

# Concordia Trust

Cultivating and promoting the German language and cultural experience

Volume 22, Issue 1

## The First *Jeanne K. Lewis Memorial Scholarship* Presented to Dominique Voit



With sincerest gratitude, Concordia Trust acknowledges the generous gift of \$5,000 from the late Jeanne K. Lewis. Mrs. Lewis earned Bachelors and Masters degrees in education from the University of Pennsylvania. She later taught English and History in the Abington School District and had attended German classes at the Immanuel German School.

The first ***Jeanne K. Lewis Memorial Scholarship and \$1,000 award*** were presented to Dominique Voit, a senior from the Abington Senior High School by Concordia Trust President, Marlene Stocks.

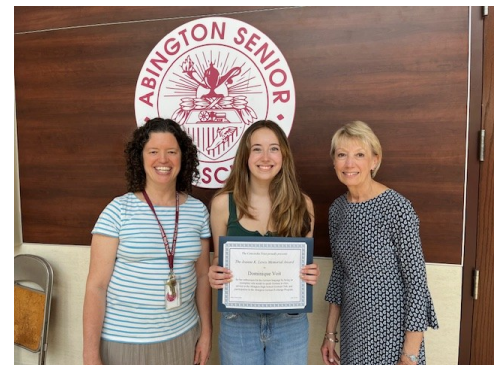
Dominique's German teacher, Ester E. Eichler, described her "passion for German and language learning, her determination and incredible work ethic, her enthusiasm for creative projects, and her ability to motivate and collaborate with diverse groups of students".

Frau Eichler also offered that "Dominique's participation in our German exchange program, which involved hosting a German exchange partner and traveling to Germany to visit the exchange partner and their school, demonstrated her ability to embrace the unknown and thrive in new situations. Dominique emerged as a leader in our group of thirty students, not only due to her efforts to always speak German but also by modeling a constant positive attitude

and flexibility during our travels.

Dominique is equally engaged in our German Club, serving on our Advisory Board for two years and being instrumental in motivating participants to come to events."

Dominique offered the following insight into her future plans. *"Ich habe Deutsch in der Schule für drei Jahre gelernt, von der zehnten Klasse bis jetzt, und in der neunten Klasse, habe ich außerhalb der Schule mit meiner Lehrerin studiert. Ich will Deutsch an der Uni studieren, weil ich mein Deutsch immer besser machen und so dass ich anderen Leuten helfen möchte. Ich habe ein Stück Herz in Deutschland und es wird immer da sein, wenn ich Deutsch studiere, werde ich eine Lehrerin sein, so dass mehr Leute fühlen, was ich fühle."*



Dominique Voit accepting the ***Jeanne K. Lewis Memorial Scholarship*** from Concordia Trust President Marlene Stocks. (right) Ester E. Eichler (left) was Dominique's German teacher

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## Supporting Students of German and German Cultural Organizations

### **Concordia Trust Outstanding Achievement Scholarship Given to North Penn High School Senior Lily Juska**



On May 29, 2025, Lily Juska was presented the **Concordia Trust Outstanding Achievement Scholarship** and the \$1,000 award during her German class.

Frau Christine Conz Moll, Lily's German teacher, commented that "Lily was awarded a gold medal for her achievement in German and was recognized at the *Preisverleihung* in Philadelphia for the top-scoring students on the AATG National German Exam medalists. In addition to her gold medal, she was awarded the **Klett Award** for her accomplishments.

Lily is clearly an outstanding student of German. She studied the language in school beginning in grade seven and honed her skills during her junior year abroad in the city of Aalen. Reconnect-

ing with her as her German teacher upon her return and witnessing her remarkable growth during that year has been a true delight. She now excels in not only reading and writing and understanding, but her conversational skills are superb."

Lily acknowledged her award by writing: "Liebe Frau Stocks and Concordia Trust,

I am deeply honored to have received the **Concordia Trust Outstanding Achievement Award** and want to convey my sincerest thanks for the recognition. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for being chosen as the recipient of this award. Thank you for acknowledging my hard work and dedication to the German language. I look forward to continuing my study of German when I attend West Chester University in the fall and I hope to one day work in Germany."

### **The Elke Meissgeier Memorial Scholarship given to Robert Eppinger**



In her letter to the Concordia Trust Board of Directors, Ellen Meissgeier, the benefactor of the **Elke Meissgeier Memorial Scholarship**, requested that this year's recipient of the \$1,000 award be presented to Rob Eppinger. In her recommendation, Rev. Meissgeier wrote about Rob's exemplary academic achievements in all subject areas including German. "I have watched Rob become a remarkable young man, an outstanding student, and an enthusiastic and excellent Schuhplattler over the years; that in itself speaks of his love of the culture."

In his letter of thanks, Rob wrote "It is an incredible honor to receive the **Elke Meissgeier Memorial Scholarship**

**Award**. I thank you so much for considering me and helping to further both my education and my pursuit of obtaining fluency in the German language. I look forward to seeing what opportunities my study of German will lead to."

With utmost gratitude, Rob Eppinger



## **Robert L Stocks Memorial Scholarship Awarded to Wissahickon High School Student—Jack Raebiger**

Jack Raebiger, a graduating senior from Wissahickon High School, was the recipient of the **2025 Robert L. Stocks Memorial Scholarship**. The presentation of the scholarship and the \$1,000.00 award were made on May 28, 2025 by Marlene Stocks.

In her letter of introduction, Carolyn Popovic, Joshua's German teacher wrote:

*„Mit großer Freude und voller Überzeugung empfehle ich Jack Raebiger für ein Stipendium. Jack ist Schüler im Abschlussjahrgang der Wissahickon High School und besucht meinen AP Deutschkurs. In den letzten drei Jahren war er ein hervorragender Schüler in meinen Deutschkursen—von Deutsch 3 Honors über Deutsch 4 Honors bis zum aktuellen AP-Kurs.*

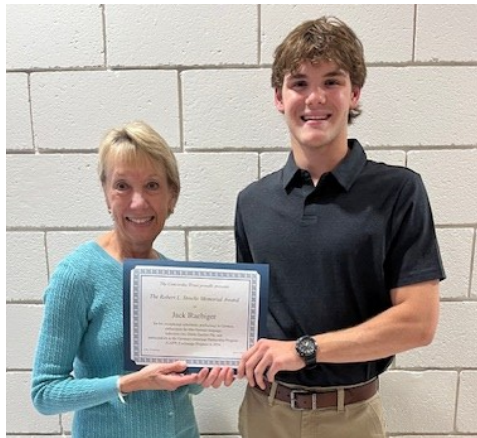
*Jack überzeugt nicht nur durch seine akademischen Leistungen, sondern vor allem durch seinen Charakter. Er ist ein geduldiger und verantwortungsbewusster junger Mann. Seine Freundlichkeit und Bescheidenheit machen ihn bei Mitschülern und Lehrkräften beliebt. Jack begegnet anderen mit Respekt und Empathie, was ihn zu einem natürlichen Vorbild in unserer Schulgemeinschaft macht.*

*Im Sommer 2024 nahm Jack am GAPP-Austauschprogramm teil und verbrachte drei Wochen in Deutschland. Im Herbst desselben Jahres empfing er seinen Austauschpartner. Diese Erfahrung hat nicht nur Jacks Sprachkenntnisse vertieft, sondern auch unser Klassenzimmer bereichert. Durch seine Offenheit, sein Engagement und seine Begeisterung für die deutsche Sprache und Kultur bereicherte Jack die Austausch Erfahrung.*

*Seit dem dritten Jahr seiner Deutschlaufbahn ist Jack Mitglied der Deutschen Ehrenverbindung Delta Epsilon Phi—ein weiterer Beleg für*

*akademische Exzellenz und sein Engagement. Im Mai wird er die AP-Prüfung in Deutsch ablegen und plant, im Herbst ein Nebenfach an der University of Vermont zu beginnen.*

*Jack ist ein außergewöhnlicher Schüler und Mensch, der so wohl akademisch also auch persönlich überzeugt. Ich bin überzeugt, dass er in seine zukünftigen Studien mit großem Engagement verfolgen wird.*



**Jack Raebiger accepting the Robert L. Stocks Memorial Scholarship from Marlene Stocks.**

Jack acknowledged his award by thanking the Concordia Trust:

*Sehr geehrte Frau Stocks,*

*Vielen Dank, dass Sie mir ein so bedeutendes Stipendium gewährt haben. Ich weiss Ihre Großzügigkeit sehr zu schätzen und fühle mich sehr geehrt, eine solche Auszeichnung erhalten zu haben. Ich werde das Geld für Fortsetzung meiner Deutsch-ausbildung an der UVM verwenden.*

*Mit freundlichen Grüßen*

Jack Raebiger

# Supporting Students of German and German Cultural Organizations

## **Concordia Trust Outstanding Achievement Award Presented to Immanuel German School and Conestoga High School Senior Ian Heckelman**



Ian Heckelman was presented a 2025 **Concordia Trust Outstanding Achievement Award**

Matthias Hausman, the Immanuel German School interim Principal, recommended Ian for the award as being “one of our school’s strongest students. He had the best performance of our students on the German Language Diploma Level 2. In his normal school, he maxed out of their German curriculum in the 10th grade, earning a 5 on the AP German exam.

When Ian moved to Germany in 2015, he started third grade not knowing any German, but over the 4 years he lived there he developed a passion for German. He plans to use this passion for German in his career. He will be going to Duquesne University for nursing. He plans to use his German as a nurse in rural Pennsylvania working with the large German-speaking Amish population.”

Ian offered his appreciation for the \$500 award : “Thank you so much for the award and money”.

## **Certificate of Achievement Awards**

The Philadelphia Vicinity and Delaware Chapter of The American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) held its Annual Awards and Testing Ceremony on April 27, 2025 at the German Society of Pennsylvania to honor students from public, private and parochial schools for their outstanding performance on the AATG National German exam.

*Sehr geehrte Frau Stocks,*

*Herzlichen Dank für die Auszeichnung mit dem **Concordia Trust Preis!** Es hat mich sehr gefreut für meine Deutschleistungen auf diese Weise geehrt zu werden. Ich bin Ihnen dankbar und freue mich sehr!”*

*Mit freundlichen Grüßen*  
Henry Herman

Dear Mrs. Stocks,

It was an honor to be selected as one of the Concordia Trust recipients at the 2025 **National German Exam Preisverleihung**. Thank you so much! Studying German has been an amazing experience for me as I have used the language in Germany and experienced the culture. This summer I will be back for my 4th trip in a row! I am very grateful for the recognition and am excited to further my studies.

Best,  
Nick Mitchell



Our thanks to Alex Paul and Samantha Shipeck, the Co-Presidents of the AATG Philadelphia-Delaware chapter, for their efforts in coordinating this year’s award ceremony for area high school German students.

Glenn White, a member of the Concordia Trust Board of Directors, presented the **\$150 Concordia Trust Award** to Charley Levin from Germantown Friends School, the **\$200 Award** to Henry Herman from the Immanuel German School and **the \$300 Award** to Nick Mitchell from Wissahickon High School. We offer congratulations to Charley, Henry and Nick!



## **Concordia Trust Outstanding Achievement Award Presented to Central Bucks West High School Student**

“My name is Inge Karlberg-Stannik. I am a retired German and Biology teacher who worked in the Central Bucks School District until 2022. I am writing this recommendation for a student from Central Bucks High School – West whom I never had in the classroom, but a student I observed *run* a classroom revolving around the German language.

After I retired from my position at Central Bucks High School-West, I was “requested back” by a student to act as a volunteer to sponsor a German Club. This student’s name is Keira Sandusky. It is with great excitement for and admiration of Keira that I recommend her, a current senior at Central Bucks High School-West, for a scholarship offered to students of the German language and culture who demonstrate great enthusiasm and desire to learn. Keira is an exceptional student whose intellectual drive, gentle leadership, and dedication to language learning are truly inspiring not only to her peers, but also to adults.

Keira’s role in this club has been nothing short of extraordinary. I have yet to meet a student who comes up with her own plan in teaching others, is motivated to execute the plan, communicates effectively with all involved, and provides

enrichment and encouragement every week of the school year. She has scheduled meetings, developed and taught lessons, attended club fairs to advertise to potential new members, coordinated with administrators, and even engaged adult volunteers—all of which she has done with professionalism, creativity, kindness, and consistency. Her leadership in this space called German Club shows her determination, organizational skill, and love of learning, as well as her ability to inspire and educate others.

I wholeheartedly recommend Keira for this scholarship. Her passion for German, her initiative, and her ability to lead and learn independently make her an unusually ideal candidate.”

Keira Sandusky acknowledged the \$500.00 award:

*“Ich möchte Ihnen herzlich für das Stipendium bedanken. Es bedeutet mir sehr viel, die erste selbstlernende Lernerin zu sein, die ein Stipendium erhält. Ich bin sehr dankbar für diese großartige Gelegenheit.”*

*Mit freundlichen Grüßen  
Keira Sandusky*



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

The 2025 **Concordia Trust Outstanding Achievement Award** was presented to Carl Baur.

Roy Harvey, the Council Rock High School South German teacher, nominated Carl to receive the \$500 award. In his recommendation, Herr Harvey wrote that Carl “was our president of German Club this year and over

the years he was the one student I could reply upon to attend meetings and events. Carl is also my only student taking the German AP Exam this school year.

Carl has always worked very hard and consistently in the four years I have had him in class. He is a kind, friendly, thoughtful young man.”



## Supporting Students of German and German Cultural Organizations

### **United German Hungarian Cultural Group**



Dear Marlene & the Directors of  
the Concordia Trust,  
Thank you so much for your generous  
donation to our dance group! We are truly  
grateful for your continued support each  
year, which helps our children to celebrate  
and carry forward our proud German  
heritage and traditions. We recently held  
our Kirchweih event, where the children dressed  
in full attire + they participated with great pride!  
Thank you again - your kindness is truly appreciated!

With sincere thanks from  
the United German Hungarians Children's Group!

<https://ughclub.us/>

### **Donauschwaben Philadelphia Kindergruppe**

"The Danube Swabian Association of Philadelphia and Vicinity serves the local community as a center for German culture, sports, education, and social activities. Formed in 1957, primarily by ethnic German immigrants who came to the United States in the aftermath of World War II, the organization continues to honor and uphold its traditions by promoting the language, music, dance, dress, and customs of the Danube Swabian people". Source: <https://www.danubeswabian.com/>



**Kinder Group Dancing at Christmas Village in Philadelphia**

### ***G.T.V. Almrausch Kindergruppe***

"The Gebirgstrachten Verein Almrausch, founded in April 1925 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, creates and fosters among its members a genuine love for Alpine traditions, customs, "Schuhplattler" (alpine folkdances) and comradeship. We uphold and display original Bavarian costumes, and encourage both the study of, and participation in, the common aspects of American and Alpine folklore.

Boys and girls in the G.T.V. Almrausch Kindergruppe range from 3 to 15 years of age. Their pride shows in every performance. More importantly, their enjoyment shows, too!

Source: <http://www.gtvalmrausch.com/>



### ***Franklinville-Schwarzwald Männerchor***

"The Franklinville-Schwarzwald Männerchor (FSMC) is a male choir devoted to singing German music and part of a long history of singing German songs in the United States. The FSMC is the only German men's chorus in the Philadelphia area. It sings in four-part harmony, and aside from traditional German folk songs, it also sings popular and show tunes, and even some comedic pieces.

In 2005, the Franklinville-Schwarzwald Männerchor was formed to continue to sing and perform German vocal music in the male choral tradition of two Quartet Clubs, namely the Franklinville QC, founded 1900 and the Schwarzwald QC, founded 1929. It is a proud member of The United Singers of Philadelphia (founded 1881) and the [Nordöstlicher Sängerbund von Amerika](#) (founded 1850)"

Source: <https://www.fsmaennerchor.com/>



## Supporting Students of German and German Cultural Organizations



Concordia Trust donated \$1,000.00 to co-sponsor the 2025 Historic Trappe Spring Lecture Series.

Revolution and Registration: Pennsylvania German Enslavers Lecture by James M. Beidler, a Pennsylvania German researcher and genealogist, used his own family history as a case study.

In honor of Women's History Month, Carol Spacht, who for over twenty years, portrayed the iconic Betsy Ross, Philadelphia's premier flag maker, presented history through first-person and character interpretation.

The Center for Pennsylvania German Studies, located at 301 West Main Street, Trappe, PA "has five galleries for changing exhibitions and ongoing displays of furniture, ironwork, pottery, textiles, fraktur, paintings, and more that were made by talented Pennsylvania German craftspeople and artisans.

This diverse group of people includes Lutherans, Reformed, Moravians, Schwenkfelders, Mennonites, Dunkards, and Amish."

Courtesy Historic Trappe website:  
<https://historictrappe.org/>

### Reflections from Tarun Iyengar, 2024 *Robert L. Stocks Memorial Scholarship Recipient*

"I wanted to send you a quick update about my German language and cultural experience so far in college. I spent the last month in Vienna through one of my University's study abroad programs and had the time of my life. I want to thank you for your financial support of my education and pursuits in exploring the German language and culture, which has allowed me to take part in wonderful opportunities like this. After learning German for some time, it was incredibly rewarding to go to a German-speaking country and partake in total immersion. I definitely want to return to the region, whether to study more of the history and politics or to complete an internship.

In terms of classes in Vienna, I thoroughly enjoyed my professor's seminar about "*der Wiener Moderne*" and all the cultural and societal changes that this

historical period entailed. My language class at Universität Wien's *Sprachzentrum* was also fantastic. I now have an official certificate to certify all my hard work learning German to this point! The city itself was incredibly interesting, and I found the history fascinating, especially the post Habsburg and first Austrian republic history. We hit 10,000 steps every day from walking around and also from climbing every lookout point we could such as Stephansdom's South Tower. We also did a lot of travel around the region, including Budapest, Bratislava, Brunn and Graz. It was really fun to take a brief break from Vienna and to explore the former lands of the Austro-Hungarian Empire."

Sincerely, Tarun Iyengar



## The Concordia Trust thanks its generous Benefactors\*

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**Memory of Their Friends**

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\* donations received between  
 11/16/24 to 11/10/25

## *Experience the German Language and Culture*

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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



**Wir wünschen Ihnen eine besinnliche Adventszeit,  
frohe Feiertage, gesegnetes Weihnachtsfest  
und ein glückliches, gesundes  
und friedliches Neues Jahr!**

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.



**Prosit Neujahr 2026!**