



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

# Connecting - October 30, 2019

1 message

**Paul Stevens** <paulstevens46@gmail.com>  
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com  
To: pjshane@gmail.com

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# Connecting

October 30, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019,

How often do you get a chance to gather with friends and colleagues - and one of the most famous U.S. Supreme Court justices in history?

We lead today's issue with an article from colleague **Shirley Christian** on a recent reunion in Washington of plaintiffs from the 1973-83 discrimination suit

against the AP. The group got a chance to spend some time with Associate Justice **Ruth Ginsburg**. It's a fascinating story.

**Our trip to the Holy Land** was a fascinating experience and although my head is still clearing from our 12-hour flight from Tel Aviv to Kansas City via Newark, I decided to return to the Connecting editor's saddle. It is good to be back home (although our goldendoodle Ollie seems to have saved up all his energy for our return).

Please join me in thanking **Peg Coughlin**, my longtime friend and fellow former AP colleague, for her work in publishing the newsletter during my absence. As she does with every task handed her, Peg picked up quickly the somewhat complicated construction of Connecting and delivered it to each of you so well while I was away.

It will take a while to digest all we experienced during our 10 days in Israel - part of a tour arranged by our United Methodist Church of the Resurrection - but these photos represent the dichotomy of a journey ranging from the most solemn and meaningful to moments of a lighthearted nature. (I may share more photos later.)



Two of our tour group were a Kansas City-area couple whose 34-year-old daughter Keisha had died just four months earlier. She had experienced an earlier Holy Land tour sponsored by our church and she insisted before she died that her parents experience the same pilgrimage that she took. The photo above shows our group gathered around them when **Scott Chrostek** (holding mike) and **Jason Gant**, church pastors who led the tour, anointed them at the pool of Bethesda/St.

Anne's Cathedral. This came at the start of the Via Dolorosa (Latin for "Sorrowful Way"), a processional route in the Old City of Jerusalem believed to be the part that Jesus walked on the way to his crucifixion. Our group followed that route. And yes, we felt Keisha's (and the Lord's) presence with us.



And in a lighter vein: The photo above shows members of our group at the Dead Sea where many of us donned swimsuits and literally floated in the salty water (nearly 10 times the salt content of the oceans). I am the guy in the middle wearing blue trunks and with white hair not darkened by the salt water. After experiencing how easy it was to float in that water, I plan to bring a large salt shaker to my corner of the water aerobics classes that I frequent four days a week and start shaking salt when instructor **Sarah Postle** (a Connecting colleague) calls for us to go suspended.

Have a great day!

Paul

## Together Again Four Decades After Taking a Leap



**The group, from left: Peg Simpson, Shirley Christian, Jan Goodman, Justice Ginsburg, Ginny Pitt Sherlock, Maureen Connolly, and Rachelle Cohen.**

### **By Shirley Christian ([Email](#))**

Walking from the Metro stop beneath Washington's Union Station toward the U. S. Supreme Court on Friday, Oct. 18, I asked myself whether I would recognize the other women who had led the successful discrimination suit against The AP so many years ago - and whether they would recognize me. Should we have agreed to wear pink flowers?

However, I had barely passed through security and into the visitors' entrance when Ginny Pitt Sherlock and Maureen Connolly called out to me, and within the next 15 minutes we were joined by Peggy Simpson and Rachelle Cohen, plus our attorney from the suit, Janice Goodman. Virginia Tyson, the sixth surviving lead plaintiff, had to cancel her planned trip from California at the last minute.

Most of us had not been together since the news conference in New York in the summer of 1983 after The AP agreed to greatly expand its promotion and employment of women and minorities. By 1983, all of us who were named plaintiffs had left The AP for other opportunities, so there was a lot to talk about.

First, we had Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an icon of women's rights, on our schedule. Our meeting with the Justice as well as our visit to the Court and entire reunion came about through a series of events and contacts that began last spring when former News Media Guild president and AP Raleigh news person Martha Waggoner called each of the six plaintiffs to interview us for an article for the Guild

newsletter. The article was picked up by the Poynter Institute, then by Connecting's brilliant editor.

Martha soon had all of us in email contact with each other. Somebody said, let's have a reunion, others agreed. We were spread out from Maine to Florida to California to Kansas City, Washington, New York, and Boston. After some debate about which location was "central," we agreed to gather in Washington in October. Peg Simpson offered her town house near Dupont Circle for gatherings, but then we wondered what else to do.

My old Washington friends Mary and Bob Dubill (ex-AP Trenton and Newark) suggested that we might like a behind-the-scenes Supreme Court tour and put me in touch with Patricia Evans, a court librarian and close friend of theirs. Pat set up the tour. Then, Jan Goodman, who knew the justice from the exciting Women's Movement days in New York in the Seventies, arranged for us to meet with her.

After an hour and a half of hearing tales of early justices, starting with Marshall, a visit to the courtroom, the library, and the basketball court above the courtroom, we made our way to Justice Ginsburg's office. We admired the art in the reception area, including an old black-and-white photo of an early women's suffrage march until she came out and invited us into her office.

Despite her health concerns, she seemed quite chipper as she arranged seating, then traded memories with Jan. Speaking softly, she ranged over some other women's media suits and some current suits, including LGBT rights, until we all posed for a picture in front of the fireplace.

As we left, her law clerk showed us the closet full of collars that she wears with her robes, ranging from the rather severe black one she favors on days when she is planning to announce a dissent to a lot of frilly tatted ones that people send her as gifts. One of the jobs of her male clerk is to narrow the choice to three for any given day, then she picks the one she wants to wear.

The next day, we did our own long and rambling exchange of memories and experiences since the suit during an endless brunch around Peg's dining table. Martha Waggoner joined us from Raleigh as well as Sonya Ross, who recently left Washington AP to launch the specialty news service Black Women Unmuted.



**Taken on the Capitol Mall during the Washington reunion, from left: AP Raleigh newsperson Martha Waggoner with the women she brought together in Washington: Ginny Sherlock, Jan Goodman, Maureen Connolly, Peg Simpson, Shirley Christian, and Rachelle Cohen. (Photo by AP's Alex Brandon)**

Since 1983, we learned, life had taken us individually to Poland for 10 years of freelancing, to Latin America for 20-odd years and a Pulitzer, to law school and a change of career, plus challenges of losing spouses, caring for other relatives, and outright perseverance. Jan went on to play a major role in the NBC women's suit. Among us, after The AP, we had worked for the Miami Herald, New York Times, CNN, Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Los Angeles Times, and countless freelance outlets.

We remembered the late Fran Lewin, the seventh plaintiff. After her many years as an AP White House correspondent, she had worked for CNN in its startup years. And we remembered Ginny's late husband Pat Sherlock, who had been Wire Service Guild president when the case was put together and was one of many men who had been supportive. That night, Pat did even more when Ginny paid for a rather expensive dinner at a fancy restaurant and said the money came from Pat's estate.

Several times, someone raised the question of how we felt about having signed onto the suit back in the Seventies, of having drawn a deep breath and said yes to something with an uncertain outcome. We were a little unsure how we felt, though no one regretted it, and we had all survived.

In the afternoon, before heading off to various museums, we met AP photographer Alex Brandon in front of the Capitol for photos, and he helped to focus our thinking the way photographers always do. Alex, who won a Pulitzer for Katrina hurricane coverage, kept telling us throughout the shoot that we were "Amazing!"

And we were willing to accept that.

# Connecting mailbox

## ***Believe me: Cancer is a battle***

**Marcia Budd** ([Email](#)) - I don't agree with Neal Ulevich (see Monday's Connecting).

Cancer is a battle. I have been "battling" stage 4 ovarian cancer for six years.

Each day whether you are on chemo or an easy maintenance drug as I am, it is a battle to maintain your life.

A fight with yourself to deal with the seemingly permanent effects of chemo; with the relatively benign effects of the maintenance drug. A fight to maintain a normal life when what you would rather do is hide under a blanket and wait for the sword to fall.

This is a battle.

In light of a cancer battle, getting hit by a bus is easy.

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## ***Recalling a famous negative she held between her fingers***

**Wendy Davis Beard** ([Email](#)) - I loved the story and video link about Nick Ut who I met shortly after leaving the AP to help promote an artist in residence program in the Cathedral of St John the Divine on the upper West side NYC after having held between my fingers the very negative of Nicks' most famous image of the "Napalm Girl" whilst I was photo researching images for Hal Buell for "Moments in Time" marking the 50th Anniversary of AP Photos. I also had the honour of working with

Horst Faas at the LA Olympics. Horst later visited me and my family in London the day before we all joined the historic protest march in London against the British and American invasion of Iraq.

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## ***Cal Woodward's recognition***

**Mike Feinsilber** ([Email](#)) - I take it the Gramling is in recognition not only of Cal Woodward's commendable hard-hitting and honest fact-checking but also of decades of clear, precise, humane, embracing - and too often unrewarded - journalism. And for being a splendid and modest guy - and a terrific bicyclist.

My congratulations to the judges.

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## ***A tale/tail of an adopted mouse***

**Malcolm Barr** ([Email](#)) - The current Midway Island articles remind me of a trip I made out to Midway while military reporting in the Hawaiian Islands. I can't remember whether it was in my pre-AP days at the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, or during my early years at the AP but it was in the early 1960s when the U.S. Navy revealed that Midway's burgeoning "Gooney Bird" population was threatening the safety of takeoffs and landings from Midway's airstrip, increasingly used during the buildup to the Vietnam war. As a sidebar, I wrote of my experience one late afternoon at the Officers' Club, empty barring myself and two school teachers who'd finished work for the day. They sat two or three stools down from me, ordered a couple of beers, then one fumbled in her purse and pulled out a mouse, placing it on the bar. The bartender treated it to a potato chip. Curious, I edged up the bar and asked about the mouse. "Oh!" remarked one of the educators, as best I can recall. "We spotted him in our kitchen and decided to adopt him. He's good company." By way of further explanation, she added "There isn't much to do on Midway, you know..."

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## ***Honoring distinguished alums Martha Bellisle, Larry Ryckman***



**Gathering as former AP reporters covering the Nevada Legislature in the 1980s are, from left: Martin Griffith, Martha Bellisle, Brendan Riley who ran the legislative bureau, Larry Ryckman, Mitchell Landsberg.**

**Warren Lerude** ([Email](#)) - The University of Nevada (Reno) Sagebrush student newspaper Alumni Chapter honored Martha Bellisle, AP Seattle, and Larry Ryckman, former AP Reno, Carson City, San Francisco, New York, Moscow at a dinner celebrating both as former Sagebrush staffers in their college years - Bellisle as a mid-career distinguished journalist with the Jake Highton Award in name of an acclaimed professor and Ryckman with the Frank McCulloch Lifetime Achievement Award in name of the 1941 Nevada journalism graduate known for his Time-Life and newspaper editing career.

Ryckman is a founder of the nonprofit online Colorado Sun and Landsberg is now with the Los Angeles Times.

Riley hired the whole crew in what they affectionately called the Brendan Riley Survival School of Journalism covering the legislature.

I had the pleasure as a long ago Reno, San Diego, LA and Las Vegas AP reporter, now professor emeritus at the Reynolds School of Journalism, of introducing Ryckman and welcoming back to Reno Bellisle who had been one of my star students.

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## ***Lecturing on wire-service journalism in China***



**Patrick Casey (left) and Rick Dunham**

Retired AP staffer **Patrick Casey** ([Email](#)) gave a lecture on wire-service reporting and photography at Tsinghua University, China's Harvard, on Oct. 29. Casey, who has lived in Beijing for the past 11 years, appeared at the invitation of journalism department chair Rick Dunham, the Washington bureau chief for the Houston Chronicle from 2007-13 and former president of the National Press Club.

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## ***Candidates going to the dogs?***



**John Gaps III (Email)** - Just a little whimsy mixed in with our Iowa Caucus news coverage. Thought you and other AP dog lovers might enjoy this.

Click [here](#) to view.

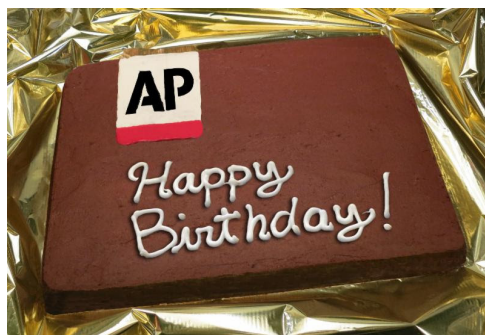
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**Connecting sky shot - Rancho Cucamonga**



**Holly Kurtz** ([Email](#)) - Here's a sky shot I took in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., where I live.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

**Cheryl Arvidson** - [cheryl@carvidson.com](mailto:cheryl@carvidson.com)

**Richard Chady** - [rchady1@gmail.com](mailto:rchady1@gmail.com)

Chuck Lewis - [chuck.lewis2014@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.lewis2014@gmail.com)

## Welcome to Connecting



Harry Moskos - [HMOSKOS@msn.com](mailto:HMOSKOS@msn.com)

Dar Yasin - [YDar@ap.org](mailto:YDar@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

### ***Facebook launches a news section - and will pay publishers***

**By BARBARA ORTUTAY and TALI ARBEL The Associated Press**

Over the course of its 15-year history, Facebook has variously ignored news organizations while eating their advertising revenue, courted them for video projects it subsequently abandoned, and then largely cut their stories out of its newsfeeds.

Now, it plans to pay them for news headlines - reportedly millions of dollars in some cases.

Enter the "News Tab," a section in the Facebook mobile app that will display headlines - and nothing else - from the Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, BuzzFeed News, Business Insider, NBC, USA Today and Los Angeles Times, among others. Local stories from several of the largest U.S. cities will also make the grade; headlines from smaller towns are on their way, Facebook said.

Tapping those headlines will take you directly to publisher websites or apps, if you have any installed - a function publishers have been requesting from Facebook for years.

It's potentially a big step for a platform that has long struggled with both stamping out misinformation and making nice with struggling purveyors of news, though media watchers remain skeptical that Facebook is really committed to helping sustain the news industry.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dorothy Abernathy.

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## ***The Harvard Crimson is right to stand by journalistic principles*** (Washington Post)

### **By Editorial Board**

THERE ARE many ways journalism, and journalistic norms, may wither. One, of course, is by succumbing to official attack such as that being waged by President Trump against "the enemy of the people." Another, more subtle danger is a lack of appreciation and comprehension by rising generations of young people. Which brings us to the recent controversy at Harvard, where a student organization that advocates for immigrants is mounting a misguided protest against the school newspaper, the Harvard Crimson.

In September, the organization, Act on a Dream, held a rally calling for abolition of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE). Crimson reporters called ICE for comment (ICE did not respond). According to an online petition circulated by Act on a Dream, this standard reportorial practice showed "cultural insensitivity" to ICE's record of "surveilling and retaliating against" activists. "In this political climate, a request for comment is virtually the same as tipping them off," the petition claimed. For what it's worth, Crimson editors have averred convincingly that they did not try to contact ICE until after the rally had ended, and would have provided no information about specific attendees, if ICE had granted the paper's

request for an interview. Some 700 people (and about a dozen student organizations, including Harvard College Democrats) have endorsed this petition, with its demand that the paper apologize and change the policy that required it to call ICE for comment. Meanwhile, Act on a Dream and others are refusing contact with Crimson reporters.

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

## The Final Word



Shared by Larry Blasko

## Today in History - October 30, 2019



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 30, the 303rd day of 2019. There are 62 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Oct. 30, 1912, Vice President James S. Sherman, running for a second term of office with President William Howard Taft, died six days before Election Day. (Sherman was replaced with Nicholas Murray Butler, but Taft, the Republican candidate, ended up losing in an Electoral College landslide to Democrat Woodrow Wilson.)

### **On this date:**

In 1735 (New Style calendar), the second president of the United States, John Adams, was born in Braintree, Massachusetts.

In 1961, the Soviet Union tested a hydrogen bomb, the "Tsar Bomba," with a force estimated at about 50 megatons. The Soviet Party Congress unanimously approved a resolution ordering the removal of Josef Stalin's body from Lenin's tomb.



In 1972, 45 people were killed when an Illinois Central Gulf commuter train was struck from behind by another train on Chicago's South Side.

In 1974, Muhammad Ali knocked out George Foreman in the eighth round of a 15-round bout in Kinshasa, Zaire (zah-EER'), known as the "Rumble in the Jungle," to regain his world heavyweight title.

In 1975, the New York Daily News ran the headline "Ford to City: Drop Dead" a day after President Gerald R. Ford said he would veto any proposed federal bailout of New York City.

In 1979, President Carter announced his choice of federal appeals judge Shirley Hufstедler to head the newly created Department of Education.

In 1985, schoolteacher-astronaut Christa McAuliffe witnessed the launch of the space shuttle Challenger, the same craft that would carry her and six other crew members to their deaths in Jan. 1986.

In 1995, by a razor-thin vote of 50.6 percent to 49.4 percent, Federalists prevailed over separatists in a Quebec secession referendum.

In 1997, a jury in Cambridge, Massachusetts, convicted British au pair Louise Woodward of second-degree murder in the death of eight-month-old Matthew Eappen (EE'-puhn). (The judge, Hiller B. Zobel, later reduced the verdict to manslaughter and set Woodward free.)

In 2001, Ukraine destroyed its last nuclear missile silo, fulfilling a pledge to give up the vast nuclear arsenal it had inherited after the breakup of the former Soviet Union.

In 2002, Jam Master Jay (Jason Mizell), a rapper with the hip-hop group Run-DMC, was killed in a shooting in New York. He was 37.

In 2005, the body of Rosa Parks arrived at the U.S. Capitol, where the civil rights icon became the first woman to lie in honor in the Rotunda; President George W. Bush and congressional leaders paused to lay wreaths by her casket.

Ten years ago: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was confronted repeatedly by Pakistanis as she ended a tense three-day tour of the country, chastised by one woman who said a U.S. program using aerial drones to target terrorists amounted to "executions without trial." Michelle Triola Marvin, who'd fought a landmark "palimony" case in the 1970s against former lover Lee Marvin, died in Malibu, California, at age 76.

Five years ago: Israel closed all access to Jerusalem's most sensitive religious site, revered by Jews as the Temple Mount and Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, in a rare move that ratcheted up tensions after the attempted assassination of a Jewish religious activist and the killing of a Palestinian suspect in the case by security forces. Thomas Menino, Boston's longest-serving mayor, died at age 71.

One year ago: President Donald Trump and his wife Melania visited a Pittsburgh synagogue to pay homage to the 11 people slain there three days earlier; hundreds of protesters nearby shouted that the president was not welcome. With three funerals, Pittsburgh's Jewish community began burying its dead from the synagogue massacre. Notorious gangster James "Whitey" Bulger was found beaten to death at a federal prison in West Virginia; the 89-year-old former Boston crime boss and longtime FBI informant had been transferred there hours earlier.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Claude Lelouch is 82. Rock singer Grace Slick is 80. Songwriter Eddie Holland is 80. Rhythm-and-blues singer Otis Williams (The Temptations) is 78. Actress Joanna Shimkus is 76. Actor Henry Winkler is 74. Broadcast journalist Andrea Mitchell is 73. Rock musician Chris Slade (Asia) is 73. Country/rock musician Timothy B. Schmit (The Eagles) is 72. Actor Leon Rippy is 70. Actor Harry Hamlin is 68. Actor Charles Martin Smith is 66. Country singer T. Graham Brown is 65. Actor Kevin Pollak is 62. Rock singer-musician Jerry De Borg (Jesus Jones) is 59. Actor Michael Beach is 56. Rock singer-musician Gavin Rossdale (Bush) is 54. Actor Jack Plotnick is 51. Comedian Ben Bailey is 49. Actor Billy Brown is 49. Actress Nia Long is 49. Country singer Kassadey Osborn (SHeDAISY) (sh-DAY'-zee) is 43. Actor Gael Garcia Bernal is 41. Actor Matthew Morrison is 41. Business executive and presidential adviser Ivanka Trump is 38. Actress Fiona Dourif is 38. Actor Shaun Sipos (SEE'-pohs) is 38. Actor Tasso Feldman is 36. Actress Janel (juh-NEHL') Parrish is 31. Actor Tequan Richmond is 27. Actress Kennedy McMann is 23.

**Thought for Today: "There are things that are known and things that are unknown; in between are doors." [-] William Blake, English poet (1757-1827).**

## Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to

include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.



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

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