



Join us for...  
**The Trouble Begins at Eight**  
 2010 Centennial  
 Fall Series  
 A “Comet”-Studded Program



**Saturday, September 11th**

**7 pm in the Barn at Quarry Farm**



**A play by Ron Powers**

**Based on a true story in the life of Mark Twain**

*The New Orleans riverfront in the spring of 1858...  
 a young girl, away from her family farm for the first  
 time in her life...  
 a young Mississippi steamboat pilot destined for  
 literary immortality...  
 an encounter and brief romance...  
 a yellow ribbon...  
 separation and heartbreak...  
 a life of reunions played out in dreams...*

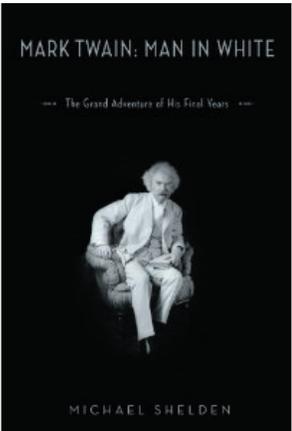
Enjoy performers from the Vermont Actors’ Repertory Theatre as they stage a Reader’s Theatre production of Ron Powers’ compelling play, *Sam and Laura*. Mr. Powers, native son of Hannibal, Missouri and Pulitzer Prize winning author, has written many books about Mark Twain including his 2005 biography, *Mark Twain: A Life*; *Tom and Huck Don’t Live Here Anymore*; *Dangerous Water: A Biography of the Boy who Became Mark Twain*; and *White Town Drowsing*. Mr. Powers also is the author of *Flags of our Fathers* (with James Bradley) and most recently collaborated with the late Edward M. Kennedy on his memoirs, *True Compass*. Ron Powers will narrate this evening’s performance.

Seating for this special performance is limited. Please call The Center for Mark Twain Studies by Thursday evening, September 9th, to reserve tickets. (607) 735-1941. Parking at Quarry Farm also is limited. Carpool when possible.

*This performance is made possible by generous funding from the Mark Twain Foundation and Friends of the Center.*

**Wednesday, September 22th**

**8 pm in the Barn at Quarry Farm**



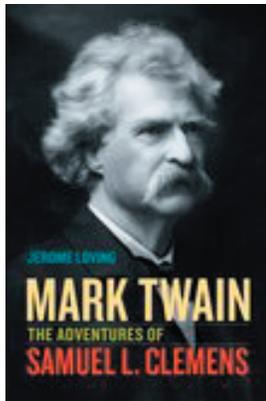
*Mark Twain: Man in White*  
*The Grand Adventure of His Final Years*  
**Michael Sheldon** *Indiana State University*

One day in late 1906, seventy-one-year-old Mark Twain attended a meeting on copyright law at the Library of Congress. The arrival of the famous author caused the usual stir – but then Twain took off his overcoat to reveal a “snow-white” tailored suit and scandalized the room.

Join biographer Michael Sheldon as he recounts incidents from his recent biography of Mark Twain’s last years and provides a remarkable portrait of the man himself and of the unforgettable era in American letters that, in many ways, he helped to create.

Wednesday, September 29th

8 pm in the Barn at Quarry Farm



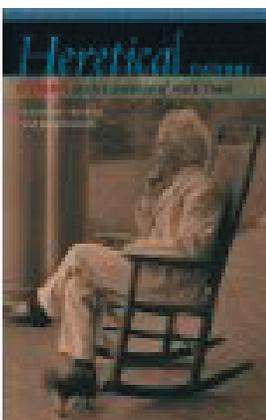
### Mark Twain on the Eve of HUCKLEBERRY FINN

Jerome Loving *Texas A&M University*

Join biographer Jerome Loving for an up-close examination of the author and his times in 1884, one done as a “sequel” to Loving’s recent biography, *MARK TWAIN: THE ADVENTURES OF SAMUEL L. CLEMENS*. The basis for this talk is the unpublished Prologue of a work-in-progress to be called “*Annus Mirabilis: Mark Twain’s America in 1885.*” With more than 25 illustrations, Dr. Loving’s presentation will follow the author during the last half of 1884 when *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* was about to change the course of American literature.

Wednesday, October 6th

8 pm in the Barn at Quarry Farm



### The Faith of a Heretic:

#### Mark Twain’s Religious Thinking in His Literary Works

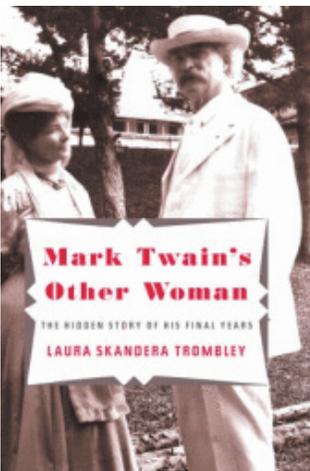
Lawrence I. Berkove *University of Michigan Dearborn Emeritus*

Joseph Csicsila *Eastern Michigan University*

Join Lawrence Berkove and Joseph Csicsila as they challenge the prevailing belief that Mark Twain’s position on religion hovered somewhere between skepticism and out-right heresy. Their recent book, *Heretical Fictions: Religion in the Literature of Mark Twain*, is the first full-length study to assess the importance of Twain’s heretical Calvinism as the foundation of his major works, bringing to light important thematic ties that connect the author’s early work to his high period and from there to his late work.

Monday, November 29th

7 pm in Hamilton Hall on the Elmira College Campus



### Mark Twain’s 175th Birthday Celebration

#### Which One Do You Want? The Binary Mark Twain

Laura Skandera Trombley *Pitzer College Claremont, California*

Mark Twain has been dead for one hundred years now although you would hardly notice it. Academics frequently gather at scholarly conferences and argue about Twain’s life, legacy and literature. A recent search on Google resulted in 22 million hits under half a second ~ 18 million more than Walt Whitman and 19 more than Ernest Hemingway. Twain even has a new publication coming out in November 2010. It seems as though it is a Mark Twain world, an observation Twain would endorse (but only if he were generously compensated). Join Laura Skandera Trombley as she shares her thoughts about Mark Twain’s determined efforts at legacy making, his long-lived cultural popularity, and despite a century of examination how the person-persona still remains a mysterious stranger.

#### Directions to Quarry Farm for local attendees:

From Elmira College, head east on Washington across the Clemens Center Parkway to Sullivan Street. Turn right on Sullivan. Turn left on East Avenue. Turn left on Crane Road. Quarry Farm will appear on your left. Please park on the grassy area behind the Barn. Quarry Farm is a fragile, natural environment. Please exercise care.

If using a GPS, enter: 131 Crane Road, Elmira, NY 14901.