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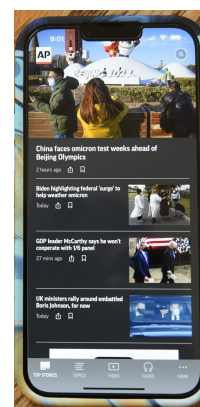
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Connecting

Oct. 23, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Oct. 23, 2023,

Claudia DiMartino was a fighter until the very end – an example of courage for all of us. Now we mourn her loss and celebrate her life.

The veteran journalist of The Associated Press and Bloomberg News died Saturday at the age of 71. Early this year, with her partner **Hal Buell**, she celebrated her eighth anniversary of a lung transplant.

She put up a valiant fight over the years, said Buell, retired director of AP Photos, but “her body just couldn’t keep up with the many assaults it had to take.”

We lead today’s Connecting with a story on Claudia and her career. Noted in the story are the dates for her funeral service (Tuesday) and a Zoom call (Wednesday).

Hers was a life worth celebrating – and if you have a favorite memory or photo of working with her, please send it along to share with your colleagues. If you would like to send a note to Hal, his email is hbuell@mail.lanline.com

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

Paul

Claudia DiMartino: 'To infinity and beyond'



Claudia DiMartino, beloved and respected by her colleagues during her three decades of photography work with The Associated Press and Bloomberg News, died Saturday

at the age of 71.

“She put up a valiant fight over many years with her lung disease - and beat it back longer than most with her condition,” said her partner, Hal Buell, former director of AP Photos. “In the last couple of weeks, her body just couldn’t keep up with the many assaults it had to take. She died peacefully at St. Catherine’s Hospital in Smithtown, NY, yesterday (Saturday) morning. I was able to say goodbye to her. She was in control of her choices to the end.

“Claudia cared deeply about her relationships with all of you — her friends — and family. Not only was she a part of the team that drove important advances in the media industry — the move to digital at AP and the development of Bloomberg’s first photo service, but she was also a loving, supportive mentor and person.”

DiMartino underwent a lung transplant in 2015 and was hospitalized in 2022 for lung complications - but recovered and was able to return home. At the time, she said, “I’m not looking for the road home. I’m planning my happy and productive future with my sweetheart. To infinity and beyond!”

Last March, she and Buell celebrated what she called “my 8-year lung-a-versary with my ace caregiver Hal.”

A visitation will be held Tuesday from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at Vernon C. Wagner Funeral Homes, 125 Old Country Rd, Hicksville, New York 11801. A funeral mass will follow at 11 a.m. at St. Pius X RC Church, 1 Saint Pius Ct, Plainview, New York 11803. A private cremation will occur. Memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at - www.VernonCWagnerFuneralHome.com Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Vernon C. Wagner Funeral Homes, 125 W. Old Country Road, Hicksville, New York.

She is survived by her partner, Hal Buell; her sister Debra Kingsley, a retired child psychologist, and nieces Elizabeth Kingsley, Lauren Van Middlelem and Kristina Kingsley.

There will also be a short online memorial hosted by her niece Liz Kingsley on Zoom at 6 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday. If you would like to join, please email Liz directly at elizkingsley@gmail.com and she will send you a link.



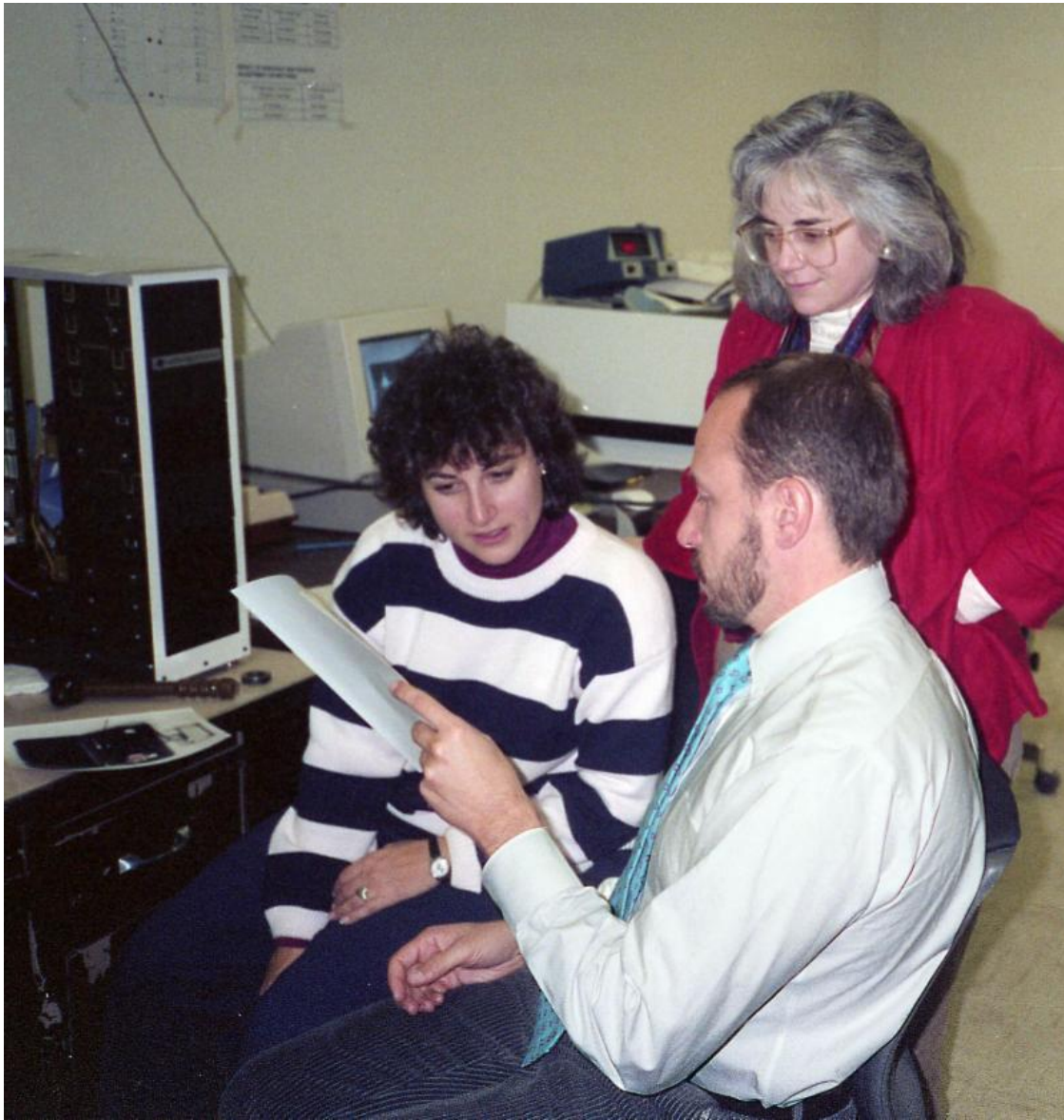
Claudia and Hal in 2016. Photo by Brian Horton.

DiMartino was a graduate of Stony Brook University, where she earned bachelor's and master's degrees in literature and elementary education. She worked in her community library through high school and college from shelving books to becoming a para-professional reference librarian.

She was a high school English teacher in New York before joining the AP in New York on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 1981.

"I was happy teaching but felt the pay would not sustain me, so I looked for something else exciting, and better paying," she told Connecting colleagues in a 2018 profile. "Admittedly, working for the AP does not put you on track to great wealth, but oh the opportunity to experience the world! Joan Kearney, the head of the photo archive and a former teacher, hired me for the photo library. From time to time, photo librarians filled in on the NY photo desk. I aggressively sought that opportunity and soon won a permanent spot on the desk. After a time, I was a day editor and experienced the work on each desk: swing, regional, national monitor, TV, assignment and occasionally, supervisor and foreign. I decided I wanted to invest myself in the regional desk and was glad to find a regular place there."

In her 17 years with the AP, DiMartino worked as a photo librarian, general photo editor, regional photo editor, presenter and member trainer for digital photo handling. After the electronic darkroom project, she worked as a Membership Executive and sold digital photo equipment like the AP Leafax scanner. Her last AP assignments were as Audiotex manager and Multimedia Products manager.



Randy Anmuth, Peter Bregg and Claudia DiMartino confer over tech issues with electronic darkroom.



Claudia in the days of training editors on Photostream, the important advance in digital photo transmission.

As a member trainer for digital photo handling, she made many presentations at AP state meetings and newspaper conventions. “Finally,” she told Connecting in 2018, “when we were ready to make the installations in member newsrooms, I scheduled a team of about a dozen crackerjack AP photo editors and photographers. We visited every photo member in the U.S. to train local staff how to integrate the digital picture service in their operations and shepherd photos from a computer screen to press run.”

Many played key roles in her AP career, she recalled for Connecting in 2018. “My fellow photo editor Daniel Hansen taught me how to be a wire service photo editor, but he was not the only one. One day when I was taking up the job of national monitor, Don Faulkner Jr. told me I had the right kind of head for doing this job requiring good news judgment. My first night as supervisor, Brian Horton offered guidance, "Don't be afraid to ask for help." The most important thing in a job is to feel your bosses have confidence in you. That happened for me. I gained further opportunities to not only travel and edit, but to make the most significant change in 50 years in the way photos were handled by the AP and our members.

DiMartino moved to Bloomberg News in 2008 – “when an opportunity appeared to start up a global photo service from scratch, I just couldn't resist. That's how I ended my AP career and went to Bloomberg News. There is nothing like the camaraderie of the AP, so I am so grateful to be able to find that family again even after my opportunity at another news service.”

In retirement, she also worked as a consultant for a time for Fresh Eyes Editorial Services of Brooklyn – doing portfolio review, advising, research, photo editing, blogging and speaking at conferences.

She and Buell were active with the Eddie Adams Workshop and frequented the theater. She was a volunteer with LIVE ON NEW YORK, an organization that seeks organ donors. She was also a devoted member of her monthly book club. When her three nieces were growing up, she loved taking them on adventures, sometimes separately, sometimes together.

AP journalists accept Pulitzer Prizes for Ukraine coverage

[AP Definitive Source](#)

At a ceremony at Columbia University’s Low Library on Thursday, AP journalists who documented the Ukraine war, including Russia’s siege of Mariupol, accepted Pulitzer Prizes for Public Service and Breaking News Photography.

AP journalists Mstyslav Chernov, Evgeniy Maloletka, Vasilisa Stepanenko and Lori Hinnant won the prestigious Gold Medal for Public Service for their exclusive reporting and defining images of the siege of the port city of Mariupol, which offered the world a window into the devastating reality of Russia’s invasion.



From left: President Emeritus of Columbia University Lee Bollinger, AP's video producer Vasilisa Stepanenko, photographer Evgeniy Maloletka, videojournalist Mstyslav Chernov and reporter Lori Hinnant. (AP Photo/David Ake)

AP photographers Bernat Armangue, Emilio Morenatti, Felipe Dana, Rodrigo Abd and Vadim Ghirda accepted the Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photography for pictures that captured the horrors of Russia's invasion since the start of the war in February 2022.



From left: President Emeritus of Columbia University Lee Bollinger, AP photojournalists Bernat Armangue, Felipe Dana, Evgeniy Maloletka, Vadim Ghirda, Rodrigo Abd, and Emilio Morenatti. (AP Photo/Benjamin Snyder)

The awards were announced in May. These are the 57th and 58th Pulitzer Prizes earned by AP, including 35 for photography.

The complete list of winners and their work is available [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

It's not new

[Jim Limbach](#) - Re: Robert Reid and attribution: what he suggests is the way broadcast has always done it -- the way people actually talk. Maybe it's time the rest of the journalism world caught up.

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On AP bylines...and the Ritters

[Malcolm Ritter](#) - Regarding AP bylines: When I pitched in from New York on stories about the awarding of Nobel Prizes, I jokingly told colleagues I wished that the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences would award the economics Nobel to someone from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Why?

Because then (with a little wangling) I could share a byline with Karl Ritter, now news director for Northern Europe, Ken Ritter in Vegas, and Hal Ritter, a former business news editor. A four-Ritter byline! It never happened, but at least Karl and I got halfway there.

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Long-gone sounds

Jeffrey Ulbrich - Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows! Heh, heh, heh, heh!

Bet you haven't heard that lately.

Even better was all the screeching tires, sirens, whistles and crash noises at the opening of each episode of Gang Busters.

Old radio was packed with wonderful sound effects, now long gone. Who can hear that bit from the William Tell Overture and not want to shout Hi yo Silver, awayyyyyy...

AP California Reunion



A scene from the luncheon.

AP oldtimers and spouses from across California — many of whom hadn't seen each other in years — got together in Vallejo on Saturday Oct. 21, for a festive lunch that lasted for three hours and featured war stories and more war stories. There was a lot of catching up to do.

On hand were: AP news veterans Marty Thompson, Lyle Price, Mike Goodkind, Steve Monteil, Bob Egelko, Bill Saul, Dan Berger, Brendan Reilly, John Howard, Mike Rubin, Eric Risberg, Jeannine Yeomans and Chuck McFadden. Egelko is still in reporting as the San Francisco Chronicle's legal reporter and Risberg is still with The Associated Press as a photographer. Howard recently retired as the editor of Sacramento's Capitol Weekly.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Steve Loeper](#)

Stories of interest

The media navigates a war of words for reporting on Gaza and Israel (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

Ever since armed men from Gaza crossed into Israel and killed some 1,400 people, news organizations have wrestled with how to describe who they were and whom they represented.

Were they “terrorists”? Anchors on CNN and Fox News said they were.

Or were they “militants” (The Washington Post, BBC)?

Or “gunmen” (NPR)? Or “fighters” (Al Jazeera English)?

Were they the foot soldiers of a “terrorist organization” (Business Insider) or of “the governing power in the Gaza Strip” (the New York Times)?

Words matter, particularly to news organizations that try to preserve accuracy and impartiality at moments of great passion and uncertainty. A badly chosen word in a media account — particularly during a bloody conflict involving Israelis and Palestinians — can elicit swift denunciations from readers, listeners and viewers.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad, Myron Belkind, Michael Rubin.

-0-

Iran sentences 2 journalists for allegedly collaborating with US. Both covered Mahsa Amini's death (AP)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A court in Iran sentenced two journalists to up to seven years in prison for collaborating with the U.S. government and other charges, local reports said Sunday. Both women have been imprisoned for over a year following their coverage of the death of Mahsa Amini while in police custody in September 2022.

The sentencing can be appealed within 20 days.

The two journalists are Niloufar Hamed, who broke the news of Amini's death for wearing her headscarf too loose, and Elaheh Mohammadi, who wrote about Amini's funeral. They were sentenced to seven and six years in prison, respectively, the judiciary news website Mizan reported Sunday.

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

-0-

Opinion AI is learning from stolen intellectual property. It needs to stop. (Washington Post)

By William D. Cohan

William D. Cohan is a best-selling author and a founding partner of Puck News.

The other day someone sent me the searchable database published by Atlantic magazine of more than 191,000 e-books that have been used to train the generative AI systems being developed by Meta, Bloomberg and others. It turns out that four of my seven books are in the data set, called Books3. Whoa.

Not only did I not give permission for my books to be used to generate AI products, but I also wasn't even consulted about it. I had no idea this was happening. Neither did my publishers, Penguin Random House (for three of the books) and Macmillan (for the other one). Neither my publishers nor I were compensated for use of my

intellectual property. Books3 just scraped the content away for free, with Meta et al. profiting merrily along the way. And Books3 is just one of many pirated collections being used for this purpose.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Lindel Hutson.

-0-

UC Davis Professor Under Fire Over Posts Threatening 'Zionist' Journalists And Their Families

(MEDIAite)

By Diana Falzone

A UC Davis assistant professor sparked an outcry and demands for her firing over inflammatory comments appearing to threaten “zionist” journalists and their families amid the Israel-Hamas war.

Jemma Decristo, an assistant professor of American studies at University of California, Davis, wrote in a post last week on X that “zionist journalists” spread “propaganda & misinformation.”

She followed that up with an apparent threat to those journalists and their families, as well as three different emojis: a knife, an ax, and blood droplets.

Read more [here](#). Shared by David Egner.

The Final Word

Stranded on the Eiffel Tower, a couple decide to wed, with an AP reporter there to tell the story (AP)

PARIS (AP) — Police arrested a man climbing Thursday on the Eiffel Tower, leading to visitors being temporarily stranded at the summit — including a reporter for The Associated Press and a Washington, D.C., couple who decided during the wait to get married.

Amir Khan had been planning to propose to Kat Warren later Thursday in a Paris garden away from the crowds, with a romantic dinner on the River Seine also on the menu.

But when the lifts were temporarily shut down because of the climber, stranding the couple and others at the top, Khan decided to spring his surprise.

Pat Eaton-Robb, an AP journalist from Connecticut who was also stuck up there, got their story.

"I figured we might be here longer than I imagined," Khan told the AP reporter. "So I didn't want to miss dinner and she always wanted to be proposed to on or under the Eiffel Tower. So I figured, 'This is it, this is the moment.'"

And the answer?

"Yes," of course.

"He had a pretty good chance of me saying 'Yes' all along," Warren said, laughing.

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

Today in History - Oct. 23, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Oct. 23, the 296th day of 2023. There are 69 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 23, 1983, 241 U.S. service members, most of them Marines, were killed in a suicide truck-bombing at Beirut International Airport in Lebanon, while a near-simultaneous attack on French forces killed 58 paratroopers.

On this date:

In 1707, the first Parliament of Great Britain, created by the Acts of Union between England and Scotland, held its first meeting.

In 1910, Blanche S. Scott became the first woman to make a public solo airplane flight, reaching an altitude of 12 feet at a park in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

In 1915, tens of thousands of women paraded up Fifth Avenue in New York City, demanding the right to vote.

In 1942, during World War II, Britain launched a major offensive against Axis forces at El Alamein (el ah-lah-MAYN') in Egypt, resulting in an Allied victory.

In 1944, the World War II Battle of Leyte (LAY'-tee) Gulf began, resulting in a major Allied victory against Japanese forces.

In 1956, a student-sparked revolt against Hungary's Communist rule began; as the revolution spread, Soviet forces started entering the country, and the uprising was put down within weeks.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon agreed to turn over White House tape recordings subpoenaed by the Watergate special prosecutor to Judge John J. Sirica.

In 1987, the U.S. Senate rejected the Supreme Court nomination of Robert H. Bork 58-42.

In 1989, 23 people were killed in an explosion at Phillips Petroleum Co.'s chemical complex in Pasadena, Texas.

In 1995, a jury in Houston convicted Yolanda Saldivar of murdering Tejano singing star Selena.

In 2009, President Barack Obama declared the swine flu outbreak a national emergency, giving his health chief the power to let hospitals move emergency rooms offsite to speed treatment and protect non-infected patients.

In 2014, officials announced that an emergency room doctor who'd recently returned to New York City after treating Ebola patients in West Africa tested positive for the virus, becoming the first case in the city and the fourth in the nation. (Dr. Craig Spencer later recovered.)

In 2017, New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced a civil rights investigation into the Weinstein Co., amid sexual harassment and assault allegations against its founder, Harvey Weinstein.

In 2021, a driver lost control during a Texas drag racing event on an airport runway and slammed into a crowd of spectators, killing two children and injuring eight other people.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Philip Kaufman is 87. R&B singer Barbara Ann Hawkins (The Dixie Cups) is 80. Former ABC News investigative reporter Brian Ross is 75. Actor Michael Rupert is 72. Movie director Ang Lee is 69. Jazz singer Dianne Reeves is 67. Country singer Dwight Yoakam is 67. Community activist Martin Luther King III is 66. Movie director Sam Raimi is 64. Parodist "Weird Al" Yankovic is 64. Rock musician Robert Trujillo (Metallica) is 59. Rock musician Brian Nevin (Big Head Todd and the Monsters) is 57. Actor Jon Huertas is 54. Movie director Chris Weitz is 54. CNN medical reporter Dr. Sanjay Gupta is 54. Bluegrass musician Eric Gibson (The Gibson Brothers) is 53. Country singer Jimmy Wayne is 51. Actor Vivian Bang is 50. Rock musician Eric Bass (Shinedown) is 49. TV personality and host Cat Deeley is 47. Actor Ryan Reynolds is 47. Actor Saycon Sengbloh is 46. Rock singer Matthew Shultz (Cage the Elephant) is 40. TV personality Meghan McCain is 39. R&B singer Miguel is 38.

Actor Masiela Lusha (MAH'-see-el-la loo-SHA') is 38. Actor Emilia Clarke is 37. Actor Briana Evigan is 37. Actor Inbar Lavi is 37. Actor Jessica Stroup is 37. Neo-soul musician Allen Branstetter (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 33. Actor Taylor Spreitler is 30. Actor Margaret Qualley is 29. Actor Amandla Stenberg is 25.

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.

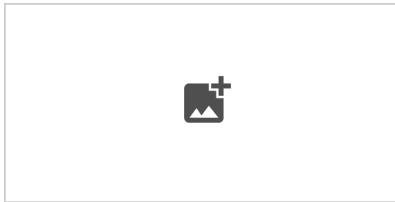
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

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