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Connecting - April 09, 2019

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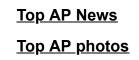
Connecting

April 09, 2019









AP books
Connecting Archive
The AP Emergency Relief Fund

Colleagues,

Good morning on this Tuesday, the 9th of April,

Today's Connecting brings news of retirement plans for **Sally Hale**, AP's director of Local Markets for Pennsylvania and New Jersey, based in Philadelphia, who on July 1 will conclude a fine career of 40 years of service as a newswoman, bureau chief and account director.

"Sally has been an integral part of the AP, responsible for our many successes in editorial and business operations since joining us in 1979 from The Dallas Morning News," said AP vice president **Michael Fabiano** in announcing the news Monday.

If you would like to drop her a note, her email is - shale@ap.org

We also bring you a report on the induction of longtime bureau chief **John Shurr** into the South Carolina Press Association Hall of Fame. Shurr died in 2015. He served as South Carolina bureau chief for 23 years.

"It was an incredible honor," said his wife, **Debbie**, who accepted the award last Saturday. "I was so happy to be there and talk to all of the people who had such great memories and stories about John and the impact he made."

If you would like to drop her a note, her email is - dshurr@scana.com

In Monday's story on **Christof Putzel** and his investigation of the Lindbergh kidnapping, we mentioned that we would provide future showings of the program on the Travel Channel. The next showing will be Sunday, April 14, at 3pm Eastern. Click **here** for future showings beyond that.

Have a great day!

Paul

Sally Hale to retire from AP in July after 40-year career

By Michael Fabiano

AP vice president, Local Markets, in a staff note Monday:

After 40 years as a reporter, editor, bureau chief and account director with The Associated Press, Sally Carpenter Hale will retire on July 1.

Sally has been an integral part of the AP, responsible for our many successes in editorial and business operations since joining us in 1979 from The Dallas Morning News, where she was a copy editor. Her first stints at the AP in Dallas were as a reporter and day supervisor, covering stories that included the Candace Montgomery ax murder trial and Hurricane Allen.

In 1984, Sally transferred to Portland, Oregon, as news editor, overseeing coverage of the Tonya Harding scandal, the Rajneeshee commune, the Mount Hood climbing disaster and widespread flooding in 1996. She also was acting bureau chief while COB Eva Parziale was on maternity leave in 1996.



Sally Hale

Sally moved east in 1998 as assistant bureau chief in Philadelphia, where she helped organize coverage and logistics for the 2000 Republican National Convention and supervised the state election tabulation system.

She was named New Jersey bureau chief in 2000. On 9/11, she directed state coverage of the story and set up a backup national editing desk at the AP's technical center in Cranbury.

In 2003, she returned to Philadelphia as Pennsylvania bureau chief, later adding New Jersey to her territory. She joined the business side of AP in 2009 and has been an account director for the last decade, responsible for some of the largest members in AP, as well as the Advance Local newspaper group.

Sally helped found the Pennsylvania Freedom of Information Coalition, where she served as president. She was a board member of the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association and Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation. She also was vice president of the Press Club of Dallas. Sally holds a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

And if all that hasn't kept her busy enough, Sally also found time in recent years to write travel stories for AP about trips she took to France, Georgia, and Virginia wine country, among other places.

Sally resides in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, with her husband Rick. They're planning to move to Washington state in August, where they'll live in a condo with a view of Mount Hood. And they'll be just a short drive to their son Jamie, a reporter for Oregonlive.com in Portland, and daughter Kelly McNabb, son-in-law Patrick McNabb, and grandchildren Morrigan, 14, Jack, 9, and Sierra, 7, who live in Salem, Oregon.

Sally is extremely well-organized, efficient, admired by her members, and has a knack for bringing in new commercial business. We will miss her and all that she's done for AP.

A book with well wishes is being assembled and we'd appreciate any and all contributions by Friday, May 10. You can email letters and/or photos to the attention of Eva Parziale at eparziale@ap.org or mail them to the address below:

Eva Parziale

Regional Director

The Associated Press

1103 Schrock Road, Ste. 300

Columbus, OH 43229

A celebration of Sally's career is planned for June 8, near Philadelphia, and we'll present the book to her then.

Please join me in congratulating Sally on her well-deserved upcoming retirement.

Former COB John Shurr inducted into South Carolina Press Association Hall of Fame



Bill Rogers (left), executive director of the South Carolina Press Association, along with Jim Baltzelle of AP, present Debbie Shurr with a plaque at John Shurr's induction ceremony into the South Carolina Press Association Hall of Fame Saturday in Columbia, S.C. Photo by Gwinn Davis/South Carolina Press Association.

COLUMBIA, S.C. - The South Carolina Press Association Hall of Fame inducted longtime AP Chief of Bureau John Shurr on Saturday, citing his enduring efforts for open government and free press.

Shurr died in 2015 at age 67. He retired from AP in 2007, having served as South Carolina bureau chief since 1984.

His induction was marked by recollections of ferocity, wit and effectiveness.

"I know of no journalist who has done more for the cause of open government in South Carolina than John," said Bill Rogers, executive director of the press association, who presented a plaque to Shurr's widow, Debbie. "He was just incredible."

Among his many accomplishments:

Shurr created and authored the Public Officials Guide to Compliance with South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act, which has been distributed to tens of thousands of public officials since inception.

He worked with law enforcement after Hurricane Hugo to create a universal press pass, still issued in South Carolina today.

When the state Supreme Court blocked cameras and recorders in state courtrooms, Shurr "worked almost single-handedly," Rogers said, to restore access.



Shurr spearheaded two statewide FOI audits to hold public officials accountable, among the first journalists in the country to do accountability work on a grand scale.

He also worked with press association legal counsel Jay Bender to eliminate criminal libel in the state and to add a shield law for reporters.

Shurr, who was born in 1947 in Muskogee, OK, was a member of the Cherokee Nation and was instrumental in writing the Cherokee Nation's Freedom of Information Act, Independent Press Act, and Free Press Protection and Journalism Shield Act.

His 51-year journalism career included AP posts in Oklahoma, where he was chief of bureau; Chicago, as assistant chief of bureau; Rhode Island; and Indianapolis.

"South Carolinians have been the beneficiaries of John's commitment to open government without ever knowing of John or his efforts because his focus was always on the result and never on getting credit for what he accomplished," Bender said.

The press association's top FOI award was endowed by AP in 2017 with the annual winner receiving a cash prize for work recognizing unusual diligence and courage in furthering access to public information.

- Jim Baltzelle contributed to this report. For links to more information about SCPA and the Hall of Fame, click **here**. For the AP state wire story, click **here**.

And this memory of John Shurr:

Jim Clarke (Email) - AP regional director, Central - John was a great bureau chief. He gave me my first permanent AP job, coached me along as a newbie, kept me out of trouble and helped me understand the difference between being mindful of member needs and being a pushover.

And when I became a bureau chief, he was among the small circle of mentors who actually taught me how to do that job. (How do you do a budget? How to you run a contest? How to you file company car expenses? How do you deal with X and Y in New York?)

That's of course above and beyond his First Amendment work, which I also have tried to emulate by his example. I sure do miss him.

Connecting mailbox

In New York, a chance meeting with a legend -Louis Mendes



Louis Mendes (left) with Glenn White, Associated Press customer support specialist based in Kansas City. Photo by Remy Martin

Glenn White (Email) - While strolling through one of New York's more famous electronics outlets, B & H Photo, last week, I was looking for a lighter tripod and stumbled upon actual living history. Louis Mendes! In my ignorance I never knew of his existence. But with that camera and his pose, I had to stop and speak with him. We mostly talked about his awesome camera that seemed to be in pristine condition for something that was made in the 1940's. He purchased this camera in 1959. It has a modified back that allows him to print on Polaroid film. It's a Graflex Speed Graphic "Press" camera. I was so completely enamored with the small stories and just his style and friendliness that I forgot to ask him what made him stay doing this for so long. While I could not stay very long, it will certainly be one of the more indelible memories I have. Click here for a link to a biography. Below is a photo I took of Louis:



Not holding breath for any uptick in public fondness for reporters

Dave Tomlin (Email) - Of course, Terry (Anderson) is right to admonish newsrooms to bear down on errors, biases etc. (See Monday's Connecting.) But I'm not holding my breath for any resulting uptick in public fondness for reporters.

I think many people claim they don't "trust" us because the real reasons they don't like us do not do them credit and are not our fault at all.

In my 18 months of post-retirement reporting in Ruidoso, NM, population just under 10,000, I received a steady stream of angry phone calls about stories I wrote. Here's a sample:

Young male drug user lies dead among shrubbery at a local museum 4 days before the gardener finds him. Weeks later I reported that an autopsy confirmed he died after taking heroin laced with fentanyl. It was one of several local overdose deaths within a few months, part of the ongoing national surge in such tragedies. "It was like living his death all over again," his mother complained to me about my follow-up. "How do you sleep at night?"

Depressed veteran calls county dispatcher from the cab of his pickup outside his house and says to send an ambulance because he's going to shoot himself. Then he did. He had been over medicating with opioids originally prescribed by the VA for his chronic pain. "Why did you write that story," shouted his grieving widow over the phone. "It was nobody's business but ours."

Meth addict working in the family auto body shop explodes in fury and beats his father senseless with a broom handle as his mother and son struggle to restrain him. When the story appeared, the addict's furious mother called the paper to cancel their ads (not knowing they didn't run any). Months later, the addict erupted on the job again. Fortunately, police arrived before he hurt anybody. After I reported the second incident, the father, fully recovered from his earlier beating, called me to point out that lots of people use meth and don't get written up in the paper. "You prick," he growled and hung up. Then the volatile addict himself came to the office. "You got a problem with me?" he asked belligerently. His menace was so palpable that our circulation manager felt it from the other end of the building and came up behind me in case I needed help.

Local medical marijuana grower/seller shacked up with her married handyman. One night he told her he was going back to his wife and kids. In the lovers' quarrel that followed, her Taurus Judge pistol was produced and the handyman ended up dead. Authorities said they couldn't tell if it was suicide or homicide but showed a bizarre reluctance to even attempt to explain why or cough up enough crime scene information so people could decide for themselves. I left the paper before I could get any FOI traction. But I wrote several stories. The only thanks I got was an outraged call from the handyman's widow upbraiding me for reporting that her man was living in sin with his frisky boss. "That had nothing to do with his death, and his sons had to read it in the paper," she lamented. "You should be ashamed."

There were plenty of other episodes. On occasion the callers did allege inaccuracies, but when I asked what they were they couldn't say. My take-aways are these:

First, I've been hearing since my earliest years in news that public trust in us is declining and that this is something we can fix by just doing our job better. I stopped believing that long ago, although I certainly do believe in doing our job better.

Second, I have seen that getting it right is at least as toxic as getting it wrong, and probably more so.

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Using EZPass prompts fond memories of Greg Groce

John Strachan (Email) - My typical day running errands often includes a shortcut that takes me down a four-mile stretch of the New York State Thruway. My EZPass silently and efficiently takes me past traffic backups, hapless drivers fishing for change and surly toll-takers looking at a \$20 bill and complaining, "Is that the smallest you got?" At these times, silently marveling at the electronic wonder that is EZPass, I often recall fondly the amazing mind of Greg Groce.

Working for Greg in cable and corporate sales of AP products from 1984-90, I quickly came to believe that he could have had an equally successful career with AP as a newsman. He had the kind of insatiable curiosity that you only find in the best reporters. He was interested in almost everything and could hold his own in a conversation on just about any topic you could imagine. He was always asking questions, wondering how things worked and how they could be made better.

Reading about Greg's retirement reminded me of a trip we made to visit a cable television system somewhere in the Catskills in the early '80s. As we waited in a long line of traffic to pick up a ticket at the toll booth and head north on the Thruway, Greg began thinking out loud about how technology could - and should -- be put to use to move vehicles on and off superhighways more efficiently.

For the next 30 or 40 miles he pondered, planned, revised and re-planned -- in unbelievable detail -- every aspect of a system to eliminate manual toll-collecting, including the best ways to track vehicles entering and exiting, how to set up a prepayment system and how ultimately to get vehicles through the entry and exit process without having to slow down at all.

In retrospect, Greg's plan had all the technology of the EZPass system that was ultimately rolled out on the New York State Thruway a decade later.

As Greg begins his retirement, I think the least the Thruway Authority could do is name a rest stop after him.

And this group photo from Greg Groce's retirement party March 28:



Seated: Montrese Garner, Lou Pagan, Wayne Chin and former AP executive Jim Williams.

1st row: former AP exec Dave Gwizdowski, Gernae Chase, Anehtra Mayweather, former AP staffer Ernest Springs, Greg Groce, former AP staffer John Turell, Roasie (Oakley) Williams and John Groce.

2nd row: David Silverstein, Andy Wormser, former staffer Barbara Worth, Chris Sloan, Brian Hopman, Sandy Colbert, Denise Vance and Jenifer Garske.

AP Photo by Jacqueline Martin. Shared by Montrese Garner-Sampson.

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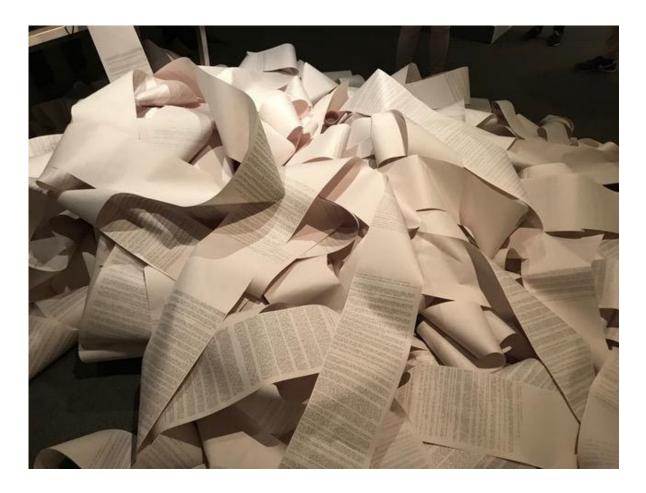
Connecting sky shot - Washington



Larry Margasak(Email) - Washington's famous cherry blossoms and air pollution together. Will the EPA notice?

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Bringing Americans a ceaseless stream of stories from Vietnam warfront



Mike Feinsilber (Email) - This printer spews out a nonstop stream of current news stories from a variety of sources, including The AP. The show, "Artists Respond: American Art and the Vietnam War, 1965-1975" will on display through August 18. It is part of what the Smithsonian Institution in Washington calls "the first national museum exhibition to examine the contemporary impact of the Vietnam War on American art" - nearly 100 pieces from 58 artists, including some veterans of the war.

I think the point the printer is there to make is that Americans during the war were engulfed by a ceaseless stream of stories from the warfront.

Washington Post art critic Sebestian Smee, in his review, wrote that the exhibition "pulsates with anguish."

Connecting '80s/'90s Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list quarterly. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note.)

90s:

Mercer Bailey
Carl Bell
Albert Habhab
Gene Herrick
Elaine Light
Joe McKnight
Sam Montello
Robert O'Meara
Seymour Topping
Sal Veder

Harold Waters

80s:

Norm Abelson
Paul Albright
Peter Arnett
Malcolm Barr
Lou Boccardi
William Roy Bolch Jr.
Ben Brown
Charles Bruce
Hal Buell
Sibby Christensen

Eldon Cort Don Dashiell

Mike Cochran

Otto Doelling

Phil Dopoulos

John Eagan

Claude Erbsen

Mike Feinsilber George Hanna

Bob Haring

Chick Harrity

Jack Howey

Kathryn Johnson

Lee Jones

Doug Kienitz

Dean Lee

Warren Lerude

Carl Leubsdorf

Art Loomis

Joe McGowan

Walter Mears

Yvette Mercourt

Reid Miller Charlie Monzella Greg Nokes Joe Somma Arlon Southall Marty Thompson Ron Thompson Hank Waters Paul Webster Jeff Williams Joe Yeninas Arnold Zeitlin George Zucker

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Len Iwanski - expresser@live.com

Mary Sandok - mrsandok@msn.com

Debbie Shurr - dshurr@scana.com

Welcome to Connecting



Nora Raum - nraum@aol.com

Stories of interest

Affleck, Blum, Nicholas named 2019 Penn State Teaching Fellows (Penn State News)

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. - John Affleck, Knight Chair in Sports Journalism and Society in the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications; Jeremy Blum, associate professor of computer science at Penn State Harrisburg; and Cheryl L. Nicholas, associate professor of communication arts and sciences at Penn State Berks, have received Penn State's Alumni/Student Award for Excellence in Teaching and have been named 2019 Penn State Teaching Fellows.



John Affleck

The Penn State Alumni Association, in conjunction with undergraduate and graduate governing bodies, established the award in 1988. It honors distinguished teaching and provides encouragement and incentive for excellence in teaching. Recipients are expected to share their talents and expertise with others throughout the University system during the year following the award presentation.

Affleck, who is director of the John Curley Center for Sports Journalism, is a veteran journalist who worked for more than two decades as a national manager in news and sports for the Associated Press (AP). He relies on his experiences outside the classroom to help students earn their professional

experiences.

Read more here.

EDITOR'S NOTE: John Affleck started with AP 's Albany bureau as a newsman in 1991, became Buffalo correspondent in 1995 and then Cleveland correspondent in 1997. He moved to New York in 2001 and served until 2008 in National news as National Reporting Team editor. From 2008 to 2013, he worked in Sports as Enterprise Editor and then Deputy.

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Concord Monitor: Note to readers: Article commenting suspended

NOTE TO READERS

The Concord Monitor on Friday afternoon suspended the commenting section on all articles following continued abuses. The Monitor will explore alternatives that facilitate civil dialogue and allow a better ability to ban fake accounts.

Steve Leone, editor

Click here for a link. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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The drive for digital subscriptions hits a bump in the road: subscription fatigue (Poynter)

By RICK EDMONDS

For newspapers and magazine publishers, growing paid digital subscriptions has become a nearly unanimous pick as an essential tool for rebuilding the business model. Unfortunately, a counter-trend is rapidly forming as consumers take a hard look at how much they are paying monthly for a wide range of subscriptions and whether that adds up to household budget-buster.

The focus is typically on entertainment and shopping charges. Do you really need cable and Netflix and Hulu and Amazon Prime and maybe a clothing service, a meal plan and a razor club thrown in? Multiply those recurring monthly charges over a year, and you are dropping a serious chunk of change - more than \$3,000 is not out of the question.

Newspaper and magazine subscriptions - print or digital - stand to be collateral damage if cutting back catches on big.

Read more here.

The Final Word



AP writers gather around a sideline seat designated for former AP writer Jim O'Connell before the championship of the Final Four NCAA college basketball tournament between Texas Tech and Virginia, Monday, April 8, 2019, in Minneapolis. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

Today in History - April 9, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 9, the 99th day of 2019. There are 266 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 9, 1968, funeral services, private and public, were held for Martin Luther King Jr. at the Ebenezer Baptist Church and Morehouse College in Atlanta, five days after the civil rights leader was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

On this date:

In 1865, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

In 1913, the first game was played at Ebbets Field, the newly built home of the Brooklyn Dodgers, who lost to the Philadelphia Phillies, 1-0.

In 1939, singer Marian Anderson performed a concert at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., after being denied the use of Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

In 1940, during World War II, Germany invaded Denmark and Norway.

In 1942, during World War II, some 75,000 Philippine and American defenders on Bataan surrendered to Japanese troops, who forced the prisoners into what became known as the Bataan Death March; thousands died or were killed en route.

In 1959, NASA presented its first seven astronauts: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard and Donald Slayton. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright, 91, died in Phoenix, Arizona.

In 1965, the newly built Astrodome in Houston featured its first baseball game, an exhibition between the Astros and the New York Yankees, with President Lyndon B. Johnson in attendance. (The Astros won, 2-1, in 12 innings.)

In 1979, officials declared an end to the crisis involving the Three Mile Island Unit 2 nuclear reactor in Pennsylvania, 12 days after a partial core meltdown.

In 1983, the space shuttle Challenger ended its first mission with a safe landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1984, "Terms of Endearment" won five Academy Awards, including best picture, best actress for Shirley MacLaine and best supporting actor for Jack Nicholson.

In 1992, former Panamanian ruler Manuel Noriega was convicted in Miami of eight drug and racketeering charges; he served a 17-year U.S. prison sentence.

In 2003, jubilant Iraqis celebrated the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime, beheading a toppled statue of their longtime ruler in downtown Baghdad and embracing American troops as liberators.

Ten years ago: North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament appointed Kim Jong II to a third term as leader. Los Angeles Angels pitcher Nick Adenhart, 22, and two others were killed in a car crash by a suspected drunken driver. (Andrew Thomas Gallo was convicted of three counts of second-degree murder and sentenced to 51 years to life in prison.)

Five years ago: A 16-year-old boy armed with two knives went on a rampage at Franklin Regional High School in Murrysville, Pennsylvania, stabbing 20 students and a security guard (all of whom survived). President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, visited Fort Hood, Texas, the scene of a shooting a week earlier in which three U.S. Army soldiers were killed by a fellow soldier who then took his own life.

One year ago: Federal agents raided the office of President Donald Trump's personal attorney, Michael Cohen, seizing records on matters including a \$130,000 payment made to porn actress Stormy Daniels. Trump denounced Robert Mueller's Russia investigation as "an attack on our country," prompting new speculation that he might seek the removal of the Justice Department's special counsel. Opening statements began in the retrial of Bill Cosby, charged with drugging and molesting Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home. (Cosby was convicted and sentenced to three to 10 years in prison.) Facebook began alerting some users that their data had been swept up in the Cambridge Analytica privacy scandal. Fleetwood Mac announced that singer-guitarist Lindsey Buckingham would not be part of the band's new tour. (The tour began in October with Mike Campbell and Neil Finn replacing Buckingham.)

Today's Birthdays: Satirical songwriter and mathematician Tom Lehrer is 91. Naturalist Jim Fowler is 89. Actor Jean-Paul Belmondo is 86. Actress Michael Learned is 80. Country singer Margo Smith is 77. Country singer Hal Ketchum is 66. Actor Dennis Quaid is 65. Comedian Jimmy Tingle is 64. Country musician Dave Innis (Restless Heart) is 60. Talk show host Joe Scarborough is 56. Actress-sports reporter Lisa Guerrero is 55. Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey is 55. Actor Mark Pellegrino is 54. Actress-model Paulina Porizkova is 54. Actress Cynthia Nixon is 53. Rock singer Kevin Martin (Candlebox) is 50. TV personality Sunny Anderson is 44. Rock singer Gerard Way (My Chemical Romance) is 42. Actress Keshia Knight Pulliam is 40. Rock musician Albert Hammond Jr. (The Strokes) is 39. Actor Charlie Hunnam is 39. Actor Ryan Northcott is 39. Actor Arlen Escarpeta is 38. Actor Jay Baruchel is 37. Actress Annie Funke is 34. Actor Jordan Masterson is 33. Actress Leighton Meester is 33. Actor-singer Jesse McCartney is 32. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jazmine Sullivan is 32. Actress Kristen Stewart is 29. Actress Elle Fanning is 21. Actor Isaac Hempstead Wright is 20. Classical crossover singer Jackie Evancho (ee-VAYN'-koh) is 19.

Thought for Today: "The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945).

Connecting calendar



June 20 - 25-Year Club Celebration, 5:30 - 8 p.m., AP headquarters, 200 Liberty Street, New York, NY. RSVP by May 10. RSVP online **here**. Any questions may be directed to recognition@ap.org

August 17 - Albany AP bureau reunion (including other upstate bureaus), 1-5 p.m., Marc and Carla Humbert residence on Tsatsawassa Lake, 68 Marginal Way, East Nassau, NY. Contact: Chris McKnight (Email).

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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