

Concordia Trust

Cultivating and promoting the German language and cultural experience

Volume 16, Issue 1

First *Elke Meissgeier Memorial Scholarship* Presented to Rachel Miller

Rachel Miller, an Abington Senior High School graduate, was selected as the first recipient of the **Elke Meissgeier Memorial Scholarship**. The benefactor of this scholarship The Rev. Ellen Meissgeier, a daughter of Elke Meissgeier, presented the award to Rachel on June 18.

The certificate that accompanied the \$1,000 scholarship read:

“The Concordia Trust proudly presents the Elke Meissgeier Memorial Scholarship to Rachel Miller in recognition of her exemplary academic achievement in German, outstanding character, sense of purpose, hard work, and enthusiasm for the German language and culture.”

Rachel began her university studies at Johns Hopkins, where she plans on majoring in mathematics, earth science and the German language.

Rachel distinguished herself with her academic achievements in German, desire to study at a German university and enthusiasm for the German language and culture. Her keen interest in German made her an excellent recipient of this award.

In addition to her strong scholastic achievements, Rachel loves to sing and play the piano. She sang in her local church choir beginning in Kindergarten. She studied voice for many years, which led to her senior recital in June, when she sang in four languages.

In expressing her appreciation for the scholarship, Rachel wrote:

“I feel so honored to be the first recipient of the Elke Meissgeier Memorial Scholarship. I’m very excited to use my resources at Johns Hopkins to further my German education. I was put in Advanced German 1 for the fall and a class called Panorama of German Thought. I’m so excited to get started. Thank you for believing in me and supporting my education and future.”



Rachel Miller accepting the *Elke Meissgeier Memorial Scholarship* from The Rev. Ellen Meissgeier

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Supporting Students of German and German Cultural Organizations

Certificate of Achievement Awards



On May 11, 2019 the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) honored 176 students from 26 public, private and parochial schools in the greater Delaware Valley for their outstanding performance on this year's AATG exam.

The Concordia Trust presented \$100 cash awards to the following deserving high school students of German:

Riley Hesbacher - Lower Moreland High School

Kaelyn Klatte - Immanuel German School

Valerie Neske - Abington High School

AATG Award Recipients Thank Concordia Trust



“Ich möchte mich sehr herzlich bedanken für den großzügigen Preis von Concordia Trust. Es hat mich sehr gefreut und ich werde mich weiter bemühen mein Deutsch zu verbessern.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Kaelyn Klatte

“Ich bin so dankbar für die Auszeichnung. Als ich 11 war, interessierte mich die deutsche Sprache. Mein Vater ist Deutschamerikaner, aber er spricht kein Deutsch. Weil meine Mutter Chinesin ist, sagten alle, ‘Natürlich must du Mandarin lernen.’ Allerdings, Deutsch war interessanter als Mandarin. Am ersten Tag der 7. Klasse, wusste ich, dass ich die richtige Entscheidung machte. Während meiner drei Jahre Deutsch lernen, ich habe so viel über Deutsch und Deutschland gelernt. Deutsch ist nicht nur interessant, aber es macht auch Spaß zu sprechen!

Die Auszeichnung inspiriert mich besser Deutsch zu lernen, weil es mir wirklich Spaß macht.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Valerie Neske



Glenn White, Concordia Trust Director, with the Concordia Trust Certificate of Achievement recipients.

Concordia Trust Outstanding Achievement Award Presented to Council Rock High School South Student

Laura Floyd was the recipient of this year's *Concordia Trust Outstanding Achievement Award*. Concordia Trust Director, Glenn White, presented the award to Laura during the Council Rock High School South Senior Recognition Night on June 13.

Laura expressed her appreciation for the \$500 award by writing:

"I am extremely appreciative of the scholarship you have granted me. I look forward to continuing my education in German through the German-Engineering program at Valparaiso

University, where I will be spending a full year in Germany during my junior year. I will be studying at Reutlingen University for one semester, and then I will have the opportunity to work at a German engineering company for the remaining time. I am excited to build strong international connections, both professional and personal, and I am grateful for the financial assistance provided by the Concordia Trust in helping me pursue this opportunity."

Much appreciated,

Laura Floyd



Lower Moreland Student Presented Concordia Trust Excellence in German Award

On May 29, Concordia Trust presented an award for outstanding German language proficiency to a graduating Lower Moreland High School senior. This year, *The Concordia Trust Certificate of Achievement Award* and \$500 were given by Concordia Trust Director, Glenn White, to Mark Klinchin.

Mark's German teacher at Lower Moreland, Margaret Stiles, wrote that Mark "has been in the German program for 6 years, this past year at the AP level. He has maintained a strong 'A' average throughout, has been on the German exchange program and a member of the German Honor Society for 4 years. He is a shining example of excellence in the German language and global understanding".

Mark expressed his thanks by writing:

"Thank you very much for awarding me with the *Concordia Trust Excellence in German Award* for the 2019 Lower Moreland High School Senior Awards Night. I am honored to receive this award, as I see it as a recognition of my love and respect for the German language and culture. From oral proficiency contests to living a month in Germany, every opportunity I had to learn and practice the German language has bettered me as a person, and I thank you for acknowledging and respecting this journey."

Sincerely,

Mark Klinchin



Supporting Students of German and German Cultural Organizations

First *Robert L. Stocks Memorial Award* Presented to Bridget Gallagher

By Marlene H. K. Stocks, Concordia Trust President

When establishing the criteria for the *Robert L. Stocks Memorial Award*, it was enthusiasm for the German culture that rose to the top of the list. Bob enjoyed all things German—from the people he met, to the wine he drank, the traditions he cherished and the extensive travel throughout German-speaking Europe that we enjoyed over the years. Bob enthusiastically cultivated the friendships of German business colleagues and relatives and appreciated their warmth, hospitality and sense of humor. Bob spoke often and fondly about the experiences and impressions he had while exploring a German destination. After Ocean City, New Jersey, his favorite vacation destination was a German one.

In Bridget Gallagher, a senior at North Penn High School, I found a student whose enthusiasm for the German culture matched Bob's. While considering potential award recipients, I was directed to an article, published on Knightcrier.org with the title "Bridget Gallagher: a world language enthusiast".

There I read "Bridget Gallagher's introduction to world language began in a Pennbrook Middle School German classroom. Her love for German culture only flourished from there, staying with her throughout sophomore and junior year. Gallagher now intends to apply her talent and passion for world language beyond high school, a path that may lead to many opportunities.

Gallagher's knowledge of German culture has thrived through her participation in North Penn's German Club. She is the President of German Club and served as the Vice President last year.

Although Gallagher did not spend her

junior year as an exchange student in Germany, she was able to spend two weeks in Germany the summer before her junior year through a program that North Penn High School offers. "The relationships that I built with the Germans that I stayed with was something that I wanted to keep in my life forever, so I thought 'oh this is so cool that I can have a relationship with somebody, but speak a different language' and I wanted to keep that going," remarked Gallagher regarding what mainly influenced her love for German culture."

I was convinced that Bridget's enthusiasm for the German culture matched Bob's and was therefore the ideal recipient of first *Robert L. Stocks Memorial Award*. I presented the award and the \$500 gift to Bridget at an awards ceremony at North Penn High School on June 6.

Bridget thanked "the wonderful people at Concordia Trust" by writing:

"I received the German scholarship from you this June, aiding me in my studies at American University. With your financial help, I am now able to spend more time on studies and internships down in D.C.! As someone who loves the German language, I am honored that you have chosen me for such an award. I will wear this award proudly and hope that my coming years at American University will contain many more exciting surprises.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you!"

Bridget Gallagher



G.T.V. Almrausch Kindergruppe



Some of our Kindergruppe members at a performance in Fausdale, Pa 26. Oktober 2019

Handwritten thank-you notes in various colors: ACILDE LARK, Mickey Smith, George Clark, Marjye Smith, Katrin Mershon, The G.T.V. Almrausch Kindergruppe, Magdalene Clark, Abigail's, ELIOT Mershon, Bob, Olivia Clark, and Karin.

Donauschwaben Philadelphia Kindergruppe

“Once again, we want to thank you for your generous gift to our Kindergruppe. Through support like yours, we have been able to maintain and grow our group. Currently, we have 22 children involved. They learn about German dancing, poems and songs.

Sincerely yours,
Fred Gauss, President
Vereinigung der Donauschwaben



Supporting German Cultural Organizations

Center for Pennsylvania German Studies Opens in Trappe by Lisa Minardi

Trappe, Pennsylvania—founded in 1717 by German immigrant Jacob Schrack Sr. and home to the Muhlenberg family of German Lutheran fame—recently opened a Center for Pennsylvania German Studies. Combining exquisite objects and cutting-edge scholarship, the new Center is housed in the Dewees Tavern and operated by Historic Trappe. Spread across the first floor are four exhibition galleries with semi-permanent displays highlighting a wide range of decorative arts including furniture, fraktur, needlework, redware, ironwork, and paintings. A fifth gallery is reserved for special exhibitions, which will rotate on an annual basis.

The first exhibition, *Roots: Ursinus College and the Pennsylvania Germans*, focuses on the college's deep ties to the local community in conjunction with its 150th anniversary. An exhibition of Montgomery County redware is planned for 2020. On the second floor, the Center houses a dedicated fraktur and textile study center in which classes and workshops will be offered to provide up-close study sessions on fraktur,

needlework, and other household textiles. There is also a research library and archives with extensive holdings on Pennsylvania German decorative arts as well as local history and genealogy. A major reorganization project is currently underway to rearrange the library to improve searchability and make room for additional reference materials. The Concordia Trust recently provided a \$750 grant to fund the purchase of three new metal bookshelves to help with this effort. Two were donated in memory of Rev. John Holman.

The Center for Pennsylvania German Studies is open on Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm and Sundays from 1 to 4 pm. Tours are available on other days by advance appointment of both the Center as well as the Henry Muhlenberg House and the Speaker's House (home of Frederick Muhlenberg), all within walking distance.

Visit www.historictrappe.org for more information.



Chest made for Maria Griesemer, Oley Valley, Berks County, Pennsylvania, 1797. Collection of a descendant; photo, Gavin Ashworth.



Birth and baptismal certificate of Matthias Gilbert, attributed to Conrad Gilbert (1734–1812), Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, c. 1784. Private collection; photo, Gavin Ashworth.

The Concordia Trust thanks its generous Benefactors*

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Joan and Hans Wolf**

In Memory of Rev. John Holman

Rev. Ellen Meissgeier

**In Memory of Ernst Knott and
Robert L. Stocks**

**Gottliebe and Erwin Koch
Marlene H. K. Stocks**

In Memory of Elke Meissgeier

Barbara and Thomas Meissgeier

In Honor of Harry Carl Schaub, Esq.

Marlene H. K. Stocks

In Memory of Robert L. Stocks

Karin and Gerhard Kalmus

In Memory of Rev. William Welther

**Barbara Welther
Marlene H. K. Stocks**

“Just a small contribution to honor old friends, Bob and Ernst, for your work of furthering German education.”

Erwin and Libby Koch

“Thanks for all you do.”

Bill and Marianne Sifer

“Thanks for sending us the Concordia Trust newsletter. You and Bob have done a wonderful job keeping the German culture in the forefront. Please accept the enclosed gift to support the Concordia Trust mission.”

Brosi and Robert Collier

“Please accept this donation to the scholarship fund. The Concordia Trust and the Elke Meissgeier Scholarship Fund truly represent what Bill valued.”

Barbara Welther



* donations received between 10/1/18 and 11/11/19

Experience the German Language and Culture

Concordia Trust

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Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within the Commonwealth 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

The Concordia Trust
invests in the future of German language education, scholarship and cultural programming by ...

- Supporting German language education
- Presenting language awards to deserving students of German
- Promoting German cultural programs



United German Hungarian Cultural Group and Franklinville Schwarzwald Männerchor

Concordia Trust made donations to the United German Hungarian Cultural Group and the Franklinville Schwarzwald Männerchor. We wish them continued success with their German culture and music programs!

German-American Milestone Events in Greater Philadelphia in 2020

The Concordia Trust, created in 2001, is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable foundation. Its mission is to promote and support German language education, scholarship and cultural programming.

The United German Hungarian Club will celebrate its 110th anniversary in the spring of 2020. For more information, please visit www.ughclub.us.

The German-American Steuben Parade of Philadelphia will celebrate its 50th anniversary in September 2020. The Gala Banquet will take place on September 26 followed by the 50th annual parade on September 27. For up-to-date information, please visit www.steubeparade.com.