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## Connecting - May 09, 2019

1 message

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Thu, May 9, 2019 at 8:53 AM

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# Connecting

May 09, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 9th day of May 2019,

Colleague **Norm Abelson's** post in Wednesday's edition - "Questions I should have asked my mom" - struck a chord and today's edition brings the first responses as Mother's Day Sunday nears.

It struck a deep chord for our colleague **Cliff Schiappa**. His mother died on Monday and he was able to catch a flight from Palm Springs to Florida to be with her in her last hours. And to sing her a song of farewell, as he explains so well in his post for today.

**A reminder** that Friday, May 10, is the deadline to RSVP for the 25-Year Club Celebration that will be held June 20 from 5:30 - 8 p.m. at AP headquarters, [200 Liberty Street, New York, NY](#). You can RSVP by clicking [here](#). Any questions may be directed to [recognition@ap.org](mailto:recognition@ap.org)

Have a great day!

Paul

## Remembering our moms



**Cliff Schiappa, at left, with his brother Paul, sister Karen, and their mom Norma. The kids were visiting her in Florida for her 92nd birthday last November.**

**Cliff Schiappa** ([Email](#)) - Norm Abelson's posting in Wednesday's Connecting titled "Questions I should have asked my mom" struck a chord deep within me.

This past Monday morning my mom entered a hospice facility and the doctor thought she had one or two days remaining. On my noon flight to Tampa I was seated next to a minister who told me as someone fades away, hearing is their final sense and I should be aware of the words that are spoken in the room. I arrived at my mom's bedside a few minutes after midnight and was alone in the room with her.

Memories flooded my mind as I held her hand and leaned into her ear to say my goodbyes and offer my love to her. Although heavily sedated, I sensed she was aware of my presence. It then occurred to me that I should sing a song for her, one that has a deep meaning to me and to many who have heard it performed over the years by my chorus. I looked up the lyrics on my cellphone, and with a wavering and not-in-tune voice, I sang the song "Everything Possible," a lullaby written by the Rev. Fred Small. I will always remember this moment that allowed me to offer comfort to the woman who did the same for me many times over.

[Here](#) are the lyrics:

### "Everything Possible"

We have cleared off the table, the leftovers saved,  
Washed the dishes and put them away  
I have told you a story and tucked you in tight  
At the end of your knockabout day  
As the moon sets it's sails to carry you to sleep  
Over the midnight sea  
I will sing you a song no one sang to me  
May it keep you good company.  
Chorus:  
You can be anybody you want to be,  
You can love whomever you will  
You can travel any country where your heart leads  
And know I will love you still  
You can live by yourself, you can gather friends around,  
You can choose one special one  
And the only measure of your words and your deeds  
Will be the love you leave behind when you're done.  
There are girls who grow up strong and bold  
There are boys quiet and kind  
Some race on ahead, some follow behind  
Some go in their own way and time

Some women love women, some men love men  
 Some raise children, some never do  
 You can dream all the day never reaching the end  
 Of everything possible for you.  
 Don't be rattled by names, by taunts, by games  
 But seek out spirits true  
 If you give your friends the best part of yourself  
 They will give the same back to you.  
 Chorus

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**Mike Tharp (Email)** - My mom, Carolyn Mary (Carrie Mae) Ingram was born in 1912 in West Texas. As an early teen, she joined the Richards Brothers Circus, owned and run by her family.

At 4'11", she was a trapeze artist with her brothers Tuff and Tudy. She also rode horses and elephants and performed an "Iron Jaw" hanging onto a leather strap high in Big Top tent. By the time she was 20 she had visited 46 of the then-48 states.



Her first husband, father of my oldest brother Webb, died in a VA hospital in Oklahoma. Raising a young boy during the Depression meant she had to do anything--plucking chickens, selling tickets at a movie house--to get by. She was working at the snack stand in the Oklahoma City railroad depot when she met my dad.

He was a special agent there for the Santa Fe Railway. (He made a lasting impression on her by jamming two oranges under his dress shirt and parading around the station.) They got hitched in 1944. Papa brought my sister Jeannine and brother Steve to the family. I was born in 1945. Brother James came a year later. (Papa once told me I was conceived on an American Indian blanket in the driveway of their small house. "It was a night like this, Michael," as years later we leaned on the warm hood of his Mercury Marquis, sipping beers and looking at the stars on Father's Day.)

So the folks had a Hers, His and Ours early on. Mama became Grannie to 12 grandkids, and they loved coming to Topeka to hang out. Mama never got past 7th grade. Yet she's the one who turned me on to Faulkner. She also forced me to take typing class in high school, which helped a lot in my career.

James and I were 6'3", but Mama said, "I'll slap you if I have to jump to do it." She became "Mama T" to a generation of my friends. Her fried chicken and "Gooney Cake" were to live for. The folks stayed in Topeka till 1982 when they moved to Oakridge, Ore., to be closer to James, his wife Linda and two granddaughters, Vanessa and Rachel.

When I lived in Dallas in the 1970s, I saw Mama a lot. Spent 11 years in Tokyo, which cut down our visits. Papa died of a heart attack in 1984. Mama moved in with James and Linda. I was in Tokyo in 1990 when James called. "If you wanna see Mama alive again, you better get here quick." I left the next day.

By now Mama was in an assisted living place near Eugene. Webb came from Texas, Steve from California and me from Japan. We took turns sitting up with her in her room. I had a shift from midnight to 6. Near the end of it, while I thought Mama was asleep or comatose, I pulled back the curtain in her room. "It's rainin', Mama--you ever know it to rain in Oregon?" Silence. Then, "A time or two, Michael, a time or two." She died that day.

Half of who I am is her.

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**Peggy Walsh** ([Email](#)) - I was so moved by Norm Abelson's questions for his mom - those asked and those not asked.

She sounds like a remarkable woman.

My Mom shaped me as a person, a woman and a journalist. She blazed the trail.

There are so many questions I asked her over the years and so many things she taught me and shared.

After my Dad died and we navigated the changes in her life she taught me one great last lesson - how to grow older.

The time we spent, each asking and answering questions of the other, will always remain one of my most treasured memories.



# It's 40, not -30-



**Brian Friedman at 2012 London Olympics**

**Brian Friedman**([Email](#)) - This week marks my 40th anniversary with The Associated Press. It's been a lot of work but also fun, and I'm not ready to stop. I've worked in 10 bureaus or departments, under four AP chief executives, at three different HQs. My first work was as an unpaid intern in the Amsterdam bureau, which the AP doesn't count in my service time. The work has taken me to six continents, 11 Olympics, 30 World Series games, three superpower summits and two coups (one successful).

My bureaus and departments - Amsterdam, Cincinnati, Des Moines, Omaha, NY General Desk, NY Foreign Desk, Moscow, NY Sports, NY International Desk, NY Top Stories Desk/Top Stories Hub. I was hired by Andy Lippman, then Cincinnati correspondent (Best first-day quote ever from him as he left me in charge: "The

bureau is in your hands. Don't drop it.") I now work at the Top Stories Hub, (as it is formally known), editing the top stories of the day. Most of the stories I work on are international news, although I do occasionally take domestic news, sports and business news.

Ready for more. It's 40 but not "-30-."

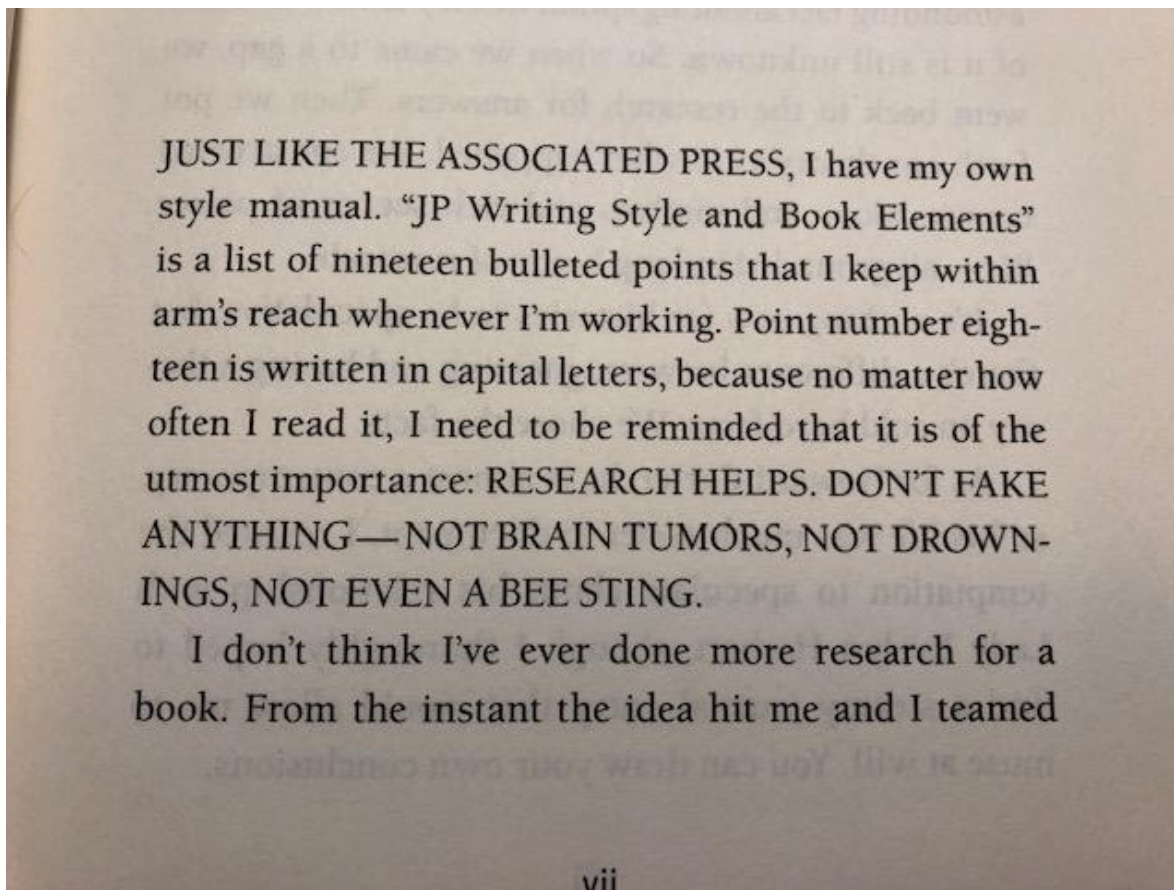
## Connecting mailbox

***'I'm working on five-year life plan goals. It's just the way I roll'***

**Carol Stark** ([Email](#)) - editor in chief, The Joplin (MO) Globe - Last week I learned the second round of treatments involving a chemo pill did not work. Tumors in the right pelvic region are picking up steam. Next up is immunotherapy. It needs to kick in pretty fast because I'm running out of time. Please know that I am feeling calm and plan to continue my daily work schedule as usual. I also am filling my calendar with as much fun and family and friends as I can. By golly, I will fit 20 years of living into the next 12 months. I'm not asking for anything from you except continued support. Oh yeah, my doctor who I love mentioned this could be my last summer. Please know I'm now working on my 5-year life plan goals. It's just the way I roll.

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***AP Sighting***



**Lindel Hutson** ([Email](#)) - This is from the author's note at the front of James Patterson's 2009 book, "The Murder of King Tut." He says this is point 18 of 19. He never says what the other points are.

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## ***Connecting sheep sighting***





**Susanne Shaw** ([Email](#)) - Paying a visit to a sheep farm, south of Christchurch.

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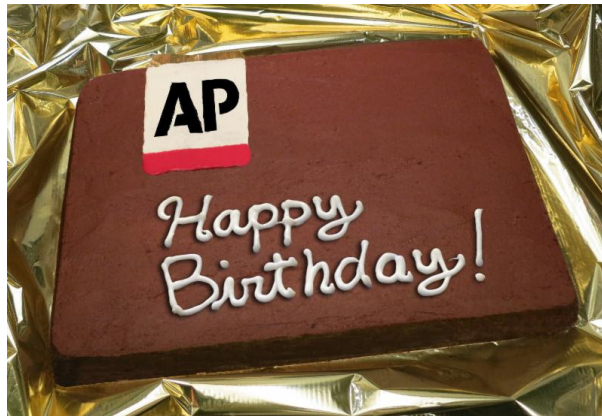
## ***Old Home (away from home) Week***



**Peter Leabo** ([Email](#)) - I was in New York last week for the Henry Stewart Digital Asset Management Conference. It was the first trip to New York for my fiancée, Kim. One of the mandatory sites on the agenda was a visit to my old home (away from home), [50 Rockefeller Plaza](#). Though I never worked in New York during my career

at AP, I visited with some frequency for various meetings and while going to or returning from trips abroad.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Bill Beecham - [bbeecham5@gmail.com](mailto:bbeecham5@gmail.com)

Thom Callahan - [tc5959@gmail.com](mailto:tc5959@gmail.com)

Marc Humbert - [marc.a.humbert@gmail.com](mailto:marc.a.humbert@gmail.com)

Anita Miller Fry - [topscoop@aol.com](mailto:topscoop@aol.com)

## Stories of interest

***As NewsGuild holds election, members say union has been too passive*** (CJR)

By LYZ LENZ

ON MAY 13, THE NEWSGUILD-CWA will begin tallying votes for its historic presidential election. The union, which represents more than 20,000 journalists, has grown in the past 5 years as many digital natives have unionized in response political and corporate pressures endangering newsrooms. Now, the leadership of the NewsGuild may be changing for the first time in 11 years, as Jon Schleuss, a journalist for the Los Angeles Times, 31, challenges Bernie Lunzer, the incumbent, 61, in a combative race.

"This is a critically important election, not just for journalists and media workers, but for everyone in the industry," says LA Times journalist Paul Pringle. "Newsrooms are shrinking, incomes are stagnant, these are all issues that smart and capable collective bargaining can address."

Katie Mettler, an Executive Council Member of the Washington-Baltimore News Guild, explains, "The election is important because it's about building on the collective bargaining momentum that could save our newsrooms."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Navigating Newsrooms as a Minority*** (The Open Notebook)

**By Kendra Pierre-Louis**

I have experienced racism in the newsroom. This hasn't surprised me. I have been black my whole life, so racism has been a fixture of my whole life.

What has surprised me, as someone who transitioned to journalism from other work, is that I've encountered racism more frequently in journalism than I did in previous professions. I have had colleagues assume I attended schools racked with gun violence. I've seen a coworker slip horrifically racist comments into a work chat, only to rapidly delete their words (I can only assume they had meant to send the comments as a direct message to someone else). And I have had to push back against edits that reinforced racist stereotypes.

My experience is not unusual, as I've discovered after talking to other journalists who are of color, queer, or both. Their experiences include colleagues assuming that any person of color in the newsroom must be part of the cleaning staff, aggressive attacks on their background, and unjustified doubts about their professional qualifications.

I'm lucky to work in a place with strong worker protections; it means that I feel able to speak relatively openly about the experience of what it means to be a minority in

journalism. But that isn't true for everyone. Many people I talked to for this article agreed to comment only anonymously.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***The White House revoked my press pass. It's not just me - it's curtailing access for all journalists.*** (Washington Post)

**By DANA MILBANK**

For the past 21 years, I have had the high privilege of holding a White House press pass, a magical ticket that gives the bearer a front-row seat to history.

I was in the White House the night Bill Clinton admitted his affair with Monica Lewinsky, and the day he was impeached. I was there on Sept. 11, 2001, and the fearful days thereafter, when we were trained to use escape hoods. I watched George W. Bush make the case for the Iraq War and Barack Obama pitch his remedies for the market crash. There, too, I have witnessed the carnival-like briefings and high histrionics of Donald Trump's presidency.

But no more. The White House eliminated most briefings and severely restricted access to official events. And this week came the coup de grace: After covering four presidents, I received an email informing me that Trump's press office had revoked my White House credential.

I'm not the only one. I was part of a mass purge of "hard pass" holders after the White House implemented a new standard that designated as unqualified almost the entire White House press corps, including all six of The Post's White House correspondents. White House officials then chose which journalists would be granted "exceptions." It did this over objections from news organizations and the White House Correspondents' Association.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Newhouse co. sends bumbling exec to lay off entire Times-Picayune staff*** (New York Post)

**By Keith J. Kelly**

The Newhouse family, which owns publications ranging from Vanity Fair to The Star-Ledger, just gave a lesson on the wrong way to shutter a newspaper.

The New York media dynasty announced a surprise shutdown of the 182-year-old New Orleans Times-Picayune last week - and the bumbling executive the family sent to deliver pink slips forgot to introduce himself as he delivered the crushing blow to staffers.

"Thank you for coming today on short notice. I'm going to get right to the point," the executive began in a May 2 speech, according to a recording of the bizarre incident provided to The Post.

Explaining that the Newhouses' newspaper chain, Advance Local, had sold the Times-Picayune and its website to rival newspaper New Orleans Advocate, the executive then broke the news that all 161 employees, including 65 journalists, would lose their jobs in 60 days.

Read more [here](#).

## **Today in History - May 9, 2019**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 9, the 129th day of 2019. There are 236 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On May 9, 1980, 35 people were killed when a freighter rammed the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay in Florida, causing a 1,400-foot section of the southbound span to collapse.

### On this date:

In 1712, the Carolina Colony was officially divided into two entities: North Carolina and South Carolina.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson, acting on a joint congressional resolution, signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

In 1926, Americans Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett supposedly became the first men to fly over the North Pole. (However, U.S. scholars announced in 1996 that their examination of Byrd's flight diary suggested he had turned back 150 miles short of his goal.)

In 1945, with World War II in Europe at an end, Soviet forces liberated Czechoslovakia from Nazi occupation. U.S. officials announced that a midnight entertainment curfew was being lifted immediately.

In 1958, "Vertigo," Alfred Hitchcock's eerie thriller starring James Stewart and Kim Novak, premiered in San Francisco, the movie's setting.

In 1961, in a speech to the National Association of Broadcasters, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Newton N. Minow decried the majority of television programming as a "vast wasteland."

In 1962, scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology succeeded in reflecting a laser beam off the surface of the moon.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon made a surprise and impromptu pre-dawn visit to the Lincoln Memorial, where he chatted with a group of protesters who'd been resting on the Memorial steps after protests against the Vietnam War and the Kent State shootings.

In 1994, South Africa's newly elected parliament chose Nelson Mandela to be the country's first black president.

In 2008, jury selection began in the Chicago trial of R&B superstar R. Kelly, accused of videotaping himself having sex with a girl as young as 13. (Kelly was later acquitted on all counts.)

In 2012, President Barack Obama declared his unequivocal support for same-sex marriage in a historic announcement that came three days after Vice President Joe Biden spoke in favor of such unions on NBC's "Meet the Press."

In 2017, President Donald Trump abruptly fired FBI Director James Comey, ousting the nation's top law enforcement official in the midst of an FBI investigation into whether Trump's campaign had ties to Russia's meddling in the election that sent him to the White House.

Ten years ago: The top religious adviser to Jordan's king thanked visiting Pope Benedict XVI for expressing regret after a 2006 speech that many Muslims deemed insulting to the Prophet Muhammad. Pakistani warplanes pounded the Taliban-held Swat Valley in what the country's prime minister called a "war of the country's survival."

Five years ago: Russian President Vladimir Putin made his first trip to Crimea since its annexation, calling it "historic justice" during a Victory Day display of military



pomp and patriotism. A judge struck down Arkansas' ban on same-sex marriage, saying the state had "no rational reason" for preventing gay couples from marrying.

One year ago: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in North Korea to finalize plans for a summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Three Americans who had spent more than a year in prison in North Korea were freed during his visit and left North Korea aboard Pompeo's plane.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-writer Alan Bennett is 85. Actress-turned-politician Glenda Jackson is 83. Producer-director James L. Brooks is 82. Musician Sonny Curtis (Buddy Holly and the Crickets) is 82. Singer Tommy Roe is 77. Singer-musician Richie Furay (Buffalo Springfield and Poco) is 75. Actress Candice Bergen is 73. Pop singer Clint Holmes is 73. Actor Anthony Higgins is 72. Singer Billy Joel is 70. Blues singer-musician Bob Margolin is 70. Rock singer-musician Tom Petersson (Cheap Trick) is 69. Actress Alley Mills is 68. Actress Amy Hill is 66. Actress Wendy Crewson is 63. Actor John Corbett is 58. Singer Dave Gahan (GAHN) (Depeche Mode) is 57. Actress Sonja Sohn is 55. Rapper Ghostface Killah is 49. Country musician Mike Myerson (Heartland) is 48. Actor Chris Diamantopoulos (dy-uh-MAN'-toh-POO'-lehs) is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tamia (tuh-MEE'-ah) is 44. Rock musician Dan Regan (Reel Big Fish) is 42. Actor Daniel Franzese is 41. Rock singer Pierre Bouvier (Simple Plan) is 40. Actress Rosario Dawson is 40. Rock singer Andrew W.K. is 40. Figure skater Angela Nikodinov is 39. Actress Rachel Boston is 37. TV personality Audrina Patridge is 34. Actress Grace Gummer is 33.

**Thought for Today: "Television has changed the American child from an irresistible force into an immovable object." - Laurence J. Peter, Canadian-born educator (1919-1990).**

## Connecting calendar



**May 15** - New Hampshire-Maine and environs AP-UPI-Journo lunch, Wednesday, May 15, noon, Longhorn restaurant, Concord, N.H. Contact: Adolphe Bernotas ([Email](#)).

**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](mailto: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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