Palm-Foundation

registered non-profit organisation Schorndorf

Pharmacists Dr. med. Maria and Johann-Philipp Palm

Establishment

History

Agenda

We commemorate our founders

Mrs. PhD Elsa Maria Palm, née Krampf

* 9 May 1923 in Eibau, Oberlausitz
† 2 September 2008 in Schorndorf

and

Mr. Johann-Philipp Palm

* 9. October 1918 in Plüderhausen
† 8. May 2005 in Schorndorf

Pharmacists, entrepreneurs and founders from Schorndorf/ Germany: Mrs. and Mr. Palm
(Palm Family and Company Archives)

The Palm-Foundation will continue their work in their sense and as a worthy representative.

Palm-Foundation
Registered non-profit organisation Schorndorf

The Palm-Foundation was founded in Schorndorf/ Germany in 1995, in the legal form of a registered non-profit organisation. The initiators and donors of the foundation's capital were the pharmacists Maria and Johann-Philipp Palm.

Agenda

The Palm-Foundation formulates the following goals in its statutes: "…the promotion of science, research, schooling and education, of social and charitable responsibilities of the church as well as the protection of historical monuments and of home spirit; the care of the youth, the elderly and the handicapped as well as the promotion of a democratic government."

At home in Schorndorf

Schorndorf is a town of about 40.000 inhabitants in Southern Germany. It looks back on a rich history of winegrowing, trading and industry. Over the centuries it has moulded a self-confident civil society.

The Palm-Foundation is a well-established institution in the city of Schorndorf. It has felt strongly connected to the city ever since its foundation. Much of its work, promotion and other support are therefore geared specifically toward the city of Schorndorf and its citizens as well as towards the many organisations and corporations that enrich and shape the city's public well-being, making it a place worth living in.

from left: Dr. Palm´s pharmacy, protected historical building; benefit-performance for the local church; pirate ship playground
(Palm Family and Company Archives)

The promotion of athletics and support of Schorndorf's schools are especially important to the Palm-Foundation. It also supports the Protestant Church of Wurttemberg in its welfare programs and other social responsibilities in Schorndorf. Other examples of the Palm Foundation's main concerns are the care of protected monuments as well as the lasting preservation of Schorndorf's protected historical city center.

For Liberty against Violence
Johann-Philip-Palm-Award for Freedom of Speech and the Press

Beyond these local activities, it is of central importance to the Palm-Foundation to be involved on a regional, national and even international level. Every other year the Foundation presents the Johann-Philip-Palm-Award for Freedom of Speech and the Press. It is endowed with 20,000 Euros. The award bears the name of Johann Philipp Palm, a historical role model in the struggle for Freedom of Speech and the Press. By presenting this award, the Palm Foundation wishes to emphasize the importance of establishing and maintaining freedom of speech and freedom of the press, both within Germany as well as internationally, as both freedoms are an absolute prerequisite for any democracy. Both occupy an important place in a free democratic constitutional structure, and both have to be reclaimed again and again.

In a globalized world, both freedom of speech as well as freedom of the press are of vital importance across territorial and social borders. These fundamental rights are therefore not only embedded in the constitution of a free democratic constitutional state as constitutive elements (article 5 of the Basic Law) but are also recognized as fundamental human rights Europe-wide (article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights) and worldwide (article 19 of the Declaration of Human Rights, UNESCO declaration by Windhoek.)

Award-winners

Johann Philipp Palm´s biography shows it: The fundamental rights of communication occupy an important place in a free, democratic constitutional entity and need to be constantly reasserted. Democracy has an informed citizenry and a fair competition between rival opinions as its prerequisite. Only then can the democratic process lead to a balance of competing interests. A constitutional state demands that the informed public controls governmental power. It is therefore those people who inform the public responsibly in order to reveal conflicts, and those who state their opinions in order to change things, that form the basis of a free society. In a globalized world, the individual's dedication to the cause of freedom of speech and the press is thus of vital importance across territorial and societal borders.

By awarding this prize, the Palm-Foundation wishes to honour women, men and institutions that are, just as Johann Philipp Palm, of outstanding prominence in the promotion of freedom of speech and the press.

Laureates of the international Johann-Philip-Palm-Award for Freedom of Speech and the Press
(Palm Family and Company Archives)

Since the Johann-Philipp-Palm-Award´s foundation, several journalists, human rights activists, newspapers, magazines, NGOs etc. have been awarded. They came from Gambia, Belarus, Mexico, Afghanistan and many other countries where free speech is still not guaranteed and sometimes even dangerous to life.

Guidelines

The recipients of the award are chosen by the Palm-Foundation´s Board of Trustees. This board consists of eminent figures from the church, cultural institutions, the media, politics, industry, and science. Possible candidates are recommended to the board by our longtime cooperation partners such as “amnesty international” or “Reporters without Borders”. Other serious suggestions are considered by the Foundation´s Board of Directors beforehand.

The Board of Trustees always bestows great care on its choice. It can rely on a close alliance of trustworthy informants throughout the world.

It can distribute the award to as many as three laureates. Further details can be found in the guidelines for the bestowment of the award. The Board of Trustees’ decision is final and cannot be contested. Membership on the Board of Trustees is honorary.

The Laureates are anounced on 26 August, Johann Philipp Palm´s day of death. The award ceremony takes place in Schorndorf on the first Sunday in December.

Johann Philipp Palm
1766-1806

Portrait of Palm from the magazine „Freya“, ca. 1865
(Palm Family and Company Archives)

Son of the city of Schorndorf

Johann Philipp Palm was born on 18 December 1766, in the Palm family’s pharmacy in Schorndorf. His father, Johann Leonhard Palm, was a surgeon; his mother Christina Elisabeth, née Mürdter, was a baker’s daughter.

Johann Philipp Palm attended the Latin school in Schorndorf and at 14 years of age, he departed to Erlangen to complete an apprenticeship as a book dealer with his uncle, Johann Jakob Palm. Later on, he resided in Göttingen and Frankfurt/ Main.

Citizen, book dealer and publisher in Nuremberg

In 1796, Johann Philipp Palm became a citizen of Nuremberg and married Anna Katharina Barbara, the daughter of a Nuremberg book dealer named Stein.

Two years later, he distributetd revolutionary writings in Salzburg reviewing problems in tertiary education. Thus he was arrested for the first time and banned from publishing in Salzburg.

In 1799, he eventually became the sole owner of Stein’s bookstore.

In 1806, Johann Philipp Palm printed and published the anonymously written pamphlet “Germany in its deep humiliation”. It harshly criticized Napoleon’s imperial politics in the guise of liberty as well as the German sovereigns´ collaboration with the emperor for their own advantages. Documents like this sold well in Germany in those times, and they provoked Napoleon’s severest anger. He wanted to put the fact straight, that he would not tolerate any criticism on his person: As the author was unknown, he gave orders that the pamphlet’s distributors stand trial before a French court martial and be executed within twenty-four hours of a guilty verdict.

Execution in Braunau am Inn

On 14 August 1806, Johann Philipp Palm was captured by French occupational troops and brought before a court martial in Braunau am Inn/ Austria. Without legal representation, Palm was left to his own defense. He did not, however, reveal the name of the pamphlet's author.

Although it was peacetime, Johann Philipp Palm, a citizen of a free city of the German Reich, was found guilty by a French court martial. Within only three hours of the proceedings, he was executed on 26 August 1806.

Aftermath

The verdict was publicised and circulated in thousands of papers as a determent – but its arbitrariness triggered dismay and bitterness in many sectors of the population. Since then, Palm was considered a pioneer of German unity and a hero of liberty. Especially in the early 20th century, many publications pictured Palm´s life and death. But there are only very few sources concerning Palm´s case. He himself didn´t leave any statement on his political leanings.

Many have been speculating over the identity of the pamphlet´s author; there is still no proof. But as a matter of fact, Palm knew him and protected him.

From left: Titel page of the pamphlet´s first print, June 1806 (Town Archive Schorndorf);
Palm´s last notes in his notebook, August 1806 (Town Museum Schorndorf);
„Palm is lead to his execution" by J. Weiser for the magazine „Gartenlaube", ca. 1880;
Memorial by Lohrer/ Eisele at Dr. Palm´s Pharmacy in Schorndorf, ca. 1978 (both Palm Family and Company Archives)

Patronage of the award:

Prime Minister of the State of Baden-Württemberg

Cooperation partners of the foundation:

amnesty international

House of History of the country Baden-Württemberg

Journalists help Journalists (JhJ e.V.)

Reporters without Borders

City of Schorndorf

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