

When the past invites you back



Daryn Kagan
What's Possible

It was the call I'd waited for so much of my career. It felt like it dropped out of the sky a few weeks ago.

A new news organization reached out saying they wanted to discuss an opportunity. I thought they would want me to produce uplifting and positive content. After all, this is what I've been doing since losing my job as a network news anchor. They had bigger ideas.

"Would you consider joining us to be our primetime news anchor?" they asked.

Or in other words, "Would you consider coming back to your old career, your old life?" What about you, Dear Reader? If you had the chance, would you go back?

To the one who tossed you out on the floor, faced with the question, "Would I go back?"

I would have to consider really big things like leaving this coastal hideaway Husband and I moved to last January. Add to that a Monday-Friday strict schedule where I would get nights and barely see Husband during the week.

This was sounding less and less attractive.

But being honest, which is what we do here, not so unattractive that I stopped taking their calls. They appeared to get more and more excited about me, and I got more excited about the opportunity. I decided to go as far as getting an offer.

We were at the final stage where I needed to share with them all the projects I still had going.

"My, you're busy," was the first sign they weren't so into me. "We love you, but can't hire you, but we love you and would love to stay in touch," was their final missive to me.

It sounded much like that long ago boyfriend who called to say he was going to ask his old girlfriend to marry him, but surely, we would stay best friends because he loved me so much.

True story for another column. Now, that's a phone call I'm clear I would never take or consider.

Still, it's funny how life can check in with you. "Have you really moved on?"

This I know. It was fun to get the call. Not nearly as fun as it would've been years ago when I was crying on the bathroom floor.

The best part: I didn't need to get the call.

Not now. I'm right where I'm supposed to be.

In faded a T-shirt and jeans, writing away. With Husband. The marsh.

And you. Thankful for our call I answer each week right in this space.

Daryn Kagan is the author of the book "Hope Possible: A Network News Anchor's Thoughts On Losing Her Job, Finding Love, A New Career, And My Dog, Always My Dog." Email her at Daryn@darynkagan.com.

RELATIONSHIPS



Looking to the elders in the family, even those not in your direct lineage, can prove useful when working on a family tree. CONTRIBUTED

Doing a family tree

How to trace your lineage back centuries.

By **Minnah Arshad**
Detroit Free Press

DETROIT — Jessica Trotter went from working on a heritage Girl Scouts badge in elementary school to tracing back her lineage three centuries.

Now, Trotter, 44, of Lansing, Michigan, is helping others do the same by exploring genealogy, the study of family and family history. Trotter authors a blog, www.generoadtrip.com, packed with advice. She often is tapped by places such as the Michigan History Center in Lansing to lead talks.

"I just really like finding out about, I guess, the lives that lead to mine," Trotter said.

Trotter and other genealogy experts shared their tips for unearthing your roots, from the use of archives to DNA tests and by tapping storytellers in the family.

'Start with what we know'

Blogger Judy Russell, famously known as "The Legal Genealogist," recommended to "start with what we know."

In an email to the Free Press, Russell said to "document our own lives. Then our parents. Then our grandparents. And so on. We move from the known to the unknown — and document every single fact so we're sure we're getting it right."

Looking to the elders in the family, even those not in your direct lineage, can prove useful.

"Get as much of that info down, and then start trying to find records to support, or sometimes, refute the family stories," Trotter said.

Online databases

Cyndi's List is a free genealogy research site, categorized

by region, occupation, religion and more. Ancestry.com is a paid database with billions of online records. A free trial is available.

Family Search is another free resource. Alongside record databases, the website has a user-friendly format where researchers can enter what they know about their families and the website pulls everything it finds. The website also has kid-friendly activities relating to the study of family history.

Michiganology is the online branch of the Archives of Michigan at the Michigan History Center in Lansing. Another free resource, Michiganology's records include state censuses, Civil War information, maps, photographs and films.

Seminars and groups

Libraries and genealogical groups host how-to seminars on tracing lineage throughout the year. These, Trotter said, can be a good place to learn how to use some resources.

There are also genealogy-interest Facebook groups, which provide a community of support in journeys of research.

Trotter also runs a personal genealogy blog, www.generoadtrip.com, where she keeps track of her findings through the decades. Trotter has even stumbled upon a lost family connection in the comments section of her posts. Keeping up with her blog has been a way for Trotter to see if anyone out there is "working on the same family."

DNA testing

Ancestry.com has a DNA component. Users submit a saliva sample, and using an autosomal DNA test, which tests for both paternal and maternal lines, shows whose DNA matches with the user from their database, according to Ancestry's website.

The test also tells users about

what areas of the world their ancestors came from. Geographical markers can help direct genealogists to where to look for historical documents.

"I think that's an important companion. You're always going to have to wind your way back to the records, though," Harvey said. Other DNA test providers for genealogy are 23andMe, MyHeritage and LivingDNA.

Historically persecuted

Some people have a harder time researching their family tree because not all records were created equally.

"My mother's family is easy to trace because they're very white, so I've actually traced her family back quite a ways, which you can do," Trotter said. "Dad's family, I have traced them pre-1870, which people always think is a brick wall for African-American research."

Paper trails for African-Americans dwindled before abolition in 1865, as enslaved people had few records. They were given English names, forcibly taken from homelands and were banned from marriage.

"This entire population isn't even recorded in the U.S. Census until 1850, and then only as tick marks on the slave schedules under the names of the enslavers. The task of their descendants is much harder than it is for other populations who were free, create records on their own names and more," Russell said.

While it was harder, Trotter said it was still possible.

For her father's line, Trotter said she had to keep in mind the mindset of that time. Since enslaved people were treated as property, Trotter said she looked in records involving goods exchanges.

However, Trotter said to still look in records you normally

Tree continued on C8

ENTERTAINMENT

Singer blasts film doc of her life

Alanis Morissette calls movie 'salacious.'

By **Jake Coyle**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Just hours before the HBO documentary "Jagged" was to premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival on Tuesday, 1990s rock star Alanis Morissette criticized the film about her life as "reductive" and "salacious."



Alanis Morissette

Morissette participated in the film, directed by Alison Klayman, sitting for lengthy interviews. But in a statement issued by her publicist, the Canadian musician said she would not be supporting the film, named after her breakthrough 1995 album, "Jagged Little Pill."

"I agreed to participate in a piece about the celebration of 'Jagged Little Pill's' 25th anniversary, and was interviewed during a very vulnerable time (while in the midst of my third postpartum depression during lockdown)," wrote Morissette. "I was lulled into a false sense of security, and their salacious agenda became apparent immediately upon my seeing the first cut of the film. This is when I knew our visions were, in fact, painfully diverged. This was not the story I agreed to tell."

Morissette didn't specify her issues with "Jagged," which is to premiere Nov. 19 on HBO. But its most sensitive material includes Morissette discussing sexual encounters when she was 15 that she calls statutory rape. The Washington Post earlier reported on that section of the film.

"It took me years in therapy to even admit there had been any kind of victimization on my part," Morissette says in the film. "I would always say I was consenting, and then I'd be reminded like 'Hey, you were 15, you're not consenting at 15.' Now I'm like, 'Oh yeah, they're all pedophiles. It's all statutory rape.'"

Canada's age of consent is 16 years old. Morissette doesn't go into details on who the encounters were with.

Representatives for Klayman didn't immediately return requests for comment Tuesday. In an interview with Deadline Hollywood published Tuesday, Klayman, whose films include "Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry" and the Steve Bannon documentary "Brink," lamented that Morissette wouldn't be there for the premiere.

"It's a really hard thing, I think,

Singer continued on C8

PERSONAL JOURNEY

Last remaining Winters Bank employee retires

Kettering man stayed on through ownership, name changes.

By **Beth Anspach**
Contributing Writer

Jack Boecker of Kettering started his professional career not unlike most young adults in the 1970s. Born and raised in Minster, he graduated from Bowling Green State University in June of 1975. Within a few weeks of graduation, he accepted a position with Winters National Bank and Trust in Dayton and was immediately placed in the management trainee program. Though Winters did not come to Bowling Green to recruit soon-to-be college graduates, Boecker learned of the program through a neighbor in Minster.

"That program was designed to have you work in different departments within the bank," Boecker said. "This was so you could figure out what you liked and what



Jack Boecker at a work retirement party in 1983. He began working for Winters National Bank in 1975 and stayed with the same bank (and its successors) until he retired earlier this year.

you were good at doing." During that training program,

"I went to commercial credit, accounting, consumer credit collections and even worked as a teller," Boecker said. "It gave me a broad experience of the bank and I ended up on the commercial side."

Jack Boecker
Retired

Boecker and the other five new employees in his class were sent to work at different branches in the Dayton area and experienced different jobs.

"I went to commercial credit, accounting, consumer credit collections and even worked as a teller," Boecker said. "It gave me a broad experience of the bank, and I ended up on the commercial side."

Boecker started his bank career in the former Kettering Tower downtown (now called the Stratacave Tower), moved to the Dayton area and remained in the same office space for the next 46 years.

"Winters became Bank One in 1983, and they were sold to Chase in 2004," Boecker said. "There were a lot of changes over the years, but I liked my job and decided to stay."

When Boecker started at Winters, there were three primary banks in Dayton, including First National and Third National Bank. Winters was the largest and had nine floors of office space in the Kettering Tower. There was even an employee dining room on the 28th floor in the 1970s. Today, with Chase Bank headquartered

Employee continued on C8