

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



## Connecting December 30, 2020

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020,

Living life in a year like no other is the continuing theme of stories submitted by your Connecting colleagues that we bring you in today's issue.

One of them comes from **Kevin Walsh**, former chief of bureau and regional vice president, who shortly after his retirement four years ago embarked with his wife **Lisa** on what he calls a "home-free" adventure. Shorn of a permanent residence and even their own car, Kevin and Lisa have visited more than 80 countries and their plan is to continue their journeys in 2021.

I look forward to your own stories.

Be safe, stay healthy – and have a great day!

Paul

# 2020: Traveling in the Age of Coronavirus



**Kevin Walsh** ([Email](#)) - Lisa and I began 2020 just as we did the three previous years - in a foreign country. Since we left our apartment in Reno, Nevada in July 2016, with nothing more than carry-on bags and small daypacks, we have visited more than 80 countries. Our plan for 2020 was to continue our "home-free" adventure.

We arrived in Quito, Ecuador on New Year's Day on a flight from Madrid, spending our time taking Spanish lessons at a local language school, walking in Parque La Carolina and having lunch at Quicentro Shopping Mall. After more than two weeks in Quito, we traveled to Bogota, Colombia and Panama City, Panama for short stays. We ended January in Costa Rica, driving the length of the country before returning to San Jose and watching the Kansas City Chiefs win the Super Bowl.

In February, we explored Guatemala and Belize by bus, boat and taxi before taking a tourist bus into Bacalar, Mexico. It was in Mexico, as we made our month-long journey

through Playa del Carmen, Merida, Guadalajara, Guanajuato, San Miguel de Allende and Mexico City, that we began hearing about a new virus that was spreading across the world. As we strolled around bright and lively Mexico City, where there was no evidence of the virus or any official infection statistics, we were faced with a dilemma. Should we stay in Mexico and ride it out or return to the United States? We already had tickets to visit my sister in Atlanta in less than two weeks, and then on to see family in Washington, D.C., and New York. Never ones to plan too far in advance, we even had tickets to Iceland in early April and China at the start of September.

Our plans changed quickly as the reality of Covid-19 started to sink in. We cancelled our family visits and decided to return to the United States 10 days early on a cheap flight to Las Vegas. From the deserted Las Vegas McCarran airport, we rented a car and drove straight to Flagstaff, Arizona, where I went to college. Flagstaff seemed like a good base for the next few months. Fresh mountain air and plenty of opportunities for hiking. It also proved to be a very walkable city since we didn't have a car.

We decided to continue our travels in June. We rented a car and made our way to Wyoming. We purchased a car online and decided to re-discover our own country, traveling to 29 states in all. To protect ourselves and others, we followed a strict, self-isolated discipline. We were a rolling two-person bubble, consistently wearing masks, avoiding restaurants and indoor activities, wiping down and airing out the motel rooms we stayed in. Following distancing protocols, we managed to visit our son and daughter, my siblings and a number of friends scattered across the country.



We are now in lovely and historic Natchez, Mississippi for the holidays, enjoying daily walks along the river. We saw the best and worst of our own country during this year of pandemic, Black Lives Matter protests, and the 2020 election. We have visited countless historical and grave sites during our 16,000-mile road trip -- from the store in Money, Mississippi, where the events began leading to the brutal murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till to the courthouse in Jackson County,

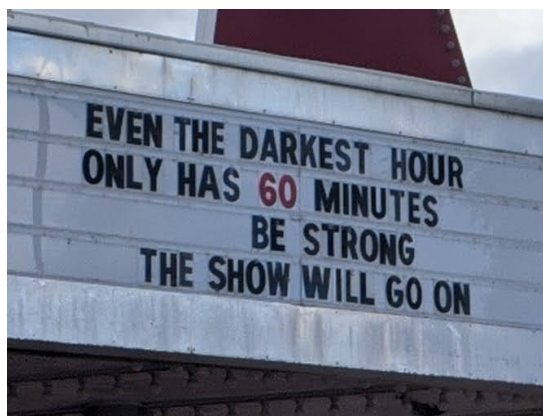
Alabama where the nine "Scottsboro Boys" were tried after being falsely accused of raping two white women. We have been to more than a dozen national parks, driven the old Lincoln Highway, been caught in an early September snowstorm and witnessed countless acts of kindness and good humor.

We are looking forward to more adventures in 2021 and a healthy and happy new year for all people. If anyone is interested, I put together a short video of some of the signs we saw along our road trip. Some photos don't display well because of the inflexibility of the Google Movie platform and I had to exclude others. But I think it captures some of the humor and thoughtfulness we saw as we

made our way across the country. The music, Auld Lang Syne, seemed appropriate under the circumstances.

Click [here](#) to view.

## That's -30- for 2020



Cathy Lester, left, talks through a window via phone with her mother, retired Houston Chronicle food editor, at the Waterford in College Station, Texas. Photo/Melissa Phillip, Houston Chronicle staff photographer.

**Sibby Christensen** ([Email](#)) - Living in New Rochelle, N.Y. - home of one of the first Covid hotspots - I feel lucky to have gotten through the year. But not untouched.

In April, I ran across a Houston Chronicle story about Ann Criswell, the paper's emeritus food editor and an old friend from our days as journalism students at Texas Woman's University. The story told how she and other residents of an assisted living home in College Station, Texas, had not been informed about a virus outbreak at the home. Instead, they were told of "stomach flu" going around. Ann was skeptical.

"After about four days, I thought, you know, this is not stomach flu; this is coronavirus," she told her interviewer, Taylor Goldenstein. "It drives me crazy because my whole career was about getting information and telling people the truth. We all guess what's going on and that's a lot worse than knowing. That bothered me a lot."

Ann eventually was tested negative, and she opted to self-isolate in her room. "I don't see how I have possibly escaped. But as long as I've got a book, I'm OK."

A photo accompanying the story showed Ann and her daughter, Cathy Lester, communicating via smartphones through a window at the facility. So I figured I could exchange emails with her, as we had often done in the past. No answer, so I periodically googled.

On Dec. 20, the shocker: Ann Criswell, the Chronicle's first food editor, had died Dec. 15 from complications of COVID-19. In the obit, her current successor, Greg Morago, wrote that she "had shaped the newspaper's food and home cooking coverage for more than three decades and championed the city's dining scene as it grew to prominence." He described her as a food world superstar.

Morago was kind enough to email me the text of his tribute, unfettered by paywall blackouts. I at least have that.

So goodbye, old year.

## Dealing with coronavirus and a sense of loneliness, loss



**Mark Mittelstadt (back row with blue sweater) gathered in Fort Dodge, Iowa, with his brother and sister and their families for a reunion in October honoring their mother and grandmother Marilyn Mittelstadt (fourth from left) for her 90th birthday.**

**Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#))** - The coronavirus pandemic has made 2020 the most unusual, most challenging year yet for our house.

January began with a full slate of soccer matches for me to officiate, a fun two-day-a-week hardware store gig helping people solve common household problems, service as an officer for a non-profit organization, and with Mary busy teaching home piano lessons when not going to yoga with friends or joining them for a weekly lunch.

Those are all gone now thanks to COVID-19, creating a sense of loss and loneliness. We talk about it from time and time and try to keep each other positive. Soccer had its starts and stops when either I took a break out of concern for my health or leagues paused due to the virus. Precautions were implemented, including requiring everyone to wear a mask to the field. Small high schools and academies in Arizona managed to play their "fall" season, and I was fortunate to be assigned to referee their state championship in Scottsdale. The start of the "winter" season for larger high schools, however, has been pushed back twice from the end of November and is now scheduled for Jan. 19. Tucson-area youth and adult soccer leagues, meanwhile, have not been able to play the past two months after the city of Tucson and the county shut down fields.

Sitting at home with a referee whistle in my bag is frustrating. But always in the back of my mind is the shocking virus-related death of former AP colleague Anick Jesdanun, a seemingly healthy marathon runner, at age 51. I interviewed his cousin several times for Connecting and her admonishments to stay safe and to treat COVID-19 as the serious pandemic that it is have stuck with me.

My service on the non-profit board came to an end in January when I decided to devote more time to researching a book. That project, unfortunately, petered out as the virus spread.

The year was not without its blessings. After a year-and-a-half of waiting, our son's wife and stepson received visas and were able to come to the United States from Guatemala to join him in Tucson. I quit the hardware job ahead of their arrival in early July to reduce chances of transmitting the virus to them. We've enjoyed getting to know our daughter-in-law and grandson. Mary and I spent several weeks sitting with Moises as he (and his new grade school) tried to adapt to online classes. Remote learning has proven to be difficult even for English-speakers; it is more-so for an 8-year-old boy new to the country, to the school and to the language. He is adjusting gradually and he is looking forward to January when eventually they expect to be able to transition into the classroom.

Another cherished moment was the five of us driving to Iowa in October for a short family reunion ahead of my mother's 90th birthday. We were fortunate that Mom decided to stay in her house and to not to go to a retirement center after Dad's death

in late 2018 as we probably would not have been able to see her in person. All family members took special care to limit exposure ahead of the stay. We mostly social-distanced for a lunch and then ice cream and cake, then went our own ways. Everyone appeared to escape the virus.

No soccer or peddling nuts and bolts has yielded spare time in which I have been able to stay busy with home improvements: installing new kitchen counters and sink; adding a subway tile backsplash; changing lighting in three bathrooms; tearing out part of a family room wall and re-facing our 26-year-old fireplace with ledgerstone from wall to ceiling.

But now we've hit a holiday lull. I wake up each day and wonder what to do next (Mary usually seems to have a list of niggling things needing to be tied up.)

And I wonder what 2021 is going to bring. Will the virus continue to spread or will it start to get under control? Will the new vaccinations be safe and effective? Should I get the jab(s)? Will I? Will more lockdowns be imposed and personal freedoms limited? Will more businesses fail? Will the economy hold? How will society process all of that?

To borrow a saying: the only constant is change. Another interesting year may be in store.

## Counting the days until 2020 ends

**Le Lieu Browne** ([Email](#)) – When Ruth Bader Ginsburg died, I felt betrayed, abandoned and defeated. I had been hoping that Ginsburg would have fought against all odds to stay alive until the general election, thus conserving her Supreme Court seat to a new Democratic administration. I could almost read her mind. But all was lost.

My generation is slowly leaving this world, this chaotic world and I am here to mourn the past and to fear the future. The year 2020 has brought Coronavirus pandemic, police brutality and racism, (George Floyd and other blacks were atrociously murdered while walking alone in some deserted streets,) mass protests, vandalism, California burning, hurricanes Sally, Laura and others following suit. Hundreds of thousands are homeless, millions unemployed - and Donald J. Trump.

I feel sad and depressed all day. I keep telling myself that I am lucky to live this long to witness the unexpected, unsupportable change in the United States, a country that I call my country with all its faults and racial division.

Looking through the window in my Vermont house as the sun is setting, I contemplate the serenity of Nature, a newly mowed field surrounded by maple trees, birch trees and fir trees. Some have turned bright red as others are shedding their leaves.

Chopin's piano concerto #1 in d minor is playing on the radio. Its soothing melodies stir memories and emotions that are stored up in me. I wish I am a musician so I could relieve all my frustrations and repulsions into musical harmony. I wish I am a fairy to change hatred into love, cruelty into humanity. I wish I am a super woman to crush tyranny and fascism that Trump personalizes during these four years.

It's only empty dream that dulls my senses and help me to sleep.

Vermont is a small and under-populated state that has kept the Covid-19 under control. There were only 57 deaths and more than 2,000 active cases when I arrived there at the end of May. It's up now to 100 deaths and more than 5,000 active cases. I was quarantined by request but rewarded by fresh air and by the generosity of friends who volunteered to do errands for me. It was a quiet and peaceful retreat if only I took the bait that all news was fake.

Unfortunately, I am sucker for news and in particular obsessed with daily events involving Trump in it. It's like a disease that drags you down. I've read somewhere that the press gained big numbers of readers and television viewers during the Trump administration. During the period of the general election, I was back in New York, fighting with my own sanity whether to vote by absentee ballot or by voting on the election day for fear of long line and the spread of Covid19. It was such a relief when I learned that Joe Biden won. It's like a big balloon in my body that suffocates and is now suddenly deflated, and I feel light again.

Up until now, I am safe and healthy. I nevertheless suffer the devastating consequence of Covid-19. I learned that my brother living in Scranton, California, fell sick with Covid-19 in November. He recovered but his partner spent 10 days in the hospital under respiratory machine. They both are 83 years old. She is out of danger and at home under her daughter's, who is doctor, surveillance. My brother has to be isolated at his home in Long Beach.

My sister, who lives in France, was also victim of the virus in mid-February when the coronavirus was still too early to be detected. She was transported to the hospital near death. The hospital near her neighborhood was filled. My sister was sent home with two assigned certified nurses to be at her bedside days and nights until she could breathe on her own. Talking of medical care, it's all free in France.

Being isolated during the pandemic is not truly bad. I can still go out shopping or take a walk. I spend too much time on telephone or talk with friends through Zoom. The agony is that one is not able to meet face to face with friends, especially to visit them. I just lost two dearest friends this month. Cancer took them.

I count the days until 2020 ends, if - there is an if - Trump doesn't have anything under his sleeves. We have suffered a lot, thousands of families have lost their loved ones,



millions are unemployed and unable to feed their families. Two big shadows, Covid-19 and Trump, still are with us.

May 2021 bring us peace, reconciliation and normality.

## Teletype art – and a tree of names

AP-CHRISTMAS

X  
X X X  
X X  
X X X  
X

I  
I

A P

BROADCAST

ROB DALTON

SUE CUNNEFF

JERRY CIPRIANO

CLAUDIA COATES IRA

DREYFUSS BRAD KROHN

PRUDENCE HELLER MICHAEL

HAMMER SAM LITZINGER GREG

JOHNSON STEVE KATZ MICHAEL

BLAKE BOB KIMBALL DON KREIS

LAURA KING JOHN KREISER WARREN

LEVINSON GINNY BYRNE KEN LIKES RON

SIRAK MARK MEINERD JACK NESSMER JOHN

MINE CHARLES MOREY JAMES PETERSON SOFIA

MANNOS PAUL REILLY STEVEN WEINSTEIN ELLEN

FEDERMAN GENE KIM JACK STOKES DAVID SHAPIRO

NORMAN VAN ANDEN FRED YAGER MICHAEL WEINFELD

STEPHEN PENDLEBURY DEBBY CUMMIS CHARLES BOZORTH

XXX

XXX

XXX

MERRY

CHRIST-

MAS FROM AP

BROADCAST IN

NEW YORK CITY

AP-NY-12-24-82 1413EST

**Michael Weinfeld (Email)** - New York Broadcast, and later the BNC when it moved to DC, always sent out a Christmas tree made up of the names of staffers. This one is from NY Broadcast staff of 1982.

## Driving on the left or right? – perplexing

**Henry Bradsher (Email)** -

How many AP people are experienced at driving on the left? Those in Britain and former British colonies, no doubt, but not many more (and even not all former colonies – breaking with its former colonial



ruler, Nigeria switched to right-side driving a dozen years after independence in 1960).

But it can be perplexing at times.

After more than three AP years of left-side driving in Delhi and elsewhere in formerly British South Asia, I got perplexed when I went on a round-the-world sightseeing home leave in 1962 (the year before Monica came to India and kindly agreed to marry me).

First stop, Moscow, driving on the right. Fine, back to what I'd grown up doing. Leningrad, too, on the right. Then Helsinki, where the Finns drove on the right. I was getting used to which way to look before crossing a street.

Then Stockholm. But the Swedes drove on the left (they switched to the right in 1967, and now require headlights always to be on). So back to South Asian habits. On to Copenhagen, but there on the right, so adjust again. Then Reykjavik, but Icelanders drove on the left (they switched in 1968).

So confusing that when I got to AP New York I didn't know which direction to look for traffic.

Back to being bureau chief in Delhi (having been acting for some time, Frank Starzel confirmed me in the job during my 50 Rock visit). First a visit to Japan, driving on the left, so give up the renewed States habits. Then Hong Kong, also left.

But change for a stop in Saigon, where the Vietnamese drove on the right, so a need to readjust there.

Curious about a little bit of a conflict involving American advisers to the South Vietnamese army, I wanted to inquire with Mal Browne and the recently arrived Peter

Arnett. They predicted a worsening war as the Viet Cong learned to ambush the landing zones where U.S. helicopters carried South Vietnamese troops into action. They had a couple of withered hands, picked up on a battlefield, of dead Viet Cong tacked up on a wall in their little AP walk-in street office. The office was vulnerable to the kind of Viet Cong street attacks that later drove Saigon's sidewalk cafes out of business. As the bureau expanded with the war, it moved upstairs in a large building several blocks away.

And on to Bangkok, where the Thais drove on the left (but riding an elephant seemed to demand the middle of the street), so preparation for returning to Delhi. But after left-right-right-left-right-left-right-left-left-right-left driving, I was a bit perplexed when I got back to India.

(Incidentally, if you visit the Bahamas you'll find driving on the left, but most of the cars are old U.S. ones with steering on the left side, making for difficult if not hazardous driving.)

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Bob Graves – [rag664@gmail.com](mailto:rag664@gmail.com)

Rick Plumlee - [rickplumlee48@gmail.com](mailto:rickplumlee48@gmail.com)

Ebony Reed - [shanett@yahoo.com](mailto:shanett@yahoo.com)

## Stories of interest

*From the camera rolls of American phones, glimpses of 2020* (AP)



Dale Todd's wife Sara fixes the mask of their 21-year-old son Adam in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on Aug. 11, 2020. For Todd, a city councilor, this photo is a reminder of the "powerful sense of community that evolved" following the Aug. 10 derecho that hammered the city with winds up to 140 mph, severely damaging tens of thousands of homes and businesses. In the days after the storm, Todd's family and neighbors would gather every night for community meals. (Dale Todd via AP)

By The Associated Press

A year like no other: Americans shambled through it, doing the best they could under circumstances that were uneven at best — and sometimes downright punishing.

As they endured, here and there they pulled out their phones and did what so many people do these days: They snapped photos of the world around them.

Snapshots of 2020. We all have them. And behind some are the stories of an era of pandemic and polarization and progress and upheaval and daily life — the visual representations of the lives people experienced and the moments they captured.

Associated Press reporters went back to some of the people they interviewed during the news events of the past year and asked a straightforward question: What image on your phone's camera roll tells YOUR story of 2020?

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***Targeted killings of journalists surged in 2020, group says*** (AP)

PARIS (AP) — More journalists are being killed outside of war zones, and the overwhelming majority of this year’s grim total of at least 50 dead were deliberately targeted, many of them murdered while investigating organized crime, corruption and environmental degradation, Reporters Without Borders said Tuesday.

Its tally of journalists and media workers killed in connection with their work by mid-December was just slightly lower than in 2019, when the press freedom group counted 53 dead, even though many journalists reported less from the field in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The group said 68% were killed outside of war zones this year. That confirms a trend noted by the group since 2016, when only four out of 10 deaths were in countries not at war.

Targeted killings of journalists surged in 2020, accounting for 84% of deaths, sharply up from 63% in 2019, the group said.

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

-0-

## ***The Resistance’s Breakup With the Media Is at Hand*** (Atlantic)

**By McKay Coppins**

The day after the 2016 election, I got a phone call from an old friend. Neither of us had slept much, and we spent most of the conversation exchanging shell-shocked comments of the Can you believe this? variety. Before we hung up, his voice took on a trace of irony. “Well,” he said, “this is going to be great for your career.”

I waved the remark away, but I knew he was probably right. My contentious relationship with Donald Trump was already paying professional dividends. A couple of years earlier, I’d written a widely read profile of the candidate-to-be after traveling with him to Mar-a-Lago. Trump responded to the story by throwing a theatrical tantrum, complete with Twitter insults, blacklist threats, and a Breitbart News hit piece. My publisher used Trump’s tweets to promote my book; The Daily Show had me on to recount my misadventures with “The Donald.” The further his havoc-

wreaking campaign got, the more opportunities came my way—and I was hardly alone.

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

-0-

## ***"Trumptalk' may outlast Trump*** (Axios)

**By Sara Fischer, Margaret Harding McGill**

President Trump's brash communication style — combined with a societal shift towards streaming, where there are no regulatory restrictions on speech — has forced the entire media industry to present information in a more candid and less polished way.

Why it matters: It's no longer uncommon to hear cable anchors use foul language or for TV or radio personalities to make indecent remarks on air. Now that the standard has been set, it's hard to see how networks and news outlets could go back to their postured presentations of the past.

Driving the news: Beginning with Trump's campaign in 2015, networks had to consider how to cover obscenities associated with his speech.

Read more [here](#).

## **The Final Word**

***I'm signing off as TV critic, but here are six shows I'd happily watch again*** (Washington Post)

**By Hank Stuever**  
**TV critic**

How do you know when you've had enough of a good thing?

I'm talking about television (what else?) and my decision to step down as The Washington Post's TV critic, effective this week, for a new job as an editor in the Style section. There's a lot to envy about the TV critic's job, which it has been my good fortune to have for the past 11 years. You get to see the shows before anyone else and then sort the good from the bad, finding that most are one of the infinite shades of mediocre. You have the privilege of sharing your opinion with readers who really

seem to care what you think; indeed, they have come to rely on you to tell them what they ought to watch.

My mother, perhaps like yours, used to get on my case about watching too much TV as a kid. Turn it off. Go outside. There was something deeply satisfying about telling her that I'd been picked as the new TV critic. All those childhood years in front of the idiot box could now be considered research — a lifetime of training, cleverly disguised as sloth.

But, like any “fun” job, I feel obligated to tell you it's a lot harder than it looks. TV is relentless. When I started, there were fewer than 200 scripted shows on broadcast and cable that required my attention; now, including streaming series, that number is closer to 600. Don't forget about reality TV (another 700-plus shows, by one recent count), documentaries, breaking news coverage and assorted specials. But who wants to hear a TV critic whine? Poor baby. How arduous can it be?

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

## Today in History - Dec. 30, 2020



### By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 30, the 365th day of 2020. There is one day left in the year.

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

On Dec. 30, 1903, about 600 people died when fire broke out at the recently opened Iroquois Theater in Chicago.

#### **On this date:**

In 1813, British troops burned Buffalo, New York, during the War of 1812.



In 1853, the United States and Mexico signed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to buy some 45,000 square miles of land from Mexico for \$10 million in a deal known as the Gadsden Purchase.

In 1860, 10 days after South Carolina seceded from the Union, the state militia seized the United States Arsenal in Charleston.

In 1865, author Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay, India.

In 1922, Vladimir Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which lasted nearly seven decades before dissolving in December 1991.

In 1936, the United Auto Workers union staged its first "sit-down" strike at the General Motors Fisher Body Plant No. 1 in Flint, Michigan. (The strike lasted until Feb. 11, 1937.)

In 1940, California's first freeway, the Arroyo Seco Parkway connecting Los Angeles and Pasadena, was officially opened by Gov. Culbert L. Olson.

In 1972, the United States halted its heavy bombing of North Vietnam.

In 1994, a gunman walked into a pair of suburban Boston abortion clinics and opened fire, killing two employees. (John C. Salvi III was later convicted of murder; he died in prison, an apparent suicide.)

In 2004, a fire broke out during a rock concert at a nightclub in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 194 people. Bandleader and clarinetist Artie Shaw died in Thousand Oaks, California, at age 94.

In 2006, a state funeral service was held in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda for former President Gerald R. Ford.

In 2009, seven CIA employees and a Jordanian intelligence officer were killed by a suicide bomber at a U.S. base in Khost (hohst), Afghanistan.

Ten years ago: Republican Lisa Murkowski was officially named winner of Alaska's U.S. Senate race following a period of legal fights and limbo that had lasted longer than the write-in campaign she waged to keep her job. Top-ranked Connecticut's record 90-game winning streak in women's basketball ended when No. 9 Stanford outplayed the Huskies in a 71-59 victory at Maples Pavilion.

Five years ago: Bill Cosby was charged with drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004; it was the first criminal case brought against the comedian out of the torrent of allegations that destroyed his good-guy image as "America's Dad." (Cosby's first trial ended in a mistrial after jurors

deadlocked; he was convicted on three charges at his retrial in April 2018 and was sentenced to three to 10 years in prison.)

One year ago: Chinese state media said a scientist who had set off an ethical debate with claims that he had made the world's first genetically edited babies was sentenced to three years in prison because of the research. A fierce winter storm created blizzard conditions in parts of Minnesota and the Dakotas, shutting down interstates and leading to hundreds of vehicle crashes. The NFL's New York Giants fired coach Pat Shurmur after a 4-and-12 season.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Russ Tamblyn is 86. Baseball Hall of Famer Sandy Koufax is 85. Folk singer Noel Paul Stookey is 83. TV director James Burrows is 80. Actor Fred Ward is 78. Singer-musician Michael Nesmith is 78. Actor Concetta Tomei (toh-MAY') is 75. Singer Patti Smith is 74. Rock singer-musician Jeff Lynne is 73. TV personality Meredith Vieira is 67. Actor Sheryl Lee Ralph is 65. Actor Patricia Kalember is 64. Country singer Suzy Bogguss is 64. Actor-comedian Tracey Ullman is 61. Rock musician Rob Hotchkiss is 60. Radio-TV commentator Sean Hannity is 59. Sprinter Ben Johnson is 59. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is 57. Actor George Newbern is 57. Movie director Bennett Miller is 54. Singer Jay Kay (Jamiroquai) is 51. Rock musician Byron McMackin (Pennywise) is 51. Actor Meredith Monroe is 51. Actor Daniel Sunjata is 49. Actor Maureen Flannigan is 48. Actor Jason Behr is 47. Golfer Tiger Woods is 45. TV personality-boxer Laila Ali is 43. Actor Lucy Punch is 43. Singer-actor Tyrese Gibson is 42. Actor Eliza Dushku is 40. Rock musician Tim Lopez (Plain White T's) is 40. Actor Kristin Kreuk is 38. Folk-rock singer-musician Wesley Schultz (The Lumineers) is 38. NBA player LeBron James is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Andra Day is 36. Actor Anna Wood is 35. Pop-rock singer Ellie Goulding (GOL'-ding) is 34. Actor Caity Lotz is 34. Actor Jeff Ward is 34. Country musician Eric Steedly is 30. Pop-rock musician Jamie Follese (FAHL'-es-ay) (Hot Chelle (shel) Rae) is 29.

## 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**

Visit our website