Honoring the vision and legacy of its founder, the Mark Twain Library offers the Redding community a center for intellectual, educational, social and cultural enrichment, providing a wide variety of materials, resources, and programs for all ages.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaking in numbers</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>5,005</strong></td>
<td><strong>43,323</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total number of people who have zoomed in</td>
<td>yards of yarn knit by knitters on Tuesdays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>18,298</strong></td>
<td><strong>$380,873</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>free downloads (books, music, movies, magazines) library users of all ages enjoyed this year</td>
<td>raised by the four major fundraisers in 2021-22, revenue that is critical to the Library’s operating budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>125,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,426</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>volunteer hours worked to plan and support our four major fundraisers</td>
<td>children and their caregivers who attended Story Time this year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“I love our library and everyone who works there! What an amazing resource we have in our town!”

Meghan Ely
The Library is now led by Erin Dummeyer, our new Director. After an exhaustive search that took several months of interviews of candidates from as far away as Oregon and Florida, we found the leader who has both the vision and capability to grow our Library and make what is already an incredible bond between the Library and the Town, even stronger.

The change in how we operate stems from the work on our strategic plan. A comprehensive survey of our Town was conducted as a way to inform the needed changes to our Library. We received responses from 25% of the households in Redding. Among many other questions and answers, the Town indicated a deep affection for our institution. In fact, 85% of the respondent households indicated that they consider our Library as the “cultural, social and information resource for the Town of Redding.” And on the Town’s own survey (conducted just before the pandemic), satisfaction with our Library was ranked well above all the other services provided by the Town.

Rest assured that even with these changes, one thing has remained constant—the financial stability of our institution. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, the herculean efforts of our fundraiser chairs, the generous donations from you, and of course, the significant support from the Town, our Library is in good financial condition to continue to lead our community into the future.

Finally, our founder once said “I’m in favor of progress; it’s change I don’t like.” I dare say that he would not characterize these “changes” as just that; he would recognize this as “progress.” I am certain that he would be proud of the evolution of our Library from a small building housing his donated books to what today has become the center of our Town.

Thank you to all who have contributed in so many ways to the change...to the progress...of our beloved institution.

Michael Shinall
President, Mark Twain Library Association
“A public library is the most enduring of memorials...for it, and it only, is respected by wars and revolutions, and survives them.”

– Samuel Clemens in a letter to the Millicent Library, 1894

When most public libraries closed their physical locations in the spring of 2020, it was easy to feel hopeless, and I let myself indulge in those feelings more often than I care to think back on. In the midst of figuring out how to safely re-open, I picked up The Paris Library by Janet Skeslian Charles. This work of historical fiction tells the story of a young librarian named Odile, who accepts her dream job working at the American Library in Paris. But shortly after she begins working there, the Nazis march into Paris. Odile and her colleagues must find new and creative ways to serve their library patrons in the midst of a global crisis. It reminded me that public libraries, just as Mark Twain predicted, have survived world wars...so with quiet hope it assured me these institutions could survive a global pandemic as well.

And not only did the Mark Twain Library survive, it thrived. We spent this past year finding our safe and sensible new normal. The furniture and toys returned, our operating hours were restored, two self-checkout stations were installed, and our staff found new and creative ways to offer outdoor and hybrid programming to accommodate all of our patrons.

During the early days of the pandemic all fines were waived and it was heartening to see that Redding residents still returned their books on time. Waiving fines made us feel good, so good, in fact, that we decided to eliminate them – forever.

During my first year as Director, I have seen what truly makes the Mark Twain Library unique. It stands on the shoulders of a massive group of volunteers and supporters that keep its heart thumping. I am constantly in awe of the fine stewardship of the Library by the Redding community. And indeed this was part of Mark Twain’s vision – to give a public library to the town that would remain lovingly cared for by its neighbors. This is what makes the Mark Twain Library special, and why I find it a pleasure to come to work each day.

With immense gratitude,
Erin Dummeyer

“ A public library is the most enduring of memorials...for it, and it only, is respected by wars and revolutions, and survives them.”
Our Children’s Librarian worked with the Redding Elementary School Library Media Specialist on a kindergarten-wide library card drive for students. She visited every kindergarten class to read a story and share with them the wonder of having their very own Mark Twain Library card, complete with a special lanyard. Our Communications Specialist reached out to homeschooled students in town so we could help them sign up for cards as well.

Our intrepid Children’s Librarian also took field trips to Topstone Pond and New Pond Farm Education Center to lead Story Time throughout the year. These programs are co-sponsored by the Redding Parks and Recreation and New Pond Farm and help us bring our fabulous programming to new audiences.

This year, we presented a completely new program called “Check It Out!” Beginning with a chat about books and some after-school snacks, our Children’s Librarians then met the participants in the stacks to hand select books for the children to check out. It’s kind of like having your very own personal book concierge.

One of our most popular programs for teens over the summer was the Flashlight Walk at Topstone Pond after dusk. Teens took a spooky hike in the park and then gathered around the firepit for s’mores.

Our Teen Librarian partnered with John Read Middle School’s Library Media Specialist for a library card drive in March. They had about 60 people sign up for cards, and about 75 people visited their table. A handful of staff and faculty members sign up as well.

This spring, four high school students from Redding led a series of workshops at the Library to introduce middle school students to basic robotics concepts such as actuators and effectors. The kids got to build little bots, including solar-powered cockroaches and beetles.

**208 CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS / 3,426 PARTICIPANTS | 43 TEEN PROGRAMS / 540 PARTICIPANTS**
adult programs

In partnership with Highstead, New Pond Farm Education Center and the Redding Garden Club, we hosted Doug Tallamy, Professor of Agriculture at the University of Delaware, for a program on native plants. This event set a virtual program attendance record, with 450 screens tuned in.

In the fall, the adult programming committee made use of the beautiful tent set up on our back lawn to host a new gathering called the “Redding Round Up.” Local nonprofits were invited to have a booth with information about their organization so that new residents could peruse and learn more about Redding.

In December we hosted Vincent Oquendo, a celebrity makeup artist and new Redding resident for a holiday makeup demo. This program was very popular and showcased our ability to offer hybrid programs that accommodate both in-person and virtual attendees.

Finally, one of the highlights from this year was our “Conversations: Truth, Myth, and Democracy,” program committee winning a Public Library Service Award from the Connecticut Library Association. The Conversations Series was judged on its creativity and innovation, service to the community, and leadership in creating model programs and programs which will affect the future of the library and its community. This program series, in partnership with the Redding League of Women Voters, has hosted scholars like Charles Dew and Dr. Jelani Cobb. Members of the committee accepted the award on behalf of the Library at an awards reception in Hartford.

I am thankful for the wonderful and uplifting programs you have presented over this year.

Chris Place
As a non-profit association library, our operating budget is only partially funded by the Town of Redding. Four annual fundraisers hope to make up the rest, which is a significant sum: **$400,000**. These volunteer-driven events have become part of the unique fabric of Redding.

### FROG FROLIC FESTIVAL

For 25 years, Redding has marked the arrival of spring at the **FROG FROLIC**. Inspired by Twain’s much-loved “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County,” this festival wraps games, crafts, food, and music into a magical fun-for-all-ages day, providing a springtime infusion for the Library’s coffers.

### MTL BOOK FAIR

**Labor Day in Redding**

The Mark Twain Library Book Fair

For 6+ decades, this backbreaking labor of love has contributed to the prosperity and well-being of our Library. It takes 52 weeks a year to prepare for. It requires the dedication of a tireless team who categorize, clean, price, box and move 65,000+ volumes. It needs another few hundred volunteers to execute it over Labor Day weekend. And it proudly bears the mantle as the oldest and one of the largest book fairs in New England.
PUDD’NHEAD FESTIVAL

The Pudd’nhead Festival was founded by actor/comedian/best-selling author Michael Ian Black. Drawing inspiration from a Twain classic, *The Tragedy of Pudd’nhead Wilson*, this autumn event celebrates humor while raising much-needed funds for the Library’s operations. The centerpiece is the Pudd’nhead Prize for Outstanding Humor, awarded to someone who channels Twain’s legendary wit. The 2021 recipient was Amy Schumer (accepted for her by Chris Meloni).

The Festival also hails children’s literature in the most triumphant of ways: THE PUDD’NHEAD PARADE! This year’s Grand Marshall was celebrated author Valerie Bolling.

MTL ART SHOW

Each December for the past 5 decades, the Library has been turned into a stunning gallery with inspiring works of art hanging in and around the stacks. The Art Show presents a juried selection of over 160 pieces by celebrated artists local and beyond – some nationally recognized. All the art is for sale, with 35% of the proceeds going directly to support the Library. The show kicks off with the highly anticipated Preview Reception, a glittering gathering that has earned its long-standing reputation as Redding’s Party of the Year.
WIT & WISDOM AWARD

Founded by Library Trustee and visionary Norman Tanen in 2004, the Wit & Wisdom Award acknowledges students whose distinct achievements aren’t noted solely on enviable grade point averages, but also on their ability to operate and excel within the system while maintaining their own diverse, unaffiliated character. Students who teachers secretly wish they had more of and who other students may wish they were. The Wit and Wisdom Award is presented annually to a Joel Barlow High School senior.

**2022 Winner:** Ian O’Reilly

**2021 Winner:** Kyle Murray

FISHKIN FAMILY BOOK BUFF AWARD

Launched in 2015 with a generous gift from the Fishkin Family, the Book Buff Award is presented annually to one younger reader and one older reader recognized as the most avid and enthusiastic participants in the Mark Twain Library’s Summer Reading Program.

**2021 Winners:** Ty Palladino and Sophia Tian (pictured)

**2020 Winners:** Tessa Simpson and Jack Davis

HERMES ART SERIES

The Hermes Arts Series, gifted by Allen and Helen Hermes in 2003, is an endowed program series presenting unique events in the visual, theatrical and musical arts, and strives to create a dynamic dialogue between artist and audience. Curated by an advisory committee comprised of persons recognized in the visual, literary, theater, dance, and musical arts, the Hermes Art Series produces readings, performances, seminars, workshops, and exhibitions free of charge to the public, paid for from funds derived from the Hermes Art Series Endowment.
The Mark Twain Library, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is most grateful for gifts of all kinds to fulfill its mission as the intellectual, educational, social, and cultural center of Redding. We are an Association library. As such, the Town’s tax dollars pay only a portion of the Library’s operating expenses. We depend on support from generous individuals like you to help keep our books, programs, and resources FREE for all, and

**WAYS TO GIVE**

**GIFTS BY CREDIT CARD**
To make a donation with a credit card, please visit our website at www.marktwainlibrary.org/donate.

**GIFTS BY CHECK**
Please mail your check to The Mark Twain Library, P.O. Box 1009, Redding Center, CT 06875

**GIFTS OF STOCK**
Gifts of appreciated securities are an excellent way to make a gift to the Library; please call for details.

**TRIBUTE GIFTS**
Honor someone in a most meaningful way by making a donation to recognize a birthday, anniversary or in memory of a loved one. When you make a tribute gift, we’ll send your honoree or their family a handsome card acknowledging your thoughtful generosity.

**MATCHING GIFTS**
Many companies will match contributions made by an employee (or by an employee’s spouse) to a non-profit. The donor receives credit for both the original gift and the match.

**LEGACY GIVING: The Stormfield Society**
Mark Twain’s Will provided for the funds needed to finish the Mark Twain Library building. Members of The Stormfield Society follow in Twain’s footsteps in securing the financial health of Redding’s library for future generations. Please contact Erin (erin@marktwainlibrary.org) for inquiries.
## Library Use & Collection Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2020-21</th>
<th>FY 2021-22</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual Service Hours</strong></td>
<td>1,820</td>
<td>2,232</td>
<td>+23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Items Borrowed</strong></td>
<td>61,971</td>
<td>92,406</td>
<td>+49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Programs</strong></td>
<td>470</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>+1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Attendance</strong></td>
<td>8,534</td>
<td>9,249</td>
<td>+8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Views on our YouTube Channel</strong></td>
<td>–</td>
<td>10,700</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial Summary

Operating Revenues 2021-2022

- Town Grant: 49.4%
- Fundraising/Contributions: 43.9%
- Restricted Grants & Other Gifts: 3.5%
- Library Services: 3.0%
- Investment Income: 0.2%

Operating Expenses 2021-2022

- Personnel: 63.6%
- Library Materials & Programming: 13.2%
- Utilities & Building Maintenance: 11.8%
- Library Operations: 4.5%
- Technology Services: 3.9%
- Association/Development: 3.0%

Bar Graph

- Pudd’nhead
- Book Fair
- Annual Appeal
- Art Show
- Frog Frolic

Annual Appeal

- 2018-2019: $200k
- 2019-2020: $200k
- 2020-2021: $300k
- 2021-2022: $400k
SAMUEL LANGHORNE CLEMENS SOCIETY $100,000 and above

Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Jerrold Fine
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hermes
Jane T. Muhlethaler Foundation

Mr. Michael Kluger and Ms. Heidi Greene
Messrs. Jack and Richard Lawrence
Ms. June B. Myles
Mrs. Ritta Rosenberg

JEAN CLEMENS CIRCLE $50,000 to $100,000

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Colby
Mr. Frank Doelger and Mr. Bruce Harmon
Mr. and Mrs. John Evangelakos
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Flagg
The George Link Jr. Charitable Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart H. Green
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Keim
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Lugar
Marie Keese LeLash Foundation

Mark Twain Foundation Trust
Mr. Michael J. Marocco
Mr. Robert Mars and Ms. Brenda Phelps
Meadow Ridge Retirement Community
Wagging Tail Fund
Mrs. Elizabeth Ruml
Smith Richardson Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Robey
Mrs. Ruth Todd

HUCKLEBERRY FINN’S CLUB $25,000 to $50,000

Anonymous
Mr. James A. Bacon
Robert J. Bauer Family Foundation
beFoundation
Mr. and Mrs. William W. Bishop, Jr.
Ms. Amy Bloom
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Callaway
Mr. and Mrs. David Corr
Mr. and Mrs. Jake DeSantis
Mr. Michael duPont and Mrs. Connie Deans
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Erlanger
Dr. and Mrs. Scott Estabrook
Fairfield County Bank
Mr. and Mrs. James Grashow
Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Higgins
Mr. Grady E. Jensen

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Karraker
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Kutnick
Mr. and Mrs. Richard LeLash
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Linen
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Mahony
Mr. and Mrs. Grant Mudge
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Natkin
Mr. Ray Noren
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Olshan
Redding Land Trust
Mrs. Lisa Reese
Ms. Mary Patricia Rohman
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rosenman
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shinall
Mr. and Mrs. Jean-Paul Valles
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Witte
THE CONNECTICUT YANKEE COURT $10,000 to $25,000

Mr. Mitch Ancona  
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Barberie  
Mr. and Mrs. James Barickman  
Mr. and Mrs. Neal Barton  
Ms. Ginny Beasley  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bedoukian  
Mr. and Mrs. David Benedetto  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Benn  
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Bennett  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bergeron*  
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Berry  
Mr. Michael Ian Black and Ms. Martha Hagen-Black  
Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Brooks  
Mr. and Mrs. William Brown  
Mr. and Mrs. Tang Gol Caes*  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Carman  
Ms. Susan Clark*  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Coleman  
Ms. Marianne Crew  
Mr. and Mrs. John Davey  
Dr. and Mrs. Edward Davies  
Mr. and Mrs. Jan Dorenbosch  
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Duenwald  
Mr. and Mrs. F. Bowie Duncan  
Equitable Foundation  
Mr. Albert Fenster and Ms. Gail Sanger  
The Fishkin Family  
Ms. Charlotte Milholland Friedman  
Mr. John Giardino and Ms. Donna Forshaw*  
Ms. Karen Gifford  
IBM Corporation  
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Ives  
Mr. Ken Jennings and Mr. Al Messina  
Mr. John Jessep  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Johnson*  
Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair Korman  
Mr. Jeremy Kramer and Ms. Becca Davies  
Mr. and Mrs. John Kuczo  
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Kulawitz  
Dr. and Mrs. Gil Lancaster  
Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Leslie  
Mrs. Nancy Lutz  
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Marcus  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marty*  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McLaughlin  
Mrs. Janice Meehan  
Melissa & Doug, LLC  
Mr. Marc Mellon and Ms. Babette Bloch  
Mr. Edward Miller and Ms. Katharine Dusenbury  
Mr. Gary Miyashiro and Dr. Rose Tamura  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Neafsey*  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nemetz  
Mr. and Mrs. Andreas Nonnenmacher  
The O’Donnell Iselin Foundation  
Mr. Kurt Raschi and Ms. Catherine Riordan  
Mrs. Ann M. Raymond  
Raytheon Technologies Corporation  
Mr. and Mrs. Simon Rich  
Mr. Eric Rubury and Ms. Leslie Cohen-Rubury  
Mr. and Mrs. A. David Russell  
Ms. Jennifer Salkin  
Mr. and Mrs. James Sanders  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Santa  
Mrs. Katherine Shute  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert P. Stauderman  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Swank  
Mrs. Ilene Tanen*  
Ms. Sally Trippe  
Mr. and Mrs. Philipp Villhauer*  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wastrom  
Mrs. Dianne Wilker  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven L. Yurman  

THE STORMFIELD SOCIETY OF LEGACY GIVING

Julia Andrews Estate  
Ms. Susan Clark  
Mrs. Connie Deans*  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dominiani  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Flagg  
Donald Gibson Estate  
Ms. Karen Gifford  
Mary Anne Guitar Estate  
Diane Hack Estate  
Hollinghurst Estate  
Katherine Huyber Estate  
Mr. Grady E. Jensen  
Mary Ellen Klein Estate  
Jack and Richard Lawrence Estate  
Beatrice Mangin Estate  
Ms. Diane Daniels Manning  
Mrs. Janice Meehan  
Rosamond Mikkelsen Estate  
Lucille and Ernest Smith Estate  
Mrs. Jeanne A. Sweeney  
Hugh B. Sweeney Estate  
Marjorie and Geoffrey Webb Estate  

*Asterisk denotes new Leadership Society