

Concordia Trust

Cultivating and promoting the German language and cultural experience

Volume 5, Issue 1

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.

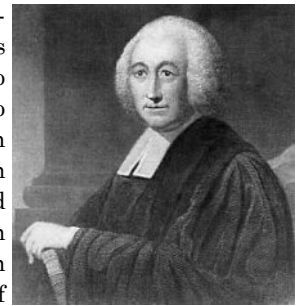
2011: The Muhlenberg Year

We are barely through this year and already we begin to consider events of next year. 2011 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of a German American named Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. While many people living in the Philadelphia region recognize Muhlenberg as also the name of the college in Allentown, fewer would be able to give much information about the individual. Lutheran pastor, church administrator, father of famous children, colonial pacifist- how much remains to be researched and written! And yet the same could be said for many German speakers who came to this country! Over the year, and actually extending from January 2011 through the end of the academic year, June 2012, many institutions and associations will lift up Muhlenberg, in an attempt to discover more about the man and his era, as well as to consider the impact of his work on life today.

Heinrich Melchior Mühlenberg was born near Hannover, Germany in 1711. After completing his theology degree in Göttingen, he worked with orphans in Halle, under the guidance of the Franckesche Stiftungen (Francke Foundations). Following his ordination in Leipzig in 1739, he worked in another orphanage in Grosshennersdorf, near Görlitz. In 1741, he moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to assist ministers with the growing Lutheran church. His own parish work began at the Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe, PA, but his outreach extended from Georgia to Nova Scotia. The annals of American church history praise him for his support of the early Lutheran ministerium, the predecessor of the synod or church governing organization. The diaries of his wife and 11 children would hold him accountable for much more! His death in 1787 included burial in Trappe.

As is the case with many engaged professionals who are also new immigrants, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg was active in many areas as he

became more established throughout his career. He needed to use five languages to connect people both here and back in Europe. He interacted with politicians in regions that varied in their interpretation of



the separation of church and state. He relied on the colonial media, known as the printing press, as it reached readers with both newspapers and books. He deliberated the growing response of citizens to threats from afar and unrest from within. And all the while, he preached to Christians whose freedom included determining for themselves what they would believe and how they would use that faith to take part in the daily life of their community—establishing schools, orphanages or whatever. His own faith journey surely included deliberating his Lutheran roots along side of Reformed and Union churches in Germany, the Pietism of Halle, the Anglican Church connected to Hannover, and the contact with Mennonite, Moravian, and Schwenkfelder congregations in the colonies.

So we have much to look forward to next year, as educational institutions, social organizations, and churches learn more about this German American. A drama is being written—literally and figuratively—as this newsletter goes to print. Art exhibits are in the works. Lectures are being crafted for conferences and small group presentations. Websites are under construction. Do more than keep an eye out for Muhlenberg—be part of the discovery team and create a demand for more information. Ask your own friends and acquaintances to learn with you about HMM! *Jean E. Godsall-Myers, Ph.D.*

HMM Photo source: Wikipedia

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Concordia Trust

Excellence in German Award

Kathryn Fischer received The Concordia Trust's "Excellence in German Award" at the May 24 Awards Night program for Lower Moreland's graduating seniors. Kathryn who will attend St. Joseph's University in the fall, re-

ceived a \$250 cash prize. She has been accepted into St. Joseph's Honors Program and plans on studying German and Marketing. She hopes to study abroad in Germany for a semester. *Herzlichen Glückwunsch, Kathryn!*

Certificate of Merit Awards

On April 24, the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) honored 128 students from 39 public, private and parochial schools throughout the greater Delaware Valley for their outstanding performance on this year's AATG exam. Jodi L. Alderfer, Vice President of the Philadelphia Vicinity and Delaware Chapter, summed up the awards presentation very nicely. "We are very proud of these talented and dedicated students because they represent the *best of the best*. They have demonstrated not only their knowledge, but also their enthusiasm for the German language. We commend them for their commitment and their achievement."

The Concordia Trust once again partnered with the AATG by presenting \$100 cash awards to three deserving high school students of German: **Richard Camuccio**—Souderton Area High School, **Nathaniel Schmucker**—Delaware County Christian Academy and **Teresa Schwemmer**—Wissahickon High School.

Mrs. Alderfer acknowledged the Concordia Trust's sponsorship. She wrote "thank you for your partnership as together we recognize the German language accomplishments of these exceptional students and strive to motivate others to excel in their German language studies."

The Award Recipients Express Their Thanks



Concordia Trust President, Marlene Stocks, presenting Teresa Schwemmer with her award.

"Thank you for providing students like me with the opportunity to be recognized for our hard work in German. It was an honor to be presented with such a special award. I truly appreciate your generosity and support for my German studies.

I plan to continue to study German, and to receive an award like this is very encouraging to me. It shows me that I am going in the right direction. I also feel that it will push me to achieve further in my German studies. I thank you for your recognition and encouragement."

Teresa Schwemmer

"Thank you for the Concordia Trust Award for Outstanding German Language Proficiency. And thank you also for the accompanying \$100 check. I received them just recently at our school's awards ceremony. It was quite a surprise and has encouraged me in my studies of the German language."

Nathaniel Schmucker

"Ich schreibe in Bezug auf das AATG 2010 National German Exam. Ich möchte mich bei Ihnen für das grosszügige Geschenk bedanken, dass Sie mir für mein Bestreben in dem Prozessablauf von dem Examen gab. Ich lernte viel von meinem Erlebnis und Ihre Anerkennung gab mir einen Sinn für die Bestimmung, in der Zukunft längs dem Pfad des Erfolgs fortzusetzen. Vielen Dank noch einmal für Ihre beträchtliche Großzügigkeit."

Richard S. Camuccio



Richard Camuccio being congratulated by Marlene Stocks.

2010 Kalmus Scholarship Presented to Immanuel German School Student at School's Award Ceremony

Laura Blankenhorn, a Lower Moreland High School senior, was the 2010 recipient of The Gerhard W. Kalmus Scholarship. Dr. Kalmus and his wife, Karin, funded this scholarship for the fifth consecutive year. Dr. Kalmus, a resident of North Carolina, personally presented the scholarship on May 8, the final day of the Immanuel German School's 35th school year.

The \$1,000 scholarship will be used to help fund Laura's education at Lebanon Valley College beginning this fall.

The inscription on the plaque read:

**The Concordia Trust proudly presents the
Gerhard W. Kalmus Scholarship
to Laura Blankenhorn
in recognition of her outstanding
academic achievement in German
and her interest in German language education.**



Prof. Gerhard Kalmus, Laura Blankenhorn and Immanuel German School Principal, Raymond F. Anderson

Award Recognizing German Language Learning and German Cultural Participation Presented

Kristen and Stefanie Schwab, members of the G.T.V. Almrausch, were honored during the 2009 German Day festivities at the United German Hungarian Club by the Concordia Trust for their dedicated participation in learning German at the Immanuel German School and preserving the German culture via folkdancing.

Kristen and Stefanie received a gift certificate and plaque in recognition of their commitment.

Kristen and Stefanie Schwab with their award presented by Robert Eppinger, First Vice President of the Steuben Day Observance Association and President of the G.T.V. Almrausch.



The Award Recipient Expresses Her Thanks (continued)



"Thank you so much for choosing me as your recipient of the Concordia Trust Excellence in German Award. It is so nice to be honored for all of my hard work. This award will definitely help in college, where I plan to continue to study German. Thank you so much again."

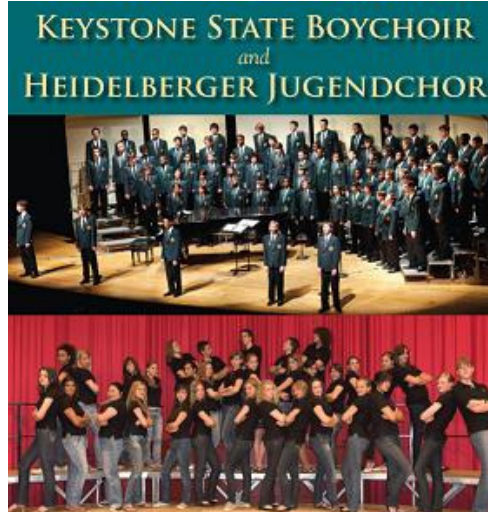
Kathryn Fischer

Cultural Programming Supported by Concordia Trust

The Keystone State Boychoir and the Heidelberger Jugendchor combined their musical talents and offered several inspirational concerts in greater Philadelphia in October 2009. The Heidelberger Jugendchor was also invited to the Mayor's Reception Room at City Hall, where it performed for Mayor Nutter.

In recognition of this musical collaboration between Philadelphia and Heidelberg, the Concordia Trust offered a financial gift of \$250 to the Keystone State Boychoir.

Steven M. Fisher, Associate Music Director of the Keystone State Boychoir, wrote "I can't thank you enough for the generous donation by Concordia Trust. Once again, you've been so kind in your support."



Karlsruher Konzert-Duo Returned to Philadelphia



The internationally acclaimed Karlsruher Konzert-Duo featuring Dagmar Hartmann, piano, and Reinhard Armleder, cello, returned to Philadelphia on October 30, 2009 and performed at the Immanuel Lutheran Church. It showcased its award-winning talent and rich chamber music repertoire.

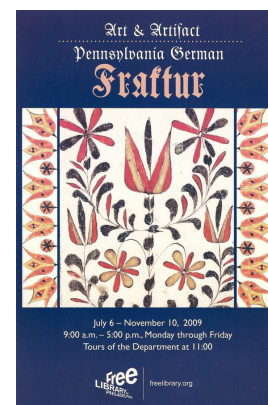
The Concordia Trust supported this concert with a \$200 donation. "With this contribution, Concordia Trust once again allowed this congregation to benefit from Concordia Trust's mission of 'cultivating and promoting German language and cultural experience.' Please convey to the members of the organization our deep gratitude for another fine example of cooperation and support", wrote Rev. Sönke Schmidt-Lange, Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Pennsylvania German Fraktur Exhibit Promoted

Art and Artifact: Pennsylvania German Fraktur presented at the Free Library of Philadelphia July 6 through November 10, 2009

"Selections from the Rare Book Department's collection of Fraktur, decorative folk art produced by the Pennsylvania Germans to serve as records of important life events. Among the examples from this outstanding collection [were] birth and baptismal certificates, writing samples, music books, religious texts and bookmarks.

The digitization of the Free Library of Philadelphia's Fraktur Collection (<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/fraktur>) was made possible through a generous grant from The Barra Foundation."



The Concordia Trust thanks its generous Benefactors*

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* donations received between
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Experience the German Language and Culture

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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 ...

- Providing financial support to the Immanuel German School
- Presenting language awards to deserving students of German
- Promoting German cultural events

Concordia Trust Officers and Directors

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The Taste of German-speaking Europe: A New Publication

In commemoration of its 100th club anniversary, the United German Hungarian Club of Oakford, PA has published a cookbook of recipes from German-speaking Europe. The recipes found in *Mahlzeit* are family favorites supplied by the members and friends of this German organization.

Compiling and sharing recipes is an integral part of our German culture and the contents of *Mahlzeit* will surely be a treasured addition for anyone who savors everything from hearty German soups to delicate Austrian cookies.

Mahlzeit sells for \$15.00.

To purchase your copy send a check for \$18.00 (\$15.00 + \$3.00 shipping) to

Susan Galgon
c/o United German Hungarian Club
103 Lindsey Place
North Wales, PA 19454

Please make checks payable to "United German Hungarians".

Questions can be directed to Susan Galgon at 215.361.1068 or ugh.club@comcast.net.

Mahlzeit



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