

Connecting -- June 08, 2018

1 message

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Fri, Jun 8, 2018 at 9:02 AM







Connecting

June 08, 2018



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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Did you know

...that today is World Oceans Day and also the World Premiere of the movie, "The Sea That Sustains Us." And the executive producer of the film is our very own Connecting colleague, AP veteran Jim **Reindl**.

Did you ever work...

...in an AP bureau when three men in long Navy-blue overcoats and wide-brimmed gray fedora hats dropped in one day with an offer you couldn't refuse? It happened to colleague **Norman Abelson**.

Their stories lead today's issue of Connecting.

If you were back in your days of hiring reporters, what would you be looking for? Columbia Journalism Review posed that question to a group of key editors and I think you'll enjoy reading what they had to say.

For instance, Edith Chapin, Executive Editor, NPR News

We look for people at all levels of experience, so it is hard to generalize beyond people who are tenaciously curious and quick studies. Needless to say we look for reporters who have sources, but who are good storytellers and good communicators with the ability to adapt to multiple platforms. We look for people who are diggers, who go the extra steps to get the context and delve beyond the surface and the obvious. Specifically, language skills and/or data reporting skills enhance narrative skills.

Read more here.

Share your own thoughts with Connecting if someone asked you that question.

With that homework, have a great weekend!

Paul

'The Sea That Sustains Us' - Jim Reindl, executive producer

Tasi Ne'ebé Sustenta Ita



Jim Reindl (Email) - I guess you file this dispatch in your "Life After AP" department.

Of all the interesting things I have been able to do since leaving the mothership in 2014, I never pictured myself as an executive producer of movies. Despite the fact Harvey Weinstein has given the profession a bad rap, that's what I've spent a good part of the last 10 months doing.

Friday is World Oceans Day and also the World Premiere of "The Sea That Sustains Us," which is the movie I produced for USAID. Fortunately, I worked with an

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experienced and skilled producer/director to make the 13-minute film, which can be viewed **here**. TSTSU focuses on plastics pollution in the ocean, a timely topic but one we had no idea would be so timely when we started. The theme for WOD this year is "Preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean." In addition, the June issue of National Geographic is dedicated to plastics pollution worldwide. CNN also has been airing a PSA highlighting the plastics problem.

The origin of our project was a five-year study of the near-shore marine environment around Timor-Leste funded by USAID and done by NOAA. Among the findings was that the sea here is the most biodiverse in the world and while relatively healthy for now, it faces manmade threats. My mission director popped by my desk one day last June when the study came out and said, "Why don't you make a video about this?" I responded that it was 230-plus pages of scientific language and formulas, which didn't seem too film-worthy. A boss is a boss, though, and so I set about thinking about it and finding someone who knew how to make a movie.

I was introduced to Tom Hill, an independent British filmmaker living in Dili and we hit it off. I gave him my ideas and he helped shape them into something coherent. I had several key things I wanted to do with the film. First, we decided we wanted Timorese talking to Timorese, no "malae," as foreigners are called in Tetum. Second, we didn't want even any Timor authority figures, such as government officials or professors, only normal people addressing the issue. Third, we wanted to establish that all Timorese have a stake in the ocean's health and that all are connected, whether on the coast or in the highlands. I think if you watch the film, you'll agree that Tom did a spectacular job making those connections. The amazing thing to both of us in this very poor and very poorly educated country is how the Timorese in the film "got it" without prompting from us other than to say we wanted to talk with them about the ocean and pollution. We've seen that in our test screenings as well.

During filming we agreed we'd make a cinema quality version and debut it on World Oceans Day. We've been running a social media campaign largely on Facebook to promote it. I also partnered with a local grocery store to stage a reusable shopping bag promotion that features the film title and custom logo we designed for the movie (photo attached). The saying means "Love Your Country; Don't Make It Dirty." On Friday, we debut TSTSU at the local Cineplex in Dili where we're also running one-minute versions of the movie during the coming attractions.

I don't hear Hollywood calling but I do hope to do more videos of this quality in the future. And the boss? She loves it as does the U.S. Ambassador here so if Hollywood isn't going to call I think I can keep my day job, too.

An AP copy boy's poison opportunity

Norman Abelson (Email) - All these years later it seems safe to assume that the three men in long Navy-blue overcoats and wide-brimmed gray fedora hats who entered my life for one terror-filled day were mobsters, perhaps even members of the Boston mafia.

What I do know for certain is that they impaled me on the horns of a dilemma, either side of which spelled potential trouble. The year was 1951. I was 20 years old, and at the beginning of my career in journalism, working as a copy boy for The Associated Press.

Now, there was no lower rung on the ladder to becoming a news writer than copy boy. In today's parlance the position would be akin to a "gofer." Principally, I would rip news copy off the numerous teletype machines and distribute it to the reporters in the newsroom. In addition, I worked in the AP photo darkroom, delivered photos to airports and railroad stations, and answered the phones. On occasion I even got to do a bit of writing, especially when a hung-over newsman on the overnight shift fell asleep on a desk.

One morning, as I was going about my usual chores, the three men walked into the AP newsroom, located on the third floor of the old Boston Globe building in a section of Washington Street then called Newspaper Row.

(I've re-constructed the conversations, but not the happenings, that follow; I believe they're pretty accurate.)

One of the three came up to me and asked: "Hey, kid, can you show us around?" Being a tour guide was part of my job, so I began to escort them around the newsroom. "Is there a machine that brings in all the financial news?" the same fellow asked. I led them to the Dow Jones ticker that was pumping out the news and numbers from Wall Street. They seemed especially interested and asked whether the daily balance of the federal budget from the Treasury Department came over that ticker.

I answered in the affirmative.

"Can we talk out in the hall for a minute?" At that request, I began to get a little nervous, but went with them.

"How much you make here a week?" By then I knew something was awry, but the three men were standing quite close to me in a semi-circle, so I answered, shakily. "About twenty bucks."

"How'd you like to triple that every week for five minutes work a day?" The question hung in the air. That amount was like a fortune to me. But, even as naïve as I was then, I knew such an offer had to have a poison hook. I didn't know what to say, but the leader of the trio must have taken my silence as assent. "Here's what you do. When the Treasury balance comes in - but it has to be the minute it comes in - you call us right away and give me the numbers. That's it. Once a week we give you an envelope with the cash in it. That's the whole thing. What do ya say?"

By then I was just plain scared. I took a chance and asked if I could have time to think the offer over. The man said they'd be back in mid-afternoon, and the three of them left without another word. Could I really say no to these frightening guys? And if I said yes, would I somehow be involved in a criminal activity?

I looked across the newsroom and spotted Joe Kelley, a really good guy who was helping me hone my writing skills. Joe's father had been a writer at the Record-American, the Hearst empire's Boston tabloid newspapers. Joe had told me once that his dad knew, and told him about, all the top guys in the illegal gambling activities in the city.

I told Joe about my meeting with the three and asked his advice.

"Jeez, Norm," he said, "you've got a problem." He explained that there was an illicit gambling enterprise based on the daily Treasury balance. As I remember it, people would purchase for a dollar a folded piece of paper, sewed around all the edges; inside was a number, and the person whose number agreed closest with the federal total would win a jackpot.

"How can my calling in the number early help these guys?" I asked Joe. He surmised that they could somehow tell from the outside what the numbers were, and could at the last minute try to keep potential winning slips out of circulation.

"What the hell should I do, Joe?"

"Well, I can tell you for sure, Norm, that if you get involved with these guys, they'll probably never let you out. If it was me, I'd take a chance and say no - in the nicest way possible."

As the minutes dragged by, I became increasingly frightened, but I decided to follow Joe's advice. Finally, the three of them arrived just as my workday ended and asked me to talk to them in the hallway.

"I'm sorry, but I can't do it," I said, my heart in my throat. "Thank you for the offer, but I'll be quitting this job soon to go back to college." I knew they could check out the lie later, but I couldn't think of a better way out.

"We should talk some more, kid. Come on, we've got a car outside; we'll drive you home." I was terrified, but what choice did I have? The car - honest to God - was a big black Buick. No one spoke a word during the ride. Then the lead guy told me they'd accept my decision but warned me never to tell anyone a word of our meeting. With that, they let me out at Melrose Square, and I happily walked the two or three miles to my home in Malden, relieved that I got out of the deal in one piece.

I never heard another word from those men. But some months later I read a brief news story saying that a copy boy at The Boston Post, a kid I knew, had been arrested for being involved in an illicit gambling operation related to the treasury balance.

AP names Steven Sloan as news editor overseeing politics

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Associated Press on Friday named Steven Sloan as news editor overseeing political coverage, including the 2018 midterm elections and the 2020 presidential campaign.

Sloan will oversee AP's national reporting team and work closely with reporters in Washington, as well as around the United States. His appointment was announced by AP Washington bureau chief Julie Pace.

"We're excited to have Steven taking on one of the most important jobs in political journalism," Pace said. "He's an experienced editor who is enthusiastic about politics, driven to break news and produce distinctive enterprise, and excited about the prospect of leveraging AP's resources not only in Washington, but in all 50 states."



Sloan joins the AP from CNN, where he most recently served as director of enterprise reporting in Washington. He also launched an award-winning digital

magazine at CNN that combined long-form storytelling about politics, national security and culture with photography, graphics and animation.

During the 2016 campaign, Sloan was the managing editor for content at CNN Politics, overseeing a team of breaking news and enterprise reporters and editors covering the historic election.

Before joining CNN, Sloan was the congressional editor at POLITICO and a reporter at Bloomberg News. He grew up in Atlanta and graduated from Georgia State University with a degree in political science.

Click here for a link to this story.

Want to meet the AP's National Politics team? Click here.

Connecting mailbox

Ann Garcelon: 'I would advise any girl to come to New York and work'

Jurate Kazickas (Email) shares this from the Memphis Press-Scimitar, Jan. 29, 1970:

Headline: HOW TO GET A TOP WRITING JOB IN NEW YORK Memphis girl refused to be discouraged - she has some advice for Others

Written by Catherine Meacham, the fashion editor, the article describes Ann a "a former Memphis debutante" who "talked herself into a job" with the AP during the newspaper strike of 1966.

"I would advise any girl to come to New York and work. I love it a lot. The only prerequisite is a sense of humor You've got to be able to laugh here."

While Ann spoke about her interviews with "famous folks" like Zsa Zsa Gabor, Normal Norell and Tammy Grimes, she said she most liked writing about someone like the short order cook who played 21 instruments - those people "who reached outside themselves to give others and consequently themselves, joy."

And that, in her own words, was Ann Garcelon.

(**EDITOR'S NOTE**: This is a follow to the story in Thursday's Connecting on the death of Ann Garcelon, one of the original members of the 1970s AP Mod Squad. The photo below shows her interviewing actor Paul Newman.)



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Gratifying to see what happens on the other side of election balloting

Steve Loeper (Email) - After half a century of spending election nights in newsrooms - most of them AP newsrooms - I tried working on the other side of the balloting this past week. Now that I'm retired, I signed up for polling-place duty in the California Primary and I must say, it was truly gratifying - even inspirational -- to see the very core of our democracy still alive and well in these troubling times. There was a surprising enthusiasm among the voters and I was especially struck by how many parents brought along their kids for a living civics lesson. Of course, young and old alike had to have their "I Voted" stickers. With the state's daunting ballot and complex polling-place procedures, by the end of my 16-hour day, I wasn't sure which side of the balloting was the more challenging job for me. I do know that the 100page poll-worker manual was far fatter than any AP election night "bible" I may have produced through the years. But I also know I'll be back at the "official table" in the little church on the corner come November.

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'You're a piece of trash' comment would have gotten most people fired

Chuck McFadden (Email) - As a former Associated Press newsman in Los Angeles and Sacramento who then went over to the Dark Side (media relations) I cannot believe what is coming from EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox. If I had spoken to a reporter the way Wilcox does, I would have been (justifiably) fired within minutes.

I guess this is just further evidence of the anti-media, everything-goes attitude of the Trump administration. But it seems 'way beyond customary (and wise) practice. Then again, with the public's supposed dislike and distrust of "The Media" these days, maybe it's just the age we live in.

(Click here for Washington Post story on EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox telling Elaina Plott of the Atlantic, "You have a great day, you're a piece of trash.")

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R.I.P. Jim Patten, who cared enormously about journalism and its future.

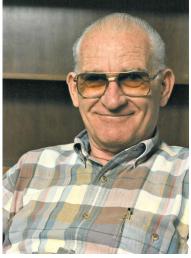
Sylvia Wingfield (Email) - Jim Patten, who died June 5, taught my first journalism class at the University of Nebraska in 1967. More than two decades he later helped save the journalism program he headed at the University of Arizona. He was a mentor and friend to many, including Connecting colleagues. Here is his obituary from the UA School of Journalism.

Jim Patten, former department head, dies at 83

Professor Emeritus Jim Patten, who helped save the University of Arizona journalism program from elimination in the mid-1990s during his time as department head, died June 5 in Prescott after being diagnosed with lung cancer on May 17. He was 83.

Patten led the department from 1991 to 2000 and taught at UA from 1983 to 2000. He also was an adjunct instructor from 2006 to 2009.

"He was a pillar of strength when the then journalism department was threatened with closure," retired Prof. Jim Johnson said. "That the department, now school, is still thriving is a tribute to his leadership."



Read more here.

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Visitors welcome in Chagrin Falls



Retired AP photo staffer Amy Sancetta (**Email**) loves entertaining company especially former fellow AP colleagues - at her home turf of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. In the top photo, Indianapolis staff photographer Mike Conroy, in Cleveland for coverage of the NBA Finals, took some time out to visit. And in the photo below it, taken last month, retired AP staffer photographer/photo editor Rob Kozloff, in visiting Cleveland from Chicago for a wedding, also came by the Falls.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



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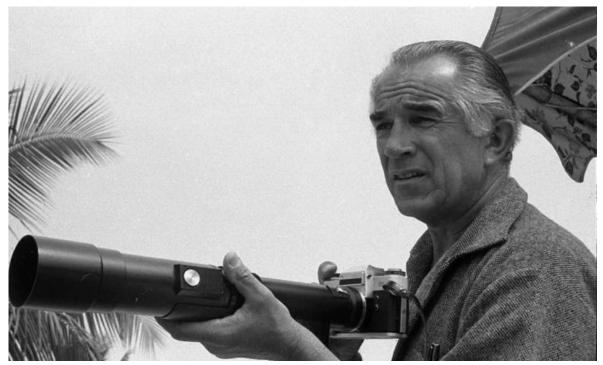
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Stories of interest

David Douglas Duncan, 102, Who Photographed the Reality of War, Dies(New York Times)



The photographer David Douglas Duncan in 1969. He was among the most influential photographers of the 20th century, a Life magazine peer of Alfred Eisenstaedt, Margaret Bourke-White and Carl Mydans.CreditRay Fisher/The Life Images Collection, via Getty Images

By Robert D. McFadden

Under the helmets, the faces are young and tormented, stubbled and dirty, taut with the strain of battle. They sob over dead friends. They stare exhausted into the fog and rain. They crouch in a muddy foxhole. This goddamn cigarette could be the last.

There are no heroes in David Douglas Duncan's images of war.

Dark and brooding, mostly black and white, they are the stills of a legendary combat photographer, an artist with a camera, who brought home to America the poignant lives of infantrymen and fleeing civilians caught up in World War II, the Korean conflict and the war in Vietnam. "I felt no sense of mission as a combat photographer," Mr. Duncan, who was wounded several times, told The New York Times in 2003. "I just felt maybe the guys out there deserved being photographed just the way they are, whether they are running scared, or showing courage, or diving into a hole, or talking and laughing. And I think I did bring a sense of dignity to the battlefield."

Mr. Duncan, who had lived since 1962 in Castelleras, France, died on Thursday in the South of France, his friend Joel Stratte-McClure said. He was 102.

Read more here.



Capt. Ike Fenton, commanding officer of Baker Company, 5th Regiment of the 1st Marine Brigade, during the battle to secure No-Name Ridge along the Naktong River, Korea. September 1950.CreditDavid Douglas Duncan, via Harry Ransom Center

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Ex-Senate Aide Charged Harry Ransom Center in Leak Case Where Times Reporter's Records Were Seized (New York

Times)

By Adam Goldman, Nicholas Fandos and Katie Benner

WASHINGTON - A former Senate Intelligence Committee aide was arrested Thursday in an investigation of classified information leaks where prosecutors also secretly seized years' worth of a New York Times reporter's phone and email records.

The former aide, James A. Wolfe, 57, was charged with lying repeatedly to investigators about his contacts with three reporters. According to the authorities, Mr. Wolfe made false statements to the F.B.I. about providing two of them with private information related to the committee's work. They did not say whether it was classified.

Mr. Wolfe was slated to appear before a federal judge on Friday in Washington. Reached Thursday evening before his arrest, Mr. Wolfe declined to comment. Mr. Wolfe's case led to the first known instance of the Justice Department going after a reporter's data under President Trump.

Read more here. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt, Sibby Christensen, Richard Chady.

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Son who wrote viral revenge obituary about his mom explains why he did it (Fox News)



By NICOLE DARRAH

The son who wrote a harsh obituary about his late mother spoke out on Wednesday about why he and his sister decided to reveal why they felt "this world is a much better place without" Kathleen Dehmlow.

Jay Dehmalo, 58, told the Daily Mail that his mother, who died Thursday at the the age of 80, prompted a dysfunctional childhood for him, and his sister, Gina, after she became pregnant by her brother-in-law.

"We wanted to finally get the last word," Dehmalo told the news outlet. "You could write it all down in a book or turn it into a movie and people wouldn't believe what we went through."

Read more here. Shared by Paul Shane.

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The New Yorker Staff Has Unionized (Daily

Intelligencer)



By NOREEN MALONE

The era of white-collar organized labor is fully upon us: the editorial staff of The New Yorker wants to unionize. This morning, organizers sent a letter to the magazine's editor, David Remnick, asking that the institution and its corporate owner, Condé Nast, voluntarily recognize their membership in the NewsGuild of New York. (Publications ranging from the New York Times to Jacobin have bargaining units with the NewsGuild.) Organizers say that of the 115 or so union-eligible employees, nearly 90 percent have signed union cards.

The group includes copy editors, web producers, fact-checkers, photo and design staff, the social-media and publicity teams, editorial assistants, and assistant editors. Management and senior-level employees are excluded, as are staff writers, whose job title would not escape the red pen of the magazine's fact department: Writers at The New Yorker are nearly all independent contractors, rather than staff, and thus do not receive health care or other benefits, despite being largely prevented from writing for other outlets. The relatively few editorial staffers who've expressed concerns with the unionizing effort say they are worried about retaliation in an industry where reputation is the coin of the realm.

Read more here. Shared by Richard Chady.

Today in History - June 8, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, June 8, the 159th day of 2018. There are 206 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 8, 1968, authorities announced the capture in London of James Earl Ray, the suspected assassin of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On this date:

In A.D. 632, the prophet Muhammad died in Medina.

In 1042, Edward the Confessor became King of England, beginning a reign of 23 1/2 years.

In 1845, Andrew Jackson, seventh president of the United States, died in Nashville, Tennessee.

In 1917, during World War I, Maj. Gen. John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force, arrived in Liverpool, England, while en route to France; also, the 1st Expeditionary Division (later the 1st Infantry Division) was organized at Fort Jay in New York.

In 1920, the Republican National Convention opened in Chicago; its delegates ended up nominating Warren G. Harding for president.

In 1939, Britain's King George VI and his consort, Queen Elizabeth, arrived in Washington, D.C., where they were received at the White House by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1948, the "Texaco Star Theater" made its debut on NBC-TV with Milton Berle guest-hosting the first program. (Berle was later named the show's permanent host.)

In 1953, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that restaurants in the District of Columbia could not refuse to serve blacks. Eight tornadoes struck Michigan's Lower Peninsula, killing 126 people.

In 1967, during the six-day Middle East war, 34 American servicemen were killed when Israel attacked the USS Liberty, a Navy intelligence-gathering ship in the Mediterranean Sea. (Israel later said the Liberty had been mistaken for an Egyptian vessel.)

In 1978, a jury in Clark County, Nevada, ruled the so-called "Mormon will," purportedly written by the late billionaire Howard Hughes, was a forgery.

In 1987, Fawn Hall began testifying at the Iran-Contra hearings, describing how, as secretary to National Security aide Oliver L. North, she had helped shred some documents and spirit away others.

In 1998, the National Rifle Association elected actor Charlton Heston to be its president.

Ten years ago: A suicide truck bomber struck a U.S. patrol base Sunday in northern Iraq, killing one U.S. soldier. A man went on a knifing rampage in Tokyo, killing seven people. Rafael Nadal won his fourth consecutive French Open title in a rout, 6-1, 6-3, 6-0, again spoiling Roger Federer's bid to complete a career Grand Slam. Yani Tseng of Taiwan became the first rookie in 10 years to win a major, beating Maria Hjorth on the fourth hole of a playoff with a 5-foot birdie on the 18th hole to win the LPGA Championship in Maryland.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and Chinese leader Xi Jinping (shee jihnpeeng) concluded a two-day summit in the California desert that ended with few policy breakthroughs but the prospect of closer personal ties. Serena Williams won her 16th Grand Slam title and her first French Open championship since 2002, beating Maria Sharapova 6-4, 6-4. Palace Malice took charge on the turn for home and won the Belmont Stakes, holding off Preakness winner Oxbow and Kentucky Derby winner Orb.

One year ago: Former FBI Director James Comey, testifying before Congress, asserted that President Donald Trump fired him to interfere with his investigation of Russia's ties to the Trump campaign. British Prime Minister Theresa May's strategy of calling an early election backfired as her Conservatives lost their majority in Parliament. Actress Glenne Headly died in Santa Monica, California, at age 62. Jelena Ostapenko became the first unseeded women's finalist at the French Open in more than 30 years by beating Timea Bacsinszky, 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-3. (Ostapenko went on to win the title.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Jerry Stiller is 91. Actress Millicent Martin is 84. Actor James Darren is 82. Singer Nancy Sinatra is 78. Singer Chuck Negron is 76. Musician Boz Scaggs is 74. Author Sara Paretsky is 71. Actress Sonia Braga is 68. Actress Kathy Baker is 68. Country musician Tony Rice is 67. Rock singer Bonnie Tyler is 67. Actor Griffin Dunne is 63. "Dilbert" creator Scott Adams is 61. Actordirector Keenen Ivory Wayans is 60. Singer Mick Hucknall (Simply Red) is 58. Musician Nick Rhodes (Duran Duran) is 56. Rhythm-and-blues singer Doris Pearson (Five Star) is 52. Actress Julianna Margulies is 51. Actor Dan Futterman is 51. Actor David Sutcliffe is 49. Actor Kent Faulcon is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nicci Gilbert is 48. Actress Kelli Williams is 48. Former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D- Gmail - Connecting -- June 08, 2018

Ariz., is 48. Actor Mark Feuerstein is 47. Contemporary Christian musician Mike Scheuchzer (MercyMe) is 43. Actor Eion Bailey is 42. Tennis player Lindsay Davenport is 42. Rapper Kanye (KAHN'-yay) West is 41. TV personality-actress Maria Menounos is 40. Country singer-songwriter Sturgill Simpson is 40. Blues-rock musician Derek Trucks (The Derek Trucks Band) is 39. Rock singer Alex Band (The Calling) is 37. Folk-bluegrass singer-musician Sara Watkins (Nickel Creek) is 37. Tennis player Kim Clijsters is 35. Actress Torrey DeVitto is 34. Tennis player Jelena Ostapenko is 21.

Thought for Today: "It is not the man who has too little, but the man who craves more, that is poor." - Seneca the Younger, Roman statesman (circa 5 B.C.-A.D. 65).

Got a story or photos to share?

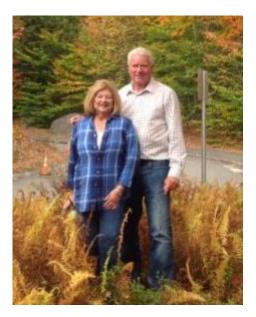
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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