

Green, Scott

From: stevenspl@live.com on behalf of Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>
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Connecting

January 27, 2014



Colleagues,

Good morning and here's to a great last week of January. The new year is moving fast!

Connecting colleague **Myron Belkind** was inaugurated as president of the National Press Club on Saturday night, and a number of AP colleagues joined him to celebrate the honor. One of them, **Mark Hamrick**, filed this report for Connecting:

*Pulitzer Prize-winning AP photographers and more than two dozen ambassadors attended the inauguration of **Myron Belkind** as the 107th president of the National Press Club. Belkind, the former bureau chief in New Delhi, London and Tokyo, set a global theme for the black-tie gala. Since retiring from the AP, Belkind had served as a Club board member and officer, as well as chair of its International Correspondents Committee.*

*During the dinner, photographers **Nick Ut** and **Max Desfor**, who is 100 years old, presented the Club with copies of their AP photos. Desfor's 1946 photo shows Gandhi speaking with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. The iconic Ut photo, taken in 1972, shows a 9-year old girl running naked after a napalm attack.*

Belkind now serves as an adjunct professor at The George Washington University School of

Media and Public Affairs.

*Former AP Radio London Correspondent **Frank Sesno**, who serves as Director School of Media and Public Affairs, told the crowd that Belkind played a key role in establishing his own career. Sesno worked for many years at CNN, where he served as Washington Bureau Chief.*

*Former AP Broadcast business editor **Mark Hamrick**, the 2011 NPC president, told the group that upon Belkind's move to Washington a decade ago, his skills were urgently needed by the Club to connect to the international community. Hamrick departed AP over a year ago to serve as Washington Bureau Chief for Bankrate.com.*

The photo below shows, from left: **Mark Smith**, AP White House correspondent, **Mark Hamrick**, **Myron Belkind**, **Barbara Porter** (former AP Broadcast staffer, now Chief of Staff to GWU President) and **Frank Sesno**, former AP Broadcast London correspondent. (Photo by Jeanne Hamrick)

Myron's email address: myron.belkind@verizon.net



Bono, Cameron featured in AP-sponsored debate

In a debate sponsored by the AP, global leaders argued Friday in Davos, Switzerland, that efforts to eradicate poverty must be linked to climate change, saying that rising temperatures will have widespread effects on everything from food supplies to education.

Panelists at two separate sessions at the World Economic Forum - among them Bill Gates, Al Gore and U2 frontman Bono - underlined the importance of the issue. The United Nations is also making climate change a priority at Davos this year, pushing for a U.N.-brokered internationally binding climate treaty in Paris in 2015.

At a debate sponsored by The Associated Press, British Prime Minister David Cameron said the next U.N.-led campaign to eradicate extreme poverty must make the climate a top priority. More than one billion people live in extreme poverty by the World Bank's definition, living on less than \$1.25 a day.

The photo below shows AP senior managing editor **Mike Oreskes** (left) just after the AP session with Cameron and Bono. (Photo by **Michel Euler**)

The link to the story:

<http://www.ap.org/Content/AP-In-The-News/2014/Cameron-Bono-link-poverty-climate-at-AP-debate>



Marcus Eliason honored for 47-year AP career

Marcus Eliason retired from the AP, and he shares with Connecting this wonderful account of his nearly 47-year career with the AP that he sent to friends who couldn't be with him at the farewell. Marcus' email is: lordcopper@gmail.com

Dear friends,

Friday was my last day at work. I am now officially retired. In May it will be 47 years since I went to work for The Associated Press as the nightside messenger at the newly opened bureau in Tel Aviv.

My first chore was to help the new bureau chief, Hal McClure, scrounge a table and a

couple of chairs in the basement of the Maariv newspaper where he had rented two rooms. Next I had to learn to operate the Telex. I had to change paper in the printer, turn lights on and off, fetch sandwiches and coffee for the swelling ranks of reporters being sent in for the war everyone assumed would shortly break out. I was not yet 21 and my experience in journalism amounted to a few months apprenticing with the English-language Jerusalem Post. My AP wage was \$100 a month.

On June 6, 1967, the first day of what would become known as the Six-Day War, I arrived at work on time, and was upbraided by McClure for not having rushed in earlier. Did I not know there was a war on? Of course I did, I protested. That's why I was late. I had to shop emergency groceries for my mother, dig a trench in her garden in case of bombing, pick up hitchhikers because bus service was suspended... Tom Reedy, a cranky old prose master sent in for the war, overheard me. "Don't stand there talking about it, kid," he growled, "write it down."

So I did, only to see my screed disappear in a tangle of scribbles from Reedy's rampaging black felt pen. The end result looked much different - and shorter - than my effort. It was my first AP byline.

And so I learned on the job, going from one landmark to the next: filed my first story unsupervised, a most unmemorable brief; wrote my first feature; got my first herogram from New York; learned the lingo: "NITER FIGHTING." UNFIND 3RD TAKE MIDEAST FIGHTING. HOW PLEASE." When the war ended, all the sent-in reporters were ordered home, but the fighting sputtered on and the crisis remained huge, and many of the stories defaulted to me for lack of staff.

In September 1968 I became a staff reporter, and in 1978 I was posted to Paris; then back to Israel, then London, then Israel again, this time as bureau chief, wondering whether McClure would walk in and ask me what I thought I was doing sitting in his chair. My final foreign assignment was Hong Kong. And in November 1997, with the colony safely returned to China, I transferred to the mother ship as deputy enterprise editor at AP headquarters in New York.

And now it's over, and I have to think about how I will spend what some of my friends and colleagues call "this new chapter in my life." You and Eva should travel, some say. Discover America. Find a job soon or you'll become morose and insufferable, say others. Take a course in Bible study. Write a book. Learn to paint.

All I want right now, however, is to walk my dog.

I don't say that facetiously. I do mean it. I'm a guy who has worked all his life. No fellowships, no sabbaticals, no parental leaves. I was having way too much excitement for any of that. Sadat in Jerusalem, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Northern Ireland, nights under Scuds with my family in Tel Aviv, South Africa's turmoil, the fall of the Iron Curtain, the return of Hong Kong to China, the Millennium Eve I spent in a cramped newsroom at AP HQ cranking out the mainbar and having as thrilling a time as any reveler on the streets below.

So it is going to take a while to get my arms around that "new chapter," and meanwhile I want to focus on one mundane pursuit at a time, starting with a daily stroll in the company of Oscar, our highly companionable Maltese terrier. I figure - or at least hope - the rest will fall into place naturally. (Oscar is pictured below)

On Friday afternoon my colleagues gave me a beautiful send-off at AP HQ. It was everything I love about the company - simple, unbuttoned, spontaneous. People spoke about what they liked about me and had gained from working with me. They listened patiently when my turn came to rabbit on about what AP meant for me, and then we ate cake and exchanged many, many hugs. I thought of Hal McClure, that stern but unflappable Californian with his bowtie and razor cut, his authoritative leadership and anarchic streak (Once, when his car battery caught fire in the Sinai Desert, he chewed out a colleague who tried to douse the flames with beer. "Not the beer! Use the water, dammit.") Hal died in his native California in May, aged 92. He had faith in me, and he changed my life,

Back at my desk on Friday evening, as I packed up my retirement gifts and the last of my belongings, a few people lingered with me and we traded memories and funny stories. When I finally walked out, they broke into applause. It was a gracious, spontaneous gesture that reminded me once again how lucky I have been.



Stories of interest...

'Just the Facts, Ma'am' No More

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/26/public-editor/just-the-facts-maam-no-more.html>

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Ezra Klein Is Joining Vox Media as Web Journalism Asserts Itself

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/27/business/media/ezra-klein-joining-vox-media-as->

[web-journalism-asserts-itself.html?_r=0](http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21595006-cable-news-less-blame-polarised-politics-people-think-what-does-fox-say)

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What does the Fox say? - Cable news is less to blame for polarised politics than people think

<http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21595006-cable-news-less-blame-polarised-politics-people-think-what-does-fox-say>

Map of U.S. mugshot laws shows Justin Bieber should have partied in Kansas (Ralph Gage)

<http://www.poynter.org/latest-news/mediawire/236985/map-of-u-s-mugshot-laws-shows-justin-bieber-should-have-partied-in-kansas/>

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Valley of the Blahs: How Justin Bieber's Troubles Exposed Twitter's Achilles' Heel

http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/01/25/valley-of-the-blahs-how-justin-biebers-downfall-exposed-twitters-achilles-heel/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0

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Vox is our next

<http://www.theverge.com/2014/1/26/5348212/ezra-klein-vox-is-our-next>

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Planet Hillary! How The NYT Magazine's Crazy Cover Came to Be (Bob Daugherty)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2014/01/planet-hillary-how-i-the-nyt-magazine-i-s-crazy-cover-came-to-be/283297/>

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Four huge takeaways from Borrell's "The Future of Legacy Media" (Mark Mittelstadt)

<http://mediareset.com/2014/01/21/four-huge-takeaways-from-the-future-of-legacy-media/>

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Oregon Forestry Department release announces it just made a news release

<http://jimromenesko.com/2014/01/24/dear-forestry-department-putting-out-a-news-release-isnt-news/>

News release screenshot URL:

<http://jimromenesko.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/release.jpg>

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Publisher: 'Catch the typo' contest not about saving money

<http://jimromenesko.com/2014/01/24/st-augustine-record-publisher-catch-the-typo-contest-isnt-an-attempt-to-save-money/>

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What if the annoyances of conference calls happened in real-life meetings

<http://twentytwowords.com/2014/01/23/what-if-the-annoyances-of-conference-calls-happened-in-real-life-meetings-painfully-accurateand-hilarious/>

Paul Stevens
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