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Connecting December 22, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 22nd day of December 2020,

More of you contributed your thoughts on the year 2020 – no doubt the most unusual year in our lives – and how it impacted your life.

I hope you will join them in telling your own story.

Today's Connecting also brings memories of **Keyes Beech**, a Pulitzer Prize winner who was the focus of **Scott Charton's** interesting piece in Monday's edition relating to Scott's father meeting Beech, a fellow Marine, during World War II.

A reminder that a Zoom retirement party will be held Wednesday at 2 p.m. ET for our colleague **David Marcus** – who retired in March after nearly 20 years with the AP. If you'd like information on signing up, drop a note to **David Wilkison** at dwickison@ap.org

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

2020 – Surviving a year like no other


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Your Neighbor's Story: Lives of New Americans



your neighbor's story: LIVES OF NEW AMERICANS

At the intersection of art and activism, *Your Neighbor's Story* sees community as the wellspring of change. It braids visual art created by Maryland based artists with the powerful stories of men and women often forced to choose between remaining in the homes they know and love, or saving their families.

The artists joined both documented and undocumented new Americans and novelist/journalist Masha Hamilton for lengthy interviews. They then created unique pieces that capture memories, bits that might otherwise be lost. Curated by Maya Fell, the project's hope is to help erode stereotypes, overcome divisiveness and create not only understanding but friendships.

Join us for a conversation and public Q&A with featured artists.




Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.

This program is part of ongoing 2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative conversations at the Pratt Library. Writers LIVE! programs are supported in part by a bequest from The Miss Howard Hubbard Adult Programming Fund. Reopening activities are made possible in part by a generous gift from Sandra R. Berman.

Central Library
France-Merrick Creative Arts Center
 400 Cathedral Street

prattlibrary.org

Masha Hamilton ([Email](#)) - How plans changed in 2020.

I spent 2019 traveling on a Greyhound between Brooklyn and Baltimore, working on an art-and-narrative project focused on the lives of documented and undocumented new Americans living in Maryland. Partnering with women artists, I interviewed a young Honduran woman held as a sex slave in Texas before escaping, a 73-year-old man who once owned his own company in Venezuela



and now was using fake documentation so he could work as a dishwasher at two Maryland restaurants, and a Syrian woman and her husband who'd lost all the love letters they exchanged during their courtship when they fled their home, among others. We combined the art with narratives in English, Spanish and Arabic, and set up exhibition sites and talks at universities and art galleries, in cafes and museums, from the start of 2020 through the election. We managed to carry out a couple of exhibitions and one talk, and then in March, our shows fell victim to Covid-19 shutdowns. I'm attaching a flyer that show a bit of the art and a snapshot of one of the artist's sketching on site, during an interview.

I got hired as a gig content writer for The Rockefeller Foundation in March and am getting to do interesting interviews and writing as part of that, and I know this is very much a secondary or tertiary kind of loss, but I'm still sorry that the voices of those we spoke to who so courageously shared their stories, and the art created to depict their lives, didn't get the showing we had intended... Onward :-)

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Bill Kaczor (Email) - Christmas often brings to mind some bad memories such as 1984. That's when I went into a predawn fog so thick I could barely see past the hood of my car to report on three abortion clinics bombed on that Christmas morning in Pensacola, where I was in my first year as correspondent. Fortunately, no one was injured. That would come later, when two doctors and a clinic volunteer were fatally shot by anti-abortion fanatics in a pair of attacks in March 1993 and July 1994 outside two Pensacola abortion clinics. The later clinic also was one of those that had been bombed on Christmas morning 1984.

Christmas, though, also brings back some good memories. Among the best were stories about Pensacola's "CPR Santa." The first came on Dec. 4, 1998. Here's the lede: "A white-bearded Santa Claus wiped away a tear on Friday when a medal was pinned to the front of his red suit for saving the life of a baby who had turned blue and stopped breathing. Howard Russell, 46, leaped from his seat in Santa's Village at Cordova Mall on Tuesday and performed CPR to revive 4-month-old Quentin Orr moments after the child had been on his lap." The tot, who had just had his picture taken with Santa, was revived and taken to Sacred Heart Hospital, just across the street from the mall. He was released a few days later apparently having suffered no harm. The Police Department presented Russell with its Grand Cordon medal, a Maltese cross suspended from a red, white and blue ribbon. "I just wanted to help," Russell said and then offered a Christmas wish that CPR should be taught in schools.

I did a follow-up nearly a year later with this lede: "At the top of Howard Russell's Christmas wish list is a gift of life. "I just want everyone -- everyone -- to learn CPR," said Russell, who plays Santa Claus at Pensacola's Cordova Mall." I then recalled how Russell had put his skill to work saving the baby's life and reported on a reunion back at the mall with 1-year-old Quentin. "You could tell there was just genuine affection," said his mother, Sheridan Orr. "He's going through a Mommy dependent phase where he does not like anyone else to particularly hold him, and he sat in Howard's lap for 40 minutes."

I included an update that doctors had concluded Quentin probably stopped breathing because he had become excited and choked on his own saliva after tests showed everything was normal. Also, I identified a Santa's helper, a Navy hospital corpsman who massaged the baby while Russell performed mouth-to-mouth respiration, and added some interesting background on CPR Santa. He had been disabled in an industrial accident so being a mall Santa was one of the few jobs he could still handle. Russell began at another mall that insisted he wear a fake beard so all their Santas would look alike. He switched to Cordova because it let him grow a real white beard. Russell had a certificate as a volunteer CPR instructor but let it lapse sometime before he saved Quentin. Afterward, he renewed the certificate and resumed teaching. The follow-up received great play and got picked up a year later by Reader's Digest, which sent along with a nice check.

Through the magic of the internet I have found out that Quentin's family eventually moved to North Carolina, where he graduated from high school, and that he's now a student at the University of Mississippi. The only thing I have been able to find out about Russell, though, is that he apparently still lives in Pensacola.

Thinking about CPR Santa at Christmas time always brightens my outlook even during this dismal, pandemic-plagued holiday season.

Remembering AP's John Mulroy

AP Log

The Associated Press
50 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10020

December 26, 1988-January 2, 1989

Mulroy, International Communications Head, Dies in Plane Crash Son, Daughter-in-Law, Three Other Relatives Also Killed

John Mulroy, the AP's director of international communications, and five family members were killed in the Dec. 21 crash of a London-to-New York Pan Am jetliner in Scotland.

His 25-year-old son, Sean, and Sean's wife, Ingrid, along with Mulroy's sister, her husband and their son also died. The younger Mulroys lived in Sweden, the other three in Britain.

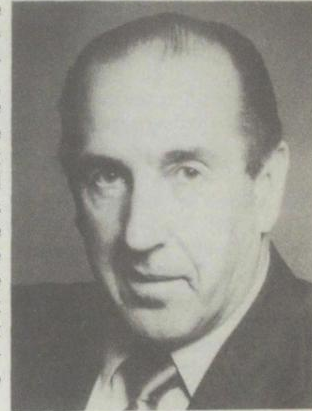
There were no survivors among the 258 people aboard Flight 103 after the plane crashed in the village of Lockerbie, in southern Scotland.

"John Mulroy had been with us only four years but his contributions were immense," said Louis D. Boccardi, AP president and general manager.

"He guided the streamlining of our international news and picture communications systems during a time of accelerated modernization. He did that with a wit and warmth that made him a treasured member of our team.

"To say that we will miss him does not begin to describe our sense of loss."

John Reid, vice president and director of communications and technology, said, "John loved the AP and the people here; he spoke of that often. His energy and enthusiasm for his work had no limit. He was on the go all the time, flying from one country to another at a pace that made it difficult for his traveling companions to keep up with him."



MULROY

Mulroy, 59, joined the AP in August 1984 after 25 years with Pan Am, where he was communications director. A native of

Continued on Page 3

County Mayo, Ireland, he maintained a second home in the land of his birth.

Mulroy joined the AP as staff executive for international communications. He was appointed deputy director of communications in 1986 and director of international communications in 1988. In that position, he was responsible for all AP technical operations outside the United States.

He was born April 1, 1929, and held an associate degree in electrical engineering from Birmingham University in England.

Survivors include Mulroy's wife, Josephine, of East Northport, on New York's Long Island, a daughter, Siobhan, 26, and a son, Brendan, 23.



MEMORIAL

Technical Services Manager Anthony Keefe of international communications in London, right, and former Moscow Chief of Bureau Mike Putzel, now Washington-based diplomatic writer, left, attach a brass plaque to the door of the Moscow bureau's new satellite communications system.

The circuit, linking Moscow, New York and London, is the first in the Soviet Union to carry voice, news and photo transmissions simultaneously. The plaque says: "Moscow Communications Center, dedicated to the memory of John Mulroy, who said it could be done." Mulroy, AP's director of international commu-

nications, conceived the plan for using satellite technology to overcome the Soviet Union's notoriously unreliable land lines. He had begun negotiations for such a system when he was killed in the Dec. 21, 1988, terrorist bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. (Photo: Liu Heung Shing)

Memories of John Mulroy, the AP's director of international communications, were evoked Monday when Attorney General William P. Barr announced criminal charges against a former Libyan intelligence operative accused of building the explosive device that was used in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in United States history.

Mulroy and five of his family members were among 270 people killed in the crash of the New York-bound airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

AP Corporate Archives shared the images above. The image from Moscow was taken in 1991.

Memories of Keyes Beech



Neal Ulevich ([Email](#)) - In Vietnam, where I was among the youngest of press card holders, Keyes Beech, friendly, always knowledgeable, proved it was a Country for Old Men. He visited the AP bureau regularly and that is where I made a Polaroid portrait of him, an image now in my book of Polaroid portraits. And then there was this picture of four giants in Vietnam War journalism.

Ed White, myself and Keyes were among passengers in the wayward bus, a vehicle collecting those who wanted to be evacuated on the chaotic last day of America's misadventure in Vietnam.

The bus was to take us to Tan Son Nhut airport for evacuation by helicopter to ships waiting offshore, but by then the airport was shelled by North Vietnamese and in flames. So the hapless driver drove in confused circles, stopping at the port briefly. The bus was nearly mobbed by Vietnamese desperate to leave in the hours before the fall.

At one point we stopped. Beech called friends at the CIA, who suggested the bus take us to the back of the embassy, by that time ringed with equally desperate Vietnamese and Marines on the wall.

We all got off there, waded through the Vietnamese - they did not try to stop us - and were pulled over the wall by Marines. From there we made our way through the nearly deserted embassy building to the roof, and a helicopter ride to the USS Okinawa. An image of the chaos at the wall is attached.

Beech wrote a memorable and chilling account of the wayward bus ride. It was a remarkable piece of journalism. And as a fellow bus rider, I can assure any reader it was very, very accurate.

That story is preserved in the landmark anthology, Reporting Vietnam, Vol. 2 (Library of America). We Clawed for Our Lives - A Reporter Flees Saigon: April 1975.



A day or two later as the USS Okinawa left its station and made for the Philippines, I made a souvenir snapshot of four memorable figures in Vietnam journalism.

From left: Bob Shaplen of the New Yorker, Keyes Beech of the Chicago Daily News, George McArthur of the LA Times (and previously AP Saigon bureau chief), and Bud Merrick of US News and World Report.

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Denis Gray (Email) - I knew Keyes in Indochina and Bangkok. We were good friends. I covered the Vietnam War for the Associated Press and then in Thailand.

His daughter -- Hannah Beech -- is the New York Time correspondent in this region. Keyes was a great guy -- one of the old breed of both soldiers and foreign correspondents.

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Joseph Galloway (Email) - Keyes was ever present on combat operations with the US Marines in Vietnam when I arrived there in 1965. He was a great friend and colleague. Skinny. Hair greying and thinning. I was 23 and amazed to see this "old dude" humping the hills with me in 115-degree heat. Beech and Jim Lucas who seemed even older but also out marching for the story.

Too many good dear buddies have crossed the river bound for Fiddlers Green, Keyes Beech among them.

May they Rest in Peace until I join them on one last patrol.

Joe Galloway, UPI, Vietnam 1965-66, 1971, 1973, and 1975.

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Henry Bradsher (Email) - When Jackie Kennedy visited India at the height of Camelot enthusiasm, Keyes came from Tokyo to cover for the Chicago Daily News. We Delhi journalists followed her to lay a wreath at Gandhi's memorial. Convention required homage-payers to take off their shoes to walk up to the shrine, which the rest of us did. But Keyes hung back to see what size shoes Jackie wore and led his story with that exclusive detail.

Also, if I remember correctly, Keyes's first wife learned to speak Japanese fluently at their Tokyo posting. An attractive blonde, she became a very popular television personality.

Connecting mailbox

Advice for journalists

Michael Rubin (Email) – I think it's past the time for journalists to stop reporting every right-wing hair on fire response to some minor perceived issue, such as Dr Jill Biden using her "Dr" title since she's not a medical doctor. Of course, we could suggest Rubio, Cruz and others stop using the "senator" title since they're not actually senators.

And...

Charles McFadden (Email) - Betcha reporters are going to be extra-vigilant in covering any missteps by the Biden Administration to forestall any right-wing criticism that they are going easy on Biden after harshly (and accurately) reporting on the Trump Administration. Of course, the right-wing criticism will come anyway.

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On the KC Star's apology for race coverage

Joe Galu (Email) - My first newspaper boss -- 'Tommy' Thomas at the Troy Record -- said even after WWII, if a Black man murdered another Black man, it was not worth mentioning in the KC newspaper where he worked. The history of racism is widespread throughout hundreds of newspapers. I regularly had to edit out racism in stories we were sent from Buffalo. One of our writers refused to believe the paper was racist until a Black woman member of his Mormon church died. She did not live in the largely Black East Side, but there was nothing in the obit that identified her by race, yet the headline said East Side Woman Dies. Then, he believed me that they were racist and was on the lookout.

The Daily News had a little picture of Rhody McCoy EVERY day during an on-going battle within the NYC schools to remind people that McCoy was Black. He was one of a tiny number of people who had their pictures in the paper EVERY day for months.

KC was more blatant and more incessant, but they were not and are not alone.

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Peggy Say: Journalism should have more friends and sisters like her



David Briscoe (Email) - I recently ran across a piece I wrote five years ago which was in the Christmas Eve 2015 issue of Connecting along with other tributes. It might be worth a rerun now around the 5th anniversary of Peggy Say's passing. She was a genuine hero for journalists -- AP and otherwise, as are Terry (Anderson) and Lou (Boccardi).

RIP DEAR PEGGY SAY (2015)

It was one of the worst and best stories I ever covered for The Associated Press -- the worst because it tested my journalistic objectivity like no other and involved a terrible injustice and the years-long suffering of an admired colleague, and the best because it had a happy ending and because it had three true heroes.

The first was Terry Anderson himself, who endured nearly seven years of captivity in Lebanon for practicing his noble profession. The second was AP President Louis D. Boccardi, who used AP resources and his own time and total dedication to securing Terry's release. The third was a fine lady named Peggy Say, who as Terry's sister never lost faith and never gave up in reminding the AP, the U.S. government and the world of the injustice suffered by her brother and many other journalists.

The Associated Press reports that Peggy passed away two days before Christmas (2015) after a long illness. She was 74.

I remember Peggy during the years of Terry's captivity, after I was transferred from my job in Manila to Washington DC. Terry was the AP's chief Middle East correspondent when he was abducted from the streets of Beirut in 1985.

Peggy quickly transformed herself from an ordinary housewife into a forceful, articulate and persistent advocate for her brother and all captive journalists. I often wondered if Terry would ever really appreciate her amazing effort and also thinking every journalist should have an advocate like her. She and Boccardi became partners in a long and ultimately successful quest, including speeches around the country and, as I recall, at least one trip to the Middle East.

Both lobbied governments and raised support for Terry and other journalists.

As a journalist myself and a former foreign correspondent like Terry, I faced a real challenge to remain objective in covering his story. In fact, I failed miserably. I even contributed money to the cause I was covering -- a violation of journalistic ethics in any other story that somehow seemed entirely appropriate in this one. Journalists have never been very objective in covering themselves and especially their bosses.

And, in Peggy's case, it was even more difficult. It was like interviewing my own sister. She was calm and articulate and expressed no rancor towards Terry's captors -- such a contrast with the way terrorists are approached today. I actually found it remarkable that Terry was kept alive for so long when he could have been so quickly killed like so many others. But it was still difficult to understand, much less sympathize with the

targeting of a journalist who tried so hard to tell all sides of the complex Middle East story.

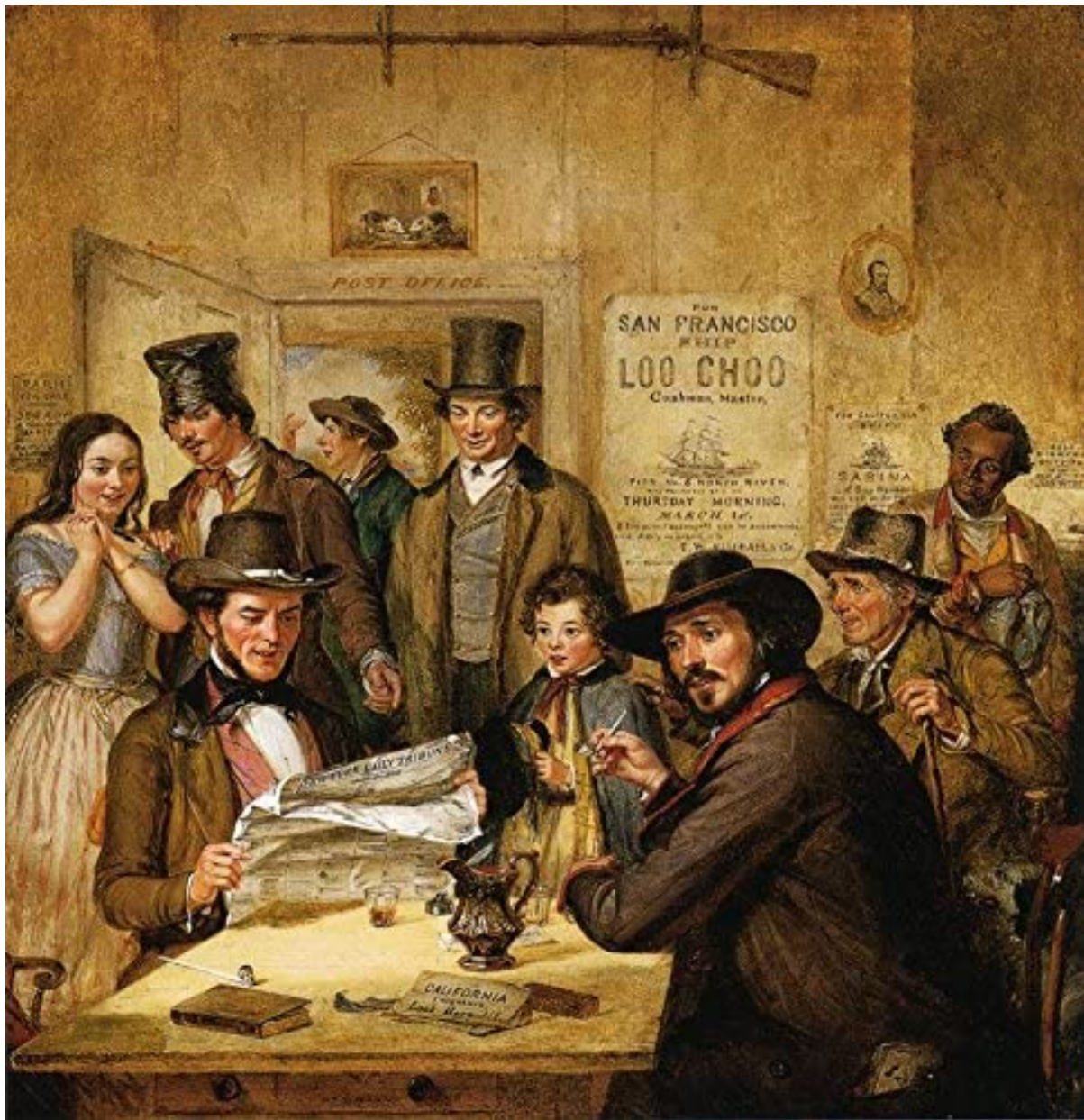
Donald Trump admires people who don't get captured. Well, I admire anyone who goes through what Terry Anderson or John McCain went through and comes out of it so strong and goes on to lead a productive, purposeful life.

But even more, I admire the sister who stood by Terry when others forgot or gave up in frustration. She kept the pressure on both the Associated Press and the government as the story faded but Terry still suffered.

I'm proud to say Peggy Say, as much as her brother and Lou Boccardi, became a vital part of the AP family. Journalism should have more friends and sisters like her.

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Newspapers in Art



Paul Albright (Email) - The focal point in this 1850 painting by William Sidney Mount is the *New York Daily Tribune*, which is being read aloud in a post office in Long Island, NY. Most likely, news of the discovery of gold in California is exciting those gathered around the table. The painting, titled "California News," was commissioned by Thomas McElrath, who was the business partner of the Daily Tribune's famous editor, Horace Greeley. Posters on the back wall in Mount's painting advertise ships that are preparing to transport adventurous men from New York to the California gold fields. In viewing the painting, the famous quote attributed to Horace Greeley, "Go West Young Man," comes to mind. But the quote does not fit with this painting. While Greeley was an advocate of westward expansion, it is uncertain as to when or even if he ever made that statement.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Otto Doelling - odoelling@hotmail.com

Beth Grace - bgrace9992@aol.com

Tom Throne - tathrone@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

Afghan officials: Local journalist killed in Ghazni province (AP)

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A prominent local journalist was shot dead by unknown assailants in Afghanistan's central Ghazni province on Monday — the fourth to be killed in the war-ravaged nation in just two months. Afghanistan is considered one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists.

Rahmatullah Nekzad was gunned down as he left his home in Ghazni City to walk to a nearby mosque, said Ahmad Khan Serat, spokesman for the provincial police chief.

Nekzad, who headed the Ghazni Journalists' Union, was well known in the area. He had contributed to The Associated Press since 2007 and had previously worked for the Al Jazeera satellite TV channel.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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My Favorite Tools 2020: Top Investigative Journalists Tell Us What They're Using (Global Investigative Journalism Network)

By Brian Perlman

This year, in GIJN's My Favorite Tools series, we asked 12 of the world's top journalists what their go-to tools are. Looking back at their responses from 2020, the journalists

offered up nearly 90 items. Some journalists favored databases and hardware, while others told us about their favorite offline reporting techniques.

Here are our top tools from this year's recommendations:

(Including...)

"OnionShare is a secure tool for sending files through Tor, the anonymous web browser," said AP's Ron Nixon of the encrypted platform. "I use it for sharing stuff with my reporters in China or in any other place where we are afraid that information might be intercepted. That includes video, documents, or anything else."

FlightAware (Martha Mendoza)

AP's Martha Mendoza has used FlightAware "to track FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) planes, or UPS, or FedEx planes," she said. A free service that offers paid options with expanded functionality, the website is used by aviation enthusiasts, journalists, and researchers alike for its user-friendly interface and time-sensitive updates.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sonya Zalubowski.

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The 'Red Slime' Lawsuit That Could Sink Right-Wing Media (New York Times)

By Ben Smith

Antonio Mugica was in Boca Raton when an American presidential election really melted down in 2000, and he watched with shocked fascination as local government officials argued over hanging chads and butterfly ballots.

It was so bad, so incompetent, that Mr. Mugica, a young Venezuelan software engineer, decided to shift the focus of his digital security company, Smartmatic, which had been working for banks. It would offer its services to what would obviously be a growth industry: electronic voting machines. He began building a global company that ultimately provided voting machinery and software for elections from Brazil to Belgium and his native Venezuela. He even acquired an American company, then called Sequoia.

Last month, Mr. Mugica initially took it in stride when his company's name started popping up in grief-addled Trump supporters' wild conspiracy theories about the election.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes.

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The Journalist and the Pharma Bro (Elle)

BY STEPHANIE CLIFFORD

Almost every weekday for six years, Christie Smythe took the F train from Park Slope downtown to her desk at Brooklyn’s federal court, in a pressroom hidden on the far side of a snack bar. Smythe, who covered white-collar crime for Bloomberg News, wore mostly black and gray, and usually skipped makeup. She and her husband, who worked in finance, spent their free time cooking, walking Smythe’s rescue dog, and going on literary pub crawls. “We had the perfect little Brooklyn life,” Smythe says.

Then she chucked it all.

Over the course of nine months, beginning in July 2018, Smythe quit her job, moved out of the apartment, and divorced her husband. What could cause the sensible Smythe to turn her life upside down? She fell in love with a defendant whose case she not only covered, but broke the news of his arrest. It was a scoop that ignited the Internet, because her love interest, now life partner, is not just any defendant, but Martin Shkreli: the so-called “Pharma Bro” and online provocateur, who increased the price of a lifesaving drug by 5,000 percent overnight and made headlines for buying a one-off Wu-Tang Clan album for a reported \$2 million. Shkreli, convicted of fraud in 2017, is now serving seven years in prison.

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

Today in History - Dec. 22, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 22, the 357th day of 2020. There are nine days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 22, 2001, Richard C. Reid, a passenger on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami, tried to ignite explosives in his shoes, but was subdued by flight attendants and fellow passengers. (Reid is serving a life sentence in federal prison.)

On this date:

In 1858, opera composer Giacomo Puccini was born in Lucca, Italy.

In 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. (Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.)

In 1940, author Nathanael West, 37, and his wife, Eileen McKenney, 27, were killed in a car crash in El Centro, Calif. while en route to the funeral of F. Scott Fitzgerald, who had died the day before.

In 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived in Washington for a wartime conference with President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe rejected a German demand for surrender, writing "Nuts!" in his official reply.

In 1968, Julie Nixon married David Eisenhower in a private ceremony in New York.

In 1984, New York City resident Bernhard Goetz (bur-NAHRD' gehts) shot and wounded four youths on a Manhattan subway, claiming they were about to rob him.

In 1989, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES'-koo), the last of Eastern Europe's hard-line Communist rulers, was toppled from power in a popular uprising. Playwright Samuel Beckett died in Paris at age 83.

In 1991, the body of Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, an American hostage slain by his terrorist captors, was recovered after it had been dumped along a highway in Lebanon.

In 1992, a Libyan Boeing 727 jetliner crashed after a midair collision with a MiG fighter, killing all 157 aboard the jetliner, and both crew members of the fighter jet.

In 2003, a federal judge ruled the Pentagon couldn't enforce mandatory anthrax vaccinations for military personnel.

In 2008, five Muslim immigrants accused of scheming to massacre U.S. soldiers at Fort Dix were convicted of conspiracy in Camden, N.J. (Four were later sentenced to life in prison; one received a 33-year sentence.)

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama signed a law allowing gays for the first time in history to serve openly in America's military, repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The Senate ratified the New START treaty with Russia capping nuclear warheads for both nations and restarting on-site weapons inspections. Auburn's Cam Newton was named AP Player of the Year. "The Lone Ranger" announcer Fred Foy died in Woburn (WOO'-burn), Massachusetts, at age 89.

Five years ago: Migration experts said more than a million people who had been driven out of their countries by war, poverty and persecution entered Europe in 2015. Stanford running back Christian McCaffrey was named The Associated Press college football player of the year.

One year ago: Baba Ram Dass, a 1960s counterculture spiritual leader who experimented with LSD and traveled to India to find enlightenment, died at the age of 88. Afghanistan's election commission said a preliminary vote count showed that incumbent President Ashraf Ghani had won reelection with 50.64% of the vote. (Both Ghani and rival Abdullah Abdullah claimed victory; they announced a power-sharing arrangement in May 2020 in which Ghani would remain president.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Hector Elizondo is 84. Country singer Red Steagall is 82. Former World Bank Group President Paul Wolfowitz is 77. Baseball Hall of Famer Steve Carlton is 76. Former ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer is 75. Rock singer-musician Rick Nielsen (Cheap Trick) is 72. Rock singer-musician Michael Bacon is 72. Baseball All-Star Steve Garvey is 72. Golfer Jan Stephenson is 69. Actor BernNadette Stanis is 67. Rapper Luther "Luke" Campbell is 60. Actor Ralph Fiennes (rayf fynz) is 58. Actor Lauralee Bell is 52. Country singer Lori McKenna is 52. Actor Dina Meyer is 52. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, is 50. Actor Heather Donahue is 47. Actor Chris Carmack is 40. Actor Harry Ford is 38. Actor Greg Finley is 36. Actor Logan Huffman is 31. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jordin Sparks is 31. Pop singer Meghan Trainor is 27.

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



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