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## Connecting

March 26, 2021

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At his first news conference on Thursday, President Biden was the sober political veteran comfortable with thinking out loud, talking personally and conversationally, and showing occasional impatience. Credit...Doug Mills/The New York Times

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021,

We wish our Jewish colleagues a Happy Passover. The holiday begins Saturday evening and ends in the evening of April 4.

Connecting publishes your AP sightings from time to time – a sign or logo with AP featured (I have even seen AP shirts – Advanced Placement.)

But our colleague **Greg Nokes** ([Email](#)) brings us an **Edie Lederer** sighting. He wrote, “Fun to see Edie Lederer in the Netflix documentary on Audrey Hepburn, although it should have been mentioned Edie was with AP.”

Asked about her appearance on the "Audrey" documentary, Edie said she traveled with Hepburn in Somalia on what turned out to be Hepburn's last trip as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador.

Edie ([Email](#)), the AP's chief United Nations correspondent, celebrated her 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the AP on March 21 – she is the senior active-duty employee in The Associated Press – and celebrates her birthday on Saturday. She jokingly tells people she joined the AP when she was 14-years-old!



In her more than five decades with the Associated Press, Edie has worked on every continent except Antarctica covering wars, famines, nuclear issues and political upheavals. She has been AP's chief UN correspondent since 1998. She has been based in New York, San Francisco, Saigon, Mexico City, Peru, Puerto Rico, Hong Kong, East Africa and London. She is the winner of five lifetime achievement awards – the University of Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service to Journalism, the International Women's Media Foundation, the Newswomen's Club of New York, the Overseas Press Club and the Washington Press Club Foundation.

### *A thank you from Julio Cortez*

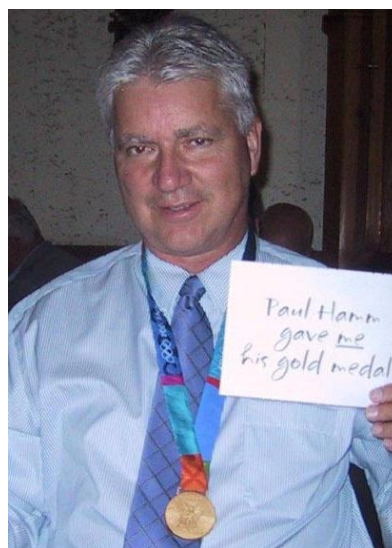
Thursday's Connecting featured AP Baltimore photographer **Julio Cortez** ([Email](#)) who was honored when his photo from Minneapolis on the George Floyd protests was named Best of Show in the prestigious 2021 photo contest hosted by the National Press Photographers Association. Julio shared these thoughts with Connecting:

"I'm very honored to be given recognition for my work in Minneapolis. I share this recognition with my colleagues who helped me get the job done, starting with John Minchillo, who helped me stay safe during a very violent time covering the George Floyd protests. When I shot the image, I had no idea it would be so well-received both by AP and by its clients. The award echoes that and I'm just so happy to be able to put AP's name front and center in the NPPA contest."

### *Olympic Gold for Ye Olde Connecting Editor?*

In Tuesday's Connecting, we profiled our colleague **Sandy Hamm**, whose company AP Newsfinder has provided Associated Press services to weekly publications for the past 36 years. Sandy's company is based outside Milwaukee and was part of my area of responsibility as an AP regional vice president. So I would visit him from time to time to discuss business.

On one visit, he brought an unexpected visitor to our working dinner – the Olympic Gold Medal won by his gymnast son Paul in the men's all-around event at the 2004 Athens Olympics. Paul was the first U.S. male gymnast to win the Olympic all-around. So for one brief shining moment, a chance of a lifetime, I got to wear an Olympic Gold Medal around my neck.



We lead today's issue with coverage of Thursday's first news conference by President Joe Biden. We bring you AP media writer **David Bauder's** report, with links to reports from other news organizations on how Biden did. At the top of this issue is a photo by

**Doug Mills** of The New York Times, a Connecting colleague and former AP Washington photographer.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## For media, Biden news conference notable for what's missing



President Joe Biden speaks during a news conference in the East Room of the White House, Thursday, March 25, 2021, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

By **DAVID BAUDER**

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Biden's first presidential news conference was notable for what was missing after predecessor Donald Trump: no contentious exchanges with reporters, no Fox News and no questions about COVID-19.

The last omission was probably the least expected, considering the pandemic has killed more than half a million Americans and kept much of the country home for the past year.

Many in the news media had been impatient since Biden had not submitted to a formal question-and-answer session with reporters until his 65th day in the office. When he finally did Thursday, it was carried live on the major broadcast and cable news networks.

Before taking a question, Biden announced he was setting a new goal of having 200 million vaccine doses for the coronavirus administered during his first 100 days in office.

And that was it. None of the 10 reporters who questioned him, some on multiple topics, brought the topic up. Noting that in a tweet, Sheryl Gay Stolberg of The New York Times said the questions “suggest that coronavirus is no longer Topic A.”

“Pretty sure it is for the American people and the Biden White House,” White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain tweeted in response.

Four questioners brought up immigration and the Mexican border, while three asked about the filibuster, the arcane Senate rule that will be key to getting legislation passed. Not quite three months into office, Biden was asked whether he would run for reelection and if Vice President Kamala Harris would be on his ticket.

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for Washington Post story: Opinion: Biden excels at his first news conference. The media embarrass themselves. (Shared by Dennis Conrad)

Click [here](#) for New York Times story: Timing Is Everything, Biden Says, and ‘Politics Is the Art of the Possible’

Click [here](#) for The Hill story: Fox's Peter Doocy snubbed at first Biden press conference (Shared by Dennis Conrad)

Click [here](#) for Poynter.org story: How did Joe Biden and the media do in Biden’s first press conference as president?

Click [here](#) for Fox News story: Photos show Biden 'cheat sheets' during first formal press conference.

## Chuck Lewis obituary in National Press Club Wire

Here is an excerpt from the Chuck Lewis obituary by Rick Dunham that ran in Thursday’s National Press Club Wire. Click [here](#) for the full story.

“Chuck was a true gentleman with an endless sense of humor,” said 1986 Club President Mary Kay Quinlan, retired associate dean of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s College of Journalism and Mass Communications. “He led by example, which is the best kind of leadership. He will be missed.”

Lewis’ friends and former colleagues described him as a quintessential old-school journalist, a hard-nosed reporter, a fun-loving friend, a demanding but compassionate boss, and a loving husband. “He’s still the beautiful man I fell in love with,” his wife, Vivian Chen, wrote in an email announcing his death.

1978 NPC president Frank Aukofer, a longtime Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Washington bureau chief, hailed him as “a great newsman.” 1982 NPC president Vivian Vahlberg, a member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, praised him as “a great guy.”

In addition to the National Press Club, he was a member of Washington’s Metropolitan Club and the Gridiron Club, and a supporter of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

As president of the Gridiron Club in 2013, he roasted then-President Barack Obama for his dearth of interviews with newspaper reporters. But Lewis’ most memorable Gridiron moment came when he dressed as a giant stalk of broccoli to lampoon then-President George H.W. Bush’s distaste for the green cruciferous vegetable.

“A charming smile of a man, successful and prosperous – and a fan of the National Press Club,” 1997 Club President Richard Sammon said. “His full life and career are as large as a setting sun allows.”

Said Sammon: “Chuck would often deliver a joke to me at the side of the bar. Then he’d ask what I thought about it – his joke – and to discuss if it could be made better or shorter. True editor.”

## AP religion team wins 2021 Wilbur Award

New York-based reporters David Crary and Luis Andres Henao and video journalist Jessie Wardarski received a 2021 Wilbur Award for their reporting detailing the COVID-19 pandemic's toll on New York churches.

AP’s reporting chronicled the grief and pain of Rev. Joseph Dutan of St. Brigid Church in the Brooklyn borough of New York. Last year, Dutan lost his mentor and a fellow priest, as well as his father, to the coronavirus.

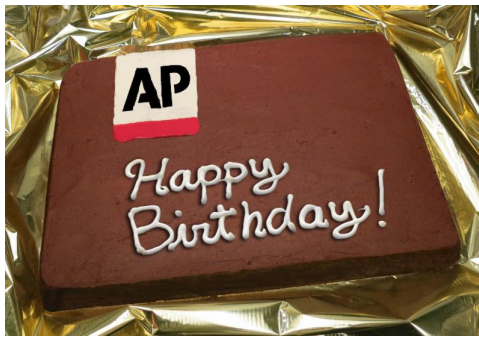
The Wilbur Awards recognize excellence in the communication of religious issues, values and themes in media.

## New beat team for migration coverage

News Director for Europe and Africa Anna Johnson announced the creation of an all-formats beat team that will cover migration in Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

The new team, co-led by Southern Europe News Director Karl Ritter and Barcelona-based video journalist Renata Brito, brings together staff from all formats in the region who have a special interest in migration coverage. They will work closely with colleagues in other regions, including the immigration beat team in the U.S.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Frank Baker – [fsbaker@ap.org](mailto:fsbaker@ap.org)

Jerry Schwartz – [jschwartz@ap.org](mailto:jschwartz@ap.org)

*On Saturday to...*

Edie Lederer – [elederer@ap.org](mailto:elederer@ap.org)

## Welcome to Connecting



Julio Cortez - [jcortez@ap.org](mailto:jcortez@ap.org)

Dario Lopez - [dlopez@ap.org](mailto:dlopez@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

***Accurate Reporting Takes Layers*** (Editor & Publisher)

By Rob Tornoe

Donald Trump is no longer the president, and gone with him are some of the journalistic headaches that came with the most powerful man on Earth freely lying as easily and often as he blinked.

Unfortunately, a majority of Republicans in Congress often went along with Trump's lies, even going so far as to vote to throw out legitimate election results in two states, disenfranchising millions of voters based on cynical falsehoods Trump telegraphed long before a single vote was cast.

While Trump may be gone, these Republicans remain in office, in many cases voted in by readers of your newspaper or online publication. So, how should reporters cover politicians if their statements or positions aren't supported by any factual record supported by evidence?

My suggestion would be to paraphrase advice given by Mitt Romney: Tell readers the truth.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Introducing The Collective: A newsletter for passing the mic on the path to equity*** (Poynter)

**By: Doris Truong**

As we approach the first anniversary of the racial reckoning in America's newsrooms, the unique challenges of being a journalist of color continue. And who understands what we're going through better than someone who has been through it themselves?

That's why we're excited to launch The Collective, a newsletter that will come out on the last Wednesday of the month starting in April. We're looking for fresh voices to elevate. You can be a student, a retiree and anyone in between. Let us know what you're interested in sharing and your preferred medium (text, photos, illustrations, video or audio). Your creativity is encouraged.

Thanks to the support of the TEGNA Foundation, we are able to pay a freelance fee to all contributors, including our Council of Truth-Tellers.

We want to hear about times when you were The Only. Or tell us how you got others to recognize that your idea was worth resources — and that you were the person up to the task. You might choose to share an ongoing struggle; lots of us are ready to commiserate. How do you feel when someone asks, "Are you OK?" with no follow-up action? What is it like when something in the news makes you feel seen? Whom do you turn to when you need to vent about another frustrating day of emotional labor?

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Watch a supercut of typewriters being used on screen.*** (Literary Hub)





By JESSIE GAYNOR

Need a break from writing? Or some cinematic inspiration to begin writing? Or, just really like typewriters? Then perhaps I can interest you in two minutes, four seconds of typewriters on screen, set to Leroy Anderson's irrepressibly jaunty "The Typewriter."

The supercut, courtesy of Ariel Avissar, features shots from *Zodiac*, *Stranger Than Fiction*, *Citizen Kane*, and (of course) *The Shining*, among others.

May the labor of fictional characters guide your artistic endeavors! Or your dumb tweets! No judgment here.

Read more [here](#).

## The Final Word

***Famous Robert Capa Photo Brings New Life to a Tenement and Its Residents*** (New York Times)



The original photograph by Robert Capa of the bomb-scarred tenement in Madrid in 1936. Credit...Robert Capa/International Center of Photography and Magnum Photos



Residents moving out of the Capa building, in the Vallecas neighborhood, this month. Credit...Maria Contreras Coll for The New York Times

**By Raphael Minder**

MADRID — In 1936, the photographer Robert Capa trained his lens on children outside a pockmarked tenement in Madrid that had been bombed by the German Luftwaffe. That image of the Spanish Civil War remains a powerful reminder of the effects of armed conflict on civilians.

This month, some 85 years after the picture was made, plans are underway for the decrepit, century-old building to be preserved and converted into a cultural center that will celebrate the photographer's work and commemorate Madrid's wartime history. Residents of the tenement were permanently moved to subsidized housing.

For those who had made their homes in the building, the change was long overdue. Most of them could not afford something better because of a chronic shortage of subsidized housing in Madrid. In January, the discrepancy between the city's haves and have-nots was on full display when a giant snowstorm deepened the misery in one of the poorest areas of Madrid.

In their new homes, the residents will pay the same or even less for more space, proper heating and other improvements.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Francesca Pitaro.

## Today in History - March 26, 2021



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, March 26, the 85th day of 2021. There are 280 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On March 26, 1982, groundbreaking ceremonies took place in Washington, D.C., for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

**On this date:**

In 1812, an earthquake devastated Caracas, Venezuela, causing an estimated 26,000 deaths, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1827, composer Ludwig van Beethoven died in Vienna.

In 1874, poet Robert Frost was born in San Francisco.

In 1892, poet Walt Whitman died in Camden, New Jersey.

In 1917, the Seattle Metropolitans became the first U.S. team to win the Stanley Cup as they defeated the Montreal Canadiens in Game 4 of the finals by a score of 9-1.

In 1945, during World War II, Iwo Jima was fully secured by U.S. forces following a final, desperate attack by Japanese soldiers.

In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Baker v. Carr*, gave federal courts the power to order reapportionment of states' legislative districts.

In 1964, the musical play "Funny Girl," starring Barbra Streisand as Fanny Brice, opened on Broadway.

In 1979, a peace treaty was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (men-AH'-kem BAY'-gihn) and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and witnessed by President Jimmy Carter at the White House.

In 1992, a judge in Indianapolis sentenced former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson to six years in prison for raping a Miss Black America contestant. (Tyson ended up serving three years.)

In 1997, the bodies of 39 members of the Heaven's Gate techno-religious cult who committed suicide were found inside a rented mansion in Rancho Santa Fe, California.

In 2010, the U.S. and Russia sealed the first major nuclear weapons treaty in nearly two decades, agreeing to slash the former Cold War rivals' warhead arsenals by nearly one-third.

Ten years ago: Former Democratic vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, the first female major party nominee for the office, died in Boston at 75.

Five years ago: Bernie Sanders scored wins over Hillary Clinton in the Washington state, Alaska and Hawaii Democratic caucuses. Author Jim Harrison ("Legends of the Fall") died in Patagonia, Arizona, at age 78.

One year ago: Federal officials said two men who had been on a coronavirus-stricken cruise ship stalled for days off the California coast had died; officials confirmed that fewer than half the ship's 2,400 passengers were tested for the virus. (More than 100 people who were on the Grand Princess were found to be infected with the coronavirus; at least eight died.) The government reported a record-high number of new unemployment claims – nearly 3.3 million – amid an economic shutdown caused by the coronavirus. The U.S. surpassed official Chinese government numbers to

become the country with the most reported coronavirus infections, more than 85,000. The U.S. Justice Department indicted Venezuela's socialist leader Nicolas Maduro and several aides on charges of narcoterrorism. Fred "Curly" Neal, the dribbling wizard who starred with the Harlem Globetrotters for parts of three decades, died at the age of 77.

Today's Birthdays: Retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is 91. Actor Alan Arkin is 87. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is 86. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is 81. Actor James Caan is 81. Author Erica Jong is 79. Journalist Bob Woodward is 78. Singer Diana Ross is 77. Actor Johnny Crawford is 75. Rock singer Steven Tyler (Aerosmith) is 73. Singer and TV personality Vicki Lawrence is 72. Actor Ernest Thomas is 72. Comedian Martin Short is 71. Country singer Ronnie McDowell is 71. Movie composer Alan Silvestri is 71. Rock musician Monte Yoho is 69. Former Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao is 68. Radio talk show host Curtis Sliwa is 67. Country singer Dean Dillon is 66. Country singer Charly McClain is 65. TV personality Leeza Gibbons is 64. Actor Ellia English is 62. Actor Jennifer Grey is 61. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Marcus Allen is 61. Actor Billy Warlock is 60. Actor Eric Allan Kramer is 59. Basketball and College Basketball Hall of Famer John Stockton is 59. Actor Michael Imperioli is 55. Rock musician James Iha (EE'-hah) is 53. Country singer Kenny Chesney is 53. Movie director Martin McDonagh (Film: "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri") is 51. Actor Leslie Mann is 49. Actor T.R. Knight is 48. Rapper Juvenile is 46. Actor Amy Smart is 45. Actor Bianca Kajlich (KY'-lihk) is 44. Moderator Margaret Brennan (TV: "Face the Nation") is 41. Actor Sterling Sulieman is 37. Actor Keira Knightley is 36. Rapper J-Kwon is 35. Actor Carly Chaikin is 31.

## 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**

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