

Apple

REPORT TO THE CORPS

Volume 17, Number 1

June 2007



Lithuania's Independence Day celebration
in Janonis Gimnazija

LMF fund distributed to 29 recipients

Amanda Muliolis

As mentioned in a previous article, the donations that A.P.P.L.E. previously collected for scholarships are now placed in the Lithuanian Scholars Fund (LMF – Lietuvos mokytojų fondas). Teachers and administrators can submit proposals for projects for their classrooms. These mini-grants allow A.P.P.L.E. to support teachers and administrators in their roles as creative and innovative professionals.

A.P.P.L.E. financed 29 of the 73 projects that were submitted. This money was distributed to the winners in January, when Algirdas and I came to Lithuania. With the help of Ramute Žemionienė and Vilma Narkevičiene, we gave out over 22,000 litai to the 29 winners. That is over \$8,500 in American dollars.

I received an update about one of the projects and I would like to share some of the highlights. The name of the project is: „Aš janonietis, šiaulietis, Lietuvos ir Europos pilietis“ (“I am a Citizen of My School, My Town, Lithuania and Europe.”) This project involved several aspects – all activities were planned and executed by the Student Council of Janonis Gimnazija. The students organized two discussion sessions – one of them with Europe's EU parliamentarian, a graduate of the high school. The other one was scheduled for May. The students produced two assemblies for the whole school – one was a formal celebration of Lithuania's Independence Day; the second – a contest-type field day with challenges focused on Lithuania's history topics. They produced a booklet with information for the incoming freshmen and held an Open House for them, so that “they would feel welcome and self-confident in September.” Finally, the students created a video about their school. The 300 litai that they received really went a long, long way!!!



Discussion with Europe's EU parliament member
Šarūnas Birutis, a graduate of Janonis Gimnazija

Where Has A.P.P.L.E. Been?

Walter Serbent

A.P.P.L.E. has completed sixteen years of visits to Lithuania with two types of educational programs: two-week summer seminars and one-week regionals. Vilnius has been the annual focal site for the two-week summer sessions. You can check www.applequest.org for other towns that have hosted A.P.P.L.E. during the summer. Our two-week in-service program has now been redesigned into one-week seminars as a result of guidelines from the European Union.

A.P.P.L.E.'s other offering, called "regionals," evolved over the years. After the 1992 summer involvement, a couple of American lecturers were invited to do day-long presentations at various locations. Dr. K. Phillip Taylor was active in this phase of outreach. The next step developed after the 1993 session as some of the returning lecturers were recognized from the past year. The best example was Dr. Karl Janowitz in his association with Dr. Grigonis through the Special Education Strand. As a result of their common interest, Dr. Janowitz has made annual spring trips to Kaunas and the surrounding region.

The 1992/1993 strand titles dealing with different aspects of elementary education, produced invitations to Dr. Joseph Kalla and Walter Serbent to do one-week sessions in different towns during the fall and spring while schools were in session. At that time this extended involvement was referred to as satellite programs rather than regionals and consisted of one to three weeks' duration depending on the request received from schools in towns

throughout the country. This phase of teaching topics pertinent to the elementary level lasted for about five years when it was replaced by one-week regionals following the Vilnius session. This permitted educational directors to request specific topics they wished to explore for their staff.

The current phase beyond the summer program encompasses computer literacy and is conducted by Amanda and Algirdas Multiolis during the winter season. They have been trudging through the snow every winter since 1998.

So, where has A.P.P.L.E. been? All over the country! A.P.P.L.E. reached out to thousands of Lithuanian teachers. Besides Vilnius, the summer locations were at Alanta, Birštonas, Druskininkai, Kaunas, Kėdainiai, Klaipėda, Marijampolė, Mažeikiai, Panevėžys, Šalčininkai, Šiauliai, Šilutė, Tauragė, Trakai and Utena.

And then there was Alytus, Anykščiai, Birštonas, Biržai, Buoženai, Daugai, Elektrėnai, Gargždai, Gelgaudiškis, Giruliai, Jonava, Joniškis, Jurbarkas, Kaišiadorys, Kavarskas, Kazlų Rūda, Lazdijai, Molėtai, N. Akmenė, Pabaiskas, Pakruojis, Pasvalys, Plungė, Prienai, Rietavas, Sėda, Šeduva, Šilalė, Simnas, Skaudvilė, Švenčionys, Šventoji, Skuodas, Smalininkai, Tauragnai, Telšiai, Ukmergė, Varėna, Venta, Veisiejai, Visaginas and Zapyškis! Many of these sites have had multiple visits.

Yes, A.P.P.L.E. has indeed been all over the country!

**Richard Scarry's Lithuanian version
of *The Best Word Book Ever* for
children**

Irena Ross and Blanche Woolls



Some years ago Amanda Muliolis, with the assistance of others, turned Richard Scarry's *The Best Word Book Ever* into a Lithuanian-American dictionary for use in the Saturday Lithuanian language classes by pasting the Lithuanian words over the English words. These books proved to be very useful for Lithuanian-American children. So many of these books were "cut-and-pasted" that the publisher was eventually contacted. (Leave it to Amanda to be ahead of her time.) The publisher responded that after the books were purchased, the owner could determine what happened to them. They were pleased with the innovation and determined that there was no copyright infringement.

This "new-and-improved" version of Richard Scarry's *The Best Word Book Ever* picture book has now been published. Courtesy of Darius Ross, a copy was delivered to Maryte Speciene at the Ministry of Education who showed it to her English language instruction advisors to determine at what grade levels it will fit into their curriculum. It was immediately recognized as a useful resource for the Teachers' Centers throughout Lithuania. Irena Ross negotiated the purchase of thirteen dozen books to be distributed to each of the Educational Centers in Lithuania. Additionally, a number of books will be allocated to the Viltis Camp. Audrone Messick, Algirdas and Amanda Muliolis, Nancy Hanssen and Jack Vellis donated the cost of the books. A.P.P.L.E. covered the cost of shipping the books from America to Lithuania.



Jack Vellis, Nancy Hanssen, Amanda Muliolis, Irena Ross, and Algirdas Muliolis perusing the new book

GIVING WITHOUT HURTING

For those readers who shop through the Internet, the A.P.P.L.E. newsletter has urged readers to contribute to the organization through www.iGive.com.

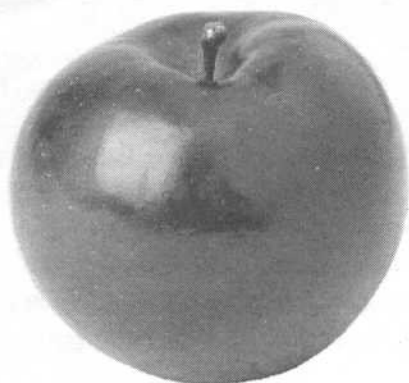
Intimidated as I am with many facets of the cyber world, I decided to give this particular web site a try so that A.P.P.L.E. could benefit. Signing on proved to be quite simple and ordering through them not the least bit complex.

You can imagine my pleasure when I received a statement on my 2006 purchases as documentation for the IRS. It seems I spent \$1,003.23 shopping and \$34.36 went to A.P.P.L.E. as a contribution.

Did not hurt a bit! Never felt a thing!
Give it a try.

Jane Serbent

(Editor's note: Easy-to-follow directions can be found on the www.applequest.org web page. The www.iGive.com web site changes the images of the causes helped and so do not be alarmed if it looks different from time to time. Currently, you will see a little ballerina, rather than the red apple you may be used to seeing. Airline travel counts!!)



STRANDS FOR 2007

APPLE Summer – 2007 Best Practices in Education for the Twenty-first Century

Camp Viltis

*Dr Grigonis Special Education Seminars
Vilnius Seminars - Regionals*

*Special Education – Best Practices in
Inclusion: The Art of Possibility*

*Administration – Sticks and Stones:
Stopping the School Bully and Time
Management*

*Computer Strand I – Welcome to the
Twenty-first Century! Podcasting and
Building / Maintaining a web presence
for your students and community*

*Computer Science II - Welcome to the
Twenty-first Century! Using
PowerPoint in StAIR lessons and Digital
Storytelling*

*The Creative Arts – Integrating the Arts
into the Academic Curriculum*

*Elementary Education – Co-operative
Learning: Building Classroom Climate
Through Learning Strategies and
Curriculum*

*Elementary Science – Becoming
Scientists Through Inquiry Learning*

*English as a Second Language / English
as a Foreign Language – Current
Methods*

*Library and Information Science – Best
Practices for School Librarians*

*Religion and Ethics – Helping Students
Grow in Faith*

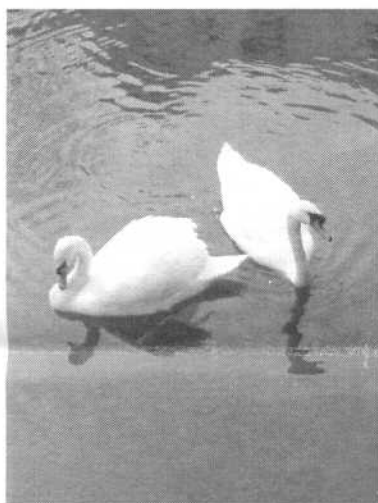
*Social Studies – Teaching Lithuanian
History, Civics, and Economics*

A.P.P.L.E. Spring Planning Meeting

The A.P.P.L.E. Spring Planning Meeting took place in Wallingford, Connecticut on April 14, 2007. Jane and Walter Serbent were excellent hosts for the gathering providing an excellent meeting place and lots of great food and conversation. Many, many items were on the agenda. Karl Janowitz opened the meeting, reminding everyone that the theme for 2007 was "Best Practices in Education for the Twenty-first Century."

Discussions continue with Dan Ray, President and Senior Fellow of The Institute at Biltmore

regarding the future of A.P.P.L.E.



The future of A.P.P.L.E. looks bright. These swans graced the spring meeting as a symbol of growth and promise for the future.

Jim Brousseau – Our New Vice-President of Communications

Jim first joined A.P.P.L.E. in 1996 when the initial Agriculture Education strand was working in Alanta. The team was new to Lithuania but all four members brought unique talents to the classroom and together they provided a valuable inservice experience. "We loved all the farm tours our students arranged for us in the evenings as well as the group activities at the school."

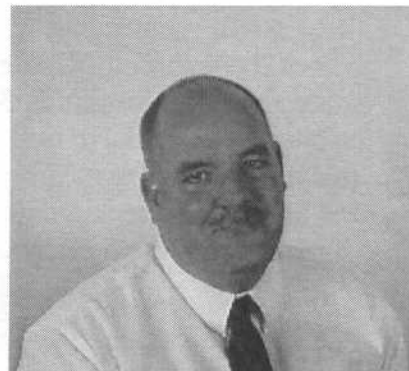
Brousseau has taught Agri-science education and Special Education and is now primarily a Teacher Consultant for Special Education at Milan High School in Michigan. Jim is about

to begin his seventh summer session in Lithuania with A.P.P.L.E. He has returned to Lithuania almost every summer since that first summer. "People often ask me why I keep going back to the same place, almost every summer. I just tell them, it's the people. Once you meet them and get to know them, then you'll understand. They are just so inspiring. I have learned so much by working here and I incorporate it directly into my teaching."

Jim is very instrumental in keeping his students on track to graduation and then in their careers. They often stop by his house to visit long after they have graduated to keep him up-to-date with the doings in their lives. They know he cares.

Jim was entered into the National Marrow Donor Program database when he volunteered to donate bone marrow to a college friend diagnosed with leukemia. Aside from an annual newsletter in his mailbox, Brousseau didn't hear from the donor program again until he got a call this Thanksgiving, 13 years later. Brousseau was in disbelief. "My first thought was, "You still have me on the list?" he said. "You never think it's going to happen because it hasn't happened yet." Brousseau didn't hesitate. He missed a few days of school as he recovered, but he doesn't think much about that. He thinks about the man he helped -- a man of whom he knows nothing except his age. "I think it's our responsibility to help people who need it," he said.

Debra Brousseau, Jim's wife, is an Elementary Music teacher. They have two daughters, Anna 14 and Emma 11. They live in Milan, Michigan.



Hot off the presses...

Published by the Lithuanian National Radio and Television media network (www.lrt.lt) on May 7, 2007. (To read the original article in Lithuanian, <http://www.delfi.lt/archive/article.php?id=13111858>)

(translated by Irena Ross)



Romas Sakadolskis discusses the importance of the media in everyday life. Well-known journalist Romas Sakadolskis is featured in an article published by the Lithuanian National Radio and Television media network. He teaches journalism at Vilnius University. Romas and Emilija (former A.P.P.L.E. President) Sakadolskis, formerly of Washington, D.C., have been residents of Vilnius for a number of years. Romas suggests that we look at the media not as a mirror of everyday life, but as a participant of present day reality.

Through Romas's initiative, media literacy will become part of Lithuania's school curriculum for Grades 9 & 10 students in the near future. Students will be taught how to delve into media analytically: how to read print media, and how to browse and digest the content of the Internet as well as how to

absorb TV and radio programming content.

This concept supports the importance that students learn to analyze what they are encountering in the world and learning to work through it by themselves. This is being added to the public school curriculum so that students will better understand what it means to live in a democratic society. It is important that students learn to interpret the difference between persuasive material and what is truth. They are being taught to recognize the value of research-based information and that which does not stand up to scrutiny.

A Note from Giedre Stankunas

This summer Dainu Svente will be presented July 5 – 8. *For those of us whose Lithuanian is a bit weak, that is the fabulous Song Festival.* Kaunas will participate in the festival this year. This year it will be of marathon proportions, as it will be a dress rehearsal for the giant 2009 Song Festival. Festivals are held every year in Vilnius and throughout the Baltic countries.



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

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Officers of the organization
are *ex-officio* members of the board. President of the
organization acts as President of the Board of Directors.

I would like to make a contribution to:

The Lithuanian Scholars Fund (\$40). _____

The Interpreters Fund (\$200). _____

You will receive a letter of thanks from those that benefit.

I am enclosing the following amount for annual membership:

Regular Membership (\$25) _____

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

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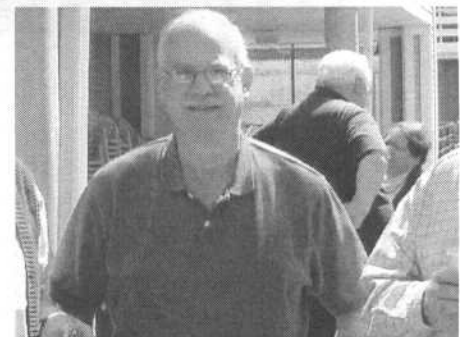
M/M. Algirdas Multiolis
1725 Sherwood Blvd.
Euclid, OH 44117

44117\$1976 C011



**From the President:
Highlights from Karl's April Visit to Lithuania**

I had an excellent 10-day visit to Lithuania this spring. Productive meetings were rife with representatives from the Ministry of Education and Science, PPRC, Ministry of Social Work, Viltis Camp, Kaunas Special Education Program, Siauliai University, and other policy makers. We discussed A.P.P.L.E.'s unique role in teacher/education training as well as changes that are happening in the current educational climate. The seminars for Vilnius, Camp Viltis, Kaunas, and all the other locations have been mapped out.



I participated in three, excellent, daylong seminars in Kaunas involving special education/disability concerns. Everywhere I go, A.P.P.L.E. continues to be regarded as a prime mover in setting the direction for education in Lithuania. I left the country this spring confident of A.P.P.L.E.'s mission as we maintain a significant influence in educational trends in Lithuania.

Through the combined efforts of literally hundreds of A.P.P.L.E. volunteers and supporters, this summer's seminars have been carefully planned and financed. I am looking forward to these seminars knowing that Lithuanian educators will move forward in new and exciting ways through our interactions. Old and new friendships will flourish in an atmosphere of mutual growth and collaboration.

Karl