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Connecting - May 16, 2019

1 message

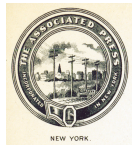
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Thu, May 16, 2019 at 8:43 AM

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Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 16th day of May 2019,

Our colleague **Arnold Zeitlin** shares the story of a person whose influence changed his life - tipping him to a job in Pittsburgh that led eventually to his first marriage and the birth of his children. That person was his New York friend **Mort Hochstein**, who celebrates his 90th birthday on June 1.

Here's a suggestion from Arnold and me to share your own story on someone who was a game-changer for your life and for your career.

"When Gracie looks into my eyes I think about my goal in life - to be the kind of person that Gracie already thinks I am."

Connecting colleague **Ed Williams**, a retired journalism professor at Auburn University, summed up his feelings about his miniature schnauzer with love and eloquence - and his is among the first responses we bring you in today's edition on our call for stories about the pets in your lives and careers.



Gracie

Susan Ragan shared the story of her horse, Walter, who blew his two front ligaments, ending his racing career and perhaps dooming him to be destroyed. She adopted him 20 years ago while doing an AP story on racehorse rescue and he will be 23 this June.

Here's hoping you will share your own pet story - my own will come tomorrow.

Have a great day!

Paul

Remembering someone who changed his life

Arnold Zeitlin ([Email](#)) - Mort Hochstein, my longest surviving friend (we've known each over 60 years) will celebrate his 90th birthday in New York City's Chinatown on June 1. Because of a conflict with a family occasion in Virginia, I can't make his celebration. I regret not being with him because Mort changed my life.

I was on the AP sports desk in New York in the mid-to-late 50s. On the side, I was writing articles for a variety of newspaper Sunday magazines about people from their circulation areas who were making it in show biz on Broadway or elsewhere in New York. For a while, I was making as much money from the side activity as I was

earning from AP. In connection with that side writing, I met Mort, who was handling public relations for NBC in New York.

AP wanted me to get out of New York and into the field, so I chose in 1958 to go to the AP bureau in Philadelphia, my hometown, where I moved back in with my parents. I still got into NYC for my article writing and did some stuff out of Philly. I remember one on Meredith Wilson when he brought *The Music Man* to Philadelphia for a pre-Broadway trial.

Mort got in touch with me in 1958. He said Hearst's Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph was looking for a TV columnist. I got the job for \$144 a week, more than AP was paying and moved to Pittsburgh. That move was a life changer, thanks to Mort.

Bill Block, owner of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, in 1960 bought the Sun-Tele. I was one of the few Sun-Tele staffers who kept a job. But I was unhappy. I still was making that \$144 a week two years after I started writing the column, which had won me a Pittsburgh Press Club award as best entertainment columnist.

Along came John F. Kennedy and the Peace Corps. My one journalism hero at that time was Ed Murrow. He had just left a six-figure job at CBS to head USIS for Kennedy at \$25K a year. Big sacrifice! So I applied to the Peace Corps thinking I'd use my journalism background to become a Peace Corps PR guy. My Ed Murrow-type sacrifice. Instead, I was offered a volunteer's position, even more a sacrifice (no pay). I was one of two people from Pittsburgh selected to be a volunteer. The other was a young woman named Marian Frank.

A Post-Gazette feature writer invited Marian to the office for an interview, then brought her to my office to meet me (nobody interviewed me).

She and I went to the Berkeley campus of the University of California for training to go to Ghana as the first group of volunteers to go into service. Ghana is where Marian and I married in December of 1961 and the rest is history: meaning our kids, Jenny, Veronica and Jide.

All was possible because Mort tipped me to that job in Pittsburgh. I am eternally grateful, and so should the kids.

One more weird facet to this story. Fast forward 50 years to Pittsburgh in 2009. Karen Zhang arrives in Pittsburgh from China to start her master's program in creative non-fiction at Chatham University. She is assigned a graduate apartment in a university-owned building on Fifth Avenue.

On my first visit to her, I found the building and her apartment familiar. I went back to my old files and found the telegram I received in 1961 informing me I had been accepted for Peace Corps training. My address in 1961 was the same as Karen's in 2009 -- she was occupying the same apartment I had rented 50 years before. Fate! She and I married in 2010.

I'll blame Mort for that, too.

All about you and your beloved pets

Jim Carlson ([Email](#)) - Yes, we're another couple of dog-lovers, now on our fifth standard poodle. Over the years, I got involved with a dog training club and showed three of them in AKC obedience shows, which was quite a challenge but also a lot of fun. Of course, scheduling always had to be fit in with my AP shifts, but that was never much of a problem.



I've also written a bunch of dog-related songs, enough for a CD that I gave to all the fellow participants when we were in the puppy class with our current pup.

The main theme is summed up in the song "Talking Dogs." It's about the connection of people with their pets, NOT about the sounds that dogs sometimes make.

You can find it on YouTube by clicking [here](#). You can find it on YouTube with a search for "Talking Dogs Gigi."

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Gilly the Tabby and Turk the Tuxedo.

Ruth Gersh ([Email](#)) - I never had pets growing up, given a brother allergic to everything. (Well, there was a procession of goldfish, all of whom were named Moby Dick, but somehow they don't really qualify.) My first foray into "real" pet companionship was directly tied to my AP career. When I first got to the Louisville as news editor, the bureau was still in the bowels of the newspaper building, next to the composing room. When they still had composing rooms. Someone from the paper wandered into the office and announced they had puppies looking for a home. I answered simply that "I like cats." Two minutes later one of the sports writers walks in and says, "I hear someone wants a cat." Despite protesting that that wasn't what I had actually said, I somehow ended up with a cat. Given her provenance from the Sports Department, I named her Agate. And when she got a sister, her name, of course, had to be Pica. Although Pica never did grow up taller than Agate. Both lived to ripe old feline ages of 17 and 20. Their current successors are Turk and Gilly.

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Jerry Harkavy ([Email](#)) - My wife, Addy, and I have had dogs since we met more than 35 years ago. We had German Shepherds, arguably the smartest of dogs, for many years, until hip problems in the breed prompted us to go in a different direction.



Over the past two decades we've had a briard, a wirehaired dachshund and a 200-pound Irish wolfhound. Unfortunately, the lifespan of the giant breeds is tragically short, and Isaac made it only to five. But his ashes still have a place of honor in our bedroom on Addy's dresser.

We are now both in our 70s and agree that we should no longer have a dog that either of us is unable to lift alone. For sure, that rules out another wolfhound. But we've fallen in love with Cardigan Welsh Corgis and find them to be the perfect breed. Unlike Pembroke Corgis, Cardis have no royal blood. But they do have tails, which we think is better.



We have four of them, which I admit is perhaps borderline eccentric. But Addy is able to rationalize this by noting that the combined weight of our four corgis is still considerably less than Isaac's.

Top: Gus, Greta and Maxine Bottom: Daisy, with Maxine in the background

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Susan Ragan (Email) - Walter is a Thoroughbred racehorse and will be 23 this June. That is bad because he was only a year-and-a-half old before they started running him full bore boogie. His two front suspensory ligaments were blown before he was aged three.



I was doing a story on racehorse rescue because the main system of disposal was the slaughterhouse. Horse meat is consumed in Europe and Asia and is used here for dog food.

While I was there at the rescue site, a trailer pulled up from Golden Gate Fields in the Bay Area. This absolutely stunning racehorse limped off with both front legs swollen and bandaged from the ruptured ligaments.

The owner of the rescue farm said, "Do you want him? He'll never be a riding horse." I told him yes, but I only wanted to look at him anyway because he was so beautiful. After a year off, not only did he become a riding horse, but he's never been lame in the 20 years I've had him.

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Joyce Rosenberg ([Email](#)) - Paul, where do I begin?

My colleagues over the decades have known all about my cats, and I certainly have gotten a reputation as a crazy cat lady at AP in New York. But as my friends know, I am also a dogless crazy dog lady.



My coworkers have listened to many stories over the years, met my cats and given me great support when I have lost them. Of course, they have been a way to connect with AP colleagues who have also shared their stories, joys, concerns. Sally Jacobsen would often entertain me with stories about Dazzy, one of her Airedales, who was quite the food thief, downing an entire roasted chicken on one occasion and two homemade loaves of bread on another. When a coworker brought his black Lab into the office a few years ago, I was in heaven.



Certainly, there were/are people who truly think I'm a crazy cat lady. But I have counted seven male coworkers in the past 10 or so years who came up to me, and asked in a lowered voice, "can I ask you something? It's about my cat." And a couple of them admitted that my supposed craziness was now coming in handy.

I have had eight cats of my own since I was 8, and two dogs, both when I was growing up. But I am an auntie to my friends' animals as well. The wallpaper on my AP laptop is always someone else's dog or cat. The best thing my mother did for me was to bring animals into my life.

So my older AP colleagues will remember Mitzi, who I got when I was 15 and had for 19 wonderful years. She is the tortoiseshell you'll see in one photo. After she died I was so depressed I went 10 years without a cat, hard to believe. She was followed by Seika, the little tuxedo who my husband Marty Sutphin and I took after our grandson became allergic to her. I had her for nearly seven years. And she was followed by three Snowshoe Siamese, Lizzie, Leo and Sebastian. I lost Leo too early, at nine, but his siblings are now 13, showing their age but always my babies.



Cats are amazing animals, just fascinating. Dogs are pure joy. They have made my life rich.

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Ed Williams (Email) - A story I wrote about a dog named Boots probably got more reader reaction than anything else I ever wrote as a weekly newspaper reporter more than 40 years ago.

Everybody in that small town of Jackson, Alabama, knew Boots.

After breakfast Boots would amble down to McGowin Service Station early each morning where he would spend the day. Seven days a week.

Thing is Boots couldn't tell days of the week and he didn't quite understand about the station being closed on Sundays. After hanging out for an hour or so Boots would head back home for the Sabbath, waiting for Monday.

When I think about places I've lived, jobs that I've held, I think about the dog that was in my life at that time. Blackie, Lucy, Lucky, Frank, Molly.



In retirement the dog in my life is miniature schnauzer Gracie.

When Gracie looks into my eyes I think about my goal in life - to be the kind of person that Gracie already thinks I am.

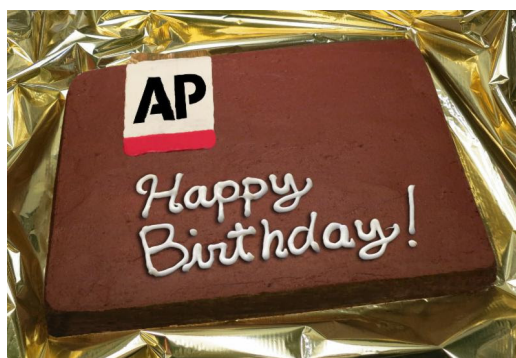
A meeting of AP-UPI friends in Concord



AP-UPI group on Wednesday, May 15, in Concord, N.H., monthly retirees lunch. Next one is on June 19, noon Longhorn restaurant, Concord.

Clockwise: Bryant Michaud, David Tirrell-Wysocki, Adolphe Bernotas, Norma Love, Joe Magruder, John Milne, Bob LaPree, Mike Recht, Jim Van Dongen.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Susana Hayward - haywardsusana@gmail.com

Joe McGowan - joedos2@comcast.net

Stories of interest

Staffer: Illinois newspaper editor resigns to spare layoffs

By JOHN O'CONNOR

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) - Illinois' capital-city newspaper, a 188-year-old institution tied intimately to Abraham Lincoln, is without a news chief after its editor resigned in hopes of sparing more layoffs, according to a staff writer.

Angie Muhs served notice of her resignation on Friday from The State Journal-Register in Springfield, owned by one of the nation's largest publishers, GateHouse Media. When the newspaper's general manager escorted Muhs from the building on Monday, the newsroom emptied as editorial employees accompanied her "as a show of respect and support," staff writer Dean Olsen said.

Newspaper circulation in the U.S. has declined every year for three decades, while advertising revenue has nosedived since 2006, according to the Pew Research Center. In the face of those economic challenges, many newsrooms have shrunk, through layoffs and attrition. This month's sale of The Times-Picayune of New Orleans and its planned merger with The Advocate of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is the latest example of industry uncertainty.



Angie Muhs, executive editor of The State Journal-Register, in Springfield, Ill. (The State Journal-Register via AP)

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton, Adolphe Bernotas.

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Trump pardons author of flattering Trump biography



FILE - In this Jan. 13, 2011 file photo, Conrad Black arrives at the federal building in Chicago. President Donald Trump has granted a full pardon to Black, a former newspaper publisher who has written a flattering political biography of Trump. Black's media empire once included the Chicago Sun-Times and The Daily Telegraph of London. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast, File)

By KEVIN FREKING

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Donald Trump on Wednesday granted a full pardon to Conrad Black, a former newspaper publisher who has written a flattering political biography of Trump.

Black's media empire once included the Chicago Sun-Times and The Daily Telegraph of London. He was convicted of fraud in 2007 and spent three and a half years in prison. An appeals court reversed two convictions, but left two others in place.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Black "has made tremendous contributions to business, and to political and historical thought."

In 2018, Black published "Donald J. Trump: A President Like No Other." He wrote a column Wednesday in Canada's National Post describing how Trump called him and revealed the pardon.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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The Telltale Signs of a Fake Atlantic Article

(Atlantic)

By **ALEXIS C. MADRIGAL**

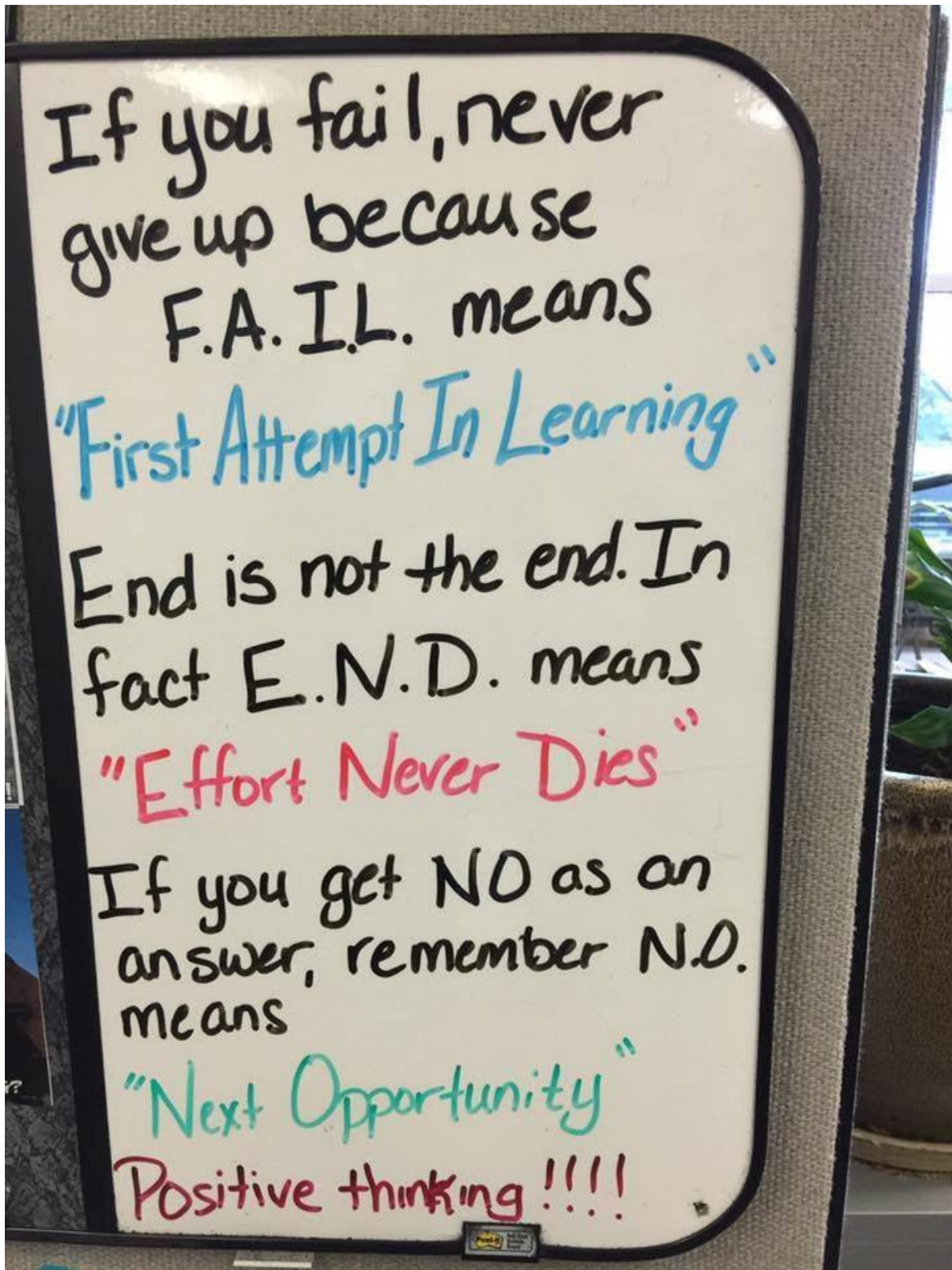
There is a very small chance that you came across what appeared to be an Atlantic article about the war in Yemen in September 2017. The author, according to the byline, was Aria Bendix, a regular global-news writer. Every link in the story went to other Atlantic stories. It even included the module shilling lowbrow content slurry that used to appear on Atlantic articles, at the bottom of the page.

On first glance, that is to say, you might not have known that you were looking at a counterfeit story, produced as part of a global disinformation campaign that was recently unearthed by researchers at Citizen Lab, at the University of Toronto.

But that's what it was, one of many such inauthentic articles created by an ongoing campaign called Endless Mayfly, which Citizen Lab describes as "an Iran-aligned network of inauthentic websites and online personas used to spread false and divisive information primarily targeting Saudi Arabia, the United States, and Israel" in a new report published Tuesday. The disinformation project put out 160 articles that targeted 20 legitimate news organizations, including The Atlantic, The Guardian, and The Globe and Mail.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Marcus Eliason.

The Final Word



Today in History - May 16, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 16, the 136th day of 2019. There are 229 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 16, 1966, China launched the Cultural Revolution, a radical as well as deadly reform movement aimed at purging the country of "counter-revolutionaries."

On this date:

In 1770, Marie Antoinette, age 14, married the future King Louis XVI of France, who was 15.

In 1868, at the U.S. Senate impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson, 35 out of 54 senators voted to find Johnson guilty of "high crimes and misdemeanors" over his attempted dismissal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, falling one vote short of the two-thirds majority needed to convict; the trial ended 10 days later after two other articles of impeachment went down to defeat as well.

In 1919, pianist Liberace was born in West Allis, Wisconsin.

In 1920, Joan of Arc was canonized by Pope Benedict XV.

In 1939, the federal government began its first food stamp program in Rochester, New York.

In 1943, the nearly month-long Warsaw Ghetto Uprising came to an end as German forces crushed the Jewish resistance and blew up the Great Synagogue.

In 1953, Associated Press correspondent William N. Oatis was released by Communist authorities in Czechoslovakia, where he had been imprisoned for two years after being forced to confess to espionage while working as the AP's Prague bureau chief.

In 1975, Japanese climber Junko Tabei became the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

In 1988, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *California v. Greenwood*, ruled that police could search discarded garbage without a search warrant. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop released a report declaring nicotine was addictive in ways similar to heroin and cocaine.

In 1991, Queen Elizabeth II became the first British monarch to address the United States Congress as she lauded U.S.-British cooperation in the Persian Gulf War.

In 1997, President Bill Clinton publicly apologized for the notorious Tuskegee experiment, in which government scientists deliberately allowed black men to weaken and die of treatable syphilis.

In 2007, anti-war Democrats in the Senate failed in an attempt to cut off funds for the Iraq war.

Ten years ago: The ruling Congress party swept to a resounding victory in India's mammoth national elections. Rachel Alexandra became the first filly to win the Preakness Stakes since 1924, holding off a late charge by Kentucky Derby winner Mine That Bird to capture the middle jewel of the Triple Crown by a length.

Five years ago: Federal safety regulators slapped General Motors with a record \$35 million fine for taking more than a decade to disclose an ignition-switch defect in millions of cars linked at that point to at least 13 deaths (the figure later rose to 90). U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel pledged to Israeli leaders that the U.S. would "do what we must" to prevent the Jewish state's greatest fear of a nuclear-armed Iran from being realized.

One year ago: Officials at Michigan State University said they had agreed to pay \$500 million to settle claims from more than 300 women and girls who said they were assaulted by sports doctor Larry Nassar.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Rep John Conyers, D-Mich., is 90. Former U.S. Senator and Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker is 88. Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats is 76. Jazz musician Billy Cobham is 75. Actor Danny Trejo is 75. Actor Bill Smitrovich is 72. Actor Pierce Brosnan is 66. Actress Debra Winger is 64. Olympic gold medal gymnast Olga Korbut is 64. Olympic gold medal marathon runner Joan Benoit Samuelson is 62. Actress Mare Winningham is 60. Rock musician Boyd Tinsley (The Dave Matthews Band) is 55. Rock musician Krist Novoselic (noh-voh-SEL'-ik) is 54. Singer Janet Jackson is 53. Country singer Scott Reeves (Blue County) is 53. Actor Brian (BREE'-un) F. O'Byrne is 52. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ralph Tresvant (New Edition) is 51. Actor David Boreanaz is 50. Political correspondent Tucker Carlson is 50. Actress Tracey Gold is 50. International Tennis Hall of Famer Gabriela Sabatini is 49. Country singer Rick Trevino is 48. Musician Simon Katz is 48. TV personality Bill Rancic is 48. Actor Khary Payton is 47. Rapper Special Ed is 47. Actress Tori Spelling is 46. Actor Sean Carrigan is 45. Singer-rapper B. Slade (formerly known as Tonex) is 44. Actress Lynn Collins is 42. Actress Melanie Lynskey is 42. Actor Jim Sturgess is 41. Actor Joseph Morgan is 38. DJ Alex Pall (The Chainsmokers) is 34. Actress Megan Fox is 33. Actor Drew Roy is 33. Actor Jacob Zachar is 33. Actor-comedian Jermaine Fowler is 31. Actor Thomas Brodie-Sangster is 29. Actor Marc John Jefferies is 29. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Ashley Wagner is 28. Actor Miles Heizer is 25.

Thought for Today: "The enemy of the conventional wisdom is not ideas but the march of events." - John Kenneth Galbraith, American economist, diplomat and author (1908-2006).

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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