



The Mark Twain House & Museum



> THE MARK TWAIN HOUSE & MUSEUM EXPERTS

JEFFREY L. NICHOLS, *Executive Director*

Prior to becoming Executive Director of The Mark Twain House & Museum, Jeffrey L. Nichols developed the House's outreach and education programs as the Deputy Director for Programs and Marketing, and earlier as Director of Education at the museum. Nichols' extensive knowledge of Twain's life, times and work spans not only Clemens' nearly 15 years in Hartford, but also his life spent traveling, writing, lecturing and creating an eternal legacy in American literature and history.

Prior to joining the museum he was the Director of Education at the New Haven Colony Historical Society and Director of Education at The Barnum Museum in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He holds a B.A. from Southern Connecticut State University, an M.S. in Museum Education from the Bank Street College of Education, and an M.B.A. from the University of New Haven.

CRAIG HOTCHKISS, *Education Program Manager*

A career educator, Craig Hotchkiss joined the staff of The Mark Twain House & Museum as the Education Program Manager in 2007. Since then, he has spoken frequently to audiences young and old about the complicated and often controversial messages of what is considered by many to be America's greatest novel, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Having studied most of Twain's works, in particular those composed during his time in Hartford, Hotchkiss also has a thorough knowledge of the politics, social developments and economy of the era Clemens himself named The Gilded Age.

Hotchkiss graduated from Bates College in 1974 with a degree in American History. He earned a M.A. in Educational Psychology from the University of Connecticut in 1979, as well as a Sixth Year Certificate in World History and a M.A. in American Studies, both from Trinity College, in 1991 and 2008 respectively.

PATTI PHILIPPON, *Beatrice Fox Auerbach Chief Curator*

Patti Philippon has served as Beatrice Fox Auerbach Chief Curator of The Mark Twain House & Museum since 2007. Prior to assuming her current position, she was the museum's Collections Manager for six years. Before joining the museum's staff, she held positions at the Craftsman Farms Foundation and the Florence Griswold Museum.

Philippon holds an M.A. in Art History, as well as a B.A. *magna cum laude* in Humanities with a concentration in Art History. She is a member of the American Association of Museums and of the Registrars' Professional Affinity Group of the New England Museum Association.

As Chief Curator, Philippon is responsible for the care, ongoing restoration and interpretation of the historic Mark Twain House, a National Historic Landmark. She is also responsible for the development, presentation and interpretation of the museum's collections of 19th and early 20th century fine and decorative art, rare books, photographs and archives. Philippon speaks frequently about the women in Twain's life – his wife and three daughters, who, despite Victorian-era convention, were very influential in Twain's work.

Philippon designs and installs the museum's temporary exhibitions and maintains and updates its permanent exhibitions. She also handles all details related to the museum's loans of its collection objects.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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FACEBOOK FAN PAGE

The Mark Twain House & Museum

TWITTER

@TwainHouse

BLOG

marktwainhouse.blogspot.com/

LOCATION

351 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut

Directions available on our website
www.marktwainhouse.org

HOURS OF OPERATION

Visitors should allow a minimum of two hours to tour the home & enjoy the museum.

Monday – Saturday: 9:30am to 5:30pm
Last tour leaves at 4:30pm

Sunday: Noon to 5:30pm
Last tour leaves at 4:30pm

*Closed Tuesdays from January – March,
New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, July 4,
Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve & Christmas Day*



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REBECCA FLOYD, *Manager of Interpretive Services*

Rebecca Floyd has served as Manager of Interpretive Services for the Mark Twain House & Museum for a decade, supervising and scheduling the guides who take visitors through the house almost every day of the year. She is the main keeper of the tale of Samuel Clemens and his family in the Hartford house, ensuring that the narrative that we relay to the public doesn't (as is so easy with Mark Twain) cross the border into the world of myth. She does this while making sure the vitality and rich individual "flavor" of each guide's tour is preserved.

She is a seasoned expert in the many aspects of Mark Twain's life, not only during his Hartford period, but also his early and later life; and in the house's architecture and interior design. She has a particular expertise in Sam Clemens' infamous failed investment, the Paige Compositor.

Floyd started with The Mark Twain House & Museum as a part-time historic interpreter in 1996 shortly after graduating from University of Connecticut with a B.A. in Music (flute performance). In addition to continuing her love of music through performing and teaching, Floyd is an active member of Asylum Hill Congregational Church, which Clemens and his family attended regularly when they lived in Hartford.

STEVE COURTNEY, *Publicist and Publications Editor*

Mark Twain House & Museum Publicist and Publications Editor Steve Courtney won the 2009 Connecticut Book Award for *Joseph Hopkins Twichell: The Life and Times of Mark Twain's Closest Friend* (University of Georgia Press, 2008).

In the past decade, Courtney has frequently written and spoken on Samuel Clemens' friend Twichell and his role in literary and social history. He co-edited, with Peter Messent, *The Civil War Letters of Joseph Hopkins Twichell: A Chaplain's Story* (University of Georgia Press, 2006). He founded and leads an annual eight-mile walk in the Hartford area commemorating similar autumn and spring walks Twichell and Clemens took.

Courtney has been a journalist for 34 years, more than twenty of them at *The Hartford Courant* in Hartford, Connecticut. There he was a bureau chief, copy editor, book reviewer, interviewer and writer on scientific, historical and literary subjects, including an acclaimed series on the then-little-known work of Yale biologist Thomas Steitz, the 2009 Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry. Courtney was Deputy Editor of *Northeast*, the *Courant's* Sunday magazine, for five years, and served as President of Sunmag, the national organization of Sunday magazine editors.

Courtney received his B.S. degree in History from Charter Oak State College in 1997.

JEFFREY MAINVILLE, *Curatorial Assistant*

Jeffrey Mainville, as Curatorial Assistant, combines his expertise in Mark Twain's life and works with his role of providing access to the Collections and Research Library to scholars. He can provide general tours of the house and grounds, and provide information on 19th century Hartford and background on the House's history and restoration.

Mainville has been on the Curatorial staff of The Mark Twain House & Museum since 2005. He worked in the Membership area of the Development Department from 2008-09.

He received his B.A. in English from Eastern Connecticut State University in 1991, and is currently working on his M.A. in American Studies/Museum Studies at Trinity College in Hartford.