

Apple

REPORT TO THE CORPS

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IMPRESSIONS ON THE SUMMER

After returning home in 1991, Susan Anderson wrote the following about her experience with A.P.P.L.E. As we now prepare for summer 2001, these reflections bring interesting thoughts of where we've been and where we're headed, the differences and similarities between then and now, dreams we are attaining but will always aspire to.

My colleagues in the U.S. responded with skepticism when I told them about my plans to lecture in Lithuania this summer. One professor in my own department posed some pointed questions which caused me to reevaluate my decision: What can an educator from the U.S. share with a society which is emerging from generations of oppression, and academic censorship? How can communication education methods, which rely so heavily upon access to the media and other technologies, be integrated into the curriculum of schools with limited technical resources? Why is Lithuania looking to the U.S. for advice in charting educational reform when America's educational system is in disarray?

It was impossible at the time to answer my friend's questions. However uncertain I was about Lithuanian teachers' desire or need for the information I had to share, at a more fundamental level I knew that I must go – at least to learn what I could contribute.

There is a manifest rightness in the mission statement of A.P.P.L.E. that freedom for Lithuania is predicated upon educational freedom for all children and academic freedom for all educators. If we could do no more than to share with our Lithuanian colleagues what we believe to be the best curriculum theory and methodology practiced in our fields, to discuss the day-to-day workings of our schools, to point out the failings and successes of American education, and to consider with our hosts how they might spot flaws and advan-



As part of the spring meeting, a presentation was held at the Lithuanian American World Center in Lemont, IL, March 25, 2001. A.P.P.L.E. President Gita Kupcinskis (left), Immediate Past President Emilija Sakadolskis, and President-elect Phil Taylor participated in the presentation. Details inside.

tages in their own system - if we could do no more than this, we would accomplish something of value. The night before I left home, I worried aloud to my husband, "Will we be able to relate to each other? Will we find common ground?"

Doubts about the relevance of carrying American education to Lithuania evaporated upon our first meeting with our hosts, the ministers of Culture and Education and the director of the Teachers' Qualification-Raising Institute. We were welcomed as colleagues and friends. We were reassured that the purpose of the seminars was to open a free exchange of ideas among the professionals who by the forces of arbitrary tyranny had been too long separated. We learned that Lithuanian

educational reform had been informed by the systematic and critical evaluation of many nations' education systems, not just that of the U.S. We heard the ministry's plans for reapportioning resources to make quality education available to all Lithuanian children. We explored the challenges of creating a uniquely Lithuanian curriculum within schools formerly dominated by Soviet ideology. We discussed the merits of the ministry's plans for teacher qualification-raising and applauded the wisdom of instituting a voluntary, professional development model.

But it was not until we met with the 500+ Lithuanian educators (who voluntarily devoted two weeks of their summer vacations to attend the seminars) that we were to realize the true purpose of our coming. Until we were all together in that marvelous institute building, no one – neither Vaiva, nor Jurate, nor the institute director, nor the ministry, nor the “curators” nor the teachers, American or Lithuanian – no one knew exactly what would happen. Who could have expected the American teachers to have shared surprisingly similar educational philosophies, and to consistently reinforce each other's ideas in individually prepared lectures? Who would have believed that a heated, frank criticism of curriculum and instruction methods under the Soviet regime would spontaneously erupt during a workshop session, and continue until each teacher there had spoken his or her piece? Who could have planned the strength of the bond which formed in a “cross strand” discussion group where Lithuanian kindergarten teachers, high school language teachers and school directors met each other not as unrelated “specialists” but as fellow architects of Lithuanian freedom?

Early in the first week, one of the teachers revealed to me that she had come to the seminar to “see what Americans look like.” I suppose that if I were fully honest I would have to admit that a good portion of my impetus to travel to Lithuania was a curiosity for my lost heritage – I wanted to “see what Lithuanians look like.” But I ask you now, my fellow seminarians, why did you go? If we each had our personal reasons at the outset, I am certain we now share a common understanding of our mission. This summer, A.P.P.L.E. worked to help make manifest one promise of Lithuania's educational reform movement: that Lithuanian educators may enjoy full collegiality with educators worldwide.

What I brought to Lithuania was modest: a few new ideas, some fresh supplies and resources, and a faint affinity for the culture and values of Lithuania, enkindled in childhood by a grandmother who forever loved her lost homeland. A Lithuanian teacher asked me what I would take home after the visit. Except for dear memories of faces and words which touched me at times in profound and inexpressible ways, I hope that I have taken little away from Lithuania. Instead, my new friends have agreed to hold my Lithuanian trea-

sure in trust for me until I can return to take up again the course of our discoveries and companionship.

Susan Anderson

From the President's Desk

DONATION OF COMPUTERS

The offer seemed simple enough. Darius Suziedelis, who works for the Nissho Iwai American Corporation (NIAC) in Washington, D.C., found out that the corporate office in New York was willing to donate thirty computers in reasonably good condition to a worthy charity. This was early February. Darius quickly contacted Romas and Emilija Sakadolskis and asked if A.P.P.L.E. would be interested in such a donation. Romas then emailed the proposal to me in the Boston area to see if A.P.P.L.E. would like to pursue the possibility.

Having worked as the computer services coordinator at a high school and knowing a bit about computer donations which later prove to be useless, I decided it would be important to know the specs of the machines to see if they could be suitable for Lithuania. Amanda Muliolis, our computer guru, was still in Lithuania conducting seminars for teachers all over the country. I got the specs to Amanda via email, and the answer came back that the machines, though not the latest models, would indeed be well employed in the schools of Lithuania. Terrific!

Now the fun began. How does one go about shipping thirty computers to Lithuania at little or no cost? Unfortunately, the principal actors in our little scenario lived all along the eastern seaboard: Boston, New York, Washington, D.C. My husband, Aidas, and I were prepared to take a trip to New York and to make arrangements with the Lithuanian Children's Relief (LCR) organization in Boston, which periodically ships containers to Lithuania. In fact the LCR was more than willing to load the PCs and get them to Lithuania for no cost. But how were we going to get them to Boston?

Aidas had visions of hiring a cargo van and taking a ride to New York some weekend. I flew to Lithuania for a week to do some planning for the summer seminars, and came back to find out that not much had happened in the donation department. To everyone's dismay, it had become clear that the pick up could only be done during the week, while the NIAC offices were open. Time was passing. We were now into March. There had to be some possibilities of a pick up during the week from A.P.P.L.E. members living in the New York area. I then sent an email to Ilona Laucius, who had also just returned from Lithuania. Ilona suggested contacting the Lithuanian National Foundation, one of our main benefactors for grants to support the A.P.P.L.E. summer programs. The foundation also sends containers of donated materials to Lithuania on a pretty regular basis.

PLANNING SESSIONS



This winter, A.P.P.L.E. President, Gita Kupcinskas spent time in Lithuania making plans for the upcoming summer seminars. She is shown here (on the left) with Roma Raguotiene (center) and Gintas Rudzinskas (right) from the Educators' Professional Development Center in Vilnius.



While in Lithuania, Gita also met with representatives of Viltis, the parents association that organizes the summer camp for children with special needs, their families, and teachers. Pictured here from left to right are, Egle Burbiene, Inga Zapkute, Gita, and Dana Migaliova.

Vida Penikas from the main office in Brooklyn, NY, put me in touch with Roze and Karyl in the warehouse in New Jersey. To our delight, the foundation agreed not only to ship the PCs so that we would not have to transport them to Boston, but they also agreed to arrange for the pick up. Easier said than done. Noriko, who was coordinating the donation from New York, was out of town for a little while. Once Karyl could

make contact with her, we found out that NIAC needed a couple of weeks notice to process the donation, but there would be more computers. When the waiting period was up, the usual driver for the National Foundation was not available for a week. By this time, we were past the middle of April.

In the end, fifty-four PCs were picked up on Tuesday April 24th in exchange for some thank you letters which I had managed to get to Karyl. They were packed for shipment over the next three days and sent on their way that Saturday. The computers should be arriving in Vilnius in early June, where Ramute Zemioniene, our office manager, and Roma Raguotiene, the A.P.P.L.E. contact at our home away from home, the Educators' Professional Development Center, will be waiting to transport them to Didlaukio 82. In the meantime, Amanda has arranged for some funding to make the PCs completely operative in Lithuania. She has enough money donated to buy hardware and software as needed to fix them up. They will be well used during our summer seminars and then donated for permanent residence at schools all over Lithuania.

So that's what it takes to accept a gift.

By the way, Karyl has offered to send any other needed material to Lithuania for us through the National Foundation. The trick is to get it to her in New Jersey. Her email address is Radzievich@aol.com, or if you want to ask her about the timing of the next shipment. Her shipping address for A.P.P.L.E. purposes is:

Karyl Arnold
A.P.P.L.E.
49 Brookside Drive
Upper Saddle River
New Jersey 07458-1930

Gita Kupcinskas

BELLA'S JOURNEY

On Tuesday, October 10, 2000, Phil Taylor sat at his home in Florida, writing this story of how Bella, his travel agent, came from Poland through Lithuania, to Japan and eventually to America with the help of Chiune Sugihara, Japanese Consul in Kaunas in 1940. Unknown to Phil, on the same day, half-way around the world, the Lithuanian Consul in Tokyo was attending an unveiling ceremony of a plaque honoring Sugihara, who is now known as "the Japanese Schindler".

Through the years of A.P.P.L.E., we've had more than a few of these "it's a small world" stories. Here's Phil's story of Bella, who was helped in Lithuania many years ago, and who helps Phil to help Lithuania today.

Chiune Sugihara is known to many as the Japanese diplomat who helped thousands of Polish Jews escape the Holocaust. As the Japanese Consul in Kaunas in 1940, Sugihara's selfless act resulted in the second larg-

est number of Jews rescued from the Nazis.

Bella Tesser is a person most A.P.P.L.E. members have not met. She lives in Orlando, Florida and is my friend as well as my travel agent. I learned recently that her life is linked with that of Chiune Sugihara in a way that made a historical footnote come alive for me with overpowering impact.

A few weeks ago, Bella and I were chatting about a trip to Sicily my wife and I were planning. During the conversation, I mentioned my plans to return to Lithuania next summer with the A.P.P.L.E. corps. Bella casually mentioned that she had been to Lithuania. "But," she added, "that was many years ago." Not one to let a Lithuanian connection go unexplored, I asked when she had been to Lithuania. She replied that she and her parents had lived briefly in Vilnius in 1940. I knew her experience in Lithuania was far different from mine and asked her to tell her story.

Bella's father was an attorney in Poland in 1940 when he decided to take his wife and his 5-year-old daughter to Vilnius to escape Nazi persecution of the Jews in his country. After living in Vilnius a short while, the Kerner family heard of a Japanese diplomat in Kaunas who was signing transit visas to help Polish Jews leave Eastern Europe. But before the Russians would allow these Polish Jews to leave Lithuania, entrance permits to another country were required. The only two foreign diplomats in Kaunas at that time were Sugihara, the Japanese Consul, and the Dutch consul. Sugihara provided the required transit visa permitting Bella and her family to travel through Japan. The Dutch Consul produced the needed entrance permit to two Dutch colonial islands, Curacao and Dutch Guiana.

According to Bella, the most dangerous part of her family's journey came after her father obtained the life-saving travel permits. "Before we could leave the country," she continued, "my parents had to appear in person before the Russian authorities to receive official permission to leave Lithuania." Bella's family now included her parents, an aunt, two uncles and a cousin. With the necessary papers in hand, the group traveled by train from Lithuania to Moscow. From there, the trans-Siberian railroad took them to Vladivostak. From Vladivostak the Kerners were sent to Kobe, Japan. Before Japan entered the war, the family was sent to Shanghai, China. The Kerners remained in China until the end of the war when they resumed their travels that eventually brought them to the United States.

Bella learned years later that Chiune Sugihara had signed transit visas to Japan against the direct orders from the Japanese government. After being refused permission to help Jews escape the Nazis, Sugihara and his wife signed more than 300 visas each day between July 31 and August 28, 1940. Sugihara left Kaunas for Berlin on September 1, 1940.

The story goes that as the train pulled out of the

station, the Japanese diplomat continued signing papers as fast as he could and throwing them out of the window. It is even reported that he gave the consul visa stamp to a refugee who was able to use it to save even more Jews.

Bella Tesser now lives and works in central Florida. Each spring she helps me make my travel arrangements for my summer visits to Lithuania. When I return to Vilnius and Kaunas next July, I shall remember that my travel agent, Bella, was here many years ago. And her experience was far different from mine.

K. Philip Taylor

LITHUANIA IN PRINT FOR THE EYES OF THE YOUNG

Republished with permission from Lithuanian Papers, No. 13/99 by the Lithuanian Studies Society at the University of Tasmania, Australia. Ina Bertulyte Bray, M.L.S. (UC Berkeley) is an A.P.P.L.E. member from Seattle, WA; a Librarian; and member of the Board, Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.

Ever since the end of World War II, we, the Baltic diaspora, have decried the fact that the Western world knows so little about our countries, our story of flight and emigration, or for that matter, the holocaust in the Siberian gulags. If we take a closer look at just one narrow source of information, books published for the school age population, reasons for this omission become glaring.

In the United State, approximately 4000 books are published annually for this age group. Only a meager few, however, ever cover Lithuanian subjects directly or even peripherally, and they habitually downplay the horrors perpetrated by the Soviet Union. Let me cite some examples:

Early in the 1990's, Lerner Publications came out with the *Then and Now* series on the newly independent Eastern European countries. (Geography Department, Lerner Publications Co., Minneapolis 1992). In 52 pages of the book *Lithuania* (ISBN 0-8225-2804-5) the past and the present are covered – covered, however, as if the country had simply awakened after a peaceful 50-year sleep. During that sleep, the worst thing that seems to have befallen her was that "for decades Lithuanians lived under the strict laws of the central Soviet government in Moscow". No terror, no gulags, no oppression, and, of course, no homo sovieticus.

One finds blatant whitewashing even in books focusing on human rights. *Equal Rights*, Maureen O'Connor, Franklin Watts, New York, 1997, and *Freedom of Movement*, Catherine Bradley, Franklin Watts, New York, 1997 are examples. Both books are a part of the *What We Mean by Human Rights* series.

In these two books, the history, the significance and the worldwide abuses of human rights are discussed, including international efforts to eliminate or ameliorate transgressions. But again, *political correctness* prevails. Some of the most egregious violators, including China and the USSR, are virtually ignored, and the few oblique references are couched in inoffensive terms. Neither book even includes the USSR in its index.

Passage to Freedom, the Sugihara Story by Ken Mochizuki (Lee and Low Books, New York, 1997 ISBN 1-880000-49-0, 15.95) is a true story. The son of the Japanese consul to Lithuania remembers how in 1940 his father, against the orders of his government, saved thousands of Jews by issuing them visas to Japan. Most of us know the story. The author's style captures the events and the tension of that time well. However, the reader might easily assume that 'Nazis' and 'Lithuanians' were synonymous, reinforcing the emerging appellation of Lithuania as an anti-Semitic collaborator of the Nazis.

Or, take the book *In America* by Marissa Moss. (Dutton, New York, 1994, ISBN 0-525-45152-8) In this charming story, a little boy asks his Jewish grandfather why long ago, he came to America. Grandfather answered, "I wanted to have the same freedom as everyone else. . ."

"But why couldn't you. . .?"

"We were not allowed. Because we were Jewish. . ." was grandpa's reply.

One does not deny that discrimination of various ethnic groups or other societal ills existed in Lithuania as well. What is unfortunate, however, is that among English language publications one can find almost no counterbalancing stories, positive to the Lithuanian character.

In rare contrast, in the book, *Lithuania, the Nation that Would be Free*, (Stephen Chicoine and Brent Ashabranner, Dutton, New York, 1995, ISBN 0-525-65151-9), the lives of ordinary people become the lens that brings the story into focus. The authors are to be commended for their insight and balanced reporting on Lithuania of centuries past and in today's reality.

Ubiquitously Lithuania is described as 'tiny' or 'small.' Is that what gives authors license to ignore or alter her history? The following two books are a case in point:

The History of Emigration from Eastern Europe, by Sarah Horrell, *Origins* series, Franklin Watts, New York, 1998. ISBN 0-531-14449-6 <http://publishing.grolier.com>

In a publication with this title, one is surprised indeed that the Baltics are omitted and the Soviet Union, the cause of the major population shift in mid-twentieth century, is barely mentioned.

Poland by Martin Hintz, Children's Press, New

York, 1998. ISBN 0-516-20605- (Enchantment of the World series – a standard resource in most American school and public libraries) ><http://publishing.grolier.com>>. Considering that for centuries Lithuania's and Poland's histories were intricately intertwined, it is mind boggling that Lithuania does not even warrant so much as an entry in the index of this book. Poland is termed the 'largest country in medieval Europe.' Again, Germany becomes the arch villain ("Poland was liberated in 1944"), with scant reference to the USSR. And, to add insult to injury, the Baltics are misplaced on all five contemporary geopolitical maps (Belarus reaches the Baltic Sea, eliminating Lithuania and shifting Latvia and Estonia).

Repeated distortions, errors, omissions in whatever sources of information, tend to become institutionalized. This, for example, in the recent article *The Doves of Yesterday* (New York Times, April 18, 1999), Craig Whitney makes the comment that the Serbian outrages against Albanians in Kosovo were "the worst crimes against humanity in Europe since Hitler." Stalin's outrages are already ignored.

Distortions affecting Lithuania's story or reputation appear with increasing frequency, yet our organizations or, for that matter, the Lithuanian government, are either ill equipped or don't seem to have the will to refute. To find proof one only needs to observe official Lithuanian reactions to the offensive use of Lithuania's National Anthem on a CD-ROM, recently released by the Holocaust Museum of Washington DC.

Perhaps this insulting act on the part of the Museum is a "wake-up call." If there is to be a counterbalance to the universal perception of Lithuania as historically and geographically almost 'invisible' and increasingly anti-Semitic, it will take individual vigilance, initiative, and efforts. And, we must record and write our story ourselves, but write it in English or the language of our host country, and write it repeatedly, in any genre, and in a style appealing to the non-Lithuanian reader of any age. There is so much yet to be told! The diaspora still has this significant role to play and the clock is ticking away.

Ina Bertulyte Bray

LITHUANIAN NOTES FROM MY JOURNAL

Elizabeth Ralston was a first time A.P.P.L.E. lecturer in 2000.

July 3, 2000

This was the longest flight of my life, second only to the one I took to Africa ten years ago. I'm stopping in London for a few days to visit my parents before I continue on to Lithuania. They have a flat (British lingo for apartment) near Hyde Park in Kensington. It's al-

ways a treat to see them because they are wonderful entertainers and I have the good fortune to experience the amazing restaurants and theater that London has to offer. When I arrived in London, my father and I went straight to Wimbledon, where we saw some of the greatest tennis players in action: Agassi, Seles, Hingis, and Sanchez-Vicario. I dozed in between the matches. The next couple of days were a blur- highlights were shopping with my mom on Oxford Street and seeing a production of "Much Ado about Nothing" at an outdoor theater which was, unfortunately, cancelled a quarter of the way through because of rain.

July 6

It is 6:00 a.m. in Vilnius and this jet lag is ruthless. In Lithuania, the sun rises at three in the morning! Even with the curtains closed, the light still wakes me up. I'm glad I brought my travel-size vibrating pillow alarm to make sure I DO wake up. It is cloudy and cool here (just like Seattle), but pleasant. My room overlooks a group of trees with an intriguing path meandering through them. It makes me want to go out and explore.

July 7

Today I was locked out of my room while I was in the shower. I have to share the key with my "suite-mates", Ginny and Steve, and sometimes it is hard to know if the others have left for the day or are in the shower. I wrapped my towel around tightly and took the elevator down to get the key from the receptionist who gave me a knowing smile.

It is impossible to access my email account; the internet connection is not so good from here. I am suffering withdrawal.

We went on a tour of Vilnius today, led by a guide named Veronika, who was rather serious and dressed very smartly in a black miniskirt, top, and a bright pink jacket. "Please follow me," she would say rather primly and somberly and we'd shuffle off obediently after her.

July 9, 7:30 am

Today there was a lecture from the Director of the Educational Institute, which was of course, interpreted by Emilijia. I'm very lucky because Emilijia is so clear and easy to lipread! There was also a panel of 8-9 professionals who each spent about 5-10 minutes introducing themselves! One of them, Sylvija, chose to speak English. As she introduced herself, she said she worked for the "Jesus Christ Institute". At that point I did a double-take and thought to myself, "The WHAT??" She said it again (huh??) and again (say what??). It just didn't fit with what she was saying about children in Lithuania. Then a light bulb went off as she said it again and I realized she was saying "Children's Rights Institute". My eyes sure play tricks on me sometimes-those words look very much alike.

Same day, 10:30 pm

I have never been to a mass, which was quite a

moving experience for me. As a Jew, I have strong ties to the cultural and historical heritage, but am not religious per se. The dances after the tenth anniversary celebration were quite energetic and joyful! The brightly dressed Lithuanian women dancers would pull me into their circle and whirl me around in every direction! Jane Serbent later sent a picture of me with my arms flailing about and a comical expression on my face.

11 July

I am teaching a class on using strength-based practices when working with youth. My students are teachers, professionals, community members, parents, and administrators. They are hungry for knowledge and ideas, for new ways of teaching and working with young people. My interpreter, Daiva is so easy to lipread and



Elizabeth Ralston (left) and her interpreter Daiva Gregoruskaite (right) are shown here with other interpreters last summer in Salcininkai.

teaching has been a lot easier than I imagined. She is very smart and motivated and we have so much fun together! I don't have to worry about not understanding my students' strong accents because they don't even know English! A couple of them do, but they are very clear and conscientious about my communication needs, which is very gratifying. After I asked them to tell me why they were all here, one of them, Violeta, asked me out of the blue, "Why are you here?" I told the class I chose to come to Lithuania because I a) have a passion for volunteering and helping other people and b) love to travel and learn.

Marilyn and Robin, along with several other A.P.P.L.E. teachers, threw me a surprise shower one

night. (I got married in September 2000.) They were so creative and sweet! They used toilet paper for streamers, taped small flowers to an open umbrella, gave me candies and practical cooking gifts such as a garlic press, a dumpling maker, and a frosting/icing contraption.

13 July

Went on a tour of Jewish Vilnius, which lasted 6 hours! We walked through what used to be the ghetto and saw many of the original buildings that were still standing even to this day but now being used for other purposes. The most memorable part of the tour was when we drove out to the eerie Paneriai forest, where 100,000 Jews were killed and a memorial placed there in their honor. It was... sobering and frightening all at once. When my friend, Yve Susskind, with whom I went to graduate school, first told me about A.P.P.L.E., she mentioned her experience going on this tour. This strongly piqued my interest in coming to Lithuania. Jews made up 50% of the population in Vilnius before World War II and 90% of those Jews were killed by the Germans. There are very few Jews left in the city (maybe 1-2%).

16 July

Salcininkai is a cute little town about 1 1/2 hours south of Vilnius. I am here now teaching health education class to predominantly male students. Many of them are physical education teachers who have no clue about incorporating public health practices into their classes. I'm teaching this class with Tom Poland and we are using role plays and exercises to get them interacting more with one another and problem solve on a variety of health issues (drugs, sexuality, conflict).

One day we had several class participants try to resolve a conflict scenario that turned out to be rather challenging, so Tom and I decided to demonstrate an example. We were fighting over who got to play with a basketball. The two participants tried to help us resolve it. Finally Ivan, who is sort of the class clown, came up and gave me 10 litai (Lithuanian dollars) to stop the conflict and took my ball away from me! Tom, the class, and I erupted in laughter.

One night I took a walk with Tom and several Lithuanian interpreters to a nearby pond. There was a rainbow in the distance, the countryside was lush and green, there were horses and cows in the distance, and it was all very peaceful. Some young boys came and had a mud fight near the dock where we were hanging out. They threw off their clothes, dove into the water, swam around, and had a jolly good time.

That evening we decided to be adventurous and went to explore the town. We found a disco where we danced the evening away with our new friends. Apparently, I found out later that we were dancing to some "awful" Russian music! The interpreters we were with have a great sense of humor and are very friendly, warm, and open.

The next day we had a party for all the students taking the weeklong strand of classes. I ended up talking with one of my students, Stanislav (interpreted by Daiva, of course) and somehow we ended up talking about Belarus, which was only 4 kilometers away. Naturally, I became very intrigued and excited about the fact that there was another country so close by and he offered to take us to the border! So Daiva, Ruta, another interpreter, Tom, Stanislav, and I all drove to look at the border. Very exciting-it was cold and raining, gray and bleak, there was a wire fence all around us, and a somber looking border guard who wouldn't let me take a picture. We got out of there as soon as we arrived!

Stanislav also took us one day to visit an elderly artist friend of his who lived out in the countryside. Anna was Polish, and it was quite a sight to see Stanislav translating her Polish words into Lithuanian for Ruta, who translated that into English for us! This lady does the most beautiful paintings, splashed with bright colors. When I walked into her house, I was surrounded with color from her furniture and dozens of her paintings were hanging in every room. They were mostly religious in nature, but she also did many paintings of flowers and plants. She did her painting from a wheelchair and even took us on a tour of her house to show us how she remodeled it to be "wheelchair friendly". For example, she had this cleverly designed wooden contraption on her bed which, at the turn of a crank, helped lift her up onto the bed. She used a wheel from an old wheelchair to help extend her laundry outside and then later it could be used to roll the laundry back inside. I asked her if she had something small I could buy from her and she presented me with this beautiful painting of morning glory flowers, which is now hanging on a wall in my home.

20 July

It's been an overwhelming, exhausting and emotionally intense two weeks. My class threw me a party (I had to leave a few days before my strand finished) where they sang me a song, gave me flowers and a beautiful necklace. We all toasted one another with champagne. That evening, after the dances, I took the bus back to Vilnius. Along the way, I saw a wonderful sunset-a fitting end to an amazing time in Lithuania.

Elizabeth Ralston

PROPOSED A.P.P.L.E. 2001 FACULTY LIST

Compared to some of our summer seminars in the past it feels as if we are sending over a skeleton crew this year. Because of financial constraints, the Ministry of Education and Science in Lithuania has set a limit on the number of participants that we can have this sum-

mer. Even so, we are very pleased with a well-rounded group of professionals who are both highly qualified and deeply committed to our mission. Besides the central focus on the latest findings in the area of brain research and its implications for education, two other innovative programs this summer will be the strand for teachers and caregivers who work with pre-school children and the strand for teachers of deaf children. As we have in the recent past, we will be sending teams to participate in the special needs seminars organized by Dr. Algirdas Grigonis and the special needs camp organized by Viltis.

VILNIUS - July 16-27

President: Gita Kupcinskas

Program director: Giedre Stankunas

Administrator: Juozas Karmuza

Director of Human Resources: Shirley Sabo

Treasurer: Algirdas Muliolis

Interpreter/translator coordinator: Aldona Marijosius

Office Managers and support staff: Ramute Zemioniene, Daiva Karmuziene

Brain Research main lecturers:

Dr. Jackie Allen

Jane Crowden

Dr. Jo Ann Hammer

Dr. Anita Scarborough

Dr. Stephen Williams

Administration: Dr. Phil Taylor - coordinator

Dr. Barbara Henriques

William Williams

Computers: Amanda Muliolis – coordinator

Jolanta Daugirdiene

Algirdas Muliolis

Deaf Education: Debbie White – coordinator

Marie Taylor – interpreter for ASL

Elementary: Anita Schmidt – coordinator

Linda Brenneman

Jane Crowden

Dr. Jo Ann Hammer

S. Loretta Hoag

Anne Murphy

EFL: Irena Ross – coordinator

Simona Maciukas

Language arts: Dr. Wendell Mayo - coordinator

Anne Baltren

Dr. Lois Danes

Music: Emilija Sakadolskis – coordinator

Dr. Susan Snyder

Pre-school: Marilyn Deasy

Dr. Anita Scarborough

Psychology for Classroom Teachers:

Dr. Steve Williams - coordinator

Dr. Lois Danes (rotating in)

Dr. Jo Ann Hammer (rotating in)

Psychology for School Psychologists and Social Workers:

Dr. Jackie Allen – coordinator

Dr. Maureen Powell

Religion/Ethics: Dr. Sr. Jeanette Lucinio – coordinator

Dr. Rev. James Halstead

Dr. Linda Strozdas

SPECIAL EDUCATION SEMINARS - July 9-27

Program directors: Dr. Algirdas Grigonis and Dr. Karl Janowitz

Series of conferences: Kaisiadorys, Kaunas, Smalininkai, Skaudvile, Simnas

Dr. Karl Janowitz

Terri Mertz (first two weeks)

Marilyn Deasy (first week only)

Vitas Underys (first week only)

VILTIS CAMP at GIRULIAI - July 16-July 27

Program coordinator: Ilona Laucius

Autism: Myra Goodwin

Physical therapy: Maribeth Ruder Neely

Adaptive PE: Julene Allen

Inclusion: Vitas Underys

Chaplain: Dr. Sr. Judith Birgen

REGIONAL SEMINARS

June 11-13

Dr. Katie Dunlap – Conclusion of year-long Successful School Survey – Klaipeda

Dr. Jack Richman

June 18-29

Dr. Billye Foster – Agriculture – Daugai and Seduva

Dr. Donald Meaders

July 9-13

Amanda Muliolis – Computers – Gargzdai

Algirdas Muliolis

July 16-27

S. Kathleen Brazda – Religion – Telsiai and another site to be determined

Vivian Williams

July 30 – Aug 3

Dr. Jo Ann Hammer – Administration & Psychology - Salcininkai

Dr. Barbara Henriques

William Williams

Amanda Muliolis – Computers – Prienu region

Algirdas Muliolis

SPRING MEETING IN CHICAGO

Although Chicago is considered by some people to be the Lithuanian capital of the world—I don't know if it is still true, but at one time, I believe, there were more Lithuanians living in Chicago than in Vilnius)—this was the first time that A.P.P.L.E. convened in the Windy City for its annual spring meeting. I guess it would be more precise to say that we met in Lemont, a suburb just outside of Chicago. One of the nice things about the spring meetings is that every year we try to pick a new location, depending on who has volunteered to host the event. This year Ritone Rudaitis, a member of our board of directors, stepped up to do the honors.

Ritone chose Lemont not simply because it is her own backyard, but also because it is the site of the Ateitis Foundation Home and the Lithuanian American World Center, both excellent facilities. Most of us gathered at the Ateitis Foundation Home Friday evening, March 23, 2001, for some socializing and refreshments. The real work began in the same location the next day.

Saturday morning after Phil Taylor, our president-elect, had opened the gathering with some words of inspiration, we lit an apple candle, a gift from Ramute Zemioniene, our new office manager in Vilnius. Before we got down to business, we took a few moments to rejoice with Amanda Muliolis, who had been presented with the First Order of the Grand Duke Gediminas by the president of Lithuania on February 15, 2001. Amanda was recognized for her dedication



The A.P.P.L.E. group from the Chicago spring meeting, in front of the Ateitis Foundation Home.

CONGRATULATIONS



Amanda Muliolis (right), recipient of the First Order of the Grand Duke Gediminas, showed us her medal and her award at the opening of A.P.P.L.E.'s annual spring meeting. Gita Kupcinskas (left), presented Amanda with a token of our esteem to congratulate her. The spring meeting was held at the Ateitis Foundation Home, Lemont, IL.

to computer education in Lithuania and for the gift of the Mimosa school data management system which Amanda and her husband Algirdas made to all the schools of Lithuania. Typically, Amanda maintained that the honor of the medal was really shared by all A.P.P.L.E. members.

The rest of Saturday morning was devoted largely to reports by the officers of A.P.P.L.E. As is always the case with our splendid organization, we have the enthusiasm and the people to keep our work going, we just need to devote some attention to the fundraising which will make our great ideas possible. In addition to the officers, we had a report that morning from Romas Sakadolskis, who has been working on a computerized topical dictionary for our brain research presentations this summer. Romas has suggested doing the same for other significant topics in education as the need arises.

Saturday afternoon we turned our attention specifically to the summer of 2001. Steve Williams, one of our team of presenters on the topic of brain research, shared some of his ideas. After we had gone over spe-

cifics of the programs to be offered this year, we went on to consider possible topics for the summer of 2002. The time just seemed to fly by, and before we knew it, supper was on the table. This is a good a time as any to mention that Ritone had hired an excellent Lithuanian caterer to feed us all weekend. What a treat that was! If I do say so myself, that Saturday evening I had the best *kugelis* I have ever eaten. Saturday evening was spent enjoying each other's company at Ritone's home. During the whole weekend, Ritone and her assistant, Maribeth Neely, really made us feel comfortable and welcome.

Traditionally, Sunday should be a day of rest, but we could not afford the luxury of wasting a single minute. Before we went to Sunday Mass at the Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Chapel of the Lithuanian American World Center, we managed to get in an officers' meeting, and because we had a quorum, we also had a meeting of the board of directors. That was a rare opportunity. Lately, the directors have taken to holding telephone conference calls for our meetings.

Right after Mass, all the A.P.P.L.E. participants

joined the local Lithuanian community at their coffee hour. We showed our tenth anniversary Power Point presentation, which Romas Sakadolskis had prepared. This gave us an opportunity to meet people from the Lithuanian Foundation, which supports us financially with a grant every summer, and from the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. We answered many questions about our mission and the present status of education in Lithuania. Their interest and their warm reception gave us much hope that their support for our efforts would continue in the future.

Once again, the spring meeting did not let me down. Busy as I am, I look forward to it every year. Coming together before we finalize all our preparations for the summer seminars is always energizing. As president this year, with more than my usual share of responsibilities for the summer, I came away feeling focused and renewed in my commitment to get the job done.

Gita Kupcinskas

WHAT CAN YOU BUY FOR \$30 IN 2001?

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., Box 617, Durham, CT 06422. We can reach so many more people with your help.*

PS. We would like to remind you that because of strict Internal Revenue Service regulations, we cannot accept scholarships intended for specific persons. If you would like to support your relatives or friends, please do so directly. This scholarship fund is for those Lithuanian teachers who have no such friends in the United States. If, however, you would like your scholarship to go to a particular region or town in Lithuania, we will do our best to accommodate your request, if a teacher from the area that you specify registers for a seminar.

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?

OFFICERS

President: Gita Kupcinskas
President-Elect: K. Phillip Taylor
Immediate Past President: Emilija Sakadolskis
Vice President for Public Relations: Walter Serbent
Vice President for Personnel and Recruiting: Shirley Sabo
Treasurer: Jane Serbent
Corresponding Secretary: Julius Veblaitis
Registrar, Data Manager and Webmaster: Amanda Muliolis

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rimantas Bitenas
Irena Gedris
Myra Goodwin
Dr. Joseph Kalla
Jurate Krokys
Gita Kupcinskas
Amanda Muliolis
Ritone Rudaitis
Emilija Sakadolskis
K. Phillip Taylor

Send correspondence concerning A.P.P.L.E. to:
American Professional Partnership for
Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.)
19 Old Farm Road
Walpole, MA 02081
voice: 508-668-2167 fax: 508-660-8763
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 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

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

1. *Elementary:* Carol Smiglin. Alvyra Galkiene
2. *Special Education:* Myra Goodwin. [focus group chair vacant]
3. *Art:* Sr. Loretta Hoag, D.C. Dalia Siaulytiene
4. *Math:* Bee Taylor. Vilija Tarnaviciute
5. *Catholic Schools and Ethics:* Sr. Dr. Jeanette Lucinio and Aldona Zailskas. Edita Sedaraviciute
6. *Language Arts:* Dr. Wendell Mayo. Zivile Bandoriene
7. *Administration:* Dr. Joseph Kalla. Rita Dukynaite
8. *Library Science:* Giedre Stankunas. Angelija Beinoryte
9. *EFL:* Irena Ross. Vilma Backiute
10. *Agriculture:* Dr. James Connors. Vida Jonusaityte
11. *Computer Science:* Amanda Muliolis. Vainas Brazdeikis
12. *Music:* Emilija Sakadolskis. Laima Sirutiene
13. *Social Work:* Dr. Katie Dunlap. Loreta Zadeikaite
14. *Social Studies:* Virginia Bergen. Irena Zaleskiene
15. *Science:* [Division chair vacant]. Laima Dainutiene
16. *Psychology:* Dr. Carol Toris. Dr. Antanas Valantinas

OTHER POSITIONS

Secretarial staff: Renata Bazikas, Orianta Kalibatiene
Newsletter Editor: Katie Hoyle
Proofreader: Peter J. O'Connell
Grant-Writing Committee: Dr. Cherie Stellaccio (chairman), Steven Bergen, Virginia Bergen, Gabe Kajeckas, Felicia Kolp, Susan O'Brien Saccomando
Fundraising Committee: Vida Lanys Anton (chairman), Geidre Stankunas, Ilona Laucius, Phil Gorassi, Peter Cheney
Office Manager in Lithuania: Ramute Zemioniene
Administrator in Lithuania: Juozas Karmuza

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.) _____

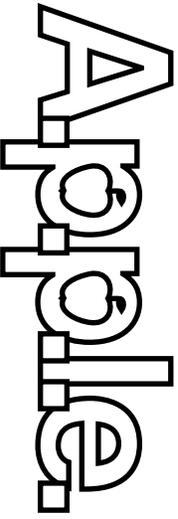
I am enclosing the following amount for annual membership:

- 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.L.E. programs: _____

TOTAL _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____



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for Lithuanian Education**

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Address correction requested

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