MARK TWAIN LIBRARY
Tattler

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

What happened? Suddenly, the script to our world seems to read like a ransom note, with words randomly cut and pasted from a Martian electronics manual. We look for clouds to lift, but they continue to gather. Time is no longer continuous, but rather a punctuated series of confusing events, pronouncements, opinions, and predictions that make no sense. We hold ourselves hostage in our own homes; and with uninterrupted exposure to them, we realize that our cats aren’t as interesting as we thought.

It will get better. And even during these most difficult of times, the Mark Twain Library—your library—is here for you. In many ways, it is open 24/7, with books and periodicals to read, movies and shows to watch, music to listen to, games to play, programs to participate in, and lectures and talks to attend. How to access them may be new to you, but you can do it and the Library is here to show you how. The website has plenty of instructional help. But if it seems confusing or overwhelming, call us. Email us. Contact us however you can, and staff will be ready to walk you through the process. If you have needs or ideas you want to share, contact us— the Library is here to help. It can provide a lot, and we’re working on even more.

We will get through this together.

Eric Rubury, President, Board of Trustees, Mark Twain Library

WHILE WE ARE CLOSED:
- We will not be charging any overdue fees.
- The book drops are closed. Please hold onto your items until the library reopens.
- To protect the health and safety of our dedicated volunteers, the Book Fair cannot accept donations. Please hold onto your treasures until we are back in business!
- Got a question? Simply send a note to our special link and we’ll do our best to help! marktwainlibrary.org/a-quick-way-to-contact-the-library/
- Links to reliable and up-to-date information about COVID-19 (such as Centers for Disease Control & Prevention) are easy to find, marktwainlibrary.org/authoritative-and-up-to-date-information-on-covid-19/
- A click to our MTL website – marktwainlibrary.org/— will open the door to all of the above and so much more to help you get through this unprecedented, alarming time. Let us take care of YOU while you take care of yourselves, until we can once again flock together.

Eric Rubury, President, Board of Trustees, Mark Twain Library

WHAT WOULD MARK TWAIN SAY ABOUT COVID-19?

“...it is a blessed provision of nature that at times like these, as soon as a man’s mercury has got down to a certain point there comes a revulsion, and he rallies. HOPE springs up, and cheerfulness along with it, and then he is in good shape to do something for himself, if anything can be done.”

- Mark Twain,
  A Connecticut Yankee
  In King Arthur’s Court

WHAT WOULD MARK TWAIN SAY ABOUT COVID-19?

Library Hours
Closed till further notice

Contact
Tel (203) 938-2545
Beth@MarkTwainLibrary.org

www.marktwainlibrary.org

Social Distancing ≠ Disengagement

Mark Twain started our library to bring this rural town together. And while he could not have imagined it under this current dreadful backdrop, he’d be proud that his library is still connecting Redding…to each other, to vital & reliable information and to engaging ways to make social distancing endurable and even rewarding.

Our doors might be closed, but you can still visit the library virtually, where you’ll discover that:

- AUDIOBOOKS turn boring hours into adventures! marktwainlibrary.org/resources/downloads/
- MISS LISA’S AT HOME STORY TIMES are amazing! @mtlstorytime on Instagram for details
- NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC is STILL a really cool magazine; it and dozens more— are FREE! www.rbdigital.com/50emagazine/service/magazines/landing/
- There’s a virtual DROP-IN KNITTING CIRCLE that meets weekly; beginner to expert – have needles, join in! marktwainlibrary.org/events/weekly-drop-in-knitting-circle-2-2020-03-31/
- Links to reliable and up-to-date information about COVID-19 (such as Centers for Disease Control & Prevention) are easy to find, marktwainlibrary.org/authoritative-and-up-to-date-information-on-covid-19/
- A click to our MTL website – marktwainlibrary.org/— will open the door to all of the above and so much more to help you get through this unprecedented, alarming time. Let us take care of YOU while you take care of yourselves, until we can once again flock together.
GET CREATIVE: THE 112 LEGO CHALLENGE!

While our MakerSpace is off limits, here’s a way to get 3-Dimensionally creative in your own nest. What can you – your kids, your spouse, your cousin across the country – make with 112 Legos? Our library is 112 years old this year. To commemorate that – and to combat a bit of cabin fever – gather 112 Lego pieces and…invent! Make something. Anything. The sky’s the limit! Then take a picture of it and share it with us via email to news@marktwainlibrary.org or post on social media as we spotlight some of the 112 creations…who knows, once the library is open and we’re all once again free – 3-Dimensionally creative in your own nest. What can you do? Spread the word. We’ll get through this, but in the meantime some strategies that may help make this crisis a little more bearable for those of us in the small business trenches.

MO + MICHAEL LIVE!

Our Mark Twain Library Business Circle – and all small businesses – are facing the crippling effects of the coronavirus. Many of these establishments have faithfully supported our fundraisers – Frog Frolic, Book Fair, Puddin’head Festival and the Art Show. Now it’s our turn to help them by reminding everyone to please support the small businesses that are managing to stay open and let everyone know that you are enjoying terrific curbside takeout!

Post on social media and crow about it. Received a home delivery? Tell your friends they can, too. Spread The Word. We’ll get through this online witty one-on-one.

GARDEN BIRD WORD SEARCH

Can you find the garden birds nesting in this puzzle?

Pigeon, Dove, Cuckoo, Crow, Sparrow, Swallow, Wagtail, Wren, Robin, Thrush, Magpie, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Cardinal, Golden Finch, Nightingale


RIBBITING NEWS:

Our (webbed) fingers and toes are crossed that the Frog Frolic Children’s Country Fair will happen on Saturday, May 16 at the Community Center. Safety is of course the priority – we will be updating the website as decisions about this event are made.

MO + MICHAEL LIVE!

Need a laugh? We’ve got some very entertaining NEWS to share. On Saturday evening, April 18, Mo Rocca, the Emmy Award-winning correspondent for the CBS News Sunday Morning, will be chatting with his old friend Michael Ian Black up close and personal, and you’re invited! Our host, Michael Ian Black, a best-selling author himself, a brilliant comedian – and the founder of our annual Puddin’head Festival – will conduct this bound-to-be revealing and hilarious Q & A with Mo, who will talk about, among other things, his new NY Times Bestselling book: Mobstories: Greas’s Lives Worth Reliving.

This program was originally scheduled to take place at the local elementary school but the gentlemen are willing to come to us virtually from the safety and comfort of their homes. The program will be live-streamed via a library-hosted YouTube link – so you, too, can enjoy it from your own protected couch.

On Saturday, April 18, “doors” open at 7:30 pm. Simply go to the MTL’s website marktwainlibrary.org and click the Watch Now button to “attend.” And, if you want to make it a date with friends and family from afar – invite them too! There is no limit to the size of the audience for this online witty one-on-one.

“See” you there!

HOW EAGLE-EYED ARE YOU?: TRACK YOUR TREASURE HUNT!

Despite Covid’s chill, spring is springing around Redding. Experts are recommending that being outdoors in the fresh air is beneficial to us all right now – so we’ve pulled together an engaging way to spend a little time outside getting to know our community. See if you and yours can locate/visit the following:

1. Where is Phillip’s Cave?
2. Where is a Lighthouse in Redding?
3. Where is Mary Travers of Peter, Paul and Mary buried?
4. Where is the plaque that reads “Trees are the Answer?”
5. Where is Mary Margaret Wilber Jensen’s name engraved?
6. Where is one place specifically noted for the sound of the Wood Thrush?
7. Where is the GARNET MINE?
8. Where can the State of Connecticut seal be seen in 3D?

Good Luck, Happy Exploring! The answers can be found on the library’s website if you get stumped or here are a few clues:

MO + MICHAEL LIVE!

This very first Earth Day – April 22, 1970 – was a unified response to an environment in crisis. 5 decades later, Earth Day now recognized as the world’s largest civic event, is turning 50 and Redding is planning a very colorful and safe way to commemorate this major green milestone.

Alice Smith will be constructing a large origami curtain sculpture on the Town Green, made of hundreds of hand-folded paper birds, butterflies, flowers, etc. which she hopes the community will contribute. She suggests using scrap paper, old magazines, junk mail to make your delicate creations. Visit the Town of Redding website towndfofed-inct.org/community/earth-day/ or contact Alice Smith at asmith@townofreddingct.org for more information. Origami is fun for all ages, a rewarding and clever time consumer so why not give it a try? The finished product will be a collective tribute to Earth Day’s 50th AND to how Redding turned social isolation into a significant, collaborative, graceful work of art.