“My Mom has encouraged my and my children’s love of reading.”

Jess Tyson & daughter Gemma
STORY TIME ENTHUSIASTS
Welcome to the 116th Annual Meeting of the Mark Twain Library Association. Each year we come together to report on the state of the Library, and to celebrate what this special institution means to our community.

So, what’s to celebrate this year? First, our beautiful new outdoor space! The idea for this project came via a survey we conducted a few years ago. Thanks to the support of the Town and an ARPA grant, as well as Library funds dedicated to capital expenditures, this transformation of our campus will be complete.

There is plenty of other great news to share!

• Our Friendship Committee has brought many new residents into the Library.
• Our award-winning programming offers an incredible range of topics, from Tutankhamun and Bach to a cappella and AI.
• Our children’s programs, such as Baby Story Time and Checkout Chat & Chew, are creating new community bonds as families meet and form friendships.

Our fundraisers, the source of 40 percent of our budget, had another outstanding year:

• The 51st Annual Art Show last December highlighted the work of 189 local and world-renowned artists.
• The Book Fair’s success continues, and its reputation with book dealers and enthusiasts extends well beyond our town.
• May’s Frog Frolic Family Festival expanded and added revamped carnival games and attractions for all ages.
• The ongoing success of our Annual Appeal shows how deeply the community supports and appreciates the Library, and the shared commitment to keep it growing and thriving.

• And of course, we are very grateful for the support of the Town of Redding, which provides 60 percent of our funding.

The funds we raise allow us to work toward our stated mission of offering “the Redding community a center for intellectual, educational, social and cultural enrichment...”

Thank you to everyone – You – the Friends of the Library, our Town, all our Patrons, and our wonderful Board and Staff for another successful year!

Michael Shinall
President, Mark Twain Library Association
“MTL is such an important part of the community, and it just seems to keep getting better and better!”

Christine & Tom O’Keefe
Proud Patrons
“I am always reading immoral books on the sly, and then selfishly trying to prevent other people from having the same wicked good time.”

Mark Twain, in a letter to the Denver Post, August 14, 1902

Across the country, libraries are encountering a record-breaking level of censorship, an experience our founder knew all too well. He saw *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* removed from countless library shelves because of Tom and Huck’s “coarseness, deceitfulness and mischievous practices.” Twain founded his library as an association fully independent from town government so it could remain a bastion of intellectual freedom and accessibility to all books. He insisted Redding’s library be governed by a board made up of community members.

And that is how the Mark Twain Library operates today. It is governed by a merry band of fifteen volunteer board members charged with fundraising roughly 40 percent of our operating budget. The Library is able to offer its fantastic programs, services, and collections because of the hard work of these volunteers, and the hundreds more who participate in our signature fundraisers, including the Mark Twain Library Book Fair and Frog Frolic Family Festival. This year, I am particularly proud of the work we do, and I feel Mark Twain’s spirit smiling upon his legacy that is made possible, year after year, by community members like you.

With immense gratitude,
Erin Dummeyer
“Great programs, fun events, community-focused; the Library is the perfect example of a small-but-mighty organization.”

Janet Ozzard & Kermit Perlmutter & Daughter Ella
New Neighbors
The Mark Twain Library’s many fantastic programs bring community members of all ages together. Several new program series launched this year in partnership with other local groups, including our Nature Book Club with New Pond Farm and Education Center, the “Sour Grapes or Fine Wine” discussion series with the Redding Commission on Aging, and workshops on cybersecurity hosted by Joel Barlow High School students. In addition to our regular roster of family and preschool story times, we added weekly story times for babies and two-year-olds. Our monthly story time for kindergartners was particularly popular for families to meet each other just before school started in the fall.

A 49% boost in program offerings has kept the Library an ever-bustling Redding hub.

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 FAMILY 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-breaking 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 PRIZE GALA**
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, and 35% of the sales going directly to support the Library.
“The Frog Frolic Family Festival brings together laughter and joy for all ages of our Redding community, as we welcome the change of season.”
## BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
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<th>FY 2023</th>
<th>FY 2024</th>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Programs</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>+49%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Attendance</td>
<td>9,787</td>
<td>13,569</td>
<td>+39%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Visits</td>
<td>40,672</td>
<td>44,637</td>
<td>+10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Books Borrowed</td>
<td>59,927</td>
<td>61,168</td>
<td>+2%</td>
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## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

**UNAUDITED**

### OPERATING REVENUES

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>FY 2023</th>
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<tr>
<td>Town Grant</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising/Contributions</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
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<td>Restricted Grants &amp; Other Gifts</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Services</td>
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### OPERATING EXPENSES

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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Materials &amp; Programming</td>
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<td>15.7%</td>
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<td>Utilities &amp; Building Maintenance</td>
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<td>Library Operations</td>
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<td>Association/Development</td>
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<td>Technology Services</td>
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<td>1.4%</td>
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</table>

### FUNDRAISING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

- Frog Frolic: $150k
- Art Show: $125k
- Annual Appeal: $200k
- Book Fair: $150k
- Pudd’nhead: $175k

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Number of Programs: 445 in FY 2023, 663 in FY 2024 (+49%)
- Program Attendance: 9,787 in FY 2023, 13,569 in FY 2024 (+39%)
- Library Visits: 40,672 in FY 2023, 44,637 in FY 2024 (+10%)
- Physical Books Borrowed: 59,927 in FY 2023, 61,168 in FY 2024 (+2%)
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
Meadow Ridge Retirement Community
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 Green
Mr. Grady E. Jensen
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Keim
Ms. Sandra Lugar
Marie Keese LeLash Foundation
Mark Twain Foundation Trust
Mr. Robert Mars and Ms. Brenda Phelps
Robert J. Bauer Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew J. Robey
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rosenman
Mrs. Elizabeth Ruml
Smith Richardson Foundation
Mrs. Ruth Todd

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

Mr. Mitch Ancona
Mr. James E. Bacon
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bedoukian
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
The Fishkin Family
Mr. and Mrs. James Grashow
Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Higgins
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. Michael Shinall
Mr. and Mrs. Jean-Paul Valles
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wastrom
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Witte
Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. William Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Archer*
Arka Group, L.P.
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Barberie
Mr. and Mrs. Neal Barton
Dr. and Mrs. Ramon Batson
Ms. Ginny Beasley
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. Rachelle Cinque*
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 DeMelis
Mr. and Mrs. Jan Dorenbosch
Mr. and Mrs. F. Bowie Duncan
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Emerson*
Equitable Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Farrell
Mr. Albert Fenster and Ms. Gail Sanger
Ms. Charlotte Miholland Friedman
Mr. John Giardino and Ms. Donna Forshaw
Ms. Karen Gifford
Mr. and Mrs. William Gore*
IBM Corporation
Infirst Healthcare Inc.*
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Ives
Mr. Ken Jennings and Mr. Al Messina
Mr. John Jessep
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Reinhard Kolf*
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 Kulawitz
Dr. and Mrs. Marshall Kurtz*
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. Ward Mazzucco and Ms. Tami O’Connor*
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 Raymond
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
Santa Energy Corporation*
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Santa
Mrs. Frederick Schroeder
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Shea
Mrs. Katherine Shute
Ms. Alice Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stauderman
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Swank
Mrs. Ilene Tanen
Ms. Sally Trippe
Union Savings Bank*
Ms. Betsy Varian*
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Villhauer
Mrs. Dianne Wilker
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Yurman
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Zinghini

THE STORMFIELD SOCIETY OF LEGACY GIVING

Anonymous*
Julia Andrews Estate
Ms. Susan Clark
Mr. and Mrs. David Corr
Mrs. Connie Deans
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dominianni
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 Estate
Marjorie and Geoffrey Webb Estate
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.