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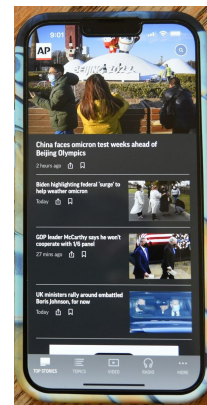
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# Connecting

Sept. 20, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Sept. 20, 2023,

Today's Connecting features...

A remembrance of **Dennis D'Agostino** by a former colleague in NY Sports who once urged him to "just write the damn book!" And he did.

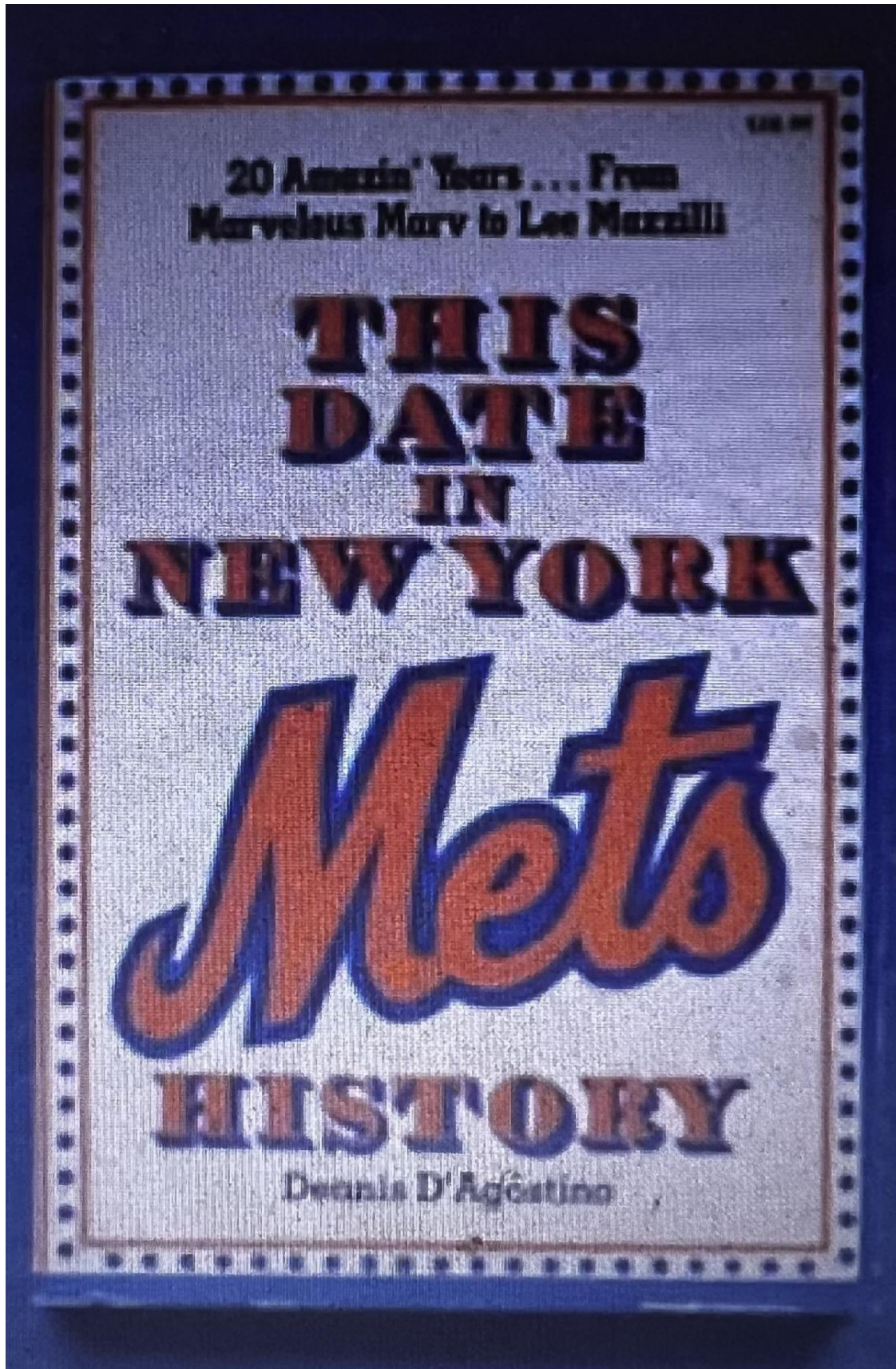
A travelogue piece by colleague **David Breslauer** who with his wife just visited their 48<sup>th</sup> U.S. national park.

And Connecting colleague **Arlon Southall** who just celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live it to your fullest!

Paul

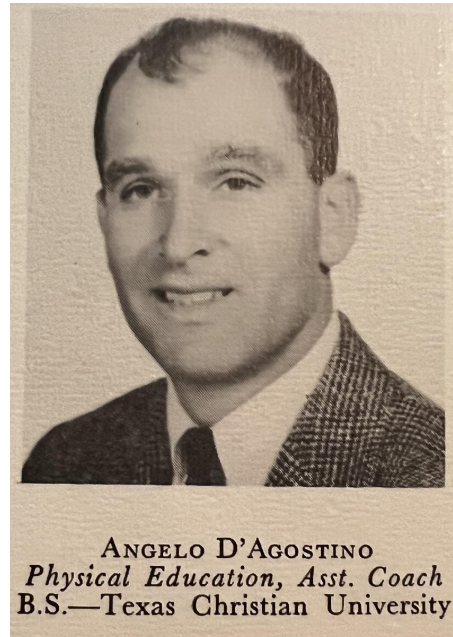
‘Just write the damn book!’...and he did



**Bruce Lowitt** - When Dennis and I were colleagues in AP Sports in New York, we would schmooze about baseball. I'd reminisce about the Brooklyn Dodgers, who fled to California after the 1957 season, the year he was born. He'd wax poetic about the New York Mets, born five years later when he was in kindergarten or first grade.

Occasionally he'd talk about wanting to write a book about the Mets but seemed hesitant about taking on the project. One day, as he was going on about it, I said, "Dennis, just write the damn book!"

Some time later he presented me with his book ...



... and his inscription to me read: "I wrote the damn book!"

Addendum: In one of our early conversations, I happened to ask if he was related to the D'Agostino supermarket chain in New York. He said no, that his father was a teacher. Then I said I'd had a Mr. D'Agostino in high school. He asked where I went to school. I told him Adelphi Academy. He said, "That's my dad."

## A tough decision? Not really

**Norm Abelson** - Recently, Ye Olde Editor has asked for two types of stories: cases where members and AP folks worked together on stories, and times where staffers felt they had to become involved beyond their role as reporters.

Well, I wrote a piece about how a city editor clued me in on, and asked me to cover for him, a major story about a young man who was jailed after murdering his entire family. And the editor, who had called in the middle of the night, told me we had it alone.

Memory is a strange thing. Only the other morning did I suddenly recall an important part of the story that I had left out. It was probably about 5 a.m. as I was tooling my way to the police station when I spotted a car crashed into a tree. Leaning against it was a young woman, calling out and waving at me. I stopped and approached her. She was bleeding from her head, and her slurring speech made it clear she was inebriated. At that early hour there was no one else around.

I knew that if I drove her to the hospital, I could put my exclusive interview in danger. But there seemed no choice. I half carried her to my car, and sped to the hospital, several miles out of my way, and took her at the emergency room. When, finally, I got to the police station, nervous as hell, I found my exclusive was still safe.

I have no idea why that key part of the story eluded me on Connecting and then later popped up, but with all the years under my belt, I'll just do what I always do - blame it on my age, and leave it at that.

## Breslauer Travelogue





**David Breslauer** - After a long, medically difficult first half of the year, my wife Carol and I are finally out on the road again with our 22-ft travel trailer. Our goal to visit our 48th national park, Teddy Roosevelt in North Dakota, has been realized. There were stops along the way from our home in Park City, Utah, including Thermopolis, Wyoming, Little Big Horn in Montana and then two different campsites at Teddy Roosevelt. It is divided into a North and South unit, about 65 miles from each other.

Carol says I must have been deprived of stickers as a child because I make such a big deal about putting stickers on the back of the trailer for both the National Parks we have visited as well as a sticker for each state the trailer has spent time in. If you are counting, the trailer has been to every state west of the Mississippi except Louisiana and 13 states east of the river. I completed my own 50-state list some time ago. Many of those visits were courtesy of the AP and LeafDesk training.

Our trip is only half over as I write this. We have stops planned on the way back home including Fort Peck, Montana and of course, revisits to Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks. Why Fort Peck? Construction of the Fort Peck Dam is the background of an Ivan Doig book, "Bucking the Sun." So, why not stop and see the dam place. It is also part of the Richard Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

We will spend a few days at home before heading south to Capitol Reef National Park so we can view the annular eclipse Oct. 14.

We manage to make a few photos along the way. I am enjoying wildlife and landscape photography. Birds are my most recent challenge. Utah is such a great place for photography. While my photojournalism skills are probably quite rusty, they do come into play sometimes even today, being prepared for anything.

## Cruises – a different experience

**Frank Aukofer** - Interesting how minor differences can make all the difference on cruises. Diana Heidgerd's account of her Canada cruise is totally opposite our experience. Wife Sharlene and I sailed from New York on the Viking Star on Labor Day, Sept. 4, cruising to Boston, Halifax. Gaspé, Saguenay, Quebec and Montreal, flying home to Washington DC on Sept. 16. Though we learned about Hurricane Lee via the news media, we experienced none of what she had. It was a tranquil cruise with wonderful excursions to learn about the various cities. And It was nearly the same time period.

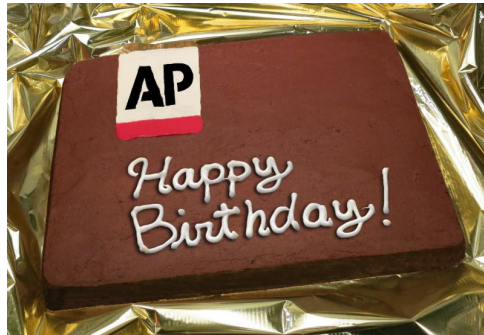
## Celebrating 70 years of marriage



Congratulations to Connecting colleague **Arlon Southall** and his wife Peggie on celebration of their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They are shown in this photo with their

daughter Debbie Southall Smith. Peggie and Arlon were married in Atlanta on Sept. 16, 1953, prior to his transfer to Albuquerque.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Julie Inskeep](#)

[Terry Petty](#)

[Teresa Walker](#)

## Stories of interest

*The past repeats itself.* (Editor and Publisher)

Rob Tornoe | for Editor & Publisher

To save local news organizations, Steven Waldman suggests looking to our past.

In the wake of the Revolutionary War and the birth of the United States, founding fathers like Thomas Jefferson and James Madison agreed that securing and growing a free press was essential to the country's future. So in 1792, then-President George Washington signed into law a sweeping act that created the postal service and subsidized the delivery of newspapers.

While the cost of delivering a letter ranged from 6 cents to 25 cents, publishers would only have to pay 1 cent for newspapers to be delivered within a range of 100 miles. According to Waldman, the subsidy worked – the number of publications grew 500 percent over 30 years, from 200 in 1800 to 1,200 in 1830. Daily newspapers grew from just 24 in 1820 to 250 in 1850.

Waldman, the president of Rebuild Local News, has been on the front lines of saving local journalism for decades and thinks the lesson of government support of the news industry is extremely relevant today, as communities across the country continue to lose local news sources at an alarming rate.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Groups say philanthropists trying to boost local news shouldn't leave minorities behind*** (AP)

**BY DAVID BAUDER**

NEW YORK (AP) — Some organizations representing minority journalists say they're worried that outlets reporting on their communities will be left behind in a recently-announced \$500 million initiative aimed at boosting the struggling local news industry.

They urged that Press Forward Initiative, a group of 20 funders led by the Knight and MacArthur Foundations, to more explicitly commit to funding these outlets, particularly those run by minorities.

"They're sort of skirting around it," said Martin Reynolds, co-executive director of the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, on Tuesday.

There was no immediate comment from the funders. In announcing the \$500 million pledge two weeks ago, the funders said they wanted to "move resources to newsrooms and organizations that are improving diversity of experience and thought," as well as into underserved communities.

Reynolds pointed to research showing that philanthropists tended to favor organizations run by whites for funding, more than minorities, and are more apt to put restrictions on the use of grants given to non-whites.

He said he's also concerned that the U.S. Supreme Court decision in June striking down affirmative action in college admissions will make funders less willing to make racial equity a priority in decisions about where to spend.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***A reporter made sure a retired police chief's death didn't go uncovered. Then social media attacked her.***

(Poynter)

**By: Angela Fu**

When retired police chief Andreas Probst was killed in a hit-and-run last month, Las Vegas Review-Journal crime reporter Sabrina Schnur was the first journalist to arrive on the scene.



Schnur was also the first local reporter to talk to Probst's family, penning an obituary to ensure that his widow's and daughter's voices would be heard.

And she was the reporter who instructed a source with video footage of the killing to go to the police, just nine hours before police announced a murder charge in the case.

But despite her work documenting Probst's death, Schnur became the target of anti-Semitic attacks and death wishes over the weekend as social media users questioned why the "media" wasn't properly covering the attack. Screenshots of the month-old obituary's headline sparked outrage among readers who falsely assumed the Review-Journal was downplaying Probst's death.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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## ***Opinion: The Netanyahu government's next target: Israel's free press*** (CNN)

**Opinion by Dan Perry and Gilead Sher**

*Editor's note: Dan Perry is the former Cairo-based Middle East editor and London-based Europe/Africa editor of The Associated Press and author of two books about Israel. Gilead Sher is the former chief of staff of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and a senior peace negotiator. He has written and edited five books, most recently "Reflections on Conflict Resolution in the Middle East and Beyond." The opinions expressed in this commentary are their own. Read more opinion at CNN.*

CNN - Embattled Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is visiting the United States this week and can be expected to trumpet the opposition against him back home, with protests on the streets and an unfettered media, as a reflection of a healthy democracy.

He is set to meet Wednesday with President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. But the US leader and Israel's other friends in America should not be fooled: Netanyahu has not only launched an attack on the democracy that brought him to power, but he and his allies are coming for Israel's journalists.

The special US-Israeli relationship has been based on their shared democratic values since Israel's founding. A cornerstone of those shared values is both countries' historic commitments to a free press. Israel's journalism, as in the United States, is freewheeling and independent, and reporters are famously skeptical and often critical of any government.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Journalist detained, home searched over reporting on French intelligence, news outlet says*** (AP)

BY THOMAS ADAMSON

PARIS (AP) — A French journalist was arrested and her residence searched Tuesday by the country's domestic intelligence agency, her employer the investigative news outlet Disclose, said.

Disclose said reporter Ariane Lavrilleux's detention was linked to her reporting on leaked documents implicating French intelligence's alleged role in the Egyptian government's alleged targeting of civilians.

The media outlet called the detention an "unacceptable" assault on press freedoms.

The General Directorate of Internal Security opened an investigation in July 2022 into Disclose's work, which it said was "compromising national defense secrets and revealing information that could lead to the identification of a protected agent."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

## **The Final Word**



Shared by Peg Coughlin.

## Today in History – Sept. 20, 2023



### By The Associated Press

**Today is Wednesday, Sept. 20, the 263rd day of 2023. There are 102 days left in the year.**

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

On Sept. 20, 1973, in their so-called "battle of the sexes," tennis star Billie Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3, at the Houston Astrodome.

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

In 1519, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and his crew set out from Spain on five ships to find a western passage to the Spice Islands. (Magellan was killed enroute, but one of his ships eventually circled the world.)

In 1881, Chester A. Arthur was sworn in as the 21st president of the United States, succeeding the assassinated James A. Garfield.

In 1946, the first Cannes Film Festival, lasting 16 days, opened in France.

In 1962, James Meredith, a Black student, was blocked from enrolling at the University of Mississippi by Democratic Gov. Ross R. Barnett.

In 1964, The Beatles concluded their first full-fledged U.S. tour by performing in a charity concert at the Paramount Theater in New York.

In 1967, the Cunard liner RMS Queen Elizabeth 2 was christened by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in Clydebank, Scotland.

In 1973, singer-songwriter Jim Croce died in a plane crash near Natchitoches, Louisiana at age 30.

In 1995, in a move that stunned Wall Street, AT&T Corporation announced it was splitting into three companies.

In 2000, Independent Counsel Robert Ray announced the end of the Whitewater investigation, saying there was insufficient evidence to warrant charges against Bill and Hillary Clinton.

In 2001, during an address to a joint session of Congress, President George W. Bush announced the new Cabinet-level Dept. of Homeland Security and named Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge its director.

In 2011, repeal of the U.S. military's 18-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" compromise took effect, allowing gay and lesbian service members to serve openly.

In 2012, Space Shuttle Endeavour, riding atop a Boeing 747, landed at a California Air Force base en route to its eventual retirement home, the California Science Center in Los Angeles.

In 2017, Hurricane Maria, the strongest storm to hit Puerto Rico in more than 80 years, struck the island, wiping out as much as 75 percent of power distribution lines and causing an island-wide blackout.

In 2018, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was re-elected as head of his ruling Liberal Democratic party in a landslide. (Abe would be assassinated after leaving office in 2022.)

In 2019, Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, the 1979 site of the nation's worst commercial nuclear power accident, was shut down by its owner after producing electricity for 45 years.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Sophia Loren is 89. Rock musician Chuck Panozzo is 75. Actor Tony Denison is 74. Actor Debbi Morgan is 72. Jazz musician Peter White is 69. Actor Betsy Brantley is 68. Actor Gary Cole is 67. TV news correspondent Deborah Roberts is 63. Country-rock musician Joseph Shreve (Flynnville Train) is 62. Rock musician Randy Bradbury (Pennywise) is 59. Actor Kristen Johnston is 56. Rock singers Gunnar and Matthew Nelson are 56. Rock musician Ben Shepherd is 55. Actor Erika Okuma is 51. Actor-model Moon Bloodgood is 48. Actor Jon Bernthal is 47. Singer The-Dream is 46. Actor Charlie Weber is 45. Rock musician Rick Woolstenhulme (WOOL'-sten-hyoolm) (Lifehouse) is 44. Rapper Yung Joc is 43. Actor Crystle Stewart is 42. Actor Aldis Hodge is 37. Rock drummer Jack Lawless is 36. Actor Malachi (MAL'-ah-ky) Kirby is 34.

## Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that reaches more than 1,800 retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013. 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 as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Central Region vice president based in 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.

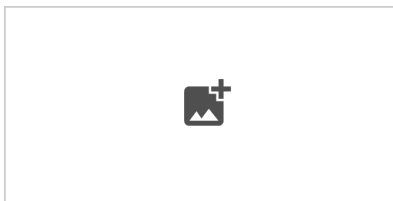
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

**Paul Stevens**

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