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Connecting - December 14, 2017

1 message

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Connecting

December 14, 2017

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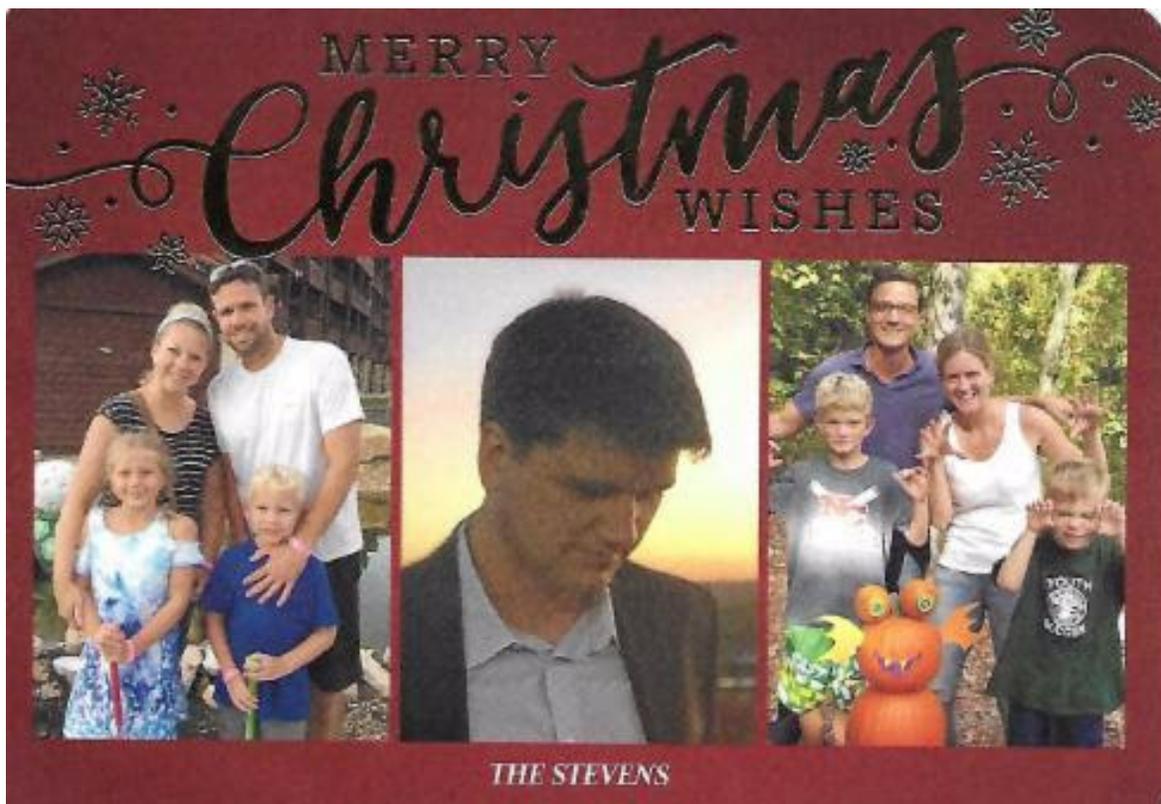
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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Do you produce a holiday greeting card for your family and friends? Care to share it with your Connecting and AP families?

If so, send it along to me via a jpg image. Newsletters will not work well because of the relative small size of the print - many Connecting readers view the newsletter on their mobile phones.



Meantime, here is one from the Stevens family that wishes you Happy Holidays from The Stevens family. All three of our kids were born during my 36-year journey through AP assignments - Jenny born in Albany, Molly in Wichita, Jon in Kansas City.

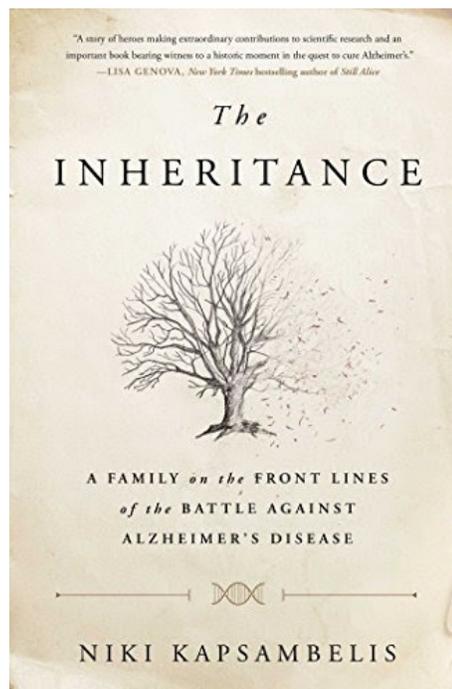
Paul

'The Inheritance' selected as one of best books of 2017; originated with a newsletter article on form of Alzheimer's research

Niki Kapsambelis (Email) - I wanted to share with Connecting that on Monday, Kirkus Reviews announced that it has selected my book, "The Inheritance," as one of the best of 2017. [Click here](#) for a link.

I spent five years researching and writing the book, so it has been gratifying to finally have people read and respond to it. Since it was published in March, I've been traveling around the country presenting the book, often alongside members of the family who are its focus. We appeared on the Today show with Maria Shriver, in People, the L.A. Times, the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, and the New York Post, not to mention Salon, Sirius XM radio, and a few different NPR outlets. It's been quite a ride.

I started my AP career in Concord, N.H., later transferring to Los Angeles and finally in Pittsburgh. I started freelancing and left the wire after my younger son was born, and one of my earliest clients was the University of Pittsburgh. In 2009, they asked me to write a newsletter article about a multigenerational family from North Dakota who had been coming to Pitt for a few years for a groundbreaking form of Alzheimer's research in a tiny population: people who inherit one of three known mutations that guarantee Alzheimer's disease. Less than 1 percent of people with Alzheimer's have this rare defect, which can be diagnosed in utero and causes symptoms in the person's mid-40s, with death typically occurring by the mid-50s. If you carry the mutation, you also carry a 50 percent chance of passing it on to your children.



At the time, I knew relatively little about Alzheimer's. But the two hours I spent interviewing those family members for that single article (which probably only a handful of people read) were life-changing for me. I can probably count on the fingers of one hand the number of stories that affected me that deeply. They undergo four days' worth of grueling physical and cognitive tests every year, and some now also take experimental drugs that have yet to be approved by the FDA, all in hopes of solving a disease that has baffled science for more than a century. Many of them knew their disease was too advanced for any of the research to help them personally; they did it in hopes of contributing to a cure for future generations.

I approached them with the idea of writing a book, and they not only agreed, they allowed me full access to every detail of their lives. I saw the hope, the fear, the courage, and the despair, and they watched me record it all for posterity. My wish is that when a solution to this horrific disease is found -- and I have no doubt that it will be solved -- this book will help future generations know who made that happen.

Connecting mailbox

Fred Hoffman was always much better at news than gossip

Ann Blackman ([Email](#)) - Fred Hoffman (story in Wednesday's Connecting) was always much better at news than gossip. He basically lived at the Pentagon and didn't come into the office very often. After my husband, then AP White House reporter Mike Putzel, and I had been married for more than five years, Fred called into the desk one night and said to Terry Hunt, who was on duty, "Hey, I hear Blackman and Putzel are an item."

"Yes Fred," Terry replied. "And they have a three-year-old daughter."

That was more than 35 years ago! We all wish you a Happy Birthday, Fred!

-0-

Recalling that George Kienzle once worked for AP Columbus

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - In Tuesday's story regarding Myron Belkind, the name George Kienzle was mentioned and connected with Ohio State University. FYI, George also spent some years with the AP in Columbus, where I knew him, back in the early 70's.

My remembrance of George Kienzle is that he was a down-to-earth deskman, reporter, filing editor, and a downright nice guy. I do not remember anything specific he covered, but he was a professional through and through.

I was only in Columbus two years, as the staff photographer, photo editor, rewrite man, and often the Sunday morning lone editor filing the radio wire, handling copy for the state wire, arranging for pictures of a coal mine explosion, and crossing my legs to help dispel the bathroom urge until regular help arrived for their normal tour of duty.

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AP Logo Police Alert!



Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - spotted this logo that is similar to that of The Associated Press.

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He's 'Auburn Proud' of former student now writing for AP

Ed Williams ([Email](#)) - retired professor of journalism at Auburn University, shared this AP story from Montgomery, Alabama, with the note: "Bill is former student and former Plainsman editor." Bill Barrow, 2000 Auburn graduate and former editor of the student newspaper, is now AP national political reporter based in Atlanta. His story leads:

In Alabama, an unusual alliance yields a Democratic upset



Doug Jones speaks in Birmingham after his stunning win in Alabama's special Senate election Tuesday. AP Photo/John Bazemore

By BILL BARROW

MONTGOMERY, Alabama (AP) - Democrat Doug Jones assembled an unusual Deep South alliance to claim a Senate seat Tuesday in Republican-dominated Alabama, combining strong turnout among African-Americans and white liberals with enough crossover support from conservatives who couldn't stomach scandal-ridden Republican nominee Roy Moore.

Among those disaffected GOP voters was the state's most powerful Republican, Sen. Richard Shelby, who very well may have handed Jones his victory margin of about 1.5 percentage points.

The six-term senator made a late campaign show of declaring he couldn't vote for Moore, an evangelical populist, after allegations from multiple women who said the 70-year-old molested and sexually pursued them decades ago, when they were in their teens and Moore was in his 30s.

Read more [here](#).

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Inviting your help to meet needs of child victims of violence and sexual abuse

Graca Reindl ([Email](#)) - You know that Jim and I spent two years in Africa with the Peace Corps and now we're living in Southeast Asia's Timor-Leste where Jim works for USAID. I am volunteering with Casa Vida, an NGO here that helps meet the needs of child victims of violence and sexual abuse and their families.

Casa Vida was started in 2008 to promote the right to life, protection and citizenship guaranteed by the RDTL Constitution and Convention of the Children in Timor-Leste and internationally.

Today Casa Vida employs 45 staff plus volunteers and has supported more than 250 children victims of violence and abuse since it was established nine years ago. Most of them have been reintegrated back to their families upon joint safety assessment with Ministry of Social Solidarity of Government of Timor-Leste. In November 2017, Casa Vida is supporting 59 clients in the Residential Shelter, where 10 of them are male, and 49 are female."

I am working with Kafe Aroma, using my years of restaurant and hospitality experience to help them reimagine the restaurant. The current inception is costing the charity more than it is bringing in so I have agreed to help redesign a smaller restaurant in a new location that will stay true to the mission of providing training for the women and men who seek help from Casa Vida and also will make enough money to return the profits to the larger charity so it can carry on with its work.

This is the holiday season and I know everyone is busy with family and friends, shopping and celebrations. And, I know you're getting the usual seasonal blizzard of what Jim's dad used to call "gimme letters," although I guess they're "gimme emails" these days.

Still, I hope that you will consider making even a small donation to this cause. I have pledged to raise \$5,000 (US) by January 1, 2018, for the design and reconstruction of a small space already owned by Casa Vida. Your donation will fund the materials

to refinish the dining area and to build a new kitchen and restrooms. We hope to attract volunteer labor for the cause.

It's a lot to ask that you take this on faith but I promise this will make a difference in the lives of the men, women and children who attend Casa Vida's school or take shelter in their dormitory to escape the violence of an abusive home. Unfortunately, Timor-Leste has a very high rate of Gender Based Violence. Casa Vida and its attending partner programs is one way the community is fighting back. I hope you'll join me. [Click here](#) for a link to make a donation.

I wish you all the happiest of holiday seasons and celebrations and health, happiness and prosperity for the New Year!

Thank you. Graca

Welcome to Connecting



Mike Rouse - rousemail@gmail.com

Stories of interest

***How New York Times Reporters Broke
Hollywood's Biggest Sexual Harassment Story***
(Variety)

By **BENT LANG**

Want proof that journalism matters? Look no further than Harvey Weinstein. Were it not for The New York Times and The New Yorker, the indie mogul would still be hobnobbing at Oscar parties, attending movie premieres and, if allegations are to be believed, routinely abusing and harassing women.

Instead, Weinstein is facing multiple criminal investigations and possible jail time. He's been fired from the Weinstein Co. and drummed out of Hollywood. And he's got company. Since the Times published its first story on Weinstein's abuses, a slew of big-name media and entertainment personalities have been exposed as serial harassers or abusers. Charlie Rose, Matt Lauer, Brett Ratner and Kevin Spacey are just a few of the figures who are being forced to face the music, as other news organizations pick up where the Times and The New Yorker left off.

New York Times investigative reporters Megan Twohey and Jodi Kantor deserve a lot of credit for helping to spark this industry-wide reckoning. Their tenacity helped them break the initial Weinstein story and, along with The New Yorker's Ronan Farrow, they've painted a portrait of a serial predator who was able to use his power to prey on female employees and actresses in a methodical fashion. By meticulously chronicling Weinstein's abuses, these reporters have inspired other people to speak out and go public about the cultures of harassment in the workplace.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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Big media's sad and extremely horrible week

(Washington Times)

By **WESLEY PRUDEN**

Newspapermen were rarely whiners. Whining became fashionable only after "journalists" overran newsrooms. The best newspapermen, so the folk wisdom went, were Southerners, Jews and the Irish.

Southerners loved the words and the occasions to tell stories, the Jews for the opportunity to do public good, and the Irish for the bottle frequently slipped into the

bottom desk drawer by boosters, lobbyists, public-relations flacks and others up to no particular good.

Such an irreverent formulation was enough to offend everybody, but in the old days no one took offense because everybody knew that nobody would particularly care if anybody did. What a hard, cruel, cold life we all led, with welcome irreverence an only consolation. It was pounded into the heads of every reporter, by an editor highly trained in head-pounding, to be skeptical of everything anyone (especially a lawyer) told them - in the famous instructions to reporters in Chicago newsrooms: "If your mother tells you she loves you, check it out."

But times change, and only occasionally for the better. The Columbia Journalism Review, published in that citadel of journalists educated to be house-broken, correct in politics and steeped in the grand mission of "improving" readers, relieved itself this week of the sad story of "journalism's terrible, horrible, no good, very bad week." The recital was enough to break the hardest heart.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Tucker.

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Norway becomes first country to switch off FM radio (The Local)

Norway on Wednesday completed its transition to digital radio, becoming the first country in the world to shut down national broadcasts of its FM radio network despite some grumblings.

As scheduled, the country's most northern regions and the Svalbard archipelago in the Arctic switched to Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) in the late morning, said Digitalradio Norge (DRN) which groups Norway's public and commercial radio.

The transition, which began on January 11th, allows for better sound quality, a greater number of channels and more functions, all at a cost eight times lower than FM radio, according to authorities.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Shane.

The Final Word

Bearly a high five!



James Forbes (Email) - St. Louis Post-Dispatch photographer: I went to the zoo early Wednesday morning hoping to find something/anything. Not many people there on a cold, windy morning, but I found this little girl trying to put her hand next

to the paw of Kali the polar bear. Her dad said she had been home sick for a couple of days, but was now feeling well enough to go to the zoo.

Today in History - December 14, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 14, the 348th day of 2017. There are 17 days left in the year.

Today's highlight

On Dec. 14, 2012, a gunman with a semi-automatic rifle killed 20 first-graders and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., then committed suicide as police arrived; the 20-year-old had also fatally shot his mother at their home before carrying out the attack on the school.

On this date

In 1799, the first president of the United States, George Washington, died at his home in Mount Vernon, Va., at age 67.

In 1819, Alabama joined the Union as the 22nd state.

In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and his team became the first men to reach the South Pole, beating out a British expedition led by Robert F. Scott.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson vetoed an immigration measure aimed at preventing "undesirables" and anyone born in the "Asiatic Barred Zone" from entering the U.S. (Congress overrode Wilson's veto in February 1917.)

In 1918, "Il Trittico," a trio of one-act operas by Giacomo Puccini, premiered at New York's Metropolitan Opera House. (The third opera, "Gianni Schicchi," featured the aria "O Mio Babbino Caro," which was an instant hit.)

In 1936, the comedy "You Can't Take It With You" by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart opened on Broadway.

In 1946, the United Nations General Assembly voted to establish the U.N.'s headquarters in New York.

In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States*, ruled that Congress was within its authority to enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964 against racial discrimination by private businesses (in this case, a motel that refused to cater to blacks).

In 1972, Apollo 17 astronauts Harrison Schmitt and Eugene Cernan concluded their third and final moonwalk and blasted off for their rendezvous with the command module.

In 1981, Israel annexed the Golan Heights, which it had seized from Syria in 1967.

In 1986, the experimental aircraft *Voyager*, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, took off from Edwards Air Force Base in California on the first non-stop, non-refueled flight around the world.

In 1996, a freighter lost power on the Mississippi River and barreled into the Riverwalk complex in New Orleans; miraculously, no one was killed.

Ten years ago: A man accused of being the Phoenix Baseline Killer was sentenced to 438 years in prison for the sexual assaults of two sisters. (Mark Goudeau was tried in 2011 for the slayings of eight women and a man in 2005-06; he was convicted and sentenced to death.)

Five years ago: A triumphant North Korea staged a mass rally of soldiers and civilians to glorify the country's young ruler, Kim Jong Un, two days after the successful launch of a satellite into orbit.

One year ago: President-elect Donald Trump convened a summit at Trump Tower for nearly a dozen tech leaders whose industry largely supported Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton; the CEOs included Apple's Tim Cook, Google's Eric Schmidt, Amazon's Jeff Bezos and Tesla's Elon Musk. Trump announced his selection of former campaign rival Rick Perry to be secretary of energy. Yahoo said it believed hackers had stolen data from more than 1 billion user accounts in August 2013 (in October 2017, Yahoo raised that figure to 3 billion). Bernard Fox, the mustachioed actor known to TV viewers as Dr. Bombay on "Bewitched" and Col. Crittendon on "Hogan's Heroes," died at a Los Angeles-area hospital at age 89.

Notable birthdays

Singer-actress Abbe Lane is 86. Actor Hal Williams is 83. Actress-singer Jane Birkin is 71. Pop singer Joyce Vincent-Wilson (Tony Orlando and Dawn) is 71. Entertainment executive Michael Ovitz is 71. Actress Dee Wallace is 69. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ronnie McNeir (The Four Tops) is 68. Rock musician Cliff Williams is 68. Actor-comedian T.K. Carter is 61. Rock singer-musician Mike Scott (The Waterboys) is 59. Singer-musician Peter "Spider" Stacy (The Pogues) is 59. Actress Cynthia Gibb is 54. Actress Nancy Valen is 52. Actor Archie Kao is 48. Actress Natascha McElhone is 48. Actress-comedian Michaela Watkins is 46. Actress-comedian Miranda Hart is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Brian Dalrymple (Soul For Real) is 42. Actress KaDee Strickland is 42. Actress Tammy Blanchard is 41. Actress Sophie Monk is 38. Actor-singer-musician Jackson Rathbone is 33. Actress Vanessa Hudgens is 29. Rock/R&B singer Tori Kelly is 25.

Thought for today

"No one feels another's grief, no one understands another's joy. People imagine that they can reach one another. In reality they only pass each other by." - Franz Schubert, Austrian composer (1797-1828).

Got a story or photos 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:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **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.

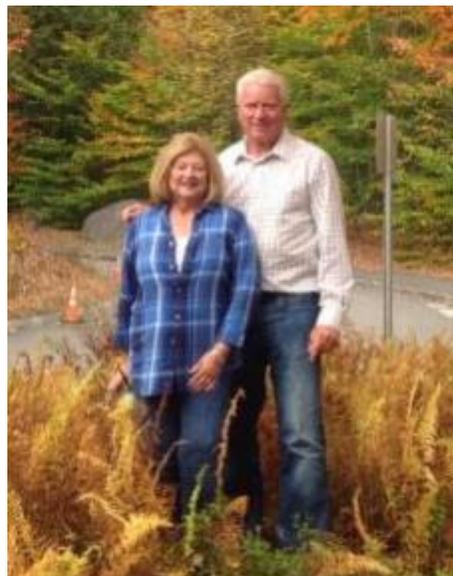
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.



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