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BLAINESWORLD

Teaching

**Dispute
Resolution**

Speaking

Consulting

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

#953

12.29.2014

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1. Reflections

Note: See Section 7A for a website that's sure to inspire you!

Also, if you're reading this via Facebook and/or in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, you can make sure you don't miss an issue (and you get it earlier, too) by clicking:

<http://tinyurl.com/ozgmxgs>

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Celebrated Christmas with a movie (ANNIE, which was cute, though not nearly as good as the original), and then because we couldn't get reservations at the Korean House, we had dinner with our friend Susan Dobroski at Shogun Buffet. Our meal was quite good.



(2) Afterward, we went to the home of other friends to judge their gingerbread house competition. Pictured with us, l-r: Will Hester, Jeffrey Hester, Andrew Hester and Monica Hester. In very close voting, the one on the right (made by Will and Andrew) won.



(3) During the week, we got to meet our neighbors' granddog Dewey. That's Dan Vacca, Dewey's pet grandpa in the background.



(4) We also got to meet our friend Emily Shaules for dinner at Vinnie's where the food is always great, as is the service (this time from David Harrell).



(5) And recently, we enjoying having the pleasure of Darlene Kucken as our dining companion at Texas Roundhouse. Our meals were all very tasty.



B. Condolences to:

- (1) Peter Tamm and family on the passing of Peter's father Al.
- (2) Jenny Patton-Lewis and family on the passing of Billy G. Patton, Jenny's father.

C. Congratulations to:

- (1) Katrina Chenevert becoming one of the resident artists in the Riverview Station building, 191 Lyman Street, Asheville, NC.
- (2) Diane Pickett on having her book, NEVER ISN'T LONG ENOUGH, receive the following four awards: the 2014 National Indie Excellence Award for Regional fiction, honorable mention in the Southern California Book Festival for fiction, best cover by the Florida Authors and Publishers Association and the 2015 award for history by the Florida Book Festival.
- (3) Amy LaDeroute on being profiled in WNC WOMAN:
<http://www.wncwoman.com/2015/01/02/women-making-music-amy-laderoute/>
- (4) Julie Godfrey and Jim Laybourn on their marriage
- (5) Dollie Smith-Feldmeth on having passed her final exam to become a CDFA (Certified Divorce Financial Analyst).
- (6) NC Stage Company, SART, Parkway Playhouse, Montford Park Players and Different Strokes--all cited for excellent plays this past year in Jeff Messer's piece on the best of 2014 in local theater. To read this informative piece for yourself, please click:
<http://mountainx.com/arts/the-best-in-local-theater-of-2014/>
- (7) Asheville for being cited in this travel blog:
5 experiences not to miss in North Carolina's Asheville
http://www.aluxurytravelblog.com/2014/12/28/5-experiences-not-to-miss-in-north-carolinas-asheville/?utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=twitterfeed
- (8) Asheville, again, on being named as a top place to visit by Frommer's. For more information, please click:
<http://www.frommers.com/slideshows/847982-frommer-s-best-places-to-go-in-2015#slide848855>
- (9) The above mention also got featured on GOOD MORNING AMERICA:
<http://mountainx.com/news/frommer-on-good-morning-america-asheville-is-2015s-no-1-travel-destination/>
- (10) Susan and Paul Runnels on the birth of Dax Kenyon Skinner, their first grandson.
- (11) Michelle Baker who will be on Nathan Miller's podcast, Finding Asheville, to discuss THE CANOE. Friday, January 9, at 9 a.m. Tune in by clicking:
<http://findingasheville.com>
- (12) Lois Lytingale Henrickson on her upcoming Sabbatical from her position as Minister of Music at Unity Center in Mills River NC, starting Feb. 1.

And to Richard Shulman who will serve as temporary Music Director in her absence.

D. Reminders

(1) There's still time to register for the following event (where I'll be briefly speaking):
ASHEVILLE JEWISH BUSINESS FORUM

Monday, January 5 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Where: Yao 153 Smoky Park Highway, Asheville, NC

Bring in the New Year with a speed networking event where each of us will be able to tell the group something of ourselves. Blaine Greenfield will kick off the event by giving us some of his experiences in how to maximize our Networking efforts. Use this opportunity to increase your contacts for a productive 2015.

As usual, enjoy the sumptuous buffet at Yao at a charge of \$13, but if you're not hungry, just join us for this occasion.

Note: You don't have to be Jewish to attend this event!

To register, please email Blaine at bginbc@aol.com and put AJBF in the subject line.

(2) The first contest of the year remains open for entries.

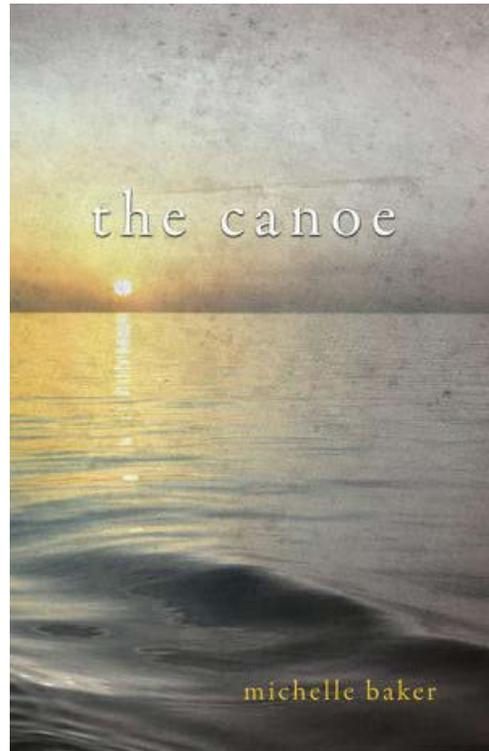
***** CONTEST #1 (of 2015) *****

There will be one lucky winner of an autographed copy of THE CANOE by Michelle Baker.

THE CANOE (Pine Needle Roadhouse Press) is a first novel by Michelle Baker. It is the story set in 1912 of a teenage son of a coffin maker and a middle-aged Englishwoman leaving home for the first time. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #937 and very much enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #1" 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 Monday, Jan. 5, 2015.



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

This week, it goes to Rev. Guy Sayles who recently stepped down as the senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Asheville after 13 years of dedicated service.

I first got to know Rev. Sayles through reading his enlightening blog, "From the Intersection: Reflections on Ways Life and Faith Meet." He even graciously let me run an entry. (See BLAINESWORLD #854.) If you'd like to see future posts, please click:

<http://guysayles.blogspot.com/>

I then learned of his yearlong journey with "Frank," the nickname he has given his cancer, and was moved by how he shared his reflections at the CaringBridge site. To read these, please click:

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/guysayles/journal>

Though I have not had the honor of meeting him personally--or at least not yet--I feel that I do know him as a result of his writings and, also, because all the good that I've heard about him via his daughter Mandy and many others in the community. Asheville is certainly a better place because of him!

For more information about Rev. Sayles, please read this article about him that was recently published in the CITIZEN-TIMES:

<http://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2014/12/24/pastor-asking-new-questions-life-cancer/20867453/>



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2. FYI

Toni F. in PA: Happy New Year, everyone. So . . . if you don't know what to do with all those Christmas cards you got, there is a program called the St. Jude's Ranch for Children Recycled Card Program in Boulder City, Nevada, that asks for donations of used Christmas and other greeting cards for their program. If you go on their site, the program is explained. (The children at the ranch make new cards out of your old ones.) You have to make sure that the back of the front side of the card has no writing on it. (They only use the front.) I always just take off the back of the card as well. They cannot accept cards by Hallmark, Disney or American Greeting. Oh, and this organization is not the same as the St. Jude's Children's Hospital (Danny Thomas). Peace.

<https://stjudesranch.org/about-us/recycled-card-program/>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Marilynne H. in NC: Derby the dog: Running on 3D Printed Prosthetics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRmoowIN8aY>

(2) Michelle B. in NC: Joe Cocker - With a Little Help From My Friends live

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y2RHMGqbWk>

between (a story about a clairvoyant who may or may not have magical powers) had me continually looking at my watch to see when it would be over . . . Colin Firth and Emma Stone have little chemistry in the two leading roles . . . rated PG-13.

For a much better rental, find POPULAIRE--a French romantic comedy about a secretary who is trained by her boss to become the world's fastest typist in 1958. It's a sweet film that has a great "look" to it. Rated R, but methinks it is appropriate for any teenager.

C. Read YOUR CUSTOMER IS THE STAR: HOW TO MAKE MILLENNIALS, BOOMERS AND EVERYONE ELSE LOVE YOUR BUSINESS (Forbes Media) by Micah Solomon.

Solomon, a bestselling author and consultant in the field of customer service, uses this eBook to first examine the Millennial generation. He then presents many examples and tips on how to best reach it.

I especially like the fact that he cites many real companies in such diverse fields as health care, hair styling and hospitality, among others.

Almost every page had me nodding and saying to myself, "Self, that's an idea that I could use with my clients."

For example, just imagine if every business answered their phones this way: Call Cleveland Clinic today and you'll hear what I consider a mind-blowing greeting: "Thank you for calling Cleveland Clinic. Would you like to be seen today?" Only after 4 p.m. does the greeting roll over to "Would you like to be seen tomorrow?"

Or what about if all establishments offered the following: Hotel 1888 in Sydney, better known as the "Instagram Hotel," facilitates social sharing through its customer experience, with pre-determined "selfie spaces" and an "Instagram walk" that they've mapped out for you. By celebrating the role of the hotel and its environs as a backdrop, 1888 makes sure it gets in the picture as well.

I've read and enjoyed two other books by Solomon. This may well be his best. And it may even get me to become a fan of eBooks, if for no other reason than the many links that are provided that enable you to get further information on any desired topic.

D. Heard INSTINCT: THE POWER TO UNLEASH YOUR INBORN DRIVE (Hachette Audio), written by T.D. Jakes and read by Ezra Knight.

The author, one of the world's most widely recognized pastors, has written a book that will help you align yourself with the inner wisdom of who you really are and what you've made to do. All you need to do is listen--something that's often easier said than done.

But Jakes helps make this possible by sharing things from his life; e.g., his marriage: We learned that one of the most lethal toxins to any relationship is predictability.

I also liked such advice as the following: People are happiest when you appreciate them for what they are now, not what they were when you first knew them. . . . [It's not] wrong for you to change.

My only complaint with the book was that Jakes did not read his own words. He is a powerful speaker. As such, I would have very much preferred him to have the narration.

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5. TV alert

A. GALAVANT. Sunday, Jan. 4, series premiere on ABC at 8 p.m. This four-week musical comedy is about a noble knight whose love is kidnapped by the king. Look for guest appearances from John Stamos, Ricky Gervais and "Weird Al" Yankovic.

B. RIPLEY: BELIEVE IT OR NOT. Tuesday, Jan. 6, on PBS at 9 p.m. (PBS times and dates sometimes vary, so check local listings.) I used to love reading the Hearst-syndicated "Believe It Or Not" cartoon when I was younger, so I'll be looking forward to this documentary about the man who may well have been the reason we now have reality TV.

C. EMPIRE. Wednesday, Jan. 7, series premiere on FOX at 9 p.m. According to TV GUIDE, this show is "a DYNASTY wish music in its twisted soul." I'll probably watch because of the two stars: Taraji P. Henson and Terrence Howard.

D. ALL ABOUT SEX. Saturday, Jan. 10, series premiere on TLC at 11 p.m. Margaret Cho hosts the network's first late-night talk show whose title tells you all you need to know what will be discussed.

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6. Joke 2

If you're trying to raise funds, act now--before it's too late!



"Check out Kickstopper: it crowdfunds money to shut down annoying Kickstarter projects."

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7. Websites

A. Be prepared to be amazed when you view this clip . . .

Carol D. in NC: Tony Melendez plays "Let It Be" on South Padre Island
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XulksdrJLY>

B. Natalie K. in PA: For anyone who ever needs prayers said for loved ones or themselves, I wanted to let you know about Silent Unity. I can't tell you how many times I've called them and how effective it's been, including when I was in the hospital before having a cardiac cath which I was in terror of. They pray with you on the phone and continue praying for a whole month, 24/7. The number is 1.800.669.7729. It's the same organization that publishes Daily Word Magazine. To find out more, please click:
<http://www.unity.org/about-us>

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

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

Ever wonder about how many others check out the above? To find out, view the counter in the bottom left 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:
<https://www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield>



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8. Technology tip

Last week, I asked for feedback on password managers. Several readers wrote back; among the emails I received were the following:

Chuck S. in NJ: You mentioned password managers. I've been using LastPass for years now and it's quite good. Have not tried any others, but this one is aces in my book.

Jensen G. in NC: I use 1Password, though I also have a Dashlane account set up as well. Both are quality programs, and Dashlane definitely has something good going with their automatic password changer (though it's still in beta, so I don't widely recommend it yet, but they are definitely going in the right direction).

For people concerned about their password security I do recommend using a password manager and have helped many with setup. If you give it a go yourself make sure you do so during a period of time when you can take a few minutes to learn the ins and outs of the manager you choose. Password managers definitely make things easier in the long run, but have a learning curve when starting out.

Colleen D. in PA: I do not use an online password management system. I use an excel document kept on a flash drive. I think it it's safer than having all this information which could be hacked. In the document it's the website or company name, my login, my password, and other info such as a note about spelling or capitalization, a note about an image, or answers to security questions. I think this is safer and I print copies every so often as I need to.

Jeremy L. in NC: The password manager I use, Sue too, across iPhone, iPad and Win 7 desktop is RoboForm.

Also, I came across these two articles that contained useful information:

LastPass--Securely keep track of multiple passwords on multiple devices

https://askleo.com/lastpass_securely_keep_track_of_multiple_passwords_on_multiple_devices/

A quick fix for poor passwords

[http://www.wsj.com/articles/a-quick-fix-for-poor-passwords-1418126603?](http://www.wsj.com/articles/a-quick-fix-for-poor-passwords-1418126603?KEYWORDS=geoffrey+a+fowler)

[KEYWORDS=geoffrey+a+fowler](http://www.wsj.com/articles/a-quick-fix-for-poor-passwords-1418126603?KEYWORDS=geoffrey+a+fowler)

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9. Joke 3

When the doctor asked the editor how she was feeling, she said she was having a problem with her circulation.



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10. A quote I like

MY FAVORITE NEW YEAR'S EVE QUOTE (because it reflects how I felt about Cynthia, my beautiful bride, back on Dec. 31, 2003): "It's not because I'm lonely, and it's not because it's New Year's Eve. I came here tonight because when you realize you want to spend the rest of your life with somebody, you want the rest of your life to start as soon as possible."--Billy Crystal to Meg Ryan in WHEN HARRY MET SALLY, the classic 1989 comedy written by Nora Ephron. To view this scene from the film, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/oetdyfq>



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11. Thought for the day

Mario Cuomo (1932-2015, RIP).

I was saddened to learn of the recent passing of this three-term Governor of New York who, I think, would have made a great President. He was considered as the front-runner for the Democratic nomination in both 1988 and 1992, but declined to run either time.

Cuomo was also a masterful public speaker. The following is from a Commencement Address he gave at Iona College on June 3, 1984:

"Tell me, ladies and gentlemen, are we the ones to tell them what their instructors have tried to teach them for years? That the philosophers were right. That Saint Francis, Buddha, Muhammad, Maimonides--all spoke the truth when they said the only way to serve yourself is to serve others; and that Aristotle was right, before them, when he said the only way to assure yourself happiness is to learn to give happiness."

Source (of the above quote): LEND ME YOUR EARS: GREAT SPEECHES IN HISTORY, a 1992 book by William Safire

For more information about Cuomo, read this enlightening obituary from THE NEW YORK TIMES by clicking:

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/02/nyregion/mario-cuomo-new-york-governor-and-liberal-beacon-dies-at-82.html?_r=0

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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Mw>

A. NC events

(1) Join the magician founders of the public charity The Vanishing Wheelchair. (2) The Zuzu Welsh Band. (3) Dementia: Embracing the Moment. (4) JOHN & JEN. (5) ELEMENO PEA. (6) Rhoda Weaver in MOTOWN ON CREST MOUNTAIN.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Book Group lineup for Spring 2015 at Bucks County Community College. (2) Cuddle Party.

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PS. What this guy says makes sense to me--especially if I want to make 2015 my year. I hope it's your year, too, and toward that end, I propose the following toast: "Here's health to those I love and wealth to those who love me!"



Make it a wonderful week, too!



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#952
12.22.2014

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1. Reflections

Note: Please see BLAINESWORD BEST AWARD winner (after Section 1D) for an amazing story.

Also, if you're reading this via Facebook and/or in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, you can make sure you don't miss an issue (and you get it earlier, too) by clicking:

<http://tinyurl.com/ozgmxgs>

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had a blast at my community's Holiday Party in our Biltmore Lake Clubhouse. Kudos to Marilynne Herbert and Debbie Widen who, along with Karen Foley, headed the committee that helped make the evening the success that it was.

Pictured on the left with us: Johnny and Lezli Davis, and on the right: Richard Shulman and Heather Masterton.



Heather's group, the Heather Masterton Quartet, provided the entertainment for the evening. In addition to Heather on vocals and Richard on keyboard, Michael Filippone on bass and Sonny Thornton on percussion added to the fantastic sounds that can be heard by clicking any of the following links:

Heather Masterton Quartet: "Makin' Whoopee"

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

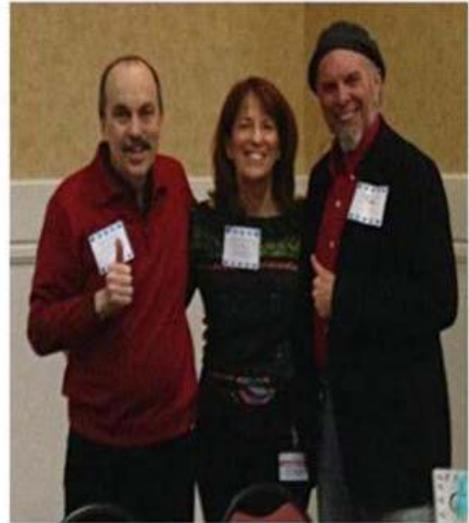
Heather Masterton Quartet: "My Shining Hour"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4q1TehQRCRs>

Gary Bien guesting with Heather Masterton Quartet: "White Christmas"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPJnpv81UBI>

Bruny Lugo & Linda Hollinshead with Heather Masterton Quartet: "Feliz Navida"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k968qj_BsK4

Gary Bien guesting with Heather Masterton Quartet: "I'll Be Home for Christmas"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XeOggDveVYs>

(2) Helped at Chanukah Live, a fun event hosted by the Chabad House of Asheville.
Pictured on the right with us: our friend Tebbe Davis. For more pictures, please click:
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152883656579757.1073741847.519364756&type=1&l=3505103e05>



(3) Delivered Chanukah meals for Jewish Family Services of Western North Carolina. That's us with Ariella Fleet, Elder Club Coordinator.



(4) Joined friends for a tasty dinner at Pomodoro's on Long Shoals Road where we had great service from Justine. L-R: Terry Boswell, Muffie Boswell and Julia Rosa.



B. I had the pleasure of both seeing and taping my friend Rhoda Weaver--Asheville's very talented street performer. To see her for yourself, please click any of the following links:
"Anyway"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_bab7I7TZM

"Chain of Fools"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MiMcNpnU9Ok>

"Hallelujah"

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

Note: Please join me in helping get her first CD off the ground by clicking:

<http://tinyurl.com/ogk5krm>



C. Congratulations:

- (1) Karen Covington and Mike Yow on their recent engagement.
- (2) Sherry Shapiro and Hans Greenberg on their recent engagement.
- (3) David Jones and his wife on the birth of their first daughter.
- (4) Steven Seidner on the birth of Dani B. Seidner, his granddaughter.
- (5) Nick Jordan on being featured in an article in THE BILTMORE BEACON. To read it, please click:
<http://static.villagesoup.com/Mountaineer/Beacon/combined%2012.11.pdf>
- (6) William Marshall on his engagement.
- (7) Jeanmarie F. in PA, winner of Contest #25: an autographed copy of BENEATH THE CHATTER by Tina FireWolf. All told, there were 15 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce

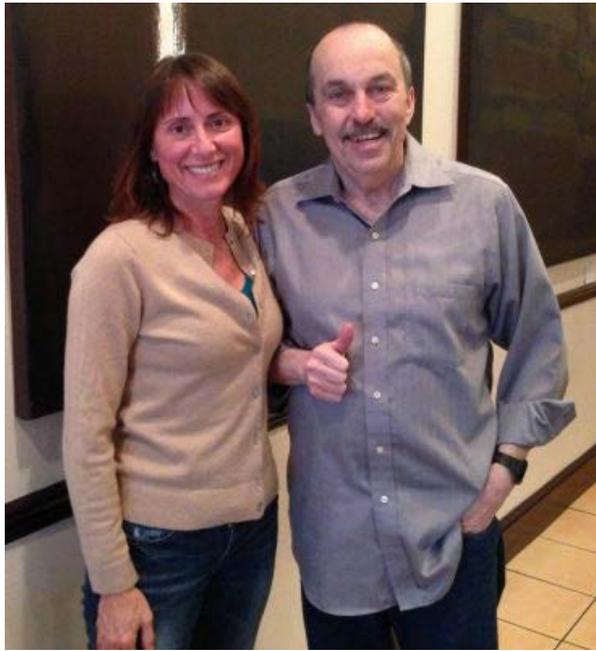
***** CONTEST #1 (of 2015) *****

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THE CANOE (Pine Needle Roadhouse Press) is a first novel by Michelle Baker. It is the story set in 1912 of a teenage son of a coffin maker and a middle-aged Englishwoman leaving home for the first time. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #937 and very much enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #1" 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 Monday, Jan. 5, 2015.

Pictured below: Michelle discussing the contest with yours truly at Cafe 64, one of my favorite eateries in Asheville, where you can also see Michelle's artwork on the wall behind us. It's currently on display.



D. Condolences to:

(1) Denise Carbonell and family on the passing of Michael Oliver Carbonell, Denise's brother.

(2) Joe Cocker, RIP . . . for a great clip of him performing Traffic's "Feelin' Alright," joined by John Belushi in imitation, click:

<http://tinyurl.com/kaknblt>

And in case you were curious about his mannerisms, according to Cocker, they "came with my frustration at having never played guitar or piano." He added: "It's just a way of trying to get feeling out. I get excited, and it all comes through my body." . . . for more information, click:

<http://tinyurl.com/n5wknt2>



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

This week, it goes to Maria Fonseca--an 87-year-old server at Turnk's Cypress Inn in

Boyce, LA.

Thanks, Annemarie Brown (her daughter) for submitting the following information:
I just received this video clip from the News Director in Alexandria, Louisiana, and thought you might find it interesting to meet my mom Maria.

Some of you have heard the story of my Mom, who at 87 is still an active waitress of around 50 years straight, and loves and appreciates her work and her clients beyond words. I speak with her almost every day and love to hear her stories, anecdotes and funny situations that mostly revolve around her work.

This past year, my grandson Jack did a very lengthy report of Maria's life. The news directors of this clip even read it and told me this was the hardest story for them to edit because of the richness and the amount of material. I think they did pretty good to get it into two minutes.

Anytime you feel discouraged, tired of life, don't feel fulfilled, don't want to make that call or wondering how long you may even have left on this planet, think of Maria. It is always a reminder for me to be grateful, just be grateful for each day, any day, this day . . . this moment.

Enjoy meeting Maria via the link below:

<http://www.kalb.com/home/headlines/Down-Home-Louisiana-Special-Holiday-Food-286302071.html>

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2. FYI

To prevent running low on something, do what we do; i.e., reorder something (napkins, vitamins, etc.) when starting the last package or bottle. In the case of stuff we order by mail order, we also keep the packing slip from the previous order and tape it to that last package or bottle. This system works for us!

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Jim G. in PA: Pennsbury High School presents White Christmas "Happy Holiday/Let Yourself Go" (My son Zack is the guy on the left at the start of the show.)

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

(2) Barrie B. in NC: Song Crosses Boundaries of Religion and Memory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chOk04TFaM>

(3) Natalie K. in PA: God Bless Us Everyone (A Christmas Carol, The Musical)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POWAcVMXzJ4>

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Mc>

(1) Sugar Season. It's Everywhere, and Addictive. (2) Margie Z. in NC: We ate at the Korean House Sunday night. (3) Chuck F. in NC: Thanks, me friend, for nearly top billing in Blainesworld. (4) Sandy B. in NC: Great issue Blaine! (5) John M. in PA: I knew Hal Lefcourt from his many meanderings in this world. (6) Mike M. in NC: INTO THE WOODS. (7) Mark J. in NC: My review of INTO THE WOODS. (8) Gary J. in NC: The movie [INTO THE WOODS], by the way is fantastic. (9) Ruth P. in NC: Just watched Usual Suspects. (10) The Sydney Awards, Part 1. (11) Dee M. in PA: Thank you so very much for all the time spent on sending out your email each time.

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3. Joke 1

A couple was shopping at the mall on Christmas Eve, and it was packed. Walking out of a store, the wife looked up and noticed her husband wasn't around. She was very angry because they had a lot to do. . . . So she pulled out her cellphone to ask him where he was. The husband, in a calm voice, said, "Honey, remember the jewelry store we went into about five years ago, where you fell in love with that diamond necklace that we couldn't afford, and I told you that I would get it for you someday?" . . . Her anger quickly vanished. "Yes," she said, starting to cry. "I remember that well." . . . "Well," he said, "I'm in the bar right next to that store."



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4. Reviews

A. Saw *THE IMITATION GAME*, a fascinating biopic of British mathematician, cryptanalyst and war hero Alan Turing who helped shorten World War II and, in turn, saved thousands of lives. He did so by leading an eclectic group of scholars, linguists, chess champions and intelligence officers crack the so-called unbreakable codes of German's Enigma machine. Benedict Cumberbatch was outstanding as Turing, and Keira Knightley was also quite good. *THE IMITATION GAME* is tied right now (with *BOYHOOD*) for my Best Picture choice for 2014. Cumberbatch is up there, too, with Michael Keaton and Eddie Redmayne as my Best Actor choices. Rated PG-13.

Note: I just added the above to my list of favorite films. If you'd like to get a copy of this list, just send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

B. *THE GOOD LIE* IS now out on DVD . . . my review from *BLAINESWORLD* #941 follows: *THE GOOD LIE* tells the story of "The Lost Boys," a group of young victims orphaned by the brutal Civil war in Sudan that began in 1983. Some traveled as many as a thousand miles on foot in search of safety. Fifteen years later, a humanitarian effort would bring 3600 lost boys and girls to America. Their story is told in this touching film that also has many elements of humor. It is extremely well acted by Sudanese actors Arnold Oceng, Ger Duany, Emmanuel Jal and newcomer Nyakuoth Weil, as well as Reese Witherspoon. It is definitely one of my favorites that I've seen this past year. Rated PG-13.

C. Read *WIN FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS: RELATIONSHIP AND BUSINESS SUCCESS FROM EMPATHIC ACKNOWLEDGING* (444publishing) by Lawrence J. Bookbinder.

The author, a clinical psychologist, makes psychology come alive in this short, readable book that explains the following:

Empathic acknowledging is listening with empathy (empathic listening) to another person and then stating (acknowledging) your understanding of what she's communicating to you. He does so by using practical examples, such as the following:

I was in a self-serve soup and salad restaurant, and ready for dessert. After walking to the frozen yogurt machine, I noticed that vanilla was available, but alas, chocolate was not. There was an employee nearby, whose nametag read "Manager." I asked her, "What happened to the chocolate yogurt?"

"They didn't deliver it today," she replied, and then returned to what she was doing . . .

I thought that if she had added to her reply an empathic acknowledgement, such as "You seem disappointed," I probably would have felt less disappointed than I actually did.

Perhaps my favorite part of the book was the chapter on "Controlling the Urge to Talk." It presents three exercises that I'm going to try doing--repeatedly.

D. Heard *GOOD LEADERS ASK GREAT QUESTIONS: YOUR FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP* (Hachette Audio) , written and read by John C. Maxwell.

The author has sold more than 24 million books, and I've read or listened to many of them. This one is right up there with his best.

Maxwell explains that questions have changed his life, and he then shows how they can change yours. He does so, in large part, via answering 70 questions from people around

the word--including these:

How do I get started in leadership?

How do I motivate an unmotivated person?

When is the right time for a successful leader to move on to a new position?

I especially liked how he personally used the following to meet John Wooden, the legendary UCLA basketball coach:

Whom do you know that I should know?

He then went on to describe this question that Wooden used every day:

What can I do to make my team better?

Should you read GOOD LEADERS ASK GREAT QUESTIONS? My answer is an emphatic "Yes."

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5. TV alert

A. TAPIA: Monday, Dec. 29, at 10:30 p.m. on HBO

This documentary shows the boxer's final months through first-person narration and archival footage of both his fights and clashes with the law.

B. THE 37TH ANNUAL KENNEDY CENTER HOUR: Tuesday, , Dec. 30, at 9 p.m. on CBS
Stephen Colbert hosts the prestigious affair, which this year honors the likes of actor Tom Hanks, singer Al Green, dancer Patricia McBride, musician Sting and comedian Lily Tomlin.

C. WAKE UP CALL: Friday, Jan. 2, at 9 p.m. on TNT

The show follows Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson as he lends a helping hand to regular people facing everyday problems.

D. BILLY JOEL: THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS GERSHWIN PRIZE: Friday, Jan. 2, at 9 p.m. on PBS

The popular singer receives recognition for his work.

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

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6. Joke 2

"Scientists have announced that the sun is five billion years old. It just looks older because it's spent so much time in the sun."--Conan O'Brien, American television host and comedian

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7. Websites

A. Marvin S. in NC: A lesson for all. I promise to remember.

Asking Strangers For Food! (Social Experiment)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fC6RP6tZ1Q>

B. Sherry S. in PA: A very exciting compilation of the most watched moments on YouTube!

YouTube has become a big part of the life of many people. What was once a platform for people to share their videos for free is now a hub that shows much of the human experience. This amazing video is a compilation of the 2014 YouTube 233 biggest moments--everything from extreme sports, adorable animals, people making faces and more.

<http://www.ba-bamail.com/Content.aspx?emailid=13497&memberid=758011>

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

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

If you're in business and want to learn how to outthink your competition, methinks you'll enjoy an article I wrote. Click "Consulting," followed by "Article Samples" and then "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:

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



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8. Technology tip

Mr. Curious here: Do you use a password management system, in which all your passwords are maintained and, also, updated? If so, what one?

I'm thinking of switching to something that could do the above, but I'm still not sure of what program to use.

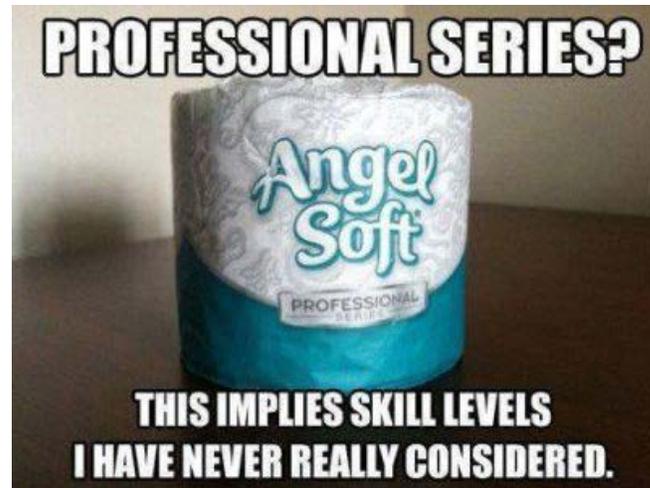
Here are some of the possibilities, as rated in PCmag.com:

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2407168,00.asp>

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9. Joke 3

This has me writing a note to myself: "Self, develop this skill set. It's never too late."



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10. A quote I like

"We don't have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world."--Howard Zinn (1922-2010), American historian, author, playwright and social activist

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11. Thought for the day

My hope is that you have a HAPPY KWANZAA, which reminds me of the following news that I just heard . . .

Continuing the current trend of large-scale mergers and acquisitions, it was announced today at a press conference that Christmas and Chanukah will merge. An industry source said that the deal had been in the works for about 1300 years. While details were not available at press time, it is believed that the overhead cost of having twelve days of Christmas and eight days of Chanukah was becoming prohibitive for both sides. By combining forces, we're told, the world will be able to enjoy consistently high-quality service during the Fifteen Days of Chrismukah, as the new holiday is being called.

Massive layoffs are expected with lords a-leaping and maids a-milking being the hardest hit. As part of the conditions of the agreement, the letters on the dreidel, currently in Hebrew, will be replaced by Latin, thus becoming unintelligible to a wider audience. Also, instead of translating to "A great miracle happened there," the message on the dreidel will be the more generic "Miraculous stuff happens." In exchange, it is believed that Jews will be allowed to use Santa Claus and his vast merchandising resources for buying and delivering their gifts.

One of the sticking points holding up the agreement for at least three hundred years was the question of whether Jewish children could leave milk and cookies for Santa even after having eaten meat for dinner. A breakthrough came last year, when Oreos were finally

declared to be Kosher. All sides appeared happy about this.

A spokesman for Christmas, Inc., declined to say whether a takeover of Kwanzaa might not be in the works as well. He merely pointed out that, were it not for the independent existence of Kwanzaa, the merger between Christmas and Chanukah might indeed be seen as an unfair cornering of the holiday market. Fortunately for all concerned, he said, Kwanzaa will help to maintain the competitive balance.

He then closed the press conference by leading all present in a rousing rendition of "Oy Vey, All Ye Faithful."



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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Mc>

A. NC events

(1) CHARETTE SUNDAYS. (2) A NIGHT OF SWEET TREATS. (3) Asheville Jewish Business Forum.

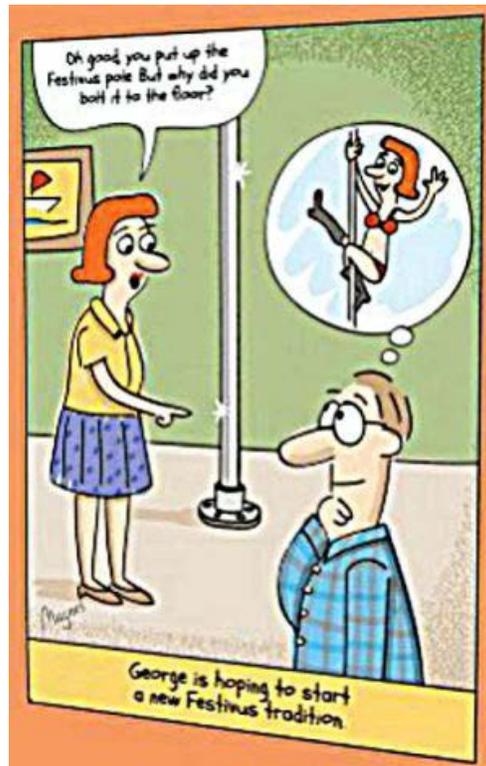
B. PA/NJ events

(1) MARTIAL ARTS COMIC CONVENTION. (2) Hero Percy Jackson Takes on Greeks Gods in THE LIGHTNING THIEF.

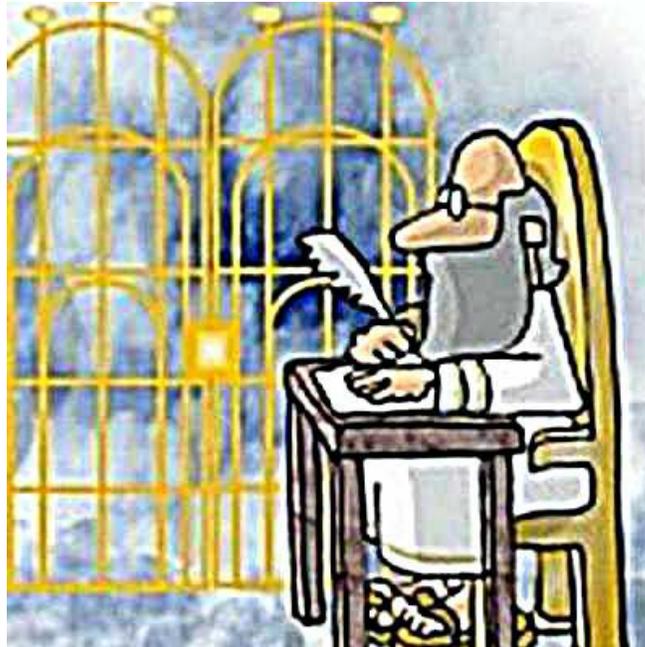
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PS. If you're like me and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way), please join me in having a Festivus for the rest of us. In the unlikely event you know little or nothing about this oh-so important day, learn more by clicking:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dS7-jcsB_WQ



Also, MERRY CHRISTMAS! And that wish for y'all brings back memories of these three guys who died in a car accident last December 25. . . . They find themselves at the pearly gates waiting to enter Heaven. On entering, they must present something "Christmassy" to show they remember the holiday or off to hell they go. . . . The first man searches his pocket, and finds some Mistletoe, so he is allowed in. The second man presents a candy cane, so he too is allowed in. . . . The third man pulls out a pair of panties. Confused at this last gesture, St. Peter asks, "How do these represent Christmas?" . . . "They're Carol's."



Make it wonderful week, too!



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BLAINES WORLD

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1. Reflections

Note: See Section 7A for my holiday gift just for you.

Also, if you're reading this via Facebook and/or in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, you can make sure you don't miss an issue (and you get it earlier, too) by clicking:

[Subscribe](#)

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had the pleasure of seeing the incomparable Bradshaw Call in SANTALAND DIARIES at 35below. I hate to sound like a broken record, but every time I see him in something, I think it is his best work--ever! That might well be the case with his amazing performance in this one-man show. We absolutely loved it.



(2) Joined my Lawrence High School classmate/friend Joe DeRosa (who I hadn't seen for 47 years) and his lovely wife Anne for dinner at Vinnie's. The food was great, as always, and so was the service from David Harrell.



B. During the week, I:

(1) Was lucky to have the opportunity to tape Chuck Fink, my friend and storyteller extraordinaire, as he recited two of his many fascinating tales. To view them yourself, please click:

"Family Coming to U.S."

[Family](#)

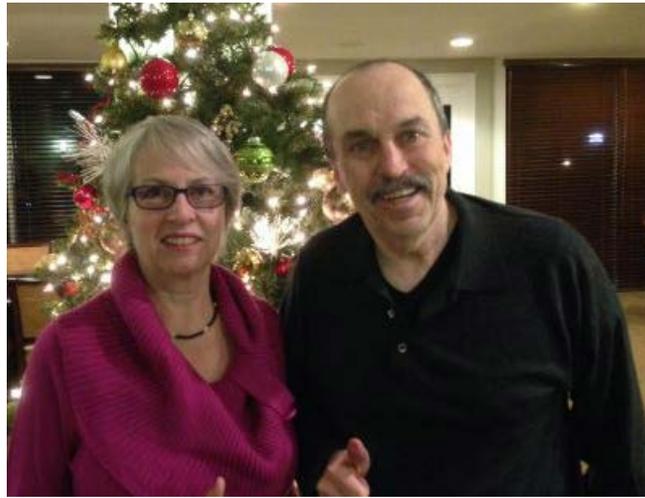
and:

"Broken Beyond Repair"

[Broken](#)



(2) Got to hear a most informative presentation about Southern France from Sylvie Delauney at our Biltmore Lake Clubhouse. Sylvie, who was born and raised in the South of France, teaches at the Osher Life Learning Institute. She has a passion for sharing her experiences and stories of her native region--especially Drome, which she calls the "hidden gem" of Southern France. If you'd like her to speak to your group and/or find out more about the excellent tours she arranges, she can be reached via email at: france26120@gmail.com.



C. Reminders

(1) You've invited:

ASHEVILLE JEWISH BUSINESS FORUM

Monday, January 5 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Where: Yao 153 Smoky Park Highway, Asheville, NC

Bring in the New Year with a speed networking event where each of us will be able to tell the group something of ourselves. Blaine Greenfield will kick off the event by giving us some of his experiences in how to maximize our Networking efforts. Use this opportunity to increase your contacts for a productive 2015.

As usual, enjoy the sumptuous buffet at Yao at a charge of \$13, but if you're not hungry, just join us for this occasion.

Note: You don't have to be Jewish to attend this event!

To register, please email Blaine at bjinbc@aol.com and put AJBF in the subject line.

(2) Still time to enter:

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

There will be one lucky winner of an autographed copy of BENEATH THE CHATTER by Tina FireWolf. To quote from the back book cover: "If ever a book could kindle your fire and inspire you into a new way of viewing life, this is it." I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #945 and very much enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #25" 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 Monday, December 22.

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Terry Van Duyn on being chosen as Senate minority whip. To read more, please click:

[Terry](#)

(2) Christina Schnabel on the birth of Mekiah Ward, her first son.

(3) Margie Zack and Linda Hollinshead for being featured (if you look closely) in the following Cedar Rock promotional video:

[Video](#)

Note: Cedar Rock is the neighborhood immediately adjacent to Rockfish Cove--where we live. I'm including it because if you view it, you'll also see much of our overall Biltmore Lake community.

(4) Annette Wells on her certification from Isothermal Community College Polk Campus as a massage therapist.

(5) Alison Young on her acceptance into UNC at Greensboro.

(6) Trevor Rayshay Perry on making it to the Top 12 of Sing For Your Life Season 3. The first show is January 8th.

(7) Mark and Donna Allen, owners of Times Publishing Newspapers, Inc., on their move to new digs: 1643 Highland Avenue, Langhorne, PA.

(8) Joe Hodgson on having passed his exam to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in NC.

(9) Stephanie Salinas Barron on her graduation from Guilford College.

(10) Korean House in Asheville on the debut of its tabletop grills. For more information, and a great accompanying video featuring Mackensy Lunsford and John Boyle, please click:

[Korean House](#)

E. Condolences to Marsha Safian and family on the passing of Marsha's husband Stan, a longtime Asheville SCORE mentor. Funeral services will take place on Monday, Dec., 22, at 11 a.m. at the Morris Funeral Home, 304 Merrimon Ave., Asheville, NC.

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

This week, it goes to Harold "Hal" Lefcourt, R.I.P.

Hal ran his own public relations firm in Bucks County, PA, where he was also known as "Mr. Levittown" for the love he had for his hometown. That is him (below) when he was Grand Marshall at the 50th Anniversary of Levittown parade.



I knew Hal from my days as a full-time professor at Bucks County Community College. He got me involved in a few of his many projects, and I was always impressed with both his friendliness and enthusiasm.

I also had the honor of nominating him for recognition as Pennsylvania's Outstanding Older Worker. When he was chosen, I then got a big kick out of running the event that recognized him for all his many accomplishments.

Hal was the beloved husband of Sylvia Lefcourt for 66 years; the loving father of Karen Lefcourt Emmet and Scott Lefcourt and his wife, Jill; and proud grandfather of Rachel and Christopher Emmet, David, wife, Rebecca, Bryan, wife, Lauren, Meghan and Maxi Lefcourt. Harold also was elated to be a great-grandfather of Isaac, Lily, Jackson, Benjamin and Grace Lefcourt.

For more information, please view his obituary by clicking:
[Obituary](#)

And, also, this great column by JD Mullane:
[Column](#)

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2. FYI

To Motivate Patients to Change, Doctors Stop Scolding

By Laura Landro in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (4.29.13)

Health-care providers are helping patients kick bad habits and start new regimens by turning the tables on the traditional doctor-patient relationship.

They are using a technique called motivational interviewing, which was developed and used effectively in the 1980s in substance-abuse and addiction counseling. It has since been adapted for chronic-disease management, medication adherence, smoking cessation and weight-loss counseling by health systems and companies including Aetna and Weight Watchers International Inc.

For the rest of this interesting article, as well as an accompanying video, please click:
[Interviewing](#)

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Marvin S. in NC: Secret Santa saves Christmas
[Secret Santa](#)

(2) Mary C. in NC: Freshpet Holiday Feast - 13 Dogs and 1 Cat
[Holiday Feast](#)

(3) Joyce S. in NC: Ranchin' Trombone Cow Christmas
[Trombone Cow](#)

(4) Peter R. in PA: I watched this clip and Sellers and you could be twins. Never before did he remind me of you in anything but this is nearly perfect. Enjoy!
[Sellers](#)

B. Other tidbits from readers

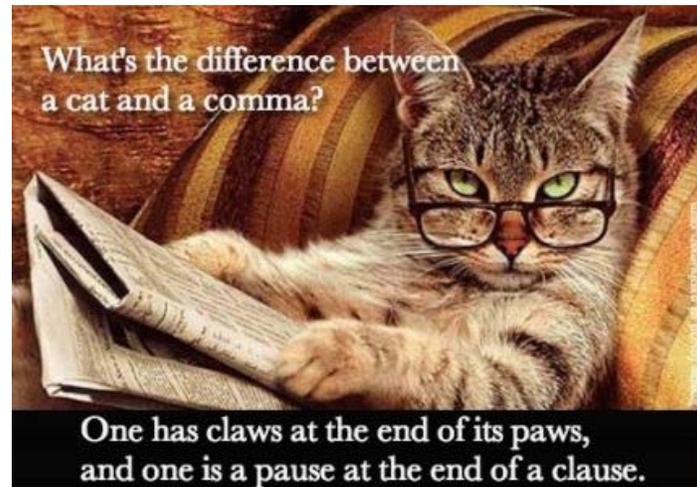
To read each of the contributions in full, please click:
[Tidbits](#)

(1) What to Do When Your Financial Adviser Retires. (2) Roger C. in PA: I recall a couple of years ago . . . you started holding up your thumb in photographs. (3) Rhoda Weaver (with a REQUEST FOR HELP). (4) Marcie F. in PA: Thanks for this wonderful humor filled newsletter. (5) Amy S. in NC: I'm supporting the person. (6) Ruth P. in NC: Great reading [BLAINESWORLD #950]--even though I liked Pride and you didn't. (7) The Unbreakable Laura Hillenbrand. (8) At Voice Charter School in Queens, Students Have Outperformed Their Peers Academically. (9) A Vermont Senator Asks, Why Not a Socialist President?

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3. Joke 1

This makes things purr-fectly clear to me!



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4. Reviews

A. Saw TOP FIVE, a comedy written and directed by Chris Rock who also stars in it. The story involves a comedian-turned-film stars whose best days might be behind him. Rock is quite good, but Rosario Dawson steals every scene she is in and made the film come alive with me when it took a romantic twist. There are some funny moments in TOP FIVE, but overall, I wasn't as crazy about it as many critics were. Rated R.

B. Out on DVD is THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE YOU. My review from BLAINESWORLD #939 follows:

THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE YOU is a dramatic comedy about a family that reunites for a funeral when the head of the household dies. It is watchable, but not very funny. I also found it very choppy. Jason Bateman stars, and he is fine. Tina Fey is wasted in her role. Adam Driver and Rose Byrne were both quite good in their parts. Rated R.

C. Read WHAT TO DO WHEN IT'S YOUR TURN (AND IT'S ALWAYS YOUR TURN) by Seth

Godin, published by The Domino Project.

The author, publisher of 17 bestselling books, is also one of my favorite bloggers.

This latest effort, to quote him, is "a full-color book in the form of a magazine, without ads, but with heart and soul and speed." It "explores . . . the dance we all have to do with our fears, the tension we all must embrace in order to do work that we care about. It pushes us to dig deep inside so we can do better work and impact the things we care about."

The book is a short 160 pages, including lots of beautiful pictures and white space, but don't be put off by that fact. There's much to think about as you read tidbits about and/or by such people as Miles Davis, Stephen King, Erich Fromm, Richard Nixon, Ella Fitzgerald, Shirley Chisolm and Madame Curie, among others.

I liked just about everything in it, including this quote from Leonard Bernstein: "I'm no longer quite sure what the question is, but I do know that the answer is Yes."

And this passage really struck home with me:

Perhaps you will always be afraid. How about this: Write until you are able to write words you are proud enough to share.

Don't hesitate. Don't decide the words aren't good enough yet. Write.

Then write more.

After that, after you've written and written, then you get to decide. And if it's not good enough to share, write again.

Isaac Asimov got up every morning at dawn and wrote until noon. Every day. He published 400 books in his lifetime by showing up on a regular basis. His best work surprised him, every time.

On the last page, Godin asks, "Who should read this next? Write your name and then pass on this copy . . ." I will do just that with WHAT'S YOUR TURN because it was so good that I now want to share it with a bunch of other folks.

D. Heard **WHEN BUYERS SAY NO: ESSENTIAL STRATEGIES FOR KEEPING A SALE MOVING FORWARD** (Hachette Audio), written by Tom Hopkins and Ben Katt and read by Peter Larkin.

I've read or listened to just about everything by Hopkins, one of the world's top sales trainers, so I was naturally interested in this book. It was somewhat interesting, especially the parts that featured sample sales dialogues.

I also liked the many tips that were included, though many of them were a rehash of several other selling books out on the market; e.g., with respect to asking for referrals . . . always reinforce the fact that you'll be asking for them from the very beginning of the sale. Or this one: Use a client's name, but make sure you don't overuse it.

I didn't like how widgets were too often used for demonstration purposes. It would have been much better had a variety of real industries been chosen.

In addition, I would have loved to have had Hopkins narrate this book. He always does a great job on anything I've heard previously. Larkin's delivery, on the other hand, came across as flat. Much of **WHEN BUYERS SAY NO** appeared as if it was just read from some list.

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5. TV alert

A. **BACK TO CHRISTMAS**: A woman gets a second chance when she goes back in time to the Christmas before she and her beau split up. Sunday, Dec. 21, at 11 p.m. on ION.

B. **THE WIRE**: The acclaimed series has been remastered in HD for the first time and to celebrate, one full season will air each day-on top of being released digitally Jan. 5. Begins Friday, Dec. 26, at 12 p.m. on HBO SIGNATURE.

C. **CAUGHT ON CAMERA WITH NICK CANNON**: A fresh batch of high jinks are captured on a variety of recording devices from cellphones and dash cams to professional security footage and news crews. Friday, Dec. 26, at 8 p.m. on NBC.

D. **NANNY CAM**: A worried wife spies on her family's beautiful young babysitter in this thriller. Friday, Dec. 26, at 9 p.m. on LIFETIME.

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6. Joke 2

I'M PEEVED! For some strange reason, the folks at the 22nd Annual National Gingerbread House Competition did not choose my entry as the winner.



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7. Websites

A. MY HOLIDAY GIFT FOR YOU: I spared no expense to have Santa film a message from me just for you. To view it, please click:

[Message](#)



if you'd like to send a similar message to your friends and/or relatives, please click this cool website:

[Cool website](#)

Thanks, Lisa Z. in PA, for sharing the above information about this website.

B. Marilynne H. in NC: New Invention - iCPooch -- Internet Pet Treat Delivery & Video Chat
[iC Pooch](#)

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
[BLAINESWORLD](#)

If you're new to the website and/or my "world," catch up by taking a look at some of my

friends and/or family. Click Blaine's Best to the left and then Pictures. Makes sure you have your sound on, too, so you can listen to what's arguably the greatest rock song of all time as you take a look.

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:

[Facebook](#)



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8. Technology tip

Rod R. in NJ: Good PC user help can be found at Ask Bob Rankin. I've been following him for years: excellent, concrete and varied advice. Free with secure links to everything he mentions, and it also contains mostly free stuff for the PC.

Subscribe to his regular newsletter for free for regular tidbits on all things PC, mobile, software, electronic, etc. To do so, please click:

[Ask Bob](#)

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9. Joke 3

PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGY: I'm sooooo sorry that I didn't invite you to join me at this fantastic event. In particular, the deviled eggs were to die for!



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10. A quote I like

"Having more money doesn't make you happier. I have 50 million dollars but I'm just as happy as when I had 48 million."--Arnold Schwarzenegger, Austrian-born American actor and former politician



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11. Thought for the day

Real life in the checkout line
The ups and downs of a bipolar cashier
by Majo John Madden*



"I thought about you."

I don't ask people "How are you?" - you mostly get back bullshit. I ask "What's been a highlight of your day?" All day long, I ask most of my customers - unless I am tired, too depressed, too burned out from one customer after another, or if the order is really small. Very often they ask the question back of me and I get to share one of my highlights. Sometimes, something in the encounter is a highlight for both of us - that's where magic happens. This is one of those encounters.

I asked, "What's been a highlight of your day?" to a cute 30ish woman who later turned out to be a very accomplished potter. (Asheville is so loaded with talented people, artists, musicians - they turn up everywhere.) As so often in this job, she knew me, but I did not yet recognize her. For all I knew, she might have never before come through my line - but she had. She said,

"I was at Lowe's this morning, having a nothing exchange with a cashier - and I thought about you. I thought how you would ask me what was a highlight of my day - and something real would happen."

This took my breath away, made me feel like it's all worth while - and got me even more committed to asking my question. I'll never ask it all the time - and it would not be useful to do so. Sometimes customers who I don't remember or recognize insert it themselves when I haven't asked it: "The answer to your usual question is...." Or they'll start the encounter by saying, "I've been thinking about how I would answer your question today...." But I want to not miss the chance to ask it - I want to feel into "Is this a time to ask it, even if I'm tired or overextended or depressed?"

I want to not miss a chance to make it real. What if this is a customer who at Lowe's this morning was thinking about me?

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Majo from his informative blog. To read more entries, please click:

[Majo](#)

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12. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following NC events in full, please click:
[NC events](#)

(1) Zuzu Welsh Band and Friends. (2) WEST SIDE STORY. (3) The BJ Leiderman Band.

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PS. I hope you're make it a HAPPY CHANUKAH, beginning on Tuesday, Dec. 16. The following has me humming my favorite version of "The Dreidel Song"--as performed on SOUTH PARK. Please join me by clicking:

[Dreidel song](#)



Also, if you're like me and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way), my hope is that y'all have a JOYOUS FESTIVUS on Tuesday, Dec. 23; a MERRY CHRISTMAS on Thursday, Dec. 25; and a HAPPY KWANZAA, starting on Friday, Dec. 26.

Make it a wonderful week, too!



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BLAINES WORLD

#950

12.8.2014

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1. Reflections

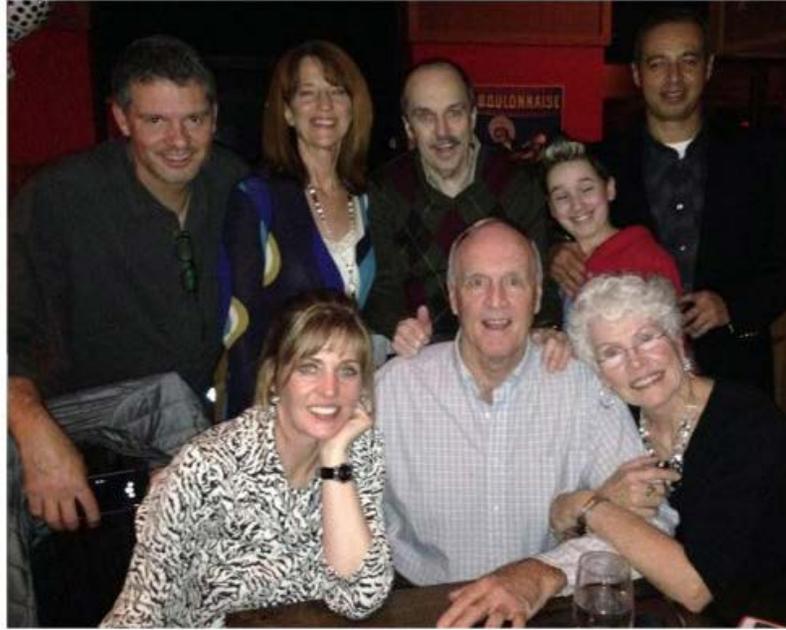
Note: Make sure you take a look at Section 5A this week. It cites a TV show featuring The Hop, Asheville's very own ice cream store extraordinaire.

Also, if you're reading this via Facebook and/or in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, you can make sure you don't miss an issue (and you get it earlier, too) by clicking:

[Subscribe](#)

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had a blast celebrating our friend Stuart Kraner's birthday at the Vue 1913 restaurant at Omni Grove Park Inn. We all had a fine meal, along with great service from Karen. Pictured: (top left) Blaine Greenfield and Cynthia Greenfield); (top right) Tammy Strange and Stuart Kraner; and (bottom) l-r: Tammy Strange, Terry Boswell and Muffie Boswell in bottom row, and l-r: Stuart Kraner, Cynthia Greenfield, Blaine Greenfield, Conor Rosa and Jerry Rosa in top row.



(2) Laughed out loud, repeatedly, at the NC Stage Company's great production of DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER. Pictured are three of the stars: (top left) Charlie Flynn-McGiver; (top right) Scott Treadway; and (bottom) Strother Stingley. Kudos, also, to the others in the cast: Alice Eacho, Jennifer Gatti and Trinity Smith, as well as to director Neela Munoz.



Note: This production runs through Sunday, Dec, 14. There are few tickets for the remaining shows, but you can try to obtain one by clicking:

[Dress](#)

B. During the week, I:

(1) Saw a preview production of A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS at Asheville Community Theatre. It's a lot of fun, especially if you have children or grandchildren. And as a special bonus, make sure you stay afterward for a special appearance from Santa Claus.

There's a great cast, including Craig Justus, Candice Owen, Karen Covington, Daniel Hensley, Cary Nichols, and Mike Yow, among others. Pictured with me: (top left) Karen Covington and Mike Yow; (top right) Mike Martinell and Chelsey Gaddy); (bottom left) Brian Sneed who did a great job with the lighting design for the show; and (bottom right) Daniel Hensley and Mike Martinell.



Note: The show runs through Sunday, Dec. 21. Tickets are going fast, but you can still obtain some by clicking:

[CHARLIE](#)

Also, whatever you do, catch the incomparable Bradshaw Call in THE SANTALAND DIARIES at 35below, the theatre right behind ACT. I already saw this show, and it is one not to be missed. (More information next week.)

To purchase tickets to it, please click:

[SANTALAND](#)

(2) Attended the annual holiday party of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum. Pictured with me: (left) Philip Hendel and Judy McKnight, the gracious host of the evening at her beautiful home; and (right) Shela and Larry Anmuth.



For more pictures from the event, please click:

[Pictures](#)

Note: Judy's husband Michael provided the food. It was fantastic. Here's more information about his catering business:

Chef Michael's Catering caterers special events for private clients, commercial businesses and non-profit organizations in Western North Carolina. Chef Michael has been in the industry since being honorably discharged from the Navy in 1992. He and his wife formalized the company in 1997. Visit Chef Michael on the web at:

[Chef](#)

where you may read client testimonials, download menu guides, ask questions, reserve an event date and more. Chef is also on:

[Chef on Facebook](#)

and may be reached at askchefmichael@gmail.com or 828.691.5711.

Another highlight of the evening was the music that was provided by the talented Richard Shulman. For more information about his recordings and events, please click:

[Shulman](#)

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Adam Charnack, co-owner of Hi-Wire Brewing, on the upcoming expansion of the brewery, as well as on a \$3 million Small Business Administration loan his company received. For more information, please click:

[Charnack](#)

(2) Josh Awtry, vice president and executive editor of the CITIZEN-TIMES, on the paper's great new look. It has gotten so much better ever since he came on board, and the news coverage has likewise improved.

(3) Oscar Wang, president of Highland Brewing, for having his company named North Carolina's small business of the year by BUSINESS NORTH CAROLINA magazine.

(4) Heather Bronson on having graduated Summa Cum Laude from Mars Hill University with a BFA in Musical Theatre. She was also given the honor of singing at commencement, at which time she received an outstanding graduate award.

(5) David Novak on having a blurb about him (on page 42) in the Best of our State in December's OUR STATE magazine.

D. Condolences to:

(1) Tena and Gary Bien and family on the passing of Tena's mother (Blondell Abrams). To read the obituary, please click:

[Obituary](#)

(2) Debbie Hayworth and family on the passing of Debbie's father.

(3) Veronica Bautista and family on the passing of Jerardo Salinas, Veronica's brother.

E. There's still time to enter . . .

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

There will be one lucky winner of an autographed copy of BENEATH THE CHATTER by Tina FireWolf. To quote from the back book cover: "If ever a book could kindle your fire and inspire you into a new way of viewing life, this is it." I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #945 and very much enjoyed it.

Here's one of the many beautiful illustrations from the book:



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 Monday, December 22.

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

This week, it goes to Korean House--our favorite Korean restaurant on 122 College Street in downtown Asheville.

We have now been there a few times and whenever we have gone, the food has been excellent. The service has been, too, especially when we have been fortunate to get Evon Tomoda (pictured below, along with our friends Marvin Sadvosky and Annemarie Brown) as our server.



We also enjoy the warm greeting we always get from Christina, the owner. The other night she had a special surprise for us: a Korean pancake dish. It was delicious.

For more information about this eatery, please click:
[Korean House](#)

Note: The Korean House will be open on Christmas day. Consequently, we might break our long tradition of seeing a movie and then having Chinese food on that day. We're still planning on catching a flick, but will probably go here for dinner. Let me know if you want to join us.

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2. FYI

To Improve a Memory, Consider Chocolate

by Pam Belluck in THE NEW YORK TIMES (10.26.14)
Science edged closer on Sunday to showing that an antioxidant in chocolate appears to improve some memory skills that people lose with age.

In a small study in the journal Nature Neuroscience, healthy people, ages 50 to 69, who drank a mixture high in antioxidants called cocoa flavanols for three months performed better on a memory test than people who drank a low-flavanol mixture.

For the rest of the informative article, please click:

[Memory](#)

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Bradshaw C. in NC: Shia LaBeouf

[Shia](#)

(2) Herb S. in NJ: Hilarious Hanukkah Medley - An Original Hanukkah (Chanukah) (Hanukah) (Chanuka) Medley

[Medley](#)

(3) Marvin S. in NC: Little Drummer Boy - Walk off the Earth (Feat. Doggies)

[Drummer Boy](#)

(4) Chanah M. in MO: Chris Rock - How not to get your ass kicked by the police!

[Chris Rock](#)

(5) JoAnn J. in AZ: These "Silent Monks" Came Onstage, And Left The Crowd In Hysterics With Their Performance.

[Monks](#)

(6) Dan C. in NC: Sadly, This Joke About Racist Facebook Friends Still Rings True

[Racist friends](#)

(7) Rod McKuen: Seasons in the Sun

[McKuen](#)

(8) Watch a bird fly off with an in-play ball in golf tourney

[Bird](#)

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

[Tidbits](#)

(1) Christa T. in PA: We have a bulldog in Doylestown named Lilly. (2) Janet S. in NJ: So glad to see you both having so much fun. (3) Sandy B. in PA: Thanks for the free Christmas book. (4) Lori Lynn M. in NC: I have to tell you Mr. Blaine! (5) Holiday C. in NC: Always love my Blainesworld email! (6) Gifts That Inspire. (7) Hearing Every Voice in the Room. (8) U.S. Lowers One Hurdle to Obtaining a Mortgage. (9) Getting to No. (10) Of the Right Age, but Can't Seem to Stay Retired. (11) Mike Andrus in PA (with a REQUEST FOR HELP). (12) Dogs in heaven? (13) The cult of the bulletproof coffee diet.

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3. Joke 1

I'm allergic to stupidity. I break out in sarcasm. And I could see myself saying something like this!



Sarcasm and stupidity meet at the elevator.

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4. Reviews

A. Saw PRIDE, a film based on a true story about a group of mineworkers on strike in England in 1984. A group of gay and lesbian activists band together to raise money to support the strikers' families, but their initial attempts are rebuffed. You can pretty much guess what's going to happen, and as a result, I found it very predictable. I also was disappointed that Bill Nighy (one of my favorite actors) was virtually wasted in a role that had him doing very little. Rated R, though methinks it would be appropriate--though somewhat boring--for any teenager.

B. If interested in the topic, you'd do much better renting 2000's BILLY ELLIOTT. Here was my review from BLAINESWORLD #220:
Saw BILLY ELLIOTT, a feel-good movie about an English boy's transformation from boxer to ballet dancer . . . the accents are a bit hard to get through in the beginning, but don't give up; you'll be glad that you stuck with this one . . . Jamie Bell, as 11-year-old Billy, is a joy to watch . . . whenever he dances, the story comes alive . . . Julie Walters, as his instructor, also excels as his instructor . . . I just wish that she was in more films! . . . rated R, though I have no idea why . . . this would be most appropriate for any teenager.

Note: BILLY ELLIOTT is on my list of favorite films. If you'd like to get a copy of the entire list, send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

C. Read THE UNBEATABLE RECIPE FOR NETWORKING EVENTS (Method Press) by Robby Slaughter.

Though this is a short book, there's a lot of useful information here about a topic that many folks don't like to do--in large part because they don't do it very well.

The author, a workflow and productivity expert, makes things easy for the reader by urging that the following thesis statement be kept in mind:

Networking events are the most effective way to populate my personal database with the people I'm about to serve.

From there, it's actually easy if you just remember that your goal is not just to give out a lot of business cards and/or to collect them. Rather, you should seek out ways to be of service. For example, I liked this one approach:

The easiest way to gain access to a [secure] building is to show up at the employee entrance carrying four boxes of Krispy Kreme donuts. The door will be held open and the only request will be to tell them on what floor will be the confections.

I also liked how Slaughter used examples of conversations that pointed out both good and bad networking strategies.

THE UNBEATABLE RECIPE FOR NETWORKING EVENTS might not make you an expert, but it will certainly help you get better.

D. Heard **THE STRANGER: BARACK OBAMA IN THE WHITE HOUSE** (Hachette Audio), written and read by Chuck Todd.

The author, NBC News Political Director and moderator of **MEET THE PRESS**, based this book on hundreds of interviews, including discussions with the president. As a result, when you read it, you'll get an inside look at Obama's tenure.

There were some interesting insights about what the president has had to face in attempting to implement Obamacare and other legislation. However, I felt that much of the book was not as objective as I would have liked to have seen it. It seemed to present Todd's viewpoint, as opposed to just the facts.

In addition, **THE STRANGER** might have been even more insightful had it been written after Obama was out of office.

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5. TV alert

A. The Hop is featured on an episode of **UNIQUE SWEETS** called "Awesome Asheville Sweets." Sunday, Dec. 14, at 10 p.m. on the **COOKING CHANNEL**; repeated on Friday, Dec. 19, at both 2 a.m. and 10 p.m.

B. **THE U** and **THE U, PART 2** both take a look at the rise of the Miami Hurricanes during the 1980s. Monday, Dec. 15, from 7-11 p.m. on **30 FOR 30** on **ESPN**.

C. **THE SANTA CON**, directed by Melissa Joan Hart (who also stars) is about a con man who is ordered to play a mall Santa. Friday, Dec. 19, on **LIFETIME** at 8 p.m.

D. **MARCO POLO** stars newcomer Lorenzo Richelmy as the titular Italian explorer. It's a behind-the-scenes story of a family business, which just happens to include a warlord. Now streaming on **NETFLIX**.

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6. Joke 2

Who reads labels? Now I know why my daughter was upset with me when I cleaned her clothes!



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7. Websites

A. Carole B. in NC: Happy Christmas joy tears!
Christmas Surprise Traffic Stop with Lowell Police

Christmas surprise

Note: These are the kinds of clips that I love to view. I only wish that more were available!

B. Mark J. in NC: Frozen on Broadway (First Look)

Frozen

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

BLAINESWORLD

If you ever miss an issue or if you're a new subscriber, you can read past issues by clicking "Newsletter" to the left and then "Past Issues." Sometimes, you might get a kick out of just going into some old issue; e.g., as I did with BLAINESWORLD #750 and found this joke:

My coworker at the hotel was miserable at his job and was desperately searching for a new one. "Why don't you work for your mother?" I suggested. . . . He shook his head. "I can't," he said. "Her company has a very strict policy against hiring relatives." . . . "Who made up that ridiculous rule?" . . . "My mother."

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:

Facebook

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8. Technology tip

I get valuable computer tips from something called the Ask Leo! Newsletter.

To quote Leo Notenboom, the guy who puts it out:

Computers are difficult and confusing beasts at times. By now I hope you've seen that I try make them less "beastly" . . . and I'm guessing you know someone who could use a little help and information.

Just point them to:

<http://newsletter.askleo.com>

and invite them to come along for our ride. As you know, it's completely free.

And hopefully helpful.

Note: I'm running the above because it has my recommendation, and it is something that I think you would gain value from seeing.

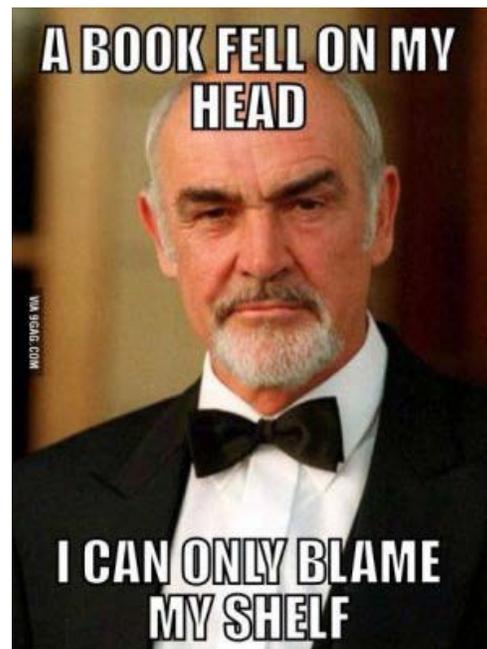
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9. Joke 3

Connery's response here reminds me of his classic "famous titties" request on SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6K0c_vVmSM

So what if it really wasn't said by him? Darrell Hammond does an even better Connery than Connery does.



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10. A quote I like

"24 hours in a day, 24 beers in a case. Coincidence? I think not."--H.L. Mencken (1880-1956), American journalist, essayist, magazine editor and satirist, as well as critic of American life and culture

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11. Thought for the day

Sometimes, we try too hard to get to the greener grass. In the process, we end up in trouble. (Left photo.) . . . And when you find yourself in trouble and you're stuck in a situation you can't get out of, there is one thing you should always remember: Not everyone who shows us is there to help you! (Right photo.) . . . That's the end of the lesson.



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12. Advance planning department

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

[Events](#)

A. NC events

(1) Chanukah LIVE! The Storytelling Show at Avenue M. (3) LITTLE WOMEN. (4) Benefit for Children's First of Buncombe County. (5) David Novak at The Hop.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS. (2) Winter Solstice Retreat.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week. Also, If you're like me and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way), HAPPY CHANUKAH to y'all. The holiday begins on Tuesday evening, Dec. 16, and continues through Wednesday evening, Dec. 24. Many families exchange gifts during this time . . .



"We got you a dreidel."



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BLAINES WORLD

#949

12.1.2014

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1. Reflections

Note: Please see Section 2 for a great way to save some money.

Also, If you're reading this via Facebook and/or in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, you can make sure you don't miss an issue (and you get it earlier, too) by clicking:

[Subscribe](#)

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had the pleasure of meeting this English Bulldog. Her name was Lilly, and her expression reminded us of Alfred E. Newman's famous line in MAD magazine: "What, me worry?"



(2) Were blessed to have been part of a fantastic Thanksgiving celebration at the home of

our friends Brian and Carole Biro.

Pictured, l-r: Bottom row: Judy Blumlo, Cynthia Greenfield, Blaine Greenfield, Celeste Lauren; Middle row: Dave Blumlo, Carole Biro and Nur Barrie; Top row: Marvin Sadovsky, Annemarie Brown, Bonnie Sibner, Katlin Hecox, Kamin Hecox, Tom Gallagher, Marcy Gallagher and Brian Biro.



Also pictured--this amazing acrobatic quartet, l-r: Blaine Greenfield, Annemarie Brown, Cynthia Greenfield and Marvin Sadovsky.



And the two of us with our latest hairdos.



For still more pictures from that day, please click:
[Pictures](#)

Also, please click to see the following videos:

1. Blaine playing Telephone Charades:

[Blaine](#)

2. Cynthia playing Telephone Charades:

[Cynthia](#)

3. Blaine and Cynthia doing the Magic Chair Trick

[Trick](#)

B. I enjoyed my lunch with Ezekiel Christopoulos at Zen Sushi. Over an excellent meal (with fine service from Jennifer), we discussed Ezekiel's new position as membership chair of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum.



C. Congratulations to:

(1) Rita Serotkin on the birth of Xanthea, her granddaughter.

(2) Michelle Baker for the great review of her book, THE CANOE, in FOREWORD REVIEWS.
To read the review, please click:

[Review](#)

(3) Alex Schnayder on being elected as president of the Bucks County Association of Realtors.

(4) Justin Gaylard and Heather Bronson on having graduated from Mars Hill University.

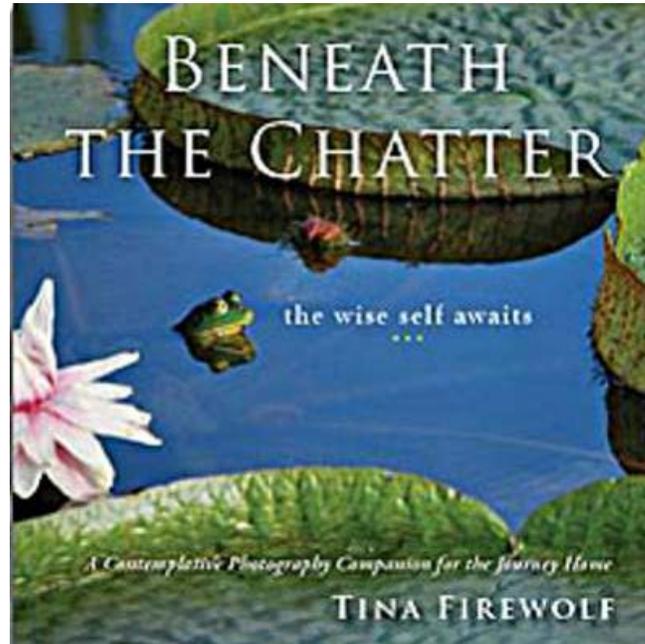
(5) Donna Allen on the birth of Charlotte, her second granddaughter.

(6) Courtney Y. in FL, winner of Contest #24: a copy of BUZZMARKETING by Mark Hughes. All told, there were 6 entries. And that reminds me that it's now time to announce . . .

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

There will be one lucky winner of an autographed copy of BENEATH THE CHATTER by Tina FireWolf. To quote from the back book cover: "If ever a book could kindle your fire and inspire you into a new way of viewing life, this is it." I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #945 and very much enjoyed it.

You can view the front book cover below. It features one of the many beautiful photos taken by Tina.



To enter: Put "CONTEST #25" 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 Monday, December 22.

D. SPECIAL OFFER (of a free book for everybody) from reader Doug Rigsby: The Broken Christmas Tree is a story about family, friendship, love, and a battle against an unknown force as it tries to rip twelve year old Danny's family apart, and ruin Christmas forever. It's set back in the 1980s where we follow Danny's journey starting from age three, seven and twelve years old - the latter being where most of the story is told. Danny, the main protagonist is dealing with tough times at home, school, and within himself. He's got to figure out what is happening, how to deal with his situation and how to reignite his mother's love for Christmas. It's an awakening that must occur for Danny but will he heed the call or will he break under the pressures that surround him?

If you have a computer, a smartphone or a Mac. you can download the Kindle application. This allows you to read this free ebook in Kindle format from Amazon. The ebook is free this weekend, 12-5-14 thru 12-7-14, so grab this story while you can. There is a story behind the story, but you'll need to get to the end to find out more.

[Book](#)

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

This week, it goes to Brad Morris (pictured below with his lovely wife Iva)--president of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum.

Brad has done a tremendous job heading this organization. As such, he has helped members network with each other and throughout the community

He also manages an Internet Marketing Company that specializes in highly targeted data

and email marketing campaigns. And he manages New Deco Inc., which is an art and antiques company that sells directly to art galleries and collectors worldwide.

Brad never ceases to amaze me with his wide range of contacts, as well as with the fact that he is always trying to bring them together. I always appreciate hearing him tell me, "You should meet" (a particular individual).



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2. FYI

Big thanks to Jim Freeman, my longtime friend, for an idea he gave me years ago: i.e., check with your cellular company to see if your company (where you work) has a plan with that company.

If so, you may be entitled to a discount.

In my case, I'm with Verizon and so is Bucks County Community, so I get an 18% monthly discount as a result!

Note: I don't know if other cellular firms offer similar discounts, but you have nothing to lose by asking.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Marvin S. in NC: Man jumps out of plane without parachute

[Jump](#)

(2) Annemarie B. in NC: Dalai Lama's guide to happiness

[Happiness](#)

(3) Carole B. in NC: This is show for you; win a Christmas Talent Show

[Talent](#)

(4) Bob P. in NC: "Tom Rush: No Regrets" Documentary Trailer

[Rush](#)

(5) Vera B. in FL: Cat fights a cat statue

[Cat](#)

(6) Patty A. in PA: You raise me up (bulldog version)

[Raise](#)

(7) Jim W. in NC: Pentatonix is sending chills down everyone's spine with their beautiful rendition of "Mary Did You Know"

Pentatonix

(8) John C. in NC: Salut Salon "Wettstreit zu viert" | "Competitive Foursome"
Foursome

(9) Janene R. in PA: Very Touching POW & Veterans Tribute! by TONY ORLANDO
Orlando

(10) Sylvia M. in FL: How to remove rings tuck on finger
Rings

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

Tidbits

(1) Cynthia G. in NC: What will we do when you hit #1000???? (2) Rocket scientist's idea could put an end to texting while driving. (3) Rhoda Weaver's Demo Page. (4) Judy McKnight in NC: My FB page. (5) Are Gadget-Free Bedrooms the Secret to a Happy Relationship? (6) Why our memory fails us. (7) Why Elders Smile. (8) Ricky Boone in NC: Need a Life Coach but do not have the money? (9) Bill L. in PA: ON BORROWED TIME. (10) Joe D. in NC: Great stuff! (11) Edie Weinstein in PA: 30 important questions to ask before we commit to a relationship.

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3. Joke 1

I'd hate to be up here without a paddle! Fortunately, I have found one at:

Paddle



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4. Reviews

A. THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING is the biopic of renowned astrophysicist Stephen Hawking. What sets it aside from similar type films is that it is also a touching love story. Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones are both outstanding in the leading roles. There's also a great ending. The only thing I didn't like: The makeup just wasn't very good, in that Redmayne nor Jones seemed to age at all. Rated PG-13.

B. Out on DVD is THE HUNDRED-FOOT JOURNEY. My review from BLAINESWORLD #933 follows:
THE HUNDRED-FOOT JOURNEY is a feel-good comedy about an Indian family that settles in France and then opens a restaurant across from an established French eatery. Helen Mirren and Om Puri are both fine in two of the leading roles, and the music is good, too. I just thought the film was a bit overlong, and it didn't move me quite as much as I would have wanted. Rated PG, though methinks most anybody under the age of 13 would be bored by it.

C. Read THE FOUR-FOOT GIANT AND THE VANISHING WHEELCHAIR (The Vanishing Wheelchair, Inc.) by T.J. Shimeld.

It is the amazing true story of Ricky Boone, an Asheville-based magician and magic store owner, who has survived and flourished despite a rare bone disorder.

Though in a wheelchair, he has not let that stop him from appearing in shows throughout the country, as well as on all three major television networks.

The author, a fellow magician and Boone's friend, has written the book as a historical narrative. It is based on personal interviews with both Boone and those he has inspired.

In particular, I liked the many descriptions of Boone's performances. It almost felt like I was watching him as can be seen in this passage:

* "I want to play follow the leader here," Ricky explained. "What I'm going to do is link tow, give them to you, and I'm going to catch up. And I'm not talking about that red stuff you put on a hamburger!"

In addition, I enjoyed reading Harry Anderson's introduction when giving him an award:

* "How to describe Ricky Boone? Well, pull out that Ingles' receipt out of your pocket. That's the kind of shape he's in."

My take: If we were all in such shape, the world would be a better place. I've actually been fortunate enough to see Ricky Boone perform, and now after reading this inspiring book, I'm looking forward to seeing him again.

Note: Please also read Section 2, part 2, of this week's newsletter. Ricky is now seeking somebody to help him.

D. Heard THE LEONARD BERNSTEIN LETTERS (Hachette Audio), edited by Niegel Simeone and read by George Guidall.

It contains 650 letters, either written by him or to him, and presents a comprehensive look at the gifted musician.

How he found the time to keep up with so many correspondents is beyond me, especially because he lived in the time before personal computers. But keep up he did, and you'll get a kick out of the letters from such notables as Aaron Copland, Stephen Sondheim, Jerome Robbins and Bette Davis, to name just a few.

The book is also gossipy, but not in a negative fashion. Rather, it helped me gain a better understanding of Bernstein's varied musical interests, his endless capacity for hard work and also his complex sexuality.

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5. TV alert

Note: Natalie K. in PA, my good friend, uncovered what looks like to be a really good source for programs. Unfortunately, my cable provider (AT&T Uverse) doesn't offer it yet, so I'm going to have to write to encourage them to do so.

Here's what she wrote me:

Found this cable channel recently when I watched the Tony Bennett special with Lady Gaga at Carnegie Hall. They have some really good programs. Check it out. It's called Cinemoui; here's the link:

[Cinemoui](#)

As for what looks interesting to watch on the channels that I do get, check out the following:

A. NAKED AND AFRAID has James Franco and Seth Rogen attempting to survive in the wild for 21 days without access to clothes, food, or water. Sunday, Dec. 7, at 8 p.m. on DISCOVERY.

B. EATEN ALIVE features snake researcher and conservationist Paul Rosolie going inside an anaconda. Sunday, Dec. 7, at 9 p.m. on DISCOVERY.

For more information about this daring feat, please click:

[Daring](#)

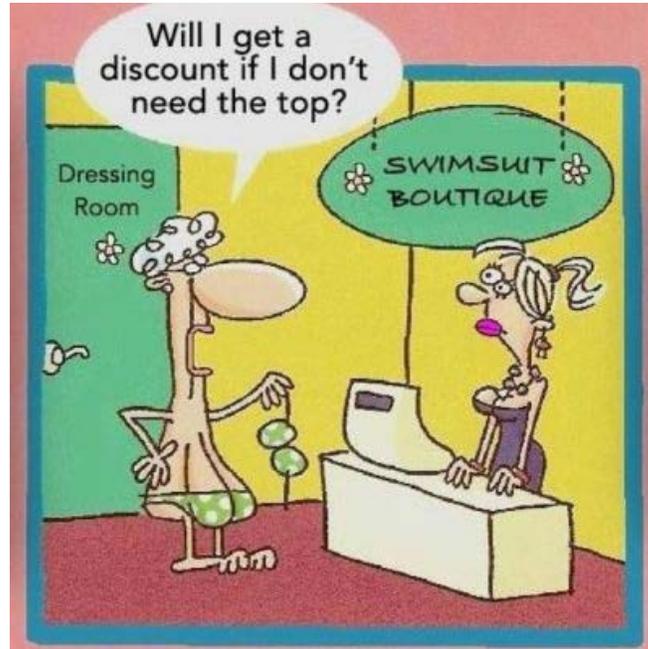
C. THE RED TENT adapts 1997's bestselling novel by Anita Damant into a two-part miniseries. It tells the biblical story of Diana, who abandons her family after they reject her marriage to a prince. Sunday, Dec. 7, and Monday, Dec. 8, at 9 p.m. on LIFETIME.

D. THE VICTORIA'S SECRET FASHION SHOW airs on Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 10 p.m. on CBS. In case anybody asks, you can always say you're watching because of the performances from Taylor Swift, Ed Sheeran, Ariana Grande and Hozier.

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6. Joke 2

Some guys sag. too. To see one example, click:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axmsB5YQvjw>



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7. Websites

A. Want to bring back some old memories? You can watch the openings and hear the theme songs of hundreds and hundreds of old TV shows, going back to the 1950s.

Themes

B. Marcie F. in PA: Nursing home calendar puts residents in classic film roles. What movie character would you want to be?

Classics

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
[BLAINESWORLD](#)

If you've ever wondered what happens to your name once you become a subscriber to this missive, check "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:

Facebook



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8. Technology tip

Mr. Curious here: Has anybody else been swamped with requests for new friends on Facebook? Recently, I seem to be getting 5-10 such requests on a daily basis from all around the world, and I don't even know any of these people or their friends.

It may be because of my post from Nov. 23 that seems to have gone viral. It was about a little old lady buying cat food. As of today, 17,220 liked it and 14,165 shared it.

So to return things back to normal, I will take the following steps that Facebook gives as an option:

Limiting new friend requests

1. Click the symbol of the lock in the upper right hand corner of the screen.
2. Look for an option on the menu titled "Who can contact me?" It is currently located near the bottom of the list. Under this heading, you will find the option "Who can send me

friend requests?"

3. Change who can send you friend requests. The default setting is "everyone." Change this to "friends of friends."

4. Unfortunately, you cannot prevent anyone from sending you requests. However, limiting the ability to friends of friends will decrease the likelihood of receiving a friend request from some random person.

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9. Joke 3

THE TRUTH IS OUT: Y'all know where I'm getting my Secret Santa gifts this year!



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10. A quote I like

"Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died."--Erma Bombeck (1927-1996), American humorist



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11. Thought for the day

MARRIAGE ADVICE: "When you can't decide on something, you can always play 'rock, paper, scissors.' It saves a lot of time."--Maryallice Rubins-Topoleski, director, actor and freelance writer



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12. Advance planning department

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

[Events](#)

A. NC events

(1) Red State, White Guy Blues author signing, release! (2) Programs offered by Kaleo Wheeler. (3) The Santaland Diaries. (4) Last Chance to See Don't Dress for Dinner. (5) A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS. (6) Silver and Gold Holiday concert event. (7) Richard Schulman performances. (8) At white Horse Black Mountain. (9) JOHN & JEN. (10) Final 3 Asheville SCORE seminars for the season. (11) Storytelling by David Novak.

B. PA/NJ event

What Sweeter Music.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!



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BLAINES WORLD

#948

11.24.2014

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Note: Please see Section 2 for a great holiday gift idea.

Also, if you're reading this via Facebook and/or in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, you can make sure you don't miss an issue (and you get it earlier, too) by clicking:

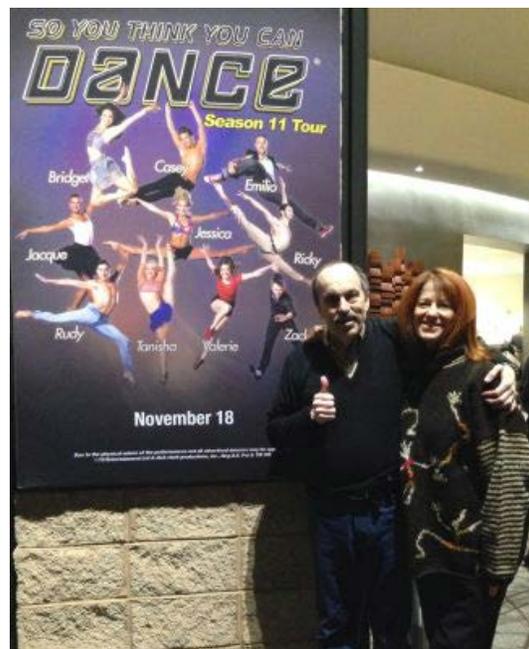
[Subscribe](#)

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Went to the Peace Center in Greenville, SC, for the Season Tour 11 Tour of SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE. It was a great show, and all the dancers (as well as the costumes) were fantastic. To see some of them for yourself, please click:

[Dance](#)



(2) On another day, we joined our friends Marvin Sadovsky and Annemarie Brown for a tasty dinner at Rosetta's Kitchen. Though I'm not a vegetarian, I do like that restaurant's

grilled cheese sandwich with tomato, as well as its sweet potato fries. And perhaps more importantly, I like how the eatery continually gives back to the Asheville community. For more information, please click:

[Rosettas](#)



B. During the week, I joined my friends Lori Lynn Mullett and Candace Mullett for delicious wraps at the Rejuvenation Cafe. The food is always good there, and so is the service. For more information, please click:

[Rejuvenation](#)



C. Deftly changing the subject, I thought you would like to see these bobblehead dolls of my daughter Risa and her husband JP. I got them via a Groupon from:

[Bobble](#)



D. Congratulations to:

(1) Susan Reinhardt for being named as Lancôme's Employee of the Month.

(2) Mike Yow for having published his first book, SAVAGE KINGDOMS CORE RULEBOOK: HEROIC SWORD-AND-SORCERY ROLEPLAYING GAME.

To quote the author:

Savage Kingdoms is a heroic sword-and-sorcery roleplaying game set in a unique and gritty Dark Ages-era world. Designed by actor and occasional game designer Mike Yow, SK approaches fantasy roleplaying with a fast and immersion-based style. The first publication, the 300+ page core rulebook, is now out in softcover and PDF formats at the awesome price of just \$24.95!

For more information and to order, please click:

[Savage](#)

(3) John and Rose Mary Rosella on their 50th wedding anniversary.

(4) Michael "Buddy" Sanders on having completed his training to become a Chief Warrant Officer.

E. Reminder: There's still time to enter . . .

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

There will be one lucky winner of BUZZMARKETING by Mark Hughes, a book about how to generate word of mouth. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #463 and very much enjoyed it.

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 Monday, December 1.

F. Correction: Last week's issue mentioned a very enlightening blog written by my friend Edie Weinstein. I was having some trouble getting the link to it to work properly, so I did not include it. You can now view it by clicking:

[Weinstein](#)

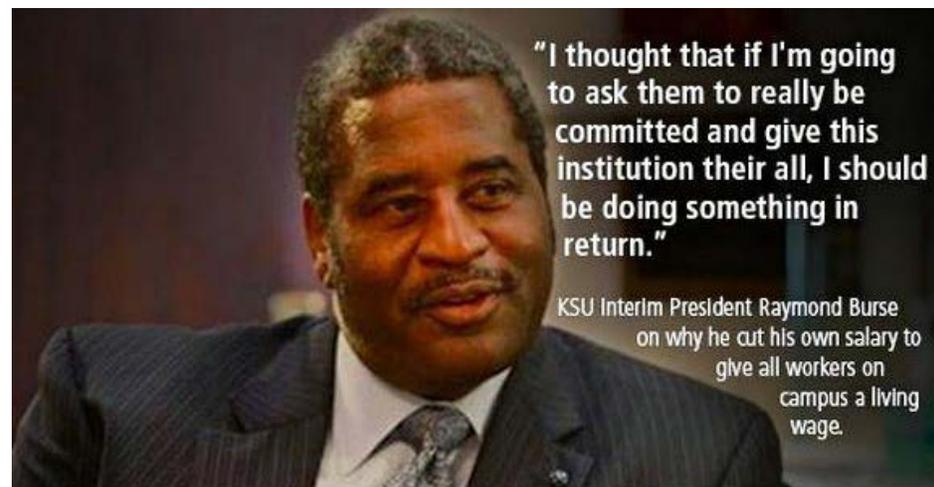
Note: If you like it (and I'm confident that you will), you can get updates by taking advantage of any of the three available options.

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

This week, it goes to Raymond Burse for the bold action he recently took. (See illustration below.)

As a result, he gave up more than \$90,000 of his salary. The good news: He no longer interim president; in October, he was named permanent president. For more information, please click:

[Burse](#)



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2. FYI

Please excuse the fact that you won't be getting any Christmas, Chanukah or Kwanzaa cards from me this coming holiday season.

Instead, I'll be making a contribution in your honor to the Dementia Society of America (DSA). This is a non-profit organization that serves the Dementia community and amazingly, uses no paid staff. So all contributions go directly to educating and raising the awareness of all to the wide spectrum of conditions collectively known as Dementia.

To me, that's a lot better than spending money on greetings cards and postage, and I urge you to consider making a similar contribution to either DSA or a charity of your choice.

If you want to learn more about this marvelous organization and/or join me in making a contribution, please click:

Dementia

***** NEWS FLASH *****

I'm honored to have just been named as one of four new members to the DSA Board of Directors. Here's what was written about me in a recent press release announcing my appointment:

Blaine Greenfield taught for over 35 years at Bucks County Community College and headed his own marketing firm that assisted small- and mid-sized businesses. Six years ago he took a new job title: Rewirement Expert-in-Training. As such, he continues to teach on a part-time basis, but he is also active in several community organizations--including SCORE, SART and Lessons in Leadership. And he publishes an online newsletter, BLAINESWORLD. Blaine now resides with his wife in Asheville, North Carolina.
FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Gary J. in NC: You'll enjoy my little vid I made today of some visitors across the street. I was playing with iMOVIE and made a "news story" . . . Bears on Sunny Ridge
Bears

(2) Chanah M. in MO: StandFour - Eight Nights - Hanukkah Mashup

Mashup

(3) Bill K. in CA: Kate & Anna McGarrigle and Linda Ronstadt : Heart Like A Wheel

Heart

(4) Annemarie B. in NC: Chris Rock - How not to get your ass kicked by the police!

Rock

(5) Steven S. in FL: This NEW Daddy Was Not Prepared For This

Daddy

(6) Michelle B. in NC: If Teachers Were Football Players

Teachers

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

Other

(1) Vickie G. in NC: Am enjoying your newsletters. (2) Michelle B. in NC: Love the Thought for the Day. (3) Tina F. in NC: Packed full of good things, Blaine! (4) Sally B. in NC: Thanks for sharing my news. (5) Angela S. in NJ: It's good having friends who care. (6) How to Find a Job With Meditation and Mindfulness. (7) Zuzu W. in NC: A nice segment on my CD release in here. (8) Jennifer G. in England: I have 2 new ebooks that are free this Thanksgiving weekend. (9) Telling my son about Ferguson. (10) Henry W. in NY: Went to see Force Majeure, a thought-provoking new Swedish movie. (11) Retirees Turn to Virtual Villages for Mutual Support.

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3. Joke 1

This looks all too familiar! (Methinks that dog owners can relate, too, as well as parents.)



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4. Reviews

A. *BIRDMAN* is an enthralling black comedy about a one-time movie superhero who attempts to make a comeback with a Broadway show that he is attempting to bring to stage. The performances from both Michael Keaton and Edward Norton are among the year's best. I'm hopeful that they each receive Oscar nominations. Rated R.

Mr. Curious here: If you saw the above, what did you think of it? I loved it, but Cynthia didn't like it--nor did a friend who accompanied us. I asked an actor friend (Joe G. in NY) for his reaction. You can find it, along with the review from another friend (Mike M. in NC), by going to Section 4 when you click the following link:

[Reviews](#)

B. Out of DVD is *THE GIVER*, based on the popular young adult novel of the same name by Lois Lowry. It is a science fiction fantasy about a young man who lives in what seems to be a perfect world of conformity and contentment. Yet he soon begins to discover his community's secret past. Brenton Thwaites is fine in one of the two leading roles. I was less impressed with the work of Jeff Bridges in the other one. Overall, the film was very flat--though I was impressed with the cinematography. Rated PG-13.

C. Read *THE LITTLE BOOK OF BIG PR: 100+ QUICK TIPS TO GET YOU SMALL BUSINESS NOTICED* (AMACOM) by Jennefer Witter.

The author, CEO and founder of The Boreland Group, a boutique public relations agency, presents useful advice on how to use public relations effectively as a way to build your business. I liked how it was relevant to start-ups, as well as to already established firms.

In addition, I found many of the tips helpful with respect to things to avoid; for example, this one:

* Here's a big no. Don't send the same pitch to more than one reporter at the same outlet at the same time. . . . Pitching multiple reporters will not increase your chances of getting a placement. It will only make you look like you don't know what you're doing and lessen the chances of you being taken seriously by the outlet. Don't do it!

Witter also gave several tidbits that she called "a must" to do, such as:

* Posting a "Tip of the Week." People love to learn and get "inside" information that can assist them. . . My "Tip of the Week," which I posted on social media, was the genesis of this book. The attention I received showed there was genuine interest in the material, and I shared that fact with the publisher, who agreed.

Lastly, I strongly recommend *THE LITTLE BOOK OF PR* for one other reason; i.e., the several case studies that were included. They made the material really come alive.

D. Heard *STOP THE COMING CIVIL WAR* (Hachette Audio), written by Michael Savage and read by Barry Baer.

The author, a conservative radio commentator, says our country is in real trouble and that we will soon be facing a second major internal conflict. But this time it won't be between the states, but instead it will be between what he calls true patriots who believe in the nation's founding principles and those who are working to undermine them.

Savage is entitled to his opinions. That said, I found many of them to be incendiary.

It seemed that he was often disrespectful not only to President Obama, but also the memory of President Lincoln. And I very nearly gagged every time he said something about the Pope, gays, treason, leftists, immigrants and a whole host of other topics.

My only regret is that this book came out before the recent House Benghazi Report. As might be expected, Savage denounced how Benghazi was handled in this book. I'd be curious if he has since backed away from his incessant criticism. My suspicion is that this has not happened.

Finally, I was disappointed in Baer's narration. It was OK, but I would have much preferred hearing Savage speak his own words.

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5. TV alert

A. TOY STORY THAT TIME FORGOT has Woody (Tom Hanks), Buzz (Tim Allen) and the gang clashing with a set of new Christmas gifts. Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. on ABC.

B. GIRLFRIENDS' GUIDE TO DIVORCE, starring Janeane Garofalo, Lisa Edelstein and Beau Garrett, is a comedy that has a dramatic core. Starts Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 10 p.m. on BRAVO.

C. AMERICAN MASTERS: BING CROSBY REDISCOVERED, narrated by Stanley Tucci, looks to be a winner. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "The film [is infused] with insights and clarity, no small achievement considering the length of Cosby's career--that's in addition to the feast of film clips and all those songs." Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 8 p.m. on PBS.

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

D. PETER PAN LIVE! features Allison Williams, Christopher Walken and Minnie Driver. Thursday, Dec. 4, at 8 p.m. on NBC.

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6. Joke 2

GREAT ADVICE (for getting beyond pain at the dentist): Guy has a terrible toothache, so he makes an appointment. He is in the chair and is told to think about his greatest sexual fantasy. He says, "I can do that." . . . After 30 minutes, the dentist tells him, "You can get up now." . . . The guy replies, "No, doc, I'm almost there. Five more minutes, please."



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7. Websites

A. ISH by Peter H. Reynolds, a beautiful rendition of a book for all those who may have

been discouraged from drawing (when younger)

[ISH](#)

B. Diane M. in NC: Anita Renfroe's new salute to moms. Slightly updated from the William Tell Overture.

[Moms](#)

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

[BLAINESWORLD](#)

Want to see something neat? Put your mouse on my face (to the right). Then move it to one of the columns on the left. Follow my eyes!

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:

[Facebook](#)



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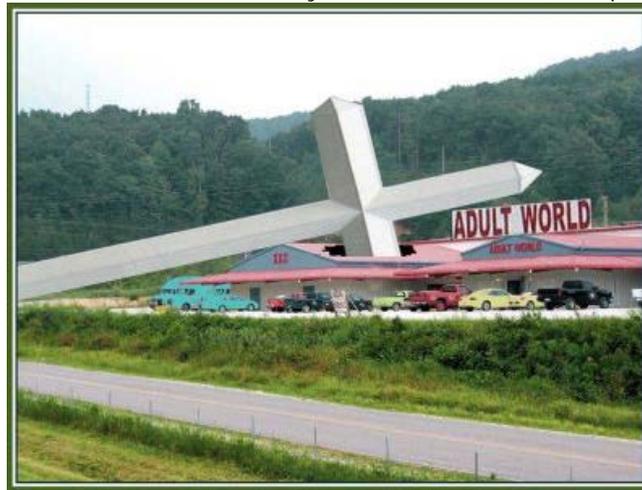
8. Technology tip

Open a Google search window; e.g., by typing google.com . . . then type-in the these words: do a barrel roll . . . and watch Google go crazy!

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9. Joke 3

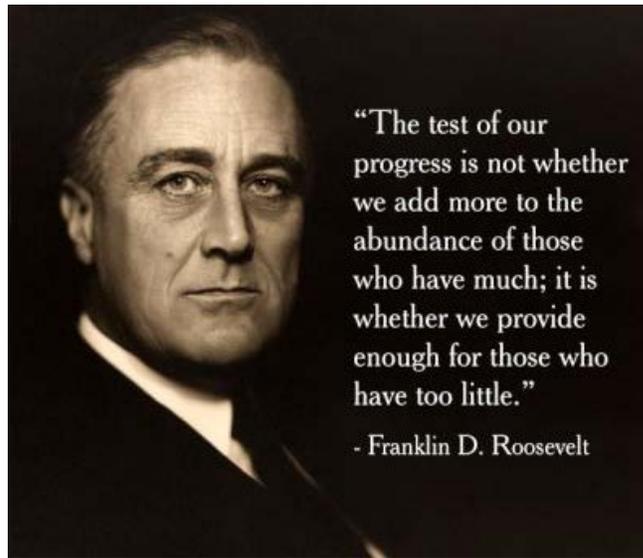
I am sooooo relieved that my car wasn't included in this picture!



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10. A quote I like

Wouldn't it be great if all politicians took this as their mantra--regardless of party?



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11. Thought for the day

BEST SIGN YOU'LL SEE TODAY . . . to give directions to bathrooms or virtually anywhere else!



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12. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following NC events in full, please click:
[Events](#)

(1) DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER. (2) Auditions for the newly forming improv troupe, Lab Ratz. (3) David Troy Francis Holiday Concert.

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PS. I'm thankful for them, too, 'cause it means there is more turkey for me. I'm also thankful for y'all for being in my life. Make it a terrific Thanksgiving, as well as a wonderful rest of the week.



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#947

11.17.2014

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Note: If you're reading this via Facebook and/or in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, you can make sure you don't miss an issue (and you get it earlier, too) by clicking:

[Subscribe](#)

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Saw a terrific production of MASTER CLASS at Hendersonville Little Theatre's Second Stage. Kathy O'Connor (left photo) was amazing as Maria Callas. We also liked the performances of Isaac Fulk and Tabitha Judy (both in right photo), Katie Cilluffo and Will Jones. Kudos, also, to director Jim Walker for his excellent direction.



(2) Spent some time recently with our friend, BJ Leiderman, the very talented Asheville musician.



B. During the week, I:

(1) Was joined by my friend Steven Shulman for dinner at Thai Tara, a restaurant that was in the location that had previously been Thai Basil. We enjoyed the food, but the service was slow--and the place wasn't even crowded when we went.

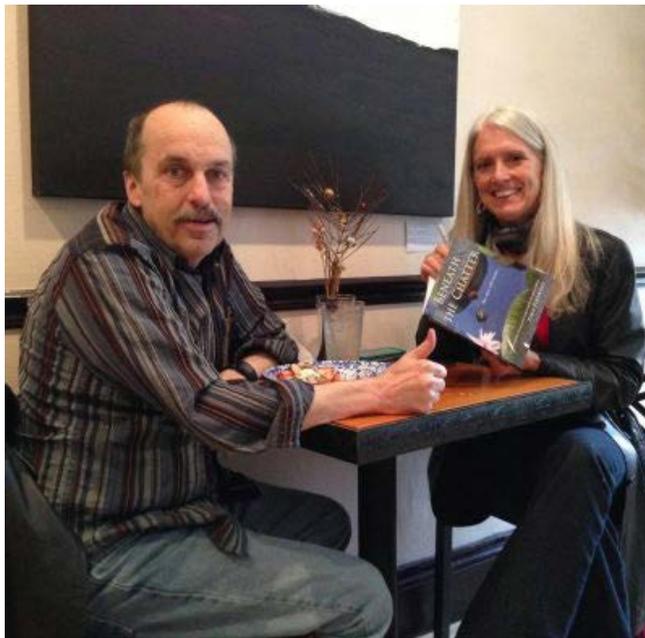
From there, we went to see Different Strokes! Performing Acts Collective's production of NEXT FALL. Paul Gallaher (pictured with me) and Sean David Robinson moved us as the couple facing loss, and we also thought that the rest of the cast was equally fine: Dwight Chiles, Courtney DeGennaro, Kay Galvin and Michael Lilly. Scott Keel's direction was spot on.



(2) Met my friend Tina FireWolf for a tasty lunch at one of my favorite downtown eateries, Cafe 64, that is currently featuring the amazing artwork (that can be seen in the background) of Michelle Baker--another friend. I also got Tina to autograph BENEATH THE CHATTER--her fantastic book that was reviewed in BLAINESWORLD #945.

Note: To purchase Tina's book, please click:

[Purchase](#)



(3) And I met Bob Perlstein, still another friend, for lunch at Dough. Also pictured: Krissy Hinshaw, a supervisor at the place that features great food and baked items. I only wish they went back to offering custom-made sandwiches. (They recently switched to a system wherein you have to take what they have already made up.)



C. To quote my friend Edie Weinstein's excellent blog, BARE NAKED GRATITUDE: Today [Thursday, Nov. 20] is the Great American Smokeout and for those who are thinking of good reasons to kick the habit, here are plenty:

When It's Good To Be A Quitter

You've heard it all before: Smoking is an expensive, health-damaging, addictive activity.

A pack of cigarettes ranges from \$4.96 a pack in Kentucky to \$14.50 a pack in New York. For a pack-a-day smoker, the habit costs \$1,810.40 to \$5,292.50 annually. Imagine how that money could be used to enhance the quality of life of smokers - not to mention those around them.

I often ask clients, "Would you walk into a convenience store and use your hard-earned money to buy the most potent poison the clerk has?" Naturally, they say, "Of course not." I reply, "What do you think you are doing when you buy a pack of cigarettes?" They often shrug and say, "I know, but it's too hard to quit."

To read more, please click:

Read

And to get more information about Edie's blog and/or her other great wiring, please feel free to contact her via email at: [Edie](#).

***** SPECIAL 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:

[Reviews](#)

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 envelope) to me at this address: Blaine Greenfield, 19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way, Biltmore Lake, NC 28715.

My request: Only ask for the book for yourself or somebody else who is serious about quitting . . . and that there's a commitment to read the book within a month of receiving it. (Naturally, please let me know about the success that follows as a result.)

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Asheville for being named one of America's smartest cities by FORBES. For more information, please click:

[Asheville](#)

(2) Sally Butcher for having been named the recipient of the Susan Russo Student Scholarship award for 2014 at ABTech.

(3) Jennifer Worthen for her new job with United Cerebral Palsy Seguin of Greater Chicago.

(4) Jim Donovan for having his book, "Happy at Work: 60 Simple Ways to Stay Engaged and Be Successful," chosen for the "10 Books on Happiness at Work" list by the esteemed Ritz Carlton Leadership Center.

(5) Kevin Moxley for being chosen as a tour actor/director with Missoula Children's Theatre during the first 5 months of 2015.

(6) Chandler Smith for being part of the cast of Scrooge No More that's opening in Williamsburg, VA.

(7) Colleen D. in PA, winner of Contest #23: a copy of THE ART OF WAR FOR SMALL BUSINESS by Becky Sheetz-Runkle. All told, there were 5 entries. And that reminds me that it's now time to announce . . .

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

There will be one lucky winner of BUZZMARKETING by Mark Hughes, a book about how to generate word of mouth. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #463 and very much enjoyed it.

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 Monday, December 1.

E. Condolences to:

(1) Leonard Fellin and Debra Rubin and family on the loss of Leonard's father.

(2) The family of Rose Gallagher, my longtime colleague at Bucks County Community College, on her recent passing. For the obituary, please click:

[Rose](#)

(3) Sharon Butler and family on the passing of John J. "Jeff" Butler, Sharon's brother. For the obituary, please click:

[Jeff](#)

(4) Angela Salmon and family on the passing of Pati Grabinski McMullen, Angela's niece.

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

This week, it goes to Zuzu Welsh--a musician extraordinaire in the Asheville area who has just released his first CD. (See below for a picture of the cover.)

There are lots of fantastic songs in it, including the following that you can listen to here by clicking:

Embrace Life
[Embrace](#)

Sunshine
[Sunshine](#)

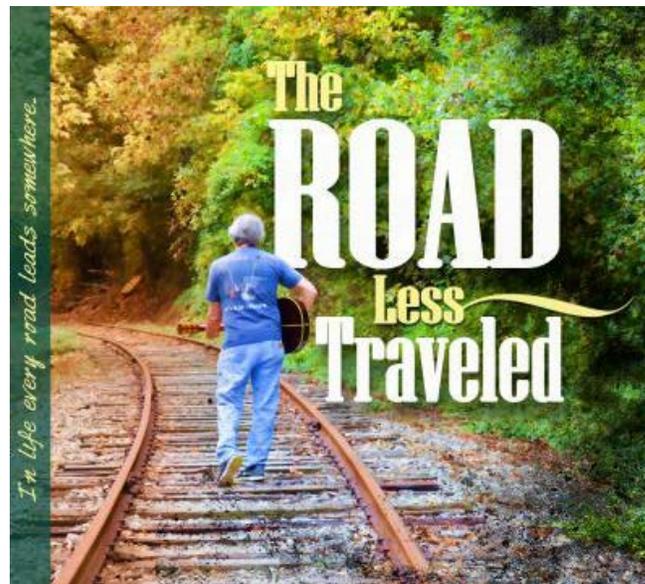
I'm a Survivor
[Survivor](#)

To order the CD, please click:
[Order](#)

Kudos to Zuzu for all his work in making this a reality, as well as to such other performers as Bruce Lang, Jeff Thompson and Jen Worthen, among others, who added their considerable talents to help make the CD the winner that it is.

Zuzu, a system administrator at Margaret R Pardee Memorial Hospital, plays with his own band (The Zuzu Welsh Band), as well as with Pipapelli. He also gives back to the community by playing and/or organizing numerous benefit concerts.

And he will performing at his CD release show on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 6 p.m. at Smokey's, 18 Broadway, Asheville. There is no cover, but the band will gladly accept tips and will be selling CDs at that event.



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2. FYI

WAY COOL: 21 Furniture Ideas for Pet Lovers and Their Furry Friends. Left, Indoor Dog House; and Right, Pet and Person Rocking Chair. For the 19 others, please click:
[Ideas](#)



FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Tebbe D. in NC: What Kind Of Job Would You Have In The 1950s?
[Job](#)

(2) Barbara F. in PA: 2014 Conference on Aging
[Aging](#)

(3) Gary J. in NC: I "Dancing at the Movies"
[Dancing](#)

(4) Nancy C. in NC: Carole Burnett show--dentist
[Dentist](#)

(5) 11 things men don't know about their clothes
[Clothes](#)

(6) Nigel King goes 78 yards to score against TCU
[King](#)

(7) Angel By Your Side by Francesca Battistelli (Lyrics on Screen)
[Angel](#)

(8) Kelly C. in NC: Golden Retriever Goes On Delightful Rampage During Obedience School
[Retriever](#)

(9) Patty A. in PA: "Passionflower" Cover By Alexis Hadeffi
[Passionflower](#)

B. Other tidbits from readers

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
[Read](#)

(1) Nancy W. in NC: Really good article on Brittinay Maynard. (2) Marty S. in PA: Check out the movie, "St. Vincent." (3) Betsy S. in PA: How Jersey Are YOU? (4) Royal Caribbean's Quantum of the Seas: Does This New Supership Live Up to the Hype?

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3. Joke 1

Damn my mother for not listening to me when I was a kid. I told her this wasn't such a cute picture of me or utterance from my mouth--and now it's all over the Internet!



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4. Reviews

A. BEYOND THE LIGHTS is the formulaic story of the music world's latest superstar who falls for a young cop assigned to her detail. It also will remind you of BODYGUARD, an earlier film. Yet it was watchable, in large part because of a powerful performance from Gugu Mbatha-Raw in the leading role. The accompanying soundtrack was only fair at best. Rated PG-13.

B. Out on DVD is 22 JUMP STREET . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #930 follows:

Forget the good reviews that you may have heard about 22 JUMP STREET. Though billed as a comedy follow-up to 21 JUMP STREET, I didn't find it at all funny--except for one or two short bits. This time around, Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum have graduated high school and are now in college. They're OK; the film isn't. About the only thing worth watching for me were the closing credits that are more than just outtakes. Do stay around for them. Rated R.

For a much better rental, seek out SWEET CHARITY--one of my all-time favorite Broadway musicals . . . the movie version stars Shirley MacLaine as a dance hall hostess who is also an incurable optimist. . . she is outstanding . . . the soundtrack is, too . . . rated G.

C. Read *MARKETING*, which is part of THE BRIAN TRACY SUCCESS LIBRARY (AMACOM), by Brian Tracy.

The author, a popular motivational speaker, has drawn from what he has spoken about over the years and put the information down into this short, powerful book that covers 21 marketing ideas that can be put into use immediately.

In doing so, he covers such topics as building your customer base, setting yourself apart from the competition, leveraging market research and determining the correct price for your offerings, among others.

I liked how he also used such real-life examples as the following to help clarify his points:

* When a man answered the phone at the IBM offices, I explained my dilemma [not knowing the location for a seminar], and he told me that he would get back to me with an answer as soon as possible.

Within fifteen minutes, he called back and told me that he had contacted the seminar organizer and found out the name and address of the hotel where I needed to be the next day after my cross-country flight. I thanked him . . . and he replied, "Of course I'm working late. I am the janitor."

I told him I appreciated his help very much . . . and he replied with those wonderful words: "Here at IBM, whoever answers the phone owns the problem."

In some respects, *MARKETING* reminded me of the CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED comic books that I read when I was younger. It gave a lot of information in just 100 pages, and it did so in an entertaining fashion.

D. Heard *SEEING THROUGH THE EYES OF GOD: MYSTICAL PRACTICES OF THE KABBALAH* (Sounds True), written and read by Rabbi David A. Cooper.

The author, one of the today's leading teachers of Jewish meditation, shows how our daily actions and thoughts can carry us, level by level, through 12 stages of higher consciousness.

He does this through the use of both teachings and examples that are applicable to any religion.

In particular, I liked Rabbi Cooper's use of stories that helped illustrate his point. But I also liked the accompanying exercises, including this one:

* List for yourself the activities that nourish your soul.

Calculate for yourself the amount of time you spend each week doing these activities.

Ask yourself another question: How much time would you like to spend each week?

Now take a look: Are you spending as much time as you'd like in nurturing your soul?

If there's a gap, what does this mean to you? What does it feel like in your heart?

You may be feeling TDS: Time Deficiency Syndrome.

People feel we don't have enough time to do what we want to do. . . .

Give yourself at least one full hour a day to nurture your soul.

That is the minimum daily requirement

Consider strongly taking one day off a week. It's called the Sabbath.

And finally, I recommend that you consider taking one week each year to some form of spiritual retreat (separate from any vacation).

I'm not so sure that I'm willing to do all the above, but I will at least start with developing that list of activities that nourish my soul--and then go from there.

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5. TV alert

A. THE 2014 AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS, hosted by Pitbull, features performances from Sam Smith, Lorde and Fergie, among others. Sunday, Nov. 23, at 8 p.m. on ABC.

B. JAY LENO: THE MARK TWAIN PRIZE has the comedian being honored by such friends as his successor Jimmy Fallon, Chelsea Handler and Jerry Seinfeld. Sunday, Nov. 23, at 8 p.m. on PBS.

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

C. SEASON OF LOVE stars Gladys Knight as the matriarch of an affluent family whose husband of 35 years dies on New Year's Eve.

D. HELLO LADIES: THE MOVIE gives a last hurrah to HELLO LADIES, the TV show, which got canceled. "Be prepared for some exquisitely awkward dirty talk," notes ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY, which gave the movie an "A" grade. Monday, Nov. 24, at 5:15 p.m. on HBO.

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6. Joke 2

Be forewarned--and learn from my mistake!

TICK WARNING



**Please send this warning to everyone on your e-mail list.
If someone comes to your front door saying they are
checking for ticks due to the
warm weather and asks you to take your clothes off and
dance around with your arms up,
DO NOT DO IT!! THIS IS A SCAM!!
They only want to see you dance naked.
I wish I'd gotten this yesterday... I feel so stupid.**

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7. Websites

A. Rhoda W. in NC: This Hardworking House Cleaner Just Got Surprised With Her Very Own House

[Surprise](#)

B. Marilynne H., in NC: A Day in Asheville
[Day](#)

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
[BLAINESWORLD](#)

If you're new to this website and want to find out what it is all about, look at the box centered at the top of this 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:

[Blaine](#)



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8. Technology tip

To take multiple pictures at once with your cellphone; e.g., if taking pictures of a moving object, squirming pets or people who tend to blink . . .

With an iPhone 5s/5c:

Open the Camera app. Tap and hold the shutter release button on the screen - or press and hold the Volume Up button - and the camera will start taking multiple pictures. Release the button when you want to stop.

The iPhone can take up to 10 pictures a second. It will group the photos for you automatically so you can quickly find the best ones.

Note: I imagine this might work for the iPhone 6, too, but I haven't checked it out. If any reader has this phone and can check this out for me, please advise if this is the case.

With an Android:

Open the Camera app. Tap the gear icon to open the settings and turn Burst Shot on. Then tap and hold the shutter release button and the phone will take multiple images until you release the button - or it hits the preset limit for your phone. The photos will be grouped for you in your gallery.

If your camera doesn't have this option, you can grab a third-party camera app like Snap Camera HDR.

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9. Joke 3

I'm now ready for Thanksgiving!



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10. A quote I like

Mr. Rogers had it right! And in case you need another reminder, you can listen to him sing "It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" by clicking:

[Rogers](#)



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11. Thought for the day

This also applies to actors, musicians, photographers and teachers. (Thanks, Donna Allen, for sharing. And for this added thought: "This is so true for me as a publisher of newspapers. Everyone wants free PR instead of buying advertising space.")

IF OTHER PROFESSIONS WERE PAID LIKE ARTISTS



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12. Advance planning department

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

[NC](#)

- (1) The Asheville Jewish Business Forum is pleased to announce its annual holiday party.
- (2) Silver & Gold concert. (3) Gay Men Chorus of Asheville.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!



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BLAINES WORLD

#946

11.10.2014

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Note: If you're reading this via Facebook and/or in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, you can make sure you don't miss an issue (and you get it earlier, too) by clicking:

[Subscribe](#)

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Saw Attic Salt Theatre Company's excellent production of GOD OF CARNAGE at 35below. Pictured, l-r: Cynthia Greenfield, Dan Clancy, Blaine Greenfield, Chelsey Lee Gaddy, Christy Montesdeoca, Jeff Catanese (director) and Mike Yow. You're in luck, in that you can see it through November 23.

I often fail to recognize the work of others in a show, but in this case I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the props that were handled by Cary Nichols. You'll see why I cite her work if you are fortunate enough to get to the show that has been playing to sold-out crowds.

Note: You'll also get the chance to have some Clafoutis, a dish that is distributed after the closing curtain. If you'd like the recipe, please go to Section 1A when you click:

[Recipe](#)



(2) Joined our friends Tom and Marcy Gallagher for a tasty dinner at Cheddar's. My Monte Cristo sandwich was one of the best I have ever had--and I've had a lot of them! We also received excellent service from Rebecca B., and we were impressed with the friendliness of Graham Bryant, the GM.



(3) Woke up to see five hot air balloons flying over our home. By the time I got to take this picture, one had moved out of view, and they weren't as close as they had been only minutes before.



B. During the week, I attended a meeting of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum at Hi-Wire Brewing, hosted by that company's Adam Charnack (right). He also did a great job telling us about the beer industry. Also pictured: Debra Bell, a licensed clinical social worker with Jewish Family Services.



C. Congratulations to:

(1) Marilyn Sholin. To quote her:

On February 24th I will be hanging my all NEW show of paintings at the Lexington Avenue Brewery for a five week show! The LAB as we call it here is an amazing venue for artists with great exposure and a beautiful brick wall to show off the art. The amazing Elizabeth Topper handles everything making sure every artist has a great show! The FOOD at LAB is fantastic btw! We will set up dates that we will be down there and will have an informal Meet and Greet there in March. We hope all our friends will meet us there and share a pint with us! DATE to Meet us to be announced.

(2) Gary Bien on being elected to the Biltmore Lake Board of Directors.

Note: I was honored to have been reelected to this same Board. Thanks to everybody who voted for me!

(3) Nancy Korn on her retirement from Bucks County Community College.

(4) Kathy Byers on the birth of Savannah Brooke Byers, her new granddaughter.

(5) Fred Weiss and Cynthia Greenberger Osofsky on their wedding.

Note; For a great article (and picture) on the above, please click:

[Wedding](#)

(6) Michelle Baker on being featured in MOUNTAIN XPRESS:

[Baker](#)

D. Condolences to the family of Carol Ann Susi, the voice Behind Big Bang Theory's Mrs. Wolowitz. For more information, please click:

[Susi](#)

And if you'd actually like to see Mrs. Wolowitz (yes, you can if you look closely), please click:

[Wolowitz](#)

E. Correction: Thanks, Chuck F. in NC, for pointing out a typo in one of the picture captions from last week. It should have read Len Ennis, not Len Ellis. Sorry 'bout that, Len!

F. Reminder: There's still time to enter . . .

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

There will be one lucky winner of THE ART OF WAR FOR SMALL BUSINESS, a book that will help you (to quote its subtitle) "Defeat the Competition and Dominate the Market with the Masterful Strategies of Sun Tzu." I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #942 and very much enjoyed it.

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 Monday, November 24.

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

This week, it goes to White Horse Black Mountain--an entertainment venue that recently celebrated its 6th anniversary with a fantastic bash that I had the good fortune to attend with several friends.

Kudos to founders Kim Hughes (top photo, left) and Bob Hinkle, as well as to co-manager Don Tally (top photo, right) for all their hard work in bringing an eclectic mix of local, regional and national talent to Western North Carolina.

We've been to the facility several times and are always delighted with the performers we might see, including the other night: BJ Leiderman, Kat Williams, Kim and Bob, and Keith Campbell and Walter Beals from Forty Fingers and a Missing Tooth (bottom photo, left) to name just a few.

That's our group (bottom photo, right), l-r: Marcy Gallagher, Tom Gallagher, Bonnie Sibner, Judy Blumlo, Dave Blumlo, Blaine Greenfield, Cynthia Greenfield, Sunny Ruble and Bob Bowles.

Note: For more information about White Horse, Black Mountain, please click:

[White Horse](#)



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2. FYI

How One Boy With Autism Became B.F.F.'s With Apple's Siri

By JUDITH NEWMAN in THE NEW YORK TIMES of 10.17.2014

Just how bad a mother am I? I wondered, as I watched my 13-year-old son deep in conversation with Siri. Gus has autism, and Siri, Apple's "intelligent personal assistant" on the iPhone, is currently his BFF.

For the rest of this fascinating article, please click:

[Best friends](#)

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Holiday C. in NC: Will Ferrell and Jimmy Fallon Fight Over Tight Pants

[Tight pants](#)

(2) Dog plays with bouncing baby

[Dog with baby](#)

B. other tidbits from readers

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

[Tidbits](#)

(1) Eric C. in NC: Why Are You Using LinkedIn? (2) Mark B. in FL: The only problem is that middle America is broke. (3) Maria A. in PA: I never knew there was a pencil for lefties. (4) Lee W. in PA: The race to nowhere in youth sports. (5) Cynthia G. in NC: Thich Nhat Hanh is Dying, But He Will Never Leave Us. (6) Warren F. in NJ: SEEKING NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITY. (7) Paralegic veteran finds a way to dance with his wife at their wedding. (8) Janeen R. in PA: I noticed in recent blainesworld that you and your lovely bride looked amazing as hippies. (9) A brief history of failure. (10) Roger C. in PA: Please click the link below to read an article by a friend of mine.

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3. Joke 1

Smile, you're on Canine Camera!



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4. Reviews

A. I enjoyed seeing Robert Downey Jr. play the role of a big city lawyer in THE JUDGE, in that I've always enjoyed his acting--but had gotten a bit tired of seeing him in IRON MAN-type roles . . . here, he returns to his childhood home to help defend his father, Robert Duvall, who is accused of murder . . . the plot is a bit contrived, yet overall, the film held my interest . . . I also liked the work of Vera Farmiga . . . I wasn't crazy about the production values . . . methinks they could have spent some more money on such things as shooting scenes in a more realistic diner that had me laughing every time I saw the "waterfall" that was supposedly right next to it . . . rated R, though I have no idea why . . . it would be appropriate for any mature teenager.

B. JERSEY BOYS is now out on DVD . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #925 follows: I had seen JERSEY BOYS, the show about The Four Seasons, and loved it. The movie with the same title is every bit as good. John Lloyd Young was good as Frankie Valli, but I thought Vincent Piazza as Tommy DeVito was outstanding. Christopher Walken was also watchable in his every scene. Director Clint Eastwood should be commended for the look of the film; it appeared very real. And the thing I liked most was the music. (Make sure you stay for the ending credits.) Rated R.

Note: I just added the above to my list of favorite films. If you'd like to get a copy of this list, please send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

C. Read IT AIN'T OVER . . . TILL IT'S OVER: REINVENTING YOUR LIFE--AND REALIZING YOUR DREAMS--ANYTIME, AT ANY AGE (Atria Books) by Marlo Thomas.

The author profiles 60 amazing women who prove that it's never too late to live out a dream, whether it be to start a new business, find love, travel or even do something to fill a void by just doing something different.

Though Thomas only devotes a few pages to each woman, I feel that I got to know each one. I found myself drawn into each story and got a special kick out of reading about Robin Fox, a New Jersey housewife who became a stand-up comedian after her children had grown up. I also learned that:

* A comic's next goal after open mics is to get stage time at a real club with a real audience. There are four ways to get stage time. Well, there are five, but no one ever asked me to have sex in exchange for career advancement.

For the other four ways, you'll have to read IT AIN'T OVER.

I've read the previous six books by the author who you may recognize as also being a very talented actress. IT AIN'T OVER is perhaps her best written effort to date. My only hope is that she will now go back and write a similar book for guys, reinforcing the idea that the best is yet to come--for all of us!

D. Heard UNCONTAINABLE: HOW PASSION, COMMITMENT AND CONSCIOUS CAPITALISM BUILT A BUSINESS WHERE EVERYONE THRIVES (Hachette Audio), written by Kip Tindell with Paul Keegan and Casey Shilling and read by Tindell.

The author, chairman and CEO of The Container Store, describes how he and his partners realized in 1978 that people were eager to find solutions for saving both space and time, and so they launched their business.

Since then, it has grown to where there are stores across the United States with more than 6,000 loyal employees. Perhaps more significantly, The Container Store has landed on FORTUNE magazine's 100 Best Companies to Work For list for 15 consecutive years.

Tindell shows how this was done via use of something called the seven Foundation Principles, and how they have been used to build his business through the tenets of Conscious Capitalism. I also liked how he shared some very specific techniques of what he does; for example:

* [When considering a job applicant] Take them to lunch or dinner and watch how they treat the waiter. If won't treat the restaurant staff well, I won't even consider hiring them. I don't care how phenomenal you are at what you do if you don't possess basic human kindness.

In addition, I liked reading about his belief that one great person equals three good people and the fact that the company then pays its people accordingly--most often at a much higher rate than any other retail store.

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5. TV alert

A. SWEET CHARITY, the tuneful musical featuring a terrific performance from Shirley MacLaine, airs on Sunday, Nov. 16, at 8 p.m. on TCM.

B. JEFF DUNHAM: ALL OVER THE MAP has the ventriloquist comic traveling the globe with controversial pals like Achmed the Dead Terrorist, José Jalapeño and Jeff the Sadly Racist Ventriloquist Comic. Sunday, Nov. 16, at 9 p.m. on COMEDY CENTRAL.

C. BANKSY DOES NEW YORK is a documentary about British street artist Banksy who spent a month in New York City in 2013, creating a piece of public art per day. Monday, Nov. 17, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

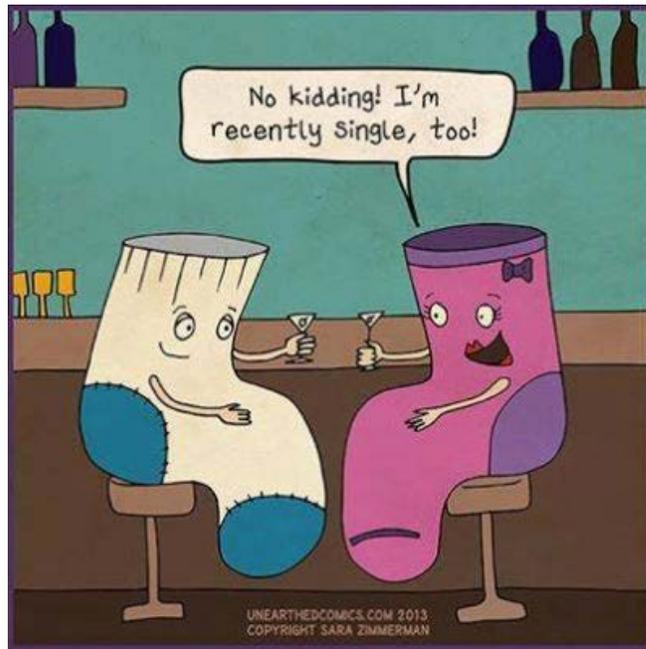
D. TO CATCH A COMET follows the journey of orbiter Rosetta as it attempts to land on the surface of a comet as it zooms around the sun. As you probably heard, it succeeded. Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 10 p.m. on PBS.

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

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6. Joke 2

People wanting to meet other singles might want to hang out at the same bar . . .

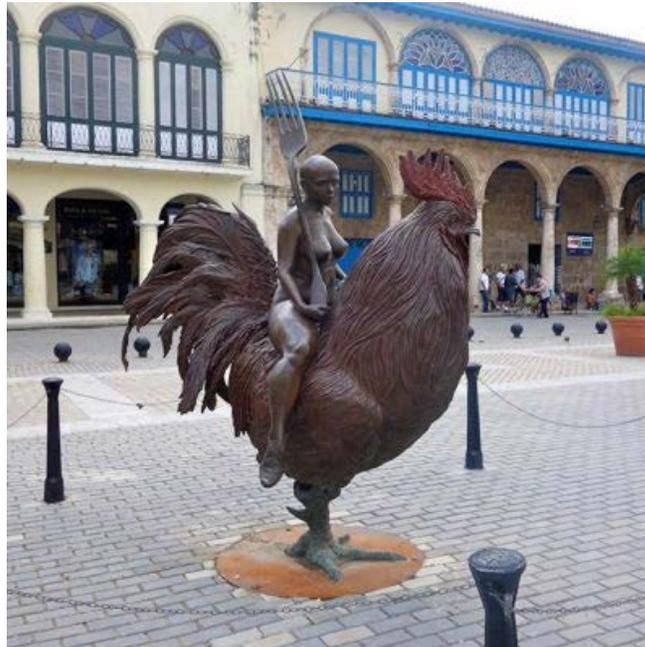


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7. Websites

A. Surrounded by colonial buildings in the oldest part of Havana, this sculpture in Plaza Vieja qualifies for the "Questionable Public Art" collection at the Museum of Bad Art in Boston, MA. I can see why, too, but I'll refrain from giving you my interpretation. If you'd like to see more such art, please click:

[Museum](#)



B. Chanda M. in MO: ANIMAL CRACKERS (The Best of BBC One's Walk On The Wild Side)

[Animal crackers](#)

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

[BLAINESWORLD](#)

Ever hear of a concept in business called the Loyalty Ladder? If not, read my article on the subject by clicking "Consulting" on the Left" and then the letter C under "Article Samples."

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:

[Facebook](#)



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8. Technology tip

Having a hard time reading things on your phone's small screen? Bump up the font size to something a bit easier to see.

iPhone:

Go to Settings>>General>>Accessibility and turn on Bold Text and Larger Text. You can choose either one or both, depending on your preferences. You will need to restart your phone for Bold Text to take effect.

Android:

Go to Settings>>Accessibility. Under Vision, tap Font size and set it to Large. Some phones include an even larger Huge option.

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9. Joke 3

Bob Dylan had it right when he sang, "The Times They Are A-Changin' ". . .

[Dylan](#)



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10. A quote I like

This reminds me of one of my favorite quotes: Maurice Chevalier, when asked on his 70th birthday how he felt, replied, "Great, considering the alternative."

**Do not regret growing older.
It is a privilege denied to many.**



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11. Thought for the day

BRITTANY MAYNARD DID NOT DIE
by Rabbi Mel Glazer*

Some people that you and I know live their lives, but they are deadened ones. They teach us no life-lessons, they give not of themselves to anyone else, they care about no one but themselves. So when they die, they are hardly noticed. Because they did not live and contribute to the knowledge and emotions that God expected of them. They were dead, even when they were alive.

And then there are people, like Brittany Maynard, who lived a life which was painful yet poignant; harsh but happy as she could possibly make it. She gave of herself to others, she did not stop living until had to. Tiffany truly lived.

She understood that life means sharing with others, reaching beyond herself, stretching to touch the souls of those with whom she shared the Earth. And so she did.

She reminded us that life is transient, that it passes in a moment, so we must value every second and minute and day and year. Until our bodies fail us, and then it is time to go.

Did Tiffany play God? Did she take upon herself to answer the question "who shall live and who shall die?" Perhaps she did, and there are those who, even after she has left us, argue with her decision to end her life. Who knows what we might do in a similar situation? I hope I never have to find out...

The God I believe in is a God of compassion, who expects the most of us, and forgives the rest. I don't judge her or the way she left us, because she simply could not live with that pain any longer. Because the pain prevented her from "being" with those whom she loved the most. When that happened, the end had come. The end was painless, and peaceful. Those who loved her stood around her and hugged her and kissed her and let her know how much they will miss her, and how grateful they were that she had become their life-teacher.

For what lesson is more important than the one she taught? Without the ability to love others when your body is wracked with pain, you are alive no more. The morphine played only a minor part in this drama, Tiffany knew best when the time had come.

Life is not just about physical energy, it is about emotions and feelings and love and the ability to share and to care and to cry and laugh together. When that comes to an end, so does life.

In her own words: "Today is the day I have chosen to pass away with dignity in the face of terminal illness...the world is a beautiful place, travel has been my greatest teacher, my close friends and folks are the greatest givers...goodbye world. Spread good energy. Pay it forward!" -Brittany Maynard.

Be at Peace brave soul.

When I die, I hope that I will leave as many life-lessons as Brittany did.

May her soul be a blessing to us all.

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Rabbi Glazer from his blog entry of November, 2014. Rabbi Mel Glazer has spent over 40 years in the rabbinate. During that time has developed and nurtured a special interest in grief and healing, and he has written two books helping grieverers to " lay them gently down." For more information on Rabbi Mel, click:

[Glazer](#)

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12. Advance planning department

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

[Read more](#)

A. NC events

(1) FORTE. (2) Upcoming Richard Shulman performances. (3) Holiday Concert and School Supply Drive. (4) Empowering Guidance with Charley Castex. (5) Vic A. in NC: We saw the Feral Chihuahuas 10th Anniversary show at ACT tonight. (6) NEXT FALL. (7) The 38th Annual Bernstein Family Christmas Spectacular! (8) DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) FALL/WINTER 2014 SPIRITUAL HAPPENINGS. (2) Bucks County Community College presents THE CHINESE GOLDEN DRAGON ACROBATS. (3) Theatre Students Present 'Normal Heart' at MCCC's Studio Theatre Dec. 5-7.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week. As for the cartoon below, it is sooooo true in my case; i.e., I'm grateful for all vets--including my Dad! And if y'all would like to join me in remembering them on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, please do so by clicking this song:

[Song](#)



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#945

11.3.2014

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11. Thought for the day

12. Advance planning department

Note: Please make sure you skim Section 2 from time to time. In this week's issue in "other tidbits," you'll find excellent articles dealing with such topics as positive thinking, a natural fix for A.D.H.D. and what it takes to keep community theatre running.

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I :

(1) Went camping recently. That's us in the left photo, roughing it in our log cabin. . . .For food, we had to use the open flames (of the oven in our friends' camper) as can be seen in the right photo; l-r: Marcy Gallagher, Tom Gallagher, Cynthia Greenfield, yours truly, Carole Biro and Brian Biro . . . And MOST AMAZING: Some of us even traversed the entire width of the Jones Gap in Marietta, SC. If you have the guts to see this feat for yourself, please click:

Feat



(2) Here's a second clip from the same day:

Feat #2

(3) We even encountered a black bear along the way.



(4) For still more pictures, please click:
[More pictures](#)

(5) Lastly, a recommendation: We stayed at the Travelers Rest/N. Greenville KOA, and suggest you do the same if visiting the area--whether you bring your own camper or like us, you stay in one of the three cabins that are available for rental. The owners (Jason and Rebecca Tubb) do a great job running it. To reach them, your best bet is to call 864.834.8150.

B. We also:

(1) Saw a fantastic performance from our friend Ellen Pappas (top photo) in OTHER DESERT CITES--a touching family drama produced by The Autumn Players. Kudos also to the others in the cast: Kermit Brown, Carol Cole, Dylan Henley and Theo Sable, as well as to director Anita Chapman. In addition, we enjoyed meeting Len Ellis, a longtime BLAINESWORLD reader (bottom photo with Laura Lilly).





(2) . Had an enjoyable dinner with our friend Ellane Chandler at Chef's Apron in Biltmore Park (top photo), hosted our friend Darlene Kucken for lunch at our place (middle photo) and had a belated birthday celebration for Cynthia at Vinnie's in Asheville (bottom photo). Part of what makes that latter experience such a delight is the excellent service we always receive from David Jones, that eatery's server extraordinaire. We especially like how he labels and dates any leftover portions.





C. Congratulations to:

(1) BJ Leiderman on being interviewed by NPR on the station's 35th anniversary. To listen to it, please click:

[BJ](#)



(2) Asheville for being named a weird, cool city by Flirting with the Globe. To read more, please click:

[Cool city](#)

(3) Asheville, again . . . this time for being named one of the best in the world by National Geographic:

[One of best](#)

(4) Michael Feldman for having completed his first NYC Marathon with a time of 4:41.36.

(5) Asheville Community Theatre for being recognized in the Report Card Grade section of the ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES on 11.4.14. In case you missed it, here's what was sent in:
 A to Asheville Community Theatre (ACT) for its most successful musical ever: THE ADDAMS FAMILY. I went with a group of 10 friends, and we all loved everything about it. Bradshaw Call and Rachelle Roberts were outstanding in the leading roles, but I'd be remiss if I didn't also name all the other members of the cast who were every bit as good: Mary Chamberlain Harlan, Drew Emanuele, Henry Casson, Dianne Chapman, Mark Jones, David Fine, Karen Covington and Mike Yow. Jerry Crouch's direction was spot on, as was the musical direction from Anne Rhymer-Schwabland and the choreography by Tina Pisano-Foor. Asheville is lucky to have ACT in its midst. If you haven't been to this theatre lately, please get to an upcoming production. You won't be disappointed.--Blaine Greenfield, Biltmore Lake

D. You still have time to enter . . .

***** CONTEST #22 *****

There will be one lucky winner of STUIPIDPARTY: MATH V. MYTH by Patrick M. Andendall, a book that relies on publicly available facts, resources and tools to deconstruct and relentlessly drill down on the numerous misconceptions held by many Americans. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #936 and very much enjoyed it.

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 Monday, November 10.

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

This week, it goes to two local politicians, Brian Turner and Terry Van Duyn, as well as to Sheriff Van Duncan--all who ran excellent, winning campaigns in the recent election.

I have had the pleasure of getting to know each of these three individuals over the past several years, and I'm confident that they will all do an excellent job in their respective positions.

Nancy Waldrop also deserves recognition for her first attempt to run for elected office, as does Marty Weinberg--her tireless campaign manager. Though Nancy came up just a bit short this time, I'm hopeful that she will again run for some future position.

And I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Kaye Hagan's valiant attempt to retain her NC Senate seat. I had been willing to keep an open mind about Thom Tillis, the NC House Speaker who beat her; however, I was already disappointed in the fact that he wasted no time in changing my opinion when he quickly gave notice that he's going to appeal the federal judge's ruling that allowed same state marriages in North Carolina. For more information on this development, please click:

[Latest from Tillis](#)

Unreal!

Note: Special thanks to the many Biltmore Lake residents who spent so many hours campaigning in an attempt to get the best candidates elected. These neighbors of mine included Art Aronson, Valerie and Stuart Altman, Keith Bell, Elyse Bernstein, Evelyn Ellis, Ayla Ficken, Bruce Frank, Marilynne Herbert, Chuck Hollinshead, Edeltraut Hunt, Christina Lief, Diane and Jim Millikan, Kristi Mizen, Steve Pohl, Bobbie Rockwell, Tom and Diane Rosjford, Ron Scheinman, Dan and Becky Steves, Marty and Joanne Swenson, Pat Thompson, and Margie Zack.

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2. FYI

Jenna B. in CA: Seriously, don't put a Q-tip in your ear. If some of it breaks off your ear will get infected and it will hurt. Learn from my misery, please.

For more information on this subject, please click:

[Q-tip information](#)

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Holiday Childress in NC, a talented Asheville performer: [Ice Cream Shoppe](#)

(2) Karen M. in NC: La Vie En Rose, performed by Daniela Andrade
[La Vie En Rose](#)

(3) Amy S. in NC: 4 girl chair trick!
[Neat trick](#)

(4) Matthew McConaughey (Jim Carrey) ponders the important questions in life in a new set of commercials.
[Important questions](#)

(5) Always play until the whistle blows
[Keep playing](#)

(6) Wisconsin high school runner carries competitor across finish line
[Amazing runner](#)

(7) Rams' Daren Bates gives us one of the best offsides penalties of the season
[Best offsides penalty](#)

(8) Player with brain tumor fulfills basketball dream
[Brain tumor](#)

(9) 6 Easy Hacks For Hard-To-Open Things

Easy hacks

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

Other tidbits

(1) Nancy W. in NC: Looks like another great week in the life of Blaine! (2) Kevin J. in PA: The problem with positive thinking. (3) Carole B. in NC: 50 ways to reuse your yoga or fitness mat. (4) Marilynne H. in NC: Please "like" Ask Your Mom on Facebook. (5) Ed B. in NC: Nightcrawler, just saw it. (6) Mike M. in NC [on same film]. (7) Sandy B. in PA: Loved this newsletter and your jokes and cartoons were hilarious! (8) Holiday C. in NC: Thanks Blaine!! This looks great! (9) Margie Z. in NC: I love Cher! (10) Terry B. in FL: As always, Blaine...enjoying your world!!! (11) A Natural Fix for A.D.H.D. (12) Bracing for the falls of an aging nation. (13) Marty S. in PA: Nice do, BG! Keep it growing. (14) Holiday Childress in NC (with a REQUEST FOR HELP). (15) What it Takes to Keep Community Theatre Running. (16) Diane M. in NC: Princeton Concludes What Kind of Government America Really Has, and It's Not a Democracy.

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3. Joke 1

"People always say, 'He died penniless,' as if it's a terrible thing. Sounds like good timing to me."-- Al Clethen, American comedian

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4. Reviews

A. LAGGIES is a sweet, romantic comedy about a 28-year-old woman who has never grown up. She has no career prospects, either, and all her friends are either married or preparing to go that route. Things seem like they are going to change, however, when her high-school sweetheart proposes . . . but rather than tell you more about the very intriguing and well-written plot, let me just say that I think you'll like this film. Keira Knightley is outstanding in the leading role, and I also liked the work of both Sam Rockwell and Chloë Grace Moretz. Rated R.

B. GUESS WHO is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #449 follows:

I was mildly amused by GUESS WHO, a 2005 comedic take on the far superior 1967 drama GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER . . . this latest version has Ashton Kutcher, who's quite charming, coming home to meet his girlfriend's black parents . . . the father is played by Bernie Mac, a comedian who continues to impress me with his appearances in movies (I also liked his work in MR. 3000) . . . there are some funny moments in the film, but stretches of it were somewhat flat . . . rated PG-13.

Note: I just revisited this film a second time. In doing so, I found that I enjoyed it even more than when I first saw it . . . and so I now change my recommendation from what had been a mildly positive one to a recommendation that you see it, especially because it features one of Mac's last roles. He died in 2008.

Also, I revisited GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER and noticed that it didn't hold up nearly as well as when I first saw it.

C. BENEATH THE CHATTER: THE WISE SELF AWAITS (areconnectedlife.com) by Tina Firewolf is a beautiful book that will be treasured by those seeking their own spiritual path.

The author, AKA "Medicine Woman," facilitates ancient healing by igniting audiences with her wise tools, tips and tales for everyday enlightenment.

In three short but powerful sections, she covers the topics of disconnection, awakening and then reconnection.

Included are short, thought-provoking essays, followed by Firewolf's everyday enlightenment tips--such as this one:

* An easy sure-fire way to make a difficult decision--ask yourself the following simple question(s):

When I am dead, which would I be more pissed off that I didn't do:
Choice A or Choice B?

Which choice will I regret not making?

Bing! You will have your answer in a millisecond. These questions take all the fear out of making a decision. Be sure to write your answer down!

I also enjoyed reading the author's reason for writing this book:

* One day a friend said something that catapulted me into realizing my dormant passion. She said, "Tina, you don't see the world the way other people see it--you see so much more--show people how you see." We walked on in complete silence when suddenly she added, "I'm afraid I will never see what you see--that I will miss it."

But what I perhaps enjoyed most were the accompanying pictures. These help drive home the points that Firewolf makes, and they alone make this a perfect gift for the upcoming holiday season. Make sure you get a copy for yourself, too.

D. Heard FEARLESS PUBLIC SPEAKING (Topics Entertainment), written and read by Steve Pool.

The author, a seven-time Emmy Award-winning broadcaster, provides useful advice on such topics as Specific Ways to Overcome Fear, How to Avoid Common Speaking Traps, Tips & Tricks of the Pros, Persuasion as Art & Science, Tested Techniques for Research & Organization, Effective Audio/Visual Use, How to Speak to the Media and more.

I especially liked his discussion about commonly-held beliefs that can, at times, make things worse. For example, he cited this one:

* Smile to relate to your audience. He then kiddingly said, "That should work well at your next eulogy,"

He then went on to say:

* Done right, the listener will feel that they knew the deceased, whether that was the case or not.

My favorite part of the book was the last one, in which Pool discussed famous speakers and what made them great. He not only gave his opinion, but he also included clips from such famous orators as Franklin D. Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Casey Stengel and Winston Churchill, among others.

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5. TV alert

A. THE COMEBACK returns almost a decade after its first season. The comedy stars Lisa Kudrow as a bad actress and even more horribly annoying personality. According to TV GUIDE, it has "the faint shape of a show going pleasantly darker." Sundays, starting Nov. 9, at 10 p.m. on HBO.

B. THE NEWSROOM, starring Emmy winner Jeff Daniels, returns for the show's final six episodes. Sundays, starting Nov. 9, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

C. THE CONCERT FOR VALOR is a live Veterans Day concert from DC's National Mall, featuring Bruce Springsteen and Carrie Underwood--among others. Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 7 p.m. on HBO.

D. CHELSEA PERETTI: ONE OF THE GREATS is a stand-up special that has the BROOKLY NINE-NINE actress making fun of stand-up specials. Starting Friday, Nov. 14, via NETFLIX STREAMING.

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6. Joke 2

Ouch!



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7. Websites

A. Ellentube, Ellen Degeneres' own digital destination, recently launched. It features behind-the-scenes video and user-generated material. To quote the comedian, "It's something that would be my sensibility and wouldn't be dangerous if you put in the wrong word and find something you didn't want to find." To view it, please click:

[Ellentube](#)

And to give you a feel for the fun stuff that's on the site, see Ellen's Halloween costume revealed by clicking:

[Ellen's Halloween costume](#)

B. Paralympian Josh Sundquist remains the king of Halloween costumes

See for yourself by clicking:

[Josh Sundquist](#)

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

[BLAINESWORLD](#)

Ever wonder how many other readers have looked at the above? Be prepared to have your socked knocked off when you look at the counter on the bottom left of this homepage.

D. Are you on Facebook? If we have not yet connected as friends there, please feel free to send me an invite by clicking:

[Blaine on Facebook](#)



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8. Technology tip

TIPS FOR YOU TO TRY!
by Deborah Scanell*

"Elements 1" . . . Captured [picture of Biltmore Lake, which is located right behind my home] very early this morning while it was still snowing here in Asheville! So I am posting this here to this page for a few reasons . . . a few statements about composition to think about next time you shoot!

1. Composition--diagonal lines. Notice how the diagonal line of the shore converges directly with

the corner of the image . . . this helps you to guide your viewer's eye into the image.

2. Also, notice how the horizon line is perfectly level. That is most important. These two lines create a dynamic composition. Look for them next time you shoot.

3. Leave out your sky, especially if it is grey and not interesting. Remember this: **WHAT DOES NOT ADD TO YOUR IMAGE, TAKES AWAY FROM YOUR IMAGE!** If it is not possible to leave out your sky and still include what you want... just crop it later! I promise it will be a much stronger composition!

* Photograph and text taken from Deb's Facebook post of Nov. 1, 2014 that she graciously allowed to be reprinted.

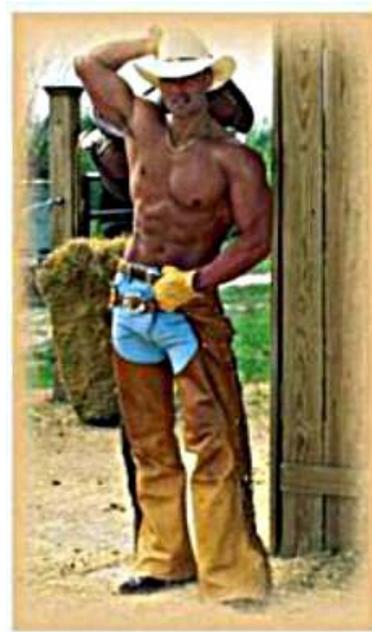
Note: For more information about Deb Scannell, a very talented photographer, please click: [Deborah Scannell Photography](#)



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9. Joke 3

Y'all gotta be careful out there!



WATCH FOR THIS SCAM

I don't know how many of you shop at Wal Marts, but this is how I became a victim of this scam. Two seriously good looking well-built cowboy type guys come over to your car as you are loading your purchases. They are both shirtless and start wiping your windshield with a rag and windex with their highly defined chest muscles and rock-hard abs. It's impossible not to look. When you offer them a tip, they say "No" and instead ask you for a ride to another store. You agree and they get in the back seat. On the way, they start talking dirty about what they want to do to you. Then one of them climbs over into the front seat and begins kissing your neck and begs you to pull over so he can make love to you!! While this is going on the other guy steals your purse!!! I had my purse stolen last Tuesday, Wednesday, twice on Thursday, again on Saturday, and also yesterday and most likely tomorrow.

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10. A quote I like

"Take a look at this: Gas under \$3 a gallon--gas under \$3 a gallon! Unemployment under 6 percent--who ever thought? Stock market breaking records every day. No wonder the guy is so unpopular."--David Letterman's take on President Obama after the recent elections

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11. Thought for the day

What would be REALLY impressive: If these same stores closed down their online operations on Thanksgiving--and if all folks also refrained from buying anything online that day.



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12. Advance planning department

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

[NC events](#)

NC events

(1) Maggie B's Presents - Pop Your Cork. (2) HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE AT BLUE RIDGE FOOD VENTURES. (2) HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE AT BLUE RIDGE FOOD VENTURES. (3) THE CANOE (Book Launch event). (4) GOD OF CARNAGE.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!



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BLAINESWORLD

#944

10.27.2014

In this issue

- 1. Reflections**
- 2. Joke 1**
- 3. Joke 2**
- 4. Joke 3**
- 5. A quote I like**
- 6. Advance planning department**

Note: I had some extra pictures to run this week. In addition, I had to eliminate some material because of space limitations. So please be reassured that if one of your favorite sections is missing, it will be back in BLAINESWORLD #945.

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Attended a joyous surprise birthday party for Brian Biro. Top photo: Carole Biro, Brian Biro, Blaine Greenfield (looking good with a lot of hair if I do say so myself) and Cynthia Greenfield. Bottom photo, clockwise starting with the woman on the far left: Joanie Lamb, Brian Biro, Kelsey Sanders, Michael Sanders, Carole Biro, Marcy Gallagher, Tom Gallagher, Bob Bowles, Sunny Ruble, Cynthia Greenfield and behind her, sort of in the middle, yours truly. For more photos from the party, please click: [Party](#).

Make sure you also click the following link to catch one of the highlights of the evening-- Annemarie Brown and Marvin Sadovsky singing an original song they wrote in honor of the occasion:

[Song](#)





(2) Went with a bunch of friends to what might well have been the best production we've ever seen at Asheville Community Theatre: THE ADAMS FAMILY. That's us with the incomparable Bradshaw Call. For photos of us with some of the other performers, please click:

[ADAMS](#)

Kudos to Bradshaw and Rachelle Roberts who were both outstanding in the leading roles, as well as to all the other members of the cast who were every bit as good: Mary Chamberlain Harlan, Drew Emanuele, Henry Casson, Dianne Chapman, Mark Jones, David Fine, Karen Covington and Mike Yow. We also enjoyed seeing Leslie Lang and Jacob Wallas, among others, in the chorus. Jerry Crouch's direction was spot on, as was the musical direction from Anne Rhymer-Schwabland and the choreography by Tina Pisano-Foor.

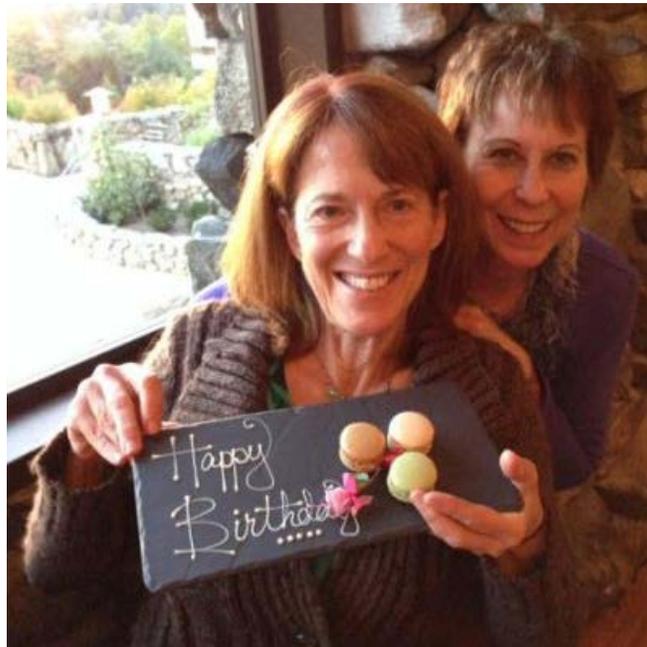


(3) Afterward, we went around the corner for some great food at the Korean House where we were fortunate to have Evon as our server. Pictured, l-r: Brian Biro, Tom Gallagher, Carole Biro, Marcy Gallagher, Blaine Greenfield, Cynthia Greenfield, BJ Leiderman, Bonnie Sibner, Annemarie Brown and Marvin Sadovsky.



B. During the week:

(1) Cynthia, in front, got to celebrate Marcy Gallagher's birthday at the Grove Park Inn.



(2) I got to meet up with James Wade and Charlotte Wade, BLAINESWORLD subscribers and Biltmore Lake neighbors, at a Friday night social at our community's clubhouse.



(3) And I taught Kim Jones, Asheville SCORE's helpful intern, the difference between a left- and right-handed pencil at a recent marketing seminar I presented.

Note: If you don't know the difference between the two kinds of pencils and would like to learn, send me a self-addressed, self-stamped envelope (large enough to include two pencils). You probably need about 70 cents of postage on the outside envelope and \$1.82 on the inside one. Send your request to: Blaine Greenfield, 19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way, Biltmore Lake, NC 28715.



C. Congratulations to:

(1) Greg and Ashley Garrison on having their store, The Hop, named one of the "12 Best Ice Cream Shops in America." To read more, please click:

[Hop](#)

(2) Tobi Bruhn on being selected by the BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES for Bucks County's Forty Under 40 Class of 2014.

(3) Marilynne Herbert on being featured in the CITIZEN-TIMES about work she is doing to alert mothers about the need for early detection of breast cancer. To read more, please click:

[Mothers](#)

Note: The article also references a Facebook page that has been established in conjunction with the above activity. Please like it by clicking:

[Ask](#)

(4) Frank Zipperer on his marriage to Rick Wood.

(5) Kitty Getlik on being named one of the honorees who will be recognized at CONTACT of Mercer County's 2014 Annual Gala on Friday, Nov. 14.

Note: See Section 6B for more information about the above event.

(6) Ken G. in GA, winner of Contest #21: a \$50 gift certificate to BRIO Tuscan Grille for submitting the winning entry in the contest for the most fun, creative Halloween costume that was actually worn.



Note: Ken in the above picture is also my brother: Ken Greenfield. He is pictured with Lavelle Olexa, his beautiful wife.

Congratulations, also, to Sherry S. in PA and Steve R. in NY--the other entrants in the contest. Their costumes can be seen by clicking:

Costumes

FYI: Sherry and Steve both received Honorable Mention recognitions for their costumes, and they will get a book as their prize. And that reminds me it's now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #22 *****

There will be one lucky winner of STUIPIDPARTY: MATH V. MYTH by Patrick M. Andendall, a book that relies on publicly available facts, resources and tools to deconstruct and relentlessly drill down on the numerous misconceptions held by many Americans. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #936 and very much enjoyed it.

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 Monday, November 10.

D. Condolences to:

- (1) Kelley Sarantis and family on the loss of Savva, Kelly's father-in-law. To quote Kelley, "He was buried at LI Veterans cemetery with full military honors, a true American hero."
- (2) Lee Peter and family on the loss of Marguerite Fish Lewis, Lee's aunt.

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

This week, it goes to Officer Ben Hall (Emmett Township, MI) who was on patrol when he saw a woman driving without her young child in a car seat. The mom advised Hall she knew the importance of using the seat, but that she was having a rough couple of months--and her car had been repossessed with the seat in it. Being near Walmart, Hall had the young lady and her daughter pull into the parking lot where he went inside and purchased a car seat for her to keep her daughter in. "I was in a position to help her and her child and provide a little relief," said Hall. For more information, please click:

Hall



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2. Joke 1

Sooooo deep . . .



THAT WAS ZEN, THIS IS MEOW

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3. Joke 2

This reminds me of the question that Elvis Presley's mom was asked: "What do you think of your son's nickname, Elvis the Pelvis?" She thought about it and replied, "I'm just grateful I didn't name him Enis!"



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4. Joke 3

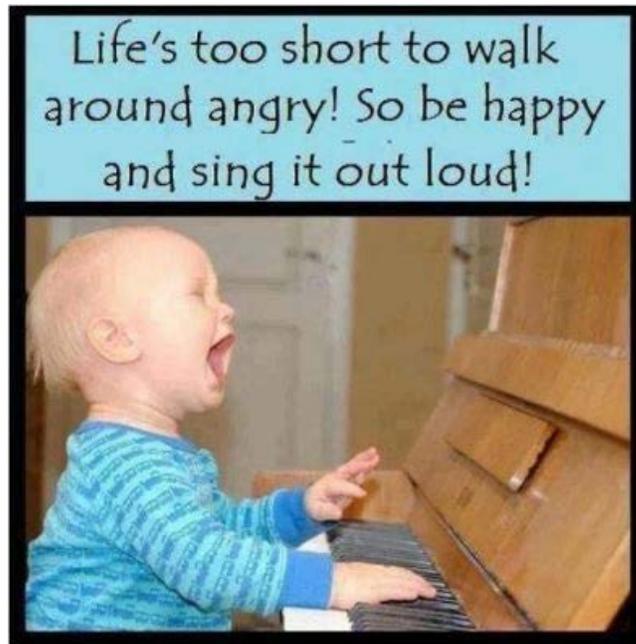
Looks like kids are in for a rough Halloween this year . . .



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5. A quote I like

This is my plan for today--so make sure y'all are wearing your ear plugs!



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6. Advance planning department

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

More

A. NC events

(1) The Asheville Choral Society. (2) OTHER DESERT CITIES . (3) CHARLOTTE'S WEB and LISTEN TO THIS. (4) Adam Chernack to speak.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Workshops-Trainings from Janet Straightarrow. (2) CONTACT OF MERCER COUNTY 2014 ANNUAL GALA.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week. Also, don't forget to turn back your clock an hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, Oct. 31, to avoid the horror of arriving early to church!

And with all that extra time, feel free to join me in singing along to Cher's classic "If I Could Turn Back Time" by clicking:

[Time](#)



*If I could turn
back time...*

YOU CAN!

Daylight Savings Time ends this Sunday



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BLAINES WORLD

#943

10.20.2014

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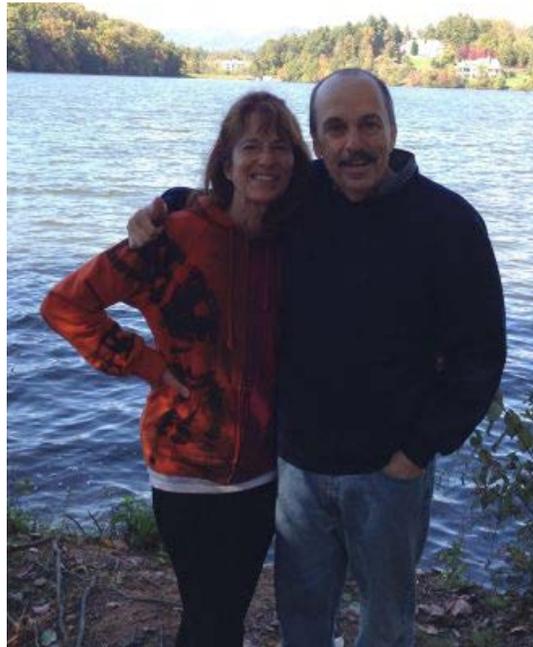
1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Have a BIG FAVOR TO ASK if you live in Biltmore Lake . . . please vote for me in the upcoming election to retain my seat on the community's Board of Directors . . . if you don't live there, kindly consider: 1. Asking anybody you know who lives there to vote for me; or 2. Moving to the community, so you can also vote for me . . . that's us by the lake behind our home.

For more information (Top 10 Reasons to Vote for Blaine Greenfield), please go to Section 1 when you click:

[Reasons](#)



(2) Had a blast at the annual HardLox Jewish Food and Heritage Festival in downtown Asheville. That's the one time we can get caught up authentic corned beef and/or pastrami. Also pictured: Our friend Stuart Kraner.



Kudos to Marty Gillen, the tireless head of the event, along with all the other volunteers who helped make the day the success that it was.

I helped with the Asheville Jewish Business Forum booth, along with Brad Morris--the group's dynamic president. Should you want more information about membership (and you don't have to be Jewish), please send me an email: bjinbc@aol.com and put AJBF in the subject line.



(3) Later that same day, we stopped by the home that our friends Annemarie Brown and Marvin Sadovsky did a beautiful job of renovating. It is now up for sale. Here is a link to the customer MLS display with gallery:

[MLS](#)

And here is the virtual tour:

[Tour](#)



B. During the week, Cynthia was visited by her friend Susan Dobroski, along with a dog (Brenda) that Susan was walking in her capacity as a volunteer for Brother Wolf Animal Rescue.



C. Congratulations to:

- (1) Jane Hallstrom and family on the birth of Addie Rose, Jane's granddaughter.
- (2) Jensen Gelfond on being certified as the first Evernote Certified Business Consultant (EBCC) in Asheville.

To quote him:

Evernote is a fantastic app that can help you store and organize all of the most important information in your life. Whether you're looking to organize your own life or want to streamline the way your employees store their ideas and information, Evernote is a great tool. It's free to start using, and can be accessed on computer, smartphone and tablet.

For more information, contact Jensen at: jensen@ashevilledigitallifestyle.com.

- (3) Michelle Baker on being profiled on page 1 of THE BILTMORE BEACON.

- (4) Howard Debs on his newest published works, "Blessed Union" and "America's Sport" both of which appear in the Indiana Voice Journal:

Poetry

D. Reminder:

There's still time to enter . . .

***** CONTEST #21 *****

There will be one lucky winner of a prize to be announced. Methinks you'll enjoy it, but please consider entering this contest just for the fun of it. All you need to do is submit a picture of you separately or with your spouse/significant other. As another option, you could submit a picture of your child/grandchild, etc. Whatever picture you submit should contain a fun, creative Halloween costume that was actually worn. For example, see below for a look at Cynthia and me when we were hippies.

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 Monday, October 27.

Note: Depending on the number of entries I receive, I might put them in an album for all to see.



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

This week, it goes to Josh Awtry--executive editor of the ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES.

He has been in this position for less than a year, but already the paper has made significant improvements.

Not only is it bigger, but to me at least, it seems better than ever. I especially like the tie-in to USA TODAY, where readers get much more national news and sports than they did in the past, and I also appreciate the many in-depth stories that now seem to appear on a more regular basis.

Awtry has also made it a point to speak to various community groups. In fact, that's how I first met him when he recently gave an informative presentation to the Asheville Jewish Business Forum.

At the above, he mentioned that if anybody would like to sit in on a meeting of the newsroom staff, all they needed to do was contact him. So I did. (That's yours truly in the picture below; Awtry is on the right.)

It was an eye-opening experience for me, and if you are a newspaper junkie like me, I suggest you contact him if you'd like to attend some future meeting. He can be reached via email at: jawtry@gannett.com.



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2. FYI

Why You Shouldn't Drink Warm Bottled Water
by Laura Tedesco via yahoo.com

A few years back, rumors circulated that Sheryl Crow claimed drinking bottled water left in a hot car had given her breast cancer. The result? A fresh wave of good, old-fashioned American fear. Since then, the worry over plastic bottles leaching dangerous chemicals into our water has never quite disappeared - and perhaps for good reason, suggests a new study published in the September edition of Environmental Pollution.

Scientists from Nanjing University in China and the University of Florida investigated the effects of storing 16 brands of bottled water (all sold in China) at three temperatures: 39 degrees F, 77 degrees F, and 158 degrees F, intended to mimic the temperatures of a refrigerator, a standard room, and the inside of a car, respectively. "Based on the literature, that is a temperature that's reachable on a hot summer day in a car," study author Lena Ma told Yahoo Health.

For the rest of this informative article, please click:

[Water](#)

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Carol S. in PA: Bed sheet

[Sheet](#)

(2) Beautiful music at a retirement home

[Music](#)

(3) Good reminder about locking up guns

[Guns](#)

(4) Watch Kate Hudson Do the Best Matthew McConaughey Impression You've Ever Seen

[Hudson](#)

(5) Royals vendor heaves bag of peanuts to upper deck at Kauffman Stadium

[Vendor](#)

(6) Sara X Does Mozart's "Eine kleine Nachtmusik"

[Mozart](#)

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

[Tidbits](#)

(1) 10 Hungriest places in America (Asheville is #9). (2) Chris F. in PA: Thank you for

sharing the Glen Campbell tribute. (3) Nancy W. in NC: Another great edition! (4) Marty D. in PA: The most ridiculous excuses for skipping work. (5) Zuzu W. in NC: Thanks for the mention!. (6) Pat H. in PA: Neat video of the Husky and the leaves. (7) How vaccine deniers abuse the appeal to authority. (8) Strother S. in NC: Major benefits for students who attend live theater. (9) 7 Jedi Mind Tricks to Help You Haggle Like a Pro Anywhere in the World. (10) Maria P. in PA: When 2nd graders are treated to a 7 course dinner. (11) Chandra M. in MO: "The View from a Centerfold." (12) Kim P. in NC: Place to rent in Asheville? (13) Amy G. in NJ: A comedienne breaks her family taboo. (14) Rachel R. in SC (with a REQUEST FOR HELP). (15) Home organization advice.

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3. Joke 1

The things you learn online!



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4. Reviews

A. ST. VINCENT is a touching comedy about a retired curmudgeon who drinks and gambles too much. When he gets a new neighbor, he also gets a new job--watching the neighbor's child. The two soon become friends. Bill Murray and newcomer Jaeden Lieberher are both terrific in the leading roles, and Melissa McCarthy also delivers an outstanding performance in a role where she's finally not playing a loud, overbearing character. Rated PG-13.

B. BEGIN AGAIN is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #928 follows:

BEGIN AGAIN is a drama with music about a disgraced record label executive, Mark Ruffalo, who stumbles upon a raw talent, Keira Knightley, performing on an East Village stage. They enter into a collaboration that eventually proves mutually beneficial. The film starts slowly, but comes alive at the halfway mark when both start work on what becomes a CD featuring the sounds of a New York City summer. Both leads are great and so is the soundtrack. Rated R.

C. PROOF OF HEAVEN: A NEUROSURGEON'S JOURNEY INTO THE AFTERLIFE (Simon & Schuster Paperbacks) by Eben Alexander, M.D., is the true story of what happened when a neurosurgeon's brain was attacked by a rare disease.

His brain shut down completely. The author was in a coma for seven days. Then, just as his doctors considered stopping treatment, Alexander's eyes popped open. He had come back.

Ordinarily, that would have been amazing--but even more miraculous was his recollection of what happened while he was in a coma. He journeyed beyond the world and he encountered an angelic being who taught him:

* the one thing--the only thing--that, in the last analysis, truly matters. I had initially received this piece of knowledge from my lovely companion on the butterfly wing upon my first entrance into the Gateway. It came in three parts, and to take one more shot at putting it into words (because of course it was initially delivered wordlessly), it would run something like this:

You are loved and cherished.

You have nothing to fear.

There is nothing you can do wrong.

Before he underwent his journey, Alexander would have argued that near-death experiences were impossible. He has changed his view. I have, too, as a result of reading this engrossing book.

D. Heard **THE WITNESS WORE RED: THE 19TH WIFE WHO BROUGHT POLYGAMOUS CULT LEADERS TO JUSTICE** (Hachette Audio) by Rebecca Musser with M. Bridget Cook and read by Musser.

It's the harrowing, true-life story of a woman who attended Alta Academy, a Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints school headed by principal Warren Jeffs.

In her teens, she became the 19th wife of her people's Prophet: 85-year-old Rulon Jeffs, Warren's father, and then watched as 48 additional wives were added to her marriage. After she was widowed and threatened with remarriage, she managed a daring escape, so that she could build a life on her own terms.

However, in 2007, Musser could no longer stand the abuse and underage marriages still taking place, and fearing for the safety of her own sisters, she took the witness stand against Warren Jeffs. A year later, she advised a team of Texas Rangers raid the Yearning for Zion Ranch--and helped prevent what well could have been bloodshed.

She subsequently testified in court about the horrors that took place in the name of God and, as a result, leaders went to prison for life years and Warren Jeffs for life.

THE WITNESS WORE RED is a spellbinding read, both for its description of how the author escaped fanaticism and then the courtroom drama that ensued as a result of her heroic actions.

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5. TV alert

A. **WHEN THE GARDEN WAS EDEN** on 30 FOR 30. Revisiting the New York Knicks' glory years of 1970-73, which featured three NBA Finals and two titles. Director Michael Rapaport illuminates a unique lineup of stars from Walt "Clyde" Frazier and Earl "The Pearl" Monroe to Bill Bradley and Phil Jackson. Sunday, Oct. 26, at 1:30 p.m. on ESPN2.

B. **MR. DYNAMITE: THE RISE OF JAMES BROWN**, a documentary about the dynamic entertainer, is "superlative" and "both generously proportioned and extremely tight," according to **ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY**. Monday, Oct. 27, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

C. **A POET IN NEW YORK** depicts the last 20 days on earth of Welshman Dylan Thomas. Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 8 p.m. on BBC AMERICA.

D. **OLIVER KITTERIDGE**, to quote **TV GUIDE**, is an "oddly moving and melancholy shrouded two-night adaptation of Elizabeth Strout's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel" [featuring] "a remarkable Frances McDormand." Sunday and Monday, Nov. 2-3, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

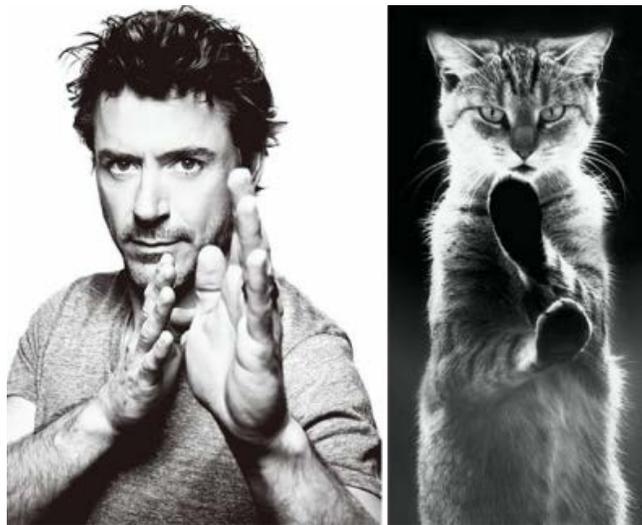
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6. Joke 2

This is just one picture from a funny collection of "25 Hot Guys and Cats Striking Similar

Poses." For others, please click:

[Poses](#)



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7. Websites

A. LAUGH LESSONS: Where class clowns are made. Kevin Nealon enlists Adam Sandler, Sarah Silverman, Chelsea Handler and many others to try to reach comedy to children in the 12 episodes. To view:

[Lessons](#)

B. Michael T. in NC: E for effort

[Effort](#)

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

[BLAINESWORLD](#)

You can also read my thoughts on the Platinum Rule, something that's a better alternative than the Golden Rule in my opinion. To find these, click "Consulting" on the left and then see the final item in "Article Samples."

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:

[Facebook](#)



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8. Technology tip

Maria P. in PA: I've been hacked [on Facebook]. DO NOT accept any friend requests from me. If anyone knows what I need to do now, please tell me by text or phone.

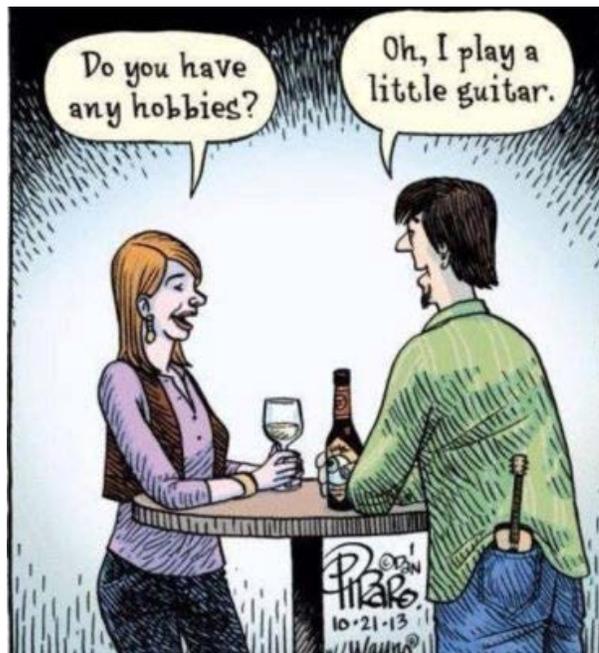
Response: That happens through no fault of your own. As for what to do, please read the following article:

[Requests](#)

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9. Joke 3

This has me wondering: Where can I get such a guitar?



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10. A quote I like

"Hire people smarter than you are and encourage them to bloom."--Ben Bradlee (1921-2014), RIP. For more quotes from the legendary WASHINGTON POST editor, please click:

[Bradlee](#)



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11. Thought for the day

Gratitude
by Brian Biro*

With Thanksgiving a month away I wanted to focus on the greatest of all gifts we give to others and ourselves... GRATITUDE.

In the Stephen Spielberg classic *Always*, Richard Dreyfuss plays a fearless aerial firefighter who is simply the best when it comes to flying bravely into the heart of raging forest fires.

But when it comes to telling his soul-mate, Holly Hunter, that he loves her, he is a hopeless coward. One day he pushes the envelope too hard in the attempt to save a group of fire fighters trapped by an inferno. Though he somehow manages to rescue them he cannot pull out from his dive and crashes and dies.

The next thing we see is Dreyfuss walking around in confusion about his fate when he happens upon Audrey Hepburn (see below for picture), who fittingly in her very last role was an angel. She informs Dreyfuss that he can't yet go on to heaven because he has left something undone. She tells him:

"The love we fail to share is the only pain we leave with."

Before he can go to everlasting peace he must find a way to tell Holly that he truly loves her.

Though I enjoyed the movie up to that scene, Hepburn's words grabbed my heart and shook it. How many of us neglect to tell those we love and admire how we feel until it is too late? And then WHAM, it hit me! The opportunity we all have today is to remember that the love we fail to share is the only pain we LIVE with. When we stop taking those we love for granted, we live pain-free! We become what I call: World-Class Buddy-Thankers who build people, relationships, teams, and families.

Don't wait for Thanksgiving! TODAY you can become a World-Class Buddy-Thanker! Ask yourself "Who am I truly grateful for in my life?" Then with a call, a card, a text, or a hug, make it a great day by expressing your appreciation before the day is done.

The emotion with the highest vibration is GRATITUDE! You may never pass this way again...so remember, when you seek to lift others you cannot help but lift yourself. At work, catch your teammates doing things RIGHT and express your appreciation and admiration. At home, look for possibility rather than limits. What you focus on is what you CREATE!

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Brian from his Facebook post of 10.22.2014. To find out more about Brian Biro, one of America's top motivational speakers, please click:

[Biro](#)



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12. Advance planning department

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

[Events](#)

(1) COMPOSING GRIEF'S RITE OF PASSAGE. (2) Asheville Faerie Arts Festival. (3) Rhoda Weaver appears in a Motown dinner show. (4) MASTER CLASS. (5) POETS READ. (6) OTHER DESERT CITIES. (7) White Horse 6th anniversary celebration, Nov. 7. (8) FORTE.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week. And if you're like me and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way), Happy Diwali on Wednesday, Oct. 22, to y'all. For those not familiar with the holiday: "Diwali is one of the biggest festival of Hindus, celebrated with great enthusiasm and happiness in India. The festival is celebrated for five continuous

days, where the third days is celebrated as the main Diwali festival or ""Festival of lights." For more information, please click:

Diwali



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

#942

10.13.2014

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10. A quote I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Have occasionally seen double rainbows, but until the other day, we had never taken a picture with one of them. What you see is the view from the backyard of our home. As to what they mean, here's what The Weather Channel has to say:

Double1

I personally prefer this interpretation that has me coming into some good fortune:

Double2

(I'm glad to say that this also applies to Cynthia, in that she took the picture.)



(2) Had a blast at Biltmore Lake's Fall Shindig. Kudos to both Marilynne Herbert and Karen Foley who took care of all the details to make the event the success that it was. Pictured, l-r: Bob Bowles, Sunny Ruble, Marvin Sadovsky, Annmarie Brown, Carole Biro, Brian Biro, Cynthia Greenfield and Blaine Greenfield.



Kudos, also, to Daryl Slaton. He was one of several local artists who had his work on display at the above. That's Cynthia (below), holding one of the many attractive items he had for sale.



For more information about Daryl's work, please click:

[Daryl](#)

(3) Got to see a fun-filled production of A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM at Flat Rock Playhouse. Among our favorites in the show were Preston Dyar and Scott Treadway, and we thought Nick Santa Maria was great, too. (He reminded us of a young Zero Mostel.) Lisa Bryant's direction was spot on.



The show runs through October 26. To purchase tickets, please click:
[Flatrock](#)

B. I got to participate in a taste test of Shift bars, the world's first raw vegan zero-glycemic energy bar. That's yours truly, pictured with Emily Shaules (owner of the company). Please sign up for updates and special offers about this great new product by clicking:
[Shift](#)



C. Congratulations to:

- (1) Tavi Hall and Tiffany Wright on their engagement.
- (2) Dana Kagan and family on the birth of Ethan Robert Asbury, their first grandchild.
- (3) Joshua Robinette Whitt on receiving the 2014 "Opie" for Best Leading Actor in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."
- (4) Ellen Pappas on being cast as Polly in Other Desert Cities at 35Below. Performances Oct. 31, Nov. 1 and 2.
- 5) Jo M. in NC, winner of Contest #21: a copy of GROWING HAPPY KIDS: HOW TO FOSTER INNER CONFIDENCE, SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS by Maureen Healy. All told, there were 7 entries. (As a special consolation prize, those who entered were offered a copy of RAISING HAPPY KIDS ON A REASONABLE BUDGET by Patricia Gallagher.) And that reminds me it's now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #21 *****

There will be one lucky winner of a prize to be announced. Methinks you'll enjoy it, but please consider entering this contest just for the fun of it. All you need to do is submit a

picture of you separately or with your spouse/significant other. As another option, you could submit a picture of your child/grandchild, etc. Whatever picture you submit should contain a fun, creative Halloween costume that was actually worn. For example, here's Cynthia and me from a few years back. We were two people "walking abreast."



To enter: Put "CONTEST #21" 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 Monday, October 27.

Note: Depending on the number of entries I receive, I might put them in an album for all to see.

D. Condolences to:

- (1) Carol Dietrich Mikulski and family on the passing of Virginia Dietric, Carol's sister.
- (2) Trip Huxley and family on the passing of Trip's mother-in-law.
- (3) The family of Howard Schwartz, adviser to the yearbook I edited (THE 1971 SHADOW) when I was an undergraduate at Rider University.

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

This week, it goes to Garrett Artz (below)--a Biltmore Lake neighbor who has been the driving force behind making the neighborhood safer for those wanting to walk or bike to school.



Recently, he helped organize a walk to Harmony Valley Elementary that involved some 80 students, as well as many parents and other supporters. And previously, he organized bike trips to the same school.

These events are a way to promote a healthy lifestyle, safety and help the environment.

Artz said the organizers are hoping to make things safer around Hominy Valley. They are working with the state Department of Transportation to get a pedestrian-activated crosswalk at the Hominy Valley entrance. Also, they are working to raise \$8,500 to provide some matching funds for the project.

For more information, please click:

[Citizentimes](#)

Note: The Hominy Valley Safe Routes to School program has partnered with Friends of Connect Buncombe, a 501(c)(3) non-profit greenways advocacy group, to raise the funds for the enhanced traffic crossing. If you would like to contribute to the fundraising effort, please mail donations to Friends of Connect Buncombe, Inc., P.O. Box 16100, Asheville, NC 28816. Please write "Hominy Valley Safe Routes to School Project" on the memo line. You may also hand-deliver contributions to Hominy Valley Elementary School located at 450 Enka Lake Road, Candler, NC.

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2. FYI

Scarier Than Ebola
by Frank Bruni
We Americans do panic really well.

We could use a few pointers on prudence.

Do me a favor. Turn away from the ceaseless media coverage of Ebola in Texas--the interviews with the Dallas nurse's neighbors, the hand-wringing over her pooch, the instructions on protective medical gear--and answer this: Have you had your flu shot? Are you planning on one?

During the 2013-2014 flu season, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only 46 percent of Americans received vaccinations against influenza, even though it kills about 3,000 people in this country in a good year, nearly 50,000 in a bad one.

For the rest of this informative column, please click:

[NYT](#)

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Dominic A. in TN: Funny Siberian husky playing in leaves

[Husky](#)

(2) Susan M. in NJ: All about the books

[Books](#)

(3) Matthew S. in PA: Conan the Librarian

[Conan](#)

(4) Doug H. in NC: Charlie vs. Swayze

[Charlie](#)

(5) Nancy C. in NC: Beautiful music in a retirement home

[Music](#)

(6) Moose's incredible catch

[Catch](#)

(7) Audacious Adi

[Adi](#)

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

[More](#)

(1) Bob H. in NJ: One of my favorite people in Bucks County when I was at Lower Bucks Hospital was Art Mayhew. (2) Henry W. in NY: Saw only one movie this year at the New York Film Festival this year - "Clouds of Sils Maria." (3) Mary Jo L. in NC: UCLA STUDY: NON-DRUG TREATMENT MAY REVERSE ALZHEIMER'S. (4) Susan M. in NJ: Which Yiddish word best describes your personality? (5) An introvert's guide to networking. (6) Nancy W. in NC: I don't think you ever sit still. (7) Arlene D. in PA: 46 Years ago, I took banjo lessons.

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3. Joke 1

I only wish I had known this for last Thanksgiving! Oh well, at least I now know what I have to do for next year.

I am no cook. But I can follow the directions. Which said to let the bird chill in the sink for a few hours.



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4. Reviews

A. GONE GIRL is an engaging thriller about a guy on his fifth wedding anniversary who finds that his beautiful wife has gone missing. Increasingly, folks start to think the he killed

her. There are many twists and turns that will leave you guessing until the film's end. Ben Affleck and Rosamund Pike are both terrific in the leading roles. The only thing that prevented me from making this one of my all-time favorites is the fact that I personally didn't care for either of the characters. Rated R.

If you'd like to read more about GONE GIRL and, in particular, how to better enjoy the one shower scene featuring Affleck, please click:

<http://www.vulture.com/2014/10/how-to-see-ben-affleck-nude-penis-gone-girl.html>

B. OBVIOUS CHILD is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #927 follows:

OBVIOUS CHILD is an offbeat romantic comedy featuring a fantastic performance from Jenny Slate. She plays an aspiring comedian who must deal with getting dumped, losing her job and then finding herself pregnant. This film grew on me as I watched it. The ending is perfect. Rated R.

C. THE ART OF WAR FOR SMALL BUSINESS: DEFEAT THE COMPETITION AND DOMINATE THE MARKET WITH THE MASTERFUL STRATEGIES OF SUN TZU (AMACOM) by Becky Sheetz-Runkle translates Sun Tzu's classic book, THE ART OF WAR, into 12 powerful lessons.

In doing so, the author reveals how to choose the right ground for your battles, strike your competitors's weakest points, focus resources on key challenges and many other useful techniques that are applicable to any small business.

I particularly liked her use of real companies as examples, such as:

* Hsieh has said that Zappos decided a long time ago that the brand wasn't going to be limited to the shows and later, clothing that the companies sold. Instead, Zappos set out to build a brand that was about the very best customer service and customer experiences. "We believe that customer service shouldn't be just a department. It should be the entire company," he has said.

In addition, I thought she did a great job in highlighting key points from Sun Tzu's work--including this tidbit:

* The best policy in war is to attack the enemy's strategy. The second best way is to disrupt his alliances through diplomatic means. The next best method is to attack his army in the field. The worst policy is to attack walled cities. Attacking cities is the last resort when there is no alternative.

Lastly, Sheetz-Runkle provides such useful advice as the following:

* Get on Their Mailing List. Join your competitors' mailing lists so that you'll know of news and product announcements. Sign up for webinars and download white papers and demos to gather as much information on the competition as possible. Because of the actions of competitors, I always suggest that companies make access to substantive information permission-based so that you can at least attempt to screen out rivals.

THE ART OF WAR is a winner!

D. Heard MICHAEL JORDAN: THE LIFE (Hachette Audio) by Roland Lazenby.

The author, a basketball journalist, has spent nearly 30 years covering Jordan's career in college and the pros. It shows, too, in that while reading this book, I got a better feel for what made Jordan the incomparable player he was.

I enjoyed learning about his early childhood, as well as about his last year in the NBA--and how rocky a season that was.

Lazenby helped me better appreciate the life of Jerry West in JERRY WEST: THE LIFE AND LEGEND OF A BASKETBALL ICON. He repeats his success in this revealing book about Jordan.

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5. TV alert

A. WYATT CENAC: BROOKLYN appears in a "sharply observed stand-up set," to quote ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY. Begins on Tuesday, Oct. 21, on streaming via NETFLIX.

B. SURGEON OZ has its season premiere on Thursday, Oct. 23, at 10 p.m. on OWN. Watch to see what Dr. Mehmet Oz does when not writing books and appearing on TV.

C. Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga perform on GREAT PERFORMANCES on PBS on Friday, Oct. 24, at 9 p.m.

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

D. FOO FIGHTERS SONIC HIGHWAYS airs on Fridays at 11 p.m. on HBO. This new docuseries has front man David Grohl visiting eight American cities to document the band's artistic histories through original interviews and personal anecdotes. At the end of each stay, the band recorded a track influenced by that stop for their new album, also entitled SONIC HIGHWAYS, which will be available Nov. 10.

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6. Joke 2

I can relate! And if you need the translation of these Yiddish words, they are as follows:
kvetch = to complain, shvitz=to sweat and plotz = to collapse.



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7. Websites

A. Chanda M. in MO: Amazing tribute to those suffering with Alzheimer's
Legendary singer and songwriter Glen Campbell has been battling Alzheimer's disease for years, and is now in the final stages of the disease. Campbell has been moved to 24-hour care, as his doctors have determined that he is in the sixth stage of Alzheimer's ("severe cognitive decline"). It has been nearly two years since Campbell has performed in public; however, as a farewell to his music career, Campbell's record label has released his final studio recording.

[Campbell](#)

Note: Alzheimer's, a disease which may represent roughly half of Dementia sufferers, along with all of the other forms of Dementia, crosses cultural and socioeconomic divides. Rich or poor, or somewhere in-between, you can die prematurely, just because of Dementia. Today, there are no cures or effective long-term treatments, just a "long, long, goodbye." For more information, please click:

[Dementia](#)

B. What Happens When Second Graders Are Treated to a Seven-Course, \$220 Tasting Meal
[Meal](#)

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
[BLAINESWORLD](#)

If you haven't seen my stand-up comedy debut yet, click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Video Clips." The routine is the second one from the top.

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:

[Facebook](#)



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8. Technology tip

How to use a real password on your cellphone

If you want more security than the 4-digit PIN for unlocking your phone, do this:
If you have an iPhone:

Go to Settings>>Passcode. From there, swipe off the option that says Simple Passcode. Here, you can set your passcode with letters and special characters for better phone security.

If you have an Android:

Go to Settings>>Lock screen and tap Screen lock. You can set what level of security you want, from a simple swipe to a password. Select Password and type in the password that you want. It should have a mix of letters, numbers and special characters to be really safe.

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9. Joke 3

You will NOT see me wearing this T-shirt until my wife tells me to do so!



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10. A quote I like

When asked by Bertolt Brecht why he acted, Charles Laughton (1899-1962) replied, "Because people don't know what they are like, and I think I can show them." Laughton, an English stage and film actor and director, was best known for roles in such films as the one he is pictured in below, THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME, as well as for MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY, RUGGLES OF RED GAP and his Oscar-winning work in THE PRIVATE LIFE OF HENRY III.



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11. Thought for the day

Pay it forward! (Thanks, Zuzu W. in NC, for posting on Facebook and for this added

thought: "And you know what--even if you can find one, be one anyway.")



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12. Advance planning department

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

[More](#)

A. NC events

(1) HARDLOX. (2) Annemarie B. in NC: Open House in Asheville on Sunday, Oct. 19.

PA/NJ events

(1) CHARLOTTE'S WEB. (2) JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!



BLAINES WORLD

#935
8.25.2014

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1. Reflections
2. Joke 1
3. Joke 2
4. Joke 3
5. A quote I like
6. Thought for the day

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had a blast at BUSINESS SINGS BROADWAY, a fundraiser for Asheville Community Theatre.



The high spot--for me at least--was performing "You Gotta Have Heart" with a great group of friends. L-R: Michael Trayford, Brian Biro, Keith Challenger, Mark Knollman, Doug Hauschild, Blaine Greenfield and Marvin Sadovsky.



Kudos to Jerry Crouch for directing us, as well as to Lenora Thom for her musical direction. If you'd like to view the result, please click:
<http://youtu.be/W2Zm2LT2Tds>

Mark also did a single number, "To All the Girls I've Loved Before." He had the audience in stitches; to see why, please click:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhOkKt5lcr4>

It was also a thrill for me to be on stage (for both the opening and closing numbers with a whole bunch of other Asheville performers and/or members of the business community. If you look closely in the lower right corner of the picture (below), you'll even see me--or at least my thumb.



As always, the talented Bradshaw Call was a big part of the reason that the even was such a huge success.



If you would like to see more pictures from the event, please click the following links:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152607464754757.1073741829.519364756&type=1&l=da0f328ce7>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152610574649757.1073741830.519364756&type=1&l=4118fbfea0>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152626694284757.1073741831.519364756&type=1&l=6a9eaf0a20>

B. During the week, I had the pleasure of viewing an excellent presentation from Tina FireWolf (center) at the monthly meeting of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum. I was joined by my friend Tebbe Davis (left).

Her topic was "Ignite the Warrior Within--Communicating from Chaos to Love." In particular, I liked this one suggestion she made: "Teach other people how to treat you."



C. In addition, I got to attend a nice party for Tasha Lief (center) who will soon be leaving to study in France. That's my friend Bob Player (right).



D. Kindly note that the submission date for the following contest has been extended one week . . .

***** CONTEST #17*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of *DIARY OF A FAILURE: THE ART OF FAILING YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS*. It is the story of two friends who grew up together, but who chose different paths in life. I reviewed it in *BLAINESWORLD* #827 and enjoyed it.

Note: Though suitable for all ages, it is a book especially relevant to teenagers.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #17" in the subject 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 Monday, September 1.

E. Please excuse the fact that you're reading an abbreviated issue of the newsletter this week. I'm putting it together from my laptop, so I don't have access to my regular computer.

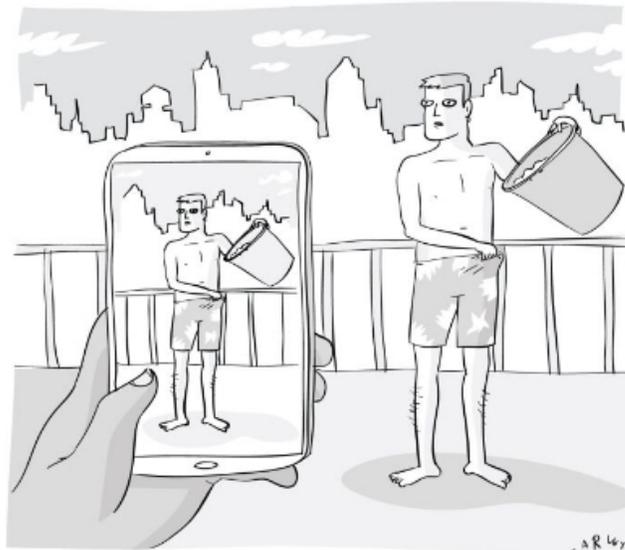
Why that's the case: I'm currently in Pennsylvania. Full details next week, including a report on my first skydiving experience.

All regular features of *BLAINESWORLD* will also resume then.

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2. Joke 1

NEW CHALLENGE . . . thanks, y'all, for nominating me for this one! And now I'm calling on Seymour Butz, Anita Bath and Jacques Strap to do the same within the next 24 hours . . . or make a significant donation to the truly worthy BGP (Blaine Greenfield Pocket Fund) organization. Checks accepted, but cash is even more appreciated.



"I'm going to pour this bucket of oatmeal down my pants to raise awareness of dumb things done in the name of the Internet."

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3. Joke 2

A young man saw an elderly couple at McDonald's. He noticed that they ordered one meal and an extra cup. As he watched, the gentleman carefully divided the hamburger in half and counted the fries until each had half. Next, he poured half the Coke into the extra cup and gave it to his wife. The gentleman then began to eat, and his wife sat watching. . . . The young man decided to ask if they would allow him to purchase another meal, so that they didn't have to split theirs. The gentleman said, "Oh no. We've been married 50 years and everything has always been shared 50/50." . . . The young man then asked the wife if she was going to eat, and she replied, "It's his turn with the teeth."



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4. Joke 3

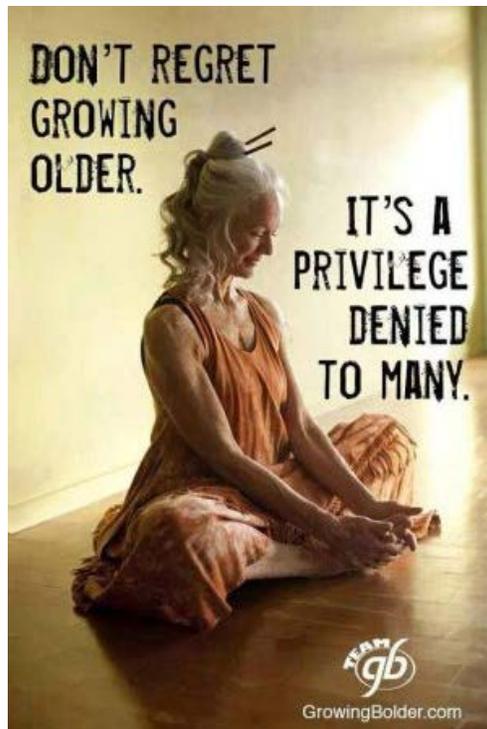
Mr. Curious here: This ever happen to you?



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5. A quote I like

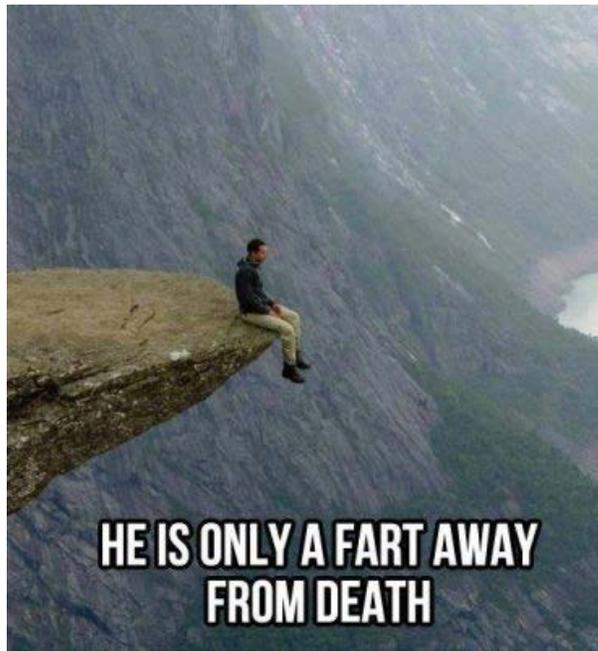
This brings to mind one of my favorite quotes: When asked how he felt on his 70th birthday, Maurice Chevalier replied, "Great, considering the alternative."



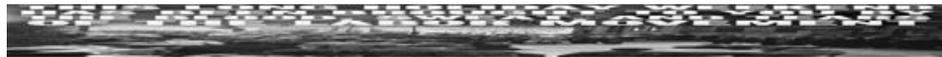
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6. Thought for the day

Soooo true--and profound, too!



PS. Make it a wonderful week! And see below for a good reminder for this upcoming Labor Day! Personally, I'm also grateful for these other things brought to us by labor unions:
<http://www.unionplus.org/about/labor-unions/36-reasons-thank-union>



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#941
10.6.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had the pleasure of celebrating her birthday together at SCORE's annual reception at the Governor's Mansion. Pictured, l-r: Jeremy Lerner, Sue Lerner, Cynthia Greenfield and Blaine Greenfield

Kudos to Dane Barrager for an excellent job of arranging the event, as well as to Ron Ashe for handling emcee duties with aplomb.

If you would like to see more pictures, please click:

[SCORE pictures](#)



(2) Earlier in the day, Cynthia joined her friends at Rezaz for another celebration. Pictured, l-r: Carole Biro, Susan Dobroski, Cynthia Greenfield, Marcy Gallagher and Annemarie Brown.



(3) Still in the birthday mode, we also got to celebrate our friend Brian Biro's special day at 131 Main. We had an excellent meal, along with outstanding service from Clairissa. Our only disappointment: Carole, his wife, couldn't be with us.



(4) On another day, we got to see a fantastic production of URINETOWN at HART. Chelsey Gaddy is in the picture on the left, and Strother Stingley is on the right. They were both great, as was the rest of the large cast--including these other local favorites that we've enjoyed in the past: Justin Slack, Garrett Funk, Tabitha Judy, Frances Davis and Kier Klepzig, among others. Direction from Charles Mills was spot on, as was the music direction from Chuck Taft. And we also enjoyed Cord Scott's choreography.

Note: The show runs through Oct. 12. For tickets, please click: [URINETOWN tickets](#)



(5) Our friends Amy and Marc Suben joined us at the play. Afterward, we went to Thai Spice in Waynesville for the first time. We were delighted with our food, along with the service we received from Nicole. We'll be back!



(6) On another night, we had the pleasure of attending a preview performance from FORTE--a group of four very talented women. They knocked our socks off with their singing. Pictured, l-r: Brad Curtioff (accompanist), Carol Duermit, Katherine Sandoval Taylor, Liz Aiello, Beverly Tod, Blaine Greenfield and Cynthia Greenfield.

Note: FORTE will be appearing Nov. 21 and 22 at the Altamont Theatre. For more information, please click:

[FORTE tickets](#)



(7) I also got a chance to have lunch at the Woolworth Walk with my longtime Pennsylvania friend, Art Mayhew, who was visiting with his wife Carol. We all enjoyed milkshakes, a treat I hadn't had for many years.



(8) Lastly, I attended the annual Leadership Asheville luncheon and got to catch up with my LA 28 classmate Jeremy Jordan. Also pictured: Jeremy's wife Jennifer.



B. Congratulations to:

(1) Lew Bleiwels, executive director of the Asheville Regional Airport, on being elected to chair of the Airports Council International-North American Policy Board.

(2) Evan Guilford-Blake on the following news:
His short story collection "American Blues" will officially be published in hardbound, trade paper and electronic editions on October 23rd. If you'd like to know about more about the collection, it's been reviewed by "London Jazz News" at:

[American Blues review](#)

C. Reminders:

(1) Please be my guest at this upcoming seminar I'm presenting for Asheville SCORE . . .
Positioning & Marketing

Date: Saturday October 18, 2014

Location: AB-Tech Enka Campus (Room 2046 in the Small Business Center), 1459 Sand Hill Rd, Candler, NC

This FREE seminar covers positioning and marketing your business. You've opened your doors. How do you position yourself in the market place and secure that piece of business that you need to survive?

Seating is limited, and we will not be accepting registrations at the door, so click the button on the bottom of this page to register.

Doors open at 8:30 AM. The seminar begins at 9:00 AM SHARP. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early to handle paperwork.

The presenter for this seminar is Blaine Greenfield

Blaine Greenfield is a former college professor of business who headed his own marketing firm that assisted small- and mid-sized businesses. Presently, he is a volunteer with SCORE and is active with several other community organizations. He also publishes an online newsletter, BLAINESWORLD, that can be obtained for free by emailing him at bginbc@aol.com.

To register, please click:

[Marketing seminar registration](#)

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

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

One lucky winner will receive a copy of GROWING HAPPY KIDS: HOW TO FOSTER INNER CONFIDENCE, SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS by Maureen Healy. The author, a practicing child development and parenting expert, demonstrates ways to keep children strong from the inside out by combining Eastern wisdom with Western psychology. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #818 and very much enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #20 in the subject 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 Monday, October 13.

D. Correction: Last week's issue (in Section 2) cited a clip from Karen M. in NC entitled "If We Lived In A World Where Women Catcalled Men." As happens sometimes, the link I gave no longer works, but here's one that does:

[Where Women Catcalled Men](#)

Check it out. Methinks you'll find it quite amusing.

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

Thanks, Janeen R. in PA, for this week's nomination:

About 5-6 years ago, my dentist Dr. Hal Rosenthaler (the best general dentist) recommended either pull a tooth or have an implant. Since I feel my teeth are important to me, I chose the implant. Dr. Rosenthaler recommended Dr. Robert A. Levine, located at 9880 Bustleton Ave., Suite 211-212, Philadelphia, PA in the Einstein Center One building.

After my initial visit, I fell in love with him--of course strictly as a dentist! The procedure took ONE hour. In that time, he pulled the tooth, did bone grafting, put the implant in and with NO PAIN WHATSOEVER, I went home. I followed his explicit directions, never had any pain, not even a twinge . . . UNBELIEVABLE!

Dr. Levine called me that night and the next day to check on me and 3 months later, fully healed, I was able to have Dr. Rosenthaler make the tooth and was able to place it right onto the implant.

Dr. Levine's telephone number is (215) 677-8686. For more information, please click:

[Dr. Levine](#)

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2. FYI

I've always wondered what happens when a performer forgets dialogue or lyrics. Read this fascinating account by singer-actress Molly Ringwald about how Ella Fitzgerald handled such a situation:

[WSJ article on Ella Fitzgerald](#)

And to hear the actual recording from Fitzgerald, please click:

[Fitzgerald singing](#)

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Herb S. in NJ: The Jewish Food Taste Test

[Jewish Food Taste](#)

(2) Ernie H. in NC: News Anchors Perform Elaborate Handshake During 2-Minute Commercial Break

[Elaborate Handshake](#)

(3) Sarah F. in NC: Alfonso and Witney didn't disappoint with "The Carlton" on DANCING WITH THE STARS

[The Carlton](#)

Note: For the original performance, please click:
[The Carlton \(original performance\)](#)

(4) Susan D. in NC: If Dr. Seuss Studied Eckhart Tolle and A Course in Miracles (Oh, the Places Your Ego Will Go)
[If Dr. Seuss Studied Eckhart Tolle](#)

(5) Steven S. in FL: What Do Old Ladies REALLY Think About Their Age?
[What Ladies Think About Their Age](#)

(6) Nancy C. in NC: An Angry Old Guy Is Shown A Piece Of Paper That Wisconsin Actually Gave To Voters And Freaks Out
[Guy's Reaction to Voting in Wisconsin](#)

(7) How to get a hummingbird to eat from your hand
[How to Get a Hummingbird to Eat From Your Hand](#)

(8) Student Loan Borrowers' Costs To Jump As Education Dept. Reaps Huge Profit
[Student Loan Borrowers' Costs to Jump](#)

(9) Dog battles door stop
[Dog Battles Door Stop](#)

(10) Nebraska lineman falls on his behind in hilarious false start
[Nebraska Lineman](#)

(11) Golden Retriever Teaches Puppy to Use the Stairs
[Golden Retriever](#)

B. Other tidbits from readers

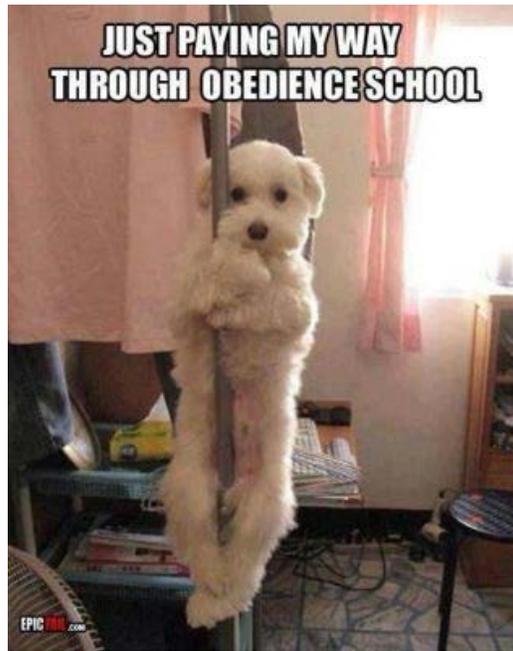
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
[Other Tidbits](#)

(1) Anita S. in PA: Lessons from Philadelphia's mandatory African American History classes. (2) Student Loan Borrowers' Costs To Jump As Education Department Reaps Huge Profit. (3) How to talk with someone with breast cancer. (4) Bill L. in PA: I am continuing my quest to view movies I have never seen before. (5) The world's greatest stretch. (6) Lucille E. in VA: I thought you might like THE ASSETS. (7) Terri S. in PA: I like your quote, too! (8) Janet S. in NJ: You and Cynthia look amazing! (9) Andy S. in PA: Confession Cartoon - HILARIOUS! (10) Dan B. in PA: Or even Blaine_G_Newsletter@gmail.com. (11) Patricia L. in CA: Fine with me whatever "send" address you want to use. (12) Nancy C. in NC: Tip Till It Hurts - Just Don't Feel Smug About It. (13) Comedy club charges per laugh with facial recognition.

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3. Joke 1

My kind of dog!



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4. Reviews

A. THE GOOD LIE tells the story of "The Lost Boys," a group of young victims orphaned by the brutal Civil war in Sudan that began in 1983. Some traveled as many as a thousand miles on foot in search of safety. Fifteen years later, a humanitarian effort would bring 3600 lost boys and girls to America. Their story is told in this touching film that also has many elements of humor. It is extremely well acted by Sudanese actors Arnold Oceng, Ger Duany, Emmanuel Jal and newcomer Nyakuoth Weil, as well as Reese Witherspoon. It is definitely one of my favorites that I've seen this past year. Rated PG-13.

B. MILLION DOLLAR LINE is now out on DVD . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #921 follows:

MILLION DOLLAR ARM, based on a true story, is a film about a down on his luck sports agent who goes to India to find a pro pitching prospect. It's funny in part, but quite touching in others. Jon Hamm is excellent in the leading role, but the rest of the cast is equally good. If you're looking for the something that the whole family can enjoy, you won't go wrong with this choice. And you don't even have to be a baseball fan to enjoy it. Rated PG.

C. OWN YOUR FUTURE: HOW TO THINK LIKE AN ENTREPRENEUR AND THRIVE IN AN UNPREDICTALBE ECONOMY (AMACOM) by Paul R. Brown with Charles F. Kiefer and Leonard A. Schlesinger takes a look at serial entrepreneurs--those who have launched two or more successful businesses--and presents something known as the ALBR Model for acting in a new economy.

This includes the following steps:

1. Act.
2. Learn.
3. Build.
4. Repeat.

What made the book so valuable, as well as interesting, was the fact that the authors then gave several real-life examples of how these steps were actually put into practice.

I especially liked Appendix B, which showed how ALBR could also be used in the public sector.

OWN YOUR OWN FUTURE is worthwhile reading for those searching for a first job, as well as for anybody else fretting about his or his industry and what the future holds.

D. Heard HOW GOOGLE WORKS (Hachette Audio), written by Eric Schmidt and Jonathan Rosenberg and read by Holter Graham.

The authors, both with Google for over 10 years, have first hand experience about the company--and it shows in the entertaining, informative book that presents many of the secrets behind the company's success.

One that really struck home had to do with establishing a culture of yes. They note: "Saying yes begins things. Saying yes is how things grow. . . . And attitude of yes is how you will be able to go forward in these uncertain times."

In addition, I enjoyed finding out about Google's culture and how the company does such things as installing pool tables to encourage employees to share ideas (even while playing pool during regularly-scheduled hours).

HOW GOOGLE WORKS contains many ideas that can be applied to any company, regardless of industry.

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5. TV alert

A. JANE THE VIRGIN, a comedy about a 23-year-old virgin (thanks to her grandmother and God) who gets accidentally artificially inseminated, debuts on Monday, Oct. 12, at 9 p.m. on CW. According to ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY, "The whole thing's just a lot of fun."

B. BULLY, a documentary, focuses on the torment faced by a handful of young students, including two who took their own lives. Monday, Oct. 13, at 10 p.m. on PBS.

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

C. ABOUT A BOY, my favorite comedy from last season, returns on Tuesday, Oct. 14, on NBC at 9:30 p.m. I'm glad that Will, who moved to New York at the end of last year, won't be staying away from the Bay Area for long.

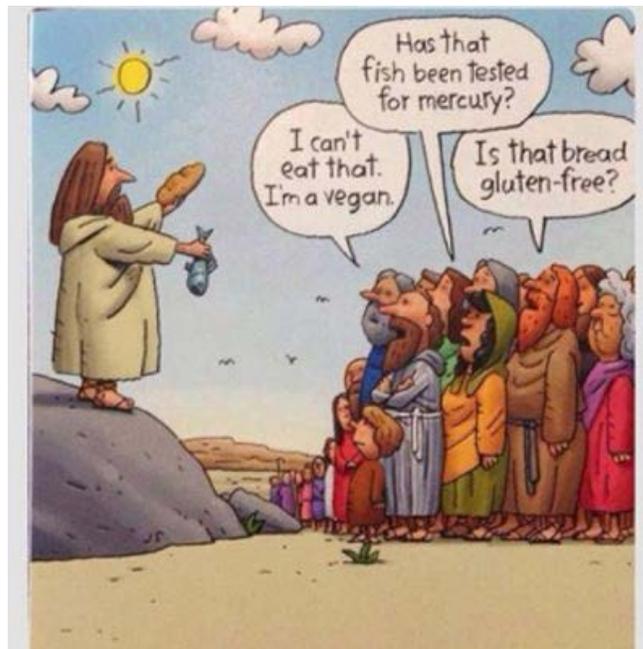
D. PORGY AND BESS, the San Francisco Opera's productions, airs on Friday, Oct. 17, at 9 p.m. on PBS.

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

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6. Joke 2

Just imagine if Jesus tried to feed the 5,000 today!



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7. Websites

A. Nelson S. in NC: 360 Degree Video Tour Of The Smithsonian

Follow the blue arrows on the floor to move into new rooms. Watch it in full screen.

[Smithsonian Tour](#)

B. Diana M. in NH: 96-year-old Holds The World Record For Oldest Yoga Teacher

[Oldest Yoga Teacher](#)

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

[BLAINESWORLD website](#)

To see some of my favorite websites, click "Blaines Best" on the left and then "Websites."

For movies, I really like the one I've cited; i.e., Rotten Tomatoes.

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:

[Facebook](#)



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8. Technology tip

Good news! Facebook seems to have restored the option for rearranging photos in an album you have created. So now, all you have to do is put your cursor on the picture you want to move and then drag it to the new position where you want it.

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9. Joke 3

The National Institute of Health has released the results of a \$200 million dollar study completed under a grant to Johns Hopkins University. . . . The study found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.



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10. A quote I like

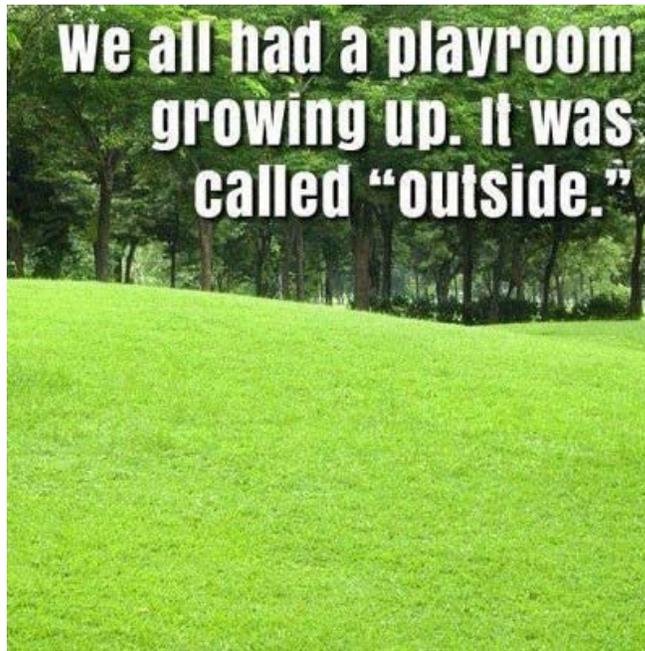
"When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading."--Paul Hournig (born December 1935), a Hall of Fame running back for the Green Bay Packers of the NFL from 1957 to 1966 and a member of both the professional and college football halls of fame

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11. Thought for the day

This has me humming "Those Were the Days." If you want to join me, please click:

[Those Were the Days](#)



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12. Advance planning department

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

[More Information](#)

A. NC events

(1) David LaMotte - Book Release Party. (2) "The Pure Heart Ensemble." (3) IDENTITY: XYZ. (4) Volunteer opportunity. (5) THE ADAMS FAMILY.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Community Cares Dinner. (2) THE SECRET GARDEN.

C. National event

Community Cares Dinner (the UnBanquet).

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!



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BLAINES WORLD

#940
9.29.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I went to the Peace Center in Greenville, SC, to see the stage version of ONCE--one of my favorite movies. We were joined by our friend Tammy Strange.



(1) The show was good, though we liked the movie better.

(2) The same comment applies to the most famous song, "Falling Slowly." Here's the version from the movie:

Falling Slowly

(3) From there, we all went for a tasty dinner at Smoke on the Water.

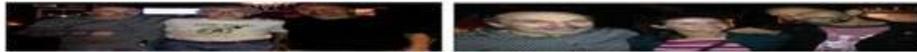
(4) Special thanks to my friend Mike Martinelli for his expert advice with respect to parking, as well as to how to find a place where you can get gas for \$2.93/gallon!

B. On another night, we dined outside at Creperie Bouchon. We enjoyed our crepes and, also, the fine service we received from Kerry.



C. During the week, I:

(1) Attended something called the Equinox Night Carnival with my friend Steve Shulman. Proceeds went to help another friend, Steven Liebenhaut, deal with his ongoing expenses as he battles with income loss due to cancer. Pictured: (left) Blaine Greenfield, Steven Liebehnaut and Steven Shulman; and (right) Blaine Greenfield and two other friends I met at the event, Kristalyn Bunyan and Rock Eblen.



Note: If you weren't able to attend, you can still help Steven by clicking:
[Help Steven](#)

(2) Joined the aforementioned Mike Martinelli (center) for a great lunch at LongHorn Steakhouse. It was made even better by the fact that our mutual friend Mark Jones was our server. He not only did his usual great job, but he also gave us a sneak preview of his new "Lurch look."



Note: Mark stars, along with Bradshaw Call, Dianne Chapman, Jacob Walas and Leslie Lang, among others, in THE ADAMS FAMILY. It is now running at Asheville Community Theatre. For more information, please click:
[Adams Family](#)

(3) Had a terrific iPhone tutorial from Jensen Gelfond with Asheville Digital Lifestyle. I was impressed by both his knowledge and helpful nature. Should you want to arrange a session with him (and he'll even come to your home), please click:
[Asheville Digital Lifestyle](#)



D. Changes to BLAINESWORLD:

- (1) Links--in the emailed version--appear as words, rather than as website addresses.
- (2) The subject line is now in lower case, and there is no # sign with it.
- (3) In addition, I have stopped including a suggestion (in parentheses) about something special to see in the issue.
- (4) Mr. Curious here: I'm also thinking of having it mailed out from bginbc@gmail.com vs. bginbc@aol.com. What say ye?

Note: The above changes are being made in an attempt to make sure this newsletter more frequently appears in your email box--and not in a spam folder.

E. Congratulations to:

- (1) John Locke on his new position as Regional Business Performance Coach for the Carolinas Region at Dixon Hughes Goodman.
- (2) Phyllis S. in FL, winner of CONTST #19: a copy of SAVING BABE RUTH: A NOVEL BASED ON A TRUE STORY by Tom Swyers. All told, there were 13 entries. And that reminds me that it is now time to announce:

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

One lucky winner will receive a copy of GROWING HAPPY KIDS: HOW TO FOSTER INNER CONFIDENCE, SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS by Maureen Healy. The author, a practicing child development and parenting expert, demonstrates ways to keep children strong from the inside out by combining Eastern wisdom with Western psychology. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #818 and very much enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #20 in the subject 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 Monday, October 13.

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

This week, it goes to the Asheville Quilt Guild and to the many volunteers who helped make the recent 32nd Annual Asheville Quilt Show the success that it was.

Thanks to our friends Jeremy and Sue Lerner for inviting us. When we got there, we were greeted by Ann Meyers who took our tickets and then gave us an informative overview of the event. This is something we've never seen before, and we were very impressed by the fact that all who in who came received a similar greeting.

From there, we viewed row after row of beautiful quilts. We also got to speak to many of those whose work was on display, including (below) Elaine Zinn.



Special kudos to Sue, co-chair of the 2014 show, as well as to Mary Jo Leonard, her co-chair. And to Jeremy, publicity chair.

There were a record number of quilts on display, as well as a record number of attendees. For more information, please click:

[Asheville Quilt Show](#)

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2. FYI

TIME's surprising photos of 2013 . . . L: A motorist hauling buckets of paint is covered in paint after losing control of his SUV and going off the road in Belfair, WA. The man, his dog and the SUV were all coated in paint. . . . R: Abayed, a 6-year-old herding dog, walks with a specially-made wheeled walking aid outside the Humane Center for Animal Welfare near Amman, Jordan. The dog was hospitalized after a bullet pierced his spine and paralyzed him. . . . For more, please click:
Surprising photos



FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Ken D. in PA: A Lesson on Management in the Music Business (from the Turtles)
[Lesson in management](#)

(2) Karen M. in NC: If We Lived In A World Where Women Catcalled Men
[Women catcalling men](#)

(3) Middle school team pulls off trick play called 'The Ugly Kardashian'
[Trick play](#)

(4) Why UPS drivers don't make left turns
[No left turns](#)

(5) Ramin Karimloo, on banjo, with Sergio Ortega on guitar, performs "Bring Him Home"
[Bring him home](#)

(6) David G. in NC: Beyond Slow Motion
[Beyond slow motion](#)

(7) Rhoda W. in NC: She gave her savings to a widow
[Savings to widow](#)

(8) Sherry S. in PA: Snowball (TM) - Another One Bites The Dust:
[Snowball](#)

(9) Walter W. in PA: Judges Lack Confidence in This Shy 14 Year Old
[Judges lack confidence](#)

(10) Caren F. in PA: Interesting soccer clip that also demonstrates thinking outside the box

Outside the box in soccer

(11) Corinne G in PA.: Best car ad ever

Best car ad

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

Details

(1) Marilyn S. in NC: Great movie [THE EQUALIZER]. (2) The woman's heart attack. (3) Daniel E. in PA: Science Proves Gluten Sensitivity Isn't Real. (4) Maria P. in PA: My thoughts on the Tinder dates experiment. (5) Kansas City, Mo., police ask for crime to pause while Royals game is on. (6) Kathryn L. in NC: I read what you said about making an appointment to get my driver's license renewed. (7) Nancy W. in NC: Thanks for sharing this. (8) Annemarie B. in NC: Movie . . . Gone Girl . . . recommend it. (9) Edie W. in PA: Are You Shamelessly Self Promoting? (10) Carole B. in NC: 14 inspirational movies everyone should watch. (11) Virginia M. in NC: New FBI Report Casts Doubt on NRA's 'Good Guy Stops Bad Guy' Nonsense.

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3. Joke 1

Be careful about what you say or do online!



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4. Reviews

A. LOVE IS STRANGE is a drama about two elderly men who get married after nearly 40 years together. But when one partner loses his job, the couple are forced to sell their apartment and temporarily live apart until they can find an affordable new home. John Lithgow and Alfred Molina are both excellent in the leading roles, but the film--after a great beginning--was somewhat of a disappointment. It dragged, in spots, and the editing left much to be desired. Rated R, though methinks it would certainly be appropriate for any mature teenager.

Note: If you can, find MAKE WAY FOR TOMORROW--a 1937 movie with a similar theme. It is much better. In fact, it is one of my all-time favorites. If you'd like to see what else on my list, please send an email to bjinbc@aol.com and put "FAVORITES" in the subject line.

B. CHEF is now out on DVD . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #923 follows:
CHEF is a feel-good comedy about a guy who quits his job at a prominent Los Angeles restaurant. He then opens a food truck and with the help of both his friend and his son, he takes it on the road. Jon Favreau, who also wrote and directed the film, is superb in the leading role. In addition, I was impressed with the work of both John Leguizamo and Emjay Anthony as, respectively, his friend and son. I loved the soundtrack, as well as a subplot that involved social media. Rated R, though I think that's too bad. I believe this would be appropriate for any teenager and up.

C. STUPIDPARTY MATH V. MYTH: UNMAKING THE DESTRUCTIVE FORCES ERODING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY (Fact Over Fiction) by Patrick M. Andendall is an engrossing book that presents documented facts and resources to respond to numerous misconceptions

held by too many Republicans.

Now before you get up in arms about that comment, especially if you're a Republican, please consider the fact that the author claims to be a conservative. He also based the idea for the title from Louisiana's Governor Bobby Jindalls's quote: "We've got to stop being the stupid party. We've got to stop insulting the intelligence of voters. We need to trust the smarts of the American people."

Arendall goes on to cover such topics as the Founding Factors, the House, who are the 47% moochers, job and the economy, and guns, among others. He does so with page after page of research that's funny, but unfortunately, also true.

For example, he presents such quotes as the following:

* Rick Santorum: "I think the right approach is to accept this horribly created--in the sense of rape--but nevertheless a gift in a very broken way, the gift of human life, and accept what God has given to you . . . rape victims should make the most of a bad situation."

* Sean Hannity: "Halloween is a liberal holidays because we're teaching our children to be for something for free. . . . We're teaching kids to knock on other people's doors and ask for a handout."

* Art Robinson [chairperson of the Oregon Republican Party]: "My advice to home school parents is to teach geography, history and government largely from books which were written in the 1950s and earlier, before it became popular to teach over racism under the rubric or 'multiculturalism.' "

STUPIDPARTY also contains many interesting charts, as well as humorous cartoons. My only criticism of the book is that I wish it had contained an index. Perhaps that will happen in what I hope will be a second edition.

D. Heard DEATH OF A KING: THE REAL STORY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S FINAL YEAR (Hachette Audio), written by Tavis Smiley with David Ritz and read by Smiley.

It presents a look at the final 365 days of King's life, including much information that I hadn't know about at the time. Specifically, I didn't realize that he faced great opposition--from the country's black middle class and militants, the press and the president. Also, seemingly on a daily basis, he had his character, ideology and political tactics questioned.

I liked the fact that the book did not overlook his faults, but even in spite of them, listening to DEATH OF A KING made me appreciate King's contributions to American society even more so than I had previously.

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5. TV alert

A. AUSTIN CITY LIMITS CELEBRATES 45 YEARS with performances from Sheryl Crow, Food Fighters and Willie Nelson, among others. Monday, Oct. 6, at 3 a.m. on PBS.

Note: PBS times and dates often vary, so check local listings for above show, as well as for 5D (below).

B. 30 FOR 30: PLAYING FOR THE MOB, narrated by Ray Liotta, tells the story of how Boston College basketball games were fixed for the entire 1978-79 season. Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 9 p.m. on ESPN.

C. CHELSEA HANDLER: UGANDA BE KIDDING ME LIVE features Handler in her debut stand-up special. She takes on such topics as laser hair removal, bisexual nursing-home encounters and AIDS. ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY gave it an "A" grade. Available via streaming on Netflix, starting on Friday, Oct. 10.

D. THE NANCE, starring Nathan Lane, as an unhappy gay burlesque clown, was filmed live in Broadway's Lyceum Theatre. TV GUIDE calls his performance "remarkable." Friday, Oct. 10 on PBS at 9 p.m.

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6. Joke 2

Just imagine what it would be like if dogs could text us to tell us what they're really thinking! For more of these, please click:

[If dogs could text](#)



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7. Websites

A. To see just how false and unverified claims are shared, Craig Silverman, a journalist and fellow at the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University, has developed Emergent, a tool that tracks the dissemination of rumors online on topics ranging from a Microsoft acquisition (true, Mr. Silverman says) to a supposed pumpkin spice condom created by Durex (false, Mr. Silverman says). To check out this site, please click:

[Emergent](#)

To read an informative article that provides more information about the above, please click:

[Article on Emergent](#)

B. Chuck W. in NC: The Power of 1

You can make a difference during Suicide Prevention Month. Learn how one conversation can open the door to support for someone going through a tough time. To see an eye-opening video on the subject, please click:

[The Power of 1](#)

To find out what you can do with the Power of 1, please click:

[Veterans Crisis Line](#)

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

[BLAINESWORLD website](#)

To find out what to believe on the Internet, please click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "On What to Believe."

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:

[Blaine Greenfield on Facebook](#)



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8. Technology tip

Change a Word Document to JPEG Format

Step 1. Open your document and zoom out until you see the whole document.

2. Go to "Start" > "All Programs" > "Accessories" > "Snipping Tool."

3. Click and drag the box over the document.

4. Save in whatever format you want.

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9. Joke 3

Methinks I'll take a pass on buying this fry pan!

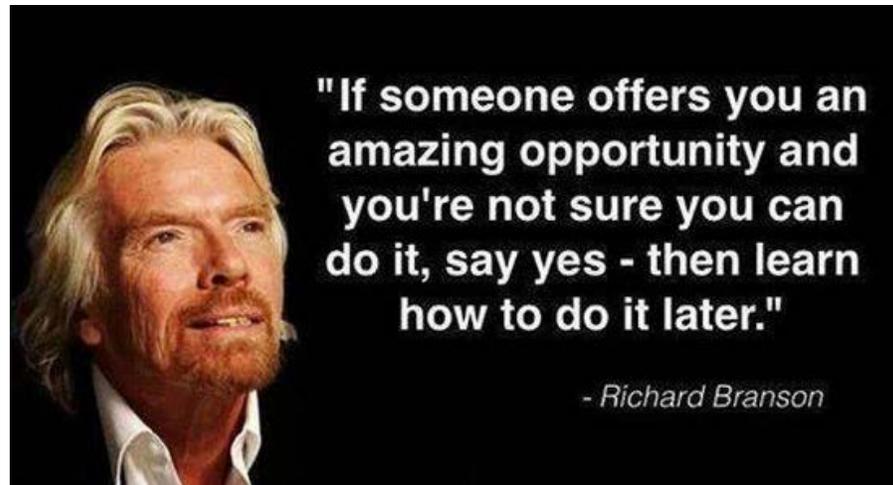


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10. A quote I like

This "fake it 'til you make it" attitude works, too. For more information, please view this TED presentation:

[Amy Cudy talk](#)



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11. Thought for the day

My grandmother Ruby
by Brian Biro*

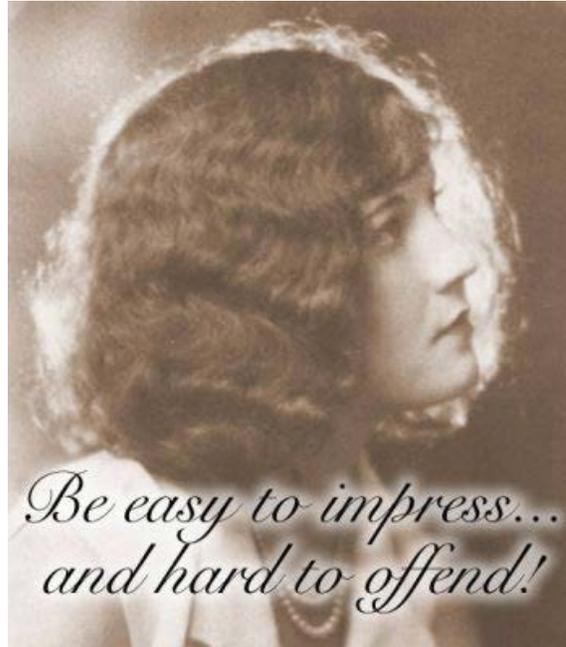
My grandmother Ruby (pictured below) was the most shining example I've ever known of a person who was always ready to be impressed and delighted. Her secret was that she looked for the light, and what you focus on is what you create!

She found wonder in everything. A trip to the supermarket with Ruby was like a treasure hunt! When she found a beautiful ripe piece of fruit in the produce section she could hardly hold back her enthusiasm. And as we checked out, she always managed to find something to compliment about the other people in line, the lady scanning her purchases, or the helper who bagged her groceries. She made their days brighter.

She walked into the store to buy groceries but always emerged with friends and treasures. Now that's a person who is easy to impress!

So much happiness and wonder is missed by those who are difficult to impress. And when you are delighted and impressed by those around you, they feel valued and significant. They in turn treat others with greater kindness, interest, and enthusiasm. By being easy to impress, you have ignited a true upward spiral of happiness and connection.

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Brian from his Facebook post of 9.29.2014. To find out more about Brian Biro, one of American's top motivational speakers, please click: [Brian Biro information](#)



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12. Advance planning department

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

[Details](#)

A. NC events

(1) Emily Final invite to participate in Shift Bar testing. (2) Vic A. in NC: Went to see Funny Thing Happened on The Way To The Forum. (3) God of Carnage. (4) FORTE.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Special group exhibit, featuring work by Pat Achilles and others. (2) "We Shall Not Be Moved" program.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!



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BLAINES WORLD

#939

9.22.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Participated in the Alzheimer's Association's "Walk to End Alzheimers" in downtown Asheville. We can be seen in the back row (third and fourth from the right in the top row), along with many of our Biltmore Lake neighbors. Kudos to Chuck and Linda Hollinshead for all their efforts in getting so many of us to join the Memory Care team.



(2) Joined our friends Marvin Sadovsky and Annemarie Brown for dinner at Stone Bowl, a Korean restaurant that has great food. We also enjoyed having Kelsy as our server.



(3) During the week, I joined my friend Tom Gallagher at a place called The Local Joint in Fairview. Its description on Facebook says it all: "Comfort food with a kick. French." I'll be back!



(4) I also got to meet two local politicians who visited our Biltmore Lake Clubhouse and certainly made me want to vote for them as a result of their impressive presentations. Top photo: Margie Zack, my friend and neighbor; Brian Turner, candidate for N.C. House, District 116; and yours truly; and bottom photo: this time with Nancy Waldrop, candidate for Buncombe County Commissioner. Special thanks to both Susan Runnels and Margie for their enthusiastic introductions of the candidates, as well as to all the other folks who helped make the evening the success that it was.



(5) Lastly, I got to hear Josh Awtry (right), Executive Editor of the ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, give an informative presentation to the Asheville Jewish Business Forum. Also pictured: Deborah Halpern.



B. Invitations

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

***** CONTEST #19*****

One lucky winner will receive an autographed copy of *SAVING BABE RUTH: A NOVEL BASED ON A TRUE STORY* by Tom Swyers, a terrific first novel about a lawyer and Civil War buff who volunteers to serve as commissioner for his town's Babe Ruth baseball league. I reviewed it in *BLAINESWORLD* #936 and very much enjoyed it.

Note: To read more about the above, read the following interview with the book's author by clicking:

<http://www.tomswyers.com/swyers-interview-smith-reveals-controversy-behind-book-saving-babe-ruth/>

To enter: Put "CONTEST #19 in the subject 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 Monday, September 29.

(2) Please be my guest at this upcoming seminar I'm presenting for Asheville SCORE . . .

Positioning & Marketing

Date: Saturday October 18, 2014

Location: AB-Tech Enka Campus (Room 2046 in the Small Business Center), 1459 Sand Hill Rd, Candler, NC

This FREE seminar covers positioning and marketing your business. You've opened your doors. How do you position yourself in the market place and secure that piece of business that you need to survive?

Seating is limited, and we will not be accepting registrations at the door, so click the button on the bottom of this page to register.

Doors open at 8:30 AM. The seminar begins at 9:00 AM SHARP. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early to handle paperwork.

The presenter for this seminar is Blaine Greenfield

Blaine Greenfield is a former college professor of business who headed his own marketing firm that assisted small- and mid-sized businesses. Presently, he is a volunteer with SCORE and is active with several other community organizations. He also publishes an online newsletter, *BLAINESWORLD*, that can be obtained for free by emailing him at bginbc@aol.com.

To register, please click:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=ebiggxcab&oeidk=a07e9khuqtocc234655>

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Jean Holmes and Lisa Mathason on their recent marriage.

(2) Donna Kull on her new job as Regional Manager of Donor Ministries at the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove.

(3) Evan Guilford-Blake on the publication of his short story, "Everything Was All Right, " in the current issue of "The Bombay Journal." It's available online at:

<http://thebombayreview.com/everything-was-all-right-by-evan-guilford-blake/>

Caveat: This is not warm and fuzzy.

D. Condolences to:

(1) Chic Dowburd and family on the passing of Elaine Cohen, his sister.

(2) Jeff Silcox and family on the passing of Jeff's mother-in-law, as well as his brother's significant other.

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

This week, it goes to the Barlas family--father John and sons Peter, Chris and Dean.

They all own and operate three family-owned restaurants in the Asheville area: Stone Ridge Tavern, Juicy Lucy and Corner Stone.

The first, located near where we live, has long been one of our favorite eateries. We've also enjoyed the hamburgers at Juicy Lucy.

Only recently did we get to eat at the latter establishment (see below), and we were quite impressed. I enjoyed my Monte Cristo sandwich, and Cynthia felt the same way about her order of liver and unions. Our server, Tistan, was excellent.



I went back a few days and had another tasty meal. This time, Jennifer was the server, and she also did a fine job.

Corner Stone has an extensive menu, the prices are reasonable, and you can get breakfast items past noon. In many respects, it reminds me of the New Jersey diners that I haven't really been able to find anywhere in North Carolina.

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2. FYI

The Appalling Responses To A Woman Who Wore A Fat Suit To Meet Her Tinder Dates

by Cavan Sieczkowski

What happens when someone's Tinder photos don't match the real-life version? For men and women, the responses are dramatically different--and definitely a bit sexist.

In the world of online dating, women are afraid of meeting a serial killer while men are

afraid of meeting someone who is fat, at least according to one survey cited in HBO's 2011 documentary, "When Strangers Click: Five Stories From the Internet." The guys behind Simple Pickup, a male-driven dating site "devoted to the fine art of picking up girls," decided to conduct a social experiment to test this very theory.

For the rest of this interesting article, please click:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/25/woman-fat-suit-tinder-date_n_5881330.html

And if you'd like to see the clip of this Fat Girl Tender (Social Experiment), please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2alnVlj1Jf8>

Note: It works both ways. Here's the Fat Guy Tinder Date (Social Experiment):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUy3_kBme4M&feature=youtu.be

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Berta D. in NJ: Because It's Rosh Hashanah! A Musical Video Greeting

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cyY3Z3Pm-U&feature=youtube_gdata_player

(2) Richard S. in NC: "Sweet Infatuation," performed by Earth & Sky aka the Richard Shulman Trio

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

(3) Maria P. in PA: Why I Think This World Should End

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itvnQ2QB4yc>

(4) Clara B. in TN: Sir Ian McKellen, On Acting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyoWmkhRyp8>

(5) Indy-Leaguer tears ACL after hitting homer, hops around bases on one leg

<http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/mlb-big-league-stew/indy-leaguer-tears-acl-after-hitting-home-run-hops-around-bases-on-one-leg-075232784.html>

(6) 'Daily Show' airs segment pitting Redskins fans against Native Americans

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/daily-show-airs-segment-pitting-redskins-fans-against-native-americans/2014/09/25/f5d082da-44e3-11e4-b437-1a7368204804_story.html

(7) Jewish Remote Control

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDM_WOUkpos#t=57

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Hs>

(1) Mike M. in NC: LOVE IS STRANGE. (2) Carole S. in NJ: Have you seen THE IDENTICAL?

(3) Peter S. in NC: How Do You Differentiate Good Acting From Bad Acting? (4) Lori in

GA: Wow! Blaine! I've always thought you were so toothsome! (5) Carol S. in PA: This Restaurant Wants to Be the Worst Rated on Yelp, and the Reviews Are Indeed Hilarious.

(6) Carole B. in NC: Why I Kicked My Keurig to the Curb. (7) Nancy W. in NC: A really good

thought! (8) George H. in PA: Great tribute to photographic skills, as well as acting

skills. (9) Chris L. in PA: How about a "best caption" competition in your newsletter?

(10) Marilynne H. in NC: Eating Out in Asheville, NC.

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3. Joke 1

What happens when your parents get into texting! I also liked this other oh-so-helpful one from a father to his child: "You left your phone at home." That can be found, along with several other funny examples, by clicking:

<http://tinyurl.com/l3tc9pv>



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4. Reviews

A. THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE YOU is a dramatic comedy about a family that reunites for a funeral when the head of the household dies. It is watchable, but not very funny. I also found it very choppy. Jason Bateman stars, and he is fine. Tina Fey is wasted in her role. Adam Driver and Rose Byrne were both quite good in their parts. Rated R.

B. There's not much new stuff out on DVD that I'd recommend, so instead, I'll strongly encourage you try to find 1991's MY GIRL. It's a comedy-drama about a young girl during the summer of 1972. Anna Chlumsky, in her screen debut, is touching as the child trying to find her way--despite the fact that her mother has died and she is being raised by her father, a local mortician who prepares bodies in the basement. Dan Akroyd is outstanding in this latter role, as is Jamie Lee Curtis as the freelance make-up artist who enters his life. I also liked Macauly Culkin as the boy next door. I hadn't seen it for some 24 years, but I can see why it has always been one of my favorite films. Rated PG-13.

Note: If you'd like to get my complete listing of favorite films, put the word "Favorites" in the subject of an email and mail it to: bjinbc@aol.com.

C. THE INNER PATH: A GUIDE TO LIVING A MORE MINDFUL, FULFILLING AND SPIRITUAL LIFE (Inner World Publishing) by Georff Bell-Devaney provides insight into how we can discover our true selves and our true path.

The author, a graduate of the Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Teacher Training program at the Center for Mindfulness at the UMass Medical School and a former resident of the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health, claims to have experienced a spiritual awakening while writing this book.

He attempts to explain how this took place through expressing his thoughts in short, powerful paragraphs that will get you thinking.

For example, on the power of love, he writes:

* Never be afraid to wish happiness upon those who you think have wronged you. These people are not unlike you. In fact, they are very much like you. Who among us hasn't done something that has hurt another? Who among us doesn't believe that their opinion is correct? Like all of us, these people are often acting in ways in which they are unaware, blinded to the reality of fairness, quality and truth.

And on living a life of abundance, he writes:

You see, happiness is something that there is an unlimited supply of. We should remember that a happy, fulfilled world will always be a better place to live in. When people feel more comfortable, they are naturally more giving, open and understanding, so we should always wish the best for your friends, family and acquaintances. . . . You see, when we allow others to have their happiness, we not only feel as if we are enough, but begin to realize

their joy does not limit our own.

There's a very useful summary at the end of the book.

Overall, I enjoyed it . . . but I would have liked more real-life examples as to how these examples were applied to and/or used in Bell-Devaney's life.

D. Heard **THE WAY FORWARD: RENEWING THE AMERICAN FAMILY** (Hachette Audio), written by Paul Ryan and read by Jonathan Davis.

The author, the United States representative for Wisconsin's 1st congressional district and current chairman of the House Budget Committee, was also the Republican Party's nominee for vice president in the 2012 election.

That's the part of the book that I liked best; i.e. where he describes how he was chosen and, also, about his run for office.

I also enjoyed his review of history and his take on why we are now in the economic situation that we are now in.

Though I don't agree with many of his conclusions, I nevertheless found them interesting.

I was less impressed with the second part of **THE WAY FORWARD**, especially with his plan to replace Medicare with a voucher system, on how we should fix Social Security, etc . In addition, I don't see how you can lower taxes (especially for the wealthy) and increase military spending.

Also, though Davis did a solid job with the narration, I would have preferred having Ryan read his own words.

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5. TV alert

A. **THE SUNDOWNERS** depicts the story of an Australian sheepherder and his wife who clash over their nomadic existence and their son's future. Deborah Kerr, Robert Mitchum and Peter Ustinov star in this 1960 film--one of my mother's favorites. Tuesday, Sept. 30, at 3:45 p.m. on TCM.

B. **KEY & PEELE**, now in its fourth season, offers the funniest, edgiest and most surprising sketch comedy on television. Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m. on COMEDY CENTRAL.

C. In **BAD JUDGE**, Kate Walsh plays a hot judge with a reputation for unorthodox behavior and no desire to settle down in this comedy that debuts on Thursday, Oct. 2, at 9 p.m. on NBC.

D. **THE 50 YEAR ARGUMENT** details the history and impact of *The New York Review of Books*, a magazine whose political and cultural influence has been far greater than its name might indicate. It's worth seeing just for the vintage footage of Norman Mailer and Gore Vidal verbally squaring off on **THE DICK CAVETT SHOW**. Monday, Sept. 9, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

Note: Previously, I mentioned that **CANDID CAMERA** is back on the air on TV LAND. . I believe the show's first season is over, but you can find repeats of this still very funny show by clicking:

<http://www.tvland.com/tv-schedule/candid-camera>

In addition, to read more (and see several video clips), please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/27/opinion/curses-fooled-again.html>

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6. Joke 2

NAME THAT TUNE: Base your answer on the picture below. Give up? It's "Moon River." And in the unlikely event you don't know the song or want to be reminded of it, click:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7SI7N22k_A



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7. Websites

A. Corinne G. in PA: This ad brings a sense of peace and well being like no other I've seen in a long time. It is lovely!

If only everyone who tried to sell us something would do it this beautifully. You take a lot away from this commercial, even if you don't buy the product.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/uaWA2GbcnJU>

B. Howard D. in FL: Evolution of Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IExW80sXsHs>

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

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

If you're new to this website and want to find out what it's all about, check out the box at the top center of this 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:

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



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8. Technology tip

\$199 Apple iPhone 6 Is Fiction, if Not Fantasy

by Jeff Sommer in THE NEW YORK TIMES

What does it cost to buy a basic new iPhone 6? If you think the answer is \$199, and you're happy believing that, you may want to stop reading now.

If, like me, you watched Apple's self-referential love fest for the new iPhone and suddenly wanted one very badly, you may have been encouraged by the way the price was listed: "From \$199."

For the rest of this informative article, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/28/technology/199-apple-iphone-6-is-fiction-if-not-fantasy.html>

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9. Joke 3

X-RATED: If you're easily offended, please don't view.



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10. A quote I like

"One of the less difficult blanks to fill in on our job-agency application is 'Position Wanted. 'One job seeker wrote 'Sitting.' "--Flo Traywick, Lynchburg, VA

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11. Thought for the day

Great summary of how I feel, provided you also include these words: "Or doesn't harm animals."



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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Hs>

A. NC events

(1) WNC Video Music Awards. (2) URINETOWN: THE MUSICAL. (3) Richard Shulman. (4) FORTE, a cabaret. (5) Join area expert, Tonya Wilson Snider, for a monthly series. (6) A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM. (7) The Sacred Art of Hula. (8) Asheville Quilt Show. (9) Upcoming Inception Point Therapy Workshop.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Kaleidoscope Theatre Presents Live History Lesson in "Pocahontas" Musical. (2) 50th Anniversary Premiere Music Performance and Art Unveiling at BCCC. (3) For retirees (from Bucks County Community College).

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!

Also, to y'all who are Jewish, my wish for you on Yom Kippur (the holiday that begins at sundown on Friday, Oct. 3) is "Tzom Kal" . . . may you have an easy fast. I also wish you "G"mar Hatimah Tova" . . . may you be you be inscribed (in the Book of Life) for good.

Dry Bones



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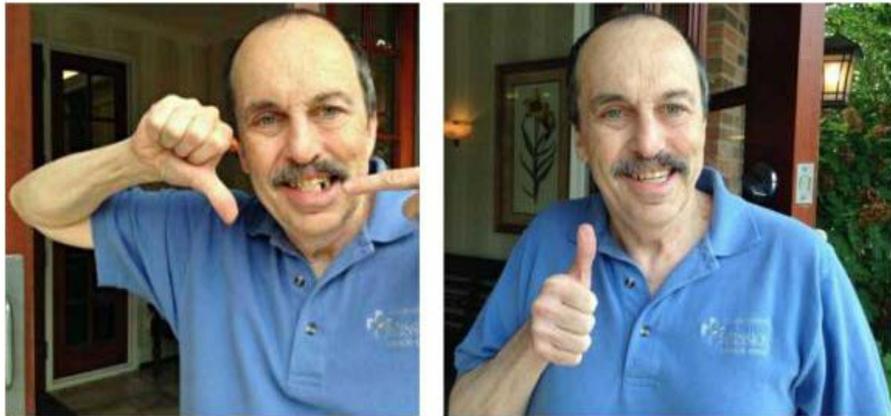
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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:
(1) Celebrated the following good news . . .

FINALLY! After being without a front tooth (left) for over two years, I now have a replacement (right)--thanks to the combined efforts of Drs. Kennerly, Ledford and Claiborne. Kudos to all three of them and their staffs for taking me through an extraction due to internal tooth resorption, two bone grafts and an implant. . . . I can tell that I've been to their respective offices too many times because whenever I enter, they tell me I don't even have to sign-in since they already know me by name.



(2) In addition, we met the new dog--Cody--of our friends Dave and Judy Blumlo.



B. During the week:

(1) I attended a campaign event for Terry Van Duyn, our dynamic State Senator. It was at the home of Louise Glickman and Daryl Slaton, who served as hosts, along with Marilynne Herbert. Pictured (top): Marilynne Herbert, displaying a piece of Daryl Slaton's beautiful artwork, and Louise Glickman; and (bottom): Blaine Greenfield, Paul Runnels, Terry Van Duyn and Susan Runnels.



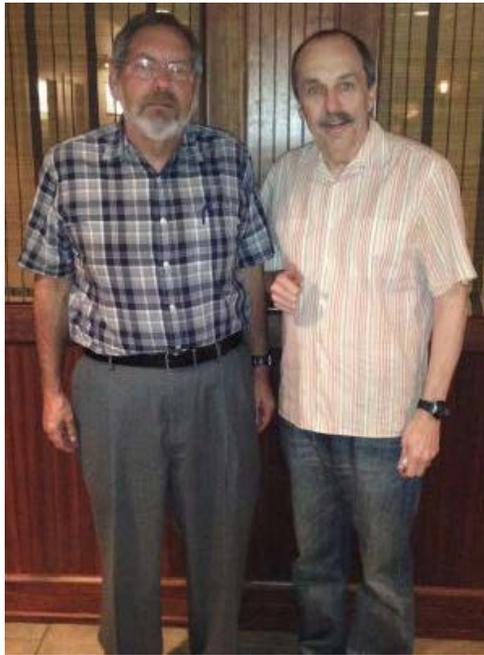
(2) I also attended a funny comedy, THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP. at Flat Rock Playhouse Downtown that featured fantastic performances from Preston Dyar (below) and Scott Treadway. Kudos, also, to Alshi Arnold for her costume design, as well as to Kenneth Kay for his direction.



My friend Chuck Hollinshead joined me at this show. Afterward, we enjoyed a tasty meal at Iannucci's Pizzeria & Italian Restaurant in Hendersonville--and the fine service we received from Dara.



(3) And I heard an informative talk on North Carolina politics given by Joel Mazelis, a public policy government consultant, to the Asheville Jewish Business Forum.



The meeting was held at McAbees, a restaurant that recently opened in the Asheville area. It was the first time I went there--but it won't be the last. I enjoyed my meal, especially the potato pancakes that came with it. What really blew me away was the fact that I asked for some applesauce to go along with this dish. None was readily available, so owner Donald McAbee made some from scratch for me. For more information about this eatery, please click:

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

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Roger Clark for a job well done on work he has done for a mural for the Silver Lake Nature Center in Bristol, PA. (See below.) He started work on the main wall in 2006 and completed it in 2009. In 2010, he began painting two small walls connecting the main mural with the entrance to the Nature Center. He is presently in the process of doing some repair work on it--possibly even adding to it. This has truly been a labor of love.



Note: To view Roger's original acrylic and watercolor paintings, as well as to see other mural projects, please click:

<http://www.theartfulroger.net>

(2) Howard Debs on his newest published works:

"That's Why They Call It The Blues"

<http://sedimentslit.com/thats-why-they-call-it-the-blues/>

and "The Unseen"

<http://www.star82review.com/2.3/debs-unseen.html>

(3) Tom Giraldi on his first hole-in-one
(4) Avi Dobuler on the birth of Leeba Gittel Feldman, his granddaughter.
(5) BJ Leiderman on being featured in an article in landtracts.net. To read it, please click:
<http://www.landtracts.net/article.php?table=article&mode=search&archived=false&article=306>

(6) Evan Guilford-Blake on the fact this his story "Dust" has won the 2014 Loudoun County Public Library (Middleburg, VA) competition and will be published with a dozen others in a collection the library is putting together.

(7) Brian DeWine, owner of the Asheville Tourists, and his team for winning the second South Atlantic League title in three years.

(8) Asheville for being named one of the "Best Places to Live" in America. For more information, please click:

<https://mountainx.com/living/asheville-named-one-of-the-best-places-to-live-in-america/>

Note: For a complete list of other recognition received by Asheville, please click:

<http://www.exploreasheville.com/press-room/press-kit/accolades-and-media-praise/>

(9) Steve R. in NY, winner of CONTEST #18: a copy of DON'T TELL THE MILKMAN IF YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO TELL THE WORLD: HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND STOP RELATIONAL AGGRESSION by Joanna Sparrow. All told, there were just 3 entries. And that reminds me that it is now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #19*****

One lucky winner will receive an autographed copy of SAVING BABE RUTH: A NOVEL BASED ON A TRUE STORY by Tom Swyers, a terrific first novel about a lawyer and Civil War buff who volunteers to serve as commissioner for his town's Babe Ruth baseball league. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #936 and very much enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #19 in the subject 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 Monday, September 29.

Also, thanks to Michelle Baker in NC for informing me of this other contest for a chance to win her great first novel: 15 copies of The Canoe on Goodreads. For information, please click:

<https://www.goodreads.com/giveaway/show/108651-the-canoe>

D. Condolences to the family of Avtar Thompson on her recent passing. I liked what her friend Barrie Barton's posted about her on Facebook: "woman who lived 'persistence,' in the face of great challenges . . . who knew how to 'be there' and be a source of love, encouragement and silliness!. . . who loved the natural world and brought beauty to her surroundings . . . and who loved her children to infinity. Avtar . . . you done good! I love you always."

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

Thanks to my longtime friend Natalie Kaye for submitting the following:

It is my pleasure to nominate Barbara Simmons, Executive Director of the Peace Center, for this week's BLAINESWORLD Best Award.

I have known Barbara for well over fifteen years and have always found her to be committed to bringing peace to her environment and those around her. She continues to strive for a harmonious and peaceful world as she successfully oversees the Peace Center's programs and projects. Barbara has received numerous awards for her peacebuilding efforts over the years, but she can never be recognized enough for the difference she makes in this world. Barbara just returned from her second trip to Rwanda this summer where she conducted a women's workshop. Through her PeaceTalks Radio program, she enlightens her listeners about what's happening in the trouble spots of the world. She is a blessing in my life and a gift to all!

Note: Barbara Simmons will be given the annual Al Krass Peace Award on Sunday, Sept. 21. For more information about that event, see the part about PA/NJ events in Section 12B (below) of this week's newsletter.

For more information about the Peace Center, please click:

<http://www.thepeacecenter.org/>

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2. FYI

6 Ways You're Eating McDonald's Wrong
by BuzzFeed

Want to know how get hot fries every time? Two words: "No salt." They'll make a new batch and you can add the salt yourself. Save money by ordering the "poor man's Big Mac": A McDouble with special sauce, lettuce, pickle and no ketchup or mustard. They're about \$2 cheaper, but without the weird bun. Watch for more ordering tricks.

<https://screen.yahoo.com/buzzfeed/6-ways-youre-eating-mcdonalds-012413275.html?vp=1>

Note: I imagine the above tip on ordering fries also works at Burger King and other fast food restaurants. If you can verify that fact, please let me know.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Ken G. in GA: Here's a guy who dances almost as well as you!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1AE_bCoPSI

(2) Carol S. in PA: This Derek Jeter Gatorade ad will give Yankees fans chills

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfgS1lvqX8I>

(3) Beverly T. in NC: 99 Red Balloons - played with red balloons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZND9dApFKU&list=UUdcemy56JtVTrsFIOoqvV8g>

(4) Natalie K. in PA: Powerful

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHI9K0c-A24>

(5) Debra B. in LA: 78-year-old woman rides roller coaster for first time

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQBUChBG98Q>

(6) Corinne G. in PA: Feeding the Homeless - Prank It FWD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-8ee7qyfF0#t=54>

(7) Young girl innocently throws back Derek Jeter foul ball

<http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/mlb-big-league-stew/young-girl-innocently-throws-back-derek-jeter-foul-ball-162237913.html>

(8) How Irish Dancing Got Started

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_JOvx4XROQ

(9) Gerardo Parra makes friends in St. Louis by giving ball to young boy

<http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/mlb-big-league-stew/gerardo-parra-makes-friends-in-st-louis-by-giving-ball-to-young-boy-101816552.html>

B. Other tidbits from readers

Thanks to all those who wrote about my recent skydiving experience; among others: David G. in NY, Elaine B. in PA, Irene R. in NC, Bob H. in NJ, Tom S. in NY, Marcie F. in PA, Michelle B. in NC, Trinica in NJ, Walt W. in PA, Mary Lou S. in NC, Bob B. in NC, John D. in PA, Scott L. in PA and Lisa Z. in PA.

Several folks asked me about Cynthia's reaction. I was slated to go last year, but got rained-out three separate times. When I told her about what I had been planning to do, she was not a happy camper. So this year, I went--and then told her that I did so after the fact. I don't think she was overjoyed, but I was already safely home, so there wasn't very much she could do about it . . . other than to ask me not to do it again. Methinks that she doesn't have anything to worry about. Once was enough. It's now time to try something else.

In case you missed the video clip from last year's issue, here it is again:

<http://tinyurl.com/l5lutck>

And if you want to see some pictures from my day in the sky, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/k3cf7qn>

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1GQ>

(1) Chuck F. in NC: Thanks, Blaine, for your good press on behalf of SART. (2) Carol S. in PA: 25 Things You Don't Understand About Long Island. (3) Flattering Caricatures for Business Use by Pat Achilles. (4) Learning How to Exert Self-Control. (5) Tebbe D. in NC: Get a FREE PAINTING! (6) Carole S. in NJ: THANK YOU SO MUCH for these contests! (7) Natalie K. in PA: Just finished watching "For the Boys." (8) Sunny R. in NC: Home needed for previous little dog. (9) Ellen P. in NC: Can You Name Those Famous Broadway Shows. (10) Ange M. in PA: Well now that you let us know that you eat at home, tell us if you cook at home. (11) Arlene D. in PA: BEWARE of an IRS Impersonation phone scam. (12) Nancy W. in PA: Really nice newsletter.

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3. Joke 1

Did you hear about the claustrophobic astronaut?

He just needed a little space.

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4. Reviews

To read the first three reviews in full, please go to Section 4 when you click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1GQ>

A. DOLPHIN TALE 2

B. THE FAULT IN OUR STARS and RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS

C. DIRTY WORK by Gabriel Weston

D. .BLOODY T'IS MY VALENTINE (James Ward Kirk Fiction) by Rich Orth is a successful follow-up to his first collection of poems, POETRY GIRLS.

The talented poet has another winner in this book. Reading it will get you thinking about lost loves--and whatever happened to them.

I also liked the accompanying photos and artwork, both of which enhanced my enjoyment of Orth's poetry.

There are over 60 poems in this latest collection. Here is one of my favorites, reprinted with the poet's permission:

"Cemetery Girl"

when daybreak comes and you have gone to rest
thoughts of you bury me... leaving me gasping for air
you brought me to the brink... there is no turning back
you give me warmth in my heart and a chill up & down my spine
thru the gates of Heaven & Hell.... you're my cryptic Cemetery Girl
I plot to spend eternity with you.... no matter how grave conditions be
I pray at your altar... am brought down to my knees
I touch the dash of your headstone.... glimpse images of ur life b4 my eyes
long for the solitude, the eternal sleep we shall share
you've made me a casketcase.... my cryptic cemetery girl

I look forward to what's next from Rich Orth!

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5. TV alert

A. I'll check out MADAM SECRETARY if for no other reason than it stars the always watchable Tea Leoni. She plays a former CIA analyst who discovers to her amazement that the president has chosen her as secretary of state. Begins Sunday, Sept. 21, at 8 p.m. on CBS.

B. Another show I'll watch is HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER, starring the equally watchable Viola Davis as a law professor who asks her students for solutions to some of the cases her firm has taken on--and then invites the sharpest to work for her Begins Thursday, Sept. 25, at 10 a.m. on ABC.

C. Mark J. in NC: Friday, Sept. 26, 9 p.m. on PBS! Can't wait!!

Live From Lincoln Center: "Sweeney Todd" at The New York Philharmonic
Join Emma Thompson and Bryn Terfel for a night of inspired musical mayhem.

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

And if you can't wait for the above, please check out:

Sweeney Todd Live in Concert

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWA-eRewQrA&feature=youtu.be>

D. Donna K. in NC: TV LINE have made their selections for the Fall season's TV breakout stars. Among them is Virginia Kull [Donna's daughter], who plays grieving mother Beth Solano in the new FOX TV drama series *Gracepoint*.

The show airs October 2 at 9 p.m. on FOX. For more information, please click:

<http://tennantnews.blogspot.com/2014/09/gracepoint-tv-line-name-virginia-kull.html#/2014/09/gracepoint-tv-line-name-virginia-kull.html>

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6. Joke 2

Is it the kilt that makes the difference? Regardless, I now see why the Brits wanted to win that recent election so badly!



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7. Websites

A. "Passenger Shaming": Social Media Takes on the Rudest Passengers in the Air

by Sid Lipsey

Attention rude airline passengers who treat airplanes as their own personal lounging areas: Social media is coming for you.

Passenger Shaming on Instagram and Facebook is the latest trend in Internet shaming: It aims to shine the bright light of online justice on people whose rude, often gross, airplane behavior makes the flying experience even more miserable for the rest of us. The photos are submitted via email by anonymous flyers and flight attendants to

PassengerShaming@gmail.com.

For more information and pictures, please click:

<https://www.yahoo.com/travel/passenger-shaming-pictures-of-the-rudest-grossest-9773539572.html>

B. For a beautiful song, "Midair," from one of my favorite films (ABOUT TIME), please click:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkCkWXRNqds>

Another pretty song from the same film, "I Will Love You"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmilF705qXE>

And: "The Luckiest"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_latgzoqoSE

For a sampler of songs from the film, please click:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH_Kukf4PW0

To listen to the whole soundtrack, please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FLGWstV7Vo>

Note: If you'd like to get my listing of other favorite films, send an email to:
bginbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

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

Ever wonder how many folks are viewing the above website as you are? Check out 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:

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



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8. Technology tip

Mr. Curious here: The new iPhone is out. What do you think? Will you be upgrading?

Note: See below for two reviews with video clips. In particular, see the top one. It talks about the newest Apple software for iPhones, iOS 8 that's now available for FREE. Even if you don't upgrade, will you download that?

iPhone 6 Is a Thin, Sexy Phone with a Killer Camera

<https://www.yahoo.com/tech/when-apple-unveiled-the-iphone-6-last-week-it-97685451544.html>

With New iPhone 6 and 6 Plus, It's What's Inside That Counts

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/17/technology/personaltech/review-and-video-with-new-iphone-6-and-6-plus-its-whats-inside-that-counts.html>

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9. Joke 3

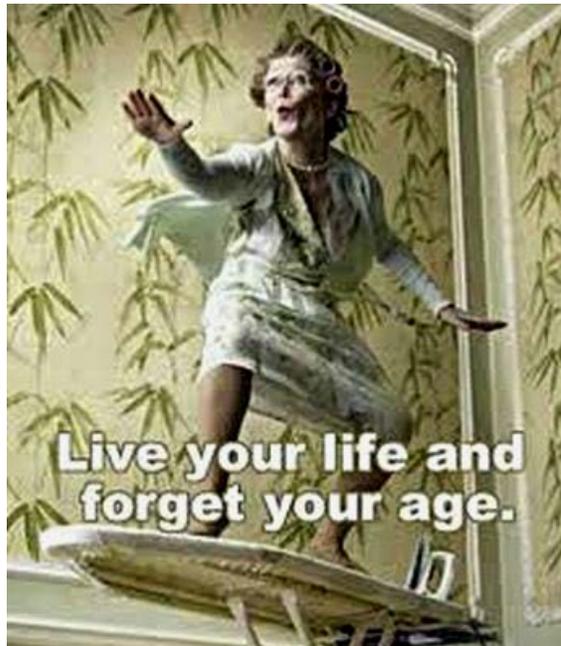
One of my college classes got canceled. I was instead assigned to teach a course in Human Sexuality. Yet I was embarrassed to tell my ex-wife that, so I instead told her that I was teaching a course in Horseback Riding. . . . A few weeks later, my students saw her in the supermarket and said, "Your husband is one fine teacher, but in the new course he is teaching, is he the self-professed expert he says he is?" . . . My ex replied, "Well, to be honest, he tried it once, then fell off!" (Thanks, Jean Dolan, for both taking and then sharing this picture of yours truly.)



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10. A quote I like

Norman Vincent Peale had it right when he said this . . .



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11. Thought for the day

Go first

by Seth Godin*

Before you're asked.

Before she asks for the memo, before the customer asks for a refund, before your co-worker asks for help.

Volunteer.

Offer.

Imagine what the other person needs, an exercise in empathy that might become a habit.

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Seth Godin, one of my favorite bloggers. To get on his free mailing list, please click:

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

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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1GQ>

A. NC events

(1) Celebrate fall with an Equinox Night Carnival to benefit Steve Liebenhaut. (2) A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS' DREAM at Parkway Playhouse. (3) Free SCORE seminar. (4) Free talk: Improve your reading and reading comprehension. (5) THE ADAMS FAMILY. (6) Invitation from Jennifer Worthen. (7) Asheville Ballet: Montana Skies Live!

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Theatrical Concert: We Shall Not Be Moved! (2) 2nd Annual Yardley International Day of Peace "Sharing the Message with our Children." (3) 50th Anniversary Premiere Music Performance and Art Unveiling. (4) Joey Novick at Grounds for Sculpture.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week.

Also, if you're like me and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way), Shanah Tovah--or Happy New Year to y'all observing the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah that begins at sundown on Wednesday, Sept. 24.

Dry Bones



Note: This holiday always reminds me of what a late, non-Jewish friend used to do. He'd come up to me and say, "I'll bet you a nickel you can't tell me what year it is on the Jewish calendar." He always won!



#935
8.25.2014

In this issue

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6. Thought for the day

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had a blast at BUSINESS SINGS BROADWAY, a fundraiser for Asheville Community Theatre.



The high spot--for me at least--was performing "You Gotta Have Heart" with a great group of friends. L-R: Michael Trayford, Brian Biro, Keith Challenger, Mark Knollman, Doug Hauschild, Blaine Greenfield and Marvin Sadovsky.



Kudos to Jerry Crouch for directing us, as well as to Lenora Thom for her musical direction. If you'd like to view the result, please click:

<http://youtu.be/W2Zm2LT2Tds>

Mark also did a single number, "To All the Girls I've Loved Before." He had the audience in stitches; to see why, please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhOkKt5lcr4>

It was also a thrill for me to be on stage (for both the opening and closing numbers with a whole bunch of other Asheville performers and/or members of the business community. If you look closely in the lower right corner of the picture (below), you'll even see me--or at least my thumb.



As always, the talented Bradshaw Call was a big part of the reason that the even was such a huge success.



If you would like to see more pictures from the event, please click the following links:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152607464754757.1073741829.519364756&type=1&l=da0f328ce7>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152610574649757.1073741830.519364756&type=1&l=4118fbfea0>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152626694284757.1073741831.519364756&type=1&l=6a9eaf0a20>

B. During the week, I had the pleasure of viewing an excellent presentation from Tina FireWolf (center) at the monthly meeting of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum. I was joined by my friend Tebbe Davis (left).

Her topic was "Ignite the Warrior Within--Communicating from Chaos to Love." In particular, I liked this one suggestion she made: "Teach other people how to treat you."



C. In addition, I got to attend a nice party for Tasha Lief (center) who will soon be leaving to study in France. That's my friend Bob Player (right).



D. Kindly note that the submission date for the following contest has been extended one week . . .

***** CONTEST #17*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of *DIARY OF A FAILURE: THE ART OF FAILING YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS*. It is the story of two friends who grew up together, but who chose different paths in life. I reviewed it in *BLAINESWORLD* #827 and enjoyed it.

Note: Though suitable for all ages, it is a book especially relevant to teenagers.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #17" in the subject 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 Monday, September 1.

E. Please excuse the fact that you're reading an abbreviated issue of the newsletter this week. I'm putting it together from my laptop, so I don't have access to my regular computer.

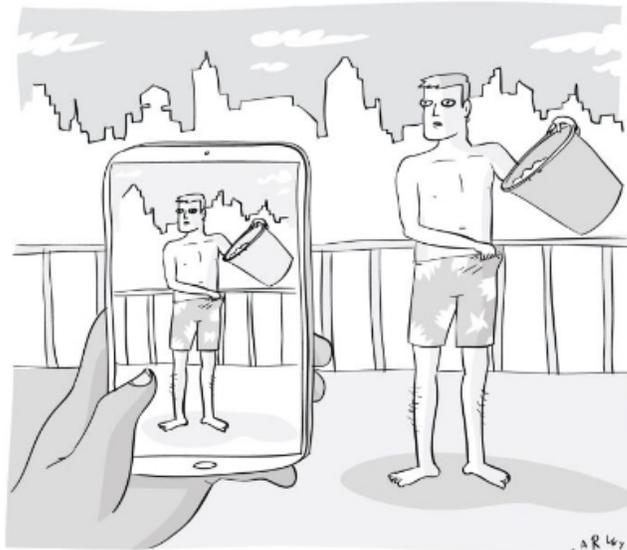
Why that's the case: I'm currently in Pennsylvania. Full details next week, including a report on my first skydiving experience.

All regular features of *BLAINESWORLD* will also resume then.

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2. Joke 1

NEW CHALLENGE . . . thanks, y'all, for nominating me for this one! And now I'm calling on Seymour Butz, Anita Bath and Jacques Strap to do the same within the next 24 hours . . . or make a significant donation to the truly worthy BGP (Blaine Greenfield Pocket Fund) organization. Checks accepted, but cash is even more appreciated.



"I'm going to pour this bucket of oatmeal down my pants to raise awareness of dumb things done in the name of the Internet."

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3. Joke 2

A young man saw an elderly couple at McDonald's. He noticed that they ordered one meal and an extra cup. As he watched, the gentleman carefully divided the hamburger in half and counted the fries until each had half. Next, he poured half the Coke into the extra cup and gave it to his wife. The gentleman then began to eat, and his wife sat watching. . . . The young man decided to ask if they would allow him to purchase another meal, so that they didn't have to split theirs. The gentleman said, "Oh no. We've been married 50 years and everything has always been shared 50/50." . . . The young man then asked the wife if she was going to eat, and she replied, "It's his turn with the teeth."



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4. Joke 3

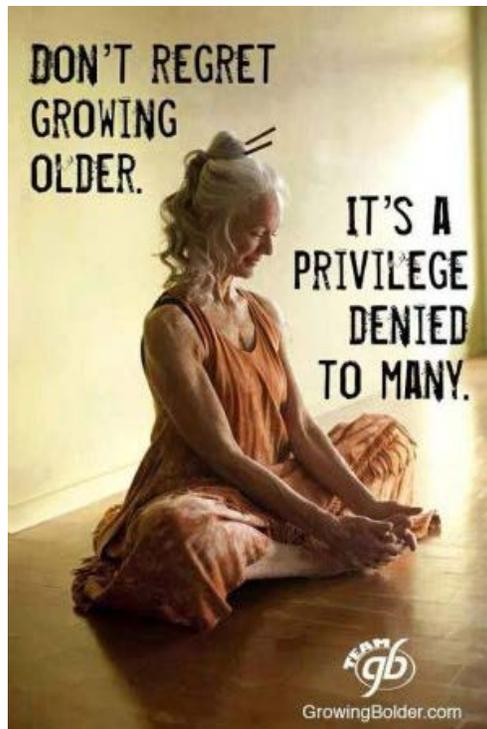
Mr. Curious here: This ever happen to you?



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5. A quote I like

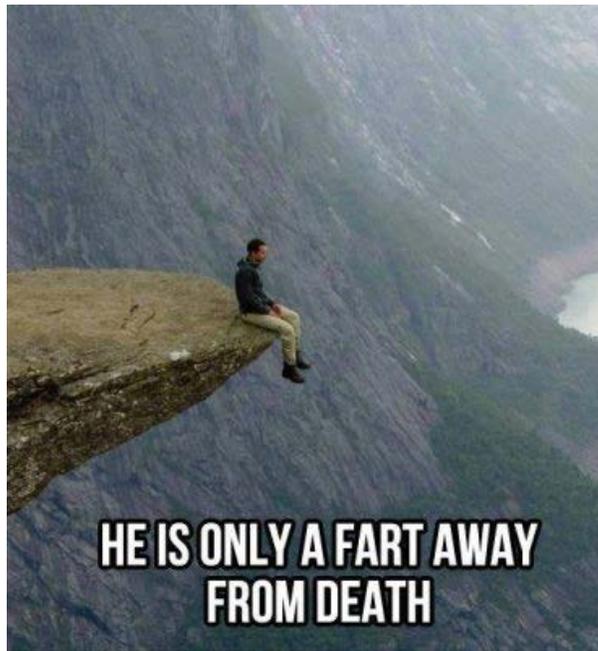
This brings to mind one of my favorite quotes: When asked how he felt on his 70th birthday, Maurice Chevalier replied, "Great, considering the alternative."



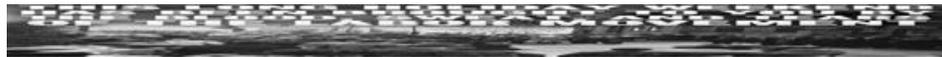
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6. Thought for the day

Soooo true--and profound, too!



PS. Make it a wonderful week! And see below for a good reminder for this upcoming Labor Day! Personally, I'm also grateful for these other things brought to us by labor unions:
<http://www.unionplus.org/about/labor-unions/36-reasons-thank-union>



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BLAINESWORLD

#937
9.8.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are back together after my week up North. So all is grand in BLAINESWORLD!

(1) As promised, here's the video clip of my skydiving experience:
<http://tinyurl.com/l5lutck>

This is a picture of me in the air with Luciano Colle, my excellent instructor:



If you want to see other pictures, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/k3cf7qn>

Should you want to learn more about the company that I used, Skydive Jersey, please click:
<http://www.skydivejersey.com/>

Note: My experience with the above was very positive, and I would recommend them if you're anywhere near the company's location in Pittstown, NJ. Mention that you saw my video clip (and my name), and you'll also get a special referral rate.

(2) I also had a blast at my annual get together at The Zebra Striped Whale, my favorite place for ice cream and chocolate in Bucks County.

That's me with the incomparable John Strauss (left) who entertained all those in attendance with both his guitar-playing and singing. To the right of me are Michael and Angela Hennessey.



To hear John's rendition of "Happy Together," arguably the greatest rock song of all time, please click:

<http://youtu.be/zHPeGgm2eNY>

To see more pictures from this get together, as well as from what else I did during the week, please click:

https://www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield/media_set?set=a.10152648875389757.1073741832.519364756&type=1&l=e91df796dd

(3) Lastly, Cynthia held down the fort in Asheville and represented us at the 65th anniversary of our friends Dave and Judy Blumlo.

She can be seen in the picture below with many other members of our "family," the group of close friends who have become like family to us. L-R: Marcy Gallagher, Sunny Ruble, Carole Biro, Brian Biro, Judy Blumlo, Marvin Sadovsky, Annemarie Brown, Susan Dobroski and Cynthia Greenfield.



To see more pictures from this gala, please click:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set?set=a.10152650308834757.1073741833.519364756&type=1&l=e6c3b0b202>

B. For all those who wonder if we ever eat at home, check out this selfie of just such an occasion. That's us with our friends Marcy and Tom Gallagher. They recently stopped by for dinner--and saw for themselves that we do indeed have a kitchen, as well as a dining room.



C. Congratulations to:

(1) Patricia Gallagher, an amazing woman who has handed out over 21,000 beautiful bouquets to those in nursing homes, senior programs and shelters, on her interview on Vivid Life Radio. To listen to it, please click:
<http://vividlife.me/ultimate/46488/patricia-gallagher-edie-weinstein-random-acts-of-kindness/>

Note: Kudos to Edie Weinstein--the above show's host--for such a great program. To listen to Edie on a regular basis, and I strongly recommend that you do, catch "It's All About Relationships" on Thursdays at 8 p.m. on:
<http://vividlife.me/ultimate/category/arts-entertainment/vividlife-radio/itsallaboutrealtionhiopswithedieweinstei/>

(2) Zuzu Welsh on his upcoming CD. To view one song, "Embrace Life," that will be on it, please click:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zequx7c5qbl&feature=youtu.be>

Note: This was recorded at Big Creek Recording in Barnardsville, NC. To give appropriate credit to all those involved in this recording, that's Jeff Thompson on vocals, Zuzu Welsh and Bruce Lang on guitars, Johnny Haisman on bass, and Dana Koone on Drums.

(3) John Locke on his appointment as Interim Executive Director at the Transylvania Regional Hospital Foundation.

(4) Michelle Baker on the release of her novel, THE CANOE, for Kindle readers. To purchase it, please click:
http://www.amazon.com/Canoe-Michelle-Baker-ebook/dp/B00N9AOJWI/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1409747076&sr=1-1

Also, it is now available for all ebook readers using iPad, Nook, iPhone, Sony Reader and Kobo via Smashwords. For more information, please click:
<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/473445>

Note: For my review of this engaging novel, please see Section 4C (below) in this week's newsletter.

(5) Mike Andrus on being selected as Vice-President and senior advisor for the world Registry of Martial Arts Masters and Grand Masters.

(6) SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre) for its clever online video appeal. To view it, please click:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7Ajq_UQ82M

Note: As you watch it, please consider a donation of any size to assist SART at this crucial time. Then watch as Owen Theatre gets renovated for 2016, and the plays go on the road for 2015!

You may donate immediately by going to the SART website:
www.sartplays.org

Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click the (Donate Online) button. Or checks may be mailed to SART, P.O. Box 1720 Mars Hill, NC 28754.

D. Reminder: There's still time to enter . . .

***** CONTEST #18*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of DON'T TELL THE MILKMAN IF YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO TELL THE WORLD: HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND STOP RELATIONAL AGGRESSION by Joanna Sparrow. The book teaches positive tactics to help you--or somebody you know--overcome both bullying and abuse. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #927 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #18 in the subject 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 Monday, September 15.

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

This week, it goes to Our VOICE--the organization that serves all individuals in Buncombe County affected by sexual assault and abuse through counseling, advocacy and education.

I recently had the pleasure of attending Our VOICE's 40th anniversary celebration and was impressed to hear about all the great work that this group does. At the event, I got to chat

with Anne Heck (top photo), a tireless Board member, and Terry Van Duyn (bottom photo), my dynamic State Senator.



Sen. Van Duyn also introduced the evening's keynoter: Anita Hill, Brandeis University Professor of Law and the woman who started a national conversation by disclosing her experience of workplace sexual harassment. Due to Ms Hill's efforts, Congress passed a law that allowed sexual harassment victims to seek damage awards, as well as back pay and reinstatement. According to a press release, she is responsible for "focusing the country's attention on a difficult topic often met with avoidance and silence."

After a well-deserved standing attention, both Buncombe County Sheriff Van Duncan (right) and Asheville Police Chief William Anderson (center) thanked Ms. Hill for coming to Asheville to help participate in the 40th anniversary event.



For more information about Our VOICE, please click:

<http://www.ourvoicenc.org/>

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2. FYI

5 Human Foods You Should Be Feeding Your Pet

by Dr. Barbara Royal, author of "The Royal Treatment: A Natural Approach to Wildly Healthy Pets"

Most of the time, pet owners are cautioned to never feed their furry friends "people food." Veterinarians often remind pet owners that chocolate, grapes, and raisins can be poison to dogs and cats and that onions can cause a life-threatening form of anemia. And while broccoli, cauliflower, and other vegetables in the brassica family (cruciferous vegetables) can be healthy additions to diet, but can have a troublesome affect on thyroid function unless they're cooked before feeding.

But there are human foods that, when used as a supplement to a dog or cat's diet, can be quite beneficial to their health. Our pets have thrived on our leftovers for hundreds of years, but with increasingly unhealthy diet choices in human meals, we need to be careful what we offer our pets from our own plates.

For the rest of this informative article, please click:

<https://ca.shine.yahoo.com/blogs/experts/5-human-foods-you-should-be-feeding-your-pet-222740464.html>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Ellen P. in NC: Boop with Rose McGowan
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZw4PIHQ1qM>

(2) Clara B. in TN: Sir Ian McKellen, On Acting
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyoWmkhRyp8>

(3) Natalie K. in P: Prayer for Peace. Please ask everyone to pass this on and let's make it go viral.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A29S6cn0nig>

(4) Jackie Evancho: Singer Returns to Perform "Think of Me" - America's Got Talent 2014
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJWBQiRugDI>

(5) Dodgers make three throwing errors on same hilariously embarrassing play
<http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/mlb-big-league-stew/dodgers-make-three-throwing-errors-on-same-hilarious-play-050142310.html>

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Gj>

(1) There's more to estate planning than just the will. (2) Mike M. in NC: THE HUNDRED FOOT JOURNEY. (3) Tom S. in NY: I really enjoyed reading "Blaine's World." (4) Maria A. in PA: I enjoy your newsletters very much. (5) Neil R. in VT: Self-publishing solutions for

authors. (6) Ellen P. in NC: Gotta say I love reading your blog. (7) Marty S. in PA: Gallant rendition [of "You Gotta Have Heart"]. (8) Marilynne H. in NC: Volunteers Needed to Collect Petition Signatures for Dystonia Awareness. (9) Michelle B. in NC (with a REQUEST FOR HELP). (10) Toni F. in PA: Love it [BLAINESWORLD #936].

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3. Joke 1

Snagged!



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4. Reviews

A. *THE ONE I LOVE* is a dramatic comedy about a couple, on the brink of separation, who escape for a weekend getaway to a beautiful vacation home in an attempt to salvage their marriage. They soon make a discovery that forces them to wonder what just is happening as they examine themselves, as well as the future. The film is well-acted by Mark Duplass and Elisabeth Moss, and it will remind you of something that could have appeared on *THE TWILIGHT ZONE*. The more I revisit it in my mind, the more I like it. Rated R.

B. Out on DVD is *BLENDED*, a comedy, pairs Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore for the third time. It's about single parents who have a disastrous blind date--and then agree they never want to see each other again. But that's not the case as a result of the fact that they sign up, separately, for a family vacation at the same African safari resort at the same time. The results are too predictable, though there are some funny scenes. Also, I liked that the film has a certain sweetness that's been missing in too many of Sandler's recent films. Overall, *BLENDED* is not a bad rental for the family to watch together. Rated PG-13.

C. Enjoyed *THE CANOE* (Pine Needle Roadhouse Press), a first novel by Michelle Baker. It is the story set in 1912 of a teenage son of a coffin maker and a middle-aged Englishwoman leaving home for the first time.

It's a most interesting story, and I especially liked how the author brought me back into time with the two stories that kept me wanting to see what was going to happen next. My only regret: The book had to end. I'm now anxiously awaiting this talented author's next work.

D. Heard *LEONARDO DA VINCI* (Books on Tape), written by Sherwin Nuland and read by Scott Brick.

The author studied the amazing painter, architect, engineer, philosopher, mathematician and scientist for some 20 years, in an attempt to better understand him. I liked reading about da Vinci's childhood, and I was amazed to find out how little formal education he had.

What I wasn't crazy about was the emphasis in the book on da Vinci's presumed homosexuality. There was far too much emphasis placed on that topic.

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5. TV alert

Mr. Curious here: The new TV season is off and running. I'd like to know what new shows you have watched and, also, what you think of them.

A. THE ROOSEVELTS: AN INTIMATE HISTORY features old-time photographs, Paul Giamatti voice-overs and presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin. Ken Burns' 14-hour documentary begins on Sunday, Sept. 14, at 8 p.m. on PBS and runs nightly through Saturday, Sept. 20.

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

B. LOVE PRISON is a reality show takes online daters who've never met and makes them live in a one-bedroom house together. Mondays at 10 p.m. on A&E.

C. AMERICA'S GOT TALENT concludes its season on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 9 p.m. and on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 8 p.m. on NBC. I've become a big fan of the show, and if I was judging, my choice for the winner would be Emily West. (Though frankly, I was disappointed that 93-year-old Mike Greenstein, the guy who pulled a loaded car with his teeth, didn't make it to the finals.)

To hear West sing, please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mx9No51XKUK>

To see Greenstein do his thing, please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxLEkq0ikFU>

D. A DIFFERENT BAND OF BROTHERS, a drama about mortally ill young people, might sound depressing. But according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, this new series "seems to be that increasingly elusive thing on television, an exhilarating burst of fresh air." Olivia Spencer, so good in THE HELP, is one of the stars. Series debut on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 9 p.m. on FOX.

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6. Joke 2

A cop just pulled me over and said "Papers." . . . So I said, "Scissors, I win" and drove off.



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7. Websites

A. Linda H. in NC: Cannan & James' Story

Cannan and James Hyde share their story of living with dementia. James, diagnosed with early stage Alzheimer's disease, and his wife, Cannan, tell how they are living with the challenges of the diagnosis and the unexpected turns it has presented in their lives. To view it, please click:

<https://vimeo.com/58582155>

Note: A friend, Jane Sherman, was executive producer of this video. She and all the others involved in it deserve a big thumbs-up for having shared this moving tale.

B. The Emmys 2014: Robin Williams Tribute (delivered by Billy Crystal)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q86u0bDE17w>

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

How do you know what's true on the Internet? Check out something I've put together to help you answer this question by clicking "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "On What to Believe."

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>



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8. Technology tip

IN CASE YOU MISSED SEEING THIS ON THE NEWS: The iPhone 6 was just introduced. It has a lot of new features and a great retro look. I can't wait to get one!



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9. Joke 3

How do you manage to get fired on your first day in a Winnie the Pooh costume? By not following directions when they tell you never to put on your costume pants backward.



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10. A quote I like

Paul Newman, Woodward's husband, also had it right when he said, "Why fool around with hamburger when you have steak at home?"



Sexiness wears thin
after a while and
beauty fades, but
to be married to
a man who makes
you laugh every
day, ah, now that's
a real treat!

-Joanne Woodward

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11. Thought for the day

The Path Towards Excellence
by Harry Paul

To move towards excellence in every aspect your life you must first have a clear understanding of what it is-a definition. Excellence is giving and being your best, period!

If you are not doing this you are not moving towards excellence; you are moving away from it in a headlong rush towards average. Do some self-examination. Think about a time when you were giving your best. Conversely, can you identify what kept you from giving and being your best in the past? I'm talking not just about at work, but also in your personal life. You can't have excellence in one without the other. Especially in today's technology focused world within which we live. Why? Technology tethers us to work twenty-four seven. We all are just one email, text or voicemail from the office.

It is also important to remember that excellence is an inside out proposition. If there is something keeping you from excellence it is almost always staring back at you when you are looking in the mirror. Realize you are the one that keeps you from excellence and mired in average where you accept good enough as good enough.

To read the rest of this informative blog entry, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Gj>

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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Gj>

A. NC events

(1) The Hop calendar. (2) Yamuna Body Rolling. (3) Inception Point Institute. (4) The Mystery of Irma Vep. (5) Pericles Prince of Tyre. (6) Tranformative Storytelling. (7) Bring Hawaii to Your Hips & Aloha to Your Lips. (8) Lean Six Sigma Training. (9) Legal and Risk Management seminar. (10) A Midsummer Night's Dream. 11) The Pink Lady Group. (12) Asheville Qullt Show.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) New Comic Night. (2) Eric Mintel and Keith Spencer. (3) Plumstead Historical Society.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!



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BLAINES WORLD

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9.1.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I spent a rare week apart. I went up North to attend the InService Day at Bucks County Community College (where I still teach an online Creativity course), and she stayed home to watch the cats.

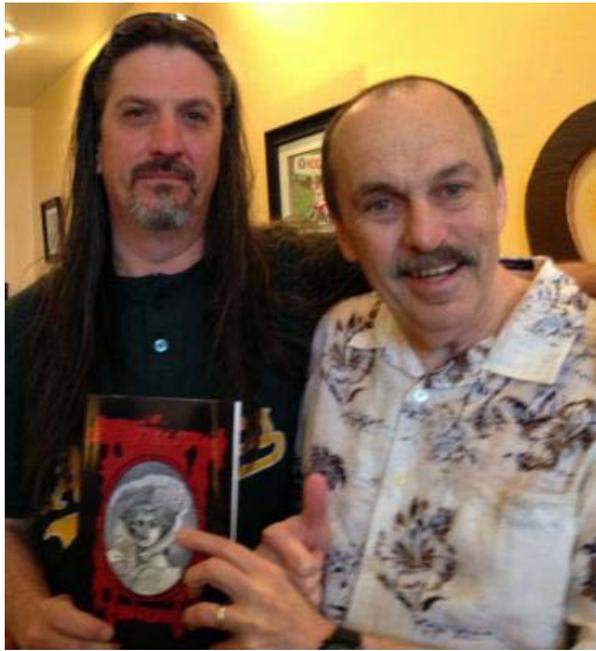
In addition, it was good to spend time with many friends as I:

(1) Went skydiving with Kevin Jameson. We had a blast. Look for a video clip of my experience in next week's issue.



(2) Hosted my annual party/get together at Zebra Striped Whale in Newtown, PA. Pictured with me (top to bottom) Lorraine Allen and Herb Spiegel; Rich Orth behind his new book, BLOODY T'IS MY VALENTINE; and Stephen and Lisa Zaglin.

Note: Look for more pictures next week.



(3) Met my daughter Risa and son-in-law JP for dinner at University Diner in Union, NJ. As you can see, the matzo balls were tremendous. So were the portions for everything else. The food was great, too, as was the service from Marco.



(4) Met Rod Richards (left) and Bob Harris for a fantastic breakfast at Cafe 72 in Ewing, NJ.



(5) Joined Natalie Kaye, Ivan Winegar and Jim Freeman (right) for a fun Blues Brothers Tribute Concert at the TD Bank Amphitheater in Bensalem, PA. Earlier, we had a tasty dinner at Cafe Riviera at the Neshaminy Mall.



In addition, I joined Natalie and Ivan to see a fantastic production of AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' at the Bucks County Playhouse.

(6) Met my former Rider professor/mentor, Al Sternberg, for lunch at the Ewing Diner. What a treat to eat some chocolate chip pancakes, as well as to spend some time with Al.



(7) Joined Walt Wiesenhutter (left) for a very funny performance from Pat O'Donnell at the Comedy Cabaret in Doylestown, PA. He told many great jokes, but the one I remember went something like this:

Why do people set their clocks ten minutes ahead? Subtraction is the last thing I want to do when I wake up in the morning.

I got a special kick out of seeing Pat, in that he was the "surprise guest" I had at my 50th birthday party. Nobody knew who he was when he got up to make a toast, pretending to be a former student.

As is always the case at this venue, there were several other comedians who had us laughing throughout the evening. Another favorite was Terry Gillespie, a.k.a. Mr. Rubber Face.



(8) Met Bill Kline for lunch at Moish and Itzy's Deli in Newtown, PA, Michael Lazanski for dinner at Ruby Tuesday in Langhorne, PA, and enjoyed a walk in Tyler Park with Maureen McCreadie.

(9) Took Tom Gallagher's advice to give Cynthia a big kiss upon my return.



B. Congratulations to:

(1) Steve Samuels, artistic director of the Magnetic Theatre, on the fact that the Magnetic Theatre company will now have a new location at 375 Depot St., Asheville. First up is the annual holiday production, THE BERNSTEIN BEARS FAMILY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR.

(2) Tom Orr on having attained card-carrying union status as an actor.

(3) Maya K. van Rossum and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network for being recognized by Lenape Nation for work to protect the Delaware. For more information, please click:
<http://t.co/pXJu2bJoR5>

(4) Terri Sivertsen on her designation as a Five Star Real Estate Agent by PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE.

(5) Asheville for gaining national recognition on THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN. To view it, please click:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tfCapQlqOw>

(6) Terri S. in PA, winner of Contest #17: a copy of DIARY OF A FAILURE by Eric McNeal. All told, there were just 4 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #18*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of DON'T TELL THE MILKMAN IF YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO TELL THE WORLD: HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND STOP RELATIONAL AGGRESSION by Joanna Sparrow. The book teaches positive tactics to help you--or somebody you know--overcome both bullying and abuse. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #927 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #18 in the subject 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 Monday, September 15.

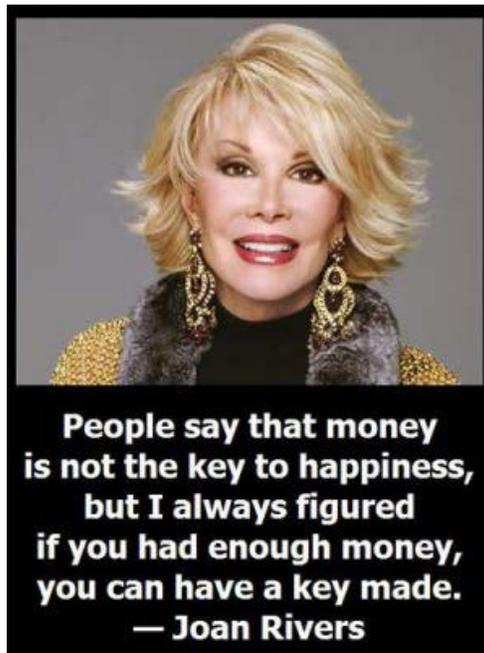
C. Condolences to:

(1) The family of Lee Neumann on his recent passing. Also, I was saddened to learn that his wife Joyce passed a few months before.

(2) John Stroffolino and family on the passing of John's father Nicholas.

(3) Melissa Rivers and family on the passing of their mother Joan. Here's what I wrote about the subject in a recent Facebook post:
JOAN RIVERS, R.I.P. . . . Among her other classics: 1. I don't exercise. If God had wanted me to bend over, he would have put diamonds on the floor. 2. I've had so much plastic surgery, when I die they will donate my body to Tupperware. 3. I was born in 1962 . . . and the room next to me was 1963. 4. I hate housework. You make the beds, you do the dishes, and six months later, you have to start all over again. 5. My breasts are so low, now I can have a mammogram and a pedicure at the same time. . . . To read still more, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/murrppe>

And to see some of her best performances, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/kv6j8g6>



D. Correction: Last week's issue had a typo with respect to Tina FireWolf's presentation to the Asheville Jewish Business Forum. The second paragraph in Section B should have read: Her topic was "Ignite the Warrior Within--Communicating from Chaos to Love." In particular, I liked this one suggestion she made: "Teach other people how to treat you."

Originally, I typed the word "hot" instead of "how." Sorry 'bout that!

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

This week, it goes to Dave and Judy Blumlo--pictured with Cynthia--who just celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

This milestone was recognized at a special service at Congregation Beth HaTephila.

Dave and Judy are a most loving couple that are always a joy to be around. They were also the first friends we made in Asheville (thanks to an introduction from my cousin Ruthie), and they in turn introduced us to their daughter Marcy and her husband Tom Gallagher who have also become our very dear friends.

I join with Cynthia in hoping they have many more happy, healthy years together. Our wish is they stay forever young! And to encourage them to do just that, we encourage them--and everybody else--to please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ezyd40kJFq0>



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2. FYI

'Yes' Is Better Than 'No'

Michael Kimmel and Gloria Steinem on Consensual Sex on Campus
Sept. 4, 2014 in THE NEW YORK TIMES

Suppose someone you know slightly arrives at your home, baggage and all, and just barges in and stays overnight. When you protest, the response is, "Well, you didn't say no."

Or imagine that a man breaks into your home while you sleep off a night of drunken revelry, and robs you blind. Did your drinking imply consent?

For the rest of this thought-provoking op-ed piece, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/05/opinion/michael-kimmel-and-gloria-steinem-on-consensual-sex-on-campus.html>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) JoAnn J. in AZ: If You're From Nassau County, This Will Be The Most Hilarious 4 Minutes Of Your Day

<http://www.movoto.com/blog/opinions/nassau-life/>

(2) Anne H. in NC: Szoke and Magic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10ofzY76-3o>

(3) Pat H. in PA: How wolves change rivers

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/ysa5OBhXz-Q?feature=player>

(4) Caren F. in PA: Da Vinci on the Anatomical Drawings Documentary Full HD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9omaRsNPXg>

(5) Savannah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpz5bindXfQ>

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1FQ>

(1) Marcie F. in PA [on BOYHOOD]: The Inquirer reviewer raved about it, 4 stars. (2) Carole B. in NC: Great newsletter Blaine! (3) Eileen C. in PA: We saw "Boyhood." (4) Dana K. in PA: Thanks for the suggestion about going on that treasury site for unclaimed property! (5) Lisa Z. in PA: I laughed a lot while reading this blainesworld. (6) Kathy W. in PA: How well do you know American history? (7) 30 ways to waste your money. (8) A Call for a Low-Carb Diet That Embraces Fat. (9) Mr. Curious here.

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3. Joke 1

A student went to University of Alabama on a football scholarship. He was a great running back, but a poor student. At graduation, he didn't have enough credits. But, again, he was a great football star, and the students held a rally and demanded the dean give him a diploma anyway. They were so insistent that the dean finally agreed that if Bubba could answer one question correctly, he would give him a diploma.

The one-question test was held in the campus auditorium, and all the students packed the place. It was standing room only. The dean was on the stage and told him to come up. The dean had the diploma in his hand and said, "Sir, if you can answer this question correctly I'll give you your diploma." He said he was ready and the dean asked him the question "Sir," he said, "How much is three times seven?"

He looked up at the ceiling and then down at his shoes, just pondering the question. The Alabama students began chanting, "Graduate him anyway! Graduate him anyway!" Suddenly, he held up his hand and the auditorium became silent. "I think I know the answer," he said. "Three times seven is twenty-one." A hush fell over the auditorium and the Alabama students began another chant . . .

"Give him another chance! Give him another chance!"

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4. Reviews

A. MAGIC IN THE MOONLIGHT, the latest film written and directed by Woody Allen, is a romantic comedy that falls short on both parts; i.e., the romance falls flat, and it's just not very funny . . . there's a great opening scene, and the ending was cute . . . but what's in-between (a story about a clairvoyant who may or may not have magical powers) had me continually looking at my watch to see when it would be over . . . Colin Firth and Emma Stone have little chemistry in the two leading roles . . . rated PG-13.

B. DRAFT DAY is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #916 follows:

DRAFT DAY takes what might be a dull subject (the 24 hours of the NFL DRAFT) and makes it come alive as a result of a great performance from Kevin Costner as the general manager of the Cleveland Browns. It had a surprising amount of twists and turns, and I was engrossed throughout. I also liked the dialogue, as well as the inclusion of some humor. Ellen Burstyn and Frank Lagella also scored in their roles. Though there's little actual football footage, I still would not recommend the film if you're not a sports fan. Rated PG-13.

C. SAVING BABE RUTH: A NOVEL BASED ON A TRUE STORY (Hillcrest House Publishing) by Tom Swyers is a terrific first novel about a lawyer and Civil War buff who volunteers to serve as commissioner for his town's Babe Ruth baseball league.

It is then that all hell breaks loose. A local promoter keeps taking away all the best players, and he also wants to take away the town's best field.

The more I got into the story, the more I started to feel for the lawyer and his family. In addition, the subplots held my attention, as well as such writing as in the following passage:

Over the years, there had developed long periods of silence between the two on the ride home from a loss, a silence broken only by the rush of air into the car as they drove with the windows open to rid themselves of the smell: the fermenting equipment bags holding the sweat of every team member in the foam helmet liners, the rain-soaked baseballs that had become moldy at the bottom of the baseball bucket because David did not get to drying them in the sun or in the oven.

I also liked how the author incorporated details about baseball that would resonate with any real fan; e.g., the story about Ruth Steinagen and Eddie Waitkus.

If you've ever been involved in youth baseball as a player or parent, then SAVING BABE RUTH is a book you won't want to miss.

D. Heard THE LONGEST RIDE (Hachette Audio), written by Nicolas Sparks and read by Ron McLarty and January LaVoy.

There are two distinct stories--one involves a 91-year old man who finds himself stranded after a car crash, and the other involves a college senior who meets a rodeo rider. As

might be expected, their lives all converge toward the end of the book.

Though this might seem to be a "typical Sparks novel," I thought it was one of the best he has written. It kept my attention until the very end, and I also liked the fact that parts of it took place in and around Nashville.

The fine job of narration also added to my enjoyment of the book.

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5. TV alert

A. UTOPIA, an ambitious reality show, drops 15 strangers onto a deserted tract of land to live for a year, armed with few resources (some cash, chickens) and the task of building a new society. Debuts on Sunday, Sept. 7, at 8 p.m. on FOX.

B. GOOD JOB: STORIES OF THE FDNY is a documentary) that provides an intimate and at times haunting window into the lives of the men and women who battle fires on a daily basis. Monday, Sept. 8, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

C. ADAM DEVINE'S HOUSE PARTY features up-and coming comics whose sets make up the bulk of the show. Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 10:30 p.m. on COMEDY CENTRAL and thereafter, beginning on Sept. 11, in its regular Thursday slot at 12:30 a.m.

D. BILL MAHER: LIVE FROM D.C. has the comedian doing double duty. First, an edition of REAL TIME with Jerry Seinfeld and Nancy Pelosi among his guests, then he'll run off to a second theatre for a stand-up special. Friday, Sept. 12, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

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6. Joke 2

The National Institute of Health has released the results of a \$200 million dollar study completed under a grant to Johns Hopkins University. . . . The study found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.

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7. Websites

A. Nelson S. in NC: This Just In! 80 Years of Newsreels Now Free To Watch on YouTube
by Devlin Coldewey

A total of more than 85,000 films in all have been uploaded to YouTube, many of which were before now only available for a fee on the company's website. But now you can browse through them all, from 19th-century footage of the New York Fire Brigade to a 1958 interview with Elvis Presley.

To view the former, please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjLFnrG1I0E>

To view the latter, please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3VtlcfwGbo>

And to view the website's homepage, please click:

<http://www.nbcnews.com/tech/internet/just-80-years-newsreels-now-free-watch-youtube-n83361>

B. The Evolution of Dad Dancing, featuring Chris Christie:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3A2IXsB7C0Q&feature=youtu.be>

To see the accompanying article, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/13/nyregion/a-dance-off-with-fallon-next-up-clinton.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>

And for The Evolution of Mom dancing, featuring Michelle Obama:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hq-URI9F17Y>

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

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

Many past newsletters can be found by clicking "Newsletter" to the left and then "Past Issues." It is sometimes to just browse around; for example, when doing so, I found this joke from BLAINESWORLD #467:

It was impossible to ignore the couple in the booth next to ours. They were arguing so loudly everyone in the restaurant was staring. She repeatedly accused him of seeing someone else. He kept denying it.

Finally, she gave up, but not without a parting shot: "Now I know how your wife must feel!"

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>

Like us on Facebook 

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8. Technology tip

New Roku and TiVo Devices Make Cutting the Cable Cord Plausible
by Molly Woodsept
Sept. 3, 2014 in THE NEW YORK TIMES

Cutting the cable television cord has always sounded nicer than it really is.

Get out from under that ugly cable bill by watching movies and television shows streamed over the Internet straight to your TV? Gladly. Deal with a tangle of tricky technology and give up a few programs that are on the personal must-watch list? No thanks.

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

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/04/technology/personaltech/new-roku-and-tivo-devices-make-cutting-the-cable-cord-plausible.html?_r=0

To view the accompanying video, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/video/technology/personaltech/10000003089884/time-to-cut-the-cable-cord.html>

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9. Joke 3

A man goes into a restaurant and is seated. All the waitresses are gorgeous. A particularly voluptuous waitress wearing a very short skirt and legs that won't quit came to his table and asked if he was ready to order, "What would you like, sir?"

He looks at the menu and then scans her beautiful frame top to bottom, then answers, "A quickie." The waitress turns and walks away in disgust. After she regains her composure she returns and asks again, "What would you like, sir?" Again the man thoroughly checks her out and again answers, "a quickie, please." This time her anger takes over, she reaches over and slaps him across the face with a resounding "SMACK!" and storms away. A man sitting at the next table leans over and whispers, "Um, I think it's pronounced 'quiche.' "

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10. A quote I like

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."--Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948), preeminent leader of Indian nationalism in British-ruled India

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11. Thought for the day

Joe Scarborough on MORNING JOE on 9.2.2014:

"Over the past few weeks, many Democrats have thanked me for my even-handed approach to this crisis. And a lot of right-wingers have bashed me for not bashing the President. I gently remind you that a storm is rising in the Middle East unlike no other in recent history. And in this time of trouble, the enemy isn't Barack Obama. The enemy is ISIS. And Americans understand this. And if Barack Obama is not shooting first and asking questions later, a war-weary America will support that caution.

"But make no mistake of it, this President is going to act strongly against ISIS because he has no other choice. And as the threat to Americans grow, Republicans should be seen as encouraging the Commander in Chief on this threat instead of taking cheap potshots on

every Sunday show at every turn. That, my friends, is not just good politics. That's good for America.

"You know, I love the quote, Mika [Brzezinski], that Benjamin Franklin had, which was: "We'll all either hang together or we'll hang separately." I want everybody to know I'm signed-up for hanging together and facing down the threat with a Democratic President just like Democrats did with a Republican President in the months that followed September 11th. Again, that's not just good politics. It's good for America."

Note: MORNING JOE, hosted by former congressman Joe Scarborough (R-FL.), is one of my favorite TV shows. It airs Monday-Friday from 6-9 a.m. on MSNBC.

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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1FQ>

A. NC events

(1) Simple Steps for Starting a Business: Introduction. (2) Asheville Center for Professional Studies. (3) At Asheville Community Theatre. (4) Upcoming Richard Shulman performances. (5) Asheville Jewish Business Forum. (6) Odd Couple final weekend at HART.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) 50th Anniversary Premiere Music Performance and Art Unveiling at Bucks County Community College. (2) Upcoming programs from Janet StraightArrow.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINES WORLD

#935
8.25.2014

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2. Joke 1
3. Joke 2
4. Joke 3
5. A quote I like
6. Thought for the day

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had a blast at BUSINESS SINGS BROADWAY, a fundraiser for Asheville Community Theatre.



The high spot--for me at least--was performing "You Gotta Have Heart" with a great group of friends. L-R: Michael Trayford, Brian Biro, Keith Challenger, Mark Knollman, Doug Hauschild, Blaine Greenfield and Marvin Sadovsky.



Kudos to Jerry Crouch for directing us, as well as to Lenora Thom for her musical direction. If you'd like to view the result, please click:
<http://youtu.be/W2Zm2LT2Tds>

Mark also did a single number, "To All the Girls I've Loved Before." He had the audience in stitches; to see why, please click:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhOkKt5lcr4>

It was also a thrill for me to be on stage (for both the opening and closing numbers with a whole bunch of other Asheville performers and/or members of the business community. If you look closely in the lower right corner of the picture (below), you'll even see me--or at least my thumb.



As always, the talented Bradshaw Call was a big part of the reason that the even was such a huge success.



If you would like to see more pictures from the event, please click the following links:
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152607464754757.1073741829.519364756&type=1&l=da0f328ce7>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152610574649757.1073741830.519364756&type=1&l=4118fbfea0>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152626694284757.1073741831.519364756&type=1&l=6a9eaf0a20>

B. During the week, I had the pleasure of viewing an excellent presentation from Tina FireWolf (center) at the monthly meeting of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum. I was joined by my friend Tebbe Davis (left).

Her topic was "Ignite the Warrior Within--Communicating from Chaos to Love." In particular, I liked this one suggestion she made: "Teach other people how to treat you."



C. In addition, I got to attend a nice party for Tasha Lief (center) who will soon be leaving to study in France. That's my friend Bob Player (right).



D. Kindly note that the submission date for the following contest has been extended one week . . .

***** CONTEST #17*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of *DIARY OF A FAILURE: THE ART OF FAILING YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS*. It is the story of two friends who grew up together, but who chose different paths in life. I reviewed it in *BLAINESWORLD* #827 and enjoyed it.

Note: Though suitable for all ages, it is a book especially relevant to teenagers.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #17 in the subject 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 Monday, September 1.

E. Please excuse the fact that you're reading an abbreviated issue of the newsletter this week. I'm putting it together from my laptop, so I don't have access to my regular computer.

Why that's the case: I'm currently in Pennsylvania. Full details next week, including a report on my first skydiving experience.

All regular features of *BLAINESWORLD* will also resume then.

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2. Joke 1

NEW CHALLENGE . . . thanks, y'all, for nominating me for this one! And now I'm calling on Seymour Butz, Anita Bath and Jacques Strap to do the same within the next 24 hours . . . or make a significant donation to the truly worthy BGPF (Blaine Greenfield Pocket Fund) organization. Checks accepted, but cash is even more appreciated.



"I'm going to pour this bucket of oatmeal down my pants to raise awareness of dumb things done in the name of the Internet."

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3. Joke 2

A young man saw an elderly couple at McDonald's. He noticed that they ordered one meal and an extra cup. As he watched, the gentleman carefully divided the hamburger in half and counted the fries until each had half. Next, he poured half the Coke into the extra cup and gave it to his wife. The gentleman then began to eat, and his wife sat watching. . . . The young man decided to ask if they would allow him to purchase another meal, so that they didn't have to split theirs. The gentleman said, "Oh no. We've been married 50 years and everything has always been shared 50/50." . . . The young man then asked the wife if she was going to eat, and she replied, "It's his turn with the teeth."



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4. Joke 3

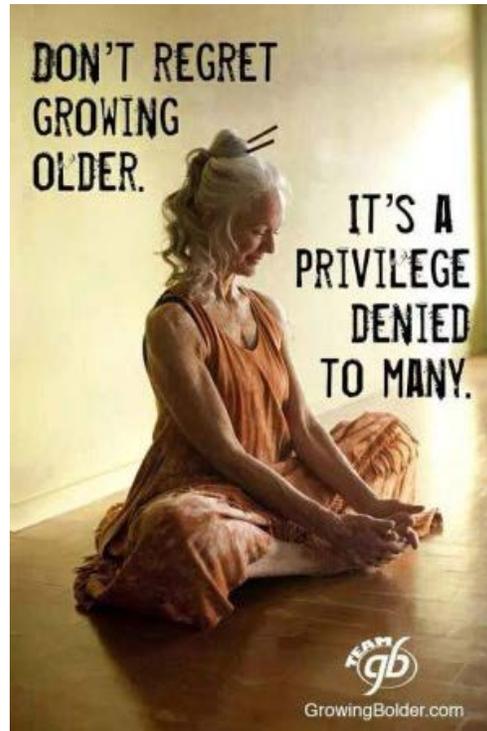
Mr. Curious here: This ever happen to you?



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5. A quote I like

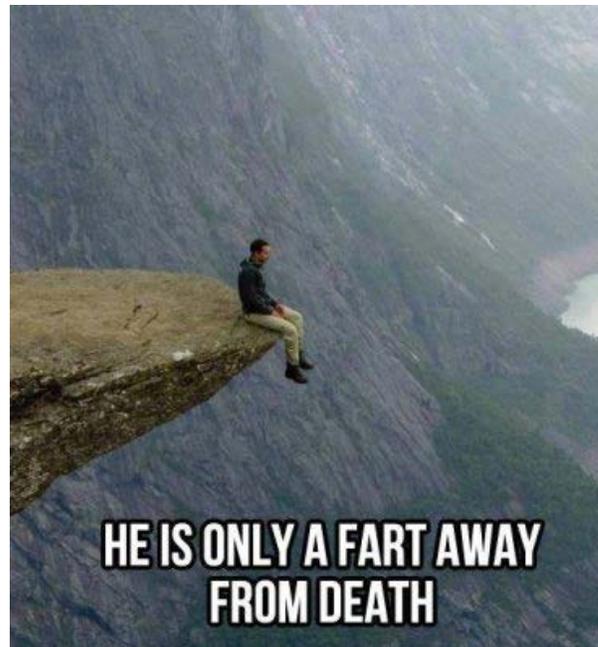
This brings to mind one of my favorite quotes: When asked how he felt on his 70th birthday, Maurice Chevalier replied, "Great, considering the alternative."



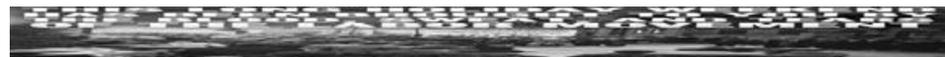
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6. Thought for the day

Soooo true--and profound, too!



PS. Make it a wonderful week! And see below for a good reminder for this upcoming Labor Day! Personally, I'm also grateful for these other things brought to us by labor unions: <http://www.unionplus.org/about/labor-unions/36-reasons-thank-union>



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#934
8.18.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Participated in the ALS Challenge . . . she held the water, I got soaked and jointly, we made a contribution to help create a world without this terrible disease . . . to see the clip, please click:

<http://youtu.be/R8UqAC3IbBQ>

To donate, please click:

<http://www.alsa.org/>

Thanks, Hillary Schwartz Zlatin, for asking me to do this . . . and now I'm also making a similar challenge to Brian Biro, Kevin Jameson and Marvin C. Sadovsky, along with any other Facebook friends and/or BLAINESWORLD readers who have not yet been asked . . . my hope is that y'all get soaked AND make a contribution.



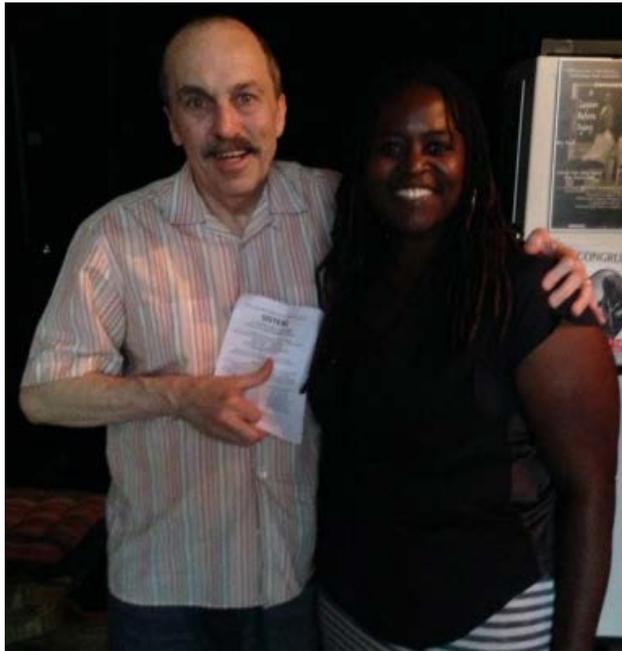
(2) Joined our friends Stuart Kraner and Tammy Strange for a tasty dinner at Everyday Organic in Greenville, SC. Our server, Kelli, was excellent.



(3) Saw SISTERS, a play that was both thought-provoking and funny. Presented by the Different Strokes' Performing Arts Collective, it stars Kirby Gibson and Cyd Smith. They were both fantastic, as was the direction from Steph Hickling Beckman (below).

The shows runs through August 24. For tickets, please click:

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



(4) Got a kick out of the fact that I was called back for a second time to be an extra in a film that I can't talk about until approximately a year from now.



B. I ran out of space in last week's issue without being able to run the following pictures.

(1) When Cynthia and I made a brief visit up North, we walked into David Craig Jewelers in Newtown, PA, to take a look around. While there, we were greeted by these two very sweet Portuguese Water Dogs. If you'd like to find out more about Baywatch (a breeding operation run by David and his wife Debbie), please call 215.757.7374.



(2) I also ran a picture of Rufus--the amazing singing dog. Here he is again, this time with Cynthia and her friend Gail Frantz (Rufus' pet mother).

Note: In case you missed the chance to hear him sing, you can do so by clicking:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izWzrydJ9E4&feature=youtu.be>



(3) And we recently had a blast at The Buddy Holly Dance Party at HART in Waynesville, at which time our friends Marvin Sadovsky and Annemarie Brown cut a mean rug.



C. Congratulations to:

(1) Bill Abramson on winning First Place in the photography section of the Swannanoa Valley Fine Arts League juried art competition.

(2) Eric Weinberger on being elected as co-president of the Asheville Jewish Business Form, along with Brad Morris who will now continue as co-president of that group. (Previously, Brad had done an excellent job as sole president.)

(3) Asheville on being named America's Quirkiest Town, according to TRAVEL & LEISURE. For more information, please click:

<http://www.travelandleisure.com/articles/americas-quirkiest-towns/2>

(4) Julie Pochettino Piper on her new position as a therapist in the Transitional Outpatient Program at Lenape Valley Foundation.

(5) Nicholas G. Michael for being chosen to run for the position of Probate Judge, Rutland County, Vermont.

D. Invitations:

(1) The A-B Tech Small Business Center at the BASE (Base Acceleration Site in Enka), in conjunction with its community partner, Asheville SCORE, cordially invites you to the following free seminar:

Maximizing Your Mobile Marketing--including email & social

Tuesday Aug. 19, 2014 from 2-4:30 p.m.

Note: I'll be hosting this free event, and it will be presented by Constant Contact's Aaron Wesley Means.

To register, please click:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=5obehpkab&oeidk=a07e9hzphdk62795690>

(2) I'll actually be on stage in an event called BUSINESS SINGS BROADWAY. That's me in rehearsal on the far left, along with (l-r) Brian Biro, Michael Trayford, Marvin Sadovsky, Mark Knollman and Doug Hauschild. Not pictured: Keith Challenger.



This is fundraiser that puts local businessmen on stage to perform songs from the silly to the sublime. We've assembled a cast of 32 that includes politicians, journalists, teachers, bankers, realtors and restaurateurs.

To reserve your tickets today, please call 828-254-1320 or go online at:

www.ashevilletheatre.org

(3) As you may have heard, I'm heading "up North" all by myself this coming Aug. 24-31. (Alas, Cynthia won't be joining me.) I'd love to catch you at any and/or all of the following events:

* Blaine's annual trek to Bucks County--this is a definite

Saturday, Aug. 30 from 2-4 p.m.

At Zebra Striped Whale, 12 S. State St., Newtown, PA

No charge other than the cost of any ice cream or chocolate you may purchase.

Come to greet old (and not-so-old) friends, have some great ice cream or chocolate, and hear the incomparable John Strauss perform.

* The Blues Brotherhood: A Tribute to the Blues Brothers--this is a possibility

Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 7 p.m.

At TD Bank Amphitheater, 2400 Byberry Rd., Bensalem, PA

\$5/ticket

* Comedy Show--this is a possibility

Saturday, Aug. 30, at 9 p.m.

At Comedy Cabaret at Pocos, 625 N Main St., Doylestown, PA

\$20/ticket

Note: Please let me know if have interest in joining me at any of the above. And if none of those dates or times work for you, and you still want to get together, drop me an email. Maybe we can still find a time to get together.

(4) And there's still time to enter . . .

***** CONTEST #17*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of DIARY OF A FAILURE: THE ART OF FAILING YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS. It is the story of two friends who grew up together, but who chose different paths in life. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #827 and enjoyed it.

Note: Though suitable for all ages, it is a book especially relevant to teenagers.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #17 in the subject 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 Monday, August 25.

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

This week, it goes to both the many fine folks and businesses that are in the Asheville area as recognized by the annual "Best of WNC" designation from MOUNTAIN XPRESS.

I remember when I first moved to the area some five-plus years ago, I had trouble voting in the above because you had to do so in at least 20 categories. That is no longer a problem.

Now, in some categories, there are over 20 possible choices that I'd like to vote for . . . but can't because you're restricted to three.

Among the many fine people that I know and like, kudos to the following individuals who were named: John Boyle, Charlie Flynn-McIver, Tom Hughes (Professor Whizzpop), Tracey Johnston-Crum, Jeff Messer, Laurey Masterson (deceased) and her bumper sticker, "Don't Postpone Joy," Dr. Meredith Polansky, Eric Scheffer, Dr. Jodi Schwab, Rodney Smith, Jeff Thompson, Scott Treadway and Dr. Michael Weizman.

And kudos to these others (businesses, etc.) also named: 12 Bones Smokehouse, Asheville Community Theatre, Asheville Community Theatre, Asheville SCORE, Ashvegas, Bonefish

Grill, Carmel's Restaurant and Bistro, Cranky Hanke, Early Girl Eatery, Farm Burger, Green Sage Café, Kilwin's, King Daddy's Chicken and Waffle, Mellow Mushroom, Navitat Canopy Adventure, North Carolina Stage Company, Oriental Pavilion, Our Family Doctor, Pack's Tavern, Pomodoros Greek and Italian, Soba Sushi and Noodles, Strada, Terminex, The Hop Ice Cream, Tupelo Honey, Vinnie's Neighborhood Italian, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes and Wasabi Japanese Restaurant.

Lastly, I'd add MOUNTAIN XPRESS to the latter list for the excellent job is done in running this competition each year.

Methinks that you won't go wrong in frequenting and/or all of the above!

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2. FYI

From ad I received in the mail for CONSUMER REPORTS:
Debit cards are convenient, BUT . . .

Don't use your debit card at the gas pump. At gas pumps, thieves use a technique called skimming to steal your PIN number and then pull cash from your bank account. Using a credit card is safer.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Steph B. in NC: Toto - Rosanna

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

(2) Mike M. in NC: Fitting Room in Brazil

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqXWn7hqAUA>

(3) Ryan P. in PA: Cop For a Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HghaoDu9Ac>

(4) Marty S. in PA: "We Didn't Set the Fire," set to pictures

<http://yeli.us/Flash/Fire.html>

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

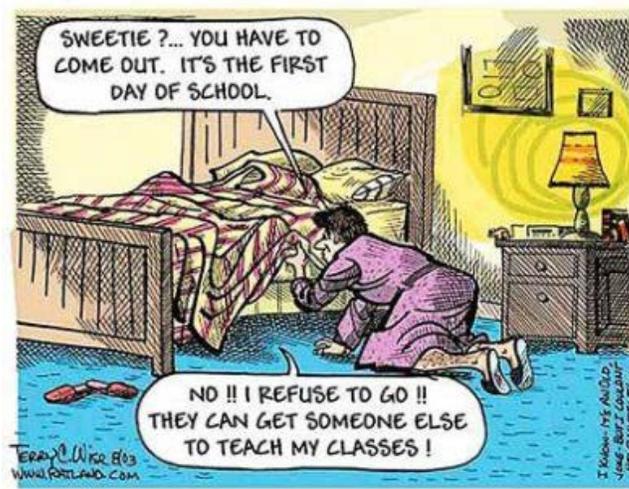
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Fw>

(1) Sherry S. in PA: Was out to dinner here (in Philadelphia) a couple of weeks ago, and met a nice woman from Asheville. (2) Jim F. in PA: I'm good again with Blainesworld. (3) Patti A. in NJ: Can You Answer 10 Geography Questions? (4) Corinne G. in PA: Shouldn't that be "invitations"? (5) Mary C. in NC: I thought it [BOYHOOD] was fine. (6) Mike M. in NC: Magic In The Moonlight.

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3. Joke 1

Reminds me of many of my first days of school . . . and makes me grateful I'm retired!



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4. Reviews

A. BOYHOOD, filmed over 12 years with the same cast, is the story of a boy growing up as seen through the eyes of a child. Ellar Coltrane in his first role is amazing as the boy, but so is another newcomer--Lorelei Linklater--as his sister. I also very much liked the work of Ethan Hawke and Patricia Arquette as his parents. This is unlike any film I've ever seen before, and it left me thinking about what my life was like when I grew up. It is 2 hours 45 minutes in length, you won't notice the length at all; in fact, I actually wish it had been longer. Rated R, though I think it would be appropriate for any mature teenager--and should be seen by that group, too.

Note: I've already added BOYHOOD to my all-time list of favorite films. If you'd like a copy of this listing, please send an email to bjinbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

For the following reviews, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Fw>

B. BELLE on DVD

C. LEAD WITH HUMILITY: 12 LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM POPE FRANCES by Jeffrey A. Krames

D. ME OF LITTLE FAITH, written and read by Lewis Black

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5. TV alert

A. 2014 MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS has Beyoncé getting the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award and performing at the live ceremony. "There will definitely be some surprises and cameos," teases Van Toffler, CEO and president of Viacom Music Group. Sunday, Aug. 24, at 9 p.m. on MTV.

B. THE 66TH PRIME TIME EMMY AWARDS, hosted by Seth Meyers, should be watchable if just for the fact that Meyers is hosting. Monday, Aug. 25, at 8 p.m. on NBC.

C. CHELSEA LATELY, Handler's live farewell show, will feature both Jennifer Aniston and Sandra Bullock. Tuesday, Aug. 26 at 11 p.m. on E!

D. THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME, the 1939 version, is the classic tale about a deformed bell ringer who rescues a gypsy girl falsely accused of witchcraft and murder. Charles Laughton is memorable in the leading role. I can't believe he didn't even get an Oscar nomination for his performance. Wed., Aug. 27, at 6 a.m. on TCM.

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6. Joke 2

DEAR MOM & DAD: Thanks for sending me to college. Life is great despite a few minor problems. . . . The first week, my dorm burned down. Yet all turned out well when a classmate invited me to stay in his dorm. We hit it off well and soon, we began dating. You'll love him, though he's of a different religion and race. . . . We're also excited about our upcoming baby. I'll tell you more, but I have to get my tongue pierced. Love, YOUR DAUGHTER . . . PS. None of this really happened. What I did want to say was that I failed my first chemistry exam, and I wanted you to put things into perspective.



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7. Websites

A. Comcast serves up what may be the worse customer call in history

To listen to it, please go toward the end of the page when you click:

<https://www.yahoo.com/tech/comcast-serves-up-what-may-be-the-worst-customer-91851980684.html>

Note: The article that accompanies it is pretty interesting, too.

Shortly thereafter, I came across this other incredible Comcast call:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uoWzMOp8fQ>

For more information about the above, please click:

<https://www.yahoo.com/tech/comcast-keeps-customer-on-hold-until-it-closes-to-avoid-94637033299.html>

Bottom line: I'm just grateful that I no longer use Comcast!

B. NATHAN FOR YOU has rapidly become one of my favorite TV shows. It features an MBA graduate/comic who works with small businesses to come up with unique, funny marketing ideas.

Perhaps the funniest episode involved starting a coffee shop named Dumb Starbucks. To view it, please click:

<http://www.cc.com/episodes/v4k0g6/nathan-for-you-dumb-starbucks-season-2-ep-208>

For more information about the show, please click:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/insane-business-ideas-on-nathan-for-you-2014-8>

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

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

In the unlikely event you've never seen my comedy debut, click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Video Clips" . . . the second one down is the one you'll want to see.

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>



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8. Technology tip

Bruce R. in NJ: I would like to know if you or any of your followers might know of a website or a way to read e-mail that is in a different language. I have several friends from other countries and unfortunately every so often they send something in their official language.

Response: Try:
<https://translate.google.com/>

(Above is the one I typically use.)

For example, what you wrote translated into Spanish:
Me gustaría saber si usted o alguno de sus seguidores puede saber de un sitio web o una manera de leer el correo electrónico que está en un idioma diferente. Tengo varios amigos de otros países y por desgracia de vez en cuando envían algo en su lengua oficial.

To check, I then usually put it back in and translate it back to English:
I wonder if you or any of your followers may know of a website or a way to read email that is in a different language. I have several friends from other countries and unfortunately occasionally send something in its official language.

Close enough, no?

Note: If anybody has another translation website they both use and like, please let me know.

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9. Joke 3

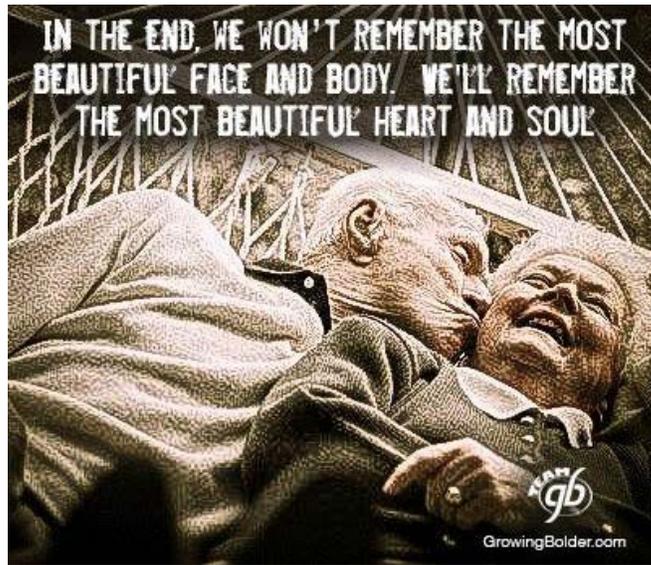
DEAR ABBY: I have always wanted to have my family history traced, but I can't afford to spend a lot of money to do it. Any suggestions? SAM IN OKLAHOMA . . . DEAR SAM: Yes. Run for public office.



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10. A quote I like

Sooooo true . . .



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11. Thought for the day

For some reason, Robin Williams is still on my mind.

Consequently, I was very moved when I heard the following: "In Memory Of Robin Williams," a poem by voice talent Jim Meskimen. To listen to it, please click:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwR3Fm2q_i0

Note: If you prefer reading it, go to Section 11 when you click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Fw>

Brian Biro, my friend and one of this country's top speakers, also had something interesting to say on the subject. To listen to his thoughts, please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWG05JtsV8A>

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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Fw>

A. NC events:

(1) IDEATION BASE CAMP. (2) Inception Point Institute. (3) Free Introductory Class to experience The Sacred Art of Hula. (4) WZGM Fall Meet & Greet and Mountain Mentors Debut. (5) THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP.

B. PA/NJ events:

(1) KISS ME KATE. (2) Comedy Cabaret.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!



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Phone : 828.633.1049

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#933
8.11.2014

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12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Were "up North" recently for our brother-in-law Marty's 80th birthday. In case you missed last week's account of that gala, please click the link below for many more pictures from the party:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152590528364757.1073741828.519364756&type=1&l=8bef82475f>

Note: Doing so will also enable you to see a link of yours truly belly dancing with the amazing Yuliya!

(2) Cynthia got to visit with her friend Gail, pet mother of Rufus--the amazing singing dog. . If you click the following link, and I strongly encourage you to do so, you'll hear his beautiful voice--accompanied by Gail's violin playing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izWzrydJ9E4&feature=youtu.be>



(3) We got visit my daughter Risa and her husband JP at the Cloverleaf Tavern in Caldwell, NJ. The food there is always good.



(4) We also got to visit our friend Natalie Kaye at Moish and Itzy's Deli in Newtown, PA. Do I ever wish that they had a place that was even half as good in Asheville!



(5) That same afternoon, we saw our friends Kevin Jameson and Ann Redfield in Kevin's newly refurbished home. (Great job on that, Kevin! Your place is looking soooo fine.)



(6) And at night, we met our friend Jody Sysler for a tasty dinner at Oishi in Newtown, PA. We even took Jody's suggestion and tried a Korean dish, Beef Bulgogi, for the first time. It was quite good.

A high point to our evening was learning about something called "the 10-second kiss." Jody told us about how her late husband Barry would tell her that you never knew when it would be the last time that you would be with a loved one. So the two of them started this practice whenever they would say good-bye, really focusing on being in the moment. Cynthia and I have now started doing this . . . and, as a result, will always consider this as Barry's legacy.



(7) Returning to Asheville, we tried out a new restaurant called Daughterty's (located where Frankie Bones used to be) for the first time. The food was good, as was the service from Matt. Kevin, the manager, was also quite friendly. We'll be back.



(8) We went with our friends Marvin Sadovsky and Annemarie Brown and Tom and Marcy Gallagher to see THE BUDDY HOLLY DANCE PARTY at HART. Mark Jones (top) was amazing as Holly, and Tabitha Judy and Strother Stingley (bottom) were equally fine as Patsy Cline and Big Bopper, respectively. Kudos, also, to James Hendley for his excellent portrayal of Ritchie Valens.



(9) Lastly, I went with my friend Chuck Hollinshead to see fantastic performances from

Tony Medlin (left) and Mandy Sayles (right) in SMOKE IN THE MOUNTAIN HOMECOMING at SART. The show was a tuneful delight. Kudos, also, to the rest of the cast who were all just as outstanding: Kelley Hineman, Allen Law, Rebecca O'Quinn, Grace Williams and Joshua Whitt, as well as to co-directors Bill Gregg and Mandy, and to Brad Curtioff for his work on piano, bass and mandolin. My only regret is that the show has ended its limited run, in that I would have wanted you to have seen it if for no other reason than to have viewed Rebecca use sign language in a way that you would have never forgotten.



B. Invitations:

(1) The A-B Tech Small Business Center at the BASE (Base Acceleration Site in Enka), in conjunction with its community partner, Asheville SCORE, cordially invites you to the following free seminar:
Maximizing Your Mobile Marketing--including email & social

Tuesday Aug. 19, 2014 from 2-4:30 p.m.

Note: I'll be hosting this free event, and it will be presented by Constant Contact's Aaron Wesley Means.

To register, please click:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=5obehpkab&oeidk=a07e9hzphdk62795690>

(2) I'll actually be on stage in an event called BUSINESS SINGS BROADWAY

This is a fundraiser that puts local businessmen on stage to perform songs from the silly to the sublime. We've assembled a cast of 32 that includes politicians, journalists, teachers, bankers, realtors and restaurateurs.

To reserve your tickets today, please call 828-254-1320 or go online at:
www.ashevilletheatre.org

(3) As you may have heard, I'm heading "up North" all by myself this coming Aug. 24-31. (Alas, Cynthia won't be joining me.) I'd love to catch you at any and/or all of the following events:

* Blaine's annual trek to Bucks County--this is a definite
Saturday, Aug. 30 from 2-4 p.m.

At Zebra Striped Whale, 12 S. State St., Newtown, PA

No charge other than the cost of any ice cream or chocolate you may purchase.

Come to greet old (and not-so-old) friends, have some great ice cream or chocolate, and hear the incomparable John Strauss perform.

* The Blues Brotherhood: A Tribute to the Blues Brothers--this is a possibility
Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 7 p.m.

At TD Bank Amphitheater, 2400 Byberry Rd., Bensalem, PA
\$5/ticket

* Comedy Show--this is a possibility
Saturday, Aug. 30, at 9 p.m.

At Comedy Cabaret at Pocos, 625 N Main St., Doylestown, PA
\$20/ticket

Note: Please let me know if you have interest in joining me at any of the above. And if none of

those dates or times work for you, and you still want to get together, drop me an email. Maybe we can still find a time to get together.

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Rhubarb, a new restaurant in Asheville, for being included in bon appetit's list of best new restaurants in America. If you're like to read more about this eatery, please click: <http://www.bonappetit.com/restaurants-travel/slideshow/best-new-restaurants-2014-nominees/?slide=35>

For the entire list of restaurants throughout the country, please click: <http://www.bonappetit.com/restaurants-travel/slideshow/best-new-restaurants-2014-nominees/?slide=1>

Note: I haven't been to Rhubarb, but if you have, I'd be curious as to your opinion. By the same token, if you get to any the other 49 places, let me also know what you think of them.

(2) Chuck Fink for being quoted extensively in an article in KIPPINGER'S RETIREMENT REPORT (Sept., 2014).

(3) Scott Garland on his new position as Director of Banquets and Events for the Horseshoe Casino in Cincinnati.

(4) Holly B. in PA, winner of Contest #16: a copy of THE GIFTED: HOW TO LIVE THE LIFE OF YOUR DREAMS by Daphne Michaels. All told, there were 8 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #17*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of DIARY OF A FAILURE: THE ART OF FAILING YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS. It is the story of two friends who grew up together, but who chose different paths in life. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #827 and enjoyed it.

Note: Though suitable for all ages, it is a book especially relevant to teenagers.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #17 in the subject 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 Monday, August 25.

D. Condolences to:

(1) Katherine Morosani and family on the passing of Katherine's grandmother Mimi.

(2) The family of Robin Williams, the gifted comedian who put a smile on my face whenever I saw him. He also was also an amazing dramatic actor as can be seen in the following clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qM-gZintWDC>

A post on Facebook had it right when it stated the following:
To honor Robin Williams, please share the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number: 1.800.273.8255.

Your call is free and confidential, and will be answered by a trained counselor at a local crisis center.

Please share. You can make a difference.

E. Correction to BLAINESWORLD #932:

Thanks, Jean D. in PA, for pointing out a glaring typo in last week's issue. Instead of saying I went to an Asheville Humane Society event, I called it the Asheville Human Society. There's a big difference!

Note: If you see typos and/or mistakes in future issues, please do continue to point them out to me. That way, I correct them in what I post on Facebook and, also, in BLAINESWORLD issues that I archive on my website.

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

This week, it goes to Max Palmer--a salesperson in the Jewelry Department at Dillard's in the Asheville Mall.

Here's what Cynthia had to say about him: I recently went there to purchase a watch and saw another salesperson. That person was nice enough and got the eventual commission

on my purchase.

However, it was Max who really impressed me when I went back to finalize the transaction. He seemed to go out of his way to answer my many questions, and I especially appreciated how he took the time to show me how to get the watch to work.

He was both friendly and knowledgeable, and I would recommend seeking him out if you need anything in this particular department.

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2. FYI

Put a big dish by the door, next to an electrical outlet, and when you come home, put your car keys, your billfold and your extra glasses in the dish, and plug your mobile phone into the outlet to recharge. In the time you'll save not looking for these items in the morning, you'll be able to write WAR AND PEACE. Or The Mass in B minor.--Garrison Keillor from his book, THE KEILLOR READER

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Joe G. in NY: LION KING cast on NYC subway
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9QMM_nTuC4

(2) Marty S. in PA: Auto Body Shop Award Winning Commercial
<http://www.angelfire.com/ak2/intelligencerreport/hammer.html>

(3) Steven S. in FL: Magician tries to sell weed to a cop
<http://thefreethoughtproject.com/magician-sell-weed-cop-hilariousness-ensues/#93D2E3PPALbBH3TJ.01>

B. Other tidbits from readers

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Fc>

(1) Henry W. in NY: While not one of Woody Allen's all-time best films - and the overall themes are quite familiar - Magic in the Moonlight is nonetheless entertaining. (2) Jean D. in PA: Free Calendars and Calendar Templates. (3) Ariella S. in OR (with a REQUEST FOR HELP). (4) Carole B. in NC: I Liked Everything I Saw on Facebook for Two Days. Here's What It Did to Me. (5) Natalie K. in PA: 16 of the most magnificent trees in the world. (6) Steven T. in NC: Diversity in Theatre. (7) Steven S. in FL: Can you answer 10 world history questions?

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3. Joke 1

An old man lived alone. He wanted to dig his potato garden, but it was hard work and his son, who would have helped, was in prison The man wrote a letter to his son and mentioned his predicament He received this reply: "Dad, DON'T DIG UP THE GARDEN. That's where I buried the money." At 4 a.m. the next morning, a dozen policemen showed up and dug up the entire garden without finding any money. . . . Confused, the man wrote another note to his son, telling him what happened and asking him what to do next. His son's reply was, "Now plant your potatoes, Dad. It's the best I could do from here."



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4. Reviews

To read the following reviews, please go to Section 4 when you click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Fc>

- A. THE HUNDRED-FOOT JOURNEY (film currently in release)
- B. IMAGINE ME AND YOU (film available on DVR)
- C. ANIMATING YOUR CAREER by Steve Hickner
- D. THE CARNIVORE'S MANIFESTO: EATING WELL, EATING RESPONSIBLY, AND EATING MEAT, written by Patrick Martins with Mike Edison and ready by Edison

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5. TV alert

A. Seeking a creative challenge after several years' worth of fairly elaborate melodramas, director Alfred Hitchcock stages all of the action in LIFEBOAT in one tiny boat, adrift in the North Atlantic. Sunday, Aug. 17, at 8 p.m. on TCM.

B. CAPTIVATED: THE TRIALS OF PAULA SMART, a documentary, tells the tale of a small-town murder in New England. It was the first fully televised court case. Monday, Aug. 18, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

C. THE SINGLES PROJECT is a new reality show where cast members get set up on dates and then wait for feedback from the viewing audience after the episode airs. Tuesday nights at 10 p.m. on BRAVO.

Note: The show is also repeated throughout the week, so if you missed the first episode (that aired on Aug. 12), check for other dates and times by using the search option at the top of this link:

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

D. KAT WILLIAMS: PRICLESS: AFTERLIFE features the manic comedian on a stage that features both oversized furniture and a live lion. Thursday, Aug. 21, at 10 p.m. on HBO.

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6. Joke 2

On a couple's 50th anniversary, the husband gets up to make a speech to family and friends gathered at a party. He turns to his wife, then to the audience and says, "You know what? You have been with me all through the bad times. When I got fired, you were there to support me. When my business fell, you were there. When I got shot, you were by my side. When we lost the house, you gave me support. When my health started failing, you were still by my side. Well, now that I think about it, I think you're a jinx!"



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7. Websites

A. Mr. Curious here: Anybody use the following website to book hotel rooms?

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

I'm seeing a lot of advertising from this company and was wondering if it was/is any good?

Typically, I use both hotel rooms and rental cars:

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

I get a typical range of prices, then make a suggested best price bid (typically about 40% of the average) and often do quite well as a result. Lately, I've also taken advantage of some of Princline's "Best Deals," and they have even been better.

An added bonus: If you are a member of AOL and go through the benefits program there, you get an additional 8% back as a rebate.

B. Weird Al" Yankovic, long one of my favorites, is again at the top of the charts with "Word Crimes." To view it, please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Gv0H-vPoDc>

To read more about this song, please click:

http://chronicle.com/blogs/linguafranca/2014/07/22/word-pardons/?cid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en

He also has another winner in "Tacky." You can view that by clicking:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zq7Eki5EZ8o>

And for the story behind that song, please click:

<http://hollywoodlife.com/2014/07/14/weird-al-yankovic-pharrell-spoof-happy-tacky-video/>

Lastly, THE NEW YORK TIMES ran an article about him that you can read by clicking:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/24/arts/music/weird-al-yankovic-scores-with-mandatory-fun.html?module=Search&mabReward=relbias%3Aw%2C%7B%22%22%3A%22RI%3A6%22%7D>

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

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

In the unlikely event you're reading this newsletter and are not already a subscriber, to get on the free mailing list just click "Newsletter" to the left and then "Subscribe." Some simple instructions are given; follow them, and you'll be all set.

Note: If you're already a subscriber and think that others would like BLAINESWORLD, please feel free to share the above information with them. 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:

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



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8. Technology tip

BEWARE . . . if you get this popup message on your computer:

YOUR PC'S PERFORMANCE MIGHT BE AT RISK
For emergency Tech Support call immediately
855-820-4763

Whatever you do, PLEASE DON'T CALL THAT NUMBER.

Here's the reason for my recommendation:
tech-support247.net popup advertisements are linked to ad-ware, browser extensions, and other various potentially unwanted programs (PUPs) installed on the machine. Users seeing tech-support247.net popup advertisements typically have downloaded and agreed to installing something they probably did not intend to.

The tech-support247.net popup advertisement is very intrusive and will most likely present itself on every webpage you try browsing. The content of the tech-support247.net advertisement is SCAREWARE. The tech-support247.net will state your computer has or most likely has a virus and you should call a number in order to fix it. When you call the number they will attempt to sell you various PC diagnostic scanning software and other antivirus software at a high subscription rate. Do not trust these people. Your computer can be fixed without buying hundreds of dollars worth of software.

Note: To read more, as well as to how to get information on how remove the above, you can click on the link that follows. I recommend that you do this manually (with the accompanying instructions). As an alternative, you'll be provided with information on how to obtain two products to help you with the removal process: SpyHunter or Malwarebytes. The former has a fee and has not gotten very good reviews. The latter is free and has gotten quite good reviews.

<http://malwarerescue.com/knowledgebase/remove-tech-support247-net-popups/>

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9. Joke 3

A Chinese guy and a Jewish guy are drinking in a bar one day when the Jewish man suddenly slugs the Chinese man on his head. "What was that for?" the Chinese guy asks. . . . "That was for Pearl Harbor!". . . "Pearl Harbor? That was the Japanese. I'm Chinese." . . . "Chinese, Japanese, they're all the same to me." . . . They continue drinking in silence until the Chinese man gets up and punches the Jew in the face. "What's that all about?" the Jewish guy asks. . . . "That was for the Titanic!" . . . "The Titanic? That was an iceberg." . . . "Iceberg, Goldberg, they're all the same to me."



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10. A quote I like

"By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere."--Billy Crystal (born 1948), American comedian, actor, writer, producer and film director

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11. Thought for the day

I was telling somebody goodnight the way that you do when you're leaving work: "Will I see you tomorrow?" . . . They say: "No. I have a friend that has Stage 4 cancer. I took tomorrow off. We're gonna spend the day together." . . . Me: "Damn. I'm sorry." Then not really knowing what to say and for lack of anything better, I ask, "What are you going to do?" . . . They say: "Show up." Two words. I'm going to "Show up." I felt them hit me. Physically. Deep. In my chest. Two of the most profoundly simple and honest words. . . . "Show up." (Thanks, Joe Guice, for this recent Facebook post.)

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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Fc>

A. NC events

(1) What's happening at Parkway Playhouse. (2) Lessons in mask making. (3) Tales around the Campfire with David Novak. (4) Richard Shulman performances. (5) Tina FireWolf presentation. (6) Anita Hill to speak in Asheville!

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Bridge Street Concert Series. (2) Classes and events at Princeton Center for Yoga & Health.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!



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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINES WORLD

#932
8.4.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had a blast at our brother-in-law Marty's 80 birthday at King Falafel in Millburn. The food was great and so was the entertainment, featuring Yuliya--a most talented belly dancer.

She is pictured below in both the top photo with me, dancing up a storm, and in the bottom photo, l-r: yours truly, Cynthia Greenfield, Yuliya, Marty Litchman and Joyce Litchman.





(2) As for the dancing, please click but only if you're prepared to be dazzled:
http://youtu.be/2GghS_Sufwl

(3) The next day, we had a Family Circle gathering of Cynthia's family at a great deli in Livingston, NJ: Eppes Essen. L-R: (front row) Marty Litchman, Rita Swirsky, Milton Rubin and Bella Rubin; and (back row) Joyce Litchman, Debbie Rubin, Lenny Fellin, Blaine Greenfield, Cynthia Greenfield, Richard Rubin, Carol Bufano, Mason Antonutti and Bob Bufano.



(4) We also celebrated two anniversaries: Our friend Taryn Kirkland's third year in Asheville and our anniversary, again, at one of our favorite restaurants (131 Main) where Taryn is a server extraordinaire.



(5) And we went with friends to a fun reception for the Asheville Human Society. In the top photo, that's Beth Byas with us, and in the bottom photo, that's Annemarie Brown in the center and Susan Dobroski on the right.



B. Invites:

(1) My "team" is continuing to have a blast, getting ready for its upcoming performance in BUSINESS SINGS BROADWAY. We do hope you can join us, either on August 22 or 23--or both dates! For tickets, please click:

https://ashevilletheatre.secure.force.com/ticket/#details_a0Si000004dGQCEA2

Pictured at a recent planning session at Mellow Mushroom, l-r: Marvin Sadovsky, Brian Biro, Michael Trayford and yours truly. Not pictured: Keith Challenger, Doug Hauschild and

Mark Knollman.



(2) The A-B Tech Small Business Center at the BASE (Base Acceleration Site in Enka), in conjunction with its community partner, Asheville SCORE, cordially invites you to the following free seminar:
Maximizing Your Mobile Marketing--including email & social

Tuesday Aug. 19, 2014 from 2-4:30 p.m.

Note: I'll be hosting this event, and it will be presented by Constant Contact's Aaron Wesley Means.

For complete information, please go to Section 1 when you click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1EG>

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Ed Kohlhepp on getting some attention in the news these days:

* Check out this article on the Front Page of Sunday's The Intelligencer:
"Financial Experts: State pensions 'unsustainable'"
<http://bit.ly/1s4WgwW>

* Ed was also quoted in a second article in Sunday's issue:
"Having no pension a 'significant disadvantage' in retirement"
<http://bit.ly/1uf7Bss>

* Last week, Ed was mentioned in an article on WealthManagement.com:
"Financial Advisors Confidence Falls"
<http://bit.ly/1mfoGgC>

* And if you missed it in July, Ed's thoughts on Long Term Care were picked up by CNBC, the Today Show, Yahoo Finance and Financial Advisor Magazine!
<http://www.cnbc.com/id/101781633>
<http://www.today.com/money/truth-hurts-when-adviser-tells-client-they-cant-1D79863052>
<http://www.fa-mag.com/news/ltc-options-18361.html?issue=229>

(2) Steve Seidner on his new position as Senior Sales Representative at Faulkner Hyundai in Northeast Philadelphia. His direct number is: 215.904 4206.

Note: Steven's a real good guy, and he'll take good care of you if you need a new or used car. If the name sounds familiar, it's because he is the guy who used to head Bagel Junction in Newtown, PA--my favorite bagel place that I very much miss!

(3) Lee Tomlinson on being chosen by the Beryl Institute to write a blog for its website. You can check it out by clicking:
<http://www.theberylinstitute.org/blogpost/947424/192565/How-Did-Dr-Dean-Edell-Save-My-Life>

(4) Janeen Ravkin on the wedding of her son.

(5) Chuck Fink on the great article that was written about him in THE RALEIGH NEWS AND OBSERVER. To read it, please click:
<http://www.newsobserver.com/2014/08/02/4039512/doing-better-retirees-bring-valuable.html>

D. Corrections to BLAINESWORLD #931:

(1) In writing about Ginny Jameson, the website address for making contributions in her honor should have read as follows:

www.dementiasociety.org

Also, for those who missed her obituary, it can be found by clicking:

<http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/launch.aspx?pbid=8cfa36d5-b00d-43c3-8fac-398cf2b87549&pnum=30>

(2) The winner of Contest #15 was Rodney R. in NJ, not in NC. And that provides a great way to remind y'all about . . .

***** CONTEST #16*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of THE GIFTED: HOW TO LIVE THE LIFE OF YOUR DREAMS by Daphne Michaels. In this book, the author shares the secrets of the nine gifts we are all born with. If we recognize and use these gifts, we can transform our lives forever. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #827 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #16 in the subject 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 Monday, August 11.

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

This week, it goes to Jessie Hobart--a sales representative with eNom, a company that makes it possible for individuals and organizations to buy and sell Internet domains and services.

It turns out that my website was down for a few days this past week. My previous Internet hosting company (Lighthouse) had become very unresponsive and, in fact, I think it might have even gone out of business.

Consequently, blainesworld.net had not gotten renewed. And then my website stopped functioning.

With just a few emails and one call, Jessie had me up and running again within an hour.

I was both impressed and most appreciative.

Should you want to contact Jessie, he can be reached at jessie.hobart@rightside.co or via his direct line, 425.298.2341.

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2. FYI

GREAT IDEA: Our friend Jody Sysler (below) told us recently about something she carries in her wallet: a laminated listing of all the vitamins and supplements she takes. That way, whenever she goes to a doctor or hospital, she has this information handy--and doesn't have to worry about forgetting anything. She also had her late husband Barry's information on the reverse side, and he used to carry a similar listing.



FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Chuck S. in NJ: Nobody Knows You When You're Down And Out
<http://youtu.be/q9a07kl8knY>

(2) Janeen R. in PA: Colorized photos from history
http://www.liveleak.com/ll_embed?f=d6d9d5385aee

(3) YouTube Sensation Jesse 'Snake' Muench Flashes Skills For NBA Stars In TV Ad
<http://www.thepostgame.com/blog/men-action/201405/jesse-snake-muench-youtube-nba-playoffs-lebron-paul-george-wade-lamarcus>

(4) Marilynne H. in NC: Untamed Americas - Gigantic School of Rays
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74mdJUaRNAA>

(5) Corinne G. in PA: Good reminder here ('bout locking up guns)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKHeXC7L85s>

(6) Nelson S. in NC: The truth about bottled water
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/XfPAjUvvnlc>

(7) Berta D. in NJ: What a talent!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4nX0Xrn-wo>

B. Other tidbits from readers

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1EG>

(1) 7 Steps to a Cheaper Hotel Room. (2) Clear Link Found Between Vitamin D Deficiency and Alzheimer's Disease. (3) Janeen R. in PA: Mushroom Kugel recipe. (4) Sunny R. in NC (with a REQUEST FOR HELP). (5) Jane B. in NC (with a REQUEST FOR HELP). (6) David W. in NC: Was my first read of the newsletter and liked it. (7) Janet W. in NC: I know you have been musing how there are no decent diners in Asheville. (8) Sandy B. in PA: Great issue Blaine! (9) Michael F. in NV: Nice bobble head piece. (10) Donna S. in AL: The weeks pass fast these days. I turn around and another newsletter has come.

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3. Joke 1

Matthew and I are drinking tea this morning when he asks me if I believe in reincarnation. I tell him that I do. He says wonderful and takes me by the hand to the front window where we see a small bird on the lawn. "That could be you someday, Mom." (Thanks, Cecile Kandl, for sharing this profound observation from your 9-year-old son.)



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4. Reviews

A. GET ON UP is the biopic about James Brown, the Godfather of Soul. Based on the coming attractions, I was looking forward to the film . . . but was disappointed with it. The editing was choppy, and Brown didn't come across as a very likable guy. That said, the music was good, and Chadwick Boseman (fantastic in 42) was equally as good here. Rated PG-13.

B. THE RAILWAY MAN is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #920 follows:

THE RAILWAY MAN is a fantastic film, based on a bestselling autobiography, about a prisoner of war at a Japanese labor camp during World War II. Many years later, he discovers that the Japanese interpreter responsible for much of what happened to him is still alive. Though violent in parts, I recommend it highly because of its overall message of both love and forgiveness. Colin Firth might well win another Oscar for his performance here. Rated R.

Note: I'm still thinking about it. Also, I've just added it to my list of favorite films. If you'd like a copy of that list, send an email to bjinbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

C. Michael Gelb has another winner in CREATVITY IN DEMAND: HOW TO IGNITE AND SUSTAIN THE FIRE OF GENIUS (Sounds True).

The author, long one of my favorites for such books as HOW TO THINK LIKE LEONARDO DA VINCI and BRAIN POWER, shows how to cultivate creative energy in a way that can be done in 20 minutes or less.

I especially liked his inclusion of many exercises for doing the above, as well as the pictures that were included that show exactly how these are to be done.

In addition, his many interviews with practitioners of the principles he talks about helped drive home Gelb's points.

And so did stories such as the following:

In a classic Zen parable, a master invites his students for tea. The master pours the tea. The student's cup is filled, but the master continues to pour. As the cup overflows, the student cries out, "Master, my cup is full, it's overflowing." The master replies, "So it is with your mind: if you are to receive my teaching, you must first empty your cup."

My only quibble with the book is that I would have liked to have seen an index. However, even without one, I strongly recommend CREATIVITY ON DEMAND if you're interested in learning how to unlock your potential.

D. Heard THINGS A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME: CONFESSIONS OF THE CREATIVE MIND (Hachette Audio), written by Buzz Stone and read by Jonathan Davis.

The author tells about how he dropped out of college to design book jackets. From there, he recounts how he had enough chutzpah to call himself a genius and then had the audacity to ask for a job at Google--despite having no degree or experience other than as a blogger.

Several failed ventures followed before he eventually co-founded Twitter.

The book is fast-reading, and there are also many humorous stories about experiences in Stone's life. I also liked the many tidbits of advice that were included; e.g., constraint inspires creativity . . . and that's why Twitter is limited to 140 words.

If you are interested in learning more about a successful Silicon Valley entrepreneur, you won't go wrong by reading this book.

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5. TV alert

A. On PENN & TELLER: FOOL US, aspiring magicians are invited to perform their best trick to try and fool the world-famous team of Penn & Teller. Anyone who succeeds wins the right to perform with Penn & Teller in their celebrated show at the Rio Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on THE CW

B. HEARTBREAKERS features a fact-based show ripped from the headlines and includes show-length re-enactments cast with stars of sitcoms and soap operas past. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, it is "joyously cheesy." And "half the fun is seeing who'll show up in the cast, which includes Kevin Sorbo, Judd Nelson and Nicole Eggert." Wednesdays at 10 p.m. on INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY.

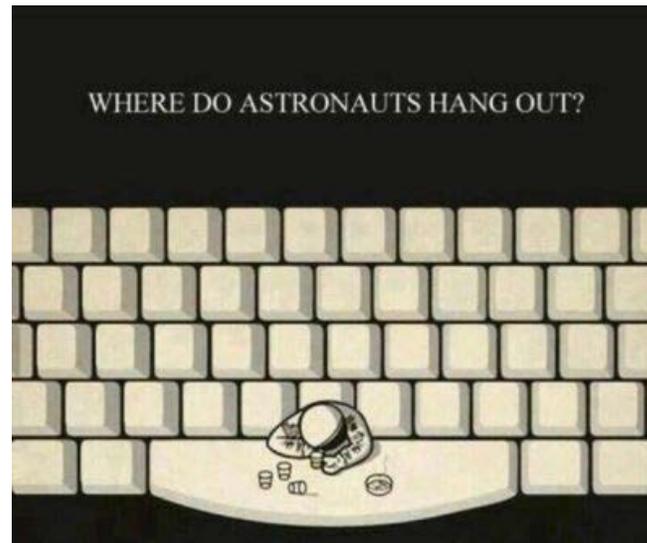
C. DATING NAKED has daters bare everything else first before they bare their souls. The show has quickly become a guilty pleasure for me. Thursdays at 9 p.m. on VH1.

D. Mayim Bialik will host TV LAND's reboot of CANDID CAMERA. Monday, August 11, to Thursday, Aug. 14, at 8 p.m. and then it airs on Tuesdays at 8 p.m., starting on August 19.

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6. Joke 2

Personally, I think they should frequent someplace else with better atmosphere! If you agree and get this cartoon, feel free to share with others; if you don't get it, email me for an explanation.



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7. Websites

A. Janeen R. in PA: This is what happens when someone gives a tech gift to a senior. A young lady visits her father. She asks him how he liked his Christmas present. It is in German... but no words are needed for this. A picture is worth a thousand words . . .

<http://www.snotr.com/video/8965/>

B. Alyson M. in NC: Video for dog-lovers generally and people who camp with their dogs specifically.

The touching story of how the Noblecamper came to be, and the amazing dog behind it all. Watch the legacy of Noble, a 10-year old Vizsla, and his battle with cancer.

<http://www.noblecamper.com>

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, is back up and running (after being down for a few days during the week) . . . to view it, please click:

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

If you're new to the website and want to find out what it's all about, please see the boxed information at the very top of this 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:

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



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8. Technology tip

Five reasons your Internet keeps breaking when you stream

Does your Internet keep stalling when you stream TV shows? Learn what you can do to stream without interruption.

To do so, please click:

<https://homes.yahoo.com/news/stop-your-internet-from-breaking-060911607.html>

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9. Joke 3

If more restaurants had such signs up, we'd have a lot less folks going to buy fast food!



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10. A quote I like

"I owe it all to art books, chocolate and young men."--Beatrice Wood, American artist who worked on a potter's wheel every day until she was 103.



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11. Thought for the day

Today's thought: Pay it forward
by Meta Commerse*

Taking my morning walk, turning the corner from my building and walking away from it, someone in a car pulls up alongside and stops. "Oh, no," I thought, "not this again." Just as I began to think how I really wasn't up for another one of "those" encounters, a sincere gentleman asked me a question. "Pardon me, but, do you know where A-B Tech is?" "Yes," I told him, and started to think about the winding curves and turns he'd need to make to get there. "It's a short distance, but, I can't really tell you how to get there." I started to try, but it was no use. And then it hit me. It was less than two miles away. I'd do what I'd like for someone to do if it was me asking for directions. I'd guide the way. "Follow me around the corner. I'll take you there." He did. I did. And, in just that small amount of time, I thought about this kind of thing. It feels good to be helpful, to take time out and just help when you can. We arrived in just a few minutes, and he said "thank you, Miss." I told him, "No problem. Just pay it forward." Imagine how much better the world would be if each of us paid it forward. . . . Lord knows, I couldn't do all I do now if folks hadn't helped me along the way!!!

* Reprinted with the gracious permission of Meta from her Facebook post of 7.25.14. Meta is a talented writer, teacher and healer. She can be reached through Facebook.

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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1EG>

A. NC events

(1) Our VOICE's 40th Anniversary Celebration. (2) Monthly Marketing Meet-Ups. (3) Kaleo Wheeler programs. (4) SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN HOMECOMING. (5) Vocal Blast Benefit Concert. (6) SISTERS. (7) Tales around the Campfire with David Novak. (8) Tina FireWolf speaking on Communication from Chaos to LOVE.

B. PA/NJ events

LAUGHING AT COMEDY CABARET!

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!



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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINES WORLD

#931
7.28.2014

In this issue

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2. FYI
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6. A quote I like
7. Thought for the day
8. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I will be in North Jersey by the time you read this. We are visiting her sister and brother-in-law to celebrate the latter's 80th birthday, and we'll also be seeing my daughter and some other relatives and friends.

Note: I'll be coming back without Cynthia from Aug. 25-Sept. 1, primarily to visit friends in the Bucks County area, and hope to see a bunch of y'all then. Details to follow.

As a result, this week's newsletter is missing some regular features because I don't have access to my regular computer. They will all return next week.

B. GUESS WHO? In the unlikely event you can't, that's us--enjoying the beautiful weather. We got this via a Groupon from:
<http://www.bobblebobble.com/>

Even if that deal is no longer available, search Groupon for similar offers.



C. We went with our friends Terry and Muffy Boswell (on the far right) to see a fantastic production of a new play, PROMISES by Joel Williams, at SART. Another friend, Emily Shaules (second from left), was in it, and she was great.



Kudos to Jon Menick for his direction; it was spot on. And to the rest of the cast, featuring members of Jon's Screens Artist Co-op: Dusty McKeelan, Emerald Robinson, Andrew Tickle, Mara Breindel, Justin Livingston, Joe Narsavage, Dave MacDonald and Sean David Robinson.

Note: The play runs through August 3. For tickets, please click:
https://secure.sellingticket.com/design22/clients/list/index_byUserListAll.aspx?OrganizationID=141

D. On another afternoon, we went with our friends Marcy and Tom Gallagher to the Parkway Playhouse in Burnsville to THE KING AND I. Pictured (below) are two of my favorite swingers: Marcy and Cynthia:



The show was amazing. It featured a cast of 43, including Dalton Woody (below). He did a fine job, as did Myra McCoury, Jennifer Russ and Dominic Aquilino. Clara Burrus as Anna gave perhaps the best performance we've seen this year, and Jason Sterling as the King was also praiseworthy.



In addition, I'd be remiss if I did not cite the excellent work of three other individuals: Andrew Gall, director; Vance Reese, musical director; and Victoria Smith, costume designer.

You're in luck, in that you can still see THE KING AND I. It runs through August 9. For tickets, please click:

<https://www.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&e=6800a268dff37c112d450fb73563424e>

E. Afterward, we went to the new Green Sage location at Westgate. The food there, as is the case at the other two locales, is both healthy and tasty.

We had a special treat when we got to see the talented Rhoda Weaver singing outside. Pictured, l-r: Cynthia Greenfield, Tom Gallagher, Blaine Greenfield and Rhoda Weaver.



F. My "team" is continuing to have a blast, getting ready for its upcoming performance in BUSINESS SINGS BROADWAY. We do hope you can join us, either on August 22 or 23--or both dates! For tickets, please click:

https://ashevilletheatre.secure.force.com/ticket/#details_a0Si000004dGQCEA2

Pictured, l-r: Mark Knollman, Marvin Sadovsky, Michael Trayford, Brian Biro, Keith Challenger and yours truly. Doug Hauschild is in the group, too.



G. The A-B Tech Small Business Center at the BASE (Base Acceleration Site in Enka), in conjunction with its community partner, Asheville SCORE, cordially invites you to the following free seminar:
Maximizing Your Mobile Marketing--including email & social

Tuesday Aug. 19, 2014 from 2-4:30 p.m.

Note: I'll be hosting this event, and it will be presented by Constant Contact's Aaron Wesley Means.

For complete information, please go to Section 1 when you click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Ed>

H. Congratulations to:

(1) Steve Moser on being named as 1 of the top 9 pest control technicians in the country by PCT magazine.

(2) Denise May on receiving the 2014 Faculty Above and Beyond Award from Bucks County Community College.

(3) Mike Andrus on being recognized by the Universal Song Do Kwan Alliance as Yuk-Dan 6th Degree Black Belt in Han Hab Do at the Philadelphia Historical Martial Arts Society Hall of Fame.

(4) Lyle Johnson and Kelly Christianson, among others, for their acceptance into Leadership Asheville 33.

(5) Cara Cotellese on being profiled in BERKS COUNTY LIVING. To read the account, please click:
<http://www.berkscountyliving.com/August-2014/Cool-at-School-Professors-at-Berks-Colleges-Universities/>

(6) Joey Novick on being appointed by the New Jersey Bar President to the Election Law Committee.

(7) Darcy Landy Grabenstein on her new job as Senior Copywriter at Annodyne, Inc.

(8) Tee Geradi on appearing on a local newscast. Catch him yourself at around the 1-minute mark by clicking:
<http://www.wdtv.com/wdtv.cfm?func=view&ion=5-News&item=Are-Prices-On-The-Rise-17282>

(9) Michelle Baker on the publication of her novel, THE CANOE.

(10) Steven Shulman on having his beautiful vacation home voted BEST PET FRIENDLY vacation rental "Home of the Week" in Asheville NC. For more information, please click:
<http://www.vrbo.com/603312>

(11) Rodney R. in NJ, winner of Contest #15: a copy of LOSING IT! BEHAVIORS AND MINDSETS THAT RUIN CAREERS: LESSONS ON PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM AVOIDABLE MISTAKES by Bill Lane. All told, there were 5 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #16*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of THE GIFTED: HOW TO LIVE THE LIFE OF YOUR DREAMS by Daphne Michaels. In this book, the author shares the secrets of the nine gifts we are all born with. If we recognize and use these gifts, we can transform our lives forever. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #827 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #16 in the subject 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 Monday, August 11.

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

This week, it goes to Ginny Jameson, R.I.P. . . . she was a longtime friend and possessor of one of the sweetest smiles I have ever seen.



To quote her husband Kevin:

At 6:40 a.m. today [July 29], with me holding her in my arms, my lovely wife Ginny mounted her ski's in fresh powder--just as the sun streamed down onto her angelic face--and off she went. She lived an energetic and fun-filled life, and although there were moments of great sadness when she lost dear mother and father, they were balanced by two wonderful children and an enduring 32-year love for me. She is survived by supportive friends and family, and Ginny Gin will live on in our hearts and minds, words and deeds. A service of celebration will be planned for mid-September.

To read more, please go to page 30 when you click:

<http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/launch.aspx?eid=ac938e87-b804-4684-931a-2628ccda58f6&pnum=1>

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested contributions to the Dementia Society of America, a non-profit organization. You may reach them by mail at: Dementia Society of America, P.O. Box 600, Doylestown, PA 18901 or via the website:

www.dementiasociety.org

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2. FYI

From an ad I received in the mail for CONSUMER REPORTS:

Sure, an office visit to the doctor is helpful, BUT . . . doctors told us how you can get more out of your visit.

LESSON LEARNED:

When we're sick, we don't remember as well as we usually do. That's why 8 out of 10 doctors we surveyed think that taking a friend or relative to your office visit is beneficial. Also beneficial: Take notes and make sure you understand the doctor's instructions.

Note: Cynthia and I do the above. Also, we often make the occasion a mini-celebration; i.e., if we hear good news (say from the dentist), we'll often go out for dinner afterward.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Steven S. in FL: I love cats
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOrtSFtxsEo>

(2) Pit Bull Gives 10-Month-Old Baby the Giggles
<https://gma.yahoo.com/pit-bull-gives-10-month-old-baby-giggles-183721142--abc-news-pets.html>

(3) Pirates' baserunning blunders turn walk into inning-ending double play
<http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/mlb-big-league-stew/pirates--baserunning-blunders-turn-walk-into-inning-ending-double-play-231929918.html>

(4) Guy dressed as homeless gives back
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgcivJDCFUc>

(5) Big surprise for Bride and Groom
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYKwqj5QViQ>

(6) Betty D. in NC: 11 Redhead Facts Everyone Should Know
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI5WJ0dWWPE>

(7) Sheryl S. in PA: This Dance Routine Is Unreal
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zY2D0j454Pl#t=10>

(8) John R. in GA: Amazing dance moves!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ueJ4-ITa1s>

B. Other tidbits from readers

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Ed>

(1) Liz A. in NC: My cousin uses red rice yeast. (2) Barbara H. in PA: Hopefully, this [my report on my health] will be the worst news you get. (3) Janeen R. in PA: I know you like to walk. (4) Jo F. in PA: I know I told you this before. It's worth repeating. I just love opening your newsletter to, "Cynthia, my beautiful bride." (5) Bill L. in PA: With the passing of the legendary James Garner, Turner Classic Movies is showing a bunch of his films. (6) John D. in PA: These links are for articles regarding cholesterol by Dr. Stephen Sinatra. (7) Michael H. in PA: 9 REASONS YOU NEED TO BE GIVING AND RECEIVING HUGS EVERYDAY. (8) Kathe and Pete D. in NJ: I just wanted to extend to you and Cynthia our belated congratulations upon your recent anniversary celebration. (9) Colleen D. in PA: 27 Ice Cream Shops You Need To Visit Before You Die. (10) Margie M. in PA: Which dog breed are you? (11) Jane S. in NC: I am happy to share with you my new website.

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3. Joke 1

RETIRED AND/OR BORED? Sometimes life isn't very exciting; however, you can at least make things more interesting by packing your garbage like this and leaving it next to the dumpster!

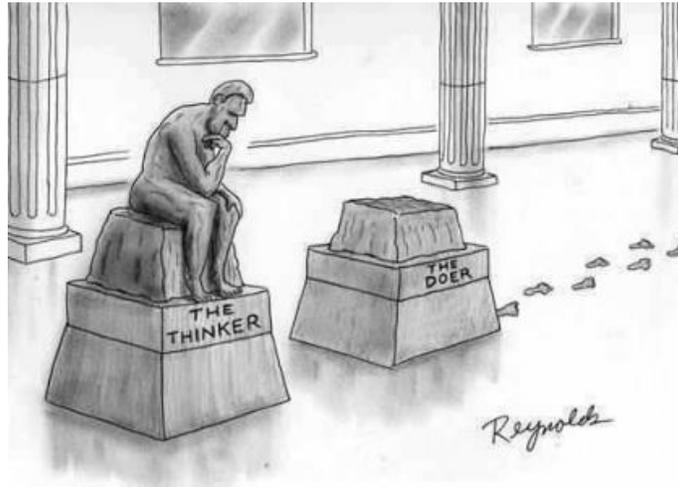


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4. Joke 2

It bugs me that Rodin never got the credit he deserved because of the fact that his piece

of sculpture on the right got cropped out so frequently!



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5. Joke 3

Shadows just want to have fun!



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6. A quote I like

"Mom, you smell so good all over! You're like a giant bottle of perfume with legs!"--Devon, age 9, to his mother Jean. Dolan



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7. Thought for the day

Great way to be!



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8. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following events in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Ed>

A. NC events

(1) MISS SAIGON. (2) THE BUDDY HOLLY DANCE PARTY. (3) Asheville Area Professional Peter Sitters Association PET FOOD DRIVE. (4) All Things Possible with the Vanishing Windshield. (5) Tina FireWolf to speak on Communication fro Chaos to LOVE. (6) Upcoming at Asheville Community Theatre.

B. PA/NJ events

Upcoming courses at the Princeton Center for Yoga and Health.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINES WORLD

#930
7.21.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Saw Asheville Lyric Opera's delightful production of SOUTH PACIFIC. We especially enjoyed Strother Stingley (below) as Luther Billis, and we got a kick out of seeing our friend Doug Hauschild as Capt. Brackett. Fred Lemmons, as usual, distinguished himself on the clarinet.



We received an added bonus at the performance we attended: Ice cream from The Hop was given out to all those in attendance. That's Greg Garrison hard at work.



Kudos to that establishment, as well as to Marcy Gallagher and Kilwin's for providing treats at the Opening Night reception.

(2) Went bowling with our friends Marvin Brown and Annemarie Sadovsky at the AMF Star Lanes. We had a fun time and all did surprisingly well, given that we hadn't bowled in quite some time. In fact, for me, it was my first time in probably 30 years.

Thank goodness for the fact that their grandson Jack was with us, in that it also made it possible for us to use the bumper rails . . . and not roll any gutter balls that way!





(3) Joined our friends Beth and Steve Byas for a delicious barbecue meal at 12 Bones. Joining us were Beth's parents, Bill and Ellen Hill.



B. Congratulations to:

(1) Tom Giraldi on the birth of his beautiful granddaughter Sophia.

(2) Ta S'ina Tokaheya Oglala on her recent engagement.

(3) Michelle Baker on the launch of the website for her upcoming book, THE CANOE (due out in November). You can check it out now by clicking:
www.thecanoebymichellebaker.com

(4) Ezra Shanken for the article about him that appeared in eJewish Philanthropy. You can read it by clicking:
<http://nblo.gs/YD6S7>

C. Invitations:

(1) The A-B Tech Small Business Center at the BASE (Base Acceleration Site in Enka), in conjunction with its community partner, Asheville SCORE, cordially invites you to the following free seminar:
Maximizing Your Mobile Marketing--including email & social

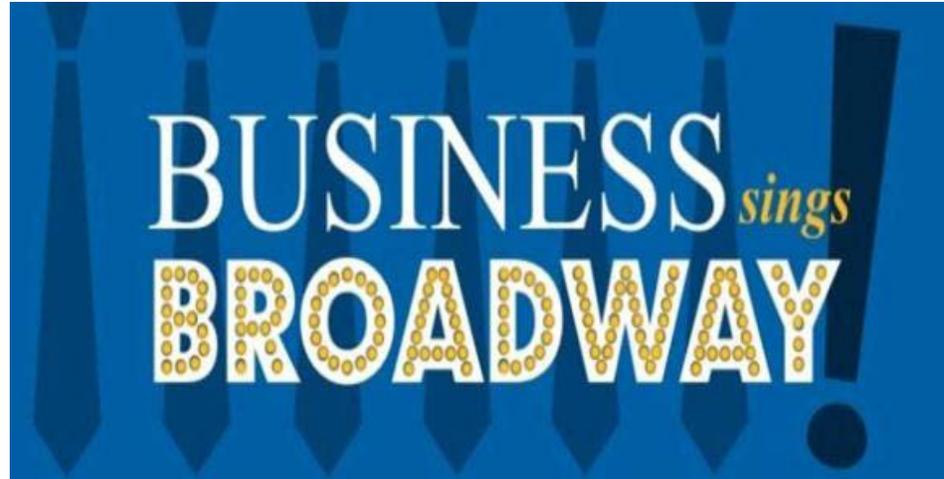
Tuesday Aug. 19, 2014 from 2-4:30 p.m.

Note: I'll be hosting this event, and it will be presented by Constant Contact's Aaron Wesley Means.

For complete information, please go to Section 1 when you click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1DR>

(2) YOUR BIG CHANCE! You can hear me sing "You Gotta Have Heart" in BUSINESS SINGS BROADWAY at Asheville Community Theatre on Aug. 22 and 23. I'll be joined by Mark A. Knollman, Marvin C. Sadovsky, Michael Trayford, Brian Biro, Keith Challenger and Doug Hauschild. In addition, we'll be part of the overall cast that will sing both "Comedy Tonight" incomparable Jerry Crouch will be directing, so you just know the show is going to be a hit. I do hope you can come; for more information, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/lqdd9v>



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

***** CONTEST #15*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of LOSING IT! BEHAVIORS AND MINDSETS THAT RUIN CAREERS: LESSONS ON PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM AVOIDABLE MISTAKES by Bill Lane. The book 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. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #827 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #15 in the subject 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 Monday, July 28.

D. My health update:

(1) Having reached that certain age, I had my "Welcome to Medicare" physical. All checked out well, though my LDL level was slightly elevated. (It's not a problem, though, in that the overall ratio to good cholesterol was fine.) Nevertheless, my doctor suggested that I start taking a supplement called Red Rice Yeast.

Mr. Curious here: You and/or anybody you know take this? If so, what have been the results?

(2) I also had a recent stress test. When taking it, I easily went past the allocated time--and was told that I have the heart of a 45-year old.

(3) In addition, I visited my dermatologist, and he did a biopsy on a spot on my head. It turned out that this spot needed to be removed, and so I just had that done via Mohs surgery.

(4) Lastly, I'm hoping that the second bone graft in my mouth worked. If that be the case, then maybe--just maybe--I'll be able to have my tooth implant in place sometime within my lifetime. This has already been stretching on nearly two years.

Ah, the joys of aging! The one good thing: Most all my visits now seem to be covered by Medicare, which means that I don't seem to have to pay a deductible anymore.

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

This week, it goes to James Garner, R.I.P. . . . long a favorite of mine for his roles in MAVERICK and THE ROCKFORD FILES, I loved his wry sense of humor both on and off screen . . . for example, when asked if he would ever do a nude scene, he replied, "I don't do horror films." . . . then there were his commercials with Mariette Hartley, which never failed to put a smile on my face--including this one:
<http://tinyurl.com/lz63dmn>

But it was his role as Duke in THE NOTEBOOK with Gena Rowlands (below) that perhaps most resonated with me . . . and especially when he said, "That's my sweetheart in there. Wherever she is, that's where my home is."



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2. FYI

This sign was used to get aggressive Boston drivers to use their turn signals. Methinks that New Yawkers could also relate to it. And in North Carolina, it would work if they added "Y'all" to the beginning. For more information, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/k7e49ln>



FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Marilynne H. in NC: So sweet (dog with baby)!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAKL3SD5zPY>

(2) Mark J. in NC: Stuff that Southern women say
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUFL2GT1-2g>

(3) Bob P. in NC: Cat vs. statue cat
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rdIIom6YDo>

(4) Rachel R. in SC: Watch his tiny Alaskan Malamute pup try howling for the first time!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThQKtgBloUw>

(5) Tom H. in NC: Barney (Tom himself) in clogging competition
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cwK8EnB8jc>

(6) Sheryl S. in PA: David Beckham Pepsi Commercial (amazing shot making)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68izU5g0CR0>

(7) Risa O. in NJ: Cat adopts bunny
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04RZrf3-Mgo>

(8) How to correctly roll your shirt sleeves
<https://screen.yahoo.com/fashion-and-beauty/correctly-roll-shirt-sleeves-040000368.html?vp=1>

(9) Susan M. in NJ: Hidden Camera Records 4 Women At Hospital
<http://blog.petflow.com/hidden-camera-records-4-women-at-hospital-i-cant-believe-what-happened-she-deserved-it/#9csAv02l0ZzuK8Zd.01>

(10) Sally B. in NC: Should math be taught in schools?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QBv2CFTSWU>

B. Other tidbits from readers

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1DR>

(1) Gladys P. in NC: Always interested in hearing your recommendations. (2) Sandy B. in PA: Really great issue! (3) Mel G. in CO: Nice newsletter! (4) Tobi B. in PA: If you love our work [of the Foundation at Bucks County Community College] then tell the world! (5) Chuck F. in NC: Here's your chance to support the arts, or at least the actors struggling to live while making us laugh and cry, just like those goofy masks representing comedy and drama. (6) Terry B. in FL: I love it, Blaine [notice of my recent anniversary]!!! (7) Lisa Z. in PA: Hi . . . friends, please check out this link for a Children's Hospital RadioThon. (8) Natalie K. in PA: The worst movie I've seen to date - Sex Tape. (9) Which Beatles song are you? (10) Meta C. in NC: 3 scariest words a boy can hear. (11) Donna K. in NC: Oh my goodness there are SOOOOOO many favorites [referring to films].

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3. Joke 1

LITTLE KNOWN FACTOID: The hospital gown was invented by Seymour Butts. And here you thought Bart Simpson was making that name up on THE SIMPSONS when he called bartender Moe Szslak and asked him to call out that person.



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4. Reviews

A. Forget the good reviews that you may have heard about 22 JUMP STREET. Though billed as a comedy follow-up to 21 JUMP STREET, I didn't find it at all funny--except for one or two short bits. This time around, Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum have graduated high school and are now in college. They're OK; the film isn't. About the only thing worth watching for me were the closing credits that are more than just outtakes. Do stay around for them. Rated R.

B. Out on DVD is THE OTHER WOMAN . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #919 follows: THE OTHER WOMAN is a not very funny comedy about three women who team up to plot revenge on the cheating guy who has lied to them all. As I was watching it, I kept thinking that the story had been done before--and better--in THE FIRST WIVES CLUB. Also, though I am usually a fan of both Cameron Diaz and Leslie Mann, they just didn't click in this film--except in one scene where they were hiding in the bushes. Kate Upton, in particular, was pretty poor in every scene she was in. Rated PG-13.

You'll do much better renting LAST LOVE, a touching story of a widowed professor living in Paris who finds an unlikely friend when he meets a free-spirited young dance instructor. Michael Caine is outstanding in the leading role, and I also very much liked Clémence Poésy as the woman who helps him find new meaning in life. Unrated, but certainly appropriate for any mature teenager.

C. WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS JOBS (Summersdale Publishers) by Paula Reid takes a look at 21 occupations that are certainly not for the faint at heart. They range from astronaut to world superbike champion and also include such others as Formula One driver, stunt performer and undercover cop.

The author, a motivational speaker and coach, also happens to be a bit of a daredevil herself--having completed 94 things for far on her list of things to do before she dies. In this book, she interviews actual people who do and/or have done each of the jobs she writes about.

Perhaps my favorite piece was the one about the sniper. His comment about one typical day really gave me a feel for what his work entails: You have a mental adjustment that it's gone wrong. You pick up the atmospheric and that's why I was walking backwards. You don't take your eyes off them; you can't trust them for a second. These people don't like you, and they have a particular mentality. They don't care if they die that day and trying to overcome that mentality is crazy. But that's what you're up against.

I liked the fact that each chapter of the book began with boxed information that contained an extreme rating, a danger level, criteria, skills and salary. In addition, each chapter concluded with both a danger fact and an extreme fact--such as this one for stunt performer:

In LIVE AND LET DIE, Ross Kananga as James Bond used four crocodiles as stepping

stones to reach safety on the other side. . . . During the four attempt, the crocodile bit through the shoe and into his foot.

After reading *WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS JOBS*, I've come to the conclusion that my decision to have been a college professor was a wise one.

D. Heard *RANTING AGAIN* (Random House Audio), written and read by Dennis Miller.

The author, a comedian, used to be one of my favorite performers when he was on *SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE* and then HBO. This effort is a funny follow-up to his earlier book, *THE RANTS*. It continues in the same style; i.e., he begins each section by saying "Now, I don't want to get off on a rant here, but . . ." and then he goes off on such topics as animal rights, the sobriety movement and the American school system.

Though *RANTING AGAIN* came out in 1998 and it somewhat dated, I still got a kick out of most of it. But then again, to quote Miller, "Now, that's just my opinion. I could be wrong."

What I'd really like is to be able to listen to some new material from him, especially since I don't get to listen to him on his current syndicated radio show.

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5. TV alert

A. *MANHATTAN* is a drama about everything connected with Los Alamos, the New Mexico location where the first atomic bomb was created in the early 1940s. "Just two episodes of this 13-part series have been made available," notes Dorothy Robinowitz in *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*, [but they are] enough to indicate the enormous care devoted to the look of the 40s. . . . We get an immediate sense, as well, of the characters likely to command attention." Premieres Sunday, July 27, at 9 p.m. on WGN.

B. *LOVE CHILD* is a documentary focusing on the death of one couple's 3-month-old baby from malnutrition in 2009 while they played an online game in six-to-12-hour binges. The horrible irony of the story? The game they were playing involved caring for a virtual child. Monday, July 28, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

C. *THE HONORABLE WOMAN* is a series about spies, competing national-security agencies, the bitterness of the Israeli-Arab conflict and the forces of ideology run amok. I'll watch, if for no other reason than to see any cast that features such stars as Maggie Gyllenhaal, Stephen Rea and Janet McTeer. Premieres Thursday, July 31, at 9 p.m. on SUNDANCE.

D. *SATISFACTION* is a drama about a guy who discovers that Zen isn't his thing, but sin just might be. His wife feels the same way. According to *Matt Roush TV GUIDE*, "Their journey may not yet be entirely or credibly satisfying, but it's one of the most intriguing rides I've experienced all summer." Thursdays at 10 p.m. on USA.

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6. Joke 2

GLOBAL WARMING is one thing, but see below for what can also happen when we continue to clear our forests. We have to stop cutting down too many trees. This is getting serious!



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7. Websites

A. Steven S. in FL: Ever feel like you could use a tutorial on the conflict in Israel? Maybe you know someone that would appreciate a quick rundown?

The Middle East problem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8EDW88CB0-8>

B. Savannah H. in PA: Funniest joke ever! (Features comedian Joe Machi on both gun control and President Obama.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E51RYZX09zc>

Note: I've been enjoying this guy on LAST COMIC STANDING. He is very funny.

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

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

If you haven't yet seen my comedy debut, click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Video Clips" . . . the second one. The fourth one also has me doing standup.

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>

Like us on Facebook 

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8. Technology tip

Five reasons your Internet keeps breaking when you stream

Does your Internet keep stalling when you stream TV shows? Learn what you can do to stream without interruption.

To find out more, please click:

<https://homes.yahoo.com/news/stop-your-internet-from-breaking-060911607.html>

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9. Joke 3

Sitting in a bar having drinks with a friend, I casually pointed to two old drunks sitting across the bar from us and said, "That's us in ten years." . . . He replied, "That's a mirror, dipshit."



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10. A quote I like

"Until I was thirteen, I thought my name was shut up."--Joe Namath (born 1943), pro football player best known for boldly guaranteeing a Jets' victory over the NFL Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III and the making good on his prediction when he led his team to a 16-7 win

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11. Thought for the day

With all that's happening in the world, I thought you'd like to hear the following song:
Pray For Peace - Reba McEntire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i68Q8d4bpVg>

And for more information about it, please click:

<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/reba-mcentire-recruits-friends-around-the-world-to-pray-for-peace-20140721>



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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1DR>

A. NC events

(1) LIVE IN LIVING COLOR. (2) SISTERS. (3) THE BUDDY HOLLY DANCE PARTY. (4) PROMISES.

B. PA/NJ event

2014 Kelsey Theatre Awards.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINES WORLD

#929
7.14.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Celebrated our wedding anniversary. "Not long enough" is what I answer folks who ask me the question, "How long have you been married?" On the top is a picture from the day (7.10.2005) I had the good fortune to marry her. And on the bottom is us remembering the occasion at 131 Main--one of our favorite restaurants.





(2) Had a blast at a picnic/concert at The Ramble. L-R: Carole Biro, Brian Biro, Blaine Greenfield, Layne Cutright, Cynthia Greenfield, Annemarie Brown, Marvin Sadovsky, Terry Crosby, Paul Cutright and Carol Lani Johnson. Special thanks to Carole for arranging all the details, as well as to Biltmore Farms for hosting the event.



(3) We enjoyed dancing to the music of Whitewater Bluegrass Co. L-R: Annemarie Brown, Marvin Sadovsky, Cynthia Greenfield and Blaine Greenfield.



(4) Afterward, Cynthia needed to take a break (Pictured with Layne Cutright.)



(5) And, lastly, we met a Havanese dog by the name of Boomer. He was sooooo sweet!



(6) Everybody brought delicious food that was shared with all. For just two of the excellent dishes, prepared by Sunny Ruble and Annemarie Brown, respectively, please go to Section 1 when you click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Dx>

(7) On another day, we saw the last performance of THE STARDUST SUPPER CLUB at SART and even got to appear on stage as two "diners" enjoying a meal. L-R: Cynthia Greenfield, Blaine Greenfield, Stephen Ware and Liz Aiello.



Both Ware and Aiello were outstanding in this tuneful music that also featured fine work by Chelsey Gaddy, Cameron Gregg and Grace Williams. Kudos to Bill Gregg for his usual excellent job as director.

Though you can no longer see this show, make sure you catch PROMISES. It opens at SART on July 16 and runs through August 3.

To view the preview click, please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z70Xq425jb0&feature=youtu.be>

To purchase tickets, please click:

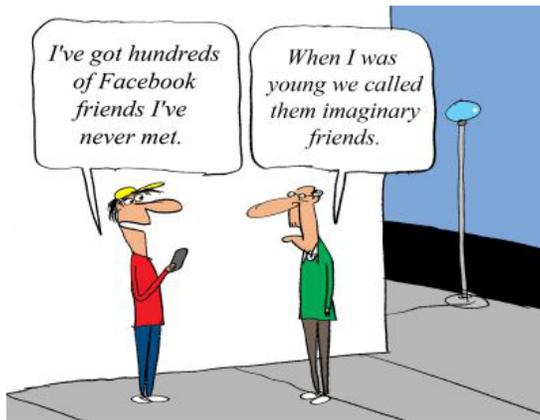
https://secure.sellingticket.com/design22/clients/list/index_byUserListAll.aspx?OrganizationID=141

B. Personally:

(1) I had an interesting experience, serving as an extra in a film currently being taped in Asheville. Unfortunately, I can't tell you more and/or share pictures because of an agreement that I had to sign . . . but look for more details when they can be revealed.

(2) And I wanted to thank y'all for helping me reach the 1,000 milestone for Facebook friends. I feel honored, and I hope to someday meet my latest addition (Bruce Rubin) in person--much like I'd like to meet any of you other 999 folks if we haven't yet done so already.

In the unlikely event we're not already Facebook friends, please see Section 7D.



C. Congratulations to:

- (1) Josh Miller on his recent marriage to Chelsea Ortuno Miller.
- (2) Edie Weinstein on her new job at Elements Behavioral Health as Web Content Writer.
- (3) Donna K. in NC, winner of Contest #14: a copy of THE CLICK MOMENT: SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES IN AN UNPREDICTABLE WORLD by Frans Johansson. All told, there were 7 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:
***** CONTEST #15*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of LOSING IT! BEHAVIORS AND MINDSETS THAT RUIN CAREERS: LESSONS ON PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM AVOIDABLE MISTAKES by Bill Lane. The book 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. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #827 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #15 in the subject 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 Monday, July 28.

D. Condolences to:

- (1) Molly Kervick and family on the passing of her sister Irene.
- (2) Harry Paul and family on the passing of Harry's mother.
- (3) Elaine Bilk and family on the passing of Elaine's father-in-law.

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

This week, it goes to the Dementia Society of America (DSA).

The organization represents an important one-stop Dementia resource for individuals, professionals, companies, nonprofits, government, non-governmental organizations and others.

DSA just received its not-for-profit 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service, an amazing accomplishment given the fact that it has only been in existence for less than a year.

It was created through the tireless efforts of Kevin Jameson, and he now serves as the volunteer President and Chairman.

For more information and/or to contribute, please click:

<http://www.knowdementia.org/>

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2. FYI

Watch Out for This Phishing Phone Scam That Calls You with Your Own Number

Scammers are using caller ID spoofing technology to impersonate local phone numbers and even personal cell phones. To find out more, please click:

<https://www.yahoo.com/tech/scammers-are-using-caller-id-spoofing-technology-92147569954.html>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

- (1) Herb S. in NJ: VIDEO: A Pinch of Creativity at PINCH Food Design
<http://www.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/1041407/video-a-pinch-of-creativity-at-pinch-food-design>

Note: Bob Spiegel, the guy featured in the above clip, has also written a book on the topic. To find out more about it, please click:
<http://www.amazon.com/Inspired-Bites-Unexpected-Entertaining-Design/dp/1617690856/>

- (2) BJ Leiderman: BJ Goes CRAZY To Bluegrass!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nXvdLg577o>

- (3) David G. in NY: Hitting clinic by Tony Gwynn for his son's baseball team in California. One for the archives.
<http://vimeo.com/59380675#>

- (4) Alyson M. in CO: Pets interrupting yoga
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQYK5vT9TBI>

- (5) Red Sox ball girl has priceless reaction after fielding Eric Hosmer's fair ball
<http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/mlb-big-league-stew/red-sox-ball-girl-has-priceless-reaction-after-fielding-eric-hosmer-s-fair-ball-204608166.html>

(6) And for two other amazing baseball plays, please click:
Hamilton avoids the tag, reaches on a bunt hit
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=intidHFZcoY>

Confusing interference play! (I don't understand it.)
<http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/mlb-big-league-stew/interference-call-leads-to-mass-confusion-in-washington-160157291.html>

(7) O'Nutters
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYBA1GQf5WQ&feature=kp>

For the article about the woman (Amy Schumer) behind the above clip, please click:
[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/19/movies/amy-schumer-teams-with-judd-apatow-on-trainwreck.html?](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/19/movies/amy-schumer-teams-with-judd-apatow-on-trainwreck.html?rref=homepage&module=Ribbon&version=origin@ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=Home%20Page&pgtype=article)
[rref=homepage&module=Ribbon&version=origin@ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=Home%20Page&pgtype=article](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/19/movies/amy-schumer-teams-with-judd-apatow-on-trainwreck.html?rref=homepage&module=Ribbon&version=origin@ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=Home%20Page&pgtype=article)

(8) Corinne G. in PA: What to do once you've finished all the beer
[http://www.loopinsight.com/2014/06/05/what-to-do-once-youve-finished-all-the-beer?](http://www.loopinsight.com/2014/06/05/what-to-do-once-youve-finished-all-the-beer?utm_source=loopinsight.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=Feed:+loopinsight/KqJb+%28The+Loop%29&utm_content=FeedBurner)
[utm_source=loopinsight.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=Feed:+loopinsight/KqJb+%28The+Loop%29&utm_content=FeedBurner](http://www.loopinsight.com/2014/06/05/what-to-do-once-youve-finished-all-the-beer?utm_source=loopinsight.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=Feed:+loopinsight/KqJb+%28The+Loop%29&utm_content=FeedBurner)

B. Other tidbits from readers

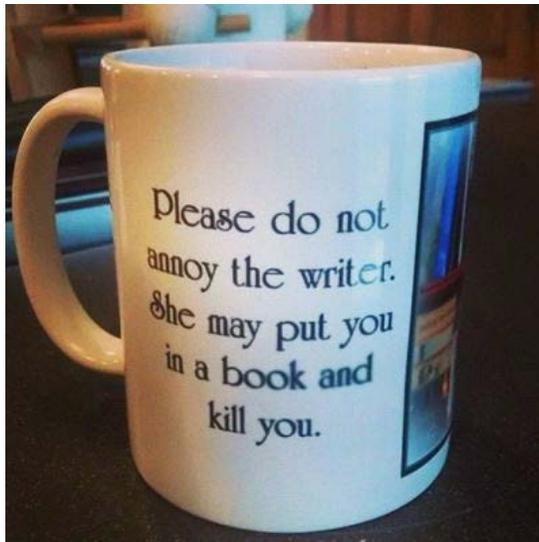
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Dx>

(1) Henry W. in NY: Went to see Land-Ho, the latest buddy-type, self-discovery road movie for the post-retirement crowd. (2) 14 Dogs With Extraordinary Fur Patterns And Markings. (3) Comcast Serves Up What May Be the Worst Customer Service Call in History. (4) How Do You Get to Carnegie Hall? Talent. (5) Joyce S. in NC: Surprise! Fact-Checkers Find That Fox News Tells The Truth Just 18 Percent Of The Time. (6) Good article by Steve DiGioia, "How The Coffee Shop Has Ruined Customer Service" (7) Ariella S. in OR: Please join the 13 people who have become Backers of St. Clair Productions Kickstarter Project. (8) Sandy B. in PA: I would KILL for that meat-a-ball! (9) Kathy B. in FL: We saw the movie Tammy this weekend. (10) 9 words never to say to your insurance company.

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3. Joke 1

Be forewarned!



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4. Reviews

A. LIFE ITSELF is a moving documentary about Roger Ebert, the film critic. This is a must-see if you're a movie fan. Those from Chicago will love it, too, in that much of the story takes place there. I was especially touched by how Ebert lived the last few years of his life, seemingly never complaining about his battle with cancer. Rated R, though certainly appropriate for any mature teenager.

B. Out on DVD is HEAVEN IS FOR REAL . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #918 follows:
HEAVEN IS FOR REAL, based on the best-selling book of the same name, is the true story of a small-town father who must deal with his son's claim that he visited Heaven during a near death experience. Greg Kinnear shines as the father and newcomer Connor Corum is quite good as his young son, but overall, the film felt somewhat flat. As is usually the case, the book was better. Rated PG, though I doubt that it wouldn't be of interest to a child unless he or she was over the age of 7.

C. I enjoyed reading SMILE AT YOUR CHALLENGES: IT TAKES MORE THAN JUST GOING GLUTEN FREE, DRINKING GREEN JUICE, AND PRACTICING YOGA TO SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform) by Danielle Pashko.

The author, a certified yoga instructor, licensed massage therapist and nutritional consultant, uses this book to show readers how to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives.

She does by so sharing stories from her life, which wasn't easy after she lost her mother to breast cancer and having an absent father. By the time she was a teenager, she was living on her own in Manhattan. In addition, she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

Yet she has managed to flourish in her life, largely because of such beliefs as the following:

My teacher Lewis Harrison's mantra was, "Always say 'yes' unless the cost is too high." . . . Look at it this way: If something is offered to you, it usually means that someone sees your potential. I like to remind myself that if I try it and don't like it or I don't seem to be succeeding, I can always politely withdraw and go do something else. Most people, however, are so scared to fail that they would rather lose an opportunity than look stupid. My response is, "How do you know unless you at least try?"

I give Pashko a lot of credit for her upbeat attitude. Reading SMILE AT YOUR CHALLENGES will help you develop a similar approach to life.

D. Heard GOOD TALK, DAD: THE BIRD AND THE BEES . . . AND OTHER CONVERSATIONS WE FORGOT TO HAVE (Hachette Audio), written and read by Bill Geist and Willie Geist.

Bill, the father, is an author and correspondent for CBS SUNDAY MORNING. Willie, the son, is also an author and co-host of both NBC's TODAY and MSNBC's MORNING JOE. Together, in an engaging back-and-forth style, they cover such mandatory father-son conversations as sex, drinking and career options that they never had--until this book.

I laughed at many of the passages, including the time Willie describes how embarrassed he was about being baptized as a 19-year-old in a church service, along with several babies who were sleeping in their mother's arms. He asks: "Couldn't they have done this in a private ceremony before the service, as they do with the technical awards at the Oscars? In a ceremony earlier today, nineteen-year-old Willie Geist was given the sacrament of baptism."

In addition, I got a kick out of listening about Willie's time at a summer camp, Camp Carson "where convicted nonviolent offenders were sent to serve out their sentences." It wasn't the camp that all his friends went to; rather, this has been chosen by his parents on the basis of a misleading brochure and home visit from the director.

I only wish my father was alive now, in that I would have loved discussing GOOD TALK, DAD with him. And to maybe finally get some answers to the burning questions we never discussed, either.

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5. TV alert

A. THE NEWBURGH STING is a documentary about four men who were in arrested in 2009 for plotting to blow up two synagogues. Monday, July 21, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

B. THE MELTDOWN WITH JONAH AND KUMALL features comedians Jonah Ray and Kumall Nanjan, hosting a stand-up show from the back of their favorite Sunset Boulevard comic book show. Season premiere on Thursday, July 24, at 12:30 on COMEDY CENTRAL.

C. RANDOM HARVEST, one of my all-time favorites movies, tells the story of a World War I vet who loses his memory. Friday, July 25, at 8 p.m. on TCM.

Note: If you'd like to get my listing of other movies I've especially enjoyed, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

D. THE LOTTERY is a new series that postulates a world in which human beings can no longer reproduce the old-fashioned way. According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, "Who knows what's ahead for this lad and everyone else in the show, but the premiere certainly leaves you curious to find out." Sundays at 10 p.m. on LIFETIME.

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6. Joke 2

A DARE: After you view the sign, click this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXewIR7Y7cc> . . . and see if you can stop humming the song the rest of the day!



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7. Websites

A. I recently read an interesting article about alternative satire that discussed both John Oliver and a website called Clickhole. To read it, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/16/arts/john-oliver-and-clickhole-take-fake-news-in-opposite-directions.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>

Oliver's show on HBO is a hoot. I watch it regularly at 11 p.m. on Sundays.

Clickhole was new to me, so I've checked it out. You can, too, by clicking:
<http://www.clickhole.com/>

Not everything here is funny, in large part because there's so many different posts. But give it a look, and you'll find yourself laughing at such things as the following:

Article: Grading LeBron James' Essay
<http://www.clickhole.com/article/grading-lebron-james-essay-485>

Quiz: Are You An Introvert, An Extrovert, Or A Sea Monster?
<http://www.clickhole.com/quiz/are-you-introvert-extrovert-or-sea-monster-501>

and my favorite:
Video: Got Three Minutes? This Video Will Confirm That
<http://www.clickhole.com/video/got-three-minutes-video-will-confirm-380>

B. Steven S. in FL: Three ways to fail a drunk test
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hP_fB3VEKAw

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

On getting at the truth on the Internet, check out "Blaine's Best" on the left and then "On What to Believe." Please use this resource guide the next time you come across a rumor or something that just doesn't seem to be believable.

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>



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8. Technology tip

Reduce Your Monthly Digital Bills
by Vanessa Perez and Rebekah Fergusson,
July 9th, 2014 in THE NEW YORK TIMES

Molly Wood audits her digital expenses, from cloud storage to streaming movies, and finds ways to trim her monthly bills.

<http://www.nytimes.com/video/business/10000002988787/reduce-your-monthly-digital-bills.html?src=me&module=Ribbon&version=origin®ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=Most%20Emailed&pgtype=article>

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9. Joke 3

Keep this in mind the next time you're having "one of those days" . . .



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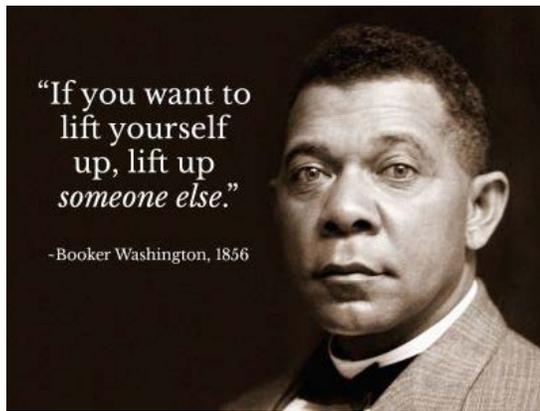
10. A quote I like

"I have noticed even people who claim everything is predestined, and that we can do nothing to change it, look before they cross the road."--Stephen Hawking (born 1942), English theoretical physicist, cosmologist, author and Director of Research at the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology within the University of Cambridge

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11. Thought for the day

Amen--and Awomen, too!



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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Dx>

A. NC events

(1) Jeff Thompson Jazz Band. (2) Pipapelli Party.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Comedian Elected to Town Council in New Jersey. (2) Vision Quest Mitote Weekend. (3) PLUMSTEAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!



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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINES WORLD

#928
7.7.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Are delighted that the thumbs up movement is growing! That's a bunch of my family (top photo) celebrating the occasion the other day when visiting my brother in Atlanta. L-R: David Greenfield, Blaine Greenfield, Cynthia Greenfield, Lavelle Olexa, Julian Greenfield, Ken Greenfield, Shannon Olexa and Bettina Yiannakourou expressing appreciation for the excellent dinner we had at BRIO Tuscan Grill; and (bottom photo) Cynthia with Shannon's dog Patches.





(2) Went with our friends Annemarie Brown and Marvin Sadovsky (top photo) to see the incomparable BJ Leiderman (bottom photo) in concert at Perelandra, a beautiful private recording/performance studio in East Asheville. To give you just a very small feel for how great BJ's performance was, please click: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rledx25gZ4&feature=you>



Afterward, we went out for a tasty dinner at Mikado Japanese Steak House.

(3) On another night, we joined friends for a delicious dinner at Rezas, L-R (top photo) in back row: Susan Kraner, Blaine Greenfield, Cynthia Greenfield, Jerry Rosa; in front row: Tammy Strange, Stuart Kraner, Ella Kraner and Conor Rosa. As can be seen (bottom photo), my meal featured about perhaps the biggest meatball we've ever seen.



(4) And, lastly, we checked out that Artisan Cafe and Coffee House located just a mile away from our home. It's under new management, and decor has been considerably improved. We also liked the food. For more information, please click:

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



B. Reminder: There's still time to enter . . .

***** CONTEST #14*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of THE CLICK MOMENT: SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES IN AN UNPREDICTABLE WORLD by Frans Johansson. It is a book that 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. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #835 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #14 in the subject 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 Monday, July 14.

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Greg and Ashley Garrison for having their ice cream shop named among the best in America by domino.com. For more information, please click:
<http://domino.com/best-ice-cream-shops-in-america>

(2) Howard Debs for having his short fiction piece just published in DIALOGUAL. To read it, please click:
<http://dialogual.wix.com/dialogual#!From-Generation-to-Generation-/c599/09D89E8E-22E9-4320-8A93-37168577AA56>

(3) Skip Goodnoe on his new job as Senior Claims Representative at Metro Public Adjustment, Inc.

Note: I've known Skip for many years. He's a real good guy, and he may be able to help you if you ever have property damage. Wanting to know more about his new position, I wrote him. What follows is his reply:

Many property owners are experiencing damage from the weather, fire, smoke, water leaks and stains or other sudden and accidental damage. Your insurance may indemnify you! When you have a property damage to your home or business, professional representation in resolving your claim is crucial. Metro Public Adjustment, Inc., on average, will produce a 500% increase in restitution over what you will negotiate with your insurance carrier on your own. We do this with integrity, thoroughness and specialized knowledge, and at no out of pocket cost to you. Call me before you call your insurance company or agent... what you say to them will adversely affect your settlement. Don't think you have a claim? I offer complimentary policy review and property inspection. I don't sell insurance so I am unbiased with my analysis of your coverage. I am licensed and bonded. Call today, 215-696-3114 or rwgoodnoe@verizon.net.

(4) Peter Dominick, a former member of the Bucks Board of Trustees and honorary member of the BCCC Foundation, on being recognized by the current board for his many years of service to the College as well as to the community. Along with a commendation, Pete was presented with a framed drawing of the Tyler Formal Gardens.

(5) The BCCC Foundation on receiving an Economic Development Award from the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce In addition, the Foundation's annual Tasting for Tyler Party was voted Best Foodie Event on the 2014 Bucks Happening list. And, lastly, the Foundation receive the "Gold Participant" designation from the GuideStar Exchange, an initiative designed to connect nonprofits deigned to connect nonprofits with current and potential supporters. Special kudos to Tobi Bruhn and the rest of his dynamic staff for making all this a reality.

(6) Neil Lavey on his marriage to Cory Adam.

(7) Marlisa Mills on her new job as director of bereavement and counseling services for Connecticut Hospice.

(8) Susan Gambrell Reinhardt on having her excellent book, CHIMES FROM A CRACKED SOUTHERN BELLE, hit No. 2 in Kindle sales. To get it for under \$4, please click:
http://www.amazon.com/Chimes-Cracked-Southern-Belle-Reinhardt-ebook/dp/B00DLIEJDW/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&sr=8-1&qid=1369626951

D. Jon Alley (a former colleague of mine at Bucks County College) had a fall on June 5th that left him a quadriplegic. His family is now raising funds for the equipment that will allow him to live at home. Please help by clicking:

https://www.giveforward.com/fundraiser/m115/jon-alley-s-spinal-cord-injury-fund?utm_source=facebook

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

This week, it goes to the Asheville Human Society.

That organization rocks! Special thanks to Jennifer Brehler, Jim Fulton, Eileen Bouressa and John Haas for showing us around on a recent tour, as well as to our friend Annemarie Brown (right) for arranging our visit.



For more information about the safety net for any lost, abandoned or relinquished companion animal in Buncombe County, please click:

<http://www.ashevillehumane.org/index.php>

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2. FYI

I recently had to get my driver's license renewed. When you do so in North Carolina, you also need to get your vision retested via a review of the signs that are used.

Fortunately, I passed--and won't have to go through this process for another eight years.

I mention this for two reasons:

1. If they ask you if you need glasses, first try the exam without your glasses. I did so and passed. (Perhaps my vision is getting better?) And though I almost always wear glasses when I drive, this now means that if I ever got stopped, I won't be in trouble for not wearing my glasses.

2. Perhaps more importantly: See if you can make an appointment before you go in. In my state at least, doing so meant that I got taken after a short wait. Others without an appointment had to wait over two hours!

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Marvin C. in NC: You have to watch this one!

http://www.tastefullyoffensive.com/2014/07/84-year-old-man-surprises-americas-got.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+TastefullyOffensive+%28Tastefully+Offensive%29

(2) Dan C. in NC: John Oliver Goes Off On An Epic, Fact-Checked, Mic-Dropping Rant

<http://www.upworthy.com/john-oliver-goes-off-on-an-epic-fact-checked-mic-dropping-rant-for-13-minutes-that-you-need-to-see?g=3&c=upw5>

(3) Chuck W. in NC: I'd hate to see her when she got really mad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngGtK5ThcD8>

(4) Ball hit so hard it goes through fielder's glove

<http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/mlb-big-league-stew/kevin-kiermair-hit-a-line-drive-so-hard-it-went-through-eric-hosmer-s-glove-072418656.html>

(5) Virginia M. in NC: This Street Performer Has A Vocal Range Like Nothing You've Ever Heard Before

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/16/street-performer-strasbourg-lucas-fuchs_n_5499551.html?ncid=fbklnkushpimg0000063

(6) Bikini-Clad Opera Singer Wows on 'AGT'

<https://tv.yahoo.com/tv-in-no-time/bikini-clad-opera-singer-wows-064643814.html>

(7) Alyson M. in CO: R. Kelly - I Believe I Can Fly

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIQn8pab8Vc>

(8) Mary Lou in NC: REMEMBER THESE ARE NUNS

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/FcLF5wopyjo>

(9) Shari S. in NC: Gospel challenge

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=867775483236082&set=vb.10000109168110&type=2&theater>

(10) Walter B. in NC: Rockell Scott singing "You Are Holy"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BblbWF1H9SY>

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1D2>

(1) Lisa Z. in PA: How Bitchy Are You? (quiz) (2) Steven S.: Vacation rental (2 or more nights) in Asheville. (3) Rod R. in NJ: Saving a Buck is Easy When You Care To. (4) 5 Questions Every Candidate Should Ask in a Job Interview. (5) Marvin Sadovsky in NC: What are you most challenging business relationships? (6) Majo M. in NC: Looking for housing in the Asheville area.

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3. Joke 1

A ventriloquist is touring clubs in Florida. With his dummy on his knees, he's going through his usual dumb blonde jokes when a blonde woman in the audience stands on her chair and shouts, "I've heard enough of your stupid blonde jokes. What does the color of a person's hair have to do with her worth as a human being? It's guys like you who keep women like me from being respected at work and from reaching our full potential!" . . . The embarrassed ventriloquist starts to apologize when the blonde yells, "You stay out of this, mister! I'm talking to that little bas*ard sitting on your knee!"



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4. Reviews

A. BEGIN AGAIN is a drama with music about a disgraced record label executive, Mark Ruffalo, who stumbles upon a raw talent, Keira Knightley, performing on an East Village stage. They enter into a collaboration that eventually proves mutually beneficial. The film starts slowly, but comes alive at the halfway mark when both start work on what becomes a CD featuring the sounds of a New York City summer. Both leads are great and so is the soundtrack. Rated R.

B. THE FACE OF LOVE is now out on DVD. The film is a romantic drama about a woman whose husband dies and then five years later, she finds another guy who looks just like him. It is far-fetched, but watchable because of the outstanding performances from both Ed Harris and Annette Bening. Rated PG-13.

C. DIARY OF A FAILURE: THE ART OF FAILING YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS (Eric McNeal) by Eric McNeal tells the year-long story of two friends trying to reach their dreams.

The author, having served 13 months in federal prison in 2012, knows firsthand what it means to overcome a major failure. He shares this information while providing over 60 laws of success, including this one:

Do not compare yourself to other people. They have their own paths to walk and experiences to face. You can only ever be the best version of yourself. So spend time working on yourself.

I got caught up in the lives of Fitch and Sam, the two main characters, and you will too. My only regret is that this book wasn't available when I was younger.

DAIRY OF A FAILURE would make a perfect gift for any teenager or young adult in search of the formula for getting ahead in the world.

D. Heard THE PYTHON'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY (Audio Renaissance), a compilation of never-before-heard interviews with the Python team conducted by Bob McCabe and narrated by McCabe with Terry Gilliam and Michael Palin and featuring Eric Idle, John Cleese, Terry Jones and clips from some of the famous Python sketches.

Parts of this 2 CD program were brilliant. I especially liked hearing about how life was before any of the individuals became famous.

I also enjoyed hearing the clips, though I wish there had been more of them. And that they were complete; rather, bits and pieces that were way too short were included.

What I didn't like was the sound quality of the program. It was terrible. Several of the conversations were muddled, and in others, you could even hear phones ring and other background distractions.

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5. TV alert

A. NATHAN FOR YOU has quickly become one of my favorite TV shows. It features Nathan Fielder, a Canadian comedian, offering out-of-left field marketing schemes to small business owners. For example, when he affixed the word "Dumb" to the word Starbucks to circumvent trademark laws, lines formed around the block, followed by TV news crews-until the health department closed it within a few days. Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m. on COMEDY CENTRAL.

For more information on the above, please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MJWz3w5ZQc>

Note: I've seen one episode of the show (about how Fielder helped a souvenir shop get more business) and got a big kick out of it. To see highlights from that, please click:

<http://www.cc.com/episodes/33z28s/nathan-for-you-souvenir-shop-e-l-a-i-f--season-2-ep-202>

B. MARRIED is a romantic comedy about a couple still very much in love, but after 15 years and 3 kids, they're just a little . . . tired. "MARRIED," notes THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "turns out in succeeding episodes to be an increasingly sturdy comedy-drama of married life--dour, but recognizable with strong performances from Ms. [Judy] Greer and Mr. [Nat] Faxon." I've long admired Greer as a performer so I'll check this show out. Thursdays at 10 p.m. on FX.

C. SATISFACTION, a provocative new drama, explores modern marriage at its midpoint. The critic in HUFF POST ENTERTAINMENT commented, "I felt invested in the couple and was eager to know what would happen next for the pair." Thursdays at 10 p.m. on USA NETWORK.

D. THE STRAIN imagines New York City beset by a rampaging vampire virus after an ancient evil is smuggled aboard a doomed airline. According to TV GUIDE, "THE STRAIN elevates its cliches with a pulp urgency that, like the monster's wormy offspring, gets under your skin." Sundays on FX at 10 p.m.

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6. Joke 2

A guy was driving on the highway when a trooper motions to pull over. The trooper says, "License and registration, please. I clocked you going 75 mph." Man: "There must be some mistake I was only going 65." Wife: "Oh Harold, you were going at least 80!" . . . Trooper: "I'm also citing you for not wearing your seat belt." Man: "But I just took it off as you were approaching my car." Wife: "Oh Harold, you know you never wear your seat belt." . . . Man: "Listen you dumb sh*t, shut your mouth." Trooper: "Ma'am, does he always talk to you this way?" Wife: "Only when he's drunk!"



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7. Websites

A. Jerita W. in NC: This Amazing Time Lapse Of Asheville Will Make You Want To Move There
<http://www.movoto.com/blog/opinions/asheville-time-lapse/>

B. A wedding that will move you: Rowden and Leizl

Rowden and Leizl decided to get married on July 8, 2014, Rowden's 30th birthday. Together with their adorable 2-year-old daughter, they already had a perfect family. Then a twist of fate: Rowden was diagnosed with stage IV liver cancer in late May. His last request was to marry his one true love. After 12 hours of preparations, his dream was fulfilled. Unable to take him outside the hospital, we brought the church to him. It was like a heartbreaking fairytale. Rowden Go, at the age of 29-years-old, passed away on June 11, 2014. Less than 10 hours after he said his vows. He is survived by his wife Leizel May, daughter Zakiah Rowzel, mother Lorelei, and brothers Hasset and Hisham.

<https://screen.yahoo.com/inspiration/wedding-move-rowden-leizel-171220787.html?vp=1>

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

If you'd like to see previous pictures of yours truly and/or members of my family, friends, etc., click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Pictures." 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:

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



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8. Technology tip

Important alert about email from me

Yes, I did get hacked. (Thanks to Pat H. in PA, Maria P. in PA, Linda K. in PA, Steven S. in FL and others who brought this to my attention.)

I appreciate that you did.

As a result, I naturally changed my password. I'm now even using one that experts recommend; i.e., with numbers, upper and lower case letters, and a punctuation mark.

For future reference, here's how to tell that something is from me:

1. It will usually have "Best, Blaine" in the subject line.
2. The subject line will be more compelling than just "From: Blaine Greenfield."
3. I will never begin with "Salutations" and your name.

Note: If you're suspicious of any future email from me, please just ask me before opening it. This also applies to email you get from others.

In addition, Google the website in question. In all the ones that I saw, when I did this, here's the message that I received: "Your search did not match any documents." That's a telltale sign that something is amiss.

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9. Joke 3

My doctor said that eating whole foods would improve my health, so I am going to start with eating this whole doughnut.



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10. A quote I like

"I will never be an old man. To me, old age is always 15 years older than I am."--Francis Bacon (1561-1626), English philosopher, statesman, scientist, jurist, orator, essayist and author

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11. Thought for the day

In the final minutes of his life, Calvin has one last talk with Hobbes. This is longish, but worth reading--especially if you have a tissue handy.

"Calvin? Calvin, sweetheart?"

In the darkness Calvin heard the sound of Susie, his wife of fifty-three years. Calvin struggled to open his eyes. God, he was so tired, and it took so much strength. Slowly, light replaced the darkness, and soon vision followed. At the foot of his bed stood his wife. Calvin wet his dry lips and spoke hoarsely, "Did . . . did you . . . find him?"

For the rest of this touching story, please see Section 11 when you click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1D2>



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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1D2>

A. NC events

(1) Richard Shulman performances. (2) Barbara Brady talk. (3) PROMISES at SART. (4) Cheryl Sullivan's Inception Point Therapy Workshop. (5) Sign up now for the fall Citizens Police Academy. (6) POETRY IN MOTION at ACT. (7) Pipapelli at Mack Kell's Bar and Grill. (8) Intuitive Awakening. (9) LIEBE LOVE AMOURT! opens at NC Stage. (10) BOEING BOEING at FRP Downtown. (11) MISS SAIGON at FRP Mainstage. (1) ART at Hendersonville Little Theatre.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Medicine Wheel Drum Circle. (2) LI'L ABNER at Kelsey Theatre.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!



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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINES WORLD

#927
6.30.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Have seen many fine shows at Asheville Community Theatre, but SPAMALOT may well have been the best we've ever seen. We went with 15 other neighbors and friends, and we all had a blast.

Kudos to Jeff Catanese and Daniel Hensley for, respectively, their excellent direction and musical direction. Bradshaw Call (pictured on the left) and Rock Eblen (right) were both fantastic in their roles.



Pat LaCorte and Strother Stingley had us laughing every time they appeared on stage, and we also enjoyed the work of Corey Link, Skyler Goff, Adam Bowers, Nana Hosmer, Isaac Fulk and Candice Owen, among others.

(2) From there, we all went to Scully's for a great dinner--and fine service from Janae. Pictured (l-r): Carole Biro, Brian Biro, Sunny Ruble, BJ Leiderman, Cynthia Greenfield, Muffy Boswell, Beth Byas, David Blumlo, Blaine Greenfield, Marcy Gallagher, Tom Gallagher, Marvin Sadovsky and Annemarie Brown. Also there, but obstructed in picture: Terry Boswell, Jim Gallagher, Barbara Gallagher and Judy Blumlo.



(3) On another night, we had an enjoyable dinner with our New Mexico friend Michael Gelb and his wife Deborah Domanski at the home of our friends Annemarie Brown and Marvin Sadovsky. Pictured (l-r): Marvin Sadovsky, Annemarie Brown, Cynthia Greenfield, Deborah Domanski, Michael Gelb, Michelle Baker and Dan Caton.



(4) And we saw an excellent production of MY FAIR LADY at Flat Rock Playhouse. Stacie Bono and Brian Robinson were memorable as, respectively, Eliza Doolittle and Henry Higgins. Gary Troy gave a rousing performance as Alfred P. Doolittle, and we loved Scott Pattison's beard. Special kudos to Lisa Bryant for her direction, Michael Sebastian for his music direction and Janine Marie McCabe for costume design.

The good news is that the production runs through July 13. For tickets, please click: http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?organ_val=27967&event_val=FAIR



B. Life on the street where we live in Biltmore Lake: Marilynne Herbert, our talented neighbor, took this photo that blew us away. To quote her:

I've never had the good fortune of being present when the blue birds actually hatched, that is, until this afternoon. When I took a peek inside their house around 6:00 I expected to see the four eggs still resting in the nest--instead, I found two had just hatched and two remained.

It's been such a long time coming I wasn't even sure they were viable at this point. Needless to say, I was thrilled to discover these amazing little birds emerging.



C. Congratulations to:

(1) Jennifer Worthen on her new job as a Music Therapist/Counselor with Four Seasons Hospice.

(2) William Rech on his marriage to Linda Little.

(3) Evan Guilford-Blake on the publication of two stories. To read them, please click:

<http://freezeframefiction.com/q1-flash-fiction/balloon-by-evan-guilford-blake/>

and:

<http://www.wisdomcriethwithout.com/fathers-robe-evan-guilford-blake-2/>

(4) Kris Paxton on taking over Artisan Café and Coffee House. Check it out for both great food and a really nice job of renovating the inside. For more information, please click:

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

Note: If you haven't been there yet, email me for a \$5 coupon off your purchase. Send email to: bginbc@aol.com and put COUPON in subject line.

(5) Jim Roney and Grace DeVenuto for their great rendition of the National Anthem before the Quakertown Blazers Baseball Game. To view it, please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nC1E1tzdPqg>

(6) Asheville for making usatoday.com's listing of cities to visit:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/experience/south/north-carolina/2014/06/30/asheville-overview/11790227/>

(7) And to Joe D. in NC, winner of Contest #13: a copy of TRAJECTORY: 7 CAREER STRATEGIES TO TAKE YOU FROM WHERE YOU ARE TO WHERE YOU WANT TO BE by David L. Van Rooy. All told, there were 6 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #14*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of THE CLICK MOMENT: SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES IN AN UNPREDICTABLE WORLD by Frans Johansson. It is a book that 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. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #835 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #14 in the subject 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 Monday, July 14.

D. Condolences to:

(1) Susan Marco and family on the passing of Leon Marco, Susan's father.

(2) The family of Carolyn Tennefoss, my Biltmore Lake neighbor, on Carolyn's passing.

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

This week, it goes to FATZ Cafe--one of our favorite places to eat in the Asheville area.

We always enjoy our meals there, as well as the friendly atmosphere and reasonable prices.

That's us recently, along with (l-r) Donna Robinson, our very fine server, that evening, and our friend Chuck Hollinshead.



We also have enjoyed excellent service from Chris, as well as many others there, and all have always found Carlos Fair and all the managers there most attentive.

The FATZ in Asheville is located on 5 Spartan Ave., right off Smokey Park Highway. To find a location near you, please click: <http://www.fatz.com/locations/>

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2. FYI

THIS IS THE ONE SCANDAL THAT WILL BRING DOWN PRESIDENT OBAMA . . . Mark the date: June 23, 2014. That's the day that the lawless Barack Obama took his tyranny one step too far. . . . President Obama, you can use the IRS to trample your political enemies. You can divert the entire defense budget to your cronies in Big Solar. You can sell Vin Diesel to Mexican drug cartels. You can cover up your secret role in orchestrating the Benghazi attacks. . . . But no one reaches over the sneeze guard at Chipotle, Mr. President. No one. . . . for more information, please click: <http://tinyurl.com/nx2zozt>



FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Scott T. in NC: When this man with disability starts nervously singing, the crowd's response will bring tears.

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

(2) Joey Chestnut proposing before latest Hot Dog Eating contest

http://www.aol.com/article/2014/07/04/joey-chesnut-proposes-wins-nathans-hot-dog-eating-contest/20925379/?icid=maingrid7%7Chtmlws-main-bb%7Cdl6%7Csec1_Ink3%26pLid%3D497400

(3) Kristi M. in NC: Adorable boy comforts girl on first day of school in Taiwan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PclvpXg8CBc#t=15>

(4) Rotating buffet (one of my all-time favorite Candid Camera episodes)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-8Dtw_VGI

(5) Recording police officer about to give a ticket (points out the value of making such a recording)

<https://gma.yahoo.com/truck-driver-lays-down-law-police-trooper-142242594--abc-news-topstories.html>

(6) Dianne C. in NC: If You Were Born Before 2000, You Need To Watch This.

http://blog.petflow.com/if-you-were-born-before-2000-you-need-to-watch-this-my-favorite-video-ever/?utm_source=Blog&utm_medium=Shared&utm_campaign=Facebook#RMibxSQyB8srBF7.01

(7) Marilynne H. in NC: Watch: A Brilliant Response to the Supreme Court's Hobby Lobby 'Gender Bigotry'

<http://www.occupydemocrats.com/watch-a-brilliant-response-to-the-supreme-courts-hobby-lobby-gender-bigotry/>

(8) Corinne G. in PA: Middle East Memorial Wall

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/WEPBQGu74oo>

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1CH>

(1) Mel G. in CO: I enjoyed the camp article on not talking about body image. (2) Marcie F. in PA: I'm sorry I never had the pleasure of meeting the late Walt [cited in BLAINESWORLD #926, Section 11]. (3) Natalie K. in PA: Saw it [JERSEY BOYS] last night and can't wait to see it again. (4) Howard D. in FL: Just checked out Blainesworld #926. (5) Fal in NJ: Oh, that's supposed to be a thumbs up? (6) Emily Shaules: Shift Bars are the world's first raw vegan sugar-free energy bar. (7) 7 Things Well-Liked People Always Do. (8) Bob P. in NC: My American family. (9) Arlene D. in PA: Blaine, I really enjoy your newsletter.

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3. Joke 1

"I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life . . . please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes."



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4. Reviews

A. OBVIOUS CHILD is an offbeat romantic comedy featuring a fantastic performance from Jenny Slate. She plays an aspiring comedian who must deal with getting dumped, losing her job and then finding herself pregnant. This film grew on me as I watched it. The ending is perfect. Rated R.

B. BAD WORDS is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #914 follows:

If you liked the show PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE, then go out and catch BAD WORDS while it is now out in your local movie theatre. (Even if you didn't see the show, you'll like this film.) . . . it's a dark comedy about a 40-year-old who finds a loophole in the rules of a national spelling bee and decides to not only enter it, but to win it . . . Jason Bateman, who also directed the film, is very funny as the adult speller, and Rohan Chand . . . matches him scene-by-scene as the 10-year old who befriends him . . . rated R.

C. DON'T TELL THE MILKMAN IF YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO TELL THE WORLD: HOW TO RECOGNIZE RELATIONAL AGGRESSION (Johanna Sparrow) by Johanna Sparrow will take you back to the days when the milkman came to your door with fresh bottles of cold milk and also a wealth of secrets, rumors and lies he picked up during his daily rounds.

What makes the book such a good one is that the author tells you how to deal with the above.

I especially liked the Sparrow's five keys on how to deal with the milkman in your life:

1. Know that you can't fix the Milkman, but you can fix yourself.
2. Recognize what you can control and then focus on that.
3. Pay attention to your mood or someone you love who is around you who may be dealing with a Milkman.
4. If you are not already doing so, be empathetic to the situation.
5. Listen.

If you want to learn positive tactics to help you--or somebody you know-- overcome both bullying and abuse, DON'T TELL THE MILKMAN is a good place to start.

D. Heard THE CLOSER: MY STORY (Hachette Audio), written by Mariano Rivera with Wayne Coffey and read by Michael Kay.

This is the autobiography of the baseball great who hold the all-time record for saves.

His early career is particularly amazing. When discovered by the Yankees, he didn't even own his own glove. And he had never heard of Babe Ruth.

I also liked the story of how he discovered his cut fastball, as well as the pitch-by-pitch account of many of his most famous games.

I loved it! You will, too, if you're a baseball fan--regardless of your favorite team.

In addition, you'll enjoy the narration of the Kay, the longtime play-by-play announcer of the Yankees.

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5. TV alert

A. THE '90S: THE LAST GREAT DECADE? is a three-night docuseries hosted by Rob Lowe. Sunday, July 6, at 9 p.m. on NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC and runs through Tuesday at the same time.

B. VICIOUS stars Ian McKellen as actor Freddie and Derek Jacobi as his longtime lover/verbal punching bag Stuart According to ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY, "this sitcom is simply infectious. Both thespians exhibit delightful enthusiasm." Premieres Sunday, July 6, at 10:30 p.m. on PBS.

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

C. DANGEROUS ACTS STARRING THE UNSTABLE ELEMENTS OF BELARUS, a documentary, highlights a theater troupe daring to challenge art censorship in Europe's last dictatorship. Monday, July 7, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

D. Halle Berry starts in EXTANT, a drama about a female astronaut who gets pregnant in space. Premieres on Wednesday, July 9, at 9 p.m. on CBS.

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6. Joke 2

A man went to the doctor, accompanied by his wife. After the exam, the doctor called the wife aside and said, "Your husband has a very serious disease. You must follow a certain regimen or else he'll die. Each morning, fix him a big, nutritious breakfast. Don't overwork him. Don't burden him with your problems. Most importantly, make love to him daily and twice a day on the weekends. If you do all this, your husband should regain his good health." . . . Afterward, the husband asked the wife, "What did the doctor say to you?" . . . She replied: "The doctor says you're gonna die."



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7. Websites

A. Nelson S. in NC: Thought you might enjoy seeing your first car ad. This is really cool.

Find your first car or the one you drove to high school or college; hopefully, your car brochure is available. This has to be one of the neatest web sites whether you have gasoline in your veins or not.

This is a website featuring the original factory brochures for nearly every American car you have ever owned.

Pick the manufacturer, the year and the model by clicking:

<http://www.lov2xlr8.no/broch1.html>

B. Chanah M. in MO: Older Ladies by Donnalou Stevens

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4QzHeUE-CM>

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

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

Ever wonder how many others view this website? If you're in that category, 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:

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



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8. Technology tip

Rod R. in NJ: If you want great tips on a bunch of timely topics and ways to do a thing (a personal "How to"), try the Dummies.com regular email newsletter. I find this find very helpful, especially with regard to Microsoft products.

Note: I then checked and saw such technology newsletters as the following: Computers, Mobile Devices & Gadgets; Digital Photography; Mac; Microsoft Windows & Office; and Online & Social Networking.

In addition there are newsletters on such other topics as Small Business; Food Home & Garden; Health & Wellness; Personal Finance & Careers; Dummies UK; and Dummies Canada.

To register for any and/or all of the above, please click
<http://etips.dummies.com/optin.asp?sid=NEQMPFN3Q4HCEMCXKK7A&id=73>

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9. Joke 3

MY FAAVORITE ADVERTISING TWEET (about Luis Suarez bite Of Giorgio Chiellini in the World Cup) that went with the picture below: "Players look damn good in those PUMA shirts. Hard to resist taking a bite. #StartBelieving." . . . I also liked this one from McDonalds: "Hello @luis16suarez, if you are hungry come have a bite of a big Mac." . . . and Netflix scored with "Don't worry#Suarez, four months is plenty of time to devour House of Cards. One bite at a time." . . . for others, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/ljq9bz>



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10. A quote I like

"Today, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth. . . . I may have been given a bad break, but I've got an awful lot to live for."--Lou Gehrig (1903-1941). one of baseball's greatest players, at his farewell speech from the game on July 4, 1939



Note: Major League Baseball, in its 75th anniversary tribute to Gehrig showing at ballparks this week, preserved the entire speech and filmed various first basemen reciting his words. The last, best lines--words that Gary Cooper never spoke in the movie version of Gehrig's life, THE PRIDE OF THE YANKEES--were saved for a shortstop: Derek Jeter. To view this moving clip, accompanied by a most informative article, please click:

http://espn.go.com/mlb/story/_/id/11159148/mlb-lou-gehrig-farewell-speech-75-years-later

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11. Thought for the day

SO very special Olympian smiles . . .
by Rod Richards

What does it cost you to smile at a stranger? We smile automatically when seeing someone we know, even if just an acquaintance, or another customer like the hurried white-haired lady, or George the retired mailman I see almost every morning at Broad Street Diner? You know what that costs, nothing. A slight upswing of the corners of your mouth and an inner smile as well. It costs nothing, and look at all the faces and hearts your smile opens!

For the rest of this thought-provoking blog, please click:

http://ablessedlifeinamerica.blogspot.com/2014/06/so-very-special-olympian-smiles.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ABlessedLifeInAmerica+%28A+Blessed+Life+in+America%29

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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1CH>

A. NC events

(1) Costume Drama: A Fashion Show. (2) BJ Leiderman "Totally Unhinged!" (3) The Montford Park Players. (4) Upcoming seminar series presented by Brian Biro. (5) THE STARDUST SUMMER CLUB. (6) An evening of storytelling, featuring David Novak.

B. PA/NJ event

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS.

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PS. TODAY'S HISTORY LESSON: See below. Also, make it a fantastic Fourth of July. And let's all take a break from complaining about America to celebrating America!



Make it a wonderful week, too!



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

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BLAINES WORLD

BLAINES WORLD

#926
6.23.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Give a big thumbs up to the newest addition to our home--an even bigger thumbs up that I got as a great birthday gift from my brother Ken.



(2) Were blown away by SHUNNED, a world premier of a play by Larry Parr, at SART. The dialogue was brilliant, and so were all the performances from the talented cast--including Chris Allison (left) and Chelsea St. John (right). We also liked the work of both Shelby Folks and Allen Law, among others. Jessica Phelps West's direction was spot on.



Unfortunately, by the time you read this, SHUNNED will have ended its run. But do plan to catch the next SART play, STARDUST SUPPER CLUB. It is the funny and deeply felt story of two of great American songwriter Hoagy Carmichael's closest friends, now a longtime married couple who run a small nightclub.

To see the trailer, please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4iK9ZIZ2mSw&feature=youtu.be>

For tickets, please click:

https://secure.sellingticket.com/design22/clients/list/index_byUserListAll.aspx?OrganizationID=141

And for a review, please click:

<http://www.citizen-times.com/story/entertainment/2014/06/26/theater-review-stardust-supper-club-winner-sart/11403431/>

(3) Saw another fantastic show, A RAISIN IN THE SUN, at Hendersonville Little Theatre. This moving production starred Brandon A. Gash (below), Kimbela McMinn, Nickie A. Sampson and Africa Thompson, and was directed with aplomb by Kai Elijah Hamilton. You're in luck, too, in that if the show runs through Sunday, June 29. For tickets, please click:

<https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?actions=4&p=1>



(4) Got to join our friend Tammy Strange (bottom right) for a tasty dinner at Champa. She was in town, visiting from Charlotte, and brought her friend Gayla Jackson (bottom left) to join us.



B. I attended:

(1) SCORE's annual Appreciation Luncheon. Joining me were Bill Mance (left) and Randy Malchow (right).



(2) The Asheville Jewish Business Forum luncheon where I heard an informative presentation from Richard Shulman (left) on "Followup--Not Just for Marketing." Also pictured: Jensen Gelfond (right).



(3) An Executive Meet and Greet, sponsored by the Asheville Center for Professional Studies, featuring the dynamic Brian Biro (below). Kudos to Katherine Morosani for her excellent job in arranging the session.

Note: Brian will be doing a series of programs for the Center. For more information, please click:

<http://www.ashevilleprofessionalstudies.com/class-schedule/events/brian-biro-immersion-breakthrough-leadership-one-day-seminar>



C. Congratulations to:

(1) Justin Belleme on being named by the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce as Entrepreneur of the Year. To find out more, please also read this touching blog written by Sarah Benoit:

<http://www.jbmediagroupllc.com/justin-belleme-asheville-entrepreneur-of-the-year/>

(2) Susan Reinhardt on reaching No. 4 on Amazon's humor section for her very funny, book, CHIMES FROM A CRACKED SOUTHERN BELL.

(3) Rhoda Weaver on the birth of Zaidyn Moses Weaver, her grandson.

(4) Howard Debs on having two more poems published in VERSE-VIRTUAL. To read them, please click:

<http://www.verse-virtual.com/howard-richard-debs.html>

(5) Rachel Rizzuti on being cast in the "Legends of Country Music Show" with Onstage Productions, running September 19-28, 2014.

(6) Eileen Zolotorofe on being chosen to the Northampton GOP Executive Committee.

(7) Asheville on being named among the Most "Exciting" Places in North Carolina. To read more, please click:

<http://www.880therevolution.com/articles/local-news-122546/asheville-among-most-exciting-places-12496621>

(8) And Asheville, again, this time for being listed in Coolest Small Cities It's Time To Road Trip To (Asheville is Number One). To read more, please click:

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/fuze/coolest-small-cities-its-time-to-roadtrip-to>

D. Reminder . . .

***** CONTEST #13*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of TRAJECTORY: 7 CAREER STRATEGIES TO TAKE YOU FROM WHERE YOU ARE TO WHERE YOU WANT TO BE. It is a book designed to help you build a foundation of achievement. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #923 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #13 in the subject 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 Monday, June 30.

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

This week, it goes to David Jones--a server at Vinnie's (our favorite Italian restaurant).

As you can see by the picture below, David has this great smile that makes you feel welcome the minute you are seated. His enthusiasm is infectious.

We ask for him every time we go to the restaurant, though that said, all the other servers are also quite good. And another thing we like about Vinnie's: When you enter the place, everybody greets you, and the same thing happens when you leave. It's a nice touch.

As for the food, we have never had a bad meal there. Cynthia loves the salmon, as well as both the Caesar salad and garlic vegetables. My favorite is the chicken parmigiana with spaghetti dish.

For more information about this eatery, please click:

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



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2. FYI

I've become a big fan of the International Dining Club. It costs me \$40 for membership, and in return, I get 2-for 1 coupons that are good for 12 times during the year at such Asheville area places as Scully's, the Jerusalem Garden Cafe, Cafe 64 and a whole bunch of other restaurants, as well as discount coupons for use at Flat Rock Playhouse, Asheville Community Theatre, the Asheville Symphony, etc.

For a listing of all establishments that are included, please click:

<http://www.idc241dining.com/Cities/Ashville.htm>

For a listing of other IDC cities in North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, please click:

<http://www.idc241dining.com/Cities/Cities.htm>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Richard Shulman in NC: Earth & Sky Trio - "I Claim My Day"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=st2GwihQZ8>

(2) Bruce Lang: Big Creek Music with Bruce Lang and 3 others at Biltmore Estate

https://www.facebook.com/bruce.lang.39/posts/10202220536538399?comment_id=1020222386664651-ift=like

(3) Michael T. in NC: It's better to look good than feel good

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0RTD7250II>

(4) Corinne G. in PA: Great commercial I haven't seen on TV yet

<http://vimeo.com/m/5865798>

(5) The best way to tie your running shoes

<http://www.thepostgame.com/blog/training-day/201406/best-way-tie-your-running-shoes>

(6) Note: View this clip first before you view the next one
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=litXW91UauE>

Then see this great parody if you're not easily offended . . .

Micah S. in WA: Forensic artist draws men's testicles as they see themselves
<http://pixelbark.com/8866/forensic-artist-draws-mens-testicles-as-they-see-themselves-and-then-again-as-others-see-them>

(7) Gayle C. in PA: This Street Experiment Demonstrates The Power Of Positive Thinking
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqslZiZTxHs#t=18>

Note: To read accompany article to the above, please click:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/09/lucky-street-experiment-national-geographic_n_5474008.html

B. Other tidbits from readers

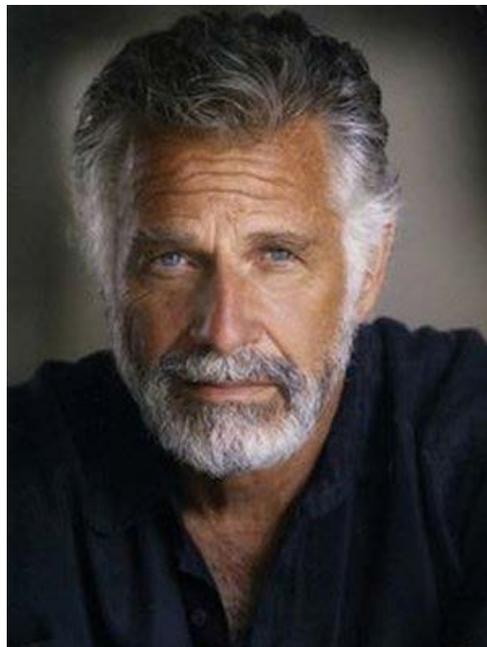
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Ch>

(1) Micah Solomon: Are These The 13 Worst Customer Service Mistakes Ever? (2) Steven S. in FL: Bronx Man Cashes in 401k to Save Shelter Dogs. (3) Natalie K. in PA: Thanks for telling me about this [THE NORMAL HEART on HBO]. (4) Jim P. in NY: HOME FOR SALE: North Woodmere. (5) 15 Ways to Stay Married for 15 Years. (6) A Test for the Early Detection of Alzheimer's Disease. (7) Henry W. in NY: Recently saw "Chef," one of the year's most uplifting and feel-good movies, (8) Howard D. in FL: Pete Seeger: A Personal Reflection on the Life Lesson He Left Behind. (9) At These Hospitals, Recovery Is Rare, but Comfort Is Not.

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3. Joke 1

While waiting for an appointment with my new dentist, I noticed the name on his license. Suddenly, I remembered that a tall boy with the same name had graduated with me 40 years ago. Upon seeing him, though, I quickly discarded any such thought. . . . This gray-haired man with the lined face was way too old to have been my classmate. After he examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended the local high school. "Yes," he replied! . . . "When did you graduate?" I asked. . . . He answered, "In 1974. Why?" . . . "You were in my class!" I exclaimed. . . . He looked at me closely and the son of a bi*ch then asked, "What did you teach?"



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4. Reviews

A. *FAULT IN OUR STARS*, based on the bestselling novel by John Green, explores the story of two teenagers who meet and fall in love at a cancer support group. It reminded me of *LOVE STORY*, but didn't touch me as much as that film did. Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort are fine in the leading roles, but overall, I wouldn't rush out to see this one; i.e., unless you're a teenager. Methinks it would have more appeal to that age group. Rated PG-13.

B. *THE LUNCHBOX* is now out on DVD . . . my review from *BLAINESWORLD #917* follows: *THE LUNCHBOX* is a sweet drama about a woman who includes a lunchbox note to her husband. By mistake, it gets delivered to somebody else--and thus begins a series of notes that soon evolves into an unexpected friendship. The film was a bit on the talky side, but if you stick with it, you'll be glad you did. I liked the ending, though some others did not. If you see it, I'll be curious as to your reaction. Rated G, but not at all a good choice for young children. I don't recommend it for anybody under the age of 15.

C. I read a brief article about Richard B. McKenzie and was so intrigued by it that I had to order his book with the following great title: *WHY POPOCORN COSTS SO MUCH AT THE MOVIES AND OTHER PRIZING PUZZLES*(Copernicus Books). It did not disappoint.

According to the author, a professor emeritus at the UC Irvine Merage School of Business: What makes Regal popcorn pricing strategy really interesting is that while the tub filled with popcorn is actually heavier than the filled medium bag (because the tub itself is more than twice the weight of the bag), the tub of popcorn contains 12% fewer ounces of popcorn (7 ounces for the "large" tub versus 8 ounces for the "medium" bag, again according to my rough estimates). However, the fewer ounces do not mean that the tub is a worse deal for all moviegoers--because the tubs are refillable while the medium bags are not.

He goes on to say:

I can attest that the tub looks as though it holds more popcorn even when the tub is positioned side by side with the medium bag. However, from my samples of containers, the tub is clearly a worse deal for those moviegoers who buy a tub and believe (wrongly) that they are spending an additional dollar to get more popcorn. The tub is also a bad deal for those moviegoers who do not know that the tub is refillable.

McKenzie also answers such other burning questions as the following: Why do so many prices end with "9"? Why do ink cartridges cost as much as printers? Why are long lines good for shoppers? And why are long lines good for shoppers?

WHY POPOCORN is written in an engaging style that will make you want to learn more about the various topics, as well as about economics.

I was especially impressed with the Notes after each chapter. Many of them were actually quite readable.

D. Heard *LAST WORDS* (Audioworks), written by George Carlin and Tony Hendra and read by Patrick Carlin.

This posthumously released biography of George Carlin provides insight into what made the comic genius tick. It was hard to listen to it at times without wincing; e.g., when he discussed his alcoholic bully of a father. In addition, it was brutally honest with respect to Carlin's own substance abuse.

I also enjoyed reading about how Lenny Bruce influenced his career.

You won't get any of Carlin's complete routines, though there are enough snippets of them that will lead you to YouTube to see more--such as his "Seven Dirty Words" routine. Brother Patrick's narration was perfect, and you'll be amazed at how much he sounded like George.

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5. TV alert

A. Tony Goldwyn of *SCANDAL* fame stars in *OUTLAW PROPHET: WARREN JEFFS*, a biopic as the head of a fundamentalist Mormon church whose crimes against his own flock landed him in the headlines--and on the FBI's Most Wanted List. Sunday, June 29, at 8 p.m. on LIFETIME.

B. *112 WEDDINGS* features flashbacks to nuptials, videotaped by documentarian Doug Block over two decades. Monday, June 30, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

C. United States vs. Belgium in *WORLD CUP SOCCER*. Tuesday, July 1, at 4 p.m. on ESPN.

D. THE CARBONARO EFECT is TV's newest hidden-camera show, hosted by Michael Carbonaro. According to the host, one of his favorite segments from the season has him convincing shoppers at a tech store that his ordinary-looking laces could tie themselves. Thursday, July 3, at 10 p.m. on TRUTV.

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6. Joke 2

After she woke up, a woman told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for my birthday. What do you think it means?" . . . "You'll know tonight, " he said. . . . That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it--to find a book entitled THE MEANING OF DREAMS.



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7. Websites

A. Shirley and the builder: When a former champion bodybuilder from Ghana opened a small gym in an affordable housing development in lower Manhattan, 90-year-old Shirley Friedman became a dedicated client.

Click to see video clip, as well as accompanying article:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/21/sports/a-chiseled-bodybuilder-now-shaping-frail-clients.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>

B. Carole B. in NC: Rescuing Riley, puppy rescued from a 350' deep slot canyon
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KE6xmuqum0>

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

Past issues of BLAINESWORLD, the newsletter, can always be found by clicking "Newsletter" to the left and then "Past Issues."

Sometimes, it's fun to just poke around in an old issue--say BLAINESWORLD #485--and revisit a joke and/or quote . . . such as this one:

The secret of success is to do common things uncommonly well.--John D. Rockefeller, Sr. (1839-1937), American capitalist most known for his early role in the early petroleum industry and founding of Standard Oil and for his later work as a philanthropist

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>



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8. Technology tip

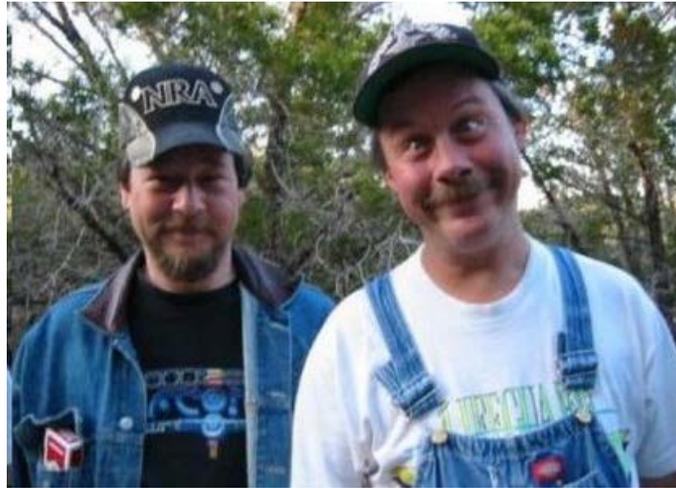
DuckDuckGo is an Internet search engine that emphasizes protecting searchers' privacy and avoiding the "filter bubble" of personalized search results. Check it out yourself by clicking:

<https://duckduckgo.com/>

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9. Joke 3

A woman goes into a restaurant in a small town and orders the chicken. Eating too fast, she starts to choke on a bone. . . . These two country boys hear the noise from outside and rush in to help her. The first guy drops his coveralls and bends over, and the other guy starts licking his butt. . . . The woman watches and is grossed out. She pukes, dislodging the chicken bone from her throat. . . . The first guy pulls his overalls back up and says to the other, "You're right, Billy-Bob, that hind lick maneuver works like a charm."



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10. A quote I like

Imagine the following statements being used, not only by children--but by adults, too:

On Friday afternoon, when the campers, girls and boys from 8 to 17, are dressed in white and especially polished for the Sabbath, they refrain from complimenting one another's appearances. Rather, they say, "Your soul shines" or "I feel so happy to be around you" or "Your smile lights up the world," Ms. Stadlin said.

Signs posted on the mirrors in the bathroom read, "Don't check your appearance, check your soul."

Source: 'No Body Talk' Summer Camps,' a very interesting article that well could be used as a model for summer camps, schools and life

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/19/fashion/no-body-talk-summer-camps.html>

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11. Thought for the day

I recently read an obituary that was actually hilarious, in large part because the guy (Walter Bruhl, Jr.) wrote it himself. It was published after he died in March, 2014.



In particular, I liked how he wanted to be remembered:
Everyone who remembers him is asked to celebrate Walt's life in their own way, raising a glass of their favorite drink in his memory would be quite appropriate.

Instead of flowers, Walt would hope that you will do an unexpected and unsolicited act of kindness for some poor unfortunate soul in his name.

To read the entire obituary, please click:
<http://wqad.com/2014/03/14/man-writes-his-own-hilarious-obituary/>

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12. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following events in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Ch>

A. NC events

(1) Cheryl Sullivan's Inception Point Therapy Workshop. (2) BJ Leiderman in concert.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Free Concert - You are Invited! (2) Programs at Princeton Center for Yoga & Health.
(3) Book Group lineup for Fall 2014.

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PS. If you're like me and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and family that way),
RAMADAN MABAREK! . . . that's a wish to Muslims that indicates excitement for this time
and the blessings that it brings.

Note: Ramadan is a month-long religious obligation. It begins on the evening of Saturday,
June 28, and ends on the evening of Monday, July 28.

Muslims fast and forgo any liquids from dawn until dusk over the course of the month. This
poses a special test for Muslim players at the World Cup soccer matches. For more
information, please click to read this interesting article:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/27/sports/worldcup/ramadan-poses-test-to-muslim-players-at-world-cup.html>

And to everybody: Make it a wonderful week, too!



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BLAINES WORLD

#925

6.16.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Were recently joined by our friends Brian and Carole Aho Biro (top) for a concert in Myrtle Beach, SC. It featured The Turtles, arguably the greatest rock group of all time, along with several other fantastic performers who all joined together at the end to sing "Happy Together." L-R (bottom): Garry Lewis of The Playboys, Howard "Eddie" Kaylan of The Turtles, Mitch Ryder of The Detroit Wheels, Chuck Negron of Three Dog Night, Mark "Flo" Volman of The Turtles and Mark Farner of Grand Funk Railroad. To hear how they

sounded, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/kxuw6ag>.





(2 We also saw a fantastic production of ONE: THE SHOW at the Alabama Theatre. It featured a G-rated comedian by the name of Grant Turner (below) who was as funny as anybody we've ever seen. To see him in action, please click: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esFq9Fqh2v4>



Greg Rowles did a fine job as emcee, and we also enjoyed his singing. The rest of the cast was excellent, too. If you're in the mood for a tuneful variety show that also has both dancing and costumes that will dazzle you, don't miss this. I know we won't the next time we are in this area. For more information, please click: <http://www.alabama-theatre.com/06/onetheshow.html>

(3) And we enjoyed fine meals at three of the restaurants in the area: River City Grill, Flying Fish Public Market & Grill, and TBoyz Grill and Grill (below). That's a mouth-watering chocolate cake the latter establishment graciously served us on my birthday.



B. Kudos to Carole for handling all the arrangements for our trip. She got us a beautiful suite that we all shared in the Margate Tower, which was located right on the beach. So for the first time ever, Cynthia and I got to go to walk on the sand and go into the ocean. That's yours truly on the top and after a few short hours, you can see the difference on the bottom. The only problem was that my mustache also got bleached.





C. Condolences to:

(1) The family of Jack Ready, one of my colleagues when I taught at Bucks County Community College. He died while snorkeling off the coast of Hawaii.

(2) Chelsea St John Wade and family on the passing of Dion E. St. John, Sr., Chelsea's father.

(3) The family of Charles Barsotti. He drew close to fourteen hundred cartoons for NEW YORKER magazine over the years. To look at some of his most memorable cartoons, please click:

<http://nyr.kr/1vK1kpLDC>

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Zuzu Welsh on the birth of Lachlan Ensley, his grandson.

(2) Julie Piper on attaining her license as a Professional Counselor in Pennsylvania.

(3) Howard Debbs on the fact that "Running Out Of Gas" is up and running in the just published edition of Star 82 Review. To read it, please click:

<http://www.star82review.com/2.2/debs-gas.html>

(4) Diana Moore on attaining her doctorate from Nova Southeastern University.

(5) Althena Destiny on her graduation from Hopewell High School.

(6) Hilary Greenfield on her retirement from the East Windsor School District.

(7) Asheville! It was recently named one of the Top 10 Foodie Cities in 2014 by livability.com. For more information, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/of7kdel>

And the city was also cited by foodandwine.com in "Why Food Lovers Are Loving Asheville." To read that one, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/bcekahv>

(8) Mike Andrus on his promotion to Renshi Sensei 4th Degree Black Belt in Shorin Ryu Contact Karate.

(9) Jeanne Buckley on her upcoming marriage over Labor Day in Rehoboth. I loved her Facebook comment about this happening: "As I said to my family, Hell has frozen over."

(10) Mel G. in CO, winner of Contest #12: a copy of FAILURE: THE SECRET TO SUCCESS, a book by Robby Slaughter. All told, there were 7 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #13*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of **TRAJECTORY: 7 CAREER STRATEGIES TO TAKE YOU FROM WHERE YOU ARE TO WHERE YOU WANT TO BE**. It is a book designed to help you build a foundation of achievement. I reviewed it in **BLAINESWORLD #923** and enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #13 in the subject 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 Monday, June 30.

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

This week, it goes to Jamie Marley--an assistant manager at Walmart, North Myrtle Beach, SC.

When recently shopping there late one night, we were in a long line that wasn't moving very quickly. Jamie saw what was happening, and he came to the front and opened up a new register (as opposed to what I've seen far too many other managers do; i.e., just announce on the PA system that somebody else needed to come up to the front to help out).

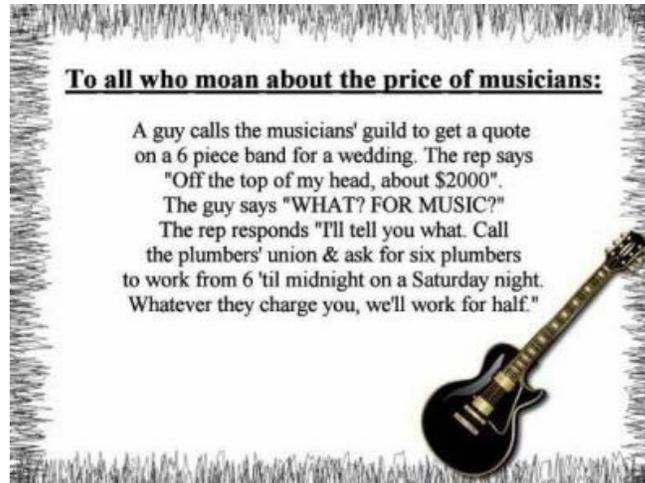
We also liked his attitude. When I complimented him, he smiled and replied something to the effect of, "I have to be here anywhere, so I might as well help you out."

I only wish that all retail personnel had such a positive attitude!

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2. FYI

DEDICATION: This is for all my musician friends who in addition to the time performing at the wedding, spend additional hours packing up equipment, loading it up to drive to the gig, setting up, breaking down, loading the equipment back into the vehicles and unloading it when they get back home. And that doesn't even take into account the countless hours spent rehearsing before each performance!



FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Nelson S. in NC: Bad move to PA
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jswAsFtpDo>

(2) Bob P. in NC: Rose of My Heart
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wen-qWJoP3Y>

(3) Shari S. in NC: Gospel challenge
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=867775483236082&set=vb.100000109168110&type=2&theater>

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1BM>

(1) Zuzu W. in NC: Blaine, every picture I have ever seen of you, you have a thumbs up attitude. (2) Carol S. in FL: I enjoy your newsletters. (3) Natalie K. in PA: Saw J. Edgar Hoover [on DVD]. (4) Lee Y. in NC: Please note that I have traded my home from At&t to Magic Jack. (5) Powerhouse Fruits and Veggies. (6) Berta D. in NJ: This directly affects us. (7) 7 Social Media Tricks. (8) Marcie F. in PA: I grew up in an era where we pledged allegiance to the flag. (9) Sandy B. in PA: Especially good newsletter this week! (10) Scott P. in PA: Refer a Friend/Colleague to Become a KFS Professional. (11) Pat L. in CA: Hi! I know you said you'd be away, and this would be a shorter issue. (12) Eric M. in NC: Hey everyone, please help us win the Camp Bow Wow contest! (13) Jobs That May Be Slipping Away - And Those That Are Here To Stay. (14) Jeff T. in NC: It's time to get all of these new songs properly recorded! (15) Paul K. in NC: 4 Factors Every Business Plan Should Address. (16) Nelson S. in NC: Have You Been Using These Everyday Phrases All Wrong? (17) Bruce K. in PA: World's top museums. (18) Helping kids with homework.

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3. Joke 1

Methinks I need to be careful about what I wish for on my birthday! (Many thanks to all those who remembered the occasion this past Saturday, June 14, which was also Flag Day--my favorite holiday of the year. I don't see that I'm getting older; rather I see that I've had another great year with you as a friend. And I hope to have many more!)



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4. Reviews

To see the following reviews, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1BM>

- A. JERSEY BOYS
- B. WINTER'S TALE (and also ROBOT & FRANK)
- C. THE GIFTED: HOW TO LIFE OF YOUR DREAMS
- D. TAILGATE: AN ORIGINAL SHORT STORY

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5. TV alert

A. ALMOST ROYALS has two actors pretending to be bumbling British aristocrats road-tripping across the United States, interacting with real, unsuspecting Americans in this improvised comedy. Saturdays at 10 p.m. on BBC.

B. THE LAST SHIP is a drama about a U.S. Navy destroyer at sea when a 100% lethal infectious disease wipes out most of the earth's population. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "What makes it truly exciting at times is a combination of speed, suspense and action. There are tense chases, firefights and escapes, or not, from death." Sundays at 9 p.m. on TNT.

C. THE CASE AGAINST is a documentary that looks at the two same-sex couples who led the charge for marriage equality by filing a federal lawsuit against California's discriminatory Proposition 8. Monday, June 23, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

D. FREEDOM SUMMER, from the acclaimed AMERICAN EXPERIENCE series, recalls the selfless efforts of hundreds of college students who descended on Mississippi in 1964, facing violence resistance in their determination to register African-Americans to vote. Tuesday, June 24, at 9 p.m. on PBS.

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

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6. Joke 2

Just what I want! Anybody know where I can get such a dog?



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7. Websites

A. Strother S. in NC: Volkswagen - Eyes on the road
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHixelr_6BM

B. George B. in PA: Birthday song for you:
http://www.1happybirthday.com/play_song.php?name=Blaine

Note: To send birthday songs to those with different names, please click:
<http://www.1happybirthday.com/findyourname.php?n=c>

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

If you've never seen my one appearance on the SART stage, click "Blaine's Best" on the left and then "Videos." Catch the third one from the top, and you'll not only see me, but also Bradshaw Call and Chandler Smith--two very talented guys.

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>

Like us on Facebook 

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8. Technology tip

How to enable the "Kill Switch" on your iPhone or iPad, right now!

The big smartphone manufacturers-Apple, Google, Samsung and Microsoft-have all committed to introducing a smartphone "Kill Switch" for their devices by 2015.

But what is a "Kill Switch," why would you want one, and-perhaps most relevantly to readers of this blog-how can you turn on your very own iPhone/iPad Kill Switch today?

To find out how, please click:

<http://www.intego.com/mac-security-blog/how-to-enable-the-kill-switch-on-your-iphone-or-ipad/>

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9. Joke 3

A Roman walks into a bar, holds up two fingers and say, "Five beers, please." . . . Or did you hear that there's a band called 1023MB? They haven't had any gigs yet. . . For the rest of these "20 Jokes That Only Intellectuals Will Understand," please click:

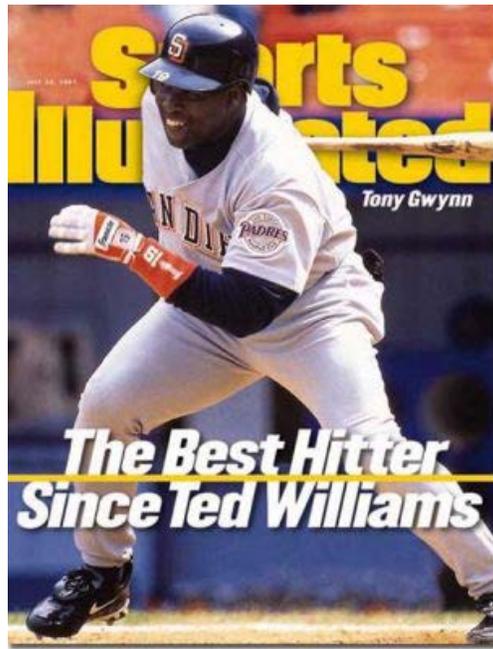
<http://tinyurl.com/kzswxfb>



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10. A quote I like

Tony Gwynn, RIP, while on his way to the fifth of his eight National League batting crowns, spoke passionately about the attitude of the modern player: "They just feel like stuff is supposed to happen to them," he said. "They're not going to have to work for it. And that bugs me because I know how hard I had to work to get where I got. Sometimes they sit there in amazement at why I come out here every day. But I cannot let their way of thinking into my head."



Note: For more about this great player who many consider an even greater person, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/17/sports/baseball/tony-gwynns-2-hitting-secrets-work-and-more-work.html?ref=sports>

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11. Thought for the day

Why I Am Proud To Be My Father's Daughter And How I Almost Lost My Life As A Result
by Edie Weinstein



I am writing this article on Father's Day, while recovering from an event that never in a million years would I have imagined in this lifetime. This past Thursday, following a 'normal' workout at the gym, I experienced tightness in my jaw, radiating heartburn type pain across my back and chest, nausea and profuse sweating that I recognized as a heart attack in process. One thing to know is that these type of 'cardiac events' present themselves differently in women than in men. The chest clutching pain that men often experience is not as common for women.

I knew this, because my sister had two last year. She, unfortunately has become my 'been there, done that, got the t-shirt' go to person for what comes next. In the midst of the immediate experience, I was not in panic mode. In fact, I drove myself to the hospital 10 minutes away only after calling to cancel an appointment with a counseling client. In retrospect, I am aware of how irresponsible that was, since I could have jeopardized the safety of others as well as myself. Lesson # 1 Call 911 immediately, since not only could it prevent an accident and save a life, but they can begin the rescue process and relay

information to the medical staff en route.

For the rest of this eye-opening article, click:

<http://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/my-fathers-daughter-ewein/>

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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1BM>

(1) BJ Leiderman--Totally Unhinged. (2) Mark Jones returns as Buddy Holly. (3) Vic A. in NC: Saw Spamalot today [at ACT] and it was excellent. (4) Alison A. in NC: (4) Alison A. in NC: I had the pleasure of seeing this play [SHUNNED] last night. (5) Biro helps business leaders engage disaffected workers. (6) RAISIN IN THE SUN.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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BLAINESWORLD

#924

6.9.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Are getting ready for a vacation in Myrtle Beach, SC, where we'll be seeing a concert featuring The Turtles--arguably the greatest rock group of all time. So because of both time and space limitations, some regular BLAINESWORLD sections will not be run this week. Look for them to reappear in next week's issue.

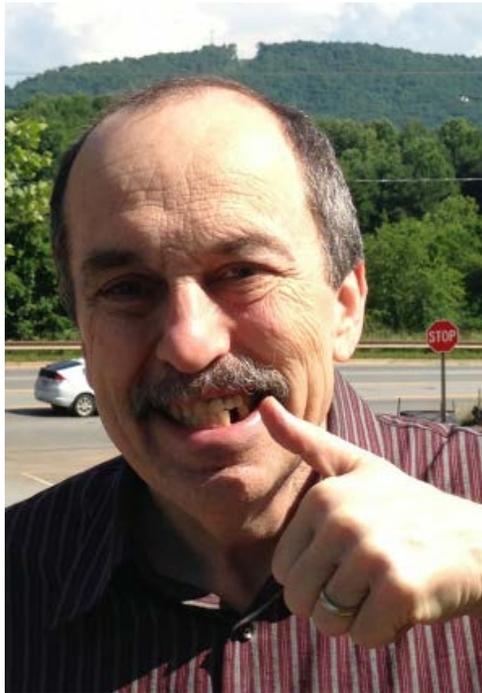
(2) Met our new neighbors, Ann and Dan Vacca. We also got to walk their adorable dogs, Beamer (left) and Mercedes.



(3) Attended a picnic where we celebrated the June birthdays of two of our friends, Dewitt Robbeloth and his daughter Robyn Blakely.



(4) Passed a nearby mountain where we saw a gap that reminded us of my smile. Our hope is that the dental work needed to replace this gap will be completed in the near future, but who knows? After all, it has already dragged on for some 22 months.



(5) Had a blast with our friends Amy and Marc Supen at a fundraiser for Hospice CarePartners. First, we saw the Jay Brown One-Man Band, which included him on vocals, guitar, harmonica, persuasion and piano. He's quite a performer. His wife, Aditi Sethi, even joined him for some songs. For more information, please click: <http://www.jaybrownmusic.com/>



The event then included a showing of HAPPY, an engaging documentary dealing with ideas about what causes this powerful emotion. Do seek out this film on DVR if you can find it.

And from there, we went to the downtown Tupelo Honey where we all enjoyed our dinner, as well as the fact that we were able to dine outdoors. We were also pleased with the fine service we received from Trey, our server.

(6) Showed you one of our outdoor cats in last week's newsletter. It is hard to get all of them together to pose, but we managed to do so in this picture. L-R: Nona, Bouncer and Archangel.



B. Reminder . . .

***** CONTEST #12*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of FAILURE: THE SECRET TO SUCCESS, a book by Robby Slaughter. The book has an interesting premise; i.e., we need to fail in order to get information about what to do next to become successful. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #906 and enjoyed it.

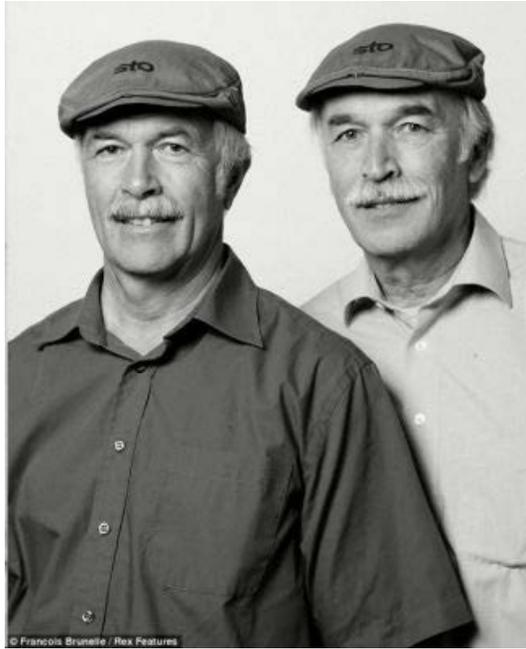
To enter: Put "CONTEST #12 in the subject of an email and send it to: bginbc@aol.com. . . make sure you include your name AND snail mail address in the body of the email . . . all entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Monday, June 16.

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2. FYI

Unrelated Doppelgangers Who Have Found Their Match . . . Fascinated with the idea that two totally unrelated people can look like twins, photographer Francois Brunelle set out to take black and white portraits of 200 doppelgangers. For more pictures, please click: <http://tinyurl.com/o2gjadg>

As for the guy on the bottom, it's amazing how many folks think we are related . . . if you don't believe it for yourself, check his right ear lobe the next time you see him in a film . . . I also get Will Smith a lot because we're both so tall.



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3. Joke 1

Where do I sign up for a session?

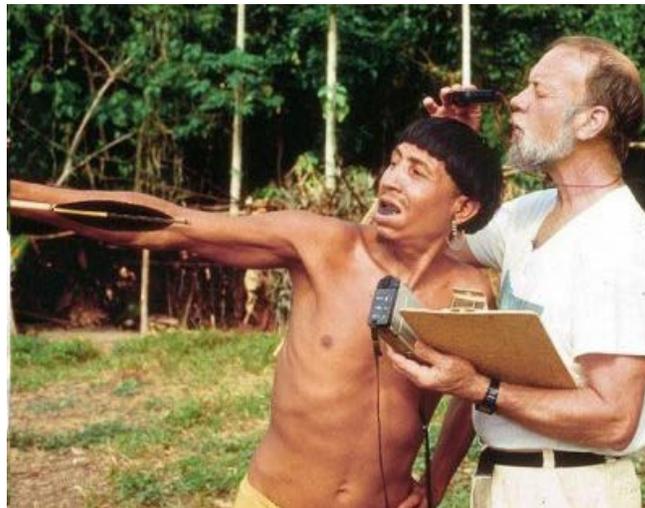


"I have to say I had a different impression of what Reiki is all about."

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4. Joke 2

An anthropologist realizes that the one thing he never taught the natives was how to speak English, so he takes the chief for a walk in the forest. He points to a tree and says to the chief, "This is a tree." The chief looks at the tree and grunts, "Tree." The anthropologist is pleased with the response. . . . They walk a little farther and the anthropologist points to a rock and says, "This is a rock." Hearing this, the chief looks and grunts, "Rock." . . . The anthropologist is really getting enthusiastic about the results when he hears a rustling in the bushes. As he peeks over the top, he sees a couple of natives in the midst of heavy sexual activity. The anthropologist is really flustered and quickly says "They are riding a bike." . . . The chief looks at the couple briefly, pulls out his blowgun and kills them. The anthropologist goes ballistic and yells at the chief that he has spent months teaching the tribe how to be civilized and kind to each other, so how could he kill these people in cold blood that way? The chief replied, "My bike!"



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5. Technology tidbit

That moment when you realize you will be your family's tech guy for the rest of your life!



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6. Joke 3

Fred Cox is on his deathbed. He is with his nurse and family. "So," he whispers, "Joe, take the houses in the Hills. Liz, take the apartments over in the Plaza. Junior, take the offices over in the Square. Amy, my dear wife, please take all the buildings downtown." . . . The nurse is blown away and as Fred slips away, she says, "Mrs. Cox, your husband must have been such a hard worker to have accumulated all this property." . . . Amy replies, "Property? The bum has a paper route."



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7. A quote I like

"It's not our job to toughen our children up to face a cruel and heartless world. It's our job to raise children who will make the world a little less cruel and heartless."--L.R. Knost, bestselling parenting and children's book author



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8. Thought for the day

You've got to dance like nobody's watchin'!



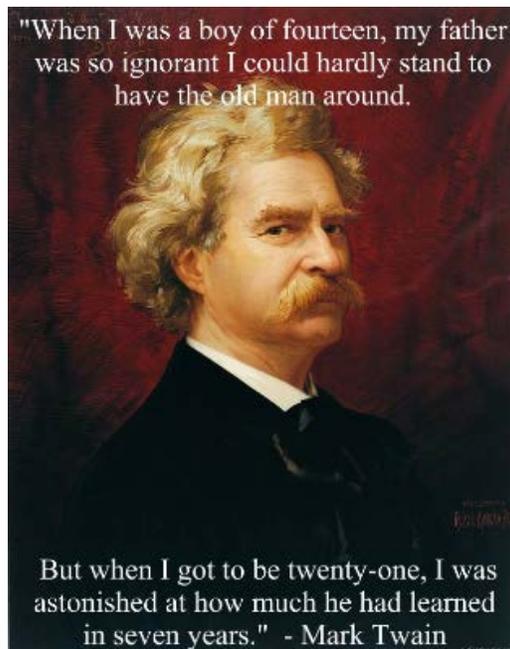
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9. Advance planning department

I AGREE! If you do, too--or just want to join in celebrating my favorite holiday on Saturday, June 14--please click for a clip featuring the incomparable James Cagney: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxZvDTnlvKM>



This quote describes how I felt about my Dad, too! My hope is that you get to spend Father's Day on Sunday June 15, with your Dad if you're fortunate to still have him around . . . or if that's not the case, then enjoy remembrances of him as you listen to "My Hero," a song by my talented friend ZuZu Welsh that you can also hear by clicking: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1NjpvFykaY>



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PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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BLAINES WORLD

#923

6.2.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Saw a tuneful production of THE LAST FIVE YEARS at the downtown location of Flat Rock Playhouse in Hendersonville. That's us, outside the theatre, giving the show a thumbs up--and especially for the performances of the two performers, Cassie Okenka and Austin Owen. Kudos, also, to Vince Marini, director, and Alex Shields, music director. It runs through June 22; for tickets, please click:

http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?organ_val=27967&event_val=LAST



(2) Went with our friends Paul and Layne Cutright for dinner at one of our favorite restaurants in Asheville, the Jerusalem Cafe, and then we checked out the Drum Circle (below) before going for some tasty ice cream at Kilwin's.



(3) Stopped by for Customer Appreciation Day at Mountain View Tire & Service in Candler where we were greeted by owner Paul Anderson and his wife Cindy. Note: If you need any work on your car, this is the place to go! (Across the way is also the place to go if you need any batteries, Interstate Batteries, in that Paul and Cindy also run that business.)



(4) Were able to get one of our outdoor cats, Nona, to pose for a rare picture!



B. During the week, I had the good fortune of hearing Robyn Michalove (with the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office) give an excellent presentation on Home Safety to our Biltmore Lake community. She was ably assisted by Kevin West. Special thanks to Leslie Player for taking care of all the arrangements.



C. Congratulations to:

(1) Asheville for making it into Outsideonline.com's competition for one of the 64 Best Places to Live . . . actually, it is now in the Top 4 . . . please vote on or before Sunday, June 8, to help make it a well-deserved Number One . . . all you need to do is click:

http://www.outsideonline.com/adventure-travel/north-america/united-states/best-towns-2014-tournament#recaptcha_widget

(2) Stephen L. Dreyfuss, my Lawrence High School classmate and longtime friend, on his recent induction into the French Legion of Honor.

(3) Joey Novick on being re-elected as a Democratic Committeeman in Hunterdon County, NJ.

(4) Peter Savage on getting hired by Western Carolina University to teach for the 2014-15 school year.

(5) Scott Bradshaw, coach of the golf team at Bucks County Community College, for the excellent performance of two of his golfer at the NJCAA DIV III championships: Dominic Foti placed 28th and Ryan Skierski was 54th.

(5) Mike Andrus for having been cited for the "most unique" work-out at Phillyfit 15 Work-out-a-thon.

(6) Greg Garrison and Ashley Mason Garrison, owners of The Hop, for having their Blueberry Kale Ice Cream featured in the June/July issue of SAVEUR Magazine as one of "five great new flavors to try at some of [their] favorite scoop shops around the country." To read more, please click:

<http://www.saveur.com/article/food/5-great-american-ice-creams>

Also, Greg and Ashley received nice coverage in the Explore Asheville blog. To read it, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/nt8zslj>

(7) Tanya Richmond for having earned her red belt in tae kwon do.

(8) Nick Milillo for being named exclusive caterer for Heritage Hall in Levittown, PA. For more informatoin, please click:

<http://newportvillefireco.com/custom.html?id=9945>

(9) Karl Carter and Cooper Rob on their marriage.

(10) Bill Young on his upcoming retirement as Director of Student Services, Attendance and School Safety and Security for the Trenton public school system

(11) Victor Feraru on his graduation from Guilford College. In addition, Victor continues to write an informative blog piece for huffingtonpost.com; to read his latest entry, please click:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/victor-lopez/there-is-a-lot-t0-a-name_b_5454777.html

(12) Bill Sederburg on being named interim president of the University of North Carolina--Wilmington.

(13) Jean Ryserbach for well-deserved "Best in Category" recognition she gained in the 2014 Philly Push Pull contest, sponsored by Revolution Powerlifting Syndicate. She deadlifted 180 pounds and benched 80 pounds.

(14) Congratulations to Barbara H. in PA, winner of Contest #11: a copy of the book on CD, David Baldacci's THE TARGET (courtesy of Hachette Audio). All told, there were 12 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #12*****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of FAILURE: THE SECRET TO SUCCESS, a book by Robby Slaughter. The book has an interesting premise; i.e., we need to fail in order to get information about what to do next to become successful. I reviewed it in BLAINESWORLD #906 and enjoyed it.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #12 in the subject 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 Monday, June 16.

D. Correction: Last week's issue reviewed Lynne Martin's excellent book, HOME SWEET ANYWHERE. There was one typo. What follows is the way the sentence should have read:

I learned some things, too; for example, repositioning cruises are a great way to get you where you want inexpensively.

Thanks, Mary Lou in NC, for picking up the mistake. (I had originally typed that such cruises were expensive.)

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

This week, it goes to Ryan Webber--a Sales Consultant with Verizon Wireless on Tunnel Rd. in Asheville.

I recently went to that Verizon office for help with a problem that I was having when trying to update the operating system on my iPhone. Ryan quickly helped me figure out what needed to be done and took the time to answer several other questions I had.

In addition, he then helped answer some questions that Cynthia had about her iPhone.

Ryan was both friendly and knowledgeable. Verizon is fortunate to have him as an employee.

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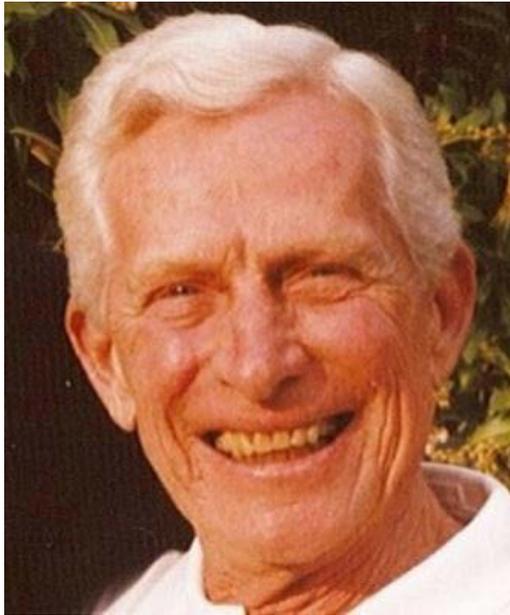
2. FYI

There's been a trend lately to have folks write their own obituaries. Personally, I think this is a great idea--especially after I read the following one that was penned by a guy named Robert Bonadonna.

Unfortunately, I never met him. But after reading what he had to say, I would have liked to have done so. (Thanks, John B. in NC, for having posted this on Facebook.)

Obituary

Robert Bonadonna



Black Mountain - Robert J. Bonadonna, of Black Mountain, NC, died on May 29th. He didn't "Pass Away" or "Go to be with the Lord." He just plain died! I know all about Robert and his opinions, because I am him, writing my own notice of departure.

I never liked the unctuous, syrupy obits that I occasionally read in the papers, so I decided to write my own. Those who knew me, will note that I never quite saw things the way that most people do, maybe that's how I became a "Consultant."

For the rest of this obituary, please click:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizen-times/obituary.aspx?n=Robert-Bonadonna&pid=171188225>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Tom Giraldi - Dale and Roy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8l6zuvqcrl>

(2) Debbie H. in AZ: Babysitter cat

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jf5B3d5Uqv4>

(3) Nun wins TV talent competition in Italy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=it8ZKgwoY0w>

For more information on this video, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/07/world/europe/singing-nun-wins-italian-tv-talent-show.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Bm>

(1) Zuzu Welsh in NC: Well I decided to try gofundme as the source for funds for my CD project. (2) Mary Lou in NC: Just read your latest edition of BLAINESORLD . . . and especially the review of Lynne Martin's book, Home Sweet Anywhere. (3) Bob P. in NC: Freedom Summer II by Robert Reich. (4) Len E. in NC: I am thoroughly disgusted with the high fees charged by many local theater groups to purchase tickets on line. (5) Berta D. in NJ: Please sign & help this poor kid! (6) Carol S. in FL: We just watched a good movie: "Still Mine." (7) Chanah M. in MO: Are you really a Southerner?

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3. Joke 1

STRESS REDUCTION: Picture yourself near a stream. Birds are singing in the crisp, cool mountain air. Nothing can bother you here.



No one knows this secret place. You are in total seclusion from that place called the world. . . . The soothing sound of a gentle waterfall fills the air with a cascade of serenity. The water is clear.



You can easily make out the face of the person who caused you all the stress in the first place whose head you're holding under the water. There now, feeling better?

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4. Reviews

A. CHEF is a feel-good comedy about a guy who quits his job at a prominent Los Angeles restaurant. He then opens a food truck and with the help of both his friend and his son, he takes it on the road. Jon Favreau, who also wrote and directed the film, is superb in the leading role. In addition, I was impressed with the work of both John Leguizamo and Emjay Anthony as, respectively, his friend and son. I loved the soundtrack, as well as a subplot that involved social media. Rated R, though I think that's too bad. I believe this would be appropriate for any teenager and up.

B. THE MONUMENTS MEN is now out on DVD . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #907 follows:

THE MONUMENTS MEN, based on the true story of the greatest treasure hunt in history, tells how a platoon of seven museum directors, curators, and art historians team together to rescue artistic masterpieces from Nazi thieves and return them to their original owners. It had a fine cast, including George Clooney, Matt Damon, Bill Murray, John Goodman, Bob Balaban and Cate Blanchett, but overall, I found the film to be very flat. I also felt like it was shot on one big outdoor lot that didn't feel very real. Rated PG-13.

Note: Check out actual pictures from the real-life Monuments Men by clicking:

<http://www.motherjones.com/mixed-media/2014/02/8-badass-photos-real-life-monuments-men-saved-art-nazis>

If you want to find out more about the above story, you'll do much better by finding the following on DVD (that I reviewed in BLAINESWORLD #616:

Though a documentary, THE RAPE OF EUROPA is as exciting a film as you'll see this year . . . it describes the plight of Europe's greatest artistic treasures during the Nazi reign . . . as the Third Reich was attempting to destroy the continent's culture, art lovers throughout the world worked to save as many pieces as they could . . . Joan Allen's narration added to my enjoyment of this World War II tale that I hadn't known too much about . . . unrated, but probably appropriate for any mature teenager and up.

C. TRAJECTORY: 7 CAREER STRATEGIES TO TAKE YOU FROM WHERE YOU ARE TO WHERE YOU WANT TO BE (AMACOM) by David L. Van Rooy is a book designed to help you build a foundation of achievement. The author, Senior Director, Global Organizational Effectiveness at Walmart, used many relevant examples from

business to make his points. This one especially caught my attention, in which he discussed how National Hall of Famer Mario Lemieux handled his cancer diagnosis early in 1993:

A month later he began a series of twenty-two radiation treatments. What is truly amazing is what he did right after his final treatment: He not only boarded a plane to rejoin the team but also actually played in the game that night. While many were surprised, others felt that this was Lemieux's plan all along. He had prepared every day during his treatment with the intent to return as quickly as possible. As Lemieux stated during his radiation treatment, he was always thinking positively about not just returning to the NHL, but also retaining the NHL scoring title. This strong self-confidence enabled him to think ahead and to avoid the negativity that can all too easily turn into stagnation.

I also liked how Van Rooy cited various psychological studies. And his end-of-chapter exercises were most insightful.

D. Heard **HOW SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE GROW: 15 WAYS TO GET AHEAD IN LIFE** (Hachette Audio), written by John C. Maxwell and read by Chris Sorensen.

The author, a **NEW YORK TIMES** bestselling author and founder of his own company that has trained more than six million leaders worldwide, points out what is important in both your career and life. To quote him: "If you focus on goals, you may hit goals-but that doesn't guarantee growth." He goes on to say that true success is measured not just on the number of items you've checked off, but by your personal growth.

He then uses this short book to show how that can be accomplished, elaborating on such principles as the following:

- * The Law of the Mirror: You Must See Value in Yourself to Add Value to Yourself
- * The Law of Awareness: You Must Know Yourself to Grow Yourself
- * The Law of Modeling: It's Hard to Improve When You Have No One But Yourself to Follow

And:

The Law of the Rubber Band: Growth Stops When You Lose the Tension Between Where You are and Where You Could Be

John Maxwell fans, and I'm a big one, will enjoy his latest book. Others will find it a great introduction to his work.

Note: **HOW SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE GROW IS** derived from material previously published in **THE 15 INVALUABLE LAWS OF GROWTH**, but the good news is that new chapters have been added and old chapters have been updated.

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5. TV alert

A. **JIMMY KIMMEL LIVE: GAME NIGHT** has Kimmel continuing his annual tradition of primetime, pre-NBA specials with his usual jabs at celebrities. Sunday, June 8 at 7 p.m. on ABC and thereafter, 30 minutes before any of the remaining game times.

B. Hugh Jackman hosts the **TONY AWARDS**, the 68th annual celebration of Broadway's finest from Radio City Music Hall. Sunday, June 8, at 8 p.m. on CBS.

C. **THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW** is a movie about a professor (Edward G. Robinson) who meets a model (Joan Bennett) and gets involved in murder. According to Linda Rasmussen with Rovi, "The film gives viewers their money's worth with not one but two logical and satisfying surprise twists at the end." Tuesday, June 10, at 8 p.m. on TCM.

D. **INSIDE COMBAT RESCUE: THE LAST STAND** is a two-hour documentary that goes directly to the front lines of Afghanistan to give a grunt's-eye view of life there. Sunday, June 15, at 9 p.m. on NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC.

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6. Joke 2

BEST SMARTASS ANSWER OF THE YEAR: A truck driver is driving along on the freeway and notices a sign that reads: Low Bridge Ahead. Before he knows it, the bridge is right in front of him and his truck gets wedged under it. Cars are backed up for miles. . . . Finally, a police car comes up. The cop gets out of his car and walks to the truck driver, puts his hands on his hips and asks, "Got stuck, huh?" . . . The truck driver says, "No, I was delivering this bridge, and I ran out of gas."



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7. Websites

A. Vic A. in NC: Blaine, I thought you may enjoy this. It came from my niece who teaches in the school of meteorology at Penn State. You can put in a location on the left or tab on random on the right.
<http://www.weatherfrom.com/>

B. Stephanie W. in NY: Spectacular Salsa - Paddy & Nico
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjHnWz3EyHs>

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

If you've never seen my stand-up comedy debut, click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Video Clips." The second clip features yours truly.

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>



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8. Technology tip

The Best Way to Manage All Your Passwords
by Geoffrey A. Fowler
By GEOFFREY A. FOWLER
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, 5.6.2014

There's a war raging between hackers and companies, and you're caught in the crossfire. Every time a company gets hacked, you have to change your password. And don't you dare reuse it somewhere else.

Dreaming up a different password for every site and service is the only way to keep your stuff safe online, but it's also a gigantic nuisance. There's one thing you can-and should-do to help: Get a password manager program.

For the rest of this informative article and an accompanying video, please click:
<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303647204579545801399272852?KEYWORDS=The+Best+Way+to+Manage+All+Your+Passwords&mg=reno64-wsj>

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9. Joke 3

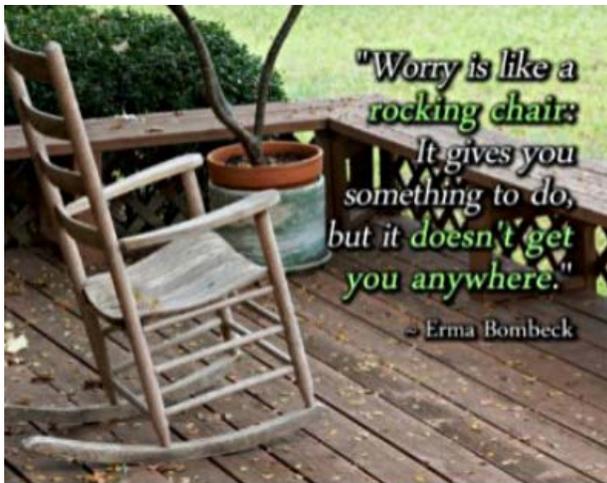
A woman walks into the pharmacy and tells the pharmacist she wants to buy some arsenic. He asks, "What do you want with arsenic?" . . . She answers, "I want to kill my husband because he cheats on me by having sex with another woman." . . . The pharmacist replies, "I can't sell you arsenic so you can kill your husband lady, even if he is having sex with another woman." . . . She reaches into her pocket and pulls out a picture of her husband having sex with the pharmacist's wife. The pharmacist says, "Oh, I didn't realize you had a prescription."



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10. A quote I like

Soooo true!



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11. Thought for the day

Living on Purpose
by Paula Span in THE NEW YORK TIMES
JUNE 3, 2014

My late father had a longtime friend, a retired kosher butcher, who lived down the hall in their South Jersey apartment building. Past 90, Manny was older and frailer than my father; he leaned on a cane and could barely see well enough to recognize faces. But every morning, and again in late afternoon, he walked through my dad's unlocked front door to be sure he was all right and to kibitz a bit.

Manny made the rounds, also looking in on several other aged residents in their so-called N.O.R.C. (naturally occurring retirement community). Unless he was ill himself, he never missed a day.

For the rest of this insightful article, please click:

<http://newoldage.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/06/03/living-on-purpose/?src=me&module=Ribbon&version=origin@ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=Most%20Emailed&pgtype=article>

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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Bm>

A. NC events

(1) Bruce Lang: Public Performances for June/July. (2) SHUNNED at SART. (3) Richard Shulman performances. (4) Asheville Center for Professional Studies Hosts Brian Biro. (5) Another great chance to meet with Brian Biro. (6) Special Invitation to BL residents (and others) from Resident, Dr. Todd Wilkinson.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Dinner & Comedy Show Specials. (2) Tyler Taste Testing. (3) MCCC's Kelsey Theatre Announces Summer Schedule. (4) Princeton Center for Yoga & Health.

C. National event

Michael Gelb is leading a Creativity workshop on the Mars Hills University campus.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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

#922

5.26.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I went with friends to see BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO--featuring the music of Neil Sedaka--at the Haywood Arts Regional Theatre. We loved it!

That's us with Brad Mercier, one of the many outstanding performers. Kudos to the rest of the talented cast, which included Leslie Lang, Dominic Aquilino, Kier Klepzig, Clara Burrus and Emily Warren. The direction from Mark Jones was spot on, as was the musical direction from Kelli Mullinix and piano, flute and vocal work from Sarah Fowler.



Good news: The above show runs through June 15, so you can still get tickets by clicking: https://secure.sellingticket.com/design22/clients/list/index_byUserListAll.aspx?OrganizationID=82

Afterward, we all went to nearby Bogart's Restaurant & Tavern for some good food. Pictured with us: Tom and Marcy Gallagher.



B. We also got to join Pennsylvania friends Fred Weiss and Cindy Osofsky who were visiting Asheville for the weekend. That's us (top photo) at what has become one of favorite restaurants, the Jerusalem Garden Cafe. One of the reasons that's the case is because of the server, Anne Raney (bottom photo); she's the best!



C. Recently, I had the honor of hosting an informative seminar, "Grow Your Business with Email and Social Media" at ABTech. Pictured, I-r: Paula Jones, Dean Jones, Blaine Greenfield and Aaron Wesley Means (the Constant Contact Local Expert Presenter).



Aaron really knows his stuff. To find out more about him and/or his upcoming seminars, please click:

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

D. And I got to hear Josh Dorfman, Director of Entrepreneurship Development at Venture Asheville, speak to the Asheville Jewish Business Forum. His topic, "Think. Risk. Adapt. Learn. Repeat: The Entrepreneur's Mindset," got us all thinking--and laughing, too. In particular, his summary struck home: "I believe that life is most enriching and rewarding when we take the time to think, reflect and clarify our value, then align our actions accordingly. Our plans don't always work out as we hope, but if we're aligned, the journey is always valuable."



E. Congratulations to:

(1) Lynn C. Doyle on becoming a licensed Real Estate Agent. She is now with Keller Williams.

(2) Carla Jean on the birth of Kaylie Brooks, her great granddaughter.

(3) Beth Dupree on being named the recipient of KYW Newsradio's 2014 Women's Achievement Award.

(4) Matt Cipriano on being named the new Athletic Director at Bucks County Community College.

(5) Dewitt Robbeloth on having his article on Ride-free day in Asheville published in the MOUNTAIN XPRESS. To read it, please click:

<http://mountainx.com/opinion/un-fare-ride-free-day-showcases-ashevilles-transit-system/>

(6) Joe and Anne DeRosa on the wedding of his daughter Allison to Matt Heggli.

Note: I loved the baseball-themed toast that Joe delivered: "We extend our love and support to this newly married couple. May they remember that sacrifice is more than a bunt, be prepared for the curveball, swing for the fences, touch every base, and let no power or persuasion deter them from their future together."

(7) Susan Reinhardt on her new job at Belk's Biltmore Square Mall. Stop by to see her at the Lancome counter. If you do so, you can get a makeover plus a free gift. Best bet is to email her at susan.reinhardt.act@facebook.com or message her via Facebook, so that she can reserve time for you.

(8) Gil Caldwerood and Joe Calderwood on their marriage.

(9) Hobie Orton and Meredith Silas on their marriage.

F. Condolences to the family and friends of Diane Geddes on her recent passing. She was a colleague of mine when we both worked at Bucks County Community College. It was always a pleasure to stop by the Evening's Dean office and get a cheery "hello" from her.

G. Reminder: There's still time to enter . . .

***** CONTEST #11 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of a book on CD, David Baldacci's THE TARGET (courtesy of Hachette Audio). To quote the RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH, "Baldacci has been on a hot streak for the past few years, and The Target continues the trend. This isn't a garden-variety thriller or even a garden-variety Baldacci. It's among his most exhilarating books yet."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #11 in the subject 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 Monday, June 2.

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

This week, it goes to Asheville's Caleb Johnson (pictured below when I saw him when he toured the city)--winner of this year's AMERICAN IDOL competition.



I was especially impressed by his perseverance. When he first auditioned for the tenth season of IDOL in 2011. He was put through to Hollywood Week, In 2012, Johnson auditioned for the eleventh season and made it to the Top 42 and was cut at the Top 24 selection. Johnson auditioned again in 2014 for the thirteenth season and y'all know what happened.

In addition, though I don't know him personally, I have heard from several folks who do--and everybody says he is a real nice guy.

I also got a kick out of reading about the fact that he said he would do on TV: i.e., take Jena Irene, this year's runner up, to her senior prom in Farmington Hills, MI. For more information, please click:

<http://www.justjaredjr.com/2014/05/31/american-idols-jena-irene-takes-winner-caleb-johnson-to>

[her-prom/](#)

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2. FYI

Just How Big is the Markup on Movie Theater Food?
by Amanda Bell

We all know that movie-theater food is expensive: The concession stand employees should give you your large Coke before they ring it up, just so you can do a proper spit take when you hear the price. This is just a fact of life we have to accept, like sticky theater floors and shared-armrest jousting. But it's worth asking: Just how overpriced is movie food? To find out, we turned to the guy who wrote the book on the subject: Richard B. McKenzie, professor emeritus at the UC Irvine Merage School of Business and author of *Why Popcorn Costs So Much at the Movies and Other Pricing Puzzles*.

For the rest of this informative article, please click:

<https://www.yahoo.com/movies/just-how-big-is-the-markup-on-movie-food-87128526582.html>

I wanted to learn more about this topic, so I just ordered Professor McKenzie's book. I also contacted him and was referred to the following clip for more information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRZxVmFD-n0>

Note: As some readers may remember, this popcorn thing has long been a pet peeve of mine. In particular, I find it hard to believe how some theatres sell popcorn; i.e., by the liquid ounce. See for yourself. Next time you catch a film, ask how many ounces are in each bag or container. You'll often be told somewhere between 64-128 ounces. This is just wrong--at least in my opinion.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Gary J. in NC: Two unsuspecting girls take a Renault test drive:

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

Note: There's a version for guys, too:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMZA8pe_cro

(2) Jean D. in PA: One Way or Another LIVE Blondie 2-5-14 Amnesty International Concert

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JUwB_SDdGQ&feature=youtu.be

(3) Rodney S. in NC: Jon Stewart defends NY pizza

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8IKxbOpt0E>

(4) J.D.M. in PA: Eating pizza while working out.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10204147600668130&set=vb.1169392286&type=2&theater>

(5) Tom G. in NJ: The worst first pitch in baseball history

<http://msn.foxsports.com/buzzer/story/50-cent-worst-first-pitch-new-york-mets-game-052714>

(6) Chuck S. in NJ: Inspiring Heather Dorniden Takes a Fall But Still Wins the Race

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjeJTQdK5OI>

(7) Joe H. in NC: Pharrell's "Happy" Cotton Club Style!!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4VfgisOhks>

(8) Diana Ross: He Lives In You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvJsJ7XjRw>

(9) French open in the rain with Novak Djokovic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YskqvyX1W7M>

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1AS>

(1) Norm K. in FL: Congrats to HBO. (2) Catherine O. in MA: Great Issue. (3) Ingrid S. in PA: We sent to see Belle yesterday at the County Theater. (4) Donna S. in AL: Love this newsletter. (5) Colleen D. in PA: Do you and your beautiful bride ever eat at home? (6) Andy S. in PA: Thanks - U always have the best funny Pics! (7) Rodney S. in NC: Patent Office Grants 'Photography Against White Background' Patent To Amazon. (8) Maryalice R-T in PA: On Being Self Conscious and The "Top" diet. (9) (9) Steve R. in NY: I finally finished WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR. (10) Meta C. in NC: Looking for a cabin or house to rent the weekend of June 27. (11) Jim P. in NY: HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER (in N. Woodmere, NY).

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3. Joke 1

Be forewarned! If you don't know why, you were probably born before M*A*S*H.



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4. Reviews

A. BELLE, inspired by a true story, is a film about an illegitimate mixed race daughter raised by her aristocratic great-uncle and his wife. It is a beautiful costume drama that I found somewhat plodding. Yet I did like the ending, which showed how Belle and the idealistic vicar's son helped end slavery in England. Gugu Mbatha-Raw is fine in the leading role, and as always, I liked the work of Tom Wilkinson. Rated PG, though I don't think it would be of interest to anybody under the age of 13.

B. ENDLESS LOVE is now out on DVD . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #911 follows:

ENDLESS LOVE, a remake of a 1981 film with the same name, surprised me, in that it was highly watchable though oh-so-predictable . . . two teens fall in love with each other, but the father of one of them wants to keep them apart-and he does . . . Alex Pettyfer and Gabriella Wilde are fine as the leading couple, though he is about the oldest-looking recent high school graduate I've ever seen . . . Bruce Greenwood was terrific in the villain role; i.e., the nasty father . . . rated PG-13.

C. Recently, I heard Lynne Martin speak about HOME SWEET ANYWHERE: HOW WE SOLD OUR HOUSE, CREATED A NEW LIFE, AND SAW THE WORLD (Sourcebooks, Inc.). I was intrigued by what she had to say and so looked forward to reading her memoir.

It did not disappoint. Her accounts of visits to Mexico, Buenos Aires, Turkey, Paris Italy, Britain, Ireland, Morocco and Portugal made me feel almost as if I was in each country with both her and her husband Tim.

I learned some things, too; for example, repositioning cruises are a great way to get you where you want inexpensively. Also, when traveling, "No matter how distressing your situation might seem at the time, inconvenient travel events make great dinner-table yarns later."

But perhaps most importantly, I'll try to remember this lesson that the author learned from the wife of one friend whose husband has Parkinson's disease and uses a walker. She wrote, "Oh, "Gerry says to send his love and remind you, 'Postpone nothing.' "

My only criticism of the book had to do with the fact that there were no pictures. These would have made it even more enjoyable for me, but even without them, you'll find HOME SWEET ANYWHERE an enjoyable read--even if you're not planning to do anything like what the Martins did.

D. Heard PLATO IN 90 MINUTES (Blackstone Audiobooks), written by Paul Strathern and narrated by Robert Whitfield. It's a concise account of the philosopher's life that first gives a biographical account. I found that interesting, in that I knew very little about the man. I also enjoyed the part that included selections from his work. Only the ending left something to be desired. It was just a chronological breakdown. Overall, I just wish that this book had been available when I was a college undergraduate. PLATO would have made my life a lot easier in the Philosophy course that I took.

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5. TV alert

Note: Last week, I mentioned THE NORMAL HEART, a film version of the 1985 play about the AIDS crisis. Having now seen it, I can tell you that it's an engrossing drama that needs to be seen by a wide audience. It is on HBO several times over the next few weeks, so even if you don't have HBO, seek out a friend who does. Or make sure you rent it when it becomes available.

Gil C. in NC shared this opinion about the above: Thanks [for the recommendation]. Joe and I saw it . . . powerful and disturbing as I remember well Reagan did NOTHING until Rock Hudson got diagnosed and died. . . . I was enraged then and still disgusted.

A. ONE NIGHT ONLY: AN ALL-STAR COMEDY TRIBUTE TO DON RICKLES includes appearances by David Letterman, Jerry Seinfeld and Bob Newhart. Sunday, June 1, at 11:36 p.m. on COMEDY CENTRAL.

Here's what Angela S. in NJ had to say about it: "Watching the show on Don Rickles' Birthday... Amy and Tina Fey!! LMAO!"

B. HALT AND CATCH FIRE is a new 10-part series set in 1983 about companies battling for an edge in the PC market. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, this is "a darkly exorbitant drama" and "an immensely seductive enterprise." Sundays at 10 p.m. on AMC.

C. CRY WOLFE profiles Brian Wolfe, a real-life profile investigator. Tuesdays at 10 p.m. on INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY.

D. CMT MUSIC AWARDS promises a Miranda Lambert-Carrie Underwood duet. Wednesday, June 4, at 8 p.m. on CMT.

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6. Joke 2

How to sum up the Jewish people in a nutshell!



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7. Websites

A. Ever wonder about the origin of a particular quote? Quote Investigator does a great job in helping you explore the origins of quotations. For example, most recently, it researched the following: "Find What You Love and Let It Kill You."

To find out more, please click:

<http://quoteinvestigator.com/>

B. Mary C. in NC: How to get into a garage

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDw8DOblGB8>

And even more importantly:

How to prevent it (the above) from happening

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSO_HTBHLFI

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

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

In the unlikely event you're not yet a subscriber to BLAINESWORLD, the newsletter, scroll down to the bottom of the home page to the "Special Offer" and just follow the instructions. Also, feel free to share this information with your friends, relatives and neighbors who might not be subscribers.

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>



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8. Technology tip

Tap the Space bar to scroll down one screen full on a Web page.

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9. Joke 3

A man received a text from his neighbor: "Sorry sir, I am using your wife day and night when you are not present at home. In fact, more than you. I confess because now I feel very guilty. Hope you will accept my sincere apologies." . . . The man was so outraged that he shot his wife. . . . A few minutes later, he received another text: "Sorry sir, spelling mistake. Wi-Fi, not wife."

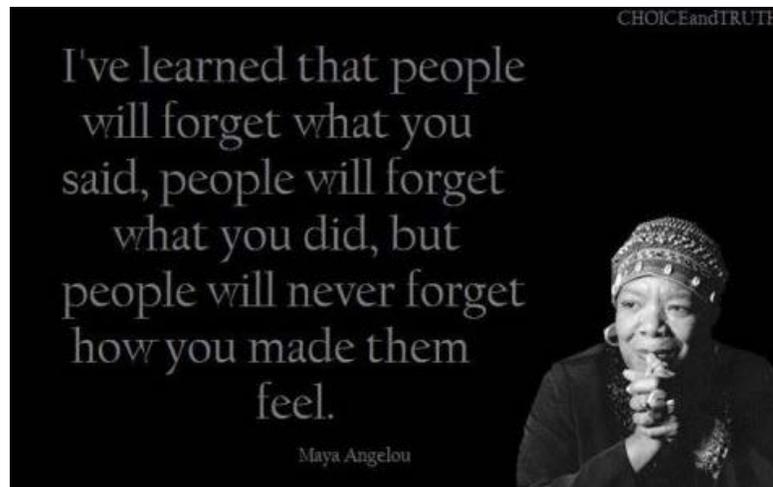


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10. A quote I like

MAYA ANGELOU, R.I.P. This quote (below) is one of my favorites from the talented author and poet, but I also like the following: "If you have only one smile in you, give it to the people you love." For others, please click:

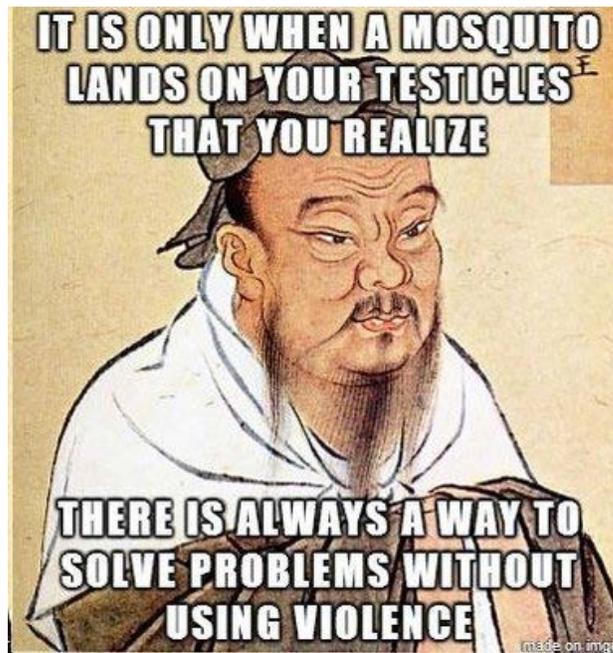
<http://tinyurl.com/obbdquv>



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11. Thought for the day

The things you learn online!



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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1AS>

A. NC events

(1) SPAMALOT. (2) Daniel [Hensley] and Friends in Concert. (3) Pipapelli. (4) The Temps (the jugglers, not the singers). (5) Sacred Journey of Dementia Conference. (6) HENRY. (7) How to Cultivate Creative Qi. (8) Earth & Sky with Richard Shulman. (9) "Good Grief" Talk (presented by Barbara Brady). (10) The Last Five Years by Jason Robert Brown.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Tasting for Tyler Party. (2) PRINCESS IDA. (3) Comedy Cabaret. (4) MOON OVER BUFFALO.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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BLAINES WORLD

#921

5.19.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I enjoyed catching this amazing street performer in downtown Asheville. That he can stay frozen in such a position always blows us away.



B. We also got to check out Zoes Kitchen. The food there was very fresh, and the portions were generous. Tom, the manager, was friendly. And we also bumped into Garrett Funk, one of our favorite local actors, who works there as a "Host/Cashier/Super-Cool-Dude" (to quote his Facebook page).



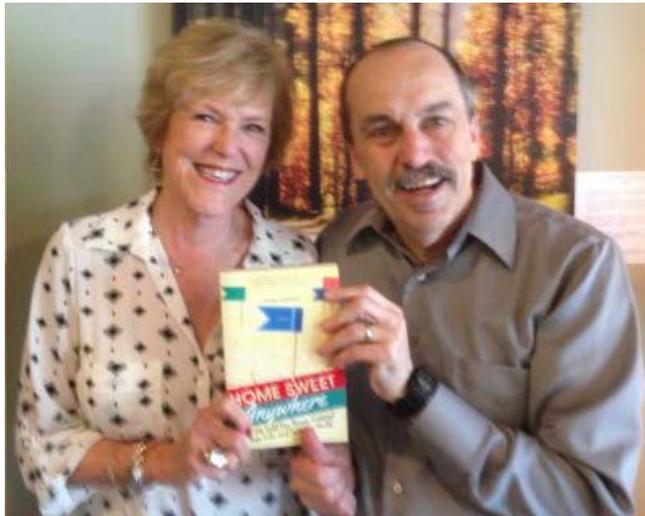
C. In addition, I:

(1) Met my friend Joe Younger for tasty sandwiches at Pomodoros. Justine, our server, was excellent.



(2) Heard an outstanding presentation by Lynne Martin, author of HOME SWEET ANYWHERE: HOW WE SOLD OUR HOUSE, CREATED A NEW LIFE, AND SAW THE WORLD. I especially liked this part she read from the Epilogue: "Our nomadic life caused us to postpone only one thing: feeling old. This is not to say that we have postponed being old. Heaven knows that with each passing day we are surprised at the changes we see in the mirror. We just do not feel old."

Kudos to Mary Lou and Nelson Sartoris for taking care of all the arrangements that helped bring Lynne and her husband Tim to our Biltmore Lake community.



(3) Went with my friend Steven Shulman to hear the talented David Novak present "Fairy Tales for Adults" at the Weaverville Library. To listen to his fresh retelling of the classic tale of the fisherman, his wife and magic flounder, please click:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETCKf9H_bjM



D. Congratulations to:

(1) Tom Giraldi for the song he wrote, "Zimmerman," about Bob Dylan. It came out in November, 2012, but since Dylan's birthday (May 24) is this week, I thought y'all might like to listen to it; you can do so by clicking:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Y6mzaYuMtE#t=36>

(2) Lorraine Pedrick Allen for receiving a 2013 Weidel Realtors Million Dollar Club Award.

(3) Steve DiGioia on his new job as Director of Food and Beverage at Crystal Springs Resort.

(4) Christie Humphrey on her engagement.

(5) Steph Hickling Beckman on being named as a guest director at UNCA this fall.

(6) Jeff and Joyce Rossman on the birth of their grandson Ethan.

(7) Christine Hagedorn for having earned her doctorate from the University of Maryland.

(8) Lynn Doyle on passing her real estate exam.

(9) Asheville for being named to this list of 14 Underrated Places You'll Really Want To Move To:

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/penske/underrated-towns-youll-really-want-to-move-to>

(10) Dr. Beth Dupree for having been nominated for a Women's Achievement Award from CBS Philly. Here's what was written about this amazing woman: Dr. Dupree is a breast cancer surgeon, Integrative Medicine Physician, Healer, author, wife and mother and much, much more. Dr Dupree founded the HCF, The Healing Consciousness Foundation. She wanted women/men stricken with breast cancer to empower themselves through healing services.

Note: Please join me in voting for her by clicking:

<http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2014/05/09/womens-achievement-awards-poll/#.U4DUARGWwq4.twitter>

(11) Ward V. in PA, winner of Contest #10: a copy of THE GREAT WORK OF YOUR LIFE by Stephen Cope. All told, there were 14 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #11 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of a book on CD, David Baldacci's THE TARGET (courtesy of Hachette Audio). To quote the RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH, "Baldacci has been on a hot streak for the past few years, and The Target continues the trend. This isn't a garden-variety thriller or even a garden-variety Baldacci. It's among his most exhilarating books yet."

To enter: Put "CONTEST #11 in the subject 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 Monday, June 2.

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

This week, it goes to a group of close friends that have become what we call our family. We often hang with them, at times as a group and at other times on an individual basis.

Recently, a bunch of us got together for a great dinner at a new Italian restaurant in Biltmore Park Town Square: Chef's Apron. Everybody's meal was just right, as was the service we received from Noelle. We will be back.



L-R: Annemarie Brown, Marvin Brown, Paul Cutright, Layne Cutright, Carole Biro, Brian Biro, Blaine Greenfield and Cynthia Greenfield. Not pictured: Marcy Gallagher, Tom Gallagher, Sunny Ruble and Susan Dobroski.

Earlier in the afternoon, most of the group gathered together for an informative presentation from Paul and Layne that they designed to deepen and expand our already existing friendships.

In particular, they taught us to engage in what they call Heart to Heart talks by using a series of lead-in phrases that included:

1. Something that is important to me
2. Something I am thankful for is
3. Something I want you to know about me is
4. Something I love about my life is

The key: When one person makes any of the above statements, the other person can only say "thank you," "I understand" or "I don't understand."

Note: Paul and Layne Cutright are coaches, educators and innovators in the field of soulful relating, conflict resolution and community building. They have been working as a professional team since 1977. Their teaching and coaching style is keenly intuitive and compassionately direct. They write books and deliver online training programs to help people create extraordinary relationships of all kinds, whether they are at home, at work or in community.

They are available for live presentations in the Asheville, North Carolina area. You can check them out at their website: www.paulandlayne.com or via email: evolve@paulandlayne.com.

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2. FYI

The other day, en route to meet a friend for lunch, I had a flat tire. What I didn't have was my friend's number, so that I could call him that I would be very late.

The lesson learned: Always bring the number of your upcoming appointment(s) with you. I will from now on.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) J.D. Mullane in PA: Old friends, new love

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10201947135659894&set=vb.1229791984&type=2&theater>

(2) Celebrating too early might mean you don't celebrate at all

<http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/the-turnstile/celebrating-too-early-might-mean-you-don-t-celebrate-at-all-164359134.html>

(3) Wise young kid gives away baseball to pretty girl

<http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/mlb-big-league-stew/wise-young-kid-gives-away-foul-ball-to-pretty-girl-025549368.html>

(4) Texas high school wide receiver recruit throws Hail Mary touchdown - to himself

<http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/highschool-prep-rally/texas-high-school-wide-receiver-recruit-throws-hail-mary-touchdown-%E2%80%94-to-himself-181204706.html>

(5) Gary J. in NC: Toy doll shoots REAL flames. (Warning: If you're easily offended, don't view this.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcDgOGC5Lcc>

(6) Steve R. in NY: Roots (a visit to Freeport, NY)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QsDTMnZNAU>

(7) Mark M. in PA: CNN: Dolphins see themselves in mirror

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgJI4bONOqc>

(8) Walter B. in NC: Put racism in its place

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWGYTlids29I>

(9) Chanah M. in MO: Happy Hippo The Lion Sleeps Tonight

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8E8xMcXmI9E>

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Av>

(1) Susan D. in NC: 50+ professional female relocating to area. (2) Sandy B. in PA: O.M.G. Hilarious! (3) Donna S. in AL: Best reads: links and pics. (4) Steve R. in NY: I have no list [of favorite films]. (5) Ron F. in PA: Blaine, You and Cynthia are living the life. (6) Roger C. in PA: I love Joke #2. (7) Jean D. in PA (on an upcoming movie, THE DISCOVERERS, that she saw at a special screening). (8) Bob P. in PA: I know you tend to be a non-fiction fan, but I happen to be reading the first book of Ken Follett's "Century Trilogy." (9) Stephen F. in PA: Why Do People Persist in Believing Things That Just Aren't True? (10) Aaron M. in NC: Nice one!

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3. Joke 1

This should hopefully serve as a good reminder to check your phone's autocorrect as this one guy recently found out . . . Girl: Thank you again for an amazing first date. . . . Boy: Any time. When's the second date? I can't wait to see those big beautiful nipples of yours. Oh, NO! I'm so sorry I meant dimples, my phone changed it.



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4. Reviews

A. MILLION DOLLAR ARM, based on a true story, is a film about a down on his luck sports agent who goes to India to find a pro pitching prospect. It's funny in part, but quite touching in others. Jon Hamm is excellent in the leading role, but the rest of the cast is equally good. If you're looking for the something that the whole family can enjoy, you won't go wrong with this choice. And you don't even have to be a baseball fan to enjoy it. Rated PG.

B. Having no current DVDs out to recommend, I'll instead go back and recommend one of my favorite films: 1961's THE CHILDREN'S HOUR, based on the 1934 play by Lillian Hellman. It's a drama about two women who manage an exclusive girl's school. They are accused of having a lesbian relationship and as a result, parents withdraw their children from the school. By the time it is discovered that this wasn't the case, it's too late. Audrey Hepburn, Shirely MacLaine and James Garner are all outstanding, but it was the work of a young actress by the name of Karen Balkin that especially caught my attention. She was as mean a villain as I've ever seen. I wanted to find out what else she's been in, but unfortunately, only came up with one other effort: OUR TIME. Too bad! Unrated, but if it were to come out now, it would probably get an R.

Note: If you'd like a listing of my other favorite films, please send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

C. HISTORY DECODED: THE 10 GREATEST CONSPIRACIES OF ALL TIME (Workman Publishing) by Brad Meltzer with Keith Ferrell is an engrossing book adapted from Meltzer's popular TV series DECODED. It explores unexplained questions that bug history buffs, such as the following: Is there any gold in Fort Knox? What does the government know about the existence of alien life? And What happened to DB Cooper?

As might be expected, there's also a chapter on the Kennedy assassination. This is the #1 request for information received by Meltzer, and as he notes: "We can't do justice to the JFK assassination in a single chapter. Indeed, as we tried to lay it out, we realized it was so packed with craziness, it needed its very own top ten list."

The book also includes 30 removable facsimile documents that I found a bit hokey.

Overall, HISTORY DECODED provides no definitive answers. Rather, it gets you to look at the evidence and come to the conclusion that definitive answers are elusive.

D. Heard SIX AMENDMENTS: HOW AND WHY WE SHOULD CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION (Hachette Audio), written by John Paul Stevens and narrated by Daniel Hagen. The author,

the second longest serving Justice in the history of the Supreme Court, gives his opinion on why the Constitution needs to be changed with respect to such subjects as gerrymandering, campaign finance and the death sentence. I found his take on gun control especially interesting; i.e., that Congress and not the courts should be charged with the popular regulation of guns. You may not agree with all of Stevens' viewpoints, but you will be impressed by his thinking.

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5. TV alert

- A. NORMAL HEART, the long-awaited film version about the 1985 play about the AIDS crisis, stars Julia Roberts and Mark Ruffalo . . . USA TODAY says it "is flawed, but it still beats with passion." Sunday, May 25, at 9 p.m. on HBO.
- B. THE WORLD WARS is a three-night series that tells the story of the 30 years from the start of World War I to the end of World War II. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "As a way of marking Memorial Day, . . . it is particularly useful this year, offering lessons for today's policy makers amid echoes of past mistakes that could be happening again now." Monday, May 26, to Wednesday, May 28, at 9 p.m. on HISTORY.
- C. ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY features performances by inductees Peter Dinklage, Cat Stevens, the E Street Band and Nivana. Ailing honoree Linda Ronstadt was able to attend, but you'll still get to hear a tribute to her. Kiss chose not to perform when the Hall of Fame chose to induct only the four original members. Hall and Oates are also being inducted. Saturday, May 30, on HBO at 8 p.m.
- D. SING YOUR FACE OFF features five recurring celebrities, including SNL alumn Jon Lovitz, who are trained and transformed to look and sing like iconic musical performers such as Elton John, Pavarotti and Lady Gaga. Premieres Saturday, May 30, on ABC at 9 p.m.

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6. Joke 2

What every horse needs: His or her own itching post! Methinks this is also far better for folks to use than Facebook's "like" option.



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7. Websites

- A. Rock E. in NC: Birds on the wire

One morning while reading a newspaper, Jarbas saw a photograph of birds on an electric wire. He cut out the photo and was inspired to make a song using the exact location of the birds as musical notes. He was curious to hear what melody the birds created.

He sent the music to the photographer, Paulo Pinto, who told his editor, who told a reporter and the story ended up as an interview in the newspaper. It ended up Winner of the YouTube Play Guggenheim Biennial Festival.

Just have a listen below at how incredible this sounds:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LoM4ZZJ2UrM>

You can also check out Jarbas Agnelli's live presentation of Birds On The Wires by clicking:

<http://www.tedxaopaulo.com.br/jarbas-agnelli-sub/>

B. Michael P. in NC: Christopher Walken dancing in over 50 movies all perfectly spliced into a single music video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNaau2uPFqI>

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

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

To see some of my favorite websites, click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Websites."

Note: This list changes from time to time, so make sure you 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:

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



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8. Technology tip

When viewing pictures or illustrations on Facebook, if they're small and/or to enjoy them even more, click directly on the picture or illustration. You'll be taken to another screen where you can see them at full size.

Note: This also applies to LinkedIn and probably other similar websites.

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9. Joke 3

DATES FROM HELL: 1. He couldn't remember my name, so he asked if I would mind if he just called me Amy instead. 2. In a restaurant, she said she did a great impression of a fax machine. Then she beeped loudly while unraveling a napkin from her mouth. 3. He said, "From your photo, I thought you were too good for me. I'm glad to see you've got flaws." Then he listed them. 4. I laughed and the entire contents of my nose came out and landed on his arm. Never saw him again. . . . For others, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/m7x7use>



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10. A quote I like

Good reminder . . .



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11. Thought for the day

In case you're wondering about the difference . . . if there's something underneath, it's a skirt!



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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1Av>

A. NC events

(1) Second Annual Sacred Journey of Dementia Conference. (2) Buying & Selling a Business. (3) Barbara Brady in NC: Please join me for the talk: "Good Grief: How to Live More Fully through the Pain of Loss."

B. PA/NJ events

(1) 27th Annual Tasting for Tyler. (2) MOON OVER BUFFALO. (3) Shakespeare '70 Returns to MCCC's Kelsey Theatre. (4) Bucks County Comedy Cabaret.

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PS. Enjoy your upcoming Memorial Day weekend, but don't forget to remember all those military personnel who died in the service of their country. And to help you do so, please listen to The Band Perry's "If I Die Young" by clicking: <http://tinyurl.com/qbwo93n>



Make it a wonderful rest of the week, too!

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BLAINES WORLD

#920

5.12.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Greeted Caleb Johnson, the AMERICAN IDOL finalist, when he visited downtown Asheville. That's us in the top photo, waiting for him with Cosmo Kramer--a very friendly Great Dane that we met at the parade. In the bottom photo, you can see us waving at Caleb, along with our friends Marcy and Tom Gallagher.





(2) Had an enjoyable dinner with friends Steve and Beth Byas at Champa, one of our favorite Thai restaurants in the Asheville area.



(3) Saw actress Ellen Pappas (top photo) and magician Glen Yost (bottom photo) delight us at recent Asheville performances in, respectively, SEVEN SINGERS AND A SONGWRITER and THE WEEKEND OF WONDER.

Note: Whatever you do, don't play Three Card Monte with Glen for money!



B. Bill Abramson and I enjoyed our chicken and waffles at King Daddy's Chicken and Waffle in Asheville . . . and will be back. Our server, Lila, was excellent!



C. Reminders
(1) There's still time to enter . . .
***** CONTEST #10 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of THE GREAT WORK OF YOUR LIFE: A GUIDE FOR THE JOURNEY TO YOUR TRUE CALLING by Stephen Cope. To quote from the book jacket: "In this fast-paced age, the often overwhelming realities of daily life may leave you feeling uncertain about how to realize your life's true purpose-what spiritual teachers call dharma. But yoga master Stephen Cope says that in order to have a fulfilling life you must, in fact, discover the deep purpose hidden at the very core of your self. In The Great Work of Your Life, Cope describes the process of unlocking the unique possibility harbored within every human soul.

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #915. Methinks you'll like it as much as I did.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #10 in the subject 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 Monday, May 19.

(2) STILL TIME TO SEE THE FOLLOWING SHOW: Tracey Johnston-Crum (left) and Steph Hickling Beckman (second to left) were both fantastic in STOP KISS, another winning production from The Different Strokes' Performing Arts Collective. Kudos, also, to the rest of the stellar cast: Lucia Del Vecchio, David Ely, Scott Fisher and Paul Gallaher. The show runs through May 17. For tickets, please click:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stop-kiss-by-diana-son-tickets-10789883833>



(3) AND THIS ONE, TOO: Scott Treadway (second from left), as always, was great in Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike--a very funny comedy written by Christopher Durning that we got to see with our friend Beth Byas (left). So was the rest of the talented cast: Paige Posey, Marcy McGuigan, Drew Moerlein, Isabel Santiago and Megan Yelaney. Theatre fans are in luck, in that they can still see it through May 25. For tickets, please click:

http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?organ_val=27967&event_val=VANY



(4) I'll be hosting an informative seminar, "Grow Your Business with Email and Social Media" on Tuesday, May 20, from 2-4:30 p.m. at ABTech. It will be presented by Aaron Means, Constant Contact Local Expert Presenter--a guy who really knows his stuff. For more information, please click:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=50behpkab&oeidk=a07e96sw1sr47418b59>

(5) If you live in the Asheville area, make sure you vote in the BEST of WNC competition-- sponsored by MOUNTAIN XPRESS. You can still do so through Wednesday May 21, by clicking:

<http://mountainx.com/bestofwnc/>

D. Congratulations:

(1) Yvonna Walls on the birth of Mikayla Grace, her beautiful granddaughter.

(2) Mike Andrus on being named celebrity trainer for the PhillyFit Work-Out-a-Thon on Sunday, June 7, from 4-8 p.m. For more information, please click:

http://editions.us.com/phillyfit_0514/#28

(3) Asheville for being featured in an article in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Real Estate Rebound in Asheville."

<http://tinyurl.com/mafr3h4>

(4) Tanya Richmond on her new job with Support Development Associates in Annapolis, MD, helping people help others.

(5) Bruce Stoller for having his "Open Spaces Suite" included in Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra's newly released "CELEBRATION" CD.

(6) Susan Reinhardt for having her book, CHIMES FROM A CRACKED SOUTHERN BELLE, awarded a bronze metal at the Independent Book Publisher awards.

(7) Howard Debs for having his latest poetry, "Watching The Moon Rising" and "Sunrise On Big Pine Key, chosen for publication in the BELLE REVE LITERARY JOURNAL. To read them, please click:

<http://www.bellerevejournal.com/2014/05/two-poems.html>

Also, if you'd like to read about all of Howard's literary endeavors, please click his blog:

<http://communicatorsandcommunications.com/muse-ings/>

E. Condolences to:

(1) Ward Vinson and family on the passing of Anne, Ward's daughter.

(2) Eileen Zolotorofe and family on the passing of Marie, Eileen's godmother.

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

Thanks, Monica Hester, for suggesting this week's recipient: Daniel D. Leep.

My infant nephew had a fluke accident happen to him at a ball field. He was hit by a foul ball in the head, unfortunately hit by my son. He suffered from some bleeding and a fractured skull. My son was pretty devastated by the whole incident and felt very responsible.

My nephew recently had a follow-up visit with the Mr. Leep, a physician assistant with the Carolina Spine & Neurosurgery Center in Asheville. Afterward, Mr. Leep wrote a personal letter to my son, reassuring him that my nephew was completely healed and should have no long-term effects.

I thought this way over and beyond what is expected of a health professional and was truly appreciated. It definitely was great reassurance for my son.

Note: For more information about the Carolina Spine & Neurosurgery Center, please click:

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

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2. FYI

Seven different paths to take in retirement

by Nancy Hellmich

When Carolee Duckworth, 67, of Sherrills Ford, N.C., retired as a Web design professor, she took a close look at her personality, passions and interests and decided to write non-fiction books, including travel books.

When Marie Langworthy, 65, of Columbia, Conn., retired as a school administrator, she also did a self-analysis and decided to supervise student teachers during the day, teach technology skills to adults at night and work as a writer on the side.

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

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/2014/02/13/shifting-gears-retirement/4441123/>

FYI, part 2

Clips

(1) Scott T. in NC: American Authors - Best Day Of My Life (Official Video)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y66j_BUCBMY

(2) Marty S. in TX: My Cat Saved My Son
<http://youtu.be/C-Opm9b2WDk>

(3) Jean D. in PA: Buy my Volvo
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJ0nkStZnWo#t=135>

(4) Sia - Chandelier (Official Video)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vjPBrBU-TM>

(5) Robert B. in CA: Vacuum commercial
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxRvT29G_h0

(6) Kids say the darndest things
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFXti_KRcLw

(7) A Singing Nun for a Reality TV World
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpaQYSd75Ak>

For the background story behind the above, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/lcfkl45>

(8) Jesse Chavez saves his own life by catching screaming line drive at head
<http://sports.yahoo.com/blogs/mlb-big-league-stew/jesse-chavez-saves-his-own-life-by-catching-screaming-line-drive-at-head-061959454.html>

(9) Michelle B. in NC: Kevin Durant Trophy MVP 2014
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6s0PJAA2UWw#t=66>

(10) Bradshaw C. in NC: Look Up
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7dLU6fk9QY>

(11) Candace M. in NC: Is Net Neutrality Dead?
<http://billmoyers.com/episode/full-show-is-net-neutrality-dead/>

B. Other tidbits from readers.

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1A6>

(1) Doug H. in NC: Our pastor preached about that Mother's Day clip yesterday! (2) Rob S. in PA: So far 324 Mercedes Benz Raffle tickets have been sold. (3) Marty D. in PA: Restaurant Receipt Shows Secret Well-Behaved Kids Discount. (4) How Young Is Too Young for a Digital Presence? (5) Majo M. in NC: Nina Lantis continues to battle cancer. (6) Jean D. in PA: I'm going to Manhattan tomorrow for the NYC premiere of The Discoverers.

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3. Joke 1

This picture has me writing a note to myself: "Self, don't hire this photographer." FYI: In case you were wondering, the bridesmaids are not all little people. For others you really need to look at to understand, click:

<http://tinyurl.com/cftq2ha>



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4. Reviews

A. THE RAILWAY MAN is a fantastic film, based on a bestselling autobiography, about a prisoner of war at a Japanese labor camp during World War II. Many years later, he discovers that the Japanese interpreter responsible for much of what happened to him is still alive. Though violent in parts, I recommend it highly because of its overall message of both love and forgiveness. Colin Firth might well win another Oscar for his performance here. Rated R.

Note: I'm still thinking about it. Also, I've just added it to my list of favorite films. If you'd like a copy of that list, send an email to bjinbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

B. STILL MINE is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #886 follows:

STILL MINE, based on a true story, is a touching love story about a couple in their 80s. She has Alzheimer's, and he only wants to stay with her. So he begins building a home for them to live in, but along the way, he finds that local building codes and bureaucratic officials make this task almost impossible. James Cromwell--previously a fine character in supporting roles--gives the performance of his life as the husband. I'm hoping that he gets an Oscar nomination for his work. Rated PG-13.

C. If you miss Dave Barry's weekly columns in THE MIAMI HERALD as much as I do, you can at least catch up with him by reading his latest book: YOU CAN DATE BOYS WHEN YOU'RE FORTY: DAVE BARRY ON PARENTING AND OTHER TOPICS HE KNOWS VERY LITTLE ABOUT (Penguin Group).

This hilarious collection of never-before-published pieces covers everything you would want to know about that subject--and such other topics as family trips, dating, funeral instructions, how to become a professional writer and a whole lot more.

As with anything Barry writes, you'll learn many tidbits that you may well not find anywhere else. For example:

* [about wine] In an hour, it will be urine, same as Bud Light.

* [on how to ride a horse] To get off the horse, give the command "Kneel!" If the horse fails to obey, you will have to stay up there until help arrives with a ladder.

And perhaps most importantly, there's this advice on how to perform emergency first aid:

* Very important: Before attempting any treatment, find out whether the victim has insurance or is planning to pay with cash.

I'm not sure about whether I am now a better parent as a result of reading this book. What I do know, though, is that I feel a lot better having laughed the few hours it took me to finish YOU CAN DATE BOYS.

D. Heard A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FUTURE: TWISTS AND TURNS AND LESSONS LEARNED (Hyperion Audio), written and read by Michael J. Fox.

This slim book reads like a graduation speech, at which the author encourages graduates to recognize opportunities, maximize their abilities and roll with the punches.

Many of his personal stories are touching, and I got a kick out of the many hilarious anecdotes. I especially liked how he approached the subject of Comparative Literature; i.e., he stacked books up against their movie versions.

I was less crazy about the fact that much of the material seemed to be rehash of his earlier books: LUCKY MAN and ALWAYS LOOKING UP. If you've read those, I don't recommend taking the time to read A FUNNY THING.

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5. TV alert

A. A star is born! Whatever you do, make sure you catch Emily Shaules--our talented friend--in DEVIOS MAIDS on Sunday, May 18, at 10 p.m. on LIFETIME. She plays a nurse.

B. THE MAYA RUDOLPH SHOW, headlined by the SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE vet, is a variety show that premieres on Monday, May 19, at 10 p.m. on NBC. Guests include Kristen Bell,

Craig Robinson, Sean Hayes, Chris Parnell and Andy Samberg.

C. JUDGE JUDY PRIMETIME will feature all new cases, as well a look at how the still active 70-year-old went from being a New York family-court judge to the multimillionaire TV personality she is today. Tuesday, May 20, at 8 p.m. on CBS.

D. Tuesday, May 20, at 8 p.m. on FOX is your last chance to vote for Asheville's Caleb Johnson in this year's AMERICAN IDOL competition. Please do--and often. (You're allowed to do so!) Results will be announced the next night, also at 8 p.m., in a special two-hour season finale.

Note: To get you psyched, listen to this interview that Susan Reinhardt conducted with Caleb's mom:

<http://www.buzzsprout.com/21194/168527-the-mom-who-raised-caleb-johnson>

In addition, I thought you'd like to read this oh-so-true comment my friend Tom G. in NJ posted on his Facebook page:

Thought I was hip on watching American Idol . . . then last night, every song they performed, I never heard of....."Old Man take a look at me now, I'm a lot like you."

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6. Joke 2

Will y'all be joining me?



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7. Websites

A. Jean R. in PA: Anything for love. According to the video description on Vimeo, Albert Bredenhann said, "In February 2014, one of Gerdi McKenna's friends wrote an email requesting a photo shoot for all her friends as she was diagnosed with breast cancer a few months before." When they all came together, they surprised her.

To view this beautiful video, please click:

<http://local21news.com/news/features/around-the-web/stories/anything-for-love-whp.shtml#.U3laYvldXVR>

B. Marty S. in PA: Remembering the 50s

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjj9VKKS2g>

Note: You may have seen other clips with a similar title, but this is one of the best. Do view it.

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

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

Want more information about Asheville? Click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Asheville."

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>

Like us on Facebook 

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8. Technology tip

PC Slowing Down? Here's How to Speed It Up with Windows' Disk Optimization Tools
by David Pogue

You took the first step--buying technology. Now all you have to do is master it. We're here to help, with tips and tricks you may have missed. If you know them already--well done, guru! If not--there's no better time to start learning than right now.

Modern PCs don't require as much maintenance as they once did. But showing your hard drive some love now and then can make a difference in its speed and efficiency, especially if it's fairly full. Here it is: the non-techie's guide to optimizing your system using Disk Cleanup and Disk Defragmenter.

To read more about the above, please click:

<https://www.yahoo.com/tech/pc-slowing-down-heres-how-to-speed-it-up-with-84919144919.html>

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9. Joke 3

It's never too late to remember your mama!



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10. A quote I like

Many people have listened and some have heard, and I have learned over the years that my job is not to try to convince anyone of what I say but just to keep on saying it as long as the Spirit wants me to.--John-Roger (born 1934), American author, public speaker and founder of the Movement of Spiritual Inner Awareness

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11. Thought for the day

MY NOMINEE FOR MAN OF THE YEAR: 99-year-old Dobri Dobrev who lost most of his hearing in World War II. He now travels every day from his village to the city of Sofia,

Bulgaria, where he spends the day begging for money. But he's not begging for himself; instead, Dobrev has donated all the money collected--estimated at about 40,000 euros--to help restore churches and aid needy people. For more information, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/l4mbgp9>



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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1A6>

A. NC events

(1) Fred Lemmons and others in concert. (2) A RAISIN IN THE SUN. (3) Asheville Jewish Forum (open to ALL, regardless of religion). (4) Breakthrough Leadership Program. (5) CINDERELLA. (6) PONDER ANEW: A WWII WARRIOR'S STORY. (7) Asheville Quilt Show. (8) Leadership Asheville 33 Program Applications. (9) MAGIC FUNDRAISER for Odyssey Community school.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Margie Montet at Friends of Yardley-Makefield Library. (2) Spring 2014 Salons Hosted by Deanna Trust.

C. National event

Special Webinar Announcement . . . Creating Futures: Barry Sysler's Legacy.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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BLAINESWORLD

#919

5.5.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Loved participating in the annual Walk a Mile in her shoes event, designed to raise funds and awareness for Our Voice--Buncombe County's nonprofit working with victims of sexual violence.



Thanks to the members of the BLAINESWORLD team who participated: Brian Biro, Dan Caton, Michelle Baker and Wilson, Blaine and Cynthia Greenfield, Tom Heck, Linda and Chuck Hollinthead, John and Jane Kennedy, Steve Liebenhaut, BJ Leiderman, DeWitt Robbeloth, John Russo, Eric and Frankie Weinberger, and Zuzu Welsh. Also, thanks to Anne Heck for her tireless work as an Our Voice Board member who helped make the event the success that it was. And kudos to the following sponsors who supported my team's efforts and helped it raise some \$650: Suzanne & Mike Wright, Derrik Snider, Wendy Attadgie, John and Danielle Dilcher, Debbie Hancock, Ann, Jim and Kim Preish, Delores Chalmer, Declan J. Sheehy, David Grahm, Nevin trammell, Gustavo Kolmel, Nevin trammell, LLGJ, Jeremy Lerner, Penny Barstow, John Kenndy, Chuck and Linda Hollinshead, Bill and Joyce Sederburg, Brian and Carole Biro, Marilynne Herbert, Lisa and Rich Zaglin, Jim Roney, and Blaine and Cynthia Greenfield.

For more pictures from the Walk, please click:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152358675059757.1073741826.519364756&type=1&l=465bf46b23>

(2) Had a blast watching the amazing Ricky Boone (below, along with his assistant Kelsey Ann Carter) perform at The Weekend of Wonder.



For more pictures from the event, please click:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152354683489757.1073741825.519364756&type=1&l=d26d514ac9>

(3) Enjoyed celebrating Cynthia's performance at the recent Women's Recovery Conference. Kudos to Barrie Barton, artistic director with Community Choreography Projects, for arranging the evening and also, to the many other wonderful performers who were so amazing!

Pictured: Amy Suben, Cynthia Greenfield, Susan Dobroski and Blaine Greenfield. For more pictures from the Conference, please click:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152364409144757.1073741827.519364756&type=1&l=654258cc8c>



(4) Saw a delightful performance of SEVEN SINGERS AND A SONGWRITER, featuring Bradshaw Call and Katherine Sandoval Taylor (below), singing the music of a very talented songwriter/composer by the name of Dave Bates. They were joined on stage by these other marvelous performers: Richard Blue, Wendy Morrison, Ellen Pappas, Ruth Paney and Russell Watts.



(5) Participated in a class called Yamuna Foot Fitness. According to the very knowledgeable instructor, Ann-Lee Waite, "Yamuna foot basics help prevent or alleviate common foot problems, improves flexibility, movement and mobility in the feet and ankles, avoid injuries due to repetitive stress to the feet, ankles, knees and hips."

For more information, contact Ann-Lee Waite at 828.395.0250. She conducts drop-in classes on Wednesdays from 11:30-12:00 p.m. at French Broad Food Co-op, 90 Biltmore Ave., Asheville. First class, free; \$7 thereafter. She is also running a 4-week Foot Fitness Series using Foot Wakers. starting May 10th at Precision Pilates. 1070 Tunnel Road #20. starting May 10. Cost: \$40. Call above number to reserve a spot.



(6) Met our friends Tom and Marcy Gallagher at Scully's for a tasty dinner where we received great service from Joshua.



B. Correction

The following video was posted last week in Section 2, but it was taken down. It has since been reposed with a new link that's now working. (Thanks, Maria P. in PA, for bringing this to my attention.)

Shari H. in NJ: Ca\$h Only - Short Film

This is a comedy short film about a girl, Alana, who meets a guy, Ethan, online. Mature content.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtrDnZ_NCn4

Note: Above was done by the daughter of a friend. She would be interested in any feedback you might have, and I would be, too.

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Richard Shulman for the article in WNC magazine about his group, The Pure Heart Ensemble, and their May 9 concert at the The Light Center in Black Mountain, NC. To read it, please click:

http://wncmagazine.com/events/the_pure_heart_ensemble

(2) Jenna Biro for her graduation from UGA's Grady school of communications and journalism. She is then off to LA for more training in film production at Grady LA and some internships.

(3) Gil Calderwood and Joe Calderwood on their upcoming marriage in Washington, D.C.

(4) Lisa Zaglin and family on their son Stephen's First Holy Communion.

(5) Pat Engle on her appointment as First Vice President of the Bucks County Federation of Teachers.

(6) Chelsea St John Wade, Justin Gaylard, Melanie Morton, Steven Green, Tyler Winkler, Heather Bronson, Savannah Hays and Annie Tesh for all being named (deservedly so) winners at the recent Awards Night at Mars Hill University. Also, congratulations to Chelsea, Melanie, Tyler, Alexis Danielle Miller and Skylar Elrod for their graduation from MHU.

(7) Steve Gable who scored an outstanding 96% on his Spinning Instructor's Assessment Exam as a follow-up to his March 6th Instructor Training. He is now certified until March 5, 2016.

(8) Peter Savage and Amanda Clemmons Savage on the birth of Mary-Jane May Savage.

(9) Joanne E. in PA, winner of Contest #9: a copy of THE VISITOR by Bree Abbington. All told, there were 13 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #10 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of THE GREAT WORK OF YOUR LIFE: A GUIDE FOR THE JOURNEY TO YOUR TRUE CALLING by Stephen Cope. To quote from the book jacket: "In this fast-paced age, the often overwhelming realities of daily life may leave you feeling uncertain about how to realize your life's true purpose-what spiritual teachers call dharma. But yoga master Stephen Cope says that in order to have a fulfilling life you must, in fact, discover the deep purpose hidden at the very core of your self. In The Great Work of Your Life, Cope describes the process of unlocking the unique possibility harbored within every human soul.

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #915. Methinks you'll like it as much as I did.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #10 in the subject 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 Monday, May 19.

D. Condolences to Jenny Harrison Bunn and family on the passing of Jenny's Dad.

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

Thanks, Chanah Mohler, for suggesting this week's recipient:

Okay folks I don't normally put shout outs on Facebook, but I feel like I need to today. We went to Pearle Vision today, and Jonathan Mohler saw Dr. Eric Gerkie and was given the best eye examination he has ever had. Then Matt B. waited on us and was such a joy to be around. He is a very nice young man and extremely helpful. Just so you know for now they are offering the HD lenses at half off. They ended up being less than the lenses he currently has. If you are due for an updated pair I highly recommend you go see this doctor and this particular salesman. Good service can be very hard to get, so please support those who do their job well.

Note: The above Pearle Vision is located at 1519 E. Battlefield Rd., Springfield, MO; 417.887.7778.

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2. FYI

"If You Can," a concise, no-nonsense instruction manual on saving and investing for retirement by William J. Bernstein, an investment adviser and author on financial subjects, is available for free by clicking:
<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/29031758/If%20You%20Can.pdf>

This pamphlet is extremely helpful for anybody, but especially for younger people who aren't yet in the work force or have just started their careers.

I read about the above in an informative article from THE NEW YORK TIMES about planning a financial path to retirement. To read it, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/04/your-money/a-path-to-retirement-for-those-far-from-it.html?src=me&module=Ribbon&version=origin@ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=Most%20Emailed&pgtype=article>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Chuck T. in NC: Ceili and I singing "High Hopes" together at my Reuter Center Singers concert. I love the way she sparkles!

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10152729190276729&set=vb.578531728&type=2&theater>

(2) Sharon C. in NC: Australian magician James Galea

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDG1mDCfoBo#t=130>

(3) Marilynne H. in NC: Dogs play bluegrass

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SleYHOcLjOg#t=11>

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1zy>

(1) Ingrid S. in PA: I did download Chrome after reading the newsletter. (2) Colleen D. in PA: Nice jokes. (3) Sandy B. in PA: My friend Linda O and I both love MBB Cynthia's hair change she made recently. (4) Pat A. in PA: Many thanks to you once again, for your donation to Julie's trip to a Jamaican orphanage in March. (5) Joanne E. in PA: By the way, I too use Staples to help keep my computer up and running. (6) Dan B. in PA: This is Norton's link to their page that tells you if a web site is affected by Heartbleed. (7) Marcia W. in NC: Does anyone know of a two-bedroom rental in the Asheville area? (8) Never give a boring presentation again. (9) Travel planning apps. (10) Tom G. in NJ: I'm looking for 50,000,000 likes.

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3. Joke 1

A father asks his son, now aged 10, if he knows about the birds and the bees. "I don't want to know!" the child said, bursting into tears. . . . Confused, the father asked his son what was wrong. . . . "Oh dad," he sobbed, "at age six I got the 'there's no Santa' speech. At age seven I got the 'there's no Easter bunny' speech. Then at age 8 you hit me with the 'there's no tooth fairy' speech! If you're going to tell me now that grownups don't really have sex, I've got nothing left to live for!"



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4. Reviews

A. THE OTHER WOMAN is a not very funny comedy about three women who team up to plot revenge on the cheating guy who has lied to them all. As I was watching it, I kept thinking that the story had been done before--and better--in THE FIRST WIVES CLUB. Also, though I am usually a fan of both Cameron Diaz and Leslie Mann, they just didn't click in this film--except in one scene where they were hiding in the bushes. Kate Upton, in particular, was pretty poor in every scene she was in. Rated PG-13.

B. Out on DVD is HER . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #904 follows:

HER is a thought-provoking film set in the future about a withdrawn writer (Joaquin Phoenix) who falls in love with his computer's highly advanced operating system . . . the dialogue is crisp, and the acting by Phoenix is spot on--as is the voice of Scarlett Johansson . . . I also liked the cinematography . . . rated R.

C. I often wonder how the same news story can be covered in two completely different ways.

After reading David Brock's BLINDED BY THE RIGHT: THE CONSCIENCE OF AN EX-CONSERVATIVE (Crown Publishers), I now have a better understanding of how this happens.

The author, a onetime right-wing scandal reporter and author of THE REAL ANITA HILL, explains:

I quickly learned what it took to be one of Pod's golden boys: a mix of reported fact laced with a heavy dose of conservative--preferably neoconservative--spin. We made no bones about the magazines' ideological biases around the office, which justified as balancing out the liberal biases that so infuriated us in the pages of the major newsweeklies. Yet in the doublespeak that I was coached in at the times, the magazine was marketing as objective journalism, and this is how we presented ourselves to the reading public.

The book then goes on to provide fascinating accounts of Clarence Thomas, Newt Gingrich, the Clintons and many other political bigwigs in the 1980s and 90s.

If you want to have a better understanding about what has led to the poisonous political climate that now exists, you won't go wrong by reading BLINDED BY THE RIGHT.

D. Heard FIRST LOVE (Hachette Audio), written by James Patterson and Emily Raymond and read by Lauren Fortgang.

Don't be misled by seeing Patterson's name on the book; this is not one of his typical thrillers. Rather, it is a touching love story about two teenagers who impulsively decide to take an unplanned cross-country road trip.

I enjoyed getting to know Axi Moore and her best friend Robinson, the two main characters, and I was drawn into each one of their adventures. In addition, I found it interesting to learn that the tale had origins in Patterson's own past.

My hope is that FIRST LOVE soon becomes a movie.

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5. TV alert

As of May 1, 2014, here's an update on what's happening with many of the TV shows that you might be watching:

Save Our Shows: What's renewed, in limbo or nearly dead
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/life/tv/2014/04/02/save-our-shows-usa-today-poll/7126737/>

As for this what's coming up, here are some things on the air that you might want to check out:

A. THE (DEAD MOTHERS) CLUB tells the story of three women whose paths never cross, yet are bound by the shared experience of losing their mothers during adolescence, exploring each one's sometimes-complex relationship with her mother. Directed by first-time filmmakers Carlye Rubin and Katie Green, who are themselves members of "the club," it also includes insights from Rosie O'Donnell, Molly Shannon and Jane Fonda, who share their own experiences with losing a mother. Monday, May 12, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

B. JIM HENSEON'S CREATURE SHOP CHALLENGE is a show I haven't been watching, but the season finale looks like it is worth viewing. The remaining contestants have to create a full-body mystical being--including both props and visual effects. Tuesday, May 13, on SYFY at 9 p.m.

C. AMERICAN IDOL on Wednesday, May 14, on FOX at 8 p.m.

Note: Please vote for Asheville's Caleb Johnson. Doing so will help ensure his making next week's finale.

D. AMERICAN MASTERS profiles Geoge Plimpton (1927-2003), the participatory journalist responsible for such books as PAPER LION. Friday, May 16, at 9 p.m. on PBS.

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

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6. Joke 2

Do you think this is where students learn to photoshop?



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7. Websites

A. Funniest Game Show Answers of All Time
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7ghDhpCLKM>

B. Diane M. in NC: 5th grade boys Synchronized Air Swimming Talent Show
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S59NCvIUfng>

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

Check photo of me on the right. Then put your mouse on my eyes. Then move your mouse to any of the headings on the left and look at my eyes as you do so. Neat, huh?

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>

Like us on [Facebook](#) 

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8. Technology tip

Productivity Tip: Don't Use Your Inbox as a To-Do List
by Jensen Gelfond*

If you leave emails in your inbox to remind you of important tasks, you may find that your mailbox gets overloaded way too quickly.

One of the reasons I advocate to-do programs is because they can empower you to effectively separate tasks you're already aware of from inbound information you have yet to sort through.

Separating your inbound (unknown) mail from information you've already processed can empower you to spend less time in your inbox and more time on getting more important things done.

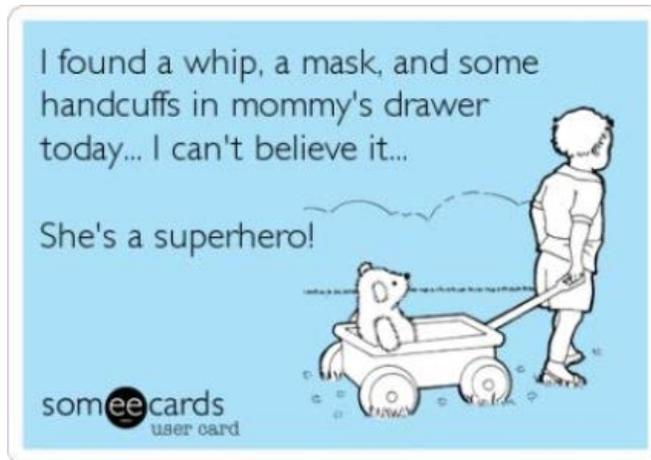
For more, check out this article from the Harvard Business Journal:
<http://blogs.hbr.org/2014/03/stop-using-your-inbox-as-a-to-do-list/>

* Jensen has lots of other valuable tips in his excellent newsletter, ASHEVILLE DIGITAL LIFESTYLE. To get on the free mailing list, please click:
<http://www.ashevilledigitallifestyle.com/newsletter.html>

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9. Joke 3

This now has me viewing my mother in a different light!



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10. A quote I like

"I try not to complain about my life because I know someone somewhere is fighting to survive."--Nessa Nicolee

Note: I'm trying to track down more information on this quote. If you have any to share and/or can tell me more about who Nessa Nicolee is, please advise.



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11. Thought for the day

The Stories That Bind Us
by Bruce Feiler in THE NEW YORK TIMES (3.15.13)

I hit the breaking point as a parent a few years ago. It was the week of my extended family's annual gathering in August, and we were struggling with assorted crises. My parents were aging; my wife and I were straining under the chaos of young children; my sister was bracing to prepare her preteens for bullying, sex and cyberstalking.

Sure enough, one night all the tensions boiled over. At dinner, I noticed my nephew texting under the table. I knew I shouldn't say anything, but I couldn't help myself and asked him to stop.

For the rest of this informative piece about families identifying their core values, please click:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/17/fashion/the-family-stories-that-bind-us-this-life.html?pagewanted=all>

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12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

(1)) I'll be hosting an informative seminar, "Grow Your Business with Email and Social Media" on Tuesday, May 20, from 2-4:30 p.m. at ABTech. It will be presented by Aaron Means, Constant Contact Local Expert Presenter-- a guy who really knows his stuff. For more information, please click:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=50behpkab&oeidk=a07e96sw1sr47418b59>

To reach about each of these other events in full, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1zy>

(2) UNCA's OLLI Comedy Show. (3) JOYride. (4) "The Storyteller's Fire" (5) A Natural Solution for ADD, ADHD, Dyslexia and other learning problems. (6) Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike. (7) The Vanishing Wheelchair continues its monthly fundraiser shows. (8) Tracey Johnston-Crum and Steph Hickling Beckman are both fantastic in STOP KISS. (9) Buzz Breakfast Series. (10) Pipapelli will be playing a string of gigs.

B. PA/NJ events

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

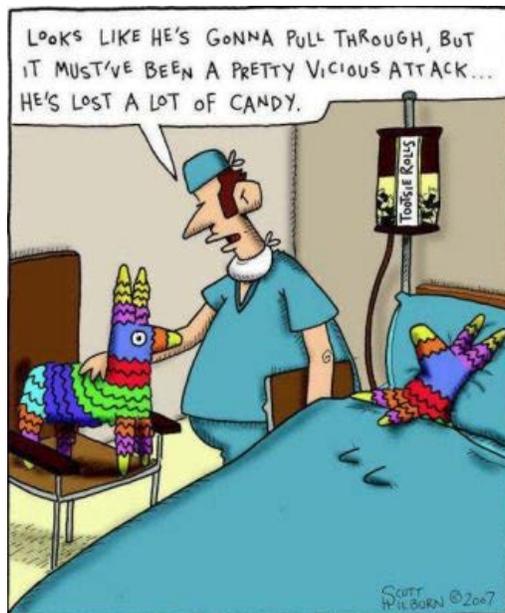
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1zy>.

(1) RHYTHM OF THE EARTH SPRING 2014 SPIRITUAL HAPPENINGS. (2) THE MAN THAT LOVES TO TALK ABOUT SEX--MITCH FATEL.

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PS. If you're like me and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way), Feliz Cinco de Mayo, which translated means Happy Cinco de May! To get you in the mood, see below and/or click this great Herb Alpert video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGI_E8z6o2Y



Also, HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY on Sunday to all mothers and/or to those, like me, who use the holiday to remember their mothers. To help you do the same, please view this clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HB3xM93rXbY>



And make it a wonderful week, too!

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

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BLAINES WORLD

#918

4.28.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Joined our friend Emily Shaules for tasty pizza at Mellow Mushroom.



We then went to Asheville Community Theatre to see a very funny production of DEARLY DEPARTED. All in the large cast were excellent, including (pictured with yours truly, l-r): Stephanie O'Rear, Gary Gaines and Dianne Chapman. We also got a kick out of seeing several others that we know: Amy LaDeroute, Craig Justus, Waylon Wood, Frank Salvo, Cary Nichols and Susan Mengel. ACT continues to rock with one excellent production after another.



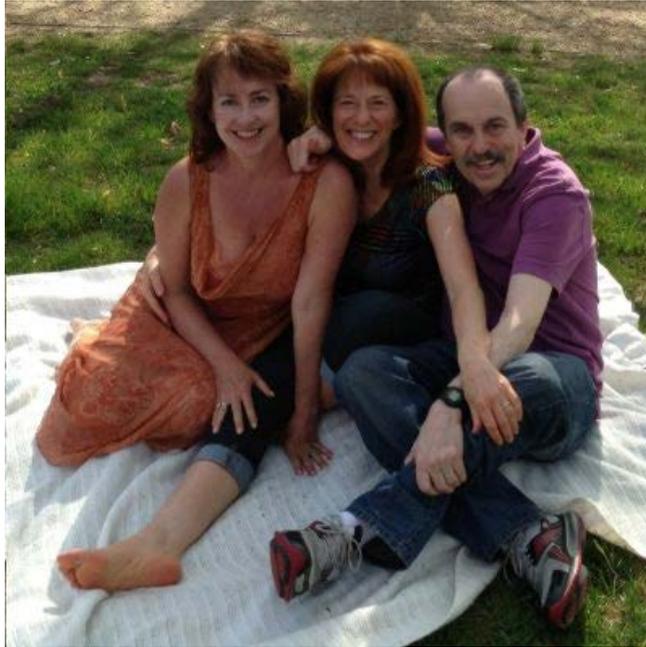
(2) Made a new friend, Mel Fergenbaum, at the inaugural meeting of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum's Lunch & Learn series. I was honored to be the guest speaker, and my topic was "The Platinum Rule." If you'd like to read an article I've written on that subject, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put PLATINUM RULE in the subject line.



(3) Celebrated our friend and neighbor Harry Garland's birthday with delicious chocolates from Kilwin's.



(4) Attended the opening of the magnificent new Pavilion in our Biltmore Lake community, along with our friend Susan Dobroski. Kudos to Marilynne Herbert and all the many others involved with making this a reality, as well as to Kat Williams who provided entertainment for the event.



From there, we went to a new restaurant for dinner: Thai To Go. We enjoyed the food, and Kyra, our server, was excellent. We will be back. Pictured, l-r: Julia Rosa, Susan Dobroski, Cynthia Greenfield and Blaine Greenfield.



(5) Enjoyed rehearsals of SECRETS, a performance that will be held at the Women's Recovery Conference. Pictured, l-r: Ellane Chandler, Lisa Wilson, Cappy Tosetti, Michael Beveridge, Cynthia Greenfield, David Wright, Lisa Wolfe and Ash Devine.



B. I was fortunate to be able to catch The Magnetic Theatre's powerful production of THE BOG. Darren Marshall, Sean David Robinson and Glenn Reed were all great, and Steven Samuels' direction was spot on.

C. Reminders:

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

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

One lucky winner will receive a copy of THE VISITOR by Bree Abbingon. To quote from the amazon.com description: "[The book] chronicles her Christmas Day adventure with a very unusual and unexpected visitor. It is the heartwarming story of what is possible when you accept that some gifts come in strange wrappings."

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #912. Methinks you'll like it as much as I did.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #9 in the subject 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 Monday, May 5.

(2) I'll be hosting an informative seminar, "Grow Your Business with Email and Social Media" on Tuesday, May 20, from 2-4:30 p.m. at ABTech. It will be presented by Aaron Means, Constant Contact Local Expert Presenter--a guy who really knows his stuff. For more information, please click: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=50behpkab&oeidk=a07e96sw1sr47418b59>

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Vicki Eisenpresser and family on the birth of Arden Simone, her granddaughter.

(2) Greg Garrison for being named UNC Asheville Athletics "Bulldog Fan of the Year" for 2013-2014.

(3) Asheville, featured in a great article by Marla Hardee Milling in BLUE RIDGE COUNTRY: <http://blueridgecountry.com/newsstand/magazine/asheville-weird-beautiful-home/>

(4) Carole Reese for being chosen to meet with Michelle Obama and Jill Biden. The three of them chatted about Joining Forces and my personal experiences as the wife of a deployed soldier. NPR recorded the meeting for its StoryCorps series, and it will be archived as part of our country's history in the Library of Congress.

(5) Vilasi Venkatachalam on her new Internet radio show, "Secret Cuisines & Sacred Rituals." To listen to it, please click: bit.ly/secretcuisines

(6) Tina Rocca on her graduation with honors from Community College of Philadelphia.

(7) Edie Weinstein on having a new home for her writing: Recovery Ranch. To read more, please click: <http://www.recoveryranch.com/articles/co-depen-dance-by-edie-weinstein-msw-lsw/>

(8) Alexis Danielle Miller for receiving the Champagne Award from Residential Life at Mars Hill University for her sparkling personality.

(9) Tom Orr. He will be playing General Lord Glossop in "Jekyll and Hyde" at the Surflight Theatre on Long Beach Island, NJ, from June 18 to July 6, then he will be in the Surflight show immediately after that, "Fiddler on the Roof" from July 9 to 27, as the Constable. This will complete the requirements for his membership in Actors' Equity.

(10) Jensen Gelfond for his informative interview in the Brick and Mortar Reporter. It can be heard by clicking: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/jensen-gelfond-asheville-digital/id834006498?i=279410506&mt=2>

(11) Christopher Hickman on his engagement to Jennifer Robinson.

(12) Jerry Gross on his engagement to Deserie Golder McGettigan.

E. Condolences to:

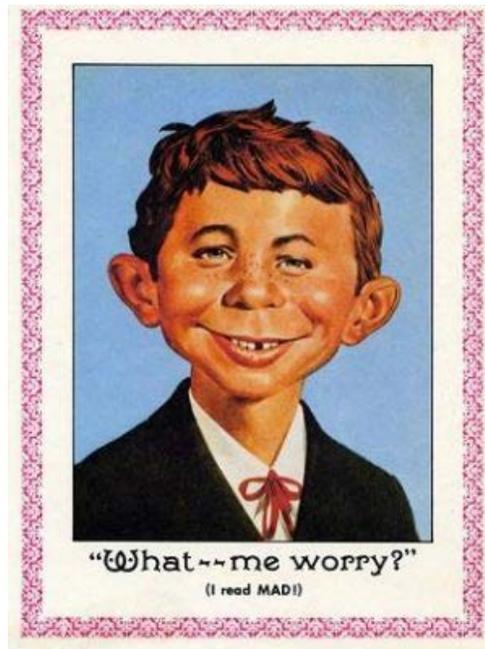
(1) Marty Litchman and family on the passing of Alan Litchman, Marty's brother.

(2) Tee Gerardi and family on the passing of Kathleen "Katie" (Henderson) Gerard, Tee's mother.

(3) Zuzu Welsh and family on the passing of Zuzu's brother's wife.

Lastly:

(4) AL FELDSTEIN, R.I.P. In the unlikely event you don't recognize the name, he edited the satirical magazine MAD from 1956 to 1985. To quote Bill Oakley, producer of THE SIMPSONS: "Basically everyone who was young between 1955 and 1975 read MAD, and that's where your sense of humor came from." For more information about Feldstein's life, please click: <http://tinyurl.com/l2dy4h8>. (Pictured: Alfred E. Neumann, the fictitious mascot and cover boy of MAD who was named by Feldstein.)



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

Note: Readers are always welcome to submit nominations. Thanks, Susan Dobroski, for this submission:

I'd like to suggest the following person for your "Blaine's Best" award. I was astonished that she remembered my name from a brief encounter we had at least a week before I returned to do business with the credit union.

Carly Parr
Member Service Representative II
Carolina Mountains Credit Union
1911 Hendersonville Road
Asheville, NC 28803
828.676.2196

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2. FYI

"To Do: Celebrate Your Relationship Every Day" was an excellent article in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. What I really liked was the boxed information that follows:
Schedule of Appreciation

Many couples wait for a crisis to show each other support and work on the relationship. Therapists advise couples to leverage positive experiences during good times by showing each other appreciation. A special form is called 'capitalization,' the enthusiastic celebration of a partner's victories and accomplishments.

EVERY DAY . . .

Bring her morning coffee to her in bed.
Keep the kitchen stocked with his favorite snack.
Tuck a love note on her dresser.

EVERY MONTH . . .

Bring his car to be washed or fill the tank with gasoline.
Have a special dinner waiting when she comes home from work.
Mail him a thank-you card.

ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS . . .

The diet is working-his jeans fit again! Treat him to the best salad in town.
The boss recognized her hard work. Brag about it to the family-when she is there to hear.
He whispered a hilarious comment in the movie. Tell him, 'You are the funniest person I know.'

Note: To read the entire article, please click:

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304640104579487452139791452?KEYWORDS=celebrate+your+relationships+every+day&mg=reno64-wsj>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Shari H. in NJ: Ca\$h Only - Short Film

This is a comedy short film about a girl, Alana, who meets a guy, Ethan, online. Mature content.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvA9pAmfLsU&sns=fb>

Note: Above was done by the daughter of a friend. She would be interested in any feedback you might have, and I would be, too.

(2) Karen M. in NC: On how I approach strangers in the street

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPxzIGPrM3A&list=PLHKVjBSDqMB7eyU1Se_X4cUI56oYYQWmA#t=41

(3) Chuck S. in NJ: How is this guy human?

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

(4) Alyson M. in CO: Mommy's Having A Baby

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWFau-Q6HM4>

(5) Rodney S. in NC: Jimmy Fallon Lip Sync Battle with Emma Stone

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLBSoc_2IY8

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1z1>

(1) Roger C. in PA: I'm afraid I don't get the joke. (2) Jo F. in PA: I haven't gotten far in your newsletter before sending this because....."THAT" photo demands a response. (3) Evan G. in SC: To the South Carolinians (and environs) friends of new plays. (4) Neat experiment involving interaction with strangers. (5) Crunching the numbers to find the best airfare. (6) Chuck F. in NC: Check out a movie on Netflix if you're a boomer or someone who loves music. (7) Gayle C. in PA: Good quotes from The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel movie. (8) Michelle B. in NC: Read our latest MGM article, How to Accumulate Wealth with Just \$50 a Month. (9) 43 questions to ask before picking a new town.

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3. Joke 1

Earl and Bubba are quietly sitting in a boat fishing, chewing tobacco and drinking beer when suddenly Bubba says, "Think I'm gonna divorce the wife. She ain't spoke to me in over 2 months." . . . Earl spits overboard, takes a long, slow sip of beer and says, "Better think it over. Women like that are hard to find."



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4. Reviews

A. HEAVEN IS FOR REAL, based on the best-selling book of the same name, is the true

story of a small-town father who must deal with his son's claim that he visited Heaven during a near death experience. Greg Kinnear shines as the father and newcomer Connor Corum is quite good as his young son, but overall, the film felt somewhat flat. As is usually the case, the book was better. Rated PG, though I doubt that it wouldn't be of interest to a child unless he or she was over the age of 7.

B. Out on DVD is LABOR DAY . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #905 follows:

LABOR DAY is a suspenseful drama about a reclusive mother who takes care of her 13-year-old son . . . their lives change when they encounter an escaped convict while on a shopping trip. . . Kate Winslet and Josh Brolin are both appealing in the leading roles, and Gattlin Griffith is perfect as Winslet's son . . . I also liked the accompanying music . . . the more I think about this film, the more I liked it . . . rated PG-13.

C. STRANGE MEDICINE: A SHOCKING HISTORY OF REAL MEDICAL PRACTICES THROUGH THE AGES (Perigee) by Nathan Belofsky is a book that will make you grateful for how far the practice of medicine has come.

It highlights strange ideas, bizarre treatment and big blunders that often hurt more than they helped. What's amazing is that many of the doctors and scientists cited were actually quite famous and/or well known--and still are.

Among the practices highlighted were the following:

- * Ancient Egyptians applied electric eels to cure gout.
- * Medieval dentists burned candles in patients' mouths to kill invisible worms gnawing at their teeth.
- * Eighteenth-century physicians instructed epileptics to collect fresh blood from the newly beheaded.

And this one utilized by Dr. Walter Freeman, the world's foremost practitioner of lobotomies:

- * He practiced his craft while traveling on family camping trips, cramming the back of the station wagon with kids and surgical tools, then hammering ice picks into the eye sockets of his patients in between hikes in the woods.

If you used to like the RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT books when you were younger than you'll enjoy STRANGE MEDICINE. I did.

D. Heard LETTER COMPOSED DURING A LULL IN THE FIGHTING: POEMS (Hachette Audio), written and read by Kevin Powers.

The author, an Iraq war veteran and novelist, captures what life shaped by war is all about. His poems cover such topics as writing a love letter, waiting for the unknown and listening to a mother recount her dreams.

Even if you're not a poetry fan, you will be moved by this collection. The fact that Powers narrated it made it even more powerful.

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5. TV alert

A. INDEPENDENT LENS tells the story of Jayson Blair, a former reporter for THE NEW YORK TIMES, whose serial plagiarism and filing of news stories filled with fabrications lead to scandal in 2003. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "This telling documentary . . . is a remarkable film for its probing, its wealth of detail and testimony--remarkable about all, perhaps, in the clinical picture of its subject, one devoid of any efforts to assign mitigating factors to his disastrous career, whether of race or class." Monday, May 5, at 10 p.m. on PBS.

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

B. LOUIE starring Louis C.K., returns on Monday, May 5, with new shows at both 10 and 10:30 p.m. "LOUIE is so painfully hilarious," notes TV GUIDE, "you'll laugh til it hurts." I agree.

C. Bill Cosby receives the Johnny Carson Award for Comedic Excellence on the 2014 AMERICAN COMEDY AWARDS. For the others winners, you'll have to tune on Thursday May 8, at 9 p.m. on NBC. But to get you psyched, watch Craig Robinson's introduction of the first presenter:

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/02/american-comedy-awards-craig-robinson->

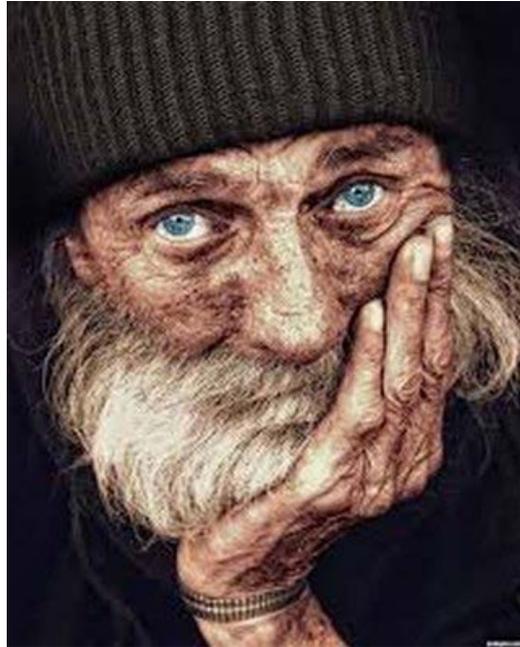
[video_n_5246878.html](#)

D. ROESMARY'S BABY is a two-part, four hour adaptation of the horror novel (and not the class 1968 film). Sunday, May 11, at 9 p.m. on NBC; concludes on Thursday, May 15, at the same time.

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6. Joke 2

There was some confusion at the store this morning. When I was ready to pay for my purchase of a pistol and bullets, the cashier said, "Strip down, facing me." . . . Making a mental note to complain to the NRA about the gun control whackos running amok, I did just as she instructed. . . . When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out that she was referring to how I should place my credit card in the card-reader. . . . They need to make their instructions to us seniors a little clearer!



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7. Websites

A. Christina Bianco Diva: Impressions of "Total Eclipse Of The Heart"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3DIDPeurRw#at=31>

B. Italian auction
Only 44 seconds. This is absolutely priceless. You don't have to understand Italian to follow the auctioneer!
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/3e0yZCLjwfU?rel=0>

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

For a list of some of my favorite websites, click Favorites to the left and then Websites.

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>

Like us on Facebook 

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8. Technology tip

Gary J. in NC: I can't imagine ANYONE still using Internet Explorer, since like 1998, but if you are or know anyone who is . . . switch to Firefox or Chrome, or use Safari on the Mac immediately. Or Opera, or . . .

Note: For more information on this topic, please click:
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2014/04/28/internet-explorer-bug-homeland-security-clandestine-fox/8409857/>

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9. Joke 3

"He's a real gentleman! I bet he takes the dishes out of the sink before he pees in it!"--
Ouiser Boudreaux in STEEL MAGNOLIAS



"I figured you should have breakfast
in bed on your birthday. Can you
reach the stove okay?"

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10. A quote I like

"The number of times I succeed is in direct proportion to the number of times I can fail
and keep on trying."--Tom Hopkins, American author (including one of my favorites, HOW
TO MASTER THE ART OF SELLING ANYTHING) and motivational speaker

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11. Thought for the day

I've learned so much from mistakes, I'm thinking of making a few more!
This one will do for a start; it has me writing a note to myself, "Self, plan ahead."



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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1z1>

A. NC events

(1) Paula Hanke, Amy LaDeroute and Petty Ratusz in a Linda Ronstadt tribute. (2) STOP KISS. (3) ACT's Tanglewood Youth Theatre. (4) May classes with Jensen Gelfond. (5) Ann-Lee Waite in NC: Yamuna Foot Fitness class. (6) NC Stage summer camp for students. (7) Hawaiian Hula classes.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Mercer Dance Ensemble. (2) "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" Comes to MCCC's. (3) Dr. Scarpati's Comedy Hypnosis show. (4) Free documentary of the documentary SHELL SHOCKED. (5) "The Emperor's New Clothes," Coming to MCCC's Kelsey Theatre. (6) 'SUCCESS WITH SELF-HYPNOSIS CLASS.'

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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BLAINESWORLD

#917

4.21.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Look forward to the upcoming "Walk a Mile event." I'll be walking, and she will be by my side--giving me both physical and moral support.

For more information, please see what I recently ran on my Facebook page:

NICE SHOES, HUH? I'll be wearing them at the "Walk a Mile" event (to support Our Voice, an organization devoted to serving women and men affected by sexual violence) in downtown Asheville on Saturday, May 3, at 11 a.m.

You can still join my BLAINESWORLD team by clicking:

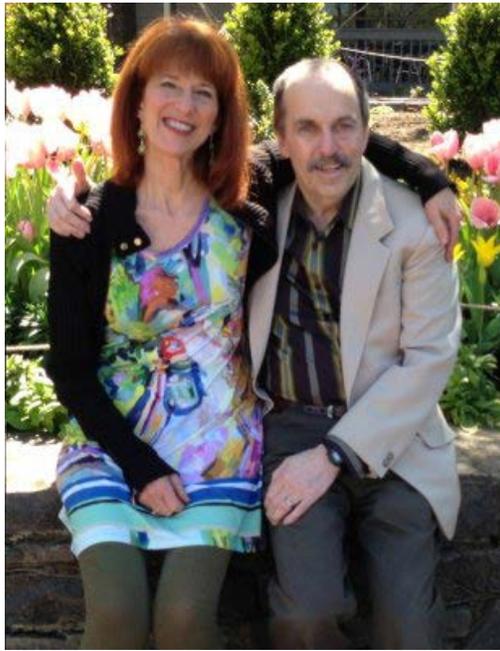
<http://www.firstgiving.com/team/260320>

Or if you can't be there, please consider helping support my team by clicking this link to make a contribution:

<http://www.firstgiving.com/team/260320>



(2) Celebrated Easter Sunday in style with a tasty brunch at The North Carolina Arboretum. The flowers were beautiful, and we had a great time with our friends. Kudos to Carole Biro for taking care of all the arrangements.



L-R: Susan Dubroski, Cynthia Greenfield, Annemarie Brown, Carole Biro and Marcy Gallagher.



L-R: Marvin Brown, Brian Biro, Tom Gallagher and Blaine Greenfield.

(3) Enjoyed a Passover Seder at our Biltmore Lake community's clubhouse with new friends. Pictured, l-r (in the rear): Jenefer McArthur, Jim Francis, Linda Martin and Robin Borthwick. Thanks to Elyse Bernstein, Louise Glickman, Marilynne Herbert and Debbie Wilden for all their hard work in making the evening the success that it was.



(4) Joined our friends Amy and Marc Suben for dinner at Champa--the Thai restaurant we like best in the Asheville area. One of the reasons that's so is because Mare, our favorite server there, was working that night, and as always, she took good care of us.



B. I was glad to see my longtime friend/lawyer Hanan Isaacs come for a visit. He was in town with his son Josh who is considering the possibility of going to UNCA. We had breakfast at Early Girl Eatery. The food is always good there, as is the service. Pictured, l-r: Josh Isaacs, Hanan Isaacs, Bree (our friendly server) and Blaine Greenfield.



C. Congratulations to:

(1) Louise Glickman and Daryl Slaton on their marriage a few months ago.

(2) Michael Phelan for having trained hard and then finished highly (3.167 out of 36,000 runners) in the Boston Marathon with a time of 3:08:10.

(3) Tom Giraldi for having written the song, "A Thing for Elvis." You can hear it sung by clicking:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TB2U4hmXIRM>

(4) Rich Orth for the publication of his second book, BLOODY T'IS MY VALENTINE.

(5) Julie Godfrey for having her film, ALWAYS ENDANGERED, chosen for section by the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival at the Picnic for the Planet Earth Day event in Jackson, Wyoming, on Sunday, April 27, from 4.7 p.m. For more information, please click:

<http://www.jhfestival.org/picnic-for-the-planet.html>

(6) Chuck Fink and Cindy Berryman-Fink on the marriage of their son Drew to Andrea.

(7) Linda S., Vilasi V., Beverly C., Carole S., Donna G., Deb D. and MaryEllen M. in NJ; Ingrid S., Debbie G., Nancy D., Marcie F., Chris F and Sherry S. in PA; Sharon B, Nancy C., Leonard E. and Bobbie L. in NC; Marilyn E. in AZ; Kathy B. in FL; and Steve R. in NY, all winners of Contest #8: a copy of WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR by Doris Kearns Goodwin--courtesy of World Book Night. All told, there were 26 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:

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

One lucky winner will receive a copy of THE VISITOR by Bree Abbington. To quote from the amazon.com description: "[The book] chronicles her Christmas Day adventure with a very unusual and unexpected visitor. It is the heartwarming story of what is possible when you accept that some gifts come in strange wrappings."

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #912. Methinks you'll like it as much as I did.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #9 in the subject 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 Monday, May 5.

D. Condolences to:

(1) Patricia Gallagher and family on the passing of Patricia's mother.

(2) The family of Dusty Rhodes, a longtime SCORE counselor.

(3) Kathy Byers, her daughter Kelly and the rest of the family on the passing of Kelly's father.

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

This week, it goes to Jennifer Gay (pictured below to the right)--Jewish Family Services Social Worker and Program Coordinator of the Elder Club.



She is also the person in charge of the very successful Passover meal delivery program. We just participated in it and had fun delivering holidays meals to individuals who ordinarily have difficulty getting out.

This was the fourth time we have made the deliveries, which typically take place in the spring as well as in the winter for Chanukah.

Jennifer has always had things very well organized, and her pleasing personality makes it a joy for us to help out with this worthwhile program.

For more information about Jewish Family Services, please click:
www.jfswnc.org

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2. FYI

A certain family member who shall remain nameless (to protect the guilty) recently received a speeding ticket in our very own Biltmore Lake community.

Note: Tickets are now being given on a fairly regular basis, so do slow down when driving there--and while you're at it, everywhere.

This person was going to just send in the fine, but I advised a "not guilty plea" and a court appearance. So nice guy that I am, I accompanied this driver to court. We got there and the accused driver was first offered a plea bargain; i.e., admit going at a lesser speed and have less of a fine, as well as less points.

I then said to ask for something that I believe is unique to North Carolina; i.e., a "prayer for judgment." The person did, and it was granted. What this meant: No points and no fine. Just court costs. For more information, please click:

<http://www.avvo.com/legal-guides/ugc/an-explanation-of-the-mysterious-prayer-for-judgment-continued>

Keep mind that if you go this route, you might have to pay the court costs (\$188) on the spot with cash. The Buncombe County Court doesn't yet take credit cards, though I understand it might in the near future.

In addition, if you don't live in North Carolina, you can still attempt to plea bargain your case down to a lesser offense, and you might also have the option to take a driver improvement class. This is another way to minimize points going on your record.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Amy L. in NC: Crazy grandma

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owHaMKe3YqM>

(2) Joyce S. in NC: How To Tie a Scarf: 4 Scarves 16 Ways

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ExVRCJ0Jrw>

(3) Sherry S. in PA: Rembrandt painting becomes alive

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6W2ZMpsxhg>

(4) Jim C. in NJ: My Clumsy Best Man Ruins Our Wedding

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0DmtmmFEVo>

(5) Jean D. in PA: Dove Real Beauty Mirror Test
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRXe7KUQxYI#t=134>

(6) Corinne G. in PA: The international photography is at least as good as the music!
<http://player.vimeo.com/video/58611141?autoplay=1>

(7) Maria P. in PA: Combining dancing with exercise
<http://www.superstarmagazine.com/this-guy-decided-to-dance-with-someone-on-the-street-what-happened-next-will-make-your-day/#>

(8) Karen M. in NC: Yoga Time with a Cute Chihuahua
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xn3mMmy_ghY

(9) Ron G. in NC: Who knew in-flight instructions could be so entertaining?
<http://www.wlos.com/news/features/around-the-web/stories/hilarious-swa-flight-attendant-wlos.shtml#.U0z1gYUmlI0?wap=0>

Note: Also, check out this other clip on the same subject:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ta9ltJGxjk>

(10) Chanah M. in MO: Salut Salon "Wettstreit zu viert"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKezUd_xw20#t=193
B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1yx>

(1) Gary J. in NC, responding to my ongoing battle with Blue Cross Blue Shield. (2) Meta C. in NC: You sure do handle a lot of info. (3) Donna S. in AL: Enjoyed [BLAINESWORLD #916] this week. (4) Touching story of a father and his granddaughter. (5) Denise F. in NC: I thought you would appreciate SaneBox. (6) Jim P. in NY: House for sale in North Woodmere, NY. (7) Vilasi V. in NJ: Life in the New American Minimum-Wage Economy. (8) Snapping Good Photos With Your Phone.

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3. Joke 1

"I just finished my first movie yesterday. So I'm going to rent another one tomorrow."--Al Clethen, American comedian

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4. Reviews

A. THE LUNCHBOX is a sweet drama about a woman who includes a lunchbox note to her husband. By mistake, it gets delivered to somebody else--and thus begins a series of notes that soon evolves into an unexpected friendship. The film was a bit on the talky side, but if you stick with it, you'll be glad you did. I liked the ending, though some others did not. If you see it, I'll be curious as to your reaction. Rated G, but not at all a good choice for young children. I don't recommend it for anybody under the age of 15.

B. Find BREAKDOWN on DVD, a 1997 suspense thriller starring Kirk Russell. His car breaks down in the middle of nowhere, so he sends his wife to go find a mechanic while he stays with the vehicle. She soon is kidnapped and to see what happens next, you'll have to catch the film. Russell is excellent, as is J.T. Wash as the trucker who offers to help the family. Only the last few minutes tail off, but overall, I'd give it a thumbs up. Rated R.

C. If you have a bucket list or are thinking about drawing up one, you need to read GROSS AMERICA: YOUR COAST-TO-COAST GUIDE TO ALL THINGS GROSS (Penguin Group) by Richard Faulk.

This fun, very readable book takes you cross country to places that will help you and your family ever think about visiting Disney again. For example, you can instead check out:

- * A gum wall at Pike Place Market, Seattle, WA
- * The SPAM Museum, Austin, TX
- * "Whoops" brand fake vomit, Chicago, IL
- * Chamber pot belonging to Samuel Wilson, aka Uncle Sam, Troy, NY
- * And a whole lot more from every state in the country.

The only thing missing was more information on each location. I would have liked to have seen street addresses, phone numbers and websites.

D. Enjoyed THE STORY OF CLASSICAL MUSIC (Naxos Records), written by Darren Henley and read by Marin Alsop.

The author uses a historic time line to spotlight more than 90 composers, ranging from Beethoven and Bach to current artists such as John Cage and Philip Glass. Best of all are the 150 snippets of music that are performed by world-class musicians.

Though designed for young listeners, these CDs can be enjoyed by individuals of any age. I liked them very much and also, I feel that I learned about classical music as a result of listening to them.

In addition, I especially liked CD 4. It included pictures, articles, sheet music, quizzes and more, all designed to enhance the listening of the entire family.

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5. TV alert

A. Season 2 of INSIDE MAN, Morgan Spurlock's docuseries, has him spending several days as a shelter worker at the Animal Rescue League in Reading, PA. "It's a real roller coaster when you're dealing with the job of pet adoption and the sadness of euthanasia, but this is not an hour of depression. I promise you will come away greatly inspired." Sunday, April 27, at 10 p.m. on CNN.

B. LAST WEEK TONIGHT WITH JOHN OLIVER features the DAILY SHOW correspondent in his own show that will feature a deep dive into one particular story, and his guests (when he has them) will skew more newsy than celebrity. Sundays at 11 p.m. on HBO, beginning on Sunday, April 27.

C. PLAYING HOUSE is a best-friends comedy about two women on the prowl in the town where they grew up. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "The raunch factor is toned down here, but the writing is smart, tart and adult, and the physical humor is even more divine." Tuesdays at 10 p.m. on USA.

D. Bob Newhart returns as a guest star on THE BIG BANG THEORY and that alone should make this week's show worth watching. His appearance last year as kiddie-TV host Professor Proton won his long overdue fir-ever Emmy. Thursday, May 1, at 8 p.m. on CBS.

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6. Joke 2

I'll pass on this bakery!



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7. Websites

A. Firefighter Flash Mob: Stayin' Alive
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zKHRLu-uyo>

Note: At the 3:22 mark, watch to see some very useful tips on how to do CPR.

B. Ken G. in NY: Lucky escape

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3pq0WAupc&feature=youtu.be>

Note: Be forewarned if profanity bothers you. But if it doesn't, do watch if you want a good laugh.

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

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

If you've ever wondered what this website is all about, you can find out by reading the boxed material at the top (right under the BLAINESWORLD 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:

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

Like us on Facebook 

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8. Technology tip

Laura B. in NJ (commenting on an email that had been sent with her return address on it and this heading):

Subj: Fw: News

It was a spam and other people have notified me. Also, you might want to warn your readers:

I was having a lot of problems with my computer being very sluggish, especially in AOL. Even typing was sluggish.

Norton worked on it for me and then AOL worked on it. Nothing helped, so I took it to Staples. They found 1288 viruses that they removed for \$150.

Tomorrow, I am calling Norton and asking for my money back for the annual renewal. I used to sell the Norton products and thought they were very good, but . . .

Staples put on software called Sophos, which they have been having good results with. I am covered for a year at Staples and from Sophos.

Now my computer is working like it should. But I will have to change my password--again.

Note: The above email or a variation of it has, unfortunately, become quite popular lately. As always, be extremely careful with both forwarded email and links that you get from others.

I am currently using the following software to protect my computer:

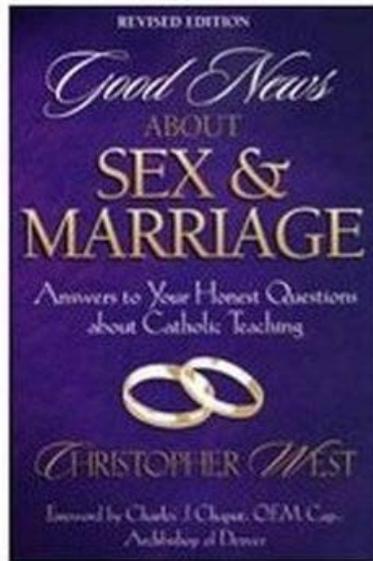
<http://www.iobit.com/advancedsystemcareper.html>

In fact, I was so pleased with the free version that I upgraded to the pro version for some added bells and whistles.

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9. Joke 3

Sadie and Esther, two elderly widows, are sitting, people-watching, in a Catskill hotel lobby. . . . "You know, " says Sadie, "I've been reading this SEX & MARRIAGE book and all they talk about is mutual orgasm; mutual orgasm here, mutual orgasm there, that's all they talk about. Tell me, Esther, when your husband was alive, did you ever have mutual orgasm?" . . . "No," says Esther, "I think we had Allstate."



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10. A quote I like

"By perseverance, study, and eternal desire, any man can become great."-- George S. Patton (1885-1945), United States Army general best known for his command of the Seventh United States Army and later the Third United States Army in the European Theater of World War II

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11. Thought for the day

Be so happy that when others look at you, they become happy too!



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12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

(1) I'll be hosting an informative seminar, "Grow Your Business with Email and Social Media" on Tuesday, May 20, from 2-4:30 p.m. at ABTech. It will be presented by Aaron Means, Constant Contact Local Expert Presenter--a guy who really knows his stuff. For

more information, please click:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=5obehpkab&oeidk=a07e96sw1sr47418b59>

To reach about each of the following, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1yx>

(2) THE BOG. (3) Richard Shulman and The Pure Heart Ensemble. (4) PYGMALION. (5) Our Story Medicine Men's component. (6) Simple Steps to Starting a Business. (7) Stand Against Racism. (8) DEARLY DEPARTED.

B. PA/NJ events

To read about each of the following, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1yx>

(1) Art of Alan Goldstein. (2) Free seminar by Master Mike Andrus. (3) Student Visual Arts Show at MCCC Gallery. (4) Mother's Day with the Eric Mintel Quartet.

C. National event

THE TURTLES ON TOUR: Your chance to catch what's arguably the greatest rock group of all time in an area near you this summer. Be there! For dates, click:

<http://theturtles.com/tour/>

And to get you in the mood, click to listen to the full album, The Very Best Of The Turtles:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VvOsTEWvVM>



Note: I'm tentatively going with Cynthia and some other friends to the June 12th show in Myrtle Beach, SC. Let me know if you're interested in joining us.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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Contact Us at bginbc@aol.com

BLAINES WORLD

#916

4.14.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had the pleasure of seeing Barbara Brady (right) give an excellent presentation on "The Illusion of Control" at Unity of Asheville.



(2) Saw Garrett Funk and Kirby Gibson (both to our left) in Attic Salt Theatre Company's delightful production of WOMEN AND WALLACE. They were both great, as usual, but kudos also to the rest of the talented cast: Jackie Collison, Jane Hallstrom, Candice Owen and Alison Young, as well to Jeff Catanese for a fine job of directing.



(3) Enjoyed our meal at Longhorn Steakhouse and, in particular, having Mark Jones as our fantastic server. What a treat to see this "other side" of Mark, a local actor/director whose work has always blown us away at both ACT and HART.



B. On another night, I went with my friend Chuck Hollinshead (right) to "A Taste of SART," a fun-filled event that helped introduce the 2014 season of the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre. We were joined in the picture by (l-r) Chelsey Lee Gady, Bradshaw Call and Liz Aiello.

Gady and Aiello both sang their hearts out, accompanied by the virtuosity of Virginia McKnight on piano. To hear two of the songs, please click:
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=639269487717&set=vb.105600637&type=2&theater>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=639268809077&set=vb.105600637&type=2&theater>

Call, who was emcee of the evening as Julia Child, had us laughing every time he opened his mouth.

To find out more about SART's upcoming season, which promises to be an excellent one, please click:
<http://sartplays.org/>



C. Reminders:

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

***** CONTEST #8 *****

20 lucky winners will receive a copy of WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR--A MEMOIR by Doris Kearns Goodwin--courtesy of World Book Night.

To quote from the book's description at amazon.com: [This] is Doris Kearns Goodwin's touching memoir of growing up in love with her family and baseball. Set in the suburbs of New York in the 1950s, Wait Till Next Year re-creates the postwar era, when the corner store was a place to share stories and neighborhoods were equally divided between Dodger, Giant and Yankee fans.

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in STUFF (the previous name of BLAINESWORLD) #244. Methinks you'll like it as much as I did.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #8 in the subject 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 Monday, April 21.

(2) INVITE TO ALL (from Eric W. in NC):

Join us Wednesday, April 23rd, at Yao Buffet Sushi Grill from 12-1:30 p.m. for the inaugural meeting of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum's new Lunch & Learn series. You do NOT have to be Jewish to attend!

Our presenter, Blaine Greenfield, will be presenting, "Down with the Golden Rule!"

At this informative, engaging presentation you will find out that there's a better rule for you to follow--namely, the Platinum Rule. As a result, you'll be able to provide better service to your customers, as well as learn something that your friends and family will also appreciate.

Note: All in attendance will also learn the difference between a right- and left-handed pencil.

Blaine Greenfield is a Retirement Expert-in-Training. He is also an active volunteer with SCORE, and he publishes an online newsletter (BLAINESWORLD) that you can get for free by emailing him at bginbc@aol.com.

All are welcome to come and bring a friend. You will be responsible for paying \$7.95 for your own buffet lunch; otherwise, there is no charge for this great event.

The meeting will be held at Yao Buffet Sushi Grill, 153 Smokey Park Highway, Asheville, NC.

RSVP, please, via email to: bginbc@aol.com and put APRIL 23 in the subject line.

(3) Come join me in the "Walk a Mile" event this year on May 3.

It will be held in downtown Asheville at 11 a.m. All funds support the efforts of Our Voice, an organization devoted to serving women and men affected by sexual violence.

There's still time to join my team this year. If interested, please click:

<http://www.firstgiving.com/team/260320>

Or kindly consider making a tax-deductible contribution to support my team's efforts by clicking:

<http://www.firstgiving.com/team/260320>

If you need more information, please send me an email (bginbc@aol.com) or give me a call at 828.633.1049.

D. Congratulations to:

(1) Julie Godfrey for having her film, ALWAYS ENDANGERED, chosen for screening at the Wildlife Film Festival. If you're anywhere near Wyoming on April 27, stop by. For more information, please click:

<http://www.jhfestival.org/picnic-for-the-planet.html>

(2) Rock Eblen for earning a well-deserved "A" in the Report Card section of the CITIZEN TIMES. Here's what was written about him:

A to Rock Eblen and Bioflyer Productions for presenting the 2014 Asheville Talent Slam.

This was the third time the event has been held, and it keeps getting better and better each year. In large part, that's because the talent was incredible. All who entered deserved recognition, in my opinion, but the following were recognized as tops by the judges: Rachel Rizzuti, 1st Place; Rhoda Weaver, 2nd Place; 3rd Place, Leslie Rogers & Trillium Dance; 4th Place, Holly Ann Harmon & Kaja Moen; 5th Place, Hannah Conklin; and 6th Place, Christina Therese Chandler. Kudos, also, to the judges (Jason Barnes, Jeff Messer and Anne Rhymer Schwabland) for their role in making the evening the success that it was.

Blaine Greenfield, Biltmore Lake

(3) Asheville for being listed as Number One in the listing of 10 most popular U.S. cities to retire in. To read more, please click:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/10-most-popular-us-cities-to-retire-in-2014-04-15>

E. Condolences to:

(1) Amy Gordon and family on the passing of Amy's mother.

(2) David Novak and family on the passing of David's mother.

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

This week, it goes to Norm Kent--a partner at Kent and Cormican, P.A. and owner/publisher at SouthFloridaGayNews.com. In addition, he is chairman, Board of Directors at National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.



It is in this latter capacity that you may have seen him on various TV shows. He is often a guest commentator on various programs, including quite frequently on the Nancy Grace show on HLN. Though she never lets him finish a sentence, he still manages to get in many relevant points.

Norm also speaks throughout the country on matters involving both gay rights and marijuana laws. When I recently asked him about these presentations, I got a special kick out of what he told me:

"A guy from Texas NORML calls and asks me if I believe in free speech." . . . "Of course," I reply . . . "Okay," he says. "Come here and give one."

Previously, Norm had been named by the SUN SENTINEL as one of the 25 most influential personalities in Broward County, FL. And prior to that, he was a fierce competitor of mine when we both played intramural sports at Lawrence High School back when we were classmates in the mid-1960s.

For more information about Norm Kent, please click:

<http://www.normkent.com>

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2. FYI

Just because your insurance company denies a claim doesn't mean it will not be paid. What you often need to do is question the denial, then resubmit your claim.

We have had this repeatedly happen to us with respect to Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. We submitted claims properly, but because we now live out of state, we were told we had to submit them to North Carolina. The only problem: North Carolina doesn't accept out-of-state claims.

It has taken us over 18 months to resolve some of our claims. That said, we are still being told to submit them directly to New Jersey--even though they will be denied. When that happens, we are told to call to complain and then and only then will our claims be processed.

Note: I first became aware of the above when I saw SICKO, an excellent documentary that I strongly recommend. It seems that many high level insurance executives get bonuses based on the number of claims that get denied. They realize that many folks just won't go through the hassle that's needed to fight the system.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Sheryl S. in PA: Cheap flights
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPyl2tOaKxM#t=62>

(2) Joyce S. in NC: Lindzee - Amelymeloptical illusion
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmFmYLAveWM>

(3) Janet H. in NC: If You Were Born In The 50s, 60s, 70s, or 80s, You Must Watch This
http://sftimes.co/?id=216&src=share_fb_new_216

B. Other tidbits from readers

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1y3>

(1) Marty S. in TX: This was worth the price of admission. (2) Rachel R. in NC: Hey, wanna help me out? (3) Delores C. in PA: I am embarking on another journey with The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. (4) Emily S. in NC: Just watched Labor Day and was blown away. (5) Ron F. in PA: Toni and I can only hope to be one half as active. (6) Walter B. in NC: Dear parents, you are being lied to [about vaccinations]. (7) Secrets to shopping success at Costco. (8) Henry W. in NY: Recently saw Le Weekend.

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3. Joke 1

I couldn't find that setting on my dryer, so does that make it abnormal? Or is it me that's abnormal?



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4. Reviews

For the following reviews, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1y3>

- A. DRAFT DAY
- B. PHILOMENA
- C. MY BROTHER'S BOOK by Maurice Sendak
- D. LOVE SENSE: THE REVOLUTIONARY NEW SCIENCE OF ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS (Hachette Audio), written and read by Dr. Sue Johnson

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5. TV alert

A. MUSCLE SHOALS is a documentary that celebrates Rick Hall, the founder of FAME Studios in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and his work with such performers as Aretha Franklin, the Rolling Stones, Wilson Pickett and Lynryrd Skynyrd, among others. I saw the film when it was in the theatres, and I really enjoyed it. It airs on INDEPENDENT LENS on Monday, April 21, on PBS at 9 p.m.

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

B. FAKING IT is a new comedy about two female friends who love each other differently. According to Carter Covington, executive director, "It's not just a gay show. It's very in the world where MTV's audience is living now." Premieres on Tuesday, April 22, at 10:30 p.m. on MTV.

C. BAD TEACHER is a TV version of the 2011 movie with the same name about a penniless divorcee who lies her way into a teaching gig. "R-rated comedies are often dumbed down for TV," notes PEOPLE, "but BAD TEACHER is still bad in all the right ways." Season premiere on Thursday, April 24, at 9:30 p.m. on CBS.

D. BLACK BOX is a new medical drama about the head doctor at a Center for Neurological Research and Treatment who is bipolar and when she's off her medication, she admits to doing "bad things." THE WALL STREET JOURNAL calls it "both smart and seductive." Season premiere on Thursday, April 24, at 10 p.m. on ABC.

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6. Joke 2

Hoping to get some hints on how to draw birds to my garden, I attended a lecture on the subject at the local horticultural society. For some odd reason, the presentation covered only snakes and toads. . . . So I finally got up and asked, "But how do I attract birds?" . . . One attendee offered the following suggestion: "Park your car under a tree."



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7. Websites

A. Designed to be a gateway to information rather than a final destination, the Digital Public Library of America doesn't actually ingest digitized books, manuscripts, photos, moving pictures, recordings, or other materials. Instead, it works with a nationwide network of institutions to aggregate the metadata that describes their digitized holdings. To access it, please click:

<http://dp.la/>

For more information about this website, please click:

http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/digital-public-library-of-america-celebrates-its-birthday/51819?cid=pm&utm_source=pm&utm_medium=en

B. Thanks, George B. in PA, for introducing me to a very funny actor named Michael Kelberg. To quote George:

"Did you ever have a friend with a talent and you are not just 'nodding in approval' at their work, but actually a serious fan? That's how I feel about Mike Kelberg. He is my personal Bill Murray. I laugh just looking at him, he's so funny. I worked with him on Micronation. . . . He shoots a lot at his synagogue and his Rabbi seems to always be part of his work. So, so talented. . . . He is creative and funny . . . with a cultural Jewish edge to a lot of his work. He makes these short films and submits them to film festivals, and they are being received quite well."

To view some of Mike Kelberg's clips, please click the following:

What Does Your Mom Say? (The Fox Song parody)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpZWqgxG77g>

Jews for Jeter

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

Jew-Z's Groove - Hanukkah

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

His latest effort, a comedy short entitled LAVATORY, was an Official Selection at the Arizona International Film Festival. To view it, please click:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VxoY_Wt4Wk

For more information about Mike Kelberg, please click:

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

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 just want to revisit some pictures from past

issues . . . make sure you click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Pictures." Make sure you have your sound on when you do, so that 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:

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

[Like us on Facebook !\[\]\(881d13b20cb2aa67721414624e89b021_img.jpg\)](#)

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8. Technology tip

A friend, Arta S. in PA, sent me a neat slideshow with music that she had created with Smilebox.

When I asked her for more information, she emailed me: "Yes, Smilebox is free and easy to use. There are a bunch of templates with music you can add. Yes, no file attachment,

etc. They [others viewing what you send them] can just click and enjoy."

To get it, please click:
<http://www.smilebox.com/>

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9. Joke 3

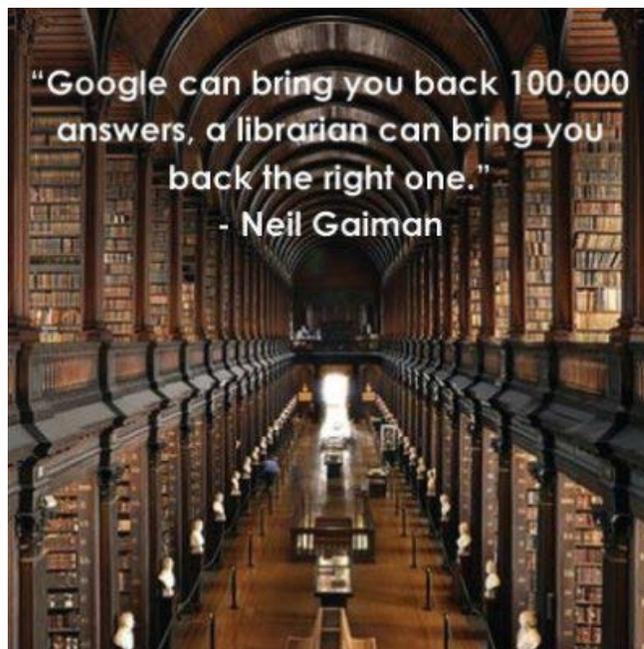
Size does matter--at least when it comes to using proper spacing between words on a sign!



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10. A quote I like

What a great quote to help you celebrate that this is National Library Week. Please tell a librarian that you appreciate the work that he or she does! (The photo was taken at the Trinity College Library in Dublin.)



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11. Thought for the day

Worried that their son was too optimistic, the parents of a little boy took him to a psychiatrist. In an attempt to dampen the boy's spirits, the psychiatrist took him outside to a high pile of horse manure. Instead of displaying distaste, the little boy clambered to the top of the pile and began digging. . . . "What are you doing?" the psychiatrist asked. . . . "With all this manure," the little boy replied, beaming, "there must be a pony in here somewhere."



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12. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following events in Sections 12A and 12B, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1y3>

A. NC events

(1) Seven Singers and a Songwriter. (2) Ride for Joy. (3) Asheville Speed Dating. (4) Fireside Chat with Lynne and Tim Martin. (5) An Evening with Meta Commerce. (6) Big Benefit Bash for Habitat for Humanity. (7) Grow Your Business with Email & Social Marketing.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) 26th Annual Tyler Tasting event. (2) Invitations from the newly formed Bucks Coalition for Gun Safety. (3) Learn How to Protect Your Identity and More. (4) Plumstead Historical Society.

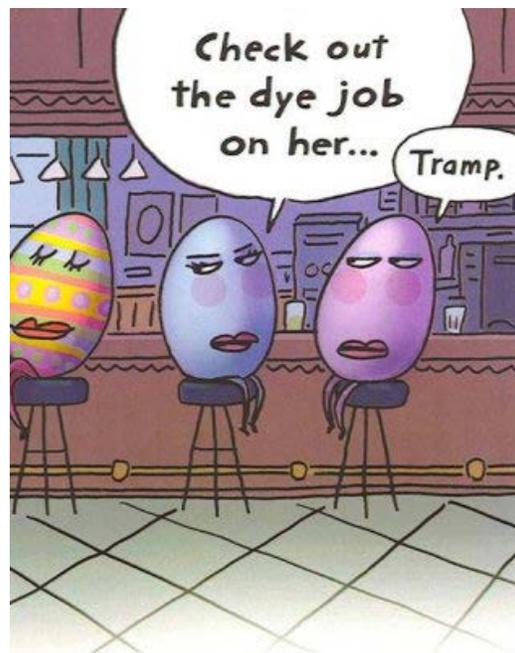
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PS. If you're like me and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way), HAPPY PASSOVER! See below for some of the story; for more of it, click this great tune from The Maccabeats:

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



By the same token, HAPPY EASTER! And to get you in the mood, click this classic Judy Garland and Fred Astaire song:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYac9O3GYTM>



Make it a great rest of the week, too!
[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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 Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
 Phone : 828.633.1049

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BLAINES WORLD

#915

4.8.2014

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11. Thought for the day
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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Were joined by our friend Stuart Kraner (right) to attend a delightful afternoon of poetry that featured Majo John Madden (left), another friend. We very much enjoyed listening to him recite, in addition to getting the opportunity to hear Tracy Schmidt--the other featured poet. Both were aided by the beautiful accompaniment of local musicians, including Joshua Messick, Peter Levitov, Daniel Barber and Michael Ivey.



(2) An unexpected bonus to the day was provided by Rhoda Weaver. At the end of the readings, she got up and began singing an a cappella version of "What Wondrous Love Is This." It blew everybody away!



B. On another night:

(1) We joined family members for a delicious dinner at the home of Carole Biro that had been prepared by Carole, Susan Dobroski and Layne Cutright. We then posed for a selfie (below): Front row, Sunny Ruble, Annemarie Brown and Marvin Sadovsky; Middle row: Layne Cutright; and Back row: Susan Dobroski, Paul Cutright, Cynthia Greenfield, Blaine Greenfield and Carole Biro.

Note: Family is the name we use for our group of close friends who have become like family to us.



Afterward, we watched and briefly discussed a thought-provoking film by Austin Vickers, THE STATUE OF ILLUSION. There was a great question at the end: "If you had 60 seconds, what advice would you give to the world?"

(2) And on still another night, we went for dinner at Scully's Bar and Grille. The food was tasty, and we both agreed that the crinkly sweet potato fries were perhaps the best we've ever had. Jennifer, our server, was pleasant, as well as efficient.



From there, we went to Story Medicine's Member Showcase to hear Ellane Chandler--one of Cynthia's friends. Her story moved us, and we also enjoyed hearing from all the other readers: Nikae Perkinson, Miriah Lantz-Wagner, Victoria Rose, Brian Lumb, Hannah Borababy, Jenny Lumb and Chris Hnatin. Kudos to Meta Commerse, who put the entire program together, as well as for the reading of an excerpt from *THE MENDING TIME*--her upcoming novel.

C. During the week, I met my friend Chuck Fink for down home country cooking at Biscuit Head in West Asheville. We enjoyed our biscuits, and I shall definitely return.



In addition, I saw an excellent production of *MEDEA* at Brevard College. Kudos to Peter Savage (below) for both his direction and cameo appearance on his motorcycle. He updated the classic play to modern times, and he was aided by a brilliant performance from Molly Ledford in the leading role. I also liked the work of Logan Taylor as the Messenger.



D. Congratulations to:

(1) Maryalice Rubins-Topoleski for being named as Winner in the Entertainer category in the 2014 Happening List from Buckshappening.com.

(2) Mike Andrus for being featured in an excellent article in MIDWEEK. To read it, please click:
<http://midweekwire.com/2014/04/09/in-the-moment/>

(3) Carol Seufert for being chosen for the Administrative Employees Award at Bucks County Community College.
(4) DeWitt Robeloth on the marriage of his daughter, Robyn Blakely, to Lindsay Morris.
(5) Brian Sneed for having the staff at HARVARD REVIEW select one of his poems as this season's poetry pick. To read it, please click:
<http://harvardreview.fas.harvard.edu/?q=features%2Fpoetry%2Fflamenco>

(6) Derrick Snider for having his article published in PLASTICS TODAY. To read it, please click:
<http://www.plasticstoday.com/articles/my-customer-wants-me-submit-imds-what-do-i-do-now>

(7) Asheville for receiving recognition for those craving counterculture. To see why, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/p6wmb04>

(8) Marie V. in NJ, winner of CONTEST #7: a copy of HOW TO WIN A PITCH: THE FIVE FUNDAMENTALS THAT WILL DISTINGUISH YOU FROM THE COMPETITION by Joey Archer.

All told, there were 8 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #8 *****

20 lucky winners will receive a copy of WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR by Doris Kearns Goodwin--courtesy of World Book Night.

To quote from the book's description at amazon.com: [This] is Doris Kearns Goodwin's touching memoir of growing up in love with her family and baseball. Set in the suburbs of New York in the 1950s, Wait Till Next Year re-creates the postwar era, when the corner store was a place to share stories and neighborhoods were equally divided between Dodger, Giant and Yankee fans.

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in STUFF (the previous name BLAINESWORLD) #244. Methinks you'll like it as much as I did.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #8 in the subject 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 Monday, April 21.

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

This week, it goes to Terry Van Dyun--picked by Buncombe County Democratic leaders on April 3 to serve as the area's new North Carolina senator.



In doing so, she will complete the unexpired term of Sen. Martin Nesbitt who died in March after representing District 49 in the General Assembly since 2003.

A retired Systems Analyst, Van Duyn has served on the boards of a long list of organizations, including Carolina Day School, Meals on Wheels, Autism Society of North Carolina and the Children's Welfare League. She has also been active with Pisgah Legal Services and most recently, she worked as a volunteer healthcare navigator.

Terry Van Duyn will face her first general election challenge in November. I'm hopeful that she wins that race, in that she is the type politician needed by both Buncombe County and North Carolina.

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2. FYI

The other day, I had a flat tire. It happens. What I learned from the experience, though, was to always bring with me the phone numbers of any upcoming appointments. I didn't have this information, and it was a bit of a pain (and time-consuming) to look this up when stranded on the road and trying to keep my phone free for a call back from AAA.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) A Trustafarian hippy reggae love song: "Waspafari" (performed by Jeff Thompson)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIZb56WpXjw#t=56>

(2) No Good Deed - Wicked - Rachel Rizzuti

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Keysa2xXnME>

(3) Kathy W. in PA: Big surprise for Bride and Groom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYKwqj5QViQ>

(4) George B. in PA: Micheal Kelberg in Jew-Z's Groove - Hanukkah

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

(5) Vilasi V. in NJ: Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger, author of the book "A German Life: Against All Odds Change is Possible"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSEI5sulT7Y&app=desktop>

(6) Carol S. in FL: Man Throws Wooden Stick In Lake

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W98CWj40Qdw>

(7) Kristi M. in NC: Here, hold my gun

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hj8u2V23dul>

(8) Lisa Z. in PA: Captain Kirk reacts to Miley Cyrus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6Lb3kFwJRQ>

(9) Della S. in FL: A 3-Year Old Boy Walked Out On Stage and SHOCKED Everyone! INCREDIBLE!

<http://blog.petflow.com/this-precious-3-year-old-does-the-most-adorable-best-dance-ever-you-have-to-watch-him-go/>

(10) Chanah M. in MO: Fat Man in Speedo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axmsB5Yqvjw#t=146>

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1xo>

(1) Declan S. in MA: A Startlingly Simple Theory About the Missing Malaysia Airlines Jet. (2) Michelle B. in NC: I have never been [to Frankie Bones] until now. (3) Natalie K. in PA: Saw "Enough Said." (4) Marcie F. in PA: That [highlighted videos in last issue] was great. (5) Chanah M. in MO: THE BIG WEDDING is one of the funniest movies I have ever seen. (6) Dan B. in PA: My wife and I watch all the DWS shows. (7) Carole S. in NJ: NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK. (8) Barbara B. in NC (looking for somebody in the Asheville area).

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3. Joke 1

The things you learn online!



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4. Reviews

For the following reviews, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1xo>

A. FACE OF LOVE

B. AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

C. THE GREAT WORK OF YOUR LIFE: A GUIDE FOR THE JOURNEY TO YOUR TRUE CALLING by Stephen Cope

D. INFINITE SELF: 33 STEPS TO RECLAIMING YOUR INFINITE POWER, written and read by Stuart Wilde

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5. TV alert

A. Conan O'Brien hosts the 2014 MTV MOVIE AWARDS on Sunday, April 13, at 9 p.m. on MTV. This is the 24th time for the bash, which often provides a welcome relief to other award shows that have preceded it.

B. The Season 7 opener of MAD MEN has Don making a new friend. Sunday, April 13, at 10 p.m. on AMC. To get you psyched, read "Mad Men: 7 things to know for Season 7" by clicking:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/life/tv/2014/04/10/mad-men-return-what-you-need-to-know/7493901/>

C. FARGO, a 10-episode limited series starring Billy Bob Thornton as a hitman, captures the essence of the 1996 Coen brothers movie while telling a completely new story. Premieres on Tuesday, April 15, at 10 p.m. on FX.

D. BILLY CRYSTAL: 700 SUNDAYS has Crystal performing his 2005 Tony Award-winning play, an autobiographical account of his coming of age in Manhattan. Saturday, April 19, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

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6. Joke 2

Great way to keep warm when the nights get cold.



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7. Websites

A. Annemarie B. in NC: Alarm you might want to get? (R-rated; also, do not view at work.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57W5VZMIHu0>

B. Janeen R. in PA: You've got to be kidding me!truck falling into woods
<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/KBxSntGGm8U?rel=0>

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

If you ever miss a past issue or want to revisit an old one, click "Newsletters" to the left and then "Past Issues."

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>



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8. Technology tip

Heartbleed Security Flaw Emphasizes the Need to Change Passwords
by Steve Lohr in THE NEW YORK TIMES (4.9.14)

Wait a day or so. Then change the passwords on the web services you use.

That is probably the best advice for web users unnerved by reports of a potential vulnerability for email and other online accounts because of the security flaw called Heartbleed.

For the rest of this informative article, please click:

<http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/04/08/security-flaw-emphasizes-the-need-to-change-passwords/?src=me&module=Ribbon&version=origin®ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=Most%20Emailed&pgtype=article>

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9. Joke 3

While at work, Raman and Narayan were chatting. Raman said, "Narayan, I've been attending night classes for 5 months now, and I have an exam next week." Narayan: "Oh!" . . . Raman: "For example, do you know who is Graham Bell?" Narayan, "No." Raman: "He's the inventor of the phone in 1876. If you take night courses you would know this." . . . The next day, the same discussion took place: Raman: "Do you know who Alexander Dumas is?" Narayan: "No." Raman, "He's the author of THE THREE MUSKETEERS. If you take night courses, you would know this." . . . This time, Narayan got irritated and said, "And you. Do you know who is Balakrishnan Kuppaswamy?" Raman: "No." Narayan: "He's the guy sleeping with your wife!! If you stop taking night courses, you would know this."

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10. A quote I like

"In the confrontation between the stream and the rock, the stream always wins - not by strength but by

perseverance."--H. Jackson Brown

Note: This quote has been attributed to Brown, an American author best known for his inspirational book, *Life's Little Instruction Book*, which was a New York Times bestseller (1991-1994). But I've also seen it attributed to Buddha, Emerson and others. If you know who actually said it, please let me know.

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11. Thought for the day

This is NOT true. I did some research and found out that there's also Mars, which is known as the home of the Mars Bar. An additional factoid: The volcanoes there erupt with marsipan [sic].



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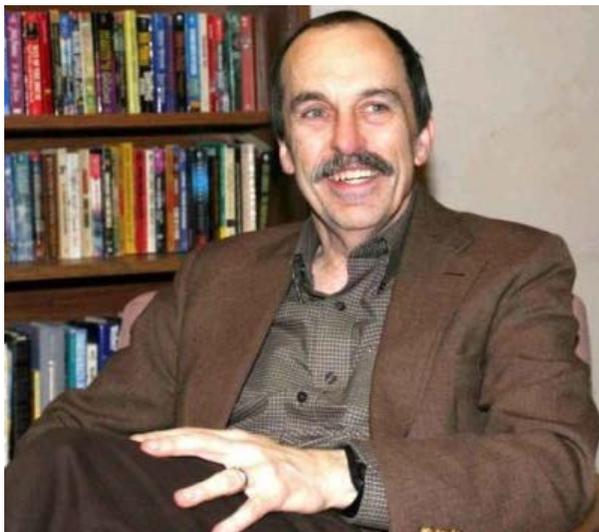
12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

(1) INVITE TO ALL (from Eric W. in NC):

Join us Wednesday, April 23rd, at Yao Buffet Sushi Grill from 12-1:30 p.m. for the inaugural meeting of the Asheville Jewish Business Forum's new Lunch & Learn series!

Our presenter, Blaine Greenfield, will be presenting, "Down with the Golden Rule!"



At this informative, engaging presentation you will find out that there's a better rule for you to follow--namely, the Platinum Rule. As a result, you'll be able to provide better service to your customers, as well as learn something that your friends and family will also appreciate.

Note: All in attendance will also learn the difference between a right- and left-handed pencil. Blaine Greenfield is a Retirement Expert-in-Training. He is also an active volunteer with SCORE, and he publishes an online newsletter (BLAINESWORLD) that you can get for free by emailing him at bginbc@aol.com. All are welcome to come and bring a friend. You will be responsible for paying \$7.95 for your own buffet lunch; otherwise, there is no charge for this great event. The meeting will be held at Yao Buffet Sushi Grill, 153 Smokey Park Highway, Asheville, NC. RSVP, please, via email to: bginbc@aol.com and put APRIL 23 in the subject line.

(2) Come join me in the "Walk a Mile" event this year on May 3. It will be held in downtown Asheville at 11 a.m. All funds support the efforts of Our Voice, an organization devoted to serving women and men affected by sexual violence. There's still time to join my team this year. If interested, please click: <http://www.firstgiving.com/team/260320>

Note: Pictured (below) is Steven Liebenhaut, walking in 2013. I'm honored that he will again joining me this year.



Or kindly consider making a tax-deductible contribution to support my team's efforts by clicking: <http://www.firstgiving.com/team/260320>

If you need more information, please send me an email (bginbc@aol.com) or give me a call at 828.633.1049.

To reach about each of the following events in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1xo>

(3) Majo M. in NC: Asheville Community Theater is about to start a three-week run of the hysterically funny comedy "Dearly Departed." (4) Asheville Vaudeville. (5) CLOSE TIES at Hendersonville Little Theatre. (6) Bruce Lang upcoming performances. (7) Richard Shulman and The Pure Heart Ensemble. (8) WALLACE AND WOMEN.

B. PA/NJ/NY events

To read about each of the following events in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1xo>

(1) Free BCCC Prof. Freeman Newtown Bookshop Event. (2) Chandler S. in NY: UN-IRONICALLY ENTHUSIASTIC. (3) The Eric Mintel Quartet. (4) JULIUS CAESAR STAGED IN MODERN DRESS. (5) Book launch of HAPPY @ WORK by Jim Donovan. (6) Dr. Scarpati's Self-Hypnosis and Mediation Seminar.

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PS. If you're like me and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and family that way), I hope you have a Happy Passover. And to get you in the mood, please click this link to see a video that you'll enjoy: <http://vimeo.com/88814529>

Thanks, Joyce L. in NJ, for sharing the above.
Make it a great rest of the week, too!

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BLAINES WORLD

#914

4.1.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had a blast at the 2014 Asheville Talent Slam. Pictured below: (front) Liza Rain, a tap dancer who blew us away with her performance; and (rear) Sunny Ruble, Annemarie Brown, Cynthia Greenfield, Blaine Greenfield, Beverly Todd and Marvin Sadovsky.



Kudos to Rock Eblen for producing the event, as well as for emceeing it. He even greeted all those in attendance with an opening song.



We've been to each of the previous Talent Slams. This one was the best ever in terms of talent. So special recognition should go to the following contestants for their winning efforts:

- \$500 1st Place.....Rachel Rizzuti
- \$300 2nd Place.....Rhoda Weaver
- \$200 3rd Place.....Leslie Rogers & Trillium Dance

\$50 4th Place.....Holly Ann Harmon & Kaja Moen
\$50 5th Place.....Hannah Conklin
\$50 6th Place.....Christina Therese Chandler

And thought they did not win cash prizes, we also enjoyed seeing both Claire Amon and Troy Heatley perform.

Lastly, I'd be remiss if I didn't also recognize the efforts of the following judges for their role in making the evening the success that it was: Jason Barnes, Jeff Messer and Anne Rhymer Schwabland.

(2) Enjoyed dining with our friends Marvin Sadovsky and Annemarie Brown at the Jerusalem Garden Cafe where Anne was our excellent server.



(3) Celebrated our friend Julia Rosa's birthday at Frankie Bones where we again received outstanding service, this time from Anthony.



B. Congratulations to:

(1) Mary Beth Kohlhepp and her husband Marty on the birth of Ella Sharon Roche.

(2) Melanie Grace Morton on her move to Glasgow, Scotland this coming September to get her MA in Musical Theatre.

(3) Asheville on being named one of 7 most underrated food cities in America:
<http://tinyurl.com/ntbg8bq>

(4) And Asheville, again, this time on being cited by huffingtonpost.com for its many free things to do:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/13/5-free-things-in-artsy-as_n_4957392.html?utm_hp_ref=tw

(5) Steph Hickling Beckman, Managing Artistic Director & Producer at Different Strokes! Performing Arts Collective, on the fact that Different Strokes! has received a grant from the Cathedral of All Souls Outreach Ministries to support the costs of producing theatre that bridges racial, ethnic and cultural gaps in Western North Carolina.

(6) Terry Van Duyn on winning the special election to fill the unexpired term of the late NC State Sen. Martin Nesbitt.
For more information, please click:
<http://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2014/04/03/van-duyn-wins-nesbitt-seat/7280049/>

C. Condolences to Elaine Bilk and family on the passing of Jeffrey Bilk, Elaine's husband.

D. Reminders:

(1) Come join me in the "Walk a Mile" event this year:



It will be held in downtown Asheville at 11 a.m. All funds support the efforts of Our Voice, an organization devoted to serving women and men affected by sexual violence.

There's still time to join my team this year. If interested, please click:
<http://www.firstgiving.com/team/260320>

Or kindly consider making a tax-deductible contribution to support my team's efforts by clicking:
<http://www.firstgiving.com/team/260320>

If you need more information, please send me an email (bginbc@aol.com) or give me a call at 828.633.1049.

(2) Don't forget to enter:

***** CONTEST #7 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of HOW TO WIN A PITCH: THE FIVE FUNDAMENTALS THAT WILL DISTINGUISH YOU FROM THE COMPETITION by Joey Asher.

To quote from the book's description at amazon.com: How to Win a Pitch will help you learn how to: Develop presentations that win contracts. Create connections to secure business relationships. Identify, discuss and fulfill client needs effectively. Veteran business coach Joey Asher has helped his clients win over five billion dollars in new business contracts. He uses his former experience as an attorney and journalist to help readers and clients rise above their competition.

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #894. Methinks you'll like it as much as I did.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #7 in the subject 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 Monday, April 7.

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

This week, it goes to Bill McMannis--on-site manager for the Biltmore Lake community where I live.

He has only been with us since January. Almost immediately, he was faced with a challenging problem; i.e., when a gas pipeline exploded across the street.

Then, last week, a tree fell down (see below) on the road right behind us.



In both instances, Bill was on top of things within minutes. He visited the respective areas, and he did a great job communicating with all those affected.

I have also been impressed with his performance at Board meetings, as well as how well he has handled various other situations that take place on a daily basis.

We are fortunate to have Bill McMannis as our on-site manager.

Shortly after Bill came on board, his very fine company--FirstService Residential--hired Kim Maynard as assistant manager. She, too, has done a fantastic job for Biltmore Lake.

And we were fortunate to be able to retain the services of Karen Foley, lifestyle director, who continues her tireless efforts to make our community so great!

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2. FYI

The 'selfie' impulse now extends to obituaries
by Maria Puente, USA TODAY

Call it the "selfie obit."

Can't trust the local newspaper, the funeral home or even your family to get your obituary just right? Write it yourself before you go.

For the rest of this informative article, please read:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/life/people/2014/03/28/the-selfie-impulse-now-extends-to-your-obituary/6958763/>

The above refers to an example of such an interview, written by the talented actor James Rebhorn. To read that, and I encourage that you do, please click:

<http://stpauljerseycity.org/stpaul/2014/03/24/in-memory-of-jim-rebhorn/#hislife>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Annemarie B. in NC: This dog should be nominated for Mother of the Year!

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=756125941098431&set=vb.166337376743960&type=2&theater>

(2) George B. in PA: George B.: Slomo. (See clip below, then accompanying article.)

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/01/opinion/slomo.html?smid=fb-share&_r=1

(3) Joyce S. in CA: Billy Joel and Jimmy Fallon Form 2-Man Doo-Wop Group

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cU-eAzNp5Hw>

(4) Herb S. in NJ: Epic Old Man - Traffic Jam Prank

https://www.youtube.com/embed/G0PekTUmBdY?feature=player_embedded

(5) Kathy W. in PA: HAPPY World Down Syndrome Day

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCJQAm_uKyg

(6) Ted R. in NC: Ted & Kimberly, "Feeling Good" dance performance

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0E_4Aj7kNE

(7) Ed B. in NC: Cast of The Lion King - Musical breaks into song on plane

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgSLx1oAwA>

(8) Lori in GA: TOPPOP: Shirley & Company - Shame Shame Shame

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSR0bvCPf2M>

(9) Chanah M. in MO: Putin & Sarah Palin Phone Call on "Tonight Show"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwBZObf24c>

(10) First Kiss:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpbDHxCV29A>

Note: You'll also find the background behind this clip quite interesting. To read it, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/14/business/media/a-kiss-is-just-a-kiss-unless-its-an-ad-for-a-clothing-company.html?ref=homepage&module=Ribbon&version=origin@ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=Home%20Page&pgtype=article>

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1wT>

(1) Chuck F. in NC: Thanks, Blaine for giving Greg his .5 seconds of fame! (2) Janer J. in MO: Why do you do thumbs up on all of the pictures taken of you? (3) Chelsey G. in NC: Please help me raise money to pay my part of the fees for my new insulin pump. (4) Matt Mittan in NC (with Am 1350 WZGM - Independent Asheville Radio): Attn: NASCAR FANS - I'm looking for Asheville's Biggest NASCAR fan. (5) Denise Griffiths Interviews Ken McArthur. (6) Jim R. in PA: I shaved the goatee for Mustache March for the Military.

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3. Joke 1

I'll no longer complain about our cats getting on the couch! Dog owners may feel the same way, too.



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4. Reviews

A. If you liked the show PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE, then go out and catch BAD WORDS while it is now out in your local movie theatre. (Even if you didn't see the show, you'll like this film.) . . . it's a dark comedy about a 40-year-old who finds a loophole in the rules of a national spelling bee and decides to not only enter it, but to win it . . . Jason Bateman, who also directed the film, is very funny as the adult speller, and Rohan Chand matches him scene-by-scene as the 10-year old who befriends him . . . rated R.

B. ANCHORMAN 2: THE LEGEND CONTINUES is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #899 follows:

ANCHORMAN 2: THE LEGEND CONTINUES was, for me, a rare sequel that was every bit as good as the first film . . . it takes San Diego's top rated newsman, a very funny Will Ferrell, into the 80s and the chance to become part of the nation's first 24-hour news channel . . . only a long segment just before the ending didn't work for me (it should have been much shorter), but overall, I had a fun time at ANCHORMAN 2 . . . I especially enjoyed the cameos from such other actors as Harrison Ford, Vince Vaughn, Will Smith, Jim Carrey, Sacha Baron Cohen, Kristen Dunst, Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Liam Neeson and John C. Reilly . . . and make sure you stay for the post-credits scene . . . rated PG-13.

Note: This was a rare film that I liked and Cynthia didn't. She only laughed at one scene involving Steve Carell delivering a weather report.

C. CALICO JOE (Doubleday) is a slim novel by John Grisham about major league baseball, as told through the eyes of an 11-year-old boy whose father is a major league pitcher--though not a very good one . . . their lives both change when they encounter Joe Castle, the greatest rookie anybody has ever seen . . . I won't tell you any more, in that I don't want to give the story away . . . but I will tell you that you'll enjoy reading this book, especially if you are a baseball enthusiast and/or fan of this author.

D. Heard CHELSEA CHELSEA BANG BANG (Hachette Audio), written and read by Chelsea Handler . . . the book is a series of essays by the author, a star of her own late-night show . . . some are laughing-out-loud funny, including the tale of how she had to write a report on Reaganomics to earn a Cabbage Patch doll . . . others miss the mark, but almost all contain humorous observations such as the following:

* Being unpopular: "My parents couldn't have been more unreasonable when it came to fads or clothes that weren't purchased at a pharmacy."

* Living with her boyfriend: "He's similar to a large toddler, the only difference being he doesn't cry when he wakes up."

* And appreciating her brother: "He's a certified public accountant, and I have a real life."

If you don't mind your humor on the raunchy side, at times, you'll get a kick out of Handler's latest effort.

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5. TV alert

A. Maria Mason in NC: Ok, folks . . . I'm in a few scenes in DROP DEAD DIVA, airing this Sunday, April 7, at 9 p.m. on LIFETIME.

B. SILICON VALLEY debuts on Sunday, April 7, at 10 p.m. on HBO. According to Matt Roush in TV GUIDE, "The deft satire that helped make [Mike] Judge's OFFICE SPACE a cult hit takes on farcical new dimensions in SILICON VALLEY, which introduces a socially maladroit posse of computer misfits every bit the comic equal of THE BIG BAND THEORY's more broadly drawn nerds.

C. I've become hooked on DANCING WITH THE STARS this season, largely because of Amy Purdy. She is a snowboarder who lost both her legs when she was 19, but that has not stopped her. Thanks, Kathy W. in PA, for sharing this moving clip of her most recent performance on the show:

http://abc.go.com/shows/dancing-with-the-stars/video/most-recent/VDKA0_zfhda4sl

I'm also enjoying the dancing of both Drew Carey Danica McKellar. (Remember her from THE WONDER YEARS?) In addition, Meryl Davis and Charlie White have been excellent; however, because of their long ice dancing partnership, I just can't manage to root for either of them. To see why I feel this way, please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6g2w79fdSlw>

Mondays at 8 p.m. on ABC.

D. Savannah in PA: I did find a new guilty pleasure . . . SOUTHERN CHARM on BRAVO ...have you seen it? Charleston did not look anything like it when we visited, but it looks lovely on TV. And I find the characters amusing, especial Tom Ravelnel. He is the epitome of a Southern gentleman and something about him is very tragic and alluring to me. The women on the show are all very hot, too. Mondays at 10 p.m.

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6. Joke 2

BEYOND FUNNY--and true, too: Beware Of The 5 lb. Bag Of Sugarless Gummy Bears. . . . Check out the Safety Warning: Consumption of some sugar-free candies may cause stomach discomfort and/or a laxative effect. Individual tolerance will vary. If this is the first time you've tried these candies, we recommend beginning with one-fourth of a serving size or less. . . . And the reviews are priceless. Here's part of one: Ideal Gift for Your Congressional Representatives. For more, click:

<http://tinyurl.com/lgcaesf>



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7. Websites

A. Herb S. in NJ: Go ahead and cry.

This Waitress Becomes The Victim Of A Life Changing Prank
April 1, 2014

Meet Chelsea Roff. An average waitress who raised her sister alone from a very young age, suffered from an eating disorder (weighing only 58 pounds at one point of time) and runs a non profit yoga clinic to help people suffering from the former. Her friends and colleagues step in to trap her in this amazing April Fools prank.

To view it, please click:

<http://www.sharedots.com/this-waitress-becomes-victim-of-greatest-prank-ever-conceived-197.html>

B. Animals Can Be Jerks - Supercut Compilation 2013!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_vx1OVLX5Rc

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

<http://www.blaineworld.net>

Have you ever wondered what holds my interest? Take a look at the picture on the far right of the home page. Move your cursor from that to any of the options on the left side. When you do so, make sure you look at my eyes.

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>

Like us on **Facebook** 

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8. Technology tip

Sweeping Away a Search History
by Molly Wood in THE NEW YORK TIMES (4.2.14)

YOUR search history contains some of the most personal information you will ever reveal online: your health, mental state, interests, travel locations, fears and shopping habits.

And that is information most people would want to keep private. Unfortunately, your web searches are carefully tracked and saved in databases, where the information can be used for almost anything, including highly targeted advertising and price discrimination based on your data profile.

For the rest of this very informative article, as well as an accompanying video, please click:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/03/technology/personaltech/sweeping-away-a-search-history.html?src=me&module=Ribbon&version=origin®ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=Most%20Emailed&pgtype=article>

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9. Joke 3

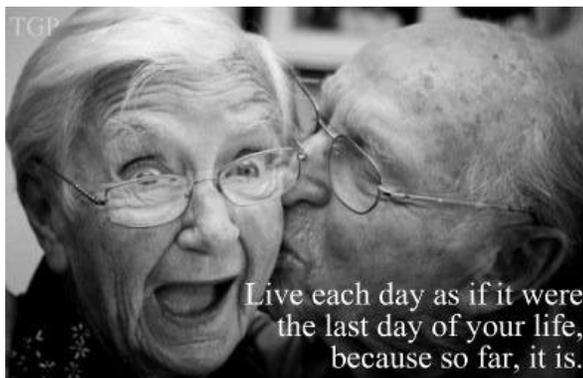
They found it!



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10. A quote I like

Sounds like a plan . . .



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11. Thought for the day

A woman is in a park, speaking on her cellphone in another language. Nearby is a white man. After she hangs up, he

speaks up. . . . Man: "I didn't want to say anything while you were on the phone, but you're in America now. You need to speak English." . . . Woman: "Excuse me?" . . . Man--very slowly: "If you want to speak Mexican, go back to Mexico. In America, we speak English." . . . Woman: "Sir, I was speaking Navajo. If you want to speak English, go back to England."



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12. Advance planning department

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1wT>

A. NC events

(1) STOP KISS at Be Be Theater. (2) Majo M. in NC: It's coming right up on us: next Sunday, 3 p.m. at Jubilee. (3) Pipapelli will be playing at: April 19. (4) WOMEN AND WALLACE. (5) Asheville Vaudeville. (6) Asheville Small Business Week. (7) Leadership Asheville. (8) MEDEA. (9) Workshop on Cyber Security. (10) LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) The Magic of Monet's Garden. (2) Relaxing seminars at Comedy Cabaret. (3) HAIR at MCCC's Kelsey Theatre. (4) Building a Journalism Career in the Digital Age. (5) DEMENTIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA at the annual BRAIN HEALTH FAIR. (6) Garden State Comedy Club Presents Vic Dibitteto.

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PS. To have some fun on April 1 (April Fools' Day), try the prank below . . . or any of the other 29 at: <http://tinyurl.com/owlgm27>



Make it a wonderful rest of the week, too!

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

#913

3.24.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are looking forward to the upcoming "Walk a Mile" event in downtown Asheville on Saturday, May 3, at 11 a.m. All funds support the efforts of Our Voice, an organization devoted to serving women and men affected by sexual violence.

Pictured, l-r: the BLAINESWORLD team from last year: Blaine Greenfield, John Russo, Steve Liebhentaut, Justin Gaylard and Steven Green. (Not pictured: Tyler Winkler.)



There's still time to join my team this year. If interested, please click:
<http://www.firstgiving.com/team/260320>

Or kindly consider making a tax-deductible contribution to support my team's efforts by clicking:
<http://www.firstgiving.com/team/260320>

If you need more information, please send me an email (bjinbc@aol.com) or give me a call at 828.633.1049.

B. We had a blast at the recent Jazz for Justice event that benefited Pisgah Legal Services, the marvelous local organization that helps thousands of people struggling in poverty. In the top photo, we're with Marcy and Tom Gallagher; in the bottom photo, we're with Mark Bennett.



Also, we recently spent a lovely afternoon with our friends Paul and Layne Cutright--viewing beautiful crafts at the Grovewood Gallery. (Our only disappointment was that the nearby Estes-Winn Memorial Automobile Museum was closed.) From there, we went across the street to the Grove Park Inn for a delicious dinner at the Sunset Terrace that was made even better by the fact that our server--Sidney--was so outstanding. That's Paul and Layne in the top picture and in the bottom one, you can see the view from the restaurant.





C. In addition, we got to spend time with our friends Neil Raphel and Janis Ray. They were visiting from Vermont, so naturally we had to take them to Vinnie's--our favorite Italian restaurant. From there, we gave them a tour of downtown Asheville.



D. Congratulations to:

(1) Terry Van Duyn on her upcoming nomination from Van Duncan, Buncombe County Sheriff, to fill the unexpired term of the late, great Senator Martin Nesbitt.



Note: I try to keep politics out of BLAINESWORLD, for the most part, but I'll make an exception

in this case. Terry is an outstanding individual, and she would make a fine addition to the North Carolina Senate.

(2) Paul Cutright for having one of his images featured on one of the best mobile photography blogs on the web, Art of Mob, created and curated by the wonderful Geri Centonze. To view it, please click:

<http://bit.ly/1jnc1Mi>

(3) Annette Ewing for having one of her poems (see below) chosen as a winner in the Miami-Dade Dept. of Poetry Works contest. As a result, it will be a road sign--somewhere in Miami!



(4) Ezra S. Shanken on his appointment as new Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver.

(5) Jeff Thompson for a great article about his band in MOUNTAIN X:

<http://www.mountainx.com/article/57271/Triumphant-return>

(6) Ruth Anne Wood on her new ebook, HOW I SAVED MY CLIENTS FROM PENDING FINANCIAL, LEGAL & RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS. To get your free copy, please click:

<http://GetOutOfHotWaterFast.com/>

(7) Asheville for being listed #3 among the best cities for hippies. To read more, please click:

[http://www.wmur.com/money/travel/17-best-cities-for-hippies/21308056?](http://www.wmur.com/money/travel/17-best-cities-for-hippies/21308056?utm_source=hootsuite&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=wmur+facebook&utm_content=sh2014)

[utm_source=hootsuite&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=wmur+facebook&utm_content=sh2014](http://www.wmur.com/money/travel/17-best-cities-for-hippies/21308056?utm_source=hootsuite&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=wmur+facebook&utm_content=sh2014)

(8) Meridith Elliott Powell for her appearance on Good Morning Tennessee. She was interviewed on the strategies for Winning In The Trust & Value Economy.

(9) Steve R. in NY, winner of CONTEST #6: a copy of THERE'S A BETTER DAY A-COMIN' by Ronda Rich. All told, there were 7 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #7 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of HOW TO WIN A PITCH: THE FIVE FUNDAMENTALS THAT WILL DISTINGUISH YOU FROM THE COMPETITION by Joey Archer.

To quote from the book's description at amazon.com: How to Win a Pitch will help you learn how to: Develop presentations that win contracts. Create connections to secure business relationships. Identify, discuss and fulfill client needs effectively. Veteran business coach Joey Asher has helped his clients win over five billion dollars in new business contracts. He uses his former experience as an attorney and journalist to help readers and clients rise above their competition.

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #894. Methinks you'll like it as much as I did.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #7 in the subject 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 Monday, April 7.

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

This week, it goes to the many dedicated Asheville SCORE volunteers who have been writing articles that are being run each week in the local press. These have included the following:

Don't Take Small Business Cash Flow for Granted

by Vanessa Freund-Marté

Take Practical Approach to Small Business Pricing
by Bob Bond

Ethical Workplace: Easy to Say, Difficult to Do?
by Ron Ashe

From Business Planning to Growth Planning
by Ron Gallaway

Asheville SCORE Helps Small Business
by Elizabeth Pou

Get Comfortable With Networking Situations
by Gayle Sovinee

Build social media into your marketing
by Blaine Greenfield

To read any and/or all of them, please click:
<http://ashevillescore.org/score-in-the-news/>

One more article on Encore Entrepreneurship, written by Maceo Keeling, was published in the URBAN NEWS:

<http://theurbannews.com/business/2014/encore-entrepreneurship-part-1/>

Special kudos to Bob Bond for spearheading the effort to get the above into print!

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2. FYI

On getting at the truth (if you want to put a smile on your face)

1. Print media

A. The Borowitz Report

<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/borowitzreport>

This is a satirical news column that has millions of readers around the world, for which he won the first-ever National Press Club award for humor

B. The Onion

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

The Onion is an American digital media company and news satire organization. It runs an entertainment website featuring satirical articles reporting on international, national and local news.

C. This Is True

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

This is True is a weekly e-mail newsletter which reports on bizarre-but-true news items from legitimate news outlets from around the world. Each story ends with a comment--a tagline which is humorous, ironic or opinionated (or with luck, some combination of the three).

2. TV and/or the Internet (for clips)

A. Bill Maher

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

Maher eschews political labels, referring to himself as "practical." In the past, he has described himself as a libertarian and has also referred to himself "as a progressive, as a sane person." He has also referred to himself as a "9/11 liberal", noting that his formerly liberal view of Muslims changed as a result of the attacks on September 11, 2001, and he differentiates himself from liberals in his opinion that all religions are not the same.

B. The Daily Show with Jon Stewart

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

Describing itself as a fake news program, The Daily Show draws its comedy and satire from recent news stories, political figures, media organizations, and often, aspects of the show itself.

C. Colbert Nation with Stephen Colbert
<http://www.colbertnation.com/>

Stephen Tyrone Colbert is an American political satirist, writer, comedian, television host, and actor. He is the host of Comedy Central's The Colbert Report, a satirical news show in which Colbert portrays a caricatured version of conservative political pundits.

Note: Note: I've previously prepared a similar-type listing for getting at the truth from a serious standpoint; e.g., if you want to debunk rumors, falsehoods, etc. If you haven't seen that yet and would like a copy, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put TRUTH in the subject line.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Chuck F. in NC: Warhol said we all have 15 minutes of fame. Greg Fink [Chuck's talented son] has 14.5 minutes still to go. Here's commercial #2. He's the last guy with a line before the spokesman ends the spot.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4misPdhV58>

(2) Edie W. in PA: Hug flash mob

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_PN7-5ZA_XQ&feature=youtu.be

(3) Layne C. in NC: When a baby elephant sees the sea for the first time

<http://www.reshareable.tv/when-a-baby-elephant-sees-the-sea-for-the-first-time.html>

(4) Allison W. in NC: Man vs. lawnmower

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6e6IDEw4Ds>

(5) Chanah M. in MO: When you wake up and can't find your phone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iooBxfkhXA>

(6) Julia R. in NC: Happy, the world's first 24 hour video

<http://24hoursofhappy.com>

(7) Meshuganas on Passover on the Daily Show

<http://www.israelvideonet.com/meshuganas-on-passover-on-the-daily-show>

(8) Cynthia G. in NC: What We Do

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bp2tQ75pTD0>

(9) Joe H. in NC: Brian Williams Rap

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-YCeIgt7hMs>

(10) Preston D. in NC: How to do a cartwheel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvLx6fv85dA>

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1wh>

(1) Elizabeth P. in NC: Loved the 1 A (1) pix of you and Cynthia. (2) Marty S. in PA: These Are Some of the Best Lines I've Ever Heard. (3) Bob P. in NC: You need to read a non-fiction book that I have just finished called Why Nations Fail. (4) Sharon B. in NC: I remember you saying that you had a basal cell carcinoma removed. (5) Natalie K. in PA: Watched Robot and Frank last night. (6) Deborah A. Scannell: A large body of my landscape work [photos taken in the Southern Appalachian Mountains and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park] that is guaranteed to lower your blood pressure. (7) Suzanne W. in NC: Please consider donating to help make Buncombe County a NO KILL community.

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3. Joke 1

Just before a boy enters the barbershop, the barber tells his customer, "This is the stupidest kid in the world. Watch." The barber puts a dollar in one open palm and two quarters in the other and asks the kid, "Which one do you want?" The boy takes the quarters and leaves. "See?" says the barber, laughing. . . . Later, the customer passes the boy, who is coming outside an ice cream store. "Why'd you take the quarters and not the dollar?" he asks. . . . The boy licked his cone and replied, "Because the day I take the dollar, the game is over."



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4. Reviews

A. THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL tells the story of Gustave H, a legendary concierge at a famous European hotel between the wars, and Zero Moustafa, the lobby boy who becomes his most trusted friend. They work together to recover a priceless Renaissance painting. Though it has gotten great reviews, I didn't like it. There were few laughs and aside from some imaginative camera work (in the second half), there's little for me to recommend about the film. Rated R.

B. Netflix now has AND YOUR NAME IS JONAH available via streaming. Do what you can to watch it via that method and/or if you can find it on DVD. It is a moving 1979 TV movie about a deaf boy who has been misdiagnosed as retarded. Sally Struthers is excellent as the mother, and I also liked the work of James Woods as the father. However, it is Jeffrey Bravin as the youngster who steals every scene he is in. Unrated, but certainly appropriate for anybody 10 or older.

Note: I was so impressed with Bravin's performance that I wanted to find out more about him. It turns that he is deaf in real life. For more information, please click:

<http://www.people.com/people/article/0,,20072886,00.html>

I also found out that he is now the Assistant Executive Director and COO for the American School for the Deaf.

C. Disclaimer: I'm perhaps not completely objective about the following review, in that I'm a friend of the book's author.

That said, I was thoroughly engrossed by EPISODES: A POETIC MEMOIR (ABLiA Media) by Rodney Richards.

It is the amazing story of a dedicated New Jersey civil service and deeply religious man who attempts to lead a normal life despite the fact that he is bipolar.

His descriptions of what that entails were frightening, especially his account of a 9-day trip overseas that he took on the spur of the moment. I felt myself genuinely concerned for his safety.

I give Richards a lot of credit for not only attempting to master his condition, but also for sharing his story with the rest of the world. In addition, kudos to his wife Janet for patiently staying with him during his various ups and downs.

If you want to have a better understanding of what mental illness is all about, please read EPISODES.

D. Heard HOME RUN: LEARN GOD'S GAME PLAN FOR LIFE AND LEADERSHIP (Hachette Audio), written by Kevin Myers and Jon C. Maxwell and read by Myers and Peter Ganim.

I was interested in this book because I had previously read and/or listened to several other efforts by Maxwell, a leadership expert and coach. His stuff has always been on the mark. I had

not been familiar with Myers, but I was impressed by the fact that he is the senior pastor of 12Stone Church, one of the largest churches in the U.S.

In addition, I was intrigued by the baseball analogy that was used. The authors employ it to help readers keep their priorities in order by following a pattern that entails:

- * Connection with God: Winning Dependence
- * Character: Winning Within
- * Community: Winning With Others
- * Competence: Winning Results

Myers' story was inspiring, and I enjoyed how Maxwell commented and presented relevant applications.

HOME RUN has many references to the Bible, so if that bothers you, consider yourself forewarned.

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5. TV alert

A. Season 2 of "Mr. Selfridge" opens on MASTERPIECE CLASSIC with the London store celebrating its fifth anniversary. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, [this is] "a series that is improving with age." Begins Sunday, March 31, at 9 p.m. on PBS.

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

B. Several new shows have either recently started--or they'll start in the near future:

(1) FRIENDS WITH BUTTERFLIES is a new comedy about a group of friends. It stars James Van Der Beek, Kevin Connolly and model Brooklyn Decker. Mondays at 9 p.m. on CBS.

(2) SAINT GEORGE features comedian George Lopez in a semiautobiographical comedy. Thursdays at 9 p.m. on FX.

(3) SURVIVING JACK, starring Christopher Meloni, is a sitcom set in the 90s. Thursdays at 9:30 p.m. on FOX.

Note: If you've seen any of the above yet, I'd be interested in your reaction . . . especially if you recommend viewing. I've been watching another new show, ABOUT A BOY on Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on NBC, and really enjoying it.

C. I remember being dazzled when I saw LAWRENCE OF ARABIA as a 13-year-old back in 1962. I'll be curious how the film profile of the British soldier holds up. Wednesday, April 2, at 9:45 p.m. on TCM.

D. James Naughton performs the songs on Randy Newman on LIVE FROM LINCOLN CENTER on Friday, April 4, at 9 p.m. on PBS.

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

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6. Joke 2

It's about time!



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7. Websites

A. To find new friends and/or those with similar interests, please click:
<http://www.meetup.com/>

Specifically, for Asheville, please click:
<http://www.meetup.com/cities/us/nc/asheville/>

Last I checked, there were 224 matchups!

Ironically, as I was putting this together, my friend Arta S. in PA sent me the following email:

Do you know, or know of Ken McArthur?
<http://kenmcarthur.com/>

I went to his meetup at Paneras in Feasterville and thought that you two should know each other.

The meetup was fun and productive, and I plan to go again. For more information, please click:
http://www.meetup.com/ImpactPhilly/events/168730542/?_af_eid=168730542&_af=event&a=uc1_vm

B. Chandler S. in NY shared this fantastic song, which appeals to me for obvious reasons and is rapidly becoming one of my favorites:

Cynthia She's a Really Cool Dancer! Lyrics
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jF2T8QnCpCo>

Note: The above describes Cynthia, my beautiful bride!

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

If you're not familiar with the YOMBER Principle (one of my favorite techniques for dealing with irate customers, students, etc.), please click "Consulting" to the left and then "Article Samples." You'll be glad that you did.

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>



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8. Technology tip

Thanks, Doug Burak, at Bucks County Community for allowing me to reprint the following that applies specifically to Bucks--but has relevance for any computer user:

ON THE BEHALF OF THE TLTR DATA SECURITY AWARENESS TEAM

Dear Colleagues,

As you may have heard or read in the media, there have been a variety of cyber scams and data breaches in the news recently - from Target to Neiman Marcus to the University of Maryland. Data security and your own personal identification information (PII) are at risk, which is why we'd like to take this opportunity to remind you to: Stop. Think. Connect.

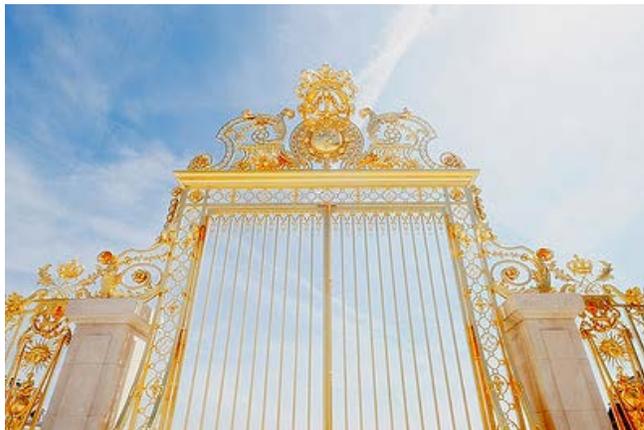
For the rest of this informative letter, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1wh>

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9. Joke 3

A cowboy appeared at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter asked, "Have you ever done anything of particular merit?". . . "Well, I can think of one thing," the cowboy offered. "On a trip to the Black Hills out in South Dakota I went up to a gang of bikers who were threatening a young woman. I ordered them to stop, but they wouldn't listen. So I approached the largest, most tattooed biker and smacked him in the face, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring and threw it on the ground. I yelled, 'Now back off or I'll kick the sh*t out of all of you!' " . . . St. Peter was impressed. "When did this happen?" . . . "Couple of minutes ago!"



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10. A quote I like

"In pursuit of your passions, always be young. In your relationships with others, always be a grown-up."--Tom Brokaw (born 1940), American television journalist and author best known as the anchor and managing editor of NBC Nightly News from 1982 to 2004

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11. Thought for the day

Unconscious coupling (a Facebook post)
by Emily Shaules



Am I the only one applauding Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin for their conscious uncoupling? Haters in the press are going on and on about their separation and how divorce is tough and they are delusional for striving to make the process as love-filled and conscious as possible. Well, I for one love it and believe it is an indicator that we are moving to a more open and honest place regarding adult relationships in society.

To read the rest of this insightful post, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1wh>

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12. Advance planning department

Note: To reach about each of the following events in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1wh>

A. NC events

(1) Members' Showcase at Jubilee. (2) Man and Superman at the Masonic temple downtown. (3) Jerry Crouch in NC: Asheville Community Theatre's 69th Season Reveal! (4) Join us for A TASTE OF SART. (5) 2 upcoming SCORE seminars. (6) Last show of the season for Asheville Vaudeville. (7) Vocal Blast Benefit Concert. (8) Barbara Brady: Please join me for a talk I'll be giving: "The Illusion of Control." (9) (9) FLAT ROCK PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR.

B. PA/NJ events

(1) Dr. Scarpati to host weekly self-hypnosis and mediation seminars. (2) Jeff Baumeister: CD Release Concert. (3) David Brahinsky and Friends in a Sing Along.

C. National events

(1) Preview of a movie called e-Motion. (2) Seth Godin webcast.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
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BLAINES WORLD

#912

3.17.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Were missing Tammy Strange, our friend who moved to Charlotte, so we took a trip there to see how she was doing. We arrived on the day of a big outdoor celebration of St. Patrick's Day (top photo). We also enjoyed visiting Discovery Place and its great aquarium, and we then had a tasty dinner (bottom photo) at Portofino's.





(2) In addition, we saw a fantastic production of [title of show] at 35below. Pictured (top photo) are the members of the talented cast, l-r: Isaac Fulk, Kirby Gibson, Emily Warren and Brad Mercier. Kudos to Daniel Hensley, director, and Susan Fowler, accompanist (bottom photo), for their respective roles in making the evening the success that it was.



(3) During the week, I had the pleasure to attend a coffee-and-cake reception to honor all the hard work done by Matt Mengel (seated) on our community's Post Construction Design Review Committee. Also pictured, l-r: John Kennedy, Bill McMamannis, Jim McMains, Sam Walker, Jane Kennedy and Kirk Borland.



B. A request: Please check out the other sections of BLAINESWORLD that you ordinarily might miss.

As you probably know by now, Sections 3, 6 and 9 contain jokes. But using just this week as an example, kindly take notice of such other items as the following:

(1) Section 1C contains information about both the Walk a Mile event (and how you can still become involved with it) and Contact #6.

(2) Section 7, as always, showcases websites that will often delight and/or amaze you.

(3) Section 8 discusses how Gmail users need to get smarter about what mail they are receiving, as well as about what is being hidden from them.

(4) Section 11 contains a moving Thought for the Day.

(5) Section 12C presents a national contest from THE WALL STREET JOURNAL that has cash prizes. It is open to college students, so if you, your child or grandchild qualifies, do check it out.

C. Reminders:

(1) There's still time to join me in this year's "Walk a Mile" event in downtown Asheville on Saturday, May 3, at 11 a.m. All funds support the efforts of Our Voice, an organization devoted to serving women and men affected by sexual violence.

Pictured (l-r), the BLAINESWORLD team from last year: Blaine Greenfield, Steve Liebenthaut, Steven Green, Tyler Winkler, John Russo and Justin Gaylard.



To join my team this year, please click the "Team" tab at the following link:
<http://tinyurl.com/mv5jkwz>

Or kindly consider making a tax-deductible contribution to support my team's efforts by clicking:
<http://tinyurl.com/mxmrt6z>

Send me an email (bginbc@aol.com) or give me a call at 828.633.1049 if you need more information.

(2) There's also still time to enter . . .

**** CONTEST #6 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of THERE'S A BETTER DAY A-COMIN': HOW TO FIND THE UPSIDE DURING THE DOWN TIMES by Ronda Rich.

To quote from the book's description at amazon.com: "In a time when all the news seems bad, people are searching for a little dose of hope. For those in the thick of troubling times, Ronda Rich offers heaping helpings of comfort and sound advice. . . Here Rich shares stories of courage, spunk, and perseverance that she has either witnessed or (as in the case of Paula Deen and race car champion Dale Earnhardt), learned in conversation with them as they personally told their stories of dark times that turned brighter than their wildest imaginations."

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #907. Methinks you'll like it as much as I did.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #6 in the subject 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 Monday, March 24.

D, Congratulations to:

(1) Emily Shauls on qualifying for membership in SAG-AFTRA, the most distinguished performers' union in the world.

(2) Steve Seidner on his great work as a Chief Adviser at Hamilton Honda. To learn more, please click:
<http://www.dealerrater.com/sales/Steven-Seidner-review-102152/>

(3) Tom Gallagher for his role in helping Brevard tenants. To read more about this, as well as to see the news clip that featured Tom, please click:
http://wlos.com/shared/news/features/top-stories/stories/wlos_brevard-tenants-fight-time-15443.shtml

(4) Joe Knowles on being named to the 2014 Special Olympics Soccer Ref's list.

(5) Elsten Torres on the release of the new video of his song, "Va Y Viene. " written for and with Canadian Latin World Music artist Amanda Martinez from her new album, "Mañana." To hear it, please click:
<http://youtu.be/C2zdaCF3bcg>

(6) Tom Giraldi on his new song, "Good Being Alive." You can listen to Ernie White perform it by clicking:
<http://aloveforlife.us/blog/>

(7) Matt Mittan on his interview on Brick and Mortar Reporter. To listen to it, please click:
http://ec.libsyn.com/p/7/4/4/744f33cc034add4f/Ep_10_-_Matt_Mittan_-_1350AM.mp3?d13a76d516d9dec20c3d276ce028ed5089ab1ce3dae902ea1d01c18232d2ce5c824e&c_id=6951749

(8) George Bruno on having landed four mental health and addiction recovery TV commercials.

(9) Susan Reinhardt on landing a position as a Senior Writer/Producer with Storied Life. As such, she will be helping to capture your life stories or the stories of someone you love. For more information, please email:
info@storiedlifefilms.com.

(10) Joe Hodgson on being named as Home Lead at Pride in North Carolina.

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

This week, it goes to Jason Fore--a handyman extraordinaire.

He has come to our home and helped us out with several small projects. In addition, he

does remodeling, painting, decks, flooring and roofing.

Jason also does custom woodworking, and he produces beautiful individual pieces (two of which he graciously donated to SART's recent "Hearts for SART" event).

I've further been impressed with the work that Jason has done for our Biltmore Lake community--ranging from snow removal to putting up the swimming dock.

I am obviously "sold" on Jason Fore. He can be reached via email at foreimprovements@att.net or via phone at 828.552.1541.

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2. FYI

Great marketing! This is being done in California, too; for more information, please click: <http://tinyurl.com/pkq76I3>



FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Nancy C. in NC: Basset hound clown car...incredible!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cG4CEr2aiSg>

(2) Mary T. in PA: Partridge Family "Singing My Song"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Xk6D0qKEYo#t=43>

(3) Elaine B. in PA: What happens when a Jew and a Goy speak Yiddish together?
<http://www.israelvideonetwork.com/meshuganas-on-passover-on-the-daily-show>

(4) Ellen's first Oscar monologue (from 2007)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whgVLNC5KSY>

(5) Kat B. in NC: What If You Stick A Gay Person And An Anti-Gay Straight Person In A Room And Ask Them To Hug?
<http://www.upworthy.com/what-if-you-stick-a-gay-person-and-an-anti-gay-straight-person-in-a-room-and-ask-them-to-hug>

(6) Corinne G. in PA: Colorized Rare Historical Photos
http://www.liveleak.com/ll_embed?f=d6d9d5385aee

(7) Chanah M. in MO: All Of Me - John Legend & Lindsey Stirling
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwsYvBYZcx4>

(8) The Book of Purim - Official Parody of "The Book of Mormon"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIIP8sBQyR0>

(9) Scott T. in NC: The Surprise That Left Steve Harvey In Tears
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oxEitLU9ps&sns=fb>

(10) Cyd S. in NC: The lady stripped bare: Tracey Spicer at TEDxSouthBankWomen
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PENkzh0tWJs>

B. Other tidbits from readers

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1vC>

(1) Karen M. in NJ: [In photos] you are looking fine, Blaine, but Cynthia's photos in your last few newsletters are looking younger and more stunning than ever! (2) Linda K. in PA: Great picture of you and Cynthia!!! (3) Art F. in PA: How do you allow the table of contents to go down to its destination? (4) Jean R. in PA: Thanks for all the great photos and comments you put together. (5) Michelle B. in NC: So many good things listed!!! (6) Steve G. in PA: Agreed, like the photo of you and Cynthia. (7) Julien in MD: Married life definitely agrees with you both. (8) Wendy A. in PA: Ilana is participating in UDance at the University of Delaware. (9) Edie W. in PA: My friend Blaine Greenfield sent me this article I wrote nearly 3 years ago. (10) Mary C. in NC: Thumb way up [on GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL]. (11) BJ L. in NC: 10 Things Only People from Asheville Will Understand. (12) Susan Reinhardt's latest radio show, "When Your Mama Joins Facebook."

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3. Joke 1

The guys at the barber shop asked me what actress I would like to be stuck in an elevator with. . . . I told them the one who knows how to fix elevators. I'm old, tired and pee a lot.



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4. Reviews

A. BETTER LIVING THROUGH CHEMISTRY is a quirky dark comedy about a small-town pharmacist whose drab life changes when he delivers a prescription to the home of a beautiful woman. Things are never again the same for him. Sam Rockwell is great in the leading role, and it is his work that saves the film. Olivia Wilde is also good as his seductress. Blink, and you'll probably miss this film as it has gotten very little distribution. Not rated for some reason; if it had been up to me, I would have given it an R.

B. AMERICAN HUSTLE is now out on DVD . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #900 follows:

AMERICAN HUSTLE might well be my favorite film from this past year. It tells the story of a brilliant con man, who along with the help of his seductive partner, is forced to work with a crazy FBI agent to take down both crooked politicians and the mafia. There are twists and turns aplenty, as well as great acting from Christian Bale, Bradley Cooper and an electrifying Jeremy Renner. David O' Russell, quickly becoming one of my favorite directors for his previous films (including SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK and THE FIGHTER), again hits the mark here. Rated R.

Note: Shortly after seeing the above, I came across the following headline:
Checks To North Carolina Politicians Came From Illegal Gambling

C. Bree Abbington, the author of THE VISITOR: GIFTS IN STRANGE WRAPPINGS (TBG) had been through a tough few years. After 15 years of marriage, she divorced her first husband and then remarried on the rebound. That didn't work out any better.

Abbington also experienced a series of health issues, as well as a failed business. So come Christmas time, she decided she needed a break and she goes to spend the holidays with her first husband's parents and their two daughters. It was then that she has an

unexpected encounter that I found both touching and spiritual.

THE VISITOR is based on a true story, but it is written like a novel. It is only 49 pages long, and it will leave you wanting more. I look forward to the author's next book that will, hopefully, be longer.

D. Heard ON THE EDGE: THE ART OF HIGH-IMPACT LEADERSHIP (Hachette Audio), written and read by Alison Levine.

The author, a history-making polar explorer and mountaineer, has climbed the highest peak on each continent, served as team captain of the first American Women's Everest Expedition and skied to both the North and South Poles.

In this engaging book, she describes her experiences--and shows how these can also be applied to the business environment. The key: To be able to make critical decisions when the conditions around you are often not perfect.

ON THE EDGE kept my interest throughout, especially as I read about many of her thrilling trips. It also had me laughing, at spots, given the author's breezy style of writing.

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5. TV alert

A. ALL OF ME is an independent documentary about the lives of a group of seriously obese women. THE WALL STREET JOURNAL calls it a "cooly penetrating film." Monday, March 24, on PBS at 10 p.m.

B. THE STORY OF THE JEWS is a new documentary from historian Simon Schama, beginning in the in the Middle Eastern desert about 3,000 years ago and running through to the more-or-less present. The program is on Tuesday, March 25, from 8-10 p.m. and on Tuesday April 1, from 8-11 p.m. on PBS.

Note: PBS dates and times often vary, so check local listings for both programs mentioned above.

C. CHICAGOLAND, according to THE NEW YORK TIMES, "is an artfully cinematic real-life look at gang violence and the public school crisis in that city. The problem is serious: In one meeting, a public school administrator surprises her colleagues by announcing, 'Knock on wood, we have not had a student shot this week.' She adds a cautionary note: 'It's only Thursday.' " Thursdays at 9 p.m. on CNN.

D. After being canceled in 2003, the improv series WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY? is back for a second season. Colin Mochrie, Wayne Brady and Ryan Stiles are the performers, and the host is Aisha Tyler. Fridays at 8 p.m. on CW.

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6. Joke 2

My kind of exercise!



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7. Websites

A. Nelson S. in NC: Girl Speaks Gibberish With Perfect Accents To Show What Languages Sound Like To Foreigners

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/06/languages-sound-foriegners-smoukahontas_n_4912793.html?utm_hp_ref=mostpopular

B. Chanah M. in MO: Happy Together (a clip of arguably the greatest rock song of all time that I had not heard before)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKC-IRhvdNY>

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

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

Ever wonder how many other folks visit this website? Check out the counter in the bottom 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:

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

Like us on Facebook 

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8. Technology tip

Note: If you're a Gmail user, please read the following. Also, if you know of others who are Gmail users, please share this information with them.

Julia R. in NC wrote me as follows: Just found that out [where BLAINESWORLD issues had been disappearing]. Was wondering why the newsletter stopped.

What you need to do when you're in your inbox . . . check a folder labeled promotions,. Click and hold on the email you want to move from there, then slide it into the tab you want it to be in--forever!

For more information about this annoying practice from Gmail (done without your knowledge and/or without ever telling you), please click:

<http://marketingland.com/gmail-inbox-tabs-promotions-primary-56500>

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9. Joke 3

So now I know what it means to be busted!



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10. A quote I like

"Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get."--Dale Carnegie (1888-1955), American writer and lecturer, as well as developer of famous courses in self-improvement, salesmanship, corporate training, public speaking and interpersonal skills

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11. Thought for the day

I Wish You Enough

Note: Variations of the following story have a mother and daughter saying goodbye, but when I researched it, I found that the actual story involved a father and daughter--and was written by Bob Perks. So I contacted Bob, and he graciously gave me permission to run it in BLAINESWORLD. It follows:

The Story

Bob wrote this story after watching a father and daughter say goodbye at an airport. Although the story resonates in the hearts of millions who have had to face similar such moments in their lives, the true message in this story comes in the "Seven Wishes." With permission from the author, those words have been read at graduations, weddings, funerals, awards ceremonies and even engraved on a grave stone.

To read it, and I strongly recommend that you do, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1vC>



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12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1vC>

(1) Third Annual Asheville Talent Slam. (2) Majo John Madden and Tracy Schmidt. (3) Upcoming free seminars from Asheville SCORE. (4) Living Healthy with Chronic Conditions. (5) LGBT Caregiver Education Forum. (6) Bruce Lang at Cork and Crown.

B. PA/NJ events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1vC>

(1) Living as God - Advanced Class. (2) Dr. Scarpati's Self-Hypnosis and Mediation Seminar. (3) Neshaminy Valley Music Theatre's production of "Anything Goes." (4) PA Coalition for Peace Action will be co-sponsoring "Solving Today's Nuclear Nightmares."

C. National event

To read about the following event in full, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1vC>

WSJ Student Trading Competition.

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PS. Good advice for St. Patrick's Day--and every other day. Also, if you're like me and you celebrate all holidays (more food, fun and friends that way): Lá Fhéile Pádraig Sona

Daoibh. And may you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live!



Make it a wonderful rest of the week, too.

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

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BLAINES WORLD

#911

3.10.2014

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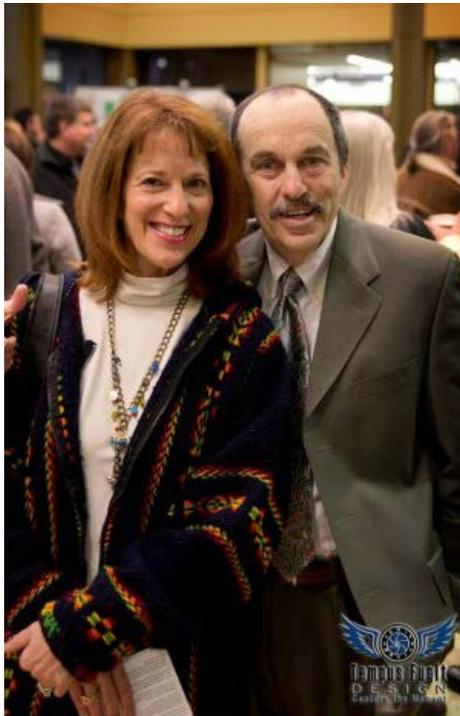
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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Received this great picture from the Lessons in Leadership event a few weeks ago. It was taken by photographer extraordinaire Rodney Smith (with Tempus Fugit Design). To see others he took that evening, please click:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.364859006986805.1073741863.174574799348561&type=1>



(2) Joined our friends (l-r) Brian Biro, Carole Biro, Bob Bowles and Sunny Ruble for a delicious meal at Sunny Point Cafe. I indulged and ordered the oatmeal pancakes. It was a good choice on my part!



From there, we went to see another friend (Michelle Baker) in THE DARKSIDE: AN EVENING OF FICTIONS AND IMPROVISATIONS at the Bebe Theater. She was great, as were the others in the show: Bonnie Freestone and Nina Hart. And we also enjoyed the artwork by Kaylina Michaela that was on display.



(3) We also attended a service at the Center for Spiritual Living where we got to hear the beautiful singing of Carol Logen (backed up by Richard Shulman, the Center's talented music director) and a funny, powerful message from August Gold.

We then went with a bunch of our favorite folks for a tasty brunch at Isis Restaurant & Music Hall. L-R: Susan Dobroski, Marvin Sadovsky, Annemarie Brown, Brian Biro and Carole Biro.



B. Reminder about my INVITE from last week: Please join me in this year's "Walk a Mile" event in downtown Asheville on Saturday, May 3, at 11 a.m. All funds support the efforts of Our Voice, an organization devoted to serving women and men affected by sexual violence.

Pictured: Your truly with John Russo, a teammate from the 2013 Walk, proudly displaying our heels.



To join my team, please click the "Team" tab at the following link:
<http://tinyurl.com/mv5jkw>

Or kindly consider making a tax-deductible contribution to support my team's efforts by clicking:
<http://tinyurl.com/mxmrt6z>

Send me an email (bginbc@aol.com) or give me a call at 828.633.1049 if you need more information.

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Michelle Baker on her latest Millionaire Girls Movement article. (And thanks, Michelle, for the mention of me.)
To read it, please click:

<http://www.millionairegirlsmovement.com/platinum-rule-get-know-clients-like/>

(2) Jim Freeman on being named as the 2014 Humboldt State University Recent Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

(3) Evan Guilford-Blake on having his essay, "Sex: My Life in Porn," published online by "Northern Liberties Review." You'll find by clicking:

<http://www.northernlibertiesreview.com/work.php?id=66&issue=8>

(4) Melanie Brethauer on having a bunch of her art accepted into Mountain Made, an Asheville art gallery.

(5) Mike Andrus on being admitted into the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

(6) Susan Gambrell Reinhardt on her fantastic new show on Am 1350 WZGM - Independent Asheville Radio. I was honored to have been a guest on one of her first shows. You can listen to it by clicking:

<http://www.buzzsprout.com/21194/157361-drawing-the-line-frugal-not-crazy>

Note: While you're at it, also check out Matt Mittan's engaging new show, "Side Street America," by clicking:
<http://www.buzzsprout.com/12705>

(7) Daniel Hensley for having Vocal Blast chosen to sing this number at the half time of one of the games in the S-Co Tournament:

<http://youtu.be/KR0p3pBMVnk>

(8) Ron Gallaway on having his article published in the CITIZEN-TIMES. To read it, please click:
<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014303090028>

(9) Elsten Torres for having been chosen to speak about leadership in Miami as a musician both locally and nationally to the Miami Chamber of Commerce. He also performed; to listen to a brief clip, please click:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10151950348221681&set=vb.662086680&type=2&theater>

(10) Julie Godfrey for being chosen as a finalist in the Nat Geo Wild, Sun Valley Film Fest and African Wildlife Foundation's 'Wild to Inspire' Short Film Contest. You'll see why by clicking:

<https://vimeo.com/85561258>

(11) Michelle B. in NC, winner of CONTEST #5: a copy of A YEAR TO LIVE by Stephen Levine. All told, there were 14 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #6 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of THERE'S A BETTER DAY A-COMIN': HOW TO FIND THE UPSIDE DURING THE DOWN TIMES by Ronda Rich.

To quote from the book's description at amazon.com: "In a time when all the news seems bad, people are searching for a little dose of hope. For those in the thick of troubling times, Ronda Rich offers heaping helpings of comfort and sound advice. . . Here Rich shares stories of courage, spunk, and perseverance that she has either witnessed or (as in the case of Paula Deen and race car champion Dale Earnhardt), learned in conversation with them as they personally told their stories of dark times that turned brighter than their wildest imaginations."

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #907. Methinks you'll like it as much as I did.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #6 in the subject 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 Monday, March 23.

D. Condolences to Neil Rosenberg and family on the passing of Ira Rosenberg, Neil's father.

Also, last week's issue mentioned the passing of Pam Perkins-Frederick. An annual award at Bucks County Community College is being established in her memory to recognize students who combine a passion for poetry and art. Donations can be made payable to BCCC Foundation and sent to the attention of Dr. Christopher Bursk, BCCC, Lang. & Lit., 275 Swamp Road, Newtown, PA 18940.

For more information about Pam's life, please click:

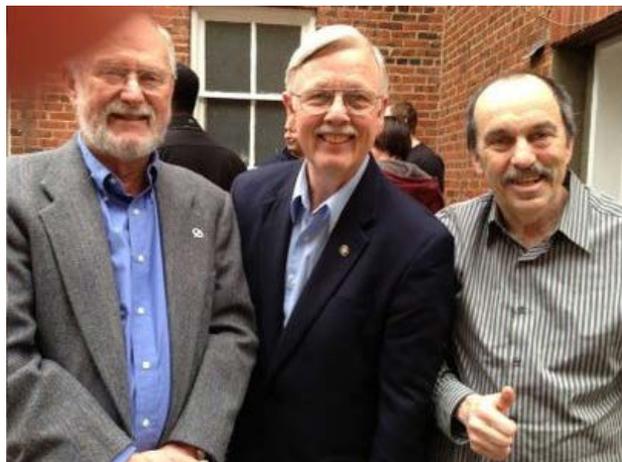
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/philly/obituary.aspx?n=pamela-perkins-frederick&pid=170103491&#sthash.RCrZjhLN.IQIHSOUF.dpuf>

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

This week, it goes to Neil St. Clair--retiring faculty member (and former chair of the Theatre Arts Department) at Mars Hill University.

I have had the pleasure of getting to know Neil over the past several years and have been impressed by his obvious love of teaching, as well as for the respect that is shown to him by his many students and colleagues. In addition, I've gotten to see several of the student productions he has directed.

The last one, ONCE UPON A MATTRESS, was particularly well done. I was fortunate to catch the final performance of the run, along with my friend Chuck Hollinshead on the left and Neil in the middle.



For more information about Neil St. Clair, please click:

http://www.brownwoodtx.com/news/local/article_0eb651b6-5cfc-58c3-8a02-e3469c5ec162.html

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2. FYI

Joey N. in NJ: If you are currently covered by Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and you're going to lose your current health insurance policy in the next six months to year, I strongly urge you to use it as much as possible, and appeal any and all denials for any reason whatsoever. There's a 2- to 3-step appeals process that you are entitled to for any and all denials, That can be done right over the phone with customer service agent. I have had several denials reversed when they have discovered mistakes, and wrongly applied denial criteria, and a miss calculation of limits of coverage.

Note: The above applies to most any insurance coverage you may with respect to denial of coverage. Very often, companies deny claims--knowing that many people won't ever bother questioning the denial.

For more information on this topic, see SICKO (an excellent documentary). That film made me aware of the fact that insurance executives actually got bonuses based on the number of claims they denied!

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Talk To Me: Rock Eblen's video. (He wrote the song, recorded all instruments and vocals, acted in, directed and edited the video.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfVDDfp8Klw>

(2) Run Away With Me, Isaac Fulk

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIC9DJJmfJ8&sns=fb>

(3) Stranger to the Rain, Children of Eden, Kirby Gibson

<http://youtu.be/PyNfcxMUsrg>

(4) Layne C. in NC: A Baby Was Left Alone With A Dog for One Minute . . . And This Happened

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BTOeuH-iEJ8#t=28>

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1v7>

(1) Brian H. in NJ: The "Find X" joke is one of the funniest I can remember. (2) Pat L. in CA: You know I always love your jokes -- they are just off-the-charts funny and almost always ones I have never heard before -- but your "Find x" was SO-O-O-O-O hilarious!!! (3) Mary Beth K. in PA: I just saw a movie over the weekend called The Best Offer. (4) John D. in PA: That [dog dying from chocolate] was truly sad to read about. (5) Natalie K. in PA: Wanted to let you know we saw a great movie on Netflix last week: Magic of Belle Isle. (6) Henry W. in NY: Saw an exquisite film. The Gilded Cage, about a middle-aged, working-class, Portuguese couple, living in Paris for the past 30 years. (7) Alyson M. in CO: 7 Ways Marketers Should Be Using Twitter.

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3. Joke 1

A man comes home from work and finds his wife admiring her breasts in the mirror. He asks, "What are you doing?" . . . She replies, "I went to the doctor today, and he told me I have the breasts of a 25-year-old woman." . . . The husband retorts, "Well, what did he say about your 50-year-old ass?" . . . She replies, "Frankly dear, your name never came up."



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4. Reviews

For the following reviews, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1v7>

A. ENDLESS LOVE

B. 12 YEARS A SLAVE

C. LOVING LIFE LESSONS FOR MY DAUGHTERS by Brian D. Biro

D. BULLSEYE: AN ORIGINAL WILL ROBIE/CAMEL CLUB SHORT STORY, written by David Baldacci and narrated by Ron McLarty

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5. TV alert

A. CRISIS shows what happens when the most powerful people in the world are brought to their knees after a strategic kidnapping. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "The show has the elements of a gripping yarn." The always watchable Gillian Anderson and Dermot Mulroney star. Sundays at 10 p.m. on NBC.

B. CATCH A CONTRACTOR, a reality show, confronts contractors with evidence of outrageously shoddy work. Adam Corolla, who was a contractor before he became a successful comedian, hosts. Sundays at 10 p.m. on SPIKE.

C. DOLL & EM is a six-episode comedy about an actress who hires her best friends as her personal assistant in Hollywood. Em is played by an actress I've often liked, Emily Mortimer, and Doll by her real-life friend Dolly Wells. Wednesdays at 10 p.m. on HBO.

D. JOHN LEGUIZAMO'S GETTO KLOWN is the actor-comedian's one-man show. It airs on Saturday, March 22, at 10 p.m. on HBO.

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6. Joke 2

I dare you to view this and NOT start humming the song that follows:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpOULjyy-n8>



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7. Websites

A. Chanah M. in MO: This Video Makes You Autistic for 2 Minutes and I Couldn't Believe How It Felt-You Won't Either:

<http://www.faithit.com/autistic-for-2-minutes-couldnt-believe-how-it-felt-groundbreaking/>

B. Scott T.in NC: Obama Goes Between Two Ferns With Zach Galifianakis:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnW3xkHxIEQ>

For more information about the above, please click this article:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/11/us/politics/obamas-new-approach-takes-a-humorous-turn.html?](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/11/us/politics/obamas-new-approach-takes-a-humorous-turn.html?src=me&module=Ribbon&version=origin@ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=Most%20Emailed&pgtype=article)

[src=me&module=Ribbon&version=origin@ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=Most%20Emailed&pgtype=article](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/11/us/politics/obamas-new-approach-takes-a-humorous-turn.html?src=me&module=Ribbon&version=origin@ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=Most%20Emailed&pgtype=article)

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

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

If you've ever wondered what this website is all about, read what's inside the box at the very top 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:

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

Like us on Facebook 

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8. Technology tip

One way to guarantee privacy!



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9. Joke 3

PRAYERS OF THE STRESS IMPAIRED . . . Lord, help me to relax about insignificant details beginning tomorrow at 7:41:23 am e.s.t. . . . God, give me patience, and I mean right NOW! . . . Lord, help me not be a perfectionist. (Did I spell thatcorrectly?) . . . God, help me to finish everything I sta . . . Lord, help me to be more laid back and help me to do it EXACTLY right. . . . God, help me to do only what I can, and trust you for the rest. And would you mind putting that in writing? . . . Lord, keep me open to others' ideas, WRONG though they may be. . . . Lord, help me slow down andnotrushthroughwhatIdo.



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10. A quote I like

Mr. [Emmet] Gowin mentioned a suggestion he had received from his friend Frederick Sommer that as we age, we ought to read difficult books that push us out of our comfort zones, even if we don't understand them. Growth requires active engagement, he has learned. The well-lived life comes down to a willingness to explore, to push further into the unknown, and a desire to seek answers to perhaps unanswerable questions.

"You're always working at the margin of what you don't understand," Mr. Gowin concluded. "That's the only exhilarating place to be. To just illustrate what you already know is condescending, and a waste of your time."

Source: Excellent article about the photographer Emmet Gowin, accompanied by samples of his work. To read it, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/mrfh8le>

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11. Thought for the day

Soooo cute! And now you know the origin of the expression "top dog."



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12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1v7>

(1) Now seeking applications for the LA 33 Program. (2) Upcoming FREE seminars, presented by Asheville SCORE. (3) Inception Point Institute. (4) Hypnotism courses. (5) TBI/Concussion Open House Announcement. (6) [title of show].

B. PA/NJ events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1v7>

(1) Deanna Trust invites to a Feng Shui & Drowsing workshop. (2) Comedy Cabaret shows, including Dr. Scarpatti's comedy hypnosis. (3) Plumstead Historical Society.

C. National event

To read about this event in full, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1v7>

Free webinar on "Five Keys to a Leadership Look."

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PS. If you're like me and you celebrate all holidays (more food, friends and fun that way), Happy Purim! And to get you in the mood for the festivities that begin on the evening of March 15 and end the next night, please click: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgJlnVvJSZg>

Make it a wonderful week, too.

Phone : 828.633.1049

Contact Us at bjinbc@aol.com

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#910
3.3.2014
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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Enjoyed a movie (see also Section 7A) and then dinner at Frank's Roman Pizza with our friends Marcy and Tom Gallagher. I especially like that eatery, in that I can get just a slice of Hawaiian Surprise pizza--my favorite. It has Canadian bacon and pineapple for toppings.



(2) Attended this year's successful Lessons in Leadership event, featuring two fantastic speakers: Keith Challenger (left) and Harry Paul (right). I was honored to have been chosen to make the introduction for Harry.



Kudos to Fantastic job by Tempus Fugit Design--and Rodney Smith--for taking many great photos at the above. To view them, please click:
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.364859006986805.1073741863.174574799348561&type=1>

And thanks to Dale Neal at the CITIZEN-TIMES for his fine coverage of the event, both before:
<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014302239023>

and after:

<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014302250035>

(3) Look forward to the upcoming "Walk a Mile" event. And we'd like to extend the following:

INVITE to join me in this year's "Walk a Mile" event in downtown Asheville on Saturday, May 3, at 11 a.m. All funds support the efforts of Our Voice, an organization devoted to serving women and men affected by sexual violence.

Note: It is a very leisurely walk of about a mile, and you can go as slow as you want. You also don't have to wear heels that are very high. As you can see in the picture (below), mine are very low. And you can even bring along a spouse or partner for moral and/or physical support.

To join my team, please click the "Team" tab at the following link:

<http://tinyurl.com/mv5kwr>

Or kindly consider making a tax-deductible contribution to support my team's efforts by clicking:

<http://tinyurl.com/mxmrt6z>

You can get obtain your heels from friends, relatives, etc. I got mine last year from Shoe Show for less than \$20. They have a fairly large assortment at reasonable prices. Payless and Walmart are other possibilities. Also, Kip and Franzl at Hip Replacements are excited to offer the official "Walk a Mile Asheville" shoes for only \$16 a pair. Great colors, men's sizes and looks that are sure make heads turn!

One other option: Be creative. Some who couldn't find big shoes last year "wore" their heels on their hands. One person taped his heels on top of his regular shoes.

Send me an email (bginbc@aol.com) or give me a call at 828.633.1049 if you need more information.



(4) Lastly, I was joined by my friend Chuck Hollinshead to see a tuneful production of ONCE UPON A MATTRESS. It was presented by the Theatre Arts Department at Mars Hill University, and the students are to be commended for the hard work they put into making the show the success that it was. Pictured with me below

are two of the stars: Heather Bronson and Daniel Henry. We also got a kick out of the work of Tyler Winkler, Annie Tesh, Steven Green, Chelsea St. John, Kolton Collins, Justin Gaylard, Melanie Grace Morton and Skylar Elrod, among others.

And I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Neil St. Clair's outstanding direction. He will be retiring from the University at the end of the semester, so this might well be his last show. That will be MHU's loss!



B. Congratulations to:

- (1) Jane Dough on becoming a grandmother to twins, Abigail and Anna.
- (2) Chuck Fink on his election as SART (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre) Board president.
- (3) Michelle Baker and Dan Caton on their engagement.
- (3) Elizabeth Pou for a great article she wrote that appeared in this month's WNC WOMAN:
<http://www.wncwoman.com/2014/03/14/ashville-score-helps-small-businesses/>
- (4) Marcie and Herb Feinstein on becoming grandparents to Henry (Hank) Daniel Feinstein.
- (5) Joanne Corn, John Dilcher, Tim Magnavita and Alan Rubin, faculty members at Bucks County Community who have been awarded sabbaticals for next year.
- (6) Jeff Baumeister on the fine review of his latest CD:
<http://www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=46590&UxxHytdXVT>
- (7) Carol Anders on being elected as chair of The Autumn Players.
- (8) Asheville on being profiled in the Hopper Blog (Travel Spotlight on Asheville and Its 20 Best Attractions):
<http://hopperblog.com/travel-spotlight-on-ashville-north-carolina/>

C. Reminder . . .

***** CONTEST #5 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of Stephen Levine's A YEAR TO LIVE: HOW TO LIVE THIS YEAR AS IF IT WERE YOUR LAST.

Quoting the Amazon.com review, "Socrates believed that we should 'always be occupied in the practice of dying' in order to appreciate our living. So imagine that you only have one year left to live. What would you do differently? For one year Stephen Levine (also the author of Who Dies?) consciously chose activities, relationships, and spiritual practices that reflected life's urgency rather than life's complacency. From his experience comes this year-long program of strategies and guided meditations to help us feel satiated when our numbers come up."

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #895. Methinks you'll like it, too.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #5 in the subject 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 Monday, March 10.

D. Correction: Thanks, David F. in NY, for bringing to my attention the fact that a link I gave for an article about the Platinum Rule did not work for all readers. Sorry 'bout that. Please click the link that follows to read the article that I think you'll enjoy, especially if you don't know about the Platinum Rule:
<http://www.blaineworld.net/consulting/goldenrule.asp>

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

Condolences to the family and friends of Pam Perkins-Frederick, a longtime friend and colleague of mine from Bucks County Community College.

Another of her many friends at the College, Jim Freeman, had this to say about her:

"Pam Perkins-Frederick, Poet Laureate of Bucks County in 1984 and an inspiration to many, many poets and friends, as well as best student and best buddy of Dr. Christopher Bursk, touched many people in the area literally with her gentle hands, with her light in her eyes, with her kind and compassionate words, and she touched us figuratively with her art work, both visual and rhetorical.

"She is deeply missed."

To learn more about this sweet, amazing woman, please click:
http://pabook.libraries.psu.edu/palimap/bios/Perkins-Frederick_Pamela.html.



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2. FYI

To fellow pet lovers from Steven in FL:

Shyla, my beautiful collie-shepherd mix (pictured below), was in perfect physical health the 6.5 years she blessed me with her presence in my life. Yesterday morning, while I was at a business meeting, she ate a 12-ounce bag of Nestle Toll House Real Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels--though they had been well hidden and out of her reach.

When I came home at 2 p.m., I found her and rushed her to the vet. She died shortly thereafter.

CHOCOLATE IS POISON TO A DOG. In just 28 hours, she went from healthy to dead.

Shyla's soul mate and brother Spencer (also pictured below) is so sad, confused and lonely, as am I and their mother.

Enough said. I hurt real bad.

Note: I ran an interesting article on this same topic in BLAINESWORLD #907. In the unlikely event that you missed it, please click:
<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/02/14/ask-well-dogs-and-chocolate/>

11. Thought for the day

Arta S. in PA: I thought of you when I read this article. [Also,] I appreciate that you notice those who have done great things!

Recognition Worth Noticing
by Angela Malers

As a writer, educator, and lover of learning and life, I make it a habit to notice people. Whether I am in the classroom or in a business, I notice everyone I meet, and I let him or her know it.

No one interacts with me for more than 15 seconds without being asked for a name. I don't need the trained eye of a detective to notice that a custodian is whistling happily while cleaning, or that a receptionist has a particularly melodious voice, or that the person I'm meeting with seems harried, and I comment genuinely in each case.

For the rest of this informative article, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1ux>

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12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1ux>

(1) 3rd Annual Asheville Talent Slam! (2) Opportunities 2014: Making Dollars and Sense Selling to the Government. (3) Casting call. (4) The Know Your Orchestral Voucher Program. (5) PAL Productions Presents: [Title of Show] The Musical.

B. PA/NJ events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1ux>

(1) Sing Along with George Sinkler. (2) Newtown's Team 26 Cyclists Ride to Washington, D.C. (3) DR. SCARPATI WILL BE A GUEST ON WIP RADIO THIS THURSDAY 5:20 AM TO TALK HYPNOSIS! (4) What Every Artist & Arts Organization Needs to Know About Employment Law. (5) 20th annual Golf Classic. (6) Pretty Melodies at BCCC.

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PS. Now they tell me! (Mr. Helpful here: Don't forget to "spring ahead" and set your clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 9.)



And make it a wonderful week.

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

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BLAINES WORLD

#909

2/24/2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had a blast at "Hearts for SART," the annual fundraiser for the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre. The evening's highlight was reading of selections from the play LOVE LETTERS, brilliantly performed by Jon Menick and Mary McGahren.



Kudos, also, to Janet Hart for running the very successful Silent Auction. Pictured (l-r): Amy LaDeroute, Cynthia and Emily Shaules.



(2) In addition, we went with a bunch of Cynthia's friends from Community Choreography Projects to see a fantastic production of A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE at Hendersonville Little Theatre. One of that group's members, Kath O'Connor, was featured in the show.



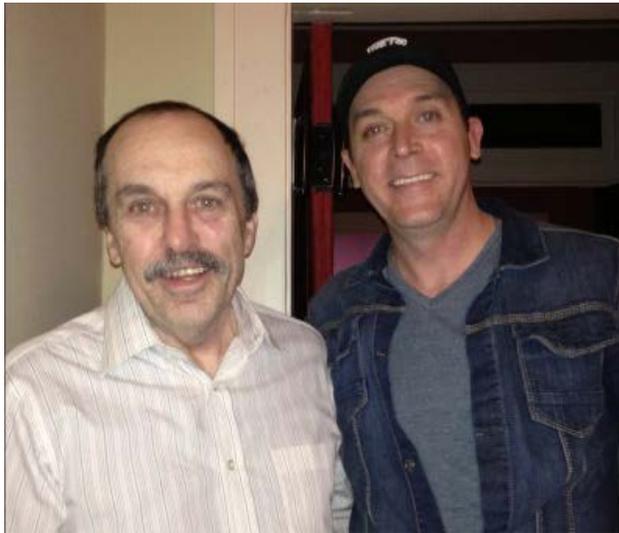
She was great, but so was Paula Orr as Blanche DuBois, Miles Rice as Stanley Kowalski and Shari Azar as Stella Kowalski. The rest of the cast excelled, too: Theresa Cox, Roy Freedman, Brandon Gash, Kai Elijah Hamilton, Bob Popmeo and Zac Rhew, and Jonathan Forrester's direction was spot on.

Note: The show runs through March 2. For tickets or more information, please click: www.hendersonvilletheatre.org.

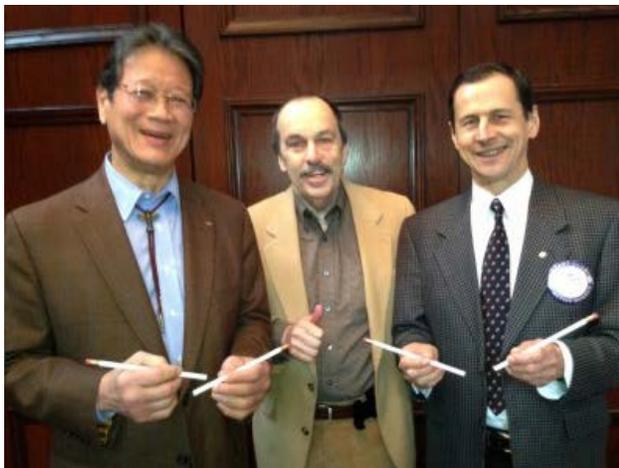
Afterward, we all went to perhaps our favorite restaurant in the Hendersonville area: Fortune Asian. The food was tasty, and our server Jessica did her usual fine job. Pictured (l-r): Ellane Chandler, David Wright, Blaine Greenfield, Cynthia Greenfield, Tiffany Hall, Michelle Marshall, Michael Beveridge, Barrie Barton and Cappy Tosetti.



B. I was fortunate to catch a powerful performance of GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS, starring Dan Clancy. Dan was terrific, as usual, and the rest of the cast was equally as good: Alphonse Arca, Anthony Abaira, Jim Weyhenmeyer, Ryan Travers, Scott Bean and David Ely. Kudos to Jason Williams for a fine job of directing.



And I had fun speaking to the Asheville Breakfast Rotary on the Platinum Rule. Pictured (l-r) Oscar Wong to my left and Eric Weinberger to my right, both of whom are proudly displaying the left- and right-handed pencils I distributed.



Note: If you don't know what the Platinum Rule is, please click this link for an article that I wrote on the subject:

<http://www.blainesworld.net/consulting/goldenrule.asp>.

***** INVITE/SPECIAL OFFER *****

Come be my guest on Saturday, March 8, at 9 a.m. at ABTech in Candler. I'll be giving a SCORE presentation on Positioning: What You Need to Differentiate Yourself From the Competition, and at that time will be covering the Platinum Rule. And I'll also be distributing left- and right-handed pencils. If you'd like to attend, please send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put MARCH 8 in the subject line.

If you can't make the above, send me a 6 x 9 inch stamped envelope (with \$2.32 postage on it), and I'll send back your very own left- and right-handed pencils. How cool is that? Make sure you include your address on the outside of the envelope you're sending me. Then put it in another envelope and mail that to the following address: Blaine Greenfield, 19 N. Kaufmann Stone Way, Biltmore Lake, NC 28715.

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Tammy Garlock on her excellent PSA she made for AAA Carolinas that will be coming to a station in SC soon. As she notes, "One decision can change everything. Friends and family, please help me continue my mission of changing the world, one Brian bracelet at a time. Please share this link for the PSA I made for AAA Carolinas--coming to a station in SC soon! To view it, please click:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZyuvceMF9g0&list=PLppt5X1EX2cjuX4XtHJy1Rsk7zBpldpFw&feature=share&index=2AAA_

(2) Chelsey Lee Gaddy on joining the Montford Park Players family for a bit, starring as Ann in MAN AND SUPERMAN by George Bernard Shaw.

(3) Richard Shulman on having The Zone Music Reporter radio programmers choosing The Pure Heart Ensemble as one of 5 nominees for "Best New Artist" for the Bliss of Being album.

(4) Gustavo Kolmel for earning the To Polar Bear title for raising \$3,010 for Meals on Wheels in the sixth annual Polar Bear Plunge.

(5) Debbie G. in PA, winner of CONTEST #4: a copy of BRANDING PAYS: THE FIVE-STEP SYSTEM TO REINVENT YOUR PERSONAL BRAND. All told, there were 10 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #5 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of Stephen Levine's A YEAR TO LIVE: HOW TO LIVE THIS YEAR AS IF IT WERE YOUR LAST.

Quoting the Amazon.com review, "Socrates believed that we should 'always be occupied in the practice of dying' in order to appreciate our living. So imagine that you only have one year left to live. What would you do differently? For one year Stephen Levine (also the author of Who Dies?) consciously chose activities, relationships, and spiritual practices that reflected life's urgency rather than life's complacency. From his experience comes this year-long program of strategies and guided meditations to help us feel satiated when our numbers come up."

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #895. Methinks you'll like it, too.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #5 in the subject 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 Monday, March 10.

D. Condolences to:

(1) The family of Harold Ramis, the American actor, director and writer specializing in comedy, who passed away on February 24. His best-known film acting roles were in GHOSTBUSTERS and STRIPES; he also co-wrote both films. As a writer-director, his films included CADDYSHACK, NATIONAL LAMPOON'S VACATION, GROUNDHOG DAY and ANALYZE THIS.

I still chuckle every time I hear this quote from an interview he once gave: "Acting is all about big hair and funny props. . . . All the great actors knew it. Olivier knew it, Brando knew it."

For a good summary of his life, please click to view this CNN piece:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kslB6_QFYy4.

(2) Bob and Barb Harris on the passing of Barb's mother, Helen K. Shimberg, as well as to all the others who were impacted by this amazing woman. (See below for more information.)

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

Helen Shimberg passed away on February 10. According to an email I received from Bob Harris, her son-in-law: "She was an artist, philanthropist, a leader in the racial integration of Princeton, a fighter for underprivileged students, starting the first after school program in the region, and an award-winning Red Cross volunteer for her work in national disasters.

"I thought you might like to read an obit of a life well lived with many contributions of her time and resources to make the world better. She was an inspiration to me." To learn more about her, please click:

http://www.centraljersey.com/articles/2014/02/18/obituaries/ob_0001250122-01.txt.



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2. FYI

If you go to your doctor for a yearly checkup, see if you can come in a week in advance of your appointment to give a urine sample and get your blood work done.

That way, when you have your regular appointment, your doctor will have the results and can then discuss them with you in person.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Steven S. in FL: STUFF IT! Outtake from new Documentary Film "My Uncle Gloria."
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhvD0q0tpV4>.

(2) Chuck S. in NJ: Captain Kirk watches Miley Cyrus performance.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6Lb3kFwJRQ>.

(3) Steph B. in NC: Having a bad day, sing this!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vV4VedXqE>.

(4) Joey N. in NJ: Taxi - Reverend Jim's Driving Test
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39k067hcgYY#t=37>.

(5) Chanah M. in MO: The Piano Guys - Let It Go (Disney's "Frozen") Vivaldi's Winter
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Dakd7ElgBE>.

(6) Bob H. in NJ: Baseball in Chicago: Like elections, they come out of the bushes.
<http://wapc.mlb.com/cutfour/2013/08/30/59024796/chase-utley-hits-triple-into-wrigley-ivy-two-balls-come-out>.

(7) Janeen R. in PA: The conductor
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7W3lCpONVs&feature=youtu.be>.

(8) Chuck L. in PA: Comedians in car getting coffee (with David Letterman)
<http://comediansincarsgettingcoffee.com/david-letterman-i-like-kettlecorn>.

(9) Reggie K.: Cat taking a leap
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10153830992035113&set=vb.861960112&type=2&theater>.

B. Other tidbits from readers

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1tZ>.

(1) Alyson M. in CO: Can you spread the need for a little help in Asheville? (2) Linda in NY: I drive a 1994 Geo Metro and I've been looking for window wiper arms for my car. (3) Marty S. in PA: As I was walking in towards Penn this morning (through a very light snow), I noticed a [Blaine Greenfield] pencil on the ground as I approached the elevator. (4) Jeff C. in NC: Ten Things Theaters Need to Do Right Now to Save Themselves. (5) Candace M. in NC: Buchi Kombucha | Embody the Elements: Not sure if you have tried this yet, took me awhile to get use to the initial what taste like vinegar effect. (6) Steven S. in FL: An Engineer Explains Why You Should Always Order the Larger Pizza. (7) Chandler S. in NY: The Bag Man was an exceptional film!

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3. Joke 1

So now I know how the cat-and-mouse game is played!



Note: Both Molly (the cat) and picture graciously provided by Marilynne Herbert, my very talented neighbor.

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4. Reviews

A. ABOUT LAST NIGHT is a romantic comedy that's somewhat based on a David Mamet play, SEXUAL PERVERSITY IN CHICAGO . . . it's the story of two modern couples as they move from the bar to the bedroom and then into real life . . . the reviews were overwhelmingly positive, but I just didn't find it very funny . . . Kevin Hart was good in it, however, and I also liked Regina Hall as his girlfriend . . . the other couple just didn't click for me--at all . . . rated R.

B. GRAVITY is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #888 follows:

My two cents on GRAVITY . . . forget the good reviews you may have read . . . I didn't like it; Cynthia didn't like it, either, nor did one of our two friends that went with us . . . it was way too slow for my taste, and there's very little story to it . . . George Clooney, billed as a co-star, is on the screen for way too short a period of time . . . it reminded me of the another movie, CAST AWAY, in which long periods of time go by with nothing happening . . . I also saw it in 3D and didn't think the extra money was worth it . . . perhaps the only thing I enjoyed was seeing Sandra Bullock out of her space garb, and you don't get to see that for very long . . . rated M for "miss it."

For a much better rental, check out the one I briefly mentioned last week: A SEPARATION . . . here's my review from BLAINESWORLD #808:

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: bjinbc@aol.com and put FAVORITE FILMS in the subject line.

For the following two reviews, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1tZ>.

C. THE FOUR DOORS: A GUIDE TO JOY, FREEDOM AND A MEANINGFUL LIFE by Richard Paul Evans

D. MEN AND DOGS, written by Katie Crouch and narrated by Gabra Sackman

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5. TV alert

A. Just what we don't need . . . still another drama about serial killers . . . but a new one debuts on Monday, March 3, on A&E at 10 p.m.: **THOSE WHO KILL** . . . I'll watch at least the first episode, though, if not other reason than to see the always watchable Chloe Sevigny. According to **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**, "Such is Ms. Sevigny's performance, though--at once veiled and yet open to view as she has not often been in other roles--that you can't stop looking."

B. **CARSON ON TCM**. As one of the brightest and most irrepressible wits in television history, Johnny Carson ruled the late-night airwaves for 30 years (1962-92) as host of NBC's *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*, interviewing thousands of celebrities including many top movie names. TCM is proud to present the premiere of *Carson on TCM*, showcasing 25 vintage interviews conducted by Carson with such stars as James Stewart, Jack Lemmon, Lauren Bacall and Lucille Ball. Beginning on Tuesday, March 4, and continuing every Tuesday through the end of the month at 8 p.m. on TCM.

C. Hosted by Emmy Award-winning actor Neil Patrick Harris, **FROM DUST TO DREAMS** features performances by Academy Award winner Jennifer Hudson, country superstars Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Emmylou Harris and Martina McBride, singer-songwriter legend Carole King, trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, violinist Joshua Bell, gospel great Mavis Staples, Train lead singer Pat Monahan, and American Ballet Theater dancers Marcello Gomes and Luciana Paris. Friday, March 7, at 8 p.m. on PBS.
Note: PBS dates and times often vary, so check local listings.

D **THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL** gets a TV version that stars Cicely Tyson, Blair Underwood, Keke Palmer (so fine in *KEELAH AND THE BEE*) and Vanessa Williams. Saturday, March 8, at 8 p.m. on LIFETIME.

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6. Joke 2

This has me humming "Hello," Ritchie's classic song . . . if you'd like to join me, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/kmfuxm>.



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7. Websites

A. Mel G. in CO: A gift that will bring tears to your eyes . . .trust me.
A Broken Fork
<http://www.youtube.com/v/Q98z9C0sgqI>.

B. This will also bring tears to you eyes, but of laughter:
The Carol Burnett show--dentist
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wk92O0SEjXc>.

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

When viewing something on the Internet, how do you know what's true? To help you find out, please click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "On What to Believe."

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>.

Like us on Facebook 

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8. Technology tip

Apple's Serious Security Issue: Update Your iPhone or iPad Immediately
by Molly Wood in THE NEW YORK TIMES

This week, Apple rushed out a patch for its iOS 7 and iOS 6 operating systems to fix a serious security issue. Before I explain further, let me just say this: If you've gotten the prompt to update and you haven't, do it now. If you're still running older versions of iOS on your iPhone, iPod, or iPad, update now.

Done? O.K., good.

While you're at it, go download either Chrome or Firefox for your Mac, and stop using Safari immediately until you see a security update for OS X Mavericks, as well.

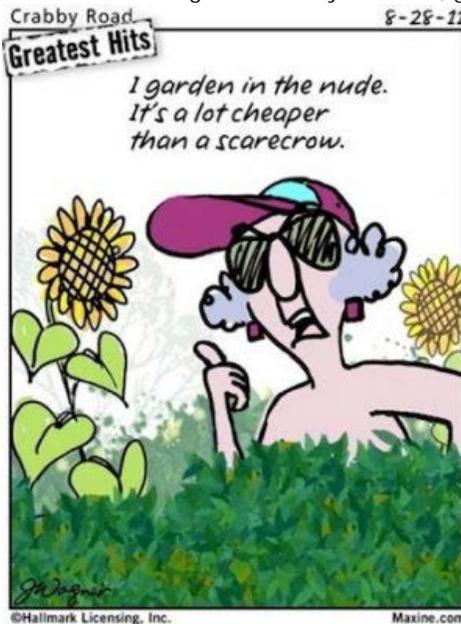
For the rest of this informative article, please click:

<http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/02/24/apples-serious-security-issue-update-your-iphone-or-ipad-immediately/?action=click&contentCollection=Soccer&module=MostEmailed&version=Full@ion=Marginalia&src=me&pgtype=article>.

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9. Joke 3

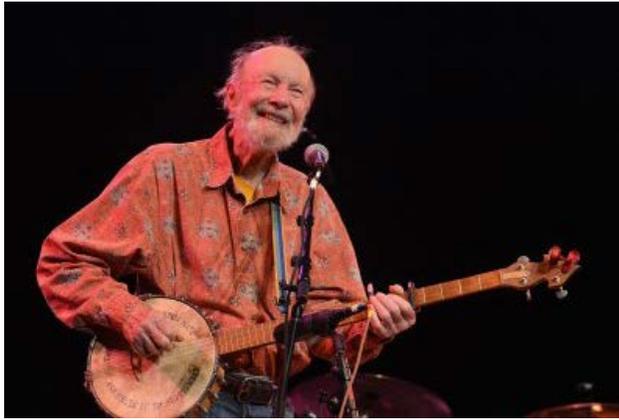
This has me writing a note to myself: "Self, great way to save some money. And get a tan, too!"



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10. A quote I like

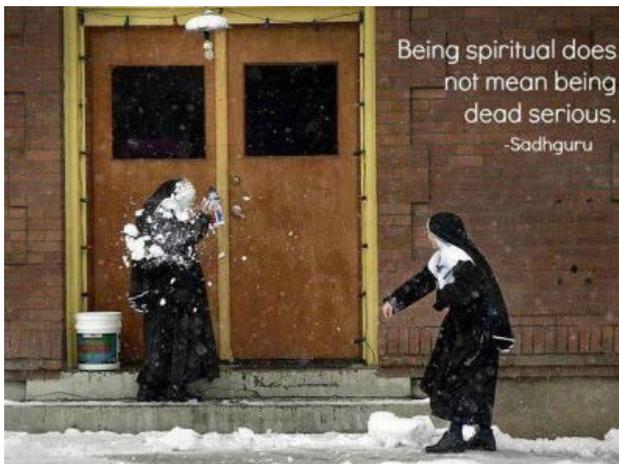
"The key to the future of the world is finding the optimistic stories and letting them be known."--Pete Seeger (1919-2014), American folk singer and activist



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11. Thought for the day

Amen. Awomen, too!



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12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1tZ>

(1) Richard Shulman performances. (2) Deadline for the Buncombe County Sheriff's Citizens Academy. (3) Barbara Brady at Spiritual Light Center. (4) Book & Print Arts Collective Member's Show. (5) Majo John Madden at Jubilee. (6) Upcoming Zu-appearances. (7) ONCE UPON A MATTRESS at Mars Hill University. (8) PAL Productions Presents: [Title of Show] The Musical. (9) NC Stage Company invitation to VENUS IN FUR. (10) PROOF. (11) An evening with Susan Reinhardt.

B. PA/NJ events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1tZ>.

(1) ERIC MINTEL QUARTET AT THE BUCKS COUNTY PLAYHOUSE. (2) Concert in the Round for Children.

C. National events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1tZ>

(1) Your Superhuman Potential event on March 20. (2) Zig Ziglar Owner Series.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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BLAINES WORLD

#908

2.17.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I have had some great meals lately at:

(1) HomeGrown with Annemarie Brown and Marvin Sadovsky.



(2) 131 Main with (l-r): Marcy and Tom Gallagher, Kim Maynard, Brian Biro, Blaine Greenfield, Cynthia Greenfield, Marvin Sadovsky, Annemarie Brown and Carole Biro.



(3) Oriental Pavilion with Stuart Kraner.



(4) And I was able to get together with Brad Morris for some fine food at Dough.



(5) Also, I got to see a very powerful drama--FROZEN--at HART. It continues through Sunday, Feb. 23, so if you get the chance to see it, please do. Pictured (l-r): Theresa Phillips, Eric Martinez, Jennifer Russ and Blaine Greenfield.



Note: Eric and Jennifer starred in the play, along with Frances Davis and Tom Dewees. Andrew Gall directed with distinction.

B. The recent snow storm in the Asheville area wasn't tooooo bad, especially if it's the only one we get this winter.

(1) One of my favorite pictures from it was taken by Deborah Scannell, photographer extraordinaire. It shows our Biltmore Lake community as viewed from the fishing dock. To find out more about Deborah's work, please click: <http://www.deborahscannellphotography.com/>.



(2) I also loved this clip of a Valentine's Day Walk around the lake, put together by my friend Linda Hollinshead: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8e9bhGccE74#t=15>.

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Cecile Kandl on her promotion to Full Professor at Bucks County Community College.

(2) Vanessa Freund on her article Don't take small business cash flow for granted") being published in the CITIZEN-TIMES. To read it, please click: <http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014302160019>.

(3) Emily Shaules for getting booked on "Devious Maids" on Lifetime for a March shooting.

(4) Mike Andrus for being named to the U.S.A. Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

(5) Brian Sneed for having two new poems chosen for publication in the next issue of VIRGINA QUARTERLY REVIEW.

(6) Dana Gardner on the birth of her baby Adrianna.

(7) Susan Reinhardt on her new radio show, starting next week, on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. on WZGM, Independent Asheville Radio 1350. It can also be heard via streaming and podcasts on the station website, www.1350wzgm.com, and it can be heard on smart devices with the free TuneIN app. (Just download it and search "WZGM.")

Pictured: Yours truly with Susan, recently taping one of the pilot episodes.



D. Reminders:

(1) If you don't get an this missive on or before Sunday afternoon, please let me know. Last week, there seemed to be some problem with readers who use optonline.net . . . and in the past, mail to comcast.net and gmail.com readers have not always gone through . . . so to prevent this from happening, please make sure "bginbc@aol.com" is on your "white list," which means that it doesn't go into your spam folder . . . also, check your spam folder . . . and, lastly, if use gmail, check to see that stuff from me just doesn't go into your promotions area.

(2) If you'd like to join me in remembering Dr. Barry Sysler, my friend and colleague from my full-time teaching days at Bucks County Community College, you can do so by contributing to Dr. Barry Sysler Memorial Scholarship at Bucks County Community College that has been established to honor his memory.

Donations can be made out to the BCCC Foundation and mailed to:

BCCC Foundation

Attention: Dr. Barry Sysler Memorial Scholarship
275 Swamp Road
Newtown PA 18940

Please also put down the "Dr. Barry Sysler Memorial Scholarship" in the memo section of your check.

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

***** CONTEST #4 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of **BRANDING PAYS: THE FIVE-STEP SYSTEM TO REINVENT YOUR PERSONAL BRAND** by Karen Kang. To quote from the book description: Globalization and social media have made the world smaller, more connected and infinitely more competitive. The world has changed. Have you? If you don't have the package that will take you to the next level of your career, you need to reinvent your personal brand. . . . Perfect for professionals, entrepreneurs and college students.

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in **BLAINESWORLD #861**. To enter: Put "CONTEST #4 in the subject 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 Monday, Feb. 24.

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

Thanks, Marilynne Herbert, for the following picture and nomination of Laurey Masterton for this week's winner:

"Masterton stood as a warrior for a better world," was the headline in Wednesday's Asheville Citizen-Times. It echoed what so many of us had been saying as we learned of Laurey's declining health and then untimely passing. Outpourings of affection for her were shared among friends, messages populated Facebook pages, appeared in print, and in such unlikely places as the marquee signs at the Orange Peel ("Don't Postpone Joy 2.18.14") and at Louella's ("Thank You, Laurey"), among others.

She truly made a difference to this community, and to the planet through her efforts to promote sustainable agriculture, local farms, and the essential role honey bees play in our food supply. She even got many of us to like kale!

I always saw Laurey as a force of nature, a creative spirit, a good soul and a caring friend. She was the real deal . . . and she will be greatly missed.



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2. FYI

Thanks, Nelson S. in NC, for sharing the following:

Motion Induced blindness for drivers

In a motor accident, wherein a speeding car hits a slower moving vehicle coming from the side, the speeding car drivers often swear that they just didn't see the vehicle coming from the left or right.

Well, they aren't lying. They really don't see the vehicle coming from the side, in spite of broad daylight.

This phenomenon on the car drivers' part is known as "Motion Induced Blindness". It is definitely frightening.

Once airborne, pilots are taught to alternate their gaze between scanning the horizon and scanning their instrument panel, and never to fix their gaze for more than a couple of seconds on any single object. They are

taught to continually keep their heads on a swivel and their eyes always moving. Because, if you fix your gaze on one object long enough while you yourself are in motion, your peripheral vision goes blind.

Till about three decades ago, this "heads on swivel & eyes moving" technique was the only way to spot other aircraft in the skies around. Now-a-days they have on-board radars, but the old technique still holds good.

Let me give you a small demonstration of motion induced blindness. Just click on the link below. You will see a revolving array of blue crosses on a black background. There is a flashing green dot in the center and three fixed yellow dots around it. If you fix your gaze on the green dot for more than a few seconds, the yellow dots will disappear at random, either singly, or in pairs, or all three together. In reality, the yellow dots are always there. Just watch the yellow dots for some time to ensure that they don't go anywhere!

<http://www.msf-usa.org/motion.html>

(Notes given by the author below the rotating array are educative.)

So, if you are driving at a high speed on a highway and if you fix your gaze on the road straight ahead, you will not see a car, a scooter, a buggy, a bicycle, a buffalo or even a human being approaching from the side.

Now reverse the picture. If you are crossing a road on foot and you see a speeding car approaching, there's a 90% chance that the driver isn't seeing you, because his/her peripheral vision may be blind! And you may be in that blind zone!!

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) It Might As Well Be Spring (State Fair) - Katherine Sandoval Taylor

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPHt9zsRFOM&feature=youtu.be>

(2) Sheryl S. in PA: This has to be one of the greatest animal videos ever made.

<http://blog.petflow.com/i-cant-believe-how-funny-this-is-i-am-in-tears-make-sure-your-sound-is-turned-on/>

(3) Laresa G. in NC: How to stop a nightmare

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfNnfpRj7No>

(4) Lori in GA: It Ain't Necessarily So By Ray Charles & Cleo Laine

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0vEgU88lQQ>

(5) James G. in PA: 60 degree temperatures are taking their toll at the Olympics

<http://www.frequency.com/video/60-degree-temperatures-are-taking-their/151027807/-/5-2392>

(6) Watch Crazy Fans Chase Performer at Live Show!

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

(7) Chanah M. in MO: Paperman-Original Disney Movie

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

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1ty>.

(1) Chris F. in PA: I haven't yet been able to watch the Olympic Figure Farting clip in full yet. (2) Janet S. in NJ: Great newsletter. (3) Faith H. in NC: My son forwarded the Medicare piece about the importance of declaring an inpatient status when checking into a hospital/rehab facility. (4) Vic A. in NC: We went to see Cabaret this weekend. (5) Candace M. in NC: The best pickles ever. (6) Natalie K. in PA: Got this [BLAZING SADDLES] from Netflix.

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3. Joke 1

My buddy was always late to work because he incessantly hit the snooze alarm; i.e., until I suggested this simple solution. He is now always on time. For more great solutions to life's problems, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/mo5txqa>.



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4. Reviews

A. Want to save yourself some money? Skip *THE PAST*, a film now out that has received great reviews--but one that did nothing for me. It's the story about an Iranian man who reunites with his estranged wife to finalize their divorce, only to have complications ensue when a secret is revealed by the wife's daughter from a previous marriage. I was especially disappointed in this because Asghar Farhadi, the writer and director, had previously been responsible for one of my favorite films: *A SEPARATION*. Rated PG-13.

B. *NEBRASKA* is now out in DVD format . . . my review from *BLAINESWORLD* #901 follows:

NEBRASKA is a quirky dramedy about an aging Missouri father who is convinced that he's million dollar sweepstakes winner and his son who grudgingly agrees to drive him to Nebraska to claim the winning prize. Bruce Dern is outstanding as the father, and I'm hopeful that he gets an Oscar for his work. Will Forte was sold as the son; however, it was the work of a supporting actress named June Squibb who especially caught my attention. She was just perfect as Dern's meanspirited wife. I also appreciated the black-and-white cinematography. Rated R, though I think it would be both appropriate and worth watching for any mature teenager.

C. *STEVE JOBS: GENIUS BY DESIGN* (Campfire) by Jason Quinn and illustrated by Amit Tayal is the first graphic biography that I've read--but probably won't be the last.

This short, but comprehensive book tells the story about the genius who changed the way we work, the way we play and the world we live in.

I particularly liked the fact that it pulled no punches; i.e., it showed the brilliance of Jobs, but also pointed out many of his faults.

The last page and illustration, dealing with his death, did a great job summing up his life. It quoted Apple's "Think Different" campaign from 1997, which he helped write:

"Here's to the crazy ones, the misfits, the rebels, the troublemakers, the round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do."

D. Heard *THE ROLLING STONES DISCOVER AMERICA: EXCLUSIVE INSIDE STORY OF THEIR AMERICAN TOUR*, (Hachette Audio), written and read by Michael Lydon.

The author, a founding editor of *ROLLING STONE* and a leading member of rock writing's first generation, got a dream assignment: in 1969 to cover the Rolling Stones' hopscotch tour across America that ended at Altamont.

This book is his account of what actually took place. And he got to see things as well as any journalist ever has as a result of living on the tour, saying in the Stones' HQ house and in suites at New York's Plaza Hotel, flying in private jets, hanging out backstage, smoking pot with the group and hearing them in concert night after night.

As he notes: "The Stones were good guys and hardworking musicians, but they were the sun kings of the tour universe. The rest of us were minor planets spinning about them in fixed and distant orbits. It's a miracle I managed to keep my feet on the ground, keep taking notes, and get the story down on paper--but I'm glad I did."

If you're a fan of the Rolling Stones and/or rock music, you'll also be glad.

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5. TV alert

A. The story of the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire airs on AMERICAN EXPERIENCE on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 8 p.m. on PBS.

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

B. THE LITTLE FOXES, a lavish film version the 1939 Lillian Helman play, tells the story of the horrible Hubbard family. Bette Davis stars. Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 10 p.m. on TCM.

C. DELON'S FAMILY PLAYBOOK features Delon Sanders, the only athlete to play in both a Super Bowl and a World Series. He is now a single father of five and a football coach at the charter school he cofounded. Saturday, March 1, at 10 p.m. on OWN.

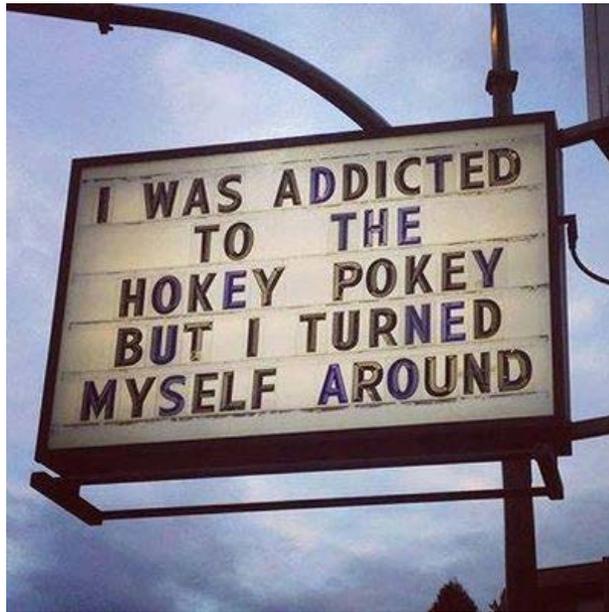
D. Don't bother looking for me on Sunday night, March 2, because I'll be busy watching THE 86TH ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS at 8:30 p.m. on ABC. In addition, I'll also be hoping Ellen DeGeneres does a great job as host. Methinks she won't have to work too hard to top the performance of Seth MacFarlane from last year.

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6. Joke 2

That's what it's all about . . . and to see for yourself, join me in singing along by clicking:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfPg_GzC-HA.



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7. Websites

A. Maria A. in PA: Watch Four Women React To Being Photoshopped Into Cover Models

<http://screen.yahoo.com/watch-four-women-react-being-210400146.html>.

B. Neela M. in NC: Ever Hear About The Lady Who Spilled Coffee On Herself At McDonald's, Then Sued For Millions

<http://www.upworthy.com/ever-hear-about-the-lady-that-spilled-coffee-on-herself-at-mcdonalds-then-sued-for-millions?c=recon>

Response: There are always two sides to every story--if not a lot more. Unfortunately, most people don't bother to consider this possibility.

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

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

In the unlikely event you've never seen my standup comedy routines, click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Video Clips." The second and fourth clips are the ones to check out.

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>

Like us on [Facebook](#) 

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8. Technology tip

Syncing Your Stuff: Quick Tips
by Jensen Gelfond*

PHOTOS: Google+ is known as a social network, but you can now store unlimited photos on the service (photos are private by default) and easily sync them to all of your devices. Download the Google+ app for iPhone or Android, or download Picasa to upload photos from your computer.

PASSWORDS: Use a password manager such as Dashlane to store your passwords for safekeeping and automatically log you into websites you visit on a regular basis.

BACKUP: Programs like CrashPlan (\$5/month) automatically back up all of your computer's files to the cloud. Or backup just certain folders and make them accessible anywhere for free with Google Drive or DropBox.

* Reprinted with Jensen's gracious permission. Check out other technology tips from Jensen Gelfond of Asheville Digital Lifestyle, who specializes in on-site help at your home or business for Mac, PC, smartphone and all of the technology in your life. Sign up for his free e-newsletter at:
<http://www.ashevilledigitallifestyle.com/newsletter.html>.

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9. Joke 3

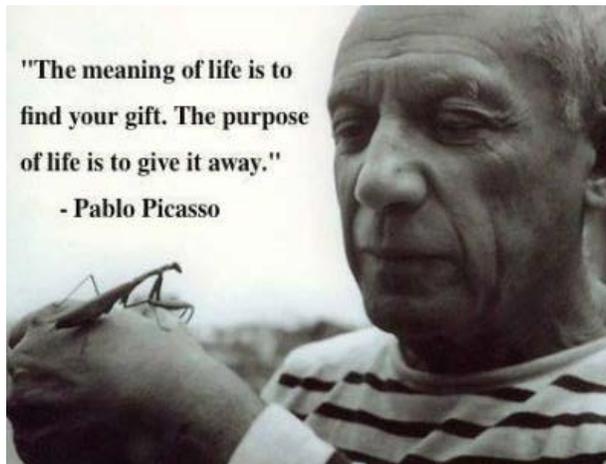
What if they can't read? Or have a poor self-image?



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10. A quote I like

'Tis great when this happens!



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11. Thought for the day

Lee and Morty Kaufman: Cleaning Up in Their 90s
by Steven Kurutz in THE NEW YORK TIMES (1.22.14)

Valley Stream, N.Y.--"I was retired for 30 years, until at the age of 90 I got swept up in this commercial bit," Morty Kaufman said.

He was referring to the popular TV spots for Swiffer, the maker of household cleaning products, which he stars in with his wife, Lee. In a series of unscripted 30-second ads, the couple discuss their blissful 44-year union and their division of household labor (Mrs. Kaufman does the cleaning; Mr. Kaufman the napping), and marvel at the Swiffer Sweeper and other supplies that have been left on their doorstep.

For the rest of this delightful article, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/23/garden/lee-and-morty-kaufman-cleaning-up-in-their-90s.html?src=me&module=Ribbon&version=origin@ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=Most%20Emailed&pgtype=article>.

And to see one of the commercials mentioned in the article, please click:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xw9Bp2AszNw>.

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12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1ty>.

(1) LOCAL MOVEMENT THEATER COMPANY ANNOUNCES SPRING WORKSHOP. (2) Meet the Beatles at White Horse Black Mountain. (3) Vocal Blast. (4) Music and the Movies. (5) Bring Hawaii to Your Hips & Aloha to Your Lips. (6) Living Health with Chronic Conditions. (7) Invite to my upcoming FREE seminar.

B. PA/NJ events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1ty>.

(1) Classes and events at Princeton Center for Yoga & Health. (2) AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY--live, onstage.

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PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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BLAINES WORLD

#907

2.10.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I have been blown away by the quality of the local talent theatre.

(1) Recently, we saw CABARET at Asheville Community Theatre. What a performance! You're in luck, too, in that the show runs through March 2. For tickets, please click: https://ashevilletheatre.secure.force.com/ticket/#details_a0Si000000qAAGEA2.

Pictured (top) Mark Jones, brilliant as always, second from the left and our friend Annemarie Brown on the right; and (bottom) Jerry Crouch, director extraordinaire, and Leslie Lang, one of the many other stars in the show.





Kudos, also, to: Lenora Thom for her musical direction, as well as the others in the cast-- all of whom were excellent: Kevin Moxley, Ruth Butler, James Curley, Jessica Snow Pisano and Luke Haynes. And we got a kick out of the Kit Kat Kub Girls and Boys, especially those we already know: Rebecca O'Quinn and Jacob Walas.

(2) Another fine show we saw was FRANKIE AND JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE, starring Jeff Catanese and Cary Nichols in the picture below. Dan J. Caffery's direction was spot on. It is playing at 35below, and it runs through Feb. 23. For tickets, please click: https://ashevilletheatre.secure.force.com/ticket/#details_a0Si000001MAd7EAG.

Note: We got a special treat from the above as a result of winning two tickets to see it in a contest that Jeff posted on Facebook. (Thanks, Jeff!)



(3) Lastly, I got a kick out of seeing THE CLEAN HOUSE at the Bebe Theater. It runs through Feb. 22, and if you're in the mood for a fun comedy, click this link to buy tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-clean-house-tickets-9418108817>.

Kelly Christianson (pictured) was great, but so was the rest of the cast: Kat Brandao, Sonia Rose D'Andrea, Althea Gonzalez and Peter Mills. CJ Breland did a fine job, too, as director.



B. We're looking forward to the upcoming Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre fundraiser, "Hearts for SART." To note:

The snowy conditions around the Asheville area has created the opportunity for us to host "Hearts for SART" on FEBRUARY 21st--NOT VALENTINE'S DAY! The festivities will be the same starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Asheville Masonic Temple. All purchased tickets will be honored for the new date and tickets remain on sale at our website: sartplays.org.

Join us for a delectable dessert buffet, selections from LOVE LETTERS, a silent auction and raffles. Celebrate a belated Valentine's Day!!

That's Janet Hart, SART Board member and tireless fundraising chair, with two of the items from talented photographer Ryan Phillips that will be auctioned: the top one is called "Jewel of the Blue Ridge," and the bottom one is called "Blue Ridge Mountain Winter." Both images are 13" x 19" in a 18" x 24" frame and are each valued at \$75.

For more information about Phillips' work, please click: www.ryanphillipsphotographer.com.



C. Congratulations to:

(1) Joey Novick on his appointment to the Sustainable New Jersey "Arts & Culture" Task Force

(2) Judy Chadwick and family on the birth of Hannah Grace, their new granddaughter.

(3) Nancy Bowen and family on the birth of Wyatt, their newest grandson.

(4) Karen Gross on being profiled in the COURIER TIMES:

<http://www.buckscountycouriertimes.com/life-style/local-entertainment/cabaret-show-promises->

[both-sides-of-love/article_0085b64a-3073-5be6-b7ae-048359fd481b.html?TNNoMobile](http://www.mountainx.com/article/56205/Dinner-for-two)

(5) Ashley and Greg Garrison on being featured in the MOUNTAIN XPRESS:
<http://www.mountainx.com/article/56205/Dinner-for-two>.

(6) Asheville for being rated as #1 Top Town to Live and Work as a Moviemaker. For more information, please click:
<http://www.moviemaker.com/articles/best-places-to-live-and-work-as-a-moviemaker-in-2014-top-towns-1-asheville-nc/>.

(7) Participants in "The Artful Bra Challenge" for having raised \$1000 for the Ladies Night Out program at Mission Hospital. And special kudos to Marilynne Herbert and Kim Preish for heading the effort.

(8) Mike Andrus for having been accepted as a member of the U.S. Italian Martial Arts Alliance.

(9) Joanne Elliott for having won the 1776 Award from the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association.

(10) Terry C. in FL, winner of CONTEST #3: a copy of COMMITTED by Elizabeth Gilbert. All told, there were 11 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #4 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of BRANDING PAYS: THE FIVE-STEP SYSTEM TO REINVENT YOUR PERSONAL BRAND by Karen Kang.

To quote from the book description: Globalization and social media have made the world smaller, more connected and infinitely more competitive. The world has changed. Have you? If you don't have the package that will take you to the next level of your career, you need to reinvent your personal brand. . . . Perfect for professionals, entrepreneurs and college students.

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #861.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #4 in the subject 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 Monday, Feb. 24.

D. Condolences to the families of these three show business personalities that I still remember well:

(1) Sid Caesar, a master of foreign languages that he didn't even speak. See for yourself by clicking:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HR6Xli5vU4A>.

(2) Shirley Temple, a child actress who went on to do even greater things with her life. Perhaps her most famous bit was this one:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1r4bbgv1lf8>.

(3) Ralph Waite, the oh-so-wise father on THE WALTONS. I liked what he said on "What Means the Most to Me" that you can view by clicking:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzXgJO34cUK>.

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

Thanks, Sharon Butler in NC, for submitting this week's winner:

Having surgery on your eyes is not something I have ever looked forward to. But, when it became apparent that surgery to remove cataracts was impossible to put off any longer, I turned to the Asheville practice that is devoted to only eyes, Asheville Eye Surgery Center. My doctor was Dr. Damien Macaluso, MD and boy, was I lucky to get him! I don't believe I have ever had a more caring, gentle, and thorough doctor in my life. Every little thing was explained to me in detail: what would be done, how it would feel, what I needed to do to care for my newly operated on eyes, etc. Dr. Macaluso was willing to take whatever time I needed to answer all of my questions and concerns. The support staff was excellent, kind and caring.

On surgery day, the process to get ready was efficient, caring, thorough and professional. Dr. Macaluso greeted me before surgery and confirmed which eye we were working on that day (a true comfort when you hear the horror stories of people getting the wrong part of their body operated on!) and then calmly talked me through the procedure as it was going on. He reassured me that all was going perfectly which calmed me tremendously. His follow-up call a few hours later was really nice as well. During the entire process, from first appointment to the after-surgical follow-up appointment, I felt cared for, respected and

reassured.

For more information about Dr. Macaluso, please click:
<http://www.ashevilleeye.com/>.

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2. FYI

Two informative articles, one for dog owners and the other for cat owners:

A. The problem with dogs and chocolate
by Catherine Saint Louis in THE NEW YORK TIMES

Does chocolate really hurt dogs?

It can, depending on their weight and how much they eat, so be vigilant this Valentine's Day. Stimulants in chocolate can lead to vomiting, diarrhea, agitation and life-threatening elevated heart rates or seizures.

"Dogs have no off button," said Dr. Tina Wismer, the medical director of the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. "If you or I ate 10 percent of our body weight in chocolate, we'd have the same problems. A 10-pound dog can easily eat a pound of chocolate."

For the rest of this article, please click:
<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/02/14/ask-well-dogs-and-chocolate/>.

Note: The above was always one of those tales that I had heard warnings about, but never paid much thought to; i.e., until I read the article. And then got this email from my friend Beth B. in AZ:

We experienced this one time with our Black Lab, Casey. The morning after Halloween, she got into Anna Lee's room and ate an ENTIRE pillowcase full of candy. She ate the wrappers and all, there wasn't so much as a smidge or crumb left on the floor. She came to me whimpering and her abdomen was entirely bloated beyond belief. I did a quick Google search and found that pouring hydrogen peroxide down her throat would cause her to throw up. So I wrestled that big dog 3 times to do the procedure. She threw up quite a bit, but for a week afterward, we were finding dog poop with silver candy wrappers in it all over the yard. Lesson learned.

B. Beware of a cat's bite
by Nicholas Bakalar in THE NEW YORK TIMES

Although cat bites account for only 10 to 15 percent of animal bites treated in emergency rooms, they pose special infection risks.

Dog bites, the most common bites treated, can tear flesh and break bones, but they create open wounds that are easy to clean and less likely to become infected than the puncture wounds created by cats, which usually affect the hand and can inject bacteria into tendons and bones.

For the rest of this article, please click:
<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/02/13/beware-of-the-cat-bite/?rref=health&module=Ribbon&version=context@ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=Health&pgtype=Blogs>.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Carol D. in NC: Camp Crook Snowdaze Rap (with her daughter)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbXE1WEq_mA.

(2) Nelson S. in NC: Enjoy! Bon Appetit!!!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ub1Dc3NHZ3s&feature=youtu.be>.

(3) Sharon B. in NC: Warning Not to Use E15 Gas in Your Car: FOX Business
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceW9Nc1hVHU>.

(4) Vic A. in PA: Pennsylvania Guys by Sloppy Secondz
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhFHqNKnfes#t=30>.

(5) Yesterday: Roy Clark

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEY4LxORCe0>.

(6) Layne C. in NC: Pharrell Williams - Happy (Official Music Video)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6Sxv-sUYtM>.

(7) Sally B. in NC: Olympic figure farting
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HER1ihXM61E>.

(8) Natalie K. in PA: Great website I wanted to share with you (Michael Feinstein's AMERICAN SONGBOOK)
<http://www.pbs.org/michael-feinsteins-american-songbook/>.

(9) Karen M. in NC: Guy shoveling snow at Walmart
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkmy5OA6xbw>.

B. Other tidbits from readers

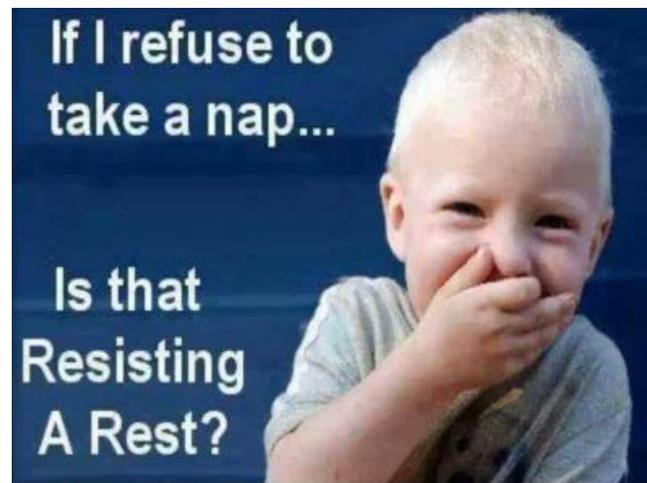
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1t2>.

(1) Sandy B. in PA: Thanks for the video starring Barry Stacy Keach Sysler! (2) (2) Margie Z. in NC: I never had a candidate fall asleep during an interview. (3) Natalie K. in PA: [THE WOLF OF WALL STREET] was absolutely depraved. (4) Sharon B. in NC: I have studied with Dr. Bradley Nelson who appears in this movie. (5) Thanks to James Wade who shared the chili recipe.

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3. Joke 1

This kid has a lot to learn; i.e., naps are simply mahvelous--especially as you get older!



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4. Reviews

A. THE MONUMENTS MEN, based on the true story of the greatest treasure hunt in history, tells how a platoon of seven museum directors, curators, and art historians team together to rescue artistic masterpieces from Nazi thieves and return them to their original owners. It had a fine cast, including George Clooney, Matt Damon, Bill Murray, John Goodman, Bob Balaban and Cate Blanchett, but overall, I found the film to be very flat. I also felt like it was shot on one big outdoor lot that didn't feel very real. Rated PG-13.

Note: Check out actual pictures from the real-life Monuments Men by clicking:
<http://www.motherjones.com/mixed-media/2014/02/8-badass-photos-real-life-monuments-men-saved-art-nazis>.

B. If you want to find out more about the above story, you'll do much better by finding the following on DVD (that I reviewed in BLAINESWORLD #616:

Though a documentary, THE RAPE OF EUROPA is as exciting a film as you'll see this year . . . it describes the plight of Europe's greatest artistic treasures during the Nazi reign . . . as the Third Reich was attempting to destroy the continent's culture, art lovers throughout the world worked to save as many pieces as they could . . . Joan Allen's

narration added to my enjoyment of this World War II tale that I hadn't known too much about . . . unrated, but probably appropriate for any mature teenager and up.

For the following two reviews, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1t2>.

C. THERE'S A BETTER DAY A-COMN': HOW TO FIND THE UPSIDE DURING THE DOWN TIMES by Ronda Rich

D. MOTHERHOOD & HOLLYWOOD: HOW TO GET A JOB LIKE MINE, written and read by Patricia Heaton

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5. TV alert

A. Sting performs songs from "The Last Ship," his 2013 album and Broadway-bound musical, on GREAT PERFORMANCES on PBS on Friday, Feb. 21 at 9 p.m.

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

B. ABOUT A BOY, based on Nick Hornby's novel and the subsequent movie (that I loved), previews on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 11:07 p.m.; premieres on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 9 p.m.

C. I'll check out GROWING UP FISHER to see J.K. Simmons, one of my favorite character actors, in this family sitcom. He plays the role of a blind parent and lawyer. Previews on Sunday, Feb. 23, at 10:38 p.m. on NBC; premieres on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 9:30 p.m.

D. MIND GAMES premieres on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 10 p.m. on ABC. It's about an ex-con who teams with his frenetic, bipolar brother to start a firm that uses elaborate psychological manipulation to affect clients' fates. It promises to be watchable because of its stars: Christian Slater and Steve Zahn.

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6. Joke 2

WANT A BETTER WEATHER PREDICTION? . . . To tell the weather, go to your back door and look for the dog. If the dog is at the door and he is wet, it's probably raining. But if the dog is standing there really soaking wet, it is probably raining really hard. If the dog's fur looks like it's been rubbed the wrong way, it's probably windy. If the dog has snow on his back, it's probably snowing. Of course, to be able to tell the weather like this, you have to leave the dog outside all the time, especially if you expect bad weather. . . Sincerely, THE CAT



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7. Websites

A. Gordy F. in NJ: Important Information on Medicare

Do not let a hospital admit you with the words, "Under Observation." Insist on "In-Patient" designation.

Otherwise, you will be responsible for the hospital expenses. It might be wise to inform family members too.

To learn more, please click:

<http://www.nbcnews.com/video/nightly-news/54026469/#54026469>.

B. Gravity is defeated, for a beat or two, when it all works perfectly, and "it's a great feeling because you can just float," says Jessica Jerome of the United States, who will be competing in the first women's ski jumping competition at an Olympics.

For more of this article and to view some incredible photographs, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/newsgraphics/2014/sochi-olympics/ski-jumping.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>.

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

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

If you'd like to see some of my thoughts on what to believe while on the Internet, click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "On What Back to Believe." Check back every so often, in that I do update this 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:

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

Like us on Facebook 

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8. Technology tip

How to Survive the Next Wave of Technology Extinction
by Farhad Manjoo in THE NEW YORK TIMES

Don't mock the beleaguered Nook owner. That could have been you.

Five years ago, when the nation's largest chain of bookstores released an e-reader that it promised would best Amazon's Kindle, could you blame the poor souls who bought in to Barnes & Noble's vision of the future? In 2011, Consumer Reports proclaimed the Nook the best e-reader in the land, saying it surpassed the Kindle in just about every way. Well, that sounds pretty definitive, doesn't it? No wonder your aunt bought you one for Christmas.

For the rest of this article, please click:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/13/technology/personaltech/how-to-survive-the-next-wave-of-technology-extinction.html>.

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9. Joke 3

GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN: Check out what the girl in the middle is wearing--and then look twice. For other misleading pictures, click:

<http://www.viralnova.com/29-misleading-pictures/>.



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10. A quote I like

ONE WISE JUDGE: "Our Constitution declares that 'all men' are created equal. Surely this means all of us. . . . We have arrived upon another moment in history when We the People becomes more inclusive, and our freedom more perfect."--Arenda L. Wright Allen, a federal judge in Virginia who overturned that state's same-sex marriage ban. For more information, please click: <http://tinyurl.com/mlphz23>.



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11. Thought for the day

Seeking the Keys to Longevity in 'What Makes Olga Run?'
by Christie Aschwanden in THE NEW YORK TIMES

No one would mistake Olga Kotelko for one of the Olympians competing in Sochi, Russia, but at age 94, she holds more world records than most: 26, to be exact, including age-group bests in the high jump, the hammer throw and the 200-meter run. Not bad for someone who took up track and field at age 77. . . .

Ms. Kotelko turns 95 next month. No one would blame her if she chose to rest on her

laurels; instead she's looking forward to chasing more records when she enters the next age group, 95 to 99.

For the rest of the article, please click:

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/02/10/seeking-the-keys-to-longevity-in-what-makes-olga-run/>.



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12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1t2>.

(1) [Title of Show] the musical by Performing Arts Laboratory Productions. (2) Kaleo Wheeler: Hula classes are now happening in Hendersonville. (3) STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE at Hendersonville Little Theatre. (4) Oddfellow's is having a storewide sale for the next two weeks. (5) Lessons in Leadership on Feb. 25. (6) GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS. (7) Love to have you at my upcoming seminar!

B. PA/NJ events

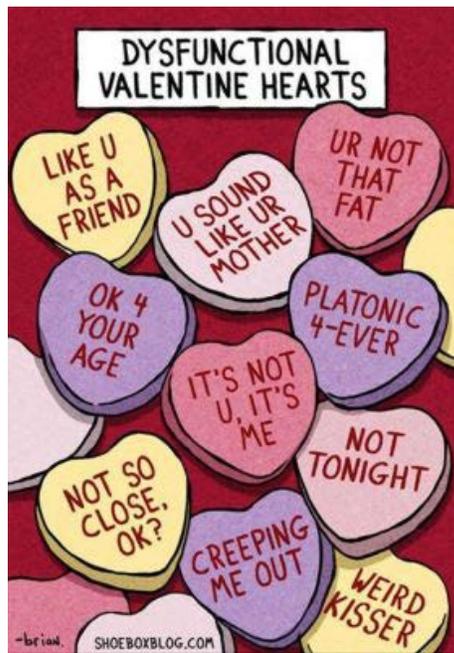
To read about each of the following events in full, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1t2>.

(1) Dr. Scarpati's amazing hypnosis show. (2) Music on Demand events! (3) Donation-based yoga. (4) The Plumstead Historical Society.

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PS. HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO Y'ALL! And Mr. Curious here: What one do you think I'll be getting? Or do you think something else would be more appropriate?



Make it a great rest of the week, too!

Blaine Greenfield
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#906
2.3.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Saw a fantastic production of ROUNDING THIRD--a two-person comedy at NC Stage.

Charlie Flynn-McIver and Scott Treadway (pictured below) are both terrific as two baseball coaches in this comedy that you don't have to be a baseball fan to enjoy. And Angie Flynn-McIver's direction was spot on.

The show runs through Feb. 23. For tickets, please click:
www.ncstage.org.



Note: As you can see the background, NC Stage has brightened its theatre with some colorful artwork from Jonas Gerard. To find out more about this talented artist, please click:
<http://www.jonasgerard.com/>.

(2) Afterward, we went around the corner to The Bier Garden for a delicious dinner. My order (fish and chips) was as good as I've had in quite some time. Mary, our server, was excellent.



C. And on the subject of excellent servers, there's Taryn at 131 Main. You've read about her previously in past issues; now you can even see us with her when we were recently there for still another tasty dinner.



B. Reminders:

(1) There's still time to enter CONTEST #3:

One lucky winner will receive a copy of *COMMITTED: A LOVE STORY* by Elizabeth Gilbert--a follow-up to her runaway bestseller, *EAT, PRAY, LOVE*.

It takes her from the end of the first book--when she falls in love with Felipe--to their life afterward . . . all was going smoothly until he was detained by the U.S. government, which then gave the couple a choice . . . either they needed to get married or Felipe would never again be allowed to enter into the country.

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in *BLAINESWORLD* #725.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #3 in the subject 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 Monday, Feb. 10.

(2) Positioning & Marketing seminar, presented by yours truly.

This FREE seminar covers positioning and marketing your business. You've opened your doors. How do you position yourself in the market place and secure that piece of business that you need to survive?

Seating is limited, and we will not be accepting registrations at the door, so click the link on the bottom of this page to register.

Doors open at 8:30 a.m. The seminar begins at 9:00 a.m. SHARP. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early to handle paperwork.

The presenter for this seminar is Blaine Greenfield

Blaine Greenfield is a former college professor of business who headed his own marketing firm that assisted small- and mid-sized businesses. Presently, he is a volunteer with SCORE and is active with several other community organizations. He also publishes an online newsletter, BLAINESWORLD, that can be obtained for free by emailing him at bginbc@aol.com.

This seminar is sponsored by Home Trust Bank.

To register, please click: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=ebiggxcab&oeidk=a07e8031val0965d939>.

(3) You can still get tickets for Hearts for SART on Feb. 14, and they are now available for 1/2 price via this link:

[http://www.yougetwegive.com/engine/SplashDetails.aspx?
&productid=11438080&contestid=45148&Admin=FULL11438080](http://www.yougetwegive.com/engine/SplashDetails.aspx?&productid=11438080&contestid=45148&Admin=FULL11438080).

It promises to be a fun evening, and the Silent Auction is slated to be great. That's Melanie Brethauer (below) with two of the splendid pottery pieces she is making available.



(4) Don't forget the Lessons in Leadership event on Tuesday, Feb. 25, featuring Harry (the FISH! guy) Paul and Kieth Challenger. To register, please click:

<http://wncleaders.com/>.

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Ryan Fallon with Tina Roccia on their engagement.

(2) Chuck Fink and Randy Robins for being profiled in an article about Jewish comfort food in the MOUNTAIN XPRESS. To read it, please click:
<http://www.mountainx.com/article/56030/Serving-up-comfort>.

(3) Amy Armstrong on becoming a Master Career Counselor.

D. Condolences to:

(1) The family of John Russell. I taught with John at South River High School back in the days when I was a beginning teacher. He was a big help to me then, and he quickly became my friend.

(2) Carol Leslie Duermit and family on the passing of Carol's mother.

(3) Jody Sysler and family on the passing of Jody's husband Barry. (See also the section below, BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD, for more information.)

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

This week, it goes to Barry Sysler--my longtime friend and teaching colleague of mine at Bucks County Community who recently passed away.

He was a fine teacher and tennis coach who after retirement, became a very successful educational consultant. For more information about this latter part of his life, please click: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsItsYNLiVk>.

Barry was an amazing guy who also managed to find the time to run a swimming pool management company, and he served as a tennis referee for many matches. Yet he always had a smile for everybody he encountered, and if you wanted to speak with him, he seemingly was always available to do so.

I'll perhaps best remember Barry, though, as the loving husband to his wonderful wife Jody. Being in the company of the two of them was always a treat. In addition, he was the proud father of Stacy and Scott, and the doting grandfather to Holden and Hunter.

And as you can see from the picture (below), Barry is a look-alike for the actor Stacy Keach. Or is it vice versa? He would often get a kick out of telling the story of times when folks would come up to him and ask for his autograph.



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2. FYI

Thanks, Nelson S. in NC, for sharing a very informative article, "What not to do in the interview." The best part was the following list of the most outrageous mistakes that people have made:

- Applicant warned the interviewer that she "took too much valium" and didn't think her interview was indicative of her personality
- Applicant acted out a Star Trek role
- Applicant answered a phone call for an interview with a competitor
- Applicant arrived in a jogging suit because he was going running after the interview
- Applicant asked for a hug
- Applicant attempted to secretly record the interview
- Applicant brought personal photo albums
- Applicant called himself his own personal hero
- Applicant checked Facebook during the interview
- Applicant crashed her car into the building
- Applicant popped out his teeth when discussing dental benefits
- Applicant kept her iPod headphones on during the interview
- Applicant set fire to the interviewer's newspaper while reading it when the interviewer said "Impress me"
- Applicant said that he questioned his daughter's paternity
- Applicant wanted to know the name and phone number of the receptionist because he really liked her

Note: I got a special kick out of Nelson's comment about the above: "None, however, quite match the experience I had when a candidate fell asleep in my office during the interview. I know I can be boring, but . . . "

For the entire article, please click:

http://msn.careerbuilder.com/Article/MSN-3599-Interviewing-What-not-to-do-in-the-interview/?SiteId=cbmsn43599&sc_extcmp=JS_3599_advice.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Chana M. in TX: Wrinkled ladies

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCvHgppVey4>.

(2) Layne C. in NC: Husky imitates baby

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nupfxo2ihQc>.

(3) Natalie K. in PA: This has got to be watched. Really Cool! I liked the dresses also!!

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=sKns1uatyNg&vq=medium.

(4) Marilynne H. in NC: Husband takes pictures in a tutu to support his wife with cancer

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

(5) Bob H. in NJ: If your heart rate does not hit 100 when you watch this, go to an ER!

http://www.youtube.com/embed/hUj65M4T1cg?feature=player_embedded.

(6) Berta D. in NJ: Gotta watch this brave kid!

<http://www.upworthy.com/this-kid-was-bullied-a-lot-he-could-have-told-his-teacher-or-his-principal-he-had-bigger-plans?g=2&c=reccon1>.

(7) Joyce S. in NC: Some Creepy Dudes Said Some Creepy Things To This Reporter. So She Is Calling Them Out In Public

<http://www.upworthy.com/some-creepy-dudes-wrote-some-creepy-things-to-this-scientist-so-she-is-calling-them-out-in-public>.

(8) Callan W. in NC: 4 guys, 1 piano, 1 incredible Christmas carol

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n543eKIdbUI>.

(9) Gene A. in PA: The human spirit at it's very best!! Worth watching!!

<http://truthseekerdaily.com/2013/10/one-of-the-most-powerful-videos-you-will-ever-see/>.

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1sl>

(1) Matthew B. in CA: Just talking about how great you are! (2) Jeannie F. in PA: Miss your newsletter targeted here in Bucks. (3) Mary C. in NC: The dog at the gravesite is very touching. (4) Bill Y. in NJ: I'm thinking of retiring. (5) Stuart K. in NC: We saw Saving Mr. Banks on Sunday. (6) Marcie F. I know you were quoting Kurt Vonnegut in this posting about the arts as viable employment, but really? (7) Gary G. in NC: Thank you for the Dental Care discount tip. (8) Robin S. in PA: Ask the Author: Economics and Online Dating. (9) Scott T. in NC: What Happens When This Little Girl Gives Marijuana A Try? (10) Arlene D. in PA: Watched a really good movie (EIGHT BELOW) a few days ago. (11) Marilynne H. in NC: 8 Badass Photos From the Real-Life "Monuments Men." (12) Natalie K. in PA: I really enjoyed LABOR DAY.

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3. Joke 1

MOM: Nick, how old do you think I am going to be on my birthday? . . . NICK: Um. I don't know. Wait, how old is Grandma? . . . MOM: Why? . . . NICK: 'Cause you won't be as old as her, but, like, almost. . . . MOM: You're officially disinherited!



Note: Kelly (above) is the very talented Kelly Christianson, currently starring in THE CLEAN HOUSE. More information next week about this funny play that runs through Feb. 22. For tickets, please click: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-clean-house-tickets-9418108817>.

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4. Reviews

A. If you ever thought your family was dysfunctional, think again. And then see AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY. It's a dark drama about a mother and her three daughters that will hold your attention because of the fine acting, especially from Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts. One bit of warning: It's definitely not a comedy even though some reviews have called it that. Rated R.

B. ABOUT TIME is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #894 follows:

ABOUT TIME is a delightful romantic comedy about a guy who is taught that the men in his family have always had the ability to travel through time . . . though he can't change history, he can change what has happened in his own life . . . so he decides to make it better by getting a girlfriend, and after many cunning uses of time travel, they eventually fall in love and get married . . . Domhnall Gleeson and Rachel McAdams are both perfect in the two leading roles . . . also, as always, the fact that Bill Nighy was in the cast added to my enjoyment of the film . . . rated R, though I think is an appropriate film for any mature teenager.

Note: I've already added the above to my list of favorite films. If you'd like to get a copy of this list, send an email to: bjinbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

C. I was intrigued by the idea behind FAILURE: THE SECRET TO SUCCESS (Method Press) by Robby Slaughter; i.e., we need to fail in order to get information about what to do next to become successful.

The author then presents countless examples that help drive home his point. Among them:

* Hiram "Ulysses" Grant's many accomplishments in life came as a result of being hardened by failure. His modest roots and long history of struggle prepared him for difficult trials. Grant's successes were preceded by many embarrassing failures. It was on the eve of what might have been the most devastating moment in his life that he was saved from total humiliation. The first day of the battle at Shiloh has been costly for the Union, and a prominent politician visited President Abraham Lincoln to call for Grant's dismissal. . . . Finally, sometime after 1 a.m., the President responded with a simple statement on the soldier's character and ability: "I can't spare this man. He fights."

* [Michael] Jordan himself is fond of discussing the role of success and failure in his own career: I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 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 what's why I succeed.

* J.K. Rowling, author of the hugely popular HARRY POTTER series, was invited to give the commencement address at Harvard University in 2008. . . [She] opened her address by admitting her nervousness. She told herself and the crowd that she would take deep breaths. The famous writer then went on to explain how her own commencement speaker

had been a course of great inspiration because Rowling couldn't remember a single word from that speech. "This liberating discovery," stated the famous author, "enables me to proceed without any feat that I might inadvertently influence you to abandon promising careers."

I had never quite thought about failure the way that Slaughter does in his excellent book. However, as a result, I will no longer be quite so afraid of it.

D. Heard BOB & RAY: THE LOST EPISODES, VOLUME 5 (The Radio Foundation), written and performed by legendary humorists Bob Elliott and Ray Goulding.

This was a fun-filled collection of bits that had me laughing out loud!

This collection of 83 Bob & Ray routines included Wally Ballou at the Blue Funk Coffee House; Ralph Sturdley's This is your bed, you made it, now lie in it; Aunt Penny's True to Life Stories; commercials for Cheerios and Piels Beer; and much more.

I loved getting to better know some of the more than hundred characters they created in their career, such as Mary McGoon, whose recipe for frozen ginger ale salad prefigures Martha Stewart; Biff Burns in the sports room; Webley Webster; and Barry Campbell, a third rate actor with an ego the size of the universe.

I'm now going to go see if I can find the previous volumes in this series.

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5. TV alert

A. 138TH WESTMINSTER KENNEL DOG SHOW airs on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 8 p.m. on USA. For the first time, mutts will be allowed to compete--but they are still not eligible for Best in Show.

B. BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS NOMINEES MARATHON is an all-day showing that includes Jean Hagen in SINGIN' IN THE RAIN, Susan Kohner in IMITATION OF LIFE and Angela Lansbury in THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE. Starts at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 12, on TCM.

C. THIS OLD HOUSE HOUR shows how one homeowner gets a box spring up a narrow staircase--and how results are quite easily replicated. Thursday, Feb. 13, at 8 p.m. on PBS.

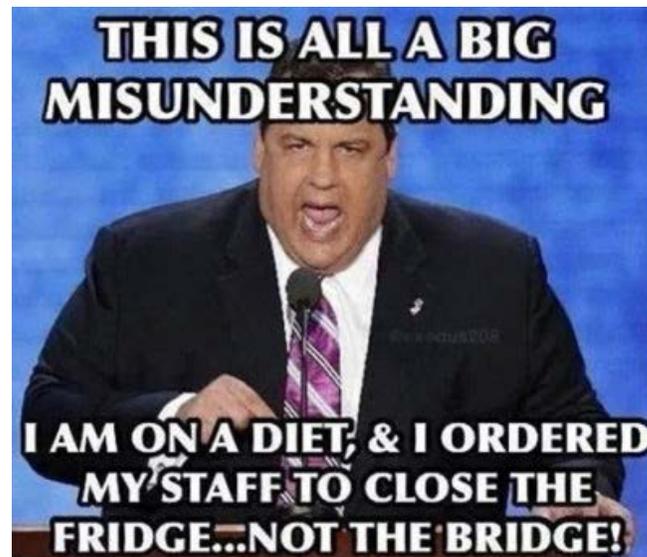
Note: PBS times and dates often vary, so check local listings.

D. HOUSE OF CARDS begins its new season on Friday, Feb. 14, on NETFLIX. I'll be curious as to how politico Frank Underwood handles his new job as vice president of the United States.

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6. Joke 2

Finally, the truth comes out!



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7. Websites

A. THE TURTLES, arguably the greatest rock group of all time, sound perhaps even better with just the vocals. See for yourself by clicking: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dN2fMfRMv8#t=37>.



B. Super Bowl 2014 Commercials: Watch Them All Here
http://mashable.com/2014/02/02/super-bowl-2014-commercials/#_.

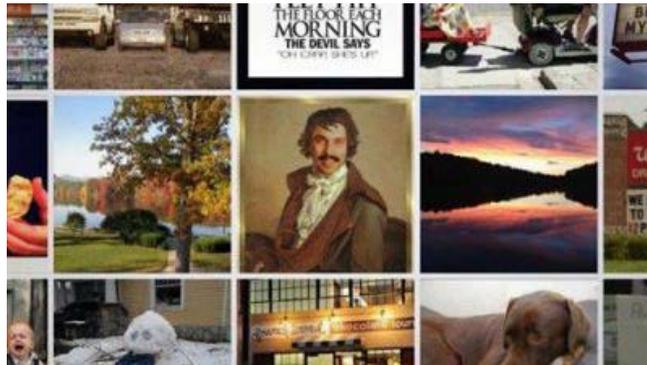
Note: Many were certainly more entertaining than the game!

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

If you'd like to see some of my favorite websites, click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Websites." Check back every so often, in that I do update this 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:
<https://www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield>.

MR. CURIOUS HERE: Will I get my first Oscar for this Facebook movie? You can see some of the pictures from it by looking at the illustration below. To actually view it, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/l7wbu7w>.



[Like us on Facebook](#) 

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8. Technology tip

Note: If you have Gmail, and you don't want to miss any issues of BLAINESWORLD (or other email that you deem worthy), please read the following:

How do I get my emails to the Primary tab in Gmail?

Gmail has added a new feature called Tabs to your inbox. This feature is designed to make your inbox easier to manage by using different tabs to automatically organize your incoming mail into categories. There are some great resources out there on how to set up tabs and what they do.

However, this new organization can cause your newsletters to end up on the Promotions tab, rather than in the Primary mailbox. While we have a blog post that outlines the change and the effects it can have on your sending, in this article we'll share some tips we've learned to help ensure your email is delivered to the Primary tab.

For the rest of this informative article, please click:

<http://kb.mailchimp.com/article/how-do-i-get-my-emails-to-the-primary-tab-in-gmail/>.

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9. Joke 3

Nice try!



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10. A quote I like

Sure, I've gotten old. I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees. . . . I've fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, and take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. I have bouts with dementia, poor circulation, hardly feel my hands or feet anymore, can't remember if I'm 85 or 92, but . . . thank God, I still have my Florida driver's license!--Red Buttons on aging



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11. Thought for the day

My dog sleeps 20 hours a day. He has his food prepared for him at no cost. He visits the doctor if any medical needs arise and pays nothing. He lives in a large house in a nice neighborhood. If he makes a mess, someone else cleans it up. He receives these accommodations absolutely free. He is living like a king and has absolutely no expenses. All of his costs are picked up by others who earn a living. I was just thinking about all this, and it suddenly hit me like a brick . . . my dog is a CONGRESSMAN!



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12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1sl>.

(1) Night of the music of the Beatles. (2) FROZEN. (3) Kimberly Ross: From Ordinary to Extraordinary. (4) Michelle Baker, Nina Hart and Bonnie Freestone's performance, The Darkside. (5) CABARET.

B. PA/NJ events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1sl>.

(1) Eric Mintel Quartet in concert. (2) August: Osage County.

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PS. Make it a great week!

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BLAINES WORLD

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I joined a bunch of friends at Vinnie's for one of their great Italian dinners. Richard, our server, was excellent.



L-R: Ethan, Rick and Jackie Cohen; Rachel, Harry and Mary Paul; Carole Biro; Cynthia and Blaine Greenfield; Marcy Gallagher; and Judy and Dave Blumlo.

B. I'm really enjoying:

(1) The Sports Documentary class I'm taking at the Osher Life Learning Center that is being taught by Larry Griswold (center). Also pictured: Randy Robins, my classmate and comic extraordinaire.



Note: Larry had just told us a story about how Bob Costas used a cushion to make himself appear similar in size to the much larger athletes on screen with him. Methinks I should have gotten something similar and/or a stool in the above picture.

(2) Ice cream with my friend Steven Shulman at The Hop Ice Cream Cafe on the coldest night of the year. Paulina did a great job as our scooper.



C. Congratulations to:

(1) Jim Freeman on being profiled in the Winter, 2014 issue of BUCKS COUNTY MAGAZINE. Ready more by clicking:

<http://www.buckscountymag.com/magazine/a-lifelong-journey/>.

(2) Alison Young on landing a new job as Administrative Assistant to the Clinical Director at NC Department of Health and Human Services.

(3) Richard and Liz Sims on move of their store, Sims Futon Gallery, a block west from 109 Patton Ave. to the former Nu-Way Cleaners building at the intersection of Patton and North French Broach. To read more, please click:

<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301270009>.

(4) Linda McCann on being named a Community Award Winner in Education at Bucks County Community College.

(5) Kelli Brown Mullinix and Jeff Messer on their wedding.

(6) Carol Dangerfield and James Wade for being winners in the recent Chili Cook-off at Biltmore Lake in the chili competition, as well as to Charlotte Wade for being one of the winners in the cornbread competition.

(7) Mary L. in PA , winner of CONTEST #2: a copy of THE JOB SEARCH CHECKLIST. All

told, there were 6 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #3 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of COMMITTED: A LOVE STORY by Elizabeth Gilbert--a follow-up to her runaway bestseller, EAT, PRAY, LOVE.

It takes her from the end of the first book--when she falls in love with Felipe--to their life afterward . . . all was going smoothly until he was detained by the U.S. government, which then gave the couple a choice . . . either they needed to get married or Felipe would never again be allowed to enter into the country.

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #725.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #3 in the subject 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 Monday, Feb. 10.

D. Condolences to the family of Pete Seeger (1919-2014), American folk singer and activist. To remember his music, click: <http://tinyurl.com/6hnz4a3>.

To remember his politics, read what he told The House Un-American Activities Committee: "I am not going to answer any questions as to my association, my philosophical or religious beliefs or my political beliefs, or how I voted in any election, or any of these private affairs. I think these are very improper questions for any American to be asked, especially under such compulsion as this."

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

This week, it goes to the Asheville Fringe Arts Festival (AFAF) and especially to Jim Julien and Jocelyn Reese, artistic directors of the event.

I had the pleasure of attending two shows this year and will certainly go to more in future years.

The first, THE MAN WITH THE BIRDCAGE ON HIS HEAD, was written, directed and performed by Steven Samuels. He certainly deserved the recognition he earned as one of the artists who pushed the boundary between life and arts.



The second, TABLE 6, was written and directed by Rodney Smith. He likewise deserved the recognition he earned for having the show that made us laugh the most.



L-R: Sally Butcher, Rodney Smith and Blaine Greenfield.

Kudos, too, to the excellent cast that Rodney put together: Paul Gallaher, Kirby Gibson, Tracy Johnson-Crum, Cary Nichols and Trinity Smith.

Lastly, my only regret is that I didn't get to see many of the other shows--and especially TRUSS, featuring Keith Campbell, who also was recognized by pushing the boundary between life and arts.

For more information about the AFAF, please click:
<http://www.ashevillefringe.org/>.

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2. FYI

My friend, author/speaker Susan Reinhardt, has started posting some great money-saving ideas on Facebook. For example:

Here is a tip to save you hundreds - maybe thousands of dollars. My tooth is chipped and I knew I needed a crown. I had no insurance. So I Googled dental plans and found that the way to go is NOT necessarily dental insurance, which can be super costly, but to go with a "Dental Discount Plan." For less than \$70 a year (no, it's not based on income because they don't even ask) I get crowns for half off, cleanings half off...everything from 20 to 60 percent off. Here's what you do. Call David at 1-800-441-0380 * ext, 2911 with Careington.com Dental Discount based in Houston. After much Internet research, I discovered this company. He's awesome to work with. And we have in the area several providers who honor the card and discounts. OK. I've done my public service for the week They are open 9 to 5:30 Central Time.

And then she followed it up with this tidbit:

For those who asked, yes there are providers (two to four) in WNC who take the Dental Discount Card. It's so much cheaper than paying dental "insurance" at about 100 a month. This is only \$70 per year for all the discounts. Now, I'll let you know if the dentist is worth his salt, but when I checked, he had a 4 1/2 star rating. Some doctors/dentists really do care about people and not just the bottom line. There are even mental health providers who will work with you if you're uninsured. Maybe my new job will be to start a non-profit to direct people who fall between the cracks of the system to get great dental/mental/physical healthcare and even other things, like facials, exercise programs, etc. All to live a good and healthy, happy life for all of us. No matter our incomes.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Chanah H. in MO: ABBA goes to the dogs
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mpoiSD-bjP0#t=81>.

(2) How the Swedes play the spoons
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5748IK9HpOg&feature=youtu.be>.

(3) Cat Helps Dog Pull Off Daring Escape From Kitchen

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2oH9dGr1sE.

(4) Joey N. in NJ: After Lincoln, Spielberg Announced His Next Big Movie 'Obama'. And The Actor Who Will Play The US President Is . . .

<http://astrojojo.com/blog/after-lincoln-spielberg-announced-his-next-big-movie-obama-and-the-actor-who-will-play-the-u-s-president-is/>.

(5) Amy T. in NC: AIRLINE PULLS AMAZING CHRISTMAS STUNT ON PASSENGERS

<http://tinyurl.com/m2erjea>.

(7) Barbara F. in PA: Elvis lives (as a 16-year-old Canadian dude)

<http://tinyurl.com/o7pznro>.

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1sj>.

(1) Catherine O. in ME: Blaine, great issue. (2) Gustavo K. in NC: How much would you pay to have me plunge into ice cold water on Feb 15th and know that 100% of the amount raised will be going to support Meals On Wheels? (3) Marcie F. in PA: Nursing home calendar puts residents in classic film roles.

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3. Joke 1

This was taken from a collection of terrible real estate agent photos. I loved the caption: Sit back, relax and let the static from the television give you a migraine. To view more:

<http://terriblerealestateagentphotos.com/>.



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4. Reviews

A. LABOR DAY is a suspenseful drama about a reclusive mother who takes care of her 13-year-old son . . . their lives change when they encounter an escaped convict while on a shopping trip. . . Kate Winslet and Josh Brolin are both appealing in the leading roles, and Gattlin Griffith is perfect as Winslet's son . . . I also liked the accompanying music . . . the more I think about this film, the more I liked it . . . rated PG-13.

B. Out on DVD is DALLAS BUYERS CLUB . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #898 follows:

DALLAS BUYERS CLUB is based on the story of real-life Texas cowboy Ron Woodroof who was given 30 days to live in 1985 when he was diagnosed as HIV-positive. He chose to bypass traditional treatments and took matters in his own hands, traveling the world to track down alternative treatments. Matthew McConaughey was fantastic as Woodward, and I was amazed that he lost some 40 pounds to take on the role. However, overall, the film was a downer for me. I also think it could have been shortened by a good 20-25 minutes. Rated R.

To read the following book reviews, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1sj>

C. DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC? THE SENSE AND NONSENSE OF ALTERNATIVE MAGIC by Paul A. Offit

D. BUDDHA: A STORY OF ENLIGHTENMENT, written and read by Deepak Chopra

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5. TV alert

A. I'll be curious about SUPER BOWL XLVIII, if only to see how Renée Fleming does singing "The Star Spangled Banner" and also the performance of Bruno Mars at halftime. With the Eagles not in the game, I really don't care about the outcome other than I hope it's a good game. Sunday, Feb. 2, at 6:25 p.m. on FOX.

B. SPORTS ILLUSTRATED SWIMSUIT: 50 YEARS OF BEAUTIFUL is hosted by former bathing beauty Heidi Klum and includes appearances by Tyra Banks, Christie Brinkley and Kathy Ireland, as well as performances by Enrique Iglesias, Lady Antebellum and John Legend. Monday, Feb. 3, at 9 p.m. on NBC.

C. THE AMISH: SHUNNED is a documentary that according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL is "beautiful and moving." Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 9 p.m. on PBS.

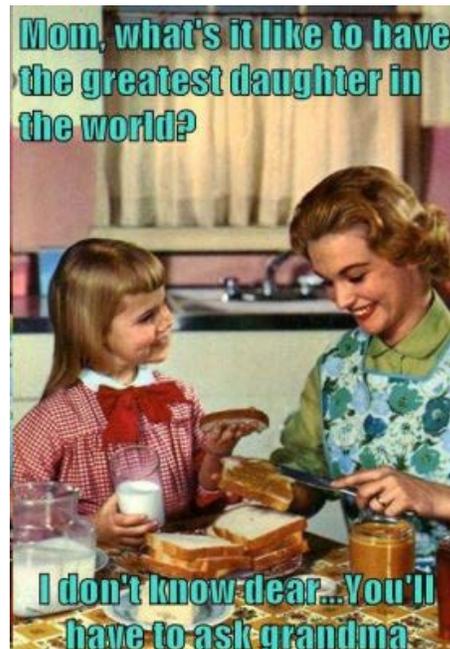
Note: PBS times and dates often vary, so check local listings.

D. THE NIGHT THAT CHANGED AMERICA: A GRAMMY SALUTE TO THE BEATLES takes place exactly 50 years to the day after the Beatles first appeared on THE ED SULLIVAN SHOW. Sunday, Feb. 9, at 8 p.m. on CBS.

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6. Joke 2

Sounds like what my father would have said had I asked him the same thing about having the greatest son!



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7. Websites

A. Lawrence P. in NJ: Thought you might appreciate this--Jewish Deli <https://vimeo.com/53381762>.

Note: I very much appreciated the above. Also, it reminded me that such establishments are one of the few things missing in the Asheville area--along with great diners.

B. Joyce S. in CA:

That 70's show - Happy Together
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmqSCJicnk>.

Note: Cute version of arguably the greatest rock song of all time.

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

In case you ever wondered what happens to your name if 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:
<https://www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield>.

Like us on Facebook 

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8. Technology tip

The following will remind you of the need to change passwords for different accounts, as opposed to always using the same one.

Yahoo Reports Attack on Mail Accounts
By NICOLE PERLROTH

Another day, another breach.

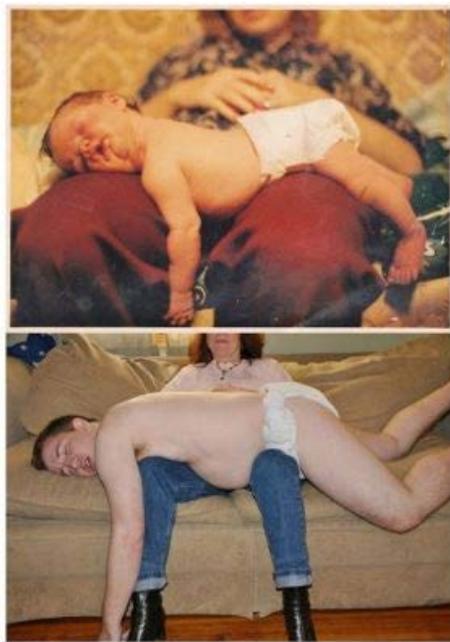
In yet another reminder of the importance of using different passwords across different websites, Yahoo said Thursday that attackers had attempted to gain access to Yahoo Mail accounts using usernames and passwords collected from a breach on a third-party site.

For the rest of this informative blog entry, please click:
<http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/01/30/yahoo-reports-attack-on-mail-accounts/?partner=rss&emc=rss>.

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9. Joke 3

Methinks that baby pictures are generally better off not retaken as adult pictures. To see more of these, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/k27c7os>.



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10. A quote I like

"If you want to really hurt you parents, and you don't have the nerve to be gay, the least you can do is go into the arts. I'm not kidding. The arts are not a way to make a living. They are a very human way of making life more bearable. Practicing an art, no matter how well or badly, is a way to make your soul grow, for heaven's sake. Sing in the shower. Dance to the radio. Tell stories. Write a poem to a friend, even a lousy poem. Do it as well as you possible can. You will get an enormous reward. You will have created something."-- Kurt Vonnegut (1922-2007), American writer

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11. Thought for the day

For the past 7 years, a German shepherd called Capitán has slept next to the grave of his owner every night at 6 p.m. "During the day he sometimes has a walk around the cemetery, but always rushes back to the grave," said Hector Baccega, the cemetery's director. "And every day, at 6 o'clock sharp, he lies down on top of the grave and stays there all night." . . . The staff at the cemetery in central Argentina is now feeding and taking care of the dog. . . . For more information, please click: <http://tinyurl.com/9nczw5m>.



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12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

(1) Please join SART for its second annual fundraising event, "Hearts for SART," on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. at the newly renovated downtown Asheville Masonic Temple. Sample delectable desserts and beverages while you enjoy selections from the heart-warming play, LOVE LETTERS, presented by Jon Menick and Mary McGahren (both pictured below).





Find the perfect Valentine's Day gift for you or a friend at our silent auction and support our upcoming 40th season!

Tickets are only \$15/person online at:
www.sartplays.org.

PS. If you have an item or items you'd like to donate for the Silent Auction, please send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put SILENT AUCTION in the subject line. Also, if you care to donate a dessert item or items, that too would be much appreciated. Again, please sent an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put DESSERT in the subject line.

To read about each of these other events in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1sj>.

(2) Jeff Thompson Trio at 5 Walnut. (3) Ash Devine at The Hop Ice Cream Cafe. (4) Lessons in Leadership now on Feb. 25. (5) A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE at Hendersonville Little Theatre. (6) Acct. Responsibilities. (7) Positioning & Marketing, taught by yours truly. (8) Tom the Magician at next Asheville Vaudeville.

B. PA/NJ events

To read about each of the following event in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1sj>.

(1) Show Some Heart at Bucks County Community College. (2) Sing Along with George Sinkler. (3) Dr. Scarpati's Comedy Hypnosis Show.

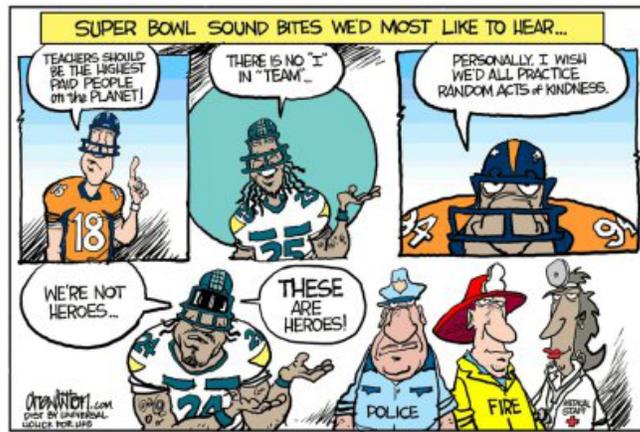
C. National event

To read about the following event in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1sj>.

It's All About Relationships, the e-summit with Edie Weinstein

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PS. Make it a great week! Also, on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 2, see below for my prediction. Unfortunately, you're guaranteed not to hear these utterances. Nor these two others: 1. What a great Eagles victory; and 2. Punxsutawney Phil got it wrong today; we're due for a short winter. . . . Regardless, enjoy the game--even if your favorite team isn't playing. (And take solace in the fact that you can always go into another room to watch DOWNTON ABBEY.)



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BLAINES WORLD

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1.20.2014

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I enjoyed getting together with our friends Dave and Judy Blumlo at BT's Burger Joint. We have been there many times and always find the food quite tasty.



B. Cynthia was busy during the week, rehearsing with Community Choreography Projects and then performing at the Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community.



L-R: Front: Barrie Barton, artistic director, and Sema Bruno; Rear: Linda Newman, Cappy Tosetti, Tiffany Hall, Cynthia Greenfield, Allisone Weiss, Ash Devine, Camille Cushman, Lisa Wilson and Ellane Chandler.

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Edie Weinstein for being named as a blogger on The Bucks Happening List. To vote for her, please click:

<http://bucks.happeningmag.com/happeninglist/2014-people-blogger/>.

(2) Neil St. Clair on being chosen to make the opening convocation speech for the spring at Mars Hill University. To read more, please click:

<http://www.mhu.edu/news-events/news-articles/opening-convocation-spring-2014>.

(3) Howard Debs on having his essay on "Vindicating Holocaust Poetry" published in ECLECTIA. To read it, please click:

<http://www.eclectica.org/v18n1/debs.html>.

(4) Erik Martinez for being part of the trailer for Dave Ramsey's new book, "Smart Money Smart Kids." To view it, please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0QPHGVawxE..>

(5) Janet and Robbie Casperson on the birth of their baby girl Jo.

(6) Evan Guilford-Blake on having two of his Haiku poems published in First Literary East. To view them, please click:

<http://www.rulrul.4mg.com/>.

(7) Risa Reavely, my daughter, and her husband JP on their appearance on THE VIEW. (Well, at least in back row of the audience.) It was a snowy day, and as you can see, there weren't many other folks there. If you'd like to watch the whole show, please click:

<http://abc.go.com/shows/the-view/episode-guide/season-17/87-wednesday-jan-22-2014>.



D. Reminders . . . there's still time to:

(1) Attend Hearts for SART and/or to donate Silent Auction items:

Dear SART Patron,

Join us for our second annual fundraising event, "Hearts for SART," on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. at the newly renovated downtown Asheville Masonic Temple. Sample delectable desserts and beverages while you enjoy selections from the heart-warming play, "Love Letters," presented by Jon Menick and Mary McGahren.

Find the perfect Valentine's Day gift for you or a friend at our silent auction and support our upcoming 40th season!

Tickets are only \$15/person online at:

www.sartplays.org.

or by mail: SART, P.O. Box 1720, Mars Hill, NC 28754.

For more information: HeartsforSART@gmail.com.

***** PLEASE HELP *****

If you have item(s), food vouchers, tickets, etc. that we could use as part of the silent auction, please let us know. In return, you would get a form that indicated you made a tax-deductible contribution, as well as extensive publicity via Facebook, Constant Contact and our website. And if you came to the event, and we hope you would, you could even publicize your business throughout the evening.

In addition, we are looking for homemade desserts

If you can help us out, please email yours truly at bjinbc@aol.com.

(2) Register for Lessons in Leadership. (See Section 12A for more information on how to do so.)

(3) Enter . . .

***** CONTEST #2 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of THE JOB SEARCH CHECKLIST: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET BACK TO WORK AFTER A LAYOUT (AMACON) by Damian Birkel. Quoting from the book description:

Losing your job can be a crushing setback, but the key is to remember the expression: "When one door closes, another one opens." With the proven tips and tactics featured in THE JOB SEARCH CHECKLIST, you'll learn how to turn your loss into opportunity and find another job fast. This indispensable guide covers everything from dealing with the emotional impact of being laid off to rebuilding your professional identity.

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #892.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #2 in the subject 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 Monday, January 27.

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

This week, it goes to the entire Board of Directors (Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre).

It was my honor to have served as president of this group for the past two years--and as a Board member for over three years.

I'm just stepped down from both these positions, figuring that it was time for others to have the opportunity to become involved. My only hope is that future Boards will be as blessed as I was to have gotten the chance to serve with such dedicated individuals as those in this picture taken at my last meeting.



Front, L-R: Andy Sorenson, Dr. Dan Lunsford and Bill Gregg; Rear: L-R: Chuck Fink, Louisa Mennick, Jerita Wright, Theresa Phillips, Blaine Greenfield, Janet Hart and Patty Higgins. Not pictured: Lori Lynn Mullett.

I was especially pleased to have been given the following gift certificate for free tickets at future SART events!



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2. FYI

Kitty G. in NJ: Something We All Have In Our Homes Started This House Fire

You won't believe what caused the fire in this man's home. His one lesson about the cause of the fire is so incredibly important. Pass it on!

<http://themothertlist.com/fire-safety-video-must-watch/>

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Karen M. in NC: The Truth About Gingers

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNJkcr7u2TY>

(2) Natalie K. in PA: "I can't believe You made it!"

<http://vimeo.com/52231459>

(3) Bob P. in NC: Just too cute not to send on . . . and great 5 string banjo to boot!

Enjoy!

http://www.youtube.com/embed/bu_E2f0mQml?rel=0

(4) Judy C. in PA: Jason Brown Free Skate 2014 US Figure Skating Championships

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzlcVKFVWVI#t=43>

(5) Pat H. in PA: Wow!! Crazy!! You may not believe this. Click and watch all the videos here. Wow!!!

<http://www.privacycase.com/blogs/news#sthash.euv5t1wb.dpbs>

(6) Reggie K.: You have to watch this!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPmhFS7Y8-A>

(7) Marilynne H. in NC: Irish version of "Cups" song

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

(8) Joni Mitchell in concert:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5XT0HSITH4>

(9) A Waltz Across West Texas: Beautiful music and pictures

<http://player.vimeo.com/video/22132017?title=0&byline=0&portrait=0>

(10) The Jarmels: A Little Bit of Soap

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NdfsINg4U4>

(11) Father Guido Sarducci explains the after life

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/0AKvRvL5r3A?rel=0>

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

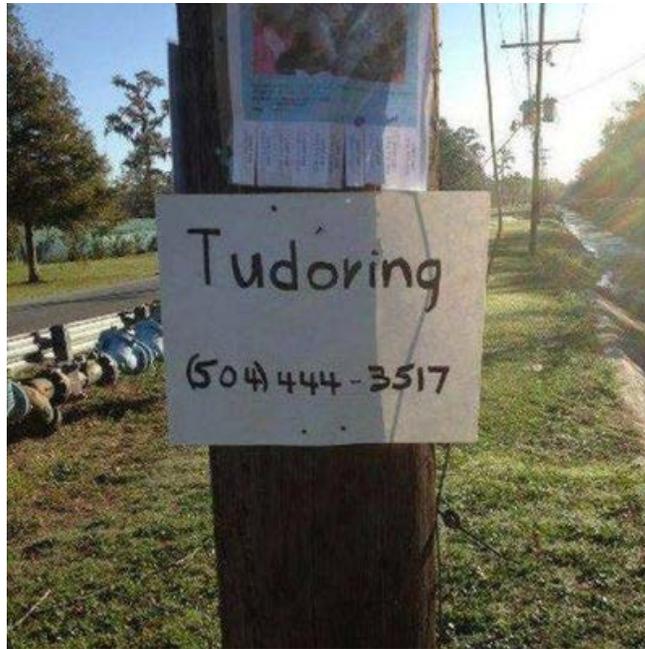
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1rM>.

(1) Lana C. in OH: For Cynthia: Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. (2) Debbie H. in PA: Good reading, thanks. (3) Sandy B. in PA: So sorry about your kitty cat. (4) Margie Z. in NC: So sorry about your loss. (5) Lyn M. in NC: I'm so sorry that Cynthia lost her cat. (6) Linda M. in NC: Made me cry about your kitty. (7) Kaye P. in PA: So sorry to hear about the passing of your cat. (8) Jason W. in PA: Lots of gems in this one, Blaine. (9) Ange M. in PA: My condolences and love are sent to you both. (10) Maria P. in PA: I'm so sorry to hear about Precious. (11) Chuck S. in NJ: Sorry to hear about the loss of your cat, Precious. (12) Pat L. in CA: Blaine and Cynthia, SO, so sorry to hear about Precious. (13) Mary Lou S. in NC: You are both in my thoughts today. (14) Natalie K. in PA: Saw "August: Osage County Saturday. (15) Kevin J. in PA: I'm putting it out to the world . . . any retired sales professionals? (16) Gladys P. in NC: Please accept my deepest condolences on the loss of a Precious. (17) Donna G. in NJ: My condolences on the passing of Precious. (18) Lorre D. in NC: Sorry to hear about your Precious. (19) Ellen C. in PA: Thanks for forwarding the Bernadette Peters YouTube video.

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3. Joke 1

This must have been posted by my one student who wrote on a teacher evaluation form that I placed "to [sic] much emphasis on grama [sic]."



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4. Reviews

A. HER is a thought-provoking film set in the future about a withdrawn writer (Joaquin Phoenix) who falls in love with his computer's highly advanced operating system . . . the dialogue is crisp, and the acting by Phoenix is spot on--as is the voice of Scarlett Johansson . . . I also liked the cinematography . . . rated R.

B. LAST VEGAS is now out on DVD . . . it's an ensemble comedy about four old friends who throw a Las Vegas bachelor party for the only one of them who has never been married . . . think HANGOVER for the older set, and you pretty much know the plot . . . Michael Douglas, Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman and Kevin Kline are all quite watchable, and if you don't have overly high expectations that you'll be seeing a masterpiece, this is a worthwhile rental . . . rated PG-13.

To get the following reviews, please go to Section 4 when you click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1rM>.

C. AN UNSPOKEN COMPROMISE by Rizi Xavier Timane

D. CROSS MY HEART (Hachette Audio), written by James Patterson and narrated by Michael Boatman and Tom Wopat

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5. TV alert

A. MITT depicts Mitt Romney's two failed presidential campaign. Gregg Whiteley, the filmmaker, had unrestricted access to the candidate. Available beginning Friday, Jan. 24, on NETFLIX.

B. LL Cool hosts the 56th annual GRAMMY AWARDS. Scheduled to perform: Katy Petty, Metallica, Stevie Wonder, Blake Shelton, Robin Thicke, Chicago, Willie Nelson and many others. Sunday, Jan. 26, at 8 p.m. on CBS.

C. HERBLOCK: THE BLACK & THE WHITE profiles cartoonist Herbert Block. Monday, Jan. 27, at 9 p.m. on HBO.

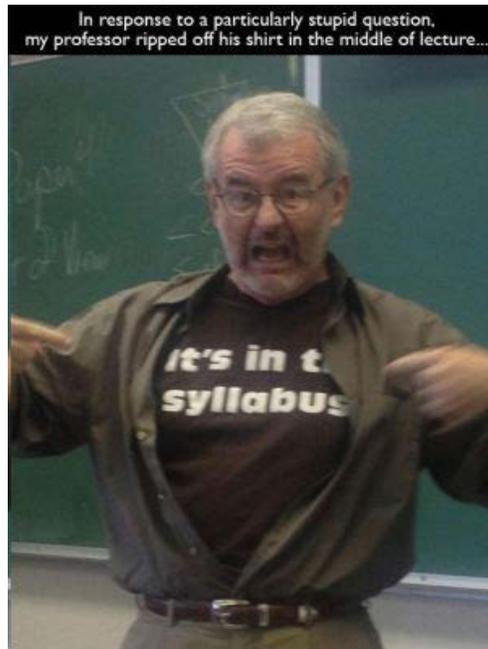
D. FLEMING: THE MAN WHO WOULD BE BOND tells the story of Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond. It stars Dominic Cooper who, according to the THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "may not bear the slightest resemblance to the real Fleming--who was tall, with finely chiseled features--but he is nonetheless the perfect fit for the role assigned him here." Wednesdays at 10 p.m. on BBC AMERICA, starting Jan. 29.

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6. Joke 2

Now that's a T-shirt I could have used back in my teaching days! For the rest of the story, please click:

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/10/18/t-shirt-many-professors-would-enjoy-wearing>.



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7. Websites

A. Elaine S. in Florida: I turned out to be George, but JOHN is my fave! Have fun!

Personality Quiz: Which Beatle Are You?

To take it, please click:

<http://www.bbcamerica.com/anglophenia/2014/01/personality-quiz-beatle/>

B. Joyce S. in NC: Dogs & Cats Teaching Trust

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

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

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

If you'd like to see pictures of my friends and family, as well as those from previous BLAINESWORLD issues, click "Blaine's Best" to the left and then "Pictures." Make sure you also have your sound on, so that 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:
<https://www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield>

Like us on Facebook 

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8. Technology tip

If you enjoyed reading David Pogue's technology column as much as I did (when he was with THE NEW YORK TIMES), you'll want to check out his new consumer-focused technology site for Yahoo by clicking this link:
<http://www.yahoo.com/tech/>.

Lot of good stuff here, so just browse around. One I liked, for example, is the following if you have a lot of time to kill: This Digital Whale Will Follow Your Mouse Pointer Around. To have fun with it, please click:

http://img0.liveinternet.ru/images/attach/c/5/3970/3970473_sprite198.swf.

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9. Joke 3

The remaining 1.5% are from NC, and they leave their cars on the side of the road the minute there's a snow flurry.



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10. A quote I like

"The problem with Internet quotes is that you can't always depend on their accuracy."--
Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), 16th President of the United State who is perhaps best known as the inventor of the selfie



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11. Thought for the day

Bring on the Buick and Velcro shoes
by John Boyle

Man, how did this happen?

Suddenly, I'm an oldster. . . .

While sagaciousness has eluded me, I do feel like I've learned a few lessons over my half-century of living. Indulge me for a few minutes while I share:

* My dad told me the most important decision you'll ever make in life is not which school you attend or what job you take or even where to live. It's who will be your spouse. This is the person you'll live with every day, make a family with and rely on emotionally, financially and every other way.

To read the rest of this engaging column, please go to Section 11 when you click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1rM>

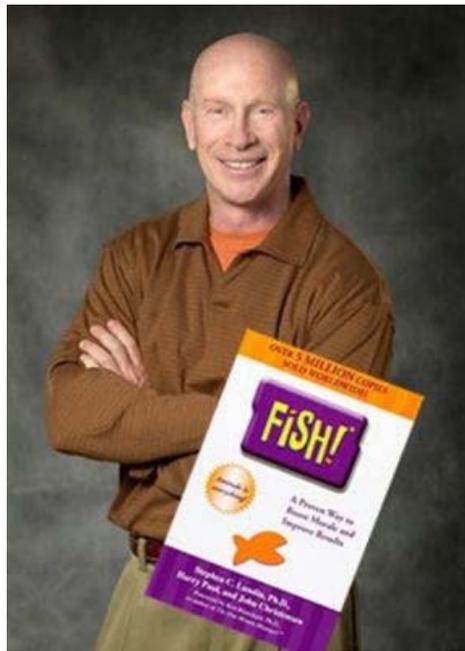
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12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

(1) STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

The Lessons in Leadership Organizing Team is proud to welcome HARRY (the FISH! guy) PAUL to Asheville as the featured presenter at the 7th annual Main Event this Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium, starting at 6:30 p.m.



Harry is co-author of the international best-selling leadership book FISH!, which has sold more than 5 million copies and follows the fortunes of a fictional company whose management introduces changes modeled on the behavior they witness at the world-famous Pike's Place Fish Market in Seattle.

"The key theme of FISH! is about having passion for those things that are important for you. It's a message that's relevant for everyone because each of us is the CEO of our own life and the challenge is to find that passion and live it!" says Brian Biro, a member of the organizing team who is himself a world-renown speaker and Asheville-based author.

The opening speaker will be local entrepreneur, author and speaker, KEITH CHALLENGER whose new book LEAP LIFE introduces a refreshing new way to look at the issue of having a lack of time in our lives. Using an approach he calls lack of time Management, he suggests just three keys to overcoming some of today's biggest productivity hurdles. Appropriately entitled "Not Enough Hours in the Day," Challenger presents an original and highly entertaining look at this universal subject.



Lessons in Leadership is presented by its organizers as a gift to the community, and the events typically attract more than 1,500 registrations, at least in part because the cost of registration is a remarkably low \$20 per person. Register yourself and your team today for this amazing way to kick off 2014!

Registration in advance is highly recommended, but on-site registration will be available at

a cost of \$25 per person, payable by cash or check (sorry, we won't be able to accept credit cards at the door).

To register, please click:
www.wncleaders.com.

To read about each of these other events in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1rM>.

(2) Tasha Lief and Company. (3) THE CLEAN HOUSE.

B. PA/NJ events

To read about the following event in full, please click:
<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1rM>.

Jennie Giardine-Smith at Authors' Corner.

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PS. As we honor Martin Luther King on his birthday, I'm reminded (by the picture below) of two things: 1. King's final message was that poverty is a civil rights battle. To read more, click:

<http://tinyurl.com/7nrguxd>;

and 2) Just imagine what this country could have accomplished had it listened to Eisenhower in 1961 when he warned the American people to keep a careful eye on what he called the "military-industrial complex" that had developed in the post-World War II years.

Source:

<http://tinyurl.com/l8zktz2>.



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 bginbc@aol.com
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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I are sooooo grateful that we are both well, given the following event . . .

EXPLOSION rocks our neighborhood! On Friday, a 12-inch pipeline exploded and sent 50-foot flames (top photo) towering into the air on Sand Hill Drive--the road that leads into our development. A huge crater (bottom photo) was also left behind. Everybody in the community lost the use of heat, and many lost the use of water and electricity. I'm just grateful that by Saturday night, things were pretty much back to normal. And the amazing news: Nobody was hurt.



B. We have also enjoyed getting the chance to catch up with friends over the past few weeks at various parties and dinners. Top to bottom: Rebecca Dalton, Emily Shaules, and Doug and Jane Ryan.



C. And we are looking forward to:



Hearts for SART

February 14th, 7:00 pm
Asheville Masonic Temple
80 Broadway

Dear SART Patron,

Join us for our second annual fundraising event, "Hearts for SART," on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. at the newly renovated downtown Asheville Masonic Temple. Sample delectable desserts and beverages while you enjoy selections from the heart-warming play, "Love Letters," presented by Jon Menick and Mary McGahren.

Find the perfect Valentine's Day gift for you or a friend at our silent auction and support our upcoming 40th season!

Tickets are only \$15/person online at:
www.sartplays.org

or by mail: SART, P.O. Box 1720, Mars Hill, NC 28754.

For more information: HeartsforSART@gmail.com.

***** PLEASE HELP *****

If you have item(s), food vouchers, tickets, etc. that we could use as part of the silent auction, please let us know. In return, you would get a form that indicated you made a tax-deductible contribution, as well as extensive publicity via Facebook, Constant Contact and our website. And if you came to the event, and we hope you would, you could even publicize your business throughout the evening.

If you can help us out, please email yours truly at bgjnbcb@aol.com.

B. Congratulations to:

(1) Natalie Kaye on being profiled in the BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES on January 14. You can view a video clip of this remarkable woman by clicking:

http://www.buckscountycouriertimes.com/business/events-on-demand/html_83ad030e-c7db-5ac4-8a1c-b429517a0ab4.html.

You can also read the article (if you're a subscriber) by clicking:

http://www.buckscountycouriertimes.com/business/events-on-demand/article_9cdee986-46f2-50a7-8f12-54654169eaa0.html.

And to learn more about On Demand! Programs and Events, please click:
www.ondemandprogramsandevents.com.

(2) Laurie Satran on getting her most interesting blog about travel, food and culture off the ground. To see it for yourself, please click:

<http://theartofbreakingbread.com/2013/12/30/the-making-of-a-travel-food-and-culture-blog/>.

(3) Edie Weinstein for being named a host in the launch of the new VividLife Illumiversity, a series of topic specific e-summits partnering the world's tops gurus in self-actualization, spirituality and wellness in content rich interviews that provide listeners with guidance on living their ultimate lives, mind, body and spirit.

Note: See also Section 12C for more information on the above.

(4) Norm Kent, when given a chance to speak, for again did a healluva job on the Nancy Grace show. Here's a brief clip:

<http://www.hlnv.com/video/2014/01/13/marijuana-legal-colorado-debate-pot-addictive-nancy-grace>.

(5) John Schnautz, mentor of the Phoenix Robotics team, which recently brought team members to Greensboro

to compete in the state's first Lego League Robotics Contest.

(6) Dan Hurley for having another great article published in THE NEW YORK TIMES. This one is on meditation. To read it, please click:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/19/magazine/breathing-in-vs-spacing-out.html?action=click&contentCollection=Opinion&module=MostEmailed&version=Full@ion=Marginalia&src=me&pgtype=article>

(7) Daniel Hensley and Justin Cardona on their recent marriage.

(8) Natalie K. in PA, winner of CONTEST #1: a copy of Laurey Masterton's THE FRESH HONEY COOKBOOK. All told, there were 8 entries. And that reminds me that's it is now time to announce:

***** CONTEST #2 *****

One lucky winner will receive a copy of THE JOB SEARCH CHECKLIST: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET BACK TO WORK AFTER A LAYOUT (AMACON) by Damian Birkel. Quoting from the book description:

Losing your job can be a crushing setback, but the key is to remember the expression: "When one door closes, another one opens." With the proven tips and tactics featured in THE JOB SEARCH CHECKLIST, you'll learn how to turn your loss into opportunity and find another job fast. This indispensable guide covers everything from dealing with the emotional impact of being laid off to rebuilding your professional identity.

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #892.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #2 in the subject 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 Monday, January 27.

C. Condolences to:

(1) Charlie Ianni and family on the passing of Charlie's husband Jerry. He had been a good friend of mine, and he shall be missed.

(2) The family of Edward McGrogan. He had been a former student of mine, and we had stayed friendly over the years. I only recently learned of his passing.

D. Correction: Last week's issue incorrectly referred to Paul Cutright as Paul Layne. (Sorry 'bout that.) Please see below for what should have been run:

Congratulations to Paul Cutright on being interviewed by Marilyn Ball on her radio show, Speaking of Travel. To listen to it, please click:
http://www.buzzsprout.com/18461/132148?utm_source.

And to find out what Paul and his wife Layne are doing in Asheville, please click:
<http://paulandlayne.com/asheville/>.

Note: To find out even more about this dynamic videos, check out their videos at:
<http://paulandlayne.com/vids/>.

In particular, there's a personal video called "Who I Am Becoming" that Layne made. Methinks that you'll find it really beautiful.

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

This week, it goes to our cat Precious.



She was euthanised on Wednesday, Jan. 15. Special thanks to our veterinarian, Dr. Scott Pickett, and his brother/technician Stewart, for their many years of taking care of Precious. And for their compassion in helping

us get through this sad time.

If you ever are looking for somebody to take care of your pet, we strongly recommend the Pickett's business: Best Friends Mobile Veterinary Clinic. What we especially like is the fact that they come to your home and you then have the choice of having them treat your pet in inside or in the examination room of their mobile clinic. For more information, please click:

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

Shortly after Precious passed, Cynthia received the following letter:

Dear Cynthia,

17 years ago, I put Precious in your path. She was given to you because she was meant for you. I knew she would be there--rock solid--always being a really good cat, a great companion, never causing any trouble and never asking for too much.

Just solid like a really heavy lamp that constantly emits light, love and purring of course.

I knew you would be perfect for her as well. You both always knew that you would be there to count on.

What comfort you have given each other.

It is time for her to come to me now. Know that the time with her is not over. One cannot take value away from a priceless experience.

She needs to come to me now. I will care for her. Don't you worry. She will be safe. I will meet her at the door.

Love,
God

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2. FYI

BJ L. in NC: How to open a bottle of wine without a corkscrew

Have you ever been in the situation where you'd like to open a bottle of wine but you can't get hold of a corkscrew for love nor money?

Well, I have and I always used to try to force the cork INTO the bottle. Until I picked up this rather nifty trick. <https://www.mirabeauwine.com/how-to-open-a-bottle-of-wine-without-a-corkscrew/>.

CAUTION: THIS MAN IS A WINE TRADE 'PROFESSIONAL' AND HAS OPENED MORE BOTTLES OF WINE THAN HIS WIFE WOULD CARE TO REMEMBER. PLEASE USE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN TRYING THIS METHOD YOURSELF AS IT MAY LEAD TO WALL AND/OR PERSONAL DAMAGE; I.E., THE BOTTLE COULD SHATTER OR THE WALL COULD FALL DOWN.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) BJ Leiderman in NC: Doing Elton John's Come Down In Time at the White Horse last weekend. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3vQ-PEVEgs&sns=fb>

(2) Thereasa P. in NC: Enra: Pleiades, a beautifully-synchronized combination of dance and projected light. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0813gcZ1Uw8>

(3) Donna A. in PA: "Elderly" couple dances to Bob Marley's "Is This Love"! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rV1UgpPBt8>

B. Other tidbits from readers

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: <http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1rb>

(1) Aaron M. in NC: I love the cone collar! (2) Rebecca D. in NC: Another keeper, Blaine! (3) Bob H. in NJ: Based on this Moyers piece, I will never consider retiring to NC. (4) Have you seen this movie [AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY] yet? (5) Pam in SC: We love this restaurant in Hickory, which is fairly close to the FurnitureMarket. (6) Tom G. in NJ: The Monterey clip was a Blast. (7) Tee G. in WV: An extra good edition. (8) Edie W. in PA: A movie [HER] you may want to watch as well. (9) Cecile K. in PA: If you are a woman who is divorced or recently separated, please read. (10) DeWitt R. in NC: Just getting back to B'World (#902) and thank you a lot for the picture of Elvis, then and now.

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3. Joke 1

The feather dancer was rushed to the hospital. Her boa constricted her.



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4. Reviews

A. MANDELA: LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

B. LEE DANIELS' THE BUTLER

C. WHO KIDNAPPED EXCELLENCE? WHAT STOPS US FROM GIVING OUR BEST by Harry Paul, John Britt and Ed Jent

D. GRAIN BRAIN: THE SURPRISING TRUTH ABOUT WHEAT AND SUGAR--YOUR BRAINS' SILENT KILLERS by David Perlmutter with Kirstin Loberg and read by Peter Ganim

To read these, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1rb>

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5. TV alert

A. FLOWERS IN THE ATTIC stars Heather Graham as a picture-perfect housewife and mother of four who is suddenly widowed and who must take her children to live with her parents. There's a catch, however--her dying father can't know she has kids. Sunday, Jan. 19, at 9 p.m. on LIFETIME.

B. KLONDIKE is a 3-part miniseries set at the height of the Yukon gold rush between 1896 and 1899. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "The Canadian wilderness scenery is spectacular and the cast is even better." Monday, Jan. 20-Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 9 p.m. on DISCOVERY.

C. Oscar nominee Greg Kinnear returns to TV as a morally challenged defense lawyer in the darkly comic drama RAKE. Premieres on Thursday, Jan. 23, at 9 p.m. on FOX.

D. Susan M. in NJ: [Watch] REDRUM on Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 9 p.m. on INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY. This show follows the backwards tale of murder from false motives and mistaken witnesses to conversations taken completely out of context until the truth finally comes out at the very end.

Note: Susan's husband Larry appears in the above episode.

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6. Joke 2

SAYINGS OF THE JEWISH BUDDHA . . . If there is no self, whose arthritis is this? . . . Drink tea and nourish life; with the first sip, joy; with the second sip, satisfaction; with the third sip, peace; with the fourth, a Danish. . . . The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single Oy. . . . Zen is not easy. It takes effort to attain nothingness. And then what do you have? Bupkis. . . . Deep inside you are ten thousand flowers. Each flower blossoms ten thousand times. Each blossom has ten thousand petals. You might want to see a specialist.



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7. Websites

A. Sally B. in NC: Can TIME guess your politics?
<http://science.time.com/2014/01/09/can-time-predict-your-politics/>

B. Jim M. in NC: This video with Jimmy Fallon and Springsteen on the Traffic Jam in Fort Lee is great!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKHVOLLvhXM>

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

If you ever miss an issue or want to check out some past issues, click "Newsletter" to the left and then "Past Issues." Also, check out the Search box at the top of the page; e.g., if you remember something from a past issue but just can't remember when it ran--such as a quote from Lou Holtz on adversity . . . within seconds, I was able to locate it from BLAINESWORLD #798; see below:

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

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>

Like us on Facebook 

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8. Technology tip

USEFUL INFORMATION: Did you know that every 30 days it is necessary to clean the computer screen from the inside? Many people ignore this fact and do not know how. Manufacturers take advantage of this ignorance to increase their sales. My IT guy shared this and said feel free to share this utility with my contacts To clean the screen from the inside, just click this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/9mvh7o7>.



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9. Joke 3

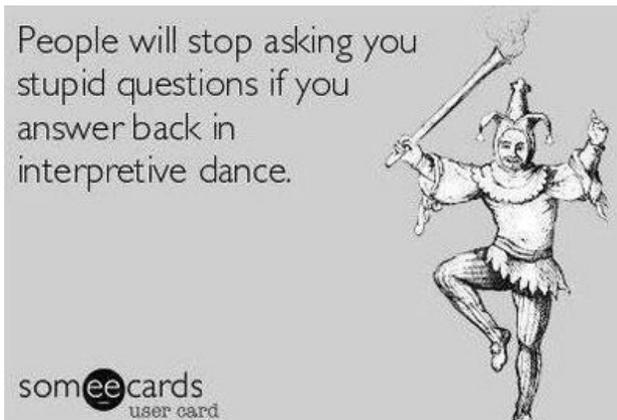
Good advice!



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10. A quote I like

If you're really lucky, this will get certain people to stop asking you questions--or even get them to stop speaking to you altogether!



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11. Thought for the day

Jack, the Coffee Tastes Better When You Make it!
by Harry Paul

Jack was in a local delicatessen in Philadelphia on a chilly fall day having brunch with Sarah, his wife of 63 years. As they were enjoying each other's company, Jack noticed a young man approaching their table. As it turned out, he is a customer at the Wawa convenience store where Jack works the coffee counter three mornings a week. The young man greeted Jack and told him that he stopped by the Wawa in the morning that day for a cup of coffee and told Jack that it didn't taste nearly as good as it did when Jack is there making it. Jack smiled and thanked the young man for being a regular Wawa customer and for stopping by their table with his kind words. He then turned to his wife and said with a laugh, "Sarah, nice man but, how could the coffee taste better when I make it? It's Wawa brand coffee and it is supplied in pre-measured pouches; the water comes out of a filtered tap directly into the coffee machine. And all coffee pots hold the same amount. How could it possibly taste better when I make it?" Jack thought for a moment and said to his wife, "I think I know why it tastes better when I make it Sarah, it's because I rinse out the coffee pots really well each time before I brew a new pot-that has to be it, I rinse the pots out well. That's why the coffee tastes better." Sarah smiled and said, "Yes Jack, I'm sure that's the reason."

For the rest of this touching story, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1rb>

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12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1rb>

(1) A real "FISH FRENZY" is building among both WNC individuals and businesses! (2) Brian Biro - Breakthrough Leadership - Four 2-hour seminars. (3) Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune by Terrence McNally. (4) "Table 6" and "The Man with the Birdcage on His Head." (5) Community Choreography Projects. (6) David Novak performs a one man play.

B. PA/NJ events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1rb>

(1) FENG SHUI & Quantum Medicine with Deanna Trust. On Demand! Programs and Events will present the Music on Demand concert series. TREASURE YOURSELF A WOMANS RETREAT IN MORRISTOWN. (4) Show some HeART exhibition. (5) The Plumstead Historical Society.

C. National event

To read about the following event in full, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1rb>

Edie Weinstein will be hosting a 12 part series called It's All About Relationships.

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PS. Make it a great week!

Blaine Greenfield
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Biltmore Lake, NC 28715
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BLAINES WORLD

#902
1.6.2014

In this issue

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Welcomed in the New Year with a great movie (see also Section 4A) and then had a bunch of friends to our home for dinner. Some of them are shown in the picture below.



L-R: Blaine Greenfield, Cynthia Greenfield, Annemarie Brown, Marvin Sadovsky, Carole Biro, Layne Cutright and Paul Cutright.

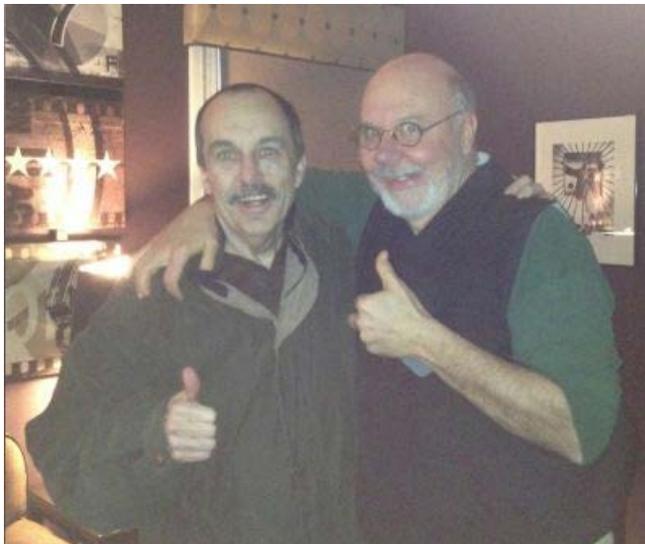
As part of the evening, Marvin led everybody in his infamous, oh-so-sacred meditation chant.



In addition, we got to celebrate Annemarie's birthday.



(2) Were invited, the next day, to welcome in the New Year at the home of Jon and Louisa Menick. That's Jon in the top photo.



Louisa is on the far right on this picture, and that's Emily Shaules on the far left.



And we were also glad to catch up with Amy and Ken LaDeroute.



B. Reminders

(1) In the unlikely event you missed this information from last week, listen to:

Garth Brooks Live from Las Vegas 2013
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXyrFjsbVfQ>.

Note: This is a different link than what was reported previously. That had been taken down, and there is the possibility that the above might too . . . so listen to it soon if you want to do so.

Brooks rocks . . . he gives a tuneful history of music that affected him, ranging from the 60s to present day . . . and including rock, country and folk. So many great performers are spotlighted!

(2) Cynthia's bike remains . . .

FOR SALE: Specialized Expedition Sport Low Entry - women's bicycle.

Turns out that she only used the bicycle for some 19 short rides. She is now working with a trainer and doing other exercises, so has no longer has any real need for it.

For more information about the bike, please click:
<http://tinyurl.com/pog5dv2>..

Note: The above describes the most current model, which is very similar to the one Cynthia bought--but more expensive.

Cynthia paid over \$630 for this bike, including a helmet, bell, water bottle and pump. She is looking for half that amount, and she will also include--at no extra charge--a mounting rack that

we used to store it in the garage. If interested, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put BIKE in the subject line.

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

***** CONTEST #1 (for 2014) *****

One lucky winner will receive an autographed copy of Laurey Masterton's THE FRESH HONEY COOKBOOK: 84 RECIPES FROM A BEEKEEPER'S KITCHEN.

These 84 recipes celebrate the luscious flavors of honey. Each of 12 chapters focuses on a month of the year and a specific honey variety (such as tupelo, orange blossom, sourwood, or sage) and offers a complete seasonal menu showcasing that variety.

Note: I favorably reviewed this book in BLAINESWORLD #898. Methinks you'll like it as much as I did.

To enter: Put "CONTEST #1 in the subject 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 Monday, Jan. 13.

C. Congratulations to:

(1) Paul Cutright on being interviewed by Marilyn Ball on her radio show, Speaking of Travel. To listen to it, please click:

http://www.buzzsprout.com/18461/132148?utm_source.

And to find out what Paul and his wife Layne are doing in Asheville, please click:

<http://paulandlayne.com/asheville/>.

(2) Norm Kent on his appearance on HLN on the Nancy Grace show, discussing the legalization of marijuana:

<http://www.hlntv.com/video/2014/01/07/legal-marijuana-selling-out-colorado>.

(3) Fred Weiss on his engagement to Cynthia Greenberger Osofsky.

(4) Jennifer Ammons has come on board as our SART's Office Manager.

(5) Bob Ganz on being profiled by National SCORE in one of its videos:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0sYvbYKRHM&list=PLCrFHK4sj4flr7etRRhSSKdIOxka2Vs3j&index=8>.

(6) Liz and Richard Sims on the relocation of Sims Futon Gallery to 167 Patton Ave., Asheville. Look for them to be in their new location by Feb. 1. For more information about this establishment, please click:

<http://simsfutongallery.com/>.

(7) Bob Hinkle and his wife Kim Hughes on celebrating the fifth anniversary of their White Horse Black Mountain music hall. For more information, please click:

<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014301090050>

(8) Asheville for being named by the FORBES TRAVEL GUIDE as one of five secret food cities worth a second look . . . to quote from the entry, "Asheville prides itself on being on the wacky side, and a little bit of wacky goes a long way when it comes to interesting cuisine. To get a taste of the variety to be found in this little mountain town, consider . . . Cúrate . . . French Broad Chocolate Lounge . . . [as well as the nearby] Looking Glass Creamery and Knife & Fork." For more information, please click:

<http://tinyurl.com/ontyu27>.

D. Condolences to:

(1) Lois Lytingale Henrickson and family on the passing of Chad G. O'Shea, Lois' husband. A Celebration Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, Jan 25 at 2 p.m. at Unity Mills River with Rev. Rene Pare officiating (and others participating). All are invited. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to a Chad Memorial Fund via checks to "Lois Henrickson" or to your favorite charity or to Unity Center - Mills River, NC. For more information, please click:

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/revchad/journal/view/id/52d085d9af3d79d02caba801>.

Also, if you've never had the fortune to see Rev. O'Shea or you'd like to revisit his wisdom, please click to listen to him explore ideas on mindfulness, spirituality and social conscience by clicking:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMO-Fn_4E-4.

(2) The Everly family on the passing of Phil Everly of the Everly Brothers, whose hits with his older brother, Don Everly, carried the close fraternal harmonies of country tradition into pioneering rock 'n' roll, I was always a big fan of this group; to see why, please click the following link to see their 1983 reunion concert in London that I was surprised is available in its entirety:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXkXY_BEd4Y.

Note: I'm also posting the above because of the following sentence I read from his obituary in THE NEW YORK TIMES:

He died in a hospital in Burbank, near his home in Southern California, of complications from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease after lifelong smoking, according to reports from The Los Angeles Times and The Associated Press.

What a shame! And it leads me to make the following . . .

***** 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.

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

This week, it goes to 131 Main--one of our favorite local eateries.

I don't think we have ever had a bad meal there. Cynthia, in particular, says their ribeye steaks are the finest in the area. She also enjoys their coleslaw (made with peanut butter) and kale salad. I typically enjoy their meat loaf or hamburger, and recently, I had a delicious foot-long hot dog. The French fries, which are sliced very thin, are always excellent.

The other night, we were joined by our friend Julia Rosa.



Jonathan was our server, and he was top notch. At other times, we've been fortunate to have Taryn.

And one evening, Michael did a fine job making our visit a pleasurable one. We were especially impressed by how she handled an upset customer. He never complained about his meal until the check came, but then he kept saying that what he was served was "unforgivable." He kept repeating this, over and over. Finally, Michael smiled sweetly at him and said, "You're right, this meal is unforgivable, and I'm unforgivable too." He then had nothing else to say.

For more information about 131 Main, please click:

<http://www.131-main.com/2013-09-28-11-34-28/asheville>.

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2. FYI

If you're looking for a terrific single-room humidifier for your home or office, consider the Humio™ Humidifier by Tribest Corporation.

We have used models from other companies other the years, and this is by far the best we have ever used. It is extremely quiet, and it comes with both a night light and aroma oil compartment.

For an informative clip on this product, please click:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRZGuV0Wg8E>.

We purchased our unit at Earth Fare in Asheville. You can also purchase it online at amazon.com and from many other sources.

We had been placing in on our floor, in that we had read that you shouldn't put it on your dresser because it could make the paint bubble up and peel off. However, thanks to an excellent suggestion from Mary C. in NC, we now place it on a small step stool . . . and it now works better than ever.

FYI, part 2

A. Clips

(1) Steven S. in FL: My Uncle Gloria

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhvD0q0tpV4>

(2) Chandler S. in NY: Dumb ass reporter

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U79JIBWB_4o

(3) Joey N. in NJ: Jon Stewart knows NJ corruption

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWCv0j7cRX0>

(4) BJ L. in NC: Some People Call It 'The Best Anti-Smoking Ad Ever'

Repeat offer on smoking book

<http://www.upworthy.com/i-can-see-why-this-has-been-called-the-best-anti-smoking-ad-ever>

Note: See also Section 1D(2) for an offer on a book you won't want to miss!

(5) Candace M. in NC: State of Conflict: NC (Bill Moyers documentary that was blacked out)

http://billmoyers.com/episode/full-show-state-of-conflict-north-carolina/#.UtA0GH_7hZY.email

Note: I had to check out whether the show had been blacked out. It had been! To read more:

<http://www.camelcitydispatch.com/bill-moyers-documentary-blacked-out-in-nc/>

(6) Pat H. in PA: Monterey Pop Festival 1967 Bonus Performances

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiQN3pQ6EwM>

(7) Bob P. in NC: Cats who love vacuum cleaners

http://www.flixy.com/cats-who-love-vacuum-cleaners.htm?utm_source=nl

(8) Dan B. in PA: Nice Purse

<http://safeshare.tv/w/KkkEFRtyiS>

(9) Katrina C. in NC: Tag a friend who dances like this

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=569892759756612&set=vb.471293809616508&type=2&theater>

(10) Brian B. in NC: WestJet Christmas Miracle: real-time giving:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziElvi2MuEk>

(11) Michael M. in NC: THIS TRAIN--ROY ORBISON, JOHNNY CASH, CARL PERKINS, JERRY LEE LEWIS (FROM THE JOHNNY CASH SHOW)

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

B. Other tidbits from readers

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1qH>

(1) Terry V. in NC: Thanks for the shout out to Pisgah Legal and especially Tom Gallagher! (2) Roger C. in PA: Carol Burnett always tugged on her ear to say hi to her mom at the end of her TV show. (3) Mary C. in NC: It's truly amazing to read what you find to share with us each week. (4) Len E. in NC: I totally disagree with you on Wolf of Wall Street. (5) Rachel Rizzuti in SC: Here's my worship album link in case you wanted to check it out! (6) Pam: Some friends of mine Jim and Leslie, just retired and moved to Hendersonville. (7) Andy Scarpati in PA: Glad YOUR FACE is coming back!! (8) Barbara K. in NC: Awesome file duplicate remover [cited in BLAINESWORLD #897]. (9) Donna M. in NJ: Post Cynthia's bike in Craigslist.

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3. Joke 1

Husband and wife had a tiff. Wife called up her mom and said, "He fought with me again, I am coming to live with you." . . . Mom replied, "No darling, he must pay for his mistake. I am coming to live with you."

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4. Reviews

A. SAVING MR. BANKS, inspired by true events, is the story of how Walt Disney arranged for MARY POPPINS to be made into a movie . . . the task was not an easy one, and it took some 20 years to accomplish . . . Emma Thompson as author P.L. Travers was outstanding; I'm hopeful that she gets strong consideration come Oscar time . . . Tom Hanks as Disney was also great . . . the cinematography really captured the feel of the 1960s . . . rated PG-13.

If you'd like to read more about the film:

(1) For an interview with Thompson and Hanks:

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/05/movies/awardsseason/tom-hanks-and-emma-thompson-discuss-saving-mr-banks.html?src=dayp&%3B_r=0.

(2) For an interview with the director:

<http://blogs.wsj.com/speakeasy/2013/12/10/how-john-lee-hancock-portrayed-p-l-travers-in-saving-mr-banks/tab/print/?KEYWORDS=saving+mr+banks>.

(3) And for an interview with the original songwriter:

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304744304579248081899145064?KEYWORDS=saving+mr+banks>.

B. INEQUALITY FOR ALL is now out in DVD format . . . my review from BLAINESWORLD #892 follows:

INEQUALITY FOR ALL is a documentary about the widening income gap in this country . . . some may tell you that this doesn't matter, but after seeing this eye-opening film, you'll feel differently . . . it features Robert Reich, former Secretary of Labor, and he comes across as the economics professor you wish that you always had (in that he makes the subject understandable) . . . rated PG, but definitely not for anybody younger than 13.

C. FOLLOWING THE PATH: THE SEARCH FOR A LIFE OF PASSION, PURPOSE AND JOY (Image) by Joan Chittister attempts to help readers answer two questions: 1. How do I know what to do with my life? and 2. How do I know when I've found my purpose?

Although I don't know if I have definitely answered these, I have certainly been thinking about them. The author, a nun and director of Benetvision, a resource and research center for contemporary spirituality, had me doing so by use of many interesting examples and thought-provoking passages.

Among them:

* A Jewish story describes the process well. When asked why he became a rabbi, the old man answered, "In the slaughter house, to determine the percentage of meat reserved for kosher, the executioner counts the cattle coming down the chute 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9- and then says of every tenth kine, 'and one for God.' I knew that I was one of those."

* I learned very early in life that we all get two choices about how to live it: we can spend life amusing ourselves or we can take what engages us and turn it into a life. We can, as we've learned to say, spend our lives dabbling in a bevy of hobbies or we can embrace what energizes us

and turn our hobbies-the things we love to do-into our lives.

And, also, this one that really struck home for me:

* When I am following my call, I lose all sense of time. I am, as athletes say, "in the zone." This thing I am doing is the whole universe of my life. It is not drudgery. It is not disgusting. It is everything life is about for me-all wrapped into one clear moment of life. And I am one great living desire to connect to it, somehow. It is small starving dogs in a puppy mill that leads me to become intent on passing legislation to protect animals everywhere. It is my need to do one more oil painting to enhance an otherwise phony world. It is the energy problem of the globe for which I have a small but plausible plan for solving. It may be the subject of oppression, injustice, domination and destruction that I refuse to allow the world to forget in my presence. FOLLOWING THE PATH is the ideal book to read at any stage of life, be it early adulthood, middle-age change or even retirement.

D. Heard THE WRECKING CREW: THE INSIDE STORY OF ROCK AND ROLL'S BEST-KEPT SECRET (Tantor Media), written by Kent Hartman and narrated by Dan John Miller.

I thought it was a fascinating account of popular music in the 1960s and early 70s. It also taught me something that I didn't know; i.e., many songs during that era were often sung on tour by one group and often recorded by completely different musicians.

The author, a longtime industry entrepreneur, based his work on interviews with many of the music insiders during that time. In doing so, he used these to focus his book on the careers of such session masters as drummer Hal Blaine and keyboardist Larry Knechtel, as well as trailblazing bassist Carol Kaye and Wrecking Crew members who would forge careers in their own right, including Glen Campbell and Leon Russell.

I especially enjoyed the behind-the-scenes accounts of the recording sessions that gave such classics as "Layla" and "Strangers in the Night."

In addition, THE WRECKING CREW (on CD) had the added advantage of an interview with the Hartman. The only thing missing were any video clips, and I'm hopeful they may be part of a documentary that I'd love to see made.

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5. TV alert

A. TRUE DETECTIVE premieres on Sunday, Jan. 12, at 9 p.m. on HBO. I'll watch if for no other reason than to see the teaming of Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson. TV GUIDE's review noted: "Still waters run warped in a hypnotic if self-consciously brooding character study, where the banter is largely existential."

B. AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: 1964 recalls that pivotal year in U.S. history, which included the Beatles arriving in American and Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Civil Rights Act. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 8 p.m. on PBS.

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

C. INSIDE JOB is a competition where four overachievers compete for a six-figure job at a major corporation. One of the four actually works for the company and is spying on the candidates applying for the job. Premieres Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 9 p.m. on TNT.

D. 30 for 30: THE PRICE OF GOLD hunts for answers to the question: What really drove Tony Harding's ex-husband and his friends to bash in Nancy Kerrigan's knee before the US. Figure Skating Championships? Thursday, Jan. 16, at 9 p.m. on ESPN.

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6. Joke 2

BREAKING NEWS: Grocery stores everywhere in Colorado are reporting massive shortages of Oreo cookies and Twinkies. (Thanks Norm Kent for posting.)



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7. Websites

A. Patti A. in NJ: I think I will spend a few extra cents on organic from now on. I eat sweet potatoes nearly every day--either as a snack (so sweet when roasted) or with dinner.
<http://www.spiritscienceandmetaphysics.com/a-little-girls-experiment-will-change-the-way-you-think-about-food/>

B. Karen M. in NC: This is absolutely beautiful. Cows literally jump for joy:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_465221529&feature=iv&list=UUJzVbasUtr_Gh8F0z1aS8hQ&src_vid=Bo8SKi7q-dU&v=kUZ1YLhIag8.

Note: For part 2 of the above, please click:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pDCDdx4XuU#t=11>.

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

If you'd like to see reviews of books I have read (and mostly enjoyed), please click:
http://www.amazon.com/gp/cdp/member-reviews/A2HM0BZWQRV1EF/ref=cm_pdp_reviews_see_all/102-7903257-6833705.

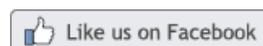
To help me get higher on the list of reviewers, go to one book I recently liked very much: LEAP LIFE by Keith Challenger:

http://www.amazon.com/Leap-Life-Keith-Challenger-ebook/dp/B00F8IBM8S/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1389439212&sr=1-1&keywords=leap+life+by+keith+challenger.

Read what I wrote, and if you find it helpful, indicate that fact at the bottom of the review. 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:

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



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8. Technology tip

Methinks this is something I should get a some of my friends--make that a lot of my friends!



"It keeps me from looking at my phone every two seconds."

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9. Joke 3

MR. HELPFUL here with a useful tip for the snow that many of y'all are getting . . . use it to keep your neighbor kids out of your yard this winter!



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10. A quote I like

"Today, stop talking about one thing or one person who brings you down. Every time you feel the urge to bring it up, sing a line from your favorite song instead. The one I use to help move away from old news and downer people is 'I Will Survive' by Gloria Gaynor. I sing it loud and dance as I do. It makes me laugh and moves me forward every time."--Sonia Choquette, author of THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE: I BELIEVE THE SIXTH SENSE SHOULD BE FIRST

Note: The only problem with the above quote is that ever since I saw it thanks to Carole B. in NC, I keep humming the song. If you'd like to join me, please click:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLHY0Pqeyzw>.

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11. Thought for the day

Thanks David C. in NC for sharing the following article with me: "The Baloney Detection Kit: Carl Sagan's Rules for Bullshit-Busting and Critical Thinking" by Maria Popova.

It discusses Sagan's book, THE DEMON-HAUNTED WORLD: SCIENCE AS A CANDLE IN THE DARK and, in particular, highlights the above rules.

These include:

1. Wherever possible there must be independent confirmation of the "facts."
2. Encourage substantive debate on the evidence by knowledgeable proponents of all points of view.

And for the rest, please click:

<http://www.brainpickings.org/index.php/2014/01/03/baloney-detection-kit-carl-sagan/>.

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12. Advance planning department

A. NC events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1qH>.

(1) Lessons in Leadership. (2) GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS. (3) Katherine Sandoval Taylor in two separate concerts. (4) Majo Jo Madden: At 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 2nd. (5) Open House for Apex Brain Centers. (6) A musical tribute to the Beatles. (7) "THE NEXT GENERATION" with teenager Madison Fiedler. (8) Building Bridges.

B. PA/NJ events

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

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1qH>.

(1) THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA. (2) DR. SCARPATI'S HILARIOUS COMEDY HYPNOSIS SHOW.

C. National event

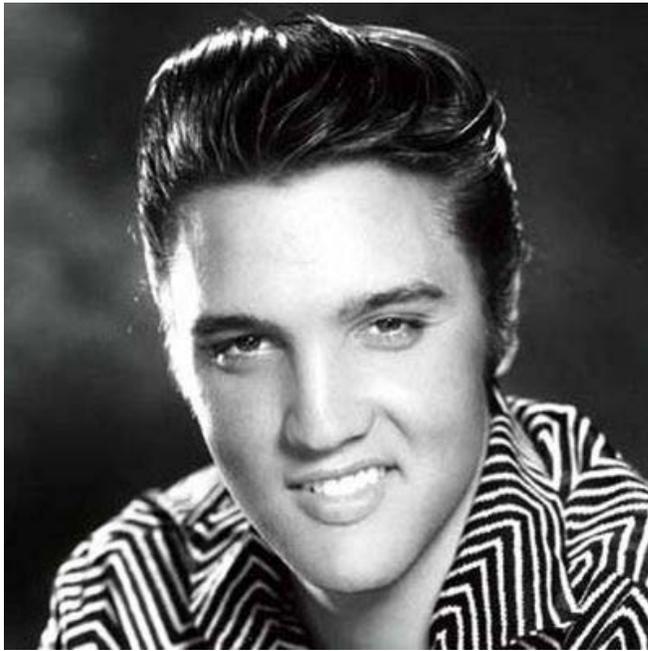
To read about the following event in full, please click:

<http://wp.me/p1g9Ev-1qH>.

Micah Solomon FREE webinar on customer service.

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PS. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ELVIS, on Wednesday . . . if you think he is still alive, the picture on the bottom is his "look" today as imagined by Sachs Media Group . . . to see what other rock and roll legends would look like now, meet the grateful dead (literally) by clicking: <http://tinyurl.com/kb6ktbj> . . . you'll see what John Lennon, Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin and several other icons would look like if they hadn't died before their time . . . and for Queen's fantastic music tribute to them all, please click: <http://tinyurl.com/l3x6vcb>.



Also, make it a great rest of the week!

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