

Tattler



Spring 2023



SPRING INTO ACTION @ THE FROG FROLIC FESTIVAL!

Mark Your Calendars, Redding... **Saturday, May 6 (rain or shine!) from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm** you will want to find your way to the Redding Community Center to savor spring at the 26th Annual Frog Frolic Festival!

For a quarter century, this town-wide post winter "coming out" party is a day to celebrate with family, friends, fun, our funny founder Mark Twain – and his favorite frog! - while raising foundational funds for our library.

There is something for everyone - from strollers to seniors – at the Frolic. The Bubble Garden for tots, crafts, games and bouncy attractions for kids, an alluring Silent Auction, food trucks, live music, live frogs (courtesy of New Pond Farm) a beer tent, gently thumbed books for sale. For more information visit the Frog Frolic page on the Mark Twain Library website <https://www.mtlfrogfrolic.org/sponsor-the-frog-frolic/>.

To give the event a BOOST – please become a Frolic Sponsor!

(WE ARE JUMPING FOR JOY ABOUT OUR 2 LEAD BACKERS: THE GRANITE CHURCH AND MEADOW RIDGE).

HIGHLIGHTS:

Food Trucks:

- All Belgium Waffles
- Paella Party
- Artisan Food
- 900 Degrees Pizza Truck
- Colossal Kielbasa

Beverages:

- Quartertone coffee
- Nod Hill beer
- Libations from Ancona's

Entertainment:

- **Hitch and The Giddup**, bluegrass/honky tonk country
- **North County Band**, New England Music Award nominated!
- Sensei June and Kempo Karate demonstration
- *Voodoo Dream*, from David Morgan's Music Shed
- Joel Barlow High School Theater, Musical selections



BANKING ON BEING BETTER AND BETTER!

"I SHAN'T LEAVE REDDING ANYMORE. WINTER OR SUMMER. I LIKE IT BETTER AND BETTER ALL THE TIME."

~Mark Twain, 1908

When Mark Twain moved from New York City to Redding, it was because he was inspired by the stunning landscape, the peace and quiet, and the wonderful people he met here. He quickly decided to make his final hometown even better – by starting a library. Soon, the Mark Twain Library was a reality: in the form of a one room, book-lined hub, sharing pages, ideas, and amusements.

From those illustrious yet humble beginnings, the Mark Twain Library has grown in space and by leaps and bounds in services. Still embracing Redding's neighbors and needs, always working to make it better.

But to do this, we need you. Because Town funding pays roughly 60% of the library's operating costs.

For the rest, we cross our fingers and roll up our sleeves and hope that the volunteer-generated events and our Annual Appeal will raise the necessary \$400,000 - just to make ends meet.

It's difficult, and it's scary sometimes, but we know we can count on you to help your library. You take pride in what started as a room...and is now a welcoming, unique experience for all ages, all ways, always. You help us make Mark Twain's library better and better; please support our Annual Appeal.

<https://marktwainlibrary.org/donate/>



"...A GOOD AND WHOLESOME THING IS A LITTLE HARMLESS FUN IN THIS WORLD; IT TONES A BODY UP AND KEEPS HIM HUMAN AND PREVENTS HIM FROM SOURING."

~ MARK TWAIN

SUMMER LIBRARY HOURS:
 Mon. & Thurs.: 10 am – 8 pm
 Tues., Wed., & Fri.: 10 am – 5 pm
 Sat.: 10 am – 5 pm
 Sun.: Starting Memorial Day: Closed

CONTACT
 Tel (203) 938-2545
development@marktwainlibrary.org

WWW.MARKTWAINLIBRARY.ORG

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



POSTAL PATRON

MARK TWAIN
Library
Books Are Just the Beginning...

P.O. Box 1009
Redding, CT 06875



A BENCHMARK: GRADY JENSEN

There's a bench outside the front door at the library. You can't miss it. It features a welcoming committee of Mark Twain, Tom Sawyer, and Becky Thatcher. The bench was donated 13 years ago by a then 87-year-old man named Grady Jensen, who gave it in memory of his library-loving wife, Maggie. Shortly thereafter he agreed to become a library Trustee, a position he held for the next 13 years.

An outta-the-box thinker just like Twain, Grady was ever-working on ways to make the library stronger, including helping to establish The Stormfield Society honoring those who choose to leave the library in their will. Grady stepped up as its inaugural member.

ON JANUARY 31ST, GRADY JENSEN DIED AT THE AGE OF 100.

Leaving a legacy is not about what happens when one dies, it's about their life. Grady's recently-received bequest to the Mark Twain Library says so much about him, what he cared about, the kind of person he was. He is sorely missed by his boundless fan base, but his spirit and love of learning will forever live on inside the library of which he was so proud.

The next time you're at the library, feel free to have a seat on the bench. Grady's happy to make you feel right at home.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Recently I picked up Katherine May's book **Enchantment**, which is a meditation on reclaiming wonder and awe by experiencing nature and sitting quietly with ourselves. It's accidentally the perfect book to read during spring when the outside world is waking back up. This work of nonfiction moves through the elements of earth, water, fire, and air, describing the experience of going "back to normal" after living through a global pandemic. Combining elements of memoir, storytelling, and narrative nonfiction, May describes things like the feeling of learning to move her body again after perfecting her swim stroke just as pools and beaches closed down for quarantine. Her previous work *Wintering*, which explores the power of rest during difficult times was a boon to me during the pandemic. This book is another one to treasure.

Erin Dummeyer,
Library Director



SPRING INTO ACTION!

With a contribution of:

- \$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 \$500
- \$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

- In honor of _____
- In memory of _____

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 YOUR ONLINE DONATION IS GLEEFULLY ACCEPTED:
at www.MarkTwainLibrary.org.

THANK YOU for bringing a **SPRING** to your library's **STEP!**

