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Connecting

January 29, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 29th day of January 2021,

Staffers at many newspapers, broadcast stations and AP bureaus often had a favorite bar or restaurant close by where they would gather for a meal or after hours to solve the problems of the world.

When I worked in St. Louis, that place was the Missouri Bar & Grille, as noted in the Post-Dispatch, "a beloved watering hole especially favored by the ink-stained wretches of the Post-Dispatch and the late Globe-Democrat." The AP bureau was in the Post-Dispatch

building. Unfortunately, the Grille closed permanently in early December 2020.

In Kansas City, when the AP bureau was in The Kansas City Star building, it was the Pub, across the street from the Star building. **Fred Moen**, who I succeeded as KX bureau chief, told me the story of when a new Star publisher came to town and asked Fred to take him to the Pub for lunch. When they entered, the place quieted to a hush and then Star employees quickly paid their bills and left. As Fred and the publisher departed after their lunch, the owner took Fred aside and asked what it would take to never bring the publisher back to his establishment. "I'd go out of business," he said. Later on, that happened.



The COVID-19 pandemic has likely closed or curtailed such places these days, but for nostalgia's sake (and a bit of fun, I hope), share your own favorite story of a news restaurant/bar – and for colleagues who worked in AP headquarters, bureau locations at 50 Rock, 450 W. 33rd and 200 Liberty are fair game.

Have a great weekend. Be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Diane Parker: 'She indeed has made a difference'

Steve Loeper ([Email](#)) - Proudly, I'm one of those thousands of lives that Diane Parker has touched. Working with Diane as her intern trainer in the AP/LA bureau for nearly a decade was nothing short of transformative for me, greatly enhancing my appreciation of diversity in the workplace... and inclusion in the news report.

With Diane's invaluable guidance, we brought a bevy of promising young talent to LA and the region, many of whom went on to successful stints with the AP, personifying its evolution into a more representative company.

As one of Diane's trainers, I was able to attend those legendary training conferences she held each year at exotic locales around the country – and also one in Kansas City – and they never failed to broaden my perspective as both an editor and manager. They were also a lot of fun, driven by Diane's infectious enthusiasm... and yes, that megawatt smile.



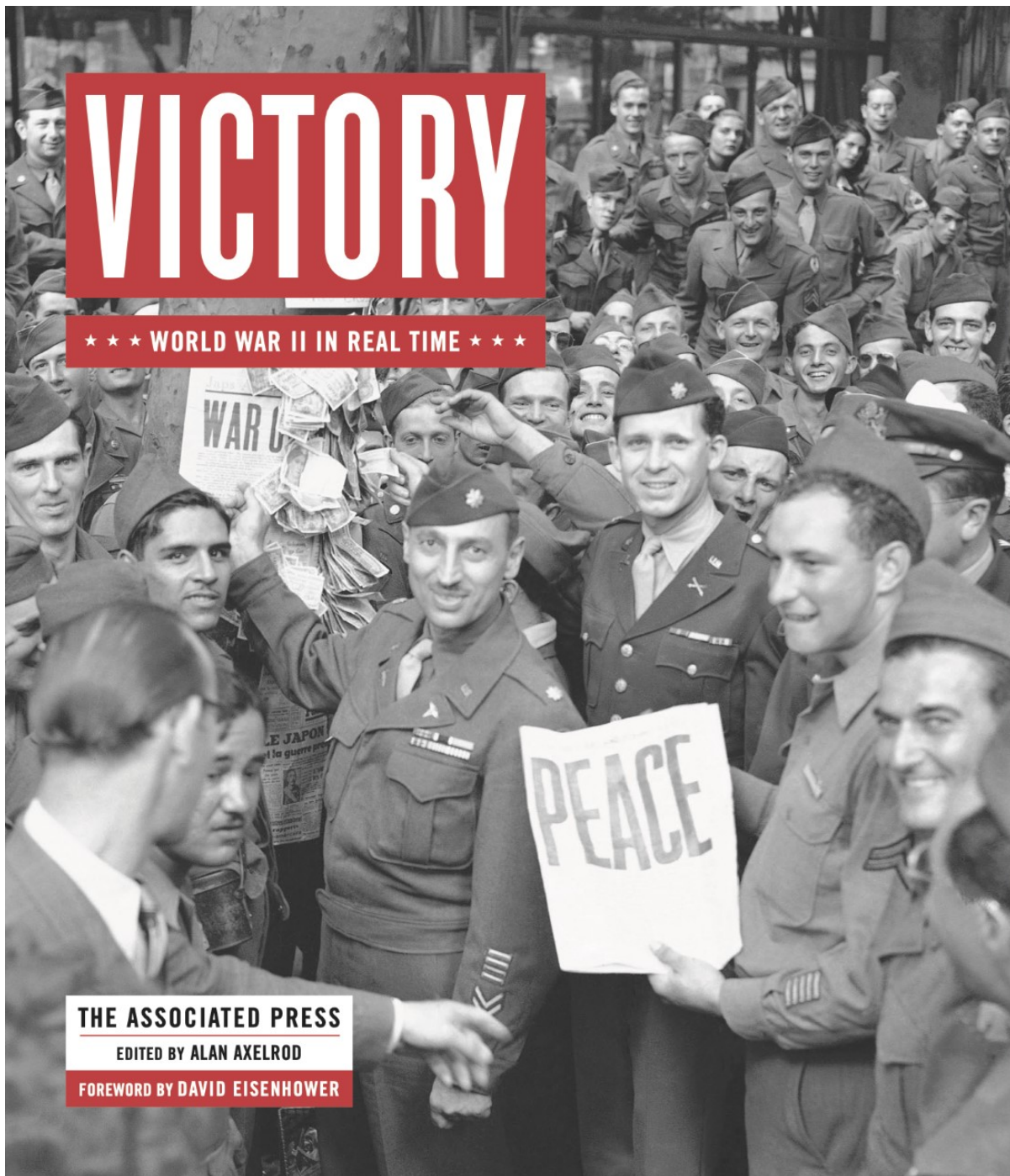
Fondest memory? The way Diane – a church choir member, as I recall -- would delight her trainers by suddenly bursting into full-throated song pretty much in the middle of everything. Her office roleplay exercises were also a kick. If memory serves, few scenarios ran through without someone breaking type, and Diane was typically there laughing with the rest of us.

Recruiting and developing interns under Diane's strong and endearing leadership remain among the most rewarding of my AP assignments, and her influence continues to inform me in retirement endeavors. The AP – and so many of us – are richer because of Diane Parker. She indeed has made a difference.

(Diane Parker, AP's director of staffing, global diversity and inclusion, leaves the AP at the end of January after 20 years to take a position as vice president of diversity and inclusion at Meredith Corp. She was featured in Thursday's Connecting.)

Newest AP book

VICTORY - World War II In Real Time



The latest Associated Press book, “Victory,” commemorates the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, covering the war through breaking news stories and photographs by The Associated Press. Each event is vividly brought to life through images and text from the original articles.

This stunning book covers the war through contemporary AP coverage of 40 to 45 key events, plus human-interest accounts. The stories and photographs are presented chronologically so that readers today can experience the scope of the war the same way people of that era learned of the events. From Germany’s invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, to Japan’s ceremonial signing of surrender aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945, each event is vividly brought to life through images and text from the original articles. The volume features insightful

introductory text for each chapter by historian Alan Axelrod and a Foreword by David Eisenhower.

Peter Costanzo ([Email](#)), who runs AP's book program, had this to say about the project:

"With 'Victory,' we had an opportunity to team with Sterling Publishing to honor many of the embedded AP journalists who provided reports and photos from the front lines throughout World War II, and some at great risk to do so. It's an illustrated profile of the dedicated work by The Associated Press that we see continued to this day, both home and abroad."

Click [here](#) for further information.

Connecting mailbox

Dedication, persistence forced AP to open to minorities, women

Adolphe Bernotas ([Email](#)) - Thank you Evans Witt for your Connecting piece Thursday on how you and Dick Barnes worked long hours and weekends as union volunteers at a now-antique IBM computer to prove that AP had been discriminating and shortchanging women in salaries, pensions and promotions.

Evans and Dick were among many Guild members whose dedication and persistence forced AP to open the company to minorities and women in the Guild's victorious 1983 EEOC lawsuit.

As a Guild negotiator during those years I can attest that their analysis of payroll data was critical to get AP to accept the EEOC consent decree. In the front line stood the courageous female plaintiffs, while many Guild members such as Evans and Dick toiled in the background.

It is a reminder to AP staff that union members and their dues yield changes in the workplace.

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More thoughts on Larry King

Linda Deutsch ([Email](#)) - Dinesh Ramde's piece on Larry King in Wednesday's Connecting got me thinking, which is always a good thing. Most of what he said about

Larry's interviews is true. He did not dig deep or ask questions designed to provoke insightful answers. He rarely broke a big story. But Larry never competed with the big-name anchors for the star interviews. He didn't have to. Celebrities and potentates felt comfortable coming on his show.

At the time I made appearances on "Larry King Live," it was rare for the AP to allow us to be interviewed on TV. Approval had to come from Lou Boccardi himself. After he watched my first show with Larry, he gave the OK. The questions I was answering were not confrontational, as they often are on today's interview shows, and I was able to provide information about the ongoing OJ Simpson trial.

When I think of it now, Larry's success was not just because he was the master of softball questions. Rather it was because he was a celebrity himself and talked to his famous guests from a different perspective. He rarely aimed to make news. Essentially, he was an entertainer. He offered us a respite from the news, letting us visit with some of the most interesting people of our times. And he seemed to have so much fun doing it. With his silly suspenders and his ready smile, he was the host at a grand party.

Larry did not have the intellectual curiosity of Jon Stewart or the piercing topical wit of Stephen Colbert (my current favorite). And to be honest his appearance at my retirement roast fell a bit flat. He was not a great public speaker. By then, he had been dropped by CNN (a pretty big mistake). But his name helped to draw a large audience for the event and he seemed genuinely happy to be in the company of journalists. His career began in our profession and he never forgot it.

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Fenway loves the smells, I love the sights



Michael Weinfeld ([Email](#)) - I often walk out labradoodle, Fenway, along the shore at Monument Lake, which is just a minute from our house in Colorado. She loved the smells; I love to see the day-to-day changes in the lake and Mt. Herman.

One morning, I was treated to a full moon over the mountain and one red ice fishing hut on the frozen lake.

It's a good thing I snapped the photo when I did. The moon set behind the mountain seconds later.

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Bernie in the neighborhood



Linda Sargent ([Email](#)) - Here's a photo from Dallas of the neighborhood piñata store. They made the coronavirus piñata this summer.

Veteran AP Photographer Honored at White House



Associated Press photographer Huynh Cong "Nick" Ut visits Kim Phuc's house near the place where he made his famous Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of her as a terrified 9-year-old in Trang Bang, Tay Ninh province, Vietnam. (AP Photo/Na Son Nguyen)



Associated Press Saigon staffer Huynh Cong "Nick" Ut works in the darkroom of the new AP bureau in the Eden Building, ca. 1966. Ut was about 15 at the time. He went on to shoot one of the war's most iconic images, and won the 1973 Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Photography. (AP Photo)

AP Images Blog

AP photographer Nick Ut, who retired in 2017 after a 51-year career with The Associated Press, received the National Medal of Arts at the White House.

He is the first journalist to receive the National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the federal government.

The National Medal of Arts is awarded by the President of the United States to individuals or groups who are deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support and availability of the arts in the U.S.

Ut, a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer, is known best for his iconic “Terror of War” picture from the Vietnam War, an image captured in 1972 that helped heighten awareness of the conflict. He was 21 years old when he took the shocking photo of terrified 9-year-old Kim Phuc running down a country road, her body burning from napalm bombs dropped on her village.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Francesca Pitaro.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



On Saturday to...

Charlie Bruce - cbruceusa@gmail.com

Rich Oppel - richinaus@gmail.com

On Sunday to...

Don Deibler - russd225@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Journalists booted from Marjorie Taylor Greene town hall^(AP)

By **BEN NADLER**

ATLANTA (AP) — Two journalists were kicked out of a public town hall event and threatened with arrest for trying to ask a question of Republican U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, who has come under heavy criticism for supporting social media posts that advocated violence against Democratic officials.

The journalists from WRCB-TV were invited to attend the Wednesday event in Dalton, Georgia, and were given credentials for it, Callie Starnes, WRCB-TV's news director, told The Associated Press.

"Once we arrived we were told we were not allowed to speak to guests or the congresswoman," the reporter, Meredith Aldis, said on the station's broadcast Wednesday night.

In a video posted online by the Chattanooga, Tennessee-based news station, the reporter can be heard starting to ask Greene a question when the congresswoman stops her and says, "I'm talking to my constituents."

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

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Retiring Brokaw: Journalists should get out of power centers^(AP)

By **DAVID BAUDER**

NEW YORK (AP) — If Tom Brokaw has one piece of advice to leave for television journalists upon his retirement, it's to get out to more of the country —and not just to visit.

The Capitol insurrection is but one example of a story that might not have seemed as much a surprise if more journalists were attuned to communities outside of the power centers, the veteran NBC newsman said.

Television news is “much, much too wedded to the East Coast and West Coast only” and needs to expand its presence across the country.

“Take some of the people who are only in Washington and send them to Salt Lake City or Kansas City, or St. Louis for that matter,” he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Brokaw, who turns 81 next month, announced last week that he’s retiring from NBC News, where he worked for 55 years. He said he’s been overwhelmed and heartened by the outpouring of good wishes from colleagues and people who watched him on TV for many of those years.

Read more [here](#).

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Wanted: New top editors for American newsrooms in a highly uncertain time (Washington Post)

By Sarah Ellison

When Martin Baron announced his upcoming retirement from The Washington Post on Tuesday, it made clear what is either a crisis or opportunity for American journalism: Several major media organizations are all looking for new leaders at the same time.

The Los Angeles Times needs a replacement for Norman Pearlstine, 78, who has stepped aside as executive editor. And the New York Times is almost certainly facing the looming retirement of Dean Baquet, its 64-year-old executive editor.

As of yet, there is no named successor at any of those major newspapers. And it’s the same situation at Reuters, Wired, Vox, HuffPost, and the Center for Public Integrity, all actively seeking new leadership.

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

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Corky Lee, known for photographing Asian America, dies at 73 (AP)

By TERRY TANG

Corky Lee, a photojournalist who spent five decades spotlighting the often ignored Asian and Pacific Islander American communities, has died. He was 73.

Lee died Wednesday in New York City's Queens borough of complications from COVID-19, his family said in a statement.

"His passion was to rediscover, document and champion through his images the plight of all Americans but most especially that of Asian and Pacific Islanders," his family said.

The self-described "undisputed unofficial Asian American Photographer Laureate," Lee used his eye to pursue what he saw as "photographic justice." Almost always sporting a camera around his neck, he was present at many seminal moments impacting Asian America over a 50-year career.

Read more [here](#).

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ABC News's president, James Goldston, is exiting as executive turnover in TV news continues. (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbaum

More change is coming to the television news business.

James Goldston, the president of ABC News, said on Thursday that he would leave the network at the end of March. His exit comes weeks after Phil Griffin, the longtime president of MSNBC, announced his own departure, and as CNN's president, Jeffrey A. Zucker, is deciding whether to remain in his role.

No successor for Mr. Goldston has been announced. ABC News said it had begun a search for his replacement, which will be led by Peter Rice, the powerful Walt Disney Company executive whose portfolio includes ABC.

TV news underwent a revival — in ratings and influence — under the Trump administration, and Mr. Goldston, who became president of ABC News in 2014, oversaw a nightly newscast, hosted by David Muir, that regularly beat the competition. Last year, ABC's "World News Tonight" routinely ranked among the highest rated telecasts in all of broadcast and cable television, beating many entertainment and reality shows.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - Jan. 29, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 29, the 29th day of 2021. There are 336 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 29, 1979, President Jimmy Carter formally welcomed Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping (dung shah-oh-ping) to the White House, following the establishment of diplomatic relations.

On this date:

In 1820, King George III died at Windsor Castle at age 81; he was succeeded by his son, who became King George IV.

In 1845, Edgar Allan Poe's famous narrative poem "The Raven" ("Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary...") was first published in the New York Evening Mirror.

In 1919, the ratification of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which launched Prohibition, was certified by Acting Secretary of State Frank L. Polk.

In 1936, the first inductees of baseball's Hall of Fame, including Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, were named in Cooperstown, New York.

In 1963, the first charter members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame were named in Canton, Ohio (they were enshrined when the Hall opened in September 1963). Poet Robert Frost died in Boston at age 88.

In 1966, the musical comedy “Sweet Charity” starring Gwen Verdon opened on Broadway.

In 1975, a bomb exploded inside the U.S. State Department in Washington, causing considerable damage, but injuring no one; the radical group Weather Underground claimed responsibility.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan announced in a nationally broadcast message that he and Vice President George H.W. Bush would seek re-election in the fall.

In 1998, a bomb rocked an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, killing security guard Robert Sanderson and critically injuring nurse Emily Lyons. (The bomber, Eric Rudolph, was captured in May 2003 and is serving a life sentence.)

In 2002, in his first State of the Union address, President George W. Bush said terrorists were still threatening America [–] and he warned of “an axis of evil” consisting of North Korea, Iran and Iraq.

In 2006, ABC “World News Tonight” co-anchor Bob Woodruff and a cameraman were seriously injured in a roadside bombing in Iraq.

In 2015, Rod McKuen, whose music, verse and spoken-word recordings made him one of the best-selling poets in history, died at 81.

Ten years ago: With protests raging, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak named his intelligence chief, Omar Suleiman, as his first-ever vice president. Kim Clijsters finally won her first Australian Open title and the fourth major of her career, as she beat Li Na 3-6, 6-3, 6-3. Avant-garde composer Milton Babbitt, 94, died in Princeton, N.J.

Five years ago: The Obama administration confirmed for the first time that Hillary Clinton’s home server contained closely guarded government secrets. An avalanche in the Canadian province of British Columbia left five people riding snowmobiles dead. Two American endurance athletes, Daniel Cartica of Chicago and Becca Pizzi of Belmont, Massachusetts, won the World Marathon Challenge by completing seven marathons in seven days on seven continents. French movie director Jacques Rivette, 87, died in Paris.

One year ago: A charter flight evacuating 195 Americans, including diplomats and their families, left the Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the new viral outbreak; they would undergo three days of testing and monitoring at a California military base. World health officials expressed concern that the virus was starting to spread between people outside China. President Donald Trump’s lawyers asserted at his Senate trial that a trade of U.S. military aid for political favors – even if proven – could not be grounds for his impeachment. Trump signed into law the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a major rewrite of the rules of trade with Canada and Mexico.

Today's Birthdays: Writer-composer-lyricist Leslie Bricusse is 90. Feminist author Germaine Greer is 82. Actor Katharine Ross is 81. Feminist author Robin Morgan is 80. Actor Tom Selleck is 76. R&B singer Bettye LaVette is 75. Actor Marc Singer is 73. Actor Ann Jillian is 71. Rock musician Louie Perez (Los Lobos) is 68. R&B singer Charlie Wilson is 68. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey is 67. Actor Terry Kinney is 67. Country singer Irlene Mandrell is 65. Actor Diane Delano is 64. Actor Judy Norton (TV: "The Waltons") is 63. Rock musician Johnny Spampinato is 62. Olympic gold-medal diver Greg Louganis is 61. Rock musician David Baynton-Power (James) is 60. Rock musician Eddie Jackson (Queensryche) is 60. Actor Nicholas Turturro is 59. Rock singer-musician Roddy Frame (Aztec Camera) is 57. Actor-director Edward Burns is 53. Actor Sam Trammell is 52. Actor Heather Graham is 51. Former House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is 51.

Got a story or photos to share? (And oh yes, Go Chiefs!)

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

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