

Tattler

Winter 2020



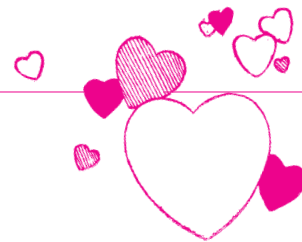
A VOLUNTEER VALENTINE

“VOLUNTEERING IS THE ULTIMATE EXERCISE IN DEMOCRACY. YOU VOTE IN ELECTIONS ONCE A YEAR, BUT EACH TIME YOU VOLUNTEER, YOU VOTE ABOUT THE KIND OF COMMUNITY YOU WANT TO LIVE IN.” — Unknown

Mark Twain is not credited with this poignant quote – but we are certain he would have applauded it.

The Mark Twain Library was built by – and is sustained by – VOLUNTEERS. Within 5 months of moving to Redding in 1908, Twain joined with his new neighbors to form the Mark Twain Library. He would donate 3,000 of his own books – but believed the citizens should be responsible for raising the necessary funds to house them.

So began a community's efforts to sustain a public library in Redding. 112 years ago, it was bake sales and quilting bees and benefit concerts. Today it is a gargantuan book sale, an impressive art sale, a children's country fair celebrating frogs and a humor festival celebrating Twain's legendary funny bone. Throughout the library's history, volunteers have creatively and tirelessly rolled up their sleeves to execute effective ways to make money. And not only have these



fund raisers raised the \$\$ to secure the library's livelihood, generations of these devoted volunteers have built these events into beloved Redding traditions.

Today, over 600 volunteers each year work to ensure that our fundraisers are as successful as possible. And in addition (though you bet there is more than a little overlap) 150 people give of their time on Committees and/or on the Board, helping to manage the library in partnership with our top-notch staff.

Our library would not have survived nor would it thrive without the passion of countless volunteers – past, present and future.

This Valentine's Month – and every day! – the Mark Twain Library rejoices with devotion and gratitude for our army of volunteers and their devotion to their library. If you've ever leant a hand, a hammer, an hour or two, and idea - just once, or for years – we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. **There would be no Mark Twain Library without you.**

“THE FRANKEST AND FREEST PRODUCT OF THE HUMAN MIND AND HEART IS A LOVE LETTER.”

- Mark Twain's Autobiography



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

CONTACT
Tel (203) 938-2545
Fax (203) 938-4026

WWW.MARKTWAINLIBRARY.ORG

LOVE – BY THE NUMBERS*

- 243 – 2019 Book Fair Volunteers
- 182 – 2019 Frog Frolic Volunteers
- 65 – 2019 Art Show Volunteers
- 22 – Programming Committee Volunteers
- 21 – 2019 Pudd'nhead Volunteers
- 18 – Hermes Art Series Volunteers
- 17 – MTL Board of Trustees including 2 emeriti
- 12 – Finance Committee Volunteers
- 8 – Wit & Wisdom Volunteers
- 7 – Small Business Committee Volunteers
- 5 – Nominating Committee Volunteers
- 1 – Angel who maintains the container plantings
- 1 – Angel who curates the display cases
- ? – Under the radar folks who pitch in to help in countless ways

* Disclaimer: These numbers are definitely underestimated; we know that there are scores of you who never “officially” signed up to help but have pitched in whenever and wherever needed – **THANK YOU!**

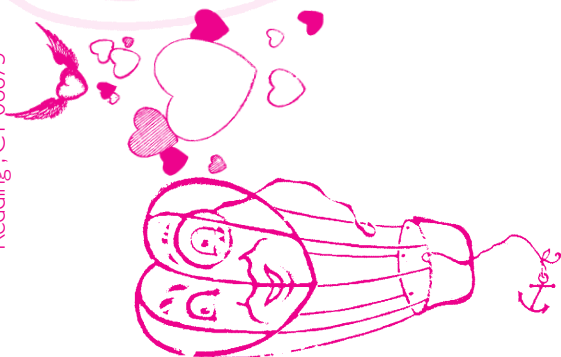


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Library
Books Are Just the Beginning...

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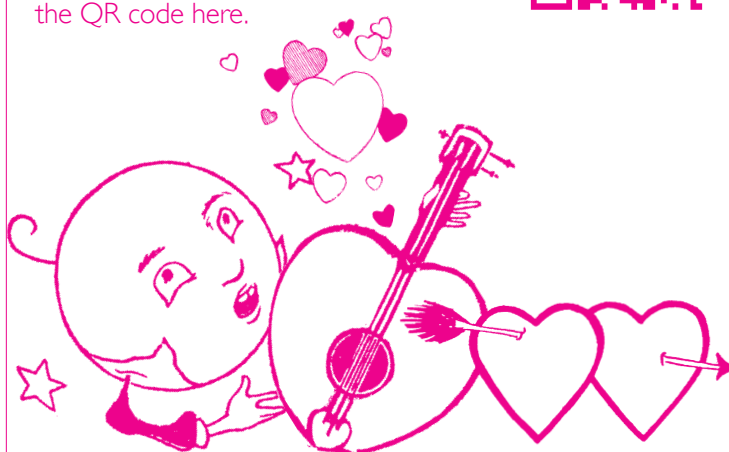


A LOVE-SONG TO YOUR LIBRARY...THE SURVEY

Late last year we launched a survey. It may have arrived via MTL email, or via an email from the Town. You may have seen it at the Town Hall, the Community Center and at the library. You've walked by posters about it at Caraluzzis, at the Post Offices, at the Ridge Market. Maybe seen the bright red sign out front saying **PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY.**

You see, we are trying every way we can to get as much feedback as we can in order to strategically plan ways to improve the Mark Twain Library. So far, we've heard from hundreds of our neighbors but we'd **LOVE** to hear from more.

It only takes 10 minutes. If you've done it, **THANK YOU.** Our hearts are full of gratitude for your time and interest. If you haven't... even if you've never set foot in the library!... your opinion is very important. So please send us a Valentine: the survey is available at:
<https://marktwainlibrary.org/survey>,
the QR code here.



CUPID HONORS A BIRTHDAY

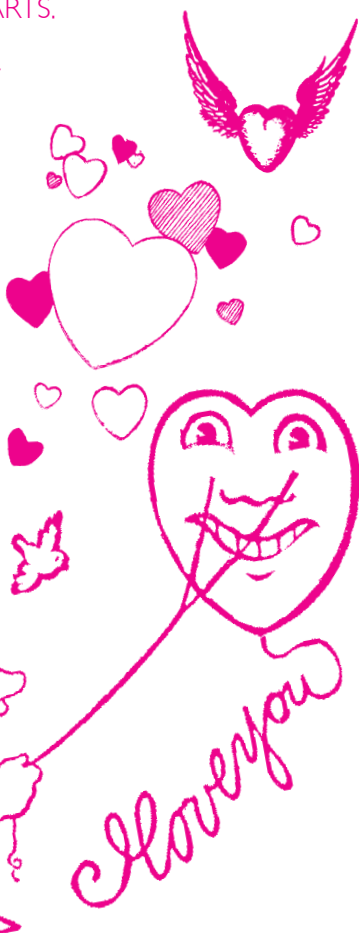
Every year around this time, the library receives a present. The gift is from a lovely person in Georgia, who probably has never even set foot in our handsome building; she sends her donation in honor of a dear pal who lives here in Redding. The two ladies, life-long friends, have been celebrating that bond for years in the form of special gifts to a cause near and dear to each of their HEARTS.

What a meaningful way to say

I LOVE YOU –
in the form of a gift that will
enrich the lives of neighbors
and strangers alike.

Happy Birthday, Marianne
and Thank you, Lee!

XOXO
from the Mark Twain Library.



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 LOVINGLY ACCEPTED:

www.MarkTwainLibrary.org



THANK YOU for **LOVING** the Library
and the Volunteers, who are its **HEART AND SOUL.**