

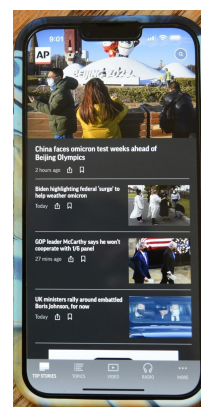
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# Connecting

April 11, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this April 11, 2023,

## Why Retired Journalists Are Jumping Back into the Profession

That's the headline of a [recent story](#) by Jon Marcus in Nieman Reports – and among the retired journalists it features are our colleague [Ed Bell](#), retired AP Boston chief of bureau, and [Sue Cross](#), once a senior vice president and chief of bureau. (The story was shared by Mark Hoffman.)

The story notes: “Rather than moving to retirement communities and settling in beside the pool or playing pickleball, retired journalists are stepping into news voids nationwide, launching local and regional media outlets or serving on their boards, mentoring young journalists, advocating for press freedoms, and continuing to gather and report information not otherwise being covered. In some cases, they're returning to their roots in local news, spending their retirements reviving the kinds of local newspapers and news sites that have been particularly hard hit by the consolidation of the industry by big media companies and hedge funds.

In its mention of **Ed Bell**: "In the far more affluent Massachusetts waterfront community of Marblehead, 75 miles away, 82-year-old retired Associated Press Boston bureau chief Ed Bell cofounded and is a member of the board of the Marblehead Current, launched last year after Gannett made its weekly regional instead of local. The outlet covers everything from the local superintendent search to the town's plan to fight climate change."

**Sue Cross**, once an AP senior vice president and chief of bureau and for the past seven years serving as executive director and CEO of the Institute for Nonprofit News, a network that has grown to include more than 400 nonprofit news organizations, said, "You have a bubble of recently retired journalists, and journalists tend to be socially motivated people who care deeply about journalism. So there is a wealth of people who want to really see journalism continue. At the same time, there is a generational shift from retiring to retiring and doing something else."

Connecting is certain that there are other colleagues out there who retired and then returned to work in areas that interest them and are fulfilling. (Hmmm, Ye Olde Connecting Editor and his 10-year-old newsletter may be one of them...)

So how about sharing your own story? How did you get into a new enterprise – what are the high points and what are the low points? It will not only be enjoyable to hear but may also provide an idea for others in the Connecting family. This applies to all of our readers, whether AP was their employer or not.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## More memories of Harold Olmos

**Peter Eisner** - The outpouring of respect and sorrow on the passing of Harold Olmos is tremendously moving, and the reason is clear. Harold was the epitome of decency, kindness, and professionalism. He came to work with me in Brasilia, where I was correspondent, in 1980 directly after his clandestine flight from Bolivia. What a friend he was. Brasilia was a relatively isolated post -- what a relief to suddenly having a thoughtful colleague to share the burden of covering a major capital in three languages. As much of a pro as he was, warmth and humor and friendship came in equal measure. One of my favorite memories was Harold running into our shared cubicle in the wire room at the Brasilia office of Folha de São Paulo. He had news from the presidential palace that had to go out right away. "Stop the rototatives," he said. He was so excited to be able to beat our friend Guillermo Piernes at UPI on a story, which did not always happen. It took me a minute to get what he meant. In his excitement to send out the news, he used the Spanish word for what he wanted to say: "Stop the Presses!" We had a laugh and wrote up the story.

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Susan Clark - Since I was at the 7th floor reception desk since 1973, I had many conversations when he came on home leave. He was always very kind to me.

Rest in peace Harold Olmos, may your memory be a blessing.

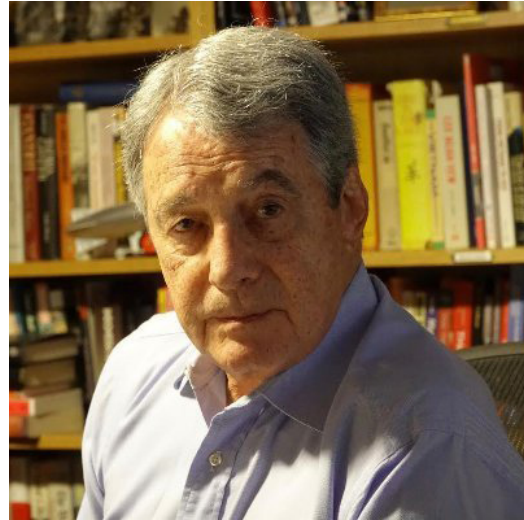
## New-member profile: Lew Simons

Lewis M. Simons began his career as a foreign correspondent with AP in 1967, in the Saigon bureau, at the height of the Vietnam War.

Since then, Lew has reported on war, civil unrest, politics and economics from throughout Southeast Asia; India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh; Iraq and Iran; China, Japan, North Korea and South Korea, as well as the former Soviet Union.

After seven years with AP, he was a correspondent for The Washington Post, San Jose Mercury News/Knight-Ridder Newspapers and Time.

Simons and two SJMN colleagues won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting in 1986, for exposing the billions that the Marcos family looted from the Philippines. Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism named the series one of 50 Great Stories of the Century. Simons was twice more a Pulitzer finalist and has received other journalism awards, including the George Polk, and was an Edward R. Murrow Fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations.



Simons' op-ed and analytical articles have appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, Foreign Affairs, Newsweek, Atlantic and Smithsonian magazines. He has contributed frequently to National Geographic and his work is published in USA Today, where he is a member of its Board of Contributors, The Huffington Post, The Daily Beast and Daily Kos. He has appeared on ABC, NBC, MSNBC, CNN, BBC and CBC.

Lew's newest book is To Tell the Truth: My Life as a Foreign Correspondent. He also is the author of Worth Dying For; co-author, with Senator Christopher S. Bond, of The Next Front: Southeast Asia and the Road to Global Peace with Islam, and a contributing author of half a dozen books on war and international affairs.

A former U.S. Marine, he is a graduate of New York University and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. He is married to fellow journalist Carol Simons. They have three adult children and reside in Washington, DC.

## LA micro-reunion



There was a joyous AP micro-reunion Sunday in Los Angeles.

[Rachel Ambrose](#) and [Rosalie Fox](#) found themselves as guests at an Easter lawn party given by a non-AP former reporter and now author and podcaster.

Both Rachel and Rosalie are retired from the AP. Rachel had been the longtime California-Nevada Broadcast Supervisor and Rosalie had been an AP Radio Entertainment Correspondent. Rachel and Rosalie had worked just feet apart at the Los Angeles Bureau.

And though Facebook friends, the two had not seen each other in person for several years.

## First family gathering for Easter in Devon



**Wendy Davis Beard** - Gorgeous weather to greet friends and family a week after we both recovered from first positive tests for Covid - siblings Alice Beard (left) and Eliza Davis Beard. We attended our first precaution-free post-pandemic exhibition in London.

## Death Valley







## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Bobbie Seril](#)

Welcome to Connecting



[Andrew Joyce](#)

[Marian O'Neill](#)

[Daniel Polowetzky](#)

[Lew Simons](#)

## Stories of interest



## ***US finds WSJ reporter in Russia is wrongfully detained*** (AP)

By MATTHEW LEE

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration formally determined Monday that a Wall Street Journal reporter arrested in Russia on espionage charges has been “wrongfully detained.”

The designation elevates the case of Evan Gershkovich in the U.S. government hierarchy and means that a dedicated State Department office will take the lead on securing his release.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the determination on Monday, saying he condemned the arrest and Russia’s repression of independent media.

“Today, Secretary Blinken made a determination that Evan Gershkovich is wrongfully detained by Russia,” the department said in a statement. “Journalism is not a crime. We condemn the Kremlin’s continued repression of independent voices in Russia, and its ongoing war against the truth.”

Russian authorities arrested Gershkovich, 31, in Yekaterinburg, Russia’s fourth-largest city, on March 29. He is the first U.S. correspondent since the Cold War to be detained for alleged spying.

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

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## ***Amid backlash, Twitter changes NPR’s account to ‘government funded media’*** (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

Twitter and its billionaire owner, Elon Musk, have backed off a controversial description of NPR as “state-affiliated media,” relabeling the news organization’s social media account as “government funded.”

The change, quietly made by the San Francisco-based company late Saturday, follows complaints from NPR and others that Twitter’s designation of NPR’s account as “state-affiliated” last week was an effort by Musk to disparage the Washington-based news organization. The state-affiliated label has traditionally been used by Twitter to describe government-run propaganda outlets, such as Russia’s Sputnik and RT and the Chinese Communist Party’s People’s Daily.

In addition to its unsavory connotation, the label appears to have been inconsistently applied. Several news organizations that receive government funding, as NPR does, have not been so labeled by Twitter.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

## Today in History - April 11, 2023



Today is Tuesday, April 11, the 101st day of 2023. There are 264 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which included the Fair Housing Act, a week after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

### On this date:

In 1814, Napoleon Bonaparte abdicated as Emperor of the French and was banished to the island of Elba. (Napoleon later escaped from Elba and returned to power in March 1815, until his downfall in the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815.)

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln spoke to a crowd outside the White House, saying, "We meet this evening, not in sorrow, but in gladness of heart." (It was the last public address Lincoln would deliver.)

In 1899, the treaty ending the Spanish-American War was declared in effect.

In 1913, Postmaster General Albert S. Burluson, during a meeting of President Woodrow Wilson's Cabinet, proposed gradually segregating whites and Blacks who worked for the Railway Mail Service, a policy that went into effect and spread to other agencies.

In 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the Nazi concentration camp Buchenwald in Germany.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers played in an exhibition against the New York Yankees at Ebbets Field, four days before his regular-season debut that broke baseball's color line. (The Dodgers won, 14-6.)

In 1961, former SS officer Adolf Eichmann went on trial in Israel, charged with crimes against humanity for his role in the Nazi Holocaust. (Eichmann was convicted and executed.)

In 1970, Apollo 13, with astronauts James A. Lovell, Fred W. Haise and Jack Swigert, blasted off on its ill-fated mission to the moon. (The mission was aborted when an oxygen tank exploded April 13. The crew splashed down safely four days after the explosion.)

In 1980, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued regulations specifically prohibiting sexual harassment of workers by supervisors.

In 1996, 7-year-old Jessica Dubroff, who hoped to become the youngest person to fly cross-country, was killed along with her father and flight instructor when their plane crashed after takeoff from Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In 2020, the number of U.S. deaths from the coronavirus eclipsed Italy's for the highest in the world, topping 20,000.

Ten years ago: Congress' most serious gun-control effort in years cleared its first hurdle as the Senate pushed past conservatives' attempted blockade, rebuffing 68-31 an effort to keep debate from even starting. (However, proposals for tighter background checks for buyers as well as bans on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines went down to defeat six days later.) Comedian Jonathan Winters, 87, died in Montecito, California.

Five years ago: House Speaker Paul Ryan announced that he would retire rather than seek another term in Congress. California Gov. Jerry Brown accepted President Donald Trump's call to send the National Guard to the Mexican border but said the troops would have nothing to do with immigration enforcement. Pope Francis admitted he made "grave errors" in judgment in Chile's sex abuse scandal; during a January visit to Chile, Francis had strongly defended Bishop Juan Barros despite accusations by victims that Barros had witnessed and ignored their abuse. A military transport plane crashed just after takeoff in Algeria, killing 257 people in the worst aviation disaster in the history of the North African country. Mitzi Shore, owner of the Los Angeles club the Comedy Store, died at the age of 87.

One year ago: The mayor of the Ukrainian port city of Mariupol said more than 10,000 civilians died in the Russian siege of his city. Philadelphia becomes the first major U.S. city to reinstate its indoor mask mandate after reporting a sharp increase in coronavirus infections. A jury was selected to hear a libel lawsuit Johnny Depp filed against his ex-wife, actress Amber Heard, whom he accused of falsely portraying him as a domestic abuser. Mimi Reinhard, a secretary in Oskar Schindler's office who typed up the list of Jews he saved from extermination by Nazi Germany, died at age 107.

Today's Birthdays: Ethel Kennedy is 95. Actor Joel Grey is 91. Actor Louise Lasser is 84. Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Ellen Goodman is 82. Movie writer-director John Milius is 79. Actor Peter Riegert is 76. Movie director Carl Franklin is 74. Actor Bill Irwin is 73. Country singer-songwriter Jim Lauderdale is 66. Songwriter-producer Daryl Simmons is 66. Rock musician Nigel Pulsford (Bush) is 62. Actor Lucky Vanous is 62. Country singer Steve Azar is 59. Singer Lisa Stansfield is 57. Actor Johnny Messner is

54. Rock musician Dylan Keefe (Marcy Playground) is 53. Actor Vicellous (vy-SAY'-luhs) Shannon is 52. Rapper David Banner is 49. Actor Tricia Helfer is 49. Rock musician Chris Gaylor (The All-American Rejects) is 44. Actor Kelli Garner is 39. Singer Joss Stone is 36. Actor-dancer Kaitlyn Jenkins is 31.

## Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.



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:

- **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.
- **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?

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

**Paul Stevens**

**Editor, Connecting newsletter**

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