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Connecting - August 17, 2016

1 message

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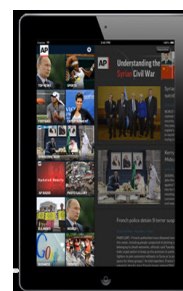
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Connecting

August 17, 2016

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Connecting has received a remarkable outpouring of love and sympathy for **Deborah Foland**, who for 25 years served as the administrative assistant in the AP's Albany bureau.

Debi died on Sunday after a brief battle with cancer. She left the AP in 2009 - but as you will see in reading her colleagues' comments about her, she left an indelible

impression on all who knew her. (Thanks to Albany Correspondent **George Walsh** for helping gather these comments.)

A funeral Mass is being held at 11 a.m. Eastern today at St. Mary's Church in Crescent, near her home.

Paul

Deborah Foland, longtime AP Albany administrative assistant, dies at 61

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - Deborah Foland, a former longtime administrative assistant for The Associated Press in New York state, has died after a brief battle with cancer. She was 61.

Steven Foland said his wife of 32 years died Sunday at a Schenectady hospital after being diagnosed with lung and brain cancer.

A native of Troy, Debi Foland was hired by the AP's Albany bureau in 1984. She spent the next 25 years handling duties such as coordinating the annual awards contests for the news agency's New York membership. Her efficiency and personable demeanor made her known to journalists and news executives across the state.

"Debi Foland was devoted to The Associated Press and its members," said David Marcus, former Albany bureau chief and the AP's director of Business Planning and Analysis for AP Local Media. "The staff and so many of our members loved her for the work she did and the care she took with everything she did. I was her boss, but she taught me more than I could ever teach her."

Foland left the AP in 2009, then spent seven years working for a law firm in her suburban Albany hometown of Halfmoon.

In addition to her husband, she's survived by two sons, two daughters, two sisters, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A funeral Mass is being held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Mary's Church in Crescent, near her home.

Debi's former AP colleagues share their memories:

Chris Carola ([Email](#)) - When word spread among the AP's staff in Albany that former longtime Administrative Assistant Debi Foland had passed away at 61, we were all left stunned and heartbroken. Some of us among the upstate New York staff had worked with her for more than 20 years.

As AP East Regional Editor Karen Testa, a former Albany bureau staffer, put it, "Deb was the connective glue for generations of AP Albany staffers."

Debi certainly was upstate AP's glue-slash-bureau historian-slash-den mother holding everything together, from figuring out our mistakes on old time sheets to beautifying our circa 1971 office decor with decorations during various holiday seasons (along with some goodies). She was devoted to her family, and always inquired about ours.

Her work on the state contests was amazing, something I learned while working as a broadcast editor for several years. All I had to do was stand up at the awards banquets and hand out the awards she handed to me. She had already done all the heavy lifting, but never wanted to be in the spotlight.

At each banquet, the bureau chief would acknowledge her superhuman efforts. I sincerely believe all those broadcast journalists saved their biggest applause for Debi, knowing how tough it is to get two or more reporters to agree on which takeout to order, let alone wrangle 100-plus of them into one room and hand out hundreds of awards in a timely manner, without a hitch.

As the news spread among NYSAPA board members, condolences and appreciations of her work AP showed up in my email. Here's a few ...

"Debbie was a great person in all of her dealings with the board and our guests. She will be missed."

"She was amazingly helpful on all things big and small ..."

"Debi was an incredibly nice person, always helpful with any AP/Board related work. Condolences to her family, friends and colleagues."

Rest in peace, old friend and colleague ...

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Howard Goldberg (Email) - Debi Foland was a master of morale-boosting. During the unsettling times for our industry when I worked with Debi, she maintained a homey work environment in the Albany bureau and friendly, supportive relationships with our members, who adored her.

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Beth Grace (Email) - Debi was not only the world's finest, hardest-working AA, she was a truly kind, loving and warm-hearted person - and my dear friend. We hadn't spoken in a while (I left ALN in late 2003 and she left AP in 2009) until we got the chance to reconnect earlier this year when I was working as a contractor on AP NY's editorial and broadcast contest. Whenever I talked with her over the years, it was as if we had spoken just the day before.

She was exceptionally talented at her job and at handling people - especially during contest time. She always kept her cool and found ways to settle any issue or dispute. She could soothe the most savage member with a kind word and a ready shoulder.

Moreover, she was just a wonderful, fun colleague. She took me to task for ALWAYS arriving at member visits way too early - because that meant I would call her from the car, wanting to chat and waste time, while I waited for the time to show up at the publisher's door. "Lordy," she would say, laughing. "Will you work harder to get there later? I have WORK to do!"

She always thought of others. When my mother had a stroke and I rushed back to Pennsylvania to be at her side for two weeks, Debi took over, making sure that when I got back, there was food in my house, newspapers and mail taken in. She even found somebody to mow the yard while I was gone. I never asked her to do any of that. She just did it, because that was who she was.

I am just brokenhearted that she is gone, not only because I loved her and she had so much more life to live, but because she always was planning and planning for retirement - when she and her beloved husband of more than 30 years, Steve, could spend more time together and with their 10 grandchildren. I am not the only one who will miss her very much.

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Marc Humbert (Email) - For Connecting. Debi was a joy to work with. Always a smile, and with a keen sense of how to survive bureau chiefs and New York. A lovely person who I was proud to work with.

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John Kekis (Email) - Debi was one of a kind and will always be remembered at Christmas by my three kids. She convinced her sister more than once to hand-knit stockings with the names of my children on them and we hang them every year off the fireplace mantel. They'll have a more special meaning going forward. What impressed most of all was how much she loved her children and grandchildren. And she didn't turn down a chance to babysit my two young sons so my wife and I could attend an event at Saratoga Performing Arts Center. Just a wonderful person.

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Rik Stevens (Email) - The day I met Debi was the day I started in the Albany bureau. The very first thing I did that morning was jam her copier with my hiring paperwork. Debi busted my chops immediately, told me to fix it (I did) and then laughed that unique laugh of hers. It was the start of nine years of friendship and camaraderie that I truly treasure.

As news editor in ALN from 2001-13, much of the time spent without a COB in the building, I leaned on Debi for a lot but was never more impressed than by her handling of the twice-a-year awards contests, the logistics of which would have intimidated Ike ahead of D-Day. She handled it all with ease and -- to be truthful -- a fair share of good-natured exasperation as members asked some of the goofiest questions you can imagine.

What I will remember most about Debi is her absolute devotion to her family and friends. In that regard, she was without peer.

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Lew Wheaton (Email) - Debi was the quintessential bureau admin, but much more than that. For the staff and a series of COBs, she was a friend, confidant, supporter, shoulder to cry on, all the clichés that spring to mind about the person who drove the ship, while letting various bureau chiefs believe they were the captains. She was modest, always saying she was just trying to live up to what her predecessor, Dawn Force, taught her. In fact, she started part-time, I think in 1984, to assist Dawn, who was having some health problems.

Not sure how many know, but Debi helped Dawn not only in the bureau but at home, keeping things shipshape for her there. And she continued to do so after Dawn retired and Debi took over full time.

Debi did all the usual things that made the bureau run, and also ran the two state AP associations for newspapers and broadcasters. That included arranging contest judges, boxing up and shipping entries, collating the winners, preparing the plaques and certificates, arranging and running the awards dinners, etc. She also arranged and took notes at the meetings of the association boards, including the broadcasters at AP Headquarters. She always said she disliked going to NYC, though she always made a stop to buy a couple of Lottery tickets (that's where most of the winning tickets were sold!).

Debi was also a great correspondent, keeping me up-to-date on AP happenings in NYS and across the system after I transferred to HQ after 16 years in Albany, 14 of them with her. She'll be missed by many.

Connecting mailbox

More on Crystal Bridges museum

Kelly Kissel ([Email](#)) - For more about Crystal Bridges (see Tuesday's Connecting), [here's a link](#) to a story I wrote a few weeks ago about the Folk Art special exhibit at Crystal Bridges. It begins:

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (AP) - Since its debut five years ago, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art has showcased works by well-known American artists like Georgia O'Keeffe and Andy Warhol. Now the Arkansas museum founded by a Wal-Mart heiress is turning its attention to ordinary objects made by unsung craftsmen, quilters and painters.

The new show, "American Made: Treasures from the American Folk Art Museum," features a collection that includes weathervanes, shop signs and spinning toys called whirligigs. The show opened during the Independence Day weekend and remains on view through Sept. 19.

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Back in the days of AP at the Herex building



Chuck McFadden (Email) - Many "Connecting" readers might remember when the daytime AP bureau was located on the second floor in the old Herald-Examiner building in Los Angeles. I say daytime because late in the afternoon, everything was shifted to the Los Angeles Times building a dozen or so blocks north, smack in downtown LA. Well, it's been shuttered for decades, but now the gaudy old Herex structure seems to be headed for a new life. The LA Observed website says the 1914-era Julia Morgan-designed building will be turned into a combination of office and restaurant space. It's a \$40 million project, says LA Observed.



Take a look at that lobby. AP staffers back in the day began their workday amid proper surroundings. We should have been riding elephants to work.

The photos are from the Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection via LA Observed.

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'Heaven will need to be wired for internet...'

Randy Evans ([Email](#)) -I'm pleased to learn that Spotlight is returning to the Fort Dodge Messenger. I marvel at your father's ability to sustain the column for so long. 1,000+ columns is a staggering total. And it's not like he didn't have other things competing for his time at the Messenger. And as the years creep up on me, I also marvel at your father's ability to climb that long stairway at the Messenger for so many years.

When I retired from The Des Moines Register in December 2014, I took two weeks off and then began writing a weekly column for my hometown paper, the Bloomfield Democrat. I just sent off version #86 to the publisher. At the rate I'm going, heaven will need to be wired for internet if I'm going to equal your dad's output record.

My column deals with government and politics in Iowa and around the U.S. When people ask about the column, I tell them it's written weekly, although, depending upon their political perspective, they may want to spell it "weakly."

Memories of newspaper carrier days

Throw it in the yard? Never!

Jim Bagby (Email) - Those Oklahoma winds that come sweeping down the plains feel more like shrieking to a junior high paper boy when it's winter or, worse, raining, and he's pumping a bike with 150 newspapers swinging from the handle bars. That was my first real job in the mid-1950s, and except for the weather, I recall most of it fondly. I learned many lessons over the approximately five years I had two routes with the *Norman Transcript*.

Like Paul, my first route was about 50 customers, in a rambling area of older homes near downtown; I struggled by each Saturday to collect enough to pay my weekly bill. Then I'd retrace my steps, looking for those who'd not been home and seeking the 30 cents from each that would mean my meager profit for the week. From that came all my necessities. We were a family of six kids; dad was a newspaperman and mother believed her place was in the home as long as she had pre-schoolers. By about junior high age, the bigger kids (I was the oldest) bought our own clothes and shoes; at least I didn't wear hand-me-downs (until my brothers out-grew me). Another story.

After a year I got promoted from Route 1 to Route 45 - some 150 customers in a long, five-block square area not far from my home. A lot of those were "annuals," or pre-paid, which meant both that my bill was less, I didn't have to collect from them and I could throw my route in about 20 minutes if I hit all the porches. I added some customers and soon was clearing about \$50 a month. Until I started to drive, that seemed like decent money!

The Transcript was generally a 10- or 12-page daily, which meant we could fold it in "short" triangles, ideal for throwing it from the street to the porch (no sidewalks on Route 45). And circulation management dictated that the porch was where they would land. On Thursdays and Sundays, 32 to 40 pages were folded long, which meant I had to pile them 12 high, squash them and stack them in the square-bottomed bags before wrapping the straps around the handle bars. Back then I'd have sworn that was a 100-pound load, but it was probably more like 25 pounds on each side. Pumping my one-speed bike uphill, that was still a load - especially against the wind.

Hazards of the job included glass bottles set out of the porch for the milkman (I broke my share) and carports or low roofs. Early in my career, I sailed a paper onto

the roof, but there was a wrought iron porch lattice that looked climbable. It was, and I retrieved the paper. But when I jumped down, my foot caught in a curlicue and I landed flat on my back, smacking the wind out of me. After that I learned to carry a coupla extras, and just throw a second paper.

The best part of the job was the people, and the lessons learned during the business of collecting: conversation, manners, grooming, the importance of the Sooners and an appreciation for a job well done - regardless of weather. One parent or the other did drive me around my route on the rare occasion when the snow got too deep for my bicycle. But there was never a good way to deal with the rain and trying to throw a soggy paper.

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***'It's Newsday, and I know you're in there, dammit!'*...**

Lee Mitgang ([Email](#)) - Growing up on Long Island in the '50s and '60s,, I delivered Newsday for several years, mainly to apartment dwellers. It wasn't out of any budding passion for newspapers. It was pure money. For one thing, I was (and remain) an avid biker and I had my eye on a \$60 French-made 10-speeder that I couldn't possibly have afforded otherwise. Back then, Newsday charged subscribers all of 30 cents a week for six papers so you had to deliver a lot of papers to make 60 bucks. Tips averaged a dime, and the really nice folks would give me a couple of quarters and let me keep the 20 cents change. As anyone who's ever done it knows, this was a tough buck, and no excuses for hot, cold or wet weather.

The hardest part for me, though, was dealing with the deadbeats. You know, the ones who were "never home" on the weekly collection day and ran up six, seven, eight week tabs. And yet you had to be nice -- otherwise, no tip. I remember a few times when I'd ring and ring the doorbell of one of these miscreants. Hearing some rustling in the house, I just finally yelled, "It's Newsday and I know you're in there, dammit!"

I did eventually get that French bike, with change left over. To this day, I think it was the sweetest purchase I ever made. And imagine how I felt when, a few years later, that hard-earned bike was stolen.

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By bikes or wagons or sleds, the newspaper was delivered

Mike Harris ([Email](#)) - My brother and I had a route delivering the morning Wisconsin State Journal for one year. I was 14 and he was 12 and both of us wanted a source of income other than our paltry allowances from dad. As others have noted, the hardest thing about delivering the papers was usually collecting the money from our neighbors. It seemed like the people in the biggest, fanciest houses were the least likely to be cooperative.

The papers Monday through Saturday were generally pretty easy to get done before getting ready for school or getting home in time to watch the Saturday morning cartoons. Sundays were tough, though. They usually delivered a bundle of papers to the end of our driveway by 5 a.m. and Rich and I would haul them into our garage and collate the sections before dividing the big, heavy papers between us.

Most days, we rode our bikes. But on some of the brutally cold, snowy Wisconsin mornings, I pulled a sled and my brother pulled a wagon.

On one particularly nasty day, our father, who really hated to get up early, grumbled his way out of bed at 5:30 and drove us around the route. It was very memorable for the aftermath, which was a roaring fire in the fireplace, hot chocolate and a big, hearty breakfast prepared by our mom and enjoyed (at 6:30 a.m.) by my entire family, including two younger sisters and another, much younger, brother. A great family memory.

Coincidentally, my first actual newspaper job was at the Wisconsin State Journal, part-time while I was attending the University of Wisconsin. I was an extra hand, writing local stories about softball, touch football, basketball and such. On football Saturdays, long before computers, I would compile all the scores from the AP and UPI wires, collate them by geographical area and alphabetize them. It sounds like drudgery, but it was actually a fun job.

AP Insights: Preserve reader trust through ... native advertising?

By PAUL CALUORI

Not all advertising acts the same way. We spoke with executives at Nativo about best practices for using branded content and how digital publishers can maximize its long-term potential.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Welcome to Connecting



Rik Stevens - rikstevens1220@gmail.com

Stories of interest

For one Milwaukee columnist, unrest hits close to home
(Poynter)

By **KRISTEN HARE**

James E. Causey came home Saturday afternoon from errands, sat down on his couch and turned the TV on to watch the Olympics. When the news cut in of an officer shooting an armed man to death in Milwaukee, Causey knew right where it happened.

Everything was happening less than a mile from where the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel columnist has lived for most of his life.

"And I said, 'this is gonna be bad.'"

He devoted his latest column to the unrest that's hit so close to where he lives. Causey, one of two Black reporters at the Journal-Sentinel, first started at the paper as an intern when he was in high school. He's spent his career there, editing and covering business and sports. Now, as a twice-weekly columnist, he uses his voice for people who often don't have one. On Sunday, that included an area he's watched change during his lifetime.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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Personal storytelling sometimes overlaps with journalism

By STEVE BUTTRY

I've shifted much of my writing time from blogging about journalism to personal storytelling. So I thought I should blog about personal storytelling and its place in journalism.

My work days are still filled with journalism matters: leading LSU's student media operations and teaching journalism classes (though didn't teach a summer class). But I used to spend considerable time on weekends, early mornings and evenings writing on this blog, where I am certainly practicing journalism, usually about journalism. I spent less time, but occasionally considerable time, on two other blogs that are types of journalism, my Hated Yankees blog about baseball and Mimi's and my 2 Roads Diverged blog about travel.

More and more, I find that personal writing is crowding journalism out of my non-work writing. And it's not all related to my experience with cancer. Certainly, since my 2014 diagnosis of lymphoma, I have chronicled much of my treatment and observations about cancer on my CaringBridge journal. That, and the treatment itself, have cut into my time spent here.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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Sudden closure of visual arts school leaves students in the lurch (Los Angeles Times)

The Brooks Institute, a for-profit Ventura visual arts school, is shutting down immediately, amid questions from students, faculty and alumni.

Brooks abruptly stopped enrolling students and announced that classes won't resume in the fall.

"The campus will close completely, effective October 31, 2016," transitions officer Kristen Howard wrote in a letter to students. She said Brooks would return tuition to those enrolled for the fall and help students transfer or find other schools at which to finish their programs.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Doug Pizac.

The Final Word

10 Uncomfortable Deeds That Will Make You Far More Successful (Huffington Post)

T.S. Eliot was clearly onto something when he asked, "If you aren't in over your head, how do you know how tall you are?" The very act of stepping outside of your comfort zone is critical to your success and well-being.

Our brains are wired such that it's difficult to take action until we feel at least some stress and discomfort. In fact, performance peaks when we're well out of our comfort zone. If you're too comfortable your performance suffers from inaction, and if you move too far outside of your comfort zone you melt down from stress.

Peak performance and discomfort go hand in hand. Stepping outside of your comfort zone makes you better, and it doesn't have to be something as extreme as climbing Mount Everest. It's the everyday challenges that push your boundaries the most, none of which require a flight to Nepal. Step out of your comfort zone and embrace these challenges.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Today in History - August 17, 2016



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 17, the 230th day of 2016. There are 136 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 17, 1807, Robert Fulton's North River Steamboat began heading up the Hudson River on its successful round trip between New York and Albany.

On this date:

In 1863, Federal batteries and ships began bombarding Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor during the Civil War, but the Confederates managed to hold on despite several days of pounding.

In 1915, a mob in Cobb County, Georgia, lynched Jewish businessman Leo Frank, 31, whose death sentence for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan had been commuted to life imprisonment. (Frank, who'd maintained his innocence, was pardoned by the state of Georgia in 1986.)

In 1943, the Allied conquest of Sicily during World War II was completed as U.S. and British forces entered Messina.

In 1945, Indonesian nationalists declared their independence from the Netherlands. The George Orwell novel "Animal Farm," an allegorical satire of Soviet Communism, was first published in London by Martin Secker & Warburg.

In 1962, East German border guards shot and killed 18-year-old Peter Fechter, who had attempted to cross the Berlin Wall into the western sector.

In 1969, Hurricane Camille slammed into the Mississippi coast as a Category 5 storm that was blamed for 256 U.S. deaths, three in Cuba.

In 1978, the first successful trans-Atlantic balloon flight ended as Maxie Anderson, Ben Abruzzo and Larry Newman landed their Double Eagle II outside Paris.

In 1982, the first commercially produced compact discs, a recording of ABBA's "The Visitors," were pressed at a Philips factory near Hanover, West Germany.

In 1985, more than 1,400 meatpackers walked off the job at the Geo. A. Hormel and Co.'s main plant in Austin, Minnesota, in a bitter strike that lasted just over a year.

In 1987, Rudolf Hess, the last member of Adolf Hitler's inner circle, died at Spandau Prison at age 93, an apparent suicide.

In 1996, the Reform Party announced Ross Perot had been selected to be its first-ever presidential nominee, opting for the third-party's founder over challenger Richard Lamm.

In 1999, more than 17,000 people were killed when a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck Turkey.

Ten years ago: In a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union, a federal judge in Detroit ruled that President George W. Bush's warrantless surveillance program was unconstitutional. (A divided federal appeals court threw out the lawsuit in July 2007, and the U.S. Supreme Court later let the appeals court decision stand.) President Bush signed new rules to prod companies into shoring up their pension plans. Jordan became the first Arab state to send a fully accredited ambassador to Iraq.

Five years ago: Vice President Joe Biden arrived in Beijing to meet with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping.

One year ago: A bomb exploded within a central Bangkok shrine that was among the city's most popular tourist spots, killing at least 20 people and injuring more than 100. (Two men are facing trial for the bombing, but one has maintained he was tortured to obtain a confession.) The National Labor Relations Board dismissed a historic ruling that Northwestern University football players were school employees entitled to form the nation's first union of college athletes. Actress-dancer Yvonne Craig, 78, who played the sexy, crime-fighting Batgirl in the 1960s TV hit "Batman," died in Los Angeles.

Today's Birthdays: Former Chinese president Jiang Zemin (jahng zuh-MEEN') is 90. Author V.S. Naipaul is 84. Former MLB All-Star Boog Powell is 75. Actor Robert DeNiro is 73. Movie director Martha Coolidge is 70. Rock musician Gary Talley (The Box Tops) is 69. Actor/screenwriter/producer Julian Fellowes is 67. Rock musician Sib Hashian is 67. Actor Robert Joy is 65. International Tennis Hall of Famer Guillermo Vilas is 64. Rock singer Kevin Rowland (Dexy's Midnight Runners) is 63. Rock musician Colin Moulding (XTC) is 61. Country singer-songwriter Kevin Welch is 61. Olympic gold medal figure skater Robin Cousins is 59. Singer Belinda Carlisle is 58. Author Jonathan Franzen is 57. Actor Sean Penn is 56. Jazz musician Everette Harp is 55. Rock musician Gilby Clarke is 54. Singer Maria McKee is 52. Rock musician Steve Gorman (The Black Crowes) is 51. Rock musician Jill Cuniff (kuh-NIHF') is 50. Actor David Conrad is 49. Singer Donnie Wahlberg is 47. College Basketball Hall of Famer and retired NBA All-Star Christian Laettner is 47. Rapper Posdnuos (PAHS'-deh-noos) is 47. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jim Courier is 46. Retired MLB All-Star Jorge Posada is 45. TV personality Giuliana Rancic is 42. Actor Mark Salling is 34. Actor Bryton James is 30. Actor Brady Corbet (kohr-BAY') is 28. Actress Taissa Farmiga is 22. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Gracie Gold is 21.

Thought for Today: "Experience is a good school, but the fees are high." - Heinrich Heine, German poet and critic (1797-1856).

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.

- **"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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