



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - January 13, 2020

1 message

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

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Connecting

January 13, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 13th day of January 2020,

Arnold Zeitlin is the subject of today's Monday Profile - and he brings you some of the rich history of The Associated Press that he experienced in a career that included both domestic and international assignments. I believe you will enjoy his account as much as I do. And his story appears on the day of his 88th birthday.

Arnold may be the only AP person to have danced with Imelda Marcos! Read on...

Memories of a special moment in time at the now-closed Newseum in Washington, shared in last Friday's Connecting by **Robert Meyers**, struck a chord with the man who headed The Associated Press at the time, **Tom Curley**.



From left: Horst Faas, Richard Pyle, Tom Curley

Curley was among an AP contingent on hand at the 2008 dedication of a memorial to fallen journalists that included relics (pieces of cameras and bone fragments) from the site where four journalists, including AP's **Henri Huet**, died in a helicopter crash in 1971 while covering the incursion of U.S. forces into Laos. Among those with Curley, then the AP's president and CEO, were famed AP photographer **Horst Faas** (who would die four years later) and former AP Saigon chief of bureau **Richard Pyle** (who died in 2017).

Curley ([Email](#)) tells his Connecting colleagues:

"What I remember most is the reaction of the family members of the colleagues whose lives we honored. The day was deeply meaningful to them. They had flown in from around the world to a new and somewhat strange place for a memorial and to be with people that, for the most part, they had never met. Whatever doubts they may have harbored about the sacrifice and loss of their loved one had to be eased at least a bit.

"The Newseum ceremony was poignant. The audience included a number of journalists who covered Vietnam. Several shared memories and tributes with the families. The remembrances, especially from Horst and Richard, were heartfelt and moving. The other representatives there - from the military, government and journalism communities - all understood the impact of journalism and especially photography on the outcome of the Vietnam War. All were familiar with and deeply appreciated the individual contributions of these four men to that story.

"I'm not sure anything can bring closure on such a tragic loss. At least for that day the families knew how much these journalists were loved and admired. Their memories remain vivid and inspiring."

Finally, this message:

AP Needs YOU: Calling all AP Editorial Retirees!

Patti Baker - Former chiefs, ACOBs, news editors, photo editors and broadcast editors will remember how important the annual editorial/broadcast contests have always been to AP members. As staffs have shrunk in member newsrooms, it has become harder to find judges willing to dedicate some time and their sharp talents to reviewing entries and declaring winners, writing compelling comments and meeting the judging deadline.

So we turn to the amazing readership of Connecting to ask for your help. Many of our state boards have agreed to open judging to former AP editorial staff. It's not hard duty. It involves reading, watching some good TV and listening to great radio journalism and making your selections online. In exchange, we would give every judge who takes an assignment (and completes it by the deadline) free access to the online AP Stylebook for a year! It's easy to use, updated frequently and best of all -- searchable!

We'll take care not to overload you with entries. We appreciate your time and your expertise!

Interested? Please contact **Patti Baker**, marketing coordinator, at pbaker@ap.org with your name, email address, phone number and city and state.

Here's to a great week ahead!

Paul

Connecting profile
Arnold Zeitlin



Arnold Zeitlin and his wife Karen at the Sandstone Falls on the New River in West Virginia last fall.

What are you doing these days?

At age 88 (today is my birthday), I get up most mornings thrilled to be alive with a loving wife and children who are good friends. We live in Virginia in the Washington DC suburbs, so I get into DC from time to time to attend sessions at think tanks devoted to subjects of my interest, mostly China and South Asia. These meetings give me a chance to lunch with friends at the National Press Club. I occasionally write email commentaries (often they are more like rants) online for a select list of about 500 people, including family and friends I have known for years. I also occasionally write book reviews for the South Asia Journal, a quarterly I serve as mostly a passive member of its board. I am trying or organize my thoughts for a memoir to be left to my family so my eight grandchildren will know what their grandpa did with his life. This is a family affair: I long ago decided against writing the usual "I-wrote-this, I-met-this" kind of memoir. However, I am following up a suggestion from the woman who hired me in 2002 to teach journalism in China to write a series of memoir-like vignettes that illustrate ethical choices I had to make covering the news. She thought the project would make an interesting read for journalism students.

My wife and I try to travel. For the past decade, I've been introducing Karen, my China-born wife, to the United States and vice versa. We've traveled coast-to-coast

with stops at Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Grand Canyon, Smoky Mountain and Acadia national parks as well as Shenandoah national park, an hour's drive from our home, and the redwood forests of California. Karen now is embarking on a 12-month executive master's degree program in natural resources and environment at Virginia Tech, so we are unsure how much time we will have to travel in 2020.

How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?

I got out of the Army after two years as a draftee in August 1955, and started a master's degree program at the Columbia Journalism School in New York in September, tuition and expenses to be paid under the GI Bill. By November, no government money had showed up. I was broke. I called a former classmate of mine at the University of Pennsylvania, Jim Kensil, then working for AP in Columbus, Ohio, and told him I needed a job. He sent me over to Orlo Robertson, AP's deputy sports editor at 50 Rock. Orlo got me a job as a copy boy for (I think) \$45 a week. I ran around cutting copy on all the wires for distribution to the long-timers editing the General Desk, walking to the New York Times office off Times Square to get the first editions in the evenings. I worked the night shift and attended Columbia classes from 9-to-5 before taking the subway down to AP. I was in heaven. The work at AP complemented my studies and vice versa. The government money had kicked in. I was on one long news gorge all day. In March 1956. Paul Mikkelson, the General Desk day supervisor, offered me a job as a summer vacation relief on the general desk. More heaven. I kept the night shift hours and edited the New England and Southern wires, relieving the day editor, Nick Carter. Herb Barker, the night supervisor, was my boss. A terrific guy and to this day, the best and most dedicated newsman I've ever known. In the last hours of my shift, I also worked under easy Ed Denehy, the overnight supervisor. Maybe I was making \$65 a week. Ordinarily, my job would end with the end of summer. But was asked to stay on the General Desk through the Adlai Stevenson-Dwight Eisenhower presidential election campaign.

What were your different past jobs in the AP, in order? Describe briefly what you did with each?

When the election campaign ended, AP asked me what I wanted to do. I had a choice. I had my master's degree from Columbia. I turned down a radio job one of my professors had gotten for me. I told the professor that the radio station did news only five minutes each hour, while AP did the news 24 hours a day. So I blew a career in broadcasting. I could have gone to work for Sam Blackman, the New York general editor. Instead, like a dope, I asked for a job on the sports desk. For the next year, I worked the night shift and occasionally the overnight filing the sports wire and writing roundups and features. During the day, I developed a freelance career writing feature stories about Broadway actors for their hometown newspapers. I did articles for the Philadelphia Inquirer, Baltimore Sun, Pittsburgh Press, Columbus Dispatch, Denver Post, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, the Des Moines Register and a lot more. I was making almost as much money from the freelancing as AP was paying me.

Ted Smits, the sports editor, then told me, "I have to fire you." "Why?", I asked. He explained that the sports department was so deep in experienced talent (he was right about that), it would be years if ever before I would get off the night side to report a sports beat. Also, he said, AP wanted me to get out and get experience in the field. Again, I could have gone over to Blackman and the New York bureau. But I asked to go to Philadelphia, my hometown. I moved back into my old bedroom at my parents' house in Philadelphia and joined the AP bureau in the window-less Evening Bulletin building next to the 30th street Pennsylvania Railroad station. Joe Snyder was the bureau chief; Ralph Bernstein was the news editor and sports writer. I did general reporting and managed to develop stories that made the AAA wire. I remember fondly writing a lead on Robin Roberts' 200th pitching victory that was pure poetry.

I continued my free lancing, which led to my departure from AP. Mort Hochstein, a public relations man for NBC in New York, called to tell me that Hearst's Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph was looking for a TV columnist. Mort and I had worked together on some of my freelancing projects. I flew to Pittsburgh for an interview, got the job (for \$144 a week) and quit AP. I remember walking into the AP office in Philadelphia before my shift started to quit. Before I had a chance to say a word, Bernstein said, "You're gonna quit. When they come in early, it means they're gonna quit."

I'll try to fast forward here because I want to get to my second career with AP (although working for Hearst was an adventure):

I did a daily TV column for the afternoon Sun-Tele, which Bill Block Sr. bought in 1960, merging it with his Post-Gazette and moving his operation into the incredibly decrepit Sun-Tele building. I remember the Post-Gazette city editor coming into my office, pointing at the furniture and saying, "We'll keep this." He then pointed at me and said, "We'll keep you, too." I was one of the few Sun-Tele people to keep a job with the new Post-Gazette arrangement. I wrote my column for the Post-Gazette and also became the third-string movie reviewer, getting to review all the bad movies because the other two reviewers got the best ones. When the movie theater owners complained about my reviews, Andy Bernhardt, the Post-Gazette editor, decided not to carry reviews of "obviously bad" pictures ("Don't you like any movies?", Andy asked me). My work won the Pittsburgh Press Club award for best entertainment column. I still was getting \$144 a week. I asked Bernhardt for a raise. He refused. So I started thinking about getting another job.

I have few heroes but one of them was Ed Murrow. In 1961, he left his six-figure job at CBS to join the Kennedy administration as head of the U.S. Information Service for \$25K a year. I thought I would follow a similar path. I applied to the newly announced Peace Corps, for which I thought I would make a splendid PR guy. I took the first national Peace Corps test and received a telegram inviting me to join a group of teachers training at the University of California at Berkeley to go to, so the telegram said, "Chana". "Chana?" Did the Peace Corps actually mean China? It was a typo. The Peace Corps meant Ghana, a tiny West African state. I was one of two

people in Pittsburgh invited to that first Peace Corps group. The other was a young woman, Marian Frank, the red-haired daughter of the head of the chemistry department at the University of Pittsburgh. She was invited to the Post-Gazette offices for an interview (nobody interviewed me!). She was brought to my office to meet me.

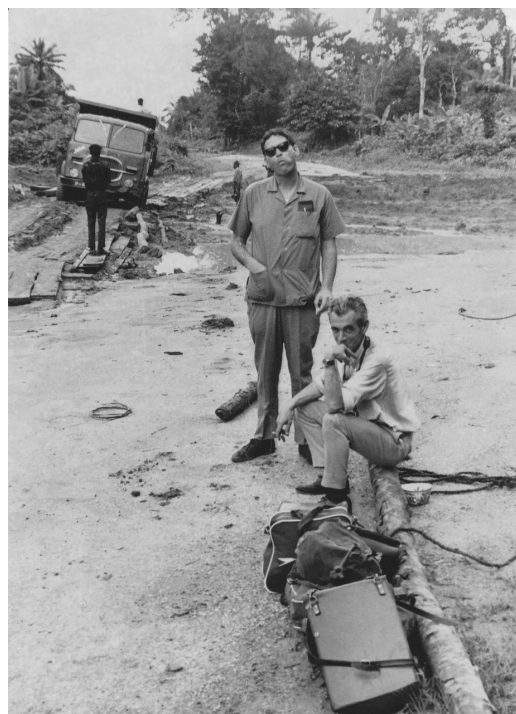


Arnold Zeitlin about to take off in a Czech-built Nigerian air force jet after being invited to take a ride following his article critical of the air force. "The pilot put me through the loop-de-loops but i survived."

At Berkeley, she and I became a couple. Our romance was interrupted after the sixth week of the eight-week training program when I was informed that I was being dropped from the group because I had shown a lack of confidence as a teacher. I left, returning to my parents' home in Philadelphia, ashamed to go back to Pittsburgh and wondering what I would do next. Before I departed Berkeley, I and the others in the group had received invitations to a reception at the Ghanaian embassy in Washington DC the day before the teachers were to fly to Ghana. In Philadelphia, I decided to attend the reception, if only to see Marian again. When I came to the reception, the Ghanaian ambassador, glorious in his kente cloth robe, looked at my name on the invitation card and said, "Ah, you are the journalist." It was then I realized that I had been dropped, not because of a lack of confidence, but because I was a journalist. After the reception, Marian and I visited a classmate of mine at Columbia, Milton Viorst, then the Washington correspondent for the New York Post. I explained my dismissal to him. Milt's Post colleague, Bill Haddad, had just become an assistant to Sargent Shriver, the director of the Peace Corps. After Marian flew off to Ghana with the very first group of volunteers to go into action, leaving me behind, Milt told Haddad about my problem. Haddad called me. "This is about some girl, isn't it?" he said. Yes, I admitted. He told me to wait. Three weeks later, I was on a flight to Ghana, a volunteer party of one to join the other teachers. I was assigned to teach English at a rundown O'Reilly Secondary School in the Jamestown slum area of Accra, the Ghanaian capital. Marian was teaching near Kumasi, an upcountry town. She transferred to join me in Accra. In December 1961, we were married by the town clerk in Accra.

After two years of service in Accra, we returned to New York City in December 1963. Marian was pregnant. I had turned down an offer of a job with the Peace Corps in Washington. Only Jim Kensil, then working in New York Sports, was the only AP person who knew I was in town. I was afraid that AP would offer me a job and that I would take it. But I wanted to write a book about our Ghana experience. We borrowed \$350 from Marian's aunt who was married to the president of Yale Lock & Key and rented an apartment in a six-floor walk-up at 120th St. and Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan. A family friend knew Ken McCormick, a legendary editor at Doubleday, and referred me to him. He was interested. In that apartment, I wrote four chapters and an outline. McCormick bought it, advancing me \$2,000, just about the time our first daughter, Jenny, was born. By November, I had finished the manuscript. Coincidentally, Jim Kensil called, asking if I would be willing to work Tokyo hours. The Olympics were in Tokyo in 1964. AP was looking for editors to work overnight in New York to handle copy from Tokyo, which was 14 hours ahead of U.S. Eastern time. I signed on for two weeks. Herb Barker saw me on the fourth floor and offered me a job (for \$187 a week) on the General Desk. I accepted, but told Barker that I planned to accept an offer from the Columbia Journalism School of an international reporting fellowship to start in the Fall of 1965. He was okay with that, suggesting that I would return to AP after the fellowship. That is what happened. In May of 1966, I returned to the General Desk, asking that I be considered for an overseas job. I knew at the time that the job of West Africa correspondent was open. A month later, Jack Cappon, a master wordsmith and, I think, then AP managing editor, leaned over me as I was editing the AAA wire, and said, "I hear you wanna be a fucking foreign correspondent". "Yeah," I said. "Go see Gallagher," said Jack. I went up to the seventh floor and into The Presence. Wes Gallagher, the AP president, told me I was going to Lagos, Nigeria, as the West Africa correspondent.

Within a month, I was in London, wife and baby Jenny in tow, to be briefed by AP news editor, Lynn Heinzerling, on our way to Nigeria. The morning after our arrival in London, I got a call from the AP office: there was a military coup in Nigeria. All the officials whose names I had laboriously memorized (Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi, for example) were dead. We arrived in Lagos in the midst of martial law. After the coup came the Biafra civil war. Then I had to cover turmoil in the Congo, where censors insisted all copy had to be in French. I no doubt astonished the AP Brussels bureau which received my telegraphed copy reporting on "le shooting et le looting" in the Congo. After six months, I suggested to Gallagher that maybe I was not cut out for the job. Stick with it, he advised. I am forever grateful that he stood by me. I did overcome.



**Arnold Zeitlin with AP photographer
Dennis Royal in a Nigerian jungle**

After three and a half years in West Africa, responsible for covering 17 countries, I was ready for change. My family included a second daughter, Veronica, born in Lagos, and a 5-year-old boy, Olajide Abayomi, who was now our ward and whom we eventually adopted. I told AP I thought I'd like to go east. Gallagher called. "We're sending you to Pakistan!", he said. "Do I have a choice?" I asked. "No," he said. Well, at least Pakistan was east.

during the 1966-68 Biafra civil war while awaiting truck in which we were riding to the front line was unstuck from the muck. Dennis, a great photographer, later died in a helicopter crash in the English Channel while covering a military exercise.

About the same time, I received an offer from a prestigious magazine, Africa Today, to succeed its founding editor. The magazine was moving from its Dupont Circle offices in Washington DC to UN Plaza in Manhattan. Had the offices stayed in DC, I might have accepted. I'd always wanted to work in DC. We figured my \$15K AP salary in Pakistan would actually go further than the 25K salary the magazine offered in New York.

We opened AP's first Pakistan bureau, moving to Rawalpindi, despite the fact that AP wanted me to set up in the commercial capital and cable head, Karachi, an awful place to live with children. We stopped in Tokyo on the way to Pakistan and bought two Toyota Corona cars, one for the new bureau and one for our own use, to be shipped to Pakistan. The cost: \$1,250 for each car. We also stopped in New Delhi, where India bureau chief Myron Belkind gladly handed me all the files on Pakistan, for which he had been responsible. Rawalpindi was the army headquarters and next to Islamabad, the political capital. We were the first foreign news agency to set up headquarters in the Rawalpindi-Islamabad area. By the time we left Pakistan in 1972, all the major foreign news agencies had moved to the area. Pakistan was a dream assignment. With the country's political problems resulting in the 1971 war that led to the independence of Bangladesh, we were on front pages all over the world for two years.

The next assignment was the Philippines, where Ferdinand Marcos' martial law had closed most newspapers. Gallagher, sensing I was not much of a bureau chief-salesman, said I would not have to bother with sales. My reporting on martial law excesses and the simmering civil war with Muslims in Mindanao annoyed the martial law government. The Marcos government wanted us to censor our incoming AP report so that the few newspapers allowed to publish wouldn't see disturbing news. I refused and said the government should send an officer to our office to censor the report. After that exchange, I never heard another word about censorship. In the spring of 1975, virtually all Southwest Asia's bureau chiefs were called to Saigon as the Vietnam



Arnold Zeitlin with Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos during the martial law days of her husband's rule.

war was winding down. I was thrilled to be working with Peter Arnett and George Esper, whom I had known since we both worked on the fourth floor in 1957 at 50 Rockefeller Center, as well as Nick Ut, Carl Robinson, Ed White, Neal Ulevich and Horst Faas. I ended up as pool reporter aboard the U.S. Blue Ridge command ship covering the evacuation of Saigon in April 1975. During home leave that summer, I warned Keith Fuller, then AP president, that my days in Manila were numbered. At a late-night gala in Manila that fall, Imelda Marcos, the Philippines first lady, invited me to dance with her. We always had had a testy relationship. A few weeks later, the night of the U.S. elections in November, I was ordered out of the country as a "national security risk".

That ouster essentially ended my 10-year career as an AP foreign correspondent. While in New York, awaiting another assignment, I got a call from Bob Page, then a top executive for UPI. He was familiar with my work in the Philippines. "Stop by my office," he said. I thought to myself: he's gonna offer me a job. The idea of working for UPI was too much for me to contemplate. I never went to see him. Instead, AP sent me off to Boston to work as a newsman. As soon as I reached the age of 55 with 20 years of service in 1987, I quietly retired from AP and got a Tiffany bowl from Lou Boccardi.

I learned there was life after AP. I went to work for \$15K above my annual AP wage as managing editor of The Worldpaper, a monthly distributed from Boston to client newspapers and magazines all over the world. In 1989, I spent six months in Dhaka helping a wealthy friend produce an English-language news weekly in Bangladesh. I returned briefly to Boston and UPI offered me a chance to base in Hong Kong as vice president and general manager for Asia. Unlike my reaction to the Bob Page call years before, I accepted and spent three years swanning about Asia, leaving in 1993 to settle in Virginia. I returned to Pakistan in 1998 conducting training programs for young journalists as a Knight International Fellow. One of my students, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, since has won two Academy Awards for her documentary films. I went from Pakistan back to Hong Kong as director of the Freedom Forum's Asia center. When the Freedom Forum dropped its international program and closed the Asia center in 2001, I accepted an offer to teach in an English-language journalism program at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in Guangzhou, China. Teaching young Chinese in the heady atmosphere of a rising China is one of the most satisfactory endeavors of my career.

Who played the most significant role in your career and how?

As you may have read from the above, a number of people played significant roles in my career. It is hard to say who was the most significant. The late Jim Kensil twice brought me to AP. Herb Barker set an example for me as a newsman that I'll never forget. Mort Hochstein, who died last year at 90, was a life changer in opening the way for me to go to Pittsburgh. Wes Gallagher had faith to keep me in West Africa when I faltered.

Would you do it all over again- or what would you change?

Yes, I would do it all over again. I'd like to think I'd be a lot smarter a second time around. I missed some opportunities but took advantage of others. Whoever said opportunity knocks once in a lifetime was wrong. Opportunities in my life knocked time and time again.

What's your favorite hobby or activity?

I swim. I read, catching up on the reading I was not able to do during a busy career. Our public library in Centreville VA started listing books checked out in June 2018. In the 18 months since then, I've checked out and read 120 books. I like crime novels with the body on the first page or first chapter as well as good books on China, South Asia, on why humans seek religion and on evolution and where humanity comes from.

What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?

There have been so many. One of the sweetest was a break in Pakistan where the family, wife and three kids, drove up into the Hindu Kush to a small principality in the mountains where the local maharajah put us up in a cozy guest hut, served us kidneys for breakfast and let us pick off his cherry trees. I've mentioned my travels with Karen. All-inspiring to be with someone like her seeing America for the first time. And a bit of the reverse, when she and I traveled in China, she leading me to see China for the first time.

Names of your family members and what they do?



Arnold and Karen

Wife Karen, Guangzhou, China-born, author of a memoir, *Golden Orchid: The True Story of an Only Child in Contemporary China*, with an MFA in non-fiction writing from Chatham University, Pittsburgh and now a student in the executive master's degree program in natural resources and the environment at Virginia Tech.

Son Jide is challenged as the new CEO of a Fortune 500 company, Tapestry Inc., which includes the Coach, Kate Spade and Stuart Weitzman brands. He is the first in the family to reach such an exalted state since a grand uncle, whom he may never have met, served as CEO of Yale Lock & Key more than 50 years ago. Jide's wife, Tina Goldberg, is an executive in the Chinese-backed garment firm, Lafayette 148. They are raising three children, all progressing through the St. Ann's school system in Brooklyn.

Elder daughter Jenny serves as diplomatic wife in Dublin, where husband, Stephane, is the French ambassador to Ireland. She is also busy as a research director at the French Institute for Health and Medical Research in Paris and as a visiting professor at Mount Sinai medical school in Manhattan. Their son Marc is in high school in Dublin while becoming a chef specializing in tofu dishes. Marc's elder brother Paul-Louis is managing projects for Air/Science Technologies in Montreal while elder sister, Zoe, is interning at a Paris art gallery after her November graduation from Trinity College, Dublin.

Younger daughter Veronica, known universally as Bola, is the go-to person in the U.S. federal government for expertise on human trafficking, now for the Labor Department after years at USAID. Husband Jim McKenna operates his own business coaching physicians to cope with the complexities of medical practice. Their daughter Maya, at 5, is a top reader in kindergarten and will face the challenge of first grade in the new year.

Daughter Sze-kei Jordan is a senior director at the College Board (SAT tests, etc.), spending Christmas and New Year in hometown Hong Kong with her sister, Rebecca Seal-Davis. Her husband, Matt, is a senior director for IT at the American College of Radiology with headquarters near their home in Herndon Va. Daughter Alexandra is a beautiful about-to-be-12.

Arnold Zeitlin's email is - azeitlin@hotmail.com

Best of the Week

AP breaks news of Soleimani killing; dominates all-formats coverage



AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed

A spectacular effort from the AP's Middle East team set the pace with blistering all-formats coverage of the U.S. drone strike that nudged the United States and Iran closer to the brink of all-out war.

The initial tip from a security source seemed fairly run-of-the-mill for Baghdad: A late-night rocket attack hit the international airport.

But when the caller added that one of the rockets had slammed into a car, AP's Baghdad correspondent Qassim Abdul-Zahra sensed something unusual was afoot. He alerted Zeina Karam, AP's news director for Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, and kept digging.

More calls to militia sources deepened Abdul-Zahra's suspicions.

"I sensed that they were uncomfortable," he said. "It was as if there was something missing."

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

Multiple investigations deepen AP's coverage of 'The Reckoning' in the Catholic Church

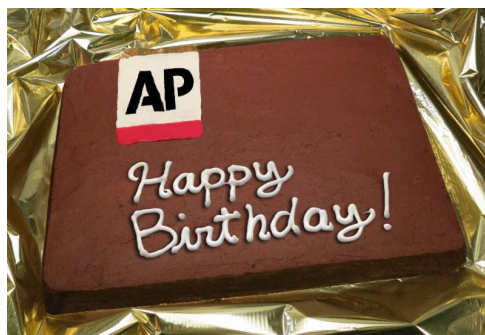
The AP designated coverage of the Roman Catholic Church and its handling of sexual misconduct as a major focus in 2019, exploring myriad facets of the church's greatest credibility crisis since the Reformation. That focus carried through the past two weeks, with three strong stories delving into various aspects of the church's transparency, accountability and treatment of those who make abuse accusations.

First, reporter Claudia Lauer and data journalist Meghan Hoyer showed definitively that the church has failed to be fully forthcoming about the number of clergy members credibly accused of child sexual abuse. Their exclusive story revealed that more than 900 accused clergy members were missing from lists of priests issued by dioceses around the U.S., with more than a hundred of those having been charged

with sexual crimes, including rape. On top of that, they found another nearly 400 priests and clergy members who were accused of abuse while serving in dioceses that have not yet released any names.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Hilmi Toros- wordsmithsailor@hotmail.com

Arnold Zeitlin - azeitlin@hotmail.com

Stories of interest

***Stephanie Grisham: Trump's Press Secretary
Who Doesn't Meet the Press*** (New York Times)



Stephanie Grisham, the White House press secretary, on Thursday with Hogan Gidley, a deputy press secretary. Photo: Al Drago for The New York Times

By Michael M. Grynbaum and Katie Rogers

It's not every day that the White House press secretary is offered \$200,000 to appear on camera and explain the president's decisions - any of them - to the public.

But as one of the most consequential weeks in President Trump's tenure draws to a close, the world beyond the Beltway is beginning to notice that Stephanie Grisham - unlike her predecessors, colleagues and boss - does not appear to relish the talking-to-the-public part of her job.

In six months as press secretary, Ms. Grisham has held zero briefings for reporters. When she does give interviews, she prefers to leave the West Wing via a side exit and is driven to a studio, rather than walk toward the cameras outside the White House and risk encountering a journalist along the way.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen, Dennis Conrad.

With...

Stephanie Grisham is not the worst-ever White House press secretary. Here's why. (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan

Media columnist

Hearing Joe Lockhart talk about his old job as White House press secretary almost seems quaint.

The idealism: "Your main job is to advocate for the press within the government."

The talk about facts: "You have to make sure that the information going out to the American public and to the world is accurate and complete."

And the reason for daily briefings: "They tend to force decisions to get made in a sensible way - they reduce impetuosity and procrastination."

And when things get particularly ugly - as, for example, during the period when his boss, Bill Clinton, was being impeached - the need for briefings is even greater, he said, because the public is justifiably more hungry for information.

Given that the 30th person to hold the job, Stephanie Grisham, has never held a briefing since she got the title in July, is she really a press secretary?

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin, Richard Chady, Dennis Conrad.

The Final Word

Everyone Knows Memory Fails as You Age. But Everyone Is Wrong. (New York Times)

By Daniel J. Levitin

Dr. Levitin is a neuroscientist.

I'm 62 years old as I write this. Like many of my friends, I forget names that I used to be able to conjure up effortlessly. When packing my suitcase for a trip, I walk to the hall closet and by the time I get there, I don't remember what I came for.

And yet my long-term memories are fully intact. I remember the names of my third-grade classmates, the first record album I bought, my wedding day.

This is widely understood to be a classic problem of aging. But as a neuroscientist, I know that the problem is not necessarily age-related.

Short-term memory contains the contents of your thoughts right now, including what you intend to do in the next few seconds. It's doing some mental arithmetic, thinking about what you'll say next in a conversation or walking to the hall closet with the intention of getting a pair of gloves.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - January 13, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 13, the 13th day of 2020. There are 353 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 13, 2012, the Italian luxury liner Costa Concordia ran aground off the Tuscan island of Giglio and flipped onto its side; 32 people were killed.

On this date:

In 1794, President George Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the Union. (The number of stripes was later reduced to the original 13.)

In 1864, American songwriter Stephen Foster died in poverty in a New York hospital at age 37.

In 1941, a new law went into effect granting Puerto Ricans U.S. birthright citizenship. Novelist and poet James Joyce died in Zurich, Switzerland, less than a month before his 59th birthday.

In 1962, comedian Ernie Kovacs died in a car crash in west Los Angeles 10 days before his 43rd birthday.

In 1964, Roman Catholic Bishop Karol Wojtyla (voy-TEE'-wah) (the future Pope John Paul II) was appointed Archbishop of Krakow, Poland, by Pope Paul VI.

In 1978, former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey died in Waverly, Minnesota, at age 66.

In 1982, an Air Florida 737 crashed into Washington, D.C.'s 14th Street Bridge and fell into the Potomac River while trying to take off during a snowstorm, killing a total of 78 people, including four motorists on the bridge; four passengers and a flight attendant survived.

In 1992, Japan apologized for forcing tens of thousands of Korean women to serve as sex slaves for its soldiers during World War II, citing newly uncovered documents that showed the Japanese army had had a role in abducting the so-called "comfort women."

In 2000, Microsoft chairman Bill Gates stepped aside as chief executive and promoted company president Steve Ballmer to the position.

In 2003, Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman jumped into the 2004 race for president.

In 2005, Major League Baseball adopted a tougher steroid-testing program that would suspend first-time offenders for 10 days and randomly test players year-round.

In 2018, a false alarm that warned of a ballistic missile headed for Hawaii sent the islands into a panic, with people abandoning cars on a highway and preparing to flee their homes; officials apologized and said the alert was sent when someone hit the wrong button during a shift change.

Ten years ago: Haitians piled bodies along the devastated streets of their capital a day after a powerful earthquake, while in Washington, President Barack Obama pledged an all-out rescue and relief effort. During the first hearing of the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, top Wall Street bankers apologized for risky behavior that led to the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, but still declared it seemed appropriate at the time. Rhythm-and-blues singer Teddy Pendergrass died in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, at age 59.

Five years ago: Pope Francis brought calls for reconciliation as well as justice as he arrived in Sri Lanka at the start of a weeklong Asian tour. In an emotional act of defiance, Charlie Hebdo resurrected its irreverent and often provocative newspaper, featuring on the cover a caricature of a weeping Prophet Muhammad holding a sign reading "I am Charlie" with the words "All is forgiven" above him.

One year ago: The number of no-shows among airport security screeners surged, two days after screeners failed to receive a paycheck for the first time since the partial government shutdown began. "Roma" was the top winner at the Critics' Choice Awards, winning honors for best picture, foreign language film and a pair of individual awards for director Alfonso Cuarón.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Frances Sternhagen is 90. TV personality Nick Clooney is 86. Comedian Charlie Brill is 82. Actor Billy Gray is 82. Actor Richard Moll is 77. Rock musician Trevor Rabin is 66. Rhythm-and-blues musician Fred White is 65. Rock musician James Lomendo (Megadeth) is 61. Actor Kevin Anderson is 60. Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus is 59. Rock singer Graham "Suggs" McPherson (Madness) is 59. Country singer Trace Adkins is 58. Actress Penelope Ann Miller is 56. Actor Patrick Dempsey is 54. Actress Suzanne Cryer is 53. Actress Traci

Bingham is 52. Actor Keith Coogan is 50. TV producer-writer Shonda Rhimes is 50. Actress Nicole Eggert is 48. Actor Ross McCall is 44. Actor Michael Pena is 44. Actor Orlando Bloom is 43. Meteorologist Ginger Zee (TV: "Good Morning America") is 39. Actress Ruth Wilson is 38. Actor Julian Morris is 37. Actor Beau Mirchoff is 31. Actor Liam Hemsworth is 30. NHL center Connor McDavid is 23.

Thought for Today: "Never underestimate your power to change yourself; never overestimate your power to change others." [-] H. Jackson Brown Jr., American writer.

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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