



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

# Connecting - March 14, 2018

1 message

**Paul Stevens** <paulstevens46@gmail.com>  
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com  
To: pjshane@gmail.com

Wed, Mar 14, 2018 at 9:12 AM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



# Connecting

March 14, 2018

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



[Top AP News](#)  
[Top AP photos](#)

[AP books](#)  
[Connecting Archive](#)  
[The AP Store](#)  
[The AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Opening up my USA Today on Monday morning (yes, the print edition is actually still delivered to my driveway daily along with the NYT and The Star), I noted a familiar name on the byline of the lead story - titled "It Was Me."

**Betsy Brenner** was the author - the same Betsy Brenner I met during my AP working days when she was the new publisher of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and who served on the AP's board of directors before she left the newspaper.

Betsy was adopted 63 years ago and her story tells in poignant, wonderful detail about her search for her birth mother.

A Connecting colleague, she shares with us the story behind the story she wrote for the Journal Sentinel, now a Gannett newspaper, that was distributed across the nation in USA Today. It leads today's issue.

Have a good day!

Paul

## 'It Was Me'

**Elizabeth (Betsy) Brenner** ([Email](#)) - I was adopted 63 years ago. My birth state (Washington) recently unlocked its adoption records. I was stunned to learn that my birth mother grew up in Milwaukee - the city where I've been living for 13 years, and where I worked as Publisher of The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Even more surprising: she raised her family in Denver, and lived three miles from my home when I worked at the Rocky Mountain News. She died in 2015, but I ultimately met her living children - who had no idea they had a half-sister. As I shared this tale with friends and associates, the number of similar stories was striking. Sisters, cousins, neighbors - everyone seemed to know a 'girl who went away' after a pregnancy, or an adult that appeared years later with a kinship tie.



I realized that many more people in our generation were touched by the stigma of unwed mothers and secret adoptions during the "Baby Scoop" era from the end of WWII until Roe v. Wade made abortion legal in 1973.

Since my story was published last weekend, I've received hundreds of emails from all over the country: adoptees who searched; birth parents who resisted searching; family members who were delighted to find new relatives. The availability of new tools - like 'Ancestry.com' and '23andMe' - have made it easier to confirm relationships. But most of all, I think there's a real longing to learn who we are, where we came from - and who we belong to."



**Jon Goldberg Hiller (left) and former Milwaukee Journal Sentinel publisher Betsy Brenner chat in the area of N. 46th St. and W. Wright St. near the home in which their birth mother lived while growing up. Brenner was adopted and raised by a family in Washington. (Photo: Michael Sears/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)**



**Betsy Brenner (left) with her new siblings, from left: Elissa Goldberg, Adam Goldberg and Jon Goldberg-Hiller**

The story as it appeared in the Journal Sentinel and USA Today:

## **My unwed birth mother kept a lifelong secret: Me**

**By ELIZABETH (BETSY) BRENNER**

In spring 1954, Judith Ann Hiller, a bright, promising 20-year-old senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was terrified.

She had grown up in a working-class, largely Jewish neighborhood on Milwaukee's west side, where families valued academic achievement and wanted a better life for their children. On campus, she was an active and popular student.

But some two months shy of graduation, Judy learned she was pregnant.

A baby meant shame, disgrace, expulsion from the university. It would shatter her dreams, and the dreams Sarah and Abe Hiller had for the third of their four daughters. Marriage was out of the question; she barely knew the father.

Judy said nothing to anyone but her parents and a close friend. She pushed through to graduation, then quickly moved to the farmlands of central Washington to stay with relatives.

During the summer, she lied to their neighbors in the tiny community of Ephrata, claiming to be the wife of a deployed soldier. She wore a fake gold wedding ring. It was arranged that she would deliver her baby in Seattle, some 200 miles away. The infant would be placed immediately with a Jewish couple through a private adoption service.

In late October, Judy gave birth to a girl. She never saw her baby. Never held her. Like so many unwed mothers of her time, she was told it was better that way.

Then she went back to Milwaukee to pick up her life.

Read more [here](#).

## AP Photos of the Day



**Conor Lamb, the Democratic candidate for the special election in Pennsylvania's 18th district, celebrates with supporters at a watch party in Canonsburg, Pa. early on March 14. With a razor-thin lead in the votes, his campaign has declared victory. Gene J. Puskar/AP Photo**



**Pope Francis waves to faithful as he arrives in St. Peter's Square for his general weekly audience, at the Vatican, Wednesday, March 14, 2018. (AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)**

# Connecting mailbox

## *Monday's Connecting packed quite an emotional punch*

**John Brewer** ([Email](#)) - Jim Donna, Lou Boccardi, Susan Clark - Monday's Connecting packed quite an emotional punch for this retiree who was privileged to work with all three.

The eulogies about Jim reminded me again that what he brought most to his AP work was a mighty heart. What a good man.

LDB's eulogy about Jim was especially touching . . . and reminded me again that nothing ever escaped Lou's attention. And also what a great writer he is.

And congratulations on starting the Monday "selfie" series with Susan, one of the most helpful, friendliest and kindest staffers at 50 Rock.

## **AND...**

**Linda Deutsch** ([Email](#)) - I was catching up with Monday's Connecting and felt impelled to let you know how much I enjoyed it. The memories of Jim Donna, whom I knew from a distance, actually brought me to tears. Best of all was Lou Boccardi's story about the lucky penny. It seems to belong in a short story collection. And how wonderful that Lou still rides the train and how fortuitous that he found that shiny penny on the way to Jim's memorial. It was also great to see him and Tom Curley looking so well in the pictures. Both inspiring figures.

Runner up for best story I that issue is Susan Clark's Selfie. She will understand when I say I was kvelling over it. It was always a joy to see her when I visited headquarters. And we are now constant friends on Facebook. She is definitely a wonderful part of the AP history.

And then there was the lovely picture of you and Linda with Andy. One of the great AP friendships.

On Tuesday, it was also a treat to see the photo of John Brewer and the White sisters, all treasured AP pals from their LA salad days.

Thanks for the memories.

-0-

## ***Costa cited AP poll on MSNBC***

**Bill Kaczor (Email)** - The Washington Post's Robert Costa referenced the AP football poll while commenting Monday night on MSNBC's 11<sup>th</sup> Hour as he discussed a decision by majority Republicans on the House Intelligence Committee to end its investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 election. The Republicans concluded that there was no collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign.

Costa pointed out that the committee's investigation was only one of several being conducted including Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe. The Notre Dame alum likened them to the various college football polls he recalled from his student days and said, of course, the only one that mattered was the AP poll.

-0-

## ***'Dirty Laundry' his vote for best news song***

**Dan Even (Email)** - Best news song ---- ``Dirty Laundry'' for best news song. Of course, I'm a little late. I think that's a third vote for it --- so it goes to the ``Connecting'' Hall of Fame, right? Couple of real good covers of it --- best by Don Henley and Eagles. If anyone wants to see how far ahead of it times it was, you can get multiple versions on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). Another favorite for some reason for old journalist like me is Danny O'Keefe's ``Good Time Charlie Got the Blues''. It's old and has multiple covers too ---- Elvis, Leon Russell, Joe Cocker --- but best by are by O'Keefe himself and Rita Wilson.

-0-

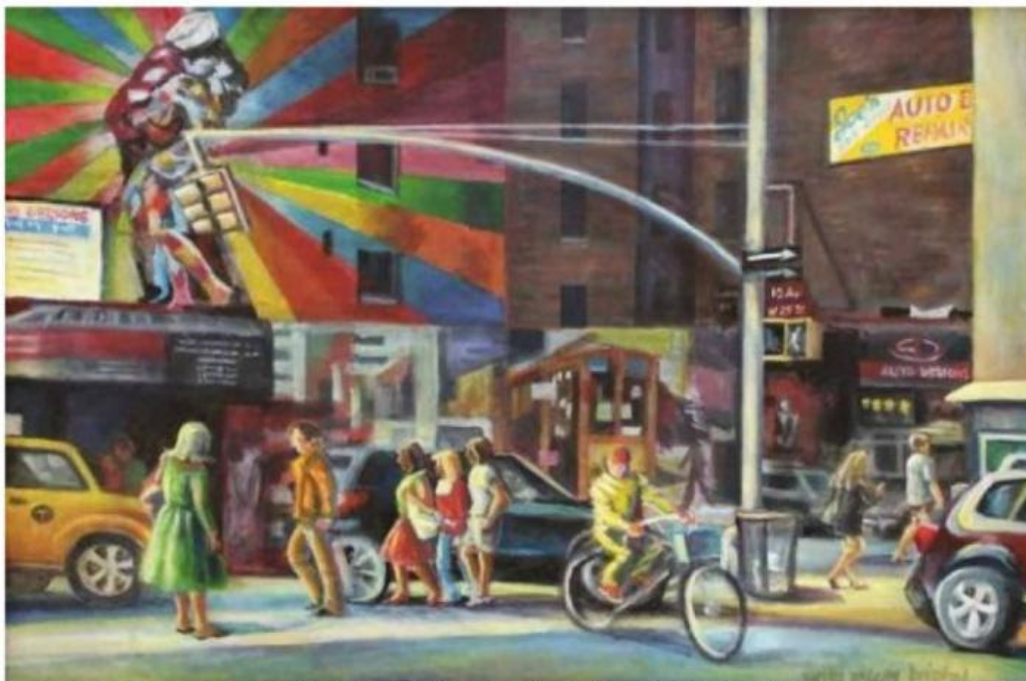


## ***Taking part in art exhibit in Northern Jersey***

# My Hometown

**A group exhibition presented by Zufall Health**

**MARCH 23, 2018 - JULY 13, 2018**



*W25th and 10th Av, NYC* by Cathleen McCoy Bristol, Acrylic on Canvas, 24" x 36"

**Opening Reception w/Music & Refreshments  
Friday, March 23rd, 5:30 - 7:30 PM  
18 West Blackwell Street, Dover, NJ 07801**

**Exhibiting Artists:** Alison Burian • Jeffrey Burian • Nick C. Cerrato • Alyssa V. Costa  
John F. Grisoni • Laurie Harden • Leandro Hutson • Harriet Kelem • Itoko Kobayashi  
Theresa Kubert • Deb LoDico • Cathleen McCoy Bristol • Yvonne Mikalopas  
Guy Palmiotto • Jean-Paul Picard • Marvin Richardson • Joanna West • Beppy Young

**Guy Palmiotto (Email)** - Here is a flyer of an art exhibit I am participating in. Please drop into Connecting if you have space, maybe there are some retirees in Northern, NJ who may be interested in attending.

-0-

## ***Connecting pet series: Kee-Kee and Lulu - pets of unashamedly dog people***



**Kee-Kee**



**Lulu and Kee-Kee**

**Mark Mittelstadt (Email)** - - Mary and I are unashamedly dog people. Our childhood homes had dogs growing up; before we had our first child we had a dog.

Our latest was a lab-pit mix that we got from a shelter during an adopt-a-pet day at a New Jersey Petsmart. Estimated to be about a year old, Kee-Kee took delight in running and in fetching a ball or a soft flying-saucer like ring in our half-acre back yard. She also loved to wade chest-high into the water at a nearby lake or the Jersey shore, although she would never swim. We figured the lab gene must have been regressive.

She also insisted on getting us out daily for walks, come sun or rain or snow.

Fifteen years later she defied the odds and made the cross-country trip as Mary and I moved ourselves to Tucson. She seemed to barely tolerate our back yard of crushed rock. She missed her thick New Jersey grass where she could lay and watch rabbits.

A few months after arriving in a new house she was joined by LuLu, a much younger full-bred pit bull that my son had rescued as a puppy from a bad home. After a couple little skirmishes, they adjusted to each other and seemed to become friends. They would occasionally lay together when Kee-Kee would allow LuLu to share her

bed. Kee-Kee showed her partner in crime the fine art of being close when we were baking cookies or carving food -- ham, roast beef, Thanksgiving turkey. It was likely some morsel would fall on the floor, either by accident or otherwise.

We lost Kee-Kee a year ago to old age and canine senility.

For a week or so LuLu acted like she had lost her best friend. She had. But she since has become an excellent walk buddy, taking the reins -- and the leash - left behind by Kee-Kee to make sure we get out for a two- to three-mile walk.

## How and when we work with outside groups

By **LAUREN EASTON**

In some cases AP works with nonprofit foundations and other news organizations that share and support our mission of objective, unbiased newsgathering.

AP does this to:

Supplement the news report with topic-specific coverage or in-depth reporting projects.

Develop tools to adapt AP and the news industry better to the digital world.

Evolve journalists' skill sets and storytelling techniques.

Standards for working with outside groups are now available on AP's website.

"Collaborating is good for our journalism. As a not-for-profit news cooperative, tapping the help of others allows us to offer our members and customers a bigger and better news report," said Lisa Gibbs, AP director of news partnerships. "In addition, working with emerging tech firms and university researchers enables us to innovate faster. More and more, we see media organizations working together. Soon, I believe, it will become standard industry practice."

Read more [here](#).

# AP: Child-on-child sex assault cases languish on US bases



By **JUSTIN PRITCHARD** and **REESE DUNKLIN**

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. (AP) - A decade after the Pentagon began confronting rape in the ranks, the U.S. military frequently fails to protect or provide justice to the children of service members when they are sexually assaulted by other children on base, an Associated Press investigation has found.

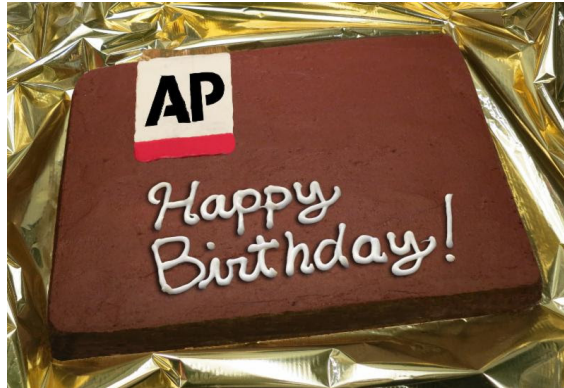
Reports of assaults and rapes among kids on military bases often die on the desks of prosecutors, even when an attacker confesses. Other cases don't make it that far because criminal investigators shelve them, despite requirements they be pursued.

The Pentagon does not know the scope of the problem and does little to track it. AP was able to document nearly 600 sex assault cases on base since 2007 through dozens of interviews and by piecing together records and data from the military's four main branches and school system.

Sexual violence occurs anywhere children and teens gather on base - homes, schools, playgrounds, food courts, even a chapel bathroom. Many cases get lost in a dead zone of justice, with neither victim nor offender receiving help.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Larry Blasko - [lgbasko@yahoo.com](mailto:lgbasko@yahoo.com)

Steve Fox - [steve@silverfoxco.com](mailto:steve@silverfoxco.com)

Pat Milton - [pam1414@aol.com](mailto:pam1414@aol.com)

## Welcome to Connecting



Mike Conroy - [mconroy@ap.org](mailto:mconroy@ap.org)

# Stories of interest

## ***Journalists should look less at Trump and more in a mirror*** (Washington Post)

By Gary Abernathy

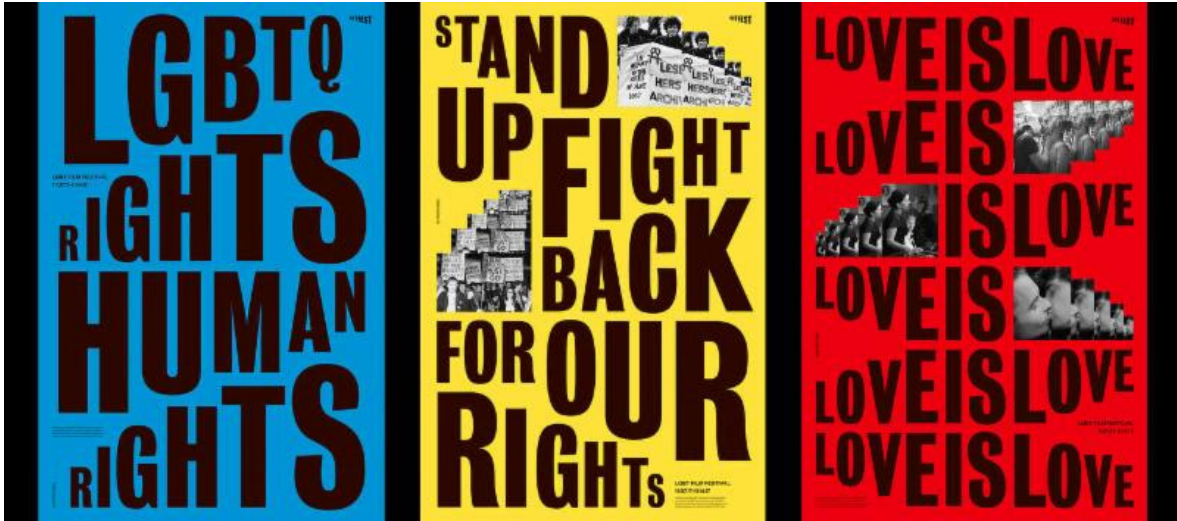
HILLSBORO, Ohio - News organizations across the country often highlight the mid-March "Sunshine Week" - created by the American Society of News Editors to remind the public of the press's crucial role in ensuring open government - by writing editorials or commentaries about the importance of a free press. This week, for the second straight year, the presidency of Donald Trump is being used as a bogeyman to suggest that the media's efforts are more endangered than ever. The Associated Press offered such an example in a package in conjunction with this Sunshine Week.

"President Donald Trump's campaign to discredit the news media has spread to officials at all levels of government, who are echoing his use of the term 'fake news' as a weapon against unflattering stories," according to AP reporter Ryan J. Foley. "It's become ubiquitous as a signal to a politician's supporters to ignore legitimate reporting and hard questions, as a smear of the beleaguered and dwindling local press corps, and as a way for conservatives to push back against what they call biased stories."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittestadt.

-0-

## ***Typography and design's power to fuel 'Protest, Persuasion, Empowerment'*** (Art Center)



BY SOLVEJ SCHOU

*"Your body is a battleground."*

So declares Barbara Kruger's huge and pivotal reproductive rights silkscreen Untitled (Your body is a battleground) in stark white Futura Bold Italic type over red panels, layered on top of a black-and-white photo of a woman's face. Created in 1989, the feminist piece and its commanding words continue to resonate today.

From anti-Vietnam pamphlets and posters in the '60s to hand-drawn paint-splashed posters at current-day protests in support of women, immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ communities and the environment, to social media-driven viral memes, the intersection between typography, design, social movements, news and politics is constantly shifting, and ripe for discussion.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - March 14, 2018



## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 14, the 73rd day of 2018. There are 292 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On March 14, 1923, President Warren G. Harding became the first chief executive to file an income tax return, paying a levy of \$17,990 on his \$75,000 salary.

### On this date:

In 1794, Eli Whitney received a patent for his cotton gin, an invention that revolutionized America's cotton industry.

In 1885, the Gilbert and Sullivan comic opera "The Mikado" premiered at the Savoy Theatre in London.

In 1900, Congress ratified the Gold Standard Act.

In 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an executive order designed to prevent Japanese laborers from immigrating to the United States as part of a "gentlemen's agreement" with Japan.



In 1939, the republic of Czechoslovakia was dissolved, opening the way for Nazi occupation of Czech areas and the separation of Slovakia.

In 1951, during the Korean War, United Nations forces recaptured Seoul.

In 1964, a jury in Dallas found Jack Ruby guilty of murdering Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, and sentenced him to death. (Both the conviction and death sentence were overturned, but Ruby died before he could be retried.)

In 1967, the body of President John F. Kennedy was moved from a temporary grave to a permanent memorial site at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

In 1975, "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," a sendup of the legend of King Arthur, had its world premiere in Los Angeles. Academy Award-winning actress Susan Hayward, 57, died in Los Angeles.

In 1980, a LOT Polish Airlines jet crashed while attempting to land in Warsaw, killing all 87 people aboard, including 22 members of a U.S. amateur boxing team.

In 1990, the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies held a secret ballot that elected Mikhail S. Gorbachev to a new, powerful presidency.

In 1998, India's Congress party picked Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow of assassinated prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, as its new president.

Ten years ago: Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama denounced inflammatory remarks from his pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, who had railed against the United States and accused its leaders of bringing on the Sept. 11 attacks by spreading terrorism. A tornado ripped into the Georgia Dome during the Southeastern Conference tournament, sending debris tumbling from the ceiling and prompting fans to flee. Protests led by Buddhist monks against Chinese rule in Tibet turned violent, leading to an extensive crackdown by China's military. Lindsey Vonn completed the first American sweep of the overall World Cup titles in 25 years, a day after Bode Miller won his second overall crown in Bormio, Italy.

Five years ago: During his first full day as pontiff, Pope Francis stopped by his Vatican hotel to pick up his luggage and pay the bill himself. Some 10,000 workers from across the European Union protested outside a summit of EU leaders in Brussels, demanding they end years of austerity and focus instead on curbing runaway unemployment with more spending. A nearly 19-hour standoff in Herkimer,

New York, came to an end inside a cluttered, abandoned bar as police SWAT teams killed the suspect in four fatal shootings. The NHL's realignment plan was approved by the league's board of governors.

One year ago: A blustery late-season storm plastered the Northeast with sleet and snow, paralyzing much of the Washington-to-Boston corridor but falling well short of predicted snow totals in New York, Boston and Philadelphia. President Donald Trump earned \$153 million and paid \$36.5 million in income taxes in 2005, according to highly sought-after tax documents disclosed by a reporter. Declaring "enough is enough," Gen. Robert Neller, the Marine Corps commandant, told senators that he intended to fix the problem that led to current and former Corps members sharing nude photos of female Marines online and making lewd or threatening comments about them. Mitch Seavey won his third Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, becoming the fastest and oldest champion at age 57. Seavey also set a time record of 8 days, 3 hours, 40 minutes and 13 seconds.

(Stations: "Derrick," one name only, is correct)

Today's Birthdays: Singer Phil Phillips (Song: "Sea of Love") is 92. Former astronaut Frank Borman is 90. Actor Michael Caine is 85. Composer-conductor Quincy Jones is 85. Actor Raymond J. Barry is 79. Movie director Wolfgang Petersen is 77. Country singer Michael Martin Murphey is 73. Rock musician Walt Parazaider (pay-ah-ZAY'-der)(Chicago) is 73. Actor Steve Kanaly is 72. Comedian Billy Crystal is 70. Former Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., is 70. Actor-writer-comedian-radio personality Rick Dees is 67. Country singer Jann Browne is 64. Actor Adrian Zmed is 64. Prince Albert II, the ruler of Monaco, is 60. Actress Laila Robins is 59. Actress Tamara Tunie (tuh-MAH'-ruh TOO'-nee) is 59. Actress Penny Johnson Jerald is 58. Producer-director-writer Kevin Williamson is 53. Actress Elise Neal is 52. Actor Gary Anthony Williams is 52. Actress Megan Follows is 50. Rock musician Michael Bland is 49. Country singer Kristian Bush is 48. Rock musician Derrick is 46. Actress Betsy Brandt is 45. Actress Grace Park is 44. Actor Daniel Gillies is 42. Actor Corey Stoll is 42. Actor Jake Fogelnest is 39. Actor Chris Klein is 39. Actor Ryan Cartwright (TV: "Kevin Can Wait") is 37. Actress Kate Maberly is 36. Singer-musician Taylor Hanson (Hanson) is 35. Actor Jamie Bell is 32. Rock musician Este Haim (HY'-uhm) (Haim) is 32. Actor Ansel Elgort is 24. Olympic gold medal gymnast Simone Biles is 21. Actor James Freedson-Jackson (Film: "The Strange Ones") is 16.

***Thought for Today: "The avoidance of taxes is the only intellectual pursuit that still carries any reward." - John Maynard Keynes, British economist (1883-1946).***

## 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.

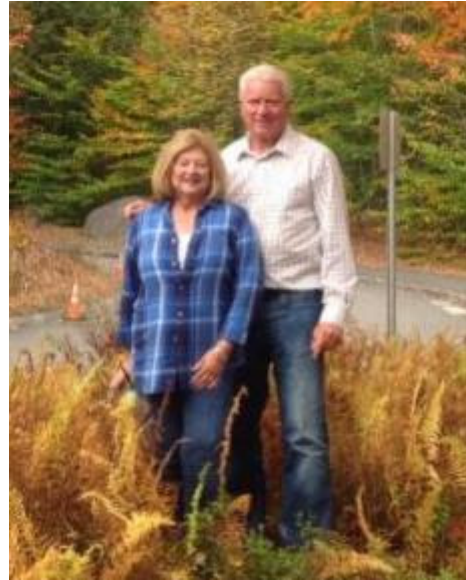
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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.



**Paul Stevens**  
**Editor, Connecting newsletter**  
[paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)

Connecting newsletter, 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

SafeUnsubscribe™ [pjshane@gmail.com](mailto:pjshane@gmail.com)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com) in collaboration with



Try it free today