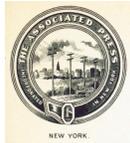

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2014 8:15 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - November 10, 2014

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Connecting

November 10, 2014

Click [here](#) for sound
of the Teletype



Colleagues,

Good Monday morning - and here's to the week ahead. May it be a good one for all of us.

This past weekend was one of celebration - on Saturday, the 101st birthday of AP's oldest retiree, **Max Desfor**, and a planned gathering of AP and other journalists who covered the fall of the Berlin Wall 25 years ago Sunday. Connecting hopes to share reports from both events in tomorrow's edition.

The weekend began with sad news, as well - the departure of AP's news training director **John Dowling**, who shared in a note Friday to friends and colleagues that his position was eliminated. Connecting colleagues all over the world sent along his note to me and it was picked up nationally by Poynter's Jim Romenesko. John's news came days after he helped cover the mid-term elections in South Dakota.

As a bureau chief, I knew and admired John's work firsthand in the training he did for my staff, from the year 2000 when he joined **Barbara King** to do staff training worldwide. He did an outstanding job, was passionate in his work, and as evidenced by the outpouring on Facebook to his news, many shared that opinion.

He will be missed, but as I told him, I am confident many good new chapters await him. Today is where your book begins, as the song "Unwritten" goes. The rest is still

unwritten. So true for us all.

With that, here is today's Connecting.

Paul

Leaving the AP - abruptly, but with class

John Dowling's 35-year AP career ended abruptly Friday, he shared in a note to colleagues and friends, when his position as director of news training was eliminated by The Associated Press.

Based in Chicago, Dowling's classy farewell note was, in turn, shared with and moved by Poynter's Jim Romenesko as well: "John's email announcing the news to colleagues was remarkably philosophical, even generous," wrote the Romenesko reader who forwarded Dowling's note. Here it is:

Friends,

I got word this afternoon that my job has been eliminated, effective today.

How's that for a wire-service lead? Very tight and direct, no attribution required. Writing with authority!

I will leave it to others to explain what the future holds for training at AP.

I had always assumed I would retire with AP, not too many years from now, and in an idle moment I had contemplated what I would say in parting. Why let good rhetoric go to waste?



AP is, has been and always will be an imperfect organization, but what we do, what you will keep doing, is really, really important. Sometimes it's hard to keep that in sight amid all the ... stuff. People need the truth about what's going on in the world, to understand the forces that are shaping their lives. Your commitment to providing those things to humankind is the engine that keeps AP going, and I will always take pride in having been a part of that for, gulp, 35 years. And I hope, in having helped a few people grow as journalists and do better at what they got into the business to do.

I suspect I will come to not miss the job very much - long story -- but I will surely miss the people, all of you and more who slipped my mind as I stared at my maps this

afternoon thinking about whom I wanted to read this note. (As we say, please forward.) You are smart, creative, funny, irreverent, committed, full of integrity and loyalty, the best companions anyone could ask for. I am proud to have all of you as friends, and that will not change. I hope to see all of you sometime soon, and have a laugh and maybe a beverage, and find out what everyone has been doing.

To that end, how to reach me:

I am keeping my personal cell number, (redacted)

A couple of email addresses:

Dowco4us@yahoo.com

jdowlingchicago@gmail.com

And many of us are Facebook friends, so there's that.

When people who were close to me left the AP, I usually said something like, If there's ever anything I can do for you, please don't hesitate to ask. So I say that to all of you now.

All the best for the future,

JD

Dowling joined the AP as an office assistant in Chicago during his senior year at Northwestern - April 1, 1979, an auspicious start date, he notes - hired by **John Shurr**, who was then the ACoB. Dowling moved up to newsperson in 1980 and finished his masters degree at Northwestern University in 1981 while working full-time. He transferred to the statehouse in Springfield in 1984 and became correspondent in 1988. There, he met his wife - **Terri Colby** - "for a time we were two-thirds of the statehouse bureau, and for a brief stretch I was her boss, at least nominally. It was a different AP then," he said.

Minneapolis CoB Dave Pyle hired him as Minnesota news editor in 1991 and he moved three years later back to Chicago as news editor. **Jim Wilson** was CoB and **Sue Cross** and then **Sarah Nordgren** were the ACoBs. Dowling served as Illinois news editor until the spring of 2000, when **Barbara King** hired him to be her deputy. After her retirement in 2005, Dowling became training director under a variety of titles.

Many of his former colleagues shared memories, and here is a handful:

Brian Skoloff - Thanks for all the years of making training key - and fun - for us at AP, John. I'm sure I'm not alone in saying that I've been able to keep myself relevant in this ever-changing media industry with your help, gaining new skills over the years and learning things I never thought I'd be able to do.

If each one of us who grew and learned something valuable from the training sessions you organized bought you a drink , I bet you'd never have to pay a bar tab again in your life! Here's to you, John! Best of luck ...

-0-

Scott Charton - John Dowling was much-respected Springfield, Ill., AP statehouse correspondent when I held the same AP job just across the Mississippi in Jefferson City, Mo., and he was one of the best in the specific area - covering state governments - that AP had decided to re-emphasize and for which it is hiring.

He is one teacher who had the experience of years on the ground. Best wishes to John!

-0-

David Briscoe - Not many of the good people left at AP can say they had a positive influence on several generations of journalists and managers.

John can. He is a force to be recognized and, like so many before him, will find a better life after AP.

John, you had influence you don't even know - on the way I and other managers worked with interns and reporters, for example, as well as on the reporters themselves. I always found it remarkable and praiseworthy that AP even had people like you, Sarah Nordgren and Marty Thompson, and the writing coaches, whose main job seemed to be making good people better.

I hate the way AP uses alien personnel techniques to handle good people who deserve more respect, if nothing else. You absolutely will find the right next step.

Not so sure about AP without you, though.

-0-

Randi Goldberg Berris - Echoing all of the well-earned and heart-felt tributes here, I will add one more to the list: In addition to the valuable training you so ably led, you gave us news editors another, equally important lesson in camaraderie and friendship. The news editor meetings you organized helped many of us form lasting friendships and provided us an opportunity to share ideas (and often vent) with our peers around the company. Thank you. Wishing you all the best.

-0-

Susan Sevareid - You hired me back in '92, mentored me and helped me fulfill my dream. Thank you doesn't really cover it, but please know I've always remembered and appreciated your help. I hope that whatever you choose to do next, you will still

find time to work with young journalists. All the best to you and your family.

Connecting mailbox

Bob Daugherty [Email](#) - The first day the State Photo Center opened an photo editor shouted, "Where the hell is the Pharos Tribune? Being an Indiana native, I confidently replied, "Logansport, Indiana, of course.

Ceremonies Sunday mark 25th anniversary of fall of Berlin Wall

Balloons symbolize fall of Berlin Wall



BERLIN (AP) -- The citizens of Berlin on Sunday released almost 7,000 balloons into the night sky, many carrying messages of hope to mark the 25th anniversary since the fall of the wall that once divided their city.

The symbolic act recalled the giddy night of Nov. 9, 1989, when thousands of people from the communist East streamed through the Berlin Wall to celebrate freedom with their brethren in the West.

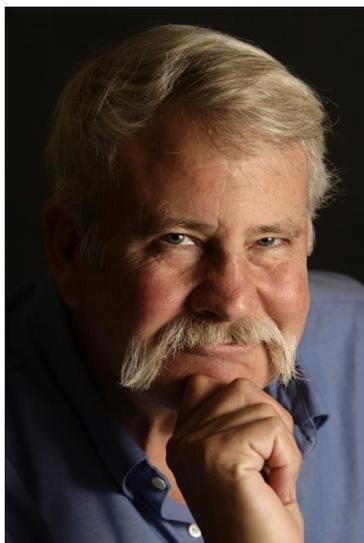
"For peace and freedom," Berlin mayor Klaus Wowereit told a crowd of ten thousands that had gathered at the city's iconic Brandenburg Gate as he gave the

signal to release the balloons, which has been placed, illuminated, along a 15-kilometer (9-mile) stretch of the former border.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Welcome to Connecting

Eric Newhouse ([Email](#)) - Saturday's issue of Connecting stirred up a storm of memories for me.



Thanks for sharing the 1980 Dallas Morning News full page promo for The AP in which Bob Johnson wrote about how I busted South Dakota's attorney general and treasurer for illegal gambling. That was a highlight of my career in The AP.

Linda Deutsch's paean to Elvis Presley also reminded me of that August day in 1979 when I was AP correspondent in Chattanooga, Tenn. I was driving home from work when I heard the news bulletin of Elvis's death. And I laughed when I imagined what my buddy, Memphis Correspondent Les Seago, must have been going through. But my phone was ringing as I walked in my front door, and I was on a plane headed for Memphis within an hour. In an age before cellphones, I managed to find a working telephone in a morgue not far from Elvis's mausoleum, and I gave the mortician \$25 to hold it open for me exclusively. But as I dialed the General Desk to file a bulletin that Elvis had been interred, I discovered that I wasn't alone. On a stainless steel table beside me was the naked body of an elderly woman with curly white hair and china blue eyes.

And Friday's Connecting carried a comment by Richard Pyle, who may very well have saved my life a couple of months before that. We were both shipped up to the Brushy Mountain State Prison north of Knoxville after James Earl Ray, convicted of assassinating Martin Luther King Jr., jumped the prison wall with a couple of other inmates and fled into the mountains of Tennessee. Late in the second afternoon of the manhunt, Pyle and I jumped into my Camero and started up a lonely gravel road to see what was going on.

Twice, Pyle mentioned that he was getting nervous out there alone. But the third time, he ordered me to turn around and head back for the prison. I did so, passing a lonely church on stilts as we returned. A few hours later in the middle of the night, two of the inmates were found hiding under that same church - and I was grateful for the battle-honed instincts that had kept Pyle alive in Saigon.

Anyway, after two decades with The AP, I quit my job as COB in West Virginia and headed west to become one of the editors of the Great Falls (Mont.) Tribune, where I won a Pulitzer Prize for explanatory reporting in 2000 for a year-long series of monthly stories on alcoholism, which we called "Alcohol: Cradle to Grave." When I went to Columbia University in New York City for the award ceremony, there was my old boss, Lou Boccardi.

"Nice to see you Eric," he said, putting out a hand to shake, "but it sure took you a long time to get here." It was the first time I'd spoken with him since the day in 1988 when I called him to tell him personally that I was launching a job search and that I intended to leave The AP. I remember there was a long silence, followed by one word -- "Good!" -- that convinced me that my career switch was a wise move.

I'm retired and living on a ridgetop in West Virginia these days, but blogging on vets' issues for Psychology Today: Invisible Wounds. And copies of my books ("Alcohol: Cradle to Grave" and "Faces of Combat: PTSD & TBI") are available on my publisher's Web site: Eric Newhouse.com.

Providing journalists a better place to grow up

Connecting colleague **Dick Weiss** ([Email](#)) wrote this story for **Gateway Journalism Review**, and shares with his colleagues:

By Dick Weiss

The business model for journalism is broken. We have heard this time again as media companies have downsized month after month for approximately the last decade.

Still, there will always be news. It just doesn't pay very well except to a very few people. And many of those people, frankly, are charlatans. No need to name them. You have your favorite whipping boys and girls. I have mine.

To borrow a phrase from Occupy Wall Street: We are the 99 percent and they are the 1 percent.



Journalists in the 99 percent probably can't fix what's broken. Occupying public spaces or waging class warfare doesn't seem to work.

Maybe what we can do is simply help each other. Here's one way of doing that. I am hoping it works for one young journalist. I am hoping, too, it might create a path others might follow in their own way.

In June of 2000, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch published a series of stories that I wrote titled, A Better Place to Grow Up. The opus focused on a St. Louis inner city neighborhood, a school, a teacher, and a gaggle of fifth graders. That school year Richard Baron, CEO of McCormack Baron Salazar, had launched an effort involving many St. Louis businesses that brought to bear financial and in-kind support for Jefferson School. Their goal: Create a brighter future for the kids at Jefferson.

I was fortunate that the Post-Dispatch gave me wide berth to write this series; that it assigned a much-decorated photographer J.B. Forbes to shoot it; that it put the stories on the front page four days in a row. The series brought me accolades. It burnished my reputation as a writer.

And then everyone moved on. The students at Jefferson School and me.

One of those students was Evita Caldwell, who is now 24 years old.

One day a couple of years ago, Evita got in touch with me when I was working at the St. Louis Beacon (which merged last year with St. Louis Public Radio). "You may not remember me, Mr. Weiss," she said. "But I was in that class of students at Jefferson School that you wrote about. I am writing a story about my teacher Mary Spencer and what she meant to me. Would you help me get it published in the Beacon?"

At the time, Evita was on a path to get a degree in communications from Saint Louis University.

Wow. Neat. A kid from an inner city school earns a diploma. Certainly, I was glad to help. And Evita's story ran in the Beacon on Feb. 28, 2011.

Here's the link: https://www.stlbeacon.org/-/content/16844/interview_with_teacher_mary_spencer

About three months later, I was handing out scholarship checks in my role then as president of the Press Club of Metropolitan St. Louis. Up comes Ashley Westbrook to get her \$1,000 check. That name sounded familiar. "Ashley, do I know you?"

"Yes, Mr. Weiss, I was one of those kids who you wrote about at Jefferson School."

Another student with a great outcome. Ashley was also getting a degree in communications, but from another school here in St. Louis, Webster University.

Then, once again, everyone moved on.

Fast forward to August of 2013. I got this message through Facebook from Evita:

Hi Mr. Weiss!

I hope all is well on your end... I have been having a hard time breaking into journalism, both editorial and broadcast, and it's been 2 years since I've graduated college. So, I'm looking for an outlet that will allow me to stay afloat and to get more experience with a professional" news organization.

Evita was looking for an internship. She said she would work for free.

Given the economy, maybe I shouldn't have been surprised by her plight.

Still.

A young woman from the inner city follows all the rules, graduates from high school (second in her class), and, as I later learned, invests in her future by getting a college loan to the tune of \$8,000.

She gets that university diploma, and the best she can do is find work as a pharmacy tech at Walgreens at \$10 an hour. She's about to quit, she tells me in a subsequent message, and begin looking for work out of town because she sees no future here.

This made me at the same time sad and angry.

Let's talk, Evita.

We met at a Starbucks and hatched a plan. Evita would write the sequel to "A Better Place To Grow Up" with my help. We'd call it All Grown Up. Using the phone book and Facebook and whatever other means available, she would aim to get in touch with every student she could find from her fifth grade class.

Then she would address a question with them: Were their outcomes like Ashley's and Evita's? Did all that corporate involvement and support make a difference?

Then she would turn to civic and business leaders with another set of questions, including: The program aimed at improving the lives of my classmates has ended. What are you doing to continue level the educational playing field for disadvantaged students?

In producing this story, Evita would perform a public service. But she would also be helping herself. She would meet influential people and lay down a marker as a journalist worth hiring for a fulltime job. Or so I would like to think.

But who would publish Evita's story?

Well the Post-Dispatch might given that it published the first group of stories. And maybe the St. Louis American, which serves African-Americans. And maybe the Nine Network.

To make it easy for them to do so, we would offer the story to these organizations free. We would raise the money to pay for Evita's time from people with an interest in journalism and education; people with a social conscience; people who I have gotten to know as a journalist in this town for 40 years. At least I could ask.

My goal was to raise enough money to pay Evita \$20 an hour. That's a decent, but not overly generous, wage for a young journalist. I am donating my time. At this writing, more than 50 people have stepped up to donate anywhere from \$15 to \$500 for a total of more than \$5,000.

The research is well under way. We have found students who have done quite well. One is in training camp with the Green Bay Packers; another has a great job in communications in St. Louis County. Others have struggled. One was facing a court date for failure to pay child support.

The Post-Dispatch has not only agreed to work with us on the story, but has provided the services of photographer Forbes, who shot the pictures for the original series. Channel 9 is taping a documentary on Evita's quest.

By the end of her research - probably in the fall, I know Evita will have a great story to share.

And not long after that, I am pretty sure she'll land a job worthy of her talents.

If not, we will try something else. There is no quit in either one of us.

If you'd like to learn more about this effort, read the original series or make a donation to the cause, please click on this link:

<http://jeffersonallgrownup.webs.com/>

An earlier version of this story appeared on the website of Gateway Media Literacy Partners. <http://www.gmlpstl.org/>

The photo above shows Evita, Richard (left) and J.B. Forbes of the Post-Dispatch, the photographer who worked on the original story and is working with us again on Evita's story. Photo credit to J.B. (He used a timer on the camera).

Stories of interest

[Holding Back on Ebola: One Newspaper's Tale of Caution](#)

In covering the recent Ebola outbreak at a local hospital, The Dallas Morning News was so cautious that it was occasionally late on big stories - it was among the last news outlets to publicly identify the two Dallas nurses who contracted the disease - even though the paper knew both victims' names.



But that was by design.

"We have been very careful to follow that maxim that we'd rather be right than first," said David Duitch, editor of Dallasnews.com, the newspaper's website.

Caution has been a cornerstone of the company's digital media strategy as it covered the disease in Dallas, according to Duitch and Robert Wilonsky, digital managing editor for The Dallas Morning News. The website editors opted to wait to release news developments on Ebola until they received confirmation from their own sources, even as the paper was experiencing a rapid increase in website traffic and social media followers during what became a big, fast-moving news story in their backyard.

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[Muckraking Magazine Creates a Stir Among Evangelical Christians](#)

In October, Mark Driscoll, the evangelical pastor and best-selling author, resigned

from Mars Hill, his Seattle megachurch. This month, Mars Hill announced that it was dissolving its network of 13 satellite churches.

In the aftermath of his fall, Mr. Driscoll, who was known for his autocratic management style, his quashing of dissent and his unusually frank talk about how Christian wives can please their husbands in bed, had himself to blame.

In resigning, Mr. Driscoll admitted his failings, citing his "past pride, anger and a domineering spirit."

But Mr. Driscoll cannot take all the credit for his own downfall. For one thing, any faithful Christian would give Satan his due, for leading Mr. Driscoll astray. Then there is the role played by World, an evangelical Christian newsmagazine that broke one of the most damaging stories about Mr. Driscoll. In March, World reported that \$210,000 in Mars Hill church funds had gone to a marketing firm that promised to get "Real Marriage," a book written by Mr. Driscoll and his wife, on best-seller lists.

-0-

[The Reporter as a Hero, Not a Joke](#)



For someone who spent 118 days imprisoned in Iran after reporting on the disputed 2009 election there, Maziar Bahari has a surprising sense of humor about the subject.

If "Rosewater," Jon Stewart's cinematic retelling of his incarceration, enjoys any success at all, then "credit goes to the Iranian government, really," Mr. Bahari said wryly in a recent interview.

On this October morning, Mr. Bahari, a 47-year-old journalist, was sitting next to Mr. Stewart in a conference room at the offices of "The Daily Show," the satirical current-events program that Mr. Stewart hosts for Comedy Central.

The Final Word



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 10, the 314th day of 2014. There are 51 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 10, 1944, during World War II, the ammunition ship USS Mount Hood (AE-11) exploded while moored at the Manus Naval Base in the Admiralty Islands in the South Pacific; the blast annihilated the Mount Hood and damaged nearby vessels, leaving 45 confirmed dead and 327 missing and presumed dead.

On this date:

In 1775, the U.S. Marines were organized under authority of the Continental Congress.

In 1871, journalist-explorer Henry M. Stanley found Scottish missionary David Livingstone, who had not been heard from for years, near Lake Tanganyika in central Africa.

In 1919, the American Legion opened its first national convention in Minneapolis.

In 1928, Japanese Emperor Hirohito (hee-roh-hee-toh) was formally enthroned, almost two years after his ascension.

In 1938, Kate Smith first sang Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" on her CBS radio program. Turkish statesman Mustafa Kemal Ataturk died in Istanbul at age 57.

In 1942, Winston Churchill delivered a speech in London in which he said, "I have not become the King's First Minister to preside over the liquidation of the British Empire."

In 1951, customer-dialed long-distance telephone service began as Mayor M. Leslie Denning of Englewood, New Jersey, called Alameda, California, Mayor Frank Osborne without operator assistance.

In 1954, the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, depicting the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima in 1945, was dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Arlington, Virginia.

In 1969, the children's educational program "Sesame Street" made its debut on National Educational Television (later PBS).

In 1972, three armed men hijacked Southern Airways Flight 49, a DC-9 with 24 other passengers on board during a stopover in Birmingham, Alabama. (The 30-hour ordeal finally ended in Cuba, where the hijackers were taken into custody by Cuban authorities.)

In 1975, the ore-hauling ship SS Edmund Fitzgerald and its crew of 29 mysteriously sank during a storm in Lake Superior with the loss of all on board.

In 1982, the newly finished Vietnam Veterans Memorial was opened to its first visitors in Washington, D.C., three days before its dedication. Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev died at age 75.

Ten years ago: Word reached the United States of the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at age 75 (because of the time difference, it was the early hours of November 11 in Paris, where Arafat died). President George W. Bush nominated White House counsel Alberto Gonzales to be attorney general, succeeding John Ashcroft. France, the United States and other nations began evacuating thousands of foreigners from Ivory Coast following attacks on civilians and peacekeeping troops.

Five years ago: John Allen Muhammad, mastermind of the 2002 sniper attacks that killed 10 in the Washington, D.C. region, was executed. President Barack Obama visited Fort Hood, Texas, where he somberly saluted the 13 Americans killed in a shooting rampage, and pledged that the killer would be "met with justice - in this world, and the next."

One year ago: Talks in Geneva on curbing Iran's nuclear program ended with no deal after France objected that the proposed measures did not go far enough.

Today's Birthdays: Film composer Ennio Morricone (EHN'-yoh mohr-ee-KOHN'-eh) is 86. Blues singer Bobby Rush is 80. Actor Albert Hall is 77. Country singer Donna Fargo is 73. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., is 71. Lyricist Tim Rice is 70. Rock singer-musician Greg Lake (Emerson, Lake and Palmer) is 67. Actress-dancer Ann Reinking is 65. Actor Jack Scalia is 64. Movie director Roland Emmerich is 59. Actor Matt Craven is 58. Actor-comedian Sinbad is 58. Actress Mackenzie Phillips is 55. Author Neil Gaiman (GAY'-mihn) is 54. Actress Vanessa Angel is 51. Actor Hugh Bonneville (TV: "Downton Abbey") is 51. Actor-comedian Tommy Davidson is 51. Actor Michael Jai (jy) White is 50. Country singer Chris Cagle is 46. Actor-comedian Tracy Morgan is 46. Actress Ellen Pompeo (pahm-PAY'-oh) (TV: "Grey's Anatomy") is 45. Rapper-producer Warren G is 44. Actor Walton Goggins is 43. Comedian-actor Chris Lilley is 40. Rock singer-musician Jim Adkins (Jimmy Eat World) is 39. Rapper Eve is 36. Rock musician Chris Joannou (joh-AN'-yoo)(Silverchair) is 35. Actor Bryan Neal is 34. Actress Heather Matarazzo is 32. Country singer Miranda Lambert is 31. Actor Josh Peck is 28. Pop singer Vinz Dery (Nico & Vinz) is 24. Actress Zoey Deutch (DOYCH) (Film: "Vampire Academy") is 20. Actress Kiernan Shipka (TV: "Mad Men") is 15. Actress Mackenzie Foy (Film: the "Twilight" films) is 14.

Thought for Today: "Hypocrisy is a fashionable vice, and all fashionable vices pass for virtues." - Moliere, French dramatist (1622-1673).

Paul Stevens
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stevenspl@live.com

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