WE’RE AN OPEN BOOK (fair)!
Even a world-wide Pandemic can’t stop New England’s oldest and one of the largest book fair operations! Though we couldn’t hold a Fair this year, the Mark Twain Library Book Fair team is eagerly accepting and processing donations — some for our online sales platform and most for the 2021 Labor Day Sale, which promises to be AN EXTRAVAGANZA!

UPDated DonAtion GUIDELines:
• All donations may be placed in the sheds on the right side of the Library building
• Only one shed will be open at a time; it is clearly marked the shed will be open 24/7 (unless they are full)
• Items must fit inside the open shed; if the shed is full, please try again at another time
• For safety reasons, library staff unfortunately cannot provide in-person assistance

We very much appreciate your gently used books AND your patience in trying to get them to us. The book fair is run 100% by volunteers, who can’t handle the normal influx of donations now because only a few can be working inside at a time. We hope you understand. We THANK YOU for your treasures. We are crossing hopeful fingers that together we will all celebrate the 60th Anniversary Of The Book Fair Next Labor Day!

In March when we closed our doors, spirits were most definitely low. The staff + the Board of Trustees wondered and worried: How could we skillfully pivot to offer programs and more downloadable resources? How could we reopen safely? How could we fundraise for the $300,000 needed annually to meet our budget?

But we rolled up our sleeves and got to work. Zoomed story times kept toddlers giggling. Dozens and dozens of stimulating virtual offerings per month raised spirits. Curbside pick-up, relying on the honor system, kicked in. It works because Redding loves and respects its neighbors and its library.

The spirit moved our patron saint Michael Ian Black to channel Twain’s line “Against the assault of laughter nothing can stand.” In September he spearheaded our funny fundraiser the Pudd’nhead Prize — giving the coveted honor to award-winning actress Laura Linney virtually, in front of an at-home audience of 200+. Spirits were lifted and funds were raised, thank goodness.

The Mark Twain Library is moving forward. It is still strong and is still an important and appreciated resource for Redding. This has been apparent since the beginning of the crisis, and it is what motivates us to continue to find unconventional ways to fuel creative spirits.

We cannot do it alone. The library depends on the generosity of our entire community—including you. With your support, we will make it through the pandemic and come back stronger than ever — 2021 will be the year of rediscovering our collective joy in Twain’s invaluable gift to us. Please help jump start the next era with a year-end donation?

THAT’S THE SPIRIT!
IN MEMORIAM

This heartbreaking year we lost 3 beloved members of the Mark Twain Library family:

**Donna Bielaczyc:** For decades, Donna was a stalwart enthusiast of the library, first as the Pied Piper Children’s Librarian and later as an innovative Development pioneer.

**Linda Brandler:** Linda had retired as the ever-gracious crackrackerjack Technology specialist a few years ago, but remained a very frequent, very favorite patron.

**Heather Morgan:** For ten years, former Library Director Heather graciously and professionally steered the MTL. A small but mighty British Superhero, she was ever inspired by our library and the literary giant who started it.

The outpouring of kindness and generosity in the form of honorary gifts we have received on behalf of these three is heartwarming. The tribute donations given in their names will enable us to continue to be the library in which their collective vast accomplishments made an indelible mark.

ART SHOW:

“NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF TAKING CHANCES”
– MARK TWAIN

By the time this Tattler finds its way into your hands, the 48th Annual Art Show will have just closed. We’re thrilled that - although the treasured tradition of the glittering gathering known as the Preview Party was an impossibility - the Show DID go on. Art was submitted and juried via an online platform which guests were invited to view virtually. The 100+ pieces were also hung and on magnificent display in the library- turned-gallery for in-person viewing by the safely distanced public. The logistics required to pull all of this off were daunting to say the least. But we took a chance because the library’s coffers needed us to. And thanks to the vigor of the Art Show Committee + the technological wizardry of library staff members George Avidon and Sandi O’Reilly, the MTL was able to host this colorful and crucial fundraiser.

2020 has been a year giving up loads of things we love. Thank goodness, the Mark Twain Library’s Art Show wasn’t one of them!

YES, I WANT TO GIVE AN END OF YEAR GIFT TO THE MARK TWAIN LIBRARY

I WILL LEND A HAND

With a contribution of:

$q $50  $75  $100  $200  $500
$q $1,000  $_______ (your choice)

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

$q In honor of
$q In memory of

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 SPIRITEDLY ACCEPTED:
www.MarkTwainLibrary.org

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING HOLIDAY SPIRITS HIGH AT THE MTL!
HERE’S TO A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2021