



Connecticut's talking newsstand for the blind and print-handicapped.

Unique Dining & Dancing In The Dark To Raise Awareness and Funds

CRIS Radio will hold its unique signature event, the 2nd Annual Dining & Dancing in the Dark, on Saturday, April 21 at the historic Hartford Club on Prospect Street in Hartford.

Attendees will be served hors d'oeuvres in the Hartford Club's Yacht Room before moving into the darkened ballroom for a three-course dinner. Dining in the dark offers attendees an opportunity to briefly experience the challenges of daily living with a disability while also supporting CRIS Radio, the only radio-reading service in the state.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal is the honorary chair of the event and Scot Haney, WFSB meteorologist and co-host of



Photo / MaryEllen Fillo/Hartford Courant

Guests at last year's Dining & Dancing in the Dark donned special glasses in an exercise on what it is to be blind. From right, is Judge Kevin Dubay, his wife Duby McDowell and emcee Scot Haney.



Better Connecticut, will emcee the event, providing audio descriptions of CRIS Radio's own version of "Dancing with the Stars" competition featuring local celebrities. The celebrities include: Morgan Amarone, Miss Connecticut; Kara Sundlun, WFSB anchor and co-host of Better Connecticut; Bob Maxon, meteorologist at NBC 30; and Floyd Green, vice president of community relations at Aetna. CRIS volunteers Rosie Morlene and Diane Duhaime also will perform as well as Arthur Murray Studio of New Britain professional dancers, who have donated dance lessons to the celebrities and CRIS participants.

The evening includes open dancing through 11 p.m. to the music of Eight to the Bar, voted "Best Top Band" in Connecticut in 2010 by the Hartford Magazine.

Tickets cost \$75 each and include hors d'oeuvres, dinner, dancing and free parking in the Hartford Club's private underground parking garage. For more information, call CRIS Radio at 860-527-8000 or e-mail info@crisradio.org.

CRIS EXPANDS SERVICE WITH CUSTOMIZED RECORDINGS

From robotics to store circulars in Vermont, CRIS Radio is customizing its recordings to serve more people who are blind and print-handicapped.

In February, CRIS began serving the State of Vermont's Division of the Blind with audio recordings of grocery store circulars.

In late spring and this summer, CRIS will record articles about robotics for Everybody Wins CT's after school and summer school programs for print-challenged students receiving special education services and those not reading at grade level.

CRIS COLLABORATES ON LIVE FORUMS

CRIS Radio is collaborating with the state Board of Education and Services for the Blind and the Kennedy Center on a series of live forums about transportation options for people with disabilities.

The forums will be broadcast on the following Mondays from 11 a.m. to noon: March 12, April 16 and May 21.

Each forum will focus on a specific region in Connecticut, providing information about available transportation services, accessibility of the vehicles, and how to qualify for reduced fares.

Listeners will have the option of dialing into the forum to listen and ask questions, and also have the option of listening live on CRIS Radio with a specially tuned radio or live streaming on the CRIS Web site at www.crisradio.org.

The series schedule is:

- Hartford and New Britain regions, March 12
- Norwich and New London regions, April 16
- Bridgeport, Norwalk and Stamford region, May 21, 2012.

CRIS IN THE NEWS

CPTV featured CRIS Radio volunteers, listeners and staff in a segment aired on Feb. 23 in its series, "All Things Connecticut." The segment, entitled, "The Power of Giving," focused on CRIS Radio's service and history. If you missed the program, it's available at <http://www.cptv2.org/allthingsct/power-giving/cris-radio-blind>.