

AUDIO STUDIO NEWS

Audio Studio for the Reading Impaired, Inc. • Custom narration and recording services • Spring, 2006

New role gives Ann Rich fits

New shoes, new hats make first days exciting, challenging and fun

Not only is Ann Rich wearing a lot of new hats these days as the Studio's new director, but she's also getting comfortable fitting into a pair of new shoes—old shoes, actually. The one's former director Betty Zielinski left behind when she retired February 28.



"They're good fits," Ann is quick to point out as she explains her many new roles. Operations manager, customer services representative, personnel director, shipping clerk, janitorial services director, volunteer coordinator and file clerk are just a few job titles that came to mind. And these after just a couple of weeks on the job. "I know there will be more," she laughs, "as time goes by." She says there hasn't been

See "Ann Rich..." next page.

Outdoor ad to highlight Studio's 25th anniversary

Turning ears into eyes for 25 years.



Audio Studio for the Reading Impaired
Custom narration and recording services 245-5422

Creating awareness of Studio's importance in serving the reading impaired

A 14-foot by 48-foot billboard will soon be letting Louisville drivers know that this year is the 25th anniversary of the Audio Studio for the Reading Impaired. CBS Outdoor is posting the message as a public service.

With bold black type on a bright yellow background, the board is designed to capture attention and communicate quickly.

The billboard is scheduled for posting around the middle of May. The actual location has not been determined.

CBS Outdoor is one of the world's largest out-of-home media companies and has a strong presence in the Louisville market.

Originally part of Recording for the Blind

In 1968, Recording for the Blind, a national organization that produces audio textbooks for schools, had more business than it could handle at its near-downtown Louisville location on Haldeman

Avenue. So, thanks to the efforts of Ruth Drennan Carmichael, a woman very active in the blind community, a satellite recording facility was set up in "Ruth's church", Anchorage Presbyterian.

For the next thirteen years, under Ruth's guidance and with the help of dedicated volunteer narrators and monitors, the church site helped RFB meet its needs. But by 1981, RFB no longer required this excess capacity and plans were taking shape to close the Anchorage facility.

Determined to meet special needs

Carmichael, her volunteers and clients were not about to let that happen. They recognized the needs of blind and other reading impaired people for life-enriching reading materials that RFB had never provided and that weren't available from other sources. They formed the nonprofit Anchorage Studio for the Handicapped to continue and to expand the services provided at the church.

The name of the organization was changed in 1990 to reflect

See "Outdoor..." next page.

Betty Zielinski honored at retirement celebration



Board member Claudia Davis (left) presents Betty with season tickets to Actors Theatre.

Directors, volunteers and friends packed the Studio office February 28 to celebrate Betty Zielinski's dedicated service and to wish her well on her retirement after seven years as Audio Studio Director.

Betty and her husband Bob, also a Studio volunteer, are avid theater buffs and thespians themselves and are looking forward to being more active in their "show biz" pursuits. At this writing, she and Bob were performing in a local production of the musical "My Fair Lady." Betty will continue working at the Studio as a volunteer.

"Outdoor..." continued from page one

a broader mission and the wider variety of custom narration and recording services being offered. The Audio Studio for the Reading Impaired became the new identity.

Visit the Studio's web site for a more detailed history and to "meet" the people who were instrumental in our success.



The Studio's anniversary is also being publicized with this small sticker that is being applied to correspondence and literature.

Volunteers Wanted

Ninety-six volunteers narrate and monitor the voice recordings made every week at the Audio Studio. While clients are primarily from the Louisville area, the Studio's work reaches all over the country.

What sets the Studio apart from other organizations are the scope of materials recorded, the personal relationships with each client and the low cost of this custom service.

Narrators and monitors work two-hour shifts Monday through Thursday. Shifts run from 9 to 11 a.m.; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and from 1 to 3 p.m. If you'd like to help out—on either side of the microphone—call Ann Rich, Studio Director, 502 245-5422.

"Ann Rich..." continued from page one

there hasn't been a dull day for her since she started work March 1. Actually, Rich began a month early so Betty could show her "the ropes."

From mortgages to appliances

Ann, a graduate of Western Kentucky University, was a loan officer at Home Services Lending, a mortgage provider and joint venture of Wells Fargo and Semonin Realtors in Louisville. Earlier in her career, she spent 13 years with the GE Answer Center providing information over the phone about operating and repairing major appliances and consumer electronics.

Her experience in providing technical instructions to confused call-in consumers should be helpful as Ann builds an understanding of the Studio's new digital production system. "At least it taught me patience," she says.

A job that makes a difference

"This seemed to be more than just another job," Ann says. "It's an opportunity to do something that helps people; it means something." Ann was attracted to the opportunity at the Studio for a number of reasons she says. She loves to read, and listening to recorded books was a big help to her daughter Sarah during her high school years.

The mother of three, Ann and her husband Mark have lived in Louisville for 24 years. Laura, the youngest member of the family, is 14 and attends Barrett Middle School; Benjamin, 16, is a sophomore at Male High School and sings with the school's Show Choir; and Sarah, 19, attends the Arizona School of Massage Therapy in Phoenix.

Project for Kentucky Library for the Blind and Disabled promises to be slam dunk



The recording of *First Cats: Amazing Origins of the UK Sports Tradition* recently got underway. The book was written by Louisvilleian Tom Stephens who works for the Kentucky Historical Society. The recordings will be made available through the Kentucky Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. *First Cats* details the early years of University of Kentucky basketball.

While the audience for the recorded version of the book may be unable to enjoy the many historic photos it contains, the text captures the color and excitement almost as vividly.

Former Audio Studio president and long-time volunteer Hayden Heaphy will narrate the book in its entirety. Heaphy, a U of L graduate, laughed when he was asked whether his loyalty to his alma mater might dampen his enthusiasm for the project. He replied, "Absolutely not."

The Studio has recorded the University of Kentucky's weekly sports newspaper, *The Cats Pause* for a number of years. Reading Supervisor Marie Blahnik says she sends 77 tapes out each week to be distributed by the Kentucky Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.



It's not all fun and games

Narrating stories about one of the country's great basketball teams is one thing, but there's another side to the Studio's audio tape production, too.

A current recording project for several Sonoma State University students takes on some tough subjects. The Studio is working with the northern California school's Disabled Student Services Department to help dyslexic students make it through some lengthy essays and stories on the subject of globalization.

Some of the topics—and even the often hard-to-pronounce names of the authors—have proven quite a challenge to a dozen of the Studio's narrator-monitor teams. Here's an example: *Obedience versus Autonomy: Women and Fundamentalism in Iran and Pakistan* by Shadila Haeri.

Book Fair proves to be best seller

For three days in April—the 19th, 20th and 21st—Audio Studio not only recorded books, it sold them as well. The Studio's annual Book Fair attracted hundreds of bargain-hungry readers from all over the city looking for good reading at better-than-good prices. Tables were set up in the Fellowship Hall and piled high with books on every conceivable subject.

Volunteers and Studio friends started collecting and saving the books as soon as last year's fair was over. The event is one of the Studio's major fundraisers and while the final accounting has yet to be done, chairperson Dorothy Vopni is optimistic that results will exceed last year's record \$1,144.

Hitch up your mouse and come see us

You don't have to drive out to Anchorage to visit the Audio Studio for the Reading Impaired. With a few swift clicks of your computer mouse you can be here and never leave your desk. So plan to drop by once in a while and meet our folks and see what we're up to.

The address is: www.audio-studio.org. You'll find photos and stories, and links to related resources and references. Plus, you can use the site to contact us with news and suggestions. When you use the "comment" page, the results go directly to Ann Rich, our director, via email. Even Studio newsletters can be downloaded!

Bob Shoemaker, our capable volunteer webmaster, designed the site and keeps it up-to-date. He works with a local web hosting company that also provides us with email service.



Thank you, Donors. You make it all possible.

Contributions received between September 1, 2005 & February 28, 2006.

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Please contact us if we have misspelled or omitted your name. We regret any oversights and errors.

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Audio Studio for the Reading Impaired

Custom Narration and Recording Services

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(502) 245-5422

Parting Shots

*Snapshots from Betty Zielinski's retirement party
at the Studio—February 28, 2006*



Betty and Bob Zielinski



Betty Zielinski, Bob Noll and Mary Howard



Jeannie Larsen, Claudia Davis and Donna Gast



Pat Ward, Ann Rich, Melissa Burch and Hayden Heaphy



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Betty Zielinski and Ann Rich
