

Concordia Trust

Cultivating and promoting the German language and cultural experience

Volume 17, Issue 1

Second *Elke Meissgeier Memorial Scholarship* Presented to Matthew Michels

The 2020 recipient of the ***Elke Meissgeier Memorial Scholarship*** is Matthew Michels, who graduated from Upper Dublin High School in June. The \$1,000 award was presented to Matthew on June 27 by The Rev. Ellen Meissgeier, a daughter of Elke Meissgeier and sponsor of this scholarship.

Matthew is passionate about his love for the German language and culture as demonstrated by his 7 years of German study at Upper Dublin. He recently participated in the school's annual German exchange program, which allowed him to use his German language skills while attending the *Dachau Gymnasium* (High School) near Munich. His German host family introduced him to numerous tourist sites, which clearly inspired him. "I think German is a beautiful language", he volunteered, "and Germany is a beautiful country with the nicest people."

As the President of the school's German Club, Matthew helped organize the annual Oktoberfest and Christmas caroling events, as well as other German cultural activities.

Matthew attends The Catholic University in Washington, DC where he intends to study political science and minor in German. His goal is German language fluency. "Americans rely on others to speak our language. I want to be fluent enough to converse with Germans in their language", he offered.

To express his appreciation for this scholarship, Matthew wrote the following letter of thanks to Rev. Meissgeier and Marlene Stocks, Concordia Trust President.

Liebe Frau Pastorin Meissgeier, liebe Frau Stocks,

Ich schreibe an Ihnen so ich kann mich für das Stipendium bedanken. Sie wissen schon, dass ich in Washington, D.C. bald Politik und Deutsch studieren werde. Ich habe schon 6 Kredite für Deutsch von der AP Prüfung, und die Professorin sagte, ich kann in der 200 Kurs anfangen und nicht in der 100 Kurs mit den Anderen neuen Studenten. Vielen Dank für Ihre Hilfe für meinen Erfolg in der Zukunft!

*Mit freundlichen Grüßen,
Matthew Michels*



**Matthew Michels accepting the
2020 *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



The Philadelphia Vicinity and Delaware Chapter of The American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) had scheduled its Annual Awards and Testing Ceremony for April 18 at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein to honor students from public, private and parochial schools in the greater Delaware Valley for their outstanding performance on this year's AATG exam.

While the program was cancelled due to COVID-19, the Concordia Trust still presented \$150 awards to the following deserving high school students of German:

Eleanor Graves—Radnor High School

Annabel Zhao - Radnor High School

Herzlichen Glückwunsch!

Sehr geehrte Concordia Trust!

Vielen Dank für Ihr Geschenk! Das war sehr großzügig von Ihnen.

Ich lerne gerne Deutsch. Ich belege dieses Jahr Deutsch 4 Honors, und ich plane, dieses Schuljahr wieder das "National German Exam" zu machen.

Nochmals herzlichen Dank! Ich wünsche Ihnen alles Gute für die Feiertage.

*Mit freundlichen Grüßen,
Nora Graves*



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



Paige Blacknell received the 2020 Concordia Trust Outstanding Achievement Award.

Roy Harvey, Paige's German teacher, offered the following insights into Paige's German achievements and interest in the language. Paige "is a senior in AP German. She began learning German because a childhood friend of hers moved to Austria. She has always done well in German, so much so that her classmates would always ask her to proof-read things for them or ask her for help. She has been accepted to Bucks County Community College; she may begin there before continuing to a 4-year college, possibly West Chester University."

Paige expressed her thanks for the \$500 award by writing:

"I wanted to thank you for honoring me with the *Outstanding Achievement Award* and the incredibly generous scholarship that came with it. This truly means the world to me, and I hope to use your gift to further my education and my immersion in German culture."

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Paige Blacknell



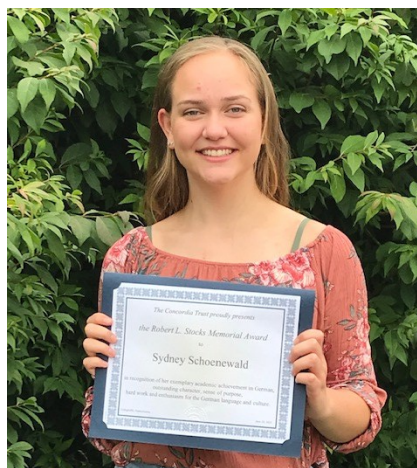
**Robert L. Stocks Memorial Award
Presented to Sydney Schoenewald
By Marlene H. K. Stocks, Concordia Trust President**

Last year, I presented the first *Robert L. Stocks Memorial Award* to a graduating senior who studied German for at least four years, maintained high scholastic achievement and radiated enthusiasm for the German language and culture. This year's recipient, Sydney Schoenewald, a graduating senior at Perkiomen Valley High School models the same characteristics and most especially—enthusiasm for the German language and culture.

Laura Harmon, Sydney's High School German teacher, remarked that Sydney "owns the language". While Sydney is an AP German student, owning the language exhibits not only a fluency but also an enthusiasm for it, which is the key criterion for this \$500 award. She spoke about how she enjoyed learning about and speaking German and how she plans on enrolling in German Studies at Cheltenham University.

Sydney offered her thanks by writing:

"Thank you so much for the incredible scholarship! I am so honored to be receiving this award."



**Lower Moreland Student Presented
Concordia Trust Excellence in German Award**

The Concordia Trust Certificate of Achievement Award and \$500 award were given to Lower Moreland High School senior, Grace Devlin.

Grace's German teacher, Margaret Stiles, wrote that Grace "is one of two German AP students in my course this year. She's maintained an A+ average since German 1, has been active in our German clubs for 6 years, has been a member of German Honor Society for 4 years and has scored a Gold on the National German Exam every year. She's a class leader, a model student and has a kind heart. She's planning to attend Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service in the Fall. In other words, Grace is awesome!"

Grace conveyed her appreciation in her thank you note:

"Thank you so much for your generosity in awarding me this scholarship! My time studying German in middle and high school had a major impact on my love of languages and German culture. I plan to minor in German at Georgetown University, and this scholarship will help me to continue learning German and hopefully study abroad in Germany in the future. I am extremely grateful and honored to have been selected for this award!"

Thank you,
Grace Devlin



Supporting Students of German and German Cultural Organizations

Donauschwaben Philadelphia Kindergruppe



The Danube Swabian Association thanks the Concordia Trust for the continued financial support of our cultural activities. Our goal is to try our best to maintain and promote our *Donauschwaben* cultural heritage. Our folk dance groups, children and youth, along with our youth soccer teams help us accomplish this goal. This past year has been a real challenge with all the restrictions; however, this trying time shall pass and we look forward to when we can actively continue our activities.

Sincerely yours,

Fred Gauss, President

Danube Swabian Association



United German Hungarian Cultural Group



Thank you for the kind donation from your organization's Board of Directors.

The United German Hungarian Cultural Group

G.T.V. Almrausch Kindergruppe



We thank the Concordia Trust for your generous donation and your continuous support through the years!

GTV Almrausch Kindergruppe

Franklinville-Schwarzwald Männerchor



Franklinville-Schwarzwald Männerchor

Rudi H. Trickel
7426 Rockwell Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19111
April 9, 2020

Concordia Trust
3408 Hillside Drive
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

Dear Marlene,

We of the Franklinville-Schwarzwald Männerchor are truly honored and grateful for your consideration and generous gift to our organization.

While the number of German choruses in the Philadelphia area have dwindled in the last fifty years, we are fortunate to have a vibrant membership who is willing to test some uncharted territories. We have sung the national anthem for the Philadelphia Phillies and the Philadelphia Union and have sung at the National Christmas tree in Washington, DC. Locally, we have sung at the Christkindlmarkt in Philadelphia, the Brauhaus Schmitz Restaurant on South Street and the Austrian Village in Rockledge along with our normal schedule of singing at the VE and other area clubs. Of course we continue to sing at the Church service of the Steuben Parade and then again at the reviewing stand at the end of the parade. It is this singing tradition which many of the immigrants brought with them when they first came to America and it helped establish their new communities here in this country.

You and I being children of immigrants and having our parents introduce us to choral singing can truly appreciate the beauty and value of this tradition as we strive to maintain it for generations to come. (I also fondly remember your parents as I joined the Schwarzwald Quartette Club in 1994).

With that, again from the Männerchor, allow me to express our heartfelt thanks to the Concordia Trust.

"O blühe for du Deutscher Sang"

Mit herzlichen Dank,

Rudi Trickel, Treasurer
 Franklinville-Schwarzwald Männerchor

Supporting German Cultural Organizations

The Center for Pennsylvania German Studies



December 4, 2019

Concordia Trust
3408 Hillside Dr
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006-4131

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your \$750.00 donation towards three new library shelves in Dewees Tavern. A special thanks to The Rev. Ellen Meissgeier for her donation of two of these bookshelves in memory of The Rev. John Holman. Your support means a great deal to us as we embark on this exciting endeavor along with our partners at the Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville, Perkiomen Valley. The new center, housed in the historic Dewees Tavern on Main Street, includes galleries for ongoing displays and changing exhibitions focused on Pennsylvania German folk art as well as a fraktur and textiles study room. It is now open to the public with a special exhibition on Ursinus College's Pennsylvania German roots in conjunction with the college's 150th anniversary. For 2020, we are planning a redware exhibition focused on Montgomery County and in particular the potters George Hubener and Jacob Medinger.

Just a few doors down the street at The Speaker's House, we will be restoring the front door and the kitchen, which includes the cooking fireplace and chimneystack. This will allow us to begin offering hands-on cooking workshops and living history demonstrations using heirloom vegetables and herbs grown in our authentic Pennsylvania German kitchen garden. We are also in the process of researching the windows in the oldest section of the house in order to plan for their restoration. It will be a very busy year!

Thank you again so much for your donation.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Harper
Corresponding Secretary

The Concordia Trust thanks its generous Benefactors*

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In Memory of Hildegard Jakaitis

Marlene H. K. Stocks
 Birute and Thomas Winberry

In Memory of Doris Knott and Robert L. Stocks

Karin and Dr. Gerhard Kalmus

In Memory of Ernst Knott and Robert L. Stocks

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Marlene H. K. Stocks

In Memory of Robert L. Stocks

Rev. Ellen Meissgeier and Rev. Chris Glod
 Margot Purucker
 Marlene H. K. Stocks
 Joanne Yutzler

In Memory of Harry A. Yutzler

Marlene H. K. Stocks

"Please accept this support to honor my friends Ernst Knott and Robert Stocks, for the work to establish this Trust and the support as directed by you all. Thank you for all the work in honoring the young people in their excellence."

Erwin and Libby Koch

"I can't think of a better way to show my gratefulness than by honoring Elke."

David Abers

We are glad to contribute to the promotion of the German language and culture.

Tom and Birute Winberry

Please accept the enclosed donation in memory of two gentlemen who truly loved the German culture, the German people and its language:

Robert L. Stocks
 Harry A. Yutzler

Thank you, Marlene, for all you and the "Trust" do to further German education."

Joanne Yutzler

The enclosed check is a donation to the Concordia Trust in memory of my dear husband, Willy, and longtime friends, Robert Stocks and Elke Meissgeier.

Margot Purucker

* donations received between 12/5/19 and 10/16/20

Experience the German Language and Culture

Concordia Trust

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* deceased

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



Words of Encouragement for these stressful and unprecedented times

- ♦ “Start each day with a positive thought and a grateful heart”.
- *Roy Bennett* -
- ♦ “Hope is the only thing stronger than fear”. - *Suzanne Collins* -
- ♦ “Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope.”
- *The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.* -
- ♦ “In times of great stress or adversity, it’s always best to keep busy, to plow your anger and your energy into something positive.”
- *Lee Iacocca* -
- ♦ “Staying positive doesn’t mean you have to be happy all the time. It means that even on hard days you know that there are better ones coming.” - *Anonymous* -
- ♦ Have faith and live with grace.

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.