

#### Connecting - August 15, 2015

1 message

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Sat, Aug 15, 2015 at 9:15 AM















# Connecting August 15, 2015

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# Stars and Stripes over Havana for first time in 54 years



(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, Pool)

Colleagues,

#### Good Saturday morning!

U.S. Marines raised the United States flag over the newly reopened embassy in Cuba on Friday as Secretary of State John Kerry traveled to the Cuban capital to formally reopen the long-closed U.S. Embassy. Cuba and U.S. officially restored diplomatic relations July 20, as part of efforts to normalize ties between the former Cold War foes.

Here is the AP story:

#### By BRADLEY KLAPPER and MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN

HAVANA (AP) - Jubilant crowds waved American flags and chanted "Long live the United States!" as the Stars and Stripes rose over the newly reopened U.S. Embassy in Cuba on Friday after a half-century of often-hostile relations. Secretary of State John Kerry celebrated the day but also made an extraordinary, nationally broadcast call for democratic change on the island.

Hundreds of Cubans mixed with American tourists outside the former U.S. Interests Section, newly emblazoned with the letters "Embassy of the United States of America." They cheered as Kerry spoke, the United States Army Brass Quintet played "The Star-Spangled Banner" and U.S. Marines raised the flag alongside the building overlooking the

famous Malecon seaside promenade.

Meeting more than 54 years after the severing of diplomatic relations, Kerry and Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez set an early September date for the start of talks on full normalization of a relationship so long frozen in enmity.

Click **here** to read more.

The historic event sparked these memories from Connecting colleague **George Arfield**:

#### Havana memories and a missing knight

**George Arfield** (Email) - The live images of the reopening today (Friday) of the U.S. Embassy in Havana brought back memories of the always exciting time (1961-1963) spent heading the Havana AP bureau, when, following the January 1961 break in U.S.-Cuba relations, that imposing building was placed in the care of Swiss diplomats. As I watched the parade of dignitaries I could not help but feel that the ghost of an unsung key player must have been looking on: the late Swiss ambassador Emil Stadelhofer.

The embassy, on the seaside Malecon, was a few blocks from the AP bureau, then at the intersection of 21 and "O" streets. I got to know the building well, as I cultivated Swiss diplomats as part of a campaign to develop trustworthy sources, given that Cuban officialdom regarded me as a pariah or, in their words, "an agent of the State Department." (UPI's Pedro Bonetti, was "the CIA") and thus someone not to be fed anything -by officials or private Cubans-- but the officially sanctioned Pablum.



Another frequent visitor to the "U.S. Interests Section" - the official name during the caretaking period - was then Swiss Ambassador Stadelhofer (at right in above photo). The Swiss Embassy proper and his official place of work were in another section (Miramar) of

Havana but the tenuous and prickly U.S.-Cuba relations took up a great deal of time, much of which he spent at the U.S.-owned facility. Like so many career diplomats, his behind-the-scenes work kept him out of the limelight but, now it can be (and is being) said, that he performed critical tasks above and beyond what is expected of the so often contemptuously described "striped pants" profession.

For one, I know that he used his access and surprisingly positive relationship with Fidel Castro to co-engineer the repatriation of the Bay of Pigs surviving invaders and that of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of other Cubans who wished to be reunited with families already in exile but who were being denied exit from the island; my ex-wife was one of them. Stadelhofer also applied himself tirelessly to improving the often-pitiless conditions under which several Americans were imprisoned on charges of espionage or sabotage, perhaps a story worth telling at another time.

As a journalist I found Stadelhofer's always confidential or "not for attribution" backgrounders useful and credible. His assessments were priceless to balance and add perspective to the Orwellian verbiage of the regime.

Stadelhofer died at 62 in 1977. Many years later, I located some of his now de-classified reports to the Swiss Foreign Ministry in Bern. Time and again his focus went beyond political issues and consequences, bringing to the foreground how these might affect unprotected Cubans. In those days that meant anyone not supporting the regime. What impressed me, and generated a feeling of gratitude I can no longer convey to him, was how faithfully his conversations with me paralleled the official version he cabled home. I don't think he ever misled me; I'm convinced he always steered me in the right direction. Swiss precision at its finest.



So this is a small note evoked by a great unassuming man: Emil Stadelhofer, a trusted source and also a warm, funny human being-a consummate professional who took his job seriously in an arena, that then as now, was teeming with saber-rattlers and narcissists -think Missile Crisis, JFK-Khrushchev standoff.

I hope that his dedication and accomplishments continue to be brought to light and remembered, especially inside the rededicated U.S. Embassy in Havana.

(For more on Stadelhofer, click on this link - http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/08/03/the-untold-story-of-the-u-s-and-cubas-middleman/

## Arrested at the Democratic convention in LA - 15 years ago today

As reporters are charged in Missouri with the crime of committing journalism, retired AP

Radio Correspondent **Brian Bland** marks the anniversary of one of his most unusual stories.

**Brian Bland (Email)** - Fifteen years ago I was arrested and jailed while covering a demonstration at the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles.

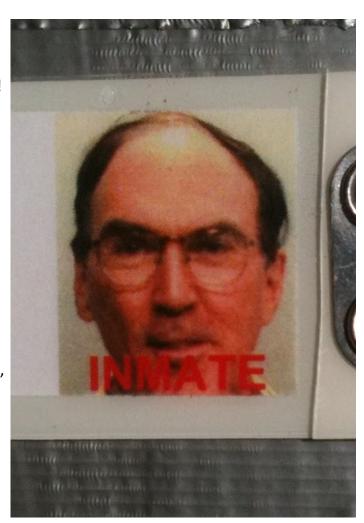
In retrospect, the story has a Keystone Kops flavor, unlike other arrests that week and unlike the arrests of reporters in Ferguson, Missouri. But it involves freedom of the press and speech, false arrests and unnecessary strip and body cavity searches of jailed female bicyclists.

It was supposed to be a benign demonstration by about seventy bicyclists riding downtown near the Convention Center chanting "Clean air! More bikes!" Pretty incendiary stuff.

With the blessing of AP and AP Radio bosses in L.A. and D.C., I had mounted a shiny new AP bicycle with my press credentials clearly visible, a tape recorder strapped to my chest and a shotgun mike at the ready.

As the riders assembled just before 5 p.m., some chatted with LAPD bicycle officers who were to follow the mass ride. I rode mostly between the last of the riders and the first of the bike cops, an ideal spot to record sceners, quick interviews, and perhaps to do a live shot via cell phone. One misgiving: I hadn't been on a bike in years.

Police cooperation was evident for some time. Motor officers leapfrogged the demonstrators to hold back cross-street traffic, sometimes waving the cyclists through red lights. The tactic was universally reported as an escort.



the demonstrators to hold back crossstreet traffic sometimes waving the iail bracelet all arrested had to wear.

But in the late afternoon traffic, the block of riders became a plume that flowed thinner and longer. Some 45 minutes in, word spread that the point had been made and the demonstration was over. I peeled off to head for the bureau. About a dozen riders headed the same direction.

Suddenly, our group was swarmed by motor officers demanding we pull over, dismount and freeze. In the ninety minutes it took to search our backpacks, handcuff us and crunch

the bikes together on a truck, I asked three officers, including a lieutenant I knew, to honor my LAPD-issued press pass and let me do my job. All refused, also declining to explain why we were being detained. I managed a quick call to the BNC before being cuffed. My cell phone and radio gear were seized, but, oddly, not my press pass.

Sheriff's buses arrived and off we went to the notorious Men's Central Jail, which remains a stinkhole to this day. Other buses arrived, one carrying Flynn McRoberts, a likeable Chicago Trib reporter who'd been riding his bike near the front of the mass.

A high-ranking deputy, eyeing my press pass, asked if I'd been "caught in a sweep." I said he was right, and I should be released. He turned away and disappeared.

About two hours later, after being searched again and having our mug shots made, an officer finally announced we all faced reckless driving charges. This later changed to "obstruction of a public way," a misdemeanor with the potential for jail time.

Several wall phones for local calls were surprisingly accessible. I reached my wife, Jeanne, who'd already heard from ACOB George Garties. She was worried, but was comforted by the fact there had been no violence, no injuries.

As the hours rolled on, we were grateful to be grouped into exclusive cells free of the taunting from tough-looking inmates whose cells we'd been marched by.

Outside, a group of AP execs were ricocheting from one ATM to another, gathering cash for an anticipated sizeable bail, but McRoberts' paper had contacted a ready-response press attorney who got the two of us out on our own recognizance about 1 a.m., seven hours after being arrested.

Back at the bureau studio, I filed for the network and was home at 4:30 a.m. Although the legal turmoil created by the arrests swirled on, as did AP's coverage, it was, of course, the last time I reported on any aspect of it.

The AP traded nasty-grams with the Chief of Police, who said it was "common knowledge" that some demonstrators had been masquerading as reporters. SPJ editorialized that reporters can't cover the news from a distance (a fact still ignored by, for example, St. Louis County officials). Eventually, the City Attorney dropped all charges, proclaiming he had wife-beaters and child-abusers to deal with.

Nearly three years later, the city and county of Los Angeles agreed to pay some three million dollars to settle a suit over the illegal actions. Most of the award went to the two dozen humiliated and abused females, and to the law firm that won the case. The rest was split among roughly forty male arrestees - including me. The suit had no sponsor; the plaintiffs filed as a group of unaffiliated individuals whose rights had been violated.

My found money funded a catered party for AP staffers and fellow L.A. reporters that was one helluva blowout. (There were no arrests).

## **Connecting mailbox**

#### Spouse series - Marlien and President Botha

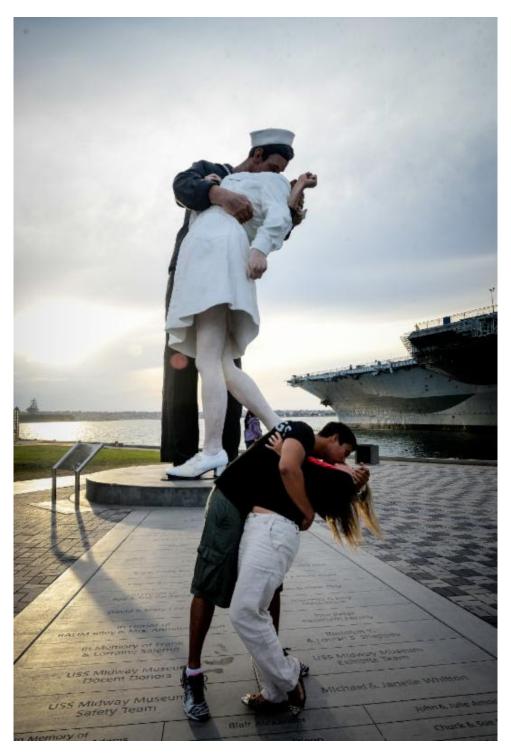
**Robert Weller** - A story about my wife, Marlien, a South African. Imagine this background. Her mother was of German-Swedish descent, and her father pure Dutch (Afrikaner). Because Marlien's mom was not an Afrikaner she got sent to an English-speaking school. They did not want to pollute the Volk.

Having said that, Marlien was hardly a liberal, even by South African standards, but she was always good for a laugh when dealing with the government. She taught me some basic Afrikaans that really put the secret police types off.

But one night we were at a dinner for President P.W. Botha (Pete the Weapon) at the state opera house in Pretoria. The popular foreign minister, Pik Botha, also was there. Marlien walked up to Pik at the lead table and asked for his autograph. Pik said she had to get P.W.'s signer first. She plunged forward. P.W. asked her why she was there with this "cockscrafers," Africans for "shit writers?" She said she was sorry Mr. President but you keep sending all our young to the border to fight Cubans.

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#### The Kiss



**Chris Connell** - on the iconic photo in Friday's Connecting of a sailor kissing a nurse as celebrations erupted on the end of World War II: Have you been out to San Diego and seen the 25-foot statue of The Kiss next to the USS Midway? A tourist favorite. The formal name of the statue is Unconditional Surrender. A couple of Brazilian tourists, Diego and Tatiana, asked me to capture their reenactment when we visited San Diego in April. Here is the photo I shot.

**Joseph Benham** - I noticed the death in 1951 of William Randolph Hearst listed in Today in History.

The Amarillo Times, where I was working then, got the INS wire, which carried almost nothing for nearly a week but tributes to Hearst and his accomplishments. They mentioned his considerable role in Hollywood, but not a word about Marion Davies, his mistress who starred in a lot of Hearst-produced movies. United Press supplied that.

Our wire editor threw out at least 99% of the copy on Hearst, but I was so intrigued with all of the stuff about him that I fished the INS copy out of the trash and read it after I got off work. After moving to Dallas, I went to see "Citizen Kane." I can understand why Hearst hated it.

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### Kansas City newspaperman Bob Sigman dies at 88; A 61-year veteran, he wrote until month before death

Robert "Bob" Parker Sigman, 88, passed away peacefully on August 11, 2015, in Olathe, KS, shortly after being diagnosed with cancer. He was in the newspaper business 61 years and was writing up until the month before he died.

An excerpt from his obituary:

His career began at the Kansas City Kansan, but he was soon hired by The Star, starting there in 1954 as a general assignment reporter with an emphasis on politics. In 1965, he became a Missouri legislative correspondent and political writer, covering political campaigns on the county, state, congressional and national levels. He joined The



Star's editorial board in 1971 and for nearly 30 years his specialties were politics, government, the justice system and more. After a brief retirement in 2001, Bob became the Opinion Page Editor at the Johnson County Sun until 2011, when it ceased publication. In 2012, he began a monthly column in The Star's weekly 913 news magazine. He wrote his last column in July of 2015. In the words of one friend, he had a way of being persuasive without being offensive, and his dedication to public affairs in Kansas and Missouri made this area a better place. The many awards he received honor his success as a champion of effective government and a fair justice system.

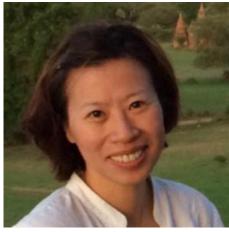
Click **here** for the full obituary. Shared by Tom Eblen.



## BEAT OF THE WEEK

One by one, authorities in China's Zhejiang province have been chopping the crosses off church spires, a devastating and visceral expression of the Communist Party's crackdown on any possible challenge to its power. But no one had been able to record the vandalism as it happened, on video \_ until **Didi Tang** managed do it by dint of her intrepidity and her iPhone. The result was an extraordinary exclusive for the AP, and this week's Beat of the Week.

The story was a tough challenge. Demolition crews move in quickly, and local Communist authorities keep reporters away. Tang connected with Christians in Zhejiang who told her which churches were targeted, but word would almost always come just as the demolition was taking place or afterward.



Tang, videographer Paul Traynor and photographer Mark Schiefelbein went to several locations, hoping to get lucky. One source at a Catholic church said a sympathetic party official had told him the demolition crew would be there that afternoon. The reporting team got into position, but the demolition crew didn't show up.

Then, a break: A tipster from another Catholic church said a demolition crew had arrived at their church but that the spire was so high the workers needed to build scaffolding to access the cross. That gave the AP team

time to get into position. Crucially, they broke up into two groups, with Traynor and Schiefelbein remaining outside to capture the visuals and Tang inside church grounds mixing with parishioners, taking only her cellphone so as not to stand out.

Her two Western-looking colleagues were spotted by local party authorities and escorted away from the church. Meanwhile, Tang blended in.

A party official with jurisdiction over that community, who had previously been in touch with Tang to keep tabs on her, tried to reach her to learn her whereabouts. She didn't respond, then used her iPhone to capture video of the cross toppling, as well as some of the lead-up with parishioners.

Next, Tang had to get the footage out. Local authorities spotted her on the way toward a meeting point with the rest of the AP team. The cadres demanded she come along with them to verify her identity at local offices, where they most certainly would have deleted her footage. Tang deflected them verbally in several ways, then told them she would not simply go off alone with a group of strange men. It worked: They let her go.

Meanwhile, Traynor and Schiefelbein were interrogated at the church and later at a government building, and refused to reveal Tang at all. They and their driver were forced to leave the village. They met up with Tang on the highway; they rushed to the airport for a return flight to Beijing, footage in hand.

"Doesn't the government give us the right to religious freedom? Why are they taking down our symbol without any explanation?" Tang quoted one parishioner as asking. Her video shows churchgoers singing hymns and praying as men work their saws above them. The cross lands with a thud.

That thud resounded around the world, thanks to Tang's efforts. For that she wins this week's \$500 prize.

(Shared by Valerie Komor)

#### **AP Photographers Featured at The Fence Exhibit**



The work of three AP photographers - Oded Balilty, Muhammed Muheisen and Maye-E Wong - are on display in Atlanta, Boston, Brooklyn and Houston as part of The Fence exhibit. The outdoor show, a curation of photo narratives that "exemplify the essence of community across cultural boundaries and geographical lines," is free and open to the public until the end of summer.

Click **here** to read more and view images.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



To

Cindy Saul (Email)

## **Stories of interest**

**Kidnapping and Sex Slavery: Covering ISIS' Religious Justification for Rape** (New York Times)



Rukmini Callimachi has told the stories of those held as prisoners of the Islamic State before. This week, her front page article detailed the kidnapping, enslaving and ISIS-sanctioned rape of women and girls from the Yazidi religious minority.

Ms. Callimachi talked to Times Insider about the reporting process that lead to devastating first-person accounts from girls as young as 12-years-old who were separated from their families and sold as sex slaves to ISIS fighters.

Q: How did you discover this situation of the Islamic State enslaving and raping the Yazidi women and girls?

Click **here** to read more. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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Philanthropist Susan Newhouse, wife of publisher Donald Newhouse, dead at 80 (New Jersey.com)



Donald and Susan Newhouse celebrate as the staff of The Star-Ledger won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the resignation of Gov. James McGreevey. (Saed Hindash | The Star-Ledger)

NEW YORK- The champagne flowed in the newsroom as New Jersey's largest newspaper celebrated its second Pulitzer Prize.

And while reporters and editors congratulated each other on winning journalism's top prize, a well-dressed older couple standing off to the side together smiled, and then quietly raised their own glasses in a silent toast to each other.

Susan Newhouse, who died Thursday at the age of 80, was not often seen in the newsroom of The Star-Ledger. But she was there for the memorable occasions, a petite and gracious presence by the side of her husband, Donald Newhouse, who with his brother Samuel owns Advance Publications- a media company that among other things publishes dozens of newspapers across the United States, including The Star-Ledger.

A major benefactor and philanthropist known for her devotion to the arts and her contributions to libraries, colleges, dance and other charitable endeavors, those who knew her well said she was as much a news junkie as her husband.

Click here to read more. Shared by Larry Blasko.

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Vietnam Revisited (Newseum)



Former war reporters and "old hacks" Don North, left, and Tim Page during a visit in April 2015 to the War Remnants Museum in Ho Chi Minh City. (Courtesy Don North)

## By Don North Special for the Newseum

Wars are fought twice - once on the battlefield and again in our memory.

The Vietnam War was a battle of memory, history and truth - and the stakes are still high. Honest reporting can shape our destinies, both at war and at peace.

I belong to a group in the dwindling ranks of journalists who covered the Vietnam War. We call ourselves the "Vietnam Old Hacks." We recently attended celebrations in Ho Chi Minh City marking the anniversary of the war's end on April 30, 1975. After 40 years, I found there are many in Vietnam, as well as our fellow Americans, who are unwilling to accept an honest history of the war.

President Richard Nixon said in 1985: "No event in history is more misunderstood than the Vietnam War. It was misreported then and is misunderstood now." The quote was a slur on the thousands of journalists who tried to honestly cover the war.

Click **here** to read more.

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**Donald Trump on the media** (Politico)

By HADAS GOLD

Our colleague Michael Kruse dove into 199 "Trumpisms" from Donald Trump's career, with some prescient quotes about how the current Republican presidential pack leader has dealt with the media-something he clearly loves to do.

In his 1987 best-seller "The Art of the Deal," Trump seemed to say his outrageousness was partly a media strategy.

"One thing I've learned about the press is that they're always hungry for a good story, and the more sensational the better. ... The point is that if you are a little different, or a little outrageous, or if you do things that are bold or controversial, the press is going to write about you," Trump wrote.

"Sometimes they write positively, and sometimes they write negatively. But from a pure business point of view, the benefits of being written about have far outweighed the drawbacks," he continued.

Click **here** to read more.

## **Today in History - August 15, 2015**

#### By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, August 15, the 227th day of 2015. There are 138 days left in the year.

#### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On August 15, 1945, Japan's Emperor Hirohito announced in a recorded radio address that his country had accepted terms of surrender for ending World War II.

#### On this date:

In 1057, Macbeth, King of Scots, was killed in battle by Malcolm, the eldest son of King Duncan, whom Macbeth had slain.

In 1483, the Sistine Chapel was consecrated by Pope Sixtus IV.

In 1812, the Battle of Fort Dearborn took place as Potawatomi warriors attacked a U.S. military garrison of about 100 people. (Most of the garrison was killed, while the remainder were taken prisoner.)

In 1914, the Panama Canal officially opened as the SS Ancon crossed the just-completed waterway between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

In 1935, humorist Will Rogers and aviator Wiley Post were killed when their airplane crashed near Point Barrow in the Alaska Territory.

In 1939, the MGM musical "The Wizard of Oz" opened at the Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood.

In 1947, India became independent after some 200 years of British rule.

In 1965, **The Beatles** played to a crowd of more than 55,000 at New York's Shea Stadium.

In 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair opened in upstate New York.

In 1974, a gunman attempted to shoot South Korean President Park Chung-hee during a speech; although Park was unhurt, his wife, Yuk Young-soo, was struck and killed, along with a teenage girl. (The gunman was later executed.)

In 1989, F.W. de Klerk was sworn in as acting president of South Africa, one day after P.W. Botha resigned as the result of a power struggle within the National Party.

In 1995, the Justice Department agreed to pay \$3.1 million to white separatist Randy Weaver and his family to settle their claims over the killing of Weaver's wife and son during a 1992 siege by federal agents at Ruby Ridge, Idaho. Pioneering TV journalist and Timex watch pitchman John Cameron Swayze died in Sarasota, Florida, at age 89.

Ten years ago: Iraqi leaders failed to meet a key deadline for finishing a new constitution. Gang members rioted in seven Guatemalan prisons, leaving 35 inmates dead. Phil Mickelson claimed a one-shot victory in the PGA Championship in Springfield, New Jersey. James Dougherty, the retired Los Angeles detective who was the first husband of **Marilyn Monroe**, died in San Rafael, California, at age 84.

Five years ago: Former medical student Philip Markoff, charged with killing Julissa Brisman, a masseuse he'd met through Craigslist, was found dead in his Boston jail cell, a suicide. Martin Kaymer won the PGA Championship in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, in a three-hole playoff that did not include Dustin Johnson, who was penalized two strokes for grounding his club in a bunker on the last hole.

One year ago: A grand jury indicted Texas Gov. Rick Perry for allegedly abusing the powers of his office by carrying out a threat to veto funding for state prosecutors investigating public corruption.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Rose Marie is 92. Political activist Phyllis Schlafly is 91. Actor Mike Connors is 90. Actress Lori Nelson is 82. Civil rights activist Vernon Jordan is 80. Actor Jim Dale is 80. Actress Pat Priest is 79. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer is 77. U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., is 77. Musician Pete York (Spencer Davis Group) is 73. Author-journalist Linda Ellerbee is 71. Songwriter Jimmy Webb is 69. Rock singer-musician Tom Johnston (The Doobie Brothers) is 67. Actress Phyllis Smith is 66. Britain's Princess Anne is 65. Actress Tess Harper is 65. Actor Larry Mathews is 60. Actor Zeljko Ivanek (ZEHL'-koh eh-VON'-ehk) is 58. Actor-comedian Rondell Sheridan is 57. Rock singer-musician Matt Johnson (The The) is 54. Movie director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu (ihn-YAH'-ee-tu) is 52. Philanthropist Melinda Gates is 51. Country singer Angela Rae (Wild Horses) is 49. Actor Peter Hermann is 48. Actress Debra Messing is 47. Actor Anthony Anderson is 45. Actor Ben Affleck is 43. Singer Mikey Graham (Boyzone) is 43. Actress

Natasha Henstridge is 41. Actress Nicole Paggi is 38. Christian rock musician Tim Foreman (Switchfoot) is 37. Figure skater Jennifer Kirk is 31. Latin pop singer Belinda (cq) is 26. Rock singer Joe Jonas (The Jonas Brothers) is 26. Actor-singer Carlos Pena is 26. Actress Jennifer Lawrence is 25. Rap DJ Smoove da General (Cali Swag District) is 25.

Thought for Today: "Life has taught me to think, but thinking has not taught me how to live." - Alexander Herzen, Russian author (1812-1870).

## Got a story 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:

- **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.
- "My boo boos 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.
- Life after AP for those of you who have moved on to another job or profession.
- Most unusual place a story assignment took you.

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