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# Connecting - January 03, 2018

1 message

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# Connecting

January 03, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

With the start of a new year, Connecting brings you a listing of its senior members of a most-exclusive club - those of you in your 80s, 90s and in the case of **Max Desfor**, 100. Actually, Max is 104 years young.

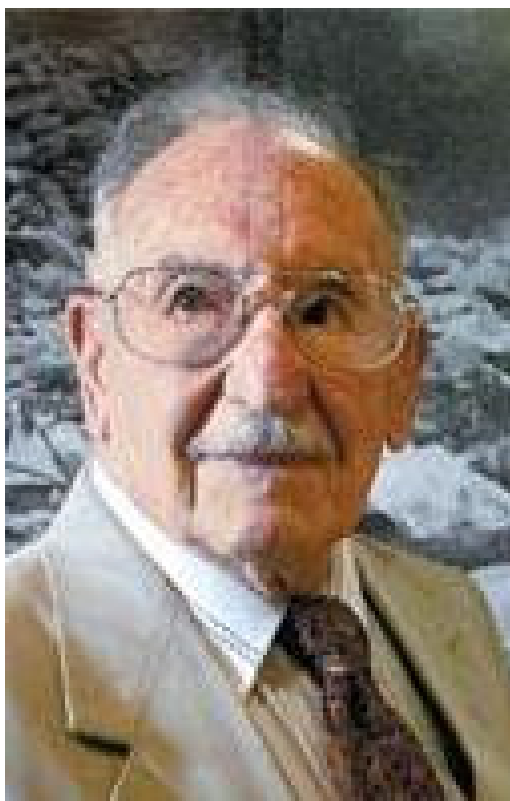
If you're eligible for a category of the club and would like to be listed, drop me a note. I'll include you in the next listing that I publish. I should note that no one is listed unless they want to be and let me know.

All of us are proud of the experiences and contributions to journalism represented in this group. They were our mentors during our careers and I look up to so many of them for what they've done for others. Long may they live!

Have a great day!

Paul

## Connecting '80s/'90s/100 Club



**100's**

Max Desfor (above)

**90's:**

Mercer Bailey

Carl Bell  
Albert Habhab  
Gene Herrick  
Elaine Light  
Joe McKnight  
Sam Montello  
Robert O'Meara  
Seymour Topping  
Harold Waters

**80's:**

Paul Albright  
Malcolm Barr  
Lou Boccardi  
Ben Brown  
Hal Buell  
Sibby Christensen  
Mike Cochran  
Don Dashiell  
Otto Doelling  
Phil Dopoulos  
John Eagan  
Mike Feinsilber  
George Hanna  
Bob Haring  
Kathryn Johnson  
Joe McGowan  
Walter Mears  
Yvette Mercourt  
Reid Miller  
Charlie Monzella  
Greg Nokes  
Joe Somma  
Arlon Southall  
Hank Waters  
Paul Webster  
Jeff Williams  
Joe Yeninas  
George Zucker

# Connecting mailbox

## *The scene in AP New York on night of Y2K*

**Tom Kent** ([Email](#)) - John Kuglin's Y2K recollection (in Tuesday's Connecting) reminds me of the scene in New York that night. As deputy managing editor at the time, I had participated in many meetings to plan AP coverage and keep ourselves operating; there was widespread fear that everything -- computers, elevators, automobiles, ATMs -would just grind to a halt, worldwide.

Under the influence of a panicky banker friend, I had even ordered cots and cases of canned tuna for 50 Rock, in case we had to stay in the office for days. (Presumably can openers would still function.)

As we now know, Armageddon didn't happen. But since every NY manager had to be in the office on New Year's Eve, Lou Boccardi graciously arranged for the most sumptuous buffet I'd ever seen at 50 Rock. He was the hero of the night.

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## *On the skiing death of Sonny Bono*

**Jeff Williams** ([Email](#)) - I am a former AP correspondent (mostly Asia in the '60s) and was working as a ski patroller at Heavenly ski resort at Lake Tahoe the day Sonny Bono died. But I did not make the call. (See Tuesday's Connecting)

Bono was a good skier and I had seen him a couple times coming down the slopes that day. When he did not show up after the lifts closed, a search party was organized. He was found just off an intermediate run beside a tree he had struck head-on with great force. It was assumed he had caught an edge and spun into the tree. He was not wearing a helmet.

In the days following, it was rumored that a woman's voice could be heard faintly singing in the area, "I got you, babe...."

And that's the rest of the story....

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## ***If he had only gotten a finder's fee***

**Joe Edwards** ([Email](#)) - My wife and I spent a night at the beautiful, sprawling Opryland Hotel in Nashville three days before Christmas with my two local grandkids and their parents. It brought back memories of an encounter I had in 1983 at a TV studio on the property. I was on the "Hee Haw" set to do a story for AP when the producer called me over and introduced me to Edward Gaylord and his wife Thelma from Oklahoma City, who were guests of the show. I recognized the name Gaylord as publisher of an Oklahoma newspaper.

I had a conversation with them for 15 minutes or so and "talked up" the Grand Ole Opry and "Hee Haw" as fabrics of Americana. Mr. Gaylord didn't say much but his wife was a fireball.

Little did I know that the Gaylords were on a scouting trip with an eye to buy the entire holdings of American General. These included the Opry, "Hee Haw," the Opryland theme park, hotel and other businesses.

A few weeks later, it was announced that the Gaylords had made the purchase for \$250 million.

Sadly for me I never got a finder's fee.

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## ***Connecting sky shot - Timor-Leste***



**Jim Reindl** shared this photo of a thunderstorm off Atauro Island in Timor-Leste.

## Connecting profile - Richard Boudreaux

**Richard Boudreaux** ([Email](#)) - I work for The Wall Street Journal as the London-based deputy standards editor, part of a group of senior editors who oversee the company's newsroom standards and ethics.

Prior to starting that job in 2017, I had worked for 40 years as an international correspondent and bureau chief in Latin America, the former Soviet Union, Southern Europe and the Middle East. I have covered Russia's chaos following the Soviet collapse, a papal conclave, Europe's recovery from its worst postwar recession, three World Cup soccer championships, and numerous armed conflicts, from Nicaragua to Iraq. My byline has appeared on stories filed from 63 countries, Antarctica, Easter Island and the Trans-Siberian Express.

I grew up in Louisiana, the only non-musical son of a jazz band leader, studied journalism at Northwestern University, and started out at The Associated Press in New York. Except for a six-month stretch to study Russian, in a Russian-émigré bubble in Rockville, Maryland, I haven't resided in my country since 1977. That's when the AP sent me to Buenos Aires to cover Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.

I worked for AP in Mexico and Central America in the early 1980s before moving to Santiago as bureau chief for Chile (during General Pinochet's dictatorship) and Bolivia. From there I joined the Los Angeles Times in 1986 and moved to the Journal in 2010.



I shared an Inter American Press Association prize with my L.A. Times colleague Marjorie Miller for reporting on Nicaragua during the contra war. I was the lead reporter in a series of stories on the global economic impact of migrant-worker remittances that won an Overseas Press Club award for the Times under Marjorie's direction as foreign editor. I am a winner of Columbia University's Maria Moors Cabot Prize for contributions to Inter-American understanding.

I am married to Candice Hughes, a retired correspondent who worked for various Texas newspapers and for the AP in Dallas, New York, Mexico City, Moscow and Rome. My daughter, Josephine, was born in Mexico City, finished high school in Rome, and now teaches, along with her husband, at an English-language international school in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. I have a granddaughter, born in 2015.

## AP Needs YOU: Calling all Editorial Retirees!

**Patti Baker** ([Email](#)) - Former chiefs, ACOBs, news editors, photo editors and broadcast editors will remember how important the annual editorial/broadcast contests have always been to AP members. As staffs have shrunk in member newsrooms, it has become harder to find judges willing to dedicate some time and their sharp talents to reviewing entries and declaring winners, writing compelling comments and meeting the judging deadline.

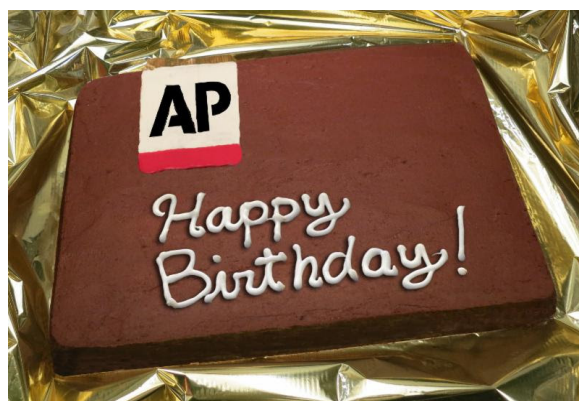


So we turn to the amazing readership of Connecting to ask for your help. Many of our state boards have agreed to open judging to former AP editorial staff. It's not hard duty. It involves reading, watching some good TV and listening to great radio journalism and making your selections online. In exchange, we would give every judge who takes an assignment (and completes it by deadline) free access to the online AP Stylebook for a year! It's easy to use, updated frequently and best of all -- searchable!

We'll take care not to overload you with entries. We appreciate your time and your expertise!

Interested? Please contact Patti Baker, marketing coordinator, at [pbaker@ap.org](mailto:pbaker@ap.org) with your name, email address, phone number and city and state.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Gary Sosniecki - [sozsez@aol.com](mailto:sozsez@aol.com)

## Stories of interest

*A note from our new publisher* (New York Times)

By A.G. SULZBERGER

IN 1896 my great-great-grandfather left his hometown, Chattanooga, and traveled north to purchase a small, fading newspaper in New York.



The moment was not unlike our own. Technological, economic and social turmoil were upending the traditions of the country. People trying to understand these changes and their implications found themselves confused by polarized politics and by a partisan press more focused on advancing its own interests than on informing the public.

Against this backdrop Adolph Ochs saw the need for a different kind of newspaper, and he committed The New York Times to the then-radical idea that still animates it today. He vowed that The Times would be fiercely independent, dedicated to journalism of the highest integrity and devoted to the public welfare.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes.

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## ***Alabama newspaper exec accused of assaulting female workers***

ANNISTON, Ala. (AP) - The chairman of a company that publishes six newspapers in Alabama has been accused of assaulting female employees by spanking them while he was a newsroom executive decades ago.

In reports published in Alabama news outlets, at least three women say H. Brandt Ayers, who became a nationally known voice of Southern liberalism during his tenure as editor and publisher at The Anniston Star, assaulted them in the mid-1970s, once using a metal ruler. The women and other former newsroom employees say Ayers had a reputation for spanking other women.

Ayers - now 82 and chairman of Consolidated Publishing Co., which operates six papers including The Star - issued a statement saying he "did some things I regret" when he was a "very young man with more authority than judgment."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***The Rising Wave of Nonprofit Journalism***

By **LARRY KAPLAN**

Nonprofit journalism continues to make inroads in the US news business, and not only in the usual places like New York and Washington. MediaShift, which covers the intersection of mass media and technology, cites several examples of radical change in the journalism business model that have emerged in recent years.

New York-based ProPublica, one of the country's most high-profile nonprofit newsrooms, opened a regional bureau in Chicago with a team of 12 reporters, editors and technologists. In Vermont, the nonprofit VTDigger has become the country's largest investigative reporting nonprofit focused on local or state news.

MediaShift's reporter also covers inewsourc in San Diego, projected to hit a record \$1.1 million in revenue this fiscal year. inewsourc's small reporting team focuses on four local issues: education, health, the environment, and local government. It partners with local PBS, NPR, and CBS affiliates to reach over a million people a week through web, radio, and TV.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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## ***Media watchdog: Threats against independent journalists 'at epidemic levels'*** (The Hill)

By **JULIA MANCHESTER**

The world's largest organization of journalists this week issued a dire report on the threats faced by journalists around the world in 2017.

The International Federation of Journalists's (IFJ) end-of-year report, which was obtained by The Associated Press, found that "unprecedented numbers of journalists were jailed, forced to flee, that self-censorship was widespread and that impunity for the killings, harassment, attacks and threats against independent journalism was running at epidemic levels."

The report also found that a minimum of 81 journalists were killed while working in 2017, and over 250 journalists were jailed over the year.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

# The Final Word

## ***My Father's Body, at Rest and in Motion*** (New Yorker)

By Siddhartha Mukherjee

The call came at three in the morning. My mother, in New Delhi, was in tears. My father, she said, had fallen again, and he was speaking nonsense. She turned the handset toward him. He was muttering a slow, meaningless string of words in an unrecognizable high-pitched nasal tone. He kept repeating his nickname, Shibu, and the name of his childhood village, Dehergoti. He sounded as if he were reading his own last rites.

"Take him to the hospital," I urged her, from New York. "I'll catch the next flight home."

"No, no, just wait," my mother said. "He might get better on his own." In her day, buying an international ticket on short notice was an unforgivable act of extravagance, reserved for transcontinental gangsters and film stars. No one that she knew had arrived "early" for a parent's death. The frugality of her generation had congealed into frank superstition: if I caught a flight now, I might dare the disaster into being.

"Just sleep on it," she said, her anxiety mounting. I put the phone down and e-mailed my travel agent, asking her to put me on the next available Air India flight.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

# Today in History - January 3, 2018



## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2018. There are 362 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 3, 1868, Japan's Meiji (may-jee) Restoration re-established the authority of the emperor and heralded the fall of the military rulers known as shoguns; the upheaval paved the way for Japan's drive toward becoming a modern power.

### On this date:

In 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Leo X.

In 1777, Gen. George Washington's army routed the British in the Battle of Princeton, New Jersey.

In 1870, groundbreaking took place for the Brooklyn Bridge.

In 1911, the first postal savings banks were opened by the U.S. Post Office. (The banks were abolished in 1966.)

In 1938, the March of Dimes campaign to fight polio was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who himself had been afflicted with the crippling disease.

In 1946, William Joyce, the pro-Nazi radio propagandist known as "Lord Haw-Haw," was hanged at Wandsworth Prison in London for high treason.

In 1958, the first six members of the newly formed U.S. Commission on Civil Rights held their first meeting at the White House.

In 1959, Alaska became the 49th state as President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation.

In 1967, Jack Ruby, the man who shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, died in a Dallas hospital.

In 1977, Apple Computer was incorporated in Cupertino, California, by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Mike Makkula Jr.

In 1980, conservationist Joy Adamson, author of "Born Free," was killed in northern Kenya by a former employee.

In 1993, President George H.W. Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed the START II missile-reduction treaty in Moscow. (However, the agreement ultimately fell apart.)

Ten years ago: Illinois Sen. Barack Obama won Democratic caucuses in Iowa, while Mike Huckabee won the Republican caucuses. After nearly 27 years in prison, Texas inmate Charles Chatman, 47, was set free by a judge because of new DNA evidence showing he'd been wrongly convicted of rape. Pop star Britney Spears was hospitalized after a child custody dispute with ex-husband Kevin Federline resulted in an hours-long standoff with police. The No. 8 Kansas Jayhawks won the Orange Bowl by defeating No. 5 Virginia Tech 24-21.

Five years ago: Students from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, reconvened at a different building in the town of Monroe about three weeks after the massacre that had claimed the lives of 20 first-graders and six educators. The new 113th Congress opened for business, with House Speaker John Boehner re-elected to his post despite a mini-revolt in Republican ranks. No. 5 Oregon beat No. 7 Kansas State, 35-17, in the Fiesta Bowl.

One year ago: Ford Motor Co. canceled plans to build a new \$1.6 billion factory in Mexico, and said it would invest at least some of the savings in new electric and autonomous vehicles. The national president of the NAACP and five others were arrested after staging a sit-in at the Alabama office of Sen. Jeff Sessions, President-elect Donald Trump's nominee for U.S. attorney general. It was announced that Fox News star Megyn Kelly would be leaving the network to work at NBC News.

(Stations: Lloyd, single name, is correct)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Dabney Coleman is 86. Journalist-author Betty Rollin is 82. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Hull is 79. Singer-songwriter-producer Van Dyke Parks is 75. Musician Stephen Stills is 73. Rock musician John Paul Jones (Led Zeppelin) is 72. Actress Victoria Principal is 68. Actor-director Mel Gibson is 62. Actress Shannon Sturges is 50. Actor John Ales is 49. Jazz musician James Carter is 49. Contemporary Christian singer Nichole Nordeman is 46. Musician Thomas Bangalter (Daft Punk) is 43. Actor Jason Marsden is 43. Actress Danica McKellar is 43. Actor Nicholas Gonzalez is 42. Singer Kimberley Locke (TV: "American Idol") is 40. Actress Kate Levering is 39. NFL quarterback Eli Manning is 37. Actress Nicole Beharie is 33. Pop musician Mark Pontius (Foster the People) is 33. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lloyd is 32. Pop-rock musician Nash Overstreet (Hot Chelle (shel) Rae) is 32. Actor Alex D. Linz is 29.

***Thought for Today: "No one asked you to be happy. Get to work." - Colette, French author (1873-1954).***

## Got a story or photos 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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