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Connecting April 15, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 15th day of April 2020,

Connecting's tie to the AP's past has taken on a new chapter with the addition of **Jane Gallagher** to our list of colleagues.

For those of us of a certain age, and that includes many of us on Connecting, the name Gallagher resonates strongly.

Wes Gallagher directed operations of The Associated Press from 1962 until his retirement in 1976 – initially with the title of general manager with the title of president added in 1972. He died in 1997 at the age of 86. He earlier made his mark covering World War II, from the early campaigns in 1940 through the war's end. After the war, he directed coverage of such major events as the Nuremberg war-crimes trials and the Berlin airlift. He returned to New York for a series of executive jobs.



A photo of Gallagher leading a group of reporters racing for phones at the Nuremberg trials is the cover shot for the AP book - Breaking News: How the Associated Press Has Covered War, Peace and Everything Else . See above.

introverts, rejoice! you have the
 expertise to show the rest of us
 how to be quarantined with dignity.
 we have become today's anne franks,
 and dorothy tellington, "i don't think we are
 in Kansas anymore." the world's population

 encountering the novel virus is transported abruptly
 to an unfamiliar land of oz.
 this calls for quick responses, creativity, understanding,
 limitless resourcefulness, credibility, patience.
 the world's become a stage, where players are both

 actors and audience.
 while keeping a distance, we are figuratively
 rubbing shoulders with a new type of everyday hero -
 the doctor, the nurse, the baker, the candlestick maker;
 the pundit, the AP reporter, the grocer, the transporter;
 the sanitation worker, the teacher, the postman, the preacher;
 the clerk, the banker, the editor, the repairman, the landscaper.
 lights! camera! action! let the next act begin.

Today's issue also brings you an acrostic poem tied to the coronavirus pandemic that is displayed above. It was produced by our colleague **Sister Donalda Kehoe** ([Email](#)) and her trusty, beloved Royal 440 manual typewriter. She has been a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, Iowa, order for 75 of her 93 years and lives in the order's Clare House in Dubuque.

She produced this just for her Connecting colleagues. It arrived in my postal mail yesterday so it's hot off the presses, well, off the typewriter, to be exact.

(OK, I will save you looking up "acrostic poem" – it is a poem where certain letters in each line spell out a word or phrase. Typically, the first letters of each line are used to spell the message, but they can appear anywhere.)



AP GROUND GAME : A man sitting on the ledge of an overpass. Mask-clad pedestrians moving past shuttered shops. These are among the images of a ghostly virus-era New York captured from the back of a motorbike. Photojournalist Wong Maye-E and photo editor Enric Marti talk about this unusual assignment.

Listen [here](#) . And note the related story by colleagues **Ted Anthony** in today's issue.

Treasure each day. Be safe. Stay optimistic.

Paul

'I'm told people in AP family remember him. I hope so. He loved the AP'



Jane Gallagher ([Email](#)) - Wes Gallagher was President and General Manager of the AP. More important (at least to me), he was my father. I feel like I grew up in the AP family as well as the Gallagher family. The office was still at Rockefeller Center and I visited frequently with my mother, Betty, brother, Brian, and my sister, Christine.

My Dad retired in 1976 and many people who read this newsletter have had entire careers in the AP and have retired in the time since he left. I have been told that people in the AP family remember him. I hope so. He loved the AP.

My brother, Brian, went into journalism and became Editor of the Editorial page for *USA Today*. He is now retired and lives in VA. My sister, Christine, was a page at NBC, then went into advertising and then became a travel agent. She now lives in Palm Springs, CA. I went to college at Stanford and then went on to earn a PhD in Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island. I then spent the next 40 years as a Professor of Biology at the City University of New York. I retired in August, 2019, and now live in Riverdale, Bronx, NY with my husband, Bruce Huber, who is also an Oceanographer. Our daughter, Juliana, is in sales, and lives in Columbia, SC.

I have included the photo above of my parents meeting Chou En-Lai in Beijing in 1972. I wanted to select a picture from his AP days, and this was one of his favorites.

This is a time of great distress in the News business and in the country. The news has never been more important. I salute those of you who keep the flame alight.

Connecting mailbox

In praise of Warren Levinson's farewell to his mother

Andy Lippman ([Email](#)) - The story by Warren Levinson in Tuesday's Connecting was not only brought to life by details but also by a sense of pace.

You could hear it being read which makes sense since it came from an expert broadcast journalist who knows how bring home a story with words and the sound of his voice.

And...

Jim Bagby ([Email](#)) - I don't know Warren Levinson. But call me a fan. Such a way with words he has. If I did know him, I might ask him to write my eulogy.

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On NY Times delay in publishing accusations against Biden

Mike Rouse ([Email](#)) - The New York Times's Dean Baquet had a dozen excuses for delaying publication of Tara Reade's accusation against Joe Biden (see story in Tuesday's Connecting). Not one of them held water. That's what they were: excuses, not reasons.

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Her first press pass – at the age of 18



Melissa Jordan ([Email](#)) - In the "first press pass" series, I would offer up this, issued in summer 1983 at the Atlanta Journal and Constitution for my first internship at the ripe old age of 18, while I was a University of Georgia journalism student. It says "local news" although I was assigned to report for the business section. I don't seem to have saved any AP ones; I was mostly a desk editor and not out at all the exciting (or mind-numbing) events that required press credentials. Best wishes to everyone sheltering in place for health and happiness.

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When will we ever learn?

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - Some thoughts as the toll rises.

We're here in our cozy Maine home not far from the ocean's white foam;
the birds are aflutter, singing spring's song,
yet things are so terribly, terribly wrong.

Our lives were so certain and grand
in this blessed and privileged land,
where we all took for granted our luck
'til the coronavirus suddenly struck.

In this "safe" haven we blissfully shared
we were fecklessly under-prepared;
so from nature's mere toss of the dice
we've all paid an unbearable price.

Here's a question we all ought to ponder, to ask,
when the pandemic is over, is finally past:
Will we in the long run be wiser women and men
or learn nothing, and go through the horror all over again?

AP PHOTOS: Ghostly virus-era NYC, captured from a motorbike



By TED ANTHONY
The Associated Press

In its best days, in its highest moments, New York City is dizzying.

Times Square glows. Penn Station pulses. Wall Street teems with the ambitious. The highways are jammed with trucks and taxis and Ubers and Lyfts, transporting the life of the city — its people, its goods — to and fro. Underneath it all, from Manhattan to the boroughs and back, industrial-strength subways carry industrial-strength people of all shapes and hues from home to work and back again.

Then there are the worst days, the hardest moments. These days. Today, New York City is dizzying in a different way.

For now, it is become a place of familiar landmarks and well-trodden streets thrown off kilter by an invisible adversary that is taking some of its people away and terrifying the rest.

How to understand this city of cities at this moment in time? How to see it as it really feels, to chronicle it as it is knocked back, if not knocked down?

Photographer Wong Maye-E and photo editor Enric Marti found a way. On his motorcycle — with him driving and her shooting — they moved across a phantom city overflowing with the things that weren't happening, chronicling the daily life that was not taking place.

Day after day, from mid-March until last week, 12 rides in all, they made different loops around the city. Greenwich Village to Gowanus. Lower Manhattan to Harlem. Red Hook to Elmhurst. Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx: on avenues and on side streets, over bridges and across parkways and expressways.

Marti chose the routes as they went, using his photographer's eye to make driving choices, sometimes listening to the unforgettable New York music of Lou Reed.

Wong, perched on the back, worked fast with an eye honed in places from Myanmar to North Korea, choosing her moments to illustrate the life of a city on pause. Sometimes they were so in sync, so wrapped in this strange world, that he would pause and point, and she would have already seen the shot and raised her lens.

Read more [here](#).

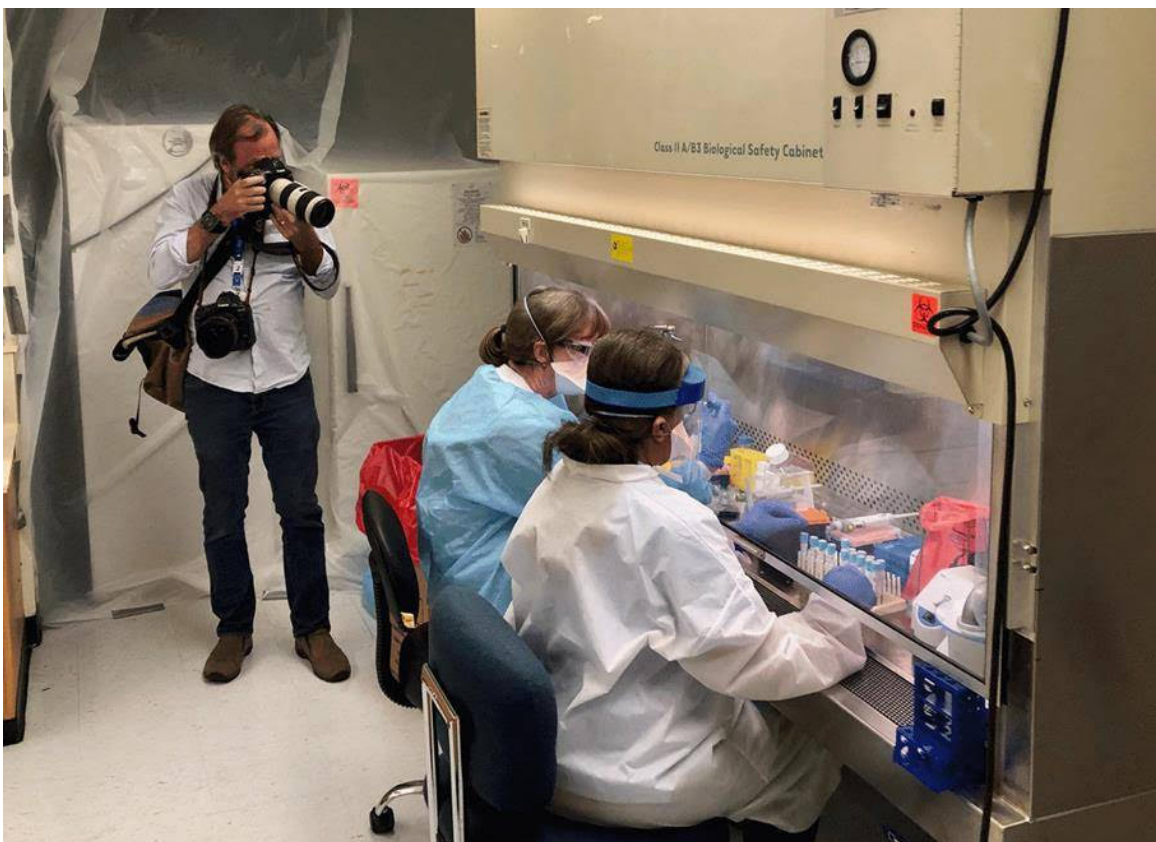
Around the AP world



This April 10, 2020, photo, shows care packages assembled in AP's warehouse facility in Cranbury, N.J. Over the past few weeks, the team has packaged and shipped 246 care packages to the homes of staff and to bureaus. In between shipments, nearly 300 gallons of hand sanitizers are being poured into smaller bottles for distribution. (Photo courtesy Robert Hirsch)

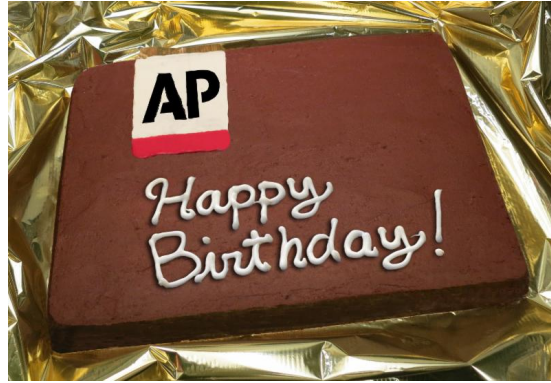


Video journalist Fay Abuelgasim interviews a patient at a drive-thru coronavirus testing facility in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, April 2, 2020. (AP Photo/Jon Gambrell)



Photographer Gerald Herbert takes pictures of lab technicians testing patient samples for the coronavirus at Tulane University's School of Medicine, in New Orleans, April 2, 2020. The school converted one of its research labs into a virus testing facility. (AP Photo/Stacey Plaisance)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Carol Strongin - carols1616@aol.com

David Wilkison - dwickison@ap.org

Stories of interest

Bloomberg News Killed Investigation, Fired Reporter, Then Sought To Silence His Wife

(NPR)

By DAVID FOLKENFLIK

Michael Bloomberg's short-lived presidential bid reignited a long-simmering dispute over the widespread use of nondisclosure agreements at American corporations — especially at his own.

His namesake company, Bloomberg LP, has used nondisclosure agreements broadly to conceal allegations and silence complaints from employees of sexual harassment or a hostile work environment, as published reports have documented.

The story of one Bloomberg reporter and his wife showcases the widespread use of such legal restraints at the company — and how far their reach can extend.

Six years ago, Bloomberg News killed an investigation into the wealth of Communist Party elites in China, fearful of repercussions by the Chinese government. The company successfully silenced the reporters involved. And it sought to keep the spouse of one of the reporters quiet, too.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

Furloughs and Pay Cuts Hit The Los Angeles Times (New York Times)

By Marc Tracy

The parent company of The Los Angeles Times is furloughing 40 employees and cutting the pay of senior managers in an effort to make up for losses brought on by a pandemic-related decline in advertising revenue.

“Due to the unexpected effects of Covid-19, our advertising revenue has nearly been eliminated,” said a memo to the staff on Tuesday from Chris Argentieri, the president of California Times, the publishing company that includes The Times and The San Diego Union-Tribune.

The Times newsroom cheered in 2018 when Patrick Soon-Shiong, a billionaire doctor and entrepreneur, bought The Times and other California publications from what is now Tribune Publishing for \$500 million. While The Times has gotten more robust since then, its digital subscription business has been slow, and now the coronavirus has presented a new challenge.

In a separate letter to some staff members on Monday, Mr. Argentieri appeared to be more specific, saying, “The Times has lost more than one-third of its advertising revenue and expects to lose more than half of its advertising revenue in the coming months.”

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

CNN’s Sanjay Gupta on covering the coronavirus: ‘I think there is intrinsic value to hope’ (Washington Post)

By KK Ottesen

Sanjay Gupta, 50, is the Emmy Award-winning chief medical correspondent at CNN. He is also an associate professor of neurosurgery at Emory University and associate chief of neurosurgery at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta.

As both a journalist and a practicing doctor, I’m sure you think a lot about how to balance the need for people to understand the gravity of the coronavirus pandemic, but not provoke hysteria.

That is the question. The inflection point between hope and honesty — that's how I think of it. And my medical career has been helpful because that's what we're always doing with patients. I think there is intrinsic value to hope. It shouldn't just be labeled the opposite of honesty. But as doctors and as reporters, it can never come at the expense of honesty.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Dennis Conrad.

The Final Word

**I'm starting to miss
people I don't even
like.**

Today in History - April 15, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, April 15, the 106th day of 2020. There are 260 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 15, 2013, two bombs made from pressure cookers exploded at the Boston Marathon finish line, killing two women and an 8-year-old boy and injuring more than 260. Suspected bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev (TAM'-ehr-luhn tsahr-NEYE'-ehv) died in a shootout with police; his brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv), was tried, convicted and sentenced to death.

On this date:

In 1452, artist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci was born in or near the Tuscan town of Vinci.

In 1850, the city of San Francisco was incorporated.

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln died nine hours after being shot the night before by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington; Andrew Johnson became the nation's 17th president.

In 1912, the British luxury liner RMS Titanic foundered in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland more than 2 1/2 hours after hitting an iceberg; 1,514 people died, while less than half as many survived.

In 1945, during World War II, British and Canadian troops liberated the Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Belsen. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who died on April 12, was buried at the Roosevelt family home in Hyde Park, New York.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson, baseball's first black major league player, made his official debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers on opening day at Ebbets Field. (The Dodgers defeated the Boston Braves, 5-3.)

In 1955, Ray Kroc opened the first franchised McDonald's restaurant in Des Plaines, Illinois.

In 1959, Cuban leader Fidel Castro arrived in Washington to begin a goodwill tour of the United States. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles resigned for health reasons (he was succeeded by Christian A. Herter).

In 1974, members of the Symbionese Liberation Army held up a branch of the Hibernia Bank in San Francisco; a member of the group was SLA kidnap victim Patricia Hearst, who by this time was going by the name "Tania" (Hearst later said she'd been forced to participate).

In 1989, 96 people died in a crush of soccer fans at Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield, England. Students in Beijing launched a series of pro-democracy protests; the demonstrations culminated in a government crackdown at Tiananmen Square.

In 1998, Pol Pot, the notorious leader of the Khmer Rouge, died at age 72, evading prosecution for the deaths of two million Cambodians.

In 2007, riot police beat and detained dozens of anti-Kremlin demonstrators in St. Petersburg, Russia, on a second day of protests against the government of President Vladimir Putin.

Ten years ago: An ash cloud from an Icelandic volcano drifted over northern Europe, causing the largest disruption of flights since the 2001 terror attacks. President Barack Obama, visiting the Kennedy Space Center, predicted his new space exploration plans would lead American astronauts to Mars and back in his lifetime. Civil rights leader Benjamin Hooks, onetime executive director of the NAACP, died in Memphis, Tennessee, at age 85.

Five years ago: Douglas Hughes, a postal carrier from Florida, flew a one-person gyrocopter onto the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol as a protest against money in politics; he later pleaded guilty to operating a gyrocopter without a license, a felony. Former New England Patriots star tight end Aaron Hernandez was convicted in Fall River, Massachusetts, of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison for a late-night shooting that claimed the life of Odin Lloyd, a 27-year-old landscaper who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée. (Hernandez killed himself in his prison cell in 2017.)

One year ago: A fire swept across the top of the Notre Dame Cathedral as the soaring Paris landmark underwent renovations; the blaze collapsed the cathedral's spire and spread to one of its landmark rectangular towers, but fire officials said the church's structure had been saved. The South Florida Sun Sentinel and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette won Pulitzer Prizes for their coverage of mass shootings at a high school and a synagogue; also recognized was the Capital Gazette of Maryland for its coverage and courage in the aftermath of a deadly shooting in its own newsroom. Aretha Franklin received an honorary Pulitzer Prize as judges praised the late Queen of Soul for her indelible contribution to American music and culture."

Today's Birthdays: Actress Claudia Cardinale is 82. Author and politician Jeffrey Archer is 80. Rock singer-guitarist Dave Edmunds is 77. Actor Michael Tucci is 74. Actress Lois Chiles is 73. Writer-producer Linda Bloodworth-Thomason is 73. Actress Amy Wright is 70. Columnist Heloise is 69. Actor Sam McMurray is 68. Actress-screenwriter Emma Thompson is 61. Bluegrass musician Jeff Parker is 59. Singer Samantha Fox is 54. Olympic gold, silver and bronze medal swimmer Dara Torres is 53. Rock musician Ed O'Brien (Radiohead) is 52. Actor Flex Alexander is 50. Actor Danny Pino is 46. Actor Douglas Spain is 46. Country singer-songwriter Chris Stapleton is 42. Actor Luke Evans is 41. Rock musician Patrick Carney (The Black Keys) is 40. Rock musician Zach Carothers (Portugal. The Man) is 39. Actor-writer Seth Rogen is 38. Actress Alice Braga is 37. Americana singer-songwriter Margo Price is 37. Rock musician De'Mar Hamilton (Plain White T's) is 36. Actress Samira Wiley

is 33. Actress Leonie Elliott is 32. Actress Emma Watson is 30. Actress Maisie Williams is 23.

Thought for Today: “True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost.” – Arthur Ashe, American tennis champion (1943-1993).

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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