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.
Welcome to the 115th Annual Meeting of the Mark Twain Library Association. Our founder would no doubt be very pleased to know that this is the 115th year (!) of meetings to celebrate the continuing work of this special place we call the Mark Twain Library.

What makes this so very special? You! You, who have made the Library the cultural, informational, and educational center of our town. You, who have supported the fundraisers which keep the doors open and allow us to provide materials and programming for the community. You, who have come to not only support the Library, but have a genuine affection, a true love for this place.

This past year our Library has been impacted in several ways:

• We have many new families who have moved into our town.
• Our award-winning adult programming continues with more and more people returning physically to the Library.
• We heard from the community the need for space outside. We applied for, and received some funding from an ARPA grant to build an outdoor space suitable for our library. Construction will begin soon.
• Our fundraisers continue to get support from the community and generate much needed funds to keep the Library operating.
  – The Art Show celebrated its 50th anniversary last December.
  – The Book Fair is regionally famous for its offerings with book dealers and enthusiasts coming from several states.
  – The Frog Frolic Festival signals spring in Redding, and a colorful day of fun for everyone.
  – Pudd’nhead celebrates “humor is mankind’s greatest blessing,” in the tradition of our founder.
  – The Annual Appeal is an ongoing effort to generate funds to allow the Library to continue to flourish.
• We are forever indebted to the Town of Redding for their support. The Town provides about 60% of the funding needed for the Library—with the remainder coming from our fundraisers. This support assures our ability to continue the work that our founder created all those years ago.

As you can see, all of these programs and events start and end with you.

Thank you to everyone for another successful year!

Michael Shinall
President, Mark Twain Library Association
REMARKS FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

“To us our house was not unsentient matter – it had a heart and a soul and eyes to see us with, and approvals and solicitudes and deep sympathies; it was of us, and we were in its confidence, and lived in its grace and in the peace of its benediction.”

Mark Twain

Recently while out and about in town, a Redding resident told me that the Library is her second favorite place. I thanked her for the comment and posed a follow up, “What is your first favorite place then?” She laughed. “My home!”

I am honored to work at the Mark Twain Library, an institution that is so beloved by the community that many consider it a second home.

When representatives from Wreaths Across America asked for a cemetery list to identify local veterans, our librarians were able to locate it. When middle school students wanted to explore their love of robotics, the Library connected them with an instructor and materials. When parents of young children needed a place to hang out this winter where their kids could read and play, we refurbished our story time room.

During a year when libraries were in the headlines both locally and nationally, our library remained a center for intellectual freedom and equal access to library materials. If Mark Twain were to visit the Library that he gave to the Town of Redding back in 1908, I think he would be proud of the enduring memorial he bestowed upon us.

With immense gratitude,
Erin Dummeyer

LIBRARY STAFF
Erin Dummeyer
Library Director
George Avidon
Director of Technology
Mary Hoskinson-Dean
Assistant Director
Lisa Cederbaum
Cathy Filiato
Lisa Goldstein
Janet Ivaldi
Midge Loery
Maggie McIntire
Chris Mueller
Sandi O’Reilly
Kay Reinehr
Ken Rietschel
Elaine Sanders
Kathryn Zimmerman
Sarah Zimmermann

STUDENT ASSISTANTS
Brooke Ambrosio
Elle Cederbaum
Margot Fischer
Peyton Lecher
Cassi Neal-Noschese
Kristina Stranik
Our award-winning programs help solidify our reputation as the figurative center of town. We are the place neighbors turn to for entertainment and inspiration. This year saw the return of our popular and renowned Hermes Art Series, with a performance by the bluegrass duo Compton & Newberry. Another highlight was the tremendous joy felt by everyone who came to Take Your Child to the Library Day in February. Over 300 of Redding’s youngest residents came for a performance by Al de Cant with special guest Pete the Cat. It was a delightful way to introduce new residents to the Library as well as welcome our story time regulars.

As a non-profit association library, our operating budget is only partially funded by the Town of Redding. In addition to an Annual Appeal, four seasonal fundraisers hope to make up the rest, which is a significant sum: $400,000. These volunteer driven labors of love have become part of the unique fabric of Redding.

**FROG FROLIC FESTIVAL**
Crowd-pleasing activities for the young, food trucks and live music make up a magical fun-for-all-ages day, providing a *springtime* infusion for the Library’s coffers.

**BOOK FAIR**
*Labor Day* in Redding = The Mark Twain Library Book Fair. For 6+ decades, this back breakingly beloved event has contributed to the prosperity of our library. It proudly bears the mantle as the oldest and one of the largest book fairs in New England.

**PUDD’NHEAD FESTIVAL**
In the *fall*, we hail our funny founder with the Pudd’nhead Festival, while raising much-needed funds for the library’s operations.

**ART SHOW**
Every *December* the Library turns into a stunning gallery with inspiring works of art hanging in and around the stacks, with 35% of the sales going directly to support the Library.
BY THE NUMBERS

88,389
Total Items Borrowed

445
Total Number of Programs

9,787
Total Program Attendance

40,672
Library Visits

118,220
Number of Website Visits

16,666
Digital Library Loans

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

UNAUDITED

OPERATING REVENUES
2022 - 2023

OPERATING EXPENSES
2022 - 2023

Town Grant 49.7%
Fundraising/Contributions 43.9%
Library Services 2.6%
Restricted Grants & Other Gifts 2.5%
Investment Income 1.3%

Personnel 62.9%
Library Materials & Programming 14.6%
Utilities & Building Maintenance 9.5%
Library Operations 6.8%
Association/Development 4.6%
Technology Services 3.6%

Frog Frolic
Art Show
Annual Appeal
Book Fair
Pudd’nhead
The Mark Twain Library, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is most grateful for gifts to fulfill our mission. Being an association library, the Town’s tax dollars pay only a portion of the Library’s operating expenses.

**ANNUAL APPEAL**
Funds our collections, programs, services, maintenance of the Library campus and the general operation of the Library.

**MILESTONE GIFTS**
Recognize a birthday, anniversary or in memory of a special someone with a tribute donation.

**VOLUNTEER**
The Library’s vitality depends on the commitment and generosity of hundreds of volunteers!

**COMMEMORATIVE GIFT FUNDS**

- **Hermes Art Series**
  Gifted by Allen and Helen Hermes in 2003, this endowed program series hosts special events in the visual, theater and musical arts free of charge to the public, paid for from funds derived from the Hermes Art Series Endowment.

- **Wit & Wisdom Award**
  Founded by Library Trustee and visionary Norman Tanen in 2004, the Wit & Wisdom Award is presented annually to a Joel Barlow High School senior who channels Twain through their ability to maintain their own diverse, unaffiliated character.

**THE MARK TWAIN LIBRARY LEADERSHIP SOCIETY**
An esteemed group of stewards who have made a commitment to the future of the Library with cumulative gifts of $10,000 or more since 2000.

**DONOR WALL PLAQUE**
Donors who make a gift of $1,000 or more are recognized with a personalized cherry wood engraved plaque, placed on the donor wall opposite the circulation desk.

**THE STORMFIELD SOCIETY OF LEGACY GIVING**
Provide everlasting support by including in the Mark Twain Library your will or estate plans, and become a member of The Stormfield Society.
The Leadership Society is an esteemed group of caring individuals who have made a commitment to the future of the Library by donating a minimum of $10,000 since 2000.

**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  
Mr. Michael J. Marocco  
Ms. June B. Myles  
Mrs. Ritta Rosenberg  
Wagging Tail Fund

**JEAN CLEMENS CIRCLE**  |  $50,000 to $99,999

Anonymous (3)  
beFoundation  
Mr. Michael Ian Black and Ms. Martha Hagen-Black  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael I. Colby  
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  
Ms. Sandra Lugar  
Marie Keese LeLash Foundation  
Mark Twain Foundation Trust  
Mr. Robert Mars and Ms. Brenda Phelps  
Meadow Ridge Retirement Community  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew J. Robey  
Mrs. Elizabeth Ruml  
Smith Richardson Foundation  
Mrs. Ruth Todd

**HUCKLEBERRY FINN’S CLUB**  |  $25,000 to $49,999

Mr. James A. Bacon  
Robert J. Bauer Family Foundation  
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. and Mrs. Eric Duenwald  
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
Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. William Allen
Mr. Mitch Ancona
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Barberie
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. and Mrs. Sheldon Brooks
Mr. and Mrs. William Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Buzaid*
Mr. and Mrs. Tanggol Caes
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Carman
Ms. Susan Clark
Dr. and Mrs. George Cohen*
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Coleman
Ms. Marianne Crew
Mr. and Mrs. John Davey
Dr. and Mrs. Edward Davies
Mr. and Mrs. John L. DeMelis*
Mr. and Mrs. Jan Dorenbosch
Mr. and Mrs. F. Bowie Duncan
Equitable Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Farrell*
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
Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Kramer*
Mr. Jeremy Kramer and Ms. Becca Davies
Mr. and Mrs. John Kuczo
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Kulowitz
Dr. and Mrs. Gil Lancaster
Mr. and Mrs. Matt Lecher*
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. Jeff Morgan*
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morton*
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Neafsey
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nemetz
Mr. and Mrs. Andreas Nonnenmacher
Mr. and Mrs. J. Scott O’Donnell*
The O’Donnell Iselin Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Brien O’Reilly*
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. Frederick D. Schroeder*
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Shea*
Mrs. Katherine Shute
Ms. Alice Smith*
Mr. and Mrs. Albert P. Stauderman
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Swank
Mrs. Ilene Tanen
Ms. Sally Tripe
Mr. and Mrs. Philipp Vilhauer
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wastrom
Mrs. Dianne Wilker
Mr. and Mrs. Steven L. Yurman
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Zinghini*

THE STORMFIELD SOCIETY OF LEGACY GIVING

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

*Asterisk denotes new Leadership Society.