednesday from "VISA, " and I was called on Thursday from "MasterCard." It worked like this: Person calling says, "This is Carl Patterson (any name) and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud department at VISA. My Badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card issued by 5/3 bank. Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a marketing company based in Arizona?"

When you say "No," the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?"

You say "Yes," The caller continues . . . "I will be starting a fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 800 number listed on your card 1-800-VISA and ask for Security. you will need to refer to this Control #." Then gives you a 6 digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?" Caller then says he "needs to verify you are in possession of your card. Turn the card over. There are 7 numbers; first 4 are 1234 (whatever) the next 3 are the security numbers that verify you are in possession of the card. These are the numbers you use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. Read me the 3 numbers." Then he says "That is correct. I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions? Don't hesitate to call back if you do."

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the card number. But after we were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. Are we glad we did! The REAL VISA security dept. told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 WAS put on our card.

Long story made short . . . we made a real fraud report and closed the VISA card, and they are reissuing us a new number. What the scam wants is the 3 digit number and that once the charge goes through, they keep charging every few days. By the time you get your statement, you think the credit is coming, and then it's harder to actually file a fraud report. The real VISA reinforced that they will never ask for anything on the card (they already

know).

What makes this more remarkable is that on Thursday, I got a call from "Jason Richardson of MasterCard" with a word for word repeat of the VISA Scam. This time I didn't let him finish. I hung up.

We filed a police report (as instructed by VISA), and they said they are taking several of these reports daily and to tell friends, relatives and coworkers.

RESPONSE: Alas, it is not only credible . . . but also something to be very careful about. Thanks, Pat, for sharing this!

To verify that this is a scam . . . and for the rest of the story, please click:

<http://www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/creditcard.asp>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) Trailer of TALES OF EVERYDAY MAGIC: MY GREATEST TEACHER, based on the true life story of Wayne Dyer

<http://www.hayhouse.com/details.php?id=6019>

Note: You can watch a free video stream of this movie during Father's Day weekend, June 15-18, on Facebook. To do so, please click:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/120455224759432/>

(2) Penny G. in PA: Don't leave me out!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epg4K7e50Q&sns=fb>

(3) Jeff Thompson live at Hanger Hall

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRhSppMZm94&feature=youtu.be>

(4) Donna S. in AL: The man song

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCdKiRDdohA&feature=share>

(5) The Silver Beats, a Tokyo Beatles cover band

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89YjuBeoLWE>

B. Other

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-LA>

(1) Walter W. in PA: Both you and your wife in the diner look cold

(2) Barbara F. in PA: Please read and "share."

(3) Susan M. in NJ: Blaine, have I said thank you lately?

(4) John R. in GA: Thanx for that piece on Jack Twyman.

(5) Julien in MD: You and your beautiful bride always look so happy.

(6) Savannah in PA (with a REQUEST FOR HELP)

Back To Top

3. JOKE 1: Bad luck

A police officer in a small town stopped a motorist who was speeding down Main Street. "But officer, " the man began. "I can explain."

"Just be quiet," snapped the officer. "I'm going to let you cool your heels in jail until the chief gets back."

"But officer, I just wanted to say . . . "

"And I said to keep quiet. You're going to jail!"

A few hours later the officer looked in on his prisoner and said, "Lucky for you that the chief is at his daughter's wedding. He'll be in a good mood when he gets back."

"Don't count on it," answered the fellow in the cell. "I'm the groom."

Back To Top

4. Reviews

A. WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING surprised me . . . the reviews weren't very good, yet I found myself enjoying this romantic comedy/drama about several couples whose lives all change when pregnancy enters the picture . . . though the various story lines were fairly predictable, they all held my interest in large part because of fine performances from the entire cast . . . and most notably from these actresses: Jennifer Lopez, Cameron Diaz, Elizabeth Banks, Anna Kendrick and Brooklyn Decker . . . if you don't catch it in a movie theatre, methinks it will make for a good DVD rental . . . rated PG-13.

B. There's not much out new for me to recommend in terms of a DVD rental, so I strongly encourage you to see if you can find THE CIDER HOUSE RULES . . . this 1999 adaptation of the 1985 novel by John Irving is set during World War II . . . it concerns Homer Wells, an orphan who strikes out on his own to pick apples . . . doing so, he encounters love and a moral dilemma that will hold your attention throughout the film . . . Tobey Maguire is outstanding in the main role, but I also liked Delroy Lindo's performance . . . rated PG-13.

***** SPECIAL OFFER *****

The above has been added to my list of favorite films . . . if you'd like me to email this list to me, just send an email to bjinbc@aol.com and put "FAVORITE FILMS" in the subject line.

C. THE FIVE GREAT PRINCIPLES OF LIFE (Pelican) by C. R. Stewart takes focus, strength, success, wisdom and responsibility and shows how they can be applied to everyday living.

The author, a global strategist, does so in 27 short but insightful chapters . . . along the way, he incorporates hundreds of quotes from some top leaders and relates them to the various points he is making; for example:

* By desiring more, we create the capacity to receive it. By pushing ourselves harder, we can go further than imagined. In truth, most of us are at about 25 percent of our real potential or talent. Our true ability has been diverted to random acts of complacency and boredom. John Wooden wrote, "Don't measure yourself by what you have accomplished, but by what you should have accomplished with your ability." Whether privileged or deprived, we were not predestined at birth for mediocrity or an average life, yet most people accept it. They settled for something far less than what they could have been.

Perhaps my favorite part of the book were the powerful stories at the end of each chapter-- such as this one:

* In 1936, the first African American track star Jesse Owens came back from the Berlin Olympics a winner, with four gold medals against all odds. He stunned Germany and astounded the world. No one expected such a success, but he had achieved it. As he arrived at the airport, there was a large press conference held for him. One of the reporters asked, "Jesse, how did you do it? How did you beat Hitler in his own home town?" Jesse was quick to answer and said, "It all started many years ago when I was in junior high school and the coach gave us a speech I never forgot. He said, 'Boys, you can do anything you put your mind to do.'" Immediately after saying that, Jesse replied, "Coach, I know what I want to be. I wanted to be the fastest man in the world. The coach answered, "Well Jesse that's quite a dream; in fact, it's probably one of the biggest dreams I have ever heard. And Jesse, there's just one problem with that." Jesse asked, "What's that coach?" The Coach gave Jesse the key to success that carried him through the rest of his life. He said, "Dreams are like clouds, they kind of float around up there, and they can never become accomplished until you build a ladder that will help you climb up, and make those dreams become a reality."

I also liked how Stewart covered the topic of visualization, particularly with this tidbit:

* During the 1970's and 80's, the Russians perfected the use of visualization in sports; part of the reason they won so many gold medals and dominated the Olympics. They mentally saw themselves perfectly running through all the motions and succeeding in each event. When they actually approached the competitions, they just followed through with what they already rehearsed. In one of the best known studies on visualization in sports, Russian scientists compared four groups of equally competitive Olympic athletes in terms of their training schedules:

Group 1: 100% training
Group 2: 75% training; 25% visualization
Group 3: 50% training, 50% visualization
Group 4: 25% training, 75% visualization

Group 4, with 75% of their time devoted to mental training, performed the best. The Soviets discovered that mental images can act as a prelude to muscular impulses. It is a process of preparing and programming the mind.

At the end of THE FIVE GREAT PRINCIPLES FOR LIFE, there's a very useful workbook that

will help readers develop action plans to help them achieve their goals.

D. Heard *TICK TOCK* (Hachette Audio) by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge . . . this is one of a series of books involving a character by the name of Michael Bennett . . . he's a detective in New York City, and in this instance, he is called from his vacation to help deal with a rash of horrifying crimes.

The plot may seem familiar, but the authors carry it off . . . I was drawn to the Bennett character, as well as to his relationship with a former colleague (FBI agent Emily Parker).

The various subplots also held my interest, and I remained in suspense until the very end of *TICK TOCK*.

Patterson is often criticized for putting out books that are paint-by-the-number; i.e., they often seem the same . . . that wasn't the case with this one, and it left me wanting to read more in the series . . . in fact, as I'm writing this, I just checked and found out that I read *WORST CASE* several years ago--and enjoyed that too.

And that points out something else that I liked about this latest effort; i.e., you can read it with or without having read any other in the series . . . in addition, it won't matter what order you follow.

The narration by both Bobby Cannavale and Scott Sowers further added to my enjoyment of this book.

[Back To Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. *PYROS* follows members of the Montreal company Groupe Fiatlux-Ampleman as they set up massive fireworks displays around the globe. Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on *THE WEATHER CHANNEL*.

B. If you want to find how the masters of cashless trading do their thing, catch *BARTER KINGS* . . . Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on A&E.

C. *BLUE LAGOON: THE AWAKENING* is a 21st century remake of the 1980 film starring a young Brooke Shields and Christopher Atkins . . . both were asked to make an appearance in this version . . . Shields couldn't make it due to a schedule conflict, but Atkins does appear . . . Saturday at 8 p.m. on *LIFETIME*.

D. *MY REINCARNATION* (part of the POV documentary series) has been filmed over a period of 20 years. It begins as a portrait of the exiled Tibetan Buddhist scholar and teacher Chögyal Namkhai Norbu . . . then becomes the story of his son Yeshe and how he turns toward the calling he has struggled against all his life. Thursday, June 21, at 10 p.m. on PBS. Note: PBS times and dates often vary, so check local listings.

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: Three wishes

As an elderly lady sat on her front porch reflecting on her long life, a Fairy Godmother suddenly appeared and offered to fulfill three wishes for her.

"Well," said the woman, "I guess I'd like to be rich."

POOF: The Fairy Godmother turned her rocking chair into solid gold.

"And I wouldn't mind being a young and beautiful princess."

POOF: The Fairy Godmother turned the old woman into an exquisite young princess, with a priceless crown of jewels.

"Your third wish?" asked the Fairy Godmother. "Could you possibly turn my wonderful dog into a handsome prince?"

POOF: There, in front stood the most handsome young man anyone had ever seen. She stared at him in awe, completely smitten.

As he came toward her, her knees weakened. He bent down, brushing his lips across her ear as he whispered, "I bet you are sorry you had me neutered."

[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Danny B. in NC:

Ask Cynthia to check out:

www.Spotify.com

It is an application for \$10 a month that allows you to collect all the music you want, stream it, download it for offline play, create playlists, etc. This also may solve her problem of streaming music from her computer to another room.

It is an alternative to buying CDs or tracks from iTunes. As long as you pay the \$10 a month, you have access to all the music you want.

Now if they only had something like this for TV and movies besides Netflix (which lost a major contract) . . .

Note: I checked this out via pcmag.com; here's the review that can be found there:

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2366868,00.asp>

***** MR. CURIOUS HERE *****

Are any readers(s) using this service? If so, what do you think about it?

B. Kelly C. in NC: Impersonations by Kevin Spacey

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJdFtmTET8w&feature=share>

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

If you anybody who wants to find out more about Asheville (or if you want to do so), click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Asheville." I think you'll be impressed.

And a request: If there's anything that is missing in this listing that you think I should add, please let me know.

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Back To Top

8. Computer tip

I recently wanted to use a .png file that I got from somebody . . . I was able to open it, but for the life of me, I wasn't able to edit it; i.e., until I discovered this great website:

<http://www.coolutils.com/online/image-converter/>

It makes it possible to convert photos to all other formats to make them suitable for uploading to the Internet, as well as to crop, resize, rotate and add text to them.

Back To Top

9. JOKE 3: Love at first sight

A man was eating in a fancy restaurant, and there was a gorgeous redhead eating at the next table. He had been checking her out all night, but lacked the nerve to go talk to her. Suddenly she sneezed and her glass eye went flying out of its socket towards the man. With lightning quick reflexes, he caught it in midair.

"Oh my gosh, I am so sorry," she said as she popped her eye back in the socket. "Let me buy you dinner to make it up to you."

They enjoyed a wonderful dinner together and afterward, the woman invited him back to her place for a drink. They went back to her house, and after some time, she took him into her bedroom and began undressing him. The couple had wild, passionate sex many times during the night. The next morning when he awoke, she had already gotten up and brought him breakfast in bed.

The guy was amazed and said, "You know, you are the perfect woman. Are you this nice to every guy you meet?"

"No, she replied . . . you just happened to catch my eye!"

Back To Top

10. A quote I like

In honor of it being Father's Day on Sunday . . .

When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished by how much he'd learned in seven years.--Mark Twain (1835-1910), American novelist and humorist

Back To Top

11. Thought for the day

The 20 Million
by Mark Bittman

Why is it that farmworkers, animals, even vegetables get more attention than food workers?

Some highlights from this most informative blog entry:

* Our food comes at great expense to the workers who provide it. "The biggest workforce in America can't put food on the table except when they go to work," says Saru Jayaraman, Co-Founder of the **Restaurant Opportunities Centers United** (ROC-U).

* Which brings us to the happily almost-forgotten Herman Cain. What's called the "tipped minimum wage" — that \$2.13 — once increased in proportion to the regular minimum wage. But in 1996, the year Cain took over as head of the National Restaurant Association (NRA), he struck a deal with President Bill Clinton and his fellow Democrats. In exchange for an increase in the regular minimum wage, the tipped minimum wage **was de-coupled**. The result: despite regular increases in the regular minimum wage, the tipped minimum wage hasn't changed since 1991.

* Around one in eight jobs in the food industry provides a wage greater than 150 percent of the regional poverty level. More than three-quarters of the workers surveyed don't receive health insurance from their employers. (Fifty-eight percent don't have it at all; national health care, anyone?)

My two cents: I urge you to read the entire entry by clicking:
<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/06/12/the-20-million/?emc=eta1>

And then please join me in reconsidering how much tip you leave your server the next time you're in a restaurant, especially given the fact that millions of servers--70 percent of whom are women--don't even earn a minimum wage. So as the author points out, the tip you debate increasing to 20 percent might be difference in making the rent!

Back To Top

12. Advance planning department

A. North Carolina events

To read about each of the following events in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Me>

(1) Forty Fingers & A Missing Tooth presents . . . The Temps
Note: I've already seen this show. It's really funny!

(2) SPRING AWAKENING!

(3) Just Announced! **A NIGHT OF DOLLY** at the **Parkway Playhouse**

(4) Coming to White Horse THIS SUNDAY....Walter Parks !!

(5) June 20, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. . . . special Benefit Performance of HARVEY

(6) Life Casting Workshop: Casting the Human Face

B. Pennsylvania/New Jersey events

To read about each of the following events in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-LE>

(1) Elisa Massamino, Attorney-at-Law & CEO of Human Rights First

(2) Learn to be FUNNY - comedy seminar this Saturday and next!

(3) Don't forget to get your tickets for TWO SIDES OF LOVE

Back To Top

PS. Here's hope that you get to celebrate Father's Day on Sunday with your dad . . . or if not that's not possible, at least smile at the memories you may have had with your dad when you were younger . . . also, make it a great rest of the week!

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD
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In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Exactitude**
 4. **Reviews . . . BERNIE, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Words of encouragement**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Be forewarned**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride and I, were joined by several friends at a fun improvisational therapy class run by Jeff Thompson.



As to what this entailed, I quote the course description: Healing creativity flows from a whole-hearted embrace of parts of ourselves that had been rejected as unacceptable. Mindfulness and improvisation are two different means of accomplishing this embrace. Through body awareness exercises, visualization, and improv games (e.g., turning a disowned part into a character and doing scenes with that character), we will welcome, play with and facilitate integration of previously disowned parts.

Right now, Jeff is running weekly sessions on Fridays from 3-5 p.m. at The Sacred Embodiment Center . . . if you want more information, send him an email at: emdrhypo@gmail.com or visit The Center's website at: <http://thesacredembodimentcenter.com/>

From there, we all went to Rosetta's Kitchen for dinner . . . this restaurant serves creative vegetarian and vegan soul foods out of a colorful space . . . they also serve tasty desserts . . . for more information, please click: <http://rosettaskitchen.com/>

The next day, we went to Flat Rock Playhouse and were blown away by its production of SPITFIRE GRILL . . . it's a musical based on the film with the same title about a stranger who comes into a small town to start a new life . . . everything about the production was top notch: the performers, the musicians and the staging . . . the good news is that it runs through June 24, so you can still catch it . . . for more information, please click: <http://www.flatrockplayhouse.org/>

Afterward, we were driving to go to one restaurant but happened to instead come across

Pop's Diner in Hendersonville



We have been looking for a really good diner ever since we moved to North Carolina, and we finally think we have found it . . . the menu is typical of such eateries, the food is great (I had chocolate chip pancakes and Cynthia had French toast), the 50s music and waitress outfits had us smiling, and we liked the ambience . . . they even have a pink telephone that actually works . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.pops-diner.com/>

B. Congratulations to:

(1) Micah Solomon whose book, HIGH-TECH, HIGH-TOUCH CUSTOMER SERVICE, was written about in both FORBES:

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/deborahljacobs/2012/06/06/four-things-every-company-can-learn-from-apple/>

and INC:

<http://www.inc.com/erin-kim/micah-solomon-customer-service-rules.html>

(2) Carol Karels whose book, COOKED: AN INNER CITY NURSING MEMOIR, was listed as one of the Top 50 Must-Read Books for Nurses in 2012:

<http://www.lvntorn.net/nursing-books.html>

(3) Jill Sparks for being named as Executive Director of the Small Business Center and Business Incubation at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College.

(4) Lucas Gregg for graduating from Asheville High School and, also, for having created the Senior Class Video Tribute that was shown at graduation.

(5) Rodney Richards for being named to the New Jersey Supreme Court's Fee Arbitration Committee.

Note: Rodney has also started an interesting blog for those who want to share their good ideas for New Jersey with others who care about the state. To check it out, please click:

<http://www.goodideasfornj.blogspot.com/>

(6) Asheville for being rated as one of the top 10 places for retirement by bankrate.com:

<http://www.bankrate.com/finance/retirement/10-great-places-to-retire-in-the-u-s-5.aspx>

(7) To Doug Blevins, as well as to Theresa and Ryan Phillips . . . the video you've been reading about (profiling the amazing life of Doug, the only coach in the history of the NFL who has never played football or even walked) captured the most number of votes in the Spirit at Work Creative Video Contest. In case you haven't yet seen this clip, please click:

<http://vimeo.com/groups/spiritatworkcreative/videos/39082578>

Theresa and Ryan were the individuals who produced the above . . . their company, Legacy Films, does outstanding work . . . for more information about it, please click:

<http://www.ourlegacyfilms.com/>

(8) Denise W. in NC for having won Contest #11, two tickets to the Invited Dress Rehearsal of I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE (see also Section 12A). All told, there were

19 entries. And that reminds me that it's now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #12 *****

One lucky winner will receive a baker's dozen Tempo Bars: 11 apple-cinnamon and 2 chocolate mint . . . these are quite tasty, and they're high in both protein and fiber . . . they are designed to help maintain "glycemic tempo" throughout your day.

TO ENTER: Put "CONTEST 12" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Sunday, June 17.

C. Condolences to Phillip Price and family on the passing of Phillip's father.

D. Correction to last week's issue: Some readers might have received an incorrect link to the website in Section 7B . . . here is the information again, this time corrected:

Nancy C. in NC: Now that's love. Try not to watch this with a huge grin on your face.

Isaac wanted to propose to his girlfriend, so he enlisted over 60 friends to stage a Busby Berkeley street-show lip-dub extravaganza ambush. What follows is five minutes of a heart-stoppingly sweet and romantic wedding proposal.

Greatest wedding proposal ever: the lip-dub:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzkEwPZWALA>

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

This week, it goes to Ron Daniel-a customer service representative with Constant Contact.

I use his fine company for email that I send out via both SART and Asheville SCORE.

Ordinarily, there are no hitches with what I send; i.e., until the other day.

Some of the links were not working properly . . . when I called to find out why this was happening, I was fortunate that Ron picked up the phone.

Within minutes, he was able to determine what I was doing wrong . . . he then patiently worked with me to test things out so I would not repeat the error.

Then, when my problem was resolved, Ron stayed on the line to answer my other questions, as well as make suggestions on what I could do to make my mailings via Constant Contact even more effective.

If you'd like to know more about Constant Contact, feel free to drop me an email . . . or contact the company directly at:

<http://www.constantcontact.com>

[Back To Top](#)

2. FYI

I received a recent email from Lynn D. in PA that made my day . . . she wrote me the following: "One week down. \$60 saved!"

Now that might not mean a lot of money to you, but in Lynn's case it refers to a suggestion I gave her to help her become smoke free. What I suggested was to take the money she spent on cigarettes each day and to then put that money into a jar on her kitchen table, along the lines of what can be seen in the picture below.



At the end of each month, I suggested that she take half of what she will have saved--\$120 in this instance--and give herself a treat; e.g., a day at a spa. At the end of a year, I told her to take the other half that has been accumulated--\$1,440 (12 x \$120)--and buy something special for herself; e.g., a mini-vacation.

One other suggestion I gave her: Read ALLEN CARR'S EASY WAY TO STOP SMOKING . . . the author once smoked five packs of cigarettes a day . . . he knew he had to quit when he was at his daughter's wedding, and he couldn't wait for it to be over so he could grab a smoke . . . this is an amazing book that has helped many of my friends quit smoking.

***** SPECIAL OFFER TO BLAINESWORLD READERS *****

If you smoke and want to quit . . . or you have a loved one, friend, etc. who wants to do the same, it would be my pleasure to give you a FREE copy of the above book . . . I'll be giving away books until I run out of them, which is unlikely . . . to obtain: just print your name on the outside of a postpaid envelope that's larger than 7 x 10 inches . . . put \$2.77 postage on the outside of the postpaid envelope, then put it in another envelope and mail to me at this address: Blaine Greenfield, 19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way, Biltmore Lake, NC 28715.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) Della S. in FL: Eliana Girard, my daughter - SYTYCD Season 9 (L.A. Auditions)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRPAZ3jBsd4>

(2) Tiger Woods' Chip-In at Memorial Tournament
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyKu9mcHP3w&feature=player_embedded

(3) Classical music flash mob
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gww9_S4PNV0

(4) Heather L. in PA: Boy Inspires Kids - Kids Inspire Us All (Amazing Finish)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6Alt2DssYc>

Note: For more on this story, please click:
http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/story/2012-06-03/cerebral-palsy-runner-matt-woodrum-youtube/55351566/1?fb_ref=.T82HGOENGmM.like&fb_source=home_multiline

(5) Gary J. in NC: A great laugh . . . [Nina Conti, ventriloquist]
<http://www.wimp.com/bestperformances/>

(6) Joe D. in NY: Pool skills have never seen before
<http://www.youtube.com/embed/AeiEiSKAp5M?rel=0>

(7) Donna S. in AL: Jason Mraz - I Won't Give Up (Lyric Video)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdN5GyTi8K0&feature=share>

(8) Jean D. in PA: Dolenz, Jones, Boyce & Hart ~ 1976 TV Special (Part 1)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwvlhjP suo&feature=related>

(9) Walter B. in NC: Mister Rogers Remixed | Garden of Your Mind | PBS Digital Studios
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFzXaFbxDcM&feature=share>

(10) Jeff T. in NC: Meet the Cast of "Spelling Bee": Jeff Thompson
<http://ashevilletheatre.blogspot.com/2012/06/meet-cast-of-spelling-bee-jeff-thompson.html>

(11) Alyson M. in CO: Meet my friend Kevin--and prepare to be inspired!
<http://www.bu.edu/buniverse/view?v=1YPPMo12T>

(12) Harry P. in PA: Philadelphia waiter
<http://oldjewstellingjokes.com/post/24675908091?9d2c2360>

Or for all of them:
<http://oldjewstellingjokes.com/all/>
B. Other

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-KK>

- (1) Maria M. in NC: Loved reading the Memorial story.
- (2) Lana C. in OH: Amen about a tribute [in BLAINESWORLD #818) to all our veterans!
- (3) Debbie H. in PA: 7 Tips for Networking
- (4) Nelson S. in NC: Breakfast in a bottle!!
- (5) Edie W. in PA: Please take time to read this interview I did with the amazing Chrissy Harmon
- (6) Dave C. in NC: I just finished reading Patrick Lencioni's latest book, The Advantage.
- (7) Donna G. in NJ: How cool is this! Music at your finger tips.
- (8) John S. in NC (with a REQUEST FOR HELP)
- (9) Marty S. in TX: Did you ever wonder if you put all 50 state flowers together?

Back To Top

3. JOKE 1: Exactitude

An accountant visited the Museum of Natural History. While standing near the dinosaur, he turned to his friend Ed and said "This dinosaur is two billion years and ten months old."

Ed asked, "Where did you get this exact information?"

"I was here ten months ago, and the guide told me that the dinosaur is two billion years old."

Back To Top

4. Reviews

A. BERNIE is a quirky true-crime comedy about an assistant funeral director in a small town in Texas . . . everybody loved him because he taught Sunday school, sang in the church choir and helped everybody . . . so when he befriended an affluent widow with a sour attitude, it didn't surprise anybody; i.e., until she disappeared for several months . . . when she turned up dead, the townspeople were shocked when Bernie was charged with the murder . . . Jack Black was fine as the main character, and I also liked the work of Matthew McConaughey as the sheriff . . . overall, though, the film didn't do much for me . . . don't rush out to see it, but as a rental, you might enjoy it . . . rated PG-13.

B. There are not many new DVDs out, so I'll instead recommend a 2010 French romantic comedy called HEARTBREAKER . . . it's the tale of a guy who for a fee can turn any husband, fiancé or boyfriend into an ex. His one ironclad rule is that he only breaks up couples where the woman is unhappy. Romain Duris is terrific in the leading role. See this now; i.e., before it is turned into an Americanized version. Not rated, but probably OK for any mature teenager and up.

C. Are you concerned about what's happening in America? Even more importantly, would you like to do something about it? If so, then read THE SIX FIX: A SIMPLE SPIRITUAL GUIDE TO RESTORING AMERICA'S GOODNESS (Six Fix Publishing) by Michael Shevack.

It's a short, but powerful compendium of ideas by Shevack--the author of five books and an ordained rabbi. His premise is that if we act in alignment with the goodness in life, then we'll experience good.

To accomplish this, we need to put into practice what he calls the Six Fix.

* Here it is, in its neatest, most compact, most easy-to-remember form:

- Fix #1: In everything you think, say and do, seek good for yourself.
- Fix #2: In everything you think, say and do, seek good for an other.
- Fix #3: In everything you think and say and do, seek good for all others.
- Fix #4: In everything you think, say and do, seek good for future generations.
- Fix #5: In everything you think, say and do, seek good for all Life and Creation.

Fix #6: In everything you think, say and do, seek good by continuously improving.

I especially like how Shevack then applied the above to a variety of problems that don't seem to have easy solutions; for example:

When one looks at Medicare, which has also been reasonably successful, again, virtually all The Six Fix priorities are in their correct place. However, when individual people or organizations put Value Priority #6 (prosperity) before Value Priority #1 (health) and abused the system for monetary gain, considering only Relationship Priority #1 (yourself) to the exclusion of the other relationship priorities, Medicare began to be labeled a draining "entitlement."

This is a book that will continually keep you interested in what you are reading--and, if you're like me, you will reflect on it long after you have finished THE SIX FIX. This one tidbit, in particular, has stuck with me:

* One cannot have common ground if one believes that one's opinion is absolutely 100% certain, and all other opinions are absolutely false; this is dogmatism, cultism. Restoring America's humility and restoring America's goodness go hand-in-hand.

I believe in what the author has to say here, and I think that we can all move toward goodness as a nation--provided that is something we all want . . . I hope that's the case. If you're in agreement, you'll find THE BIG FIX both thought-provoking and pragmatic.

D. Heard MAN SEEKS GOD: MY FLIRTATIONS WITH THE DIVINE (Hachette Audio), written and read by Eric Weiner.

The author previously wrote THE GEOGRAPHY OF BLISS, one of my favorite books from 2009 . . . and so I was looking forward to this effort.

I was also hooked by how he came to write this latest book . . . it turns that he was hospitalized by a health scare . . . a well-meaning nurse then asked him, "Have you found your God yet?" Though Weiner was an agnostic by default, he found that he didn't really have an answer to the question . . . so he began a far-flung journey to be able to do so.

His travels took him to meditate with Tibetan lamas and a guy named Wayne, to China where he attempted to unblock his chi, to Israel where he studied Kabbalah and to Las Vegas where he had a close encounters with Raelians (followers of the world's largest UFO-based religion).

Along the way, he met an eclectic range of fascinating people, including a Tibetan holy man who tells Cher that she looks like a pile of decaying bones, a Dutchman who bicycles to Turkey in response to his son's death, a pot-bellied and street-smart Franciscan monk in the South Bronx and a friendly witch.

Much of the book was humorous if not laugh-out-loud hilarious, including this passage about what happened in a Buddhist mediation workshop in Tibet:

* The mediation goes well for about 7 seconds . . . finally, Antonio rings the bell and puts me out of my misery. My God, how long was that? Twenty, thirty minutes. "Five minutes," says Antonio.

I remember taking a religion course as an undergraduate . . . too bad that I didn't have Weiner as my professor . . . he would have made the class a lot more entertaining.

Back To Top

5. TV alert

A. Please don't try to reach me on Sunday night at 8 p.m. because I'll be watching THE TONY AWARDS at 8 p.m. on CBS . . . Neil Patrick hosts and Hugh Jackman gets a special award . . . though I haven't seen the show, I'm hoping that ONCE (one of my favorite movies) wins the Best Musical trophy.

B. DALLAS returns on Wednesday, June 13, at 9 p.m. on TNT . . . I'm looking forward to seeing the return of both Larry Hagman and Patrick Duffy, as well as the others in the Ewing clan . . . according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Their picture of bottomless malice and greed, against the backdrop of glorious green pastures and big skies, is hard to resist. It's a reminder, like J.R. himself, of the reasons the first DALLAS lasted all those years."

C. DOGS IN THE CITY, a new reality series, airs on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on CBS . . . it stars dog guru Justin Silver, a master at resolving issues between canines and their owners--no matter whose behavior is at fault.

D. George Herbert Walker Bush, never one to talk much about himself, opens up about his life on 41 on HBO on Thursday, June 14, at 9 p.m. . . . you'll learn, among other things, that he doesn't plan to forgive Ross Perot for costing him reelection . . . and that he emphatically declares that he doesn't like cats--an assertion that would cost him dearly if he were now running for office.

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: Words of encouragement

No matter what situations life throws at you . . . no matter how long and treacherous your journey may seem . . . remember, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel!



[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Brian B. in NC: Never leave the playground:

<http://growingbolder.com/media/health/aging/never-leave-the-playground-793777.html>

B. Incredible clip showing the beauty of Asheville:

Mountain Video Time Lapse - Epic Landscapes & Skyscapes in Asheville, NC

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=TyrjOP4NS1w#!

And for more information, please read: Asheville voted as one of GOOD MORNING AMERICA's Most Beautiful Places

http://abcnews.go.com/Travel/best_places_USA/asheville-nc-natures-greatest-gift/story?id=14263963#.T8zV45IYs_g

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

To see just some of the places that I frequent and/or recommend in both Asheville and the PA/NJ area, please click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Choices."

Note: These are constantly being upgraded, so do check back every so often.

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

[Back To Top](#)

8. Computer tip

If you're having trouble getting email from me (or others), it may be because it is being "blocked" as spam. Here's excellent information on how to deal with this problem that I obtained from the following website:

<http://www.emaildeliveryjedi.com/mywhitelist.php>

Email Whitelist Instructions

Since your ISP probably uses some type of spam filter, we ask that you add us to your

trusted list of senders, contacts or address book--a practice known as whitelisting. If you do not see an email in your inbox, due to the overzealous filtering by ISPs my email may have mistakenly been sent to your spam folder. Please open your spam folder look for it there, open it and mark it as "not spam."

Click the link to your ISP or email client to Whitelist from:

ISPs: [AOL](#), [AOL Web Mail](#), [Yahoo](#), [Hotmail Live](#), [Windows Live](#) and [MSN](#), [Gmail](#), [Earthlink](#), [AT&T](#), [Comcast](#)

Email Clients: [Outlook 2003 \(or higher\)](#), [Mozilla Thunderbird](#), [Blackberrys](#),

Spam Filters: [Norton AntiSpam](#), [McAfee Spamkiller](#), [Barracuda Networks](#), [Trend Micro PC-Cillin](#), [Cloudmark SpamNet](#), [CA Anti Spam](#), [Mailblocks](#), [MailShield](#), [MailWasher](#), [Oddpost](#), [SpamAssassin](#), [SpamFighter](#), [ChoiceMail](#), [SpamButcher](#), [Spameater Pro Spam Inspector](#), [Spam Interceptor](#), [SpamPal](#), [Spam Sleuth](#), Other providers.

[Back To Top](#)

9. JOKE 3: Be forewarned

Condoms don't guarantee safe sex anymore . . . a friend of mine was wearing one when he was shot by the woman's husband!

[Back To Top](#)

10. A quote I like

It's never too late to become the person you might have been.-- George Elliot (1819-1880), pen name for English novelist Mary Anne Evans who wrote seven novels, including SILAS MARNER

Note: Above seems to be popularized version of her actual quote, which was: "It is never too late to be what you might have been."

[Back To Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

Herb S. in NJ: The greatest sports story of all time . . . hands down. I remember it well. All of it.

My two cents: Herb could well be right. Even if you're not a sports fan, please read this story about what happened in 1958 when a 23-year-old white guy basically adopted a paralyzed 24-year-old black man.

Remembering Jack Twyman, the greatest teammate in NBA history
by David Whitley

To read, please click:

http://blog.syracuse.com/sports/2012/06/remembering_jack_twyman_the_gr.html

[Back To Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre in Mars Hill opens its summer season with a tuneful production of I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE . . . it runs through from June 7-17 . . . for tickets, please call the Box Office at 828.689.1239.

To see a trailer for this show, please click:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QAafAUMLQQ&feature=youtu.be>

Note: I've already seen the show and can tell you that you're going to love it!

To find out more about the rest of the exciting season, please click:

<http://sartplays.org/>

B. North Carolina events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-KN>

- (1) Unit 50 at Wild Wing Cafe in Asheville
- (2) Stories on Asheville's Front Porch
- (3) Magnetic Field: June 8 and 9
- (4) Fort Fingers & A Missing Tooth presents . . . The Temps
- (5) SPRING AWAKENING
- (6) Concerned citizens are planning a demonstration this Saturday, June 9
- (7) Don't miss this one at White Horse!

C. Pennsylvania/New Jersey events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Ku>

- (1) Quarterly Lower Bucks CFPA Meeting with Special Guest Speaker
 - (2) Come & Share a Special Evening with Dr. Margaret Flowers & Kevin Zeese
 - (3) Mike A. in PA: Next Women's Self-Defense Seminar!
 - (4) Janet Straightarrow in NJ is offering several upcoming programs.
 - (5) Gilbert & Sullivan Society opens "Pirates of Penzance" in just under 2 weeks!
- ***** SPECIAL BONUS: Click the above to see a Pat Achilles cartoon *****

Back To Top

PS. Make it a great week!

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#818
5.28.2012

In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Siblings can be oh so helpful!**
 4. **Reviews . . . THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Missing husband**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Cell phone etiquette**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I were joined by our friends Brian and Carole as we saw a fantastic production of THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES at the Haywood Arts Regional Theatre in Waynesville. This is a tune-filled show, featuring classics from the 50s and 60s, about a female singing group who perform first at their prom and then who reunite at their 10-year reunion.

Tabitha Judy, Tierney Leigh Cody, Kelli Brown Mullinix and Morgan St. Clair were all excellent, as was the accompanying three-piece band . . . special kudos to Mark Jones; he served as both director and choreographer, and on the day we went, he also handled the lights.



(l-r): Morgan St. Clair, Mark Jones, Blaine and Cynthia

GOOD NEWS: The show runs through June 10, so you can still catch it . . . for more information, please click:
<http://www.harttheater.com/>

From there, we went into downtown Waynesville to Frogs Leap Public House . . . I enjoyed my vanilla French toast with fruit, and Cynthia liked her meat loaf . . . Carole and Brian said their respective hamburger and chili dishes were also quite good . . . the decor is quite attractive, and our server (Liza) was excellent . . . we'll be back. For more information, please click:
<http://frogsleappublichouse.com/>



B. Congratulations to:

(1) Shawn Queeny, my former teaching colleague at Bucks County Community College, for being highlighted in an article in THE NEW YORK TIMES:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/03/movies/joel-hodgson-on-mystery-science-theater-and-riffs.html?smid=fb-share>

(2) Katherine Sandoval Taylor . . . her next performance in Nashville, TN will be as Young Heidi in Sondheim's "FOLLIES in Concert" with The First Night Honors directed by the one and only BroadwayWorld.com's Jeffrey Ellis.

SPECIAL NOTE: Katherine will be appearing at SART this summer in THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA from July 5-22. This is one show you won't want to miss. For more information, please click:

<http://sartplays.org/2012.htm>

(3) Kat Williams. She worked on a project called "Hands of Hope" to bring awareness to domestic violence. It has just been nominated for an Emmy.

(4) Doug Blevins, my SCORE client, who is still in first place in the Spirit at Work Creative Video contest/

***** URGENT REQUEST *****

if you haven't yet seen his video and/or voted, please do so on or before June 2. . . all you need to do is these simple instructions:

* Please open a FREE Vimeo account--by clicking the link below. (If you already have an account, go directly to Step #3.) <http://vimeo.com/join>

* You'll be welcomed into Vimeo. Close that screen.

* At the next screen, go to the top right (search box) and type-in "Doug Blevins."

* You should then see a picture of a guy in a wheelchair. Click to watch the video and say you "like" it by clicking the "like" heart just once in the upper right hand column.

* If your vote goes through, you should see a big heart in the middle of the screen. You can then check this by looking to see if your name appears with the names of those others who have liked the video (on the right side about halfway down).

(5) Kathy W. in PA, winner of Contest #10 . . . her prize: Book Darts, which are precision-cut, paper-thin metal line markers that attach easily to any page. The prize is in the mail. All told, there were 11 entries in this contest, which reminds me it is now time to announced:

***** CONTEST #11 *****

One lucky winner will receive two tickets to the June 6th Invited Dress Rehearsal of I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE at Owen Theatre (Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, NJ) on Wednesday, June 6, at 7:30 p.m.

This is a special evening that's also being used as a fundraiser for one of my favorite nonprofits in the area, MemoryCare. If you don't win the free tickets and/or you want to support MemoryCare, please contact **Linda Bollinger Hollinshead** for more information. Her email address is: lagolindasue@gmail.com

The show is a fun musical that features a very talented cast. To get you in the mood for it, I thought you might like to see some YouTube clips from other productions of the show:

* Chris Caggiano (one of the stars in this year's show) and Jennifer Ariel performing "Stud and a Babe" from when Chris was an undergraduate at Mars Hill
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9G9fjWRW5b8>

* "Tear Jerk," my favorite song <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtFLK7mRujA>

* "Always a Bridesmaid" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kI5AJ4baOac>

* And bits of several numbers from the Chinese version (you'll get a kick out of this)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QttUTbtXc>

TO ENTER:

Put "CONTEST 11" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, June 3.

If you can't attend the show that night, do plan to catch some other performance . . . you'll love it runs from July 7-17; for more information, please click: <http://sartplays.org/>

C. Condolences to Lois Fossum and family on the loss of Lois' husband Hank.

D. Corrections from last week's issue:

(1) ADELE LIVE IN LONDON features the singer performing live from London's Royal Albert Hall, as well as being interviewed by Matt Laurer . . . it was not on last Sunday; it will be on this Sunday, June 3, at 8 p.m. on NBC.

(2) Some readers got a copy of the issue (before I corrected it) that did not run the correct link to the letters from Section 2, part 2 . . . many of these are quite interesting, and I urge you to at least skim them each week . . . here's the link that you should have received in BLAINESWORLD #817:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Jc>

After you look at them, please do take a look at the letters that are in Section 2, part 2 this week.

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

This week, it goes to the entire Board of Directors of SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre).

I'm honored to have been chosen as president of this group for the coming year . . . but more importantly, I'm blessed to get the chance to work with the following individuals: Andy Sorenson, Bill Gregg, Sharon Christensen, Dan Lunsford, Doug Hauschild, Patty Higgins, Louisa Menick, Lori Lynn Mullet, Theresa Phillips and Kim Smith.

In addition, special thanks to these others individuals who have helped us over the past few weekends: Scott and Sandy Petrucha and Don Christensen.

They have all put in countless hours in preparation for the upcoming season, which opens on June 7. Consequently, when you come to Owen Theatre, you'll see many changes in the "look" of the building. And if you look closely downstairs, you'll even get to see some of the painting that I did. (Save this issue—or at least this picture—because it is a rarity; i.e., me painting!)



Shows, as always, will be top notch. Please see Section 1B(5) for more information about SART's first play.

Back To Top

2. FYI

Before you order something online or even go to a store, see if you can find a discount coupon via an Internet search . . . you very often can do so by typing in "discount coupons for (whatever you are seeking) . . . this was the case recently when I ordered a nut/dried fruit platter for a friend . . . I found what I wanted at a company's website, then found a coupon that saved me 5% and provided free shipping . . . so I saved over \$8 in just a few seconds.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) Penny G. in PA: What's the real difference between cage-free and pastured eggs?
<http://grist.org/sustainable-farming/the-story-of-an-egg-video/>

(2) Steve M. in NJ: Check out Snooky
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDc-lmiwcDs&feature=youtu.be>

(3) Board breaking with Brian Biro:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=668899492>

(4) Colleen D. in PA: Powerful Peeing Boy Prank
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUm2r67OoX8>

(5) Ted R. in NC: Laughing babies
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hb9RJHvjXQ&feature=share>

(6) Newest dance sensation:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lb3Duz_6a9M

(7) Marilynne H. in NC: Rabbi standup comedy
<http://www.bobalper.com/demo.html>

(8) Heather M in NC: Shucking corn
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnBF6bv4Oe4&feature=share>

(9) Wes H. in NC: Smash a Plate for Marriage Equality
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=TfzG3BFTIXw

(10) Cynthia G. in NC: Wedding of a 100-year-old wearing high heels!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2LyNAXcRlo>

(11) Capitol Steps
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWSesu2UTPY>

B. Other

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-JZ>

- (1) Scott P. in PA: 38 Tragically Awkward Prom Photos
- (2) Gary C. in NC: New post that I wrote tonight while evaluating some Customer Relationship Management . . . options.
- (3) Marty D. in PA: Finally watched it [your standup debut]
- (4) Cathy L. in PA (with a REQUEST FOR HELP)
- (5) Jessica M. in NY: Some great examples of how Facebook is helping various causes
- (6) Barbara F. in PA: Check out on Netflix..... Breakout Kings
- (7) Joanne D. in PA: I just want to tell you how much I enjoy reading BLAINESWORLD.
- (8) Joe D. in NY: Continue to enjoy your newsletter. Inspires us to take advantage of community activities.
- (9) Fiora L. in NC (with a REQUEST FOR HELP in the Asheville area)

[Back To Top](#)

3. JOKE 1: Siblings can be oh so helpful!



[Back To Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL is the sweet, touching story about a group of British retirees who decide to move to the less expensive and seemingly more exotic India. Though their new destination is less luxurious than imagined, the group is transformed by their shared experiences. There's excellent acting by an ensemble class; in particular, I liked the work of Bill Nighy who doesn't play his usual outgoing self. Rated PG-13.

B. THE VOW is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #803 follows:

The coming attractions for THE VOW looked interesting . . . it promised a story about a newlywed couple who are in an accident and when the wife wakes from a coma, she has no recollection of her marriage . . . Channing Tatum and Rachel McAdams do what they can with the material, but the end result is a very flat film . . . Jessica Lange is wasted in her role as the mother of the McAdams character; in addition, she looks terrible on screen (and who would have thought that could ever be possible?) . . . make yourself a vow; i.e., that you'll miss this one . . . rated PG-13.

A MUCH BETTER RECOMMENDATION: See if you can find a South Korean film called HARMONY (HARMONI was the original title) . . . it came out in 2010, and I believe it is now available on Netflix via the streaming option . . . the story is about inmates at a women's prison who form a choir. The actors are all outstanding, and so is the music. I really got involved in this film; in fact, I just posted it on my list of favorite films . . . not rated, though I would recommend it for anybody over the age of 12.

***** INVITATION *****

If you'd like to see a list of my favorite films, send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put "Favorite Films" in the subject line.

C. Maureen Healy, a practicing child development and parenting expert, has written the perfect book for both parents and grandparents: GROWING HAPPY KIDS (Heath Communications).

I was intrigued by the title and, also, by the subtitle, which promises to show you: HOW TO FOSTER INNER CONFIDENCE, SUCCESS, AND HAPPINESS.

As to how this can be accomplished, the author demonstrates ways to keep children strong from the inside out by show combining Eastern wisdom with Western psychology.

Almost every page included a useful tidbit that can be put into practice right away . . . for example:

* With this mindset, Joceline emphasizes the importance of family and connection by sharing a meal with her family every evening. It's non-negotiable family time, where everyone gets an opportunity to share what happened that day, give thanks, and really communicate heart-to-heart while eating traditional fare like hummus, tabbouleh, toasted pita, and seasoned ground beef (known as kibi). This sense of normality and consistent encouragement gives children a sense of strength regardless of what is happening in their lives.

I also liked her activities that were both fun and educational:

* Take out a piece of white paper for yourself and one for your child. Lead him to draw a circle and divide it up into eight slices—like a pizza pie. In each slice of your own paper, each of you draws something that you feel REALLY, REALLY good about yourself. This helps build confidence.

In addition, Healy peppered many insightful quotes throughout the book--such as this one from Michael J. Gelb, author of HOW TO THINK LIKE LEONARDO DA VINCI:

* Champions know that success is inevitable; that there is no such thing as failure, only feedback. They know the best way to forecast the future is to create it.

Though GROWING HAPPY KIDS is aimed at helping parents and grandparents with their children and grandchildren, you'll gain an interesting side benefit from reading it; i.e., you'll gain increased confidence as well!

D. Heard SAYING IT WELL: TOUCHING OTHERS WITH YOUR WORDS (Hachette Audio), written by Charles R. Swindoll and read by Tim Habeger.

A lot of the first part of the book seems like an autobiography, in that it presents the author's story . . . I found that part interesting, especially the part where he was a stutterer when he was younger . . . and what he did to overcome this problem.

However, I was more interested in the content that dealt with actually speaking to others . . . a key part I got from that material was appreciation of the fact that you must always:

* 1. Know who you are. 2. Accept who you are. 3. Be who you are.

Also, I appreciated his recommendation on how to rehearse presentations:

* I always rehearse my messages aloud. If you review the message in your head, you won't get a good sense of the time required to say it well.

In addition, I'll make it a point to try to remember what the author had to say about ending speeches:

* Don't conclude on a negative note. Conclude with hope and encouragement.

While Habeger's narration was fine, I would have preferred hearing Swindoll do the reading himself.

[Back To Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. A few months back, I saw a stage production of 12 ANGRY MEN . . . I'll now revisit it by watching the brilliant film version, starring Henry Fonda, Lee J. Cobb, Jack Klugman and several other character actors who later became stars . . . the tale is about one man who tries to convince 11 other jurors that their hasty guilty verdict for a boy on trial should be

reconsidered. Sunday at 8 p.m. on TCM.

B. I always get a kick out of the MTV MOVIE AWARDS because the program never takes itself too seriously . . . that will especially be the case this year because Russell Brand is hosting . . . Sunday at 9 p.m. on MTV.

C. "LONGMIRE," notes THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "is the best of two worlds: a modern crime drama with dry wit and sometimes heart-wrenching emotion that's also got a glorious setting under the big sky of Wyoming." Sundays at 10 p.m. on A&E.

D. WITNESS: G.I. HOMECOMING airs on Monday, 6.4 at 6 p.m. on NGC . . . it's a short film on the experiences of families exulting in the surprise return of loved ones home from duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. According to Mark A. Perigard at bostonherald.com, "Actor Campbell Scott ('Royal Pains') is a comforting narrator and doesn't get in the way of the many vignettes. It's a touching special that will remind you this Memorial Day of the sacrifices military families make, and if you don't tear up at least six times during the hour, you need to call the coroner to come pick up your body because you've been dead for hours and are too dense to know it."

Back To Top

6. JOKE 2: Missing husband

A married couple have been out shopping for hours when the wife realizes that her husband has disappeared. So she calls his cell phone.

"Where are you!" she yells.

"Darling," he says, "So you remember that jewelry shop, the one where you saw that diamond necklace you loved? But I didn't have enough money at the time, so I said, 'Baby, it'll be yours one day.' "

"Yes!" she shouts, excitedly.

"Well, I'm in the bar next door."

Back To Top

7. Websites

A. LES MISERABLES, the movie version of the my favorite musical, opens on December 14. Even the trailer has me psyched:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnLSG5t_dc8

B. Nancy C. in NC: Now that's love. Try not to watch this with a huge grin on your face.

Isaac wanted to propose to his girlfriend, so he enlisted over 60 friends to stage a Busby Berkeley street-show lip-dub extravaganza ambush. What follows is five minutes of a heart-stoppingly sweet and romantic wedding proposal.

Greatest wedding proposal ever: the lip-dub
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnLSG5t_dc8

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

Want to get more clients or customers? Read an article I wrote on that topic, "Increase Your Profits by Using the Loyalty Ladder." Click Consulting to the left, then Article Samples and you'll find this one. Methinks you'll find it helpful.

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:
<https://www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield>

Back To Top

8. Computer tip

Pat H. in PA: There is a Facebook post of you watching a video on Socialcam about a Huge Pimple. Not sure if you posted it or not. But I'm told that once you view any Socialcam videos they automatically get posted on Facebook that you watched it. And from what I understand, it's tough to remove yourself from Socialcam's link. Best thing is to not view any more Socialcam videos.

Otherwise, it uploads what you watched to Facebook. It's kind of embarrassing for people I know, especially who have children on Facebook. So did you post this video or not? And from what I am being told, are you aware that whatever you watch on Socialcam gets uploaded to your Facebook page?

RESPONSE: I'm not quite sure how this appeared on Facebook, but somehow it got there. Pat's right, too . . . it is something to avoid. So what I did: 1. Deleted the above link; and 2. Found the following article that I encourage you to read:
Why (and How) to Turn Off Socialcam on Facebook
<http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/upgrade-your-life/embarrassing-socialcam-shares-prevent-them-185909023.html>

Back To Top

9. JOKE 3: Cell phone etiquette

After a very busy day, Peggy settled down in her seat and closed her eyes as the train departed Manhattan for the 'burbs. As the train rolled out of the station, one last passenger jumped on the train and got the last seat--right next to Peggy.

Within seconds, he pulled out his cell phone and started talking in a loud voice. "Hi sweetheart, it's Eric! ... I'm on the train--yes, I know it's the six thirty and not the four thirty, but I had a long meeting ... No, honey, not with that floozy from the accounts office, with the boss. No sweetheart, you're the only one in my life--yes, I'm sure, cross my heart," etc., etc.

It was nauseating. And no matter how much Peggy glared at him, cleared her throat or otherwise tried to express her disapproval over his rudeness, he completely ignored her. Fifteen minutes later, she got an idea. She leaned in close to him and said in her most sensual, pouty voice aimed right at his phone: "Hey, Eric, sweetie! Turn off that stupid phone and come back to bed!"

Eric doesn't use his cell phone in public any longer.

Back To Top

10. A quote I like

You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with.--Jim Rohn (1930-2009), American entrepreneur, author and motivational speaker

Back To Top

11. Thought for the day Memorial Day message

As I came out of the supermarket that sunny day, pushing my cart of groceries toward my car, I saw an old man with the hood of his car up and a lady sitting inside the car with the door open. The old man was looking at the engine. I put my groceries away in my car and continued to watch the old gentleman from about twenty five feet away.

I saw a young man in his early twenties with a grocery bag in his arm walking towards the old man. The old gentleman saw him coming too, and took a few steps towards him. I saw the old gentleman point to his open hood and say something. The young man put his grocery bag into what looked like a brand new Cadillac Escalade. He then turned back to the old man. I heard him yell at the old gentleman saying: "You shouldn't even be allowed to drive a car at your age." And then with a wave of his hand, he got in his car and peeled rubber out of the parking lot.

I saw the old gentleman pull out his handkerchief, and mop his brow as he went back to his car and again looked at the engine. He then went to his wife and spoke with her; he appeared to tell her it would be okay. I had seen enough, and I approached the old man. He saw me coming and stood straight, and as I got near him I said, "Looks like you're having a problem."

He smiled sheepishly, and quietly nodded his head. I looked under the hood myself and knew that whatever the problem was, it was beyond me. Looking around, I saw a gas station up the road, and I told the old man that I would be right back. I drove to the station and went inside. I saw three attendants working on cars. I approached one of them and related the problem the old man had with his car. I offered to pay them if they could follow me back down and help him.

The old man had pushed the heavy car under the shade of a tree and appeared to be comforting his wife. When he saw us he straightened up and thanked me for my help. As the mechanics diagnosed the problem (overheated engine), I spoke with the old gentleman. When I shook hands with him earlier, he had noticed my Marine Corps ring and had commented about it, telling me that he had been a Marine too. I nodded and asked the usual question, "What outfit did you serve with?"

He said that he served with the first Marine Division at Guadalcanal, Peleliu and Okinawa. He had hit three of the worst ones and retired from the Corps after the war was over. As we talked, we heard the car engine come on and saw the mechanics lower the hood. They came over to us as the old man reached for his wallet, but was stopped by me. I told him I would just put the bill on my AAA card.

He still reached for the wallet and handed me a card that I assumed had his name and address on it, and I stuck it in my pocket. We all shook hands all around again, and I said my goodbyes to his wife.

I then told the two mechanics that I would follow them back up to the station. Once at the station, I told them that they had interrupted their own jobs to come along with me and help the old man. I said I wanted to pay for the help, but they refused to charge me.

One of them pulled out a card from his pocket, looking exactly like the card the old man had given to me. Both of the men told me then that they were Marine Corps Reserves. Once again, we shook hands all around and as I was leaving, one of them told me I should look at the card the old man had given to me. I said I would and drove off.

For some reason, I had gone about two blocks when I pulled over and took the card out of my pocket and looked at it for a long, long time. The name of the old gentleman was on the card in golden leaf and under his name was written: "Congressional Medal of Honor Society."

I sat there motionless, looking at the card and reading it over and over. I looked up from the card and smiled to no one but myself and marveled that on this day, four Marines had all come together because one of us needed help. He was an old man all right, but it felt good to have stood next to greatness and courage and an honor to have been in his presence.

Remember, as we approach another Memorial Day, OLD men like him gave you and all of us FREEDOM for America. Thanks to those who served and still serve and to all of those who supported them and who continue to support them.

America is not at war. The U.S. Military is at war. America is at the Mall.

If you don't stand behind our troops, PLEASE feel free to stand in front of them!

Remember, freedom isn't free. Thousands have paid the price, so that you can enjoy what you have today.

Source: Author unknown (If you know who wrote this and/or the source, please notify me.)

Back To Top

12. Advance planning department A. North Carolina events

To read about each of the following events in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-K1>

- (1) SPRING AWAKENING!
- (2) The Temps at Magnetic Field
- (3) David C. in NC: Upcoming gigs
- (4) Vic A. in NC: LOVE AMONG THE FRANKENSTEINS
- (5) Picketing at St. Basilica
- (6) Bradshaw C. in NC: THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE
- (7) Gary J. in NC: Bring PRSA to Western North Carolina
- (8) Fantastic opportunity to see Las Vegas magician and entertainer, Jeff McBride
- (9) Upcoming events, featuring Richard Shulman

B. Pennsylvania/New Jersey events

To read about each of the following events in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-K3>

- (1) Chocolate Cuddle Party
- (2) HELLMAN'S THE LITTLE FOXES RAISE HAVOC IN MORRISVILLE

(3) Five Myths About Nuclear Weapons

[Back To Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week!

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#817
5.20.2012

In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Timmy and his ball**
 4. **Reviews . . . MONSIEUR LAZHAR, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Checkup results**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Two requests**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I saw the last performance of OUR SHOW OF SHOWS at Flat Rock Playhouse . . . that's us in front of a Smoke Tree that's in front of the theatre.



The show is based on YOUR SHOW OF SHOWS, the original 1950s variety program that featured Sid Caesar . . . we liked the vintage commercials that were shown between scenes, as well as the many hilarious skits that were taken from the original show . . . however, we especially liked it best because of the return of Scott Treadway (perhaps our favorite local actor) to the area after having been in Virginia for the past year . . . he was as funny as ever and, in particular, his performance in a tap dancing number cracked us up.

And we loved this photo and the accompanying caption that Scott ran in Facebook:



Ava [Scott's daughter] watched the show from backstage tonight. Thank you Tim Cobb for what might be my favorite picture EVER! Ava stage left watching me & Rob [McClure] singin'!!

B. During the week, I was fortunate to be able to attend two very fine events.

(1) The Lessons in Leadership "Winning Workshops" featured several excellent sessions presented by Bill Early, Jessica Chilton, and Bill Kelley and Sheir Holbert . . . George Fleming served as Emcee and, as always, he was excellent . . . this is a picture of the two of us together.



if you're wondering why his jacket is on backward, it is because he was practicing what Early had effectively taught the group; i.e., don't always do things the same way every day. Try doing things differently. (So George decided to not wear his jacket like everybody else.) To find out more about George and the work that he does, please click:

<http://www.insightaction.com/>

(2) And I attended a preview of the upcoming season of SART, the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, that was given at the Reuter Center for Creative Retirement. Bill Gregg, producing artistic director, talked about the upcoming season; for more information, please click:

<http://sartplays.org/>

He then introduced performers who sang songs from two of the upcoming shows.



(l-r) Liz Aiello, Blaine Greenfield (who fortunately did NOT sing), Josh Miller and Sarah Richardson

All the above were great, as was Virginia McKnight who accompanied the musical numbers.
C. Congratulations to:

(1) Brian and Jeni Sneed on their recent marriage.

(2) Doug Blevins, my SCORE client, who is still in first place in the Spirit at Work Creative Video contest . . . if you haven't yet seen his video and/or voted, please do so by following these instructions:

* Please open a FREE Vimeo account--by clicking the link below. (If you already have an account, go directly to Step #3.)

<http://vimeo.com/join>

* You'll be welcomed into Vimeo. Close that screen.

* At the next screen, go to the top right (search box) and type-in "Doug Blevins."

* You should then see a picture of a guy in a wheelchair. Click to watch the video and say you "like" it by clicking the "like" heart just once in the upper right hand column.

* If your vote goes through, you should see a big heart in the middle of the screen. You can then check this by looking to see if your name appears with the names of those others who have liked the video (on the right side about halfway down).

D. Condolences to:

(1) Bill Rech and family on the passing of Bill's wife Carol. Donations can be made in her memory to Bucks County SPCA:

www.bcpspc.org

(2) Vickie Ashton and family on the passing of Vickie's father. I just love this request from the family as to how best to remember him:

"In lieu of flowers, Norman would have asked that you practice random acts of kindness, especially for senior citizens. Visit a nursing home with your child or pet, visit someone who lives alone, tell your parents/grandparents you love them, and above all smile, laugh and love."

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

This week, it goes to Wes Heath--owner of Earth Start Cleaning & Grounds Maintenance in Asheville.

To date, I have not had the opportunity to use the above company . . . but I have heard very good things about it and urge you to check it out if looking for a one-stop source for complete or a la carte cleaning and grounds maintenance for your home . . . for more information, please click:

<http://earthsmartcleaning.com/>

However, the above is not why I named Wes to be this week's recipient . . . rather, it is because of all the other marvelous things that Wes does for the community.

I first got to know him when he served with me on the SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre) Board of Directors. He impressed me with both his dedication and enthusiasm for that organization.

In addition, he continues to serve on the Board of Deacons for the First Congregational United Church of Christ, and he was a member of the cast of 8 that recently gave a reading at the Diana Wortham Theatre.

Also, he serves as moderator of a group called People of Faith for Just Relationships, and he serves as a liaison with another group called the Campaign for Southern Equality. And he holds a seat on the Coalition for Equality.

I'm appreciative of the fact that Wes is a member of the Asheville community . . . and that he helps lead the battle for equality for all individuals!

Back To Top

2. FYI

If you tape TV programs on your DVR, make sure you check the option to tape "first run only" . . . most machines and companies give you that option . . . you can also probably tape "first run & reruns," but the problem with that is that some shows get rebroadcast repeatedly . . . so unless you want to watch the same show over and over again, your best bet is to follow my recommendation. If you really want to see a particular show again, all you have to do is click "save" after you watch it.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) The Greatest Show on Legs: The Naked Ballroom Dance

<http://videosift.com/video/The-Greatest-Show-On-Legs-The-Naked-Balloon-Dance>

(2) Donna G. in NJ: Dogs Welcoming Home Their Owners from Deployment

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iD3cgDRsDck&feature=you>

(3) Walter B. in NC: Some sweet [juggling] moves

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eilSVX3wHo&feature=share>

(4) Scott T. in NC: This makes me laugh [Saturday Night Live cold commercial]

<http://www.nbc.com/saturday-night-live/video/cold-commercial/1401414>

(5) Cynthia G. in NC: Cowboys herding cats

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pk7yqITMvp8>

(6) Rich O. in PA: My latest [poetry] video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02brFMLXb8Y&feature=share>

(7) Linda M. in NC: Anam Cara: Soul Friend - Little Pearls

<http://littlepearls.org/anam-cara-soul-friend/>

(8) Mark J. in NC: Haley Reinhart - Free

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1ed3bSjqSI&feature=share>

(9) Natalie K. in PA: Beautiful Irish blessing

<http://www.andiesisle.com/ThisBlessingsForYou.html>

(10) Lori in GA: Tainted Love / Where Did Our Love Go (poly gore)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srtuQU20QXA>

(11) John D. in PA: Eye of the Kittens

<http://www.b104.com/pages/bobhauer.html>

(12) Rob S. in PA: This is what I would call really flying!

<http://www.google.com/url?sa=D&q=http://www.youtube.com/v/WgdIE2t8QkM%3F>

B. Other

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Jc>

SPECIAL THANKS to all those who wrote about my standup comedy debut . . . in the unlikely event you missed it, you can still catch it by clicking:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EK9xvbAp-kg>

(1)-(13) all refer to the above, including comments from Roger C. in PA, Lorraine A. in NJ, Janeen M. in PA, Vic A. in NC, Peter R. in PA, Joe W. in NV, George F. in NC, Dan B. in PA, Craig S. in NJ, Chic D. in PA, Ruth in NY, Andy S. in PA and Pat H. in PA.

(14) Carole B. in NC: Christine is my role model for getting it done.

(15) Jeanne M. in PA. I'm enjoying the Tempo bars.

(16) Annemarie B. in NC (with a REQUEST FOR HELP)

(17) Joe H. in NC: 15 Powerful Things Happy People Do Differently

(18) Joe M. in PA: Single most popular blog post I have ever written.

(19) Kathy B. in FL (with a REQUEST FOR HELP)

[Back To Top](#)

3. JOKE 1: Timmy and his ball

Five-year-old Timmy was rushed to the hospital. He'd chased a ball into the street and was hit by a car. Fortunately, he survived but had two broken legs and other injuries as a result of the accident. Six weeks later, his discharge nurse asked, "The next time your ball rolls into the street, what will you do?"

Timmy replied, "Send my sister."

[Back To Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. MONSIEUR LAZHAR tells the story of an elementary school teacher who dies abruptly. A 55-year-old Algerian immigrant learns about the incident and gets hired by the school as a replacement. He soon finds himself in a school in crisis, and at the same time, he is going through his own personal tragedy. Mohamed Fellag is excellent in the leading role, but overall, I found the film a bit flat. I'm also not sure why it received an Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Film in 2011. Rated PG-13.

B. THIS MEANS WAR is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #811 follows:

THIS MEANS WAR is a romantic comedy about two CIA operatives who are inseparable partners and best friends; i.e., until they fall for the same woman . . . I enjoyed most of it, largely because of the appeal of the leads: Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine and especially Tom Hardy (also so good in WARRIOR) . . . only the ending left something to be desired . . . rated PG-13.

C. 30 LESSONS FOR LIVING: TRIED AND TRUE ADVICE FROM THE WISEST AMERICANS (Hudson Street Press) by Karl Pillemer is a collection of ideas that the author, the leading gerontologist at Cornell University, has put together as a result of interviews with some one thousand of America's elderly.

The result is a touching book with invaluable lessons about marriage, work and parenthood--among other topics.

I really felt like I was listening to somebody who could well have been my mother or father, advising me to:

* Never go to bed without saying "I love you." I don't care if you have to grind your teeth and say, "I love you," but you do it. You've got to do it. You never know what's going to happen during the night.

Or to do this whenever feeling a bit down:

* But if I see I'm beginning to feel bad, then I consciously start counting my blessings. And it sounds silly and simple but it works. It doesn't pay to dwell on how much something hurts. If you pay attention to how much you have got going for you, that makes a great deal of difference. But basically what I have to do is will myself to think about all the great stuff that's going in my life, and there's a lot of it. I've come to be very much at peace with myself, and it's nice.

And then there was this great tidbit on how to deal with worrying:

* My mother was kind of a worrier, and I have it too. It comes with the territory, I guess. But I have learned to prepare, to prepare for everything I worry about. Whenever I give a speech or anything, I write it out. I sometimes play the piano in my church, and I practice until I can play it perfectly. It takes the worry away. It's the same with surgery I have that's

coming up. I prepared for all the things about it- -I've talked to everybody about everything. I'm thinking I'm all set, you know? I'm in God's hands and I've got wonderful people that know their job. And I'm not going to worry, not going to waste time. If you want to maintain good health, spend your time planning instead.

What a great idea! And on the subject of planning, you won't go wrong (particularly if you are a parent or grandparent) if you get 30 LESSONS FOR LIVING and make it a point to share it with your loved ones.

D. Heard DELIVER US FROM EVIL (Hachette Audio), written by David Baldacci and read by Ron McLary.

It's a thriller about a Canadian businessman who is secretly a human trafficker involved with selling children into prostitution. But now he has expanded his operations to include arranging nuclear weapons deals with Islamic fundamentalists.

He is being sought after by two individuals from different groups, both of whom are not aware of the other's mission.

The plot is somewhat convoluted. But Baldacci manages to keep your interest, in large part because of a love story that's a key part of what happens.

My only criticism: There's a lot of violence in this book. I think it could have been toned down some and readers would have enjoyed it just as much.

***** CONTEST #10 *****

One lucky winner will receive a can of Book Darts. As to what they are:

NO PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY? Not to worry. Book Darts is one fine solution. Book Darts are precision-cut, paper-thin metal line markers that attach easily to any page. To use, place Book Dart at desired line, close book and press in. Sliding a Dart onto a passage assures you can recall it easily even in a closed book.

TO ENTER: Put "CONTEST 10" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, May 27.

[Back To Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. ADELE LIVE IN LONDON features the singer performing live from London's Royal Albert Hall, as well as being interviewed by Matt Laurer . . . Sunday at 8 p.m. on NBC.

B. Marsha O. in NJ:

Remember to watch the Season 8 of FOOD NETWORK STAR. Follow Chef Yvan Lemoine as he competes weekly to become the next Star, which would result in winning his own cooking show. Sundays at 9 p.m. on FOOD NETWORK.

To read more about Yvan, please click:

<http://blog.foodnetwork.com/star-talk/2012/04/27/star-a-day-yvan-lemoine/#more-2623>

C. Nicole Kidman and Clive Owen star in HEMMINGWAY & GELLHORN, a docudrama about the love story between Martha Gellhorn and Ernest "Papa" Hemmingway . . . [This is "a sprawling (at 160 minutes) docudrama about glamorous world adventurers whose weapons are words," notes THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. "The star power is formidable as the pungent script makes explicit their passion for each other." Monday, 5.28 at 9 p.m. on HBO.

D. Kevin Costner and Bill Paxton play rabble-rousing rival patriarchs in HATFIELDS & MCCOYS, an epic miniseries beginning on Monday, 5.28 at 9 p.m. and running through Wednesday, 5.30 on HISTORY . . . according to TV GUIDE, "This star-laden production recalls the historical classical miniseries . . . the channel may have hit pay dirt with a gritty project that feels like the real McCoy."

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: Checkup results

A woman accompanied her husband to the doctor's office. After his checkup, the doctor called his wife aside and told her, "Your husband is suffering from a very severe disease, combined with horrible stress. If you don't do the following, your husband will surely die.

"Each morning, fix him a healthy breakfast. Be pleasant and make sure he is in a good mood. For lunch, make him a nutritious meal. For dinner, prepare an especially nice meal for him. Don't burden him with chores, as he probably had a hard day. Don't discuss your problems with him; it will only make his stress worse. And most importantly, make love to him several times a week and satisfy his every sexual whim. If you can do this for the next ten months to a year, I think your husband will regain his health completely."

On the way home, the husband asked his wife, "What did the doctor say?"

"You're gonna die," she replied.

[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Great advice for dealing with virtually any problem . . . Bob Newhart: Stop It
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ow0lr63y4Mw>

B. Little Boy Shocks a Guitar Store Owner with his Incredible Voice
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSocO8zF1ho>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

If you've never seen my list of favorite films, go to "Blaine's Best" on the left and then click "Favorite Films." Methinks you'll enjoy many of these!

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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

[Back To Top](#)

8. Computer tip

If you change your email address, please do let your friends know the new address . . . and make sure you let me know, too, so you can continue receiving BLAINESWORLD . . . but when you do, make sure you also include your old email address so that others can easily remove it from their address book . . . I'll often get a "change of email" form from somebody, but have no idea of who it is from.

[Back To Top](#)

9. JOKE 3: Two requests

An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and told her preacher she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over Walmart.

"Walmart!" the preacher exclaimed. "Why Walmart?"

"Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week."

[Back To Top](#)

10. A quote I like

GREAT QUESTION: How can I exceed your expectations today? . . . just imagine if we asked all customers, clients & others that when they called or saw us . . . it's what you get when you call 888.918.2253, which is the number for a company called Massage Warehouse in Bolingbrook, IL

[Back To Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

Ever since I saw Mayim Bialik play a young Bette Midler in BEACHES, I've always been a big fan--first in BLOSSOM and now in THE BIG BANG THEORY . . . what's most amazing is that when not acting, she earned a Ph.D. from UCLA and has found the time to be a mother of two boys.

She has also written a book, BEYOND THE SLING: A REAL-LIFE GUIDE TO RAISING CONFIDENT, LOVING CHILDREN THE ATTACHMENT PARENTING WAY that has gotten a lot of attention--both good and bad . . . Bialik has been able to handle most of this; however, some of it (particularly what has appeared in social media) has gotten to her. Consequently, she blogged the following entry that I thought you'd find of interest:

Taking a Major Break from Facebook So I Don't Have a Major Breakdown

To read it, and I encourage you to do so, please click:

<http://www.kveller.com/mayim-bialik/taking-a-major-break-from-facebook-so-i-dont-have-a-major-breakdown/>

Back To Top

12. Advance planning department

A. North Carolina events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Je>

- (1) Catherine F. in NC: 2012 Strive Not to Drive Challenge
- (2) TBX3 Community Arts Space Fundraiser Show!
- (3) SPRING AWAKENING!
- (4) a SPECIAL FUNDRAISING and ENTERTAINMENT EVENT for Gabriel's Gift Foundation

B. Pennsylvania/New Jersey events

To read about each of the following events in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Jg>

- (1) 24 Annual Tyler Tasting Party
- (2) Amazing comedians at Comedy Cabaret

Back To Top

PS. Make it a great week. And remember: Thanksgiving is a day when we pause to give thanks for the things we have. Memorial Day is the day when we pause to give thanks to the people who fought for the things we have. So as you do the latter, please listen to the following song that my friend Jim Rooney wrote and performed as a tribute to all those who serve our country:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eW5PsD15ipY&list=UU0FJz6aBDiGxZw1SyDesW0A&index=1&feature=plcp)

[v=eW5PsD15ipY&list=UU0FJz6aBDiGxZw1SyDesW0A&index=1&feature=plcp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eW5PsD15ipY&list=UU0FJz6aBDiGxZw1SyDesW0A&index=1&feature=plcp)

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#816
5.13.2012

In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: My father, the magician**
 4. **Reviews . . . THE KID WITH A BIKE, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Not easy**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Stupid resume tricks, part 2 of 2**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a blast on Saturday night . . . we first met a bunch of friends for dinner at our favorite Italian restaurant, Vinnie's.



We then went to the Grotto, located in the Highsmith Union at UNCA, for my comedy debut . . . this was the culmination of a standup comedy course I took at the Center for Creative Retirement . . . pictured are my classmates (I'm second from the right).



For those who missed the actual performance, you can now view it here by clicking:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EK9xvbAp-kg>

Special thanks to Theresa Phillips with Legacy Films for taping the above and, also, to Ryan Phillips--also with Legacy--for putting my segment on YouTube . . . for more information

about this fine company, please click:
<http://www.ourlegacyfilms.com/>

Afterward, I even received my very own Stand-Up diploma.



And got to share laughs with some of those who were nice enough to attend--and not throw tomatoes.

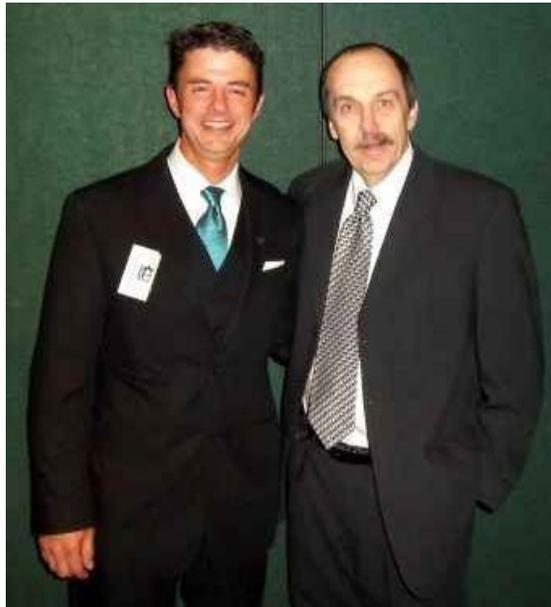


(l-r) Judy Blumlo, Cynthia, Blaine, Dave Blumlo

B. We also saw *IN THE NEXT ROOM, OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY* at N.C. Stage Company . . . it's a funny but also surprisingly moving play about the real history of the vibrator, which was introduced in the 19th century as a medical appliance to treat women diagnosed with "hysteria" . . . kudos to the two leading performers, Julia Vander Veen and Willie Repoley, for their outstanding work . . . but I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the others in the cast, Kathryn Temple, Kelly Hinman, Veanna Black and Jenny Hubbard, because they shined as well . . . Angie Flynn-McIver's direction brought everything together . . . and, lastly, both the set and the costumes were spot-on.

YOU'RE IN LUCK: This show runs through June 10 . . . for more information, please click:
<http://www.ncstage.org/>

C. During the week, I attended the Biltmore Beacon's 40 Under 40 Inaugural Gala at the Grove Park Inn . . . I was proud to have nominated two of the winners, Michael Phelan (pictured below with me) and Lyle Johnson.



They are both outstanding individuals and deserving of the recognition for all the fine work they do in the community.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to:

(1) Rich Orth, recently featured on the Angel's Asylum show . . . to catch it, please click:
<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/angelsasylum/2012/05/05/angels-asylum>

(2) Asheville, which recently tied with Grand Rapids, MI, to share the 2012 Beer City USA title . . . in the 2009 poll, Asheville tied with Portland, Ore., then won outright in 2010 and 2011 . . . for more details, please click:
<http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20120515/ENT/305150012/Asheville-Grand-Rapids-tie-1st-Beer-City-vote?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Frontpage|p>

(3) To the 20 winners of Contest #9: (NJ) Karen M., June Z., Donna G, Carole S., Molly K., MaryEllen M. (NC) Lorre D., Steven T., Traci M., Monica H. (PA) Chris F., Debbie G., Jeanne M., Eileen Z., Terri S., Nancy D. , Maria P., Walter W. (IN) Lori B. (AZ) Marilyn E.

They each won a copy of the book, FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS . . . all told, there were 20 entries, so that means all who entered won!

And that reminds me, it is now time to introduce the next contest . . .

***** CONTEST #10 *****

One lucky winner will receive a can of Book Darts. As to what they are:

NO PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY? Not to worry. Book Darts is one fine solution. Book Darts are precision-cut, paper-thin metal line markers that attach easily to any page. To use, place Book Dart at desired line, close book and press in. Sliding a Dart onto a passage assures you can recall it easily even in a closed book.

TO ENTER: Put "CONTEST 10" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, May 27.

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

This week, it goes to Anna Marie Ciaramella--a claims supervisor with Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey.

She has helped us attempt to resolve a series of problems we have had with the submission of our claims that date back several years.

It seems that we have gotten different advice, repeatedly, with respect to sending our claims. One time, we'll be told to send them to North Carolina; another time, we'll be told to send them to New Jersey. Then, regardless of where they get sent, they are often returned . . . and we're told that we sent them to the wrong state.

In addition, we've had other problems with respect to how the claims were coded. The

problem was not on our end; rather, it was caused by whoever processed them.

Ms. Ciaramella has been working with us for the past several months. She has managed to resolve most of our problems.

But what really has blown me away with her performance is the fact that she has kept us abreast of what is happening every step of the way. She has often called us just to update us, and she has made herself available if we should have any future difficulties.

Blue Cross Blue Shield should be proud to have such a fine employee!

Back To Top

2. FYI

7 tips for savings on rental cards

Hitting the road this summer? Better get booking.

As the busy summer car-rental season begins, prices are expected to climb. "In early June through the end of August, these rates will spike," said Neil Abrams, president of Abrams Consulting Group, which tracks the car rental industry. Last July, for example, the average rate for a weekly airport rental of a compact car booked seven days ahead was \$369.62, or 56 percent more than the \$236.73 charged in March, according to the Abrams Travel Data Index. Here are some tips to keep costs down.

For the rest of this informative article from THE NEW YORK TIMES, please click:
<http://travel.nytimes.com/2012/05/20/travel/7-tips-for-saving-on-rental-cars.html?emc=eta1>

MY TWO CENTS: Priceline.com is my favorite website for saving money when renting cars (hotel rooms, too) . . . I typically save between 50-60% of what I would pay had I accepted the published rates.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) Maya V. in PA: Delaware Riverkeeper video Pennsylvania gas pipeline wetlands damage
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1krjsiZQPY&feature=share>

(2) Tim G. in WV: Vintage rollerblading
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjtPn4orR9A>

(3) Funny Prayer about Getting Old at the Caregiver of the Year Dinner
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=vPFCn3itBFE#!

(4) Chris S. in PA: 40 Inspirational Speeches in 2 Minutes
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=d6wRkzCW5qI

(5) The 100 Greatest Movie Insults of All Time (WARNING: Language here may be considered offensive to some.)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSEYXWmEse8&feature=related>

(6) United Breaks Guitars
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YGc4zOqozo>

(7) Chuck L. in PA: Google's prototype glasses
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9c6W4CCU9M4&list=plcp>

(8) Sharon C. in NC: 2012 World HK Dragon Dance & Lion Dance Championship
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxxeCY0lyFE&feature=youtu.be>

(9) Office/Library Makeover Revealed by Interiors by Donna Hoffman
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e36AxQloEWk&feature=youtu.be>

(10) Mark J. in NC: Colm Wilkinson On-Set of the Les Misérables Movie
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrKgcBa24TY>

(11) Funny prank (using your friend's cellphone)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60IV0XNCnnY>

(12) Dancing couple
<http://sorisomail.com/email/74298/como-se-danca-o-merengue.html>

(13) The original stroll
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrGLNtZ0rEg>

B. Other

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Ig>

- (1) THANKS to the many folks who wished me luck. (Read list for more details.)
- (2) Ted R. in NC: Sports & energy drinks damage teeth.
- (3) Rebecca K. in NJ: Look up Matt Tommey.
- (4) Keith C. and Walter B., both in NC with a REQUEST FOR HELP
- (5) Free opportunity to hear Micah Solomon speak on customer service
- (6) Marty S. in TX: Self-driving car
- (7) Maria P. in PA, commenting on a joke in BLAINESWORLD #814
- (8) Rich O. in PA, reading one of his poems

Back To Top

3. JOKE 1: My father, the magician

What does your father do for a living?

He is a magician. He cuts people in two.

Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Yes, one half-brother and one half-sister . . .

THERE'S MORE: I sent this to Tom Hughes, my favorite magician, and he had this to say:

My Dad was a magician too . . . he used to walk down the street and turn into a bar!

Should you want to find out more about Tom or to book him for your next event, please click:

<http://themagictomshow.com/blog/>

Back To Top

4. Reviews

A. THE KID WITH A BIKE won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival . . . it's a heart-wrenching tale of a boy who is abandoned by his father and left in a state-run youth farm . . . a kind hairdresser decides to foster him, and she soon finds that the task is not an easy one . . . the acting is superb . . . rated PG-13.

B. ONE FOR THE MONEY is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #804 follows:

ONE FOR THE MONEY, based on a book with the same title by Janet Evanovich, is a film that got terrible reviews . . . yet I wanted to see it because I had read and enjoyed the author's tale of the sassy Jersey girl who gets a job working for her cousin's bail bonding company . . . and I'm glad I did because I had a fun time, in large part because of Katherine Heigl's performance in the leading role . . . most of those in the audience seemed to like it, too . . . there's nothing particularly deep here, but if you are in the mood for something mildly diverting, give ONE FOR THE MONEY a shot . . . my only disappointment: it is supposed to be set in Trenton, NJ (a town I've spent a lot of time in), but you wouldn't know it unless I told you . . . rated PG-13.

C. If a book has a provocative title, I'm usually drawn to it . . . such was the case with THE OLD RULES OF MARKETING ARE DEAD (McGraw-Hill) by Timothy R. Pearson.

The subtitle intrigued me even further: 6 NEW RULES TO REINVENT YOUR BRAND & REIGNITE YOUR BUSINESS . . . it really had me wondering how to accomplish this task.

Fortunately for me, the author did an excellent job in showing how this could be done--largely as a result of using many real companies to demonstrate his points:

* Take, for example, FedEx. At its core, the company is perhaps the best logistical operation in the world. However, its brand promise is summed up in its original advertising campaign slogan: "Absolutely, positively overnight." All of its employees were expected to keep this promise, and it became the differentiator between FedEx and its then only global competitor, the United States Postal Service.

I also liked how Pearson showed what happens when companies did not do a particularly good job of marketing:

* In 2005 to 2006, under a new chief marketing officer, Wal-Mart had a very brief flirtation with designer branding and positioning as a higher-end retailer, directly competing with Target. It advertised in Vogue and other fashion magazines and offered trendy clothing aimed at a younger demographic.

And it tanked completely.

Lastly, THE OLD RULES OF MARKETING gives many specific suggestions as to how to do things differently in a variety of situations:

* The surest way to ensure long-term value from a celebrity spokesperson is to invent one. Advertising agency giant Leo Burnett pioneered this approach with Tony the Tiger, the Jolly Green Giant, and the Pillsbury Doughboy. Budweiser made hay with frogs and a lizard a few years back, and the roly-poly Michelin Man recently made a comeback (slimmed down for a more health-conscious culture).

Geico has done a masterful job making a little green gecko and big hairy cavemen famous. Since they're not real people, the risk of them doing something illegal, immoral, or embarrassing is nil, and the company can evolve their roles and storyline over time."

If you're involved in any aspect of marketing for your company or organization, get hold of this book--then start applying its many useful ideas!

D. Heard Gail Kasper's MAKE A DECISION TO WIN (Hachette Audio), a thought-provoking series of ideas to enhance communication skills, deal with time management issues, increase motivation and improve goal-setting skills.

Though I've heard much of what she had to say previously, I nevertheless found it helpful to listen to it again . . . doing so enabled me to revisit such tidbits as the following:

* You need a strategy in life vs. just winging it. For example, lawyers, doctors, etc. have such a strategy.

* You have to have the willingness to humiliate yourself if you're going for a dream. It comes with the territory.

* Have one day planning system for both personal and professional use, so your tasks don't overlap.

* Limit task work to 90 minutes blocks of time. Multitask days are more productive.

* Keep 20-30% of your schedule free.

* If you want to own a restaurant, get a part-time job in one and see if it's right for you.

The last part of MAKE A DECISION TO WIN was perhaps its most valuable; i.e., a 21-day reinforcement program to build positive habits. This will prove helpful to anybody who attempts it.

Back To Top

5. TV alert

A. AMERICA'S GOT TALENT returns on Mondays at 8 p.m. on NBC . . . I don't think I will miss the departure of Piers Morgan as one of the judges, but I'll be curious how Howard Stern does as his replacement.

B. THE PITCH airs on Mondays at 10 p.m. on AMC. To quote from the show's website: Each week watch two agencies as they compete to win a new client the only way they can: by going head-to-head in a cut-throat, winner-takes-all showdown, a presentation known as The Pitch. With only seven days to prepare, the pressure to perform is intense. The whining, the brainstorming, the blue-sky thinking: it's all here as the teams work around the clock and pray for the moment of inspiration that will win them the job and keep their companies alive.

C. WHITE HEAT can be seen Wednesdays at 10 p.m. on BBC AMERICA. To quote THE WALL STREET JOURNAL: A few words more . . . words of praise for this elegantly plotted and suspenseful six-part series whose first installment began Wednesday. The drama concerns seven university friends who first meet when they share a flat owned by Jack (Sam Claflin), a distinctly unpleasant specimen of 1960s radicalism. . . . The series, which chronicles the lives of the friends for decades, boasts an exceptionally

skillful script by the show's creator, Paula Milne; highly distinctive characters; a distinguished cast; and a story that maintains its power to the end. All of which adds up to a drama series well worth catching up with.

D. GENTLEMAN JIM stars Errol Flynn in the biographical drama about the life of James J. Corbett, the boxer who challenges the heavyweight champion John L. Sullivan . . . Flynn shows off his boxing skills and is outstanding, and so is Ward Bond as Sullivan . . . Sunday at 6:15 a.m. on TCM.

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: Not easy

A guy was on trial for murder and if convicted, would get the electric chair. His brother found out that a redneck was on the jury and figured he would be the one to bribe. He told the redneck that he would be paid \$10,000 if he could convince the rest of the jury to reduce the charge to manslaughter.

The jury was out an entire week and returned with a verdict of manslaughter.

After the trial, the brother went to the redneck's house, told him what a great job he had done and paid him the \$10,000.

The redneck replied that it wasn't easy to convince the rest of the jury to change the charge to manslaughter. They all thought he was not guilty and, wanted to let him go.

[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Barbara F. in PA: THIS IS AWESOME . . . I PROMISE!!!

Be sure to wait the 30 seconds!

This is really neat!

After you type your first name, a card comes up with Sorry Sorry Sorry on it. Just wait about 30 seconds. The words will turn white, then . . . trust me, you'll love it. Amazing what people are doing with computers today. Turn up the Sound!

NOTE: It works best with female names.

<http://obtampons.ca/apology>

B. Marilynne H. in NC: Web Site Story

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtPb8g8Jl6I>

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

In addition to the YouTube clip in Section 1A, I've also been "featured" in two others . . . to see them for yourselves, click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Video Clips."

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

[Back To Top](#)

8. Computer tip

Carol S. in PA: How do you set up filters to send different people these articles of interest related to their field?

ANSWER: I don't necessarily set up filters for this type stuff.

What I tend to do:

Read something (I tend to read a lot).

If I think it would be of interest--e.g., to folks who teach foreign languages or who are interested in that topic--I copy and paste it . . . and put it into a blank email.

I then mail to those folks in my address book who have been grouped together under a particular topic--in this case, foreign languages.

Back To Top

9. JOKE 3: Stupid resume tricks, Part 2 of 2

(Concluded from last week.)

Excellent memory; strong math aptitude; excellent memory; effective management skills; and very good at math.

I worked as a Corporate Lesion.

Married, eight children. Prefer frequent travel.

Special skills: Thyping.

My ruthlessness terrorized the competition and can sometimes offend.

Objective: I want a base salary of \$50-\$60,000 dollars, not including bonus. And some decent benefits. Like a retirement plan, health insurance, personal or sick days.

Education: Graduated from predatory school with honors.

Never been fired, although it could happen anytime now.

Previous rank: Senior instigator.

I have recently sold my home and I now live in a large RV so I will be able to relocate quickly.

Reason for leaving: They stopped paying me.

Personal achievements: Successfully played "Chop Sticks" on a toy piano with my big toes.

Back To Top

10. A quote I like

I'm an actor.--Morgan Freeman (born 1937), American actor, film director and narrator who won an Academy Award in 2005 for his performance in MILLION DOLLAR BABY

For the rest of the story: Unemployed and searching for jobs as a clerk or a typist, Morgan Freeman says he was frustrated that he couldn't look for acting work. Watch as Morgan talks about going into the unemployment supervisor's office to declare that he was an actor—and the supervisor's surprising response.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFL9x5qkINc>

Back To Top

11. Thought for the day

Do you think it is a good idea to invest in Facebook? For one perspective, I thought you'd like to hear what my investment gurus, Ed Kohlhepp and Ed Kohlhepp, Jr., had to say:

FACEBOOK: An IPO to Post Home About
May 15, 2012

Later this week, investors will have the opportunity to pay between \$28 to \$35 a share to own a piece of the addictive social networking service. People everywhere are clamoring to get at least a few of the 337.5 million shares that will be offered by Morgan Stanley and 30 other underwriters.

For the rest of this informative piece, please click:

<http://www.kohlheppadvisors.com/pages/kohlheppUpdate.aspx?LinkID=116690&spid=94786>

For a slightly different take, I thought you'd like to read this take by Andy Borowitz (my favorite humor columnist):

A letter from Mark Zuckenber

Dear Potential Investor:

For years, you've wasted your time on Facebook. Now here's your chance to waste your

money on it, too.

To read the rest, please click:

<http://www.borowitzreport.com/2012/05/17/a-letter-from-mark-zuckerberg/>

Back To Top

12. Advance planning department A. Stuff involving the Greenfields

(1) Journey Dance: Move your Body

Join instructor Cynthia Greenfield in a freeing movement experience. The class will include stress-melting stretches, visualization, and soft fluid movements. All genders and body types. No dance experience required.

Thursday, May 24, 6:30 p.m.

JCC members: \$5

Community rate: \$8

Advance registration is required
Contact Rochelle at rochelle@jcc-asheviller.org

Location: Jewish Community Center, 236 Charlotte Street Asheville

(2) Doug Blevins, my SCORE client, has taken over first place in the Spirit at Work Creative Video contest . . . if you haven't yet voted, please do so by following these instructions:

* Please open a FREE Vimeo account--by clicking the link below. (If you already have an account, go directly to Step #3.) <http://vimeo.com/join>

* You'll be welcomed into Vimeo. Close that screen.

* At the next screen, go to the top right (search box) and type-in "Doug Blevins."

* You should then see a picture of a guy in a wheelchair. Click to watch the video and say you "like" it by clicking the "like" heart just once in the upper right hand column.

* If your vote goes through, you should see a big heart in the middle of the screen. You can then check this by looking to see if your name appears with the names of those others who have liked the video (on the right side about halfway down).

(3) SART opens its season on June 7. For more information, please click: www.sartplays.org

You can now get individual or group sale tickets by calling the Box Office at 828.689.1239.

***** SPECIAL OFFER REMAINS *****

If your non-profit group, organization, church or synagogue is still looking for a fun-raiser that can easily help you raise \$3,500 or more, have them attend one of the invited dress rehearsals of this upcoming season. If interested, please contact me at: bgjinbc@aol.com and put SART FUN-RAISER in subject line.

B. North Carolina events

To read each of the following events in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-li>

- (1) Love Among the Frankensteins by Steven Samuels at Magnetic Field
- (2) Beginning Argentine Tango Workshop this Saturday, May 19th at Noon
- (3) Local Lupus Benefit Party on May 19, 2012 at 9 p.m.
- (4) "Mars Hill Open House" day to be held on June 2, 2012
- (5) Forty Fingers & A Missing Tooth presents . . . The Temps
- (6) HART presents THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES

C. Pennsylvania/New Jersey event

To read the following event in full, please click"
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-lk>

- (1) Phillyfit Bash on May 20

Back To Top

PS. Make it a great week!

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#815
5.7.2012

In this issue:

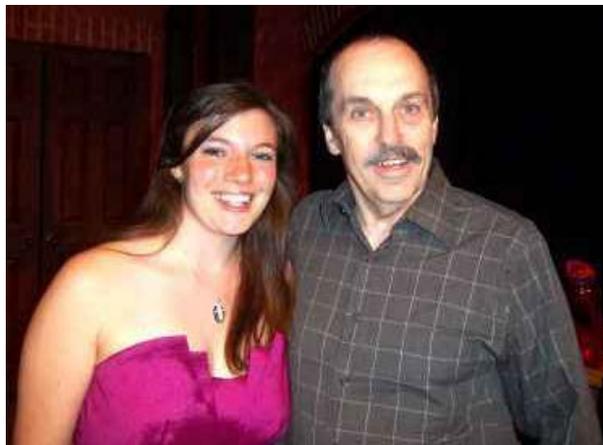
1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Shakeup time**
 4. **Reviews . . . THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Advice for an old guy**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Stupid resume tricks, Part 1 of 2**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I both had a hectic week--but mostly we were doing separate things . . . she was going for training in lomilomi massage, and I was doing my usual thing with respect to volunteer work in the community . . . also, I:

(1) Went to the Awards Night of the Mars Hill College Theatre Arts Department . . . I got to see several entertaining musical numbers, including "We Beseech Thee" from GODSPELL:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LyUnpOSWj8k&feature=youtube_gdata_player

In addition, I got to congratulate several of my favorite student performers including Brittany Hazeldine.



And Mary Elise Jones (pictured with her mother Valerie).



Others recognized included Heather Bronson, Justin Gaylard, Josh Miller, Chandler Smith, Michele Hendrickson, Sarah Richardson and Josh Stein.

(2) Went with my friend Chuck to see Joel Rooks in a fantastic one-man performance as George Burns in the Flat Rock Playhouse production of SAY GOODNIGHT, GRACIE.

(3) And saw my friend Gary Gaines do an equally fantastic job in the Different Strokes' production of A LESSON BEFORE DYING.



Kudos to the entire rest of the cast, too, as well as to the co-directors, Steph Hickling Beckman and Scott Bean . . . fortunately, you can still catch this moving drama through May 13 . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.differentstrokesavl.com/>

B. Some folks never make it past the first few sections of this newsletter, and that's a shame because there's often a lot of good stuff that can be found elsewhere . . . just to make sure you don't miss two events that will be happening in the near future, I am running them here . . . if you live anywhere near Western North Carolina, feel free to join me at either and/or both . . . if you live further away, that's why they invented . . . planes, cars, buses and bikes!

(1) In the unlikely event you haven't yet heard about my upcoming comedy debut . . .



The College for Seniors *Performing Stand-Up Comedy* class is proudly presenting our "graduation" performance.

Scheduled at The Grotto in the Highsmith Union on

campus on Saturday, May 12, 2012.

Doors open at 7 p.m.; showtime is 7:30 p.m. Join instructor Randy Robins and the mirthful troupe of inveterate comics, as they make what for most is their stand-up debut. Admission is free, parking is ample, and your presence can only enhance what promises to be a fun time for all.

Please remember: This is my first stand-up appearance, so be gentle! And keep in mind these words from Norman Cousins: Hearty laughter is a good way to jog internally without having to go outdoors.

***** SPECIAL REQUEST *****

Just so I have a ballpark idea of how many folks will be coming, please send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put "May 12" in the subject line. Also, if you'd like to meet Cynthia and me for dinner beforehand at Vinnie's, let me know that too.

(2) Preview SART's upcoming season for FREE on Friday, May 18

Time: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Location: Reuter Center (Manheimer Room) on the UNCA campus. For directions and/or a campus map, please click: <http://www.unca.edu/maps>.

Come to the Reuter Center Fab Friday series. Enjoy a stimulating presentation & dynamic question/answer session over the lunch period. It's a BYOL event; i.e., bring your own lunch.

SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre), located in nearby Mars Hill, is dedicated to presenting theatre of the highest professional quality, thereby enriching the Southern Appalachian region through artistic programming, education, and outreach. Come hear from Bill Gregg, the company's producing artistic director, as he previews the plays for the group's 38th season that begins June 7 and includes *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; *Harvey*; *The Light in the Piazza*; *Sweet Water Taste*; and *Sylvia*.

SPECIAL BONUS: You'll even get to hear musical numbers from *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* and *Light in the Piazza*.

Also, learn about ScriptFEST--SART's annual playwrights' competition, now in its 31st year. Find out how you might participate in that program. In addition, you'll be given information about the November 2-4 Conference, at which time you will see readings of this year's new play finalists, performed by professional actors and theatre arts students. This Conference is free and open to the public.

C. CONGRATULATIONS to:

(1) Honey Woloff on the birth of Lucy Mae, her first niece and also, to Honey's mom (Randi Woloff) on becoming a grandmother for the first time.

(2) Terry Van Duyn on winning the primary in the race for Buncombe County Board Commissioner.

(3) David Gantt on winning the primary in the race for Chair, Buncombe County Board of Commissioners.

(4) Doug Blevins who has taken over first place in the Spirit at Work Creative Video contest . . . if you haven't yet voted, please do so by following these instructions:

* Please open a FREE Vimeo account--by clicking the link below. (If you already have an account, go directly to Step #3.)
<http://vimeo.com/join>

* You'll be welcomed into Vimeo. Close that screen.

* At the next screen, go to the top right (search box) and type-in "Doug Blevins."

* You should then see a picture of a guy in a wheelchair. Click to watch the video and say you "like" it by clicking the "like" heart just once in the upper right hand column.

* If your vote goes through, you should see a big heart in the middle of the screen. You can

then check this by looking to see if your name appears with the names of those others who have liked the video (on the right side about halfway down).

D. Nancy D. in PA recently emailed me a good question: Just curious--How do you actually select the winner of each contest? Do you do it the old fashioned way and just put all the names in a hat and draw one out?

ANSWER: Typically, I wait to see how many total entries there are . . . I put each one on a slip of paper, then put them all into a large interoffice envelope . . . depending on how many prizes there are, I pull the appropriate number of slips . . . that said, there's a slight change in procedure for the current contest; i.e., winners are determined on how quickly they submit their names . . . for more information, see below.

***** CONTEST 9 *****

As a result of my being chosen to participate in World Book Night U.S., I am pleased to be able to announce a contest that will feature 25 winners (to the first 25 entries) . . . the prize is a copy of the national bestseller FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS by H. G. Bissinger. SPORTS ILLUSTRATED rates it as one of the Top 5 Sports Books of all time.

This is a great book for football fans obviously, but it has appeal for others too . . . so even if you're not personally interested in it, submit an entry so you could win a copy for your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews . . . notes the LIBRARY JOURNAL:

In 1988, Bissinger, a Pulitzer Prize-winning Philadelphia Inquirer editor, left his job to spend a year with a high school sports team. The sport he picked was football, the location, the depressed West Texas oil town of Odessa, called by Larry McMurtry "the worst town on earth." Here 20,000 fans turn out regularly to watch their Permian Panthers win. Here there is no high-blown talk of playing the game well; just the raw need to win at all costs. In this atmosphere, players vomit from nervousness before each game and often play with injuries. On the few occasions when the team suffers a loss, the coach's front lawn sprouts "For Sale" signs. Bissinger makes you feel the tensions of the kids, who are not just playing a game, but literally fighting for the honor of their town. He also accomplishes the more difficult feat of making the team's rabid fans sympathetic. His language sometimes verges on the overblown, but it does echo the mythical proportions of the game and a season that will render the rest of the players' lives a dull denouement. Fascinating even for those, or maybe especially for those, with no interest in football.

TO ENTER: Put "CONTEST 9" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, May 13.

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

This week it goes to John and Barbara Schnautz--both longtime counselors with Asheville SCORE.

They have also been past presidents of the chapter . . . but what I find particularly amazing is that unlike many other past officers in an organization, these two individuals just didn't step down and fade into the woodwork.

Rather, they have continued to attend meetings . . . and, also, they've taken on such important tasks as scheduling appointments (John) and serving as office manager (Barbara). In addition, John is active on the state level of SCORE.

They have also thrown great parties for the group at their beautiful home . . . and they have mentored me with respect to my SCORE involvement, and I shall always be grateful to them for that fact.

[Back To Top](#)

2. FYI

(If you live in North Carolina, please do the following. Others can feel free to skip to Section 3; i.e., unless they wish to see what's happening to the arts in this state, which is probably and unfortunately similar to what's happening where you live, too.)

NC Arts Council slated for cuts--immediate action required!

We believe that substantial cuts to the North Carolina Arts Council are being considered in the House budget deliberations, including the reduction of 6 positions at the North Carolina Arts Council. While no formal vote has been taken, it is imperative that we speak for the arts before votes are taken. Please act no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, May 14.

Everyone should respond by email or phone (leave a message) to the seven Legislators

named below. Your message should be:

The North Carolina Arts Council has previously suffered a 15% cut in personnel and grants. Any further reductions in the 2012-13 budget would be disproportionate and unacceptable. Cuts to the North Carolina Arts Council impact every county and strike at the heart of arts driven economic development.

This is all you need to say, but you need to say it. Take Action Now! A ground swell of communication is absolutely critical if we are to ensure sustained funding and operations of the North Carolina Arts Council.

For the complete list of legislators and their contact information, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-I3>

FYI, part 2
A. Clips

(1) Donna S. in AL: Neil Diamond - I Am, I Said
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCcaP5z4xbg&feature=share>

(2) Andy S. in PA: Mr. Rubber-Face doing some impressions
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEsLrWsgl0o>

(3) Chris S. in PA: 40 Inspirational Speeches in 2 Minutes
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=d6wRkzCW5ql

(4) Marie V. in NJ: Donovan -The Very Best Of
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enWAlMvjtlc&feature=share>

(5) A DRAMATIC SURPRISE ON A QUIET SQUARE
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=316AzLYfAzw&feature=player_embedded

(6) Dan B. in PA: The allure of an older guy in a convertible
<http://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/ltXKGyO6cRA?rel=0>

(7) Rob S. in PA: What a wonderful words with David Attenborough
http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=auSo1MyWf8g

B. Other

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-HF>

(1) PA: George B, Steve S., Pat H., Marty D

(2) MA: Declan S.

Back To Top

3. JOKE 1: Shakeup time

A company, feeling it was time for a shakeup, hires a new CEO. This new boss is determined to rid the company of all slackers.

On a tour of the facilities, the CEO notices a guy leaning on a wall. The room is full of workers, and he wants to let them know he means business!

The CEO walks up to the guy and asks, "And how much money do you make a week?"

Undaunted, the young fellow looks at him and replies, "I make \$300.00 a week. Why?"

The CEO then hands the guy \$300 in cash and screams, "Here's a week's pay, now GET OUT and don't come back!"

Feeling pretty good about his first firing, the CEO looks around the room and asks "Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-off did here?"

With a sheepish grin, one of the other workers mutters, "Pizza delivery guy from Domino's."

Back To Top

4. Reviews

A. THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT is a romantic comedy about a couple who keep getting tripped up on the long walk down the aisle . . . it was too long and also somewhat ruined by the fact that all the best scenes were shown in movie trailers I've been seeing for the past

month . . . I did like the chemistry between Jason Segel and Emily Blunt, and the ending was also quite good . . . Rhys Ifan, ordinarily very funny, is virtually wasted in this film . . . rated R.

B. JOYFUL NOISE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #799 follows:

JOYFUL NOISE is a musical dramedy that didn't get great reviews, but that's enjoyed by most in the audience--including me . . . the story involves a church choir in a small town in Georgia that's going to compete in a national gospel choir competition . . . there are battles between Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton along the way, as well as a romance between Jeremy Jordan and Keke Palmer (who originally caught my eye five years ago in an outstanding film called AKEELAH AND THE BEE) . . . the musical numbers were lively, though I'm not so sure that they could really be considered gospel . . . rated PG-13.

C. THE LONG SNAPPER (HarperOne) by Jeffrey Marx is the improbable true story of Brian Kinchen, a 38-year-old father of four and seventh-grade Bible teacher whose professional football career had been over for three years. Or so he thought.

Then, one day out of nowhere, he received the call of a lifetime from the New England Patriots . . . their regular long snapper was injured, and he was being asked to fill-in for the remainder of the 2003 season and the playoffs.

I got caught up in Kinchen's story right from the beginning . . . the author, a Pulitzer Prize-winner for another book I loved, SEASON OF LIFE, had me pulling for this snapper that I didn't even remember from when he played. My lack of recollection apparently wasn't uncommon:

* All of a sudden, everyone was talking about the importance of long snappers. One of the best lines came from Hall of Fame kicker Jan Stenerud, who tried to put into perspective the general indifference toward a snapper until something goes wrong. "It's like a bad intersection," he said. "Most times, there is no stoplight until there's an accident."

As the games progressed deeper into the playoffs, it almost seemed like I was getting more and more into the snapper's head:

* Approaching the line of scrimmage, Brian told himself: I'll remember this moment for the rest of my life. This will define my career. So much for being able to block out everything but this mantra of relaxing and releasing. Making things even worse, his mind then took an abrupt dive to a terribly negative pairing of images: He thought of Trey Junkin throwing the bad snap that cost the New York Giants a playoff game the year before. And he briefly contemplated the ugly, painful concept of throwing the ball over Walter's head. With so much at stake, such a blunder would be dramatically worse even than the Junkin fiasco that had generated so much media attention and had caused so much anguish for the man and his family.

I won't ruin the ending if you don't recall the story; however, this paragraph in the last chapter made me realize that Kinchen had his priorities straight:

* A highlight video offered glimpses of Brian playing tight end and scoring touchdowns in collegiate and NFL games long gone. Family, friends, and former teammates took turns sharing lighthearted jabs and poignant memories. The most intriguing statement of the evening came from the honoree himself. "The success-oriented part of my life is over," Brian said. "Now it's time to move on to significance."

If you're a football fan, read THE LONG SNAPPER . . . non-fans will find it inspiring, too.

D. Heard THE LAST HERO: A LIFE OF HENRY AARON (Random House Audio), written by Howard Bryant and narrated by Dominic Hoffman.

Aaron never quite achieved the fame of two of his contemporaries, Willie Mays and Mickey Mantle, probably because he never played in the major markets that these two great players did . . . yet when you look at Aaron's statistics, they were every bit as good as those of Mays and Mantle.

The author truly made his story come alive . . . reading it made his ballpaying days as a youngster in Mobile, Alabama seem like I was there:

* Henry Aaron set out to be a professional baseball player, having hardly been an amateur one. At Central High, he had dabbled in football, and once, either in 1947 or 1948, he played a regular-season game against Fairfield High and its sensational running back, Willie Mays. Central, however, had no baseball team, and Henry would not play football with great enthusiasm, for fear an injury would ruin his baseball prospects. He was expelled from Central, and was uninterested in anything but baseball while at Josephine Allen, which only

fielded a softball team anyway. Henry's résumé consisted of hitting bottle caps with a broom handle.

And when he rose through the minor leagues and into the big leagues at the same time that I first started becoming a baseball fan, I almost felt like cheering when he "escaped" from the Negro Leagues and was allowed to play baseball--first in the minor leagues and then in the majors.

Aaron quickly became a star . . . he remained one throughout his entire career, breaking existing records (rbis, total bases, extra-base hits) and setting new ones (hitting at least thirty home runs per season fifteen times, becoming the first player in history to hammer five hundred home runs and three thousand hits).

But Aaron was perhaps best known as the guy who broke Babe Ruth's career home run record; i.e., until Bobby Bonds came along . . . I found the author's coverage of this race particularly interesting, as well as his description of how Aaron wanted to have little to do with Bonds because of the latter's use of steroids.

Aaron never was never much one for the limelight . . . furthermore, as Bryant notes:

* In 1959, the writer Roger Kahn would attempt to profile Henry for SPORT magazine. He encountered the same frustration that sports editors of the Mobile newspapers had: Depending on the day, Henry would tell a different story about his origins, and, when placed side by side, no two stories ever exactly meshed.

THE LAST HERO attempts to set the record straight . . . in my opinion, it has succeeded in doing so.

Back To Top

5. TV alert

A. MAN CAVES gets a spin-off for the ladies, MOM CAVES, hosted by Beth (Mrs. Howard) Stern . . . the season premieres on Saturday at 8:30 p.m. on HGTV.

B. GOODBYE, MR. CHIPS earned Robert Donat an Oscar for his role as a cold-hearted teacher who becomes the school favorite when he's thawed by a beautiful young woman (Greer Garson in her screen debut) . . . Sunday at 2:15 a.m. on TCM.

C. TRACY MORGAN: BLACK AND BLUE airs on Sunday at 10 p.m. on COMEDY CENTRAL . . . the odds are great that you'll hear some language that you won't ordinarily hear on 30 ROCK.

D. Howard Stern replaces Piers Morgan as a judge on AMERICA'S GOT TALENT . . . methinks that will be a good thing for both the show and viewers . . . season premiere on Monday, May 14 at 8 p.m. on NBC.

Back To Top

6. JOKE 2: Advice for an old guy

I was working out at the gym when I spotted a sweet young thing walking in . . .



I asked the trainer standing next to me, "What machine should I use to impress that lady over there?"
The trainer looked me over and said, "I would recommend the ATM in the lobby."

Back To Top

7. Websites

A. Jim D. in PA: This is an amazing video that demonstrates the power of belief and what one can accomplish. "Change your thinking, change your life."

Never, Ever Give Up. Arthur's Inspirational Transformation!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=qX9FSZJu448#

B. Mary N. in PA: Old Man In Nursing Home Reacts To Hearing Music From His Era

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=NKDXuCE7LeQ&noredirect=1!

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

Want to increase your business by 10 percent or more? See "Consulting" to the left and then "Article Samples" and see the first one in that category.

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Back To Top

8. Computer tip

When you change your email address, please include both your new email address AND your old one in the notification you send out. This enables others to remove your old email addresses from their address books.

Back To Top

9. JOKE 3: Stupid resume tricks, Part 1 of 2

Things people actually put on their resumes (or cover letters). I weep for all mankind.

I am very detail-oriented.

My intensity and focus are at inordinately high levels, and my ability to complete projects on time is unspeakable.

Enclosed is a ruff draft of my resume.

Strengths: Impersonal skills.

It's best for employers that I not work with people.

Here are my qualifications for you to overlook.
If this resume doesn't blow your hat off, then please return it in the enclosed envelope.
I saw your ad on the information highway, and I came to a screeching halt.
Insufficient writing skills, thought processes have slowed down some. If I am not one of the best, I will look for another opportunity.
Please disregard the attached resume--it is terribly out of date.
Exposure to German for two years, but many words are inappropriate for business.
Experience: Watered, groomed, and fed the family dog for years.
I am a rabid typist.
I have a bachelorette degree in computers.

(To be concluded next week.)

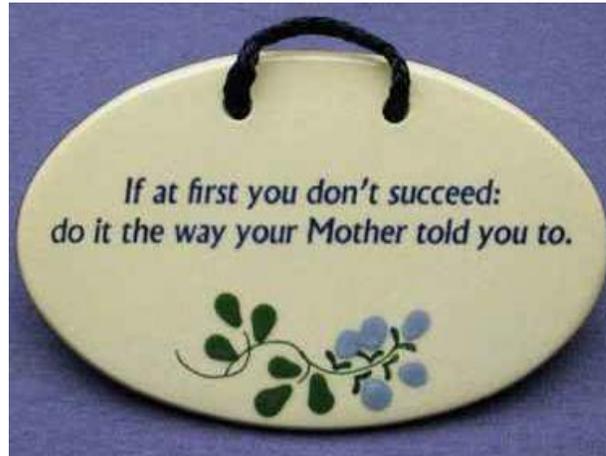
Back To Top

10. A quote I like

If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?--John Wooden (1910-2010), American basketball coach who won ten NCAA national championships in a 12-year period (seven in a row) as head coach at UCLA

Back To Top

11. Thought for the day



Back To Top

12. Advance planning department

A. North Carolina events

To read each of the following events in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Hy>

- (1) Lessons in Leadership
- (2) Chance to win cash prizes at variety shows
- (3) MemoryCare fundraiser
- (4) Asheville Chamber of Commerce event called Bites and Sips
- (5) Hypnosis Certification Program
- (6) Love Among the Frankensteins by Steven Samuels
- (7) Asheville Women's Roundtable Event

B. Pennsylvania/New Jersey events:

To read each of the following events in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Hz>

- (1) PhillyFat Not Anymore! Come to the 13th PhillyFit Bash!
- (2) Take Action Cut Stroke, featuring Inspirational Keynote Speaker Henry Winkler

Back To Top

PS. Section 11 (above) reminds me that Mother's Day is this Sunday . . . I hope you get to celebrate it with your mother, if you're lucky enough to still have her around . . . or if that's

not the case, please remember your mother as you listen to this song performed by Eddie Kilgallon:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taZzqFznpGw>

Make it a great rest of the week, too!

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BLAINESWORLD

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In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Proof of death**
 4. **Reviews . . . THE LUCKY ONE, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Three men**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Seatmates**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are still admiring our paintings that we did at the "mystery night" event I wrote about in last week's BLAINESWORLD.

(1) I included a picture of what I had painted, but some readers wanted to know how Cynthia's painting came out.



(2) Marcy and Tom, two of the friends who joined us, told their parents that they went to an art auction that night and bought the paintings that they had done for the kitchen. In an email, Marcy wrote:

You should have seen their faces!! Dad said "What kindergarten class painted them!!!!!" We were forced to tell them the truth

(3) Many of you also had comments; several of them can be found in Section 2, part 2 (below).

(4) And I even received this letter as a result of my modeling endeavor:

PLAYGIRL INC.
NEW ENGLAND BRANCH
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Dear Mr. Greenfield:

We wish to thank you for your letter and digital photos, which we recently received. We regret, however, that we will not be able to use any of them as our "Playgirl's Man of the Month."

When rated by our AAW (Audacious American Women) on a scale of 1-10, your body was rated a minus 2 (-2). The panel is composed of widowed females ranging in ages from 50-75 years old who have been deprived of sexual activity for a minimum of five years.

To confirm your below average rating, we submitted your photograph to a second panel, the HUHA (Horny Undersexed Housewives of America), whose age range from 25-35. However, we could not get them to contain their laughter long enough to rate you.

Please be assured that should the tastes of American women deteriorate so drastically that a body such as yours would be in demand, you will be notified. Meanwhile, please do not call us, we will call you.

Sincerely,

PLAYGIRL INC.

PS. It pains us to inform you, that had your photo been used, the staple holding our centerfold together would have completely obstructed what you refer to as your "item of interest."

B. Information on my comedy debut



For all Western NC folks (and others who want to come visit) . . . you're invited to this event that I'll be performing at . . . it will make you smile, laugh, chuckle . . .

The College for Seniors "Performing Stand-Up Comedy" class is proudly presenting our "graduation" performance at The Grotto in the Highsmith Union on the UNCA campus on Saturday, May 12, 2012. Doors open at 7 p.m.; showtime is 7:30 p.m. Join instructor Randy Robins and the mirthful troupe of inveterate comics, as they make what for most is their stand-up debut. Admission is free, parking is ample and your presence can only enhance what promises to be a fun time for all.

***** SPECIAL REQUEST *****

Just so I have a ballpark idea of how many folks will be coming, please send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put "May 12" in the subject line. Also, if you'd like to meet Cynthia and me for dinner beforehand--probably at Vinnie's--let me know that, too.

C. Please vote:

(1) You may have already heard or read about Doug Blevins. He's the only coach in the history of the NFL who has never played football or even walked!

He is now being featured in a short video clip that I think you'll find amazing.

Please help get Doug's story out to the rest of the world via this clip that has been submitted into an international competition. And that's where my invite enters the picture; i.e., for you to see this video--and then vote for it.

All you need to do can be found in the following instructions:

1. Please open a FREE Vimeo account--by clicking the link below. (If you already have an account, go directly to Step #3.) <http://vimeo.com/join>

2. You'll be welcomed into Vimeo. Close that screen.
3. At the next screen, go to the top right (search box) and type-in "Doug Blevins."
4. You should then see a picture of a guy in a wheelchair. Click to watch the video and say you "like" it by clicking the "like" heart just once in the upper right hand column.
 - A. If your vote goes through, you should see a big heart in the middle of the screen.
 - B. You can then check this by looking to see if your name appears with the names of those others who have liked the video (on the right side about halfway down).
5. When you are done, please forward this entire email and/or just the above instructions to all your Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter friends, as well as to your email distribution list. Feel free to add your recommendation, too, about asking everybody to "like" the video.

Much obliged!

(2) It's time once again to vote Asheville "Beer City USA." Voting runs through Sunday, May 13th. One vote per computer (IP address), so fire up all the PCs you own and start voting!

To vote, please click:

<http://polldaddy.com/poll/6132829/>

(3) On May 12, there are elections taking place in North Carolina. Please vote if you haven't yet taken advantage of early voting. Although I don't typically endorse candidates and/or issues, I'll make an exception this time to at least tell you how I'm voting with respect to the following:

* Terry Duyn for Buncombe County Commissioner. I had the pleasure of meeting her at a recent reception hosted by both Louise Glickman and Marilynne Herbert and was mighty impressed as a result.

* David Gant for Chair of the Bucks County Commissioners. I've met him a few times and every time I have, I come away even more appreciative of all his hard work.

* An emphatic AGAINST Amendment One. I strongly believe that a ban on legal same-sex unions should not be added to the state constitution. Perhaps most significantly, if the amendment was passed, it could invalidate certain domestic violence protections for unmarried couples, gay or straight.

For more information, please click:

<http://equalitync.org/amendment>

One other point on this topic: A few weeks ago, I saw 8--a very powerful play at the Diana Wortham Theatre. It was about Proposition 8 in California, which rewrote that state's constitution to ban marriage for gay and lesbian couples. In August, 2010, the Federal Court ruled that Proposition 8 was unconstitutional and could not stand. That ruling is being appealed, and methinks the case--and what is happening in North Carolina, too--will progress all the way to the Supreme Court.

Belated kudos to the many actors and technical folks who donated their time to make the above show such a success, including such personal favorites of mine as Chris Allison, Bradshaw Call and Wes Heath.

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Carle Robbins whose company's product, Power Swabs Super Cleaning & Whitening Smile Rejuvenation System, was featured on ShopNBC, a home shopping network. They sold more per minute than forecast!

(2) Stephen Forbus who was chosen to speak at the Franklin Forum for the Association of Fundraising Professionals (Greater Philadelphia Chapter).

(3) Barrie Barton who was accepted to study with Ping Chong & Company (aka Fiji Theater Company) at his Summer Institute at Amherst College in Massachusetts.

(4) Kim Hughes and her husband Bob Hinkle, recently profiled in the ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES:

<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012304210012>

(5) Catherine Frank, NCCCR director, who discussed the Center's genesis and future with William Friday on UNC-TV's "North Carolina People." The program can be seen online by clicking:

<http://video.unctv.org/video/2225003346>

(6) Jo Ciavaglia for receiving a Second Place award from the Philadelphia Chapter of Society of Professional Journalists for her excellent job of science and health reporting. She also received an Honorable Mention award for in-depth reporting and feature writing.

(7) Micah Solomon whose excellent book, High-Touch Customer Service: Inspire Timeless Loyalty in the Demanding New World of Social Commerce (reviewed in BLAINESWORLD #806), is now available at amazon.com:

<http://amzn.com/0814417906>

(8) Diane A. in NJ, Jeanne M. in NJ and Jessica P. in FL, all winners of Contest #8 . . . their prize, a 12 Count Box of Tempo Bars (Chocolate Mint flavor), will be shipped within the week . . . all told, there were 12 entries . . . see below for:

***** CONTEST 9 *****

As a result of my being chosen to participate in World Book Night U.S., I am pleased to be able to announce a contest that will feature 25 winners (to the first 25 entries) . . . the prize is a copy of the national bestseller FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS by H. G. Bissinger. SPORTS ILLUSTRATED rates it as one of the Top 5 Sports Books of all time.

This is a great book for football fans obviously, but it has appeal for others too . . . so even if you're not personally interested in it, submit an entry so you could win a copy for your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews . . . notes the LIBRARY JOURNAL:

In 1988, Bissinger, a Pulitzer Prize-winning Philadelphia Inquirer editor, left his job to spend a year with a high school sports team. The sport he picked was football, the location, the depressed West Texas oil town of Odessa, called by Larry McMurtry "the worst town on earth." Here 20,000 fans turn out regularly to watch their Permian Panthers win. Here there is no high-blown talk of playing the game well; just the raw need to win at all costs. In this atmosphere, players vomit from nervousness before each game and often play with injuries. On the few occasions when the team suffers a loss, the coach's front lawn sprouts "For Sale" signs. Bissinger makes you feel the tensions of the kids, who are not just playing a game, but literally fighting for the honor of their town. He also accomplishes the more difficult feat of making the team's rabid fans sympathetic. His language sometimes verges on the overblown, but it does echo the mythical proportions of the game and a season that will render the rest of the players' lives a dull denouement. Fascinating even for those, or maybe especially for those, with no interest in football.

TO ENTER: Put "CONTEST 9" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, May 13.

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

This week, it goes to Larry Griswold--a volunteer instructor at the Center for Creative Retirement at the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

I recently completed a second course that he taught, The History of Sports Illustrated . . . it was excellent.

Larry, who worked in the advertising sales department at the magazine for many years, certainly knows his subject . . . he shared his knowledge with all those in the class and went out of his way to answer a question when he didn't know it; e.g., by actually contacting staffers at the magazine.

In addition, he frequently brought-in "special issues," featuring winners of various championships, and distributed them to those who wanted a copy.

Last semester, I took another fine course with Larry dealing with famous sports documentaries . . . it was so good that I'm looking taking it again with him this coming year, at which time he is promising all new documentaries.

[Back To Top](#)

2. FYI

Tammy, a good friend, recently told me that she ate lunch at the Sunset Terrace at the Grove Park Inn. She said her bill was very expensive.

I subsequently found out part of the reason; i.e., the restaurant automatically adds an 18% surcharge to all checks. And it did not point that out to my friend.

My friend didn't notice this, and so she added a tip on top of that 18%!

I don't know about you, but that type thing really bothers me . . . I've seen a few other restaurants that add-on a tip, but that's usually for groups of 6 or more . . . and it is almost always heavily publicized.

So the lesson to be learned: Beware of such practices. Also, always ask if a tip has been included.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Tim G. in WV: Swimming eagle

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/87xNpOYOIQ4?rel=0>

(2) Pat H. in PA: Pink Martini - Hey Eugene - Later with Jools

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nme4G_LJFhY&feature=related

(3) Wind U. in CA: Three girls sing a beautiful version of Hallelujah.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jO1aMvclx_g&feature=plcp

(4) Amber S. in NC: Ivana Stabovitch Bombs Away Cabaret Specialest Spinach

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEt_faOTD6Q&feature=youtu.be

(5) Marilynne H. in NC: Game Winning Homerun Turns Tragic - But Then Something Amazing Happened

<http://www.godvine.com/Injury-Turns-into-Inspiration-for-One-High-School-Girl-323.html>

(6) Jean D. in PA: Watch Jim Henson's awesomely insane pitch to get The Muppet Show on the air

<http://io9.com/5899866/watch-jim-hensons-awesomely-insane-pitch-to-get-the-muppet-show-on-the-air>

(7) Banker helps ducklings

<http://1funny.com/banker-helps-ducklings/>

(8) Barbara F. in PA: WATCH : I Fought For You

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=AgYLR_LfhLo#!

(9) Giraffe Birth at the Memphis Zoo

<http://manneli.com/movies/Nature/Giraffe-Birth.html>

(10) Ted R. in NC: Nicholas Brothers. The greatest dance sequence.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=fNKRm6H-qOU

(11) Smash - Second Hand White Baby Grand

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9_yfJuT6u8&feature=share%27%2C%29

(12) TEDxSF - Louie Schwartzberg - Gratitude

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=gXDMoiEkyuQ&vq=medium

and for more information:

http://www.ted.com/speakers/louie_schwartzberg.html

(13) The greatest card trick ever

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StKW1BoRpus>

(14) Craig Sharf, one of my favorite comedians:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRlIS14yrb0&fb_source=message

B. Other:

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Gr>

And trying something different here because there are so many messages to include, let me instead thank those who submitted them . . . and then encourage you to read/skim them, time permitting . . . there's some real interesting stuff here!

(1) PA: Marty D., Bev C., Sue R., Debbie H., Lynne D., Pat H., Roger C., Savannah, Pat A., Barbara F., Robin S.

(2) NC: Clay M., Annemarie B., Marry C.

(3) NJ: Herb S., Chuck R., Freddie N., Eileen B., Lorraine A.

(4) NY: Ken G.

(5) FL: Joe D.

Back To Top

3. JOKE 1: Proof Of death

Here is finally the conclusive evidence that Osama bin Laden and Muammar Gaddafi are dead.

Yesterday, they both registered to vote in Chicago.

Back To Top

4. Reviews

A. Something rare happened when watching THE LUCKY ONE . . . I actually liked the film version more than the book by Nicholas Sparks . . . it's a formulaic melodrama about a soldier who returns from a third tour of duty in Iraq, intent on finding woman in a picture he doesn't even know . . . I think it worked so well because of both the chemistry and acting of the two main characters, Zac Efron and Taylor Schilling (a Jessica Lange lookalike) . . . rated PG-13.

B. I didn't see BEING ELMO: A PUPPETEER'S JOURNEY, a documentary, when it came out in the movies . . . but it was recently came out as a DVD rental, and I encourage you to get it . . . narrated by Whoopi Goldberg, it profiles Elmo's creator (Kevin Clash) and also gives a behind-the-scenes look at Sesame Street . . . even if you weren't a fan of the Muppets, you'll be touched by this film and the impact that Elmo has had on children of all ages . . . rated PG.

C. I was intrigued by the premise behind NATIONAL HEALTH LOTTERY: A NEW WAY TO FUND HEALTH INSURANCE (Wunders) by George T. Connolly.

It got me thinking: Could there really be a better way to fund health insurance?

The author, owner of an auto body repair shop in Asheville, North Carolina, seems to think so. And he presents his idea in a simple five-step plan:

- * 1. Your health insurance company will cover you up to \$150,000 in costs in each calendar year.
2. Any additional health costs for you in any given year that is over and above the initial \$150,000 will be paid by your insurance company, but it will be reimbursed for any cost above that \$150,000 from a National Health Lottery money pool.
3. Your health insurance company will also get paid an additional 10% administrative fee (or whatever was deemed to be reasonable) for all bills above the \$150,000 per person per year.
4. The National Health Lottery would be conducted weekly and funded through the sale of \$2 lottery tickets that will be tax deductible up to \$1,040 per year per individual claimed on your federal income tax (based on spending \$20 per week each of the 52 weeks in a year, which equals \$1,040).
5. All health lottery winnings would be tax free.

Would this work? I don't know, but it would certainly be worthwhile investigating . . . as Connolly notes:

* By Americans participating in the lottery that would then quickly grow a massive, new funding source. This pool of money would reimburse health insurance companies for each of their policyholders who had medical expenses that were above an established limit.

He also takes into account one of the biggest problems in our current system:

* A person should be free to move from one job to the next without having to lose his health insurance. The public would never tolerate losing their auto insurance if they lost their job, so that is the position that we must work from to make health insurance more like auto insurance.

Connolly's book is a bit repetitious in parts, but I think that's a good thing because in restating his beliefs, he shows that a national health insurance is something that can be implemented in a way that everybody can understand--and benefit from, too.

D. I've always enjoyed books by Sandra Brown, though I realized that I hadn't read anything by her lately . . . so when I had the chance to listen to LETHAL (Hachette Audio), I figured it was a good way to help make a long drive more enjoyable.

And that it did!

It's the story of a woman whose four-year-old child discovers a sick man on her front lawn . . . the man turns out to be an accused murder who then makes the woman and her daughter do what he asks.

A lot of twists and turns follow, but the author kept my interest through every one . . . the ending didn't disappoint, either.

Victor Slezak did an excellent job with the narration.

Back To Top

5. TV alert

A. COMMON LAW premieres on Friday at 10 p.m. on USA . . . two buddy cops can't get along, so they are assigned to couples counseling by their captain . . . TV GUIDE calls it "a match made in TV heaven."

B. TREASURE ISLAND, the coming-of-age parable, has been filmed many times . . . you can catch still another version on Saturday at 7 p.m. on SYFY . . . THE WALL STREET JOURNAL calls it a "gem" and says that "Eddie Izzard stands out as the peg-legged pirate Long John Silver, but the rest of an excellent cast also makes a distinct personality of each character."

C. MARTY airs on Sunday at 6 p.m. on TCM . . . this moving tale of a Bronx butcher who doesn't plan to find love, but does, earned Ernest Borgnine an Oscar and also won the Best Picture Award in 1955.

D. JOHNNY CARSON: KING OF LATE NIGHT is a two-hour biography that promises to show him at his best and worst . . . Monday, 5.14 at 9 p.m. . . . check local listings because PBS times and stations often vary.

Back To Top

6. JOKE 2: Three men

Three men were in heaven discussing how they died.

The first man said, "I died of cancer."

The second man said, "I died of tuberculosis."

Morris, the third man said, "I died of seenus."

The first two men asked, "Do you mean sinus?"

Jack said, "No, I mean seenus. I was out with my best friend's wife, and he seen us!"

Back To Top

7. Websites

A. Pat A. in PA: This is absolutely awesome [Google Art Project]
<http://www.googleartproject.com/>

B. "I Would Run to You," the Nike commercial (complete version) . . . I don't know about you, but I find the tune very catchy . . . and enjoy watching the clip even though it is selling a product.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iozZTJB2XOW>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

If you're new to this website or BLAINESWORLD, the newsletter, feel free to view pictures of some of my friends and relatives . . . click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Pictures" . . . at the same time, make sure your sound is on so you can listen to what's arguably the greatest rock song of all time!

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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

[Back To Top](#)

8. Computer tip

Regardless of which search engine you use, security experts recommend that you turn on your browser's "private mode," usually found under Preferences, Tools or Settings. When this mode is activated, tracking cookies are deleted once you close your browser, which "essentially wipes clean your history," said Jeremiah Grossman, chief technology officer with WhiteHat Security, an online security consulting firm in Santa Clara, Calif.

SOURCE: "How to Muddy Your Tracks on the Internet" by Kate Murphy in THE NEW YORK TIMES, 5.2.2012 . . . for the entire article, please click:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/03/technology/personaltech/how-to-muddy-your-tracks-on-the-internet.html?src=me&ref=general>

[Back To Top](#)

9. JOKE 3: Seatmates

A man is seated next to a woman on a plane, and they get into a conversation. The guy says, "I just got out of prison for killing my wife. Cut her up with an ax."

The woman says, "Oh, so you're single."

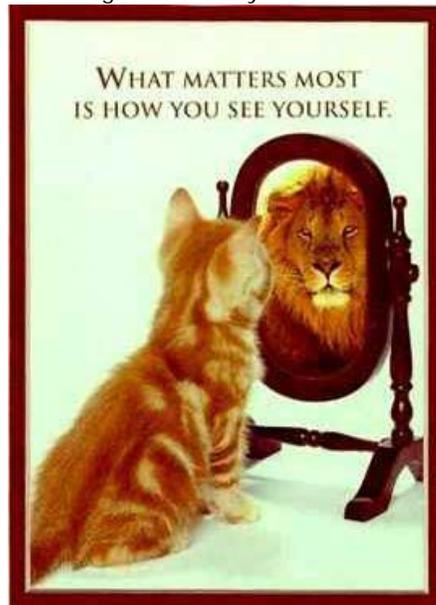
[Back To Top](#)

10. A quote I like

If you burn too many bridges, you may find yourself all alone on an island. -- Larry Steinhouse (born 1963), author, motivator, entrepreneur

[Back To Top](#)

11. Thought for the day



[Back To Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. Some stuff I'm involved in:

(1) Want to volunteer to help me with SART this coming season? We need ushers, computer help, etc. If interested, contact me at: bginbc@aol.com and put VOLUNTEER in subject line.

***** GREAT FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY (WESTERN NC) *****

Have your non-profit church, temple or organization come to an "Invited Dress Rehearsal" of a SART play this summer. With very little effort, you should be able to raise over \$3,500 in just one afternoon or evening. Two plays still remain. If interested, contact me at once: Blaine Greenfield, 828.633.1049; bginbc@aol.com

(2) SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre) opens its season on June 7 with one of my favorite musicals, I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. The rest of the season also promises to be a winner, and it includes the following shows: Harvey; The Light in the Piazza; Sweet Water Taste; and Sylvia. For more information, please click: <http://sartplays.org/2012.htm>

Individual and group ticket sales are now available. They can be obtained by calling the Box Office at 828.689.1239.

B. North Carolina events:

To read each of the following events in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Gt>

- (1) Brand new Lessons in Leadership "Winning Workshops"
- (2) Love Among the Frankensteins (May 3-June 9) by Steven Samuels
- (3) RSVP- Your Volunteer Center for the Second Half of Life
- (4) Different Strokes! Performing Arts Collective

C. Pennsylvania/New Jersey events:

To read each of the following events in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Gv>

- (1) Please join the students of the Upper Bucks Campus SIFE for "Bucks Wild! 2012."
- (2) Father Roy will be in Cherry Hill, NJ on Saturday.
- (3) 24th Annual Tyler Tasting Party
- (4) AS YOU LIKE IT: April 20-May 13 at Actors Net
- (5) S. E. Hinton at Princeton Barnes and Noble

Back To Top

PS. Make it a great week!

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Blaine Greenfield
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Phone : 828.633.1049

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#813
4.23.2012

In this issue:

1. Reflections
 2. Joke: Sneezing problem
 3. A quote I like
 4. Thought for the day
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I often liked an idea my mother had told us about; i.e., get a bunch of friends together to have a "mystery night." The idea: Don't tell them any details . . . then surprise them that evening.

So we decided to do just that, taking them for an evening of painting at Artist in the Attic in Woodfin:

<http://www.auntsandies.com/>

In advance, you get to choose the painting you want to do . . . you also can bring wine and/or soft drinks, as well as refreshments.

When we got there, I slipped out to go to the bathroom.. I came back in my robe and sat down on a stool, telling everybody that I was to be the subject that evening.

Cynthia couldn't believe it. In fact, she peaked under the robe to see what I was wearing. That's her reaction after she found out I wasn't wearing anything!



Methinks our friends were somewhat surprised, too, but I mean . . . what did they expect a model to wear? As to what they saw:

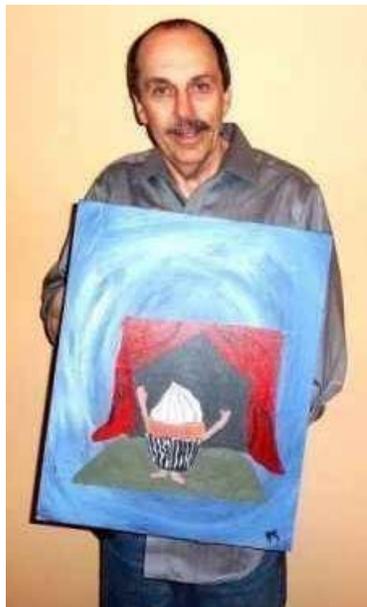


B. OK, ok . . . the rest of the story . . . that second picture was "staged" . . . I never gave everybody a chance to paint me in the nude . . . what you can't see is was the fact that I was wearing jeans . . . what actually happened: Artist in the Attic supplied us with cupcakes to taste . . . afterward, we all painted them in whatever format we wanted.



(l-r: Tom and Marcy Gallagher, Cynthia, Blaine, Carole and Brian Biro)

And because you're dying to see a close-up picture of mine, here goes:



C. NOTE: Try not to be toooooo disappointed, but this painting is not for sale . . . instead, it is headed for my daughter Risa's home . . . after all, we still have something she did when she was about seven . . . so what's fair is fair . . . she'll now get to display my masterpiece!

D. Sandy, our hostess at Artist at the Attic, couldn't have been more gracious . . . that's her on the right and Corianna Brown, the artist who worked with us that night, on the left.



Corianna was also a delight; if you'd like to see more of her work, please click:
<http://coriannabrown.yolasite.com/>

E. We started off the evening with a delicious dinner at one of our favorite local restaurants, Vinnie's.



(l-r: Tom, Marcy, Brian, Carole, Cynthia and Blaine)

For more information about Vinnie's, please click:
<http://www.vinniesitalian.com/>

F. During the weekend, we also saw a performance of NAKED GIRLS READING at the Anam Cara Theatre . . . the show's title says it all; i.e., there were three naked women reading selections from literature . . . survival was the overall theme, and we were both surprised that the show was actually as entertaining as it was . . . I could have done without the nudity, but Cynthia really wanted to go . . . so what's a guy to do? . . . kudos to the talented cast, Whitnee Chamblee, Amanda DePoala and Ellen Knight, as well as to Erinn Huntley, the director . . . for more information about what's upcoming, please click:
<http://anamcaratheatre.blogspot.com/>

G. In addition, we got to celebrate our friend Harry's birthday at Fatz in Asheville . . . our respective meals were quite tasty, as they always are when we go here, and our "regular" server Chris did his usual excellent job . . . he even added a nice extra touch by surprising us with strawberry shortcake for dessert.



(l-r: Harry Garland, Tammy Strange, Tammy, Blaine)

For more information about Fatz, please click:
<http://www.fatz.com/>

H. And I participated in one other fun event: our community's Earth Day Concert . . . music was provided by Clouds of Greer, and the highlight for me was having a community resident (Mark Knollman) join-in for several songs . . . in addition, Cruizers did its usually excellent job of serving food at the event . . . for more information about this eatery, please click:
<http://www.mycruizers.com/>

I. Lest I forget, Janet Harnash (pictured below with yours truly) added to my enjoyment of the day by bringing a special treat for several of those who attended.



it was her oh-so-good Classic Sour Cream Banana Bread; the recipe follows:

Ingredients:

1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, softened
1 1/4 cup sugar
1 cup mashed fully ripe bananas (about three) 1 cup sour cream
2 eggs
2 1/4 cups flour
1 1/2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1 cup chopped walnuts (more if you like walnuts)

Directions:

Heat oven to 350 degrees
Beat butter and sugar in large bowl with mixer until well blended. Add bananas, sour cream and eggs, mix well. Add combined dry ingredients, mix just until moistened. Stir in nuts.
Pour into greased 9 x 5 inch loaf pan.
Bake 1 hour or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool completely.
Refrigerate leftovers.

Enjoy!

J. Still time to enter:

***** CONTEST 8 *****

One lucky winner will receive a 12 Count Box of Tempo Bars (Chocolate Mint flavor). This tasty product provides high amounts of protein and fiber to help maintain "glycemic tempo"

throughout the day. It is gluten free and contains no trans fat.

TO ENTER: Put "CONTEST 8" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bgjnbcb@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, April 29.

K. Your eyes don't deceive you . . . some sections, along with some jokes, are missing in this week's issue . . . there are two reasons why this is so:

(1) There are more pictures than usual, so space limitations made it necessary to make some cuts.

(2) My computer monitor died on me, so I'm having to do this week's edition on my laptop . . . and thus did not have access to everything that was stored on my hard drive. Hopefully, by next week, everything will be back to normal.

Whatever you do, please don't miss the clip at the end of Section 4.

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

This week, it goes to Samir Bhika--a salesperson at Motion Makers Bicycle Shop in Asheville. That's him pictured below with Cynthia and her new bike.



We've often passed Motion Makers, but the store never even registered with us until Cynthia decided she wanted a bike. We stopped in to do some exploratory research, met Samir and made the purchase shortly thereafter.

He answered all our many questions in both a helpful and friendly manner. Consequently, we'd recommend both Samir and his store if in the market for a bike of your own. For more information, please click:

<http://www.motionmakers.com/>

2. JOKE: Sneezing problem

A man and a woman were sitting beside each other in the first class section of the plane. The woman sneezed, took out a tissue, gently wiped her nose and then shuddered quite violently for 10 or 15 seconds.

The man went back to his reading.

A few minutes later, the woman sneezed again, took a tissue, gently wiped her nose and shuddered quite violently as before.

The man was becoming more and more curious about the shuddering.

A few more minutes passed and the woman sneezed one more time. Again she took a tissue, gently wiped her nose and shuddered violently.

The man couldn't restrain his curiosity. He turned to the woman and said, "You've sneezed three times, wiped you nose with a tissue, then shuddered violently! Are you all right?"

"I'm sorry if I disturbed you," the woman replied, "I have a rare condition . . . when I sneeze, I have an orgasm."

The man was a little embarrassed but even more curious and said, "I've never heard of that before. What are you taking for it?"

The woman looked at him and said, "Pepper."

3. A quote I like

The indispensable first step to getting the things you want out of life is this: Decide what you want.--Ben Stein quotes (born 1944), American actor, lawyer and writer

4. Thought for the day

Natalie in PA: I thought you might want to put this in your newsletter in honor of [April being] Holocaust Remembrance this month. This is so moving and beautiful. The song is done in Hebrew, but the subtitles will tell you what is being sung. It is absolutely beautiful. Listen and enjoy!

MY TWO CENTS: I agree with Natalie, as I usually do. The song (at the bottom) of this song is incredible. So is the story; it follows.

In the summer of 1942, as the persecution of Belgium's Jews began, an underground Jewish group, in cooperation with the Belgian underground, set out to rescue Jewish children by hiding them all around the country. The most active team consisted of twelve women, mostly non-Jewish, who hid some 3,000 children. This admirable clandestine campaign was unique in the complexity of its structure and the degree of its success. The only living member of that team is Andrée Geulen, and on September 4, children who she had saved celebrated her ninetieth birthday. The celebration included a screening of a song which singer Keren Hadar performed in her honor.

The song, composed just before the event, was the impulsive composition of one of the hidden children — Shaul Harel, a professor of pediatric neurology.

One warm summer day the Harel family was at the Dead Sea Resort for a performance of the opera *Aida* at Massada. Shaul Harel was in the jacuzzi and in the warm water he wondered what gift he could bring to Andrée for her birthday. "After all, she already has everything. After the war, she married a Jewish attorney, they were blessed with two daughters and with grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and to this day she is surrounded by the love of the children she rescued." Suddenly, the warmth of the water brought words tumbling into his mind and he burst into the hotel room and asked his wife Dalia to transcribe his thoughts so they would not "get away" from him and soon a poem was on paper telling Andrée's story. Shaul's knew that the poem should be set to music and his favorite singer, Keren Hadar, should perform it. Keren, in turn, recommended Rafi Kadishzon, a prolific and well-known composer; Rafi recommended Dan Almagor, a master of the Hebrew word, to adjust the text for the music. This is the result in Hebrew with English subtitles.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QR6PC74--1s&feature=youtu.be>

And thanks to Micah S. in PA for his response to the above: Thank you. Have you seen this incredible poster? I believe it's for this year's Yad Vashem.

http://www1.yadvashem.org/yv/he/education/projects/posters/images/1_2012.jpg

PS. Make it a great week!

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#812
4.16.2012

In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Las Vegas churches**
 4. **Reviews . . . THE HUNGER GAMES, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Feel better and exercise, too**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Male sensitivity**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Went to the home of our friends Nelson and Lou for dinner . . . we brought in deli sandwiches from Viva Deli in West Asheville; they were excellent . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.vivadeli.biz/>



(2) Dessert was a fantastic cream cheese pound cake that a neighbor had prepared the day before . . . we topped it off with some strawberries and my mouth is still watering at this concoction as I type these words.

(3) Fortunately, the neighbor--Lisa Knollman--very graciously provided the recipe:

Cream Cheese Pound Cake

- 1- 8 oz cream cheese
- 3 - sticks of butter
- 3 - cups of sugar
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 6 large eggs
- 3 cups plain flour
- 1/2 tsp vanilla

Cream sugar, butter & cream cheese until light & fluffy. Add eggs, salt & vanilla. Add flour. Beat Well.

Grease & flour a 10 cup Bundt pan.

Bake 325 degrees for 1 1/2 hour or until golden brown.

As you can see, this is a really basic recipe (exactly like it is written on my very old recipe card). I'm sure most church cookbooks in this area have a version of it ha ha ha. My sister-in-law makes an orange glaze and pours it over the cake when it is still warm . . . my brother says it wonderful too. I have also seen it with chocolate drizzled over the top . . . the sky's the limit!

I love it just like my grandmother (and mother) make it--warm out of the oven!

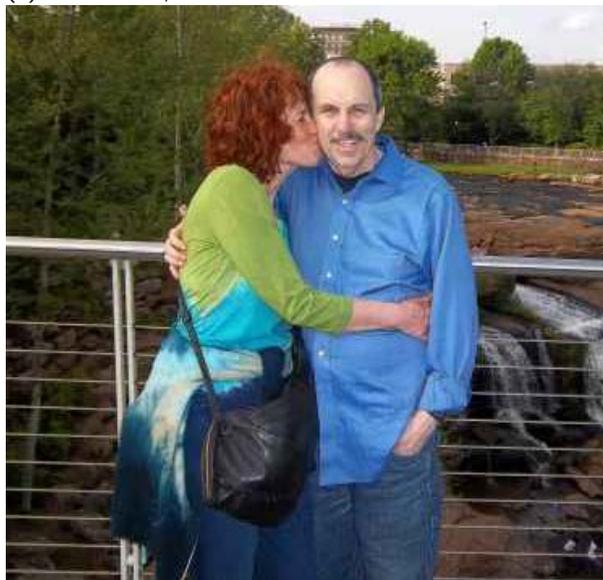
(4) The next day with our friend Tammy as our tour guide, we drove down to Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina to see an excellent production of BEYOND THERAPY . . . kudos to Rhett Byrson and his entire cast who all did great work in this romantic psychiatric farce . . . we liked all the performers; however, one in particular (Caroline Davis) had us cracking up just about every time she opened her mouth.

GOOD NEWS: The show runs this coming April 18-21 at 8 p.m. . . . for reservations, call the box office at 864.294.2125.

In addition, we got to walk about the beautiful campus.



(5) From there, we went into town to walk around.



Afterward, we had a great dinner at Milano Kozani . . . I enjoyed my pasta with meat sauce and cheese dish, and Cynthia said her veal parmesan was quite tasty . . . for more information, please visit: <http://www.milanokozani.com/>

(6) And en route home, we stopped for ice cream at Marble Slab Creamery . . . though we were full from dinner, we managed to squeeze this dessert in!

B. During the week, I was fortunate to be able to see a student production of I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE at Mars Hill College . . . Neela Munoz, the guest director, did an amazing job in directing the talented cast of ten . . . I often will single out one or two performers in a show, but in this case, I felt they were all so fine . . . so hence I want to mention them all in no particular order: Brittany Carol Hazeldine, Isaac Fulk , Mary Elise Jones , Chandler Smith. Alexis Millah , Melanie Grace Morton , Sarah Emily Richardson , Joshua Miller , Joshua C. Stein and Justin Gaylard.

GOOD NEWS: The above play will be SART's first play this coming summer season . . . it will star several of the above, and it will run from June 7-17 . . . for more information, please click:

<http://sartplays.org/2012.htm>

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Dan Hurley on his latest article in THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Can you make yourself smarter?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/22/magazine/can-you-make-yourself-smarter.html?src=me&ref=general>

(2) Michael Phelan and Lyle Johnson, both neighbors of mine in Biltmore Lake, for having been named as part of this year's 40 Under 40 Class, sponsored by the BILTMORE BEACON.

(3) John Sheridan, a colleague and friend from Bucks County Community College, for having been named this year's recipient of the Lindback Award for Teaching Excellence.

(4) David Wagner, a SCORE colleague, on his marriage to Thais.

(5) Todd Siden for being asked to be the master of ceremonies at the Ramapo College Athletic Hall of Fame induction on April 28th.

(6) Katie Sandoval Taylor on being featured in an excellent column by Carole Curie:

<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012304150028>

(7) Asheville for being named one of the 5 healthiest and greenest cities in America:

<http://www.greenerideal.com/lifestyle/0412-5-of-the-healthiest-and-greenest-cities-in-america/>

(Thanks Ted R. in NC for sharing the above.)

(8) Linda and Chuck H. in NC, winners of Contest #7. Their copy of Scott Turow's PLEADING GUILTY is in the mail. All told, there were 11 entries in this week's contest, which reminds me that it's now time to announce:

***** CONTEST 8 *****

One lucky winner will receive a 12 Count Box of Tempo Bars (Chocolate Mint flavor). This tasty product provides high amounts of protein and fiber to help maintain "glycemic tempo" throughout the day. It is gluten free and contains no trans fat.

TO ENTER: Put "CONTEST 8" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bjinbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, April 29.

D. Condolences to Joanne Elliott and family on the passing of Joanne's Uncle Ed.

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

This week, it goes to George Connolly--owner of Wreck Amended, an auto repair shop in Fletcher.

Cynthia's car was recently hit when she was in a parking lot. Nobody bothered to leave information as to who did the damage, so we were stuck with paying for the repair.

I asked around for a recommendation and got George's name from our friend Marilynne. She had used him a few times and said he did excellent work.

My opinion is now the same. George repaired the one spot where Cynthia had been hit, along with one other spot on the car. In addition, at no extra charge, he fixed several others minor dents and scratches.

His rates were reasonable, and I was impressed with the fact that he got the job exactly when he said he would. In addition, I appreciated his office calling to inform us of the status of the repair.

George did the repair when I was out of town, so not only did I save additional money by parking at his place (rather than the airport), but he helped me out by both taking me to and picking me up from the airport.

He is also the author of NATIONAL HEALTH LOTTERY: A NEW WAY TO FUND HEALTH INSURANCE, a book I'm now reading and enjoying. Look for a review in an upcoming issue of this missive.

For more information, call George and/or Wreck Amended at 828.681.0200.

Back To Top

2. FYI

Did you ever try to get a key to unlock a door, and you tried and tried, and the key just wouldn't open it? The harder you tried, the more frustrated you became. So you stopped trying for a while, relaxed, and tried again. Voila. The key fit perfectly and the slightest turn unlocked the door.

There's a gentler way of being in the world, of trying things, doing things, going about our business.

Whether I'm tackling a specific project, enjoying a new relationship, or grinding through some miserable situation, my first inclination is to force myself and try too hard. If one cup of tea tastes good, I'll drink five. If I want to express love or concern for someone, I'll overdo it.

"If it's worth doing, it's worth doing well," doesn't mean if it's worth doing, try harder and harder. Doing it well means relaxing and letting the actions unfold gently, naturally, without force. Pull back a little. Relax.

SOURCE: 52 WEEKS OF CONSCIOUS CONTACT by Melody Beattie (Thanks to Clay M. in NC for sharing.)

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) Carol S. in PA: Jumpin Jive - Cab Calloway and the Nicholas Brothers
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_8yGGtVKrD8&feature=share

(2) Ben Affleck as Keith Olberman on SATURAY NIGHT LIVE
<http://www.nbc.com/saturday-night-live/video/countdown-with-keith-olbermann/805561>

(3) Incredible motorcycle stunt
<http://funzu.com/index.php/Crazy-video/incredible-motorcycle-stunt-2101.html>

(4) Breakfast in Texas with wild deer
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gbkon1rmGss>

(5) Pat A. in PA: Have you seen the Geezer Flash Mob?
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUh9soR_B0k&feature=player_embedded

(6) Sandy B. in PA: Russian Flash Mob
<http://www.youtube.com/embed/KgoapkOo4vg>

(7) Caren F. in PA: Henri the French Cat Articulates the Pain of Existence
<http://jezebel.com/5900906/your-morning-ennui-henri-the-french-cat-articulates-the-pain-of-existence>

And Part 1:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0M7ibPk37_U

(8) Mark B. in NC: CLICK ON THE BALL AND IT WILL CHANGE COLOR. (This will put your strategic ability to the test.)
<http://thedogpaddler.com/RandomUploads/Ball/ball.htm>

(9) Steven T. in NC: Marco Tempest: A magical tale (with augmented reality)
http://www.ted.com/talks/marco_tempest_a_magical_tale_with_augmented_reality.html?source=facebook#.T41_JRbER6N.facebook

(10) Nancy C. in NC: What this Daddy and Baby Do Will Make Your Day - So Cute to Watch!
<http://www.godvine.com/Baby-Laugh-Hysterically-at-Dad-This-Will-Make-Your-Day-1283.html>

(11) Donna S. in AL: Journey: Faithfully
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMD8hBsA-RI&feature=share>

(12) Barbara F. in PA: My new phone
<http://www.youtube.com/v/TYIOIM6hHBk&autoplay=1>

(13) Janeen R. in PA: MGM Stars old and all together!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVLJpjdIhVk>

B. Other:

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-FK>

- (1) Eileen B. in NJ (WITH AN ACCOUNTING QUESTION)
- (2) Jen W. in NC: This is a great article I had the honor of being interviewed for
- (3) Pat H. in PA [on diners]
- (4) Steve T. in NC: Very cool newsletter, so comprehensive.
- (5) Rich O. in PA: Please follow link to Amazon
- (6) Rob S. in PA: "Footnote" is now playing at the Ritz in Philadelphia.
- (7) Jim D. in PA: Something very new and exciting - live video chat
- (8) Mariusz S. in IL(with a FREE OFFER)
- (9) Karen F. in NC: Wanderlust really reminded me of the ex-hippies I worked with

Back To Top

3. JOKE 1: Las Vegas churches

I truly did not know this!

Las Vegas churches accept gambling chips?

This may come as a surprise to those of you not living in Las Vegas, but there are more Catholic churches than casinos.

Not surprisingly, some worshipers at Sunday services will give casino chips rather than cash when the basket is passed.

Since they get chips from many different casinos, the churches have devised a method to collect the offerings.

The churches send all their collected chips to a nearby Franciscan Monastery for sorting and then the chips are taken to the casinos of origin and cased in.

This is done by the Chip Monks.

(You didn't even see this one coming, did you?)

Back To Top

4. Reviews

A. THE HUNGER GAMES has certainly gotten a lot of hype . . . so by now, most probably know that it's about a nationally televised event in which teenagers fight for their lives until one survivor remains . . . frankly, by the time the film ended, I could have cared less about who the winner was going to be (though you knew that way before then) . . . I found it a very boring, overlong mess that didn't involve me at all . . . much of the acting was over the top, and I can tell you one thing for sure . . . you won't catch me waiting in line to see the sequel, CATCHING FIRE . . . rated PG-13.

B. THE IRON LADY is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #801 follows:

THE IRON LADY is the story of Margaret Thatcher, the only female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom . . . Meryl Streep looks like her and has gotten much critical acclaim for her performance . . . yet I wasn't particularly impressed--probably because the screenplay wasn't very well done . . . I found out little about Thatcher that I hadn't already known . . . also, I didn't like how the film skipped back and forth in time . . . and Jim Broadbent was wasted in the role as Thatcher's husband because too often he wasn't even himself; rather, he was playing a ghost of himself . . . PG-13.

A BETTER RECOMMENDATION: Rent a cute romantic comedy from 1996, THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS & DOGS . . . talk-show veterinarian Janeane Garofalo lies to her caller, Ben Chaplin, that she is somebody much more attractive; i.e., Uma Thurman . . . a lot of complications follow, and I wound up actually caring for all the characters . . . PG-13.

C. I've never worked in the fast food industry, though I always thought that such a job wouldn't be quite so easy as some may think it is . . . reading MY SECRET LIFE ON THE MCJOB (McGraw-Hill) by Jerry Newman, a college professor who has taught business courses

for nearly 30 years, convinced me of that fact.

The author went undercover as a bottom-rung worker for the biggest names in fast food, including McDonald's and Burger King . . . he worked in seven different restaurants, ranging from those that were highly productive to others who were just the opposite . . . in all, he found that the particular manager determined the climate of the work environment.

He also came to the following conclusion:

* By the end of a first day, and certainly by the end of a first week, you have been deluged with new information. You have been worked nonstop. You have lifted, mopped, and wrapped until you are exhausted. And you've made less than \$50 on all but the best days.

I'm living testament that this job is hard.

In addition, Newman found that to make things more bearable, employees would try a variety of things to break the monotony:

* A favorite I was told about but did not witness emulated chugging contests, but in this chugging contest the shake machine was the center of attention. All you had to do was place your head under the spigot while a coworker pulled back the handle. A steady stream of shake more than a half-inch thick in diameter would then flow into the mouth, and either brain freeze or an overflowing mouth would make short work of even the most determined contestant. I suspected the game wasn't to see who lasted the longest but rather to have a riotous laugh as shake spilled out of the player's mouth and onto his face and clothes.

Perhaps my biggest surprise in reading MY SECRET LIFE was to find out how big a problem turnover was:

* Most statistics I have seen show that turnover hovers around 200 to 250 percent for crew members in fast food restaurants. This means that if you open a new store on January 1, by the middle of the year everyone has quit. You start over again, and by the end of the year everyone has quit again. Decade after decade, you have to repopulate the store twice per year. It's no wonder that Rich Floersch, corporate head of human resources at McDonald's, is proud of the way the company has reduced turnover to somewhere between 100 and 150 percent. And the turnover rate of 111 percent reported in my store, a Burger King, was truly a model to emulate. It took almost a year for everyone to quit or be fired there. And I'm not at all surprised that in my worst store, also a Burger King, turnover reached 500 percent. On average, crew members lasted just slightly more than two months—a feat of incredible persistence in my opinion.

I make it a point to not go into fast food restaurants too often . . . however, because of this book, I will never view such an eatery in quite the same way.

D. Heard THE WEDDING (Hachette Audio) by Alphonse McCourt . . . it's a short--make that very short--tale of the wedding between the author, an Irish Catholic, and Jew in the 1970s . . . this did not happen very often back then . . . even making the occasion more memorable was the fact that there were a few mishaps, an AWOL rabbi, and long delay and a riotous reception . . . it was funny for what it was; i.e., a brief slice out of the author's life.

This apparently is an audible book that can only be purchased online . . . the \$1.95 price is cheap enough; however, it is only 16 minutes in length, and if you wanted to make a purchase, I'd recommend considering A LONG STONE'S THROW, also by the McCourt. . . I'm pretty sure that is where this tale comes from . . . and a lot more details about his life.

[Back To Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. NOTHING SACRED is a classic comedy about a small-town girl, Carole Lombard, who is diagnosed with a rare, deadly disease . . . an ambitious newspaper man, Fredric March, then attempts to turn her into a national heroine . . . Saturday at 7:30 a.m. on TCM.

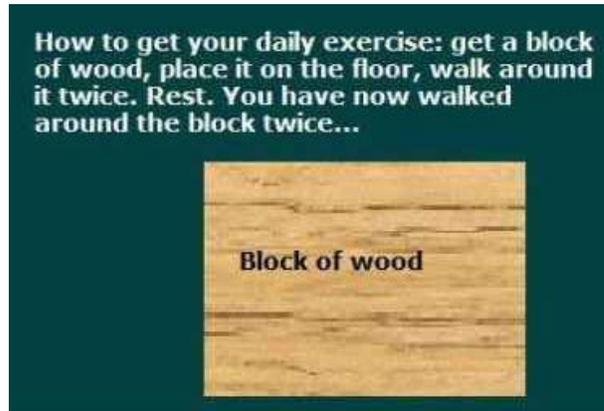
B. BIRDSONG, the latest PBS MASTERPIECE CLASSIC, deals with the Battle of the Somme, during which the British suffered some 350,000 casualties in World War I . . . "As a tapestry of time and place," notes THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, [it] "is a wonder to behold." Sunday, April 22 and 29 at 9 p.m. on PBS. Note: Times and dates often vary on PBS stations, so check local listings.

C. VEEP stars Julia Louis-Dreyfus as an image-obsessed vice president to an unseen leader . . . TV GUIDE calls it a "hoot" and says Dreyfus "shines and curdles" . . . Sundays at 10 p.m. on HBO.

D. GIRLS is a dark comedy about a small group of friends in their 20s who are trying to chart their lives in New York City . . . the series was created by Lena Dunham, who also stars . . . I saw the first episode and found it interesting--though somewhat disturbing . . . Sundays at 10:30 p.m. on HBO.

Back To Top

6. JOKE 2: Feel better and exercise, too



Back To Top

7. Websites

A. Robin S. in PA: Be sure to watch to the end . . . ENJOY!

<http://awkwardfamilyphotos.com/videos/afp-grandparents-the-wedding-toast/>

B. Heather M. in NC: Live session of Paolo Nutini performing Pencil Full of Lead

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twuzki0ZpDo&feature=youtu.be>

NOTE: Above song is guaranteed to get you moving!

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

Make sure you check out my photo on the right of the homepage, especially the eyes as you move your cursor to the items on the left.

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Back To Top

8. Computer tip

Follow-up to information on getting your facts right (in Section 8 of BLAINESWORLD #811):

IN GENERAL:

* If something has been forwarded to you, it's almost always garbage. Please, please, please check it out before you forward it to others.

* Consider the objective of the thing that's been forwarded. Again, if it is to "bad mouth" somebody (e.g., a politician), it is also garbage--regardless of the party being attacked.

* Check more than one of the above sources to get at the truth.

* Has source information been given? Even if so, verify the source information yourself. Just because somebody says it "has been reported on snopes.com" doesn't mean that's the case.

*Check mainstream media--e.g., THE WALL STREET JOURNAL or THE NEW YORK TIMES--before you even begin to think about accepting something as gospel.

Also, thanks to Marty D. in PA for this email:

Historically you've done an admirable job of keeping BLAINESWORLD a fair and balanced publication. But I fear you've fallen a bit short in the above recommendation [<http://mediamatters.org/>]. Media Matters has a pronounced and steady left-wing bias, not to mention that it seems obsessed with attacking FOX News. Regardless of whether or not an individual agrees with the proposition that FOX News appears "right-wing" only because most of mainstream media is so left wing, I believe that an objective, fair and balanced list titled "Fact Checking Websites That Help You Know The Truth" should have also included newsbusters.org.

MY RESPONSE: Marty, as usual, makes a good point. I have now amended my list and have labeled mediamatters.org as very liberal, and have included newsbusters.org and labeled that as very conservative.

Back To Top

9. JOKE 3: Male sensitivity

The room was full of pregnant women with their husbands. The instructor said, "Ladies, remember that exercise is good for you. Walking is especially beneficial. It strengthens the pelvic muscles and will make delivery that much easier. Just pace yourself, make plenty of stops and try to stay on a soft surface like grass or a path.

"Gentlemen, remember: You're in this together. It wouldn't hurt you to go walking with her. In fact, that shared experience would be good for you both."

The room suddenly became very quiet as the men absorbed this information. After a few moments a man named Leo, at the back of the room, slowly raised his hand. "Yes?" said the Instructor.

"I was just wondering if it would be all right if she carries a golf bag while we walk?"

Brings a tear to your eye doesn't it? This kind of sensitivity just can't be taught.

Back To Top

10. A quote I like

I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have--Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), an American Founding Father who was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence and the third President of the United States

Back To Top

11. Thought for the day

Here's a love story you won't want to miss:

At 24, he hadn't long to live . . . so they got married

Ryan Smith loved golf, airplanes, cooking, good wine, good beer and the Oregon Ducks. But more than anything else, he loved Bethany.

To quote from the article: "Although it was way too short, we were able to be married and celebrate our one-month anniversary, and that's a gift no one can ever take away."

To read the whole piece, and I encourage that you do, please click:

<http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/47023686/ns/today-weddings/t/he-hadnt-long-live-so-they-got-married/?ns=today-weddings&t=he-hadnt-long-live-so-they-got-married>

And if you're as touched by this article as I was, feel free to read the follow-up at:

<http://tinyurl.com/cvao4fq>.

(Thanks to Bagel Junction in for sharing.)

Back To Top

12. Advance planning department

A. Some stuff I'm involved in:

(1) Want to volunteer to help me with SART this coming season? We need ushers, computer help, etc. If interested, contact me at: bginbc@aol.com and put VOLUNTEER in subject line. Or feel free to come to the following information session: Tuesday, April 24, at the Reuter

Center (Room 205), UNCA, at 9 a.m.

***** GREAT FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY (WESTERN NC) *****

Have your non-profit church, temple or organization come to an "Invited Dress Rehearsal" of a SART play this summer. With very little effort, you should be able to raise over \$3,500 in just one afternoon or evening. Two plays still remain. If interested, contact me at once: Blaine Greenfield, 828.633.1049; bginbc@aol.com.

(2) Amazing story--and REQUEST FOR HELP that doesn't involve money

You may have already heard or read about my friend Doug Blevins. He's the only coach in the history of the NFL who has never played football or even football!

He is now being featured in a short video clip that I think you'll find amazing.

My goal (wearing my SCORE volunteer hat for just a minute) is to help get Doug's story out to the rest of the world via this clip that has been submitted into an international competition. And that's where my request for help enters the picture.

All you need to do can be found in the following instructions:

* Please open a FREE Vimeo account--the "basic" one--by clicking the link below. (If you already have an account, skip this step.)

<http://vimeo.com/join>

It's very simple and doing so enables you to vote in the contest.

You also get high quality video; free video uploading; & lots more good stuff.

* Then go to top right (search box) and type-in "Doug Blevins."

* Watch the video and say you "like" it by clicking "like" just once in the upper right hand column.

If your vote goes through, you should see a heart in the middle of the screen.

If your vote didn't go through and/or you tried to vote twice, you'll see a broken heart in the middle of the screen.

* After your register, you'll get an email with "Welcome to Vimeo!" in the subject line. If you open it and verify your account, you can add a comment to the above "like" if you so desire.

Note: This email might wind up in your spam folder, so please check that.

* And when you are done, please forward either this entire email or just the above instructions to all your Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter friends, as well as to your email distribution list. Feel free to add your recommendation, too, about asking everybody to "like" the video.

Much obliged!

(3) Please hold Saturday, May 12 . . . that is the tentative date for my comedy debut at the Reuter Center . . . details to follow.

B. North Carolina events:

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-FM>

- (1) "LOOK HOMEWARD, ANGEL"
- (2) Mars Hill Open House
- (3) Spring Arising Concert at Light Center
- (4) Bombs Away Cabaret presents "High Skirts: Illicitly Yours!"

C. Pennsylvania/New Jersey events:

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-FO>

- (1) Abundance in 2012
- (2) OKLAHOMA!
- (3) The Book Discussion Group at BCCC
- (4) Princeton Center for Yoga & Health
- (5) Margaret Flowers, MD
- (6) ENERGY MEDICINE TRAINING

- (7) Charlie Zahm in concert
- (8) Arts at Bucks Presents the Classic Drama Twelve Angry Jurors
- (9) AS YOU LIKE IT
- (10) RHYTHM OF THE EARTH

Back To Top

PS. Make it a great week!

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#811
4.9.2012

In this issue:

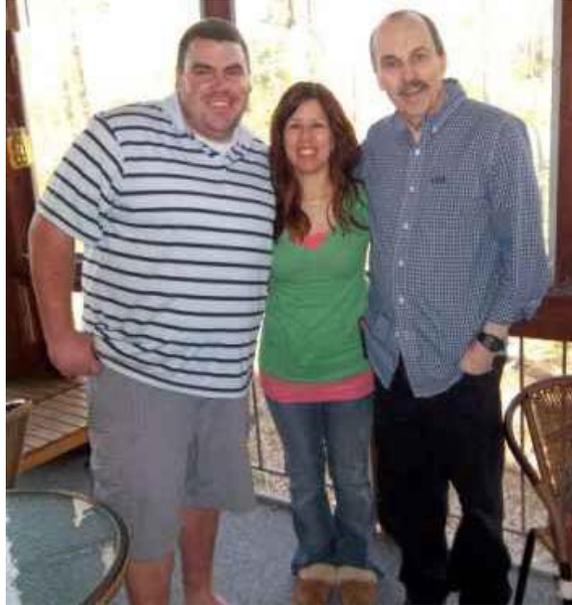
1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Pep talk**
 4. **Reviews . . . THIS MEANS WAR, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Great advice . . .**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: TV choices**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I spent a rare week apart . . . she stayed in the Asheville area, teaching a JourneyDance course at the Reuter Center for Creative Retirement.

B. I went "up North" to:

(1) Enjoy a fantastic Easter dinner at the home of Risa and my son-in-law JP.



(2) Attend an equally fantastic Passover Seder at the home of my cousins David and Grace. It was good to see not only my cousins, but also my brother Ken, his wife Lavelle and their grandson Julian. Pictured below is my cousin Brian, entertaining the many grandchildren present with his magic tricks. That's his wife Lisa to the left.



(3) Met a whole bunch of friends and former students for mouthwatering ice cream at Zebra Striped Whale. That's (l-r) Jennie Smith, Phyllis Miller, Natalie Kaye and John Strauss.



Special thanks to John for providing musical entertainment for the afternoon. And in another picture, that's (l-r) Stephen Zaglin, Lisa Zaglin and yours truly.



(4) Had great meals at two eateries: the Warminster West Diner in Warminster, PA, where I was joined by my friend Kevin Jameson and his friend Maria . . . and at the Ewing Diner in Ewing, NJ, where I was joined by my friend (and former college professor) Al Sternberg. Typing this reminds me of the fact that this is one thing that Asheville lacks; i.e., a good diner.

(5) Asheville also could use a good Jewish deli, so I just had to get to Moish and Itzy's in Newtown, PA, where I met my friend and teaching colleague Mary Bobbie to discuss our online Creativity course.

(6) I attended a fantastic production of TWELVE ANGRY MEN at the George Street Playhouse with Natalie Kaye, Phyllis Miller and Ivan Winegar. Jack Klugman, who was in the 1957 film as the youngest juror, was slated to play the oldest juror. Illness forced him to step aside, but the actor who replaced him was every bit as good.

(7) And, lastly, I went with my friend Mike Lazanski to see several very funny comedians at the Comedy Cabaret in Doylestown, PA . . . among them were:

* Rubi Nicholas, winner of Nickelodeon's Funniest Mom contest a few years back:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2Oe4rf5NFg&feature=relmfu>

* Sheila Kay, twice nominated as "Funniest Female Comic in the USA" at the American Comedy Awards . . . there's some X-rated material in this clip, so if that offends you, don't view:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYG7nawS7CE>

* And Mike Egan, the headliner:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ft8wAZ2EPfI>

For more information about Comedy Cabaret, please click:

<http://www.comedycabaret.com/doylestown.html>

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Rachel Litchman, our niece, on her engagement to Ezra.

(2) Hannan Isaacs for having been named to the 2012 SuperLawyers list and for having received a perfect 10 peer review from www.Avvo.com.

(3) Micah Solomon . . . his article, "Social media shifts power balance in favor of consumers--and how businesses should respond," was published in the SALT LAKE TRIBUNE. To read it, please click:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/money/53569245-79/customer-social-customers-media.html.csp>

(4) Chandler Smith . . . he was chosen to star this summer in the Detroit production of ROUTE 66 by Roger Bean with Top Hat Productions.

D. Condolences to:

(1) Lisa Zaglin and family on the passing of Lisa's aunt/godmother.

(2) Mark Jones and family on the passing of Mark's papaw.

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

This week, it goes to Stan Safian--a VP with Asheville SCORE and head of its excellent seminar program.

Stan plans all the seminars for the year, then goes about getting both sponsors and speakers. He also both attends and participates in just about all of them. And he is presenting on Occupational Fraud Prevention at the seminar on Saturday, April 14.

In addition, he manages to continue serving as one of SCORE's best counselors. He counsels not only at the 151 Patton Street downtown location, but at Cherokee and other offsite locations.

Stan is ably assisted by Alicia Reasoner, a student intern. She handles all the seminar registrations, as well as getting word out about them.

For more information about the seminar program, please click:

<http://www.asheillescore.org/seminars.htm>

Back To Top

2. FYI

BE FOREWARNED: Don't read the following column if you're planning to have eggs in the near distant future. Also, even if you're not a big fan of organic food, be prepared to change your thinking after you read this informative piece.

OPINION | April 12, 2012, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Op-Ed Columnist: Is an Egg for Breakfast Worth This?

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

An undercover investigation of a factory farm found some scary stuff in the henhouse. Shouldn't we agree on minimum standards for raising animals for food?

For the entire article, please click:

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/12/opinion/kristof-is-an-egg-for-breakfast-worth-this.html?_r=2&emc=eta

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) Carlsberg stunt with bikers in cinema

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RS3iB47nQ6E>

(2) Barbara F. in PA: Willie Nelson in 1965 . . . this is so hard to believe!
http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=W1bXdXWEKaE

(3) Savannah in PA: Beauty of Mathematics
http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=h60r2HPsiuM&feature=youtube_gdata_player

(4) Ken D. in PA: Take a drive on Highway 87 in South Dakota. Watch this bus come out of this tunnel.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=po5UCZZyf54&feature=share>

(5) Susan M. in NJ: Bird flies onstage to join the band
<http://www.flixy.com/bird-flies-onstage-to-join-the-band.htm>

(6) George B. in PA: Karla Kay Shantz as Mary Haines, Titanic Survivor: April 15, 1912
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxW8GtXbGh4&list=UUJRAVtHQnhBPPclHUM2z8lQ&index=1&feature=plcp>

(7) Jessica Melore, one of Donate Life America's "12 Most Inspiring Women of 2012"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yECbvlb7OQM>

B. Other:

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-F0>

- (1) Lillian D. in PA: Joan Weiss would be so happy for you and Cynthia
- (2) Steve D. in CT [on Section 1A in BLAINESWORLD #809]
- (3) Pat H. in PA [on question about leaving money to children]
- (4) Susan M. in NJ: You are too funny Blaine!!!
- (5) Lana in OH: Wonderful edition [#809]!
- (6) Pat A. in PA: Blaine, you got me on your April Fool's joke.
- (7) Joe D. in NY: You did get me on the April Fool's thing
- (8) Eileen Z. in PA: re: helping kids out....
- (9) Maria M. in NC: CONGRATULATIONS on becoming new SART PRESIDENT!!
- (10) Steve B. in AZ: I just finished a book that I think you would very much enjoy.
- (11) Michael F. in NV: Oh that's right it is April first....Beat you to it....this year!
- (12) Devander N. in CA: 15 things you should give up to be happy
- (13) Delores in PA (with a REQUEST FOR HELP)
- (14) Richard S. in NC: Thanks Blaine for all your support!
- (15) Lisa Z. in PA: Blaine, as usual, your newsletter hits home for me.

[Back To Top](#)

3. JOKE 1: Pep talk

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anesthesia, he asked to speak to his son. "Yes, Dad, what is it?"

"Don't be nervous, son; do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife . . . "

[Back To Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. THIS MEANS WAR is a romantic comedy about two CIA operatives who are inseparable partners and best friends; i.e., until they fall for the same woman . . . I enjoyed most of it, largely because of the appeal of the leads: Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine and especially Tom Hardy (also so good in WARRIOR) . . . only the ending left something to be desired . . . rated PG-13.

B. WE BOUGHT A ZOO is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #798 follows:

WE BOUGHT A ZOO, based on a true story, is about a single dad who buys a dilapidated zoo and attempts to return it to its former success . . . it was way too predictable for me . . . and while Matt Damon was OK in the leading role, I felt that he had very little chemistry with Scarlett Johansson--his employee who becomes a bit more than just his employee . . . Thomas Haden Church was funny whenever he appeared on screen; the film could have used more of him . . . I was also not too impressed with the sets . . . they just didn't have a realistic "look" to them . . . rated PG.

A MUCH BETTER RENTAL: Look for TODAY'S SPECIAL, a comedy about a sous chef whose

life changes when he is passed over for a promotion at an upscale Manhattan restaurant . . . he instead takes over the family's Indian restaurant when his father has a heart attack . . . this is a feel-good movie that will leave you smiling at the end . . . rated R.

C. DOLLARS & UNCOMMON SENSE (RFS Publishing) by Steve Repak, a Certified Financial Planner, promises in its subtitle to provide BASIC TRAINING FOR YOUR MONEY.

It succeeds, providing information that can help change your thinking, take control of your money and be richer than you ever dreamed.

The author contends that most people use common sense when they make decisions about their money. They also live paycheck to paycheck, have sleepless nights worrying about debt, and they're not saving enough for a comfortable retirement. What's needed: Some uncommon sense to help you get back on track.

For starters:

* The most important lesson I have learned from this is: It doesn't matter how much education you have or how much money you make, it's the way you think about money that determines how much money you have. The reason most people are bad with money is that they believe they are bad with it. They believe they can't do anything about it. They believe they will never have more of it. Your first step is to quit thinking this way.

Repak then goes on to explain that making more money isn't necessarily the key to success:

My best friend, Derrell, who manages wealth in Birmingham, Alabama, had to put two of his clients on a strict budget because they were spending more than \$8000 a month just on clothes! This couple was making more than \$500,000 a year and would need grocery money. The point is: Whether you make \$100 a week or \$100,000 a week, if you spend more than you make, you will be broke.

Rather, what you need to do is the following:

* If you want more money, you have to change your priorities. You need to:

1. Give away 10 percent of what you make.
2. Save 10 percent.
3. Live on the rest. . . .

This strategy works on numerous levels. First, if you are like most people and spend your whole paycheck every month without giving or saving, when you reset your priorities and start giving away 10 percent and then saving 10 percent, you will have 20 percent less money to live on. Very soon you will learn that you can survive on less. You will learn to be less materialistic, and you will become far more careful about your spending.

The above sounds so basic, yet the reality is that not too many people follow it . . . if you're willing to give this idea and others a try, then I recommend you purchase a copy of book . . . it would also make a great gift idea, especially for those open to handling money differently than in the past.

D. Heard I AMERICA (AND SO CAN YOU!) (Hachette Audio), written by Stephen Colbert and shouted--to quote the cover--by Colbert and a whole host of others, including Paul Dinello, Kevin Dorff, Greg Hollimon, Evie McGee, David Pasquesi, Amy Sedaris, Allison Silverman, Bryan Stack and Jon Stewart.

The sarcastic funnyman, host of Comedy Central's THE COLBERT REPORT, comments on everything that's wrong with America . . . in doing so, he presents his "knee jerk beliefs" on everything from the liberal media to environmentalists.

He contends that if we continue to secularize Christmas, former carolers will become wandering, alcoholic bums and insects will grow into giant, munching minivans.

In addition, he advocates legalizing performance-enhancing drugs for athletes since sports are entertainment. He also attacks atheists, asking: How could a God exist who created a group that so pisses him off? And atheists are more hated than gays, to whom we at least entrust our hair.

Accompanying Colbert's tirades are the voices of other characters, including the quieter tones of God, who claims to be fair since he doesn't intercede in the outcome of sports on which he bets. There are also patriotic drums, as well as a mariachi band.

If you're a fan of THE COLBERT REPORT, you'll laugh at this book. To those who are not regular viewers, give this a shot . . . you might well be pleasantly surprised.

***** CONTEST #7 *****

One lucky winner will receive the CD version of PLEADING GUILTY by Scott Turow . . . PUBLISHERS WEEKLY had this to say about the book:

Murder, embezzlement, bookmaking, offshore banking, and the politics of a high-powered law firm supply varying shades of corruption as Turow (Presumed Innocent; The Burden of Proof) returns to Kindle County in this wise, surefooted legal thriller. World-weary attorney Mack Malloy, 50-ish ex-cop and recovering alcoholic, is the protagonist and narrator. . . . It is an engaging, street-wise narrative full of plain talk and homespun philosophy, as well as a candid account of the behind-the-scenes workings of a powerful law firm. Though every element of the novel is polished and professional, the charisma of Mack's narration is its triumph. Add that to a taut, twist-filled plot, expert pacing, colorful and well-rendered supporting characters, and an appealing whiff of larceny, and Turow surpasses Grisham hands down.

TO ENTER: Put "CONTEST 7" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, April 15.

[Back To Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. SCANDAL airs on Thursdays at 10 p.m. on ABC . . . it's a drama about a team of image-problem solvers in Washington, D.C. . . . "Like so many ABC series, from 'Desperate Housewives' to 'Revenge,' this is escapist fare with a feminine bent," notes THE NEW YORK TIMES. "And while there are moments that are downright laughable, 'Scandal' has flair and even sophistication. Like 'The Good Wife' on CBS, it's a suspenseful, juicy romp that holds attention better than many a more high-minded show.

B. UNSINKABLE MOLLY BROWN, one of my favorite movie musicals, is the biography of the backwoods girl who struck it rich in Colorado and survived the Titanic. Saturday at 5:45 p.m. on TCM.

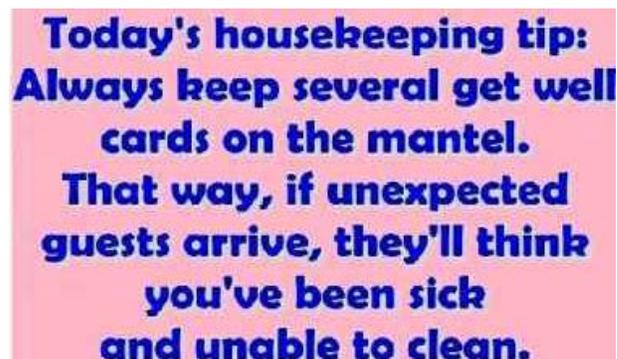
NOTE: If you'd like to get my entire listing of favorite films, just send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in subject line.

C. NYC-22 is a police drama featuring two actors I have often enjoyed, Leelee Sobieski and Adam Goldberg . . . MEDIA LIFE gave it a pretty good review: What's more surprising is that someone out there still knows how to make this sort of show well. By not distracting themselves with goals like innovation or subtle characterization, the series' creators are free to present simple plotlines and easily graspable motivations. One doesn't have to be old to enjoy "NYC 22," but it helps. . . . Sundays at 10 p.m. on CBS.

D. THE WOMAN WHO WASN'T THERE, a documentary on a woman who claimed falsely to have been a 9/11 victim, is "fascinating," according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL . . . Tuesday, April 17, at 8:30 p.m. on INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY.

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: Great advice . . .



**Today's housekeeping tip:
Always keep several get well
cards on the mantel.
That way, if unexpected
guests arrive, they'll think
you've been sick
and unable to clean.**

[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Wes H. in NC: Vote against Amendment One [in North Carolina]
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wL9spBxh4I&feature=share>

NOTE: Although this applies to an upcoming election in just North Carolina on May 8, the message is applicable for everybody. Please view it. And if you are eligible to vote in North Carolina, please vote "against" the above.

B. Warning: This clip will make you cry . . . but you'll be glad you saw it!
http://www.flickspire.com/m/share_this/ChangeForADollar#.TvBDyn2XcrE.facebook

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

In case you've always wondered how many others have come here before me, take a look at the counter on the bottom left of the homepage.

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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Back To Top

8. Computer tip

Get Your Facts Right – 6 Fact Checking Websites That Help You Know The Truth

<http://www.factcheck.org/>

<http://www.politifact.com/>

<http://www.opensecrets.org/index.php>

<http://snopes.com/>

<http://www.truthorfiction.com/>

<http://www.hoax-slayer.com>

For the whole article that I think you'll find very informative, please click:

<http://www.vikitech.com/454/get-your-facts-right-6-fact-checking-websites-that-help-you-know-the-truth>

And here are two more sources for you:

<http://mediamatters.org/>

<http://www.hoax-slayer.com/>

Back To Top

9. JOKE 3: TV choices

My friend's wife came home to find her husband entrenched in front of the TV set, switching between a fishing show and a pornographic movie. After a few minutes of back-and-forth, she offered this suggestion: "Honey you might as well just watch the film. You already know how to fish."

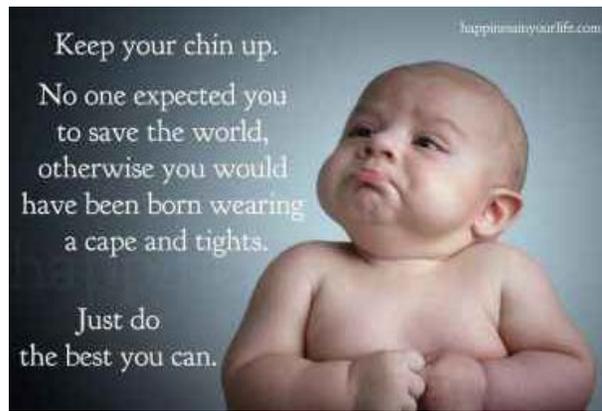
Back To Top

10. A quote I like

Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.--Desmond Tutu (born 1931), retired Anglican bishop who rose to worldwide fame during the 1980s as an opponent of apartheid

Back To Top

11. Thought for the day



[Back To Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. Some stuff I'm involved in:

1. Want to volunteer to help me with SART this coming season? We need ushers, computer help, etc. If interested, contact me at: bginbc@aol.com and put VOLUNTEER in subject line. Or feel free to come to the following information session: Tuesday, April 24, at the Reuter Center (Room 205), UNCA, at 9 a.m.

(2) Amazing story--and REQUEST FOR HELP that doesn't involve money

You may have already heard or read about my friend Doug Blevins. He's the only coach in the history of the NFL who has never played football or even football!

He is now being featured in a short video clip that I think you'll find amazing.

My goal (wearing my SCORE volunteer hat for just a minute) is to help get Doug's story out to the rest of the world via this clip that has been submitted into an international competition. And that's where my request for help enters the picture.

All you need to do can be found in the following instructions:

* Please open a FREE Vimeo account--the "basic" one--by clicking the link below. (If you already have an account, go directly to Step #3.) <http://vimeo.com/join>

It's very simple and doing so enables you to vote in the contest.

You also get high quality video; free video uploading; & lots more good stuff.

* Then go to top right (search box) and type-in "Doug Blevins."

* Watch the video and say you "like" it by clicking "like" just once in the upper right hand column.

If your vote goes through, you should see a heart in the middle of the screen.

If your vote didn't go through and/or you tried to vote twice, you'll see a broken heart in the middle of the screen.

* After your register, you'll get an email with "Welcome to Vimeo!" in the subject line. If you open it and verify your account, you can add a comment to the above "like" if you so desire.

NOTE: This email might wind up in your spam folder, so please check that.

* And when you are done, please forward either this entire email or just the above instructions to all your Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter friends, as well as to your email distribution list. Feel free to add your recommendation, too, about asking everybody to "like" the video.

Much obliged!

(3) Please hold Saturday, May 12 . . . that is the tentative date for my comedy debut at the Reuter Center . . . details to follow.

B. North Carolina events:

To read each of the following events in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-F2>

- (1) Jennifer Smith w/Daniel Weiser on piano
- (2) Come and play with the Runaway Circus at The Hop
- (3) The Lessons in Leadership team is INCREDIBLY EXCITED to invite you to a brand new "Winning Workshops"
- (4) Womansong, Asheville, NC's oldest and largest women's community chorus

C. Pennsylvania/New Jersey events:

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-F4>

- (1) Savannah will be returning to the New Hope Metaphysical Society with a new program on "Energetic Literacy"
- (2) BuxMont Coalition for Peace Action Presents: Charlie Zahm
- (3) One day comedy seminar

Back To Top

PS. Make it a great week!

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19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way
Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
Phone : 828.633.1049

Contact Us at bginbc@aol.com

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#810
4.2.2012

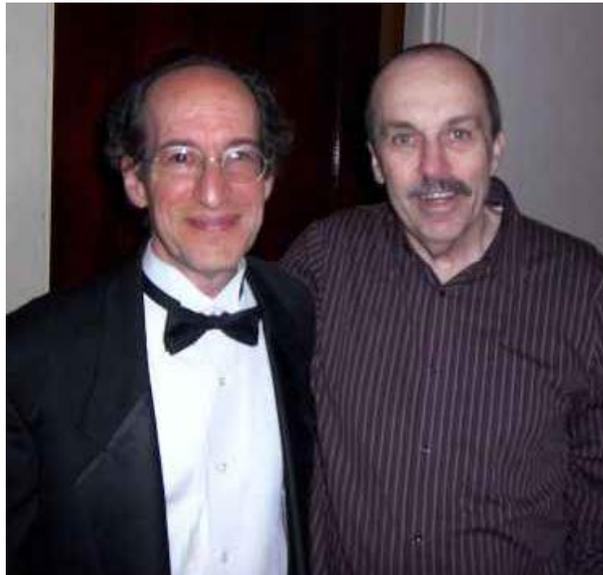
In this issue:

1. Reflections

1. Reflections

A. "Why a SPECIAL EDITION," you ask? Because as I'm typing this, I am not in North Carolina . . . but in Pennsylvania--visiting friends and family. Consequently, I don't have complete access to my regular computer, so this week's issue won't have all the sections that you have hopefully grown to love each week. Check next week's issue for those.

B. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I did get to see A DREAM OF CAMELOT before I left. This is the second time we have seen the show, and we were impressed how it evolved since its first production last year. Kudos to Richard Shulman (see below) for writing the book, music and lyrics for this beautiful play.



We were also impressed by Rock Eblen's direction, as well as the performances of the entire cast: Eblen, who played Merlin, as well as Jenna Jaffe-Melissas, Anthony Fogleman, Steven Turner, Justin Jones, Morgan St. Clair, Eileen Kennedy, Gary Gaines, Chelsea St. John and Breazi Breazeale. This year, two dancers were added (Stefanie Glynn Crane and Luke Dotson), and they added to our enjoyment of the evening.

C. Another production we very much enjoyed was AS SCENE ON TV, presented by the Bailey Mountain Cloggers at Mars Hill College. Now you might be thinking to yourself, "Self, what could possibly be interesting about that?" That was my initial reaction, too, and was I ever pleasantly surprised!

The afternoon was filled with fantastic dancing (not just clogging), and we left looking forward to the next chance to see this talented group of students who have been national champions an amazing 19 times. Danielle Plimpton handled the direction with aplomb, and she was ably assisted by our friend Barrie Barton who served as stage manager. Lee Revis, one of our favorites in student theatrical performances we've seen at Mars Hill, was one of the principal cloggers--and he dazzled us with his footwork.

D. We both liked SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN, a romantic comedy about an improbable plan to bring the sport of fly-fishing to the desert. . . it works, in large part because of the great chemistry between Emily Bunt and Ewan McGregor in the leading roles . . . if you are looking for a film with no special effects that will just leave you feeling good at the end, this is the one for you . . . rated PG-13.

E. If you're around the Bucks County (PA) area on Saturday, April 7, please stop by to stop by and say "hello" . . . I'll be at the Zebra Striped Whale, 12 S. State Street, Newtown from 4-6 p.m. to get some of that place's great idea cream . . . I'll also be listening to my friend John Strauss play the guitar and maybe even sing along with some other friends who will be there.

And if that doesn't work out for you, I'm probably going from there for a bite to eat . . . and then to the Comedy Cabaret, 625 N. Main Street, Doylestown for its 9 p.m. show.

F. CONGRATULATIONS to:

(1) Tom F. in NJ for not only figuring out the April Fool's joke in BLAINESWORLD #809, but also for getting me back in return!

NOTE: In case you missed it, what I wrote in Section 1A is not going to happen; i.e., I will continue to publish this missive on a weekly basis.

(2) Sue R. in PA for winning Contest #6 . . . her CD version of WITCH & WIZARD: THE GIFT by James Patterson and Ned Rust is in the mail. All told, nine entries were received for that contest. And that reminds me to announce . . .

***** CONTEST #7 *****

One lucky winner will receive the CD version of PLEADING GUILTY by Scott Turow . . . PUBLISHERS WEEKLY had this to say about the book:

Murder, embezzlement, bookmaking, offshore banking, and the politics of a high-powered law firm supply varying shades of corruption as Turow (Presumed Innocent; The Burden of Proof) returns to Kindle County in this wise, surefooted legal thriller. World-weary attorney Mack Malloy, 50-ish ex-cop and recovering alcoholic, is the protagonist and narrator. . . . It is an engaging, street-wise narrative full of plain talk and homespun philosophy, as well as a candid account of the behind-the-scenes workings of a powerful law firm. Though every element of the novel is polished and professional, the charisma of Mack's narration is its triumph. Add that to a taut, twist-filled plot, expert pacing, colorful and well-rendered supporting characters, and an appealing whiff of larceny, and Turow surpasses Grisham hands down.

TO ENTER: Put "CONTEST 7" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, April 15.

G. I urge you to read the following article, especially if you have aging relatives--or if you fit into that category, too; i.e., you're aging.

OPINION | March 31, 2012

Op-Ed Contributor: Taking Responsibility for Death

By SUSAN JACOBY

More Americans should take the initiative to spell out what treatments they do--and do not--want by writing living wills and appointing health care proxies.

MY TWO CENTS: This is a thought-provoking article. The first two paragraphs, in particular, really opened my eyes:

I WAS standing by my 89-year-old mother's hospital bed when she asked a doctor, "Is there anything you can do here to give me back the life I had last year, when I wasn't in pain every minute?" The young medical resident, stunned by the directness of the question, blurted out, "Honestly, ma'am, no."

And so Irma Broderick Jacoby went home and lived another year, during which she never again entered a hospital or subjected herself to an invasive, expensive medical procedure. The pain of multiple degenerative diseases was eased by prescription drugs, and she died last November after two weeks in a hospice, on terms determined by explicit legal instructions and discussions with her children - no respirators, no artificial feeding, no attempts to buy one more day for a body that would not let her turn over in bed or swallow without agony.

To continue reading, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/31/opinion/taking-responsibility-for-death.html?emc=eta1>

H. OK, OK . . . stop begging; it doesn't become you . . . if you really want a joke, here's one for you:

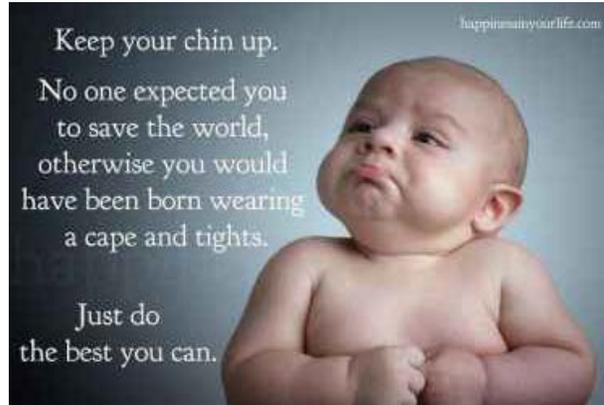
Tough day

Mary was having a tough day and had stretched herself out on the couch to do a bit of what she thought to be well-deserved complaining and self-pitying.

She moaned to her mom and brother, "Nobody loves me . . . the whole world hates me!"

Her brother, busily occupied playing a game, hardly looked up at her and passed on this encouraging word: "That's not true, Mary. Some people don't even know you."

I. And lastly, there's this Thought for the Day:



[Back To Top](#)

PS. Depending on your religion, please make it a Happy Easter or Happy Passover . . . or if you're like me and you celebrate all holidays (more fun, food and family that way), here's hope that you get to enjoy both holidays . . .and, also, that you get to eat all the chocolate-covered bunnies AND macaroons that your heart desires . . . in addition, please make it a great rest of the week!

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#809
3.26.2012

In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Irony**
 4. **Reviews . . . 21 JUMP STREET, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Winner of wet T-shirt contest**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Kids and religion**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are loving our respective reirements in Asheville . . . we often feel, like my mother used to say, that it's like we are living in Disney World every day . . . there's just so much to do.

Consequently, we have spent some time recently discussing the newsletter you are now reading . . . while I love putting it together and she loves proofing it (well, I don't know if I would go quite that far about the loving part), we both realize that it does take time to come up with each weekly issue . . . make that, a lot of time.

As a result, we came to the conclusion that while some readers might be disappointed with the following decision, we are only going to publish BLAINESWORLD on a quarterly basis--effective immediately.

So this issue will be the last one that you get until June 26 . . . in the meantime, if you want to keep up with us, you can always follow us on Facebook . . . see Section 7D for more information on how to do so.

Thank you for your understanding!

B. If you believe the above, consider the fact that I gotcha . . . the preceding was my April Fool's Day joke to you (in advance) . . . I will continue publishing BLAINESWORLD on a weekly basis until the time that I choose not to do so . . . now how's that for profound?

For some reason, I like doing so . . . and I like sharing all the good things that Cynthia and I are doing, as well as other information that I find interesting--and hope you do too. Specifically, this past week, we:

(1) Saw an interesting show by Linda Del Vecchio, THE EVOLUTION OF WOMAN, at the Magnetic Theatre . . . it's actually a series of five one-act plays, most of them funny but also quite touching . . . in particular, I thought Kelly Christianson was outstanding in several roles, as was Jennifer Gatti . . . kudos, also, to Hope Spragg who directed.

GOOD NEWS: The production runs through April 14, so you can still catch it . . . for more information, please click:

<http://themagneticfield.com/>

(2) Went to a show called ROCK, PAPER, SCIRCUS! at the Odyssey Community School . . . nearly 50 volunteers got together to put together a fun performance that features musicians, acrobats and jugglers (including two of our favorites, Walter Beals and Keith Campbell) . . . the show raises money for local nonprofits like The Bike Recylery, Prison Books, Open Umbrella Collective, Free Ranger Kids Collective and Odyssey School . . . this is the second year we've gone to it; we may well keep returning . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.runawaycircus.com/>

Or:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HE5KDFbxfdo&feature=youtu.be>

(3) And I hosted an open rehearsal of an upcoming play, A DREAM OF CAMELOT, at my Biltmore Lake Clubhouse . . . that's me with Gary Gaines, one of the performers.



GOOD NEWS, part 2: The show runs this coming weekend at the Masonic Temple from March 29-April 1 . . for more information, please click:
<http://www.richheartmusic.com/ADreamOfCamelotMusical.html>

I have seen it and am looking forward to seeing it again . . . methinks you'll also like it!

C. CONGRATULATIONS to:

(1) Ed Kohlepp Sr. and Ed Kohlhepp Jr., father-and-son team at Kolhepp Investments . . . these guys handle my investments . . . they are the best . . . they were also recently featured in four different publications:

* Investment News, March 25, 2012
"Ryan Budget Calls for Two Tax Brackets"
<http://www.investmentnews.com/article/20120325/REG/303259989>

* BusinessWeek.com, March 19, 2012
"Family Businesses Should Plan Now for Rising Gift Tax"
<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2012-03-19/family-businesses-should-plan-now-for-rising-gift-tax>

* The Wall Street Journal Online - Dow Jones TV, March 15, 2012
"Wealth: The Cloud, Bonds, and the Family Business"
<http://online.wsj.com/video/wealth-the-cloud-bonds-and-the-family-business/38A951F2-E98E-4678-B351-049870D98586.html>

Look at that face--perhaps Ed should pursue a career on camera!

* Registered Rep Magazine, February 1, 2012
"Cold Call"
http://registeredrep.com/investing/finance_cold_call_5/

Two Eds are better than one!

NOTE: Ed Sr. is my longtime financial guru. He is the absolute best, as is the rest of his team. For more information, please click:
www.kohlheppadvisors.com/.

(2) Debbie Hancock for landing a new job as Membership Sales Coordinator for Eastern Montgomery County Chamber Commerce. If you are in that area and would like to join that particular Chamber (always a wise thing to do, in my opinion), contact Debbie at:
debbie.hancock@comcast.net.

(3) Lyle Johnson on his recent engagement to Aletha D. Howell.

(4) Tom Orr who will be opening June 19th for 39 performances at the Surfflight Theatre in Beach Haven (NJ) in ANNIE as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

D. CONDOLENCES to Brad Galbraith and family on the passing of Brad's father.

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

This week, it goes to Peter Dominick, my longtime friend, who is retiring on March 31 from his position as Executive Vice President with Bucks County Bank.

Fortunately, for Bucks County Community College, he will continue serving there as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

In addition, he will continue as a member of the Loan Review Committee of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks County Bank.

And he plans to devote time to traveling with his lovely wife Kathe, golfing, gardening and community support projects.

Knowing Peter, he'll be busier than ever!

Back To Top

2. FYI

Parents to the rescue. Or maybe not.

Many parents will always feel an urge to take care of their sons and daughters, even when those children are fully grown, sometimes with kids of their own.

Often that urge translates to money—and often that means trouble. Helping out adult kids financially can mean contributing to worthy investments, such as education or a down payment for a house. But when adult children make bad life decisions and need a bailout, parents should pause before swooping in for the rescue, experts say.

For the rest of this informative article from THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, please click:

http://online.wsj.com/article_email/SB10001424052970204323904577038332304642106-1MyQjAxMTAyMDEwNTEyNDUyWj.html?mod=wsj_share_email

MR. CURIOUS HERE: Your take on this article? Also, do you help your kids or grandkids? (And if so, how.)

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) "All I Ask Of You"- 2 piano arrangement by Bruce Stoller
www.Soundcloud.com/moose61

(2) You Are So Beautiful - Joe Cocker and Pavarotti
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSjNu00Hh4&feature=related>

(3) Wes H. in NC: Lioness shows trust in man with her newborn cubs.
<http://www.wimp.com/lionesstrust/>

(4) Cynthia G. in NC: Remarkable video about the birds, bees, bats & butterflies that pollinate our world
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHkq1edcbk4&feature=youtu.be>

(5) Marie V. in NJ: One of my music friends posted this just now and I HAD to share with you. [The Turtles!]
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xol6Wqlwocc&feature=share>

(6) Dan B. in PA: Robots that fly and cooperate
http://www.ted.com/talks/vijay_kumar_robots_that_fly_and_cooperate.html

(7) Jim Rooney: You gotta friend in me
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcOqHZTfN3k>

(8) Sharon C. in NC: Sheep herders
<http://www.wimp.com/sheeplight/>

(9) Barbara F. in PA: Worker At Lion Park Gets Hugs From Sweet Lion Cubs
<http://www.slothster.com/3005-Worker-At-Lion-Park-Gets-Hugs-From-Sweet-Lion-Cubs.html>

B. Other:

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-EI>

(1) Sue R. in PA: Loved your u-tube of the Muppets on Dancing with Stars.

(2) Linda K. in PA [on bikes]: I LOVE my "TREK" Hybrid.

(3) Marty D. in PA [on Tom Achilles moving on to the finals round in the DC's Funniest College Student Showcase]

(4) Natalie K. in PA: Walked out on JEFF, WHO LIVES AT HOME.

(5) Bob H. in NJ: I hope you get to see Hunger Games.

(6) Ken G. in NY: Some wonderful movies from Netflix

- (7) Laura B. in NJ: Did you and Cynthia like "The Artist?"
- (8) Kelly C. in NC: I love this quote
- (9) Rich O. in PA (with a REQUEST FOR HELP)
- (10) Henry W. in NY: Saw the riveting new French movie The Kid With a Bike

[Back To Top](#)

3. JOKE 1: Irony

I wanted to teach my nephew about irony, so I took him to Titanic on Ice.-- Craig Sharf (born 1955), American comic

[Back To Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. 21 JUMP STREET is an update of the TV show of the same name that even features a cameo from Johnny Depp (who starred in the original series) . . . it's an action-comedy that was very funny in the first half . . . however, the second half wasn't nearly as good, and it featured a car chase scene that dragged on way too long . . . I did like the chemistry between Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum who played the two main characters . . . I'm just not sure we need the sequel that seemingly was promised at the end of this film . . . rated R.

B. THE DESCENDANTS is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #794 follows:

THE DESCENDANTS is a drama about a guy whose wife is fatally injured in a boating accident . . . he then finds himself having to repair a fractured relationship with his two daughters . . . at the same time, he is trying to decide what to do with some valuable real estate owned by his family . . . George Clooney is excellent in the leading role, and the rest of the cast (including Beau Bridges, Judy Greer and Robert Forster) is good, too . . . in addition, the Hawaii setting was stunning . . . but the problem is that I just wasn't drawn into the story and when it ended, I didn't particularly care for what might happen to any of the characters in the future . . . rated R.

A BETTER RECOMMENDATION: Look for a 1980 film, THE IDOLMAKER, starring Ray Sharkey in a magnificent performance based on the career of Bob Marcucci--a rock 'n roll starmaker from Philadelphia . . . he guides two teen idols, clones of Fabian and Frankie Avalon, to show biz success . . . I also liked the music . . . rated PG.

C. You might think that the best way to get to a destination is to set a goal and head toward it.

Yet Rich Christiansen in his excellent book, THE ZIG ZAG PRINCIPLE (McGraw-Hill), says that's not necessarily the case. A better approach is to follow interim, tactical steps--and thus utilize the technique known zigzaging.

The author presents countless examples, designed to help first-time entrepreneurs jump start new ventures and experienced entrepreneurs to take their businesses to a next level. He does so by presenting many examples, such as this one pointing out the need to develop a catalyzing statement:

* Another good example of the power found in a broad goal with a catalyzing statement involves Bill Gates. In the early days of Microsoft, he would boldly declare, "We're going to become the largest software company in the world!" That sounded great, but at that time nobody even knew what software was! Was Gates referring to a pair of snugly, warm pajamas? No one could really wrap their heads around what he was saying. Then one day he made the statement, "I picture a world where there is a personal computer in every home and on every desktop." That was something people understood, and it became Microsoft's catalyzing statement.

In addition, I liked how he used his own life to drive home many of his points:

* Rick Sapio talks about what he calls "value-based decision making." He also refers to "The Doorman Principle," which is defined as the "the deliberate practice of designing a set of values and/or rules to dictate who, or what, is allowed to enter into your life or business." In our lives and in our businesses, we must have a "value gatekeeper." In our home, my wife is the value gatekeeper. When she sees one of my sons being rude to his friends, she will call him on it because, "We teach respect for people, places, and things." She insists that our kids do their homework because, "We value education." She does not let riffraff into our home and encourages our children to have positive friendships.

And I especially liked these three questions he shared:

* Of course, it was the older executives who gave the real insight. It did not matter what type of business these men or women were involved with. In each case, they described a pattern of pursuing success that was guided by these three questions:

1. What was honorable?
2. Did it leave an impact?
3. Who loves me and who do I love?

Though THE ZIG ZAG PRINCIPLE is aimed at the business community, I believe it has enough relevance and good common sense that it would be valuable for those in the nonprofit sector to read as well.

D. Heard YES MA'AM, NO SIR: THE 12 ESSENTIAL STEPS FOR SUCCESS IN LIFE (Hachette Audio), written by Ken Carter and read by Vince Bailey.

The author, also known as Coach Carter, was the story behind a 2006 film of the same name . . . it showed how he tried to teach his players that there's more to life than basketball.

This book sort of takes off where the above left off . . . Carter describes the basic lessons that have not only made him a success as a coach, but also as a businessman . . . he discusses such topics as leadership, respect, honesty, civility, goal achievement, education and persistence, and shows how they can be applied in life.

Among the many tidbits that I gained from listening were theses:

- * If you're talking--or even thinking about talking--you're not listening.
- * It was good news to my clients when they could reach me anytime. I was always available. I had my business calls transferred to my cellphone when I was not in the store or at home.
- * In the grand scheme of things people want what they want when they want it.
- * Always is not good enough.
- * If you get 1% better a day, within 100 days, you'll be 100% better.
- * There's an old saying: If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.

And my favorite:

* I build on strengths, rather than weaknesses, because I found that people are eager to get good in areas that they are good at rather than in areas that need more work.

If you're a sports fan, you'll enjoy YES MA'AM, NO SIR . . . but others will, too.

***** CONTEST #6 *****

One lucky winner will receive the CD version of WITCH & WIZARD: THE GIFT by James Patterson and Ned Rust . . . according to the LA TIMES, "Dialogue-heavy and action-packed, the writing throughout is inventive and colorfully detailed. Written in a conversational tone by Patterson and co-author Ned Rust, it's as if the reader's craziest best friend was recounting a wildly apocryphal tale, and doing so for about four hours, which is about how long it takes to read the book. It's easy to visualize the story, which may explain why movie rights to this series have already been snatched up." This book is appropriate for Grades 7-10, though many adult readers will probably like it too.

TO ENTER: Put "CONTEST 6" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, April 1.

Back To Top

5. TV alert

A. TOUCH is a drama starring Kiefer Sutherland and Danny Glover about seemingly random connections and miraculous coincidences that float within an 11-year-old's mind . . . "There's a wondrously hypnotic quality to TOUCH," notes TV GUIDE, "as we watch disparate stories converge each week, often with unashamedly manipulative results." Thursdays at 9 p.m. on FOX.

B. THE BANK DICK, perhaps the greatest W. C. Fields comedy, is about a town drunkard who is hired to guard the local bank when he foils two robberies in one day . . . Sunday at 8:30 a.m. on TCM.

C. THE 47TH ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS, hosted by Reba McEntire

and Blake Sheldon, airs on Sunday at 8 p.m. on CBS.

D. MASTERPIECE CLASSICS presents an adaptation of GREAT EXPECTATIONS, the Charles Dickens' classic, on Sunday at 9 p.m. on PBS in the first of two parts; the second part is on April 8th at the same time . . . according to Gillian Anderson (of X-FILES fame) in TV GUIDE, [I'll be playing the jilted bride] "who is still wearing her wedding gown years later and teaching her charge Estella to break men's hearts to get back at them for the pain she has experienced." NOTE: PBS dates and times often vary, so check local listings.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: After a 27-month hiatus, MAD MEN is back on Sundays at 10 p.m. on AMC . . . last week's first show of the season made me realize how much I missed it. . . please don't leave me drinking my coffee alone; join me in watching future episodes.



If you'd like to create a male or female character that looks like you, click:
<http://www.amctv.com/madmenyourself/>

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: Winner of the wet T-shirt contest



[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Nancy C. in NC: This site is run by a lovely woman who I met at a "Women of Wisdom" retreat in Oct. It's all good news!
<http://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/>

Among the recent articles:

[This Amazing Device Just Made Wheelchairs Obsolete for Paraplegics](#)
[Linkedin Founder Lets 40,000 People Lend His Fortune to Others](#)
[The 10 Happiest Careers in America](#)
[Husband's Crazy Pink Tutu Photos Help to Fight Breast Cancer](#)
[101-year-old Grandmother Sets Paragliding Record \(WATCH\)](#)

B. Please view this clip, not only for the music--but also because of what it has to say about friendship! (Thanks to Lois F. in AK for sharing.)

<http://www.godvine.com/Shy-Boy-and-his-Friend-Shock-the-Audience-with-The-Prayer-Unbelievable-1318.html>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

If you've always wanted to learn about Asheville . . . or even better, if you're thinking about coming here for a vacation and/or to move, then make sure you check "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Asheville" . . . there's a lot of good information there and even a picture of Cynthia and me.

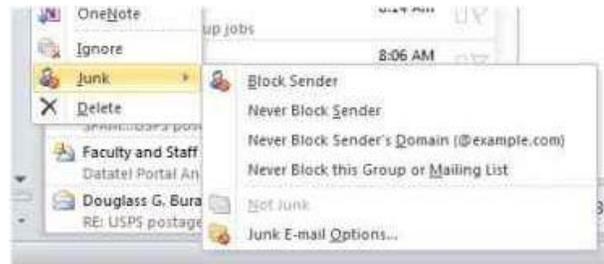
D. Are you on Facebook? In the unlikely event we have not yet connected as friends there, please feel free to send me an invite by clicking:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Back To Top

8. Computer tip

Sometimes, folks mention that they miss receiving an issue of two of this missive. (Imagine the despair they must go through when this happens!)

What I tell them to do is to first check their spam folder to make sure it doesn't go there. But here's something else you can do, particularly if you use Outlook--mark messages from me as "not junk" . . . click Tools at the top to drop down the following menu:



Thanks to Doug B. in PA for providing this information.

Back To Top

9. JOKE 3: Kids and religion

A little boy was walking down a dirt road after church one Sunday afternoon when he came to a crossroads where he met a little girl coming from the other direction.

"Hello," said the little boy.

"Hi," replied the little girl.

"Where are you going?" asked the little boy.

"I've been to church this morning and I'm on my way home," answered the little girl.

"Me too," replied the little boy. "I'm also on my way home from church."

"Which church do you go to?" asked the little boy.

"I go to the Baptist church back down the road," replied the little girl. "What about you?"

"I go to the Catholic church back at the top of the hill," replied the little boy.

They discover that they are both going the same way so they decided that they'd walk together.

They came to a low spot in the road where spring rains had partially flooded the road so there was no way that they could get across to the other side without getting wet.

"If I get my new Sunday dress wet my Mom's going to skin me alive," said the little girl.

"My Mom'll tan my hide too if I get my new Sunday suit wet," replied the little boy.

"I tell you what I think I'll do," said the little girl. "I'm gonna pull off all my clothes and hold them over my head and wade across."

"That's a good idea," replied the little boy. "I'm going to do the same thing with my suit."

So they both undressed and waded across to the other side without getting their clothes wet.

They were standing there in the sun waiting to drip dry before putting their clothes back on when the little boy finally remarked, "You know, I never did realize before just how much difference there really is between a Baptist and a Catholic."

Back To Top

10. A quote I like

And in the end it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.--Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), 16h president of the United States

Back To Top

11. Thought for the day
Layman's 10 commandments

Someone has written these beautiful words. Must read and try to understand the deep meaning of it.

They are like the ten commandments to follow in life all the time.

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.

2. So a Car's WINDSHIELD is so large & the Rear view Mirror is so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, Look Ahead and Move on.

3. Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.

4. All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.

5. Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!

6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"

7. When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.

8. A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"

9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

10. WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.

Author unknown (If you know who wrote this and/or the source, please notify me.)

NOTE: If you'd like to see the above with pictures and music, please click:
<http://www.openmyeyeslord.net/laymanstenccommandments.htm>

Back To Top

12. Advance planning department
A. Some stuff I'm involved in:

(1) I'm slated to be "up North" from April 2-9 and staying most of that time in the Bucks

County area. One place I know I'll be at: Zebra Striped Whale in Newtown, PA, on Saturday, April 7 from 4-6 p.m. Stop by to say "hello" and get some of that store's oh-so-tasty ice cream and/or chocolate. An added "plus" will be John Strauss playing his guitar. If you can't make it then, if interested, contact me about the possibility of getting together some other time.

(2) Amazing story--and REQUEST FOR HELP that doesn't involve money

You may have already heard or read about my friend Doug Blevins. He's the only coach in the history of the NFL who has never played football or even football!

He is now being featured in a short video clip that I think you'll find amazing.

My goal (wearing my SCORE volunteer hat for just a minute) is to help get Doug's story out to the rest of the world via this clip that has been submitted into an international competition. And that's where my request for help enters the picture.

All you need to do can be found in the following instructions:

* Please open a FREE Vimeo account--the "basic" one--by clicking the link below. (If you already have an account, go directly to Step #3.)

<http://vimeo.com/join>

It's very simple and doing so enables you to vote in the contest.

You also get high quality video; free video uploading; & lots more good stuff.

* Then go to top right (search box) and type-in "Doug Blevins."

* Watch the video and say you "like" it by clicking "like" just once in the upper right hand column.

If your vote goes through, you should see a heart in the middle of the screen.

If your vote didn't go through and/or you tried to vote twice, you'll see a broken heart in the middle of the screen.

* After your register, you'll get an email with "Welcome to Vimeo!" in the subject line. If you open it and verify your account, you can add a comment to the above "like" if you so desire.

NOTE: This email might wind up in your spam folder, so please check that.

* And when you are done, please forward either this entire email or just the above instructions to all your Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter friends, as well as to your email distribution list. Feel free to add your recommendation, too, about asking everybody to "like" the video.

Much obliged!

(3) Please hold Saturday, May 12 . . . that is the tentative date for my comedy debut at the Reuter Center . . . details to follow.

B. North Carolina events:

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Eq>

- (1) Bombs Away Cabaret presents "High Skirts: Illicitly Yours!"
- (2) Bailey Mountain Cloggers (19 time national champions)
- (3) Meet Asheville's new Police Chief
- (4) Doug Blevins (see also Section 12A) will be at Elaine's in the Grove Park Inn with Disclaimer Comedy

C. Pennsylvania/New Jersey events:

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Es>

- (1) Eric Wight, graphic novelist and creator of the 'Frankie Pickle' series of kids' books
- (2) Country Music Fest
- (3) Margaret Flowers, MD & Physicians for a National Health Program Congressional Fellow
- (4) I wanted to let you know the Aark Wildlife Rehab is having its Spring Open House

[Back To Top](#)

PS. Make it a great week!

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BLAINES WORLD

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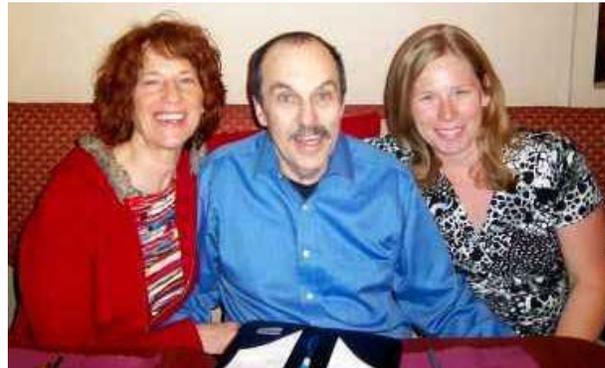
In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Chocolate ice cream**
 4. **Reviews . . . A SEPARATION**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Where do I get this app?**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Petty argument**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I, saw the Carolina Day School's production of DROOD . . . the entire cast was outstanding, but we especially liked the work of Emery McGaha and Fletcher Armstrong . . . kudos, also, to Renee Handley, costume designer; Lee Thomas, musical director; and David Dvorscak, director, scenic and lighting designer.

We also celebrated our friend Julia's birthday with a great movie (see also Section 4A), and we then went for a delicious dinner at Champa--formerly Sushi Thai.



B. MR. CURIOUS HERE: We're thinking of getting a bike for Cynthia, so she can resume exercising after breaking her toe about a month ago . . . what type and/or brand do you recommend? It would be primarily used around our neighborhood on both paved and dirt paths. Also, do you know of any places to get a used bike? If we could find one that has a kickstand, bell and a little basket up front, so much the better. They apparently no longer make such items. And on the subject of a wish list, add-in a motor for when she might get too tired to pedal . . . just kidding on that last part. (Somewhat!)

C. Applications are now being accepted for Leadership Asheville's next class . . . this was a fantastic experience for me, and the organization is an outstanding one . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.leadershipasheville.org/>

D. CONGRATULATIONS to:

(1) Tom Sofield for being presented with the Keystone Collegiate Press Award for an honorable mention for his photo of President Obama when he visited Bucks County last April in addition to being the cover story on the Centurion. He also was recognized by the PA Society of Newspaper Editors.

(2) Tom Achilles . . . he has moved on to the finals round in the DC's Funniest College Student Showcase. In his semifinal round, there were 14 college comedians, and he was one of only two that were advanced to the finals.

(3) Sally Butcher . . . her business, One More Decor, is now making a home in Oddfellows Antiques at 124 Swannanoa River Rd., down from the Tobacco Barn. She also does custom work now, so if you have anything you want painted, let me know. For more information, please click:

<http://www.oncemoredecorasheville.com/>

(4) Maria Mason who is filming an episode in NOLA's TV series, "Treme," as Judge Black.

(5) Edie Weinstein . . . she was recently interviewed on The Carole Tollen Psychic Experience . . . to catch the show, please click: <http://tobtr.com/s/2911855>

(6) Michelle Baker . . . her article, "Beyond Imagining," will be published in April's issue of SOPHIE MAGAZINE.

(7) Chris L. in PA, winner of Contest #5. His prize, a CD version of THE COMING ECONOMIC ARMAGEDDON: WHAT BIBLE PROPHECY WARNS ABOUT THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMY by Dr. David Jeremiah, is in the mail. All told, there were nine entries. As for what's next, here's the news you've all been anxiously awaiting:

***** CONTEST #6 *****

One lucky winner will receive the CD version of WITCH & WIZARD: THE GIFT by James Patterson and Ned Rust . . . according to the LA TIMES, "Dialogue-heavy and action-packed, the writing throughout is inventive and colorfully detailed. Written in a conversational tone by Patterson and co-author Ned Rust, it's as if the reader's craziest best friend was recounting a wildly apocryphal tale, and doing so for about four hours, which is about how long it takes to read the book. It's easy to visualize the story, which may explain why movie rights to this series have already been snatched up." This book is appropriate for Grades 7-10, though many adult readers will probably like it too.

TO ENTER: Put "CONTEST 6" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bjinbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, April 1.

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

This week, it goes to Walt Currie--outgoing president of the SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre) Board of Directors.



(l-r) Walt Currie and Blaine Greenfield, incoming SART Board president, with a beautiful stained glass piece created by Greg Magruder--a local artist

Walt has been a tireless worker for SART, providing both his time and expertise. He also has been the organization's Number One fan, always inspiring others with his beaming smile.

When not at SART, which seemingly is all the time, he manages to serve a second term as a member of the Weaverville Town Council, and he is of counsel to the law firm of Campbell/Shatley doing special projects in education and construction law.

In his off hours, Walt tends bees and spends as much time as possible at a family farm near

Washington, Ga., bush hogging and keeping the place presentable. He is "Papa" to four grandchildren, all of whom live nearby, as well as a loving husband to wife Carole.

And lest I forget, Carole also deserves recognition for her work on the SART Board. She will also be stepping down from being a member, but hopefully not from being a supporter/volunteer. She's another individual who shall be very hard to replace.

Back To Top

2. FYI

Great advice from Laura B. in NJ: We heard Robin Wright last night at the Drew Forum. which is a series of prominent people or people who have written on contemporary issues. Robin is an expert on Middle East politics. She is a very good speaker. I wished there was time for more questions.

This is only my second year of going to these lectures, but George has been going for 8 years. He has heard Bill Clinton, Henry Kissinger and other prominent US leaders. I have heard Mike Huckabee, the authors of "Game Change," Anderson Cooper, Tom Kean among others. The last lecture of the series is usually the biggest one and that person is sponsored by money put together in Gov. Kean's honor and thanks for his great tenure as president of the university. Did you know that one of the 9/11 hearings was on the Drew campus because Tom Kean was the head of the committee for the hearings? He also told me once that I could put him down as a reference.

I would suggest that your readers make sure that they are on mailing lists for events open to the public at their local colleges because there are a lot of interesting events in all areas on today's campuses.

MY TWO CENTS: Though the above specifically refers to Drew University, Laura's last paragraph is the key . . . as she points out, readers should get on the mailing list of colleges in their neck of the woods . . . I used to get information from Princeton University and, as a result, saw many fine lectures there—all for free!

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) Carol S. in PA: German guy shooting fish in a barrel
<http://www.wimp.com/fishbarrel/>

(2) Capitol Steps - Ten Pills and You're Fine (in HD)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWSesu2UTPY>

(3) John Pinette: All you can eat buffets
<http://www.stumbleupon.com/su/1B4AZI>

(4) Ted R. in NC: Outrageous jumping/flipping skills
<http://videosift.com/video/>

(5) Elizabeth Gilbert: A new way to think about creativity
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86x-u-tz0MA&feature=share>

(6) Katherine Sandoval Taylor and Liz Aiello: The Grass Is Always Greener (Woman of the Year)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCaOL6BUVtk&feature=channel>

(7) John C. in NC: Jason Robert Brown - Someone to Fall Back On
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35QvhTUIFLU&feature=share>

B. Other:

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-DL>

- (1) Jeanne B. in PA: Professor Springsteen's rock 'n' roll history lesson at SXSW
- (2) Steve G. in PA: How could you make either work so they would be safe?
- (3) Chris L. in PA: On the diet soda: I drink the same (coke zero).
- (4) Courtney Y. in FL: Enjoy reading the wonderful missives each week.
- (5) Bill L. in PA: Diane and I saw on Saturday . . . 21 Jump Street. We both really liked it.
- (6) Pat L. in CA: Excellent--as always!!
- (7) Ingrid S. in PA: Thanks for posting the info. on diet sodas.
- (8) Sue R. in PA: Your joke #2 [in BLAINESWORLD #807] on aging really cracked me up!
- (9) Joe H. in NC: RE: soda . . . try seltzer water.
- (10) Pat H. in PA: Is knowing your mail carrier by name a function of living in Asheville?

- (11) Pat H. in PA, again: I think you/we all become a function of the environment.
(12) Dan B. in PA: Will consider calling you if I have need for any reirement.
(13) George P. in NC (with a REQUEST FOR HELP)
(14) Andy S. in PA (with a REQUEST FOR HELP)

Back To Top

3. JOKE 1: Chocolate ice cream

"Gimme a chocolate cone!" demands the customer as she walks into an ice cream parlor.

"We're all out of chocolate," says the scooper.

"Then I'll take chocolate in a cup with chocolate sauce and . . ."

"Sorry."

"Chocolate and vanilla combo?"

The scooper sighs. "Lady, do you see the 'straw' in strawberry?"

"Yes."

"Do you see the 'van' in vanilla?"

"Sure."

"Do you see the 'frick' in chocolate?"

"There's no 'frick' in chocolate."

"That's what I keep telling you!"

Back To Top

4. Reviews

A. A SEPARATION is a complex, fascinating look about the dissolution of a marriage in Iran (that could well take place anywhere else) . . . it deservedly won an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 2012 . . . there are many twists and turns along the way, along with complex legal battles . . . although I saw it several days ago, I'm still thinking about it . . . and I have already placed it on my list of favorite films . . . rated PG-13.

NOTE: If you'd like the rest of my list of favorite films, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put FAVORITE FILMS in the subject line.

B. THE MUPPETS is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #792 follows:

I wasn't a big Muppet fan; i.e., until I saw their latest: THE MUPPETS . . . it's a delightful musical comedy about a group of fans who discover a plan to raze the Muppet Theater and drill for the oil recently discovered below it . . . only if \$10 million can be raised can the plan be stopped, so an attempt begins to reunite the Muppets, who have all gone their separate ways, for a telethon . . . Jason Segel and Amy Adams are delightful in the starring roles . . . the dancing is lively, and the songs are tuneful . . . this is a film that's perfect for the whole family, but even if you have no kids or grandkids, you'll enjoy it too . . . rated PG.

One of my favorite songs (that was originally performed on DANCING WITH THE STARS) is the following:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbzUnGpgJDY&feature=related>

C. THE BEHAVIOR GAP (Penguin Group) by Carl Robbins won't teach specific ways to invest your money . . . rather, you will gain a better understanding of what the subtitle promises; i.e., SIMPLE WAYS TO STOP DOING DUMB THINGS WITH MONEY.

Robbins, a certified financial planner and a blogger for THE NEW YORK TIMES, saw that people kept making the same mistakes over and over. He noticed that they were letting their emotions get in the way of smart financial decisions, and he named this distance between what they should do and what they actually do "the behavior gap."

What I especially liked about the book was that it got me to rethink many of the investment decisions I've made in my life . . . but as the author points out:

* Every great thing that has happened (and there have been a bunch) has been at least partly a matter of luck. Even the setbacks have taught me important lessons, including some that I've tried to pass along in this book. One of those lessons is that you aren't in charge of everything. Do what you can, and then relax.

That comment also got me thinking that I'd like to tell the author, "That's easy for you to say" . . . however, it really can become easy to relax if you also think about this point:

* Monitoring market moves, watching stock market shows on CNBC, and poring over financial forecasts take a lot of time. Worse, it makes people anxious--and anxious people often screw up.

Think about it: ever try doing anything when you're anxious? Calm is always better.

What happens to anxious golfers? Jack Nicklaus says that very few people hold the club lightly enough. A friend who tried to teach me to play golf told me you should pretend you're trying to hold a baby bird. When you're anxious, you grip the club more tightly--and suddenly you're shanking shots all over the place.

In addition, I liked what the author had to say about previous decisions that have been made--such as the involving a home purchase:

* Let's say you paid \$800,000 for your home a few years ago, and now you need to sell it. You want to get back at least as much as you paid. So you insist upon listing it for \$800,000 even though you know the real estate market has come down. Three months later, you pass on an offer of around \$750,000. Another six months later, you're hoping to get \$700,000. That first offer looks like a dream.

Hey, guess what: the housing market doesn't care what you paid for your house. It doesn't care how much you put into it, or even what it cost you to landscape. All that matters is what it is worth today.

THE BEHAVIOR GAP, by the way, is one book you won't want to listen to on CD or your iPod . . . doing so, you'd miss Robbins' simple but informative illustrations--all drawn on napkins.

D. Heard GIFT FROM THE SEA (Random House Audio) by Anne Morrow Lindbergh and read by Claudette Colbert.

This was the 50th anniversary edition, and it contained an introduction by the author's daughter that I found help in that it gave some background information on the acclaimed writer and mother of five.

In this book, Lindbergh shares her observations about youth and age; love and marriage; peace, solitude and contentment that she set down during a vacation by the sea . . . as she notes:

* I began these pages for myself, in order to think out my own particular pattern of living, my own individual balance of life, work and human relationships. And since I think best with a pencil in my hand, I started naturally to write . . .

She then shared her thoughts about the beach:

* The sea does not reward those who are too anxious, too greedy, or too impatient. To dig for treasures shows not only impatience and greed, but lack of faith. Patience, patience, patience, is what the sea teaches. Patience and faith. One should lie empty, open, choiceless as a beach--waiting for a gift from the sea.

And, also, oyster beds:

* Yes, I believe the oyster shell is a good one to express the middle years of marriage. It suggests the struggle of life itself. The oyster has fought to have that place on the rock to which it has fitted itself perfectly and to which it clings tenaciously. So most couples in the growing years of marriage struggle to achieve a place in the world. It is a physical and material battle first of all, for a home, for children, for a place in their particular society. . . . In these years one recognizes the truth of Saint-Exupery's line: "Love does not consist in gazing at each other (one perfect sunrise gazing at another!) but in looking outward together in the same direction." For, in fact, man and woman are not only looking outward in the same direction; they are working outward. (Observe the steady encroachment of the oyster bed over the rock.) Here one forms ties, roots, a firm base. (Try and pry an oyster loose from its ledge!)

I found GIFT FROM THE SEAS beautifully written and surprisingly soothing . . . yet it is not for everybody; in particular, it is definitely more a woman's book, and I'm not sure how many males would even want to read it.

In addition, I think some readers might have trouble relating to the author . . . at the time, she resided in the upper 1% of society and as a result, could take advantage of many things not ordinarily available to most Americans.

[Back To Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. BENT is about a newly divorced mother reentering the world of relationships . . . the premise doesn't sound overly original, yet I like the show's star (Amanda Peet) . . . also, I'll check it out because THE WALL STREET JOURNAL gave it a rave: "There's a lot going on in BENT. A lot of absurdity, a lot of characters and that vital thing, a lot of talent." Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on NBC.

B. THE GOODBYE GIRL is a bittersweet romantic comedy that won Richard Dreyfuss an Oscar for his performance as a struggling actor . . . Saturday at 8 p.m. on TCM.

C. Nancy C. in NC: If, as I am, you are fascinated with genealogy, watch this amazing series: FIND YOUR ROOTS. . . . It's history come to life. Fun! Sundays at 8 p.m. on PBS. NOTE: PBS times and dates often vary, so check local listings.

For more information, please click:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1g9sbJh0lo&list=UUgyeJxD05YnoDquRMNBfBqw&feature=plcp)

[v=p1g9sbJh0lo&list=UUgyeJxD05YnoDquRMNBfBqw&feature=plcp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1g9sbJh0lo&list=UUgyeJxD05YnoDquRMNBfBqw&feature=plcp)

D. After nearly a year and a half off the air, MAD MEN returns for its fifth season. It's about time! Sundays at 9 p.m. on AMC.

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: Where do I get this app?



[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Jessica M. in NY: Robotic supports brings freedom to paraplegics

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=_gb5poTdUMg

This is an amazing demonstration!

B. Vera B. in FL: Carol Burnett Show: No Frills Airline

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCz8he36hsk&feature=share>

I dare you not to crack up while you watch this!

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

In case you're wondering what you'll find here, read the description at the very top of the home page.

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Back To Top

8. Computer tip

Send a fax to your computer--even if you don't have a fax machine

Sending a fax from your computer is a convenient, money-saving way to communicate with people who cannot receive email, or insist on paper documents. There are several ways to send a fax from your computer, even if you don't have a fax machine. Here's how you can start faxing from your PC, Mac or mobile device . . .

Click to read the whole entry from an excellent blog I get, Ask Bob Rankin:

http://askbobrankin.com/send_a_fax_from_your_computer.html?awt_l=MWdwR&awt_m=J9bW.arS58P6SL

Back To Top

9. JOKE 3: Petty argument

A husband and wife were involved in a petty argument, both of them unwilling to admit they might be in error.

"I'll admit I'm wrong," the wife told her husband in a conciliatory attempt, "if you'll admit I'm right."

He agreed and, like a gentleman, insisted she go first.

"I'm wrong," she said.

With a twinkle in his eye, he responded, "You're right!"

Back To Top

10. A quote I like

Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without.--Confucius (551-479 BC), Chinese thinker and social philosopher

Back To Top

11. Thought for the day

Dealing with stress management

A young lady confidently walked around the room with a raised glass of water while explaining stress management to an audience. Everyone just knew she was going to ask the oft-repeated question, "Half empty or half full?"

But she fooled them all when she inquired with a smile, "How heavy is this glass of water?"

Answers called out ranged from 8-20 ounces.

She replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

She continued, "And that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on."

"As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden--holding stress longer and better each time practiced.

"So as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night . . . pick them up tomorrow. Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment. Relax, pick them up later after you've rested. Life is short."

Author unknown (If you know who wrote this and/or the source, please notify me.)

Back To Top

12. Advance planning department

A. Some stuff I'm involved in:

(1) DREAM OF CAMELOT, a musical, runs from March 29-April 1 at the Masonic Temple in downtown Asheville at the corner of Woodfin St. and Broadway Avenue. Thursday-Saturday evenings are at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday matinee is at 2:30 p.m.

It features 25 original new songs written by local composer (and international recording artist) Richard Shulman--the same Richard Shulman who has appeared several times at the Biltmore Lake Clubhouse. A DREAM OF CAMELOT will be directed by Asheville's Rock Eblen. This production promises to be an unforgettable healing experience for all that attend.

To purchase tickets: Advance sale tickets are available for \$15 for the special preview on Thursday night and \$20 for all the other shows. Tickets at the door are \$25. To order, go to: <http://adreamofcamelot.com/>

or call 828.658.9604.

(2) If space permits, you can still sign-up for many of the great courses at the Center for Creative Retirement for this coming spring semester . . . or do so during the Drop/Add period.

* I'm going to be taking the aforementioned course on Performing Standup Comedy being taught by Randy Robins--a very funny guy: http://ncccr.unca.edu/courses?field_instructor_value=&title=Comedy

* I'm also going to be taking a course on the History of Sports Illustrated being taught by Larry Griswold (who was my instructor for a great sports documentary course last semester): http://ncccr.unca.edu/courses?tid%5b%5d=37&field_instructor_value=+&title=history

To quote Larry: "My History of Sports Illustrated course on four Wed. mornings starting March 28 still has plenty of room for more people, and doesn't require being an avid sports fan to enjoy. When evaluations came in after this class last year, one of the comments was "I have never been particularly interested in sports and am not sure whether I had ever looked at Sports Illustrated before this class but I still found the class fascinating." The writer also commented that "one more class would have been great."

* I won't be taking this one, but did want to tell you that Cynthia's Move Your Body course is always a winner . . . for more information, please click: http://ncccr.unca.edu/courses?field_instructor_value=greenfield&title=

* And our friend Linda Orowitz is teaching Asheville on the Cheap, a very informative class/discussion on What to do in Asheville for free or a great deal: http://ncccr.unca.edu/courses?field_instructor_value=orowitz&title=

(3) Please hold Saturday, May 12 . . . that is the tentative date for my comedy debut at the Reuter Center . . . details to follow.

B. North Carolina events:

To read each of the following events in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-DN>

- (1) Chuck Beattie at Jack of the Wood and at Jack of Hearts
- (2) Unit 50 @ TallGary's Cantina
- (3) THE EVOLUTION OF WOMAN

C. Pennsylvania/New Jersey events:

(1) I'm slated to be "up North" from April 2-9 and staying most of that time in the Bucks County area. One place I know I'll be at: Zebra Striped Whale in Newtown, PA, on Saturday, April 7 from 4-6 p.m. Stop by to say "hello" and get some of that store's oh-so-tasty ice cream and/or chocolate. An added "plus" will be John Strauss playing his guitar. If you can't make it then, if interested, contact me about the possibility of getting together some other time.

To read each of the following events in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-DP>

- (2) Edie Weinstein will be one of the featured speakers at Come On ~ Get Happy | A Women's Weekend Retreat
- (3) Lower Bucks CFPA Quarterly Potluck Supper
- (4) The Insider's Secret to Outstanding Kitchen Design
- (5) Celebrity and Bestselling author Martha Stewart

Back To Top

PS. Spring begins on Tuesday . . . to help you celebrate the occasion, you can sing along with me to this Louis Armstrong classic:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2VCwBzGdPM&feature=share>

Thanks to Carol S. in PA for sharing the above.

My hope is that you get to enjoy the season, along with this great weather we've been having . . . and that you make it a great week, too!

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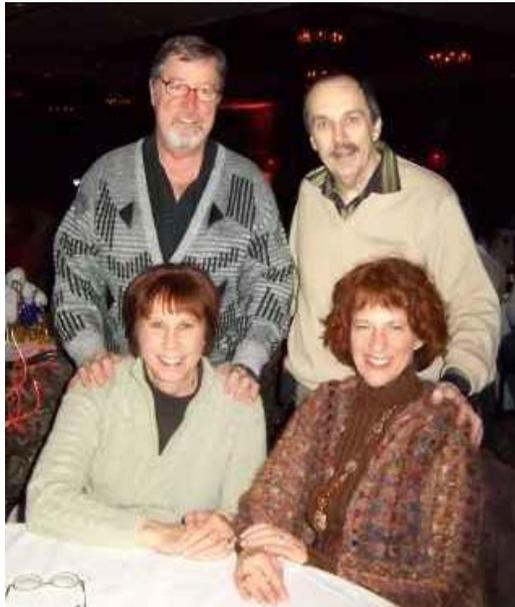
In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: History lesson**
 4. **Reviews . . . FRIENDS WITH KIDS, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: On aging**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Your know you're in a Redneck church when . . . part 2 of 2**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I were joined by our friends Marcy and Tom for a fun-filled evening that began with dinner at Avenue M in North Asheville . . . this was the first time we've gone there; it probably won't be the last . . . three of us ordered hamburgers that were quite tasty; Tom also enjoyed his fish dish . . . for more information, please click:
<http://avenuemavl.com/>

From there, we went to the 24th annual Comedy Classic at the Grove Park Inn . . . there were a lot of laughs to be had there in a night of comedy that was very clean as far as comedians go.



Jeff Jena did an excellent job of hosting . . . comedians included Andrew Kennedy, Rachel Fienstein, Ralph Harris and our favorite that night, Mike Green.

This latter guy is really funny . . . see for yourself by clicking:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eX0hYtEc5k>

As for the best joke of the evening, I don't recall who told it . . . but it had something to do with the fact that when you go to a restaurant, you should use the name "Next" as your last name . . . so when they call "Next," you'll always be the next person seated!

B. On Sunday, we went with our friend Theresa to the Fletcher Studio at the Haywood Regional Arts Theatre to see a performance of THE STORY OF MY LIFE . . . it's a touching musical of two lifelong friends, brilliantly portrayed by Bradshaw Call and Mark Jones . . . kudos, also, to Kelly Christianson for her work as director and to John Crawley for serving as both music director and accompanist . . . it

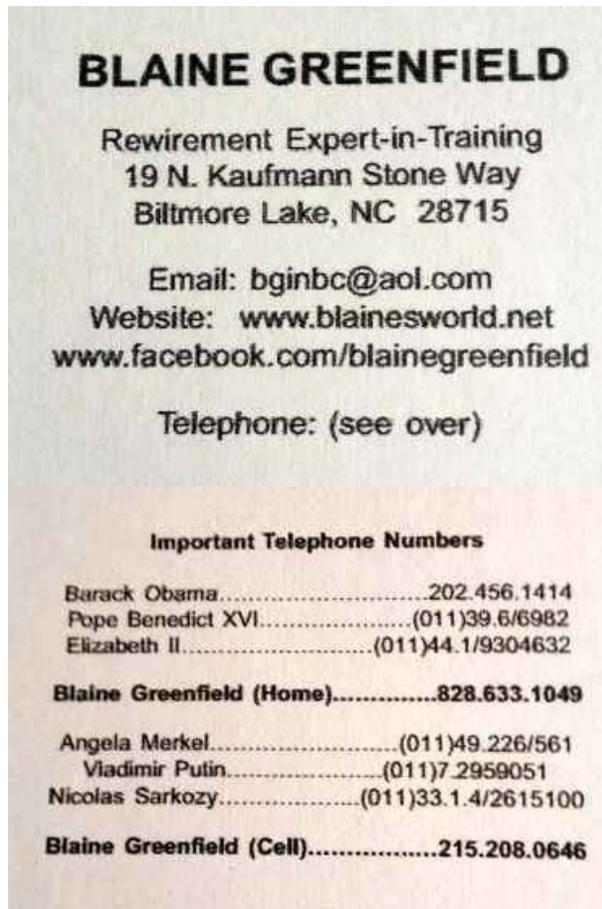
was one of the best shows we have seen over the past several years.



(l-r: Blaine Greenfield, Bradshaw Call, Mark Jones and Theresa Phillips)

GOOD NEWS: You can still catch the play this coming weekend . . . shows are on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 3 p.m. . . . tickets are \$12 for adult, \$8 for students . . . call 828.456.6322, but please don't wait . . . seating is limited.

C. Unfortunately, for me at least, the election of Vladimir Putin in Russia meant that I had to have my business cards reprinted:



If you want your own card, ask me for one the next time we see each other.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to:

(1) Katherine Sandoval Taylor on being profiled in THE FRIDAY FIVE:
<http://nashville.broadwayworld.com/article/BWW-Interviews-Actresssinger-Katherine-Sandoval-Taylor-Takes-On-THE-FRIDAY-FIVE-20120309>

(2) Chuck Beattie (aka Dr. Blues) for being featured in a great article in the ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES:

<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012303110036>

(3) Elisa Van Arnam and Allison Blake, two of my SCORE clients, on being featured in WNC WOMAN:

[http://www.wncwoman.com/2012/03/01/connecting-souls-one-card-at-a-time/?](http://www.wncwoman.com/2012/03/01/connecting-souls-one-card-at-a-time/?utm_source=2012%2F03%2F12+11%3A17%3A34&utm_campaign=soulku+3%2F12%2F12&utm_medium=email)

[utm_source=2012%2F03%2F12+11%3A17%3A34&utm_campaign=soulku+3%2F12%2F12&utm_medium=email](http://www.wncwoman.com/2012/03/01/connecting-souls-one-card-at-a-time/?utm_source=2012%2F03%2F12+11%3A17%3A34&utm_campaign=soulku+3%2F12%2F12&utm_medium=email)

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

This week, it goes to Shannon Chandler--the postal carrier who does such a fine job delivering my mail on a daily basis.

She manages to do so in all weather conditions at the same time every day--and always with a smile.

It is also a pleasure to have her pick up my outgoing mail . . . and I appreciate the fact that when there are packages that are too big to leave in my mailbox, she drops them right on my porch.

I take some things for granted . . . getting my mail is one of them . . . in large part, that's because of the work done by Shannon and many other dedicated postal employees throughout the country.

Back To Top

2. FYI

Are You Drinking Pesticide that Tastes Like Soda?
by Savannah*

Someone recently asked me in an email about diet soda and why it can make you gain weight. I thought I would share my response to him with everyone in case you are interested:

The nation's biggest selling food is now soda. Coca-Cola sells over 1 billion bottles and cans every day. The number two ingredient in Coke is the artificial flavor (fake food) high fructose syrup, which is six times sweeter than sugar and is processed more like fat in the body (more about high fructose syrup in another post). Soft drinks (including diet soda) are the number one cause of obesity in America.

The diet sodas are also artificially flavored and has a problem all its own. It fools your body into thinking it is actually getting sugar when it is not. This can make your body crave sugar even more. The fake sweeteners in diet sodas are so sweet—160 to 13,000 times sweeter than sugar--making it hard to taste naturally sweetened foods. Fake sweeteners dumb down your taste bud's ability to tell you when something is too sweet and much too fattening for you to be eating. Take away this "way too sweet" sensor and we eat just about anything, and we do not know when to stop.

The FDA has approved these fake artificial sweeteners as safe for consumption. (Make no doubt about it, the lobbyist groups for soda companies pay millions to politicians—just saying.) These fake sweeteners were created in a lab and do not naturally break down in the body and they have no long-term history to how it affects humans.

"People think the FDA is protecting them. It isn't. What the FDA is doing and what people think it is doing are as different as night and day." Herbert Lay, former FDA commissioner

Studies also show that artificial sweeteners trigger feelings and desires to want revenge. They have an effect on the brain which is not yet fully understood, but it is not positive. Many scientists believe fake sugars damage the brain and are impacting our children, causing various forms of brain damage at a very young age since many children drink soda with their Happy Meal.

Other ingredients found in soda are four extremely toxic pesticides and insecticides—lindane, DDT, malathion and chlorpyrifos—at levels 30-36 times the acceptable amounts. (Should any levels be acceptable?) This information was discovered when Indian farmers were using Coca-Cola and Pepsi to kill bugs on their crops. Instead of paying hefty fees to international chemical companies for patented pesticides, they simply sprayed their fields with Coca-Cola and Pepsi to kill bugs.

If you do drink soda, it is important not to beat yourself up. I have a sweet tooth and my diet is not always perfect. This information is not meant to judge or criticize. My goal is to inform people about nutrition so that you can make choices based on knowledge. I struggled for years with pretty severe pain and had I known back then what I know now, I could have saved myself from years of agony. This blog is to help share with others what I have learned. When you know better, you do better.

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Savannah. It originally appeared in HEALING WITH SAVANNAH, an informative blog she writes; for more information, please click:

<http://healingwithsavannah.com/>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

- (1) Donna S. in AL: Lenny Kravitz--American Woman
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzWHE32lxUc&feature=share>
- (2) Vera B. in Florida: Steve Bridges [who just passed] as Bush, Obama & Clinton
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xD7UWSQIJw0&feature=share>
- (3) A day made of glass (at the end, click to see the second day about schools and doctors)
http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=6Cf7IL_eZ38&vq=medium
- (4) The Shirelles: Will You Love Me Tomorrow?
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbxxkwBQk_o
- (5) Product to buy?
http://www.bikerspost.com/video/trampstamp-1?xg_source=facebookshare
- (6) Harry Chapin: Cats in the Cradle
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JA028D02OcY>
- (7) Janeen in PA: When the guy stops running, place the cursor about 1 inch above his head.
<http://www.selfcontrolfreak.com/pakken.html>
- (8) Bettina Y. in NY: How to look like Ryan Gosling
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTm2ru-APUw&feature=share>
- (9) Mark J. in NC: Connie Francis: Lipstick on Your Collar
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMI7tClfJFE&feature=share>
- (10) Hillary Z. in NJ: Quick Change Magic Boogie-Woogie
<http://www.flixxy.com/quick-change-magic-boogie-woogie.htm>
- (11) Alissa H. in NC: Mother of 5 in Asheville is missing (2 separate clips)
http://wlos.com/shared/newsroom/top_stories/videos/wlos_vid_6893.shtml
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3g0vT38zao&feature=youtu.be&fb_source=message

NOTE: This is legitimate, as opposed to many of the things that you see forwarded. To quote Alissa: This story [about April Pickens] is finally starting to get some much needed media attention, thanks to Gary Charles and some concerned, good-hearted people in Asheville. Hopefully, this will increase the pressure, and someone will come forward with some useful information.

B. Other:

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-D5>

- (1) Eileen Z in PA: okay, who's gonna come over here (Richboro) and pick me up off the floor?
- (2) Pat A. in PA: First, that photo of you & Cynthia is just TERRIFIC
- (3) Kathy W. in PA: gave up diet soda a year ago
- (4) John D. in PA: Please read [on diet sodas]
- (5) Rob S. in PA: As you know I have spent a lot of time thinking about death
- (6) Doug R. in NC: We saw the new Eddie Murphy movie on Sat.
- (7) Steven S. in NC (with a fantastic offer for anybody wanting to visit Asheville)
- (8) Steve G. in PA: Change bike gears with your mind
- (9) Jamie A. in PA: NEW ISSUE [of PhillyFIT Magazine] is here
- (10) Kerry A. in NC: Grampa Joke [in BLAINESWORLD #806] was very cute!!
- (11) Lee W. in PA: Thought you might appreciate this
- (12) To get a spin on the above, read what Andy Borowitz had to say
- (13) Asheville's Susan Reinhardt on aspiring 'cornbread millionaire' Beverly Davis

Back To Top

3. JOKE 1: History lesson

According to the Jewish calendar, the year is 5,772.
According to the Chinese calendar, the year is 4,709.
This means that the Jews went without Chinese food for 1,063 years.
This period in history was known as the Dark Ages.

Back To Top

4. Reviews

A. FRIENDS WITH KIDS is billed as a romantic comedy that I didn't find very romantic or funny . . . it's the story about a circle of friends whose lives are changed with the arrival of children . . . when the last two singles in the group decide to have a kid together--and date other people--you can predict the ending the minute you see it happening . . . and by the time the film does end, you will have had enough of the these two: Adam Scott and Jennifer Westfeldt (so fine in KISSING JESSICA STEIN) . . . both Jon Haam and Kristen Wiig are wasted in supporting roles; they appear and then disappear before you can get a handle on their characters . . . rated R.

B. MY WEEK WITH MARILYNN is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #779 follows:

We've seen most of the films that have come out over the past few weeks and one of our favorites has been MY WEEK WITH MARILYNN . . . it's the true story of 23-year old Colin Clark who is determined to make a career for himself in the entertainment industry . . . as his first job, he is assigned to work as a third director on the set of THE PRINCE AND THE SHOWGIRL . . . his job quickly morphed into becoming Marilyn Monroe's confidant as she worked with Sir Laurence Olivier . . . the film is sweet, there are some humorous moments and Michelle Williams will likely get an Oscar nomination for her work as Monroe--and deservedly so . . . Kenneth Branagh is excellent, too, as Olivier . . . rated R, though methinks it would be appropriate for mature teenagers.

C. PIECES FROM THE PAST (Tasora Books) by Joan Sadoff is a marvelous history lesson about 12 black and white women who were instrumental in the success of the civil rights movement in the United States in the 1960s.

The author, with the help of Robert L. Sadoff and Linda Needleman, her coeditors, visited Mississippi to speak to the courageous women and/or those who knew them . . . the stories she then incorporated into this book helped teach me about a time and place in our country that I had heard about, but really knew little about.

Some of them were actually scary; for example:

* Aunt Fannie Lou was beaten mercilessly. No formal charges were made against her or the others. But what charge could they make that would merit such a beating? Aunt Fannie Lou knew it was the result of her attempting to vote. She later described the impact the beating had on her. "they beat me until I was hard, 'til I couldn't bend my fingers or get up when they told me to. When they finally told me to go to my cell, I couldn't get up. I couldn't bend my knees. Every day of my life I pay with the misery of that beating. That's how I got this blood clot in my eye. The sight's nearly gone now, and my kidney was injured from the blows they gave me on the back."

Others touched me, such as this one:

* Ma was a kindhearted, soft spoken person, one who encouraged her children to be the best that they could be. She never kicked you when you were down. On the contrary, Mama's best qualities came out when you were "down." She was there for you and not once do I remember her telling me, "I told you so," even though she was always "telling us so." You could say she "preached" to us all the time. That was her method of training and discipline. It was just too hard for Ma to try to whip us. She would call all the children to hold the one down she was trying to whip. But the one on top would get all the licks, so Ma tried another tactic and that was the preach/index-finger method. She had an index finger that she would point at you "while preaching" to you, and you just wanted her to go on and give you a good beating. My friend's parents would call them names and curse them out. I wanted Mama to do the same to me, but instead, I got the finger which was much worse, in my opinion.

And then there was this reminder about how things actually were in the Deep South:

Mrs. Mary Vandevender was the circuit clerk for the county, and she was the one who'd give the voter registration test to us. I knew about the test. I'd have to fill out a long application, read a section of the state constitution and "interpret" it in writing. Whether you passed or not was left entirely up to the person giving the test. That was the law in Mississippi and that's the way black people had been kept from voting for years, if they ever got that far along in the process.

After reading this excellent book, I now find myself wanting to view the two documentaries that the Sadoffs have produced on this same subject: PHILADELPHIA: MISSISSIPPI: UNTOLD STORIES and STANDING ON MY SISTER'S SHOULDERS.

D. Heard THE OBAMAS (Hachette Audio), written by Jodi Kantor and read by Robin Miles.

It gave me a real "inside look" at what it's like to be president of this country, as well as a husband and father . . . the task is not an easy one, but it seems to me that Barack Obama has done just about as well as anybody could have given the circumstances he has faced.

I also gained a much better understanding of Michelle Obama, and how she has grown into the role of first lady. This is not a job that anybody can really plan for; it sort of just happens.

Both Obamas have made mistakes along the way, but they have seemingly learned from them--and

grown from them, too.

I'd recommend this book to anybody wanting to see what it means to give your life to public service.

***** CONTEST #5 *****

One lucky winner will receive the CD version of *The Coming Economic Armageddon: What Bible Prophecy Warns about the New Global Economy* by Dr. David Jeremiah . . . notes amazon.com:

Never before have we read such jarring headlines, distressing news analyses, or dire predictions concerning the world's financial future. The American housing market -- or, more sentimentally, the American dream--began to collapse in 2006, taking with it large chunks of the global financial system. Millions of jobs worldwide have vanished forever. Did Bible prophecy predict this catastrophe? Are there biblical clues to how soon, if ever, a viable, long-term recovery can be sustained? Is the financial collapse just one of several signs that we are living in the final days of Earth's history? In *THE COMING ECONOMIC ARMAGEDDON*, David Jeremiah says we can know the meaning behind what we see in the daily news--and understand and prepare for living in the New Global Economy.

TO ENTER: Put "CONTEST 5" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, March 18.

[Back To Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. "To do justice to the powers of *ONLY FOR GOD: INSIDE HASIDISM*," notes *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*, "would require more space than a column, but we can begin with the power of surprise. . . . An extraordinary hour." Friday at 10 p.m. on NGC; repeated at 1 a.m. on Saturday.

B. Burt Lancaster deservedly won an Oscar for his work in *ELMER GANTRY* as the salesman with the gift of gab who joins a barnstorming troupe in the 1920s Midwest . . . Shirley Jones also won an Oscar for her work as the jilted girlfriend turned prostitute . . . Sunday at 2 p.m. on TCM.

C. *GREAT PERFORMANCES: "The Phantom of the Opera at the Royal Albert Hall"* airs on Sunday at 6 p.m. on PBS marks the 25th anniversary of the magical debut of the show.

NOTE: PBS dates and times often vary, so check local listings.

D. *FROZEN PLANET* premieres on Sunday at 8 p.m. on DISCOVERY and runs through April 15 . . . it's a seven-part series into the most remote and unforgiving regions of the Arctic and Antarctic . . . according to *TV GUIDE*, "There's astonishing time-laps photography" and [the show] "chills and thrills with images that leave the armchair traveler speechless."

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: On aging

I've sure gotten old,

I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts.

Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore.

Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends.

But, thank God, I still have my driver's license!

[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Mr. Curious here . . . this 1-minute quiz accurate for you? I was impressed that it figured out that I was from New Yawk (having been born in NYC and then raised on Lon Gisland)--especially because I now consider myself a true Southern gentleman. After all, like Romeny, I now even find myself using "y'all" from time to time. Thanks to Sandy B. in PA for sharing.
<http://www.lewrockwell.com/spl3/american-accent-quiz.html>

B. Chris L. in PA: Don't know if you had seen this trivia/game website, but thought you and your readers might enjoy it. Thousands of trivia games:

<http://www.sporcle.com/>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

In case you missed the clip of my comedy debut in last week's issue, you can now see it (and another clip of me, too) by clicking "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Video Clips."

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Back To Top

8. Computer tip

Just because you see something in the subject line that says, "You have just received a Hallmark E-Card!" doesn't mean it's legitimate.

For example, here's one that I received:

Hello, You have just received a Hallmark E-Card!

There's something special about that E-Card feeling.

If you want to see your e-greeting-card, click the link below:

<http://85.25.35.xxx/ecard/e-greetings.exe>

Hope to see you soon,
Your friends at Hallmark

NOTE: I changed the above (by using xxx), so you can't possibly go to this website . . . it's not legitimate.

The key to knowing that has to do with the .exe designation at the end . . . it means there is an executable file, and that's often not good for your computer.

If you ever want to check out a website, copy and paste it into your Internet browser . . . when I did, here's what I found:

Report Details

This is a high risk page : <http://85.25.35.xxx/ecard/e-greetings.exe>
Result for 2012-02-18 18:39:08 UTC

Malicious behavior was detected

Malware file found by antivirus engine

Blacklisted URL . . . found in the public black lists. [BL3, detected distributing of malware (DR/Agent.NY)]

Back To Top

9. JOKE 3: Your know you're in a Redneck church when . . . part 2 of 2

- * The baptismal pool is a #2 galvanized "Wheeling" washtub.
- * The choir robes were donated by (and embroidered with the logo from) Billy Bob's Barbecue.
- * The collection plates are really hubcaps from a '56 Chevy.
- * Instead of a bell you are called to service by a duck call.
- * The minister and his wife drive matching pickup trucks.
- * The communion wine is Boone's Farm "Tickled Pink."
- * "Thou shall not covet" applies to huntin' dawgs, too.
- * The final words of the benediction are, "Y'all come back now, heah?"

Back To Top

10. A quote I like

Every day offers the same opportunity: To spend it in activities, efforts, work and conversations that build others up or subjected by attitudes, choices, words and actions that push others down. Our choice impacts other dramatically.--John O'Leary, motivational speaker

SOURCE: The above quote came from an excellent column by Roger Aiken. To read it, please click: <http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20120311/OPINION04/303110010/Rewarding-seat-switch>

To find out more about John O'Leary, please click: <http://www.rising-above.com/>

Back To Top

11. Thought for the day

The mathematical impossibility of universal delight
by Seth Godin*

Jack Nicholson calls it, "rabbit ears."

If you're hyper-aware of what others are thinking, if you're looking for criticism, the unhappy audience member and the guy who didn't get the joke, you will always find what you're seeking.

For it to be any other way, you'd either have to be invisible or performing for a totally homogeneous audience.

Invisible is an option, of course. You can lay low, not speak up and make no difference to anyone.

That's sort of like dividing by zero, though. You'll get no criticism, but no delight either.

As for finding a homogeneous audience, good luck with that. The one thing that's true of all people is that they are different from one another. What delights one enrages the other.

Part of the deal.

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of the author. To read more of his thought-provoking blog, please click: <http://sethgodin.typepad.com/>

Back To Top

12. Advance planning department

A. Some stuff I'm involved in:

(1) SPECIAL OPEN REHEARSAL of a DREAM OF CAMELOT will be held on Wednesday, March 21, at the Clubhouse for Biltmore Lake residents--beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Feel free to stop by then and/or any time thereafter until about 9:30 p.m. Also, feel free to leave whenever you need to do so. You won't see the entire show, but you'll see several of the best scenes and musical numbers, and you'll find it an interesting experience.

Please RSVP via the Intranet. If you're not a Biltmore Lake resident and would like to attend as my guest, send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put CAMELOT in the subject line.

About the show: DREAM OF CAMELOT, a musical, runs from March 29-April 1 at the Masonic Temple in downtown Asheville at the corner of Woodfin St. and Broadway Avenue. Thursday-Saturday evenings are at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday matinee is at 2:30 p.m.

It features 25 original new songs written by local composer (and international recording artist) Richard Shulman--the same Richard Shulman who has appeared several times at the Biltmore Lake Clubhouse. A DREAM OF CAMELOT will be directed by Asheville's Rock Eblen. This production promises to be an unforgettable healing experience for all that attend.

To purchase tickets: Advance sale tickets are available for \$15 for the special preview on Thursday night and \$20 for all the other shows. Tickets at the door are \$25. To order, go to: <http://adreamofcamelot.com/>

or call 828.658.9604.

(2) If space permits, you can still sign-up for many of the great courses at the Center for Creative

Retirement for this coming spring semester . . . or do so during the Drop/Add period.

* I'm going to be taking the aforementioned course on Performing Standup Comedy being taught by Randy Robins--a very funny guy:

http://ncccr.unca.edu/courses?field_instructor_value=&title=Comedy

* I'm also going to be taking a course on the History of Sports Illustrated being taught by Larry Griswold (who was my instructor for a great sports documentary course last semester):

http://ncccr.unca.edu/courses?tid%5b%5d=37&field_instructor_value=+&title=history

To quote Larry: "My History of Sports Illustrated course on four Wed. mornings starting March 28 still has plenty of room for more people, and doesn't require being an avid sports fan to enjoy. When evaluations came in after this class last year, one of the comments was "I have never been particularly interested in sports and am not sure whether I had ever looked at Sports Illustrated before this class but I still found the class fascinating." The writer also commented that "one more class would have been great."

* I won't be taking this one, but did want to tell you that Cynthia's Move Your Body course is always a winner . . . for more information, please click: http://ncccr.unca.edu/courses?field_instructor_value=greenfield&title=

* And our friend Linda Orowitz is teaching Asheville on the Cheap, a very informative class/discussion on What to do in Asheville for free or a great deal:

http://ncccr.unca.edu/courses?field_instructor_value=orowitz&title=

B. North Carolina events:

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-D7>

- (1) DROOD at Carolina Day School
- (2) HARPS & HARMONICAS at Hendersonville Little Theatre

C. PA/NJ events:

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-D9>

- (1) Comedy dates when you can bring your teenage children
- (2) BuxMont Coalition for Peace Action Presents: Charlie Zahm on April 1
- (3) Memorial celebration on April 1 to remember Herb Perkins-Frederick

Back To Top

PS. Happy St. Patrick's Day on Saturday . . . please join me in celebrating, especially if you're like me and you celebrate all holidays . . . there's more fun, friends and food that way . . . music, too, as you can hear by clicking this great version of "Danny Boy" . . .

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_XJFp5JXpk

And also make it a great rest of the week!

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Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#806
3.5.2012

In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Recent study**
 4. **Reviews . . . WANDERLUST, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: One day**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: You know you're in a Redneck church when . . . part 1 of 2**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I joined our friends Carole and Brian for a riveting performance of CHICAGO at the Asheville Community Theatre. Everything was top notch in this production: the singing, acting, dancing, staging, costumes, etc. . . . special kudos to Jerry Crouch for his direction, Chuck Taft for his musical direction and to Leslie Niven, another friend, for her dancing and excellent work in several roles . . . there are a few tickets left for performances this coming week; for more information, please click: <http://www.ashevilletheatre.org/>

B. I was fortunate to be able to attend Doug Blevin's recent Asheville comedy debut at the Pulp Lounge. He was a big hit. That's him (right), along with Brenda Morgan and yours truly.



I'll run a clip from his show in an upcoming issue . . . but in the meantime, if you'd like to book him for a comedy gig, give him a call at 828.515.0296 or send him an email: dugnfl@gmail.com . . . and if the name sounds familiar, it's because he is the guy I've been writing about recently who is the only coach in NFL history to have never played football--or even walked.

Doug is also a fantastic motivational speaker, so if you're looking for somebody to pump up your company or organization, consider him for that possibility as well . . . to see more of him "in action," please click: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhPohcWdjWA&feature=youtu.be>

He was also featured in an excellent two-part series by Susan Reinhardt that appeared in the ASHEVILLE CITIZEN TIMES: <http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012302120032>
<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012302140008>

C. MR. CURIOUS HERE:

(1) Do you drink diet sodas and, if so, what do you experience? I had been drinking a 12 oz. bottle of Coke Zero on almost a daily basis. Though my diet stayed pretty much the same, I had been putting on a few pounds and many of my pants no longer seemed to fit. So recently, I stopped drinking Coke Zero. I'll be curious if I notice any changes.

(2) In case you missed last week's question, I'm still trying to find out how movie theaters near you sell popcorn with respect to the number of ounces . . . please let me know if they sell it small, medium or large sizes--and then ask how many ounces are in each category . . . if they just list the ounces, please tell me what sizes they offer and the number of ounces in each size.

For some reason, this bugs me—big time . . . theatres (or the popcorn bag manufacturers) are deceiving consumers—big time . . . when I ask about it, I'm told that "nothing can be done about it" or words to that effect.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to:

(1) Laresa Griffin on being named as director of resource development and marketing for the United Way of Henderson County.

(2) Navitat Canopy Adventures, my favorite zipline company, for receiving a \$500,000 grant from the Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority. For more information about Navitat, please click:
<http://www.navitat.com/>

(3) Joe Guice for landing a role in THE DEATHLY ONES, a horror play opening on April 13 in New York City. For more information, please click:
www.thedeathlyones.com

(4) Donna G. in NJ, winner of Contest #4. Her CD version of FANG: A MAXIMUM RIDE NOVEL by James Patterson is in the mail. As for what's next, here's the news you've all been anxiously awaiting:

***** CONTEST #5 *****

One lucky winner will receive the CD version of The Coming Economic Armageddon: What Bible Prophecy Warns about the New Global Economy by Dr. David Jeremiah . . . notes amazon.com:

Never before have we read such jarring headlines, distressing news analyses, or dire predictions concerning the world's financial future. The American housing market -- or, more sentimentally, the American dream--began to collapse in 2006, taking with it large chunks of the global financial system. Millions of jobs worldwide have vanished forever. Did Bible prophecy predict this catastrophe? Are there biblical clues to how soon, if ever, a viable, long-term recovery can be sustained? Is the financial collapse just one of several signs that we are living in the final days of Earth's history In THE COMING ECONOMIC ARMAGEDDON, David Jeremiah says we can know the meaning behind what we see in the daily news--and understand and prepare for living in the New Global Economy.

TO ENTER: Put "CONTEST 5" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, March 18.

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

This week, it goes to Dr. Catherine Frank--executive director for the NC Center for Creative Retirement at UNC Asheville.

Dr. Frank assumed this position in May, 2010. Shortly thereafter, I began to work with her on the Center's Marketing Committee . . . her enthusiasm and creativity impressed me, as did her dedication to the job.

I also like her receptivity to change . . . and one particular innovation that she has started recently, wherein she gets out of her office and makes herself available in the lobby to all who want to stop by and chat without a formal meeting time. This is something, by the way, that I wish all administrators at all schools would consider implementing.

As a student who takes courses at the Center, I'm glad that Dr. Frank is blessed to have an excellent staff to assist her . . . I don't know everybody who works there, but I have been impressed by the work done by such other individuals as Susan Poole, college for seniors director; Michelle Rogers (see also BLAINESWORLD #726), program director and volunteer coordinator; and Leanna Preston, facility coordinator.

For more information about the Center for Creative Retirement, please click:
<http://ncccr.unca.edu/>

Back To Top

2. FYI

To save some money, consider what I do; i.e., always try to get my gas at Sam's Club . . . the price is usually 10-15 cents/gallon cheaper than anywhere else that I can find it . . . on top of that, I use my AAA credit card and by so doing, save another 3% (off the total purchase).

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) 100 Pounds of Clay by Gene McDaniels, performed in 2010
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bB10MHftXc>

(2) Same song, original version (I actually like the newer rendition better; what say ye?)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrJx_-VPqc8&feature=related

(3) Vera B. in FL: I Love You Forever, written and read by Robert Munsch
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ES-fp2fdzk&feature=share>

(4) Carole B. in NC: Napoleon Hill on achieving personal success
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_SnhNXF-lw&sns=fb

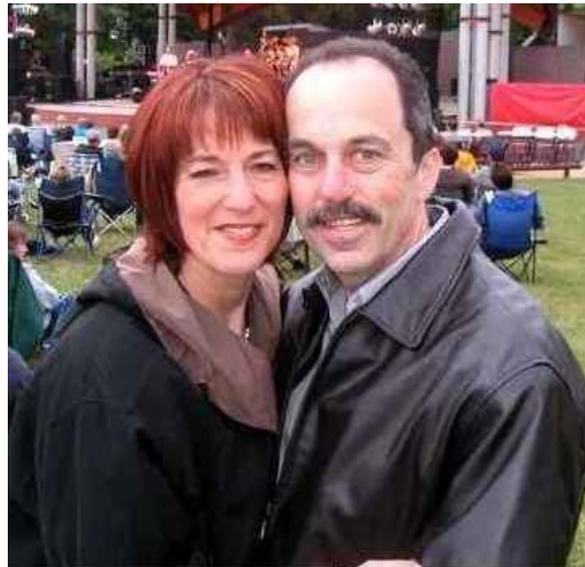
(5) Rob S. in PA: 21st century movie making!
<http://player.vimeo.com/video/34678075?title=0&>

(6) Nelson S. in PA: Finger puppets-impressive!
<http://www.youtube.com/embed/ryFQFzN6AMk?hd=1>

(7) Tim G. in WV: Made in America
http://cdnapi.kaltura.com/index.php/kwidget/wid/0_04vzdsr5/uiconf_id/5590821

B. Other

(1) Down Memory Lane: Thanks to Pat H. in Pennsylvania for sharing this photo that never appeared in BLAINESWORLD.



It was taken on June 4, 2004 at a concert that featured one of the greatest rock groups of all time: the Turtles! . . . back in those days, I was not running pictures in this newsletter . . . but thanks to the encouragement I received from Pat, as well as from Roger C. in PA and a whole bunch of other folks, I eventually started to include both pictures and illustrations-- and have never stopped since.

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Cr>

- (2) Walter B. in NC: You do a great job promoting so many artists.
- (3) Mary Rita S. in NC: I must say you two sure get around town!
- (4) Lisa Z. in PA: You have too much free time on your hands if researching the size of popcorn bags!
- (5) Steven S. in NC and FL: Beautiful home for sale in Weaverville, NC
- (6) Donna G. in NJ: Glad you included the "popcorn issue" in the newsletter.
- (7) Tim R. in NC: I recall from my "theme park" days that the container holding the popcorn was the most expensive of the cost of goods.

[Back To Top](#)

3. JOKE 1: Recent study

A recent study found that 35% of men have been injured while undoing a woman's bra. That's correct. While unfastening a woman's stabilizing device, men have received strained tendons, scratches and other similar injuries.

Actually, I can vouch for that. I got injured today while trying to undo a woman's bra. When I undid the woman in front of me in the checkout line, she turned and hit me with a can of peas.

[Back To Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. WANDERLUST is a goofy film about a couple, amusingly played by Paul Rudd and Jennifer Aniston, who find themselves forced to leave Manhattan when the Rudd character is downsized . . . they wind up in an idyllic community called Elysium, which is made up of colorful characters who see things in a hippie-like fashion . . . there are a lot of laughs along the way, although you probably won't remember too many of them the next day . . . rated R.

B. PROJECT NIM is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #776 follows:

PROJECT NIM is a thought-provoking documentary about a chimpanzee who became the focus of a famous experiment in the 1970s about whether it would be possible to teach an ape to communicate with language . . . he was taken away from his mother and raised by a human family, but when that didn't work out, he was then taken to a laboratory facility . . . when that also didn't work out, Nim was moved around--perhaps too many times--and his life was never what it would have been had he lived with his mother . . . parts of the film are humorous; others are heartbreaking . . . rated PG-13.

C. EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE, EXCEPTIONAL PROFIT, coauthored by Micah Solomon and Leonardo Inghilleri, was one of my favorite business books from last year.

So when I had the chance to get hold of an advance copy of Solomon's latest book, HIGH-TECH, HIGH TOUCH CUSTOMER SERVICE (AMACOM), I jumped at the opportunity--especially because I so much like the premise . . . it is similar to what I always tell my students; i.e., that marketing is not just high tech, it's also high touch.

The author points out that today's customers still both want and expect good customer service . . . however, because so many of them are time-strapped and screen-addicted, they want it delivered differently than in the past . . . they also will complain more vociferously if not happy, and they'll let the whole world know.

What I perhaps liked best about this book were the many real examples that were used; for example:

* Due to a dusting of snow on the runway during a Philadelphia winter, I was delayed for a couple hours on the tarmac. Not surprisingly, I missed my connection in Denver as a result. But as I stepped off the plane in Denver, thinking I was going to need to wait in an endless line and plead my case for a rebooking, or call the 800 number and wait on hold, a gate agent from Southwest came to me, with a sheaf of already-rebooked tickets in hand. She asked my name and then handed me the correct one-for the very next available flight to my destination.

And this one:

* At the old Ritz-Carlton, the lion lovingly etched into the wine glasses served two purposes: (1) the lion promoted the brand and (2) the tiny, engraved tongue of the lion served as the pour line, helping to ensure that the appropriate amount of wine was served. Ask Ritz-Carlton employees of that era, and they'll point with pride and a sort of insider's

knowingness to this subtly reinforced standard.

In addition, Solomon presents practical suggestions on what a company needs to do to improve itself--such as in this tidbit:

* A retail chain's simply stated goal with each new location could be: Make this store better than the last. Period. This is an optimal way to improve with every store opening, and also avoid endless second-guessing and regrets about past shortfalls.

As I reread the above, I'm shaking my head over how simple it is . . . and how much sense it makes, not only for those involved in customer service, but for just about anybody else in countless other situations.

Do yourself a favor . . . mark down May 23 . . . that's the official publication date for HIGH-TECH, HIGH-TOUCH CUSTOMER SERVICE . . . order it then or shortly thereafter . . . you won't be disappointed.

D. Heard *INSIDE APPLE* (Hachette Audio), written and read by Adam Lashinsky.

The author, a senior editor at large for *FORTUNE MAGAZINE*, does an excellent job of letting readers learn the story behind the book's subtitle: *HOW AMERICA'S MOST ADMIRE--AND SECRETIVE--COMPANY REALLY WORKS*.

I found this particularly interesting, in that I'm perhaps a rarity . . . I haven't used any Apple products to date and don't actually plan on doing so in the future . . . in addition, I haven't yet read *STEVE JOBS*, Walter Isaacson's popular biography about the charismatic leader of Apple.

After reading this book, I might not even bother doing so . . . *INSIDE APPLE* gave me a good feel for both the history of the company and what it's like to work there without going into too much detail . . . also, I learned enough about Jobs that I don't feel the need to learn more or at least not in the near future.

I did come away with an understanding of concepts such as "DRI," which is Apple's practice of assigning a Directly Responsible Individual to every task . . . and, also, I learned about the Top 100, which is a semi-annual ritual in which 100 up-and-coming executives are tapped for a secret retreat with company founder Jobs.

After listening to *INSIDE APPLE*, I was left with the impression that Apple will continue to flourish despite the fact that it operates in a fashion contrary to normal business practices followed by many other companies.

Back To Top

5. TV alert

A. *IDINA MENZEL LIVE: BAREFOOT AT THE SYMPHONY* . . . the star of *RENT*, *WICKED*, etc. belts out theatrical and pop favorites in this concert on PBS. She also performs with her husband, Taye Diggs, and sings "Where or When." Wednesday night on Channel 33 (PBS in NC) at 8 p.m.; repeated on Saturday night at 10:30 p.m. on Channel 29 (PBS in NC).

NOTE: PBS times and dates often vary, so check local listings.

B. *GAME CHANGE*, according to *TV GUIDE*, is "a searing, sizzingly well acted docudrama about the decision "to create a dynamic moment in the 2008 presidential run of John McCain (a salty Ed Harris) by selecting a 'game-changing pick' in fellow maverick Sarah Palin (played with explosive intensity and uncanny detail by Julianne Moore" . . . Saturday at 9 p.m. on HBO.

If you still want more of Palin, catch *THE UNDEFEATED--A 2011* that she party wrote . . . according to *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*, "Less like a campaign ad is the film's middle section, which offers an interesting, if subjective look, at Ms. Palin's political rise in wild Alaska." Sunday at 8 p.m. on REELZ.

C. *DUKE 91 & 92: BACK TO BACK* looks at two of the Blue Devils' NCAA Championships from the inside out . . . Sunday at 8 p.m. on truTV.

D. *THE ANNOUNCEMENT* deals with how Magic Johnson announced that he had "attained" H.I.V. in 1991. According to *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, it is a powerful and sensitive documentary that will make its debut on Sunday at 9 p.m. on ESPN.

***** GET PSYCHED *****

Catch the *MAD MEN* trailer (thanks to Jean D. in Pennsylvania) for the season, which begins

on March 25:

<http://www.amctv.com/mad-men/videos/a-look-at-season-5-inside-mad-men>

Back To Top

6. JOKE 2: One day

One day my Gramma was out, and my Grampa was in charge of me. I was maybe 2 1/2 years old.



Someone had given me a little tea set as a gift, and it was one of my favorite toys. Grampa was in the living room engrossed in the evening news when I brought him a little cup of "tea," which was just water. After several cups of tea and lots of praise for such yummy tea, my Gramma came home.

My Grampa made her wait in the living room to watch me bring him a cup of tea because it was "just the cutest thing!" Gramma waited, and sure enough, here I came down the hall with a cup of tea for Grampa, and she watched him drink it up. Then she said (as only a Gramma would know), "Did it ever occur to you that the only place she can reach to get water is the toilet?"

Back To Top

7. Websites

A. How observant are you?

Click on the link below and take the test. The normal rate is 7 out of 25, but I managed to somehow get 27 right. I also was never very good in math, but that's a whole 'nother story.

<http://www.oldjoebblack.0nyx.com/thinktst.htm>

Thanks to Barbara F. in Pennsylvania for sharing the above.

B. For my next career; whatcha think?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=367Kliy9cqw&feature=youtu.be>

This was from a few years ago--OK, maybe more than a few--when I had more hair than I have now. But as you may have heard me say, "I'm not really losing hair; I'm gaining face!"

Please feel free to share the above with others. With your help, we may even make this go viral!

NOTE: As you may have also heard, I will be taking a stand-up comedy course at the Center for Creative Retirement starting later this month. (See Section 12A for more information.) Stay tuned for more details about the graduation/performance that y'all will be invited to on May 12.

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

<http://www.blainesworld.net>

In another life it seems, I was a full-time college professor . . . if you'd like to read more about my life then, click "Teaching" to the left . . . and yes, I realize my vita is outdated--make that, very outdated . . . but since I've become a Rewirement Expert-in-Training (my current job title), I don't need to be overly concerned about such things . . . though typing that has made me realize I do need to change it, so excuse me for a minute while I wrote a note to myself:

Self, update this section.

Baaaaaack . . . hopefully, you didn't miss me too much!

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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Back To Top

8. Computer tip

Did you know that you can set up a FREE @facebook.com email address?

According to Facebook Help, here's all that you need to do:

To set up a free @facebook.com address, go to your Messages view and click the "Claim your Facebook email" link.

Your email address will match your public username, for example:

Profile: facebook.com/username

Email: username@facebook.com

If you don't have a username yet, you can choose one when you create your email address.

Once you set up your email address, people can email you using any traditional email system (e.g., Hotmail, Yahoo or Gmail), and the emails will be delivered to your Facebook Messages. When you send messages to external email addresses, the emails will be formatted to look like Facebook messages, including your name, your profile picture and your message.

MY TWO CENTS: I still prefer having and using my "regular" email address; i.e., bginbc@aol.com . . . but it is good to have this as an option, too, and from time to time, I do find myself using it.

SOURCE:

https://www.facebook.com/help/?faq=224049364288051&ref_query=email+at+facebook

Back To Top

9. JOKE 3: You know you're in a Redneck church when . . . part 1 of 2

* The finance committee refuses to provide funds for the purchase of a chandelier because none of the members knows how to play one.

* People ask, when they learn that Jesus fed the 5,000, whether the two fish were bass or catfish, and what bait was used to catch 'em.

* The pastor says, "I'd like to ask Bubba to help take up the offering" and five guys and two women stand up.

* Opening day of deer season is recognized as an official church holiday.

* A member of the church requests to be buried in his 4-wheel drive truck because "It ain't never been in a hole it couldn't get out of."

* The choir is known as the "OK Chorale."

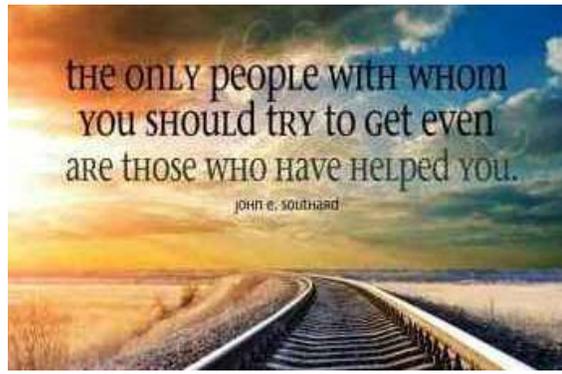
* In a congregation of 500 members, there are only seven different last names in the church directory.

* People think "rapture" is what you get when you lift something too heavy.

(To be concluded next week.)

Back To Top

10. A quote I like



[Back To Top](#)

11. Thought for the day



[Back To Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. Some stuff I'm involved in:

(1) SPECIAL OPEN REHEARSAL of a DREAM OF CAMELOT will be held on Wednesday, March 21, at the Clubhouse for Biltmore Lake residents--beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Feel free to stop by then and/or any time thereafter until about 9:30 p.m. Also, feel free to leave whenever you need to do so. You won't see the entire show, but you'll see several of the best scenes and musical numbers, and you'll find it an interesting experience.

Please RSVP via the Intranet. If you're not a Biltmore Lake resident and would like to attend as my guest, send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put CAMELOT in the subject line.

About the show: DREAM OF CAMELOT, a musical, runs from March 29-April 1 at the Masonic Temple in downtown Asheville at the corner of Woodfin St. and Broadway Avenue. Thursday-Saturday evenings are at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday matinee is at 2:30 p.m.

It features 25 original new songs written by local composer (and international recording artist) Richard Shulman--the same Richard Shulman who has appeared several times at the Biltmore Lake Clubhouse. A DREAM OF CAMELOT will be directed by Asheville's Rock Eblen. This production promises to be an unforgettable healing experience for all that attend.

To purchase tickets: Advance sale tickets are available for \$15 for the special preview on Thursday night and \$20 for all the other shows. Tickets at the door are \$25. To order, go to:

<http://adreamofcamelot.com/>

or call 828.658.9604.

(2) If space permits, you can still sign-up for many of the great courses at the Center for Creative Retirement for this coming spring semester . . . or do so during the Drop/Add period.

* I'm going to be taking the aforementioned course on Performing Standup Comedy being taught by Randy Robins--a very funny guy: http://ncccr.unca.edu/courses?field_instructor_value=&title=Comedy

* I'm also going to be taking a course on the History of Sports Illustrated being taught by Larry Griswold (who was my instructor for a great sports documentary course last semester):

[http://ncccr.unca.edu/courses?tid\[\]=37&field_instructor_value=+&title=history](http://ncccr.unca.edu/courses?tid[]=37&field_instructor_value=+&title=history)

* I won't be taking this one, but did want to tell you that Cynthia's Move Your Body course is always a winner . . . for more information, please click:

http://ncccr.unca.edu/courses?field_instructor_value=greenfield&title=

* And our friend Linda Orowitz is teaching Asheville on the Cheap, a very informative class/discussion on What to do in Asheville for free or a great deal:

http://ncccr.unca.edu/courses?field_instructor_value=orowitz&title=

B. North Carolina events:

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Cu>

- (1) "The Story of My Life"
- (2) Board-Ready (leadership development program for Board members)
- (3) Asheville Women's Roundtable Event
- (4) Upcoming SCORE seminars
- (5) The Runaway Circus and the Loose Cabooses Annual Community Show!

[Back To Top](#)

PS. Daylight Saving Time begins this coming Sunday at 2 a.m. . . . to help you remember what you have to do (set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night), listen to my favorite Daylight Saving Time song:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08mEmw_kWVo

Actually, it's the only song I have ever heard on the subject . . . but why quibble? It's quite catchy, and I think you'll enjoy it. In addition, please remember to do what my friend Kathy W. in PA always urges me to do; i.e., check the batteries on your smoke/carbon monoxide detectors.

Make it a great rest of the week, too!

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION: To subscribe to this publication, please send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIBE in subject line . . . if you wish to unsubscribe, just send an email to same address and put UNSUBSCRIBE in subject line.

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#805
2.27.2012

In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Age old question answered**
 4. **Reviews . . . BIG MIRACLE, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Sign I need to get for my door . . . want one for yours, too?**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Why three beers?**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I attended a moving performance of The Asheville True Human Project . . . actually, cancel that . . . I attended it; Cynthia was one of the 11 performers who presented their own original life stories. She was fantastic, and OK, I may be just a tad bit prejudiced, but the others who went with me agreed with that assessment.



(l-r) Tom, Marcy, Doug and Jane; that's yours truly in the background.

Kudos, too, to our friend Majo . . . he also excelled . . . and special recognition goes to Dayna Brayshaw and Caroline Parsons, directors of the event.

B. We also attended a lively production of SCAPINO! at Mars Hill College that was put on by the talented students in the Theatre Arts Department.

Toni Lepanto had the leading role . . . it was the first time we have seen her in a play, and we are hoping it won't be the last . . . she was incredible!

We've seen several of the other actors before, and they were great as always--including Chandler Smith, Brently Sproles, Josh Stein, Lee Revis, Sarah Richardson and Michele Hendrickson, to name just a few . . . Bill Gregg directed with his usual aplomb, and he was ably assisted by Joshua Miller . . . Richard Seagle's scenery added to our enjoyment of the play.



(l-r) Joshua Miller, Blaine Greenfield, Sarah Richardson and friends Lori Lynn Mullet and Sharon Christensen



(l-r) Chandler Smith, Cynthia Greenfield, Blaine Greenfield, Brently Sproles and Josh Stein

C. Mr. Curious here: Several movie theatres near me sell popcorn in a so-called "small" bag . . . sometimes, they'll even advertise it as being 46 oz. . . . there is no way this is the case!

See for yourself by going into a local supermarket or convenience store and go to the section where they sell pre-popped popcorn in a bag . . . even a 16 oz. bag is huge.

What the Asheville movie theatres apparently are doing is selling popcorn by the liquid ounce weight, much like they sell sodas . . . but popcorn is not a liquid product--or at least not to my way of thinking.

I've done some research into the subject and found that the problem apparently is with the manufacturers of popcorn bags . . . they are selling these to movie theatres, and when they do so, they are telling the movie theatres that they are buying bags in 32 oz., 46 oz., 85 oz., etc. sizes.

Where I'd appreciate your help:

(1) If you know anything more about this subject of popcorn size, please let me know.

(2) Find out the sizes of popcorn from your local theatre. If you're told "small," "medium" and "large," ask how many ounces are in each of these bags or containers. Then share this information with me, along with the name and location of the theatre.

Much obliged!

D. CONGRATULATIONS to Edie W. in PA on her recent appearance on the World of Writing, an Internet radio show . . . if you'd like to still listen to it, please click:

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/consciousdiscussions/2012/02/26/world-of-writing-with-edie-weinstein>

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

This week, it goes to Theresa Phillips, founder of Legacy Films, and her partner and son

Ryan.

Over the years, I had heard of the fine work done by Legacy Films . . . it is a family-owned Film/Video business that specializes in sharing some of the beauty and rich heritage of the Appalachian Mountains.

Most recently, I have had the pleasure to work with both Theresa and Ryan in their voluntary efforts toward documenting the amazing life of Coach Doug Blevins . . . he's the only coach in the history of the NFL who has never played football or even walked.

Here is one clip Theresa and Ryan put together, featuring Coach Blevins' recent appearance at Biltmore Lake:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhPohcWdjWA&feature=youtu.be>

They are currently working on some additional clips, including him performing at a local comedy club, working with a college kicker and others that will be featured in future issues of BLAINESWORLD. Eventually, Legacy Films plans to edit these various clips into one final piece that will then be entered into a national video competition.

Should you want more information about this fine company, as well as about Theresa or Ryan, please click:

<http://www.legacyfilmsltd.com/>

Lastly, I should mention that I've also been working with Theresa in her capacity as a member of the Board of Directors for SART. Her dedication and enthusiasm for this organization has been most welcome.

[Back To Top](#)

2. FYI

On the subject of credentials, I thought y'all would like to see this informative email I received from Marilynne in NC:

Years ago my husband, a nutrition scientist (among other legitimate medical credentials), applied for and got mail order diplomas in nutrition for our dog Sassafrass and cat Charlie. Here's a photo of Charlie with his--it still appears in every new addition of the standard textbook on human nutrition. Victor did it to show how easy it is to get "degrees" in unregulated health-related fields.



MY TWO CENTS: It's very easy to get certification in a whole bunch of other fields, too. So if somebody tells you that they are certified, ask such questions as:

1. How much training was involved in the certification process?
2. What group or agency provided the certification?
3. Was actual work experience or an internship required to get certified?
4. How much did the certification cost?
5. And could you just send in a check to get certified?

Years ago, I thought it would be cool to become an ordained minister to perform marriages. I found this one so-called church that actually certified me. All I had to do was send them my name and address and by return mail, I got a certificate suitable for framing. I didn't even have to pay anything.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

- (1) Pat H. in PA: Pink Martini--let's never stop falling in love

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OALt6VFgwoU&feature=related>

(2) Scott P. in PA: The 20 Best Uses of Bob Dylan Songs In Film
<http://www.pastemagazine.com/blogs/lists/2012/02/20-best-bob-dylan-songs-in-film.html>

(3) Carole B. in NC: Good morning!
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9trhKhI8_g4&sns=fb

(4) Lisa A. in PA: Anthony is competing again this season. Here he is testing his car.
<http://speedhunters.com/archive/2012/02/28/video-roll-gt-gt-tony-angelo-testing-scion-tc.aspx>

(5) YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS! HOLD TIGHT! Light bulb changer.
www.liveleak.com/e/07b_1284580365

(6) Susan M. in NJ: OWL LANDING RIGHT AT CAMERA -- FANTASTIC!!
<http://www.dogwork.com/owfo8/>

(7) Donna S. in AL: Rod Stewart: Rainy Night in Georgia
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYeoeswT1cc&feature=share>

(8) Mitt Romney as "The Artist" on The Chris Matthews Show
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=F_NEDc-Eaas

B. Other:

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-BN>

- (1) Pat H. in PA: Not a resounding endorsement [about Chompa]?
- (2) Sharon C. in NC: You should really give Plant a chance.
- (3) Rodney R. in NJ: The reason One for the Money wasn't set in Trenton
- (4) Anita S. in Florida: Anita S. in FL: 10 ways to save money on gas
- (5) Stephanie W. in NJ (with a REQUEST FOR HELP)
- (6) Linda K. in PA: I like the section with links in your newsletter!
- (7) My friend Ruth Anne Wood's show on March 6

Back To Top

3. JOKE 1: Age old question answered

Women always say that "giving birth is far more painful than a guy getting kicked in the nuts."

Here is proof that they are wrong.

A year or so after giving birth a woman will often say: "It might be nice to have another child."

But you never hear a guy say: "I would like another kick in the nuts."

Case closed.

Back To Top

4. Reviews

A. BIG MIRACLE is a family drama that won't bore parents or grandparents . . . it uses real-life events to tell the tale of a small town reporter and an animal-loving volunteer who join with rival world superpowers to save a family of gray whales trapped in the Arctic Circle . . . John Krasinski and Drew Barrymore do a nice job in the leading roles . . . rated PG.

B. HUGO is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #793 follows:

For some reason, I was in no rush to see HUGO--the fantasy about a resourceful boy who is on a search to unlock a secret left to him by his father . . . yet when I read one outstanding review after another, I decided to give it a shot and was glad that I did . . . it's an intriguing story that really came alive at the end when all the various subplots came together . . . the cinematography is breathtaking . . . there's a great soundtrack . . . and the acting, especially by Asa Butterfield (so good in THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS) and Ben Kingsley, was outstanding . . . in addition, I liked the work of Sacha Baron Cohen, Chloe Grace Moretz and Emily Mortimer . . . rated PG.

Unfortunately, you won't be able to heed the following that appeared with my initial review:

STRONG RECOMMENDATION: You can find HUGO in both 2D and 3D . . . this is one instance where you will be better off, make that much better off, by choosing the latter option . . . this was director Martin Scorsese's first ever 3D film . . . I'm hoping it won't be his last . . . for the first time in recent memory, I believe that use of the technique actually enhanced my enjoyment of the film.

That said, if you do wind up renting the film, let me know what you think about it without the 3D effects.

C. Andy Borowitz is my choice for the funniest writer now around. His humor posts always put a smile on my face.

So it was with great enthusiasm that I looked forward to reading his book, THE 50 FUNNIEST AMERICAN WRITERS (The Library of America) . . . the subtitle looked promising, too: AN ANTHOLOGY OF HUMOR FROM MARK TWAIN TO THE ONION.

And the introduction was great, especially because it gave some of the author's background--such as in this tidbit:

* I accepted this view of humor-as-pheromone despite mountains of real-world evidence to the contrary. At Shaker High, the girls mainly went for jocks whose idea of a witty retort was a wedgie. And if I had looked a little more closely at Playboy's monthly "Party Pics" feature, I might have noticed that the bunnies at Hef's Mansion gravitated towards the laps of people like Lee Majors, the star of The Six Million Dollar Man and not, to my knowledge, a founding member of the Algonquin Round Table.

But the above points out one of my two big problems with the book; i.e., there was not enough written by Borowitz . . . after the first five pages, he wrote nothing else . . . I would have loved seeing his take, for example, about each piece and/or its author.

In addition, how can you have a book about the 50 funniest American writers and not even include Andy Borowitz? That's a big mistake in my opinion.

Some of the other pieces that were chosen weren't very funny, either . . . I won't mention who wrote them, other than to say they just didn't make me laugh.

However, the book did manage to redeem itself by including Dave Barry's "Tips for Women," which included this great passage:

* Guys are born with a fundamental, genetically transmitted mental condition known to psychologists as: The Fear That If You Get Attached to a Woman Some Unattached Guy, Somewhere, Will Be Having More Fun Than You. This is why all married guys assume that all unmarried guys lead lives of constant excitement involving hot tubs full of naked international fashion models; whereas in fact for most unmarried guys, the climax of the typical evening is watching an infomercial for Hair-in-a-Spray-Can while eating onion dip straight from the container. (This is also true of married guys, although statistically they are far more likely to be using a spoon.)

Then there was George Carlin's "If I Were in Charge of the Networks," which made me realize how much I miss his wit:

* Don't make the same mistake twice seems to indicate three mistakes, doesn't it? First, you make the mistake. Then you make the same mistake. Then you make the same mistake twice. If you simply say, "Don't make the same mistake," you'll avoid the first mistake.

Overall, I was very impressed by the fact that Borowitz has chosen to donate the proceeds from the sale of THE 50 FUNNIEST AMERICAN WRITERS to support the mission of The Library of America.

D. Regina Brett's GOD NEVER BLINKS was one of my favorite books from a few years ago . . . I just finished listening to her latest, BE THE MIRACLE: 50 LESSONS FOR MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE (Hachette Audio), which she also narrated . . . it has already been added to my list of 2012 favorites.

The author again writes about life, turning each short essay into a lesson to be both learned and shared . . . this time, many of them deal with cancer because Brett is now a cancer survivor.

In particular, I liked how she wrote about her own struggles with the disease, as well as about her bargains with God.

I also liked her observations about some things that might ordinarily be considered as mundane--but aren't really:

* I've never forgotten the day I was a ball of stress and stopped to pay for parking. In most parking lots, you pull up, the person takes your money, gives you change, and you pull away. Your eyes never meet and neither of you remembers the encounter.

This time the attendant looked me in the eye, greeted me, shook my hand, and gave me a blessing before I left.

He told me he loved his job and saw it as his ministry to bless people as they passed through his parking lot into the rest of their day. Where I saw a mere money collector, he saw a mission in life. He left me feeling renewed and calm.

We've all had moments like that. They happen when you are with people who know that everyone matters, that you don't have to make a lot of money to make a big difference, that you can simply start where you are and magnify the good.

In another chapter, Brett urges all to speak up for others, especially when they aren't present to speak up for themselves:

* Far too many of us remain silent. Years ago I wrote an investigative story about a teenager in Rittman, Ohio, who had been arrested for killing his father. For years, Will Snyder had suffered constant abuse at the hands of his alcoholic dad, who also suffered from a serious untreated mental illness. Then one morning, on Jan. 21, 1996, the quiet 17-year-old who had never been in trouble picked up a baseball bat and killed his sleeping father. As soon as the news broke, a stream of neighbors and friends called the police on the boy's behalf. They told the police about all the times they had seen bruises on the boy.

Neighbors had seen Will's dad hit him so hard the boy fell to the ground. Friends had seen Will with black eyes, bruises and welts. After the police completed their investigation, 70 people had confirmed that Will had been battered for years by his dad. Will was convicted of manslaughter. The judge gave him five years probation. No one had spoken up until it was too late.

Graduation time will soon be coming. BE THE MIRACLE would be great gift idea to give any high school or college student. You'll enjoy it, too.

***** CONTEST #4 *****

One lucky winner will receive the CD version of FANG: A MAXIMUM RIDE NOVEL by James Patterson . . . this is a perfect prize if you have a child or grandchild in grades 6-9 . . . or if you like these type books . . . according to BOOKLIST:

The Maximum Ride series' flock of winged children is off to Africa for a photo op while providing humanitarian aid. Then Max's rival, Angel, prophesies that best-friend Fang will be the first to die and it will happen soon. When Dr. Gunther-Hagen introduces Max to Dylan, a gorgeous new bird kid who has been designed to be Max's perfect mate, Max's voices tell her Dylan is perfect for her. But how does this affect her commitment to Fang? This will excite the legions of fans waiting for this installment in the flock's story.

TO ENTER: Put "CONTEST 4" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, March 4.

[Back To Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. Mary Beth in PA [on a preview of AWAKE that she saw] I thought it was excellent. One of the best pilots of a TV show I've seen in a long time. Very intriguing, well acted and very well done with how they jump back and forth between his two "realities." Jason Isaacs (Lucius Malfoy from Harry Potter!) is excellent in this role. I am really looking forward to seeing how they continue to develop this series and how this story evolves. Thursdays at 10 p.m. on NBC.

B. Alisa in NC: Hi de hi de hi de ho! AMERICAN MASTERS: CAB CALLOWAY SKETCHES on Saturday at 2 a.m. on PBS . . . Calloway was an ambassador for his race, leading one of the most popular African American big bands during the Harlem Renaissance and jazz and swing eras of the 1930s-40s.

NOTE: PBS times and dates often vary, so check local listings Also, to get you in the mood for the above show, click to see him perform his most well-known song: "Minnie the Moocher" . . .

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08wOPt-2PeE>

C. On Saturday at 7 p.m. on ESPN, I'll be watching North Carolina vs. Duke in college

basketball hoops just to see if it can be anywhere near as exciting as the first game, which ended with this incredible shot at the buzzer:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6jBjrJvxFI>

D. GCB, according to TV GUIDE, is a "gaudy, bawdy send-up of gossipy Dallas church divas" . . . [that] is good, harmless fun." Sundays at 10 p.m. on ABC.

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: Sign I need to get for my door . . . want one for yours, too?



[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. If you're handy and want to save a few bucks when it comes to repairs, try any of the following:

(1) step-by-step instructions and diagrams

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/>

(2) DIY maintenance tips to avoid future repairs

<http://www.hoperepair.about.com/>

(3) thousands of owner's manuals available for download

<http://www.manualsonline.com/>

(4) some instructional videos submitted by users <http://www.youtube.com/>

B. BE PREPARED TO BE AMAZED . . . click this link to see Walter Beals, Keith Campbell and the rest of Forty Fingers & a Missing Tooth mesmerize folks with their juggling at one of my favorite ice cream places in Asheville, The Hop.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sL4gBRGUc0w&feature=youtu.be>

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

To see some of the articles I've written, click "Consulting" to the left and then "Article Samples" . . . I'll be covering much of the material from the first one in Saturday's seminar. (See also Section 12A.)

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

[Back To Top](#)

8. Computer tip

How did my computer get hijacked?

The good news is that it probably hasn't been . . . to read more, please click:

http://askbobrankin.com/how_did_my_email_account_get_hijacked.html?awt_l=MWdwR&awt_m=K5M5dFRor8P6SL

NOTE: The above appeared in AskBob Updates, a great source for Internet tips and ideas . . . to get a FREE subscription, please click:
<http://askbobrankin.com/subscribe.html>

[Back To Top](#)

9. JOKE 3: Why three beers?

An Irishman moves into a tiny hamlet in County Kerry, walks into the pub and promptly orders three beers. The bartender raises his eyebrows, but serves the man three beers, which he drinks quietly at a table, alone.

An hour later, the man has finished the three beers and orders three more. This happens yet again. The next evening the man again orders and drinks three beers at a time, several times. Soon the entire town is whispering about the Man Who Orders Three Beers.

Finally, a week later, the bartender broaches the subject on behalf of the town. "I don't mean to pry, but folks around here are wondering why you always order three beers?"

" 'Tis odd, isn't it?" the man replies. "You see, I have two brothers, and one went to America , and the other to Australia . We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank as a way of keeping up the family bond."

The bartender and the whole town were pleased with this answer, and soon the "Man Who Orders Three Beers" became a local celebrity and source of pride to the hamlet, even to the extent that out-of-towners would come to watch him drink.

Then, one day, the man comes in and orders only two beers. The bartender pours them with a heavy heart. This continues for the rest of the evening. He orders only two beers. The word flies around town. Prayers are offered for the soul of one of the brothers.

The next day, the bartender says to the man, "Folks around here, me first of all, want to offer condolences to you for the death of your brother. You know-the two beers and all."

The man ponders this for a moment, then replies, "You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well. It's just that I, me-self, have decided to give up drinking for Lent."

[Back To Top](#)

10. A quote I like

If you make every game a life-and-death proposition, you're going to have problems. For one thing, you'll be dead a lot.--Dean Smith (born 1931), retired head coach of men's college basketball (best known for his successful 36-year coaching tenure at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

[Back To Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

Singletons vs. Communitons!
by David Carr*

Recently Eric Klineberg, professor of sociology at NYU and author of **Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone**, wrote an article in the NY Times about his work.

He writes, "Americans pride themselves on their self-reliance and culture of individualism." He terms these people "singletons." He claims living alone promotes freedom, personal control and self-realization.

I wonder if this is another outcome of the Information-Internet Age we live in. More and more, the preferred method of communications seems to be electronic rather than face-to-face. Klineberg goes on to write, "Dynamic markets, flourishing cities and open communications systems make modern autonomy more appealing: they give us the capacity to live alone but to engage with others when and how we want to and on our own terms."

At a deeper level, at the heart of our soul, I wonder if this is more appealing. With growing unemployment, not only is stress mounting and tension increasing but hope waning and depression rising. *Wanting* to live and even work on our own terms has negative consequences as well.

After organizations downsize, those left behind are asked to do more with no increase in pay. Morale takes a hit, negative attitudes increase and trust becomes very fragile. Those remaining spend more time looking over their shoulder. Rumor mills crank up. Many business leaders are beginning to recognize the last overt benefit and unique difference an organization might have as a competitive advantage is a nurturing culture with a good

morale where people do feel valued.

I suggest each of us find a balance of autonomy with commUNITY. We need to connect with others one-to-one and face-to-face, unplugged from distraction. I rank this up there with eating correctly, getting proper exercise and getting enough sleep. This will require the same sort of self-discipline as caring for our well-being. It gets back to understanding our needs versus our wants. This is work of the soul.

I yearn for us to become "communitons" rather than singletons, still respecting the need for individual space. Rather continuously looking in, this will require looking out and asking, "what's in it for *us*?" rather than, "what's in it for me?" It will also require learning more than from just "sound-bites." I will require suspending judgment and assumption. It will require us to ask more questions including, "tell me more!" By becoming more curious, we might just reduce our fear and build nurturing communities!

What will your choice be moving forward . . . singleton or communiton?

* Reprinted with David's gracious permission. He is a classmate of mine from our Leadership Asheville days and Corporate AHA! Resource for Montreat College. To find out more about him, check his informative blog at:
<http://carrpediem.blogspot.com/>

Back To Top

12. Advance planning department

A. Some stuff I'm involved in:

(1) SCORE SEMINAR: SURVIVAL MARKETING

Presented by: Blaine Greenfield

Sponsored by Home Trust Bank

March 3, 2012--Saturday

9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (Registration begins at 9 a.m.)

Registration: \$30.00; Save \$5 by pre-registering!

Follow instructions below:

<http://www.asheillescore.org/registration.htm>

At this seminar you will learn:

The most successful marketing strategy ever devised: the referral-based business . . . and how to develop one.

Over 70 low-cost and no-cost marketing ideas presented in a document file that will be emailed to you following the class.

The effective application of these two marketing approaches could turn your business into a success-generating engine starting the moment you leave the seminar. So, if you have been relying upon advertising to build your business, come and learn a better way . . . especially if your advertising results have been less than you expected.

And all will learn the difference between a left- and right-handed pencil.

Location: A-B Tech Enka Campus, Small Business Center, Room 2046

***** One lucky attendee will have the chance to win \$500! *****

(2) Asheville, as you may have heard, is going to be pretty busy this coming weekend with the Southern Conference Basketball Tournament. I mention that because if, by chance, you are attending any games at the US Cellular Center on Sunday (from 11 a.m-4 p.m.), make sure you stop by to say "hello" to me . . .

I'll be helping sell some great Kilwin's products at the booth the store will have in the lobby. Come get some delicious caramel popcorn and/or chocolates!

(3) SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre) has announced its exciting summer, 2012 season. The shows are as follows: I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE; HARVEY; THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA; SWEET WATER TASTE; AND SYLVIA.

You can still save \$15 by getting a Flex season subscription. The date has been extended until March 15. For more information, please click:

<http://sartplays.org/SART.order.tix.v3.pdf>

Contact me directly if you'd like more information on being a sponsor of a play and/or advertising in the Playbill. Also, if interested in a great fundraising opportunity for any nonprofit organization you might belong to, do I have an idea for you!

B. NC events:

To read each of the following events in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-BL>

- (1) Vic A. in NC: Saw Chicago tonight as part of a sold out crowd.
- (2) Mark Jones in NC: Bradshaw Call and I getting ready for our production of THE STORY OF MY LIFE
- (3) The Runaway Circus and the Loose Caboozes Annual Community Show!
- (4) Dr. Seuss Birthday Party/Children's Book Exchange!
- (5) Asheville Women's Roundtable Event
- (6) Happy Hour Jack Of the Woods every Friday in March . . . Chuck Beattie Band
- (7) A DREAM OF CAMELOT runs from March 29-April 1

C. PA/NJ events:

To read each of the following events in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-BQ>

- (1) OKLAHOMA at Neshaminy Valley Music Theatre
- (2) Comedy in South Jersey and Bucks County
- (3) The Insider's Secret to Outstanding Kitchen Design in Newtown, PA
- (4) (4) 13th PhillyFIT BASH!

Back To Top

PS. Make it a great week!

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#804
2.20.2012

In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Going places**
 4. **Reviews . . . ONE FOR THE MONEY, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Some truth to this (actually, a lot of truth)**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Testing**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I went with our friends Doug and Jane to see LOVE CHILD at the NC Stage Company . . . it's a comedy that features excellent acting by Charles McIver and Bill Munoz, each playing multiple roles . . . parts of the show were quite funny . . . it runs through March 6 . . . for more information, please click:
www.ncstage.org

From there, we went to Champa (formerly Sushi Thai) for dinner . . . the menu is mostly the same, and I enjoyed my coconut fried rice and Cynthia liked her pepper steak . . . some of the serving staff has left and though the new waitresses are OK, the previous ones were excellent . . . for more information, please click:
<http://champaasheville.com/>

B. I had quite a busy week:

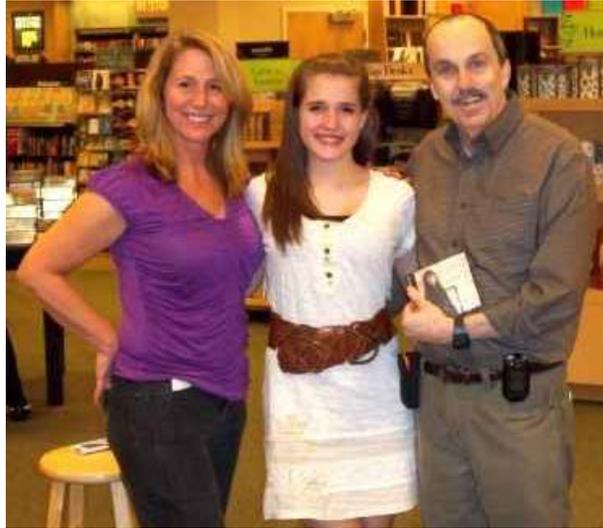
(1) With neighbors Kristi, Harry, Terry and Muffie, I went for dinner--also to Champa--and then saw Asheville Lyric Opera's superb production of COSI FAN TUTTE. The singing and staging were both magnificent, and Pat Heurermann did a fine job of directing the entire production.

(2) I helped with Mission Hospital's Radiothon. (See also BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD winner after Section 1D). That's me with Jerry Hinz, my talented neighbor, who performed with his Lester Grass group.



A few hours later, the equally talented Athena Destiny came by to sing. That's me with her

(middle) and her aunt Sandra.



And special thanks to magician Tom Hughes for also coming down to the Asheville Mall to provide his unique brand of entertainment.

(3) I finished a fantastic course I was taking at the Center for Creative Retirement on sports documentaries . . . we saw and discussed the following: HITLER'S PAWN, SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD, DARE TO DREAM, LOMBARDI, NINE INNINGS FROM GROUND ZERO and THE BATTLE FOR TOBACCO ROAD, DUKE VS. CAROLINA . . . Larry Griswold was the instructor, and I liked him and his course so much that I'll be taking another one from him next semester . . . that one will be on the history of SPORTS ILLUSTRATED.

(4) And lastly, I completed an online course to become a SCORE certified mentor.

C. CONGRATULATIONS to:

(1) Savannah in PA for her informative appearance on the Spiritual Prosperity show on the Internet . . . can still listen to it by clicking:

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/thepsychicpartnersshow/2012/02/20/guest-savannah--spiritual-prosperity>

(2) Jim Freeman, Deb Geoghan, Cecile Kandl and Judy Toland--all faculty members at Bucks County Community College . . . they were recently awarded half year sabbaticals for the upcoming academic year.

(3) Chris Henderson (belatedly) on the opening of his new showroom for Henderson's Flooring. I've worked with Chris in the past, and I can tell you that if you have any flooring needs, he's your man.

To quote Chris: At Henderson's Flooring, we have 23 years of treating clients house as a home instead of a job site. We provide numerous major brands of hardwood, ceramic, stone, vinyl, laminate and carpet. We provide personal shop at home service with attention to detail. We also have partnered with four of the top ASID Designers in WNC at your disposal if needed to turn your new home or renovation into a showpiece. Our installers are part of our team and are true craftsmen. We keep our overhead low to give you the best deal.

Call Chris today for a free estimate. He can be reached at 828.215.1558 or by visiting the store at 169 Old Mars Hill Highway, Weaverville. His website is: <http://www.hendersons-flooring.com/Home>

(4) Asheville for being cited by NEW YORK magazine as a great place for a weekend: <http://nymag.com/travel/weekends/asheville/>

(5) Karen G. and Linda S.--both in NJ--for winning Contest #3 . . . each received a bottle of Puritan Pride vitamins . . . all told, there were six entries, which reminds me to take this opportunity to announce:

***** CONTEST #4 *****

One lucky winner will receive the CD version of FANG: A MAXIMUM RIDE NOVEL by James Patterson . . . this is a perfect prize if you have a child or grandchild in grades 6-9 . . . or if you like these type books . . . according to BOOKLIST:

The Maximum Ride series' flock of winged children is off to Africa for a photo op while providing humanitarian aid. Then Max's rival, Angel, prophesies that best-friend Fang will be the first to die and it will happen soon. When Dr. Gunther-Hagen introduces Max to Dylan, a gorgeous new bird kid who has been designed to be Max's perfect mate, Max's voices tell her Dylan is perfect for her. But how does this affect her commitment to Fang? This will excite the legions of fans waiting for this installment in the flock's story.

TO ENTER: Put "CONTEST 4" in the subject line of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com . . . make sure you include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, March 4.

D. CONDOLENCES to:

(1) Carolyn Tenefoss and family on the passing of Carolyn's husband Marvin on February 17. There will be a memorial service on Monday, March 5. The service will be at 11 a.m. at the Nativity Lutheran Church, 2425 Hendersonville Road, Arden, NC. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to John F. Keever Solace Center, P.O. Box 25538, Asheville, NC 28813 or Stanford University Memorial Fund, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford, CA 94305-2004.

(2) Dolly Dickinson and family on the sudden loss of Dolly's nephew Scott.

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

This week, it goes to the committee behind the success of the recent Mission Hospital Radiothon (see also Section 1A).

To quote an email from Teresa Cunningham, director, children's hospital philanthropy for the Mission Hospital Foundation:

The Radiothon brought in \$120,463. And 100% of is going to help the kids at Mission Children's Hospital. . . . The Radiothon is the most successful annual event that the Foundation puts on for the Children's Hospital. It's an incredible team effort, from the work you did, to the moms and dads of Mission Kids who share their stories, to the clinical staff that recruit the moms and dads, the volunteers who work at the Mall, and the incredible Clear Channel team. You all know Eddie and Sharon, but there is a sizable group behind scenes making everything work.

Special kudos to Carol Keleher, the tireless chair of the committee . . . that's her (left), along with Teresa.



In addition, all these other individuals deserve recognition for both their enthusiasm and hard work: Kimmie Anderson, Gil Calderwood, Venus Carvelli, Brenda Durden, Carla Henry, Marilynne Herbert, Neil Hollifield, Michael Horvath, Carol Kassem, Mick Kassem, Deborah Pressley, Anne Roegner and Carla Trull. I was also honored to have been part of this group.

[Back To Top](#)

2. FYI

Lately, I've been writing a bunch of Congressmen and Congresswomen about their various stances . . . but if you go online and seek to contact them, you'll be asked for your local

address; i.e., in their district . . . if you don't have such an address, you aren't allowed to write them using email, and I find that just plain stupid . . . so to get around that requirement, I just look up the representative's snail mail address (it is available at the website) and then use that when asked to provide an address. After all, it is . . . an address!

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) Kim H. in NC: Cat walks for kisses

http://www.bing.com/videos/watch/video/cat-walks-for-kisses/1jrddoy5j?from=en-us_fblike

(2) Steve M. in NJ: Adopt Me . . . I Am Not An Until Dog!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYx0dKvXUIA>

(3) Successful sports coaching (featuring Jeffrey Marx, a Pulitzer Prize winning author):

<http://chicagoideas.com/videos/62>

(4) Marie V. in NJ: The Tymes-So Much in Love

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7cnFadY9S4&feature=share>

(5) How a 100 year old keeps sharp

<http://1funny.com/100-year-old-keeps-sharp/>

(6) Chris H. in NC: The Kingsmen-When I Wake up in the Morning

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSSvdj51G3w&sns=fb>

(7) Barbara F. in PA: The risk inside your credit card

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILAFhTjsQHW&sns=em>

(8) Alex P. in NC: Sophie-I Love You

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3y-OfIQNuRQ&feature=share>

B. Other: Space limitations prevent me from listing all the contributions here, but they can be found by clicking:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-B8>

And thanks to: Peter R. in PA, Vic A. in NC, Sharon C. in NC, Pat H. in PA, Rock E. in NC, George F. in NC, Allen D. in NC, Mike U. in PA, Mark J. in NC, George B. in PA and Gary J. in NC for contributing to this section.

[Back To Top](#)

3. JOKE 1: Going places

The average man's life consists of:

Twenty years of having his mother ask him where he is going,
forty years of having his wife ask the same question;
and at the end, the mourners wondering too where he is going.

[Back To Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. ONE FOR THE MONEY, based on a book with the same title by Janet Evanovich, is a film that got terrible reviews . . . yet I wanted to see it because I had read and enjoyed the author's tale of the sassy Jersey girl who gets a job working for her cousin's bail bonding company . . . and I'm glad I did because I had a fun time, in large part because of Katherine Heigl's performance in the leading role . . . most of those in the audience seemed to like it, too . . . there's nothing particularly deep here, but if you are in the mood for something mildly diverting, give ONE FOR THE MONEY a shot . . . my only disappointment: it is supposed to be set in Trenton, NJ (a town I've spent a lot of time in), but you wouldn't know it unless I told you . . . rated PG-13.

B. TOWER HEIST is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #790 follows:

Catch TOWER HEIST to see the triumphant return to form of Eddie Murphy in a comedy caper about a bunch of working guys who plot to steal money back from the guy who swindled them . . . Alan Alda is equally fun to watch as the Bernie Madoff-type con man, and Ben Stiller has his funny moments, too . . . yet despite their acting, the film--after a terrific

first hour--tails way off at the end . . . so overall, I wouldn't rush out to see it, but as a DVD rental, you'll get enough laughs to make it worthwhile . . . rated PG-13.

C. THE MISSION MYTH: BUILDING NONPROFIT MOMENTUM THROUGH BETTER BUSINESS (Business Solutions Press) by Deidre Maloney is a book that I wish I had read many years ago; i.e., before I started becoming involved with nonprofit organizations.

Unfortunately, it was only written in 2012 . . . yet I still got a lot out of it because of the fact that I remain active in several such groups . . . and there is much to be learned from the author who served as an executive director of the Colorado AIDS Project and who now helps nonprofits meet their missions through a company she founded.

What I liked most was how Maloney shared her many experiences to drive home the point that there's more to successful for nonprofits than just passion and heart . . . rather, only when they integrate the Four M's: Management, Money, Marketing and Measurement will they achieve optimal results.

She then uses countless examples to show how this can be accomplished, including this particular tidbit that I plan to implement right away:

* Here's the other thing to know about systems, one of their most important benefits:

They make things less personal.

When you have a system in place that says it's up to your supervisors to check the staff's timesheets and question comp time, then those supervisors are simply following required policy. It becomes less about Charlene questioning Steve about his timesheet, and more about what the supervisor is expected to do.

When you have a policy that states that it's up to the volunteer coordinator to pick up the mail at the post office each day because you have limited resources, then you're not asking Daniel to do you a favor every day.

When you have a board policy that says a member must give or get a certain amount of money every year, then following up with Amy on her donation is about the policy, not about calling her out for her lack of a monetary contribution.

In addition, I liked the advice on a variety of topics--such as determining the length of something you plan to send out:

* Here's a good test. If you're writing a direct mail piece or a flyer and you find yourself playing with the margins to fit it all on one page, stop. Cut it. I promise you can. And the final product will be much better.

However, what I liked most about THE MISSION MYTH were the many boxes where she encouraged readers to "learn from me" and not make similar mistakes . . . however, Maloney then ends on this positive note:

* The other thing to know is that you will make mistakes. Not everything will go well, and sometimes you will miss the days of the more random use of your time, answering emails and calls as they come in, letting anybody walk in your office and take up your time, acting as the almighty cheerleader instead of the critical combination of inspired leader, excellent manager and accountability mechanism.

I now want to see if I can get the other board members in one of my groups to read this book . . . if they do, they will gain a much better understanding of what being a board member is all about.

D. Heard and enjoyed SWITCH: HOW TO CHANGE THINGS WHEN CHANGE IS HARD (Random House Audio), written by Chip Heath & Dan Heath and narrated by Charles Kahlenberg.

The authors answer the question: Why is it so hard to make lasting changes in our communities and in our lives? The primary obstacle is a conflict that's built into our brains, which are controlled by two different systems--the rational mind and the emotional mind. But if we can overcome this tension, then change can come quickly.

For example, they start off the book with a fascinating study about moviegoers who are given stale popcorn. It seems that people eat more popcorn when you give them a bigger bucket. Period. So if you want them to eat less popcorn, just give them smaller buckets. You don't have to spend all sorts of time trying to influence their motivation or understanding.

Then they discuss an alarm clock called the Clock that has wheels. You set it at night and when it goes off in the morning, it rolls off the nightstand and forces you to chase it down.

Our rational side in this instances wants to get up at 5:45 a.m., but our emotional side wants nothing more but to stay inside a warm cocoon of sheets to get a few more minutes of sleep.

The book presents many other examples, taken from a wide variety of situations. The bottom line is presented through the analogy of an Elephant and his Rider. The Rider is your logical brain. The Elephant is your heart. If you want the elephant to move, you need to engage both the Rider and the Elephant. Or if you want to change behavior, you must direct the Rider (by providing clear direction), motivate the elephant (by engaging emotions) and shape the Path (by creating the best environment).

SWITCH is a fine book to read for any individual or organization going through change--or contemplating that possibility.

[Back To Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. Lana in OH: THE UNION . . . good one . . . loved it . . . not sure is you are an ole music lover like me, but I saw An HBO special concert with Elton John and Leon Russell (and some background with Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys) . . . just knocked me flat . . . so I was in search of the CD . . . found it at Best Buy and it is every bit as good as the special on HBO . . . the special on HBO shows the journey of making the CD and the concert . . . if you get a chance, see the special or buy the CD and enjoy. Sunday at 3:15 p.m. on HBO2.

B. A STAR IS BORN, the 1954 version starring Judy Garland, airs on Sunday at 5 p.m. on TCM . . . just her rendition of "The Man That Got Away" alone is reason to see the film . . . she deserved the Best Actress Oscar that year, but lost out to Grace Kelly.

C. Don't bother me on Sunday from 7 p.m. on because I'll be busy watching the Red Carpet show before the Academy Awards and then the actual show-both on ABC. I'm personally hoping that THE HELP wins Best Picture Award . . . though I liked several of the films that were nominated, this is the only one that truly blew me away . . . I also hope that Woody Allen wins Best Original Screenplay for MIDNIGHT IN PARIS.

D. Danny McBride comes back for a third season of EASTBOUND & DOWN on Sunday night at 10:30 p.m. on HBO . . . I'll also be watching because Will Ferrell returns as a guest star in a very long blond wig as McBride's arch enemy . . . he previously had been very funny in that role.

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: Some truth to this (actually, a lot of truth)



Reprinted with the gracious permission of David Cohen, a very talented Asheville cartoonist. To see more of his work, please click:

www.facebook.com/pages/David-Cohen/116071624619

[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Janeen in PA: There is always something to learn every day. This is long, but worth watching to the end. It features a female survivor of a Nazi concentration camp (108 years

old), being interviewed by Anthony Robbins. She still plays the piano on a regular basis!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jj-RJ4k9c04&feature=youtu.be>

B. Memory, a very funny spoof, featuring Pam Peterson. Thanks to Natalie K. in PA for sharing.

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=HzSaoN2LdfU

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

To see some of the companies and individuals I like using in both NC and PA/NJ, click "Blaine's Best" on the left of the homepage and then "Choices" . . . methinks you won't be disappointed if you used any of those on either of these lists . . . and do check back from time to time for updates.

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Back To Top

8. Computer tip

TECHNOLOGY | February 23, 2012

State of the Art: Windows on the iPad, and Speedy

By DAVID POGUE

You're probably paying something like \$60 a month for high-speed Internet. I'm paying \$5 a month, and my connection is 1,000 times faster.

Your iPad can't play Flash videos on the Web. Mine can.

Your copy of Windows needs constant updating and patching and protection against viruses and spyware. Mine is always clean and always up-to-date.

No, I'm not some kind of smug techno-elitist; you can have all of that, too. All you have to do is sign up for a radical iPad service called OnLive Desktop Plus.

For the rest of this informative article, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/23/technology/personaltech/onlive-desktop-plus-puts-windows-7-on-the-ipad-in-blazing-speed-state-of-the-art.html?emc=eta1>

Back To Top

9. JOKE 3: Testing

A psychiatrist was testing a patient's personality. The shrink drew a circle on a piece of paper and then asked the patient, "What does this remind you of?"

The patient answered. "Sex."

The psychiatrist drew a square and inquired, "What does this remind you of?"

"Sex," the patient replied.

Then the doctor drew a triangle. "It reminds me of sex," the patient stated.

"You seem to be obsessed with sex". The shrink told the patient.

"I'm obsessed with sex? You're the one who's drawing the dirty pictures!"

Back To Top

10. A quote I like

Today is Fat Tuesday, tomorrow is Ash Wednesday and the first day of Lent. I think I am going to give up giving up stuff for Lent, for Lent! If we are going to give some things up, they should be things like being judgmental of others, fear, narrow mindedness and all other ugly emotions and behaviors!--Hal Janssen (born 1956), owner, writer, editor and ombudsman at:

www.friendlysuggestions.com

11. Thought for the day

Last week, I reported on the passing of Jeff Zaslow--one of my favorite authors . . . here's more on the subject from a recent email I received:

Our paths once crossed, and now his path has come to an abrupt end
by Darcy Silvers"

While the music world is mourning the loss of Whitney Houston, the literary world is mourning the loss of Jeff Zaslow.

Jeff Zaslow and I were mere acquaintances, but I can't keep from getting choked up as I write this. The best-selling author was tragically killed Friday in a car accident on a snow-covered road in Michigan. He had just done a book signing and was headed home to his beloved family--TV news anchor Sherry Margolis and their three daughters, Jordan, Alex and Eden.

Jeff Zaslow and I both worked at The Orlando Sentinel (then called the Sentinel Star) back in the '80s. He was an up-and-coming writer. I was a just-out-of-college copy editor. We both were young, Jewish and determined. (OK, I'll admit it. I had a bit of a crush on him. I think I was mostly awed by his raw talent. If I could've, I'd have bought Zaslow stock.)

That's where our similarities ended--although I just found out that we both were born in the same month, in the same year. And, while Jeff hailed from the Philly area, that's where I now call my home. I remember Jeff regaling us with stories of his younger days as a hot dog hawker at Phillies games. He sure came a long way.

Our career paths led us in different directions. Jeff worked for big-name newspapers--The Wall Street Journal, the Chicago Sun-Times and USA Weekend. He got the Chicago gig, by the way, when he entered a contest to replace columnist Ann Landers at the newspaper for a story he was doing for The Wall Street Journal and beat out 12,000 applicants. I, however, worked as an editor at a small community weekly and a Tribune company before defecting from the media world to the advertising and corporate world.

Jeff went on to write best-selling books, including The Last Lecture, The Girls from Ames and Highest Duty. His most recent books were Gabby: A Story of Courage and Hope and The Magic Room.

I, on the other hand, have had a couple of short stories published in the Chicken Soup series. (Hey, a gal's gotta start somewhere, right?)

Our paths crossed again a couple years ago. Well, they crossed because I made them cross. When I found out that Jeff would be the keynote speaker at the Philadelphia Writers' Conference, I made reservations to hear him speak. That evening, I was afraid he'd be mobbed by adoring Zaslow wannabes after his speech, so I approached him before his keynote.

I wasn't sure he'd remember me, but he genuinely appeared to recall our days at The Sentinel. I tried not to sound too much like a Zaslow groupie when I praised his latest literary contributions.

The thing is, while Jeff touched my life as a coworker in the trenches of a daily metropolitan newspaper, he touched my life even more as the author of books that dealt with love, loss and--yes--death. He touched millions of lives in this way.

He not only touched the lives of those who read his books, he touched the lives of those who were the subjects of his books. Jeff wrote about famous people as well as people like you and me, simply living our lives as best we can.

I've often compared Jeff's writing style to that of author Mitch Albom (Tuesdays with Morrie, The Five People You Meet in Heaven, Have a Little Faith), another favorite of mine. Albom spoke highly of Jeff: "Jeff was a master storyteller. . . . He always wrote with great sensitivity."

The words of Capt. Sully Sullenberger, whom he wrote about in Highest Duty, say it all: "Jeff was a beautiful writer, wonderful collaborator, loving husband, father and friend. Our whole family loved him dearly and he will be sorely missed."

What I find ironic is that Jeff wrote about Carnegie-Mellon professor Randy Pausch and his courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. (Jeff graduated from Carnegie-Mellon.) He wrote about Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, who cheated death, and her equally courageous battle following her near-fatal shooting in Arizona. And he wrote about Sully, who also

heroically cheated death by piloting his US Airways plane to safety in New York's Hudson River.

But, in the end, Jeff himself couldn't cheat death. And we have all been cheated out of one of the most talented writers of our time.

Most importantly, his wife and daughters have been cheated out of a caring husband and father. Rabbi Jason Miller and others have called The Magic Room Jeff's own last lecture. The book is subtitled "A story about the love we wish for our daughters."

Jeff had three daughters. I have two boys. And so I say this (having lost my own father when I was just 18) to Jeff's daughters: Remember the good times. Know that he was so very proud of you and loved you with all his heart. And so I say this (following the advice of one very wise father named Jeff Zaslow) to my own two sons: Know that I am so very proud of you and love you with all my heart.

Rest in peace, Jeff. I've got a feeling that you and Randy are having one heck of a reunion up there.

May your memory be a blessing.

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Darcy Silvers, a friend and one of my favorite bloggers . . . she is also a freelance copywriter in the Philadelphia area. You can see more of her writing at:

<http://thehiredhandink.com>

NOTE: There's a memorial page for Jeff Zaslow where you can make a post, send the family a message, etc. To access it, please click:

<http://rememberingzazz.com/>

[Back To Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. Y'all are invited to the follow seminar that I'll be giving:

SCORE SEMINAR: SURVIVAL MARKETING

Sponsored by Home Trust Bank

March 3, 2012--Saturday
9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (Registration begins at 9 a.m.)

Registration: \$30.00; Save \$5 by pre-registering!
Follow instructions below: <http://www.ashevillescove.org/registration.htm>

At this seminar you will learn:
The most successful marketing strategy ever devised: the referral-based business . . . and how to develop one.
Over 70 low-cost and no-cost marketing ideas presented in a document file that will be emailed to you following the class.
The effective application of these two marketing approaches could turn your business into a success-generating engine starting the moment you leave the seminar. So, if you have been relying upon advertising to build your business, come and learn a better way . . . especially if your advertising results have been less than you expected.
And all will learn the difference between a left- and right-handed pencil.

Location: A-B Tech Enka Campus, Small Business Center, Room 2046

***** One lucky attendee will have the chance to win \$500! *****

B. Other NC events:

Space limitations prevent me from mentioning each one, but please click the following for full information--including an appearance by Doug Blevins:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Ba>

C. PA/NJ events:

Space limitations prevent me from mentioning each one, but please click the following for full information:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Bc>

[Back To Top](#)

PS. To celebrate President's Day on Monday (or any time thereafter), listen to this clever song by Jonathan Coulton:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdUUywlslGI>

Who knows? You may even learn something. And whatever you do, make it a great rest of the week!

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#803
2.13.2012

In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Overheard**
 4. **Reviews . . . THE VOW, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Trust**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Robbery in progress**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

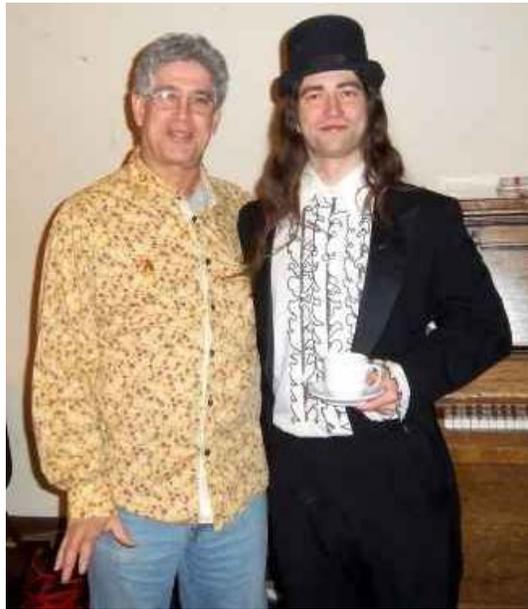
A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a great time at the recent Asheville Talent Slam (see also the BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD after Section 1D) . . . we were joined by our friend Bob . . . and we all came away impressed with the high quality of talent displayed by all the performers . . . although Athena Destiny, our favorite, did not win first prize, she was named one of the Honorable Mention finishers . . . that's her between the two of us.



If you want to be blown away by Athena's talent, please view her singing "No Place Home" by clicking:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcVDYNcM4pY>

Kudos, also, to Brian Sneed who served as host of the event and helped make it the success that it was . . . that's him (right), along with Steven Liebenhaut--another Asheville friend.



B. The next day, we went to a tuneful concert at St. Matthias Church . . . it was part of a celebration in honor of Black History Month and featured African-American Spirituals that were sung by several local choirs and singers.

From there, we joined our friends Brian and Carole for a pre-Valentine's Day celebration . . . Brian deserves special recognition, in the he cooked everything--quite well, too, if I do say so myself.



(l-r) Brian, Lynn, Connie, Rebecca, Blaine and Cynthia; not pictured: Carole--only because she was too busy taking the picture.

C. Don't forget:

***** CONTEST #3 *****

Two lucky winners will each win one large bottle of ABC Plus Senior Multi-Formula/Vitamins from Puritan Pride . . . these are for adults over 50 . . . to enter, send an email to bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #3 in the subject line . . . include your name and mailing address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, February 15.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to:

(1) Steve Shoaf, Asheville Water Resources Department Director, for winning the George Warren Fuller Award for his work in water utilities and public service.

(2) Cameron Gregg for being chosen from his Rutgers class in London to present his scene ("Sylvius and Phoebe") from AS YOU LIKE IT at the Wanamaker Festival at the Globe Theatre in April. Rutgers is the only American program that participates, along with the major acting programs in the UK.

E. CONDOLENCES to:

(1) Meredith Norwood, as well as the family of Larry Golden . . . he passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 14, after a brief and intense with battle . . . should you wish to honor Larry, here is the contact information of the place where they so lovingly took care of him. Please earmark any gifts specifically for the Solace Center:

CarePartners Hospice Foundation
P.O. Box 25338
Asheville, NC 28813

(2) The family of Jeffrey Zaslow who passed away on Feb. 10. He was the co-author of several best-selling books: THE LAST LECTURE with Randy Pausch; HIGHEST DUTY: MY SEARCH FOR WHAT REALLY MATTERS with Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger; and GABBY: A STORY OF COURAGE AND HOPE with Gabrielle Giffords and husband, astronaut Mark Kelly. And he was the sole author of numerous books, including THE GIRLS FROM AMES and THE MAGIC ROOM. I read and enjoyed all these, as well as many articles and columns he wrote for THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. His writing always managed to touch me, and I'll long remember him for his graciousness in always responding to the emails that I would write after reviewing one of his books.

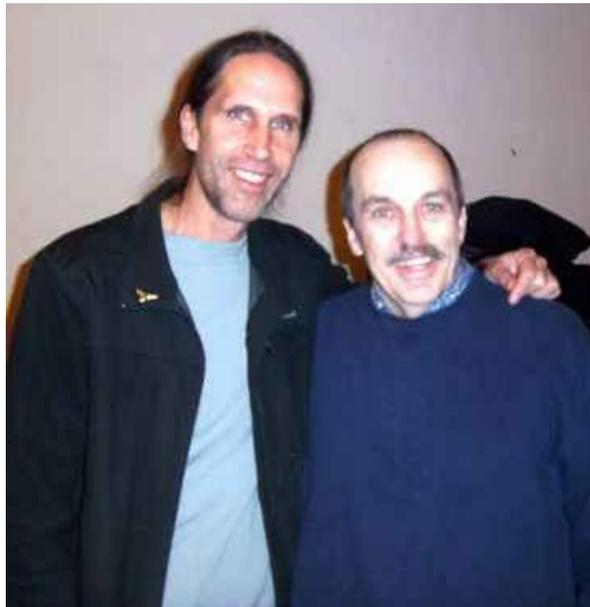
For more information about his life, please click:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203646004577215574045345682.html?](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203646004577215574045345682.html?KEYWORDS=jeff+zaslow)

[KEYWORDS=jeff+zaslow](#)

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

This week, it goes to Rock Eblen--founder and head of Bioflyer Productions. That's him (below) with yours truly.



Rock formed this organization in 2004 as his personal way of contributing to the family's charity in Western North Carolina. Since then, he has produced numerous productions involving local talent who all volunteer local hours to create uplifting entertainment.

One such example was the Talent Slam mentioned in Section 1A. In addition, he was responsible for a rousing production of FOOTLOSE last year. And look for him directing and starring in A DREAM OF CAMELOT in March, as well as for putting on a production of A SPRING AWAKENING a few months later.

For more information about Bioflyer Productions, please click:

<http://www.bioflyer.wordpress.com/>

[Back To Top](#)

2. FYI

GREAT IDEA (a rare forward that makes sense--at least to me): "I have a friend who used her solar lights inside at night when her electricity was off during the hurricane. She stuck them in a jar or bottle and said they gave off plenty of 'free light.' She put one in each room and would put them back outside in the daytime and bring them in at night as long as the electricity was off. They are safe to use and cheaper than batteries. Bring in a solar light one night and test it." A lot safer than candles during a blackout.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) Janeen R. in Pennsylvania: Walking with a Dummy
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exUNpxB0ewE>

(2) Duke vs. North Carolina (incredible ending to the recent basketball game)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X1ewxVwhug>

(3) Pat H. in Pennsylvania: Power to the People
<http://www.youtube.com/user/Schlockumentaries>

(4) Freddie in New Jersey (see also: <http://nedthetoothpick.com/>): Katana Pellet Slice
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5046m8itFs&feature=player_embedded

(5) Stephen F. in Pennsylvania: (with a REQUEST FOR HELP):
<https://www.facebook.com/ProFundraisers>

You can help by ransoming me, that is by making a donation to
www.TheCrossingsAnimalSanctuary.org where I will be held hostage for homeless pets.

(6) Steven L. in North Carolina: Library Detective Mr. Bookman on SEINFELD
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zePQavforA

(7) Barbara F. in Pennsylvania: Dyson Vacuum Commercial
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaQ_c1UoXF8

(8) Natalie K. in Pennsylvania: Memory spoof by Pam Peterson
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzSaoN2LdfU>

B. Other:

For information about any of the following, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Az>

- (1) Maria P. in Pennsylvania: Let your readers know about traveling out of the country
- (2) Newspaper headlines
- (3) Micah in Pennsylvania: My new article on customer service
- (4) Lana in Ohio: 21 Things Your Burglar Won't Tell You
- (5) Robin S. in Pennsylvania: Fabulous resource for single friends
- (6) Robbie C. and Don K. in North Carolina (REQUEST FOR HELP)
- (7) Edie Weinstein is happening!
- (8) Jerry R. in North Carolina: Great photo of Cynthia and you
- (9) Lisa Z. in Pennsylvania; I did the color test
- (10) Marty S. in Texas: Great advice on computer tip and one for you

[Back To Top](#)

3. JOKE 1: Overheard

The doctor warns her patient, "By drinking and smoking as much as you do, you're killing yourself slowly."

The patient nods and replies, "That's OK. I'm not in any hurry."

[Back To Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. The coming attractions for THE VOW looked interesting . . . it promised a story about a newlywed couple who are in an accident and when the wife wakes from a coma, she has no recollection of her marriage . . . Channing Tatum and Rachel McAdams do what they can with the material, but the end result is a very flat film . . . Jessica Lange is wasted in her role as the mother of the McAdams character; in addition, she looks terrible on screen (and who would have thought that could ever be possible?) . . . make yourself a vow; i.e., that you'll miss this one . . . rated PG-13.

B. REAL STEEL is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #789 follows:

REAL STEEL is a film set in the near future . . . boxing between humans has been replaced by boxing between robots . . . the premise might sound goofy, but it actually is a lot of fun . . . and there's a lot of exciting action, too . . . Hugh Jackman is excellent as the washed-up fighter who gets one last chance to build and train a championship contender, helped by his estranged son . . . rated PG-13.

If the story sounds familiar, that's because it is based on a TWILIGHT ZONE episode . . . if

you'd like to see that show, please click:
<http://www.themarysue.com/real-steel-was-based-on-twilight-zone/>

C. ADVICE MY PARENTS GAVE ME AND OTHER LESSONS I LEARNED FROM MY MISTAKES (CreateSpace) by Rudolfo Costa presents 409 thoughts, quotes and lessons designed to give the reader a successful and happy life.

There are 16 short chapters in the book, each geared to a topic such as Positive Attitude and Optimism, Goals and Motivation, and Happiness and Awareness . . . the author begins each chapter by quoting what others have had to say, including Michael Jordan on the subject of Action, Persistence and Success:

* I've missed over nine thousand shots in my career. I've lost almost three hundred games. Twenty-six times, I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot . . . and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.

Costa then shares his observations . . . while you may have heard some of these before, I still found reading them again a good reminder of the things that I should keep in mind as I go through my day . . . for example:

* Remember that people may doubt your words, but they will always believe your actions.

My only disappointment in the book dealt with the second part of its title . . . I would have liked to have seen information about the mistakes that Costa actually made.

Yet overall, ADVICE is a fine addition for anybody needing a quick pick-me-up . . . I know I'll be referring to it in the future, and rather read through it from the beginning, I might just turn to a random page and rediscover a gem such as this one:

* Do not put conditions on the love that you give. Accept people the way they are. Do not expect and demand that people fit your mold before you love them.

D. Heard WOULD IT KILL YOU TO STOP DOING THAT? A GUIDE TO MODERN MANNERS (Hachette Audio), written and read by Henry Alford.

This book is somewhat mistitled, in that I don't know if I would call it a guide . . . rather, it is a collection of essays by the author . . . some are quite amusing; others are less so.

The subject matter is all over the place, and that's part of the appeal of WOULD IT KILL YOU? . . . Alford starts off with a report of his visit to Japan; he interviews etiquette experts such as Judith Martin and Tim Gunn, as well as some you would never place in that category (an Army sergeant); he describes a game called Touch the Waiter; he volunteers as a tour guide to foreigners visiting New York City; and he offers advice as an online etiquette coach.

Listening carefully, I did get some really good advice--including these tidbits:

* Don't return a phone call with a text. "There's an implicit hierarchy of communication. If you go lower on the hierarchy, people will think there's a subtext."

* If someone sends you a gift certificate, why not send that person a photo of what you bought or at minimum tell them what you bought.

And this one on Facebook usage that I've often thought about:

* Is it rude if someone refuses to accept your friend request? If you've actually met in the flesh, then yes, it sounds like it is. It's rude, too, in instances where you have not actually met, but have enjoyed a long period of correspondence or phone calls, or have heard about each other for years and years through mutual friends. However, before we become offended, it's important to consider the snubber's FB modus operandi. Some people on FB only friend family or people they are offline friends with; others want to friend every single person they can possibly get their cyberpaws on.

Alford might not make you an expert on manners . . . but by reading his book, you'll find yourself at least chuckling about the topic.

[Back To Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. DOOMSDAY PREPPERS profiles assorted families who have decided to make preparations for the end of the world as we know it . . . it's a 10-part documentary series that airs on Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL.

B. THE LIFE OF EMILE ZOLA is an engrossing biopic about the famed 19th-century French writer who fought anti-Semitism in his attempt to clear the reputation of Army captain Alfred Dreyfus. It won Oscars for Best Picture, Screenplay and Supporting Actor (Joseph Schildkraut). I also thought it featured some of Paul Muni's best work. Sunday at 12 p.m. on TCM.

C. THE CELEBRITY APPRENTICE returns on Sundays at 9 p.m. on NBC . . . among this year's wannabes are Cheryl Tiegs, Clay Aiken, Arsenio Hall, Penn Jillette and George Takei.

D. LIFE'S TOO SHORT is a new comedy series by Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant, best known as the creators of THE OFFICE. It's about a guy, who is also a dwarf, portraying himself as a former start trying to dream up ways to get himself back into show business. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "What follows is utterly delectable and, like life, too short." Sundays at 10:30 p.m. on HBO.

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: Trust

There comes a time when a woman just has to trust her husband; for example:

A wife comes home late at night and quietly opens the door to her bedroom.

From under the blanket she sees four legs instead of two. She reaches for a baseball bat and starts hitting the blanket as hard as she can. Once she's done, she goes to the kitchen to have a drink. As she enters, she sees her husband there, reading a magazine. "Hi Darling," he says. "Your parents have come to visit us, so I let them stay in our bedroom. Did you say 'hello?' "

[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. NOW YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'RE REALLY SAYING! . . . even if you're not "into" politics, please watch this clip to become better informed about what two of the leading Republican candidates are saying. (Thanks to Nelson S. in North Carolina for sharing.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JK3wMFISq8U>

B. If you're "into" musicals, this is perhaps the best clip I have ever seen . . . Night of 100 Stars (1982)--Broadway Medley. (Thanks to Janeen R. in Pennsylvania for sharing.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KG4yyRklwjo&feature=related>

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

Ever wonder how many others visit this website? To see for yourself, look at the counter on the bottom left of this homepage.

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

[Back To Top](#)

8. Computer tip

Windows includes a Disk Defragmenter utility that will get the job done. But there are many third-party defraggers that claim to do a better job than Windows. Some popular commercial defraggers include Diskeeper, PerfectDisk, and Auslogics Disk Defrag. But whatever you do, check out IOBit's SmartDefrag. It can be set to run in real-time, pausing when you are using the system, so that your system is constantly defragmented. Best of all, it's free. To get it, please click:

<http://www.iobit.com/iobitmartdefrag.html>

NOTE: It was listed in Best Free Software of 2011 by PCMag.com.

[Back To Top](#)

9. JOKE 3: Robbery in progress

Armed robbers burst into a bank. While several of them take money from the tellers, others

line up the customers--including two accountants--against a wall and proceed to take their wallets, watches, etc.

While this is going on, the first accountant jams something in the second accountant's hand. Without looking down, the second accountant whispers, "What is this?"

The first accountant replies, "It's the \$50 I owe you."

Back To Top

10. A quote I like

If there's a book you really want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it.--Toni Morrison (born 1931), American novelist who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1987 and the Nobel Prize in 1993 for BELOVED

Back To Top

11. Thought for the day

Joe Queenan looks at the need to "waive" a few people and things out of the culture, including Katie Couric, Ralph Nader and Delaware.

What a great concept; i.e., to be able to give overpaid people or even states their walking papers . . . to read the whole article from THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, please click:

http://online.wsj.com/article_email/SB10001424052970204257504577154730007813806-IMyQjAxMTAyMDEwNzExNDcyWj.html?mod=wsj_share_email

Back To Top

12. Advance planning department

A. Want to catch Cynthia and/or Blaine doing their respective thing in the Asheville area?

(1) Cynthia will be in:

11 Original Real Life Stores in One Unique Performance, presented by the Asheville Human True Human Project

Directed by Dayna Brayshaw and Caroline Parsons

Created and Performed by Nara Bauer, Chardin Detrich, Cynthia Greenfield, Angela Galen, Karissa Ronkin, Peace-Ocean Weaver, Darlene Kucken, Grace Sea, Brad Leaf, Marilyn Gaunt

Friday, February 24th, 6:30 p.m. and repeated at 8 p.m.

Movement and Learning Center (above the French Broad Food Coop)
90 Biltmore Ave

Suggested Donation \$5

(2) Blaine is presenting:

SCORE SEMINAR: SURVIVAL MARKETING

Sponsored by Home Trust Bank

March 3, 2012--Saturday
9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (Registration begins at 9 a.m.)

Registration: \$30.00; Save \$5 by pre-registering!

Follow instructions below:

<http://www.ashevillescore.org/registration.htm>

At this seminar you will learn:

The most successful marketing strategy ever devised: the referral-based business . . . and how to develop one.

Over 70 low-cost and no-cost marketing ideas presented in a document file that will be emailed to you following the class.

The effective application of these two marketing approaches could turn your business into a success-generating engine starting the moment you leave the seminar. So, if you have been relying upon advertising to build your business, come and learn a better way . . . especially if your advertising results have been less than you expected.

Location: A-B Tech Enka Campus, Small Business Center, Room 2046

B. North Carolina events:

For information about any of the following, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-AB>

- (1) Come join me in two courses at the Center for Creative Retirement
- (2) SCORE Workshop
- (3) Blue Mountain Pizza is supporting Little Pearls again
- (4) Mozart's COSI FAN TUTTE
- (5) LOVE CHILD
- (6) Check out the film DEADLINE
- (7) Mission Hospital Radiothon

Back To Top

PS. TRUER WORDS WERE NEVER SPOKEN . . . see illustration (below) & if you want something more expressive this VD Day. . . oops, I mean . . . Valentine's Day . . . click to listen to this great rendition of the Bob Marley classic, "One Love" . . .

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xjPODksl08>.



My hope is that you get to enjoy this holiday and, also, that you make it a great week!

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#802
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In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Such problems**
 4. **Reviews . . . EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: In case you missed this important information . . .**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Emergency coverage**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I joined our friends Tom and Marcy for dinner at The Monte Vista in Black Mountain . . . that's us in front of a mural in the restaurant.



We both ordered chicken and dumplings; the dish was superb . . . we all shared two desserts: an apple crisp and a cheese cake tart . . . they were both quite tasty, though somewhat on the small side . . . our server, Helen, was excellent . . . we will definitely be back.

Afterward, we took a tour of the renovated hotel . . . each room was more attractive than the next . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.themontevistahotel.net/>

We then went to White Horse Black Mountain to see my friend Andy Sorenson play trumpet in the Asheville Jazz Orchestra's tribute to the music of Count Basie . . . it was a great show.



White Horse Black Mountain is a terrific venue for many different types of music . . . for

more information, please click:
<http://www.whitehorseblackmountain.com/>

For more information about the Asheville Jazz Orchestra, please click:
<http://www.ashevillejazz.org/>

B. We also got to hear an inspiring speech by Coach Doug Blevins at the Biltmore Lake Clubhouse as part of the community's Lecture Series . . . that's him, along with yours truly and Justin Furman, his agent.



Coach Blevins wowed those in attendance with a presentation that had us laughing, but that got us thinking too . . . I took away these points:

- (1) The biggest enemy of greatness is the desire to be "just good."
- (2) If you need help or advice, go to somebody who knows what he or she is talking about. For example, if you want advice about kicking a football, then contact me [Coach Blevins]. But don't ask me for advice about marriage because my two previous marriages have ended in divorce.

For a recent article about this amazing individual, please click:
<http://www.thepostgame.com/>

Or if you'd like to book him to speak at your company, organization or school, give him a call at 828.515.0296 . . . he can also be reached via email: DugNFL@aol.com.

C. CONGRATULATIONS to:

- (1) Emily S, Will H. and Julia R.--all in North Carolina for winning Contest #2 . . . each won a pair of tickets to an upcoming UNCA basketball game. . . all told, there were 6 entries.

***** CONTEST #3 *****

Two lucky winners will each win one large bottle of ABC Plus Senior Multi-Formula/Vitamins from Puritan Pride . . . these are for adults over 50 . . . to enter, send an email to bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #3 in the subject line . . . include your name and mailing address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before Sunday night, February 15.

- (2) Cecile K. in Pennsylvania for having been awarded a Fall, 2012 sabbatical at Bucks County Community College.

- (3) Allen D. in North Carolina for all his work in helping guide the Explorer Post 57, sponsored by the Asheville Police Department, to a First Place in "Felony Vehicle Stop" during the WinterFest Competitions in Gatlinburg, TN.

- (4) Michelle B. in North Carolina for being named as Director of Educational Outreach for the San Diego-based, Houghtailing Group, leading the expansion of the Blaze My Trail program for middle school to college age students locally and nationally. Here is a link to NBC's coverage of this phenomenal program:

<http://www.thehoughtailinggroup.com/resources-media/>

(5) Jim D. in Pennsylvania for the 20th anniversary of his excellent newsletter, "Jim's Jems" . . . I believe I have been there since the beginning!

Jim has also announced that there's now a video component . . . to see that, please click:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nmIF3OWio4>

D. CONDOLENCES to:

(1) Pam Perkins-Frederick and family on the passing of Pam's husband Herb, a poet, artist and friend to many at Bucks County Community College.

(2) Chuck Beattie and family on the passing of Chuck's mother.

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

This week, it goes to Patti Cameron --Lead RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) Coordinator at the Land-of-Sky Regional Council.

Patti has been working with both Cynthia and me as we look to enjoy our respective "reirements" . . . she and her group are working to help connect us and others over 55 with the people and organizations that need them most.

In particular, I'm most grateful for the fact that Patti is working to get out the word that SART needs volunteer help in its upcoming summer theatre program.

(I digress: If any reader is interested in being an usher, helping in the office, answering phones, doing computer stuff, etc., please send me an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put SART VOLUNTEER in the subject line.)

For more information about the fantastic RSVP program, I quote Patti:
"RSVP is a national service program of the Corporation of National and Community Service. RSVP connect today's over 55s with the people and organizations that need them most. Their contributions of skills, knowledge, and experience make a real difference to individuals, nonprofits, and faith-based and other community organizations. Locally, RSVP is sponsored by the Land-of-Sky Regional Council serving Region B of Western North Carolina. This partnership allows our local RSVP to serve the counties of Buncombe, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania Counties. RSVP is here to help you find the right volunteer opportunity for you!"

Patti works to match those 55+ with challenging and rewarding volunteer opportunities through RSVP's 120 partnering agencies. Potential volunteers can either meet with her one-on-one to find the right match or attend one of their RSVP Information Sessions held at the NC Center for Creative Retirement. Sessions allow you a space to learn more about RSVP and listen to a guest speaker from one of RSVP's partnering agencies. Their next information session will be February 7th from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. This month's guest speaker will be the YWCA's After-School Program.

NOTE: SART will be featured on April 24th. Details to be forthcoming.

Contact information:
Land-of-Sky Regional Council, 339 New Leicester Hwy, Suite 140, Asheville NC 28806
828-251-6622
rsvp@landofsky.org

Webpage:
<http://sites.google.com/site/landofskyrsvp/Welcome-Page>

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Land-of-Sky-RSVP/348348555177418?sk=info>

[Back To Top](#)

2. FYI

Last week, I mentioned that it's a good idea to carry pills or vitamins separately if you travel on a plane and check your luggage . . . here's something else you should do--take at least one extra day of any of your pills or vitamins . . . that way, if you have to stay an extra day because of plane delays, you won't be without any needed medication.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) Sheryl Sandberg (Facebook's Chief Executive), Barnard College Commencement 2011:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdvXCKFNqTY>

(2) And for more information about her (not a clip):
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/05/business/sheryl-sandberg-of-facebook-staying-on-message.html?src=me&ref=general>

(3) Pat H. in Pennsylvania: On dealing with really cool lower back tattoos
http://www.bikerspost.com/video/trampstamp-1?xg_source=facebookshare

(4) Barbara F. in Pennsylvania: Sampling at Trader Joe's
<http://www.youtube.com/embed/icgySC4e2c>

(5) Barbara F. in Pennsylvania, again: Nursing Home Talent Show Winner
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jksJceAJdM8>

(6) Betsy S. in Pennsylvania: Couple Married 62 Years Go in for a Medical Check Up--But Watch What They Do
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtyAsiZWktY>

(7) Those Were the Days
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyaTIXdN5fl>

(8) Edie W. in Pennsylvania: Grandpa & Grandma Shuffle
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLIR6de6VIQ&sns=fb>

(9) NFL Fantasy Files: The Best Players
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHH-6ZQktRQ>

(10) Why Everyone Needs a Dog
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rholCFi7h-Q>

(11) Charlie Bit My Finger-Again (the most successful non-commercial vide of all time)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OBIGsz8sSM

(12) And for the rest of the story on the above, please click:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/10/world/europe/charlie-bit-my-finger-video-lifts-family-to-fame.html?src=me&ref=general>

(13) Bob P. in North Carolina: Change the Sheets by Kathleen Edwards
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rholCFi7h-Q>

(14) Steve M. in New Jersey: Adopt me! [a dog named Clark that some call Wigglebutt]
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6q16c0Yz_68

B. Other:

To read any and/or all of the following, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Aa>

(1) Sharon C. in North Carolina: Can really identify with your joke in this week's BlainesWorld!

(2) John D. in Pennsylvania: Remind me not to mess with you

(3) Micah S. in Pennsylvania: Enjoyed the blintzes joke today a lot.

(4) George F. in North Carolina [my holding coach mentioned in last week's issue]: I love it!

(5) Patti A. in New Jersey: I am going to retire in June and am thinking about moving South.

(6) Chuck L. in Pennsylvania: Watched a great documentary on Netflix

(7) Ingrid in Pennsylvania: Brookline Labrador Retriever Rescue

(8) Louise G. in North Carolina: Artist Daryl Slaton Turns "Whimsies" into App for Children

Back To Top

3. JOKE 1: Such problems

A man tells his doctor, "Doc, help me. I'm addicted to Twitter!"

The doctor replies, "Sorry, I don't follow you . . . "

Back To Top

4. Reviews

Before I present this week's reviews, I wanted to share two interesting emails that I recently received:

The first was from Don Mann, author of *INSIDE SEAL TEAM SIX: MY LIFE AND MISSIONS WITH AMERICAN'S ELITE WARRIORS* (reviewed last week):

Thank you for your letter and comments on Inside SEAL team Six.

I am also very upset with all of the redactions. But I insisted that the book go through military, SEAL and govt. pre publication review boards before it was published.

The publisher elected to keep redactions in place.

The second was from Chuck F. in North Carolina, proud father of actor Greg Fink (who starred in a recent commercial for Go Daddy that was played during the Super Bowl) . . . he sent me the following behind-the-scenes clip about the taping of this commercial:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7smvtQerOiw>

A. *EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE* is a film that looked great in the coming attractions . . . alas, when I actually viewed it, I was disappointed . . . it's a drama about a boy whose father died in the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center . . . the boy, well played by Thomas Horn, seeks to find a final message that his father left for him . . . I just didn't "buy" his journey throughout New York City . . . Max Von Sydow, as his grandfather, was also quite good--and I'm glad that he received a Best Supporting Actor nomination for his work . . . both Tom Hanks and Sandra Bullock had small roles, so don't go expecting to see a lot of acting from either performer . . . and don't go expecting much from a movie that somehow managed to get nominated for Best Picture . . . if it wins that category or even gets serious consideration, I'll be amazed . . . rated PG-13.

B. *THE IDES OF MARCH* is now out in DVD format . . . my review from *BLAINESWORLD #771* follows:

THE IDES OF MARCH is a terrific political thriller about the last days before a heavily contested Ohio presidential primary . . . Ryan Gosling, so watchable in just about anything he's in, stars as the up-and-coming campaign press secretary who finds himself in the middle of a political scandal that threatens to upend his candidate's shot at the presidency . . . George Clooney, in a supporting role, plays that latter role to perfection; I'd certainly vote for him . . . Phillip Seymour Hoffman is excellent as a senior staffer working for the Clooney character . . . rated R.

C. If you have a young child or grandchild, look for the *ZEBRA-STRIPED WHALE ALPHABET BOOK* (Arimax Books) by Shari Fadden Donahue and illustrated by Thalamus--the collaborative artistic team of Shari and her husband Tom.

Unfortunately, you may have to wait a bit . . . it's not slated for release until sometime in April, 2012.

I was fortunate to receive an advance copy because of my friendship with the Donahues, so be forewarned that this review does have some bias built into it . . . yet even if I didn't know these talented individuals, I'd still say that this is a terrific book that will delight any young reader from 2-7. . . . best of all: adults will enjoy reading it aloud or even having it read back to them.

Each letter of the alphabet has a humorous rhyme, coupled with an illustration that's designed to captivate the reader's attention . . . and adding to the fun is the fact that there's a tiny zebra-striped whale hidden on each page.

I don't want to ruin the book, so I won't share all the rhymes except for the one beginning with E:

E is for eagle
eating next to a beagle.

This one, in particular, caught my attention because the eagle and beagle are both eating ice cream in front of The Zebra-Striped Whale, the popular ice cream parlor in Newtown, Pennsylvania that's owned by the Donahues.

D. Heard *ONE ON ONE: BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE GREATS IN THE GAME* (Hachette Audio), written by John Feinstein and narrated by David De Vries.

To date, though I've read many articles by Feinstein, I had only read one of his books: *MOMENT OF GLORY* . . . that will now change, though, as a result of his latest effort.

In ONE ON ONE, he revisits the subjects who played a major role in his first ten books . . . he also gives insight into how they were both written and published, and for me, that's the part I found most interesting. I learned much about the book industry as a result.

In addition, I gained insight into such notable sports personalities as Bob Knight, Jack Nicklaus, John McEnroe, Mike Krzyzewski, Tiger Woods, and Ivan Lendl, to name just a few . . . but perhaps more interesting was how the author helped me get to know more about many other athletes who you don't read about every day but are equally as interesting, including Steve Alford, Damond Bailey, Jim Cantelupe, Esther Neberg, George Solomon and Ted Tinling.

Any sports fan will delight in reading or listening to this book . . . you'll also want to join me in getting your hands on anything else written by the author.

[Back To Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. THE RIVER is framed as a mock-documentary show, featuring a crew of family and colleagues searching for a TV naturalist (Bruce Greenwood) who went missing on a boat full of cameras . . . Matt Roush in TV GUIDE notes, "As a lifelong horror fan, I have a mad crush on THE RIVER . . . as it embarks on a treacherous quest where ever day's a mayday and the nights are even worse." Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on ABC.

B. MICHAEL FEINSTEIN'S AMERICAN SONGBOOK has Feinstein traveling across the country to validate a previously unknown song by an American music icon . . . Friday at 9 p.m. on PBS and repeated several times over the upcoming week . . . because times and dates often vary on PBS stations, check local listings.

C. 40 MINUTES OF HELL profiles the playing strategy of Coach Nolan Richardson and his University of Arkansas Razorbacks . . . Saturday at 9 p.m. on ESPNU.

D. The 54th annual GRAMMY AWARDS will be hosted by NCIS: LOS ANGELES star . . . Adele is slated to be a front-runner for recognition, and she will also be performing barring any lingering effects from recent throat surgery . . . also performing: Taylor Swift, Paul McCartney, Kelly Clarkson and Jason Aldean . . . Sunday at 8 p.m. on CBS.

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: In case you missed this important information . . .

See the great Pat Achilles cartoon below. (THANKS, Pat, for graciously allowing me to reprint it.) I'm now wondering: Maybe they can also draft Eli Manning to run for VP & get Tom Coughlin to become Secretary of Defense? And FYI: To put a smile on your face every Monday morning, sign up for Pat's FREE cartoon by clicking:

<http://achillesportfolio.com/freecartoonsignup.htm>



[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. The color test

More difficult than you might think!

This is pretty neat! See how you do with the colors! Have fun! It takes an average of 5 tries to get to 100%. Follow the directions! It's harder than it seems, as it should be! A brain waker-upper for today!

Click here to start:

<http://www.humorsphere.com/fun/8787/colortest.swf>

NOTE: This was impossible for me to complete successfully, but then again, I'm colorblind. I tried it several times and still am not sure that I have any idea as to what I'm doing. Let me know if you have better luck and/or if you can make any sense out of this.

B. Freddie N. in New Jersey:

Warning: This clip will make you cry.

http://www.flickspire.com/m/share_this/ChangeForADollar#.TvBDyn2XcrE.facebook

MY TWO CENTS: Don't let Freddie's warning prevent you from seeing the above. It is well worth your time.

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

(1) To read some of the reviews of books and CDs that I have generally enjoyed, click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Websites."

(2) Under "Book and Music Reviews," click the second link in that section.

HELP REQUESTED DEPARTMENT: I'm currently #747 in amazon.com's list of Top 1000 reviewers. If you like my reviews and would like to see me climb up in the ratings:

(3) Find a review of a book I recently read by going to:

www.amazon.com

(4) Type-in, for example, BRAIN POWER. You should get the reviews for a fascinating new book by Michael J. Gelb and Kelly Howell.

(5) Mine will probably be at the top or near the top. Read what I have written. If you find it helpful, click "Yes" at the end of the review.

Thanks!

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Back To Top

8. Computer tip

If you're getting a lot of spam . . . or if your operating system just isn't running as quickly as you think it should, make sure what you have is up-to-date. Check to see that you've downloaded and installed any critical Windows updates from Microsoft by clicking:

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/help/windows-update>

Or if you're using a MAC, click here to see that you have any necessary MAC OS updates:

<http://www.apple.com/softwareupdate/>

RECOMMENDATION: Enable automatic updates, so you don't even have to think about doing the above.

Back To Top

9. JOKE 3: Emergency coverage

A priest was called away for an emergency. Not wanting to leave the confessional unattended, he called his rabbi friend from across the street and asked him to cover for him. The rabbi told him he wouldn't know what to say, but the priest told him to come on over and he'd stay with him for a little bit and show him what to do.

The rabbi comes and he and the priest are in the confessional. In a few minutes, a woman comes in and says, "Father forgive me for I have sinned. I committed adultery."

Priest asks: "How many times?"

Woman: "Three times."

Priest says, "Say two Hail Marys, put \$5 in the box and sin no more."

A few minutes later a man enters the confessional. He says, "Father forgive me for I have sinned."

Priest asks, "What did you do?"

Man replies, "I committed adultery."

Priest asks, "How many times?"

Man answers, "Three times."

Priest says, "Say two Hail Marys, put \$5 in the box and sin no more."

The Rabbi tells the priest that he thinks he's got it, so the priest leaves. A few minutes later another woman enters and says, "Father forgive me for I have sinned."

Rabbi asks, "What did you do?"

Woman replies, "I committed adultery."

Rabbi inquires: "How many times?"

Woman: "Once."

Rabbi says, "Go do it two more times. We have a special this week, three for \$5."

Back To Top

10. A quote I like

When I was 5 years old, my mother always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down happy. They told me I didn't understand the assignment, and I told them they didn't understand life.--John Lennon (1940-1980), English musician and singer-songwriter who rose to worldwide fame as one of the founding members of The Beatles

Back To Top

11. Thought for the day

The pickle jar

The pickle jar as far back as I can remember sat on the floor beside the dresser in my parents' bedroom. When he got ready for bed, Dad would empty his pockets and toss his coins into the jar.

As a small boy I was always fascinated at the sounds the coins made as they were dropped into the jar. They ended with a merry jingle when the jar was almost empty. Then the tones gradually muted to a dull thud as the jar was filled. I used to squat on the floor in front of the jar and admire the copper and silver circles that glinted like a pirate's treasure when the sun poured through the bedroom window.

When the jar was filled, Dad would sit at the kitchen table and roll the coins before taking them to the bank. Taking the coins to the bank was always a big production. Stacked neatly in a small cardboard box, the coins were placed between Dad and me on the seat of his old truck. Each and every time, as we drove to the bank, Dad would look at me hopefully. "Those coins are going to keep you out of the textile mill, son.

You're going to do better than me. This old mill town's not going to hold you back." Also, each and every time, as he slid the box of rolled coins across the counter at the bank toward the cashier, he would grin proudly.

"These are for my son's college fund. He'll never work at the mill all his life like me." We would always celebrate each deposit by stopping for an ice cream cone. I always got chocolate. Dad always got vanilla. When the clerk at the ice cream parlor handed Dad his change, he would show me the few coins nestled in his palm. "When we get home, we'll start filling the jar again."

He always let me drop the first coins into the empty jar. As they rattled around with a brief,

happy jingle, we grinned at each other. "You'll get to college on pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters," he said. "But you'll get there. I'll see to that."

The years passed, and I finished college and took a job in another town. Once, while visiting my parents, I used the phone in their bedroom, and noticed that the pickle jar was gone. It had served its purpose and had been removed. A lump rose in my throat as I stared at the spot beside the dresser where the jar had always stood. My dad was a man of few words, and never lectured me on the values of determination, perseverance, and faith. The pickle jar had taught me all these virtues far more eloquently than the most flowery of words could have done.

When I married, I told my wife Susan about the significant part the lowly pickle jar had played in my life as a boy. In my mind, it defined, more than anything else, how much my dad had loved me. No matter how rough things got at home, Dad continued to doggedly drop his coins into the jar. Even the summer when Dad got laid off from the mill, and Mama had to serve dried beans several times a week, not a single dime was taken from the jar.

To the contrary, as Dad looked across the table at me, pouring catsup over my beans to make them more palatable, he became more determined than ever to make a way out for me. "When you finish college, Son," he told me, his eyes glistening, "You'll never have to eat beans again...unless you want to."

The first Christmas after our daughter Jessica was born, we spent the holiday with my parents. After dinner, Mom and Dad sat next to each other on the sofa, taking turns cuddling their first grandchild. Jessica began to whimper softly, and Susan took her from Dad's arms. "She probably needs to be changed," she said, carrying the baby into my parents' bedroom to diaper her. When Susan came back into the living room, there was a strange mist in her eyes. She handed Jessica back to Dad before taking my hand and leading me into the room.

"Look," she said softly, her eyes directing me to a spot on the floor beside the dresser. To my amazement, there, as if it had never been removed, stood the old pickle jar, the bottom already covered with coins. I walked over to the pickle jar, dug down into my pocket, and pulled out a fistful of coins.

With a gamut of emotions choking me, I dropped the coins into the jar. I looked up and saw that Dad, carrying Jessica, had slipped quietly into the room. Our eyes locked, and I knew he was feeling the same emotions I felt.

Neither one of us could speak.

Author unknown (If you know who wrote this and/or the source, please notify me.)

Back To Top

12. Advance planning department

A. Want to catch Cynthia and/or Blaine doing their respective thing in the Asheville area?

(1) Cynthia will be in:

11 Original Real Life Stores in One Unique Performance, presented by the Asheville Human True Human Project

Directed by Dayna Brayshaw and Caroline Parsons

Created and Performed by Nara Bauer, Chardin Detrich, Cynthia Greenfield, Angela Galen, Karissa Ronkin, Peace-Ocean Weaver, Darlene Kucken, Grace Sea, Brad Leaf, Marilyn Gaunt

Friday, February 24th, 7 p.m.

Movement and Learning Center (above the French Broad Food Coop)
90 Biltmore Ave

Suggested Donation \$5

(2) Blaine is presenting:

SCORE SEMINAR: SURVIVAL MARKETING

Sponsored by Home Trust Bank

March 3, 2012- Saturday
9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (Registration begins at 9 a.m.)

Registration: \$30.00; Save \$5 by pre-registering!
Follow instructions below:

<http://www.ashevillesscore.org/registration.htm>

At this seminar you will learn:

The most successful marketing strategy ever devised: the referral-based business . . . and how to develop one.

Over 70 low-cost and no-cost marketing ideas presented in a document file that will be emailed to you following the class.

The effective application of these two marketing approaches could turn your business into a success-generating engine starting the moment you leave the seminar. So, if you have been relying upon advertising to build your business, come and learn a better way . . . especially if your advertising results have been less than you expected.

Location: A-B Tech Enka Campus, Small Business Center, Room 2046

B. North Carolina events:

To read more about and/or all of the following, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-Ad>

- (1) 69 Love Songs
- (2) Asheville Talent Slam
- (3) SCORE Workshop on Business Plans
- (4) Invitation to become a SART Volunteer
- (5) Invitation to help out at Mission Hospital Radiothon

Back To Top

PS. Make it a great week!

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BLAINESWORLD

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In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Useful advice**
 4. **Reviews . . . THE IRON LADY**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: The things you learn online!**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Lunch guests**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I joined our friends Marcy and Tom for dinner at The Market Place . . . it was the first time we've been there, and we enjoyed the food--especially some of the appetizers and a macaroni and cheese dish that Marcy ordered . . . our server, Angela, was most attentive. For more information, please click: <http://www.marketplace-restaurant.com/>

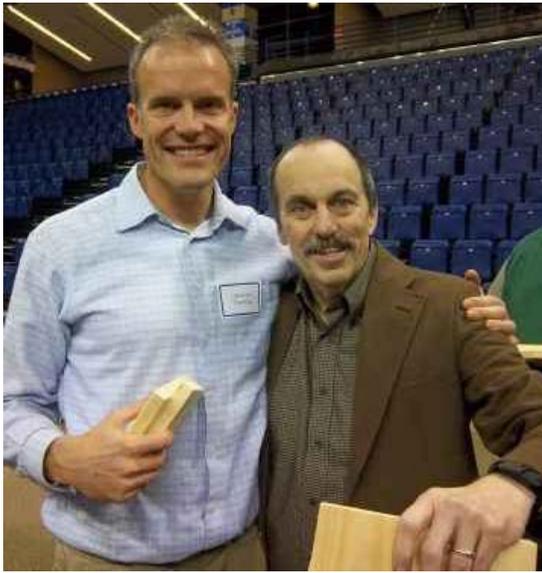
Afterward, Marcy and Cynthia went to a dance event . . . that's the two of them, bidding Tom and me farewell.



B. During the week:

(1) I was fortunate to get to hear Brian Biro at the annual Lessons in Leadership program . . . he was excellent, and I truly had a breakthrough experience as a result of hearing him speak . . . for more information about this amazing presenter, please click: www.brianbiro.com

That's me after the event, along with George Fleming--another friend and my holding coach that evening who helped me break the board that I'm holding in my left hand.



See below for the letter that I wrote about the event to the CITIZEN-TIMES:

The Report Card issues grades A through F, and incompletes where necessary, to a variety of news items in this space.

Reader grade

A to Asheville resident Brian Biro for donating his services as a motivational speaker to make the recent Lessons in Leadership the success that it was. He mesmerized the crowd of more than 700 and enabled all those in attendance to have a breakthrough experience. The event was also praiseworthy, in that it helped raise funds for MANNA FoodBank, the UNC Asheville Scholarship Fund and the YMCA Healthier Communities Campaign. Special kudos to all those who joined with Brian to serve on the Lessons in Leadership Organizing Team, including Bill Kelley, Corinne Kelley, Dana Stonestreet, Ed Brenegar, John Locke, Keith Challenger and Meridith Elliott Powell.

Blaine Greenfield, Biltmore Lake

(2) I also got to see FIGHT GIRL BATTLE WORLD at NC Stage . . . it's a sci-fi story about E-V, the last human female in all the known galaxies, and her quest to stay alive in the face of an intergalactic government conspiracy. I admired the fight scenes, and I got a kick out of the fact that two of my friends from SART (Bradshaw Call and Jessica Lewis) were in it.



(Jessica Lewis and yours truly)

The play is not for everybody, but if the subject matter sounds of interest, give it a shot in its upcoming final week. For more information, please click:

<http://www.ncstage.org/>

NOTE: For a special treat, make sure you get one of the fantastic cookies that are on sale before the show and at intermission. They're made by Sugar Momma's Cookies . . . my favorite is the oatmeal cranberry . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.sugarmommascookies.com/menu.html>

C. You still have time to enter:
***** CONTEST #2 *****

Two lucky readers will each win two tickets to an upcoming UNCA basketball game (2.11 or 2.23) at the Kimmel Arena. If you live in Western North Carolina, this is a contest for you to enter. Send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put Contest #2 in the subject line. Put your name and mailing address in the body of the email. Entries must be received by Sunday night, Feb. 5.

D. CORRECTION & ADDITION: Some readers may have received an early version of this newsletter in which the last name of the BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD winner was misspelled . . . it should have read: Clark Shuster. (Sorry 'bout that, Clark!)

Subsequently, I found out that Clark was honored at a very nice reception . . . details can be found by clicking: http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/local/money/lower-bucks-chamber-bids-farewell-to-longtime-president/article_a0e0e8a9-f539-5b18-93b3-d724470cde4.html

I then received this very nice note about Clark from Bill Lewis, one of his many longtime friends:

It is with a certain sadness that we say goodbye to our friend Clark Shuster, President of the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce. After 27 years at the helm of the Chamber, Clark has left to pursue other opportunities. We wish him nothing but the best because he deserves nothing less. Clark has left huge shoes to fill for the next President as he has shaped the Lower Bucks County Chamber and made it the great organization it is today. He has a unique ability to bring people together but he never tried to hog the limelight. Instead, his style was to let other people shine while he remained in the background. I have watched as he welcomed in new members and always introduced these new members to present members with the goal of making everyone feel welcome and a part of the organization. We salute his hard work, his dedication and the steady hand he has brought the LBCCC all of these years. Personally, I enjoyed his sense of humor and I will miss talking sports with him at Chamber functions. I could always sneak a few minutes of talking Phillies, Eagles, Penn State, etc. with Clark at a Business Card Exchange or a Breakfast Meeting. So best of luck Clark . . . we are already missing you.

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

Karen Mazza, a friend and newsletter reader, recently posted on her Facebook page information about an organization called Noah's Arks Rescue . . . I was so impressed that I asked her to submit this week's nomination for somebody to be recognized in this space; it follows:

Jennifer Smith is an amazing person and her organization, Noah's Arks Rescue, is an amazing organization. She started the non-profit that provides medical and surgical care to very abused, neglected and injured animals to "help the animals that society had abandoned." She takes the most severe cases and doesn't give up until they are on their feet and healthy. Jennifer says, "If everyone did that one good deed, the accumulation of those acts could make a huge difference." Every day I am amazed at her dedication and compassion and I donate as much as I can to help her help these precious beings.

If you'd like to read the recent article that was just published in Celebrate Hilton Head magazine, please go to: <http://www.pagegangster.com/p/NY49c/#/page/101>

In my opinion, it doesn't say nearly enough about the amazing work she does . . . but it's a great read!

Please also check out Noah's Arks website:
http://www.noahs-arks.net/RESCUE/Noahs_Arks_Main_Page.html

and Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Noahs-Arks-Rescue/139678782720697>

Back To Top

2. FYI

If you travel on a plane and check your luggage, don't pack any pills or vitamins you take . . . instead, carry them separately with any carry-on items you may have . . . if your luggage doesn't reach its intended designation, you'll at least have the medication that you need.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) Nelson S. in North Carolina: A guy goes shopping for a new girl
<http://www.funnyordie.com/videos/ff6806e133/new-used>

(2) Nelson S. in North Carolina, again: Cheap flights with subtitles
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPyI2tOaKxM>

(3) Brittany H. in North Carolina: The Greatest Speech Ever Made
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=WibmcsEGLKo#

(4) Pat A. in Pennsylvania: Women can learn several smart self-defense tips just from watching this excerpt!
<http://networkedblogs.com/tijRa>

(5) Craig W. in Pennsylvania: This is one of the most inspirational videos I have ever seen. [HS student discovers possible cancer cure.]
http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18563_162-57358994/calif-hs-student-devises-possible-cancer-cure/

(6) Pat H. in Pennsylvania: The Turtles: She's Rather Be With Me
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_RkWy2nNBW8&feature=related

(7) Janeen R. in Pennsylvania: Life in Black and White--Montage
<http://www.evtv1.com/player.aspx?itemnum=11597>

(8) Ingrid S. in Pennsylvania: This is the video of our foster opening her care package.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=w0q4xgNi_kY

(9) Gary J. in North Carolina: Bill Maher on Saul Alinsky
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2012/01/28/bill_maher_who_the_hell_is_saul_alinsky.html#.TynFSpSA2ds.facebook

B. Other:

To read any and/or all of the following, please click:<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-zv>

- (1) New MONTY PYTHON film to be released
- (2) Esther in New Jersey: I do remember issue #1!
- (3) Maya V. in Pennsylvania: Sign petition for Delaware River Atlantic Sturgeon
- (4) Debbie O. in New York: I wasn't on list for #1 . . . but I am now
- (5) Clay D. in North Carolina: FYI, a pee can is something you use when it's cold outside
- (6) Natalie K. in Pennsylvania: A great movie: AN EARLY FROST.
- (7) Wes in North Carolina: I have a new favorite website. (CURBED)
- (8) Ken G. in New York: When you think about THE ARTIST . . .
- (9) Savannah: Deadline for film contest on spirituality is April 2

Back To Top

3. JOKE 1: Useful advice

I am passing this on to you because it has already worked for me today, and we all could probably use more calm in our lives. Some doctor on TV this morning said the way to achieve inner peace is to finish all the things you have started. So my advice is: "Don't start anything!"

Back To Top

4. Reviews

A. THE IRON LADY is the story of Margaret Thatcher, the only female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom . . . Meryl Streep looks like her and has gotten much critical acclaim for her performance . . . yet I wasn't particularly impressed--probably because the screenplay wasn't very well done . . . I found out little about Thatcher that I hadn't already known . . . also, I didn't like how the film skipped back and forth in time . . . and Jim Broadbent was wasted in the role as Thatcher's husband because too often he wasn't even himself; rather, he was playing a ghost of himself . . . PG-13.

B. DRIVE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #782 follows:

DRIVE is a suspenseful action flick about a stunt driver in the day who drives getaway vehicles for armed heists at night . . . there's little dialogue in the film and a good deal of violence, yet that said, it held my interest until the very end . . . Ryan Gosling again turns in a winning performance; however, I most liked the work of Albert Brooks . . . instead of being his usual comic self here, he plays a villain that you wouldn't want to cross . . . I'd like to see him in similar roles in the future . . . rated R.

C. I've long been a fan of Louise Hay, and I've read and enjoyed STAND UP FOR YOUR LIFE by Cheryl Richardson . . . so finding something written by the two of them, YOU CAN CREATE AN EXCEPTIONAL LIFE (Hay House) made for a book that I couldn't wait to read.

And I'm glad I did, though I should note that this is more an extended interview with Richardson seeking answers from Hay . . . conducted while they found time to connect with each other in their respective travels throughout North America and Europe, the two authors managed to cover a wide range of topics . . . these included the importance of loving ourselves and our bodies; aging consciously, bringing true prosperity and abundance to the world, manifesting positive relationships, and facing death in a dignified and peaceful way.

On almost every page, I found at least one tidbit that I could apply to my everyday living--including this one:

* "Let's talk about how to create the day," Louise suggested. "You can start by paying attention to how you leave the house. What do you think or say as you close the door? What do you say to yourself as you walk down the stairs or when you get in the car? Are you approaching your day with excitement and enthusiasm, or worry and stress? As you leave your home, it's a great time to plan your day, to program what you want to have happen rather than leave it up to chance."

I also liked this fantastic idea for developing passwords:

* Turn the passwords on your computer into positive affirmations. I tell Louise about a friend who started doing this after going through a tough divorce. He realized that many of his passwords were associated with his ex, so he changed them to empowering messages. Just imagine how good you'd feel if you logged in with something like "ilovelife" as your password.

Lastly, as you might expect in any book involving Hay, there will be many useful affirmations, such as the following:

* For many years one of my affirmations has been: Only good lies before me. It is a comforting thought that wipes out all fear of the future and allows me to wake up each day with confidence, feeling at ease. I am often delighted and even amazed to observe how life brings my next good adventure to me.

You'll then find 9 pages of "Collected Affirmations" at the end of YOU CAN CREATE AN EXCEPTIONAL LIFE, making for an excellent resource guide to the wisdom contained in the book.

D. I attempted to listen to INSIDE SEAL TEAM SIX: MY LIFE AND MISSIONS WITH AMERICAN'S ELITE WARRIORS (Hachette Audio) by Don Mann with Ralph Pezzullo and narrated by Peter Ganim.

The reason I say "attempted to" has to do with the fact that much of the book has been redacted, making it quite unpleasant to listen to because of the incessant beeps that could be heard far too often . . . you would have thought that Mann would have gotten his story cleared before attempting to publish it, but that doesn't seem to have happened.

It left me wondering whether the printed version had the same thing; i.e., large passages blacked-out . . . it seems that also happened in this case as well.

This is too bad, in that Mann's story is a fascinating one . . . as a SEAL for over 17 years, he worked in countless covert operations all over the globe, including Somalia, Panama, El Salvador, Columbia, Afghanistan and Iraq . . . he was captured twice by the enemy and lived to tell the tale . . . lastly, as a coordinator for several civilian SEAL training programs and as a former Training Officer of SEAL Team Six, he had rare insight into the minds of those that took out Osama Bin Laden.

In addition, I found the story of his troubled childhood interesting, as well as what he did and still does to stay in shape . . . along the way, he has suffered two broken backs, two cases of high altitude pulmonary edema and multiple broken bones.

INSIDE SEAL TEAM SIX could have been a fascinating book had it been written without so many omissions . . . or written in a way that I wouldn't have even known what Mann was not allowed to write about.

Back To Top

5. TV alert

A. There are some outstanding musicals this weekend on TCM . . . on Friday, THE UNSINKABLE MOLLY BROWN airs at 1:45 p.m. and THE GLENN MILLER STORY is on at 6 p.m.; on Saturday, there's THE GAY DIVORCEE at 4:15 p.m. and MY FAIR LADY at 8 p.m.; and on Sunday, you can see SCROOGE at 5:30 a.m. and CAMELOT at 7:30 p.m.

B. Catch the PUPPY BOWL to see almost 60 pint-size pups hit the field for what well may be the cutest sporting event ever . . . cat lovers don't despair; the halftime show is devoted to kittens . . . Sunday at 3 p.m. on ANIMAL PLANET.

C. Please don't bother me on Sunday, anytime after 6:30 p.m. . . . I'll be watching the Super Bowl on NBC for the game itself (go Giants!), as well as for the halftime show featuring Madonna.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST: I always enjoy the commercials, too, but this year I'll be interested even more so because a friend's son appears in two Go Daddy commercials . . . you can even see one of them by clicking the link below; Greg Fink is the guy on the left of the "G."

<http://videos.godaddy.com/super-bowl-commercials.aspx>

D. SMASH debuts Monday, Feb. 6, on NBC at 10 p.m. . . . according to Matt Roush in TV GUIDE, [it] "is a showstopper, a lavish and dishy wallow in the grit and glitter of Broadway. . . . I have a show crush on SMASH and hope it lives up to its name."

Back To Top

6. JOKE 2: The things you learn online!



[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Kandi D. in Arizona: Changing how we see others can change our lives:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D38S9o_6qnc&sns=em

B. Don't mess with seniors as this hostess of a big hotel learned when she informed an elderly gentleman that no bathing suits are allowed in the lobby. (The clip is short. You probably can't understand the language, but it won't matter.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALuBPqcDr6Q>

THANKS to Nelson S. in North Carolina for sharing the above.

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

In case you're wondering what happens to your name when you subscribe to this missive, click "Newsletter" to the left and then "Privacy Statement."

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

[Back To Top](#)

8. Computer tip

If you are concerned that your email account has ever been compromised or that somebody has access to your password and is sending out spam from your account, here's an excellent security checklist to make sure your mail security procedures are secure:

<http://support.google.com/mail/bin/static.py?hl=en&page=checklist.cs&tab=29488>

NOTE: Though the above specifically refers to Gmail, there's useful information that can be used by those who use AOL, Verizon, Charter, etc.

[Back To Top](#)

9. JOKE 3: Lunch guests

A Jewish couple in London won twenty-million pounds in the lottery. They bought a magnificent mansion in Knightsbridge and surrounded themselves with all the material wealth imaginable.

They decided to hire a butler. They found the perfect butler through an agency, very proper and very British, and brought him back to their home.

The day after his arrival, he was instructed to set up the dining table for four as they were inviting the Cohens to lunch. The couple then left the house to do some shopping.

When they returned, they found the table set for six. Perplexed, they asked the butler why it was set for six when they had expressly asked him to set it for four.

The butler replied, "The Cohens telephoned and said they were bringing the Blintzes."

Back To Top

10. A quote I like

Dictionary is the only place that success comes before work. Hard work is the price we must pay for success. I think you can accomplish anything if you're willing to pay the price.--Vince Lombardi (1913-1973), football coach best known as head coach of the Green Bay Packers during the 1960s, a team he led to three straight league championships

Back To Top

11. Thought for the day

Groundhog Day
by Edie Weinstein*



Here in the Northern Hemisphere, there is a particular ritual that heralds the beginning of February and a creature that is reputed to be a prognosticator of the coming of Spring in the depths of Winter. Punxsutawney Phil, so called because he (and his ancestors) live(d) in the Pennsylvania town of the same name. This is the 126th year that this critter will be emerging from his warm cozy cubby and be a determinant of whether Spring is just around the corner or 6 weeks away. On the calendar, no matter what, the date of the equinox is March 20th. People from all over the world travel to participate in the festivities.

Although I have never been there, I have traveled cinematographically many times via the 1993 film starring Bill Murray and Andie McDowell. He plays a cynical, grumpified weatherman (perhaps intentionally with the same name as his furry co-star) named Phil Connors who comes to the town with a film crew to report on what he considers a waste of time that he bashes and trashes. She is Rita, a kind hearted assistant who is not the least bit interested in pursuing a relationship with this erstwhile suitor who becomes enchanted with her as the movie progresses. Bored with the proceedings, after taping the event, he insists that they head back to Pittsburgh, only to be sidelined by a blizzard that turns them back around to town. That night he lays his head down on the pillow of a patchwork quilt covered bed and wakes up at 6 a.m. to the sounds of Sonny and Cher crooning, "I Got You, Babe." Phil experiences the first of countless nights of lying under the quilt and awakening to the same music. No one else seems to be aware the time loop, and since he is, he uses it to his advantage, doing some unscrupulous things and is nearly driven mad, as he drives off a cliff (the four legged Phil hugging the steering wheel) in an unsuccessful suicide attempt. He wakes up once again to the same routine. He then has an aha moment, that he responds to by becoming the town hero who rescues people, plays instruments, speaks French and wins Rita's heart. One of my favorite scenes is one in which, to avoid the insurance salesman former classmate, he steps into a puddle of icy water.

Did you know that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over, expecting different results? How often do you step into the metaphorical puddle until you are tired of frozen feet and soggy socks? I know I had spent years engaged in non-productive behaviors and ineffective choices until I woke up and realized it wasn't serving me. Now, most of the time, I recognize when I am caught up in a seemingly endless loop. What if you knew that never again did you have to do something just because you have always done it that way? What changes would you make right this moment, if you knew they would enhance your life immeasurably? Are you willing to be the predictor of your own early Spring? To what new world will you awaken?

I Got You Babe by Sonny and Cher

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzW_7ANnHZI&feature=youtu.be

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Edie from her interesting blog, Beliefnet Bliss Blog . . . for more information, please click:

<http://features.beliefnet.com/blissblog/>

Back To Top

12. Advance planning department

A. North Carolina events:

To read more about and/or all of the following, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-zx>

- (1) Invitation to be a SART volunteer
- (2) RSVP Information Sessions
- (3) Nonstop music at Tryon Fine Arts Center
- (4) You're invited to hear Coach Doug Blevins

***** Click below to read the latest article about Coach Blevins *****

<http://www.thepostgame.com/>

- (5) Asheville Talent Slam

(6) Mission Hospital Radiothon (Help still needed!)

NOTE: Please do support the local businesses who have agreed to allow coin boxes in their establishments: The Hop Ice Cream, both locations; Kilwin's, both location; Mosaic Cafe, both locations; and Viva Delicatessen. In addition, THANKS to Vinnie's for its generous gift of three gift cards.

B. Pennsylvania/New Jersey events:

To read more about and/or all of the following, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-zz>

- (1) Met & Greet on Feb. 13
- (2) Getting Your Story Illustrated

Back To Top

PS. Make it a great week . . . and whatever you do, don't forget that February 2 marks Groundhog Day . . . to help get you in the mood, please watch what's arguably the best scene from GROUNDHOG DAY (one of my favorite films) by clicking the link below: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZbtAFq7dP8>

MY TWO CENTS: It's hard to choose any one best scene; they're all great . . . so if you have a bit more time, you can see several more of them by clicking: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7NHcy13ZLk>

Then go rent the flick, especially if you have never seen it--or haven't seen it since last year at this same time.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#800
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In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Cause for concern**
 4. **Reviews . . . THE ARTIST, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Chutzpah**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: How to annoy Northerners, part 2 of 2**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

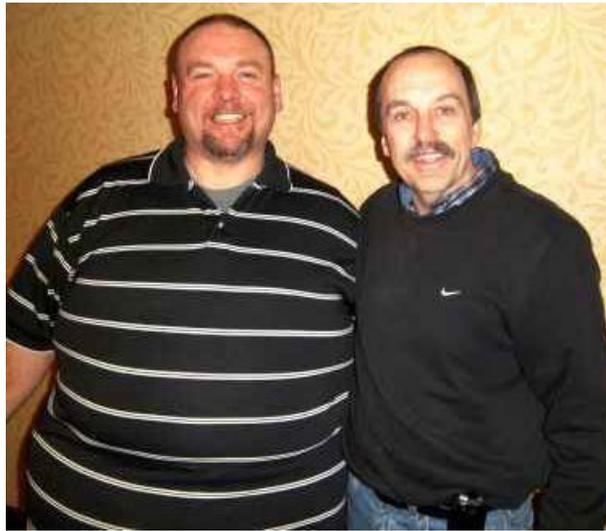
A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I attended the semifinal round of "Asheville's Sunday Best" . . . this is a gospel competition sponsored by The Bridge to Independence, Inc. . . . we were joined by our friend Chuck . . . he's pictured (below) in the center, in between Cynthia on the left and an entertainer by the name of David Marsh on the right.



Marsh performed during the intermission and wowed all those in attendance. . . . the first half of the show featured contestants under 18 . . . they were all excellent, and we were glad that Trinity Williams, our favorite, made it into the finals . . . the second half was for those over 18 . . . this time, we were a bit surprised that our favorite (Nakeisha Shivers) wasn't chosen to go further in the competition.

Overall, it was a most tuneful evening. and the host, Latravenous Geter, was particularly outstanding.

B. On Saturday, I was fortunate to be able to hear Mark Evans speak at the kickoff event for Mission Hospital's weight loss competition . . . no, I'm not interested in losing a large amount of weight; rather, I wanted to learn how Evans managed to get from 650 pounds to his present weight of 300 (as documented on the A&E reality show HEAVY).



Among the tips he included were the following:

- (1) Your biggest cheerleader is yourself.
- (2) Little things make a big difference; e.g., use small plates.
- (3) You need to have somebody who has your back.
- (4) You can't do it alone; e.g., join Overeaters Anonymous, Weight Watchers, etc.
- (5) If you slip, consider your next step.
- (6) You need to get a sleep study.
- (7) Fruit is your friend.

He also encouraged those in attendance to check out his blog:

<http://woollymammothrunner.blogspot.com/>

For more information about Mission Hospital's weight-loss competition, please click:

<http://www.lightenup4life.com/>

C. CONGRATULATIONS to:

- (1) Karen M. and Suzanne W, both winners of Contest #1. They each won one seat to the upcoming Brian Biro presentation at UNCA. All total, there were eight entries.

***** CONTEST #2 *****

Two lucky readers will each win two tickets to an upcoming UNCA basketball game (1.26, 2.11 or 2.23) at the Kimmel Arena. If you live in Western North Carolina, this is a contest for you to enter. Send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put Contest #2 in the subject line. Put your name and mailing address in the body of the email. Entries must be received by Sunday night, Feb. 5.

- (2) Mission Health, our outstanding local hospital, on having earned a spot among the 15 health systems identified this week as the nation's best by Thomson Reuters in its fourth annual study of clinical performance. For more information, please click:

<http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20120118/NEWS/301180027/Mission-garners-top-15-ranking?odysey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage>

- (3) Lori Brown in Indiana on her recent engagement.

- (4) To Brendan Mulvey in Pennsylvania for having been named the winner of the Media Theatre's Walter M. Strine Award. For more information, please click:

<http://pennsylvania.broadwayworld.com/article/P-Brendan-Mulvey-to-be-Honored-at-225-Media-Theatre-Gala-20120123#ixzz1kNnQbRxy>

D. CONDOLENCES to:

- (1) Liz Sette and family on the passing of Liz' mom.

- (2) Deb Clayton and family on the passing of Deb's father-in-law.

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

This week, it goes to Clark Shutser—president of the Lower Bucks County (PA) Chamber of Commerce. He'll be stepping down from this post on Friday, January 27, three weeks after his 27th anniversary of employment there.

Under his direction, the Chamber established leadership programs for local business owners

in 1991 and high school students in 2001. Both are still going strong. In addition, he oversaw a building expansion in the mid-1990s that almost doubled the size of the Fairless Hills headquarters that enabled it to host hundreds of network meetings and other events.

I had the pleasure to work with Clark on several occasion while I was employed at Bucks County Community College. He always impressed with me with his dedication, enthusiasm and competence, and he will be missed.

Knowing Clark, though, I'm confident that he will stay active in the community. I'm also hopeful that he gets to play some more, and that he finds time to spend with his wife Jane.

Back To Top

2. FYI

TEACHERS CAN & DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: To see just one example, please read this column to learn about a remarkable English teacher.

OPINION | January 22, 2012
Op-Ed Columnist: How Mrs. Grady Transformed Olly Neal
By Nicholas D. Kristof

Teachers have the most important job in America. To understand why, listen to the story of Olly Neal, whose life was turned around by an English teacher.

For the rest of this article, please click:

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/22/opinion/sunday/kristof-how-mrs-grady-transformed-olly-neal.html?_r=1

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) Linda H. in North Carolina: I have recently become addicted to TED Talks . . . take the next 18 minutes and soak up the [one] below:

http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/he/bunker_roy.html

(2) Rep. Gabrielle Giffords Steps Down from Congress (very moving!)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nguu0TkCTd4>

(3) Michael H. in Pennsylvania: Romney-Gekko 2012 ad: 'Believe in America--Hide Your Money in the Caribbean'

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZDhcZebvK8&feature=youtu.be>

(4) Kristi M. in North Carolina: Leave it to the Brits. Pretty funny!

<http://www.wimp.com/animalvoiceovers/>

(5) Oh Happy Day! (great rendition)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a37bBm8pXSk>

(6) Vince M. in Pennsylvania: This is a day brightener; please watch all the way through.

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=oXvJ8UquYoo&vq=large

(7) Nancy P. in North Carolina: A man, a dog and a rat

<http://www.youtube.com/v/D85yrlgA4Nk>

B. Other

To read any and/or all of the following, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-yY>

(1) Rodney R. in New Jersey: I love your newsletter/email blog!

(2) Savannah H. in Pennsylvania: We both loved THE ARTIST.

(3) Michael U. in Pennsylvania: SHERLOCK HOLMES was gr8!

(4) Tom H. in North Carolina: DIY Lego Lunchbox

(5) Andy L. in Pennsylvania: Sweet potato casserole

(6) Sandy B. in Pennsylvania: Yes, you ARE blessed to be living where you live.

(7) Delores C. in Pennsylvania: Thanks for sharing. I really like the view from you house.

Back To Top

3. JOKE 1: Cause for concern

I worry that a generation who's growing up on social media will never develop the patience necessary to watch TV.--Andy Borowitz (born 1958), American comedian who created the satirical THE BOROWITZ REPORT . . . special thanks to Jean in Pennsylvania for not only sharing the above, but also for being one of the first to tell me about Borowitz . . . his stuff rocks!

NOTE: You can get the above, for FREE, by email . . . I strongly recommend that you do . . . it always puts a smile on my face . . . to subscribe, please click:

[http://borowitzreport.us1.list-manage.com/subscribe?
u=49de3335c30245ecd0fa291aa&id=743947b930](http://borowitzreport.us1.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=49de3335c30245ecd0fa291aa&id=743947b930)

Back To Top

4. Reviews

A. I enjoyed THE ARTIST while watching it, but didn't think it was all that great . . . however, thinking about it some more now, I'm finding that my overall appreciation for the film is growing . . . the story is about a silent movie superstar . . . with the advent of the talkies, his career falls apart while an extra's takes off . . . their destinies soon become intertwined . . . performances by both Jean Dufardin and Berenice Bejo were outstanding; however, the work of Uggie (a dog) really caught my attention . . . he stole almost every scene he was in . . . I loved the black-and-white cinematography in the ARTIST, as well as its ending . . . rated PG-13.

BE FOREWARNED: There is little dialogue in the film . . . make that very little dialogue . . . so if you're expecting a talkie, you're going to be disappointed . . . in fact, some moviegoers have asked for their money back because they did not know what they were getting into . . . for more information, please click:

<http://newsfeed.time.com/2012/01/18/moviegoers-ask-for-refunds-after-finding-out-the-artist-is-a-silent-film/>

B. 50/50 is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #785 follows:

50/50 is based on a true story of two friends, Joseph Gordon-Levit and Seth Rogen, whose lives are changed by a cancer diagnosis. It is both a comedy and drama, and I thought it succeeded in both counts. There are moments that will have you laughing and others that will make you really feel for what's happening on screen. Gordon-Levit, so fine in 500 DAYS OF SUMMER, again delivers an outstanding performance in this film. Rogen and Anna Kendrick are also quite good. Rated R.

C. I recently read Joey Asher's latest book, 15 MINUTES INCLUDING Q&A . . . it was so good that I made a note to myself to get other stuff he has written, including his free newsletter.

After reading and benefiting from the latter for the past several months, I got hold of something he had written back in 2001: EVEN A GEEK CAN SPEAK (Persuasive Speaker Press) . . . I was particularly intrigued by the subtitle, LOW-TECH PRESENTATION SKILLS FOR HIGH-TECH PEOPLE, in that I thought that was just the thing needed by many folks.

However, I now am convinced that the author didn't do himself justice . . . the tips and ideas he presents apply to just about anybody, regardless of profession.

I kept taking notes on what I was reading, which is always a good sign in that it tells me that there's a lot of useful information being presented . . . for example, I particularly liked this advice on what to do when you're in a schmoozing situation:

* Remember the nursery rhyme about Old MacDonald? Keep the letters "E-I-O" in your head.

E stands for Experiences. Ask your conversation partner about his experiences at his current job. Or about her experiences on her recent trip to China.

I stands for Interests. "So what about your job is most interesting to you?"

O stands for Opinions. "Tell me what you think about . . . "

In addition, I liked Asher's take on humor . . . he recommended using it with caution, but one technique that works is using a joke from a relevant cartoon:

* When Justice speaks about stress in the workplace, he tells the story about astronaut John Glenn, who was asked what he was thinking about as his rocket was ready to blast off. Glenn reportedly said, "I was thinking about how everything I was sitting on top of was built by the lowest bidder."

And then there was this great tidbit on what to do when learning how to improve your eye contact:

* Here's a game you can try with your friends to learn how to give sustained eye contact during a presentation.

Seated in chairs around the room, have each of your friends put their hand in the air before you begin.

When you begin speaking, make eye contact with one of your listeners and hold it.

The listeners should not put their hand down until they feel that you have really connected with them.

The game is over when you get every one of your friends to put their hands down.

You'll find that it takes quite a bit of work to get those hands down. You really need to hold that eye contact for several seconds to give the listener the sense that you've connected.

None of the above sound overly difficult, and that's the whole beauty of *EVEN A GEEK CAN SPEAK* . . . you can read it and shortly thereafter, you'll be a much better speaker than you presently are--or even thought you could be.

D/ Heard *BARREL FEVER AND OTHER STORIES* (Time Warner Audio Book), written by David Sedaris and read by the author and his sister Amy Sedaris.

It's an uneven collection of stories and essays by the sardonic humorist that had me chucking in some spots, but more often left me wondering why others think this guy is so funny.

Yet that said, I did enjoy "Giantess," a recollection of Sedaris' experiences with a magazine of erotica about enormous women, as well as "Diary of a Smoker," which gives an account of the persecution he has faced from nonsmokers.

And best of all, there's "Santaland Diaries" . . . this tale describes his seasonal stint as a Macy's elf, and for that alone, I'd recommend the book--provided you can fast forward throughout vast parts of it.

[Back To Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. PHIL OCHS: *THERE BUT FOR FORTUNE*, one of my favorite documentaries, airs on *AMERICAN MASTERS* on Saturday at 3:30 a.m. on PBS . . . because PBS stations and times often vary, check local listings for other dates and times. According to *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*, "The picture of Ochs is in the end a tragic one . . . Nevertheless, there had been that voice, those wit-filled lyrics, the unforgettable "I Ain't Marching Anymore," and they're here now, a rich bounty, in this film." Don't miss it!

And to get you psyched, here's another of his songs, "Outside a Small Circle of Friends:"
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulTmmTIIM_o

NOTE: If you'd like to get my complete listing of other favorite films, send an email to bginbc@aol.com and put FAVORITE FILMS in the subject line.

B. *NEWS 13 SATURDAY MORNING* (in the Asheville area) features Lorre, Cynthia's friend, in costume and talking about her singing Valentines for Valentine's Day . . . Saturday at 7 a.m. . . if you miss the show, you can find more information about this great gift option by clicking:
www.thesingingtelegram.com

C. *NAMATH* profiles the life and career of New York Jets QB Joe Namath, one of the NFL's first sports celebrities. Liev Schreiber narrates. Saturday at 9 p.m. on HBO.

D. *A SMILE AS BIG AS THE MOON* is a feel-good *HALLMARK HALL OF FAME* about a group of special-ed students wanting to attend Space Camp . . . John Corbett stars . . . Sunday at 9 p.m. on ABC.

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: Chutzpah

Chutzpah, a Yiddish term, means any or all of the following and more: gall, brazen, nervy,

effrontery, sheer guts--plus arrogance. As Leo Rosten wrote, no other word in the English language can do it justice. But this little old lady can.



She sold pretzels on a street corner for a dollar each. Every day, a young man would leave his office building at lunch time and as he passed the pretzel stand, he would leave her a dollar but never take a pretzel.

This offering went on for more than three years. The two of them never spoke. One day as the young man passed the old lady's stand and left his dollar as usual, the pretzel lady spoke to him for the first time in over three years. Without blinking an eye she said: "They're a dollar and a quarter now."

[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. I'm always blown away by talent . . . and Bruce Stoller, my former classmate at Lawrence High School, certainly has it . . . see for yourself by viewing his strong orchestra work called "Comfortable Sky" that also has photographs of friends and the West that inspired it:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqXbj2vHxGI&feature=share>

B. For clips of some of his other work, please click:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/Bruce88keys/videos>

And to subscribe to his youTube channel, please click:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/Bruce88keys?blend=4&ob=0>

In case 2012 is already getting to you and you're missing the good 'ol days, click 2011, Buh-Bye!
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=2zls4Ao3GyM

THANKS to Nelson in North Carolina for sharing the above.

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
<http://www.blaineworld.net>

If you're reading this missive for the first time and would like to subscribe, click the "Special Offer" at the bottom of the home page.

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:
www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

[Back To Top](#)

8. Computer tip

As you may well know by now, I tend to check stuff I get sent that I'm sent--especially it has been forwarded to me. I urge you to do the same at snopes.com, urbanlegends.com,

factcheck.org, truthorfiction.com, hoax-slayer.com, etc.

But sometimes, the search engines for the sites are not all that great . . . and so lately, I'm now doing the following and getting even better results:

1. Take the headline or first line of what I've been forwarded; e.g.,
Bill Cosby's Commentary Says That He is 76 and Tired

2. Do a search via Google. You'll find a lot of useful results, most showing where to look for further information.

3. When I typed the same line into snopes.com, it showed no results. When I then typed "Bill Cosby" into snopes, I got several results and had to dig for the aforementioned headline.

Use the same technique when you get something forwarded about the Congressional Reform Act of 2011, 2012 or probably next year, 2013 . . . these have all been around for quite some time and as you'll see if you do the research, they have no merit . . . nor is there any merit to anything claiming to be that there's going to be a 28th amendment.

[Back To Top](#)

9. JOKE 3: How to annoy Northerners, part 2 of 2

(Concluded from last week.)

13. Correct their pronunciation of certain words. For example: It's "pee-can."

14. Put Tabasco on everything.

15. For New York Yankees: Act as if the whole state of New York is New York City. In other words, if they say "Yo, I'm from upstate New Yoik!" say, "Well I'll be, my wife has always wanted to see a Broadway show!"

16. When invited to dinner, offer to bring dessert. Show up with a box of Moon Pies . . . banana ones.

17. Name all of your children "Bubba."

18. Use the word "reckon" in a sentence.

19. "Mash" buttons. "Cut" off lights. "Carry" the kids to school. "Fetch" something.

20. Never simply "do" something. Be "fixin to do" something.

21. Tell them you don't have an accent, they do.

22. Be sure to include "yes/no ma'am/sir" in all conversations.

23. Only use landmarks and ramble on when giving directions. "Now go down Jeff Davis Highway and turn left at where the Chevron station used to be. I think they turned it into an Amoco. Or maybe a BP. Anyway, turn right there . . ." "You said left." "Did I? Well, turn left there and follow it until you see a big fish on your left. I remember when that fish used to be on the other side of town . . ."

24. Ask them if it's still snowing up North. Then tell 'em you went driving around in your convertible this weekend.

25. Call 'em a Yankee. Works every time.

[Back To Top](#)

10. A quote I like

When the Great Referee reviews our final game tape, how many of us will be able to say we did the right thing on every play? Or will we recognize our fumbles, the times when we should have stood up and spoken out, the times when we had to admit "I wish I had done more." As we mourn a good man [Joe Paterno], let's try to remember that only Monday-morning quarterbacks never lose a game.--Joe McDermott (born 1958), former mainstream media hack and notorious ne'er do well who has been inflicting his cantankerous opinion on an unsuspecting public for far longer than he ever thought a civilized society would allow

MY TWO CENTS: Joe's stuff is really good . . . to read more, please indicate "follow" when you click the following link:

Back To Top

11. Thought for the day

The Greatest Customer Service Story Ever Told, Starring Morton's Steakhouse
by Peter Shankman*

The following story is entirely true. More importantly, I swear on my entire professional reputation and all I hold dear to me that the story below was in no way staged, planned in advance, or in any way faked. This is real. And most importantly: This is AMAZING.

When my alarm clock went off at 3:30 this morning, I knew I was in for a long day. I was catching a 7 a.m. flight out of Newark to Tampa, Florida, for a lunch meeting in Clearwater, then heading back to Newark on a 5 p.m. flight, getting me in around 8:10 p.m., and with any luck, to my apartment by 9 or so. We all have days like that, they happen from time to time.

Made my flight, everything was on time, got to my lunch meeting. Because of the training/workout schedule I'm on, my first meal of the day was that lunch. Was fine, I had a healthy piece of grouper, and a very successful lunch meeting that lasted just about three hours.

By the time I got back to the airport, it was close to 4 p.m. Flight boarded at 4:30 p.m., and I knew that by the time I got home, I wouldn't have time to stop for dinner anywhere, and certainly didn't want to grab fast food at either airport. When I got on the plane, my stomach was a rumbling a bit, and I had visions of a steak in my head.

As I've tweeted and mentioned countless times before, I'm a bit of a steak lover. I go out of my way to try steakhouses all around the world when I can, and it's one of the reasons, no doubt, that my trainer at my gym is kept in business. But it's all good--give and take. Over the past few years, I've developed an affinity for **Morton's Steakhouses**, and if I'm doing business in a city which has one, I'll try to schedule a dinner there if I can. I'm a frequent diner, and Morton's knows it. They have a spectacular Customer Relations Management system in place, as well as a spectacular social media team, and they know when I call from my mobile number who I am, and that I eat at their restaurants regularly. Never underestimate the value of a good CRM system.

Back to my flight. As we were about to take off, I jokingly **tweeted** the following:

Hey @Mortons - can you meet me at
newark airport with a porterhouse when I
land in 2 hours? K, thanks. :)

Let's understand: I was joking. I had absolutely no expectations of anything from that Tweet. It's like how we Tweet "Dear Winter, please stop, love Peter," or something similar.

I shut off my phone and we took off.

Two and a half hours later, we landed at EWR. The fact that a flight got into EWR on time during summer thunderstorm season is a miracle in itself, but that's not important right now.

Walking off the plane, I headed towards the area where the drivers wait, as my assistant Meagan had reserved me a car home.

Looking for my driver, I saw my name, waved to him, and started walking to the door of EWR, like I'd done hundreds of times before.

"Um, Mr. Shankman," he said.

I turned around.

"There's a surprise for you here."

I turned to see that the driver was standing next to someone else, who I just assumed was another driver he was talking to. Then I noticed the "someone else" was in a tuxedo.

And he was carrying a Morton's bag.

Now understand... I'm a born-and-raised New York City kid. It takes a lot to surprise me. A LOT. I see celebrities on the Subway. I see movies being shot outside my apartment, and fake gunfire from any given CSI show, five days a week. I'm immune to surprises.

Except when they're like this.

Alex, from Morton's Hackensack walks up to me, introduces himself, and hands me a bag. He proceeds to tell me that he'd heard I was hungry, and inside is a 24 oz. Porterhouse steak, an order of Colossal Shrimp, a side of potatoes, one of Morton's famous round things of bread, two napkins, and silverware.

He hands me the bag.

I. Was. Floored.

NOTE: The rest of the story actually gets better. It is on the longish side, but well worth reading. To read the whole piece--with pictures--please click:

<http://shankman.com/the-best-customer-service-story-ever-told-starring-mortons-steakhouse/>

You don't have to read all 438 Comments, but please make sure you read the PS and the part about NASA the Wonder Cat.

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Peter Shankman. For more information about his blog, consulting, etc., please click: <http://shankman.com/>

Back To Top

12. Advance planning department

A. North Carolina events:

To read more about and/or all of the following, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-z4>

- (1) Asheville Jazz Orchestra at White Horse
- (2) Ignite Asheville events
- (3) Brian Biro on Tuesday, January 24 (and see clip if you missed it last week)
- (4) You're invited to hear Coach Doug Blevins on Feb. 2
- (5) Asheville Talent Slam
- (6) Volunteers needed for Mission Hospital Radiothon
- (7) A DREAM OF CAMELOT is now being cast

B. Pennsylvania/New Jersey events:

To read more about and/or all of the following, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-z2>

- (1) "101 Ways to Meet Someone" class
- (2) We just posted great deals at your favorite Comedy Cabaret
- (3) COME BACK, LITTLE SHEBA at Actors Net

Back To Top

PS. Make it a great week!

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BLAINES WORLD

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In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Condensed reading**
 4. **Reviews . . . JOYFUL NOISE, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Last minute switch**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: How to annoy Northerners, part 1 of 2**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are blessed to live in the mountains of Western North Carolina . . . we love it here, not only for all that there is to do, but also for the beauty of the area . . . to see for yourself, here's a rare double rainbow that could be seen recently over our home.



Thanks to Marilynne Herbert, photographer extraordinaire, for sharing this picture.

B. We are also grateful for being able to do things together . . . in fact, our Thursdays are now shared . . . Cynthia is teaching a "Move Your Body" course at the Center for Creative Retirement. (Please see Section 12A for more information about the next class that she'll be teaching.)



At the same time, I'm taking a fascinating course on sports documentaries . . . it's taught by Larry Griswold, a very knowledgeable guy who had been in advertising sales with SPORTS ILLUSTRATED . . . each week, he introduces a program that originally aired on HBO . . . we then watch it and afterward, we discuss it . . . the first session featured "Hitler's Pawn, the story of a Jewish woman who was not allowed to compete in the Olympics . . . the second show, "The Shot Heard Round the World," dealt with the Bobby Thomson homer off Ralph Branca . . . it was made even more interesting by the fact that Griswold and Thomson had been friends.

Our day concludes with dinner at a local restaurant . . . the other night, we went for pizza at Mellow Mushroom . . . their pizza is absolutely fantastic; in fact, it is perhaps the best we have had . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.mellowmushroom.com/asheville#/store/index/asheville>

C. During the week, I had lunch with several of my friends at the new Mosaic Cafe location in Biltmore Park . . . it is every bit as good as the one near my home in Biltmore Lake . . . their turkey wrap is my favorite, and the handmade desserts are too tempting to turn down . . . for more information, please click:

<http://ilovemosaiccafe.com/>



Pictured (l-r): Brenda Morgan, Brian Biro, Doug Blevins and yours truly.

We got to discuss two upcoming events that I'd like to still invite y'all to attend:

(1) Lessons in Leadership event at the brand new Kimmel Arena at UNCA in Asheville on Tuesday, January 24 at 6:15 p.m. Brian, widely known as "America's Breakthrough Coach," is the featured speaker . . . he'll be providing a personal breakthrough experience to all those fortunate to attend . . . I have participated in one of his seminars; it was unbelievable!

***** CONTEST #1 (has been extended) *****

Two lucky readers will each win one ticket to the above event.

TO ENTER CONTEST: Put CONTEST #1 in the subject line. In the body of your email, include both your name and snail mail address. Mail it to: bginbc@aol.com. Entries must be received on or before Sunday night, January 22, 2012.

NOTE: If you don't win the contest and/or you wish to purchase additional tickets, they are

just \$20, and all the money--after expenses--goes to support local charities . . . for more information and to register, please click this link:
<http://www.wncleaders.com/>.

If you've already bought a ticket and you are the winner, I'll reimburse you cost of the ticket.

(2) You're also invited to hear Coach Doug Blevins speak at the Biltmore Lake Clubhouse in Candler, NC.

When: 7-8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 2

Coach Doug Blevins, the only coach in NFL history who has never walked--or even played football!

His presentation, "Kick Your Life Into High Gear," is guaranteed to amaze you. In addition, you'll find it both inspirational and amusing.

You'll learn his incredible story, as well as powerful techniques for:

- * Becoming the best you possibly can be.
- * Setting goals.
- * Developing action steps for getting what you want in life.

For more information, please see Coach Blevins interviewed by Bryant Gumbel on REAL SPORTS:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WarEZbJSS6w&feature=share>

Or read this informative article about him that appeared in SPORTS ILLUSTRATED:
<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1103994/index.htm>

TO REGISTER: If you're a Biltmore Lake resident, please sign-up via the Intranet. If you'd like to be the guest of Blaine Greenfield, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put FEBRUARY 2 in the subject line. Kindly do so now since there is only limited seating available for that night's presentation.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to:

(1) George Bruno in Pennsylvania for being profiled in the January/February issue of PHILLYFIT. To see the article, please click the link below and go to page 32:
http://editions.us.com/phillyfit_janfeb12/

(2) Traci Jo Morgan in North Carolina for being chosen for Teach for America.

(3) Neil Raphel in Vermont . . . his small publishing firm made the cover of Publisher's Weekly's print edition:
<http://kingdombks.blogspot.com/2012/01/write-local-aka-what-you-know-go.html?pref=fb>

(4) Jess Palotas in Florida for having become a nonsmoker. She has also put together an interesting blog on the subject:
<http://jessicapalotas.wordpress.com/2012/01/17/im-a-quitter-day-1-of-no-smoking/>

***** FREE BOOK OFFER *****

If you smoke or know of somebody who smokes, I'm giving away copies of Allen Carr's EASY WAY TO STOP SMOKING . . . this is the absolute best book I've ever read on the subject . . . I've given away dozens of copies of the book over the years, and virtually everyone who has read it says it has helped them stop . . . I kid you NOT!

But just don't believe me; skim just some of 800-plus customer reviews at amazon.com to see for yourself: http://www.amazon.com/Allen-Carrs-Easyway-Stop-Smoking/dp/0615482155/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1320456559&sr=1-2

I'll be giving away books until I run out of them, which is unlikely . . . to obtain: just print your name on the outside of an envelope that's larger than 7 x 10 inches . . . put \$2.77 postage on the outside of the envelope and mail the postpaid envelope to me at this address: Blaine Greenfield, 19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way, Biltmore Lake, NC 28715.

MY REQUEST: Only request the book for yourself or somebody else if serious about quitting . . . and there's a commitment to read the book within a month of receipt. (Naturally, please let me know about your success afterward.)

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

This week, it goes to Steven Marinoff--my oldest friend . . . wait, make that, the person I have maintained a friendship with for the longest time . . . well over 40 years (from when we were both Marketing Education majors at Rider University).

But that's not why I am nominating him for this week's award; rather, it is because of something he has done since he officially retired as a School Business Administrator in Maple Shade, NJ.

He started taking courses at Camden County in graphic design, photography and videography . . . Steven wasn't interested in a degree; he was just doing so for personal enrichment.

What he started doing next, though, has really impressed me . . . he has been making a series of youTube clips to help support the efforts of the Burlington County Animal Shelter in Westhampton, NJ . . . I've been posting them every so often; here is his latest one:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTbFR1qDVvw>

This is such a cool thing to do in my opinion, and it has enabled him the chance to develop the new skills he has acquired.

In addition, Steven has been delivering meals to needy/older citizens during the holidays over the past several years. And he also works part-time as a personal assistant to an adult with disabilities.

Back To Top

2. FYI

Are you looking to retire in the near future? Or are you trying to determine a possible location for where you want to live when you retire?

If you answered "yes" to either of those two questions . . . or you know anybody contemplating such possibilities, then please check out either and/or both of the following weekends:

Paths to Creative Retirement
April 13-15 or Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 2012
<http://www.pathstocreativeretirement.com/>

Creative Retirement Exploration Weekend
May 25-27, 2012
<http://ncccr.unca.edu/creative-retirement-exploration-weekend>

I've spoken to many folks who have attended both weekends and have heard only glowing comments about them. For more information, also feel free to call Michelle Rogers at 828.250.3871.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) Donna in Alabama: Hey, that's no way to say goodbye
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jexNsBjz1r8&feature=share>

(2) Vera in Florida: Peter Yarrow "Don't Laugh at Me" Solo
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jNV6dn3YvQ&feature=share>

(3) Rock in North Carolina: Revolution of Resolution (video blog)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqSRuNAZcC4&feature=youtu.be>

(4) Walter in North Carolina: Now I understand what this [opera] tune is about. Quite lovely.
http://www.greatoperavideos.com/videos/la-boheme/la-boheme-luciano-pavarotti-1.html#.TxL0PJ87j_w.facebook

(5) Chandler in North Carolina: Clowning Around with George, Episode 2
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-g3YeKChXs&feature=context&context=C3b1eac4ADOEgsToPDskLQzaEvGdxIW_eT8wzLrLJ

(6) Natalie in Pennsylvania: Home for the Holidays (T-Mobil)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcmfCXwAFs4&list=PLF28B4749DFB5C839&index=1&feature=plpp_video

(7) Natalie in Pennsylvania, again: Make sure you watch the behind-the-scenes story on the making of the video. It's fascinating.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?src_vid=vcmfCXwAFs4&feature=iv&annotation_id=annotation_250232&v=zppuol3q2Zg

(8) Marie in New Jersey: Dion DiMucci: Abraham Martin and John
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPdYViBu0is&feature=related>

(9) Neil in Vermont: PKP for President!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xtV5JGO2Qs>

(10) Gil in North Carolina: Mindblowing footage of cranes flying over Venice
<http://www.towleroad.com/2012/01/venicecranes.html#.TxPtELctoUI.facebook>

(11) Ted in North Carolina: Corky and Shirley Ballas tear up the floor with this Jive from 1989
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nHITvYHhvM&sns=fb>

(12) Lucas in North Carolina: This is why I love film, this is why I make film, this is why I will always love and make films. . . . Cinema 2011
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1YmAtL-5Is&list=PL570A2BCEC0545299&index=1&feature=plcp>

(13) Marcie in Pennsylvania: What better way to spread the word about energy efficiency than to sing about it?
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqkloNyFRhQ>

(14) From the IRS Help Desk: What to do with your year-end tax bills:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbP0uLq1Ycl>

(15) Kelly in North Carolina: There is nothing like a dog's unconditional love to make you feel better (or get an inflated sense of self).
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Usyr0eMshg&sns=fb>

B. Other:

To read any and/or all of the following, please click:<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-y5>

- (1) Savannah in Pennsylvania: Spirit at Work Contest . . . \$7500 Top Prize!
- (2) Lorre in North Carolina (with a GREAT IDEA for Valentine's Day)
- (3) Roger in Pennsylvania: Thanks, as always for keeping me informed
- (4) Lyn in Pennsylvania: I have created a new blog
- (5) Dana in Pennsylvania: About mini bars in hotels
- (6) Micah in Pennsylvania: Thanks for the great tips
- (7) Natalie in Pennsylvania: I saw JOYFUL NOISE and liked it very much
- (8) THANKS to the many folks who commented on my illustration in last week's issue, including (from Pennsylvania) John, Cecile, Betsy, Cara, Barbara, Arta, Pat A. and Patty; (from North Carolina) Linda and Joe; and (Other) Alyson in Colorado, Donna in Alabama and Kathy in Florida.

NOTE: If you want to try to make your own illustration, here's the link in case you missed it last week:
www.mywebface.com

Let me know how you make out and, also, your reaction to this website company/service.
[Back To Top](#)

3. JOKE 1: Condensed reading

I'm coming out with a condensed phone book. It has only one number in it: 411.--Craig Sharf (born 1955), American comic

NOTE: You can see another one of Craig's joke (and some other funny one liners) by clicking:
<http://www.rd.com/slideshows/10-best-one-liners/8/>

[Back To Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. JOYFUL NOISE is a musical dramedy that didn't get great reviews, but that's enjoyed by most in the audience--including me . . . the story involves a church choir in a small town in Georgia that's going to compete in a national gospel choir competition . . . there are battles between Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton along the way, as well as a romance between Jeremy Jordan and Keke Palmer (who originally caught my eye five years ago in an outstanding film called AKEELAH AND THE BEE) . . . the musical numbers were lively, though I'm not so sure that they could really be considered gospel . . . rated PG-13.

B. COURAGEOUS is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #788

follows:

COURAGEOUS is a drama about four police officers who face danger every day in their professional lives . . . but even more challenging for them is their role outside of work; i.e., being a father and raising their children in a God-fearing way . . . though a bit too preachy in spots, it nevertheless held my interest . . . and I'm still thinking about the film despite having seen it several days ago . . . it only got fair reviews from the critics, yet audience members love it (it received an amazing 94% approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes) . . . rated PG-13.

C. If Jeffrey Zaslow writes something, I want to read it . . . his column had long been one of my favorites in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL . . . and I loved his other books--including THE GIRLS FROM AMES, THE LAST LECTURE written with Randy Pausch, HIGHEST DUTY coauthored with Capt. "Sully" Sullenberger and his collaboration with Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and her husband/astronaut Mark Kelly, GABBY.

Add his latest effort, THE MAGIC ROOM (Gotham Books), to the above list . . . its subtitle, A STORY ABOUT THE LOVE WE WISH FOR OUR DAUGHTERS, says it all.

Zaslow takes a look at Becker's Bridal, a store in Fowler, Michigan . . . he traces its history and at the same time, incorporates the stories of many of its customers . . . some were funny; many of them were quite touching.

Along the way, the author adds reminders that all parents should heed:

* There was the judge in Illinois who told me he grew up in a home where everyone always said "I love you." Because of that, he found it easy to say those words to his own children. One Friday night in 1995, as his eighteen-year-old daughter headed out the door with her friends, he said to her, "Remember I love you." She replied: "I love you too, Dad." She died hours later in a car accident and the judge told me how grateful he was that his last words to her were a reminder of his love.

I also liked how he used the interviews with several of the employees from the store:

* Julia knew how true this was. Whenever the girls tried to play one parent against the other, Jeff told them straight. "Never try to come between me and your mom," he'd say. "Mom was in the picture way before you were. And when you're grown up and have your own life, she'll be all I have."

However, the passage that most got to me was this one at the end of the book:

* Someday, perhaps, I'll have a chance to be a father of a bride. I know that when the search for a bridal gown begins, I'll think back to the wise advice I received from Shelley, her staffers, and all the Becker's brides and their parents. They taught me that a bride should make the final decision about which dress is "the one." What a parent thinks is secondary. My job as a father will be simple. My job will be to tell my daughters I love them.

My wife couldn't believe that I would be interested in such a book. I told her to read it, then she'd see why. I hope she does. I also hope that many others will, too. THE MAGIC ROOM is a winner that will leave you feeling good about the institution of marriage.

D. Heard KILL ALEX CROSS (Hachette Audio), James Patterson's latest in the series involving Detective Alex Cross.

This one involves children of the president who have been kidnapped from their school. That part of the story was very suspenseful, especially the beginning. Terrorists then enter into the picture, and I found that part less interesting.

I was also able to guess the ending, long before the end of the book.

I have read most of the books involving the Cross character. It might well be time to retire him, which by the way, would make for an interesting final story.

The narration by both Andre Braugher and Zach Grenier was excellent. In addition, I liked the extra sounds that accompanied it--including gun shots and bomb blasts.

[Back To Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. Rob Lowe stars in DREW PETERSON: UNTOUCHABLE, a TV-movie about the accused spouse slayer . . . Saturday at 8 p.m. on LIFETIME.

B. OPRAH'S NEXT CHAPTER, Oprah Winfrey's new show, has been on for a few weeks . . . I've enjoyed, so far, the interviews with Aerosmith front man Steven Tyler and Joel Osteen . . . next up is a one-on-one with Morgan Freeman . . . Sunday at 10 on OWN.

C. ANGRY BOYS, a 12-episode series from Australian comedian and actor, looks at the lives of American boys and men and asks: What does it mean to be a 21st-century male? According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Some . . . is very insightful and moving." Also, "A few scenes . . . are truly, deeply moving." But be forewarned: "Such moments never last long." Sundays at 10 p.m. on HBO.

D. Mark in North Carolina: Check it out!! I-Tunes has it [first episode of SMASH] for free! I don't know how long!

NOTE: There's also a Sneak Peak, featuring Steven Spielberg and the cast.

About the show, taken from the website: There's nothing more exciting than the opening night of a hit Broadway musical, except maybe what happens getting there. While Wicked and The Lion King pack audiences in on the Great White Way, Julia and Tom, a successful songwriting team played by Debra Messing and Christian Borle, begin work on a new musical based on the life of Marilyn Monroe. When a tenacious producer (Anjelica Houston) jumps aboard, so begins the difficult task of casting the silver screen icon. Ivy Lynn, a tough Broadway veteran, seems like the obvious choice. But enter Karen Cartwright (Katharine McPhee), a young girl from Iowa with a dream of making it on Broadway who walks in and blows everyone away. . . . Steven Spielberg and Craig Zadan & Neil Meron (producers of Chicago and Hairspray), and songwriters Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman (Hairspray), bring you the blood, sweat, and tears of the making of a Broadway musical.

To view, please click:

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/tv-season/smash-season-1/id492511667>

Back To Top

6. JOKE 2: Last minute switch

One time, one of my classes got canceled. Consequently, at the last minute, they asked me if I could instead teach a course in Human Sexuality. I recall saying to myself, "Self, you know something about the subject . . . so why not?"

Yet I was embarrassed to come home to tell my wife that, so instead I came home and said I was teaching a new course in Horseback Riding.

She thought it was a bit strange, but hey, you gotta do what you gotta do, so she gave me her blessings.

Halfway through the semester, my students saw my wife in the supermarket. They approached her. "We have to tell you," they said, "your husband is one fine teacher."

She thanked them for the nice words.

They then asked, "But in the new course he is teaching, is he the self-professed expert he says he is?"

My wife replied, "Well, to be honest . . . he tried it once, then fell off!"

Back To Top

7. Websites

A. Just imagine if the following technique also worked with babies? Spouses? Politicians?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCnAjeI02IM>

Thanks to Wes in North Carolina for sharing and putting a smile on my face.

B. Cat puts baby to sleep . . . if you love cats or babies . . . or you're just in the mood for seeing something that will put a smile on your face, please click:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWXigjFm4TM>

And thanks to Bruce in Arizona for the above clip that's sooooo cute.

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

I've recently updated a listing of some of my favorite businesses and ice cream parlors . . . to check it out yourself, see "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Choices."

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Back To Top

8. Computer tip

I used to learn about computers and the Internet by reading a newsletter called TOURBUS. It is no longer being published, but its spirit is being kept alive by ASKBOB UPDATES. It's free, and I never fail to learn something by reading it.

Recent issues have provided information on such topics as converting vinyl records to CDs, seven search alternatives to Google, MagicJack alternatives and ten identity theft protection tips. To subscribe, please click:

<http://askbobrankin.com/subscribe.html>

Thanks to Bob in North Carolina for letting me know where the great information that I used to get on TOURBOUS can now be found.

Back To Top

9. JOKE 3: How to annoy Northerners, part 1 of 2

1. Take your own sweet time when doing ANYTHING.
 2. Pronounce all one-syllable words with two.
 3. When giving directions, finish with "it's right down yonder on the left."
 4. Talk REAL slow, and ask them to speak more slowly so you can understand what they're saying.
 5. When they talk nostalgically about the North, tell 'em "Delta's ready when you are!"
 6. Talk loudly and often about SEC football or ACC basketball.
 7. Refer to every soft drink as a Coke.
 8. Always order sweet tea and/or grits. When they don't have it, raise a ruckus.
 9. Offer to send 'em a bottle of fresh air.
 10. Insist on being addressed by your first AND middle names; e.g., Lisa Marie, John Michael, Jim Bob, etc.
 11. Frequently bring up "The War of Northern Aggression" in conversation. If anyone ever says the words "Civil War, " always interject that "there was nothing civil about it."
 12. Address all males as "son" and females as "little lady."
- (To be concluded next week.)

Back To Top

10. A quote I like

If you sit on the backburner too long, you'll get burnt!--Clay MacCormac (born 1965), normally optimistic, positive, grateful person

Back To Top

11. Thought for the day

Memo to my sons
by Roger Aiken*

Dear Tyler and Blake,

When you were young, your mother wished we could peek ahead to your 20s, to see how you grew up. Now we'd rewind to your younger years. The moral is just enjoying today to its fullest.

King David told his son, "Be strong therefore and shew thyself a man." You'll decide what

that means to you. To me it means to know how to behave, act and deal with others. You'll preach a better sermon with your life than your lips.

- Your life is all about your foundation. What do you believe in? When public figures mess up, it's always a foundation issue. Have a firm foundation built on God, and you'll build quite a life. Ability can take you to the top, but when the rains come (and the rains always come), you need character to keep you there.
- When you compromise your principles just one time, the next compromise is just around the corner. Make a stand son; any old fish can float down the river.
- When you find a mate, keep their foundation in mind as well. You'll hear folks talk about each putting 50 percent into the relationship. Expecting 50/50 is a myth and recipe for divorce. If each puts 100 percent in the relationship, you'll have a marriage they write greeting cards about.
- Albert Einstein said the greatest invention was compound interest. It can work for you (investments), or against you (debt). Live within your means; not under your debt. Pay credit cards off every month.
- When you find yourself in a hole; you first must put down the shovel.
- When you look back at your life, you'll remember the people in your life rather than your possessions.
- Successful people are not smarter; they just do things differently. They don't get distracted.
- One day you'll wish you had taken more chances. Fear of embarrassment, rejection or failure are learned values; you weren't born with those.
- Be nice, kind and gentle with others. Give opportunities.
- Best time-management tool: Do what you have to do first, then what you want to do.
- If people like you, they'll listen to you, but if they trust you, they'll do business with you.
- Write thank you notes and have a grateful heart.
- Sometimes in life, the only way out is the way through. Former heavyweight champ Jack Dempsey said, "A champion is a guy who gets up when he can't."
- Whatever your chosen profession, give it your all! As Jack Harbaugh told his sons; "Attack this day with an enthusiasm unknown to man."

Finally, if you forget everything else I've said, the most important thing is to never, ever embarrass your mother.

Love, Dad

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Roger Aiken, former member of the Buncombe County Board of Education, from a piece (1.1.2012) he wrote for the ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES as its local columnist. Email: homeoftheaikens@charter.net.

[Back To Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. North Carolina events:

(1) GOOD NEWS: There's still time to sign-up for Cynthia's next Move Your Body class. This is a freeing movement experience. We start with a short sharing, visualization, and stress melting stretches. As you are led into easy movements, you are then guided to move intuitively on your own. End with delicious relaxation. Feast upon safety, connection, joy, release, and the healing experience of music. All body types and energy levels are celebrated. No dance experience required.

Wednesday, January 25, at the Jewish Community Center
6:30-8 p.m.
Just \$5.

To enroll, please call Cynthia at 828.633.1049.

To read more about any and/or all of the following items, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-ya>

- (2) NC Stage Presents "Fight Girl Battle World" January 19 – February 4
- (3) Asheville Talent Slam
- (4) Lenore in North Carolina (with an NC Volunteer Opportunity)
- (5) Volunteers needed for Mission Hospital Radiothon
- (6) SWING and ZYDECO DANCE events
- (7) A DREAM OF CAMELOT to return; auditions now
- (8) Upcoming at The Hop
- (9) Evening celebrating Appalachian Music
- (10) Spring 2012 Sheriff's Citizen's Academy
- (11) SOLSTICE at Magnetic Field
- (12) A BAD DRESS REHEARSAL on Jan. 22

B. PA/NJ events:

To read more about any and/or all of the following items, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-y8>

- (1) Future Speaker program of the Plumstead Historical Society
- (2) George in Pennsylvania (with an offer for folks in the Philly area)
- (3) Great Comedy E-deals for you!

Back To Top

PS. Monday, the 16th of January, is Martin Luther King's birthday . . . even if you forgot to celebrate his memory, you can now do so be checking out this website:

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/>

Some 200,000 Martin Luther King documents are now available. You can find a handwritten draft, complete with cross-outs, of his acceptance speech for the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. There are notes about the ending of his iconic I HAVE A DREAM speech. And there are charming letters he received from children.

Fascinating stuff!

Make it a great rest of the week, too.

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#798
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In this issue:

1. **Reflections**
 2. **FYI**
 3. **JOKE 1: Punctuation lesson**
 4. **Reviews . . . WE BOUGHT A ZOO, etc.**
 5. **TV alert**
 6. **JOKE 2: Time for change**
 7. **Websites**
 8. **Computer tip**
 9. **JOKE 3: Now you'll understand**
 10. **A quote I like**
 11. **Thought for the day**
 12. **Advance planning department**
-

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I joined our friends (l-r) Brian and Carole, Melissa and Fletcher, Connie, Lynn, Cynthia and that's me on the far right for a fun birthday celebration of Connie's birthday at Corner Kitchen.

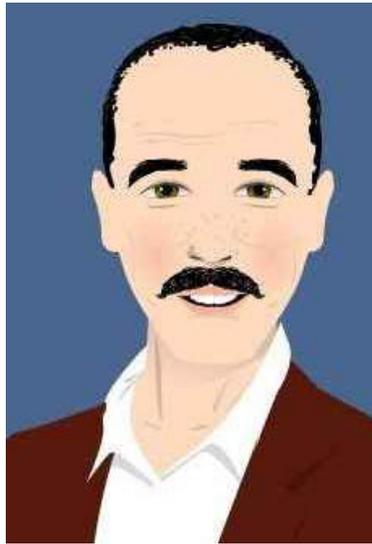


The food was delicious, particularly the meat loaf that we both ordered . . . but the best item was the dessert: a mouthwatering bread pudding, topped with white chocolate and caramel sauce . . . we think we'll go back just for that. Our server, Christiana, was also excellent . . . for more information, please click:
www.thecornerkitchen.com

B. A gentleman never says what birthday was being celebrated, so don't ask 'cause I won't tell you . . . however, I will say that Connie and Cynthia both had us all laughing with their "pretend" facelifts that are certainly not needed in either woman's case.



C. MR. CURIOUS HERE: Cara in Pennsylvania sent me the following cartoon. (Thanks, Cara!)



It supposedly is me; what do YOU think?

Also, she had it done via this website:
www.mywebface.com

Have you used the above? If so, what's your reaction to it? Feel free to share your cartoon and, also, let me know if you got bombarded with all sorts of spam/other garbage if you downloaded from this website.

D. CONGRATULATIONS to:

(1) Monica and Will Hester on the newest addition to their family: Trent Wells, a 17-year old exchange student from the Bahamas. He will be staying with them and their two boys, Jeffrey and Andrew, as well as their dog Carter, until May.

(2) Scott Garland on having started his own company, Scott Garland Events. This is the firm to contact for exquisite Biltmore Estate weddings, Smoky Mountain corporate events, birthday parties and more. For more information, please click:
<http://www.scottgarlandevents.com/>

(3) Elvis, somewhat belatedly . . . January 8th was his birthday and whether you don't believe he ever died (or if he just went into hiding), you can still pay homage to him by clicking the following video . . . his is the third part of the clip . . . you'll also find some great photos of him . . . in addition, check the other versions of the song that I've included so you can compare and contrast . . . make sure you listen to the second rendition by a performer named Sissel; she is rapidly becoming another of my favorites.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDDbjWcJn-k>

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

This week, it goes to Karen Mazza--owner and web developer at Studio88, a full service web firm.

I met Karen shortly after I moved to the Asheville area some three years ago. She immediately impressed me with her knowledge, along with her willingness to help whenever and wherever asked.

In particular, she has been of big help to me in my service as an Asheville SCORE consultant. She has also helped improve my Facebook page as a result of enabling me to include links in my Notes (information that just can't be found in the Facebook Help section).

Karen is a search engine optimization specialist. And she's been developing websites for the past six years.

For more information, please click:
www.thestudio88.com

Or call Karen at 828.252.3612 for a free one-hour consultation.

EXAMPLE OF KAREN'S HELP: Previously, if I typed the following in the Notes section on Facebook . . . www.blaineworld.net, I'm pretty sure you would be able to see it on your Wall . . . but it wouldn't appear as a link that you could click.

But if I type the above using html coding, it should appear as a link that you could click . . . let me try:

```
<a href="http://www.blainesworld.net">Check out my site</a>
```

The result: You should see the words "Check out my site" and if you click them, you'll go directly to my website.

Let me know if that's the case.

MY TWO CENTS: The above is a pain; however, it is something I'll attempt to use more often in the future for those who only read this newsletter on Facebook. That said, it points out another reason for getting a separate email copy of BLAINESWORLD each week. All the links are clickable. Furthermore, you never miss an issue since it gets delivered right to your email box. (On Facebook, if you don't check your Wall on a very regular basis, you may well miss issues on a fairly regular basis.)

Back To Top

2. FYI

I'm still not a big fan of texting . . . make that, I don't like texting at all . . . but I realize that I'm becoming somewhat of a dinosaur on this point . . . and if I want to reach Risa, my daughter, I'm finding a need to text more and more.

So I was especially grateful for this advice I recently received from Teresa in North Carolina:

You can compose an email and send it to any cell phone--either as a message to someone OR as a way to compose a text message (on a real keyboard) and then send it onwards.

Very simple:

Just compose email and send to 10 digit phone number @vtext.com (that's for Verizon)

So for me, it's: 828xxxxxx@vtext.com

For all cell carriers, see: <http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/email-to-sms>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips:

(1) Donna in Alabama: My favorite singer and song for 2011 . . . Adele: Someone Like You
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLQI3WQoQ0&feature=share>

(2) Happy New Year - Auld Lang Syne by Sissel
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x91rBzNKvlc>

(3) Mark in North Carolina: This has got to be one of the funniest duets! Ellen with Jennifer Hudson
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CRf7QpSjE&feature=share>

(4) Mark in North Carolina, again: Neil Diamond tribute
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WreqBkWHC4A&feature=share>

(5) Edie in Pennsylvania: Gordon Lightfoot--Beautiful
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRhEvjyk_dc

(6) One of the most amazing baseball plays you'll ever see
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kmuWIXQmQg>

(7) Kevin in Pennsylvania: DREAM ON (the 1990s TV show)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asp9Lr1wLbo&feature=email>

(8) Steve in New Jersey: ADOPT ME: Parker Loves to Watch TV
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mn3lyyDq3bk>

(9) "Price Is Right": Drew Carey, Neil Patrick Harris Tackled By Excited Contestant
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/04/price-is-right-drew-carey-neil-patrick-harris-tackled_n_1184497.html?ref=tv-replay&icid=maing-grid10|htmlws-main-bb|dl5|sec1_Ink3%26pLid%3D125019

(10) John in Pennsylvania: My cousin Cheryl from the early 70s:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGWFIZlqjPQ

(11) Natalie in Pennsylvania: Interesting magical illusion
<http://biggeekdad.com/2011/08/double-fantasy-magic-duo/>

(12) Natalie in Pennsylvania, again: Flashmob dancing in Denver airport
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/29/denver-airport-flash-mob_n_1118263.html?ref=travel&icid=maing-grid7%7Cmain5%7Cdl18%7Csec3_Ink1%7C116284

(13) Place NOT to have your hair done
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/11/tabatha-takes-over-tabath_n_1198601.html?ref=tv-replay&icid=maing-grid10%7Chtmlws-sb-bb%7Cdl3%7Csec1_Ink3%26pLid%3D126579

B. Other

To read any and/or all of the following, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-xz>

- (1) 10 strange but true New Year's traditions
- (2) Bob in North Carolina: This guy [Doug Blevins] is an inspiration to anyone
- (3) Bob in North Carolina, again: On resolutions
- (4) Pat in Pennsylvania: FREE TV offer!
- (5) Sharon in North Carolina: Thanks for the pumpkin cake recipe
- (6) Joe in New York: Your newsletters are an inspiration
- (7) Allen S. in North Carolina: I'm honored about the recognition
- (8) Herb in New Jersey: There's an Art House in South Beach running an obscure film festival
- (9) Diane in Pennsylvania: Bill and I watched The Help . . . it was excellent.
- (10) Allen D. in Pennsylvania: Once again a lot of drink, food and fun
- (11) Brian in North Carolina: Fun recipe for magical, alchemical ice cream!
- (12) Lee in California: FREE webinar open to anybody
- (13) Jess in Florida with an informative seminar, Mastering Facebook

[Back To Top](#)

3. JOKE 1: Punctuation lesson

See below. The same letter, written two different ways. The question: Which one is correct?

1. First version

Dear John:

I want a man who knows what love is all about. You are generous, kind, thoughtful. People who are not like you admit to being useless and inferior. You have ruined me for other men. I yearn for you. I have no feelings whatsoever when we're apart. I can be forever happy-- will you let me be yours?

Jane

2. Second version

Dear John:

I want a man who knows what love is. All about you are generous, kind, thoughtful people, who are not like you. Admit to being useless and inferior. You have ruined me. For other men, I yearn. For you, I have no feelings whatsoever. When we're apart, I can be forever happy.

Will you let me be?

Yours,
Jane

[Back To Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. WE BOUGHT A ZOO, based on a true story, is about a single dad who buys a dilapidated zoo and attempts to return it to its former success . . . it was way too predictable for me . . . and while Matt Damon was OK in the leading role, I felt that he had very little chemistry with Scarlett Johansson--his employee who becomes a bit more . . . Thomas Haden Church was funny whenever he appeared on screen; the film could have used more of him . . . I was also not too impressed with the sets . . . they just didn't have a realistic "look" to them . . . rated PG.

B. MONEYBALL is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #783 follows:

I read MONEYBALL, the book by Michael Lewis, several years ago and thought it was great .

. . . MONEYBALL, the movie, is every bit as good . . . it's about the Oakland Athletics, a "small market" team that managed to compete with richer clubs by recruiting bargain players based on their statistics . . . though many scouts considered this approach flawed, it worked for the Oakland team . . . Brad Pitt is excellent as the general manager and the guy who put the team together . . . he is assisted by Jonah Hill who plays an Ivy League grad responsible for the statistical analysis . . . Philip Seymour Hoffman is very believable as Art Howe, the A's manager . . . rated PG-13, this is a must-see for baseball and/or statistics fans . . . if you're not into either subject, though, be forewarned--you might not like the film . . . Cynthia found it boring.

UPDATE: Art Howe wasn't crazy about his portrayal in the movie; in fact, he didn't like it at all . . . to see why, please click:

http://aol.sportingnews.com/mlb/story/2011-09-28/art-howe-disgusted-by-his-portrayal-in-moneyball-movie?icid=maing-grid10%7Chtmlws-main-bb%7Cdl18%7Csec1_Ink3%7C99781

C. When I read something and make notations on a lot of pages, that's a good sign that I'm liking it . . . that was certainly the case with MOXIE FOR MANAGERS (Fish Head Publishing) by Ann Tardy--founder and chief catalyst of her own company, LifeMoxie.

The author promises in her subtitle to share THE SECRET TO EVOLVING FROM MANAGER TO LEADER.

She delivers on this promise, too, with page after page of useful tips that can best be summarized by this one:

* If you want to be a moxie manager, your objective must be to make people as successful as possible; not to make yourself, your company, or your shareholders as successful as possible. Just people. When you serve people's success first, your success will be guaranteed and exponential. This is the key to moxie leadership. It is incredibly challenging, but unbelievably fulfilling.

In addition, I liked Tardy's explanation of something called the Second Question:

* As the Second Question. My good friend Cherryll Sevy introduced me to her theory of the "Second Question." Most people ask one question and then hijack the conversation with their own story, similar experience, or commentary. For instance, typical people may ask the standard first question, "What do you do?" When they hear the answer, they instantly jump in with, "That's interesting. I have a friend who does that." Or "I used to do that." Or some comment like, "I bet the market has not been good for you."

The self-confident, self-assured person does not need to entertain, impress, and be interesting. Instead they focus on being interested and connecting with the other person by staying interested in them. People who are committed to connecting always ask a Second Question, such as, "How did you get into that career?" or "What's a typical day like for you?" or "What is that experience like?" or "How does it feel to run that department?" or "What's it like to work with new clients?" My favorite Second Question is "What do you love about your job?" People love talking about themselves, and in the process I learn so much about them with this straightforward Second Question.

Lastly, what made the book so valuable for me was the fact that it contained many real examples--such as the following:

* Green Bay Packers coach Mike McCarthy similarly leveraged the diagnosis bias to influence champion behavior in his team when they needed it most. The night before the Super Bowl, coach McCarthy had each player and coach fitted for a Super Bowl championship ring. The next day the Green Bay Packers won Super Bowl XLV over the Pittsburgh Steelers, 31-25. Did Coach McCarthy predict the win or just influence it? Was it simply presumptuous and brazen or incredibly strategic.

MOXIE FOR MANAGERS is one of my favorite books of the year . . . OK, OK, it's still early . . . however, I doubt that opinion is going to change; in fact, the more I think about the tidbits contained therein, the more I go back to review them.

D. SPONTANEOUS HAPPINESS (Hachette Audio), written and read by Dr. Andrew Weil, is an interesting book for anybody who is struggling with depression or simply wants to feel happier.

He contends that the best way to maintain this state is to draw on both conventional and alternative medicine . . . and to help you get there, Weil draws from psychotherapy, mindfulness training Buddhist psychology, nutritional science and more, coming up with a strategies that can help you alter your lifestyle--for the better.

Among just some of them were these, taken by my favorite chapter on mind-oriented approaches to emotional well-being:

* Read up on positive psychology and select a few interventions that have helped people become more optimistic and happier.

* Experiment with mental imagery as an alternative focus for your attention. Work with a particular image or place you associate with positive emotions and focus on that whenever you feel sad, anxious, stressed, depressed or in the grip of negative thinking.

And my favorite:

* Exercise greater conscious control over what you let in your mind, especially from the media. Try taking breaks from the news. Set limits to the amount of time you spend on the Internet with email, on the phone, in front of the television, etc. Information overload will get you, especially if you don't take steps to protect yourself.

I don't know whether I'll be able to put all Weil's suggestions into effect, but I will at least attempt to implement many of them . . . and he makes this easier to do as a result of the eight-week program that can be customized according to specific needs.

[Back To Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. THE FIRM updates the John Grisham thriller of 20 years ago . . . this time, the lawyer (well played by the always watchable Josh Lucas) emerges after having spent many years in a witness protection program . . . Thursdays at 10 p.m. on NBC.

B. The 2011 PURINA INCREDIBLE DOG CHANNEL NATIONAL FINALS has canines from around the world competing in Olympic-style events such as hurdle racing the Frisbee catching. Look for Vhoebe, a Belgian Malinois, to break a world record with a dock-diving leap of 31 feet, 8 inches. Saturday at 5 p.m. on NBC.

C. ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS returns for the first of three 20th-anniversary specials on BBC America on Saturday at 11:30 p.m. . . . according to THE NEW YORK TIMES, "It's a relief to report that Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley, aka Edina and Patsy, the middle-aged, spendthrift heroines of "Absolutely Fabulous," are back . . . unchanged and still quite funny. It turns out that the duo's particular brand of substance abuse, self-absorption and high-end shopping is recession-proof

D. I'll probably watch my first awards show of the year, THE GOLDEN GLOBES, to see if Zooey Deschanel deservedly wins for Best Actress, Comedy . . . and to view the tribute to Morgan Freeman, the winner of the Cecil B. Demille Award . . . I also like the fact that Ricky Gervais is again hosting . . . Sunday at 8 p.m. on NBC.

[Back To Top](#)

6. JOKE 2: Time for change



Above is reprinted with the gracious permission of Pat Achilles. If one of your resolutions is to have more joy in your life for 2012, make sure you sign up for her FREE cartoon each week by going to:

<http://achillesportfolio.com/freecartoonsignup.htm>.

[Back To Top](#)

7. Websites

A. Mary in North Carolina:

This is a wonderful source of information for new, as well as established residents [in Asheville]:

<http://wikitravel.org/en/Asheville>

NOTE: I've also put together a useful listing of resources, articles, etc. that I'd be glad to share . . . if interested in receiving it, please send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put ASHEVILLE INFORMATION in the subject line.

B. Two of my favorite SART friends have come out with fantastic YouTube clips:

(1) Athena in North Carolina--doing a beautiful job on singing "No Place Home," which was written by Don Johns . . . Ben Gatlin did the amazing guitar work.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcVDYNcM4pY>

(2) Chandler in North Carolina with the first of a web series that he has produced, "Clowning Around with Georgie, Episode #1" . . . it's destined to be a collector's item.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJY_5WUv77A&feature=context&context=C3b1eac4ADOEgsToPDskLQzaEvGdxIW_eT8wzLrILJ

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

If you're new to the missive or missed a past issue, you can usually find them by clicking "Newsletter" to the left and then "Archives" . . . sometimes, it's fun to just look at some old issue . . . I did this recently and came up with this great quote from BLAINESWORLD #465:

The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible.-
-Arthur C. Clarke, science fiction author

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:

www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield

Back To Top

8. Computer tip

PLEASE BE CAREFUL ONLINE and especially while using Facebook. To see why, read this excellent article from THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. And when you see the illustration in the middle of the article, click it on to see it at full size. You'll learn more about the "free" offer from the Cheesecake Factory and what you need to do when you see such things. (In general, there is no such thing as a free lunch!)

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203686204577112942734977800.html?](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203686204577112942734977800.html?KEYWORDS=spam+finds+new+target)

KEYWORDS=spam+finds+new+target

And an additional thought from yours truly: In general, stay away from anything that asks for Facebook approval to get into your account. I've found that whenever that happens--e.g., for birthday cards, New Year cards, virtually anything else, all sorts of cr*p starts appearing on your Wall--and your friend's Walls, too.

Back To Top

9. JOKE 3: Now you'll understand

The English language has some wonderfully anthropomorphic collective nouns for the various groups of animals.

We're all familiar with a Herd of cows, a Flock of chickens, a School of fish and a Gaggle of geese. However, less widely known is a Pride of lions, a Murder of crows (as well as their cousins the rooks and ravens), an Exaltation of doves and, presumably because they look so wise, a Parliament of owls.

Now consider a group of Baboons. They are loud, obnoxious, viciously aggressive and least intelligent of all primates. And what is the proper collective noun for a group of baboons? Believe it or not--a Congress!

That pretty much explains the things that come out of Washington.

Back To Top

10. A quote I like

Adversity is another way to measure the greatness of individuals. I never had a crisis that didn't make me stronger.--Lou Holtz (born 1937), retired American football coach and active sportscaster, author and motivational speaker

[Back To Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

Should Old Acquaintance Be Forgot ...
by Joe McDermott*

The daily comic delivers the Sunday ads and features section a day early now so it gives me a heads-up on my horoscope for the following day. Nothing like getting bad news early. Anyway, my fortune for New Year's Day suggests that I get old relationships in order so that I can move ahead to a profitable and healthy 2012.

Sure gonna miss those guys . . .

Not bad advice and it got me thinking about some of my closest friends and how they have impacted my life. You know what? They have to go. It's not going to be easy; it seems like I've been close to some of these guys forever. But it's time to say aloha, hasta la vista, sayonara.

I hope they don't hold grudges.

I'm talking to you, Famous Amos. What can I say, dude? You are da man! I can't think of how many mornings you have given me that little kick I need to get going. I love you, man, but it's time, it's time.

Sugar. You've been there my whole life, sweetness, and it seems like you're part of everything. But enough is enough. Time to move on and find another honey.

The Utz family. You guys are the best! How many nights have we spent together, watching TV and chowing down? You're like a second family to me, but guys, I have to make some tough decisions here. It's time to go our separate ways. I know you'll find others out there. There are plenty like me who crave that salty relationship we have enjoyed for so long. You'll be fine.

Finally, Dick Yuengling and the gang in Pottsville. Man, this is the hardest. Everybody says you guys made me the man I am today. Really. Sometimes it seems like we get together just about every night and its always been a blast, but c'mon, man, people are talking. We have to find new friends.

I know, I know. I hear you guys. Without you, I'll probably be half the man I am now, but I have to take that chance.

I've found a New Balance in my life. I'm back on the old Trek and I'm moving on. Heck, by this time next year, I might even be living on Planet Fitness. I know it's going to be hard and I'm gonna miss all of you, terribly. But hey, we can still see each other at parties and family gatherings, right? We won't be total strangers.

In the meantime, I've got to shoulder some new weight and push against the resistance to get where I want to be. I know you'll all understand, someday. It's been fun, but it's time to say farewell, au revoir, Auld Lang Syne.

Hey, maybe I'll see you all next New Year's Eve and we'll put down a few, just for old time's sake. Later, old friends.

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Joe McDermott from Joe's blog, THE BULLDOG EDITION. For more information about this always-interesting missive, please click: <http://thebulldogedition.wordpress.com/about/>

[Back To Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

A. North Carolina events:

(1) **** CONTEST #1 (for 2012) *****

One lucky reader will win one FREE ticket to see Brian Biro, my Asheville friend and an amazing speaker, present at the annual Lessons in Leadership event at the brand new Kimmel Arena at UNCA in Asheville on Tuesday, January 24 at 6:15 p.m. . . . if you don't know him yet, I should tell you that he is widely regarded as "America's Breakthrough Coach" . . . and he will be providing a personal breakthrough experience to all those fortunate to attend . . . I have participated in one of his seminars; it was unbelievable!

TO ENTER CONTEST: Put CONTEST #1 in the subject line. In the body of your email, include both your name and snail mail address. Entries must be received on or before Sunday night, January 15, 2012.

NOTE: If you don't win the contest and/or you wish to purchase additional tickets, they are just \$20, and all the money-after expenses-goes to support local charities . . . for more information and to register, please click this link: <http://www.wncleaders.com/>. If you've already bought a ticket and you are the winner, I'll reimburse you cost of the ticket.

(2) To catch Cynthia:

JourneyDance/Move Your Body

A freeing movement experience. We start with a short sharing, visualization, and stress melting stretches. As you are led into easy movements, you are then guided to move intuitively on your own. End with delicious relaxation. Feast upon safety, connection, joy, release, and the healing experience of music. All body types and energy levels are celebrated. No dance experience required.

Being offered at three separate times at three separate locations:

* Center for Creative Retirement

Jan. 12, 19, 26th Feb. 2, 9, and 16th. Thursdays from 2:00-3:30.

Call Center for Creative Retirement to enroll: 828-251-6140.

* Biltmore Lake Clubhouse

Jan. 17th, Tuesday, 6:30-8:00 PM

Call Cynthia at 828.633.1049 to enroll. Free class.

* Jewish Community Center

Jan. 25th, Wed. 6:30-8:00

Call Cynthia at 882.633.1049 to enroll. \$5.00 for the class.

(3) To catch me [Blaine]:

I'm presenting a session on "How to Prepare an Elevator Speech" on Thursday, January 12 at 4:45. Location: AB Tech (Enka campus). Free, but email me to register and to get exact room location. Send email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put ELEVATOR SPEECH in the subject line.

(4) Volunteers Needed

If you've been looking for an opportunity to volunteer for a good cause, now's your chance.

Mission Childrens' Hospital needs your help for its 4th annual Radiothon with KISS Country 99.9. Volunteers are needed to staff booths throughout the mall in 3-hour shifts on either Friday, February 17th or Saturday, February 18th. For more information, please contact our Biltmore Lake volunteers, Blaine Greenfield at 633-1049, email: bjinbc@aol.com or Carol Keleher at 670-7821, email: tjkeleher@msn.com.

In addition, the Radiothon is in need of musicians/entertainers who would be available in 2 hour shifts on either Friday or Saturday. If you'd be interested in performing or you know somebody who might be, please contact Marilynne Herbert, another volunteer, at 633.2049; email: MHerbert1@aol.com.

The Radiothon has raised over \$300,000 to help the children of Western North Carolina. Mission Childrens' Hospital never bases care on the ability to pay. We need your help to continue to serve all children in our area. The Radiothon is a lot of work from a lot of dedicated people, and we invite you to join in this joyful experience.

For more information about the Radiothon, please visit:

<http://www.99kisscountry.com/pages/radiothon2011.html>.

(5)-(14) To read more about and/or all of the following, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-x9>

- (5) Asheville Talent Slam on Feb. 11
- (6) "ASHEVILLE AND THE ARTS" every Thursday from 11 a.m.-Noon
- (7) Chamber music in the heart of downtown Asheville
- (8) Weekly group for men
- (9) Solstice by John Crutchfield at Magnetic Field
- (10) NC Stage Presents "Fight Girl Battle World"
- (11) Asheville Citizen's Police Academy
- (12) Volunteers are needed to help with the upcoming men's and women's tournaments
- (13) Bruce Lang at Grove Park Inn
- (14) Coach Doug Blevins at Biltmore Lake

B. PA/NJ event:

COME BACK, LITTLE SHEBA--GRIPPING NET STAGE DRAMA

EVENT: COME BACK, LITTLE SHEBA: William Inge's classic 1950s drama Come Back, Little Sheba takes to Morrisville's Heritage Center stage for a four-weekend run. A troubled marriage reaches the breaking point when a middle-aged couple fighting alcohol problems takes in an attractive college girl as a boarder. C. Jameson Bradley of Quakertown directs Tami Feist of Levittown and Brian Jason Kelly of Doylestown. Costarring (alphabetically) Lance Amici, Giz Coughlin, Michael Culnan, Alexa Gutter and Ethan Daniel Levy. Featuring Marco Newton and Dennis McGuire. Stage managed by Matthew Cassidy. Set design and construction by C. Jameson Bradley. Lighting design by Andrena Wishnie. Sound design by Ed Correale. Costumes by Cheryl Doyle.

DATES: Jan. 20 – Feb. 12, 2012. (Please note this is a four-weekend run.)

TIMES: Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

PLACE: The Heritage Center, 635 North Delmorr Avenue (Route 32), Morrisville, PA – near the Calhoun Street Bridge.

ADMISSION: \$20 for adults, \$17 for seniors and \$10 for children age 12 and under. Parental discretion advised. To reserve, call the nonprofit Actors' NET at 215-295-3694 or email actorsnet@aol.com. On-line tickets can be purchased via www.brownpapertickets.com.

ON THE INTERNET: The company's website is www.actorsnetbucks.org. Social networking includes Facebook page, "ActorsNET, AKA Actors' NET of Bucks County" and Twitter name @actorsnet.

COMING MARCH 2 – 25: TERRA NOVA. Mark Versprille directs Ted Tally's devastating drama about Robert Scott's doomed expedition to the South Pole. An unforgettable stage epic!

Back To Top

PS. Make it a great week!

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BLAINESWORLD

BLAINESWORLD
#797
1.2.2012

In this issue:

1-13. **Reflections** (ONLY)

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had quite some week . . . hence, this SPECIAL EDITION . . . it will not follow the format of past issues, in large part because of the fact that there are so many pictures to share . . . please look for your regular issue of BLAINESWORLD next week with all the jokes, reviews, etc. that you've grown to expect. And hopefully love, too.

B. Primarily, we were busy celebrating the Chanukah/Christmas/Kwanzaa holidays, as well as welcoming in the New Year. In addition, we got to spend a lot of our time with our good friends Natalie and Ivan who were visiting from Pennsylvania.

2. We all had a blast on the special Lazoom Holiday Tour . . . this is a trip through Asheville unlike any other . . . you get to ride in an iconic purple bus and see the city's funny side . . . along the way, you get to meet many unbelievable characters.

That's Lester Oteen, our tour guide, on the right.



He was hysterical, especially when he was calling out to onlookers in the street.

A. To one guy walking a scooter, he yelled, "Why don't you drive? It's much easier if you ride it."

B. To a car following us, he told the driver, "Pay next time. You can't just follow us and get a free tour of Asheville."

C. To somebody at an ATM Machine, he asked, "What's your pin?"

Madison J. Cripps was equally funny . . . somehow, he managed to meet us at many spots along the way--playing a different role at each one. For more information about these fantastic tours, please click:

<http://www.lazoomtours.com/>

3. On another day, we went to the Grove Park Inn to see the annual Gingerbread Competition . . . some of the creations are incredible . . . also, the whole facility is beautifully decorated for the holidays . . . there's even a sled in the front lobby, which of course we just had to try.



4. One night, we attended a lively, fun-filled show featuring Bombs Away Cabaret-- Asheville's foremost cabaret and burlesque collaborative . . . "Get Some Faerie Tail" was the theme, and it also showcased psycho-cabaret band Hellblink, along with Walter and Keith from the juggling troupe Forty Fingers and a Missing Tooth. That's us--after the show--with Walter.



RECOMMENDATION: If you ever get the chance to see any and/or all of the above groups perform in the area, grab the opportunity . . . they're all great!

Bombs Away Cabaret can next be seen at the Magnetic Field on January 18, performing with the Accidental Circus . . . for more information, please click:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/event/2659818589/efblike>

And, in general, you can read more about the Bombs Away Cabaret by clicking:

<https://www.facebook.com/BombsAwayCabareet>

Information on Hellblink can be found by clicking:

<http://www.hellblink.com/>

To find out more about Forty Fingers and a Missing Tooth, please click:

<http://fortyfingersjuggling.com/>

5. On another night, we journeyed to the Trinity Presbyterian Church to see Cynthia perform in a moving Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace . . . that's her dancing with her friends Lorre (pictured), Anita and Dawn.



Special kudos to Lorre for having choreographed the one piece, "Shalom," which was a tribute to Rabbi Brad Hirschfield.

6. A highlight of our time with Natalie and Ivan was the fact that we got to take them to some of our favorite area restaurants . . . we had dinners at Vinnie's, Oriental Pavilion, Bistro 1896 and Early Girl Eatery, and as is usually the case at these eateries, we enjoyed every meal. Part of the reason was the food, but also a big factor was the company!

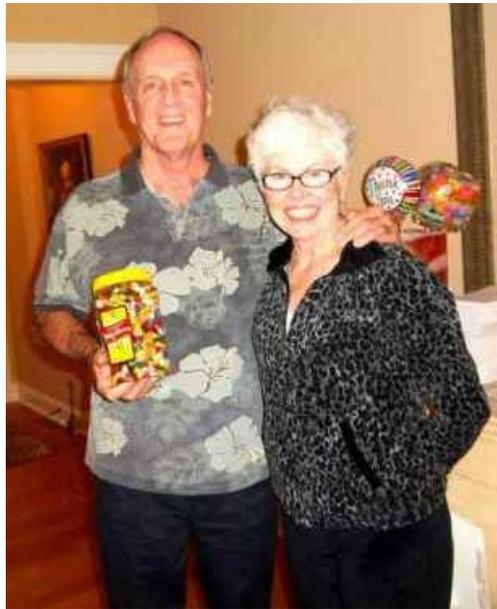
7. We were fortunate that Natalie and Ivan were able to stay around through New Year's Eve, at which we invited a few neighbors and friends to join them.



(Natalie and Ivan with name tags just so they would know who they were!)



(Muffie, right, showing her artwork to Julia and the others.)



(Terry and Muffie, proudly displaying the jar of jelly beans that Terry won for being the closest guess as to the total number in the jar.)

8. Cynthia led an interesting discussion of "Intentions for the New Year," at which everybody shared their thoughts.



(That's her getting things rolling, joined by our friends Tom and Marcie.)

A. When it was my turn, I first shared this oh-so-touching story:

Cynthia was taking an afternoon nap on New Year's Eve before the festivities. After she woke up, she confided to Blaine, her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a diamond bracelet for a New Year's present. What do you think it all means?"

"Aha, you'll know tonight," answered Blaine--smiling broadly.

At midnight, as the New Year was chiming, Blaine approached Cynthia and handed her a small package. Delighted and excited, she opened it quickly. There in her hand rested a book entitled: THE MEANING OF DREAMS.

B. I then added the following as my intention:

Another year is dawning! Let it be
For better or worse, another year with thee

C. Our friend Majo then wowed everybody with a poem he had written . . . to read it for yourself, and I strongly encourage you to do so, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-xd>

9. By midnight, we were all stuffed . . . the food from Frank's had been excellent . . . we've used the West Asheville location before and have never been disappointed . . . for more information, please click:

<http://www.franksromanpizza.com/>

A. In addition, the desserts from both Sam's Club and our partygoers and were delicious.

B. We next gathered around my laptop to watch the ball drop from Times Square . . . yes, it was being shown on several websites . . . what we liked best about doing it this way was that nobody had to battle the freezing cold!



(Us, welcoming in 2012!)



(Our friends Larry and Shela, also welcoming in the New Year.)

10. ADVANCE PLANNING DEPARTMENT: Catch blues guitarist Chuck Beattie . . . he begins playing a new Sunday Blues Brunch series at Jacks of Hearts in Weaverville, starting this Sunday at 1 p.m. . . . he'll be joined by harmonica player Kenny Dore and guitarist Jack Dillen . . . for more information, see an excellent article about him that appeared in TAKE FIVE:

<http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20120106/ENT02/301060010/Bluesman-Chuck-Beattie-starts-Sunday-brunch-series?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Frontpage|s>

11. MOVIE RECOMMENDATION: We've seen most of the films that have come out over the past few weeks and one of our favorites has been MY WEEK WITH MARILYNN . . . it's the true story of 23-year old Colin Clark who is determined to make a career for himself in the entertainment industry . . . as his first job, he is assigned to work as a third director on the set of THE PRICE AND THE SHOWGIRL . . . his job quickly morphed into becoming Marilyn Monroe's confidant as she worked with Sir Laurence Olivier . . . the film is sweet, there are some humorous moments and Michelle Williams will likely get an Oscar nomination for her work as Monroe--and deservedly so . . . Kenneth Branagh is excellent, too, as Olivier . . . rated R, though methinks it would be appropriate for mature teenagers.

12. CONGRATULATIONS to Nancy in Pennsylvania, winner of Contest #21 . . . her copy of the audio book version (containing 2 MP3 CDs) of BEAUTIFUL DARKNESS by Kami Gardia & Margaret Stohl is in the mail . . . all told, there were four entries in this contest, which reminds me, it is now time to announce . . .

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amazing speaker, present at the annual Lessons in Leadership event at the brand new Kimmel Arena at UNCA in Asheville on Tuesday, January 24 at 6:15 p.m. . . . if you don't know him yet, I should tell you that he is widely regarded as "America's Breakthrough Coach" . . . and he will be providing a personal breakthrough experience to all those fortunate to attend . . . I have participated in one of his seminars; it was unbelievable!

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13. Condolences to Gary Marks and family on the passing of Gary's wife Ava, Cynthia's long time friend. Our prayers and comfort are wished for Gary, his son Sam and daughter Rebecca.

Back To Top

PS. Make it a great week! And don't forget: I'm presenting a session on "How to Prepare an Elevator Speech" on Wednesday, January 11 at 4:45 p.m. Location: AB Tech (Enka campus), Candler, NC, in the Enka Room 2001 in the Small Business Center. The session is FREE, but please email me to register so I can have enough materials for all in attendance. Send email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put ELEVATOR SPEECH in the subject line.

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