

Apple REPORT TO THE CORPS

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LOOKING BACK WITH JOY

The summer of 2000 will mark A.P.P.L.E.'s 10th anniversary in Lithuania. As we look forward to that event, let's look back at what happened in the years leading up to this occasion.

Ten years of living in Lithuania for the A.P.P.L.E. summers was an interesting experience for us all. There were life-style adjustments to be made, new ways of coping with everyday life to be learned. In one location we were complaining about the absence of toilet seats, while in another location, we were actually learning how to use those holes in the floor. As the absence of hot water in the showers came to be expected, we perfected the "Hokey Pokey shower." You know the drill, "You put your right foot in, you take your right foot out . . ." Surprises appeared in the showers in the shape of mice, frogs and sleeping men.

We spent a lot of time eating. We complained that there wasn't enough food; we complained that there was too much. Notwithstanding, we spent a lot of time eating. There were sausages and potatoes cooked on the campfire around which later we sang. One time there was a scoop of rice for dinner, and more than a few times we ate pancakes. Did you like the strong coffee, or did you do like me and fill your cup half with coffee and half with hot water? I never knew I liked cucumbers until I went to Lithuania, and how could you possibly eat cucumbers without tomatoes? And what did you think of the buckwheat? Or fish for breakfast? I'll never forget Phil Taylor's question my first year in Birstonas, "Could we have breakfast for breakfast?"

Everywhere we went there was an ethnographic ensemble treating us to a concert. The Lithuanian heritage—shared by these ensembles made up of young, old and middle-aged—proved rich, time and time again. Will we ever forget the lovely Lithuanian voices that sang their folksongs, continuing verse after verse, sure of all the words? And then they invariably also treated us to their

style of dancing firsthand. American men and women were literally pulled from their safe seats and swung around the dance floor as they tried their best to keep up with a polka. Some of us did quite a good job; others did ok; and a few of us eased toward the door as the audience participation began.

Just when we thought that we had mastered the art of using the Lithuanian phones at the Post Offices, the new, much easier to use phone cards came on the scene, and there were access numbers enabling collect calls. On occasion, when we switched towns, there were telephones in our rooms or daily access to e-mail. Through these experiences we caught a glimpse of what Lithuanians experience daily. Like flowers growing in the cracks of old cement, new technology blooms through staid, Soviet systems. Thankfully, the cracks are continually widening. We've seen many changes in these short ten years of A.P.P.L.E. seminars, these long ten years of Lithuanian freedom.

I won't forget the smile on Palmira's face every time that we entered the dining hall at the Teacher Institute in Vilnius. I won't forget the beauty of the excitement on Anele's face as she herded us off on yet another tour around Vilnius. I won't forget the peace and sweetness on Maryte's face the first time that we talked at length as I stood there amazed at her excellent English. I won't forget the grace and style with which Vilma stood as she translated on many occasions. I won't forget the many "keepers of the keys" in every place where we lived and every place where we taught.

I won't forget the way that we were always showered with gifts. We were given flowers for our desks, our rooms, our hair; amber for our necklines, fingers and wrists; linen for our tables; postcards for our memories; leatherbound books in which to write our impressions; adventures for our journals; smiles for our spirits; songs for our souls.

I won't forget talent night in Taurage in 1997 when Gita arranged for the American A.P.P.L.E. group to show



Translators Vilma Backiute (front) and Diana Jurgeleviciute-Karanauskienė at the A.P.P.L.E. bonfire in Birštonas, 1993.

our varied heritage and sing our patriotic songs. It started out as a funny kind of thing with the American teachers on stage in crazy costumes. Among others were Ilona Laucius as Ben Franklin and Nyola Romanauskas Vaillancourt as George Washington. True to our American culture, we didn't know enough of the words to sing without the words in front of us. Nevertheless, as we clutched our papers, our voices were strong. When we began "America the Beautiful" (not our last number), the Lithuanians rose to their feet, tears in their eyes, reverence on their faces. There they stood for the longest time, and there we stood, singing in the midst of pure joy.

I could write enough memories to fill this entire newsletter. I haven't mentioned watching John Sullivan do the hula or lounging by the cucumber king's pool. I didn't tell about the fun of playing children's games or the excitement of hearing Lithuanians sing American songs or watching them perform the American square dances that I had taught them. I skipped over the description of the beautiful Lithuanian skies and countryside. I didn't remind you of how often we were feted with wonderful parties.

Maybe it's selfish on my part, but I don't remember so much of what I gave. My fondest memories are of the joy I received. Years of working with A.P.P.L.E. have filled my life with joy, over and over again.

—Katie Hoyle

ACTION RESEARCH COMES TO LITHUANIA

Dr. Antanas Valantinas, our Psychology Focus Group Chair in Vilnius had this to say in an e-mail last January: "I think it's necessary and worthwhile considering how A.P.P.L.E. could satisfy Lithuania's ever-increasing needs. I personally am pleased that we are talking about quality

and more serious and in-depth seminars. I think that the kind of courses that were being offered a few years ago are still needed in Eastern Lithuania, but other locations need seminars in which the Lithuanian educator would not merely listen, but also do some serious work (in other words—*put the plow to the soil*.)"

We listened and heard Antanas as well as the other A.P.P.L.E. focus groups. Many of them encouraged us to expand our scope into higher education, into educational research, to present programs that are not limited to a week or two. This is how this past summer's Action Research experiment was born.

Action Research is a systematic, disciplined procedure by which teachers and other school persons study their own practice. It is a teacher-directed research methodology that is now routinely taught at American, Canadian, British and Australian schools, primarily at the Master's degree level. It is intended not for those graduate students who intend to go on to doctoral studies and become researchers, but those who want to enhance their own practice. Usually qualitative research methods are employed, but quantitative methods are not excluded. This type of research is almost unknown in Lithuanian educational circles.

We first approached institutions that train teachers to be our partners in this new and ambitious project. The Kaunas University of Technology and the Vilnius Pedagogical University immediately expressed their support and committed to find doctoral students in education who would participate in the project. Eventually they were joined by graduate students from Siauliai, Klaipeda and Vilnius Universities. These Lithuanian doctoral students now are mentoring the Lithuanian teachers who agreed to conduct research during the current school year. Each doctoral student has been assigned a specific school team.

The Ministry of Education and Science, together with the Lithuanian Educators' In-Service Institute, invited teams from 13 secondary schools throughout Lithuania to participate in the Action Research seminar. Each team consisted of five educators representing these areas of specialization: administration, social studies, language arts, music, special education, social work or psychology.

Each morning Dr. Jessie Roderick lectured to the entire group about the basic principles of Action Research: how to formulate a research question; how to collect, examine and analyze data; how to present the outcome. In the afternoons Dr. Roderick worked with the doctoral students discussing problems that they may encounter when mentoring the teachers, how to guide the Action Research process, etc.

After the morning lectures, all of the participants split into smaller groups to discuss the lectures or assigned readings. Many examples of Action Research were translated from English into Lithuanian, adding greatly to the cost of the project. However, the investment was certainly

worthwhile. An entirely new dimension is added to the learning experience when written documents can be analyzed and discussed.

After lunch teachers, doctoral students and the American lecturers met in their respective subject area groups to analyze examples of Action Research in their specific areas and to write actual research proposals. Dr. Louise Berman and Yve Susskind worked with social studies teachers. Dr. Cherie Stellaccio and Margo Hall—with music teachers; Dr. Joyce Wienczek and Dr. Lisa Frankes—language arts teachers; Dr. Phil Taylor and Dr. Barbara Henriques—school administrators; and Dr. Carol Toris, Dr. Judy Kugelmass and Dr. Dennis Ritchie—school psychologists, social workers and special education specialists. There was one lecturer and one interpreter for every five or six students, so the possibilities for one-on-one interaction were greatly increased.

I've worked with A.P.P.L.E. for eight summers, but I don't think I've ever witnessed such intensity or such dramatic change during any other of our two-week seminars. When the teachers arrived and heard what would be expected of them, most of them were either incredulous or bewildered, some even rebellious, probably regretting that they ever agreed to do this. After two weeks and tremendous teamwork on the part of our lecturers and doctoral students, the teachers left elated and enthusiastic. Everyone was talking about coming back next summer to share his or her research projects with each other. In two weeks those teachers had come to perceive themselves differently—they understood that they are the most capable researchers of their own situations.

You do not necessarily need scientists with thick resumes to analyze your environment and your situation. Having the right skills and tools, we all have the responsibility to analyze that which occurs in our classrooms and in our schools and to engage in critical self-reflection and analysis instead of basing our actions on mere intuition and tradition. Teachers, administrators, social workers and psychologists involved in a particular learning environment understand the complex dynamics of that environment differently than outside researchers do. On Friday of week two, we faced a roomful of teachers who had internalized this, who were no longer afraid of the task, and who were willing to embrace the challenge.

We're looking forward to hearing what the Lithuanian teachers and their mentors have been up to during the school year. If our budget permits, we hope to send some of the American lecturers to Lithuania during the school year to work with them, and we will meet next July to witness the fruits of their labor. We even have begun discussing the possibility of publishing the translated materials, as well as the research projects themselves, with the help of the Kaunas Technological University Institute of Education. We'll keep you informed on the progress of the Action Research project in future issues of our newsletter.

I think that the American lecturers also were impacted by the experience. Yve Susskind's observations, "A Meeting of Histories," is the next article.

Cherie Stellaccio dropped me a note saying: "This was the most intense of my three years (or did I say that in '96 too?) . . . The most positive aspect of the trip was the close work we did with students during the action research seminar. I really got a better understanding of their problems and how they think about themselves as teachers, their students, curriculum, etc. I gained much more empathy with the students. It would be wonderful if all sessions could be "formatted" the way the action research seminar was, so that we could always get closer to our students."

Dr. Louise Berman spoke recently at a conference in Cincinnati and said this of her experience: "Work with A.P.P.L.E. involves risk on the parts of A.P.P.L.E.'s leaders and those who teach with the organization. That risking, however, is rewarded with generosity of spirit, receptivity to new ideas, and patience and compassion by a large number of those dedicated to opening up conversation to research possibilities contributing to more democratic educational thought."

Last summer A.P.P.L.E. took a plunge into some uncharted waters. But Lithuania's teachers have been doing that for the last nine years! It's uncomfortable, but only at first. It feels wonderful once you realize that you're sailing in the right direction.

—Emilija Sakadolskis

A MEETING OF HISTORIES

Last summer, on one of our days off, seven of us went on a six-hour tour of Jewish Vilnius. It was possibly the best tour that I have ever experienced.

Our tour guide, Yulick Gurvich, who speaks Lithuanian, English, Yiddish, Hebrew and Russian was born in Vilnius after the Second World War. His parents, amazingly, escaped to Russia, managed to survive, then returned to Vilnius when the war was over, and the Nazis had gone. Yulick has studied Jewish history and English and has been to Israel, where his parents now live, many times. He is one of an international movement of Jewish educators on the Diaspora and an activist of the small Jewish community here (virtually all of whom returned after the war), helping revitalize the community and make sure that its history is learned and remembered.

We started out at the Paneriai Forest—the site where 100,000 Jews were taken from the center of the city by trains, marched into pits and shot to death. Our knowledgeable guide explained three plaques on one of the many memorials, which has a different inscription in each language. The Hebrew and Yiddish inscription, written after independence from the Soviets in the 1990s, memorializes "the death of 100,000 Lithuanians, 70,000 of whom

were Jews, at the hands of the Nazis and their Lithuanian accomplices.” The Russian and Lithuanian inscriptions from the same era say the same thing, but leave out the part about Lithuanian accomplices. And the inscription written during Soviet times mourns “the death of 100,000 Soviet citizens at the hands of the Hitlerites and Fascists,” but says nothing about Jews or accomplices!

While at the pits, suddenly a train went by. I will never hear the sound of a train the same way again.

After Paneriai we visited the only remaining Jewish cemetery. There had been three, but two were destroyed by the Soviets—a sports complex was built on one, and the headstones were made into sidewalks. Many of the headstones have been returned to the Jewish community since independence was restored.

We then visited several other sites and ended our tour in the Jewish Quarter of Old Town. Jews had lived there since the Middle Ages, when they were invited to Lithuania by its Grand Duke as a progressive strategy in state development. During the Second World War, it became the site of the Jewish ghetto.

The tour was fascinating. I have rarely learned so much history, with all its controversy, in such a short period of time. I took many photos and notes, which a friend and I hope to put on the Web.

While still in Lithuania, I sent an e-mail describing the tour to my Dad. He e-mailed back a note with an important point: “I also think that it is important not to see it through a purely Jewish lens. After all 40 million Soviet citizens really were killed. There is too much tribalism in the world.” This reminder from Dad reminds me of an interesting and very heated discussion that we had in my Action Research seminar class. We were discussing document analysis as a research method in social studies, and I offered teachers the example of the different inscriptions on the monument. I had made a poster of the inscriptions, translated into Lithuanian, so that the teachers could see the differences in each language. I asked them to try to determine who had written each inscription, when it was written, from what perspective and with what motive (what did they want you to believe?).

This generated a great discussion representing a variety of perspectives—from the victimization of Jews and Anti-Semitism throughout history in Lithuania and this area of the world, to the defense of Lithuania on the grounds that Lithuania itself is a victim of international scapegoating, to the fact that, just as there were Lithuanian accomplices of the Nazis, there also were many Lithuanians who protected and hid Jews. We talked about how each of the different inscriptions on the monument left out a piece of the truth and what damage can be done by this.

For example, because the Jewish version leaves out references to Lithuanian resistance to the Nazis and to the later Soviet killings of Lithuanians, hatred of Lithuanians can be generated among Jews. Likewise, for Lithuanians to leave out the reality of Lithuanian accomplices simplifies history

and removes the urgency to root out Anti-Semitism which still exists. We also talked about how each perspective represented in the discussion was true and valid, yet all were different interpretations of history. It was very enlightening, and I believe that we all left with a richer understanding of history and personal responsibility.

—Yve Susskind

A WORD FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT

Most of you probably have heard by now that, as of August 1999, I have officially become the president-elect of A.P.P.L.E. I take on my new position with a great deal of humility and thought that I might share with you some of my reasons for doing so.

As you can well imagine, I did not assume the task lightly. I did a great deal of soul-searching and praying before I would accept Emilija’s invitation. For one thing, I wasn’t exactly sitting around with extra time on my hands, looking for something to do. Working full-time as computer services coordinator at a secondary school, directing a Lithuanian folk ensemble, preparing an English segment for the local Lithuanian radio hour—just to mention a few of my regular activities—all keep me rather busy. But then I thought to myself that the other members of A.P.P.L.E. are equally as busy and over extended. This would not hold up as an excuse to decline the invitation.

Even more than the time commitment, I questioned my ability to live up to the challenge of the task. And who wouldn’t, following in the footsteps of Vaiva Vebra and Emilija Sakadolskis? Both of these women have been visionaries in their leadership roles for A.P.P.L.E. Vaiva’s passion and inspiration mobilized the efforts of hundreds of people in the United States and Canada to work toward a brighter future for the children of Lithuania. She dedicated eight years to establishing and continuing the work of A.P.P.L.E. We couldn’t imagine the organization without Vaiva, and yet here we are, moving ahead, keeping up with the ever more sophisticated needs of Lithuania’s teachers under the brilliant leadership of Emilija. She has given us great hope and new direction. Why even my role as president-elect is part of her new proposal for a smoother, more efficient transferral of leadership roles. So how do I dare to tread in the footsteps of these two daunting predecessors?

To some degree, the Good Lord has blessed me with a profound naivete. I don’t always see clearly that I am not supposed to be able to do certain things. When I was just a child, I told my mother that I would like to live in Paris and in Lithuania. My mother (God bless her dreaming heart) assured me that I would be able to do so. I remember that my father got very upset with her. How could she fill my head with ideas that were both financially and politically impossible? It was during my junior year abroad in Paris in 1971-72 that I first visited Lithuania. And still

the naivete did not leave me. After doing a postgraduate fellowship in Vilnius in 1973-74, I came back to the U.S. and founded Sodauto, the Lithuanian Folk Ensemble of Greater Boston. It wasn't until years later that I realized that I should have had a degree in music or ethnomusicology to be qualified for my avocation.

To make matters worse, this innate naivete is coupled with an almost perverse habit of suddenly redefining myself and assuming jobs for which I am, technically speaking, not qualified. I majored in French to become a teacher of French, but the first permanent position offered to me was to be a teacher of English. So I took it. After 15 years, after I had gotten my master's in the art of teaching English, after I had become head of the department, I suddenly decided to apply for the position of computer services coordinator at our school. Needless to say, the administration was somewhat worried about my "stability" at first. But I convinced them, and here I am five years later.

So what gives me the courage to take on the role of president of A.P.P.L.E.? Is it the naivete? Is it another attempt to define myself? It may be a smattering of both and yet a great deal more. If I had to explain my reasons, I would give most of the credit to faith and gratitude. To begin with, I have faith in our mission to improve the educational experience for the children of Lithuania. I have been with A.P.P.L.E. since its inception, and, although the needs have been evolving, they are still very great in Lithuania. Next, I have faith in all of you. Just as we rallied around Emilija when Vaiva stepped down, I believe that I will experience the same kind of support when it comes to be my turn to serve you. Finally, I have faith in the divine Spirit who has never failed to guide and sustain me during my lifetime.

Likewise, I face my new task with a profound sense of gratitude to you. When I think of the love and dedication that each one of you gives to our common goal, I can only thank you for being an inspiration to me over the last nine years. I will make no claims about living up to the legacy of Vaiva and Emilija, but I will pledge to serve you with a willing heart. It will be a privilege to do so. God bless you, and keep the faith!

—Gita Kupcinskas

SUMMER IN SALCININKAI

A group of us were fortunate enough to be assigned this summer to the town of Salcininkai, located in the southeastern corner of Lithuania. The two-week teacher-training session was held at the New Lithuanian Regional School of the Millennium. It is a modern school with light and airy classrooms that hold about 30 students. The large auditorium seats over 800 people. At present the school has 702 students and 36 teachers. In 1998 almost 100% of the graduating class continued their studies either at the University, at the Police Academy or at medical school.

On Thursday night during the first week of classes,

the Lithuanian teachers welcomed the A.P.P.L.E. teachers in a unique way. Each class presented an original skit based on the theme of their course. Each situation was innovative and humorous. They had us rolling on the floor—both literally and figuratively!

One day when Marie Nelson and I had some free time, we decided to visit the town library. There we received a wonderful tour of all three floors, where we found books in Russian, Polish and English as well as Lithuanian. On the third floor, where the periodicals were housed, we found *National Geographic*s dating from 1984. I put my fractured Russian language skills to use and for a while even gave German a try. Anyway, it seemed to work because we understood each other.

I was glad when the principal of the school offered to give us an evening tour of the facilities available at his school since our first trip was to be to the library. It was small compared to the town library but very cheerful, light and airy. The principal told us that when they first opened the library, there were no books. However, in the last four years, they have acquired 10,000 books, mostly in Lithuanian and some in English.

We also toured the big gymnasium, the locker rooms, the physics and astrology rooms. I say rooms because, as yet, they have no lab or equipment and no money to buy such necessities. The ingenious physics teacher built her own little miniature lab so that she could show some of the experiments mentioned in the text to her classes. It's amazing what the teachers in Lithuania can do with what they have available. This school even has its own little geology museum thanks to the geology teacher who runs it. She started this museum with her own collection six years ago. This is one of the few schools in Lithuania that has its own museum. It was interesting to see the home



The EFL teachers in Salcininkai on
Talent Night.
Photo by Grace Wylie

economics classrooms too. It has two very modern stoves with Corning glass tops, a small microwave, and other modern equipment and utensils. Both boys and girls are learning how to cook. The girls also have sewing classes, and if the girls want to, they can take woodshop along with the boys. As the principal said, "We are preparing our young people for the 21st Cent cy."

The school has a very nice cafeteria for the students and teachers. We had all our meals there, and they were wonderful. We had plenty of food and variety. The kitchen staff went out of their way to please us. They were also very helpful when the A.P.P.L.E. teachers needed to prepare special dishes for the International Food Fair Evening. The teachers who weren't preparing food were ready to lend a helping hand to those who were struggling with

oversized pots and pans. Needless to say, the Food Fair was a great success. We just need to prepare more food for next year!

From my personal observation, I feel that there was a lot of camaraderie and cooperation among the A.P.P.L.E. teachers. There was also a lot of constructive interaction among the teachers who participated in this two-week session. I always feel so uplifted when I work with the teachers in Lithuania. They are like sponges—eager to soak up whatever you offer them and so appreciative of what you give them in time, knowledge and materials. Moreover, being away from A.P.P.L.E. for three years, I was delighted to see some of the old (and young) familiar faces. It's as though I'm returning to visit my family; that is a wonderful feeling. May that feeling continue to flow

From the President's desk:

Now Is NOT THE TIME TO SIT BACK

Because the U.S. economy is doing so well, I think that many of us assume that the world around us is doing likewise. Sadly, it's just not true. The positive economic and social trends that Lithuania experienced in the last three or four years have come to an abrupt halt, and things are spiraling downward. The Russian economy, government instability and mismanagement, corruption and an unwieldy tax system have all had their impact. I just received an e-mail from a friend and colleague who said that this January will probably be the worst in recent memory. Rumor has it that many government employees will be forced to take unpaid leave before the end of 1999, and the 2000 education budget will be slashed another 17%. This is in addition to the sizable across-the-board cut that the budget experienced this past year. We also bear the effects of these decisions. The Ministry of Education and Science cut A.P.P.L.E. financing by 25% for the summer of 2000. No ill will should be presumed, considering the Ministry's sad state of financial affairs. Some other foreign assistance programs have been cut entirely.

To add to the mix, many foreign assistance programs are closing up shop in Lithuania. The Soros Foundation is discontinuing most of its programs in Lithuania, and the USAID office is closing in September. There are others as well. It's not because of disputes or disagreements. When these programs were established, there was never any intention to have them last forever. It's just unfortunate that their discontinuation coincides with Lithuania's economic recession.

During our 1999 "Children at Risk" conference, an interesting statistic was put forth. One way of measuring economic conditions is to look at the ratio of the top 10% in comparison with the bottom 10% of a country in terms of the population's finances. In Europe the ratio is about 4:1. Many in the United States decry the difference between the "haves" and the "have nots" because the ratio here is about 7:1. In Lithuania it's 15:1, with no sizable middle class. The problems that accompany economic want are mounting. Teen violence, delinquency and suicides, truancy, child abuse, nutritional and health deficiencies are all on the rise.

Now is not the time to become complacent. Yet this past summer we collected fewer scholarships for Lithuanian teachers than in previous years. We actually had to dip into our nonscholarship budget to cover the difference. During the past year our members have generated some very innovative and creative proposals. Yet these require much more money if we are to continue striving for higher quality and greater scope. Lithuania has been asking us for more long-term programs, but we can't make those commitments if we do not have an adequate financial base. We can no longer be content with small donations, although their importance should not be minimized. We all need to go out aggressively and find grant-giving organizations that will fund some of our ambitious ideas.

After ten years we have the expertise; we have the ideas; and we have the human resources to do exceptional things. What we're short on is the financial means. We ask all of our members to take on the responsibility of finding financial support for an organization whose mission is the betterment of the personal and professional lives of students and teachers in Lithuania. There is no other way.

—Emilija Sakadolskis

through all of us who are fortunate enough to be embraced by A.P.P.L.E.

—Grace Wylie

VEISIEJAI—THE ENGLISH CAMP

Three EFL (English as a Foreign Language) teachers from A.P.P.L.E., Zivile Rawson, Mary Ellen Page and I taught at the English Youth Camp in Veisiejai, a beautiful scenic area (population 2,778) surrounded by forests and lakes. We worked with students from about 13 years old to 16 years old and with Lithuanian teachers of English. Skirmante Stasenaite (known as Skirma to all of us) was in charge of setting up the camp program and activities. She was assisted by Nijole Karaskaite. Moira Uggla, an EFL teacher from Sweden, also taught classes with us.

The four of us worked with the students in English classes in the morning. In the afternoon we gave lectures and workshops to the Lithuanian teachers. The students were divided into beginning (low and high), intermediate and advanced levels. We decided to rotate these groups so that we would all have a chance to work with the different levels and so the students could be with different teachers. The Lithuanian teachers were assigned to groups, too, so that they could rotate along with their group and be with different levels and different teachers.

Amanda and Algirdas Muliolis worked in the computer lab with the students in the afternoon. Their project was to produce their own English language newspaper for the camp. The students did quite a good job of interviewing and reporting on activities.

We were very impressed with our students. Their use of English, especially in the intermediate and advanced group, was better than we had anticipated. They were anxious to participate in class and to speak in English. It was a joy to work with them because they were such courteous and well-mannered students. I, personally, had a great time teaching the girls how to dance “The Macarena,” “The Electric Slide” and “The Chicago Shuffle” in preparation for their dance act in the closing ceremony. They wouldn’t let the boys attend this after-school activity because they wanted it to be a girls’ dance team! They did an excellent job; they were the Veisiejai Camp Rockettes!

Our last night at camp, the students and teachers gathered around a huge campfire in the woods by the lake. As we roasted long, thin sausages over the fire, students talked about their families and their academic plans for the future. After the closing ceremony on Friday, the students gathered around the van to say their “good-byes.” For me it was quite an enjoyable experience working with students this age after being with university students for so many years.

—Grace Wylie

REGIONAL ONE-WEEK SEMINARS

Regional A.P.P.L.E. one-week seminars have become very popular in Lithuania in the past few years. Last summer there were 14 regional seminars held in various small villages and towns.

The idea of a one-week seminar came to me while visiting the small village of Dieveniskes in 1995. While a two-week A.P.P.L.E. seminar was held in Trakai, the principal of Dieveniskes elementary school invited a group of A.P.P.L.E. instructors for a visit to her school, which was a few hours drive away. The sleepy village is located near the Belarus border. The Lithuanian border patrol stopped our minibus for inspection, but after a few questions, he motioned the driver to continue. Soon we pulled up in front of a well-kept, white-brick building, with two wings on both ends of the building extending to the back. We were directed to the right-side wing, because that was the Lithuanian school; the left wing was occupied by the Polish school and the middle by the Russian school. For the first time many of us began to realize the multi-ethnicity and multiculturalism that exists under this roof. (One of our objectives at the seminar in Trakai was to present methods for Multicultural Education and teaching Lithuanian language to students who do not speak it.)

After the tour of the school, we were invited for supper. The teachers prepared the best “zepelinai.” (A Lithuanian national dish, grated potato dumplings stuffed with ground beef—mmm good!) The principal expressed her regrets that none of her staff were attending the two-week seminar in Trakai. During the dinner conversation we learned that many of the teachers are also farmers and cannot leave their farms unattended for such a long time. Our seminars are held during the peak of the berry-picking, mushroom-gathering and pickling season. These things are necessary in order to feed their families throughout the year. I understood then that the only way to reach the teachers in faraway places is if we go there ourselves.

Our first venture was into the region of Kaunas with my friend and colleague Vida Anton, who is also bilingual. We did not have to advertise the benefits of this short seminar, aimed to satisfy local teachers’ needs; it just mushroomed. The low cost of financing such seminars makes it very attractive. The Ministry of Education in Vilnius does not incur much expense; it just serves as the initial contact. The budget for the Ministry was cut several times this past year, as was the case for all other government offices. Local boards of education, which assume the cost of housing, feeding and transporting two or three



Irena Gedris - Giedraitis

instructors, find local sponsors, if their budget is spent.

Through regional seminars A.P.P.L.E. instructors have an opportunity to learn more about the local people, their regional history and places of interest, songs and dance and their local dialect—if you speak Lithuanian. All teachers at the seminars express their great appreciation to the A.P.P.L.E. organization for sending us to such faraway, little corners of Lithuania. They say, “Thank you for not forgetting us.” And this is why we always come back!

—Irena Gedris-Giedraitis

MEMORIES FROM MAZEIKIAI

The annual hassle of holiday preparations makes many dread the ritual of sending Christmas cards. Each card that you send and receive contains either (a) only the writer's signature unless that too is “personalized,” (b) a short generic greeting such as “happy holidays from Buffy and Ben” or (c) the Christmas letter detailing the peaks and valleys of the last 12 months in the sender's life. But since my first A.P.P.L.E. summer in 1992, the exchange of holiday greetings with members of the A.P.P.L.E. corps has included snapshots from the previous summer's A.P.P.L.E. courses. These photos are priceless reminders of the people, places and events that make each A.P.P.L.E. seminar unique and unforgettable.

As I look at each of my photos from last summer's Lithuanian adventure, I am reminded that Mazeikiai '99 was truly a magical blend of good weather, comfortable housing, delicious food, a competent local support staff, a group of enthusiastic Lithuanian educators, and a creative team of A.P.P.L.E. teachers who brought fresh ideas, boundless energy, positive attitudes and a willingness to be flexible.

The A.P.P.L.E. team included a spicy mix of experienced returnees (notice I did not use the term “old-timers”). Ilona, Vida, Gailute, Julius, Cherie, Amanda, Algis, Aldona and I helped the newcomers adjust to the meat, cheese and pancake diet worked off at regular intervals by folk dancing, walks between the school and the hotel, and the opportunity to present “Choice Lectures” in addition to the regular teaching load.

Those newcomers were a collection of talented and innovative individuals, who quickly became valued members of the Corps. My picture memories contain a shot of Gerry and Glenn making cookies in the kitchen while the amused cooks watched the crazy Americans create chocolate-chip delicacies. The next picture of Glenn has him dressed as the “Cowardly Lion” standing beside Neringa, the “Scarecrow,” looking for her brain. Here is Linda M. in her witch outfit and Linda A. in her “Cat in the Hat” nightshirt dressed for her starring role as the narrator in the Mazeikiai version of “The Wizard of Oz.” General Lecturers, JoAnn and Britt, presented a series of Cooperative Learning lectures that held the audience's interest for the entire two weeks!

The Catholic School Strand, taught by Sister June Clare and Vivian, kept us morally on course while Amanda, Stase, Aldona and Algis prepared us for the new millennium with their computer instruction. Cherie, Dave and Dorothy, Peter, Mary Ellen, the two Lindas and Jayshree rounded out the newcomer group with clever, creative and thought-provoking presentations.

The places that we visited included a wonderful weekend in Riga, a city of rare beauty, historic turbulence and great shopping. We spent a music-filled evening on an estate near Mazeikiai. We walked through the historic part of Mazeikiai and listened to Ilona reminisce about taking her first communion at the old red-brick church days before her family escaped the invading military forces. Of course, no journey between Vilnius and Mazeikiai would be complete without a stop at the Hill of Crosses. We arrived in the middle of a High Mass attended by thousands of devout worshippers. We found the festive atmosphere delightful, with many food stalls and even more opportunities to purchase souvenirs and religious relics of every description.

Three events stand out in the collection of Mazeikiai snapshots. The first was the hugely successful International Buffet. Even Eddie Murphy advertised the event as a not-to-be-missed gourmet occasion. Vida provided decorations, patriotic music and charismatic leadership to get the rest of the Americans to prepare their finest culinary delights. The evening reminded me of the parable of the loaves and the fishes. Never before have so many teachers been fed so well on onion soup, jello, salsa and chocolate-chip cookies.

Skit night featured themed presentations by each strand. Again the unforgettable photo captures Glenn in yet another costume. This time he appeared as a large green worm crawling out of the Pre-School Strand's big yellow



*Thank Heaven for Little Girls
Photo by Phil Taylor*

apple. The audience favorite of the evening was the American production of "The Wizard of Oz," written and directed by Linda A. and her talented staff of writers, singers and costumers. Even Dorothy appeared wearing red shoes and carrying Toto.

The final event that brings back fond memories of Mazeikiai was not a single happening but occurred most evenings just after sunset as we gathered on the front steps of "Viesbutis." We shared stories of the day, gossiped about the romance that was blooming among the interpreters, and discussed whether we wanted to walk to the store for ice cream, visit the cafe in the hotel basement for a beer or a cup of coffee, or stroll across the street to the sidewalk cafe for music and conversation.

I've saved my favorite photo for last. Picture if you will five little girls, ranging in age from 5 to 7, sitting on the front steps of the school as we arrive early one morning. They wore sandals, playclothes and the most amazing smiles. It's as if they were saying: "We're ready for school. We're excited about the future. We're glad you're here." That picture and all the others in my Mazeikiai collection make fond memories of last summer's A.P.P.L.E. seminar. They also fill me with anticipation of the people, places and events that await the A.P.P.L.E. corps in the new millennium.

—K. Phillip Taylor

WE'VE BEEN NETWORKING

This fall we've had some good opportunities to tell others about our work and our plans.

An international conference in Cincinnati

On October 7 Dr. Jessie Roderick, Dr. Louise Berman and yours truly gave a presentation titled "Action Research as a Vehicle for Educational Change" at the Fourth International Education Conference *Educating for Global Responsibility: A Mandate for the Third Millennium* at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio. There is a good possibility that our papers will be published in the *International Journal of Curriculum & Instruction*.

It was a refreshing weekend during which we heard about educational programs from the far ends of this planet. After our presentation several representatives from Asian and South American countries approached us to ask if A.P.P.L.E. would consider expanding to their countries, as they like the concept so well! I reiterated one of my firm beliefs: The success of A.P.P.L.E. is largely due to a progressively deepening understanding of the needs of our target country. I suggested that they look for educators of their own national background in the United States and elsewhere who could spearhead similar initiatives, based on their specific cultural context.

An expanding relationship with the University of Maryland

At the end of October, I received a call from the Col-

lege of Education of the University of Maryland College Park. Each year they visit an embassy in Washington, D.C., to find out more about the culture and educational system of that country, and Lithuania was chosen for the spring of 2000.

Our friend and colleague at the Lithuanian Embassy, First Secretary Rita Kazragiene, pointed the College representative in A.P.P.L.E.'s direction, and I proceeded to tell the surprised caller that the University of Maryland has already been extensively involved with Lithuanian education! In addition to myself, professors and graduate students from the School of Music, Dr. Roger Folstrom, Dr. Marie McCarthy, Dr. Cherie Stellaccio, Margo Hall and Kelly McKay have all gone as lecturers. Emerita professors from the College of Education, Dr. Jessie Roderick and Dr. Louise Berman were key players in this past summer's Action Research project. Also, the Department of International Relations provided financial aid for Lithuanian music educators Laima Bakiene and Vytis Buivydavicius to attend the University of Maryland's Charles Fowler Colloquium, dedicated to arts education, in April of this year.

We proceeded to get together for an exploratory meeting with representatives from the College of Education in November to see how we might formalize the partnership and create some long-term mechanisms for cooperation. We'll keep you posted on developments.

An accounting of gifts to Lithuania

On November 5-7 the Lithuanian Human Services Council of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., hosted a conference titled "Gift to Lithuania" in Arlington, Virginia, to summarize the work that has been done in providing humanitarian assistance to Lithuania since the restoration of independence in 1990. More than twenty organizations were represented. Ilona Laucius and myself represented A.P.P.L.E. Eighteen organizations provided data on volunteer hours and dollars delivered during the last ten years. The figures were truly impressive. The grand total of volunteer hours was calculated at 181,850, and the dollar value of cash and materials at \$153,833,010. It's impossible to give an accurate accounting of A.P.P.L.E.'s input, but the conservative figures that I provided were these: 50,000 volunteer hours and \$600,000, which includes educational materials, scholarships and travel costs.

I met with representatives of organizations that I had not even known about, and discovered that several of them could well be our partners in future endeavors. An organization called "Child's Gate to Learning" (Rita Vencloviene, President) provides services to children at risk, including quality after-school programs. The Lithuanian Women's Federation Southern Connecticut Greenwich Chapter (Nijole Valaitis, President) was established in May of this year to help train orphanage personnel to facilitate the mental development of the preschoolers in their care. "Books for Lithuania" (Albert J. Gustaff, President) has been collecting used textbooks and sending them to Lithuania. We've had a

close working relationship with Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid in New York for several years, and Lithuanian Mercy Lift (Jurgis Lendraitis, President) approached us during the conference about a possible partnership in health education. We also ran into A.P.P.L.E. lecturer Jack Irwin, representing "Operation Snowball," whose purpose is to assist in the establishment of mentoring groups for the prevention of drug, tobacco and alcohol use in teens. We'd be glad to provide you with contact information, if you would like to find out more about these various organizations.

As an introduction to the Conference proceedings, Vaclovas Kleiza, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Lithuania (Chicago), gave a very interesting overview of humanitarian aid provided by Americans to Lithuania from the beginning of independence in 1918 until 1940. It is estimated that \$200 million in aid came from the United States during this 20-year period. Some of it came from non-Lithuanian sources, such as the American Red Cross or Catholic parishes, but most was collected by blue-collar Lithuanian Americans, many of whom made less than \$2.00 a day working in coal mines, factories or stock yards. In today's money that sum would be valued at \$4 billion. So by comparison, we still have some catching up to do!

The Deputy Minister is coming to town

As we go to press, we're preparing for the visit of Lithuania's Deputy Minister of Education and Science (as well as A.P.P.L.E.'s Immediate Past President), Vaiva Vebra, in Washington, D.C. Her packed schedule includes meetings at the Department of State, the Department of Education, the World Bank, the University of Maryland College Park, Gallaudet University and several NGOs.

Let us know if you've had the opportunity to talk about A.P.P.L.E. at a conference, a funding organization, or your local club or parish. Our best advertising is the networking of colleagues, so keep us informed of your efforts.

—Emilia Sakadolskis

NEW AND REVISED BROCHURES!

A.P.P.L.E. now has three (!) brochures for distribution. All are in full color with lots of valuable information inside.

It's all Monita Leavitt's (Science Chairman) fault. She prodded us to begin serious work in this area, by preparing an A.P.P.L.E. Scholarship & Stipend brochure. Inside are "Facts about A.P.P.L.E.", including information about how much Lithuanian teachers earn (precious little by our standards), how a mere \$30 contribution to the "Scholarship Fund" can help a teacher pay for room and board at an A.P.P.L.E. seminar and how a \$150 contribution to the "Stipend Fund" can help provide qualified interpreters for our instructors. In addition, the brochure contains a list of A.P.P.L.E. subjects ("What we Teach"), information about our Website, an update about A.P.P.L.E.'99 seminars, plans for the 10th anniversary program and membership information. The cover sports

a trio of Lithuanian children dressed in national costume.

Monita's initiative resulted in the decision to make a major purchase. A.P.P.L.E. took the plunge and is now proud owner of a Tektronix color laser printer. It enables us to print brochures in quantities needed and to update the information as warranted, which for us is a much more cost effective way of printing than paying the big bucks to a commercial printer.

We are now reaping the rewards of this new capability. We recently prepared a 10th anniversary year general information brochure in both English and Lithuanian.

Inside the English-language version are sections called "Who we are," "What we teach" (updated with news about last summer's program and plans for next summer), "Where we work" (including a map of Lithuania and facts about the country and its educational system) and "The A.P.P.L.E. Mission" statement. It also contains membership and Website information.

The Lithuanian-language version contains a brief history of A.P.P.L.E. and information about summer programs, volunteers, finances and plans for the year 2000 and beyond. "The A.P.P.L.E. Mission" statement is printed on the back together with membership and Website information.

Both the English and Lithuanian versions sport a cover photograph of Myra Goodwin (Special Education Chairman) working with an autistic child at the Pasaka camp last summer.

All three brochures are available to our members in limited quantities, because even though laser printing is considerably less expensive than a commercial printer, it is by no means cheap. So think carefully about how many that you may need between now and next summer. Let us know. We'll fire up the "ole laser" and brew up a batch.

Let us know how many brochures that you need by writing to: Romas Sakadolskis, 9509 Ocala Street, Silver Spring, MD 20901-3049. Indicate the brochures that you wish to receive—Scholarship/Stipend, Information-English or Information-Lithuanian—and how many of each.

CHILDREN AT RISK IN THE YEAR 2000

For the new millennium A.P.P.L.E. is planning three weeks of exciting activities. New for this year is a conference, *Children at Risk*, that will focus on social issues that hinder education. A critical element of the conference will be interdisciplinary participation. Having social workers, law enforcement officers, school administrators, teachers, tutors and local government officials work together at the conference will reinforce the value of collaboration.

It would be a mistake to try to impose U.S. solutions on Lithuanian problems. Ultimately, our Lithuanian col-



The Children At Risk planning meeting in August, 1999 at Carol Toris' cabin in the western NC mountains wasn't all work. Her husband, David, barbecued up a fine meal. Shown here after the meeting are (seated, left to right) Katie Dunlap and Emilija Sakadolskis and (standing, left to right) George Bostian, David Battey, and Katie Hoyle.
Photo by Carol Toris

leagues must discover uniquely Lithuanian solutions. However, a number of effective curricula have been created in the U.S. We want to share these with our colleagues and help them adapt these programs for their own use. Some of the programs that we are considering include a tool that measures individual and community risk and protective factors, a violence-prevention program called *Making Choices* and a program that builds community assets. We also plan to teach short courses in substance abuse, child mental disorders, suicide prevention and the arts in education.

All participants will attend general lectures on special topics. This will provide a common way of understanding and talking about complex problems. Participants will meet by discipline each day to learn new approaches and practice new skills. Participants also will meet in small groups that cut across disciplines. Each small group will cover one geographic region so that participants can begin to develop solutions in the form of action research proposals.

Over the last ten years since A.P.P.L.E. was established, our organization has trained thousands of Lithuanian teachers to develop curricula and manage their classrooms. It is now time for A.P.P.L.E. to add a new focus: addressing the social problems that prevent children from learning. We are very excited at the prospect of beginning this new focus this year with our *Children At Risk Conference*.

—Katie Dunlap

FROM PARTICIPANT TO LECTURER

My first experience with A.P.P.L.E. took place in the summer of 1993. I had begun a new job at the Music Education Center, and my first assignment was to help with the translation of a few official documents dealing with American music education. These translations were going to be needed as handouts for the A.P.P.L.E. seminars that summer. Very honestly, I had never heard of A.P.P.L.E. until that time. I became fascinated with the material that I was translating. My work experience in Lithuanian education had given me a good understanding of the situation in our own schools. Therefore, it was really interesting to become familiar with American standards in music education and to compare them with those in Lithuania. I couldn't wait for the beginning of the A.P.P.L.E. seminars because I felt that I would learn even more. And I wasn't disappointed. From the very first day, I was impressed by the syllabus for our strand. It included material on so many legendary specialists in music education and their methodologies, which were as yet little known to us in Lithuania. What I learned during those two weeks of intensive work (also unusual for Lithuania's teachers) with the American lecturers, I can attest without hesitation, became an essential part of my later work in education.

During subsequent summers with A.P.P.L.E., I further increased my store of knowledge. I was encouraged to study more deeply the literature concerning pedagogy, music education and methodology. My greatest interest was American children's games and songs. Not only did I teach my own students, but I also shared what I had learned with my colleagues through various seminars and articles in the music journal *Gama*. Inspired by my experiences with A.P.P.L.E., I began to implement a more student-oriented methodology with my preschoolers and my elementary students. Even in the seemingly passive activity of listening to music, I began to introduce my students more and more to the music of various cultures. For that I am primarily grateful to Emilija Sakadolskis, Katie Hoyle and Margaret Mooha.

From the summer of 1998, I got to know A.P.P.L.E. from the "inside." I was invited to work as a colleague with the American lecturers. Needless to say, I was anxious that I would disappoint both the lecturers and the participants at the seminar. What's more, there was the language barrier. My command of English, at best, is very simplistic. I will always be grateful to Katie Hoyle, who was my boss that summer, for her unstinting support and warmth of heart, which made me feel as if I really belonged among the other lecturers. A.P.P.L.E. '98 brought me together with superb professionals and extraordinary



Laima Sirutiene

human beings. Even before we left for Mazeikiai, the site of our lectures, A. Dikcius told me that I would be surprised at the ability of the American lecturers to have conflicting opinions about a topic and yet to arrive at common decision or plan of action. I have to admit that we in Lithuania are not always successful at this. And this really proved to be true. I was most impressed with the way that Wendell Mayo, our program director, conducted the general faculty meetings. We didn't waste our time discussing empty topics or unimportant details. This was another important lesson that I learned from A.P.P.L.E. Being part of the team was one of the greatest gifts to me.

In discussions with other teachers from Lithuania, I sometimes hear criticisms that the A.P.P.L.E. seminars are not very relevant to us. According to them, the educational experience is so different in America and Lithuania. They believe that we in Lithuania know quite a bit already; we are unique; and we don't need this cosmopolitan influence. I consider such people to be "backyard giants." These are usually the people who come to the A.P.P.L.E. seminars for the credits needed toward recertification. They are not motivated to experience something new, to know, to search. Happily, these critics are always a very insignificant minority. As a participant in the seminars, I can only say that sometimes it takes a while to appreciate fully what we learn in these seminars. After some time for reflection about what you have experienced and learned, you begin to understand that everything falls into place and inspires new ideas. It is true that not every detail that we hear at the A.P.P.L.E. seminars is relevant, necessary and applicable. But that is true of any educational experience. We are always required to sift through and take that which is important to us in the world of ideas.

I know very well that A.P.P.L.E. has initiated many good changes in the evolution of Lithuanian education. Many of our teachers long for the experience of interacting with the A.P.P.L.E. lecturers, especially those who live in the provinces. I have heard that at many schools there is great competition to get into the summer seminars. Although all of this is still true, it is pointless to discuss whether we still need the A.P.P.L.E. seminars or not. We need A.P.P.L.E. not just for the teachers, but also for those who prepare those teachers. Every summer A.P.P.L.E. plants new seeds in Lithuania. We can attest that the work of earlier summers is beginning to bear fruit in the schools of Lithuania. I hope that it will be so for many years to come.

—Laima Sirutiene

pasaka, (n), a Lithuanian fairy tale

CAMP PASAKA— A FAIRY TALE COME TRUE

When Emilia contacted me last January to tell me that we would be operating a camp for children with spe-

cial needs, my first thought was that she had lost her mind! She went on to explain that we had been invited by Viltis, an organization in Lithuania of parents of children with disabilities, to join them in an already existing camp, to provide an educational component to the camp. As I remembered Viltis, and the wonderful parents whom I had met, I began to get excited. I knew that it would be such an honor to work with Dana Migaliova and the parents who have been involved in the fight to provide educational opportunities for their children.

"But... but..." I began to say. "I think that if we start planning right now, we can do it next year." Emilia then reminded me that I had said many times to the Lithuanian teachers that the best way to teach the techniques of working with people with moderate and severe disabilities, would be through a "hands-on" approach. The idea of lectures, discussions, and demonstrations of techniques followed by actually using these techniques with the campers was exactly what I had been advocating for the nine years I had taught with A.P.P.L.E. Emilia reminded me that this was an invitation that was too important to refuse. Her advice to me was to think of this year as a beginning, and not to be concerned with having this be the perfect program. The planning began. Little did I know that one of the most exciting experiences of my life was soon to occur.

Our camp was held at Camp Pasaka, a beautiful location on the Baltic Sea. There were 70 children with disabilities, their parents and their siblings who attended the camp, in addition to the Lithuanian teachers attending the A.P.P.L.E. courses. We provided four demonstration classes for the teachers. There was a class for young children with autism, one for adolescents with autism, a class for children with physical impairments, and a class for preschool-age children with disabilities. In addition there were classes on adaptive physical education and CPR certification classes. We were fortunate to have a psychologist to meet with the parents to discuss the private issues of dealing with a child with disabilities. During the afternoon "visiting" A.P.P.L.E. lecturers and Lithuanian lecturers provided sessions for the teachers and parents on practical issues of dealing with children with disabilities. The topics ranged from augmentative communication for nonverbal children to sexual issues for people with disabilities.

The camp meant many long hours of work. It was interesting that at one point the Lithuanian parents came to us out of concern for our health because of the amount of work that we were doing. From the beginning and the many hours of contacts to get materials, money and equipment donated for the camp, to the many nights that we worked into the wee hours of the morning transforming a camp cabin into a school, it was an experience of exhaustion. Camp was also an experience of exhilaration. The children were beautiful. The parents were tireless in their care and advocacy for their children in order to prevent a future of institutionalization. The teachers were dedicated. Relationships were formed that will never be forgotten. Children learned. Teachers and parents learned. And we learned. It was a life-changing experience.

At the end of the 10 days we knew that this year was just a wonderful beginning. Am I excited about next year? Yes!!! Thank you Emilia, for the gentle push to make the camp happen!

—Myra Goodwin

A.P.P.L.E. DISTINCTIONS

We would like to start a new column for the A.P.P.L.E. newsletter in order to showcase the creative output of our lecturers. If you would like to be included in this column for a publication or milestone in your profession, please send the information to Katie Hoyle, 1264 Locust Creek Road, Sylva, NC 28779 or e-mail to pasaka@aol.com.

This newsletter features Wendell Mayo's new book *In Lithuanian Wood*.

This past summer, A.P.P.L.E. Division Chairman for Language Arts, Dr. Wendell Mayo, had his new book, *In Lithuanian Wood* (\$14, White Pine Press, 1999), featured in *The Los Angeles Times*. Dr. Mayo's book was released in 1999 and is a cycle of fictional stories, inspired in part by his experiences with A.P.P.L.E. over seven summers.

Those wishing to acquire a signed copy of *In Lithuanian Wood* or one of his other titles can contact Dr. Mayo at wmayo@bgsu.edu

From *The Los Angeles Times*, home edition, August 5, 1999:

"[In Wendell Mayo's *In Lithuanian Wood*]... the stories Rood hears about the challenges of post-Soviet life in the Baltic state ... share a common atmosphere and geography reminiscent of Steinbeck's 'The Pastures of Heaven' and 'The Long Valley.' Rood also ties them together, sometimes appearing as a main character or simply passing through. The plot is a string of essentially 'event-less' happenings: long bus rides, sightseeing stops, drives around Vilnius and Rood's walks along the Nemunas River with his translator, Vilma. What emerges are compelling glimpses of the pathos of modern Lithuanian life. In its feudal past, Lithuania was a great power extending over large parts of Europe. Today it occupies a tiny piece of its former expanse, but the people have stayed connected with their great past through folklore and myth."

Sometimes these connections are comical. . . Elsewhere they are haunting. . . Other stories speak of the frustrations of the young. . . Mayo has an eye for the small details, the ironies of custom and tradition. . . Such richly diverse stories suggest a powerful merging of history and folklore with everyday life."

As we went to press, Wendell received notification that he had been named one of 35 recipients nationally out of 900 applicants for a Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts for years 2000-2001.

Our congratulations to Wendell for his writing successes!

PLANS FOR NEXT SUMMER

We're in the planning stage for next summer's events. We have proposed the following schedule to our Lithuanian colleagues and now are awaiting their response, so this schedule is by no means carved in stone.

July 5: Arrival of American lecturers. (The later starting date will avoid having classes on the King Mindaugas-July 6th national holiday, which has caused some irritation in the past.)

July 6-8: Lecturer orientation, and preparation.

July 9: Official A.P.P.L.E. 10th anniversary celebration, as well as opening ceremonies for the next week's seminars.

July 10-14: "Children at Risk" Seminar for teachers, administrators, law enforcement officials, public policy makers, representatives from the ministries, school boards, local municipalities, psychologists, social workers and others—Vilnius.

July 10-21: Action Research Seminar—Part II. Week one: the lecturers would meet with the participating Lithuanian doctoral students to read and evaluate research projects completed by the teachers during the preceding school year. Also, special workshops and seminars for the doctoral students. On July 17 the teachers who wrote the research papers would arrive for a one-week session. We may also have other concurrent strands for administrators, elementary teacher trainers and others during this two-week time slot in Vilnius.

July 10-14, 17-21 and 24-28: Various one-week regional seminars covering a single subject area.

July 17-28: Special education at the "Viltis" family camp for children with mental disabilities. Giruliai (near Klaipeda).

July 17-28: Traditional two-week seminar in Salcininkai. (We will not sponsor a two-week seminar in a second city because of budget cuts by the Ministry.) We will try to cover those subject areas that we neglected last year, such as math, the arts, social studies and, possibly, health and physical education.

July 29: Official A.P.P.L.E. summer closing ceremonies in Vilnius.

July 30: Suggested departure date.

Seminars for agricultural school educators will probably be scheduled in June. By the time that you receive this newsletter, we will have our annual "Call for Proposals" printed and ready for distribution. Please contact us if you would like us to send you a copy with the application form.

EAVESDROPPING ON THE BOARD

On June 15, 1999, the A.P.P.L.E. Board of Directors convened its annual teleconference meeting. After amending the bylaws to allow for the election of a President-

elect (who automatically becomes President the following year and Immediate Past President during the third year), the Board elected Officers, who are listed on the inside back cover of this newsletter. Their terms began August 15, 1999, and will end on the same date in the year 2000. A very hearty welcome to new officers, Gita Kupcinskas, Amanda Muliolis and Christine McGann!

The Board agreed with the officers' recommendation of March 1999 that beginning with the summer of 2000, all lecturers' travel expenses would be paid. This may be limited by a "cap," depending on the budget and the cost of tickets that year. Lecturers would also be given the option of not requesting the stipend, but making a tax-deductible contribution to A.P.P.L.E. by paying their way. All agreed that general fundraising and publicity need much more attention in order to achieve that goal.

The Board also discussed the organization's grant policy. It was agreed that A.P.P.L.E. encourages grant writers to include fees for administering grants, because this may encourage more people to prepare and submit grant proposals. The grant committee, now situated in Washington, D.C., would review the grant proposals and give approval or make revision recommendations to those wishing to submit proposals involving A.P.P.L.E.

Rimas Bitenas, Myra Goodwin and Amanda Muliolis were ending their terms as Board members but were nominated and elected to serve for another three years. Myra was elected Chairman of the Board.

The A.P.P.L.E. board was encouraged to think about candidates for President-elect to be elected in the spring

of 2000. (Males and non-Lithuanians were thought to be within the realm of possibility.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Every spring the A.P.P.L.E. Officers, Board of Directors, Division Chairs and other leaders get together for an intensive weekend of planning and discussion. All A.P.P.L.E. members are welcome to join us. This year the meeting is scheduled for March 24-26, 2000 in Connecticut. The main item on the agenda: President-elect Gita Kupcinskas' proposals for the summer of 2001. If you would like more information about the meeting, contact Shirley Sabo, tel. 203-758-4600, e-mail SMSabot@aol.com

A.P.P.L.E.'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE YEAR 2000

The year 2000 will mark the 10th Anniversary of the A.P.P.L.E. summer seminars in Lithuania. With this in mind, we would like to begin our planning now for ways to mark this significant occasion. We'd like to include a variety of events covering all types of entertainment, presentations, recognitions and participation from serious, sincere and beautiful to fun and crazy. Think it over; talk it over with your A.P.P.L.E. friends; write down your ideas; and send them to: Katie Hoyle, 1264 Locust Creek Road, Sylva, NC 28779; e-mail Pasaka@aol.com

WHAT CAN YOU BUY FOR \$30 IN 2000?

YOU CAN CHANGE THE LIFE OF A LITHUANIAN TEACHER!

Our object with the A.P.P.L.E. Teacher Seminars has been to assist in the reformation of Lithuania's educational infrastructure, as she rejoins the community of nations and is reborn in democracy and freedom. The unfortunate reality is that the cost of transportation and lodging for the Seminar is a real—but unnecessary—obstacle to participation. In the past we have asked our members to sponsor Lithuanian teachers. In return, those who received scholarships wrote personal letters to their sponsors, providing a firsthand account of the influence that the Seminar experience had on their lives and professional development.

These letters confirmed our hopes—and the promise of our headline.

We hope to continue to provide scholarships to participants this year, and we believe that we can cover a good deal of their costs for \$30 each. If you sponsored a teacher last year, you know the value that was received. If you didn't, this is your chance to find out. Consider honoring a friend with this special gift, giving a scholarship in his or her name. You will be making a difference! For \$150.00 you could provide a stipend for a Lithuanian translator or lecturer who works in partnership with colleagues from the United States. *Please send scholarship and stipend donations to: A.P.P.L.E. at Box 617, Durham, CT 06422. We can reach so many more people with your help.*

Reminder: A.P.P.L.E. membership is still \$25 per year. If you haven't sent in your renewal, please include it with your scholarship donation.

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

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President-Elect: Gita Kupcinskas

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Corresponding Secretary: Christine Galvydis McGann

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Send correspondence concerning A.P.P.L.E. to:

American Professional Partnership for

Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.)

9509 Ocala Street, Silver Spring, MD 20901-3049

voice: 301-585-6362 fax: 301-608-3261

e-mail: applemail@erols.com

Money for scholarships and memberships should go to:

A.P.P.L.E.

P.O. Box 617

Durham, CT 06422

Our good friend Rasa Treciokas died at Christmastime, 1999. We'll have an item on Rasa's contributions in our next issue, but meantime donations to A.P.P.L.E. are being collected in her memory.

A.P.P.L.E. SUBJECT AREAS, DIVISION CHAIARMEN (U.S.) AND FOCUS GROUP CHAIARMEN (LITHUANIA)

1. *Elementary.* Carol Smiglin. Alvyra Galkiene.
2. *Special Education.* Myra Goodwin. Dr. Dainius Puras.
3. *Art.* Sr. Loretta Hoag, D.C. [focus group chair vacant].
4. *Math.* Bee Taylor. Vilija Tarnaviciute.
5. *Catholic Schools and Ethics.* Sr. Dr. Jeanette Lucinio and Aldona Zailskas. Edita Sedaraviciute.
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11. *Computer Science.* Amanda Muliolis. Vainas Brazdeikis.
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13. *Social Work.* Dr. Katie Dunlap. Loreta Zadeikaite.
14. *Social Studies.* Virginia Bergen. Irena Zaleskiene.
15. *Science.* Monita Leavitt. Laima Dainutiene.
16. *Psychology.* Dr. Carol Toris. Dr. Antanas Valantinas.

OTHER POSITIONS

Newsletter Co-editors: Gita Kupcinskas and Katie Hoyle.

Proofreader: Peter J. O'Connell

Grant-Writing Committee: Dr. Cherie Stellaccio (chair), Steven and Virginia Bergen, Gabe Kajeckas, Felicia Kolp, Susan O'Brien Saccomando.

Fundraising Committee: Vida Lanys Anton (chair).

Office Managers in Lithuania: Vytautas Kavoliunas and Skirmante Stasenaite.

Administrator in Lithuania: Juozas Karmuza.

Our Internet address is: <http://www.applequest.org/index.html>. Please check it out, sign our guestbook, and offer your comments and suggestions. Please send information that you would like included on the Web site to: amanda@applequest.org or Amanda Muliolis, 1725 Sherwood Blvd. Euclid, OH 44117

**YES! I would like to join in your efforts toward
educational reform in Lithuania.**

I would like to make a contribution to:

The Scholarship Fund. (\$30 supports one teacher. You will receive a personal letter from the teacher who receives your donation.)

The Stipend Fund. (\$150 supports an interpreter or Lithuanian lecturer.)

I am enclosing the following amount for annual membership:

Regular Membership (\$25) _____

Family Membership (no duplicate mailings) (\$40) _____

Charter Membership (\$100) _____

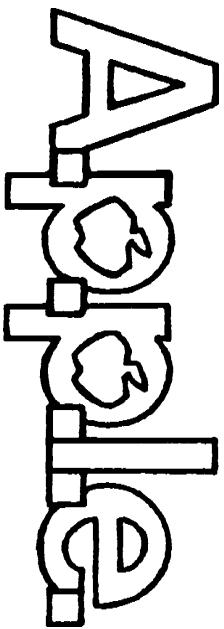
Leadership Group (\$250) _____

Patron (\$500) _____

I would like to add the following amount to help pay for A.P.P.E. programs: _____

TOTAL _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____



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