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Connecting - October 04, 2018

1 message

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Connecting

October 04, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

We lead today's Connecting with a story from GQ - with the subtitle, "Thanks to the nonstop demands of cable news, the ink-stained wretches covering Trump have transformed into tightly tailored professional pundits."

The story features AP's White House reporter **Jonathan Lemire**.

Colleague **Howard Goldberg**, who shared the story, noted "it's not every day that an AP reporter is the anecdotal lead of a fashion feature."

Did you ever work for Stars and Stripes?

It was in the news when Washington notables gathered Monday night at the Newseum for the debut of a new documentary celebrating the newspaper. The film, "World's Most Dangerous Paper Route," shares the paper's history and the many challenges its staff faces reporting from war zones and bringing news to the nation's service members. [Click here](#) for a story in The Hill.

As you may know, our Connecting colleague **Robert Reid** has been senior managing editor of the newspaper since 2014 after a 45-year career with The Associated Press

If you worked for it at one time in your career, send along a favorite story or memory.

We also bring you a story from colleague **Charles Green**, AP news editor in Mexico City when 50 years ago this week, soldiers massacred as many as 300 people at a student protest in Mexico City's Tlatelolco plaza. He shares his memories of that day on Oct. 2, 1968.

Have a good day!

Paul

The Great White House Reporter Glow-Up



AP's Jonathan Lemire at left

By **JOEL PAVELSKI, GQ**

Five years ago, **Jonathan Lemire** was hired by the AP to cover politics in the city and state governments of New York. The job being the job, he also wound up covering other local stories.

So when Donald Trump came down the escalator at Trump Tower to announce his presidential candidacy in the summer of 2015, Lemire was there. He did very little TV then, preferring to pound the pavement and work the phones. But he covered Trump through the entire campaign—on the road, on Trump's plane, on the stump. Trump once called him a sleazebag, which he seems to wear as a badge of honor. After Trump lost, the plan went, Lemire would switch to national politics, maybe even cover Trump in defeat from New York.

And then, of course, everything changed. During the first year of Trump's presidency, the demand for Lemire's newfound expertise exploded—he was fielding requests from all the big cable-news networks on a daily basis, and by the end of the summer of 2017, he had signed a contributor deal with MSNBC.

"The demand has basically gone from zero to 60, because now I'm on MSNBC just about every day and sometimes more than once a day," Lemire said. A typical day might now begin with three hours of Morning Joe and end with a spot on Brian Williams's show, with a full day of reporting in between.

All of which means he's had to upgrade his wardrobe a bit. It's not particularly sophisticated, he says, mostly J.Crew suits his wife has picked out. He has a five-suit rotation that he mixes and matches, and two dozen ties, some that he wears more than the others-most of it newly purchased in the past 18 months. He always keeps a blazer handy in case he needs to run to a studio, and keeps close to the studios in case he gets invited on TV.

He's still following Trump around. In Helsinki this summer, he asked Putin if Russia had the pee tape. But along his way there, his luggage didn't make it to Brussels. As far as Delta could tell, his bag-containing three suits, white shirts, ties, and shoes-was on its way to Santiago, Chile. Bleary-eyed from his overnight flight, he spent hours speeding around Brussels buying a new jacket and enough pants, shirts, ties, and socks to last him through the next few days of his trip-making sure they were the kind that would work on TV.

Such is the life of a print reporter covering Trump these days: full of uncertainty, packed with potential. Nonstop TV hits. Also: new suits, and much better ones than before. With the extra screen time comes added pressure to always dress the part of a TV anchorman-and some guys on the politics beat are investing in new suits, new stylists, and even new smiles to prep for their close-ups.

Journalists from old-guard print publications like The New York Times and The Washington Post who once toiled in relative obscurity - working the phones and appearing in public mostly through their bylines or Twitter profile pictures - have vaulted to nationwide prominence as on-call talking heads for networks like CNN and MSNBC. High-profile reporters like the Post's Robert Costa and David Fahrenthold have landed contributor contracts designed by cable-news networks to give their shows a competitive edge with immediate access to context and analysis by the same person who first reports a major scoop. Newbie contributors can receive \$30,000 to \$50,000 a year from networks expecting exclusive access to their on-camera analysis, while the top tier of in-demand reporters with well-established personal brands and truly unique access to newsmakers can command as much as \$250,000.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Howard Goldberg.

Students in Mexico were slaughtered by army soldiers 50 years ago. Today, they're still in danger.



In this Sept. 18, 2018, photo, Enrique Espinosa shows a magazine photo in which he and other demonstrators are being detained by armed soldiers during the Tlatelolco massacre in Mexico City. (Marco Ugarte / AP)

By Mark Stevenson and Maria Verza, Associated Press

When soldiers massacred as many as 300 people at a student protest in Mexico City's Tlatelolco plaza on Oct. 2, 1968, the killers wore uniforms. Today, students in Mexico say they are still under attack, but now from thugs, drug cartels, paramilitaries or rapists.

Today's student activists - and even the graying veterans of the 1968 democracy movement - acknowledge they now have free speech, something the '68 generation fought for. But they say the impunity remains the same; nobody was ever convicted for the 1968 killings.

As Mexico marks the 50-year anniversary of Tlatelolco on Tuesday, the massacre remains something of an open wound: Nobody knows exactly how many died when soldiers opened fire on a peaceful demonstration. Estimates range from the official version of 25 dead to a more recent investigation that identified 44, but activists at the time claimed large numbers of bodies were carted off in garbage trucks.

It wasn't until last week that a government agency acknowledged for the first time that it was "a state crime."

Read more [here](#).

Under the Mango Tree: Memories of the bold



By Charles H. Green ([Email](#))

(Charles Green was AP Mexico City news editor when the massacre occurred and shares this memory. In his 24-year AP career, 1960-1984, working in Mexico City, Caracas, Albany and Detroit, Green covered many of the major news stories in the Western Hemisphere including the JFK assassination, presidential campaigns, 1968 Summer Olympics and 1980 Winter Olympics, Central American wars.)

All I could see were shadows. Bright lights pinned me against the stone wall of the ancient Santiago Tlatelolco church. A mist put halos around the lights. Just beyond the reach of light a Mexican soldier pointed his rifle at me. He didn't flinch at the sound of gunfire coming from the apartments across the brick plaza to my left. But I did. He knew the snipers in the Chihuahua apartment building would see me in the light. He knew the bullets fired from the apartments might hit me. An army lieutenant put me against that wall knowing I would be in the bright light. I was a six foot, four inch blond-haired target standing out in Mexico like a neon sign saying "shoot here, shoot here."

A series of 1968 student demonstrations in Mexico left the country reeling only 10 days before the opening of the first Summer Olympic Games to be held in a

developing country. About 10,000 people, mostly high school and college students, jammed the Plaza of Three Cultures on the afternoon of Oct. 2. Aztec ruins, a colonial church and a modern marble-faced Foreign Affairs Ministry building at the plaza give the square its name. Condominium apartment buildings, the Nonoalco-Tlatelolco urban development, flank the plaza. Demonstrators carried banners and shouted or sang slogans. Soldiers watched tensely, their armored vehicles idling in the streets. Leaders of the student movement saw all that force and cancelled their plans for a march to the National Polytechnic Institute where a bloody nightlong battle the previous month was a rallying incident. They were through speaking by the time a helicopter dropped a green flare over the crowd. Gunfire started immediately. Snipers in the windows of the apartment buildings fired into the plaza. Some of the bullets hit demonstrators. Some hit soldiers. When it was over hundreds were dead in a massacre still staining Mexico's conscience almost 50 years later. I was almost among the dead. The Mexican lieutenant knew I was a foreign correspondent. That's why he put me in danger. The anti-government demonstrations of that summer of pain had so endangered Mexico's image that the young officer thought it his duty to keep me from telling the story of this latest example of violence. He had seen me counting the bodies of teenagers on the loading dock of the Foreign Affairs Ministry building next to the Chihuahua apartment building and counting the ambulances taking wounded away. I had counted only four bodies when the officer demanded at gunpoint we walk to the back of the church. For a long time that body count - four - was the government's official body count because they could not deny I had seen them. But the government said agitators among the students themselves killed them. Later the government's death toll was put at 40 but other estimates put it in the hundreds. Many other people simply disappeared.

My job that day was to oversee installations at The Associated Press area of the 1968 Olympic Games press room on the southern edge of Mexico City. I was the young news editor in the bureau with Olympic preparation as my special assignment. It was only my third year in Mexico but The AP had invested considerable money in preparing me for this by assigning me to the coverage of other international sporting events such as the Pan American Games and the Central American and Caribbean



Games. I had been on a roving assignment in Winnipeg, Canada, the year before to learn as much as I could during the Pan American Games. In those days the Pan American Games rated only a notch below the Olympic Games in importance in the international sporting world. Now I was supervising the installation of photo transmitting circuits when the bureau called to advise me of the student gathering at the plaza, 18 kilometers away through Mexico City traffic. I often rode my motorcycle to work. The 1967 Harley Davidson Sportster was the fastest production motorcycle of its day so it got me to the plaza - also called simply "Tlatelolco" - quickly.

I knew the plaza well. My wife Sylvia and I often took foreign visitors there. The Plaza of the Three Cultures, the Plaza de las Tres Culturas in Spanish, is a powerful

symbol to many Mexicans. It was the center of the Aztec empire when the Spanish conquerors arrived. It became the center of Spain's colonial empire. The mixing of those two cultures produced the mestizos, a third culture that is modern Mexico. The plaza represents the three cultures. It is actually over the heart of the Aztec city of Tlatelolco whose ruins include the Aztec temple of Ehecatl-Quetzalcoatl. The colonial church was built atop those ruins in 1524 and rebuilt in 1609. Legend says the baptismal font in the church is where Juan Diego, to whom the Virgin of Guadalupe appeared in 1531, was baptized. But that may just be legend because no one has ever produced a baptismal certificate for Juan. On Aug. 13, 1521 the Aztecs made their final stand here against the soldiers of Hernan Cortes. Tlatelolco was an island then, with low causeways linking it to the mainland. At least 40,000 Aztecs died in that savage fight. A plaque there reads "Neither a victory nor a defeat, but the painful moment of birth of the Mexico of today, of a race of Mestizos." That battle ended the pre-Columbian era in Mexico. The battle of Tlatelolco on Oct. 2, 1968 ended the facade of peaceful democracy in Mexico. It brought a secret war that would last another two decades and foreshadow the downfall of the Institutional Revolutionary Party or PRI that ruled Mexico for more than half a century. The plaza would be the site of more death still. On Sept. 19, 1985 an earthquake caused the Nuevo Leon apartment building at the plaza to collapse. The earthquake left an estimated 8,000 dead.

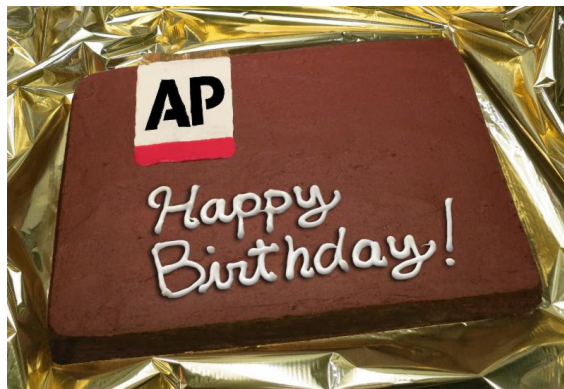
But this night I knew of only four dead - four because I had seen them. I was going to join them pretty quick because I made such an easy target. I inched my way toward the dark side of the church. I had made a little progress despite the armed guard when I saw a captain and yelled for help. He demanded I get out of the line of fire. He yelled about danger and crazy foreigners, cursing the lieutenant for "allowing" us to stand there. My entire exposure lasted less than 10 minutes but it seemed like hours. I later learned that some of the officers intentionally put foreign correspondents in danger, hoping to block their reporting. Oriana Fallaci, an Italian reporter, was face down on the floor of a third floor apartment in the Chihuahua building when a bullet ripped her buttocks. She lay in her own blood for 45 minutes before she could get help. She had been covering the demonstration from that balcony. The badly shaken reporter said from her hospital bed:

"...I've been shot, they stole my watch, they left me bleeding on the floor of the Chihuahua, they denied me the right to call my embassy. I think the Italian delegation should retire from the Olympic Games. That's the least they can do. My case is going to Parliament and the whole world will know what happened in Mexico, the kind of democracy that prevails in this county -- the whole world."

Released from that danger I needed a telephone to contact the bureau with my latest information. I knew of a small grocery store on the other side of the plaza that had a working telephone. At least it had worked earlier when I last called the office. I worked my way around the rubber-tired armored vehicles Mexicans called "tanquitas" or little tanks. Their machine guns raked the Chihuahua apartments. I could see small fires burning behind some windows. "Don't they know people are in those apartments?" I wondered. "There are women and little kids there." Decades later, in a new century, I would learn that the opening shots were fired by members of the "Estado Mayor Presidencial," the elite military unit protecting the Mexican chief of state. These official documents released in 2006 showed that President

Gustavo Diaz Ordaz had ordered them dress as civilians, enter the apartment buildings, and to fire into the crowd -- to fire at fellow soldiers as well as student demonstrators and onlookers. Their purpose was to give the regular Army -- whose officers knew nothing of the plot -- a reason to open fire and save the 1968 Olympic Games set to open in a few days.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Peggy Walsh - pwalshnyt@aol.com

Stories of interest

How Times Journalists Uncovered the Original Source of the President's Wealth (New York Times)

By Melina Delkic

In the three years since Donald J. Trump announced his candidacy for president, there has been plenty of investigation into his financial history - especially because he broke with tradition and declined to release his tax returns.

In 2016, David Barstow, Susanne Craig and Russ Buettner of The New York Times obtained his 1995 tax returns, showing that he could have avoided paying taxes for nearly two decades. And for their article on Wednesday's front page, they worked together for more than a year to investigate the wealth that the president inherited from his father.

"It's unusual to dive into what you think is an extremely well-covered subject and to find so much completely new stuff, stuff that just is astonishing," Mr. Barstow said. "It's a great reminder that even things that you think are well described, there are these other deeper layers."

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

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Saudi contributor to Washington Post goes missing in Turkey



In this Jan. 29, 2011, file photo, Saudi Arabian journalist Jamal Khashoggi speaks on his cellphone at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The Washington Post said Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018, it was concerned for the safety of Khashoggi, a columnist for the newspaper, after he apparently went missing after going to the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. (AP Photo/Virginia Mayo, File)

By JON GAMBRELL and AYSE WIETING

ISTANBUL (AP) - A Saudi journalist who has written Washington Post columns critical of the kingdom's assertive crown prince has gone missing while on a visit to the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, the newspaper and his supporters said Wednesday, raising concerns over his safety.

Jamal Khashoggi's personal website bore a banner saying "Jamal has been arrested at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul!" without elaborating. A statement from Saudi Arabia denied that and said Khashoggi left immediately after visiting the consulate, though Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman told reporters that authorities believed the journalist was still there.

The mystery continued into Wednesday night, as his supporters linked his disappearance to the arrest of other businessmen, politicians and activists amid 33-year-old Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's rise to power.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Notebooks are magic and other lessons from working with kid journalists (Poynter)



BY KRISTEN HARE

On Monday, Rich Zahradnik stopped by the elementary school for a quick word with his editors. He found the fifth graders on the playground. Soon, he was surrounded by 10 fourth graders who really wanted to write for the Colonial Times, too.

"I've told people I couldn't go back and work with adults," said Zahradnik, a former journalist who worked at places including CNN and Bloomberg and is now a novelist. "Kids are a lot more fun to work with. They revel in it. They celebrate it. They want to be doing it."

Zahradnik is also the adviser to the staff of the Pelham Examiner, a local news site formed by middle school and high school students in Pelham, New York, after the bi-weekly community paper folded. Many of those kids worked with Zahradnik in elementary school.

He didn't have much of a plan for teaching kids journalism when he quit daily news and started writing novels. But Zahradnik didn't bake brownies and wasn't on any committees at his son's school. So starting a newspaper seemed like one way he could help. Now, all four elementary schools in the district have their own online news sites.

Read more [here](#).

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You Idiot Reporters Are Making It Worse (National Review)

By JONAH GOLDBERG

Before I get started, let me clarify something. Groupthink, mob behavior, panic, etc. have a powerful capacity to make smart people dumb. This is the moral of every witch-hunt story and is about as well documented as any phenomena in human history. As Tommy Lee Jones says in Men in Black, "A person is smart. People are dumb, panicky dangerous animals, and you know it."

I mention this up front to acknowledge that many of the people I am appalled by are, individually, smart and decent professionals. But, as a group, they are making fools of themselves and their profession, and making the country's problems worse.

I've spent much of the last couple of years decrying the increasing partisan tribalism of our politics. I've earned some strange new respect from liberals (and at times regrettable new enmity from some conservatives) because I've been willing to call out my team. A case in point: I don't like President Trump's "enemy of the people" rhetoric about the "fake news." I don't think it's true or helpful or presidential. "Enemy

of the people" is a totalitarian and authoritarian term of art unfit for our country or our president, and employing it gives license to the press to indulge its worst instincts.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Carl Robinson.

The Final Word

Trump Is Not Texting You (Atlantic)



By IAN BOGOST

At 2:18 p.m. et today (Wednesday), your smartphone probably buzzed and shrieked before displaying a notice that resembled a text message. This was the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Federal Communications Commission's test of the Wireless Emergency Alerts system (WEA). A test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), which sends emergency messages to radio and television, followed two minutes later. Both messages clearly indicated that the alert constituted a test and not a real emergency.

The wireless test was a "presidential alert," the most serious kind of mobile bulletin U.S. emergency-notification infrastructure supports, and there's no way for users to opt out. That means everyone with a compatible smartphone got a direct message from the office currently occupied by Donald Trump delivered to their palm, purse, or pocket.

That might thrill or terrify you, but it's nothing new-the infrastructure to send presidential messages to smartphones has been around since 2012. And since the 1960s, the president has had the ability to directly address the nation live, via all its broadcast channels. But neither facility has been used, not in the past five years or the past 50.

What does the presidential alert mean in the Trump era, and beyond it? The answer is not encouraging. Disquiet about the test, including efforts to power down phones, cancel wireless plans, and otherwise agitate against the very idea of non-optional emergency notices, suggests that even general public safety is not a domain in which Americans can find common ground.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - October 4, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Oct. 4, the 277th day of 2018. There are 88 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Oct. 4, 1957, the Space Age began as the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite, into orbit.

On this date:

In 1777, Gen. George Washington's troops launched an assault on the British at Germantown, Pennsylvania, resulting in heavy American casualties.

In 1861, during the Civil War, the United States Navy authorized construction of the first ironclad ship, the USS Monitor.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini conferred at Brenner Pass in the Alps.

In 1957, Jimmy Hoffa was elected president of the Teamsters Union.

In 1959, the Soviet Union launched Luna 3, a space probe which transmitted images of the far side of the moon.

In 1960, an Eastern Air Lines Lockheed L-188A Electra crashed on takeoff from Boston's Logan International Airport, killing all but 10 of the 72 people on board.

In 1970, rock singer Janis Joplin, 27, was found dead in her Hollywood hotel room.

In 1989, Triple Crown-winning racehorse Secretariat, suffering a hoof ailment, was humanely destroyed at age 19.

In 1990, for the first time in nearly six decades, German lawmakers met in the Reichstag for the first meeting of reunified Germany's parliament.

In 1991, 26 nations, including the United States, signed the Madrid Protocol, which imposed a 50-year ban on oil exploration and mining in Antarctica.

In 2002, "American Taliban" John Walker Lindh received a 20-year sentence after a sobbing plea for forgiveness before a federal judge in Alexandria, Virginia. In a federal court in Boston, a laughing Richard Reid pleaded guilty to trying to blow up a

trans-Atlantic flight with explosives in his shoes (the British citizen was later sentenced to life in prison).

In 2004, the SpaceShipOne rocket plane broke through Earth's atmosphere to the edge of space for the second time in five days, capturing the \$10 million Ansari X prize aimed at opening the final frontier to tourists. Pioneering astronaut Gordon Cooper died in Ventura, California, at age 77.

Ten years ago: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met with her Indian counterpart, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, in New Delhi, where they lauded but did not sign a new agreement opening up U.S. nuclear trade with India. The U.S. military said it had killed an al-Qaida in Iraq leader (Mahir Ahmad Mahmud al-Zubaydi) suspected of masterminding one of the deadliest attacks in Baghdad, several other recent bombings and the 2006 videotaped killing of a Russian official. A North Korean news agency reported on leader Kim Jong Il's first public appearance in nearly two months.

Five years ago: Vo Nguyen Giap, the military commander who'd led Vietnamese Communist forces against the French and then the Americans, died in Hanoi at age 102.

One year ago: Four U.S. soldiers were killed in the African country of Niger when a joint patrol of U.S. and Niger forces was ambushed by militants who were believed linked to the Islamic State group. President Donald Trump visited hospital bedsides and a police base in Las Vegas in the aftermath of the shooting rampage three nights earlier that left 58 people dead.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Leroy Van Dyke is 89. Actress Felicia Farr is 86. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Sam Huff is 84. Author Roy Blount Jr. is 77. Author Anne Rice is 77. Actress Lori Saunders (TV: "Petticoat Junction") is 77. Baseball Hall of Famer Tony La Russa is 74. Actor Clifton Davis is 73. The former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, is 72. Former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel is 72. Actress Susan Sarandon is 72. Blues musician Duke Robillard is 70. Playwright Lee Blessing is 69. Actor Armand Assante is 69. Actor Alan Rosenberg is 68. Actor Christoph Waltz is 62. Actor Bill Fagerbakke (FAY'-guh'-bah-kee) is 61. Music producer Russell Simmons is 61. Actress Kyra Schon (Film: "Night of the Living Dead") is 61. Actress-singer Wendy Makkena is 60. Musician Chris Lowe (The Pet Shop Boys) is 59. Country musician Gregg "Hobie" Hubbard (Sawyer Brown) is 58. Actor David W. Harper is 57. Singer Jon Secada is 57. TV personality John Melendez is 53. Actor-comedian Jerry Minor is 51. Actor Liev Schreiber is 51. Actor Abraham Benrubi is 49. Country singer-musician Heidi Newfield is 48. Singer-guitarist M. Ward (She & Him) is 45. Actress Alicia (ah-LEE'-see-ah) Silverstone is 42. Actress Dana Davis is 40. Rock musician Robbie Bennett (The War on Drugs) is 40. Actor Phillip Glasser is 40. Rock singer-musician Marc Roberge (O.A.R.) is 40. Actor Brandon Barash is 39. Actress Rachael Leigh Cook is 39. Actor Tim Peper is 38. Actor Jimmy Workman is 38. Bassist Cubbie Fink is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jessica Benson (3lw) is 31. Actor Michael Charles Roman

is 31. Actress Melissa Benoist is 30. NBA All-Star Derrick Rose is 30. Actress Dakota Johnson is 29. Figure skater Kimmie Meisner is 29. Actress Leigh-Anne Pinnock (Little Mix) is 27. Actor Ryan Scott Lee is 22.

Thought for Today: "Sometimes even to live is an act of courage." - Seneca the Younger, Roman statesman and philosopher (3 B.C.-A.D 65).

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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