

Best Practices from the Network: Spreading the Word about NLS

February 17, 2012

Actors reenacted highlights of the congressional hearings that led to the founding of NLS during an 80th anniversary celebration at the **California Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL)** in Sacramento on October 15, 2011. BTBL director **Mike L. Marlin** (in photo below) reports that staff member **Robert Freitas** wrote the script, basing it on testimony from the debate over the 1931 Pratt-Smoot Act. Also during the event, the Fulton Street Jazz Band—led by pianist and BTBL patron Bob Ringwald—played jazz standards from the 1920s and 1930s; patron and Internet radio host Bill Barker read selections from *Chicken Soup for the Soul* in braille; and longtime BTBL volunteer narrator **Sandra Swafford** read from a book by William Saroyan in the locally recorded Californiana collection. State librarian **Stacey Aldrich** was presented with a California Senate resolution commemorating Talking Book Awareness Day; earlier, the state library received an official folio containing the text of U.S. Rep. Doris Matsui's remarks honoring the BTBL, which were entered in the *Congressional Record*. Read the *Sacramento Bee's* story about the BTBL at



www.sacbee.com/2011/10/15/3981234/talking-books-for-blind-celebrated.html.

Friends of the **North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped** and the Triangle Radio Reading Service (TRRS) produced a twenty-nine-minute radio program about the library service. The spot includes interviews with regional librarian **Carl Keehn** and outreach coordinator **Gina Powell**. Keehn says TRRS broadcasts the program at least twice a month. You may listen to it at www.trianglereadingservice.org or download it in MP3 format at <http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lbph>. TRRS also is creating a series of promotional spots for the library and the radio program.

Hawaii Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped acting branch manager **Sue Sugimura** submitted a story about the library to Honolulu-based *Generations Magazine*. It was published in the December 2011–January 2012 issue, which you can read at www.generations808.com/dj2012p.html. “We try to do what we can with what we have,” Sugimura says. The library also sent an easel-sized copy of the NLS poster *Take a Break with a Digital Talking Book* to each public library in the fiftieth state, along with a memo about the NLS program and copies of the application form.

Correction: **The New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center** signed up 300 new patrons—not 3,000, as reported in the December 12, 2011, *Best Practices*—after a mailing that used a database from the state tax department.

To share your event with the network, e-mail Jane Caulton at jcau@loc.gov.

