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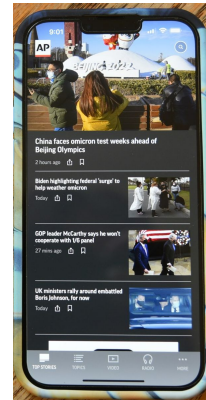
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Connecting

January 18, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Jan. 18, 2022,

The COVID-19 virus hit home for our colleague **Jim Spehar** when his granddaughter tested positive.

He wrote about it in his column for the Grand Junction (Colo.) Daily Sentinel, and rarely has his column received such reader reaction. We bring it to you as our lead story in today's Connecting.

Our colleague **Rochelle Olson**, who joined the Star Tribune in Minneapolis after news work for the AP in four bureaus, was profiled recently by her newspaper. And we bring that Q-and-A to you today as well.

CONNECTING EXPENSES: Connecting is delivered to your Inbox five days a week, a collective labor of love by those of you who contribute your memories and stories and

by Ye Olde Connecting Editor. Every few years, I come to you to welcome your help in covering the expenses for our newsletter. They include the fee I pay for Constant Contact, the vehicle used to deliver Connecting to you (safely hosting and protecting the 1,775 email addresses of our members) and subscriptions to various web sites that I mine to bring you top news.

If you would like to help in defraying these expenses, your contribution would be welcomed. It could be sent in the form of a check to Paul Stevens, 14719 W. 79th Ter., Lenexa, KS 66215. (Sorry, old-fashioned me, no Venmo or Paypal.) Any money received in excess of Connecting expenses will be rolled over to coming years.

Have a great day - be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

One, unfortunately, is not a lonely number

(Jim Spehar is a Connecting colleague who worked as a newsman in the Denver bureau and later as broadcast executive in the Rockies for 11 years. This is his latest column for the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel.)

By **JIM SPEHAR** ([Email](#))

The Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Colorado

Monday, Colorado COVID cases hit the 1 million mark. Last Sunday's 532 cases here in Mesa County were a single-day record, nearly one in four of them in kids ages 5-11.

The only number that counted, for me, was one.

That "one" was Ellie Pearl, my granddaughter. Her COVID test, a week after returning to class and after a long weekend of high fever and retching nausea, came back positive on Monday. Along with a letter announcing other first grade classmates were also infected. Her school became one of nine masking up after five were added Friday.

What a little adult courage and common sense might have prevented became all too real. Roughly 20% of the district's schools are now masked. Post holidays, District 51 reported 60 students and 48 teachers were out because of the virus. Meanwhile, the district implements less restrictive COVID protocols.



WTF? (I don't mean Welcome To Fruita!)

Remember “Grandpa is p.o.’d” from my Aug. 8 back to school column about the sheer stupidity of D51’s dismissal of sensible masking and immunization practices? Imagine my feelings now after the whole family, including Ellie’s one-year-old sister, waited in that hours-long line out at the Fairgrounds for COVID tests Tuesday.

This isn’t about mandates or “freedumb.” Masks and vaccinations, social distancing and quarantines are not about you protecting my granddaughter or Ellie protecting you. It’s about all of us, collectively, rallying against a rampaging ever-mutating infection so serious it’s killed nearly 500 of our Mesa County friends and neighbors and jammed our hospitals, delaying non-COVID procedures.

Read more [here](#). Ellie is a first-grader who is back to normal, but her dad tested positive. All the rest of the family tested negative. She’ll go back to school later this week.

Q&A with Star Tribune reporter Rochelle Olson



(Rochelle Olson is a Connecting colleague and former AP newswoman.)

By Karen Lundegaard, Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Rochelle Olson has been a journalist for almost 30 years and at the Star Tribune for 22 of them. She is officially a general assignment reporter, but Olson has covered St. Paul and Minneapolis City Halls, Ramsey and Hennepin county governments as well as courts and state government. She specializes in the intersection of sports, business and culture. Before joining the Star Tribune in 2000, Olson worked for eight years with the Associated Press in Kansas City, Topeka, Charleston, W.Va. and St. Paul. She has a master's degree from the University of Kansas and a bachelor's from Hamline University. She grew up in Bloomington and lives in St. Paul. She loves to swim and do yoga.

You studied French and literature as an undergraduate. Why journalism?

From a pretty young age, I tracked the news. I liked being in the know. Studying French, like journalism, is about observation, listening, getting the scoop.

You've had a lot of beats in your career: government, politics, courts, breaking news, the building of U.S. Bank Stadium, the business side of Minnesota sports teams. And you've been to three Super Bowls and led our coverage when the Super Bowl was held here. Do you have a favorite topic to cover?

I like the multitudes. It's hard to beat the intensity of courtroom drama, but it's excruciating to sit with people who are experiencing so much trauma – whether they're the victim, supporters or a defendant going to prison for decades. So I love that I'm allowed to balance those emotionally difficult stories with watchdog reporting on stadium finances, travelling to something fun like Olympic swimming trials in Omaha or talking to high school wrestlers after they swoon over Gable Steveson when he returns from Tokyo with a gold medal.

Do you have a favorite story you've ever done or one that has stuck with you?

I can list a bunch of fun and curious things I've done as a reporter – almost being run over by Lady Gaga in a golf cart at the 2016 Super Bowl, touring the World War II bunker at The Greenbrier, lobbing a question to Colin Powell at Fort Leavenworth, standing next to Mick Jagger and Sandra Day O'Connor, drinking wine with Jacques Pepin while talking about Julia Child, interviewing George W. Bush at a homeless shelter, asking Lance Armstrong in 1994 if he thought he could win a Tour de France and talking to Joe Biden in 2002 at the late Sen. Paul Wellstone's memorial.

But I didn't write the story I keep pinned on my desk. It's a short, paid obituary for a teenager I wrote about when they were raped by a close family friend who was a prominent community member. The rapist went to prison after a trial where we learned about the sickening years-long process of grooming the child, who was a

bright, active high school student. In court we saw a recording of the victim's forensic interview with a social worker. This kid never had a chance against the predator.

When the victim died by suicide a few years later, the obituary gave no hint at the history. I think about that kid a lot.

Live tweeting a trial is intense, as well as making sure online readers are informed of the latest news throughout the day and then rewriting the story again for the next morning's newspaper. In the past year alone, you were part of the reporting team for the Chauvin and Potter trials. Can you talk a little about that experience?

Both were as intense you can imagine, but the Chauvin trial was especially surreal. When the trial began, we had been working from home for a year, barely seeing colleagues, then here was this extraordinary trial happening across the street. Those of us on the trial team worked downtown, watching the livestream while masked and sitting apart from each other in the dark, empty newsroom under extra security. I was in court the day the Minneapolis police chief testified and that entailed going through four security checkpoints just to get to the courtroom. The Hennepin County Government Center is usually such a lively, open place with workers and visitors coming and going, but it was spooky and empty except for the 18th floor. Just arriving to that courtroom was a bracing experience, seeing the jurors, greeting the judge, lawyers and deputies, some of whom I have known for years.

The testimony and, of course, the video were heartbreaking and disorienting to see over and over. You'd be tweeting, trying to discern the strategies and what you were seeing. When you were done for the day, you'd walk out of a boarded and guarded building into the cold, dark night and try to exhale so you could get home to feed and walk the dogs.

You have developed and maintained strong connections with a wide variety of sources from your beats. How have you done that?

When I was just starting out in 2000, trying to get established and build rapport on the Minneapolis City Hall beat, a source I trust told me, "Just say hello. People like to be acknowledged." That's the beginning and I'm genuinely curious about what drives people, makes them do what they do so I just start asking questions about their lives and off we go. I also have a good memory and I like to hear about their families, pets and vacations so it's natural for me to keep track in my head and follow-up about how so-and-so is doing with tennis lessons or how the new puppy is faring. When I'm covering a public meeting and if the situation allows, I'll try to figure out the identity of everybody in the room. It's always good to know who is there and why because they're looking for something.

What career advice to you wish you had gotten 30 years ago?

Never give up. There's always more to the story.

Always room for one more tribute to Mike Cochran

Ken Herman ([Email](#)) - Because there's always room for another tribute to the late great Mike Cochran, let me add this one.

Cochran was Cochran. In Texas journalism circles, all you had to say was "Cochran" and people know who you were talking about and what it meant in all its Cochranesque brilliance.

Mike was the best I've ever seen at injecting just enough of his own style into stories without getting in the way of the story or inflicting it with his opinion.

In 1977, I was working the desk in the Dallas bureau when Mike was covering the Amarillo murder trial of Fort Worth millionaire Cullen Davis. It was then that I found out that Cochran, in addition to his other talents, was a great dictator (the good kind of dictator).

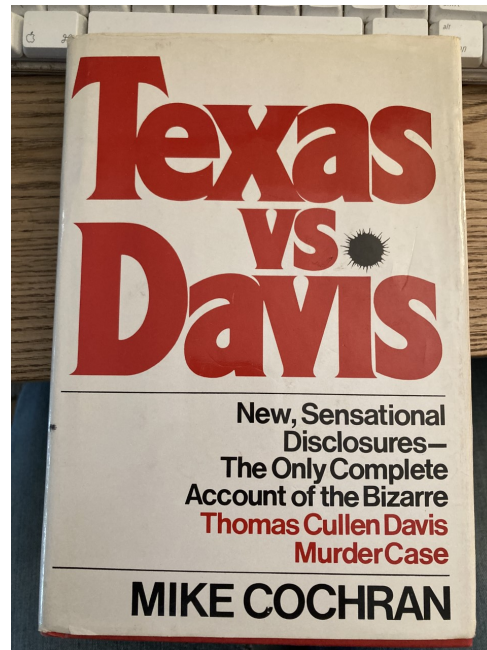
Unburdened by computer technology, Cochran would call in stories during breaks in the trial. The copy would flow from his brain to his mouth through the phone line to my fingers to my keyboard in Dallas to the wider world.

It was astounding. Working just with his notes, Cochran dictated flawless, unscripted copy. And it was such a joy hearing Cochran's words in Cochran's inimitable voice.

I'm proud to say I have an autographed copy of his book about the Davis murder case. He addressed it to "Hollywood Herman." He always called me Hollywood. Best I can remember, he's the only person who has ever called me Hollywood. I'm not really sure why he did.

But only a fool would question Mike Cochran's choice of words.

One of the best. RIP



AP's Scotty Applewhite – and a fleeing Haiti president



AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

Ed McCullough (Email) – Scotty Applewhite has been AP's man with camera at crucial news events for a long time. Way back on Feb. 7, 1986, at Port-au-Prince airport, pre-dawn, when Haiti's president-for-life Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier fled to exile, it was especially important that AP document the story because the Reagan White House the week before (on Jan. 30) had wrongly announced that the 34-year-old dictatorship had collapsed. Duvalier responded with a heavily guarded motor tour of the poverty-stricken capital in a Mercedes-Benz, tossing off loose change and a great quote: "The president is here, strong and firm as a monkey's tail."

A lot of news photographers in the airport crush missed the photo of Duvalier and his wife Michele arriving in a window-blackened Mercedes; at nighttime. Not Scott. He put the camera flash on extra power and the resulting photo was clear enough to identify the military aide accompanying Duvalier by the name tag on this shirt front. No doubt whatever this time.

A few days later I arrived as Caribbean news editor at AP San Juan, Puerto Rico, replacing Dan Sewell. During the next couple of years, Scott "parachuted" in for news stories - Haiti and elsewhere - a number of times. One that sticks in my mind is when Haitian soldiers fired on "demonstrators" at an open-air farmer's market one sunny morning. The sky was blue. The cabbage, green. Carrots were orange. Blood was red. Scott got it all - tragic scene, beautiful composition.

He used to compliment other AP fotogs by saying he/she could shoot the eyes out of a squirrel at 100 yards. So could he. About that market shot, I was standing nearby in the same plaza but behind a stone column. I yelled to him, "Scott! Scott!!" He kept snapping. Then he shifted position and turned the lens onto the soldiers, focused, and

literally jumped; immediately scrambling back to where I was. "Why didn't you tell me?" I did try. He was in a zone.

Journalist wanted, strong stomach required

Charles Hanley ([Email](#)) - An offering, spotted at the media critic Jay Rosen's Twitter feed. (The suggested headline is mine.)

From the NYTimes "Job Opportunities" page:

Job Description

The New York Times is seeking an experienced, ambitious and motivated reporter to cover the news outlets, online communities and influential personalities making up the right-wing media ecosystem that now serves many conservative Americans who no longer rely on the mainstream media to inform themselves.

Read more [here](#).

Thanks for this wonderfully stupid waste of time

Bruce Handler ([Email](#)) - Wordle, which I first found out about thanks to Connecting, is sensational. A great distraction for old, retired folks who don't have anything more constructive to do.

Anyway, over the weekend, I made that first guess out of thin air and got R and A in the word--but not where I had put them.

Okay, divine inspiration on guess No. 2: POLAR. Ding, ding, ding! It was like almost hitting the jackpot on a Vegas slot machine. O,L,A, and R were in the right spot!

Then it's gotta be MOLAR or SOLAR, right? So I tried M on guess No. 3. Nope, too bad. Okay, fine. I hit S and got the word on try No. 4.

But I keep thinking about the possibility of hitting the word in just two tries. I coulda been a contendah.

Thanks again for this wonderfully stupid waste of time.

Connecting sky shots – Missouri and Oregon



Peter Leabo ([Email](#)) - Colors of a winter sunset beyond a frozen farm north of Kansas City, MO. I've got a few "go-to" barns in the area (though sadly, my favorite abandoned barn was torn down last year to make way for a soccer complex ... progress?). I saw the potential for a nice sunset so I drove about 15 minutes north to this one. I made several shots of a fairly mediocre sunset before the colors began to fade and I started to head back home. As I drove through the snow-covered back roads, I saw the sunset begin to pop for a second time. I turned around and made it back to capture a much more vivid and focused sunset with about two minutes to shoot before it went completely gray and dark. And, where's those thousands of geese when you really need them?!?



Lee Siegel ([Email](#)) - Clouds over the Pacific at Beverly Beach State Park, Oregon, Sunday, January 16, 2022.

Andy Rooney at war

Marc Lancaster
WW II on Deadline

Like his longtime CBS colleague Walter Cronkite, Andy Rooney was one of the most recognizable faces in television news over the latter half of the 20th century.

Long before he became a fixture on “60 Minutes,” though, Rooney (like Cronkite) was a grunt reporter on the front lines in World War II.

Born Jan. 14, 1919, Rooney was a former Colgate football player who had no interest in joining the Army but acquiesced after being drafted in the summer of 1941. After training at Fort Bragg, he shipped out to England the following summer as a member of a field artillery unit.



He had no interest in those duties, however, and eventually landed a spot with the Army's newspaper, The Stars and Stripes, in London. In his 1995 memoir, *My War*, he described the routines followed by he and his fellow correspondents assigned to the Allied bombing campaign:

Read more [here](#).

Stories of interest

Indigenous news outlets, nonprofits drive deeper coverage (AP)



Indian Country Today executive producer and news broadcaster Patty Talahongva speaks during a news broadcast taping Friday, Sept. 10, 2021, in Phoenix. Native American communities have seen more robust news coverage in recent years, in part because of an increase in Indigenous affairs reporting positions at U.S. newsrooms and financial support from foundations. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

By KATIE OYAN

PHOENIX (AP) — Kiowa tribal member Tristan Ahtone remembers just getting started in journalism over a decade ago and pitching ideas on Indigenous topics. His bosses would say things like: “We ran a Native story earlier this year. Do we need another one?”

Thankfully, he said, times have changed.

“Nowadays there’s not enough content to fill demand, which is fantastic,” said Ahtone, a former longtime Native American Journalists Association board member and current editor at large at nonprofit media outlet Grist.

Native American communities have seen more robust news coverage in recent years, in part because of an increase in Indigenous affairs reporting positions at U.S. newsrooms and financial support from foundations.

Journalism-focused philanthropy quadrupled from 2009 to 2019 as traditional newspaper revenue shrank, according to a Media Impact Funders report. At the same time, an increasingly diverse population and a renewed focus on social injustice have commanded greater media attention.

Read more [here](#).

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Why Americans are losing trust in elections and the media (NPR)

Two researchers from the Pew Research Center, Bradley Jones and Katerina Eva Matsa, discuss data showing why Americans are losing faith in the media and U.S. elections.

MICHEL MARTIN, HOST:

Americans' trust in both their government and in each other is declining. That might be something you have concluded on your own from watching the news or even talking with your neighbors. But the respected research institute, the Pew Research Center, did what researchers do. They tried to get their hands around this by taking a fresh look at the data they've gathered in recent years to try to understand how and why Americans are losing trust in a number of their critical institutions.

Right now, we want to focus on two of those institutions, elections and the media. By elections, we're thinking about how elections are administered. As you must know, Democrats and many Republicans are engaged in a furious fight over new restrictions that Republican-led states are trying to, or, in many cases, have imposed on the administration of elections. Republicans are calling these common-sense measures to tighten up lax practices or to respond to voter concerns. But Democrats say most of these are unnecessary at best and unfair, punitive and racist at worst, with a clear strategy to keep minorities and others from voting.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peg Coughlin.

-0-

Columnist A.C. Snow dies after 70 years at NC newspapers and 'a love affair with words' (News &

Observer)

BY JOSH SHAFFER

A.C. Snow, the longtime News & Observer columnist who delighted readers with country wisdom wrapped in elegant prose for 70 years, died Friday in Raleigh.

He was 97, and had written his farewell column only two years before. Well into his 90s, he would grace the old McDowell Street newsroom in his canary yellow blazer, keeping a post in his old office on a corridor that by then had mostly been abandoned.

“As long as I can remember,” Snow once wrote, “I’ve had a love affair with words and their wondrous power when strung together, verbally or in print. As an inept public speaker, I found my voice in writing, recording the ongoing dramas, large and small, being played out on the stage of life around me.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Frank Daniels Jr.

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Mexico news photographer killed; reporter slain last week (AP)

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A news photographer was killed in the Mexican border city of Tijuana on Monday, the same day press groups said a reporter had been killed in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz last week.

The two killings marked a grim start to 2022 in Mexico, which is considered one of the most dangerous places for reporters outside active war zones.

Photographer Margarito Martínez was well-known for covering the crime scene in violence-plagued Tijuana. He worked for the local news outlet Cadena Noticias, as well as for other national and international media outlets.

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

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German journalist acquitted of terror charges in Turkey (AP)

ISTANBUL (AP) — A Turkish court has acquitted German journalist Mesale Tolu after years on trial for terror-related charges.

“After 4 years, 8 months and 20 days: Acquitted of both charges!” Tolu tweeted after her acquittal. She was accused of engaging in terror propaganda and being a member of a banned left-wing group — the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party.

Tolu, 38, was placed in pre-trial detention for eight months in 2017. She was later released but was barred from leaving Turkey until August 2018. She lives in Germany.

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

Today in History - Jan. 18, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 18, the 18th day of 2022. There are 347 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 18, 1943, during World War II, Jewish insurgents in the Warsaw Ghetto launched their initial armed resistance against Nazi troops, who eventually succeeded in crushing the rebellion.

On this date:

In 1778, English navigator Captain James Cook reached the present-day Hawaiian Islands, which he named the "Sandwich Islands."

In 1911, the first landing of an aircraft on a ship took place as pilot Eugene B. Ely brought his Curtiss biplane in for a safe landing on the deck of the armored cruiser USS Pennsylvania in San Francisco Harbor.

In 1913, entertainer Danny Kaye was born David Daniel Kaminsky in New York City.

In 1957, a trio of B-52s completed the first non-stop, round-the-world flight by jet planes, landing at March Air Force Base in California after more than 45 hours aloft.

In 1975, the situation comedy "The Jeffersons," a spin-off from "All in the Family," premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1990, a jury in Los Angeles acquitted former preschool operators Raymond Buckey and his mother, Peggy McMartin Buckey, of 52 child molestation charges.

In 1991, financially strapped Eastern Airlines shut down after more than six decades in business.

In 1993, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday was observed in all 50 states for the first time.

In 2005, the world's largest commercial jet, the Airbus A380 "superjumbo" capable of flying up to 800 passengers, was unveiled in Toulouse, France.

In 2011, Chinese President Hu Jintao arrived at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington for a four-day state visit; President Barack Obama welcomed him with a private dinner in the White House residence. The first director of the Peace Corps, R. Sargent Shriver, died in Bethesda, Maryland, at age 95.

In 2019, Jason Van Dyke, the white Chicago police officer who gunned down Black teenager Laquan McDonald in 2014, was sentenced to nearly seven years in prison.

In 2020, ahead of opening statements in the first Senate impeachment trial of President Donald Trump, House prosecutors wrote that Trump had "used his official powers to pressure a foreign government to interfere in a United States election for his personal political gain," while Trump's legal team denounced what it called a "brazen and unlawful attempt to overturn the results of the 2016 election."

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama rejected the Keystone XL project, a Canadian company's plan to build a 1,700-mile pipeline to carry oil across six U.S. states to Texas refineries. Wikipedia and other websites went dark to protest two congressional proposals intended to thwart the online piracy of copyrighted movies and TV programs.

Five years ago: Twenty-nine people were killed when an avalanche buried the Hotel Rigopiano in central Italy (nine people were pulled out alive by rescuers). Jeff Bagwell, Tim Lincecum and Ivan Rodriguez were elected to baseball's Hall of Fame. Opera singer Roberta Peters, 86, died in Rye, New York.

One year ago: California became the first state to record more than 3 million known coronavirus infections, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Speakers at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. holiday celebration in Atlanta called for a renewed dedication to nonviolence following a turbulent year in which a deadly pandemic, protests over systemic racism and a divisive election capped by an attack on the U.S. Capitol strained Americans' capacity for civility. Jimmie Rodgers, singer of the 1957 hits "Honeycomb" and "Kisses Sweeter Than Wine," whose career in music and movies was disrupted by a severe head injury a decade later, died in California at age 87.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director John Boorman is 89. Former Sen. Paul Kirk, D-Mass., is 84. Singer-songwriter Bobby Goldsboro is 81. Comedian-singer-musician Brett Hudson is 69. Actor-director Kevin Costner is 67. Country singer-actor Mark Collie is 66. Actor Mark Rylance is 62. Actor Alison Arngrim (TV: "Little House on the Prairie") is

60. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley is 59. Actor Jane Horrocks is 58. Comedian Dave Attell (uh-TEHL') is 57. Actor Jesse L. Martin is 53. Rapper DJ Quik is 52. Rock singer Jonathan Davis (Korn) is 51. Former NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous is 49. Singer Christian Burns (BBMak) is 48. Actor Derek Richardson is 46. Actor Jason Segel is 42. Actor Samantha Mumba is 39. Country singer Kristy Lee Cook (TV: "American Idol") is 38. Actor Devin Kelley is 36. Actor Ashleigh Murray (TV: "Riverdale") is 34. Actor Zeeko Zaki is 32. Tennis player Angelique Kerber is 34. Actor Mateus Ward is 23.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking [Connecting Archive](#) in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career in Albany, St. Louis, Wichita, Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City.

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:

- **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.
- **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?

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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