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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Dec. 2, 2021,

We congratulate our colleague **Kristin Gazlay**, one of the most-respected and well-liked person I've known within The Associated Press, on her plans to retire at the end of this month after four decades with the cooperative.

She has held a variety of positions over her years with the AP and is currently senior editor at large, based at New York Headquarters. Already a couple of you have sent along your thoughts about Kristin – and I would welcome hearing from you with a favorite story or memory.

Kristin joined the AP in Dallas in September 1980 as vacation relief right out of college (SMU) and went on the permanent payroll in January 1981 as a Dallas newswoman. The chief who hired her was **Dorman Cordell**, but she credits his successor **John Lumpkin** with her rapid rise. "He completely believed in me, even at my tender age, and empowered me to succeed." Her AP postings that followed: Dallas night supervisor, San Antonio correspondent, Dallas news editor (at the age of 25!), six months later Dallas ACOB, and then in September 1987, bureau chief in Little Rock.

Whew, take a breath - from there, positions as Assistant Managing Editor for Enterprise in New York, London News Editor, then back to New York as Deputy Managing Editor for National News, Vice President and Managing Editor, Director of Top Stories, and Senior Editor at Large. Kristin's email – kgazlay@ap.org

As one Kristin leaves the AP, another Kristin joins the AP.

**Kristin Heitmann**, chief commercial officer for media and marketing solutions at Dow Jones, will be AP's next senior vice president and chief revenue officer effective Jan. 3, 2022. She will lead AP's sales, product, marketing, GMS and customer operations worldwide, responsible for all revenue functions globally.

In an announcement by President and CEO **Gary Pruitt** and his successor as of Jan. 2, **Daisy Veerasingham**:

"Kristin comes to AP with a wealth of news media experience, having been a key part of the Wall Street Journal's growth strategy and digital transformation. She has particular expertise around services and advertising, and has worked closely with the technology platforms. These are important areas of growth for AP that will underpin our mission going forward.

"Importantly, Kristin understands and respects the work that each of you do each day to advance the power of fact-based reporting."

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

# Few have had more impact on AP than Kristin Gazlay



FILE - In this Sept. 18, 2014, file photo, Kristin Gazlay stands for a photo in the newsroom of The Associated Press headquarters in New York. (AP Photo/Patrick Sison, File)

**Brian Carovillano** (<u>Email</u>) – V*ice President, News* - We at AP are fortunate to count among us many journalists of immense talent and commitment. But there are few, if any, who have had more impact on this news organization, its journalism, and its journalists, than Kristin Gazlay, our senior editor at large, who plans to retire at the end of this year. While we wish her the very best in the many new adventures she has planned, we will miss her terribly.

Kristin came to the AP barely out of her teens and proceeded to help transform it. She was one of the youngest bureau chiefs in its history, and among the first women in that role. And that was just her first decade. Over the years since, she has been so many things to so many of us -- a brilliant editor; a wise and trusted adviser and mentor; a fine-hearted friend. In more than four decades, she has brought her good sense and good humor to Dallas, Little Rock, New York, London and back to New York. She has held many positions, but has never felt constrained by any of them; her aim, always, has been to make us and our journalism better.

She has nurtured generations of AP journalists, helping them to become better writers, and better leaders, bolstering their self-confidence, encouraging them to make leaps and take risks. Across three different New York headquarters newsrooms, in the 1990s, the 2000s, the 2010s, the 2020s, her desk was like Lucy van Pelt's 5-cent booth in Peanuts — everyone would come over, sit down and get valuable advice on how to navigate stories and careers. By the time I arrived in 2001, Kristin was spoken of by colleagues in awed tones. And so, imagine my surprise to finally meet her in New York and find an approachable, funny, irreverent person who has been a treasured friend, mentor and collaborator ever since. She may be retiring at the end of this month, but I can attest that her sense of humor remains defiantly juvenile. Which I love.

Kristin also has brought a level of ambition and rigor to our reporting and storytelling that helped AP to break the mold of "wire service" journalism and produce some of the most impactful and sophisticated reporting in the world. So much of the most consequential work we have done bears Kristin's fingerprints. The ripples she leaves behind are evident in every part of the AP news report, from daily breaking news to our most expansive investigative and enterprise work.

Kristin's last working day will be on Dec. 15, and we are planning a staffwide (virtual) celebration of her career. Stay tuned for the details on that. In the meantime, please join me in wishing her the happiest and healthiest post-AP life.

### On Kristin Gazlay's retirement...

**Chris Sullivan** (<u>Email</u>) - The impact of Kristin Gazlay's career is incalculable. It's not possible to capture her good counsel to writers and fellow editors, her boisterous, snarky wit that so often lightened the load, her common sense, logic, grace and tirelessness.

Having had the privilege of working with Kristin for years, let me just say there are great editors who can take the largest story idea by the best reporter, see into it, turn it, work it, and in the end make it even deeper, wider, richer, better. There are great

text editors, who deftly repair flat or false phrases without leaving a mark showing they've been touched. There are editors who are great because they know and value words and share that reverence. Editors combining all of these qualities are as rare as comets. But that's how Kristin Gazlay has blazed through our sky.

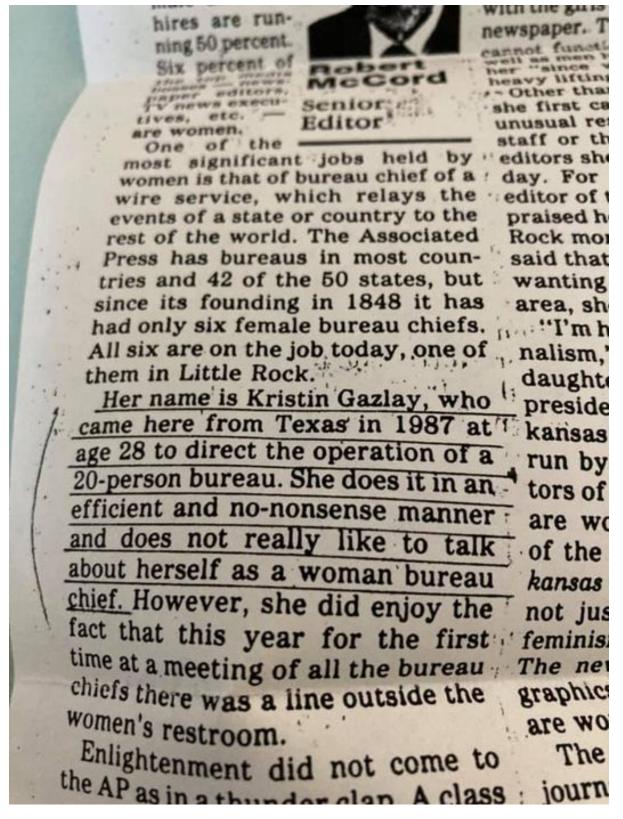
Thanks and good luck, Kristin.

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**Andy Lippman** (Email) – in a note to Kristin - An AP without you is like a day without sunshine. Trite, but true. You have meant so much to so many people including me, and you have helped and nurtured so many striving staffers throughout the years. Plus, you have injected so much of your spirit into this company. You'll be gone, but certainly not forgotten. Because you are simply: Unforgettable.

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**Ye Olde Connecting Editor** shares one of his favorite Facebook posts made by Kristin. Column by Little Rock newspaperman Robert McCord, when she was Little Rock chief of bureau.



# AP names Kristin Heitmann chief revenue officer

NEW YORK -- The Associated Press announced Wednesday that media executive Kristin Heitmann has been named senior vice president and chief revenue officer, responsible for all of the news agency's revenue functions globally.

Her appointment takes effect Jan. 3, 2022.

Heitmann will lead a division comprising AP's sales, product, marketing and customer operations worldwide.

She will serve on the AP Management Committee and report to incoming President and CEO Daisy Veerasingham.

"Throughout her career, Kristin has played a key role in diversifying revenue streams and leading revenue transformation," said Veerasingham. "She understands very clearly how AP's revenue underpins our mission of nonpartisan, fact-based reporting."



Heitmann, 41, joins AP from Dow Jones, where she has held various digital, strategy and business development roles at The Wall Street Journal and its parent company for over a decade.

"It is a great honor to join The Associated Press, an organization renowned for its world-class journalism," said Heitmann. "I look forward to working with the many talented people worldwide who are dedicated to AP's mission, and to serving the customers who count on AP for factual, unbiased reporting."

Most recently Heitmann served as chief commercial officer for media and marketing solutions at Dow Jones, responsible for driving a turnaround in the company's advertising business.

Prior to that she led large-scale strategic projects as chief transformation officer and previously oversaw revenue optimization for digital projects as the general manager of WSJ Digital.

Heitmann holds an undergraduate degree from Brown University, a master's from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master of Business Administration from New York University.

She fills the role left vacant by Veerasingham, who was promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer in February and becomes president and CEO on Jan. 1, 2022.

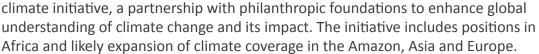
# Peter Prengaman to lead AP's expanding climate coverage

NEW YORK (AP) — Peter Prengaman, a multiformat journalist and newsroom leader who has led coverage of major stories around the world, was named climate and environmental editor of The Associated Press on Wednesday. This new position will lead the news agency's expanding coverage of climate issues as part of a major global initiative.

"Climate change is among the most important issues of our time," said Julie Pace, AP's executive editor and senior vice president. "Peter's appointment will help put coverage of climate change at the center of AP's global news report, with a focus on holding governments and powerful interests accountable, and exposing the inequities of climate change's effects."

Prengaman will build out a team of journalists around the world, and work with AP colleagues to build on AP's strong climate and environmental coverage, most recently from the international climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland.

Prengaman's position is one of two funded by the Rockefeller Foundation as part of the launch of AP's





Prengaman, currently news director for the western U.S., has taken on many roles in nearly 20 years with the AP. He started as a reporter in Oregon and later served as a Caribbean correspondent based in the Dominican Republic. He has served in Los Angeles, Atlanta and was news editor for Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. He was news director in Brazil before returning to the U.S. in 2019 to become West news director.

"Peter is among the most capable and imaginative journalists I know, and over many years he has chronicled the real-world impact of climate change on real people and places," said Brian Carovillano, AP's head of investigations, enterprise, grants and partnerships. "All of that had led him to this critical new role driving our coverage of the most important issue of our time."



### Update on plans to return to AP offices

Jessica Bruce, Senior Vice President Human Resources & Corporate Communications, in a note to AP staff Wednesday:

I am writing to update you on our plans to return to AP's offices. As we indicated last month, we are still targeting a return in early 2022. However, we are monitoring several new pandemic developments and it remains unclear when we will be able to return. We will follow local laws and regulations around office openings, and we will provide at least 30 days of notice before our hybrid work model takes effect.

We will continue to keep you updated as we evaluate the evolving pandemic conditions.

As always, your health and safety remain paramount. We continue to strongly encourage staff to get vaccinated as soon as possible in every location where vaccines are available. We will be in touch about AP's vaccination policy ahead of our return.

Please continue to familiarize yourself with AP's return to office policies, frequently asked questions and other information available on InsideAP. As a reminder, all of AP's offices are now open — if local rules and regulations allow — for a voluntary return. Everyone who returns during this voluntary period must fill out this form each week before coming into the office.

Thank you for your continued attention and good work.

## Connecting mailbox

# Will Lester and Dave Tomlin...and friends in low places

**Andy Lippman** (Email) – We should frame that Will Lester slide (in Wednesday's Connecting) and call it "Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man." And Will's career has gone on as long as a Joyce novel - and is just as famous. He is amazing, and his still being there is tribute not to a stalled ambition, but a testament to the quality of journalism that the AP can still offer its members.

I wrote this little reprise after the Battle of New Orleans buzzed in my ears through breakfast. Sing to the tune of Garth Brooks' "I've Got Friends In Low Places."

Blame it all on AP You know how it can be. Up north, it was holding a roast While down South, I'm alone while Dave's singing a poem Is that all that I can now boast?

Oh, I have friends in low places

Dave and I have been on cop chases the blues away.
I'm here to say.
I've got Dave to be my bard.
He's got more jokes than a St. Bernard (sorry)
Yes, I've with Dave-in low places.

-0-

#### Confronting ethical issues

**Adolphe Bernotas** (<u>Email</u>) - Re: ethics and comment by Jane Gallagher in Wednesday's Connecting - Had no reason during four decades in the news business to offer political or legal advice to family or friends a la Cuomo Bros, but I did confront ethical issues.

Around the year-end holidays of 1966, soon after I jumped from the Bayonne (N.J.) Times to the Jersey Journal, a few miles north in Hudson County, I was stunned one night by money.

A county official had stopped in the newsroom to chat with the few people still at work. At my desk he introduced himself and handed me a \$20 bill! (Not small change for a 25-year-old commuting from Manhattan on \$140 a week.) He said something like "a little holiday cheer for the new guy." I had not encountered anything similar at two previous newspaper jobs. Embarrassed and confused I declined: "No. Thanks." Didn't want to look or know if he floated any more \$20 bills. After he left, the answer from my JJ colleagues about what had just happened was that "it happens every Christmas." (In those days Hudson County was notorious for electing politicians who ended up in prison).

About a year later after I arrived at the Concord AP bureau in 1967, I received a "Welcome to New Hampshire" letter from the state tourism agency with two season passes to state parks, including the state-run ski areas. I returned them and advised the bureau chief in Boston. This apparent common practice of distributing these passes to reporters was abandoned after a new governor took office.

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### Upcoming novel from AP alum Tom Young

**Tom Young** (Email) - If I may, I'd like to pass along information about my upcoming WWII novel, RED BURNING SKY. I was a writer, editor, and newsroom supervisor for AP Broadcast in Washington from 1987 to 1998.

Kensington Books will release RED BURNING SKY on February 22, 2022. (cover attached) The novel is inspired by Operation Halyard, the real-world rescue of more than 500 downed

American airmen in Yugoslavia, mainly in 1944. This is my eighth novel, and my second novel set in WWII. Here's the publisher's description:

Summer 1944: Yugoslavia is locked in a war within a war. In addition to fighting the German occupation, warring factions battle each other. Hundreds of Allied airmen have been shot down over this volatile region, among them American lieutenant Bill Bogdonavich. Though grateful to the locals who are risking their lives to shelter and protect him from German troops, Bogdonavich dreams of the impossible: escape.

With three failed air missions behind him, Lieutenant Drew Carlton is desperate for redemption. From a Texas airbase he volunteers for a secretive and dangerous assignment, code named Operation Halyard, that will bring



together American special operations officers, airmen, and local guerilla fighters in Yugoslavia's green hills. This daring plan—to evacuate hundreds of stranded airmen while avoiding detection by the Germans—faces overwhelming odds. What follows is one of the greatest stories of World War II heroism, an elaborate rescue that required astonishing courage, sacrifice, and resilience.

Red Burning Sky is a riveting and ultimately triumphant military thriller based on true events, all the more remarkable for being so little known—until now.

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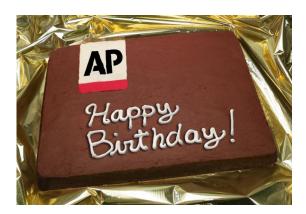
#### Remembering where you were when JFK died

**Mort Rosenblum** (Email) - On that JFK day, I was in a feature-writing class at the University of Arizona's J-school — one basement room with a noble Model 15 printer clacking away in the closet at 60 words (or 66 by then?) a minute. Prof. Brewster Campbell, an old Detroit pro, burst into the room at uncharacteristic speed. His white walrus mustache bristled, but he was still dignified in a three-piece suit. "I think the president's been shot," he said. We flew to the closet and watched Frank Cormier's bulletins trickle in after he finally wrested away from UPI's Merriam Smith the lone phone in the press car behind the Kennedy's open limo.

Our campus paper, the Wildcat, wasn't due to appear for a few days. But Sherman Miller, an ex-New York Times editor who directed the school, snuffed out his Parliament cigarette and barked orders. We fanned out on our assignments: serious interviews, vox pop, bits of color. Copy editors stitched together AP dispatches. Then we raced out to our commercial printer, who put aside everything, and clacked out lead slugs on the linotype. By late afternoon, we had an Extra! in boxes across the campus and in bundles at sorority and fraternity houses.

That was the day I knew beyond any doubt what I'd do when/if I grew up. OI' Sherm used to say, "There are two kinds of people in the world. Newspaper people and the other kind." We had no doubts which we were.

### **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



John Miller - jwm77uk@gmail.com

Jerry Pye - jerrypye@gmail.com

Nancy Shipley - <a href="mailto:nrosesz@aol.com">nrosesz@aol.com</a>

Doug Waggoner - <u>dougwag@mchsi.com</u>

Barbara Worth - <u>barbaraworth@comcast.net</u>

### Stories of interest

# CNN and Chris Cuomo Face Difficult Questions After Anchor's Suspension (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbaum and John Koblin

The anchor Chris Cuomo said on Wednesday that he was embarrassed by CNN's decision to suspend him indefinitely for his efforts earlier this year to help his brother, former Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo of New York, stave off a mounting sexual harassment scandal.

In his first public remarks on CNN's decision, Mr. Cuomo, speaking on his SiriusXM radio program, acknowledged his suspension — "it hurts to even say it" — but said he understood it, adding: "I know they have a process that they think is important. I respect that process."

For CNN and its president, Jeff Zucker, however, the questions over Mr. Cuomo's breach of basic journalistic rules and the timing of the network's decision to suspend him are unlikely to disappear.

CNN said on Tuesday that it would pursue a "further evaluation" of thousands of pages of new evidence released on Monday by the New York attorney general, Letitia James. Those documents included testimony and text messages showing that Mr. Cuomo's role in advising the governor's aides — already a violation of the traditional barriers between journalists and lawmakers — had been more involved and intimate than previously known.

Read more **here**. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

And also from New York Times:

Chris Cuomo Has a Funny Idea About What Doing His Job Means

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# Petr Uhl, journalist, communist-era dissident dies at 80(AP)

PRAGUE (AP) — Petr Uhl, a Czech journalist who was one of the country's leading communist-era dissidents and human rights activists, has died at 80.

His wife, former Czech ombudsman Anna Sabatova, told the CTK agency he died Wednesday. Uhl headed the national news agency in the early 1990s following the 1989 anti-communist Velvet Revolution led by the late Vaclav Havel, a fellow anti-communist dissident who became the country's president.

Born Oct 8, 1941, in Prague, Uhl graduated from the Czech Technical University in 1963.

Known for his left-wing political views, Uhl was a high school teacher when he was first arrested in 1969 as a member of the Revolutionary Youth Movement. The group opposed the hard-line Communist regime that took over the country after the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia that crushed the liberal reform period known as the Prague Spring.

He received a four-year prison term.

Read more **here**. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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# Swift selling local media assets to Ogden Newspapers (AP)

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) — Swift Communications, which owns a range of daily and weekly newspapers across the American West, announced Tuesday it is selling its local media and publishing businesses to West Virginia-based Ogden Newspapers.

With the acquisition, Ogden Newspapers will publish 54 daily newspapers and a number of weekly newspapers and magazines in 18 states, according to The Aspen Times, which is owned by Swift. Terms of the deal, set to close Dec. 31, were not released.

Swift Communications was founded in 1975. The family-owned business has run magazines, newspapers, websites, book publishing and other digital products in several Western states, including Colorado, Utah, South Dakota and California. It also publishes a handful of national magazines and journals, including Goat Journal and Backyard Poultry Magazine.

Read more **here**. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.



## 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 <a href="here">here</a> to view and make an order.

## Today in History - Dec. 2, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 2, the 336th day of 2021. There are 29 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 2, 1859, militant abolitionist John Brown was hanged for his raid on Harpers Ferry the previous October.

#### On this date:

In 1697, London's St. Paul's Cathedral, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, was consecrated for use even though the building was still under construction.

In 1823, President James Monroe outlined his doctrine opposing European expansion in the Western Hemisphere.

In 1942, an artificially created, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was demonstrated for the first time at the University of Chicago.

In 1954, the U.S. Senate passed, 67-22, a resolution condemning Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., saying he had "acted contrary to senatorial ethics and tended to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute."

In 1957, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania, the first full-scale commercial nuclear facility in the U.S., began operations. (The reactor ceased operating in 1982.)

In 1970, the newly created Environmental Protection Agency opened its doors under its first director, William D. Ruckelshaus.

In 1980, four American churchwomen were raped and murdered in El Salvador. (Five national guardsmen were convicted in the killings.)

In 1982, in the first operation of its kind, doctors at the University of Utah Medical Center implanted a permanent artificial heart in the chest of retired dentist Dr. Barney Clark, who lived 112 days with the device.

In 1993, Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar was shot to death by security forces in Medellin (meh-deh-YEEN').

In 2000, Al Gore sought a recount in South Florida, while George W. Bush flatly asserted, "I'm soon to be the president" and met with GOP congressional leaders.

In 2001, in one of the largest corporate bankruptcies in U.S. history, Enron filed for Chapter 11 protection.

In 2015, a couple loyal to the Islamic State group opened fire at a holiday banquet for public employees in San Bernardino, California, killing 14 people and wounding 21 others before dying in a shootout with police.

Ten years ago: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi (ahng sahn soo chee) vowed to work together to promote democratic reforms in Suu Kyi's long-isolated and authoritarian homeland.

Five years ago: A fire that raced through an illegally converted warehouse in Oakland, California, during a dance party killed 36 people. President-elect Donald Trump spoke with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen (tsy ying-WEN') in a highly unusual move that was bound to antagonize China.

One year ago: Britain became the first country in the world to authorize a rigorously tested COVID-19 vaccine, giving the go-ahead for emergency use of the vaccine developed by American drugmaker Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech. In a video released on social media, President Donald Trump stood before a White House lectern

and delivered a 46-minute diatribe against the election results that produced a win for Democrat Joe Biden, unspooling one misstatement after another to back his baseless claim that he really won. Issuing a final rule covering animals on airplanes, the Transportation Department said only dogs could fly as service animals, and that pets used for emotional support didn't count.

Today's Birthdays: Former Attorney General Edwin Meese III is 90. Former Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., is 82. Actor Cathy Lee Crosby is 77. Movie director Penelope Spheeris is 76. Actor Ron Raines is 72. Country singer John Wesley Ryles is 71. Actor Keith Szarabajka is 69. Actor Dan Butler is 67. Broadcast journalist Stone Phillips is 67. Actor Dennis Christopher is 66. Actor Steven Bauer is 65. Country singer Joe Henry is 61. Rock musician Rick Savage (Def Leppard) is 61. Actor Brendan Coyle is 58. Rock musician Nate Mendel (Foo Fighters) is 53. Actor Suzy Nakamura is 53. Actor Rena Sofer is 53. Rock singer Jimi (cq) HaHa (Jimmie's Chicken Shack) is 53. Actor Lucy Liu (loo) is 53. U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough is 52. Rapper Treach (Naughty By Nature) is 51. Actor Joe Lo Truglio is 51. International Tennis Hall of Famer Monica Seles is 48. Singer Nelly Furtado is 43. Pop singer Britney Spears is 40. Actor-singer Jana Kramer is 38. Actor Yvonne Orji is 38. Actor Daniela Ruah (roo-ah) is 38. NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers is 38. Actor Alfred Enoch is 33. Pop singer-songwriter Charlie Puth is 30.

## 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