

Carl Amari

<http://www.hollywood360radio.com/bios/carl-amari/>

Carl Amari is the Founder of Radio Spirits, the world's largest licensor, marketer and distributor of original radio programs from the Golden Age of Radio. He has spent 30+ years archiving and licensing more than 100,000 original radio programs from CBS and the estates of the creators.

In 1990, Amari created the nationally syndicated classic radio show *When Radio Was* (originally hosted by Art Fleming and later Stan Freberg), and in 1992, he developed the 24/7 Radio Classics channel for Sirius satellite radio, which later became Sirius/XM.

In 1996, Amari began writing a series of books about classic radio and their stars and history for The Smithsonian Institute.

In 2002, Amari licensed the intellectual property of *The Twilight Zone* from CBS and The Rod Serling estate to create and produce *The Twilight Zone Radio Dramas*, fully dramatized audio adaptations based on Rod Serling's Emmy-Award winning TV series.

Amari is the producer of the #1 selling World of Promise audio bible featuring over 400 actors including Jon Voight, Gary Snise, Richard Dreyfuss, Malcolm McDowell, Joan Allen, Marcia Gay Harden, and Jim Caviezel. He has recently released *The Breathe Audio Bible*.

In 2014, Amari created and began producing the audio series *Fangoria's Dreadtime Stories*. Hosted by Malcolm McDowell and starring many Hollywood celebrities, *Fangoria's Dreadtime Stories* are fully dramatized mystery, horror, sci-fi and dark humor stories that are streamed worldwide on Fangoria's website. Fangoria.com

Today he is the host and producer of *The WGN Radio Theatre*, a 6-hour weekly program heard Saturday and Sunday nights, and co-hosted by Lisa Wolf. *The WGN Radio Theatre* showcases classic radio shows from Amari's library and is the #1 most-listened-to show in its time-slot in Chicagoland. In 2016 he also began producing and hosting *Classic Radio Theatre*, a weekly 90-minute podcast showcasing classic radio shows heard on PodcastOne, the #1 podcast site in the world.

[www.Wgnradiotheatre.com](http://www.Wgnradiotheatre.com)

Truth and Life Dramatized Audio Bible available at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)

## **Greg Bell**

[www.gregbellmedia.com](http://www.gregbellmedia.com)

Greg grew up in Central Illinois, nearly smack dab between St. Louis and Chicago, which allowed him to enjoy both rich and rewarding radio markets from both cities. As a matter of fact, in one of those quirky coincidences, he developed his appreciation for old-time radio and historical trivia by listening to shows hosted by two of his professional predecessors, the original *When Radio Was* host, Art Fleming, and the gentleman he has since replaced as host, Chuck Schaden.

Having graduated from the University of Illinois, where he studied theater and film, Greg Bell's broadcasting career began in his home state's capital, Springfield, Illinois. Over the next twenty years (almost), he learned the radio business thoroughly through stints as a music DJ, news and sports director, national talk show producer and program director, anchor and reporter in locations across the country, including Steamboat Springs, Colorado; Boise, Idaho; and Washington, D.C.

Since 2002, Greg has served as program director and host of SiriusXM Radio's very popular old-time radio channel, *Radio Classics*, (Channel 148) and his goal with the show is to take you back to the time when the family gathered around the radio. Greg says, "I marveled at radio's ability to fully paint a picture with only audio as a brush."

"Over the past few years, I have heard from many folks well under Jack Benny's age (39), who tell me how surprised and thrilled they are to discover how cool these shows are at 50, 60 even 70 years after they originally aired. As the host of *When Radio Was*, I hope I can continue to bring these wonderful nuggets from the past to a whole new audience, while also entertaining the long-term old-time radio fans as well."

Greg sponsors Radio Spirits Sea Cruises for Golden Age of Radio fans

<http://www.cruisingwithgregbell.com/videos.html>.

STEVE DARNALL

<http://www.nostalgia Digest.com/steve%20darnall.htm>

Steve is the host of *Those Were the Days* on WDCB-FM and is the publisher and editor of *Nostalgia Digest Magazine*. Steve discovered the Golden Age of Radio at age 12, when his father Jack turned the dial to Chuck Schaden's *Those Were the Days* and out came the sounds of Fibber McGee and Molly. Thus began a relationship with the early days of radio that continues to this day.

Steve's own radio career began as a freshman at Lyons Township High School in LaGrange, Illinois, when he joined the school's 10-watt station, WLTL. Steve was ostensibly brought on as a newsreader, but his fascination with the Golden Age of Radio led station management to offer him a two-hour show, *Radio's Golden Age*, which would air Saturday mornings. The show ran for six months as Steve tried to divide his time between radio and his other love, theatre.

In 1993, Steve contributed his first article to Chuck Schaden's *Nostalgia Digest*, a piece about the great Bob and Ray. That same year, Steve joined the staff of *Hero Illustrated*, a publication about the comic-book industry, as a writer and editor, leaving in 1995 to enter the world of freelancing.

Steve also spent the latter half of the '90s as an entertainment writer for a variety of publications, including the weekly newspaper insert *Coverstory* and the *Chicago Tribune*. As a contributor to the *Tribune*'s Friday, Tempo, and Arts sections, Steve interviewed artists, writers, and performers of all stripes--including *Those Were the Days* founder Chuck Schaden.

In 2004, Chuck decided to cut back on his workload and contacted Steve about taking over as publisher and editor of *Nostalgia Digest Magazine*, a role he stepped into in the summer of 2005. In early 2009, Chuck announced his plans to retire from radio and Steve agreed to become the host and producer of *Those Were the Days*.

He continues to host of *Those Were the Days* on WDCB-FM, which affords him the opportunity to indulge in his twin fascinations for American history and popular culture.

Steve is the author of the [Uncle Sam Comics](#), available on Amazon.com

Chuck Schaden

<http://www.nostalgiadigest.com/Chuck%20Schaden.htm>

Charles Leroy "Chuck" Schaden, born June 29, 1934, is a Chicago-area broadcaster and historian who hosted the program *Those Were the Days* on local radio from 1970 to 2009. Schaden played recordings of classic old-time radio shows and reminisces with radio personalities about the early days of broadcasting. The program first aired on WLTD in Evanston in 1970 and then moved to WNIB, Classical 97 in Chicago from 1975 to 2001, and since 2001 it has been heard on WDCB 90.9 FM, a public radio station in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

Born in Chicago, Schaden is a former newspaper editor and marketing executive who turned his hobby of collecting radio shows into a vocation. For his efforts in preserving and documenting radio history he was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 1993, the first radio fan to receive this honor. He has often served as a consultant on topics related to broadcasting history, and he is a founding member of the Board of Directors of Chicago's Museum of Broadcast Communications.

He was the editor and publisher of the magazine *Nostalgia Digest* from its inception in the mid-1970s until his retirement in 2005. The magazine is now edited and published by Funny Valentine Press. He documented the history of Chicago's WBBM in *WBBM Radio: Yesterday and Today* (2003), and he also wrote *The Cinnamon Bear Book* (1987) and *Speaking of Radio: Chuck Schaden's Conversations with the Stars of the Golden Age of Radio* (1998).

On October 9, 2006, he became the new host of the nationally syndicated *When Radio Was!* series, replacing Stan Freberg (who had hosted the show since 1995). His first show for *When Radio Was!* was "A Salute to Stan Freberg." Chuck stepped down as host of this series in October 2007, with XM Satellite Radio's Greg Bell taking over the program beginning with the broadcast of October 8.

Schaden stepped down as host of "Those Were The Days" in June 2009. When making the public announcement, Schaden explained that he wanted to spend more time with his family. On July 4, 2009, current host Steve Darnall took over as only the second host of the show.