

THE MONTCLAIR PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION
presents

The Lit Gala

MAY

THURSDAY

8

AT 6:30 PM

2025



*an evening of dinner, drinks, dancing
and a live auction to benefit the montclair public library*

honoring

MARGOT SAGE-EL
of watchung booksellers

and

MOUNTAINSIDE MEDICAL CENTER

with hosts

PATRICK WILSON
GEORGE OLIPHANT



Hackensack
Meridian
Mountainside
Medical Center



Mountainside Medical Center is honored to be recognized by the Montclair Public Library Foundation. For over 130 years, we've proudly served the community, collaborating with valued institutions like the Montclair Public Library to promote education, wellness, and the well-being of those we are privileged to care for. Together, we remain committed to building a healthier, stronger community.

1 Bay Avenue Montclair, NJ 07042 | 973-429-6000
mountainsidemedicalcenter.com

Welcome to
The Lit Gala

An unforgettable evening of celebration and excitement awaits! Enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres as you mingle, capture memories in our photo booth, and bid on exclusive items during the silent auction. A delicious dinner will be followed by a heartfelt celebration of our honorees. The night continues with a thrilling live auction and paddle raise, culminating in indulgent desserts and dancing. We are deeply grateful for your presence tonight as we gather to celebrate and support a remarkable cause!

Prologue

COCKTAILS AND HORS D'OEUVRES
CORK PULL
PHOTO BOOTH
SILENT AUCTION

The Story

DINNER
CELEBRATION OF HONOREES
LIVE AUCTION & PADDLE RAISE

Epilogue

DESSERTS & DANCING



MICHAEL S. COCCO, CFP®, CHFC®
DANIEL N. COCCO, CPFA

Honorees



Margot Schwaab Sage-EL

Margot Schwaab Sage-EL was born and raised outside of Boston MA, earned her BA from Barnard College, and arrived in Montclair (after the usual UWS/Brooklyn route) in 1990. Embraced by a community of spirited souls passionate about art, politics, social justice and literacy,

Margot created Great Owl Books, a mail order catalog of multicultural children's books and folded that into Watchung Booksellers in 1996. She has spent the last three decades growing this community bookstore with the help of amazing booksellers, devoted readers, fabulous authors and a hugely supportive family. Margot and her husband Barry raised their three children, Trevor, Madeleine and Olivia, here and all benefited from the Montclair public school system. Margot was a founding member of the UUCM Undoing Racism Committee, served on the New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association board of directors, and on the American Booksellers Association advisory board. She currently serves on the Montclair Public Library's Open Book/Open Mind advisory board, MPL Friends Steering Committee and Succeed2Gether's Montclair Literary Festival advisory board. Now with the bookstore under Maddie's leadership, Margot is semi-retired (still hosting those great author events!), totes her grandchildren around town, and is again pursuing sculpture.



Mountainside Medical Center

Mountainside Medical Center has been a trusted provider of healthcare in Montclair and surrounding New Jersey communities since 1891.

The hospital is home to specialized centers for imaging, women's health, cancer care, cardiac care, surgery, weight management, stroke, and

chronic kidney disease. Designated as a Primary Stroke Center by the NJ State Department of Health and Senior Services, Mountainside is one of the few community hospitals in the state licensed to perform emergency cardiac angioplasty, offering advanced, life-saving care close to home.

The hospital also features Mountainside Medical Group with expert physicians across primary care and various specialties, ensuring seamless and coordinated care for patients. With conveniently located offices in Montclair, Glen Ridge, Clifton and nearby towns, Mountainside Medical Center makes accessing quality healthcare simple and accessible. To learn more, visit www.mountainsidemedicalcenter.com.

Co-Hosts



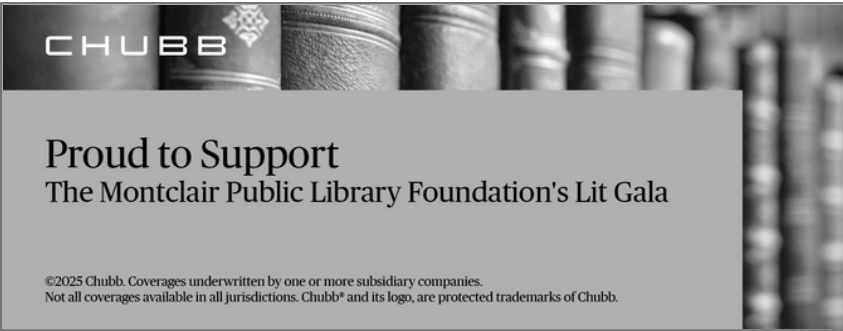
Patrick Wilson

Patrick Wilson is an actor of stage and screen with a B.F.A. in Drama from Carnegie-Mellon University, best known for his role as demonologist Ed Warren in the *Conjuring* Universe. He began his career in 1995 starring in Broadway musicals and is a two-time Tony Award nominee for his roles in *The Full Monty* and *Oklahoma!* He co-starred in the acclaimed HBO miniseries *Angels in America*, for which he received Golden Globe and Primetime Emmy Award nominations. Patrick has also appeared in films such as *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Hard Candy*, *Little Children*, *Watchmen*, *The A-Team*, and the *Insidious* series. On television, Patrick starred in the CBS drama *A Gifted Man* and as Lou Solverson in the second season of FX's anthology series *Fargo*, for which he received a second Golden Globe nomination. In the DC Extended Universe, he voiced the U.S. President in *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* and later portrayed Orm Marius / Ocean Master in *Aquaman*, and *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom*. Patrick made his directorial debut with *Insidious: The Red Door* in 2023. He lives in Montclair with his wife, actress Dagmara Domińczyk, and their two sons.



George Oliphant

George Oliphant is a multifaceted TV personality and skilled contractor known for his work on NBC's Emmy-winning show *George to the Rescue*. A Steamboat Springs, CO native and University of Colorado Boulder graduate, Oliphant started his career in regional children's theater before becoming a competitive skier and extreme sports enthusiast. Early in his career, he worked as a "Gascaster" for Nickelodeon and was MTV's first VJ, launching the channel in 2003. His work at Vail Resorts earned him the title "Face of Skier Safety," and he later hosted MTV's *Music in High Def*. In 2007, he co-founded LXTV, which NBCUniversal acquired in 2008, and contributed to the show *1st Look*, showcasing his adventurous spirit through activities like skydiving and white-water kayaking. Oliphant's engaging real estate segment on *Open House* inspired the creation of *George to the Rescue*, where he and his team have transformed homes and lives through home improvement projects. Residing in Upper Montclair, New Jersey, with his wife, four children, and dog Sugar, Oliphant has been renovating his 1914 family home since 2009.



CHUBB

Proud to Support
The Montclair Public Library Foundation's Lit Gala

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HARRISON
& NELSON

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Congratulations
from the
Tarulli Family

**Goldman
Sachs**

Gives

Congratulations

Margot Sage-EL
and
Mountainside Medical
Center

MONTCLAIR
STATE UNIVERSITY



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Live Auction Items



Makeover Experience for 8 at Jones Road Beauty *Generously donated by Bobbi Brown and Jones Road Beauty*

Minimum Bid: \$500

Treat up to 8 people to a luxury makeover experience with professional artists from Jones Road Beauty. Snap photos and enjoy complimentary make-up samples while sipping champagne from two hand-selected bottles.



Spring Break at Veranda Beach Club, Longboat Key, FL - 1 Week for 4 *Generously donated by Rosemary Iverson*

Minimum Bid: \$1,000

Enjoy a week of sun and luxury in Longboat Key, FL, for up to 4 people (March 14-21, 2026). Stay in a fully equipped condo with pool, hot tub, BBQ, and access to water sports and tennis. Plus, enjoy a \$250 dinner for two at The Shore restaurant.



Private Wine Tasting for 12 with Sommelier Holly Shaw *Generously donated by Holly Shaw*

Minimum Bid: \$500

Host an unforgettable in-home wine tasting for 12, led by expert sommelier Holly Shaw. Includes curated wines, expert tips in a relaxed yet elegant evening.



La Dolce Vita Florence Penthouse Getaway - 1 Week for 6 Guests *Generously donated by Patricia King*

Minimum Bid: \$1,000

Live like a local in a private penthouse in the heart of Florence. Enjoy iconic views, Renaissance treasures, and terrace dining steps from the Duomo and Uffizi. Sleeps 5-6.



Broadway Opening Night: The Lost Boys *Generously donated by Dagmara Domińczyk & Patrick Wilson*

Minimum Bid: \$500

Be a VIP at the 2026 Broadway opening of The Lost Boys! Includes red carpet access, theater luminaries, and two premium seats at the Palace Theatre, plus transportation. Date TBD.



Luxury Lake Champlain Estate Getaway - 1 Week for 12 Guests *Generously donated by Ilmar Vanderer*

Minimum Bid: \$1,500

Escape to a stunning 5-bedroom private estate on Lake Champlain for a week of luxury with 12 guests. Enjoy golf, fine dining, wine tastings, and world-class views. (5 to 7 night stay between May 1 and Oct 31, 2025, subject to availability)

**For more details and photos, visit our website at
montclairplf.org/liveauction**

Love your library

Community Outreach and Programming \$5,000

Fund outreach efforts and enriching community programs that foster learning, creativity, and connection for all ages.

Bellevue Avenue Branch \$2,500

Support innovation, collection enhancement, beautification, and emerging needs at the Library's beloved historic branch.

Technology Upgrades \$1,000

Bring cutting-edge technology to the Library to boost access, digital literacy, and learning opportunities.

Ebooks and Audiobooks \$500

Expand the Library's digital collection, making books and audiobooks available to all -- anytime, anywhere!

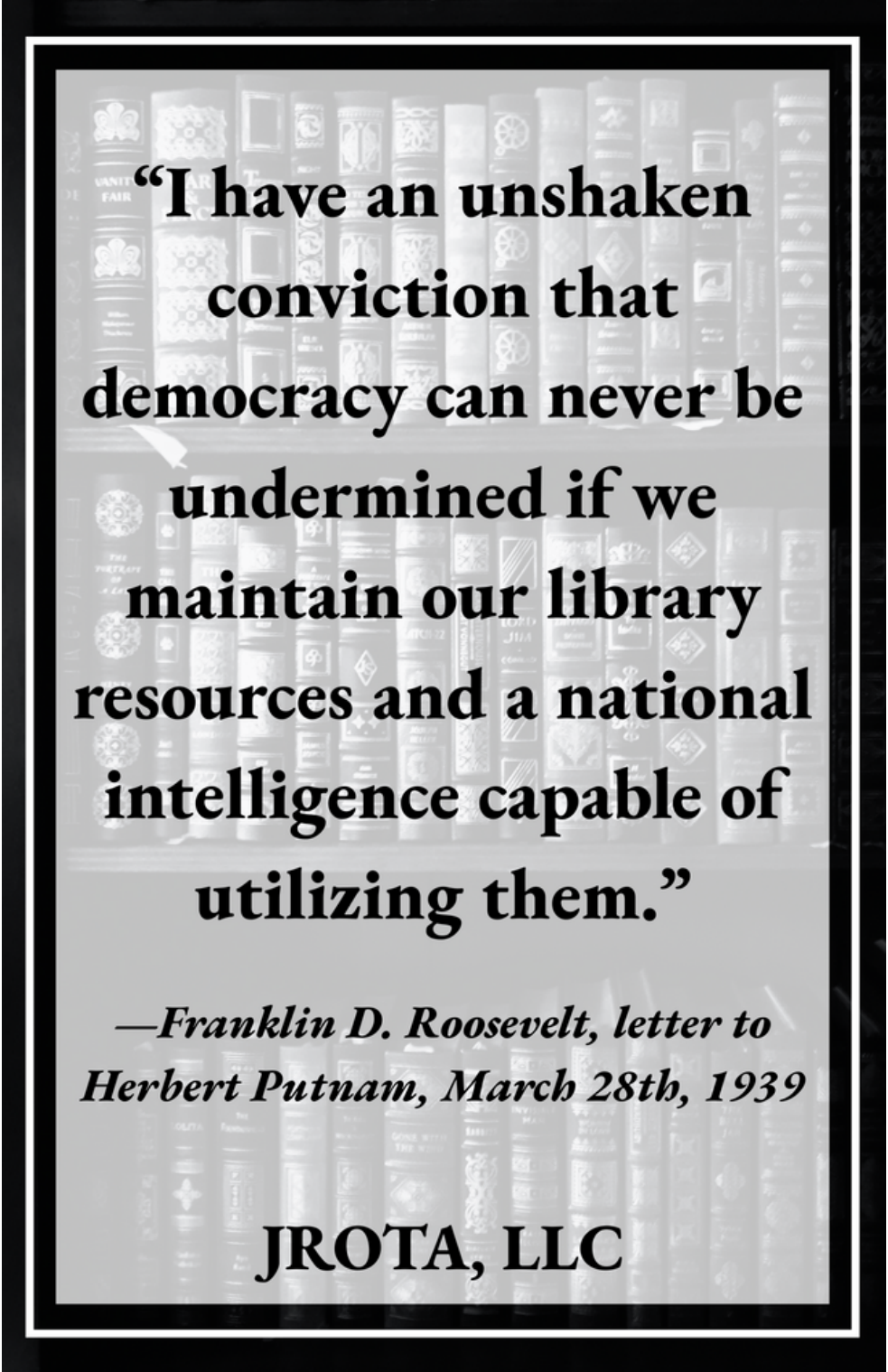
Library of Things \$100

Help expand this unique collection of tools, gadgets, and everyday items for the whole community.

Raise your paddle to support these
library priorities and

FUND A NEED TODAY!





**“I have an unshaken
conviction that
democracy can never be
undermined if we
maintain our library
resources and a national
intelligence capable of
utilizing them.”**

**—Franklin D. Roosevelt, letter to
Herbert Putnam, March 28th, 1939**

JROTA, LLC

TRIBUTES

Margot, your devotion to community is inspiring and appreciated! Thank you for three decades of making Watchung Booksellers what it is today.

Jane Hanson & Patrick Shrout

Congratulations to Margot and the terrific team at Watchung Booksellers. They are a very special part of the Montclair community! We are grateful for all they do.

Bruce Frank and Susan Weinberg

Margot, thank you for your vision and willingness to risk. From your first beginnings up a flight of steps to cozy wonder, to the community icon your shop has become, providing so much to so many, congratulations!

In Gratitude,
Estelle & Benjamin

Thank you, Margot, for the amazing bookstore and library partner that you have provided and for the many many hours of reading delight that we have had thanks to you.

Marge & Paul Grayson

Margot, you are a true gem of Montclair. Your contributions to this community have made our town a remarkable place in which to live! Thank you for your dedication.

Toby Tider

Margot, We are so proud to be part of the beautiful community of books and book lovers that you've built. Congratulations on this special honor. You truly "Lit" the way!

Love,
Your Watchung Booksellers

The Montclair Library Friends Steering Committee congratulates our colleague, Margot Sage-El. Margot has shared her commitment to all things literary in our community over many years, and supported so many of our town's events. We cannot think of anyone more deserving of this tribute.

Francesca Elms, Aileen Grossberg, Grace Kiernan, Joanne Kornoelje, Ed Robin, John Sieck, Michelle Smith, Ilmar Vanderer

Congratulations to Margot! Your achievements are chiseled in stone.

Ivan, Milt, Fred, Larry, Ellen, Amy, Patty, Adam, and Beth

WITH MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS FOR THEIR IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

4imprint	Get Dressed	Montclair Brewery
Bangz	Grape Collective	Montclair Film
Barbara Eclectic / Village Vogue	Gravity Vault	Montclair House Grill
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Joel Franklin	The Max Challenge	Joe Uva
Frederic's Fine Jewelers	Medieval Times	Ilmar Vanderer
Aaron Gardner	Mercado	Watchung Booksellers
George Hotel	Montclair Art Museum	Yoga Mechanics

And with gratitude to the many who donated wine, books, and their time to make The Lit Gala a success!



Congratulations!

Your commitment to the Montclair community,
customers and book publishers is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Your friend Tim Hepp
Simon & Schuster

WITH THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

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Congratulations to the Honorees!

Thank you for your commitment to the community and for keeping the people of Montclair happy and healthy in mind, body, and spirit.


Rosemary Iversen

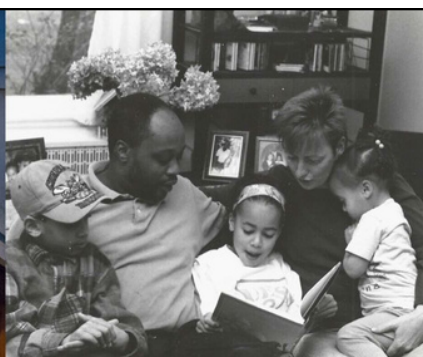


MAHJONG MAVENS

The best kind of friendships are fierce lady friendships where you wholeheartedly believe in each other, defend each other, and think the other deserves the world.

Congratulations Margot!

Love, your fellow Mavens in the building:
 Anne, Beth B., Beth S., Ellen,
 Joan, Jodi, Linda, Nadiya, Susan



Thank you, Margot, for making a love of books your life's mission!

Watchung Booksellers is a proud partner of the Montclair Public Library



Congratulations to this year's honorees, Hackensack Meridian
Mountainside Medical Center and Margot Sage - El



Celebrating
25 years -

**Roses
of the ROCK
GARDENS**

May 30th - 31st
11am - 4pm

CATS IN THE GARDEN XVIII - June 15th, 12-3pm

**Raindate June 22nd*



Visit MontclairFoundation.org for more details

The Lit Gala

SILENT AUCTION

Get ready to bid on an exciting array of exclusive experiences and unique items at our silent auction, supporting the Montclair Public Library! We're thrilled to showcase a generous collection from local businesses, each offering something special.



A few highlights:

- VIP Suite for the NJ Devils
- Pair of tickets to a Disney theme park
- Gorgeous necklace designed by Lika Behar
- Summer weekend at the Bradford Bath & Tennis Club



From original, custom artworks to family fun, there's something for everyone!

Scan the QR code to learn more and start the bidding!



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