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### Connecting - April 30, 2019

1 message

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# Connecting

April 30, 2019



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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of May 2019,

**AP Productions** is a new and emerging part of the company's business operations - and in our lead story today, you'll learn how it took part in a documentary on the Holocaust that will be aired tomorrow on the Discovery Channel.

Our mailbox is full with great stories today. Keep them coming...

Have a great day!

Paul

# New AP Productions unit a partner in Holocaust documentary to be aired Wednesday



Michael Fabiano, VP of Local Media for The Associated Press, introduces "Liberation Heroes" at The Paley Center For Media, April 23, 2019. (Photo: Peter Costanzo)

**Patrick Maks** (Email) - After serving as a production partner in the making of "Liberation Heroes: The Last Witnesses." AP hosted a New York screening of the documentary that captures the testimonies of World War II veterans who helped free Holocaust survivors from German concentration camps.

The film, presented by June Beallor Productions and Andy Friendly Productions in association with USC Shoah Foundation. is set to air tomorrow (Wednesday, May 1) at 7 p.m. ET on Discovery Channel in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day.



More than 150 people gathered last week at the Paley Center for Media to watch the film, which recounts the unshackling of Nazi Germany through the eyes of World War II veteran Alan Moskin and several others while drawing parallels between past and present times.

"The film comprises eyewitness accounts of one mankind's darkest moments, but also these heroes' enduring, final plea to never stand idly by," said Michael Fabiano, AP vice president for local media, as he introduced the film at the screening. "This message is as important today globally as it ever was. This story must be told and retold."



A panel discussion followed the screening of "Liberation Heroes," which included members of the production team and WWII veteran Alan Moskin, who was featured in the film, April 23, 2019. (Photo: Peter Costanzo)

Notably, AP Productions, a new and emerging part of the company's business operations, received two production credits in connection with its role as the film's special news partner. Through Discovery, the film could reach 88.3 million U.S. homes and 224 countries and territories.

The screening audience included Moskin and family of CBS broadcasting legends Edward Murrow and Fred Friendly.

# **Connecting mailbox**

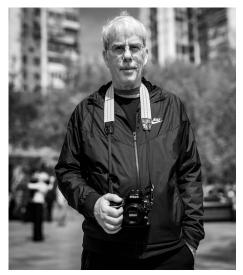
## Former AP journalist Patrick Casey creates web site of photos from China



**Lindel Hutson** (Email) - Patrick Casey, who has worked for Chinese news agencies in Beijing since leaving the AP several years ago, has created a unique web site of black and white photos he's taken of life in China.

Click **here** for a link to the site, which includes the photo above.

In his web site, Casey writes: "My comfortable Beijing neighborhood changes by the day, by the hour, sometimes by the minute. It has a singular pulse that beats to the weather, traffic, work and commerce. My neighborhood celebrates the old, the young and not so young, pets, recreation and light. This is its ongoing story in black and white. Patrick Casey is a retired Associated Press newsman with a long-standing interest in China and black and white photography. He has lived in China's capital city since 2008 and can be reached at patrick.casey@live.com



**Pat Casey** 

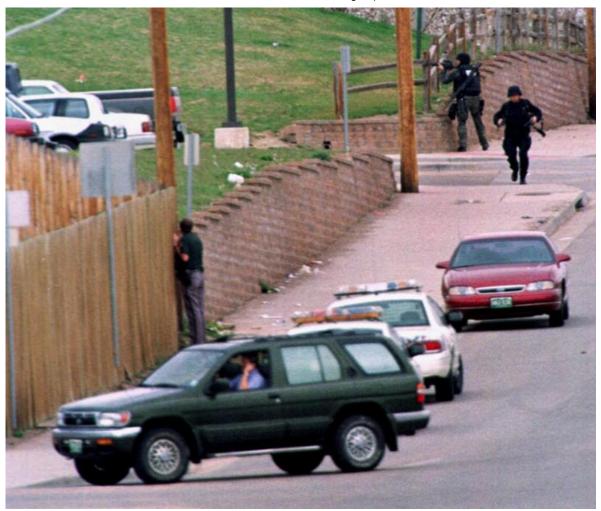
Casey was hired to the AP in Oklahoma City in 1987 by Robert Shaw. Casey, a native of

Valparaiso, IN, had been a reporter at the Arkansas Democrat in Little Rock. He had been hired to the Democrat by former Arkansas Chief of Bureau John Robert Starr.

Casey left Oklahoma City and went to AP in New York and from there to Beijing.

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## Proud of her AP-Denver photographer brother



In this April 20, 1999, file photo, SWAT members run down Pierce Street while a Jefferson County, Colo., Sheriff's Department deputy peers through a fence to keep an eye on Columbine High School after a pair of gunmen went on a shooting rampage inside the facility in Littleton, Colo. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski, File)



Cassandra Sandusky, right, a graduate of Columbine High School, pauses with her friend, Jennifer Dunmore, at a row of crosses bearing the names of the victims of the attack at the school 20 years ago before a program for the victims Saturday, April 20, 2019, in Littleton, Colo. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

Sonya Zalubowski (Email) - Thanks for the Connecting column honoring Columbine 20th anniversary coverage. I just wanted to mention that my brother David Zalubowski, now Denver AP's sole photographer, also added to the coverage, both in the past covering the initial scary event and the anniversary with the scare of that Miami woman.

Dave has to squeeze news into an already overloaded sports coverage - this week the NBA playoffs, hockey playoffs and a nine-game Rockies baseball stint beginning. I know everywhere the media is being squeezed thanks to Internet, etc., and that everywhere in the AP, staffers do incredible work but just felt in this case it warranted mention...especially for the morale of such staffers.

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## A timely use of quail eggs

**Dan Day** (Email) - The Tootsie Roll story (by Vahe Gregorian in Monday's Connecting) gave me a good laugh over lunch today, and it reminded me a bit of what follows.

On the afternoon of Easter Sunday, a couple of buddies who work at Princeton came over to our house to brew some beer. To counterbalance the beer intake, my wife set out several snacks, including some brie and crostini.

My friend Morgan picked one up of the little toasts and noted the perfectly round hole in the middle of it.

"You know what would be perfect with this?" he said. "A quail egg."

"We've got some!" I blurted out.

Ten seconds later, Becky emerged from the pantry holding a can of quail eggs that we'd bought a few weeks back, the only quail eggs we've ever had in the house in nearly 39 years of marriage.

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## His letter to editor: Making a mockery of politics

**Jim Carlson** (Email) - Thanks for the Woodward-Borenstein story on cow farts (in Monday's Connecting).

Coincidentally, I had a letter to the editor published in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Sunday in reaction to a couple of our GOP House members taking off on the same subject to criticize Democrats. Here it is:

#### Making a mockery of politics

It was somewhat amusing to read of U.S. Reps. Sean Duffy of Hayward and Bryan Steil of Janesville making fun of Democrats over a comment about cows in a Green New Deal fact sheet ("Duffy, Steil mock DNC, Green New Deal in podcast," April 18).

They took off on a statement about cutting pollution, including emissions from "farting cows," and said Democrats should talk about it next year when their national convention is in Milwaukee, part of America's Dairyland.

It's always fun to mock others, but I would rather see these lawmakers join with Democrats to focus on ways to stop the man-made climate change plaquing our planet. Or maybe they could deal with real problems of the dairy industry because of excessive production and dropping prices with the unending growth of factory farms, leading to the deaths of so many small family farms in Wisconsin.

And let's give Milwaukee credit for being chosen to host the national convention, even if you are from the other major party. Or have these lawmakers decided to stay in attack mode, no matter what the issue?

# Spotted in Verdun, France



## THE PRESS

"What a laugh when we read the papers, which we don't do often!" Letter from a German soldier on 15 April 1916 "They're very clever, these journalists, but their opinions are a bit dumb. They're a bit too quick to confuse the desires of people at the rear with realities." Letter from a French soldier, 27 June 1916

**Kevin Walsh** (Email) - Spotted at the Verdun Memorial Museum in Verdun, France. Site of one the deadliest battles of World War I, during which 300,000 French and German soldiers were killed.

# New-member profile - Vahe Gregorian

Vahe Gregorian (Email) joined The Kansas City Star staff as a sports columnist in 2013 after 25 years at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. He has covered 20-plus Final Fours and numerous college football national title games and 10 Olympic Games. He was born in Beirut, Lebanon, and is a 1983 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where he was an English major and a seldom-seen wide receiver on the 1982 Ivy League cochampions. He earned his master's degree in journalism at the University of Missouri in 1988, and he spent 2003-2004 in Ann Arbor as a Knight-Wallace Fellow at the University of Michigan. Vahe has coauthored books with Michigan State's George Perles and then-Northwestern coach Gary Barnett. His work has been featured in The Best American Sportswriting. and among his honors and awards he has been



recognized by the Associated Press Sports Editors as the No. 1 sports columnist in the nation in 2018.

# **Mercury Welcomes Veteran Editor** Karen Testa

### Former Associated Press Editor Joins Global Bipartisan Firm

Philadelphia, PA - Mercury, a leading global, bipartisan public strategy firm, today announced the addition of veteran editor and reporter Karen Testa to its best in-class operation. Testa has more than 25 years of experience ranging from local reporting to leading global coverage of breaking news and major events at one of the world's largest news organizations, The Associated Press (AP). She joins the Mercury public affairs team as a Senior Vice President.



"We are excited to welcome Karen Testa to Mercury," said Mercury Partner Mike DuHaime. "Karen's decades of experience as a journalist are a tremendous asset to our distinguished national media strategy operation. Mercury continues to build the country's most talented team of public affairs professionals, helping the clients we serve achieve success."

Mercury is committed to bringing together accomplished leaders in all arenas to solve problems and craft winning strategies for clients. Testa served for seven years as the AP's top editor for the Eastern U.S., overseeing the news report, hiring and staff development for 10 states, including all of New England, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and

Pennsylvania, as well as the regional publishing center based in Philadelphia. She led coverage of breaking news, the development of engaging enterprise and government accountability reporting. She also led coverage of major events, including the historic visit of Pope Francis to the U.S.

"I am thrilled to join the ranks of the exceptionally talented strategists at Mercury," said Testa. "After more than two decades in journalism, I am ready to bring my proven skills and experience to a world-class bipartisan firm and deliver results for our clients."

During her time at the AP, Testa pioneered the AP's Sexual Misconduct beat team, adding depth and context to coverage amid the #MeToo movement. Prior to her work as East editor, she served as the AP's New England editor, based out of Boston, where she led the coverage of the aftermath of the attacks on 9/11, the first state to legalize gay marriage and the Red Sox ending their 86-year World Series drought. She has reported from New York, Florida, Missouri and across New

England on national and statewide political campaigns, terror attacks, natural disasters, social movements, professional sports, landmark court cases and compelling human interest stories.

A native of Georgetown, Massachusetts, Testa is a graduate of Syracuse University. While she maintains her Boston sports allegiance, she lives outside Philadelphia with her husband and two teenage sons.

Click here for a link to this story. Karen Testa's email is - testawong@gmail.com

# Emporer Akihito's abdication set for today evokes memories of 1978 visit



**Glenn Adams** (Email) - Myron Belkind's profile (in Monday's Connecting) that references Emperor Akihito brings to mind our meeting with then-Crown Prince Akihito when I was a member of a Rotary International Group Study Exchange in 1978. I was then a writer for "Today's Post" in King of Prussia near Philadelphia and was team photographer for our group visit. (I joined the AP in 1981.) Here is a story of the visit:

The news of Japanese Emperor Akihito's plan to step down from the Chrysanthemum Throne brought back memories of our meeting with him decades ago at the Imperial Palace when he was Crown Prince.

Akihito, who is 85, cited his advancing age in announcing his desire to abdicate as of April 30, 2019. His eldest son, Crown Prince Naruhito, was designated to succeed Akihito as emperor.

Akihito, son of Emperor Hirohito, was a much younger man when I had the rare opportunity to meet him. I was part of a six-man Group Study Exchange sponsored by Rotary International in April 1978. It was an extraordinary six-week visit, with a jam-packed schedule of tours highlighting many phases of Japanese business, culture, recreation and social services. We were representing a Philadelphia-area district, where the Japanese would send a delegation in exchange.

Given Rotary's high standing in the Japanese social and business world, our team was given first-class treatment and accommodations everywhere we went during our stay. We stayed in four-star hotels, were wined and dined extravagantly and at times were driven in black limousines marked with little flags on the front fenders. Among those we had the privilege of meeting were Supreme Court justices and then-Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, in addition to Akihito.

I was selected to be our team's photographer, assigned to keep a pictorial record of our whirlwind tour. Security wasn't as intense then as it is in this post-9/11 world, but occasional bag-checking was not unheard of. So I was amazed when no security personnel showed any interest in looking in my camera bag as we prepared to meet with the prime minister.

That was not the case at all before our much-anticipated meeting with the Crown Prince. As a matter of protocol and respect, no camera - other than the one toted by the official palace photographer - was allowed in our meeting room. We were given instructions on how to address the Crown Prince and act in his presence. We would rise and bow when he entered the chamber, and under no circumstances let our back face him.

After waiting a short time, Akihito entered through a double door. Our hosts, who included the Rotary Tokyo District governor, bowed reverently. We also bowed and then were allowed to sit in red chairs at the window side of the pine-paneled chamber. The chairs were situated near a pair of black lacquer-topped tables, set with four ashtrays, match boxes printed with the royal symbol and a cigarette case on a silver tray. I don't recall anyone smoking during our meeting.

The Crown Prince wore a plain blue-gray business suit, white shirt and dark tie, and spoke softly. His English was good, but deliberate, "and he stared straight and unflinchingly as each of us was introduced - by order of age," my diary of the trip says. His hair was mostly dark, with gray around the temples.

The conversation went smoothly. He asked about our impressions of Japan. and we mentioned the orderliness and politeness of people, the cleanliness of Tokyo. customs we were learning to appreciate, foods that we had come to enjoy, and historic and religious sites we had visited. "The prince remained virtually expressionless most of the time," my notes say.

Then he spoke, saying he had visited Philadelphia 25 years earlier, coinciding with the centennial of the opening of trade between Japan and the Western World. He showed particular interest in one of the other team member's area of expertise, juvenile justice. I asked what, as a state leader, he thought was the major concern of Japanese people, and what changes he'd like to see. Akihito said his major concern was preserving tradition, history and the nation's ancient culture, and harmonizing it with modern trends and technology. "Harmony," he kept saying.

As we spoke, servants brought in trays of sweets and green tea through doors behind the prince, bowing each time without facing him directly.

The time came for our visit to wrap up, and it ended pleasantly with good wishes and more bows. If there was a theme, it was keeping tradition in modern times. Of course a lot has changed since our immersion in Japanese life and culture in 1978, but much has remained unchanged as well.

The past lives on in the Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples we visited, and in the mountain village of Nikko, home of the shoguns from centuries past. Speeding forward through the ages, we rode the Shinkansen (known in the West as the "Bullet Train") at 126 mph through Nagoya to Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan.

Our tours included rice and milk production and distribution sites, Tokyo's expansive fish market, tire manufacturing, railroad research and development, government centers including the National Diet, and more. We were treated to a lunch of fish that were caught by net, gutted, scaled and deep fried - all aboard an antique boat as we sailed on the Edo River. At the Supreme Court, a justice insisted we sit on the jurists' seats and try on his robe. At a sumo school, we watched the wrestlers practice and sampled a lunch like a sumo wrestler would eat: beer, two cooked fish, seaweed, raw yellow-tail fish, cool broth, soy and rice cakes and noodles.

One of the most memorable tours started with a train ride from Tokyo, past terraced mountainsides, rice fields and villages. Gradually the mountainsides got closer and steeper. We then boarded three black cabs, which took us up a winding mountain road to boiling sulfur springs before we boarded a cable car, which carried us over a sprawling cedar forest before landing near the berth of a 17th-Century sailboat. We boarded the replica craft and sailed across the gleaming blue Lake Ashinoko to Hakone. Mount Fuji was not visible at first, but the following dawn brought us a breathtaking view of the snow-capped mountain.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



To

Ben Brown - babrown@charter.net Dick Lipsey - richardiii.runner@usa.net Sarah Wilson - show@rochsent.com

## Stories of interest

# NBC News chairman an unexpected figure in Mississippi news

### By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - Born and raised in Manhattan and a national news executive for much of his career, Andrew Lack would seem an unlikely figure behind an attempt to revive the ailing local news industry in Mississippi.

Quietly, NBC's news chairman has been the key person behind Mississippi Today, an online news site that has been operating for three years. It is one of several

experimental approaches to journalism seeking traction during a painful time of retrenchment for local news.

Why Lack? And why Mississippi?

Although Lack never lived there, it's where his mother is from. His great-grandfather was the mayor of Greenville, Mississippi. When the 71-year-old executive considered some charitable endeavors, he was drawn south and considered buying a newspaper until becoming intrigued by the pioneering Texas Tribune's success.

Read more here.

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## Wash Post takes reality to new levels



A screenshot from "12 Seconds of Gunfire: The True Story of a School Shooting." (Courtesy of The Washington Post)

### By TOM JONES, Poynter Institute

The story is heartbreaking: a 6-year-old girl dealing with the loss of her best friend in a school shooting.

There are many ways to tell that story, but The Washington Post strived for something different. It wanted to take its audience inside the world of that little girl. To do so, the Post came up with an 360-degree, virtual reality, animated film called "12 Seconds of Gunfire: The True Story of a School Shooting."

The 8-minute film tells the story of Ava Olsen, whose best friend was killed in a 2016 school shooting in South Carolina.

It's risky to tackle such a topic in this form, but the Post succeeded, in part because of thorough and sensitive reporting by John Woodrow Cox, who wrote the script and whose original story was the basis for the film.

I had a chance to talk to Jeremy Gilbert, the Post's director of strategic initiatives, and Post design editor Suzette Moyer about their groundbreaking work in a story on Poynter.org.

Gilbert told me, "We wanted to do something where the act of being immersed in it makes the story richer and more compelling than it would be any other way."

Click here to view.

# Today in History - April 30, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 30, the 120th day of 2019. There are 245 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On April 30, 1975, the Vietnam War ended as the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon fell to Communist forces.

#### On this date:

In 1789, George Washington took the oath of office in New York as the first president of the United States.

In 1803, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for 60 million francs, the equivalent of about \$15 million.

In 1812, Louisiana became the 18th state of the Union.

In 1900, engineer John Luther "Casey" Jones of the Illinois Central Railroad died in a train wreck near Vaughan, Mississippi, after staying at the controls in a successful effort to save the passengers.

In 1912, Universal Studios had its beginnings as papers incorporating the Universal Film Manufacturing Co. were filed and recorded in New York State.

In 1945, as Soviet troops approached his Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler committed suicide along with his wife of one day, Eva Braun.

In 1968, New York City police forcibly removed student demonstrators occupying five buildings at Columbia University.

In 1970, President Richard M. Nixon announced the U.S. was sending troops into Cambodia, an action that sparked widespread protest.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon announced the resignations of top aides H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and White House counsel John Dean, who was actually fired.

In 1983, blues singer and guitarist Muddy Waters died in Westmont, Ill., at age 68.

In 1993, top-ranked women's tennis player Monica Seles was stabbed in the back during a match in Hamburg, Germany, by a man who described himself as a fan of second-ranked German player Steffi Graf. (The man, convicted of causing grievous bodily harm, was given a suspended sentence.)

In 2004, Arabs expressed outrage at graphic photographs of naked Iraqi prisoners being humiliated by U.S. military police; President George W. Bush condemned the mistreatment of prisoners, saying "that's not the way we do things in America."

Ten years ago: Riding a crest of populist anger, the House approved, 357-70, a bill to restrict credit card practices and eliminate sudden increases in interest rates and late fees. Chrysler filed for bankruptcy protection; the federal government pledged up to \$8 billion in additional aid and to back warranties. The Iraq war formally ended for British forces as they handed control of the oil-rich Basra area to U.S. commanders. A man drove his car into a crowd of parade spectators in Amsterdam, killing seven people in an attempt to attack the Dutch royal family (the attacker, Karst Tates, died of his injuries).

Five years ago: Iraq voted in its first nationwide election since U.S. troops withdrew in 2011. Police in Northern Ireland arrested Sinn Fein (shin fayn) party leader Gerry Adams over his alleged involvement in the Irish Republican Army's 1972 abduction, killing and secret burial of a 38-year-old Belfast widow, Jean McConville (Adams was released without charge). A lawyer for Toronto Mayor Rob Ford said Ford would take a leave of absence to seek help for substance abuse.

One year ago: Central Americans who traveled in a caravan through Mexico to the U.S. border near San Diego began turning themselves in to U.S. authorities to seek asylum in a challenge to the Trump administration. New details emerged on a rift between White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and President Donald Trump, with one former administration official saying Kelly had privately called Trump "an idiot." (Trump announced in December that Kelly would be leaving at the end of the year.) The Time's Up campaign, devoted to helping women in the aftermath of sexual abuse, called for further investigation into allegations that singer R. Kelly had sexually abused women. (R. Kelly would be charged in February with 10 counts of aggravated sexual abuse; investigators alleged that he had abused three girls and a woman starting in the late 1990s.)

Today's Birthdays: Actress Cloris Leachman is 93. Singer Willie Nelson is 86. Actor Burt Young is 79. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden is 73. Movie director Allan Arkush is 71. Actor Perry King is 71. Singer-musician Wayne Kramer is 71. Singer Merrill Osmond is 66. Movie director Jane Campion is 65. Movie director Lars von Trier is 63. Former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper is 60. Actor Paul Gross is 60. Basketball Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas is 58. Country musician Robert Reynolds is 57. Actor Adrian Pasdar is 54. Rock singer J.R. Richards (Dishwalla) is 52. Rapper Turbo B (Snap) is 52. Rock musician Clark Vogeler is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chris "Choc" Dalyrimple (Soul For Real) is 48. Rock musician Chris Henderson (3 Doors Down) is 48. Country singer Carolyn Dawn Johnson is 48. Actress Lisa Dean Ryan is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Akon is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jeff Timmons (98 Degrees) is 46. Actor Johnny Galecki is 44. Singer-musician Cole Deggs (Cole Deggs and the Lonesome) is 43. Actor Sam Heughan is 39. Actor Kunal Nayyar is 38. Rapper Lloyd Banks is 37. Actress Kirsten Dunst is 37. Country singer Tyler Wilkinson (The Wilkinsons) is 35. Actress Dianna Agron is 33. Country singer Brandon Lancaster is 30. Rapper/producer Travis Scott is 28.

Thought for Today: "The trouble with our age is all signposts and no destination." - Louis Kronenberger, American author (1904-1980).

# **Connecting calendar**



June 20 - 25-Year Club Celebration, 5:30 - 8 p.m., AP headquarters, 200 Liberty Street, New York, NY. RSVP by May 10. RSVP online here. Any questions may be directed to recognition@ap.org

August 17 - Albany AP bureau reunion (including other upstate bureaus), 1-5 p.m., Marc and Carla Humbert residence on Tsatsawassa Lake, 68 Marginal Way, East Nassau, NY. Contact: Chris McKnight (Email).

## 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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