

'24



MARK TWAIN
Library
• Books Are Just the Beginning...

ANNUAL REPORT



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



JESS TYSON & DAUGHTER GEMMA
STORY TIME ENTHUSIASTS



REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Shinall, *President*
Sheila Corr, *Vice President*
Carol Murray, *Treasurer*
Jennifer Wastrom, *Secretary*
Margaret Brown
Terry Stratton Flagg, *Emerita*
Betsy Higgins
Meghan Huszagh
Sandra Lugar
Doug Mintz
Brien O'Reilly
Ethan Parisen
Catherine Riordan
Pam Robey
Eric Rubury
Joe Zinghini



“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



REMARKS
FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

“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

LIBRARY STAFF

Erin Dummeyer
Library Director
George Avidon
Lisa Cederbaum
Dave Daignault
Cathy Filiato
Lisa Goldstein
Eileen Guiney
Mary Hoskinson-Dean

Janet Ivaldi
Midge Loery
Maggie McIntire
Sandi O'Reilly
Kay Reinehr
Ken Rietschel
Elaine Sanders
Kathryn Zimmerman
Sarah Zimmermann

STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Brooke Ambrosio
Abbey Avidon
Elle Cederbaum
Margot Fischer
Sam Fischer
Peyton Lecher
Cassi Neal-Noschese
Sam Reilly
Kristina Stranik
Annika Van Breems



“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

PROGRAMS

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.

FUNDRAISERS

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-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 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.”

THE FREDERICKSON FAMILY
ENTHUSIASTIC VOLUNTEERS

BY THE NUMBERS

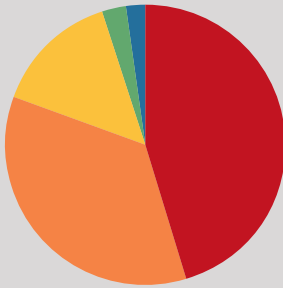
	FY 2023	FY 2024	% CHANGE
Number of Programs	445	663	+49%
Program Attendance	9,787	13,569	+39%
Library Visits	40,672	44,637	+10%
Physical Books Borrowed	59,927	61,168	+2%

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

UNAUDITED

OPERATING REVENUES

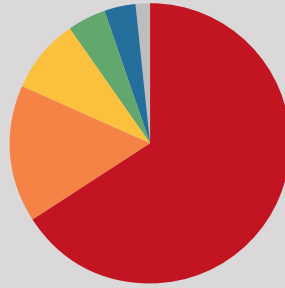
2023 - 2024



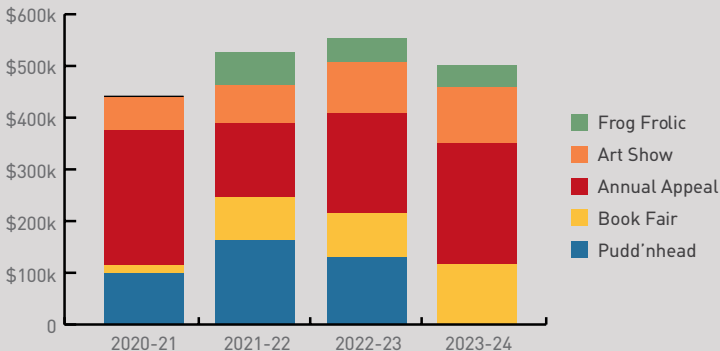
Town Grant	45.5%
Fundraising/Contributions	35.3%
Restricted Grants & Other Gifts	14.2%
Investment Income	2.8%
Library Services	2.2%

OPERATING EXPENSES

2023 - 2024



Personnel	66.0%
Library Materials & Programming	15.7%
Utilities & Building Maintenance	8.8%
Library Operations	4.3%
Association/Development	3.8%
Technology Services	1.4%





MARK TWAIN LIBRARY

LEADERSHIP 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. Michael J. Marocco
Mr. and Mrs. Jerrold Fine	Meadow Ridge Retirement Community
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hermes	Ms. June B. Myles
Jane T. Muhlethaler Foundation	Mrs. Ritta Rosenberg
Mr. Michael Kluger and Ms. Heidi Greene	Wagging Tail Fund
Messrs. Jack and Richard Lawrence	

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

Anonymous (3)	Ms. Sandra Lugar
beFoundation	Marie Keese LeLash Foundation
Mr. Michael Ian Black and Ms. Martha Hagen-Black	Mark Twain Foundation Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Michael I. Colby	Mr. Robert Mars and Ms. Brenda Phelps
Mr. and Mrs. John Evangelakos	Robert J. Bauer Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Flagg	Mr. and Mrs. Matthew J. Robey
The George Link Jr. Charitable Trust	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rosenman
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Green	Mrs. Elizabeth Ruml
Mr. Grady E. Jensen	Smith Richardson Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Keim	Mrs. Ruth Todd

HUCKLEBERRY FINN'S CLUB | \$25,000 to \$49,999

Mr. Mitch Ancona	Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Karraker
Mr. James E. Bacon	Mr. and Mrs. Dale Kutnick
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bedoukian	Mr. and Mrs. Richard LeLash
Mr. and Mrs. William W. Bishop, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Linen
Ms. Amy Bloom	Mr. and Mrs. Brian Mahony
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Callaway	Mr. and Mrs. Grant Mudge
Mr. and Mrs. David Corr	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Natkin
Mr. and Mrs. Jake DeSantis	Mr. Ray Noren
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Duenwald	Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Olshan
Mr. Michael duPont and Mrs. Connie Deans	Redding Land Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Erlanger	Mrs. Lisa Reese
Dr. and Mrs. Scott Estabrook	Ms. Mary Patricia Rohman
Fairfield County Bank	Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shinall
The Fishkin Family	Mr. and Mrs. Jean-Paul Valles
Mr. and Mrs. James Grashow	Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wastrom
Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Higgins	Mr. and Mrs. Michael Witte

Anonymous	Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Kulawitz
Mr. and Mrs. William Allen	Dr. and Mrs. Marshall Kurtz*
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Archer*	Dr. and Mrs. Gil Lancaster
Arka Group, L.P.	Mr. and Mrs. Matt Lecher
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Barberie	Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Leslie
Mr. and Mrs. Neal Barton	Mrs. Nancy Lutz
Dr. and Mrs. Ramon Batson	Mr. and Mrs. Neil Marcus
Ms. Ginny Beasley	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marty
Mr. and Mrs. David Benedetto	Mr. Ward Mazzucco and Ms. Tami O'Connor*
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Benn	Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McLaughlin
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Bennett	Mrs. Janice Meehan
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bergeron	Melissa & Doug, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Berry	Mr. Marc Mellon and Ms. Babette Bloch
Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Brooks	Mr. Edward Miller and
Mr. and Mrs. William Brown	Ms. Katharine Dusenbury
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Buzaid	Mr. Gary Miyashiro and Dr. Rose Tamura
Mr. and Mrs. Tanggol Caes	Mr. Jeff Morgan
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Carman	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morton
Ms. Rachelle Cinque*	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Neafsey
Ms. Susan Clark	Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nemetz
Dr. and Mrs. George Cohen	Mr. and Mrs. Andreas Nonnenmacher
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Coleman	Mr. and Mrs. J. Scott O'Donnell
Ms. Marianne Crew	The O'Donnell Iselin Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. John Davey	Mr. and Mrs. Brien O'Reilly
Dr. and Mrs. Edward Davies	Mr. Kurt Raschi and Ms. Catherine Riordan
Mr. and Mrs. John DeMelis	Mrs. Ann Raymond
Mr. and Mrs. Jan Dorenbosch	Mr. and Mrs. Simon Rich
Mr. and Mrs. F. Bowie Duncan	Mr. Eric Rubury and Ms. Leslie Cohen-Rubury
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Emerson*	Mr. and Mrs. A. David Russell
Equitable Foundation	Ms. Jennifer Salkin
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Farrell	Mr. and Mrs. James Sanders
Mr. Albert Fenster and Ms. Gail Sanger	Santa Energy Corporation*
Ms. Charlotte Milholland Friedman	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Santa
Mr. John Giardino and Ms. Donna Forshaw	Mrs. Frederick Schroeder
Ms. Karen Gifford	Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Shea
Mr. and Mrs. William Gore*	Mrs. Katherine Shute
IBM Corporation	Ms. Alice Smith
Infirst Healthcare Inc.*	Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stauderman
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Ives	Mr. and Mrs. Richard Swank
Mr. Ken Jennings and Mr. Al Messina	Mrs. Ilene Tanen
Mr. John Jessep	Ms. Sally Trippe
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Johnson	Union Savings Bank*
Mr. and Mrs. Reinhard Kolff*	Ms. Betsy Varian*
Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair Korman	Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Villhauer
Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Kramer	Mrs. Dianne Wilker
Mr. Jeremy Kramer and Ms. Becca Davies	Mr. and Mrs. Steven Yurman
Mr. and Mrs. John Kuczo	Mr. and Mrs. Joe Zinghini

THE STORMFIELD SOCIETY OF LEGACY GIVING

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

*Asterisk denotes new Leadership Society.

OUR MISSION

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.



MARKTWINLIBRARY.ORG