

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting  
October 27, 2021

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



[Top AP News](#)

[Top AP Photos](#)

[AP Merchandise](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)

[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Oct. 27, 2021,

Lots of news happened while Ye Olde Connecting Editor took a few days off for a trip with Linda to visit our son in Los Angeles and introduce him to our longtime friend **Andy Lippman**.

Congratulations are in order for our colleague **Marty Crutsinger**, a star of the AP's Business News department and well-known AP byline, who plans to retire in December after a 50-year career in journalism – 48 of them with The Associated Press.

In a note to staff, three of Marty's AP colleagues – **Brad Foss**, head of Business News; **Fred Monyak**, news editor for the economy team in Business News, and **Cara Rubinsky**, deputy business news editor based in London, said, in part:

*For nearly five decades, Marty Crutsinger has played a vital role at the AP, chronicling a gallery of transformative events. A reporter known for his steady nerves, breadth of knowledge and boundless energy, Marty chased stories that brought him to extraordinary moments in history.*

*From plane crashes, hurricanes and cruise-ship fires in Miami to Mikhail Gorbachev's first appearance at a Group of Seven global meeting in London, from coverage of city hall to the statehouse to U.S. Department of Treasury and the Federal Reserve, Marty's career has hop-scotched across a half-century of assignments that required smarts, versatility and quick-thinking ingenuity.*



We bid farewell, good fortune and thanks to **Jonathan Lemire** ([Email](#)) who served the AP for just eight years but made a big impact on the company as White House correspondent. The news broke Monday that Lemire (who will remain a Connecting colleague) is leaving the AP next month to become the new host of MSNBC's Way Too Early and also become White House bureau chief for Politico.

Lemire tweeted: NEWS: Thrilled to be the new host of @WayTooEarly - tune in daily at 5 am on @MSNBC. I'll also continue in my role at @Morning\_Joe and across the network. Also so excited to soon become White House Bureau Chief at @politico. And my thanks to @AP for eight years I'll never forget.

Finally, our congratulations to colleague **David Crary**, who has become the AP's new religion director.

Today, Columbia University's Ira A. Lipman Center of Journalism and Civil and Human Rights is hosting AP's **Kathy Gannon** as the inaugural guest. Kathy is the AP's news director for Afghanistan and Pakistan. The webinar will be held at 2:30 p.m. EDT, in a new series of dialogues, hosted by center director, Jelani Cobb, a J School professor, author and award-winning staff writer at the New Yorker. Click [here](#) for the Zoom webinar registration link for Kathy's chat, in case you would like to join. The Lipman Dialogues are succinct, timely discussions with people at the center of issues relating to civil and human rights.

We lead today's issue with a recap by **Marty Crutsinger** of his career – with thanks for agreeing to my request for the story. You can tell from reading it why he is so respected by his many friends and colleagues. Got a story or favorite memory to share about Marty? Send it along.

It's good to be back with you – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

# 'It has been a rewarding journey'



**Marty Crutsinger** ([Email](#)) - In August 1971 I graduated from college and a week later had packed up all my worldly belongings in my 1961 Chevrolet Impala and headed off from Texas to my first reporting job at the Jacksonville (Florida) Journal.

That began my 50-year career in journalism. For someone who loves chasing the news, I can't think of a better way to spend the last half-century.

I have covered eight administrations from Jimmy Carter to Joe Biden and since 1984 my focus has been on covering economic issues from the monthly flood of economic indicators to the decisions of the Federal Reserve and Treasury Department.

Pretty heady stuff for a kid from small town Texas. I had a lot of mentors along the way but two stand out - Ken Gepfert who was a graduate teaching assistant in college who not only helped me land my first newspaper job but also helped me get my first AP job. And Reid Miller, my first bureau chief in Miami and later my deputy bureau chief in Washington. Reid taught me so much about how to do journalism the right way.

In the mid-1950s, my little town got a radio station and I was invited along with other students to tour the facility. I was about 7 or 8. While the station owner wanted to show off the control room where the disc jockey sat, my attention was drawn to an AP printer right outside the control room that was clattering away with the latest news on the broadcast wire.

It was my first look at an AP printer and I was fascinated. Coming from a place where nothing much ever happened, that printer seemed to offer a chance to get to a place where news was being written all the time.

And as luck would have it, one of my first jobs at the AP was writing for the state broadcast wire. I polished by skills on the Florida Sunrise Summary, written by the person on the overnight shift.

I enjoyed covering state government from 1975 to 1978. My responsibility was the state Senate. My biggest story outside of government and one of the saddest I ever covered was the deadly attacks on women by Ted Bundy at a sorority house on the campus of Florida State University.

When I transferred to Washington in 1978, I started out as all reporters did at the time on the night desk. Working that desk, Steve Hurst and I, thanks to a tip from the San Francisco bureau, had a one-hour lead over UPI on what turned out to be the mass-suicides at the Jim Jones compound in Guyana.

After getting off the desk, my first assignment was covering the energy and environmental beat. At what I thought would be a routine breakfast speech in 1983 by James Watt, Ronald Reagan's first Interior secretary, Watt decided to make a very bad joke.

He described the members of a commission he had appointed to answer criticism of his efforts to lease government lands for coal production, saying it was a diverse group: "I have a black, a woman, two Jews and a cripple. And we have talent."

I couldn't get back to the office fast enough and the first thing I did was call the commission to get phone numbers for the commission members, fearing that if Watt's people got to them first, I would not be able to reach them. With luck, my first call was to a Penn State University professor. I read Watt's quote and then stammered, "May I ask what category fits you?" He replied with more than a hint of irritation, "I guess I fall into two. I am Jewish and I have a withered arm."

Within days, Watt was out of the Cabinet. Watt's people always told me if he had just not used the word cripple he could have survived. I am not so sure about that.

In January 1984, I moved to the economics beat and began my many years in the Treasury press room. For nearly two decades, I was the AP's chief economics writer in Washington, getting to cover summits and other economic events around the world. In fact, I covered 18 consecutive Group of Seven leaders' summits sitting right alongside a great partner, White House correspondent Terry Hunt.



The great thing about those trips was that Terry and I got to meet AP journalists from around the world. There is no finer group in all of journalism. Working for a wire service is a collaborative experience. To succeed, you have to work as a team to get the news to the wire quickly. No organization does it better than the AP.

In a reorganization in 2008, I and my colleague Jeannine Aversa, were transferred from the Washington bureau to AP's Business News department just in time to cover the 2008 financial crisis, the worst financial meltdown since the 1930s.

While I worked during a time called the "Great Moderation" after Paul Volcker had gotten a period of high inflation under control, there have been a fair number of turbulent episodes starting with the 1987 stock market crash only weeks after Alan Greenspan had taken over at the Fed and going on to the Asian currency crisis of 1998, when 40% of the global economy was pushed into recession, and then the 2008 financial crisis.

During the fall of 2008, I wound up working at Treasury every weekend, covering a string of collapses including the government takeover of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy.

During those chaotic days, having a base in the Treasury press room proved to be a big advantage. If Treasury folks were not answering my emails, I simply went up to their offices and demanded answers in person. Of course, they would sometimes threaten to pull my press pass if I didn't stop coming up but lucky for me they didn't follow through with the threat.

While the financial crises have changed over the years, the thrill of working with other AP colleagues on a big story has not. It has been a rewarding journey. While I will not be on the front lines anymore, you can rest assured I will be on the sidelines cheering my former colleagues on.

## **Jonathan Lemire To Host MSNBC's 'Way Too Early', Join Politico**



ABOVE: Jonathan Lemire, on the set of MSNBC's "Way Too Early." (Anthony J Scutro, NBC.)

By Ted Johnson, Deadline

Jonathan Lemire, who has been covering the White House for the Associated Press, will be the new host of MSNBC's Way Too Early.



Lemire also will be joining Politico as its White House bureau chief, starting in November.

Lemire, who has been an analyst for NBC News and MSNBC, succeeds Kasie Hunt at Way Too Early and later joined CNN.

Lemire covered Donald Trump and Joe Biden's administrations for the AP, and also is writing a book, *The Big Lie: Election Chaos, Political Opportunism and the State of American Politics After 2020*.

Way Too Early precedes Morning Joe at 5 AM ET.

"So I am going over the fine print here and it is 5 AM? Is that what I signed up for?" Lemire joked to Morning Joe co-hosts Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski as **they made the announcement.**

Lemire will start his role as permanent host of Way Too Early on Tuesday, and said that the show will have "a real reporter's sensibility," with lawmakers and officials on to

talk about “what is driving the day.”

Lemire has been with the AP for the past eight years. He previously worked for The New York Daily News for 10 years.

Politico also announced that Max Tani would join Politico as a member of its West Wing Playbook team. He’s been covering the media beat for The Daily Beast since 2018, and previously covered politics and media for Business Insider.

Politico also announced that Tina Sfondeles would shift from West Wing Playbook to full time for the White House team, focusing full-time on justice-specific issues.

Way Too Early started in 2009 with Willie Geist, and has since featured a number of different media figures as hosts. It was replaced in 2016 with Morning Joe First Look, but returned to the schedule in 2020 with Hunt as the host.

Click [here](#) for link to this story. Shared by Dennis Conrad.

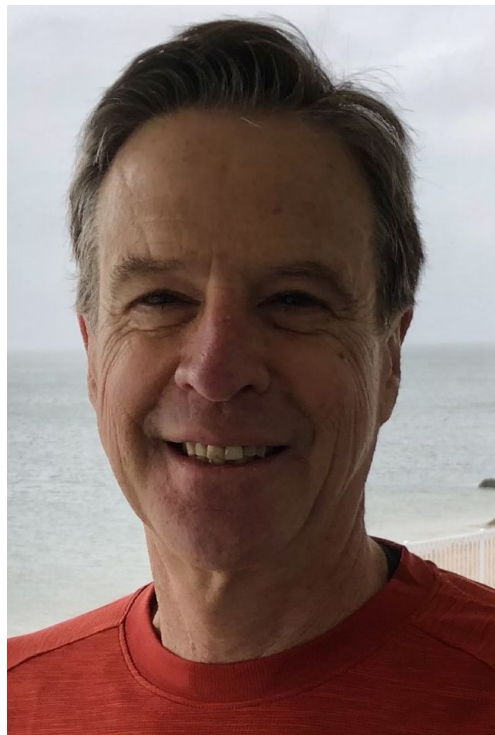
## David Crary named AP’s religion director

From Sarah Nordgren - Deputy Managing Editor, Sports, Business, Religion, Entertainment, Health and Science – in a note to AP staff last Friday:

It is with great pleasure that I share with you the news that David Crary has been named religion director for AP.

Many of you, of course, know David from his role as national writer these past few years. But David’s career has spanned three continents and embraced many assignments. He joined the AP in Mississippi in 1976, later worked in Colorado and on the international desk in New York before moving to Africa, where his coverage included the Ethiopian famine and Nelson Mandela’s release from prison. From Africa, David went to Paris as news editor and later to Toronto as bureau chief. He transferred to New York in 1999, where much of his work has focused on social issues including abortion, LGBTQ rights and child welfare.

Since 2018, he has played an increasingly large role in AP’s religion coverage, following the illness and ultimate death of long-time AP religion writer Rachel Zoll, who was instrumental in building out AP’s religion department.



David has been serving as interim director since the departure of former religion director Sally Stapleton. He will head a team of journalists funded by a grant from the

Lilly Endowment focused on the intersection of religion and culture. Please join me in congratulating him.

## More memories of Rick Vernaci



**Rick in Ethiopia. (Shared by his wife, Kathy Rizzo)**

**Charles Hill** ([Email](#)) - I was saddened to learn of the passing of Rick Vernaci, who I remember as a full-of-life, aggressive reporter and news leader with a sharp sense of



humor.

I met Rick in 1984 when I became Minneapolis bureau chief in charge of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota and he was Bismarck correspondent, responsible for the North Dakota news report. Very early on we had our North Dakota newspaper meeting, where the editors were known as a feisty and outspoken bunch loyal to the AP but also demanding and not pleased that good AP journalists in their state were, in their minds, too quickly promoted to bigger markets. My memory is that it was at this first meeting that Rick noted that the session would be in the hotel's Custer Room and that that was not to be ignored. And, of course, he had his trademark mischievous grin when he said it. And he also had the journalistic goods and work ethic to make even the North Dakota editors pretty close to happy.

Rick was a dogged, determined, fearless reporter, but built relationships with news sources without being cowed by politicians who thought they shouldn't be questioned. He was assertive and unbowing but fair.

On a personal note, I really enjoyed his style. He was fun to work with and to be around, and he seemed proud to be representing the AP. He was funny and clever and smart. It was a pleasure to know Rick and to be on the same team as him.

-0-

**Dave Skidmore** ([Email](#)) - I had the privilege of working with Rick in the Washington bureau. I remember him especially for his wonderful sardonic wit. Once, at a party for someone leaving the AP for little start-up service called Bloomberg News --- a witty person congratulated the departing staffer for "making it over the fence without getting shot." Rick responded, "Yes, but you may find that you've landed in another work camp." He was a good colleague and good company.

## The Facebook Papers

[The Facebook Papers](#) represents a unique collaboration between 17 American news organizations, including The Associated Press.

Journalists from a variety of newsrooms, large and small, worked together to gain access to thousands of pages of internal company documents obtained by Frances Haugen, the former Facebook product manager-turned-whistleblower.

***EXPLAINER: Just what are 'The Facebook Papers,' anyway?***



**FILE - This Jan. 17, 2017, file photo shows a Facebook logo in Paris. (AP Photo/Thibault Camus, File)**

**By The Associated Press**

The Facebook Papers project represents a unique collaboration among 17 American news organizations, including The Associated Press. Journalists from a variety of newsrooms, large and small, worked together to gain access to thousands of pages of internal company documents obtained by Frances Haugen, the former Facebook product manager-turned-whistleblower.

A separate consortium of European news outlets had access to the same set of documents, and members of both groups began publishing content related to their analysis of the materials at 7 a.m. EDT on Monday, Oct. 25. That date and time was set by the partner news organizations to give everyone in the consortium an opportunity to fully analyze the documents, report out relevant details, and to give Facebook's public relations staff ample time to respond to questions and inquiries raised by that reporting.

Each member of the consortium pursued its own independent reporting on the document contents and their significance. Every member also had the opportunity to attend group briefings to gain information and context about the documents.

The launch of The Facebook Papers project follows similar reporting by The Wall Street Journal, sourced from the same documents, as well as Haugen's appearance on the CBS television show "60 Minutes" and her Oct. 5 Capitol Hill testimony before a U.S. Senate subcommittee.

Read more [here](#).

## *Best of the Week*

# In the wake of Texas' abortion ban, AP gives voice to women now going to out-of-state clinics



AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell

Politicians, activists and medical personnel frequently weigh in on America's pitched abortion debate. But the voices of the people most affected by the slew of new laws that restrict access to abortion are seldom heard.

Allowing patients to tell their stories of seeking to end their pregnancies has been a priority in AP's coverage of Texas' new law banning most abortions. Oklahoma City-based reporter Sean Murphy and Miami-based photographer Rebecca Blackwell delivered impressively on that goal with a sensitively written, visually compelling all-formats package.

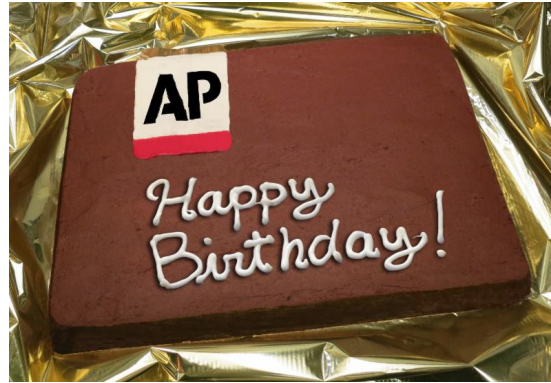
Court filings and abortion providers had given anecdotal evidence of Texas women traveling hundreds of miles to out-of-state abortions. Murphy pressed to be allowed access at clinics in Oklahoma and in Louisiana, but clinic directors expressed reluctance, concerned about patient privacy and overwhelmed with scheduling visits by women from their own states and Texas.

When a clinic director in Shreveport, Louisiana, agreed to let Murphy and Blackwell come to her facility, it came with stipulations: Blackwell would have to stay out of the

building while patients were there, and Murphy would have to sit in a room alone, waiting for patients who agreed to speak with him.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Terry Anderson - [taa51@hotmail.com](mailto:taa51@hotmail.com)

## Stories of interest

### *Diversity study: TV looks more like US and viewers approve* (AP)

By LYNN ELBER

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Television fare that reflects the nation’s increasing racial and ethnic diversity is finding favor with industry gatekeepers and viewers, according to a study of the 2019-20 TV season released Tuesday.

Despite the pandemic that stymied Hollywood production, there were varying measures of growth in the hiring of people of color — and women — in on- and off-camera jobs, researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles, said in the report.

In return, audience enthusiasm for shows such as creator-star Issa Rae’s “Insecure” and the miniseries “Watchmen” with Emmy-winning actor Regina King proved that inclusion pays business as well as social dividends, said Darnell Hunt, dean of the school’s social sciences division.

The report’s biggest takeaway is “the mounting evidence for how important diversity is to today’s audience,” Hunt said in an interview. He co-wrote the annual report with Ana-Christina Ramón, a UCLA social sciences research director.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***The Times-Picayune sought FBI files on Bill Jefferson's corruption case. They came 12 years later.***

(NOLA.com)

By **BRUCE ALPERT**

The documents involving one of the most sensational cases in the long colorful history of Louisiana corruption arrived in the mail last week – a mere 12 years after I requested them.

When I filed a Freedom of Information Act request in 2009, my Times-Picayune editors figured it would be newsworthy to examine documents related to the criminal investigation, prosecution and trial of former U.S. Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans.

But when the documents arrived, the case had been over — in every sense — for four years. The final chapter came when a federal judge in 2017 reduced Jefferson's 13-year corruption sentence to the five years, five months he had already served. My career in daily journalism had ended even earlier than that, in 2015.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***Inside the Big Facebook Leak*** (New York Times)

By **BEN SMITH**

Frances Haugen first met Jeff Horwitz, a tech-industry reporter for The Wall Street Journal, early last December on a hiking trail near the Chabot Space & Science Center in Oakland, Calif.

She liked that he seemed thoughtful, and she liked that he'd written about Facebook's role in transmitting violent Hindu nationalism in India, a particular interest of hers. She also got the impression that he would support her as a person, rather than as a mere source who could supply him with the inside information she had picked up during her nearly two years as a product manager at Facebook.

"I auditioned Jeff for a while," Ms. Haugen told me in a phone interview from her home in Puerto Rico, "and one of the reasons I went with him is that he was less sensationalistic than other choices I could have made."

She became one of the greatest sources of the century, turning over the tens of thousands of pages of internal documents she had collected. Starting Sept. 13, The Journal justified her confidence with a meticulous rollout that included 11 major

articles by Mr. Horwitz and other reporters cleverly packaged under a catchy rubric, The Facebook Files.

Read more [here](#).

## The Final Word

### *Meeting up with Andy and Scout*



**Paul Stevens ([Email](#))** – During our visit to LA, Linda and I got the chance to meet up with longtime friend and AP colleague Andy Lippman ([Email](#)) and be introduced to his new four-legged companion, Scout. Andy shouts out and Scout barks out their hello's to their many friends from Andy's backyard in South Pasadena.



# Celebrating AP's 175th

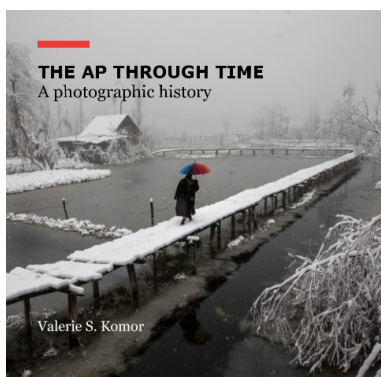
## AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos.

Click [Here](#).

## AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History” - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP's 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP's development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

## Today in History - Oct. 27, 2021



## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 27, the 300th day of 2021. There are 65 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 27, 1978, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (men-AH'-kem BAY'-gihn) were named winners of the Nobel Peace Prize for their progress toward achieving a Middle East accord.

### On this date:

In 1787, the first of the Federalist Papers, a series of essays calling for ratification of the United States Constitution, was published.

In 1858, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, was born in New York City.

In 1904, the first rapid transit subway, the IRT, was inaugurated in New York City.

In 1938, Du Pont announced a name for its new synthetic yarn: "nylon."

In 1941, the Chicago Daily Tribune dismissed the possibility of war with Japan, editorializing, "She cannot attack us. That is a military impossibility. Even our base at Hawaii is beyond the effective striking power of her fleet."

In 1954, U.S. Air Force Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. was promoted to brigadier general, the first Black officer to achieve that rank in the USAF.

In 1986, the New York Mets won the World Series, coming from behind to defeat the Boston Red Sox, 8-5, in game 7 played at Shea Stadium.

In 1995, a sniper killed one soldier and wounded 18 others at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. (Paratrooper William J. Kreuzer was convicted in the shootings, and condemned to death; the sentence was later commuted to life in prison.)



In 1998, Hurricane Mitch cut through the western Caribbean, pummeling coastal Honduras and Belize; the storm caused several thousand deaths in Central America in the days that followed.

In 2001, in Washington, the search for deadly anthrax widened to thousands of businesses and 30 mail distribution centers.

In 2004, the Boston Red Sox won their first World Series since 1918, sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals in Game 4, 3-0.

In 2018, a gunman shot and killed 11 congregants and wounded six others at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue in the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history; authorities said the suspect, Robert Bowers, raged against Jews during and after the rampage. (Bowers, who is awaiting trial, has pleaded not guilty; prosecutors are seeking a death sentence.)

Ten years ago: European leaders clinched a deal they hoped would mark a turning point in their two-year debt crisis, agreeing to have banks take bigger losses on Greece's debts and to boost the region's weapons against market turmoil.

Five years ago: A jury in Portland, Oregon, delivered an extraordinary blow to the government in a long-running battle over the use of public lands when it acquitted all seven defendants, including group leader Ammon Bundy, who were involved in the armed occupation of a national wildlife refuge in 2014. Law enforcement officers dressed in riot gear evicted protesters from private land in the path of the Dakota Access oil pipeline, dramatically escalating a months-long dispute over Native American rights and the project's environmental impact.

One year ago: Amy Coney Barrett was formally sworn as the Supreme Court's ninth justice, her oath administered in private by Chief Justice John Roberts. Seeking the support of suburban women while campaigning in Michigan, President Donald Trump said, "We're getting your husbands back to work," as he criticized restrictions put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19. The Los Angeles Dodgers won their first World Series title since 1988, beating the Tampa Bay Rays 3-1 in Game 6 in a series played in the neutral site of Arlington, Texas, because of the coronavirus. (Dodgers star Justin Turner was removed from the game following the seventh inning after testing positive for COVID-19; he returned to the field to celebrate with teammates in violation of coronavirus protocols.) Disgraced self-improvement guru Keith Raniere was sentenced to 120 years for turning some adherents into sex slaves branded with his initials and for sexually abusing a 15-year-old.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian John Cleese is 82. Author Maxine Hong Kingston is 81. Country singer Lee Greenwood is 79. Producer-director Ivan Reitman is 75. Rock musician Garry Tallent (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 72. Author Fran Lebowitz is 71. Rock musician K.K. Downing is 70. TV personality Jayne Kennedy is 70. Actor-director Roberto Benigni is 69. Actor Peter Firth is 68. Actor Robert Picardo is 68. World Golf Hall of Famer Patty Sheehan is 65. Singer Simon Le Bon is 63. Country musician Jerry Dale McFadden (The Mavericks) is 57. Internet news editor Matt Drudge is 55. Rock musician Jason Finn (Presidents of the United States of America) is 54. Actor Sean Holland is 53. Actor Channon Roe is 52. Actor Sheeri Rappaport is 44.

Actor David Walton is 43. Violinist Vanessa-Mae is 43. Actor-singer Kelly Osbourne is 37. Actor Christine Evangelista is 35. Actor Bryan Craig is 30. Actor Troy Gentile is 28.

## 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