

Connecting - May 14, 2019

1 message

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Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 14th day of May 2019,

Aron Heller, the AP correspondent in Jerusalem, tells the story of his grandfather's service in World War II in a poignant piece for the New York Times Magazine - and we lead with this story in today's issue.

Aron (**Email**) has covered five Israeli elections, Israel's 2005 withdrawal from Gaza, its 2006 war with Hezbollah in Lebanon and its 2009, 2012 and 2014 wars with Hamas in Gaza. A frequent contributor to AP's radio and on-line video services, he's developed several beats, including sports, religion and Holocaust-related features. He has a B.A. in Political Science and Economics from Tel Aviv University and an M.S. in Journalism from Columbia University. A part-time journalism professor, he's previously reported for the Ottawa Citizen, NBC News and Haaretz - and broadcast professional baseball and basketball games.



Aron Heller

His grandfather, **Mickey Heller**, who served in the Royal Canadian Air Force, was among 1.5 million Jewish soldiers who fought for the Allies during the war; more than 250,000 of them were killed, including some 450 Canadians.

Five years after his death, famed AP Hollywood writer **Bob Thomas** continues to contribute to the AP report.

Monday's **wire story** on the death of actor Doris Day ended with this sentence: **The late Associated Press writer Bob Thomas contributed biographical material to this report.**

Lindsey Bahr's story began:

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The very name "Doris Day," cheerful as a sunrise on a studio lot, was an invention.

The beloved singer and actress, who died Monday at 97, was a contemporary of Marilyn Monroe but seemed to exist in a lost and parallel world of sexless sex comedies and the carefree ways of "Que Sera, Sera" ("Whatever Will Be, Will Be"). She helped embody the manufactured innocence of the 1950s, a product even she didn't believe in.



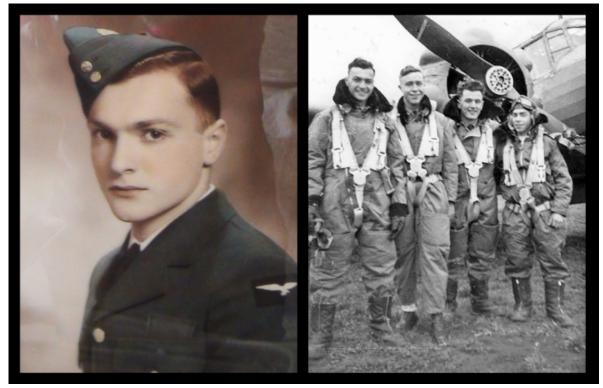
Doris Day (1955 AP Photo)

"I'm tired of being thought of as Miss Goody Twoshoes I'm not the All-American Virgin Queen, and I'd like to deal with the true, honest story of who I really am," she said in 1976, when her tell-all memoir "Doris Day: Her Own Story" chronicled her money troubles and failed marriages.

Have a great day!

Paul

These Jewish World War II Veterans Would Be Legends, if People Knew Their Stories



Left: Mickey Heller's World War II service photo. Right: Heller (far left) with his fellow aviators. Credit via Aron Heller

By ARON HELLER

For The New York Times Magazine

Aron Heller is a Jerusalem-based correspondent for The Associated Press.

In April 1943, the Halifax bomber that Wilfred Canter co-piloted was shot down on the way back from a mission over Stuttgart. Canter parachuted out into occupied France, breaking a leg when he landed. The only member of the six-man crew to evade capture, he was given food and clothing by a local family, then passed to members of the Resistance, who smuggled him to Paris, then Bordeaux, then over the Pyrenees by foot into Spain. From there he made his way to Gibraltar and then England. King George VI personally awarded Canter a Distinguished Flying Medal at Buckingham Palace, where he was cited for displaying "courage and tenacity of a high order."

After less than a month of home leave in Toronto, Canter - one of about 17,000 Jewish Canadians who fought in World War II - deemed himself fit for duty and returned to England to resume his bombing missions, including one in which his plane took fire but returned safely to base. In April 1944, Canter was shot down again, on a bombing run over Düsseldorf, and was captured by the Germans. After a lengthy Gestapo interrogation, he was detained for nine months in Stalag Luft III, a German prisoner-of-war camp made famous in the 1963 film "The Great Escape," which recounted how 76 British and Allied aviators tunneled to freedom. All but three of the prisoners were caught, and 50 were executed. Records and chronology indicate that Canter arrived at that camp at least a month after the escape.

Read more here. Shared by Michael Rubin.

Connecting mailbox

Quite a career that started in AP bureau in KC Star

Kent Zimmerman (Email) - Nice piece by Shirley Christian (her profile in Monday's Connecting). She had quite a career. And to think it all started on that noisy 3rd floor of the Star, or the 4th floor where the pigeons perched. (Zimmerman, longtime Kansas City AP news editor, worked 10 years in the AP's bureau in The Kansas City Star.)

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Who are the representatives representing?

Joe Galu (Email) - I read and saw lots of reports about the two brave young men who sacrificed themselves against deranged gunmen at their schools -- days before graduating in one or both cases. But I did not see anything about their congressmen and senators and their positions on gun safety, universal background checks, trigger locks, kid safety, safe storage. These are all issues where 80 to 90 percent of gun owners favor more restrictions, while the gun manufacturers oppose them all. Who are their representatives representing? Lousy, incomplete reporting.

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Connecting stories took his Mother's Day column in different direction

Jim Spehar (Email) - I was on my way to writing quite a different weekly column for the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel last week and, quite frankly, growing weary of commenting on local and statewide issues...the "important stuff" I'm told I should concentrate on as a regular editorial page columnist. Thanks to Norm Abelson's "Questions I should have asked my mom" and subsequent submissions by other fellow Connecting colleagues, I took a different direction. Here it is:

Happy Mothers' Day!

"God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers." - Rudyard Kipling

I'm gaining a new appreciation for motherhood these days.

Not that I didn't have an amazing mother who put her own fierce stamp on "the greatest generation". Or that I wasn't paying attention, though probably not enough, while the Homecoming Queen I somehow convinced to marry me nearly 50 years ago birthed and mothered our own two wonderful kids.

But over the last few years, as I watched the next generation in our extended family start raising their own families, I've began thinking again about parenthood and, truth be told, wishing I could have been the kind of parent I'm seeing in them. It's easy to become a father...a longer, harder slog to be a good parent and earn the right to be called "dad."

Fortunately, for some of us, there are do-overs. Grandchildren, it's been said, remind you of the reason you didn't kill your own children. (I'm sure my daughter and son would agree there were occasions when homicide might have been an option...on both sides of the familial divide.)

For nearly a year now, we've been up close and personal with our only grandchild. You've read about some of our adventures. That means we're also just a few miles from her and her mother instead of three or four states away, able to see day to day interactions, the occasional rough patch rather than just best behaviors during short visits. With their move back to town, we're also spending more time with their next gen cousins and their families.

I can be as grumpy as any "get off my lawn" geezer about some of the proclivities of those young whippersnappers. But every time I'm around them I become more of an admirer of their skills as moms and dads, husbands and wives, men and women.

Some of that, I hope, came from positive examples shown by their parents. In other instances, admittedly, they might have been treated to a graduate level course or two on what not to do. If we're brave enough, that would make for an interesting family discussion, especially if some of us could keep to our "indoor voices", listen as well as preach, ask as much as tell, request rather than demand. That list is longer.

Having grown up in loud, feisty family, I too often mimicked the way I was parented. In the early days my own family's existence, I traveled extensively. Later I was buried in all it took to turn around what we bought as a failing business. What should have been my first priority sometimes fell by the wayside. I didn't always adhere to Bonnie's mantra of "Unconditional positive regard"...one that's come in handy in her dealings with her husband as well as her kids.

Ellie's parents and her aunts and uncles do things right. They're feeling all the pressures of being young working parents, just as I did. But it's a guilty pleasure to observe how engaged they remain with their own children, how attuned they are to treating mistakes as opportunities for learning rather than discipline, how much more they're enjoying parenthood and living in the moment, how much happier their kids are because of that.

So, in reality, I'm learning from all of them how to be a better grandparent than I was a parent. I'm pretty certain Bonnie, Jessica and Tony would agree it's about damn time.

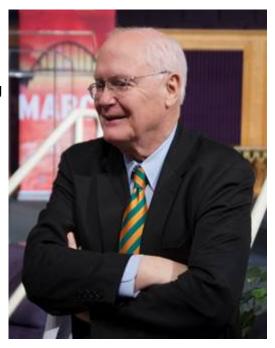
All that's left me wishing these days that motherhood didn't have to be so genderspecific, at least the emotional part of it. That somehow those of us of the male persuasion could at least feel the same sort of passion and be as nurturing and empathetic as the mothers of our children. Much as we love our kids, take pride in their accomplishments, cringe when they fall and cheer when they get back up, as grateful as we are when we see just a little bit of our better selves in them...somehow it just doesn't look and feel the same, at least to me. There's just something a little more special about moms, our kids would probably tell their dads today and every other day of the year. If they dared.

"It's not easy being a mom. If it were easy, fathers would do it." - Betty White

Jim Spehar is grateful for all the mothers in his life. Comments to speharjim@gmail.com

New-member profile: David Lawrence Jr.

David Lawrence Jr. (Email) retired in 1999 as publisher of The Miami Herald - after a 35-year journalism career at seven newspapers -- to work in the area of early childhood development and readiness. (During his tenure as Herald publisher, the paper won five Pulitzer Prizes.) He chairs The Children's Movement of Florida. He served on the Governor's Children and Youth Cabinet and twice chaired the Florida Partnership for School Readiness. He twice led successful campaigns for The Children's Trust, a dedicated source of early intervention and prevention funding in Miami-Dade. In 2002-3 and in 2011, he chaired statewide panels on child protection. In 2002, he was a key figure in passing a statewide constitutional amendment to provide pre-K for all 4 year olds. He is the founding chair of the Early



Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe. The David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Public School opened in 2006. An endowed chair in early childhood studies is established in his name at the University of Florida. In 2015 he was appointed by the Governor to the Board of Trustees of Florida A&M University.

His memoir, "Journalism, Justice and a Chance for Every Child," was published last September and already has sold 19,000 copies, with his share of the proceeds going to The Children's Movement. Click **here** for an Amazon link.

His 13 honorary doctorates include one from his alma mater, the University of Florida. His national honors include the National Association of Minority Media Executives award for "lifetime achievement in diversity." He was the 1991-92

president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the 1995-96 president of the Inter American Press Association.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



То

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Stories of interest

One deadly day: Afghanistan's murdered journalists, in the words of the people who knew them (CJR)



The funeral of AFP photographer Shah Marai. Photo courtesy Andrew Quilty.

By Jon Allsop, Aliya Iftikhar, and Mehdi Rahmati

This article is a collaboration between CJR and the Committee to Protect Journalists.

It was the deadliest day for journalists in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban regime. On April 30, a double suicide blast in the capital, Kabul, killed nine journalists. Some died instantly; others clung, briefly, to life. Their names were Yar Mohammad Tokhi, Sabawoon Kakar, Abadullah Hananzai, Maharram Durrani, Ghazi Rasooli, Nowroz Ali Rajabi, Saleem Talash, Ali Saleemi, and Shah Marai, and they worked for a combination of local and international outlets-including AFP, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, TOLO News, TV1, and Mashal TV. Not long afterward, about 100 miles away, in Khost Province, BBC reporter Ahmad Shah was also killed-shot by a group of armed men while cycling. By day's end, the journalist death toll was 10.

Afghanistan's press corp is no stranger to murder: Journalists are killed far too often, and reporting on mass civilian casualties is a depressingly routine assignment. In Kabul, on the last day of April, those realities collided in a particularly shocking way. Reporters and photographers had flocked to cover a suicide bombing near the US embassy around 8 am, during the morning rush hour, when a second attacker, who'd flashed a press pass and a camera to get near the media gaggle, detonated his own explosives. It was a careful, coordinated attack, specifically targeting members of the press.

Working in collaboration with the Committee to Protect Journalists, CJR set out to learn more about the reporters who died. In interviews with 22 of their relatives, friends, and colleagues, we heard repeatedly that the fallen journalists would be among the first on the scene whenever an attack took place-a diligence that ended up costing them their lives. Many were their family's sole breadwinner, supporting children, spouses, siblings, and parents, some of whom are pregnant or severely sick. Most were young. One, Maharram Durrani, was days away from starting production work on RFE/RL's weekly women's program, part of a small, yet vital, cadre of Afghan female journalists.

Read more here. Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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Why Bolstering Trust in Journalism Could Help Strengthen Trust in Medicine (JAMA)

Declines in public trust in US institutions has been widespread and well documented.1 Neither journalism nor medicine are immune from this trend, although the combination has the potential to adversely affect both population and individual health. Individuals are inundated with health information from news media, with news stories ranging from the latest trends in health and wellness to breaking news about new treatments or technologies that have the potential to revolutionize health care.

However, mistrust and confusion created by the 21st-century information ecosystem2 have contributed to outbreaks of once-eradicated vaccine-preventable disease, to overhyped research findings that confuse the public, and to distrust in the financial motivations of physicians, hospitals, insurers, and drug and device manufactures alike. Given the ongoing erosion of trust in information in news media, what roles can clinicians and journalists have to ensure the public's trust in the information they need to remain healthy and to seek appropriate care when they develop illness? This Viewpoint highlights the important relationship between medicine and trust in news media and articulates 3 ways that clinicians, health care organizations, and journalists might begin to rebuild the foundation of trust on which both medicine and journalism rely.

Read more here. Shared by Michael Rubin.

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How a Newspaper War in New Orleans Ended: With a Baked Alaska and Layoffs (New York Times)

By CAMPBELL ROBINSON

NEW ORLEANS - The announcement came via the baked alaska.

On May 2, senior staff members at The Advocate newspaper gathered in a room at Antoine's, one of the white-linen dining palaces in the French Quarter of New Orleans, for a lunch purportedly in honor of the paper's first-ever Pulitzer Prize. The win was the crowning moment for The Advocate since it stormed into New Orleans journalism about six years ago. Drawn in icing on one side of the dessert was The Advocate's logo.

But on the other side, to the surprise of many in the room, was the logo of its 182year-old neighbor turned rival, The Times-Picayune. The baked alaska broke the news: The two papers were now one, bringing an end to an extraordinary modern newspaper war.

Within hours, the staff of The Times-Picayune, or nola.com as the flagship website is called, learned that they were losing their jobs. What The Advocate had bought, for an undisclosed amount, was the brand, the site, the archives, the subscriber list - not the employees.

Read more here.

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Should a Colorado library publish local news? (CJR)

By COREY HUTCHINS

A LATE-NIGHT DEBATE in a sparsely attended city council chamber in Colorado on Tuesday opened a new front in the national conversation about how to sustain local news.

Voters in Longmont-who previously approved a publicly owned fiber-optic broadband network, and now have some of the fastest internet speeds in the nation-could be asked to consider new taxes to fund a "library district," a special governmental subdivision that would operate a community library. Roughly a dozen residents are pushing to explore the library district to include some form of community news component.

"A thing like a modern library can fund news," says W. Vito Montone, who moved to Longmont from California two years ago and is helping organize the project. "It's just a function that belongs in modern information."

Read more here. Shared by Paul Albright.

The Final Word

Can We Live Longer but Stay Younger? (New Yorker)

By ADAM GOPNIK

Aging, like bankruptcy in Hemingway's description, happens two ways, slowly and then all at once. The slow way is the familiar one: decades pass with little sense of internal change, middle age arrives with only a slight slowing down-a name lost, a lumbar ache, a sprinkling of white hairs and eye wrinkles. The fast way happens as a series of lurches: eyes occlude, hearing dwindles, a hand trembles where it hadn't, a hip breaks-the usually hale and hearty doctor's murmur in the yearly checkup, There are some signs here that concern me.

To get a sense of what it would be like to have the slow process become the fast process, you can go to the AgeLab, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Cambridge, and put on agnes (for Age Gain Now Empathy System). agnes, or the "sudden aging" suit, as Joseph Coughlin, the founder and director of the AgeLab describes it, includes yellow glasses, which convey a sense of the yellowing of the ocular lens that comes with age; a boxer's neck harness, which mimics the diminished mobility of the cervical spine; bands around the elbows, wrists, and knees to simulate stiffness; boots with foam padding to produce a loss of tactile feedback; and special gloves to "reduce tactile acuity while adding resistance to finger movements."

Read more here.

Today in History - May 14, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, May 14, the 134th day of 2019. There are 231 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 14, 1955, representatives from eight Communist bloc countries, including the Soviet Union, signed the Warsaw Pact in Poland. (The Pact was dissolved in 1991.)

On this date:

In 1643, Louis XIV became King of France at age 4 upon the death of his father, Louis XIII.

In 1796, English physician Edward Jenner inoculated 8-year-old James Phipps against smallpox by using cowpox matter.

In 1804, the Lewis and Clark expedition to explore the Louisiana Territory as well as the Pacific Northwest left camp near present-day Hartford, Illinois.

In 1925, the Virginia Woolf novel "Mrs Dalloway" was first published in England and the United States.

In 1940, the Netherlands surrendered to invading German forces during World War II.

In 1948, according to the current-era calendar, the independent state of Israel was proclaimed in Tel Aviv by David Ben-Gurion, who became its first prime minister; U.S. President Harry S. Truman immediately recognized the new nation.

In 1961, Freedom Riders were attacked by violent mobs in Anniston and Birmingham, Alabama.

In 1968, John Lennon and Paul McCartney held a news conference in New York to announce the creation of the Beatles' latest business venture, Apple Corps.

In 1973, the United States launched Skylab 1, its first manned space station. (Skylab 1 remained in orbit for six years before burning up during re-entry in 1979.) The National Right to Life Committee was incorporated.

In 2001, the Supreme Court ruled 8-0 that there is no exception in federal law for people to use marijuana for medical purposes.

In 2004, Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper published a front-page apology after photographs supposedly showing British forces abusing Iraqi prisoners turned out to be fakes. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to step in and block gay marriages in Massachusetts.

In 2008, the Interior Department declared the polar bear a threatened species because of the loss of Arctic sea ice. Justine Henin (EH'-nen), 25, became the first woman to retire from tennis while atop the WTA rankings.

Ten years ago: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi accused the CIA of misleading her and other lawmakers about the waterboarding of detainees during the Bush administration, disputing Republican charges that she'd been complicit in its use. Chrysler announced plans to eliminate 789 dealerships as part of its restructuring. A pair of spacewalking astronauts installed a new piano-sized camera in the Hubble Space Telescope.

Five years ago: A wildfire erupted in the north San Diego suburb of Carlsbad, destroying eight houses, two businesses and an apartment complex. Canadian-born U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz officially renounced his birth country's citizenship amid speculation he could make a run at the White House in 2016.

One year ago: Israel and the U.S. held a festive inauguration ceremony for the new American Embassy in Jerusalem; just a few miles away, Israeli forces shot and killed nearly 60 Palestinians and wounded hundreds of others during mass protests along the Gaza border that were the culmination of weekly demonstrations aimed at breaking a border blockade. The Supreme Court cleared the way for states coast to coast to legalize betting on sports. Writer Tom Wolfe, who chronicled the space race in "The Right Stuff" before turning his satiric wit to such novels as "The Bonfire of the Vanities," died in New York at the age of 88.

Today's Birthdays: Photo-realist artist Richard Estes is 87. Actress Dame Sian Phillips is 86. Former Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., is 77. Movie producer George Lucas is 75. Guitarist Gene Cornish is 75. Actress Meg Foster is 71. Movie director Robert Zemeckis is 68. Rock singer David Byrne is 67. Actor Tim Roth is 58. Rock singer Ian Astbury (The Cult) is 57. Rock musician C.C. (aka Cecil) DeVille is 57. Actor Danny Huston is 57. Rock musician Mike Inez (Alice In Chains) is 53. Fabrice Morvan (ex-Milli Vanilli) is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer Raphael Saadiq is 53. Gmail - Connecting - May 14, 2019

Actress Cate Blanchett is 50. Singer Danny Wood (New Kids on the Block) is 50. Movie writer-director Sofia Coppola (KOH'-pah-lah) is 48. Former Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen is 47. Actor Gabriel Mann is 47. Singer Natalie Appleton (All Saints) is 46. Singer Shanice is 46. Actress Carla Jimenez is 45. Rock musician Henry Garza (Los Lonely Boys) is 41. Alt-country musician-singer Ketch Secor is 41. Rock singer-musician Dan Auerbach is 40. Rock musician Mike Retondo (Plain White T's) is 38. Actress Amber Tamblyn is 36. Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg is 35. Actress Lina Esco is 34. Retired NFL player Rob Gronkowski is 30. Actress Miranda Cosgrove is 26.

Thought for Today: "The family you come from isn't as important as the family you're going to have." - Ring Lardner, American humorist (1885-1933).



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

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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