



# CRIS AIR WAVES



## CRIS

315 Windsor Ave.  
Windsor, CT  
06082

www.crisradio.org  
info@crisradio.org

P: 860-527-8000  
F: 860-727-9581

### Inside this issue:

Cheesecake for CRIS	2
'CRIS Radio Saved My Father's Life!'	2
Remembering Friends and Family	3
Rita Madigan Creates CRIS Legacy	3
Dining & Dancing in the Dark	4

## YOUR GENEROSITY PROVIDES:

- ♦ CRIS Radio
- ♦ CRISKids for Schools
- ♦ CRISAccess (museums)
- ♦ CRIS Streaming
- ♦ CRIS On Demand
- ♦ CRIS Telephone Reader
- ♦ CRIS en Español

Audio Access for the Blind or Print-Challenged

Winter/Spring 2015

## Your Generosity Gives the Banta's the Gift of Information

Norm and Cindy Banta, both who are blind, have been listening to CRIS Radio for more than three decades. Thanks to donors and volunteers like you, the Banta's are connected to what's happening in their community, state and beyond.

Your gift provides the Bantas and thousands of other CRIS listeners with a lifeline to their community with information that most of us take for granted, such as sales at the local grocery store and local obituaries.

*'I couldn't get through the day without CRIS Radio.'*

Norm Banta

"Without CRIS, Cindy and I would be lost," Norm Banta said recently to members of the state Appropriation's Committee at the Legislative Office Building during a public hearing on a proposal



**Cindy and Norm Banta, long-time CRIS listeners, recently testified during a public hearing regarding the proposed elimination of state funding for CRIS.**

by the state to eliminate all support to CRIS Radio. He explained that CRIS plays a vital role in their day-to-day life, providing audio news and information that is not available elsewhere.

Cindy Banta told the legislators that she began listening to CRIS' first broadcast, a two-hour show, in 1979. Today, CRIS broadcasts 24/7.

"We are very, very sure that a great many people would be upset if CRIS ceased to exist," Norm Banta said.

## Lioness Priscilla Lewis Bakes Cheesecakes for CRIS

Lioness Priscilla Lewis, a member of the Taftville Lions Club, combines her dedication to CRIS Radio with her love for baking. Her Cheesecakes for Charity organization raises money for CRIS Radio and other nonprofits in the region.

At the Lions Mid-Winter Conference in February, Priscilla raised money for CRIS by selling slices of her much sought after cheesecake, which sold out in record time. Her donation helps CRIS give radios free of charge to people who are blind or print-disabled.



Photo/ Christina D'Allesandro

**Lioness Priscilla Lewis of Gales Ferry sells slices of cheesecake at the Lions Mid-Winter Conference to raise money for CRIS.**

## 'CRIS Radio Saved My Father's Life!'

Never underestimate the power of your gift to CRIS Radio.

Before providing teacher training on our CRISKids for Schools program, the teachers were asked if they had ever heard of CRIS.

In the back of the room, teacher Ronnie Zoback of Tolland nodded and said, "CRIS Radio saved my father's



Photo/ Courtesy NPR

**Ronnie Zoback tells of how CRIS Radio helped her dad.**

life!" She then shared her father's story. "As time marched on and [my father's] visual

impairment grew, his inability to access the printed word was perhaps one of the most devastating things on his journey," she said.

"Dad received his [CRIS] radio and learned that he could now have his cherished newspapers delivered to him audibly," Ronnie said. "He went from feeling thoroughly isolated to now having a renewed connection to the outside world," adding that CRIS truly saved her father.

## Special Recognitions ...

Thanks to the donations made in memory or in honor of friends or family, students and adults who are blind or print-challenged continue to receive CRIS services that include recordings of daily newspapers, store circulars and classroom materials. Your gifts help those with print challenges have access to the same print materials enjoyed by their classmates, friends, and family.

From July 1, 2014 through May 13, 2015, the following people were honored or remembered with donations made in their names. They are:

- Doris M. Battle
- Sandra Biloon
- Rev. George Cook
- Nancy Daniele-Hoffman
- Lucille Darcy
- Gaynor Dashner
- Norma Dunn
- Monica Euvrard
- Cecelia Falotico
- Ray Frankowski
- Carol Gillispie
- Elizabeth Lewis
- Kathryn Mobley-Cumpstone
- OR Staff / Hartford Hospital
- Angela Schelly
- Louis Sgroi
- Rosemary Smith
- Elizabeth "Bonnie" Sullivan

*Remembering  
friends  
&  
family*

## Rita Madigan Creates CRIS Legacy

Rita F. Madigan, an 85 year resident of West Hartford, created a CRIS legacy with a bequest to CRIS Radio in 2014.

Ms. Madigan's generous gift helped fund costs related to CRIS Radio's audio production, broadcast costs, and the distribution of radios free of charge to people who are blind or print disabled.

A graduate from Mount Saint Joseph Academy with a degree in math, Ms. Madigan was an employee of Travelers for 42 years. She participated in the Travelers' Taking Care Center, and volunteered at the library at the Betances School in Hartford, and at the Church of St. Helena.



## Teachers, Hospital and CRIS Champions Honored at CRIS Annual Gala



**Steve Famiglietti, a CRIS volunteer who is blind, performed with Sally Nasatka, of Arthur Murray Dance Studios.**

CRIS Radio honored several individuals at its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dining & Dancing in the Dark on Saturday, April 18 at The Bond Ballroom in Hartford.

Lauren Lieberman from Kennelly School in Hartford and Sara Gutis from Adelbrook School in Cromwell were named CRIS Radio's 2015 Educators of the Year for championing assistive technology and CRISKids™ for Schools, a program that provides audio recordings of printed classroom materials for students who are blind or print challenged.

Connecticut Children's Medical Center was recognized for becoming the first children's hospital in the nation to stream audio versions of children's magazines to each patient's room through the hospital's in-house TV

system in collaboration with Comcast.

Scot Haney, WFSB meteorologist and co-host of Better Connecticut, and Frank Rende, director of the Arthur Murray Dance Studio in New Britain, were named the 2015 CRIS Radio Champions. Both event sponsors, Haney emcees CRIS events and Rende coordinates complimentary lessons for the celebrities and CRIS volunteers, who are also blind, for the gala.



**CRIS Executive Director Diane Weaver Dunne names Scot Haney (left) and Frank Rende Jr. the 2015 CRIS Radio Champions.**

### Save the Dates

#### **CRIS Radio Volunteer Reception**

Tuesday, June 16 \* Governor's Mansion \* Hartford

#### **18th Annual CRIS Radio Golf Classic**

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015 \* Manchester Country Club \* Manchester

#### **CRIS Radio's 6th Annual Dining & Dancing in the Dark**

Saturday, April 16, 2016 \* Bond Ballroom \* Hartford