



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting -- July 11, 2018

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 11, 2018 at 8:46 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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Connecting

July 11, 2018

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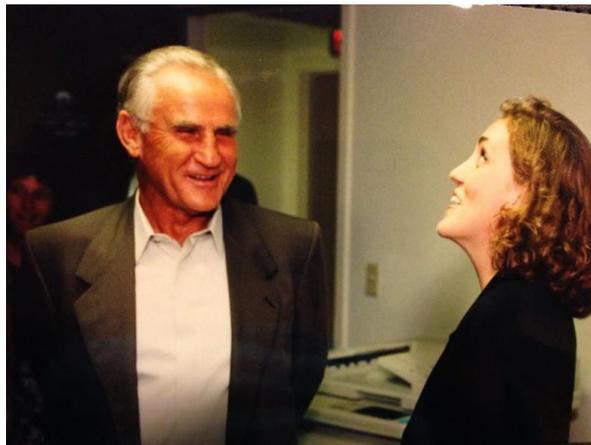
Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Our Connecting colleague **Karen Testa** ([Email](#)) shares news that after a 26-year career with The Associated Press, she will leave the company on Friday.

The AP recently announced it was moving the East Region news operation, which Testa has directed for seven years, from Philadelphia to the AP headquarters offices in New York City. Testa elected not to make the move.

As Kansas City bureau chief, I had the opportunity to hire Testa, then a Miami newswoman, for the Springfield, Missouri, correspondence and she was an excellent choice. Those Florida ties helped when former coach Don Shula came to Branson for some promotional work and her interview with him was the first he had given since he retired from the Miami Dolphins.



She returned to Florida as West Palm Beach correspondent, then to Boston for various positions including Massachusetts and Rhode Island news editor and New England editor.

Like many of you who know and have worked with her, I wish her all the best in her new career chapters.

Today's issue also brings reaction to **Joyce Rosenberg's** post in Tuesday's Connecting on the comment of support she received from a news source and to the announcement of former AP newsman **Scott Kraft** as the new managing editor of the Los Angeles Times.

Have a great day!

Paul

East Region editor Karen Testa leaving AP after 26-year career

Brian Carovillano - AP managing editor: For more than two decades now, Karen Testa has been in the middle of more big stories than you can imagine. She's launched the AP careers of dozens of young journalists. My own AP journey began many years ago with a job interview at the old Boston bureau with Karen, who instantly won me over with her passion for news and her informality.

I'm writing today with the sad news that Karen has decided to leave the AP after a career that led her from a legislative temp posting in Albany to the helm of one of our busiest and most important regions. We understand her decision to stay in Philadelphia with her family as the East Desk relocates, but we'll miss her enthusiasm, energy and commitment. Her last day in the office will be this Friday.

Karen spent seven years as the regional editor for the East, a span that encompassed some of the most memorable stories of our time - from the Boston Marathon bombing to the Bill Cosby trials. Before that, she was news editor in Boston, swinging into action on 9/11 after it became clear one of the planes had taken off from Logan Airport, and covering the 2004 Red Sox World Series win after so, so many years of ineptitude (so many). She's also spent time as a reporter in Florida, Missouri, New York and her native Massachusetts.



In recent years, she has been at the center of our efforts to tell the story of how the Trump presidency is playing out across the 50 states, and how the #metoo movement is changing our society. We are grateful to Karen for her many years of leadership and her relentless pursuit of the news, and we wish her the best in every future endeavor.

And this note from Karen to East Region staff:



Karen and her family - from left: son Sam, now 13; , husband Pete, son Zack, now 15, and Karen.

Karen Testa ([Email](#)) - At a recent high school career day, I played this "I am with the AP" promotional video for students in four consecutive sessions, and at each viewing, I got a bit choked up. Even after 26 years, it's humbling to have the privilege to be in such company.

As a reporter and editor I've been based in six different cities in five US states and have done temporary assignments in three foreign countries. At every stop on my AP journey I've been challenged by colleagues far smarter and wittier than I. What a gift it has been to laugh and learn at work every day.

That's what makes my decision to not move again with AP so difficult. A friend reminded me of the Steve Jobs quote, "It's only by saying 'no' that you can concentrate on the things that are really important." And for me, right now, the people and things that are important are in Philadelphia.

My last day in the office is Friday, but I hope we'll stay connected well beyond. Noreen and Traci will be in touch later today with East administrative and management transition details.

To my East colleagues: I'm excited for your new start with a fresh investment of resources and ideas. I'll remain available this summer for help with questions through the transition and certainly in the event of an all-hands-on-deck news story.

I have made plenty of mistakes along my AP way, and I apologize for anything I've left undone or unsaid. I am grateful for every opportunity and every friendship earned through my work experience, and I'm proud every day of the people who are the lifeblood of The Associated Press.

Connecting mailbox

A note of praise from out of the blue

Joe Edwards ([Email](#)) - Joyce Rosenberg's touching story was similar to one I just experienced.

Out of the blue, I received a message from Woody Bowles, a former executive on Nashville's Music Row. He was the Judds' first manager, and represented several other clients. He now lives in Canada, and I had no contact with him for the last 25 years or so, after writing AP stories about the Judds and others.

"You were always very professional---tough but fair. We all learned a lot from you," he wrote.

I was flabbergasted. I began wondering what he wanted from me, but there is nothing for me to offer since I retired in 2012.

I'll save his kind comments.

-0-

His most touching letter came from Ben Bassett

Arnold Zeitlin (Email) - I am going through my files going back to 1955 when I first joined AP with the object of chucking most of them as I downsize my study.

I came across a brief letter this morning from Ben Bassett, then the AP foreign editor, dated 14 February 1973. That was Valentine's Day, and Ben, a gruff old timer who rarely paid compliments, may have mellowed just for that day. I was on my way out of Pakistan, where opened the first AP bureau, after three and a half years to take up a post as chief of the Manila bureau.

Ben wrote: "I will be a long time before the Paks are hosts to another reporter who looks at their life as acutely as Zeitlin does."

I've received my fair share of kind words from bosses in my time but that note remains the most touching. I don't plan to trash that letter. By the way, the note was well before the era of Kathy Gannon, who has done a magnificent job of reporting from that part of the world.

(Kathy Gannon, AP's chief correspondent for Afghanistan and Pakistan, responded - "I love that story, Arnold, and what a beautiful tribute that speaks not just of your reporting skills but of your respect for the people you cover. Inspiring."

-0-

Scott Kraft's appointment as LA Times managing editor a great choice

Andy Lippman (Email) - Who says there are no "good news" stories anymore?

The announcement of Scott Kraft as managing editor of the LA Times is great news for the paper and for his friends and colleagues. Scott has kept his journalistic integrity and his sanity and smile through some pretty rough years at the Times. It is wonderful to know that the Times is going into a new era, with Scott as ME.

When I came to LA, that position was held by a legend - George Cotliar - and later it was occupied by Dean Baquet. I know that Scott will live up to the high standards they set. That in itself is good news for the Times and its staff. Congrats to the former AP staffer and his wife Betsy, herself a former AP staffer.

'He seemed so small.' AP reporter recounts 1-year-old before immigration judge



Darwin Micheal Mejia, right, holds hands with his mother, Beata Mariana de Jesus Mejia-Mejia, during a news conference after their reunion at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, Friday, June 22, 2018, in Linthicum, Md. The Justice Department agreed to release Mejia-Mejia's son after she sued the U.S. government in order to be reunited following their separation at the U.S. border. Tuesday was the original deadline for tender-aged children to be reunited with their families. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

By DAVID BEARD, Politico

When Astrid Galván entered the Phoenix courtroom at 8:15 a.m. Friday, the AP reporter didn't know what to expect. She had no clue or expectation that she'd soon encounter a story that would turn out to be the biggest of her career.

Fifteen minutes later, a toddler was brought in.

"He was sitting really close to me. It's hard not to look at a really cute baby," Galván said on Monday. "He looked to be in good shape. He looked clean. His hair was combed. He was in dress clothes."

One thing struck her, though. Officials said the boy, whose first name was Johan, was 1 year old, but Johan didn't look much bigger than Galván's own 8-month-old

daughter.

"He seemed so small," Galván said. "You definitely have perspective if you're a mother."

After nearly 90 minutes near the back of the court, the little boy had kicked off his shoes, played with a ball, asked for "agua." Then it was his turn before an immigration judge, who began asking the "defendant" if he understood the proceedings.

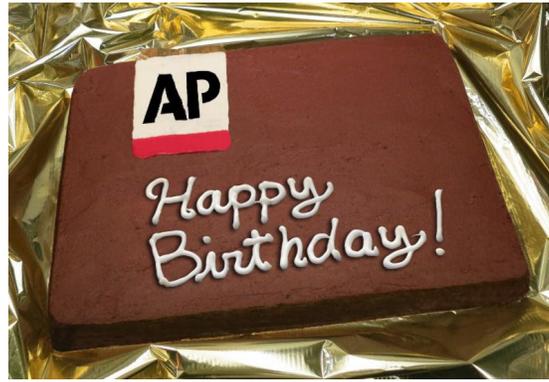
Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

Connecting sunset shot - Bolivia



Kevin Walsh ([Email](#)) - Sunset over the Salar de Uyuni in southwest Bolivia -- the world's largest salt flat.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Kelly Kissel - kkissel@theadvocate.com

Connecting '90s/'80s Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list quarterly. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note.)

90s:

Mercer Bailey
Carl Bell
Albert Habhab
Gene Herrick
Elaine Light
Joe McKnight
Sam Montello
Robert O'Meara
Seymour Topping
Sal Veder
Harold Waters

80s:

Norm Abelson
Paul Albright

Peter Arnett
Malcolm Barr
Lou Boccardi
Ben Brown
Charles Bruce
Hal Buell
Sibby Christensen
Mike Cochran
Eldon Cort
Don Dashiell
Otto Doelling
Phil Dopoulos
John Eagan
Mike Feinsilber
George Hanna
Bob Haring
Jack Howey
Kathryn Johnson
Warren Lerude
Carl Leubsdorf Sr.
Art Loomis
Joe McGowan
Walter Mears
Yvette Mercourt
Reid Miller
Charlie Monzella
Greg Nokes
Joe Somma
Arlon Southall
Hank Waters
Paul Webster
Jeff Williams
Joe Yeninas
Arnold Zeitlin
George Zucker

Stories of interest

***Woman Arrested For Threat Against Walpole
Times Journalist*** (WBZ, Boston)

By **DAVID ROBICHAUD**

WALPOLE (CBS) - A Walpole newspaper office is temporarily shut down after one of its journalists received a specific threat. The woman accused of sending it is under arrest.

She's been a journalist for 40 years, according to her attorney, but 64-year-old Amy Zuckerman is now accused of threatening to harm those in her own profession

Police say Zuckerman sent an email to a writer at The Walpole Times, accompanied by a detailed physical description of the newspaper's office.

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

-0-

Bill Shine's White House Job Isn't Good News For Fox (Buzzfeed)

By **STEVEN PERLBERG**

The appointment of Bill Shine to a White House role has highlighted an awkward reality for executives at Fox News: Sean Hannity is more isolated than ever.

Donald Trump last week hired Shine, a former network copresident who served as Roger Ailes' right-hand man and a close ally to Hannity, as the administration's deputy chief of staff for communications, a move that appeared to reinforce the ties between Trump and his favorite cable news network.

But according to people familiar with the matter, Shine's political ascent has brought renewed stress and paranoia to Fox's executive ranks more than a year after he was forced out of the network amid allegations that he helped cover up the network's culture of sexual harassment.

"The media consensus that this closes the circle between Fox and the White House is wrong," said one Fox News insider. "Bill was fired under unhappy circumstances and felt thrown under the bus by his protégés who did not publicly defend him and now have replaced him."

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - July 11, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, July 11, the 192nd day of 2018. There are 173 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 11, 1804, Vice President Aaron Burr mortally wounded former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton during a pistol duel in Weehawken, New Jersey. (Hamilton died the next day.)

On this date:

In 1767, John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States, was born in Braintree, Massachusetts.

In 1798, the U.S. Marine Corps was formally re-established by a congressional act that also created the U.S. Marine Band.

In 1859, Big Ben, the great bell inside the famous London clock tower, chimed for the first time.

In 1937, American composer and pianist George Gershwin died at a Los Angeles hospital of a brain tumor; he was 38.

In 1952, the Republican National Convention, meeting in Chicago, nominated Dwight D. Eisenhower for president and Richard M. Nixon for vice president.

In 1955, the U.S. Air Force Academy swore in its first class of cadets at its temporary quarters at Lowry Air Force Base in Colorado.

In 1960, the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee was first published by J.B. Lippincott and Co.

In 1972, the World Chess Championship opened as grandmasters Bobby Fischer of the United States and defending champion Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union began play in Reykjavik, Iceland. (Fischer won after 21 games.)

In 1977, the Presidential Medal of Freedom was presented to polio vaccine pioneer Dr. Jonas Salk and (posthumously) to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. by President Jimmy Carter.

In 1979, the abandoned U.S. space station Skylab made a spectacular return to Earth, burning up in the atmosphere and showering debris over the Indian Ocean and Australia.

In 1991, a Nigeria Airways DC-8 carrying Muslim pilgrims crashed at the Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, international airport, killing all 261 people on board.

In 1995, the U.N.-designated "safe haven" of Srebrenica (sreh-breh-NEET'-sah) in Bosnia-Herzegovina fell to Bosnian Serb forces, who then carried out the killings of more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys. The United States normalized relations with Vietnam.

Ten years ago: Oil prices reached a record high of \$147.27 a barrel. IndyMac Bank's assets were seized by federal regulators. A North Korean soldier fatally shot a South Korean tourist at a northern mountain resort, further straining relations between the two Koreas. Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, the cardiovascular surgeon who pioneered such procedures as bypass surgery, died in Houston, Texas, at age 99.

Five years ago: In a potential setback for George Zimmerman, the jury at the neighborhood watch captain's second-degree murder trial in Sanford, Florida, was given the option of convicting him on the lesser charge of manslaughter in the shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. (Zimmerman ended up being acquitted of all charges.) Tens of thousands of workers across Brazil walked off their jobs in a mostly peaceful nationwide strike, demanding better working conditions and improved public services in Latin America's largest nation.

One year ago: Emails released by Donald Trump Jr. revealed that he'd been told before meeting with a Russian attorney during the presidential campaign that the Russian government had information that could "incriminate" Hillary Clinton. MSNBC "Morning Joe" host and former Republican congressman Joe Scarborough announced that he was leaving the Republican party, partly because of its loyalty to President Donald Trump. Seattle's Robinson Cano homered off Cubs closer Wade Davis leading off the 10th inning and the American League beat the National League 2-1 in the All-Star game.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Susan Seaforth Hayes is 75. Singer Jeff Hanna (Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 71. Ventriloquist-actor Jay Johnson is 69. Actor Bruce McGill is 68. Singer Bonnie Pointer is 68. Actor Stephen Lang is 66. Actress Mindy Sterling is 65. Boxer Leon Spinks is 65. Actress Sela Ward is 62. Reggae singer Michael Rose (Black Uhuru) is 61. Singer Peter Murphy is 61. Actor Mark Lester is 60. Jazz musician Kirk Whalum is 60. Singer Suzanne Vega is 59. Rock guitarist Richie Sambora (Bon Jovi) is 59. Actress Lisa Rinna is 55. Rock musician Scott Shriner (Weezer) is 53. Actress Debbe (correct) Dunning is 52. Actor Greg Grunberg is 52. Wildlife expert Jeff Corwin is 51. Actor Justin Chambers is 48. Actress Leisha Hailey is 47. Actor Michael Rosenbaum is 46. Pop-rock singer Andrew Bird is 45. Country singer Scotty Emerick is 45. Rapper Lil' Kim is 43. Actor Jon Wellner is 43. Rock singer Ben Gibbard is 42. Rapper Lil' Zane is 36. Pop-jazz singer-musician Peter Cincotti is 35. Actress Serinda Swan is 34. Actor Robert Adamson is 33. Actor David Henrie is 29. Actor Connor Paolo is 28. Tennis player Caroline Wozniacki is 28. R&B/pop singer Alessia Cara is 22.

Thought for Today: "Those people who think only of themselves, are hopelessly uneducated. They are not educated, no matter how instructed they may be." - Nicholas Murray Butler, American educator (1862-1947).

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.

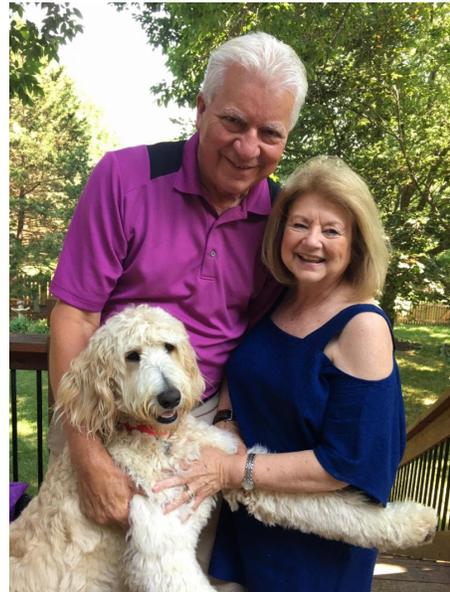
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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

Connecting newsletter, [14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215](#)

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