



# CRIS AIR WAVES



Audio Access for the Blind or Print-Challenged Spring/Summer 2017

## CRIS Radio Launches 'Voices of WWI'

First-of-its-kind audio service expands access to historic documents

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### YOUR GENEROSITY SUPPORTS:

- ◆ CRIS Radio
- ◆ CRISKids for Schools
- ◆ CRISAccess (Museums)
- ◆ CRIS Streaming (Hospitals)
- ◆ CRIS On Demand
- ◆ CRIS Telephone Reader

Please SIGN UP for Smile.Amazon.com. Select CRIS Radio as your designated charity and .5% of your purchase will be donated to CRIS by Amazon. THANK YOU!

CRIS Radio, the Connecticut State Library, and IDEAL Group are working together to offer a first-of-its kind service that provides access to historic World War I records and documents with human-narrated recordings for people unable to read due to blindness or other print disabilities.

Individuals unable to read due to a disability have limited opportunities to read historic documents.

The historic documents were selected from among the Connecticut State Library's archives.

The initiative also features the development of new technologies, developed by Ohio-based IDEAL Group, to help teachers, librarians, and archivists render hard-copy historical documents into accessible formats for individuals with disabilities.

More than 100 historic documents, including newspaper articles,

servicemen's diaries, their letters home, and questionnaires they completed following the war, are now available in audio format on CRIS

Radio's website: [crisradio.org](http://crisradio.org).

Funding, in part, came from the National Historical Records & Publications Commission, (NHPRC) the funding arm of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS & RECORDS COMMISSION



Photos/ Steve Laschever

Convening at the Connecticut State Library to launch "Voices of World War I, from left, Denise Merrill, Secretary of the State; Brian Sigman, director, Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind; Diane Weaver Dunne, executive director, CRIS Radio; Paul A. Young, chairman, CRIS Radio Board of Directors; John Monahan, commissioner, World War I Centennial Commission; Steven Armstrong, social studies consultant, Connecticut State Dept. of Education; and Kendall Wiggin, State Librarian.

## Local Media Raise Money for CRIS Radio

It was a competition of a different sort for members of the local NBC, CBS and Fox on-air morning news teams.

Instead of competing for ratings, they competed in a dance contest to raise money for CRIS Radio at the nonprofit's annual Dining & Dancing in the Dark gala held at Hartford's Bond Ballroom in April.

The highlight of the fundraiser is CRIS Radio's own version of the TV show, "Dancing with the Stars."

**Hanna Mordoh**, the morning traffic reporter for NBC Connecticut, and **Amanda Raus**, morning anchor for Fox 61, tied for first place to win the CRIS Radio Mirror Ball Trophy.

Both were wearing dresses designed and handmade by Oksana Blais, owner of Pure Elegance, who loaned them to Raus and Mordoh for the competition.

Morning TV news competitor, **Scot Haney**, WFSB meteorologist and co-host of Better Connecticut, also put on his dance shoes for the cause, prompting the audience to clap along to his performance. WFSB travel reporter **Nicole Nalepa** joined Haney to co-emcee the fundraiser.

Dance contestants also included **Sulma Avenancio**, senior vice president of Entravision; **Dr. Andrea Dennis**, co-host of WTIC 1080's "Pet Talk" and WFSB's "Better Pets" segments; and **Cathy Poulin**, well-known for her role in the Bob's Discount Furniture TV commercials.

Other highlights of the event were the performances of two CRIS volunteers, Diane Duhaime and Steve Famiglietti, who also are CRIS listeners. Duhaime danced the tango, and Steve Famiglietti, manager of assistive technology at Oak Hill, danced a swing.

Celebrity judges included **Joe Furey**, chief meteorologist from Fox CT; **Maurice Kaoud**, also known for his commercials for Kaoud Rugs; and ballroom dance instructor, **Frank Rende Jr.**

Arthur Murray Dance Studios' professional dancers donated lessons to the CRIS volunteers and local celebrities.

The dance studio has provided more than \$100,000 in lessons during the past six years for CRIS Radio's event.



Photos/Steve Laschever

Local personalities partnered with Arthur Murray dance instructors to compete in CRIS Radio's annual dance contest. From left, first row: Sulma Avenancio, Entravision; Jesse Kroll, Arthur Murray; Cathy Poulin, Bob's Discount Furniture; Matthew Berryman, Arthur Murray; Kyle Blatchford, Arthur Murray; Francis Grant, Arthur Murray; Hanna Mordoh, NBC CT; Tom Varian, Arthur Murray; Amanda Raus, Fox 61; Dr. Andrea Dennis, WTIC and WFSB; Lacey Escobales, Arthur Murray; and Scot Haney, WFSB.



Steve Famiglietti, a CRIS Radio volunteer and listener, performs with Arthur Murray professional dancer Sally Nasatka.



Remembering  
friends  
&  
family

## Special Recognitions ...

Your donations made in memory or in honor of friends or family support CRIS services for thousands of adults and students who are blind or print-challenged, helping them access the same print materials enjoyed by their friends, family, colleagues and classmates. Since July 1, 2016 through 2017 (year-to-date) the following people were honored or remembered:

- Zoltan Angyal
- Benton Berman
- Martin Beskind
- Daniel Carnot
- Jean Marino Casey
- Lowell Cherry Sr.
- Silvio Coiro
- Lucile Darcy
- Diane Duhaime
- Norma Dunn
- Monica Euvrard
- Cecelia Falotica
- Michael Gianovsky
- Bess Foxman
- Ray and Arline Frankowski
- Vincent Galanti Sr.
- Carol Gillispie
- Jason M. Goldberg
- Ellen Grossi
- Charles Lally
- Elizabeth Lewis
- Donna Lin
- Scot Haney
- Christopher Hernandez
- Charles Lally
- David Long
- Roger Maynard
- Florence Tiernan
- Brian Winters

## How Your Support Impacts Listeners

Your support — as a CRIS Radio donor and / or volunteer — makes an important difference in improving the lives of our listeners. We know this because our listeners tell us that CRIS Radio reduces their loneliness and keeps them informed.

In addition to listener letters and emails, such as the one we received from CRIS listener Bob Butcher of Branford, the results from a recent randomized listener survey conducted also confirms the impact CRIS has on the people we serve.

The survey was conducted with the help of an 18-month Hartford Foundation's Building Evaluation Capacity Program to measure the effect of our radio broadcasts.

Highlights of the listener survey include the following:

- 83% listen to CRIS regularly;

*'I am able to listen to the service that CRIS provides and it has helped me tremendously. ... CRIS Radio has become a big part of my daily activities and I wanted to let all of you know how appreciative I am.'* - Bob Butcher

- 89% agreed or strongly agreed that CRIS helps reduce their feelings of isolation;
- 88% agreed or strongly agreed that CRIS helps inform them about their community, state and country;
- 86% agreed or strongly agreed that CRIS helps them better participate in conversations;
- 85% agreed or strongly agreed that CRIS helps them feel connected to their community; and
- 80% said that CRIS Radio is important or very important to them.

## Windsor Lions Club Teams Up With CRIS Radio

The Windsor Lions Club and CRIS Radio are working together to offer museum visitors with low-vision or other print disabilities with a new way to access print information displayed at the exhibits of the Connecticut Agricultural Museum at Northwest Park in Windsor.

CRIS Radio's audible museum tour program, called CRISAccess™, will offer instant, on-demand audio versions of the print information displayed at 17 of the museum's exhibits through a visitor's personal smart phone that scans QR (Quick Response) Codes. The QR Codes also will provide a brief audio description of the exhibit.

All recordings will feature human narration provided by CRIS volunteers and Windsor Lions Club members.

The goal of the CRIS Radio and Windsor Lions Club's collaboration is to provide museum visitors with print disabilities with the same experience enjoyed by their friends, classmates and family.

The QR codes will be installed at the Connecticut Agricultural Museum 17 new exhibits that describe the history and growing process of tobacco in Connecticut.

For a one-time donation of \$300, the club will add the sponsor's name or logo onto the sign that contains the CRISAccess QR Code. For more information, contact Windsor Lions Club president Jim Daniels at 860-219-9589 or jamesadanielsCPA@gmail.com or Margaret Boisture at 860-707-9666 or at margaretboisture@gmail.com.



## CRIS To Open Fifth Regional Studio in Norwalk

CRIS Radio is opening a regional studio in the historic Gate Lodge in Norwalk's Mathews Park. In addition to CRIS Radio's broadcast center in Windsor, the Norwalk facility will be its fifth regional studio. Articles featured in local Fairfield County newspapers as well as those published in the New York Times Metro Edition will be recorded at the Norwalk location.

Similar to the operation of CRIS Radio's other regional studios located in Danbury, Trumbull, Norwich, and West Haven, volunteers will provide on-air voice talent, audio editing and broadcast production at the studio. In addition to accepting volunteer applications for voice talent, CRIS is seeking a Norwalk studio coordinator as well as volunteers to conduct regional outreach at local Lions Clubs, other community civic clubs, and senior centers in Fairfield County.

Funding for this new studio comes from the Goodnow Foundation and the Fairfield County Community Foundation.

### Save the Dates

20th Annual CRIS Radio Golf Classic \* Wed., Oct. 4, 2017  
Tunxis Golf Club \* Farmington

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7th Annual Dining & Dancing in the Dark \* Sat., April 28, 2018  
Bond Ballroom \* Hartford