

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

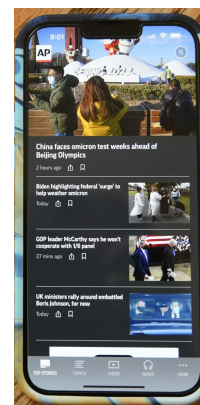
[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting

Oct. 18, 2023

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



[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP Photos](#)
[AP Merchandise](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)
[AP Newsletters](#)
[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Oct. 18, 2023,

The funeral of former Associated Press Television News videographer **Yaniv Zohar**, his wife Yasmin and their two daughters was held Tuesday in a cemetery on the outskirts of Rishon LeZion in central Israel. They were murdered in the Hamas attacks on Israel on Oct. 7.

Today's Connecting brings you photos and stories from three former AP journalists in Israel who knew Zohar – photos taken by **Paz Bar** (including the one at right), a memory shared by **Christopher Slaney** and an account of the funeral watched by **Dan Perry** from his Tel Aviv home.



The AP moved a story Tuesday on the wires on the tragic deaths: *Former AP videojournalist Yaniv Zohar killed in Hamas attack at home*

with his family. It was written by our colleague **Aron Heller**. Click [here](#) to read.

TOLL ON JOURNALISTS: [From the Committee to Protect Journalists](#) - The Israel-Gaza conflict has taken a severe toll on journalists since Hamas launched its unprecedented attack against Israel on October 7 and Israel declared war on the militant Palestinian group, launching strikes on the blockaded Gaza Strip. CPJ is investigating all reports of journalists killed, injured, detained, or missing in the war, including those hurt as hostilities spread to neighboring Lebanon. As of October 17, at least 17 journalists were among the more than 4,000 dead on both sides since the war began on October 7.

Today's issue brings you the obituary of **Russ Percival**, who in his 25-year AP career played a critical role in the AP's stocks program. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and was loved and respected by many.

Here's to the day ahead – be safe, stay healthy, live it to your fullest.

Paul

A farewell to Yaniv Zohar





Photos by Paz Bar

Screenshot by Dan Perry of Israel TV Channel 13 broadcast

Dan Perry - Israel TV Channel 13 showed the funeral of former APTN videographer Yaniv Zohar, 54, his wife Yasmin and their two daughters, murdered in Kibbutz Nahal Oz by Hamas terrorists on the morning of Saturday, Oct. 7. The only survivor was his 13-year-old son Ariel who had been out for a morning jog and hid in a neighbor's home.

Zohar's niece Shuval eulogized Yaniv, saying: "Yanivi, my cool uncle. The talented photographer. I wish I could take away the pain of your last moments. In this tragedy we have a miracle. Your Arieli survived. I promise to take care of him and raise him as my little brother. Rest in peace, visit us in our dreams, and we will take care of all the rest."

His last employer, the Israel Hayom newspaper, noted that Yaniv had been first at the scene of the Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit, kidnapped by Hamas nearby in 2006. Schalit was released for hundreds of prisoners held in Israel five years later, including Yehuye Sinwar, who is now the Hamas operational leader in Gaza and as such the mastermind of the Oct. 7 massacre that killed the Zohar family and another 1,400 people in Israel.

Yaniv never shied away from stories difficult to cover

Christopher Slaney - "You don't know Yaniv do you? He's one of the best people we have and he's not even on the payroll." This was how Zion Eilam spoke about him in the spring of 2005 as we were making plans to cover the withdrawal from Gush Katif. How ironic, we thought Israel was leaving Gaza. We didn't understand that Gaza wouldn't let go of Israel.


Yaniv was sometimes an overly enthusiastic freelancer. He would call us up with story ideas he assumed would be front page news and I had to disappoint him. "Yaniv, we're an international news agency and there's zero international interest in a cat with unusual fur that makes him look like the fish from 'Finding Nemo'."

But when he had an assignment he brought that same energy to every rocket attack, train crash or celebrity visiting Sderot. He never made excuses or shied away from stories that were tough to cover. I recall how, during a particularly intense period of attacks from Gaza, he sent his family to his in-laws, and stayed behind with his camera.

The last time I saw him he met me off the train, we cruised around, visited the kibbutz, saw the new student housing in Sderot, stopped for a felafel and then drove out to one of the small hills overlooking Gaza. We weren't alone, there was a young man with a couple of cameras hanging around. He asked if we were journalists and presented himself as a blogger. Later, Yaniv asked me to explain blogging. "That blogger is more or less doing what you do Yaniv," I said, "except he's working for free. So you need to be careful or someone like him will have your lunch."

I grieve for Yaniv Zohar, his wife and daughters. I'm heartbroken to hear of his orphaned son who's going to have to come to terms with this devastating loss.

Celebration of life for Russ Percival to be held Nov. 10



**A Celebration
of the Life of
Russ Percival**

November 10th, 2023
4 PM - 7 PM
Service begins at 4:30
Food and Drink Provided

Lake Shore Plaza Event Space
9613 S Lake Shore Dr.
Lees Summit, MO 64086

Please RSVP by Nov. 1st
Text or call 816-456-3762 for
any questions
[Click here to RSVP](#)

Howard "Russ" Percival, of Lone Jack, Missouri, passed away on September 24, 2023, at the age of 75, after a short battle with esophageal cancer.

Russ was born in Marlow, Oklahoma, the oldest of the three children of Howard and Roselle Percival. His days were filled with fishing, hunting, and working on the family ranch.

Russ attended the University of Central Oklahoma but left at age 19 to enlist in the Army. It was June 1967, the height of the Vietnam War. Russ served in the 509th radio research group, out of MAC-V headquarters, in the Special Operations Group. He left the army in April 1971, at age 23.

Russ returned to college, this time at the University of Oklahoma. Afterwards, he worked as a civilian employee for the Army in missile defense testing on Kwajalein, in the Marshall Islands. Following that, he worked at Kerr McGee in New Mexico, ran a pet store in Oklahoma, and installed satellite dishes all over Texas.

But Russ found his calling at the Associated Press, his home for 25 years. From installing satellite dishes, he moved on to setting up news communication systems. He

traveled to events around the world such as the Olympics, national political conventions, and NASA launches.

Russ knew how to tell a joke and was a great story-teller. He loved to fish and took annual fishing trips with close friends to Lake Kikwissi in Canada, where more great tales were born.

Eventually, Russ transferred to New York City to play a key role in the A.P.'s stocks department. He was responsible for ensuring that the stock pages were sent out to member papers on time and accurately reported each stock.

It was during his time in New York that Russ met Rosemary McGonagle. In 1994, they married and moved to Kansas City. For almost 30 years, they made their home in Lone Jack, Missouri, and had two children, John (aka J.T.) and Catherine (aka Coco).

When Russ fully retired, he enjoyed painting, watching Oklahoma University football, traveling, and enjoying a good glass of wine. Russ' Native American background was a great source of pride for him, and he became a member of the Chickasaw Warriors Society and a registered Chickasaw artist.

Russ is survived by his wife, Rosemary, son, J.T., daughter, Coco, his sister, Rose Ann of Norman, Oklahoma, and his brother, Harold, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

A celebration of Russ' life is planned for Friday, November 10, 2023, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., at the Lake Shore Plaza Event Space, in Lake Lotawana, Missouri.

More sounds from the past

[Charles Monzella](#) - Telephone operators asking: "Number, please?"

Clang of a streetcar bell when a motorist lingered too long on the tracks ahead.

Stories behind your byline

[Mike Holmes](#) - My entire life pre-journalism, I was called Mike. No one ever used Michael except my mother when I was in trouble. But when I got my first newspaper job, I thought Michael Holmes looked more dignified in print, so that's what I chose.

This often proved helpful. When a phone call came in asking for "Michael," it was a tip-off that the caller wasn't anyone I knew. The only exception was Texas Gov. Ann Richards, who called occasionally to voice her displeasure with something the Austin AP bureau had written. Those calls always began with a drawling, rather high-volume "Myyy-cull."

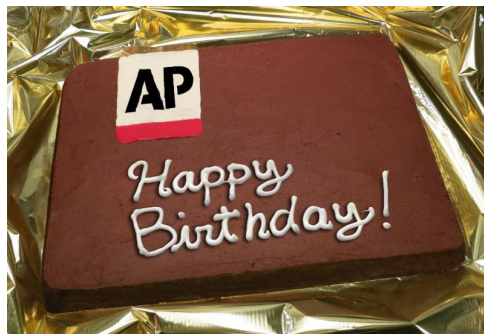
AP coverage of issues related to Israel-Gaza conflict incredibly useful, appreciated

[Wendy Davis Beard](#) - I'm glued to the BBC coverage of the current war in the Middle East for minute-to-minute developments but I'm reading all the background and context AP is providing which I am also sharing widely as so many are as curious and concerned as we are here in Greece. It's a bit surreal to be surrounded by many foreign tourists including Israelis. I find myself having to resist approaching verbally if not physically hugging these victimized people much like I understand Americans were approached Om sympathetically overseas when JFK was assassinated.

Marty Lederhandler – a legend

[Frank Eltman](#) - I count myself among the legions of AP staffers who were privileged to work with Marty Lederhandler. Whenever I see him mentioned in Connecting, it brings a smile to my day. I am particularly happy that his service on D-Day will be remembered anew. The word legend is thrown around way too much, but Marty truly was one in the field of journalism and in life. He is remembered fondly.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Doug Daniel](#)

[Elissa Free](#)

[Martin Kruming](#)

[Ramit Plushnick-Masti](#)

Stories of interest

The toll on the press so far in Israel, Gaza, and Lebanon (Columbia Journalism Review)

By JON ALLSOP

On Friday, Issam Abdallah, a video journalist for Reuters, was filming a live shot in the south of Lebanon, just across the border from Israel, amid an exchange of fire between Israeli forces and the Hezbollah militia. At least six other journalists—from Reuters, Al Jazeera, and Agence France-Presse—were in the area. Abdallah’s camera was trained on an adjacent hill when, suddenly, a huge explosion rocked the picture; off-screen, someone could be heard shouting, “I can’t feel my legs.” Abdallah, who was sitting on a nearby wall, was killed; the other six journalists were wounded. One of Abdallah’s colleagues and other witnesses said that missiles had been fired from the direction of Israel. “Obviously, we would never want to hit or kill or shoot any journalist that is doing its job,” Gilad Erdan, Israel’s envoy to the UN, said afterward. “But we’re in a state of war. Things might happen.” Israel said that it is investigating. Yesterday, Alessandra Galloni, the editor of Reuters, called for that process to be “swift, thorough, and transparent.” At Abdallah’s funeral, colleagues laid news cameras on his grave.

Abdallah was at least the fifteenth journalist to have been killed in the region—at work and not—since Hamas invaded southern Israel from Gaza the previous weekend and massacred over a thousand of the country’s citizens. All wars are dangerous to cover. But the Committee to Protect Journalists said that last week was the deadliest it has ever recorded for journalists covering Israel and Palestine. The day of the Hamas attack alone, at least eleven members of the media were either killed, wounded, or detained, or disappeared, according to CPJ’s figures.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

‘No safe area’: CNN journalist details his family’s desperate flight south from Gaza City (CNN)

By Lauren Said-Moorhouse and Zahid Mahmood, CNN

Gaza and London
CNN

—
Ibrahim Dahman and his family entered the hotel room and looked out toward the blue of the Mediterranean Sea. His two young sons were excited to spot a swimming pool below their window, but this was no vacation.

“But they don’t strike... they don’t strike hotels, right?” Dahman’s 11-year-old son, Zaid, asked nervously, as the family took the elevator down a short time later.

Exchanging an apprehensive look with his 30-year-old wife, Rasha, Dahman replied: “They don’t strike hotels, no.” A gentle white lie from a father trying to reassure his boys as the explosions, once distant, seemed now to be getting closer.

Born and raised in Gaza, the 36-year-old CNN journalist has grown accustomed to war with Israel. Palestinians have watched as Israeli strikes have battered the strip on several occasions in the years since Israeli forces withdrew from the territory in 2005, often in response to Hamas rocket fire. Fighting frequently breaks out between Israel and Palestinian factions in Gaza, including the militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

The Google antitrust trial has been frustratingly locked down — the NYT just filed a motion to open it up (The Verge)

By Nilay Patel

You would barely know Google is in the middle of one of the most consequential antitrust trials in decades right now. Although some important witnesses have testified in open court and documents have been posted online after a delay, access to the trial is still uncertain and sporadic because Judge Amit Mehta appears to have bought into Google’s argument that the particulars of its search business are simply too sensitive to open up.

This is, of course, a tough position to hold in a trial that is entirely about the particulars of Google’s search business and how it shields that business from competition by striking exclusive deals with various players in the industry — most importantly, Apple. But it appears to have held sway over Judge Mehta, who has made public access to the trial only slightly easier since it started. But even then, court sessions have remained closed with no notice and documents have been posted only days after being discussed on the stand.

Judge Mehta’s general bent toward opacity has made understanding what’s going on in this trial almost impossible — just compare how much the Google trial is being covered to other major tech trials like FTC v. Microsoft or Epic v. Apple, where the media and public were able to follow and report on the proceedings in nearly real time.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

NewsGuild seeks a reporter’s confidential sources as it faces defamation suit (Poynter)

By: Angela Fu

The NewsGuild is seeking to compel a journalist to give up his communications with his sources, as well as his correspondence with a former New York Times columnist.

The move is part of an ongoing legal battle between the guild, the largest journalism union in the country, and Mike Elk, a former member and independent labor reporter. In June 2021, Elk sued the NewsGuild and several of its top leaders, alleging that they had retaliated against him after he notified them of sexual misconduct allegations against former Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh president Michael Fuoco.

The defamation lawsuit, filed in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, has reached the discovery phase. As part of its request for documents, the NewsGuild asked for Elk's communications with the sources who notified him of the misconduct allegations. The union also asked for Elk's communications with former New York Times media columnist Ben Smith, who broke the story on the allegations and reported that the NewsGuild had ignored tips about Fuoco's behavior for months. Elk served as a source for Smith.

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

-0-

Known for His Pointed Questions, a 15-Year-Old Is Ejected From a G.O.P. Event (New York Times)

By Neil Vigdor

It was the type of tough question a Republican presidential candidate might get on a Sunday morning talk show, only the person asking it was 15: Quinn Mitchell wanted to know if Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida believed that former President Donald J. Trump had violated the peaceful transfer of power on Jan. 6, 2021.

Video of the uncomfortable exchange at a June 27 town hall in Hollis, N.H., for Mr. DeSantis, who dodged the question, ricocheted online. So did the pair's next encounter at a July 4 parade in Merrimack, N.H., where a video showed Quinn, an aspiring journalist, being shooed away by a handler for the Florida governor.

But the teenager said he was not prepared for what happened on Friday, when he was briefly ejected by police officers from the First in the Nation Leadership Summit, a candidate showcase organized by the New Hampshire Republican Party. The two-day event in Nashua, N.H., featured Mr. DeSantis and most of the G.O.P. field, but not Mr. Trump.

"They said, 'We know who you are,'" Quinn, who has his own political blog and podcast, said in a phone interview on Saturday from his home in Walpole, N.H., referring to the organizers of the summit.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin.

Today in History - Oct. 18, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 18, the 291st day of 2023. There are 74 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 18, 1867, the United States took formal possession of Alaska from Russia.

On this date:

In 1648, Boston shoemakers were authorized to form a guild to protect their interests, becoming the first American labor organization on record.

In 1892, the first long-distance telephone line between New York and Chicago was officially opened.

In 1898, the American flag was raised in Puerto Rico shortly before Spain formally relinquished control of the island to the U.S.

In 1954, Texas Instruments unveiled the Regency TR-1, the first commercially produced transistor radio.

In 1962, James D. Watson, Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins were honored with the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology for determining the double-helix molecular structure of DNA.

In 1968, the U.S. Olympic Committee suspended Tommie Smith and John Carlos for giving a "Black power" salute as a protest during a victory ceremony in Mexico City.

In 1969, the federal government banned artificial sweeteners known as cyclamates because of evidence they caused cancer in laboratory rats.

In 1972, Congress passed the Clean Water Act, overriding President Richard Nixon's veto.

In 1977, West German commandos stormed a hijacked Lufthansa jetliner on the ground in Mogadishu, Somalia, freeing all 86 hostages and killing three of the four hijackers.

In 1984, actor Jon-Erik Hexum, 26, was taken off life support six days after shooting himself in the head with a pistol loaded with a blank cartridge on the set of his TV show "Cover Up."

In 2001, CBS News announced that an employee in anchorman Dan Rather's office had tested positive for skin anthrax.

In 2010, four men snared in an FBI sting were convicted of plotting to blow up New York City synagogues and shoot down military planes with the help of a paid informant who'd convinced them he was a terror operative.

In 2012, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York ruled that a federal law defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman was unconstitutional. (The following June, the Supreme Court would use that case to strike down provisions keeping legally-married same-sex couples from receiving federal benefits that were otherwise available to married couples.)

In 2018, President Donald Trump threatened to close the U.S. border with Mexico if authorities could not stop a caravan of migrants making their way from Central America.

Today's Birthdays: College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Mike Ditka is 84. Singer-musician Russ Giguere is 80. Actor Joe Morton is 76. Actor Pam Dawber is 73. Author Terry McMillan is 72. Writer-producer Chuck Lorre is 71. Gospel singer Vickie Winans is 70. Director-screenwriter David Twohy (TOO'-ee) is 68. International Tennis Hall of Famer Martina Navratilova is 67. Actor Jon Lindstrom is 66. International Hall of Fame boxer Thomas Hearns is 65. Actor Jean-Claude Van Damme is 63. Jazz musician Wynton Marsalis is 62. Actor Vincent Spano is 61. Singer Nonchalant is 56. Former tennis player Michael Stich (shteek) is 55. Actor Joy Bryant is 49. Rock musician Peter Svensson (The Cardigans) is 49. Actor Wesley Jonathan is 45. R&B singer-actor Ne-Yo is 44. Country singer Josh Gracin is 43. Olympic gold medal skier Lindsey Vonn is 39. Jazz singer-musician Esperanza Spalding is 39. Actor-model Freida Pinto is 39. Actor Zac Efron is 36. Actor Joy Lauren is 34. U.S. Olympic and WNBA basketball star Brittney Griner is 33. TV personality Bristol Palin is 33. Actor Tyler Posey is 32. Actor Toby Regbo is 32.

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.

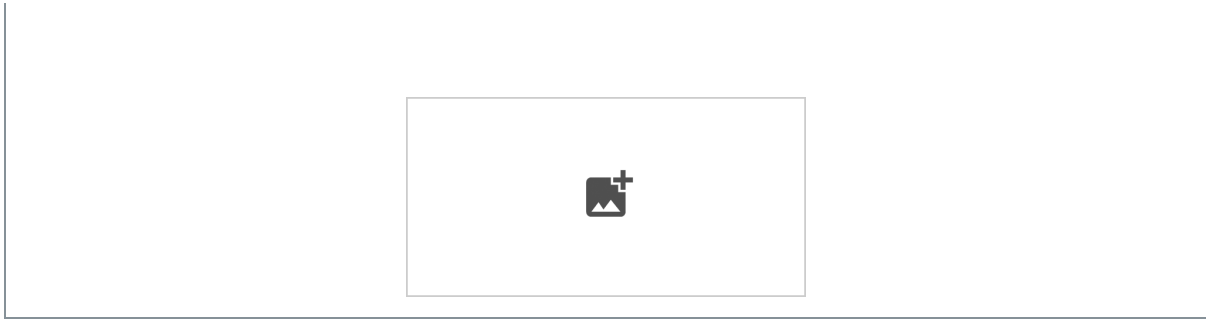
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com





Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

[Unsubscribe stevenspl@live.com](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com powered by

