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## Connecting - May 18, 2017

1 message

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Thu, May 18, 2017 at 8:43 AM

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# Connecting

May 18, 2017

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Colleagues,

How much do you know about **Valerie Komor**?

Well, after reading a profile of AP's director of Corporate Archives in the latest Overseas Press Club bulletin, you'll know a lot - except for one fact close to Ye Olde Connecting Editor's heart:

She was instrumental in helping me get Connecting off the ground with a dozen or so members to start and continues to contribute mightily to the benefit of 1,200 who now receive our newsletter daily.

Colleague **Sibby Christensen** ([Email](#)) shared the OPC profile of Valerie, which can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Two excerpts:



**How did you come to work at the AP?** In 2003, AP Vice President and Director of Corporate Communications, Kelly Tunney, asked me to establish AP's first corporate archives. This offer was a great challenge, as it involved creating a new department and promoting a new idea within the company: the systematic documentation of AP itself.

**Favorite item in the AP Archives:** The Hudson Broadside: a very fancy "sympathy card" made in March 1866 for Frederick Hudson (1819-75), managing editor of The Herald newspaper and a member of the Executive Committee of the Associated Press. It is a large oval work on paper (40 in. high), hand-decorated in iron-gall ink with engraved vignettes and bordered by 18 salted paper portraits of the Committee members placed beneath their mastheads. Three portraits are by Mathew Brady.



I'll speak for Valerie in sharing the hope that if you have any materials from your AP career that you believe would be valuable for AP to preserve for future generations, drop her a note at [vkomor@ap.org](mailto:vkomor@ap.org) And if in doubt, ask her. What you contribute will benefit the AP and its storied history long after all of us are gone.

Paul

## **AP names White House, national security editors**



**Kathryn Hennessey**



**Bradley Klapper**

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Associated Press has promoted reporters Kathleen Hennessey and Bradley Klapper to a pair of key leadership positions in its Washington bureau. Hennessey will direct coverage of the White House and the Trump administration, while Klapper will oversee AP's reporting on foreign affairs.

Their appointment to their new roles as Washington bureau news editors was announced Wednesday by AP Senior Vice President and Executive Editor Sally Buzbee. They will report to acting Washington Bureau Chief Wendy Benjaminson.

"Kathleen and Brad have been among AP's top reporters in our Washington bureau," Buzbee said. "I'm excited to see them move into new roles where they can lead others to reach the same level of excellence."

Hennessey manages AP's expanded team of White House reporters and will also work closely with AP journalists across the United States and overseas as they report on Donald Trump's presidency.

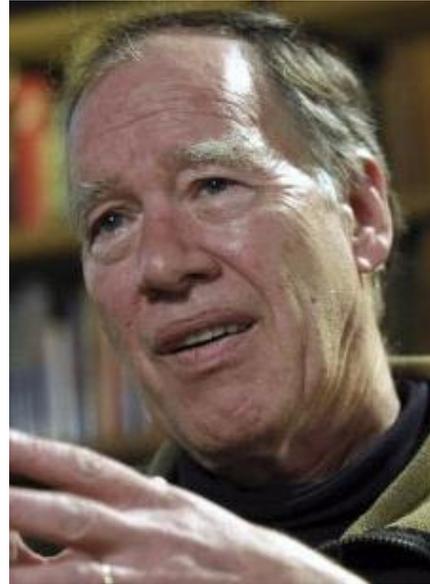
As national security news editor, Klapper will oversee the reporters who cover U.S. foreign policy and the military, while also working closely with journalists at the White House, on Capitol Hill and in AP's bureaus around the world to provide comprehensive and richly told reporting on some of the world's most pressing issues.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lauren Easton.

# Connecting mailbox

## ***George Krimsky's AP explainer recalls another era***

**Alissa Fasman** ([Email](#)) - This is George Krimsky's daughter writing again. I have been sifting through my father's papers this week, and came across this wonderful pamphlet explaining the AP to the layman. I gather it was printed in the American Airlines inflight magazine in 1974. I am not sure if my father ever shared it with you, but in case he didn't, the reason I am sending it your way is I thought you might appreciate the detailed description of the technology used at the time. This brings us back to another era. I particularly like my father's description of the reporter's curmudgeonly transition to the CRT (cathode ray tube) transmitting device.



In any case, I hope all of you former AP reporters take heart in today's renewed appreciation for the strength of America's free press. I have spent the last three years in Singapore where I had more than a few of that country's leaders try to explain to me why a free press is not necessary for a successful society. Yet as I watch in stunned amazement as day after day, the current administration is held to account for its actions, I am so grateful for the strength of this American institution and cannot imagine our democracy's survival without it. You and your cohort should surely feel pride in your contribution to the fortitude of the institution's foundations.

[Click here to view George's Explainer](#)

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## ***His first byline came at ripe old age of 15***

**Joe McKnight** ([Email](#)) - Joe McGowan's report in the May 17 Connecting on his first byline when he was 14 shows he was always better than me. I was a year older than that when, in the fall of 1940, I was working at The Selma (AL) Times-Journal for about 18 hours on weekends - in the composing room, mail room, and delivering

a Sunday paper route. The late editor Ed Field asked if I wanted to write a story on the Parrish High Tigers' football game that Friday night. I agreed, thinking I would have plenty of time to turn it in for the Sunday ST-J edition. There was no Saturday edition.

As I recall I sat on the ground on the sidelines of the game, made copious notes, and went to the office early on Saturday to write the story.

I left it on Field's desk so he would see it as soon as he came to work.

He walked into the composing room late that Saturday afternoon, dropped my copy in front of me, and said: "Stick to the composing room job."

The story on the game that he sent to the composing room bore no resemblance to what I had turned in, was about one-third the length, and had no byline.

A year or so later I wrote a book review for the paper that was accepted verbatim.

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## ***Sally Jacobsen a role model for young female journalists***

**Susanne Schafer** ([Email](#)) - I was so saddened to return home from a trip to read the news about Sally (Jacobsen). She was a stalwart role model for the young female journalists who encountered her in Washington, overseas and in New York City when there were few women in AP leadership positions. She was all about the news, but never ruffled in its pursuit. She was a treasured teacher and friend with a constant humor that few could match.

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## ***A great review of book on AP foreign correspondents***

**Terry Anderson (Email)** - Here is a superb review in the Journalism and Mass Communication trade publication of a book by former APer, now professor Giovanni Dell'Orto - AP Foreign Correspondents in Action: World War II to the Present.

Great for those teaching international journalism. [Click here](#) to see the review.

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## ***First impression of AP bureau in half basement of Oklahoman was pretty negative***

**Lew Ferguson (Email)** - I joined the AP as a summer relief staffer in Oklahoma City in 1960. The bureau was located in the half-basement of the Daily Oklahoman, the state's largest newspaper. By half-basement I mean this part of the basement had windows onto the sidewalk. The building was built on a slant. The Oklahoman left that building long ago.

My first impression was pretty negative. The bureau was small, cluttered with wires, clacking printers with no noise abatement and boxes of paper for the printers. It was not very clean. Desks were just as cluttered.

I wondered what I had gotten myself into when they threw me into writing radio copy, which I had never done. I was told to just write it as you say it. No training, no staffer helping me. On top of that, the night radio trick ran from 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. The work was rewriting stories for the overnight radio splits. I had come from a job as sports and wire editor of the Ponca City News, an 8-to-4 job, although I did cover sports after hours and for two years broadcast high school football and basketball.



I remember one of the teletype operators, whose name I have forgotten, wrote movie reviews for the Oklahoman and had an encyclopedic memory of movie history.

At the end of the summer, there was no full-time editorial position open for me. I asked to stay in the Midwest and was offered Albuquerque, Sioux Falls and Fargo. A college friend was working in Albuquerque and said morale was low there, so I chose Sioux Falls as the lesser of evils in the frozen tundra. The Sioux falls bureau

was located in the Argus-Leader building, a much newer and nicer building than the Oklahoman. We were just off the newsroom and had a great working relationship with the news staff, especially the sports staff.

After a year and a half, in 1962, I was transferred to Minneapolis to take over the sports job there. The bureau there was located in an annex across the street from the Star and Tribune. After seven years, I became AP's Big 8 sports editor in Kansas City. The bureau was located in the Star building. Two years later, in 1970, I was named correspondent in charge of the the Kansas Statehouse bureau in Topeka. I spent 27 years there before retiring in 1999.

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## ***Some proud family news from the Zeitlin's***

**Arnold Zeitlin (Email)** - With pride and pleasure, I wish to inform you that the government of Ireland has returned its agreement to the appointment of son-in-law Stephane Crouzat as the French ambassador to Ireland representing the government of the newly elected president of France, Emmanuel Macron (guess which one of the pictures below right is Stephane and which one is Macron).

Stephane is not the only member of the family in the news. Son Jide, as chairman of the board of Coach Inc., has signed off on a deal in which Coach pays \$2.4 billion to buy the Kate Spade brand of handbags and accessories. The deal is supposed to bring millennials thronging to the Coach empire, which one commentator suggested was on its way to competing with LVMN (Motel Hennessy Louis Vuitton), the world's largest luxury brand conglomerate.



Stephane will sit in Dublin at a time when Great Britain's Brexit from the European Union may impact Ireland's border and relationship with Northern Ireland.

Grandchild Zoe Crouzat cleverly organized -- before her parent's accession to the embassy seat -- a study year away from her studies at Trinity College, Dublin, at Florence and Bologna, Italy, and the University of California at Berkeley.

Stephane takes his post after two years as foreign affairs advisor to Sigolene Royal, minister of energy and environment in the outgoing cabinet of President Francois Hollande, during which he was involved in the negotiations that led to the historic Paris agreement signed by 195 countries to deal with greenhouse gases, emissions and a lot more (and don't screw it up, Trump!)

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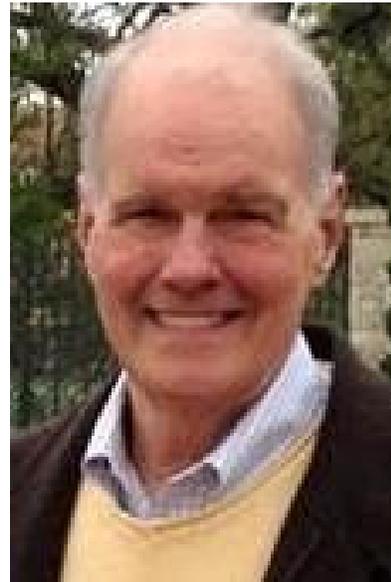
## ***Veteran WSJ journalist Eric Morgenthaler dies at 72***

Eric Morgenthaler, age 72, of Mission, Kansas, died May 12, 2017, at St. Luke's Hospice House of complications of myelofibrosis, a rare bone-marrow cancer.

*Excerpted from his obituary:*

Upon graduation, he was hired as a reporter in the Dallas bureau of the Wall Street Journal, followed by stints as a Journal correspondent in Pittsburgh and London, and as the Journal's bureau chief in Denver, Atlanta and Miami. He retired to Kansas City, where he freelanced for national business publications.

Eric reported for the Journal from some of the more problematic datelines of the 1970's, 80's and 90's - the Soviet Union, Middle East, Panama, Bolivia and Mexico - on some of the era's major stories. He wrote about religion behind the Iron Curtain, the Russian nuclear-power industry, Turkish military coup, Kuwaiti investment strategies, the personality cult of Romania's Nicolae Ceausescu, the Iran-Iraq war, the U.S. involvement in Iraq, Bolivia's hyperinflation, the cocaine trade, and Panama's so-called constitutional coup. A 1991 story about Pedro Zamora, a Cuban immigrant who used his own illness to educate teenagers about the perniciousness of AIDS, led to a new and sympathetic understanding of the disease that was then sweeping the country.



For all his serious reporting, though, Eric was perhaps most well-known for the light, quirky features that exposed his droll personality. He wrote of the issues created by small birds getting drunk after eating fermented berries on trees, an escape artist who didn't always escape, the House of Prayer Bar-B-Que, whose ministry combined the sacred and the smoked, and a Wyoming Boy Scout project that

collected elk horns for sale to Asians for use as an aphrodisiac. (It wasn't clear whether the Boy Scouts understood what aphrodisiacs were.) In 1973 the governor of Kansas called a press conference to denounce his article poking fun at the state, which had just appointed its first tourism department, of one person. The lead example was the world's biggest ball of twine, in Cawker City.

[Click here](#) for a link to his obituary. Shared by Harris Rayl.

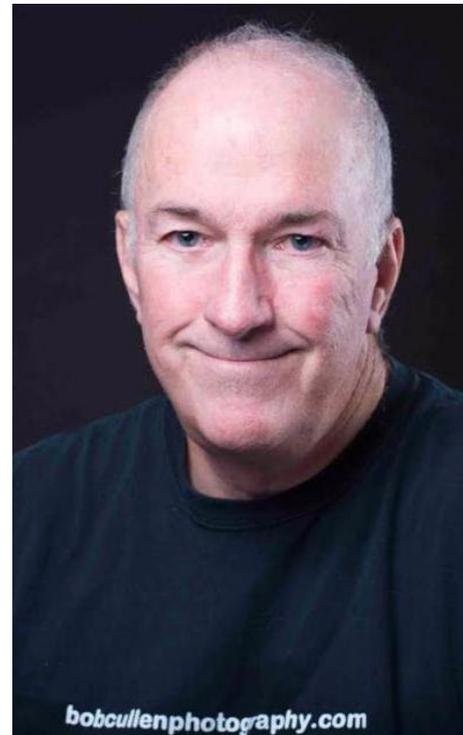
## ***Connecting Second Chapter series*** **A thank you to Hal Valentine for my portrait photography business**

**Bob Cullen** ([Email](#)) - I have a great AP photographer named Hal Valentine to thank for a very pleasant post-retirement business in portrait photography.

Raleigh was the best stop in my decade with AP (1971-1982) in part because of Hal. He was an incorrigibly cheerful, 40-year veteran of AP photography who always wore bright bow ties to work; his wife, Marilyn, used to sew them for him.

Hal could tell tales of the era when wirephoto was a technological marvel. The Columbus Dispatch, in his native Ohio, used to ask AP to send him out to county fairs in the mornings. Hal would take a picture of a prize-winning heifer or some such in the morning, then transmit the photo. The Dispatch, an evening paper, would get it in time to print it for the afternoon edition and truck the papers out to the fairgrounds. Fairgoers would see the photo made that very morning and marvel at the speed.

The Newspaper Guild in those days enforced a strict division between the work of reporters and the work of photographers. But Hal was a generous soul, and when I expressed an interest in how his cameras worked, he was more than happy to show me. I learned about shutter speed, and what an f-stop was, and how to load Kodak Tri-X 400 film into the camera, set the ISA dial to 200, and "tell the lab to push it" in development. He would occasionally soup a roll of film I'd shot and tell me how I could have shot it better, though I never got a photo published by AP.



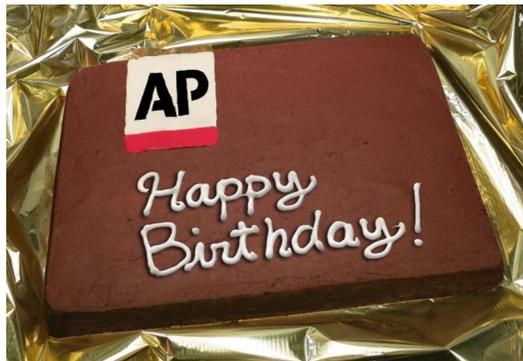
**Bob Cullen**

At my next job, with Newsweek, I actually got to put Hal's tutelage into practice. I was the Moscow bureau chief, and the Soviet Union in those days did not allow many American journalists to get resident visas. I had to take pictures as well as report stories. I started to enjoy the photography more than the writing. My reporting was tossed into an editorial blender, and the article that appeared in the magazine might or might not bear a resemblance to my reportage. But if I got a photograph into the magazine, it was my photograph.

Throughout the ensuing years as a freelance writer and then in a second career as a public school teacher, I kept taking pictures, once in a while seeing one of them published. When I retired, I decided to see if I could make photographing people a part-time job.

The answer is that I could, provided I didn't care if I made more money than I shell out on lenses, lighting equipment, and gear. You can see my work by **clicking here**. (Folks in the Washington area can look me up on Groupon and get the best portrait package deal in the area.) And I still use Nikon equipment, because that's what Hal Valentine used in Raleigh 40-plus years ago.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



A day late, to...

Concepcion Badillo-Debusmann - [cbadillo@aol.com](mailto:cbadillo@aol.com)

## Stories of interest

***"The choice of 2 very unhappy headlines":  
ASNE will focus on newsroom diversity, not  
jobs lost*** (Nieman)

"U.S. newspapers see more bad news, as jobs decline." "Newspaper newsrooms suffer large staffing decreases." "Newspaper industry lost 3,800 full-time editorial professionals in 2014." The halving of America's daily newsrooms."

Executives at the American Society of News Editors are sick of headlines like these being used to sum up ASNE's annual newsroom diversity survey. It's not that newsrooms aren't losing jobs; they are. But the survey, launched more than 20 years ago, was never really intended to provide a quick snapshot of the general state of health of American newsrooms. It's supposed to be a reflection of how newsrooms are doing at hiring women and people of color. And they are doing badly.

"In many legacy news organizations, moving the needle on staff diversity took a back seat to the survival of the enterprise," ASNE president Mizell Stewart III wrote this month. "Instead of a tool to keep issues of diversity on the front burner, the ASNE survey was used as an annual barometer of the changing fortunes of local newsrooms." In the meantime, diversity figures at newsrooms barely budged; in 2017, they are nowhere near "parity with the percentage of people of color...in the U.S. population" that ASNE had hoped for by the year 2000.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Gingrich urges Trump to shut down White House press room*** (Politico)

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said on Tuesday that President Donald Trump should "close down the White House press briefing room."

"I am personally offended by the American news media. I think it is destructive and disgusting. It is a danger to the country right now," Gingrich said. He also said the press should be banished to a nearby Starbucks and that Spicer should take questions from the American people. "Just say to the American people, you get to choose," Gingrich said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by David Egener.

## **Today in History - May 18, 2017**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 18, the 138th day of 2017. There are 227 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On May 18, 1927, in America's deadliest school attack, part of a schoolhouse in Bath Township, Michigan, was blown up with explosives planted by local farmer Andrew Kehoe, who then set off a bomb in his truck; the attacks killed 38 children and six adults, including Kehoe, who'd earlier killed his wife. (Authorities said Kehoe, who suffered financial difficulties, was seeking revenge for losing a township clerk election.)

### On this date:

In 1642, the Canadian city of Montreal was founded by French colonists.

In 1765, about one-fourth of Montreal was destroyed by a fire.

In 1896, the Supreme Court, in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, endorsed "separate but equal" racial segregation, a concept renounced 58 years later in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*.

In 1897, a public reading of Bram Stoker's new horror novel, "Dracula," was staged in London.

In 1926, evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson vanished while visiting a beach in Venice, California. (McPherson reappeared more than a month later, saying she'd escaped after being kidnapped and held for ransom, an account that was greeted with skepticism.)

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure creating the Tennessee Valley Authority.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces occupied Monte Cassino in Italy after a four-month struggle with Axis troops.

In 1953, Jacqueline Cochran became the first woman to break the sound barrier as she piloted a Canadair F-86 Sabre jet over Rogers Dry Lake, California.

In 1967, Tennessee Gov. Buford Ellington signed a measure repealing the law against teaching evolution that was used to prosecute John T. Scopes in 1925.

In 1973, Harvard law professor Archibald Cox was appointed Watergate special prosecutor by U.S. Attorney General Elliot Richardson.

In 1980, the Mount St. Helens volcano in Washington state exploded, leaving 57 people dead or missing.

In 1991, Helen Sharman became the first Briton to rocket into space as she flew aboard a Soviet Soyuz spacecraft with two cosmonauts on an eight-day mission to the Mir space station.

Ten years ago: The White House and Congress failed to strike a deal after exchanging competing offers on an Iraq war spending bill that Democrats said should set a date for U.S. troops to leave. France's new president, Nicolas Sarkozy (sahr-koh-ZEE'), named a radically revamped cabinet which included seven women among its 15 members.

Five years ago: Social network Facebook made its trading debut with one of the most highly anticipated IPOs in Wall Street history; however, by day's end, Facebook stock closed up only 23 cents from its initial pricing of \$38. In his first

meeting with President Barack Obama, French President Francois Hollande (frahn-SWAH' oh-LAWND') declared he would withdraw all French combat troops from Afghanistan by year's end. The Olympic flame arrived in Britain, the country hosting the 2012 Olympics. Renowned German baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, 86, died in Starnberg.

One year ago: In an unusual move, Republican candidate Donald Trump released a list of 11 potential Supreme Court justices he would consider if elected president (not included was Trump's eventual first pick for the nation's highest bench, Neil Gorsuch). A judge in Ottawa, Kansas, sentenced a man to death for the killing of two men, a woman and her 18-month-old daughter on a farm in 2013.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Bill Macy is 95. Actress Priscilla Pointer is 93. Hall-of-Fame sportscaster Jack Whitaker is 93. Actor Robert Morse is 86. Actor Dwayne Hickman is 83. Baseball Hall of Famer Brooks Robinson is 80. Actress Candice Azzara is 76. Bluegrass singer-musician Rodney Dillard (The Dillards) is 75. Baseball Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson is 71. Country singer Joe Bonsall (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 69. Rock musician Rick Wakeman (Yes) is 68. Rock singer Mark Mothersbaugh (Devo) is 67. Actor James Stephens is 66. Country singer George Strait is 65. Rhythm-and-blues singer Butch Tavares (Tavares) is 64. Actor Chow Yun-Fat is 62. Rock singer-musician Page Hamilton is 57. Contemporary Christian musician Barry Graul (MercyMe) is 56. Contemporary Christian singer Michael Tait is 51. Singer-actress Martika is 48. Comedian-writer Tina Fey is 47. Rapper Special Ed is 43. Rock singer Jack Johnson is 42. Country singer David Nail is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Darryl Allen (Mista) is 37. Actor Matt Long is 37. Actor Allen Leech is 36. Christian-rock musician Kevin Huguley (Rush of Fools) is 35. Christian singer Francesca Battistelli is 32. Actor Spencer Breslin is 25. Actress Hala Finley (TV: "Man With a Plan") is 8.

***Thought for Today: "The hardest job kids face today is learning good manners without seeing any." - Fred Astaire, American dancer-actor (1899-1987).***

## Got a story to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:



- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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