

Tattler

Spring
2025



MARK TWAIN
Library
Books Are Just the Beginning...

CULTIVATING THE CROSSROADS: *THE ANNUAL APPEAL*

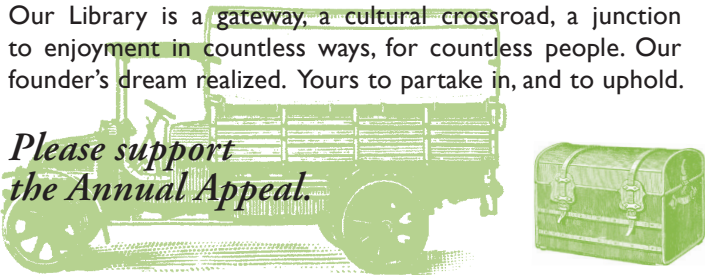
On a sunny day in June, 1908, Mark Twain rolled into Redding.

He was at a crossroads in his life. His best-selling stories and round-the-world lecture circuit had catapulted him to international fame; like many of us, he came to these woods for serenity. America's Greatest Humorist wanted to give his little country town a window to a wider world - so, with the determination and enthusiasm of his neighbors, the Mark Twain Library was born.

Mark Twain got the ball rolling, and his library has succeeded because Redding was - and still is - invested. An Annual Grant from the Town covers just under 60% of operating needs. The rest, an unwieldy sum of over \$400,000, is hopefully raised on the rolled-up sleeves of volunteers and neighbors ... like you.

Our Library is a gateway, a cultural crossroad, a junction to enjoyment in countless ways, for countless people. Our founder's dream realized. Yours to partake in, and to uphold.

*Please support
the Annual Appeal.*



BIDDING A FOND "Ta Ta!" TO THE TATTLER

2 decades ago, in 2003, this Tattler newsletter was born. Its style and wit were the genius of graphic whiz, Susan Dufour, who has consistently created a colorful communique as clever as the Library's founder.

Susan's spirit = the spirit of our Library's newsletter, each unique in content, but consistent in quirky character and charming sense of humor. It is with great sadness, then, that we close this whimsical chapter; this is the very last edition of the Tattler to be produced by our twinkling secret weapon. The Library is enormously grateful to our dear pal for her imaginative devotion; yours truly, Susan's collaborator, is forever appreciative of the countless hours she's committed to cultivating its charming voice. xoxo, Jen Wastrom



PS: We will get to work on a new way to present the MTL in a newsletter, so do stay tuned!

LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday & Thursday, 10 to 8
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday
10 to 5
Sunday, 1 to 5

CONTACT: 203-938-2545
DEVELOPMENT@MARKTWAINLIBRARY.ORG

WWW.MARKTWAINLIBRARY.ORG

REDDING! GET READY TO ROCK, ROLL AND ROMP @ THE FROG FROLIC FESTIVAL



Saturday, May 3 (rain or shine!) from 10 to 4, leap on up to the Community Center to savor spring at the 28th Annual Frog Frolic Family Festival.

This Town-wide seasonal "coming out" party celebrates our funny founder Mark Twain – and his favorite frog! – while raising foundational funds for our library. An army of food trucks, live music, libation tent, gently-thumbed book sale, games, bouncies and crafts for kids...AND a very swishy classic car show fill the parking lot with finite-less fun. Want to roll up your sleeves to help? Volunteers are always needed!

Visit <https://www.mtlfrogfrolic.org/sponsor-the-frog-frolic/> to sign up. We're mighty grateful to Lead Sponsors an Anonymous Friend and Meadow Ridge for keeping this ever-popular fundraiser on a roll!

FROG FROLIC FAMILY FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS:



Food Trucks:

All Belgium Waffles
Paella Party
900 Degrees Pizza Truck
Colossal Kielbasa
The Chamo
Los Poblanos

Sips:

Quarternote Coffee
Nod Hill Beer
Libations from Ancona's
Wines & Spirits

Entertainment Lineup:

Sensei June Kempo Karate
Charlotte Roth
On The Trail Bluegrass Band
Symphonic Bodega
Hitch and the Giddyup
Vintage Cover Band

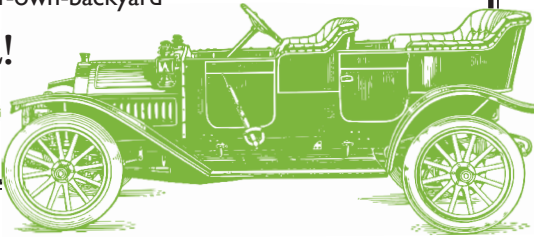


DRUM ROLL: INTRODUCING THE CONCOURS d' GRENOUILLE CAR SHOW

The FROLIC just got FANCIER! The inaugural **Concours d' Grenouille** will showcase a collection of magnificent cars at the Frog Frolic Festival. Recognized car show organizer Frank Taylor has gotten this event rolling by inviting the area's most prestigious collectors to participate – vehicles registered include 1911 Cadillac Demi Tonneau Model 30, a 1934 Packard 12 Cylinder Tourer, 1911 Pierce Arrow 48 Roadster, alongside luxurious Porsche, Mercedes and Ferrari models – just to name a few. Racing legend Skip Barber himself is the Grand Marshall of this deluxe addition to the Frolic line-up.

We've really rolled out the red carpet for you, Redding – this is a right-in-your-own-backyard

MUST SEE!



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Danbury CT
Permit No 3015

MARK TWAIN
Library
Books Are Just the Beginning...

P.O. Box 1009
Redding, CT 06875

POSTAL
PATRON



THE LAST DAY AT STORMFIELD

At Redding, Connecticut,
The April sunrise pours
Over the hardwood ridges
Softening and greening now
In the first magic of Spring.

The wild cherry trees are in bloom,
The bloodroot is white underfoot,
The serene early light flows on,
Touching with glory the world,
And flooding the upper room
Where a sick man sleeps.

~ William Bliss Carman

Excerpted from the poem describing Mark Twain's peaceful death,
on April 20, 1910, at his home in Redding.

FLOWER FAIRY

For at least 10 years, an under-the-radar talented green thumb has generously and gloriously tended to the planters at the library. Two at the old entrance on Route 53, and 2 at the main entrance have seasonally been resplendently filled – from pansies to pumpkins to poinsettias – and then tended to regularly. She works her magic off hours; she's rarely seen toiling over these little container gardens – but they are enjoyed by countless as part of our handsome campus.

After donating her time and talent and all of the necessary materials for a decade, she's quietly let us know that she's "retiring." THANK YOU, Flower Fairy, for your invaluable green gifts.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER:

The story goes when Sam Clemens moved into his beautiful Redding home sight unseen, he was surprised to find that the shelves there could not fit his extensive reading collection. He was further surprised to find that Redding did not yet have a public library. So, he set to work raising the funds to build a library for his new neighbors and donated volumes from his personal collection to get it off the ground.

We are proud to still own hundreds of these original books, many with his handwritten jottings inside. Because these books are a century old and well-loved (they were still lent out until the 1960s!) most have fallen into disrepair. But thanks to a very generous anonymous gift, many of those volumes are currently at the "book spa" in Massachusetts being professionally restored and conserved. Once this repair work is complete, they will be able to be handled without facing further degradation. There is much more conservation work to be done once this first round is complete, but I like to think Sam Clemens himself is smiling thinking about the extreme care we are taking to preserve his founding gift.

Erin Dummeyer,
Library Director



PLEASE HELP KEEP THE LIBRARY ON A ROLL!

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$500
☐ \$1,000 \$_____ (your choice)

HONOR SOMEONE WITH A TRIBUTE GIFT

☐ In honor 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: _____

OR MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION AT
www.marktwainlibrary.org

THANK YOU!
WE'LL BE ROLLING
IN CLOVER BECAUSE
OF YOU!

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.

