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2019 CHESTNUT HILL
Home AND Garden
FESTIVAL GUIDE

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE Chestnut Hill Local
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https://issuu.com/thechestnuthilllocal/docs/gardenfest.section_layout_1-20

Chestnut Hill Conservancy, politicians, representatives and sponsors 'Flip the Switch' at Night of Lights

Posted on October 10, 2019 (<https://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/2019/10/10/chestnut-hill-conservancy-politicians-representatives-and-sponsors-flip-the-switch-at-night-of-lights/>) by Sue Ann Rybak (<https://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/author/sue-ann-rybak/>)



<https://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/WEB-Night-of-Lights.jpg>

VIPs flipped the switch on the third annual Night of Lights last Friday, Oct. 4 (from left) State Representative Chris Rabb, State Senator Art Haywood, Chestnut Hill Conservancy director Lori Salganicoff, City Councilperson Cindy Bass, Charlie Dilks, first vice president of the Chestnut Hill Conservancy and Tina McDonald of Bryn Mawr Trust. Paul Walsh, president of Elfant Wissahickon is directly behind Salganicoff. (Photo by Sue Ann Rybak)

by Sue Ann Rybak

For the third year in a row, Germantown Avenue between Bethlehem Pike and Southampton Avenue was transformed into a bright, interactive exhibit of history, art and architecture as part of the Chestnut Hill Conservancy's Night of Lights held on Oct. 4.

This year's event began with a "Flip the Switch" ceremony at 6:45 p.m. at the newsstand at the Chestnut Hill West train station. Several politicians, city officials and sponsors were on hand to "Flip the Switch," including State Senator Art Haywood, State Representative Chris

Rabb, Councilwoman Cindy Bass, Philip Dawson, executive director of Chestnut Hill Business District, Richard Snowden of Bowman Properties and many more.

Lori Salganicoff, executive director of the conservancy, said the event was initially created in 2017 to celebrate the conservancy's 50th anniversary. She said the event was created "as a way to share the archives outside of their building and layer history on top of Chestnut Hill's wonderful main street."

This year's event featured three community storytellers, including Rev. David Seip, senior pastor at Chestnut Hill Baptist Church, which Salganicoff said has the oldest church and cemetery in Chestnut Hill. The other community storytellers, Russ Goudy, Jr. and Sr., were at Killians Hardware, 8450 Germantown Ave., and longtime Hiller John McGettigan was at 8343 Germantown Ave. sharing his family's story.

"It's an enormous undertaking," Salganicoff said. "It takes a lot of time and effort; it's our gift to the community to help everyone understand what makes this place so special."

The project was led by the conservancy's director of operations and special projects, Leah Silverstein.

"Two big differences to this year's event were the level of engagement by the community supporters and the oral history component," Salganicoff said. "We are not just sharing stories; we are collecting stories."

Molly Murphy, a broadcast journalist, volunteered for this year's event and recorded roughly a dozen oral histories at this year's Oral History Recording Station located at 8632 Germantown Ave. She said they decided to start collecting people's stories when they noticed that people were inspired after sharing their histories and experiences. She said the conservancy wants to continue to record and preserve Chestnut Hill's history for the future.

Dawson said the business district was "proud to take a strong role in supporting the Chestnut Hill Conservancy's Night of Lights this year."

He added that this year's event coincided with CHBD's First Friday, "allowing people to explore the best that our modern commercial district has to offer while delving into the images and stories of Chestnut Hill's fascinating past."

To see more photos and images from archives from Chestnut Hill Conservancy Night of Lights, go to CHConservancy.org/night-of-lights (<http://CHConservancy.org/night-of-lights>). Sue Ann Rybak can be reached at sueann@chestnuthilllocal.com or 215-248-8804.

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The advertisement for Elfant & Wissahickon Real Estate is split into two vertical panels. The left panel has a yellow background and features the company logo "Elfant & Wissahickon REALTORS" with a stylized bird icon. The right panel has a light blue background with the text "Your vision. Your priorities. Our expertise" in a mix of fonts. At the bottom, a green banner contains the website "EWRhomes.com", the phone number "215.247.3600", and the address "8039 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19118".

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