

# Tattler

## TA DA...! IT'S THE TATTLER!

(Drum roll, please) Introducing... the resurrected Mark Twain **Tattler!** (Look familiar?)

In 2003, the original Mark Twain **Tattler** was born. There had been a Library Newsletter prior to that – one that was longer and more expensive to produce. A pared-down version proved necessary, a version that was shorter, easier/cheaper to mail, but would still capture the busy life of the Library. Enter: The Mark Twain **Tattler**. For ten years and dozens of issues, the Tattler – consistently quirky and nearly as witty as Twain himself – colorfully heralded the latest library news in a relatively cheap and cheerful fashion. Sadly, in 2013 due to budgetary constraints, the **Tattler** was silenced.

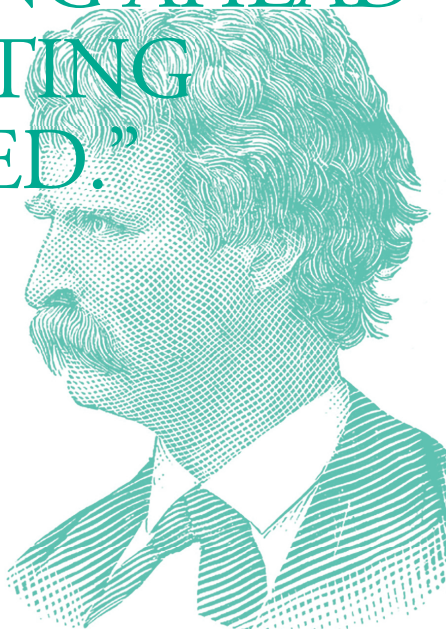
But the time has come to resurrect this lively voice of the

Mark Twain Library. It will obviously not replace the *Redding Pilot*, and it might only take 3 minutes to read. But it promises to encapsulate some of the people, events, triumphs and (hopefully not too many) tribulations of Redding's public library. For a more thorough peek at the MTL's goings on, sign up to receive the monthly News@MTL on our website ([www.marktwainlibrary.org](http://www.marktwainlibrary.org)).

We hope you like this inaugural issue. Our goal is to keep you posted on the goings on at your library as interestingly and concisely as we can. After all, as Mark Twain himself said: **“The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug.”**

**OUR FOUNDER IS ONE OF THE MOST FREQUENTLY QUOTED WRITERS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE**, having commented on almost every issue of his time. Much of what he said over nine decades ago remains relevant today...including the quote below, which we chose to appropriately kick off The Tattler!

**“THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED.”**



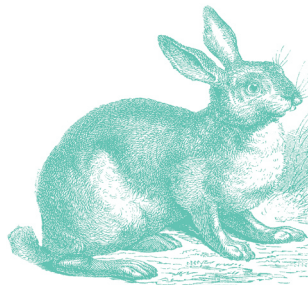
**LIBRARY HOURS**

Monday & Thursday  
10 to 8  
Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Friday, Saturday  
10 to 5  
Sunday 12 to 5

**CONTACT**

Tel (203) 938-2545  
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[WWW.MARKTWAINLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.MARKTWAINLIBRARY.ORG)



Spring 2019

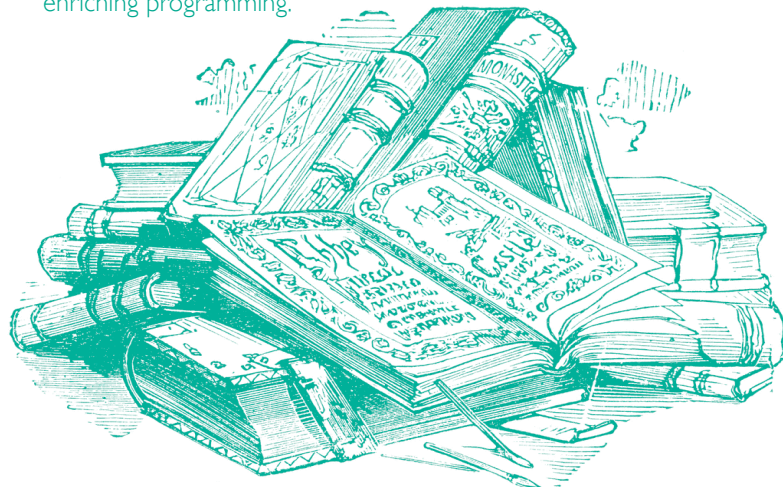
MARK TWAIN  
**Library**  
Books Are Just the Beginning...

## IN LYRICAL CELEBRATION OF TWO LIVES WELL LIVED

On February 2, **Timothy Temple McCaffrey** died peacefully at his home in Redding at the age of 79. Tim cultivated spectacular flower gardens, grew prolific crops of tomatoes, fed flocks of song birds. He also loved books - especially poetry and its gift for engaging his mind and heart. He spent long hours with his poetry collection, including Wendell Berry, who spoke to Tim's concerns for the environment and our society. His wife Jane and three children chose to honor Tim's life-long devotion to books by suggesting that, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Mark Twain Library in his name.

On February 17, **Benjamin Lawrence Gordon** died after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. Ben, a teacher of English and History, enjoyed art and classical music, and reading and writing poetry. Together with his wife Suzanne, he spent countless hours volunteering for the library's annual Book Fair. Suzanne and their two children also chose the library to honor Ben's fun, thoughtful life-full-of-chutzpah.

The Library has received over \$6000 in tribute gifts honoring these two extraordinary gentlemen. Both loved poetry. Both had a dry wit and a twinkle in their eye. And, thanks to the McCaffreys and the Gordons, both will forever be alive inside the Mark Twain Library through a newly-expanded poetry collection and suitably enriching programming.



National  
**POETRY  
MONTH**  
April

### AWAKE AT NIGHT

Late in the night I pay  
the unrest I owe  
to the life that has never lived  
and cannot live now.  
What the world could be  
is my good dream  
and my agony when, dreaming it,  
I lie awake and turn  
and look into the dark.  
I think of a luxury  
in the sturdiness and grace  
of necessary things, not  
in frivolity. That would heal  
the earth, and heal men.  
But the end, too, is part  
of the pattern, the last  
labor of the heart:  
to learn to lie still,  
one with the earth  
again, and let the world go.

**-Wendell Berry**

*The largest literary celebration in the world, National Poetry Month unites tens of millions of students, teachers, librarians, publishers and bloggers in marking poetry's important place in our culture and our lives. Here at the Library, we are honored to celebrate our two friends Tim McCaffrey and Ben Gordon, for whom poetry was a powerful expression of human emotion and beauty.*

## FROG FROLIC = FAMILY FUN

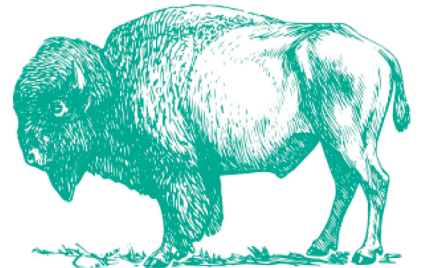
Mark Twain had a distinctly American approach to humor; his library's **Frog Frolic** --which will spring up at the Redding Community Center on **Saturday, April 27 (rain or shine!) from 10 am to 4 pm**-- has a distinctly whimsical approach to fun.

In the 24 years since its inception, the **Frog Frolic** has playfully kicked off spring in Redding while raising necessary funds to keep the library running. It is an amphibian-themed labor of love--pulled together by over 200 volunteers--which delights children of all ages; a kid's country fair Twain-style: good ole-fashion'd games, tasty fair food, a classy Cake Walk, (little)hands-on crafts, a colorfully-copious silent auction and Bouncy Houses meant for jumping just like his Celebrated Frog.

The inspiration behind the Frog Frolic is Twain's much-loved yarn: **"The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."** Mark Twain, as a young Missouri transplant with visions of making his fortune in the gold fields of California, wrote the tale first as a newspaper article in 1865. It was an immediate hit, re-printed in papers coast to coast -- and the title story of his first-ever book: "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, and Other Sketches by Mark Twain." The funny frog gave Sam Clemens the gold strike he was looking for by introducing the 19th century world to Mark Twain.

We hope you'll hop on by the Community Center on April 27 to celebrate this illustrious Frog, our illustrious Founder...and help this year's Frolic strike gold for the Library he gave to Redding.

*PS: we're celebrating  
Buffalos too,  
thanks to our  
lead sponsor,  
Blue Buffalo Co!*



## A BORED BOARD? NOT AT THE MTL!

*Ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at the Mark Twain Library? How those gargantuan events - the Frolic, Book Fair, Pudd'nhead Festival and Art Show - are assembled year after year? How the business & shoe string finances of Redding's library are managed? The answer is: a dedicated and unique Board of Trustees.*

The MTL's Board is an extremely active team of 15 Trustees. Each person is charged with at least one vital function; collectively they are responsible for all matters pertaining to the welfare of the Library. The current Board is: President/Finance: **Eric Rubury**; VP/Programming/Nominating: **Katharine Dusenbury**; Treasurer/Frog Frolic/Book Fair/Finance: **Betsy Higgins**; Secretary/Art Show: **Rochelle Williston**; Meadow Ridge Liaison: **Joan Beutler**; MTL Small Business Circle: **Joey Davey**; Legal Advisor: **Richard Emerson**; Building & Grounds: **Terry Flagg** (Emeritus); Communications: **Tom Hauser**; Frog Frolic: **Dick Hawks**; Meadow Ridge Liaison: **Grady Jensen** (Emeritus); Book Fair: **Midge Loery**; Programming: **Amy Nonnenmacher**; Building & Grounds: **Mike Rigby**; Development/Pudd'nhead: **Pam Robey**; Strategic Planning: **Mike Shinall**; Finance: **Melissa Wright**; Development/Pudd'nhead: **Jen Wastrom** (Ex- Officio).

To say this is a Working Board is an understatement. They judiciously prepare a request for the Grant from the Selectmen to support **some** of the operating budget (this year's ask is for 58%) -- and are responsible for corralling the hundreds of volunteers and fun-seekers and book buyers and art collectors and Annual Appeal donors **(PLEASE!)** to hopefully raise the rest (nearly \$400,000).

Any of the above will tell you it is an honor to serve on Mark Twain's Library Board...and then they'd excuse themselves, roll up their sleeves, and get back to work.

## YES, I WANT TO BE A FRIEND OF THE MARK TWAIN LIBRARY

### I WILL LEND A HAND

With a contribution of:

- \$75     \$100     \$150     \$250     \$500  
 \$1,000     \$2,500    \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Other)

The Mark Twain Library is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit which qualifies for corporate matching funds. All contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law.

### HONOR SOMEONE WITH A TRIBUTE GIFT

- In Honor of  
 In Memory of  
Tribute Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK:** please make check payable to Mark Twain Library  
Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**CREDIT CARD:**  Visa     Mastercard     Amex

Account No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (required): \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### ONLINE DONATION HAPPILY ACCEPTED:

[www.MarkTwainLibrary.org](http://www.MarkTwainLibrary.org)



**THANKS...**  
for your generous gift, dear Friend!