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Connecting March 09 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 9th day of March 2021,

Connecting has been on a bit of a growth spurt lately – like often happens when our kids hit their teens, although the newsletter is only nine years old.

Two of our newest members are CNN alums – **Elissa Free** and **Kevin Bohn** – and I talked with them both recently by phone to share ideas on their organizing a CNN Alumni Association, and perhaps with it a similar newsletter.

Among journalists (I'm aware of) who worked for AP and for CNN: **Peter Arnett, Craig Broffman, Candy Crowley, Steve Hurst, Delano Massey, Frank Sesno, Steve Sloan, Juanna Summers**, and the late **Fran Lewine**.

Now don't get me wrong, Connecting will not become a trading post – unless items might be very old, free and press-related - a Teletype printer,

camera or (Earth calling **Sister Donald!**) a typewriter. My longtime friend from USAF days, **Bob Beardsley** (and father of our goddaughter Kristine), is offering up a 1920s typewriter, for the price of shipping only.



“This is an early 1920s portable typewriter,” he said. “I have been meaning to repair it but it is one of those many hobbies I have with no time for. I believe most all of it is there, the keys are all clean and work. There are some things to clean and fix. Carriage advance is one. I was just gonna pitch it, but I will send it for UPS cost. It weighs about 20 pounds and is bulky. If interested, contact me at beardsleyr@aol.com

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

AP and CNN



A screenshot of a Zoom rehearsal for a recent CNN Alumni Association event. (Kevin Bohn is in the upper left and Elissa Free to his right).

Elissa Free (Email) - Hi, Everybody! Thank you for inviting me to the group, Paul.

I learned about this AP group and this great newsletter because I am part of a small team of former CNNers that is in the process of organizing into a CNN Alumni Association. We are researching alumni activities of other news organizations, and of course, we learned about Paul's five-day-a-week newsletter. (Five days a week - whoa. You AP alums are lucky!) Paul very generously told us about his labor of love, invited us to subscribe and offered support as we get off the ground. We have had a couple of very successful Zoom events, including a 40th anniversary extravaganza, with close to 1,000 attendees, so we're feeling optimistic. If you know any CNN alums, please let them know about us and direct them to our website: <https://cnnalumni.org/>

I am a CNN Original (actually started working there even before CNN went on the air on June 1, 1980) and worked in the Washington bureau for 21 years. In the early days I did everything from booking guests, running cameras, to applying make-up. Later I became a field producer and executive producer of four weekend public affairs talk shows.



Prior to CNN, I had worked as a researcher at Face the Nation and CBS Morning News. After leaving CNN in 2002, I spent 12 years running the communications shop at Georgetown Law. I'm now volunteering for the Veg Society of DC, the Headliners and Journalism Awards committees of the National Press Club, Animal Outlook, DC Voters for Animals, the Friends of Tenley Library and the newly formed CNN Alumni Association.

I am so happy to have discovered this newsletter, as journalism is in my blood. My mother, Ann Cottrell Free, was the first woman correspondent in the Washington bureaus of Newsweek, The Chicago Sun and the New York Herald Tribune, and my father, James S. Free, was the Washington correspondent for The Birmingham News for 30-plus years. They had many friends at AP and I am honored to have worked alongside, with great admiration, many at AP myself.

Kevin Bohn (Email) - I left CNN in December after more than 33 years. I started in 1987 as a production associate on the weekend talk shows which meant doing everything from calling Capitol Hill to try to book members of Congress who had not yet heard of CNN because there was no cable TV in the DC, to finding videotape, to running a teleprompter which still used paper scripts.

I was lucky enough to cover many of Washington's major beats: seven years as a White House producer during the Bush 41 and Clinton administrations, more than seven years on justice and terrorism following the Sept. 11 attacks, politics after Barack Obama's inauguration, which included the tea party evolution, Gabby Giffords' shooting, Romney's 2012 run and the same-sex marriage fight

and Supreme Court decision. My last job was overseeing CNN Washington weekend coverage for the last five years; everything from Trump's constant weekend newsmaking to the deaths of Scalia, McCain, Bush 41, John Lewis and RBG.

I am now figuring out what my next challenge may be -- which will not be retirement!

Connecting mailbox

Photo Fred, what a man!



Paul Stevens - one of the favorite photos I've taken - of Messenger photographer Fred Larson and his wife Delores and their daughter Carrie on the City Square in Fort Dodge, Iowa, in 1967.)

Norm Abelson (Email) - What an upper!

The wonderful Monday piece by Paul Stevens on "Photo Fred" Larson lifted my spirits to the sky at a time when optimism is at a low point. It was a reminder that even in times such as these, there are good people doing good things. And that it is the good people who will lead us back to better times, socially, politically and healthfully.

While I am three years his junior, I consider myself part of Fred's coterie, and will work to emulate his positive take on living the good life.

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My early 'Photo Ops'

Sibby Christensen (Email) - I got the first paycheck of my life as a student assistant (\$25 a month, or \$18.75 after deductions) for managing the journalism darkrooms at Texas Woman's U during the late 1950s.

Every Sunday morning meant mixing gallons of hypo, Dektol, DK76, et al, to get student photographers through a week of processing pictures for our campus daily paper, the Lass-O. I was in charge of ordering the chemicals, films, and camera repairs when needed.

We older J-majors also took on teaching newbies how to use Speed Graphic and Rolleiflex cameras, to develop and print, and to get the results engraved on a Fairchild Scanagraver. (That's a lot of old trade names for one paragraph.)

Along the way, I found the hours spent at the enlarger, accompanied by music playing from a radio nearby, calming and satisfying.

One of the benefits of using the Speed Graphic was learning the discipline of shooting pictures carefully, considering the weight of the camera and number of film holders to be carted around on assignments. My enthusiasm for this camera was noticed by my dad, who gave me one for Christmas. I used it through school and later during most stops of my career.

Some of us aspiring journalists loved doing pictures for our own stories, and a few of us gravitated to the photo courses taught by an art professor, Carlotta Corpron. There we discovered the finer points of printing, and her mantra: "Learn to See." Late in life she was recognized as one of her era's outstanding woman photographers.

The photo skills always helped my editing/writing work. At some point I got permission to use AP's fourth-floor darkroom at 50 Rock while the fellows were on their lunch breaks. In front of the enlarger, it was like old times.

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A simpler time, when calling a bar for prep scores paid off

Wayne Slater (Email) - I enjoyed Richard Carelli's recollection (in Monday's Connecting) of his "Piggy's Picks" column back in his West Virginia days. The column (in which he would travel to Mud, W.Va., each week and interview a pig to pick the upcoming high school football games) was very popular. As Richard said, it certainly was a simpler (and happier) time. As an AP staffer in West Virginia back in the day, I have to concur. I often worked the desk in Charleston on Friday nights when the big job was gathering prep football and basketball scores in time for AM newspaper deadlines. We had a network of people to call to get the scores. But inevitably, some games would be missing as we raced to finish the page before midnight. When a contact didn't answer the phone and no school officials were available, we came upon a foolproof solution: We would go to the shelf crowded with slender W.Va. phone books and go to the yellow pages, under bars and taverns. In so many small towns, the only places still open on Friday night were the taverns. We'd ask if anybody knew the score of the night's Coal City game or Musselman or Poca (as in the Poca Dots). And always, the person answering the phone would know the answer or would get the answer from someone at the bar. Someone always had the score. And in my recollection, those scores were always right. As Richard said, a simpler time.

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Stock tables and photo darkroom mysteries

Gene Herrick (Email) - Responding to yesterday's Connecting, where there were a couple of stories that one could add to – Stock tables, and photo darkroom mysteries.

In 1943 the AP in Columbus, Ohio, hired me as a 16-year-old "Printer Attendant," (Office boy). I quickly applied myself to not only "Pulling" copy from the many teletype machines, but I spent time in the Wirephoto room, talking and learning the mysteries of the "Darkroom", but also receiving pictures over a wire, and then "Processing" the negative that was inside a metal canister. I was taught to take the canister off the machine, go into a tiny darkroom that was really dark. One would remove the film and clipping the four corners onto a special metal hanger, putting into a narrow deep tank, closing a lid, and setting the timer. When timer went off, we would transfer the film into another tank containing "Hypo," which stopped the developing process, and then wash the negative, and hang in a heater to dry.

When the negative was dry, the real fun began. The printing room had lights, but they were very, very dim, and either red or yellow. One could sort of see. By placing the negative in a glass holder, which was then placed in a photo enlarger, focus the image on an 8x11 ½ flat metal frame on a table below. After minor adjustments were made, one would reach into a light-tight wooden box containing printing paper. The paper would be ruined if there was any white light in the room. The exposure was usually about 6-8 seconds, and then removed and placed in a big tray of print developer chemical. Then the magic happened. The picture image slowly appears, and then the print is just like the original, it was placed in the hypo tray. Later, the print was washed and then squeegeed onto a hot plate dryer. Wow, what magic.

What gets to me today, is removing photo paper in broad daylight and placing it into computer printing machine. One doesn't have to worry about the light ruining the

paper. Each time I do this, I have a moment of pause because it isn't the old "Normal."

As to the Stock Tables, we (and I) "Gummed" the incoming final numbers for the New York Stock Exchange, and the Bond Market, five days a week. We had big sheets of paper with the names of the various stocks and bonds. The information came over the special wire, and was in paper tape form, just like Western Union telegraph tape. We would "Gum" the reports, and give to the editor to put on the regionalized State Wire.

The Market Wire as we knew it then, and Wirephoto, as it was then, is gone. Pictures are now handled in unbelievable instant manner now.

Don't forget the telegraph key, which was still in use during my days.

AP, of course, continues to be a pace setter. It is we "Old Timer's" who are mystified, and bewildered, but still appreciative of the daily receiving of information – especially through Connecting.

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More of your least-favorite jargon

Enjoying the lists of hated jargon and cliches.

A few pet peeves: Any variation of "walk the walk" and "talk the talk." To do a "deep dive" into something. (Save that for swimming or scuba diving). The use of "grow" as in "grow the game" and "grow the business." "Light at the end of the tunnel" referring to the end of the coronavirus pandemic. And several trite British expressions which have made their way into American usage: "over the moon," "gutted" (meaning disappointed) and "spot on." (Steve Wilson)

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"Get your popcorn ready" in anticipation of some event is terrible. Am also not a fan of "dumpster fire" to describe a messed-up situation. (Anon.)

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AP calculator, calendar update

Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - I heard from a few colleagues regarding the source of the AP calculator/calendar combo I came across in a box of old papers (Friday's Connecting).

Larry Hamlin and Jack Walker said they thought it was a gift for a years of service milestone. That's my vague recollection.

Larry and Jack also said theirs still work. "I've kept it on my desktop in our computer room for years, along with a few other AP-related keepsakes," Jack wrote. "In fact, I picked it up and played with it just a couple weeks ago!"

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Baron to accept National Citation during online event April 21

Martin Baron, retired executive editor of The Washington Post, will accept the William Allen White National Citation award during a virtual event at 4 p.m. CST April 21 during an online discussion with J-School students, faculty, staff, trustees and alumni. The event also will be open to the public. Link to register will be provided closer to the event date. Baron was selected as the 2020 National Citation recipient and was scheduled to receive the award and give an address on the KU campus last April, but the event was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. (University of Kansas Monday Memo)

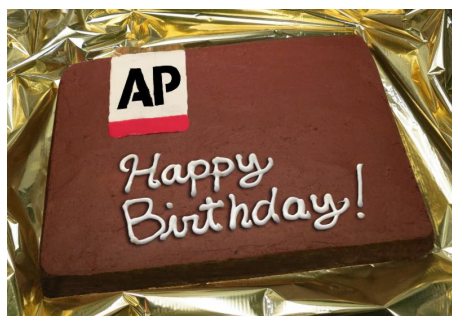
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AP sighting



Shared by Jim Limbach

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



David Kennerly - david@kennerly.com

Stories of interest

Officer says he arrested reporter after pepper spray blasts (AP)



Police officers are shown arresting Des Moines Register reporter Andrea Sahouri after a Black Lives Matter protest she was covering on May 31, 2020, in Des Moines, Iowa, was dispersed by tear gas. Sahouri is set to stand trial on Monday, March 8, 2021, on misdemeanor charges, a case that prosecutors have pursued despite international condemnation from advocates for press freedom. (Photo courtesy Katie Akin via AP)

By RYAN J. FOLEY

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — A police officer testified Monday that he arrested a journalist at an unruly Black Lives Matter protest last year in Iowa after she did not leave when he repeatedly shot clouds of pepper spray to disperse the crowd.

Des Moines Officer Luke Wilson said he wasn't aware Andrea Sahouri was a Des Moines Register reporter when he responded to a chaotic scene where protesters were breaking store windows and throwing rocks and water bottles at police outside Merle Hay mall on May 31.

Wilson said he sprayed the chemical irritant from a device known as a fogger to clear a commercial parking lot and that it worked in scattering the rest of the group, including Sahouri's then-boyfriend Spenser Robnett. But he said Sahouri stayed put despite the spray, which can cause a burning sensation and temporary blindness.

"Once I determined she wasn't leaving, I had to take action," Wilson testified, adding that he still didn't know who she was.

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

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Myanmar protesters defy curfew; media outlets ordered shut (AP)

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Demonstrators in Myanmar’s biggest city came out Monday night for their first mass protests in defiance of an 8 p.m. curfew, seeking to show support for an estimated 200 students trapped by security forces in a small area of one neighborhood.

The students and other civilians earlier took part in one of the many daily protests across the country against the military’s seizure of power last month that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

The military government also placed a major curb on media coverage of the crisis. It announced that the licenses of five local media outlets — Mizzima, DVB, Khit Thit Media, Myanmar Now and 7Day News — have been canceled.

“These media companies are no longer allowed to broadcast or write or give information by using any kind of media platform or using any media technology,” it said on state broadcaster MRTV.

All five had been offering extensive coverage of the protests, often with livestreaming video online. The offices of Myanmar Now were raided by the authorities Monday before the measure was announced.

Read more [here](#).

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Oprah's deft royal interview shows why she's still the queen (AP)

By LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — There were royal victims and villains in Harry and Meghan’s tell-all — or tell enough — interview with Oprah Winfrey. But there was only one immediate and clear winner: the American media queen.

While the couple drew both strong support and rebukes for detailing why they fled Britain and their royal roles, Winfrey burnished her stature as a master interviewer with Sunday’s special that rivaled “The Crown” for drama and heartache.

She was in her element, breaking news and making entertainment. In past big “gets,” Winfrey had grilled Lance Armstrong about doping, Whitney Houston about her troubled life and Michael Jackson on whether he'd lightened his skin to deny his Blackness.

Read more [here](#).

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Oprah proved she is greatest celebrity interviewer of all time. All journalists can learn from her. (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan
Media columnist

Gayle King used the word “perfection” to describe the royal interview heard round the world Sunday night.

Since she’s one of Oprah Winfrey’s best friends, her over-the-top praise on “CBS This Morning” may have come off as less than an objective analysis.

But she got it right.

And many of the 17 million who found themselves riveted by this royal Super Bowl, as Harry and Meghan spilled enough tea to fill up the Atlantic Ocean, would have had to agree.

With her relentless follow-up questions, compassionate demeanor and focused skill in eliciting bombshell after bombshell, Oprah proved herself the best celebrity interviewer ever. This may not have been much in dispute, after her interviews with Michael Jackson, Kim Kardashian and Barack Obama, among many others.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Harry Dunphy.

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The self-silencing majority (Deseret Week)

By Bari Weiss

I know a lot of people who live in fear of saying what they really think. In red America and in blue America — and, perhaps more so, on the red internet and the blue internet — we are in the grip of an epidemic of self-silencing. What you censor, of course, depends on where you sit.

My liberal friends who live in red America confess to avoiding discussions of masks, Dominion, Ted Cruz, Josh Hawley, the 2020 election and Donald Trump, to name just a few. When those who disagree with the surrounding majority speak their mind, they suffer the consequences. I think here of my friend, the conservative writer David French, who for four years endured an avalanche of horrific attacks against himself and his family for criticizing the Trump administration that ultimately required the intervention of the FBI.

But there are two illiberal cultures swallowing up the country. I know because I live in blue America, in a world awash in NPR tote bags and front lawn signs proclaiming the social justice bonafides of the family inside.

In my America, the people who keep quiet don't fear the wrath of Trump supporters. They fear the illiberal left.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Jenny Volanakis.

Today in History - March 9, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 9, the 68th day of 2021. There are 297 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 9, 1841, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. The Amistad*, ruled 7-1 in favor of a group of illegally enslaved Africans who were captured off the U.S. coast after seizing control of a Spanish schooner, *La Amistad*; the justices ruled that the Africans should be set free.

On this date:

In 1916, more than 400 Mexican raiders led by Pancho Villa (VEE'-uh) attacked Columbus, New Mexico, killing 18 Americans. During the First World War, Germany declared war on Portugal.

In 1933, Congress, called into special session by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, began its "hundred days" of enacting New Deal legislation.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. B-29 bombers began launching incendiary bomb attacks against Tokyo, resulting in an estimated 100,000 deaths.

In 1954, CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow critically reviewed Wisconsin Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's anti-communism campaign on "See It Now."

In 1959, Mattel's Barbie doll, created by Ruth Handler, made its public debut at the American International Toy Fair in New York.

In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, raised the standard for public officials to prove they'd been libeled in their official capacity by news organizations.

In 1976, a cable car in the Italian ski resort of Cavalese fell some 700 feet to the ground when a supporting line snapped, killing 43 people.

In 1987, Chrysler Corp. announced it had agreed to buy the financially ailing American Motors Corp.

In 1989, the Senate rejected President George H.W. Bush's nomination of John Tower to be defense secretary by a vote of 53-47. (The next day, Bush tapped Wyoming Rep. Dick Cheney, who went on to win unanimous Senate approval.)

In 1990, Dr. Antonia Novello was sworn in as surgeon general, becoming the first woman and the first Hispanic to hold the job.

In 1997, gangsta rapper The Notorious B.I.G. (Christopher Wallace) was killed in a still-unsolved drive-by shooting in Los Angeles; he was 24.

In 2000, John McCain suspended his presidential campaign, conceding the Republican nomination to George W. Bush. Bill Bradley ended his presidential bid, conceding the Democratic nomination to Vice President Al Gore.

Ten years ago: After a trip to the International Space Station, shuttle Discovery ended its career as the most flown U.S. spaceship, returning from orbit for the last time. Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn signed legislation abolishing the death penalty in his state and commuting the sentences of all remaining death row inmates.

Five years ago: Six days before the Florida primary, Democrats Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders tangled in an intense debate in Miami over who was the true friend of American Hispanics, and had even worse things to say about Republican front-runner Donald Trump. During a Trump rally in Fayetteville, North Carolina, John Franklin McGraw struck protester Rakeem Jones as Jones was being removed by sheriff's deputies (McGraw, who later apologized for his actions, received a 30-day suspended sentence).

One year ago: Global stock markets and oil prices plunged, reflecting mounting alarm over the impact of the coronavirus. An alarmingly sharp slide at the opening bell on Wall Street triggered the first automatic halt in trading in more than two decades; the Dow industrials finished nearly 8% lower. A cruise ship with at least 21 infected people aboard was allowed to dock in Oakland, California after days idling at sea while dozens of those aboard were tested. Italy's premier put the entire country on lockdown to combat the coronavirus, urging all 60 million Italians to stay home. The Capitol's attending physician said "several" members of Congress had contact with a person

who had attended a recent political conference and had later developed COVID-19. More than two dozen people, including the trainer of champion horse Maximum Security, were charged in what authorities described as a widespread scheme to drug racehorses to make them run faster.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. James L. Buckley, Conservative-N.Y., is 98. Singer Lloyd Price is 88. Actor Joyce Van Patten is 87. Country singer Mickey Gilley is 85. Actor Trish Van Devere is 80. Singer-musician John Cale (The Velvet Underground) is 79. Singer Mark Lindsay (Paul Revere and the Raiders) is 79. Former ABC anchorman Charles Gibson is 78. Rock musician Robin Trower is 76. Singer Jeffrey Osborne is 73. Country musician Jimmie Fadden (The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 73. Actor Jaime Lyn Bauer is 72. Magazine editor Michael Kinsley is 70. TV newscaster Faith Daniels is 64. Actor Linda Fiorentino is 63. Actor Tom Amandes is 62. Actor-director Lonny Price is 62. Country musician Rusty Hendrix (Confederate Railroad) is 61. Actor Juliette Binoche is 57. Rock musician Robert Sledge (Ben Folds Five) is 53. Rock musician Shannon Leto (30 Seconds to Mars) is 51. Rapper C-Murder (AKA C-Miller) is 50. Actor Emmanuel Lewis is 50. Actor Jean Louisa Kelly is 49. Actor Kerr Smith is 49. Actor Oscar Isaac is 42. Comedian Jordan Klepper (TV: "The Daily Show") is 42. Rapper Chingy is 41. Actor Matthew Gray Gubler is 41. Rock musician Chad Gilbert (New Found Glory) is 40. NHL defenseman Brent Burns is 36. Actor Brittany Snow is 35. Rapper Bow Wow is 34. Rapper YG is 31. Actor Luis Armand Garcia is 29. Actor Cierra Ramirez is 26.

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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