



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

## Connecting - April 05, 2018

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 9:08 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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# Connecting

April 05, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Retired AP newswoman **Kathryn Johnson** was one of four journalists interviewed for the AP story in Wednesday's Connecting on AP's coverage of the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Connecting colleague **Paul Colford** spotted this tweet that says: VIDEO: Reporter Kathryn Johnson explains how she was the only reporter in the King household from the time MLK was shot until he was buried. More stories from the journalists who covered the assassination 50years ago. [Click here](#) to view.

Here's a reminder that Friday, April 13, is the deadline to RSVP for AP's **2018 25-Year Club Celebration**. This year's event will take place at New York headquarters on Thursday, May 10. An RSVP is required for attendance. Please RSVP online [here](#). Drinks and dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. One guest is welcome to join you. Any questions may be directed to - [recognition@ap.org](mailto:recognition@ap.org)

Have a great day!

Paul

### *Connecting series*

## My Competitor, My Spouse



**Bill Kaczor (Email)** - My wife, Judy, and I briefly competed in 1970-71 when I was in the service at Eglin Air Force Base in the Florida Panhandle. I worked the 6 a.m. to noon shift as a flight simulator specialist and moonlighted at the Playground Daily

News (since renamed the Northwest Florida Daily News) in Fort Walton Beach for minimum wage, which I think was \$2.25 back then.

Judy worked in the Pensacola News Journal's Fort Walton Beach bureau (since closed), less than a block away from the Daily News building. She reported on a part-time basis while teaching at the local Catholic elementary school. We sometimes went together to Fort Walton Beach, Niceville and Valparaiso city council meetings.

I had an edge there because I had majored in political science while her degree was in English, but she made up for it with an outgoing personality that charmed the council members. We met at Eastern Illinois University and got married just before I entered the Air Force one step ahead of the draft board. I was editor of the student newspaper in college, but she overshadowed me by writing an entertaining column that made her a campus celebrity. Judy also was co-editor of our college yearbook.

Judy's real strength was feature writing, where I was no competition at all. While I covered the council meetings on Mondays and Tuesdays, the rest of the week I shifted to other jobs, subbing for the wire editor on his night off, covering high school sports on Fridays and editing the sports section on Sunday nights.

Our competition lasted for a little more than a year until the Daily News fired me. The brain trust decided a great way to save money would be to get rid of all the part-time help although most of us were making minimum wage or not much more than that. Those getting pink slips included the librarian who was rehired a short time later because her firing had left no one to maintain the morgue and only she knew where to find the bodies so to speak.



From left: daughter Anna Rose, Bill and Judy.

Within two weeks, though, Judy and I were on the same team again. I had already been talking with the News Journal about a job before my firing and once it came I quickly got an offer. Judy continued teaching and reporting after I left the service, went to graduate school and then returned to the News Journal full-time in Pensacola. Her double duty ended in 1976 when I joined Gannett News Service in Tallahassee. The AP hired me there in 1980 and sent me back to Pensacola as correspondent in 1984.

A year later, Judy rejoined the faculty at Pensacola Catholic High School, where she was yearbook adviser until her retirement in 2015.

The photo at the top of the story shows Judy, apparently trying to hide behind her typewriter, taken at the Pensacola News Journal in the early 1970s. The teletype

machines in the background are perhaps a prediction of our future with the AP. Ironically, this is the only picture I could find of either of us at work during that period although we both regularly took pictures (note the camera on the desk) as part of our jobs.

## Connecting mailbox

### ***I was a 19-year-old copy boy the day Martin Luther King Jr. was shot***

**By BOB MANNING**

**In Louisville Courier-Journal**

In 1968, when I was 19 and a student at Bellarmine, I had a part-time job as a "copy boy" for the Associated Press. In those days the news came in "over the wire" to teletype machines, which were like big, heavy, automated typewriters. The teletypes printed the stories on paper that was fed from a continuous roll.

My main job was to tear off the paper when a story was finished printing, and then to take the story to an editor.

The AP rented space from Courier Journal for our desks and teletype machines and was in a space adjacent to Courier Journal's main newsroom.

United Press International was the competing wire service. Their office was on Fourth Street. The only space UPI had in the Courier Journal building was a closet-sized room for a couple of their own teletype machines.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Al Cross.

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## ***He filed reaction of Australians to death of MLK***

**Ray Newton** ([Email](#)) - Great coverage of the 50th anniversary of the King assassination. I recall it well myself. I was in Adelaide, Australia, on a media fellowship. The Australian team I was working with was dumbfounded. One of them told me, "We just don't understand you Americans. When someone does not like one of your political figures, they shoot them. Why? Over here, we just vote them out or refuse to give them recognition."

I used that comment and many others for a story I filed back in the U.S.-"Australians React to Death of MLK." I filed it through then bureau chief of the Albuquerque AP - Howard Graves. Howard told me it got play across the country.

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## ***Chappaquiddick film opens Friday - send your memories if you covered the story***

**Mark Mittelstadt** shares this Boston Globe story on the upcoming film Chappaquiddick and invites Connecting colleagues involved in the coverage back then to contribute their own memories. Hope to hear from you.

### **'Chappaquiddick' offers a flawed yet human Ted Kennedy**



**Jason Clarke stars as Ted Kennedy and Kate Mara as Mary Jo**

**Kopecne in the film "Chappaquiddick." Photo by Claire Folger/Entertainment Studios**

Warning label: Reenactments aren't the truth. Movies based on actual events, especially those to which there were no independent witnesses, are works of speculation and dramatic jiggery-pokery, and to accept them as fact means potentially opening yourself to buying a conspiracy theory from Oliver Stone. Caveat emptor.

All that being said, "Chappaquiddick," which opens Friday, is an entertainingly brutal portrait of feckless privilege and buried tragedy, hewing reasonably close to those points we know to be true and juicily provocative about what happened in rooms you and I weren't privy to. And, of course, it stirs the pot of the Kennedy mythos, ever a source of fascination but especially in the clan's home counties, where the obsession has always had a pitch of neurosis. We simultaneously love the Kennedys here and we hate them; are dead-tired of hearing about Camelot-on-Hyannis Port and eager for one more salacious crumb to fall from the table. They remain royalty in a country of grudging commoners.

And Teddy? The popular narrative, deserved or not, is that he was the kid brother who was doomed to survive, accepting the mantle but not quite up to the task. That narrative, of course, discounts decades and endless accomplishments in the Senate and remains at least partially blind to the sins of the brothers. And it especially pivots on one night in July 1969, when Edward M. Kennedy drove off a bridge in Martha's Vineyard and the woman who was with him died.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Martha Bellisle Wins Third Gold At Biathlon Masters International Championships***



**Martha Bellisle (center) with gold medal. She is a newswoman in AP's Seattle bureau, working on investigative projects and breaking news. She has raced in cross-country ski races for years and took up biathlon three years ago.**

**Martha Bellisle (Email)** - AP Seattle newswoman - I just returned from some biathlon competitions in Finland and had some good results. Here's a release from US Biathlon:

KONTIOLAHTI, Finland (March 25, 2018) -- American Martha Bellisle won her third gold medal of the week on Sunday as the 21st Biathlon Masters International Championships came to a close in Kontiolahti. Bellisle, who had previously won gold in the women's 55+ sprint and relay events, took home the gold medal in Sunday's women's 55+ 7.5-kilometer individual event. She hit 16 of 20 targets and crossed the line with a winning time of 41 minutes, 23.9 seconds.

Her partner on the gold-medal winning relay, Julia Collins, finished second to capture the silver medal. Collins hit 14 of 20 targets on the range and finished 6:06.8 behind Bellisle.

Other U.S. finishers on Sunday were David Shaw who placed 13th in the men's 60+ individual, Walter Warwick, who placed 14th in the men's 45+ individual, and Dan Knauss, who finished 21st in the men's 50+ individual.

[Click here](#) for a link to this story.

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## ***Oregon weekly wins IRE award***



**The three Enterprise journalists who won the IRE award: Pat Caldwell, Les Zaitz and John L. Braese (The Enterprise/Scotta Callister)**

**Steve Graham** ([Email](#)) - The tiny newspaper owned by Les Zaitz, the now-retired Oregonian reporter who was the focal point in that newspaper's successful Freedom of Information challenge to errant Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer, has won the Freedom of Information Award of the Investigative Reporters and Editors organization.

The award is for the [Malheur Enterprise's facing down](#) of an Oregon bureaucracy that freed a sentenced criminal.

[Click here](#) for a story in Poynter's MediaWire by David Beard.

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## ***Still Broadcasting Freedom*** (National Review)



RFE/RL in Kyrgyzstan (Photo credit: RFE/RL)

**By JAY NORDLINGER**

One of the most interesting and admirable news organizations in the world is RFE/RL. Those letters stand for Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. The "radios," as they're also known, merged in 1976. Are they not a Cold War relic? Not at all - unfortunately. They are playing their old role, to a degree, as the Kremlin and others are playing theirs (to a degree).

Every day, the Kremlin and its partners spread propaganda, disinformation, and fake news. "Disinformation" is a term from the Cold War. It meant, not misinformation, which can be an honest mistake. (I tell you that the house is on Elm Street, not remembering that it's on Maple Street.) Disinformation was, and is, a deliberate leading astray.

In 2016, the Kremlin fanned a story that a 13-year-old Russian-German girl had been raped by Arab migrants. They tried the same trick in Lithuania, one year later. This time, they said a girl had been raped by German troops, serving in Lithuania as part of NATO. In March of this year, the Kremlin evidently carried out another chemical attack against targets in Britain. The flagship program of Russian state television, *News of the Week*, subsequently claimed that Theresa May, the British prime minister, had invented the nerve agent used (Novichok). The show also said, "English gentlemen may kill those they consider beneath them" - etc.

Thomas Kent, the president of RFE/RL, uses the term "false news," rather than "fake news." When people say "fake news," they often mean news that is unwelcome to them, rather than actually fake or false. Jeffrey Gedmin, a past president of RFE/RL, speaks of "real fake news" - a funny term, but easy to understand.

Read more [here](#). Longtime, former AP journalist **Tom Kent** notes: "Here's a link to a story just out in the National Review about Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. It may be of interest to those wondering about what I do all day here in Prague!"

## AP Photo of Day



**Pittsburgh Pirates' Gregory Polanco (25) is tagged out by Minnesota Twins catcher Jason Castro during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh,**

Wednesday, April 4, 2018. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar) (Shared by Brian Horton)

## Welcome to Connecting



Janis Magin - [janismagin@yahoo.com](mailto:janismagin@yahoo.com)

## Stories of interest

***Sinclair's Boss Responds to Criticism: 'You Can't Be Serious!'*** (New York Times)

By SYDNEY EMBER

David D. Smith, the chairman of Sinclair Broadcast Group, says the media is getting his company all wrong.

His remark, in a lengthy email exchange with The New York Times, came in response to renewed scrutiny of Sinclair after a video spread rapidly showing anchors at dozens of its stations across the country reciting the same speech about media bias.

Mr. Smith defended the anchors' segments, known as "must-runs," and likened them to the late-night shows that networks air on their local affiliates.

"Not that you would print it, but do you understand that every local TV station is required to 'must run' from its network their content, and they don't own me," he wrote on Tuesday. "That would be all their news programming and other shows such as late-night talk, which is just late-night political so-called comedy."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***The True Damage of Trump's 'Fake News'*** (New York Times editorial)

**By The Editorial Board**

Many people, including many Republican lawmakers, dismiss President Trump's attacks on The Washington Post, CNN and other news organizations as just one of those crazy - but ultimately harmless - things he does to blow off steam. They're wrong.

Yes, Mr. Trump hasn't been able to implement many of his worst proposals to undermine the press. Congress hasn't tried to change the First Amendment or pass new libel laws, for example, and journalists - including at the "failing New York Times" - regularly unearth new scandals in the Trump administration. But the president's rhetoric is clearly having an effect in the United States and especially around the world, where political leaders have seen it as a green light to crack down on the press. Malaysian lawmakers this week passed a law that would impose prison sentences of up to six years on people found to be spreading "fake news," an ill-defined term that will put tremendous power in the hands of government officials to punish journalists and publishers. In India, the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed revoking the accreditation of journalists who traffic in "fake news" before scrapping the idea after journalists denounced it.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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## ***What a failed media startup can teach us about involving readers in reporting*** (Nieman)

By **ASHLEY RENDERS**

When OpenFile launched in 2010, the tight-knit Canadian media community reacted with slightly skeptical enthusiasm. Legacy newspapers including The Globe and Mail and National Post said OpenFile was going to revolutionize online news...or at least "redefine" it.

Behind the headlines was an elegant concept: Ask readers to tell you what they think is important and make editorial decisions around that. Two years later, the media industry watched with equal fascination as OpenFile suspended publication, went through a bitter fight with unpaid freelancers, and eventually shut down its site.

"Canada doesn't try things twice," said former OpenFile editor David Topping. When a media company attempts something new and fails, it's used as an example for why that idea should never be attempted again. Yet the organization produced lots of compelling stories by putting its audience at the center of its work, proving that citizens who are media savvy and engaged in their communities will participate if a path is cleared for them. The part that OpenFile didn't figure out - and serves as a warning to media startups today - is how to fund reader engagement so that journalists can dedicate more time to reaching larger segments of their community.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Practicing journalism can get you killed. Even in the world's largest democracy.*** (Washington Post)

By **Jason Rezaian**

Last week three journalists were killed in rural areas of India. You probably haven't heard much about their deaths - or their lives - since they all worked for small local outlets, covering powerful interests who may have decided it was easier to murder them than to face their questions.

Their killers are unlikely to face justice. The issues the three journalists covered so passionately will continue to plague Indian society. And observers will mourn the slow decline of free expression in the world's largest democracy.

Navin Nischal and Vijay Singh were run over by a car in Bihar state. Sandeep Sharma, a television journalist in Madhya Pradesh, was riding his motorcycle when he was hit by a truck. In both cases, police arrested the drivers, who turned out to be linked to critical stories written by the journalists.

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

## Today in History - April 5, 2018



### By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 5, the 95th day of 2018. There are 270 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On April 5, 1764, Britain's Parliament passed The American Revenue Act of 1764, also known as the Sugar Act, which was repealed in 1766.

### On this date:

In 1614, Indian Chief Powhatan's daughter Pocahontas married Englishman John Rolfe, a widower, in the Virginia Colony.

In 1792, President George Washington cast his first veto, rejecting a congressional measure for apportioning representatives among the states.

In 1887, Anne Sullivan achieved a breakthrough as her 6-year-old deaf-blind pupil, Helen Keller, learned the meaning of the word "water" as spelled out in the Manual Alphabet. British historian Lord Acton wrote in a letter, "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

In 1915, Jess Willard knocked out Jack Johnson in the 26th round of their fight in Havana, Cuba, to claim boxing's world heavyweight title.

In 1925, a tornado estimated at F-3 intensity struck northern Miami-Dade County, Florida, killing five people.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order creating the Civilian Conservation Corps and an anti-hoarding order that effectively prohibited private ownership of gold.

In 1955, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill resigned his office for health reasons. Democrat Richard J. Daley was first elected mayor of Chicago, defeating Republican Robert E. Merriam.

In 1964, Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur died in Washington, D.C., at age 84.

In 1976, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes died in Houston at age 70.

In 1986, two American servicemen and a Turkish woman were killed in the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque, an incident which prompted a U.S. air raid on Libya more than a week later.

In 1988, a 15-day hijacking ordeal began as gunmen forced a Kuwait Airways jumbo jet to land in Iran.

In 1991, former Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, his daughter Marian and 21 other people were killed in a commuter plane crash near Brunswick, Georgia.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin opened farewell talks at Putin's heavily wooded retreat on the Black Sea. Actor Charlton Heston, big-screen hero and later leader of the National Rifle Association, died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 84.

Five years ago: Kansas legislators gave final passage to a sweeping anti-abortion measure declaring that life began "at fertilization." (Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback, a Republican, signed the measure two weeks later.) A federal judge in New York ordered the Food and Drug Administration to lift age restrictions on the sale of emergency contraception, ending a requirement that buyers show proof they were 17 or older if they wanted to buy it without a prescription. (After months of back-and-forth legal battles, the Obama administration agreed to lift the age limits.)

One year ago: President Donald Trump declared that a deadly chemical attack in Syria the day before had crossed "many, many lines" and abruptly changed his views of Syrian President Bashar Assad. But he refused to say what the U.S. might do in response. A senior U.S. defense official said a North Korean missile test ended in failure when the rocket spun out of control and plunged into the ocean in a fiery crash. YouTube TV, Google's new streaming package of about 40 television channels, made its debut.

Today's Birthdays: Movie producer Roger Corman is 92. Former U.S. Secretary of State and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell is 81. Country singer Tommy Cash is 78. Actor Michael Moriarty is 77. Pop singer Allan Clarke (The Hollies) is 76. Writer-director Peter Greenaway is 76. Actor Max Gail is 75. Actress Jane Asher is 72. Singer Agnetha (ag-NEE'-tah) Faltskog (ABBA) is 68. Actor Mitch Pileggi is 66. Singer-songwriter Peter Case is 64. Rock musician Mike McCready (Pearl Jam) is 52. Singer Paula Cole is 50. Actress Krista Allen is 47. Actress Victoria Hamilton is 47. Country singer Pat Green is 46. Rapper-producer Pharrell (fa-REHL') Williams is 45. Rapper/producer Juicy J is 43. Actor Sterling K. Brown is 42. Country singer-musician Mike Eli (The Eli Young Band) is 37. Actress Hayley Atwell is 36. Actress Lily James is 29.

***Thought for Today: "A man is only as good as what he loves." - Saul Bellow, Canadian-born American author (1915-2005).***

## 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.



**Paul Stevens**  
**Editor, Connecting newsletter**  
[paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)

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