

# Apple

## REPORT TO THE CORPS

Volume 17, Number 2

December 2007

### AMERICAN "ANGELS" FOR LITHUANIAN SCHOOLS

At the first principals' meeting I had this year, I talked about my A.P.P.L.E. experience this past summer and mentioned the needs of the Lithuanian religion teachers. I asked if any of them would be willing to take on a service project in their schools by adopting a Lithuanian religion teacher and sending religious articles and other needed items to these teachers. Some took up the request but I wanted more. Our new

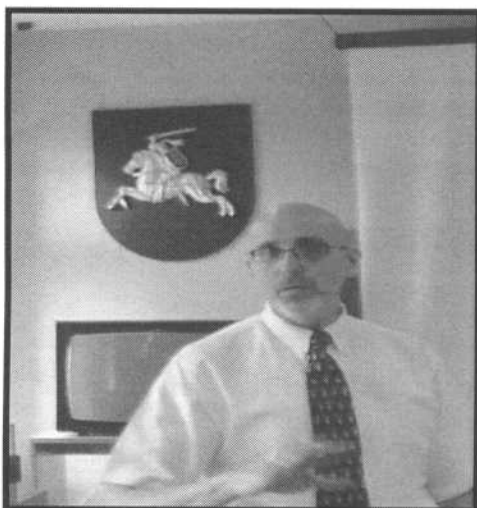
superintendent, Sr. Marie Pappas, thought my partnership idea was wonderful and was 100% behind it. When she heard I needed a few more schools to help out, she allowed me to address all of the principals of the Archdiocese of New York at our annual meeting.

one school sending religious goods and supplies for use with their students.

Sr. Lucy Povolonis, a Lithuanian Dominican Sister of Hope was born in a refugee camp on the way out of Lithuania. She is thrilled to be a part of this project and will even be traveling to Lithuania this summer to visit family.

What started small has grown as now some parishes are even getting involved. I would like to think that each teacher will receive a special Christmas package with goods from our schools. What a great Christmas that would be! I am happy to have put the pieces together to help those religion teachers who want to share the love of God but are strapped for things to use. Hopefully, what our schools do will help them do their jobs better.

*By Phil Gorrasi*



*Phil Gorrasi in his Lithuanian classroom*

All of the teachers I worked with in

Lithuania will have "angels" this year. I must say I am thrilled that so many saw the need and were willing to lend a hand. At a recent meeting, one of the principals said they had already mailed out a package and I am certain more will be going over for Christmas.

Over 50 schools in the Archdiocese of New York have volunteered to partner with Lithuanian religious teachers. Each teacher with whom I worked last summer will have at least

**Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year!**

**Linksmų Šventų  
Kalėdų  
ir Laimingų Naujų  
Metų**

## Ritone Rudaitis -

### "The Big Apple"

Ritone Rudaitis has been writing news articles for the Lithuanian press for the past 17 years. Her voice has been heard by many Lithuanian-Americans. She continues to be happy to translate a long list of documents for friends and colleagues who rely on her expertise. In the Chicago area, Ritone has become known as the "Big Apple", because she is so often extolling the virtues of this organization.

Oftentimes she is asked, "When are you going to end this A.P.P.L.E. thing?" Some people assume that after a while, education is over. Ritone, as a professional educator, realizes that learning should never end. In America, teachers and the community expect educators to be active in professional development, whereas, in Lithuania teachers want and need this but the community is less knowledgeable of its importance. She has explained this life-long learning process to Lithuanians and Lithuanian-Americans over and over.

Ritone has been a part of A.P.P.L.E. from its very beginning. She has often taken the time to mentor new lecturers, such as Sue Kohfeldt in 1999. "I remember my first year with A.P.P.L.E. Ritone took the time to answer so many of my questions. We walked through Panevezes and along the edges of the farms in Solcininkai where she told me all about what Lithuania is and what makes Lithuanians such a strong people. She told me stories of the history of her people and the places that are so important. She is a fabulous ambassador for this wonderful country. I have ruta in my garden today because Ritone told me it was such an important symbol to Lithuanians."

Her message is that Lithuanians, both educators and others, need to keep abreast of all that is happening! You may recognize these recent headlines from articles that she has written: The Fruit of Wisdom \* A.P.P.L.E. Has a New President \* The Loss of a Luminary \* Lithuanian Foundation Awards A.P.P.L.E. \* A Successful Lithuanian Foundation Gala in Lemont \* An Acknowledgement for A.P.P.L.E. \* How an A.P.P.L.E. Seminar Has Changed My Outlook on Life \* Vytas Underys, Lithuania's friend. \* A.P.P.L.E. Volunteers Have Returned Home to USA \* Plans Are Ripe for A.P.P.L.E. 2003 Seminars \* Learning is a Continuous Process \* Looking Forward to A.P.P.L.E.'s 15th Summer. \* A.P.P.L.E.—the Fruit of Wisdom. \* From Canada to Lithuania \* Happenings in Lithuania. \* A.P.P.L.E. Lecturers Come Back to America and It is Silent. \* A.P.P.L.E. Seeds in Lithuania. \* The Seed Was planted \* The Future of Lithuania is in A.P.P.L.E. Hands \* A.P.P.L.E. is Ripening and Maturing \* A.P.P.L.E. and Lithuanian Educators \* A.P.P.L.E. is

Looking for Volunteer Educators \* The World Owes Much to Lithuania from David Keith \* A.P.P.L.E.'s March in Lithuania \* A.P.P.L.E. on Lithuanian Television \* A.P.P.L.E. Seeds Have Sprouted—Still a Long Way to Harvest. \* Getting Ready for the Tenth Anniversary \* The Children with Emerald Eyes.

A.P.P.L.E. is *proud* and *fortunate* to have Ritone as one of its colleagues and supporters!



Ritone Rudaitis— *The Big Apple!*

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## Spring and Summer Wrap-up meeting dates set

The Spring 2008 meeting will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in San Diego. Jack and Nancy Vellis will coordinate this meeting. As San Diego is home to a large Lithuanian-American community, A.P.P.L.E. is planning presentations to advocate for the organization and to recruit for new presenters for future summer seminars. The meetings will be on the campus of University of San Diego.

Final preparations for the Summer 2008 seminars will be the main agenda item.

Following the Summer seminars, the Summer 2008 Wrap-up Meeting will be back on the East Coast in Wallingford, Connecticut on August 23rd. Jane and Walter Serbent will coordinate this meeting.

# ŠIAULIAI UNIVERSITY

## SEMINARS

The Dr. Algirdas Grigonis Special Education Program began its 2007 Summer A.P.P.L.E. sessions with a most successful three-day seminar hosted by and held at Šiauliai University, Lithuania's special education teacher preparation institution.

Participants attended either the workshop conducted by Dr. Anita Scarborough, Special Education Early Intervention Researcher, or that of Jim Boyd, Vocational Evaluator/Counselor specializing in transition planning.

At the request and invitation of the Special Education Faculty of Šiauliai University, Anita's sessions addressed theoretical underpinnings of early intervention series for young children and their families and current best practices in the provision of services. Jim's sessions addressed the training and practice of vocational rehabilitation counseling and introducing vocational planning with secondary school students. Additionally, an emphasis was placed on developing employer relationships with community businesses for job placements for individuals with disabilities.

Approximately fifty participants including professors, masters and doctoral candidates, special education teachers, members of multi-disciplinary polyclinic teams, therapists, job service employees, and personnel from the Business Development Center for Individuals with Disabilities in Šiauliai, attended these seminars.

Karl Janowitz

## Bullies in School

Dr. Wayne Reid was a lecturer in the Administration Strand this past summer in Vilnius. Bullying in school is becoming an issue in Lithuanian schools. The following is a short summary of his well-received lectures.

"One of the toughest issues for schools today is bullying. I have developed a system I call the "REID Anti-Bullying Program." "R" is for Rules, "E" is for Evaluation, "I" is for I am the key, and "D" is for Decision. Each piece of the puzzle is held together by prayer and dedication. In years gone by, adults have shirked their responsibilities to intervene against bullying.

Now, principals are being asked to develop new habits and techniques. The old adage that "Sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will never hurt me." has proven itself to be an enormous lie. Every child should have the right to be spared oppression and repeated, intentional, humiliation in school and society at large. No student should ever be afraid to go to school for fear of being harassed or degraded. No parent should need to worry about awful things happening to their children."

Assisting with one session, Vytas Underys performed a song he had written for his own daughter, who was afraid to go to school after a school shooting in the U.S.



## Art Presentation -Teacher Center

This year the A.P.P.L.E. presenters were invited to a lecture about native weaving one afternoon after the lectures. A weaving expert demonstrated the meaning of the colors and various designs that are found in Lithuanian weaving. He illustrated the complexities of the patterns and how, although they have changed over the centuries, the basic design has remained intact.

The presenters perused the archives of many school projects that reside at the PPRC for use as examples in the presentation.

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### Summer 2008

A.P.P.L.E., in partnership with the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science, is planning the eighteenth summer of in-service programs for Lithuanian educators, school social workers, administrators, and other school personnel. We invite you to consider joining us in this challenging and rewarding endeavor in sharing educational ideas with our Lithuanian colleagues. While A.P.P.L.E. originally helped revitalize the post-Soviet Lithuanian educational system, we are currently focusing on the educational content and instructional methods necessary for a 21<sup>st</sup> century democratic society.

If you would like more information about A.P.P.L.E. and its goals, please visit our web page at [www.applequest.org](http://www.applequest.org). More information about summer opportunities as well as an on-line application are at the web page. **Please feel free to telephone our Vice President for Human Resources, Shirley Sabo, at 203/758-4600 with any questions.**



## From the Past President

*Editor's Note-We asked Karl to write this article during the sessions in Lithuania*

It is July 13 and A.P.P.L.E.'s 17th summer is in full swing. The eleven strands of the Vilnius seminars are completing their first session, the Dr. Algirdas Grigonis Special Education Program has already concluded a vibrant seminar at Siauliai University and is currently working in Linkuva with seminars in four additional geographical locations scheduled for the next two weeks. The Science Strand is readying its regional seminar for Akmene. Camp Viltis will begin its program in another week as well.

There is an interesting enthusiastic cohort of lecturers participating this summer, about half of whom are new to A.P.P.L.E. It is encouraging to see so much interest in the A.P.P.L.E. program offerings. Yes, I have already been approached about having us return next summer!

Many things in Lithuania are quite different today from when A.P.P.L.E. started—and A.P.P.L.E. has changed as well to reflect this. One noticeable change is that the Vilnius Program now consists of two one-week sessions instead of the two-week session we traditionally ran.

This year's theme: "Best Practices in Education for the 21st Century" is providing an excellent context for our lectures. The world does seem to be changing. Various factors are affecting all aspects of our lives—including education. Educators throughout the world are re-examining current methodologies to determine which educational practices result in the best outcomes for all learners.

As my tenure as A.P.P.L.E. president is drawing to a close, I have done a lot of reflecting. These two years have been exciting and enriching. My work with A.P.P.L.E. continues to be a highlight of my life. It is an honor to have guided this extraordinary organization and to have met so many wonderful people from North America as well as Lithuania. I am also honored to see Dr. Algirdas Grigonis memorialized in a major A.P.P.L.E. initiative and to have seen the positive impact that a volunteer organization with hard-working, dedicated and generous people can have. I am looking forward to continuing the work of A.P.P.L.E. with you.

To everyone reading this — Thank you,

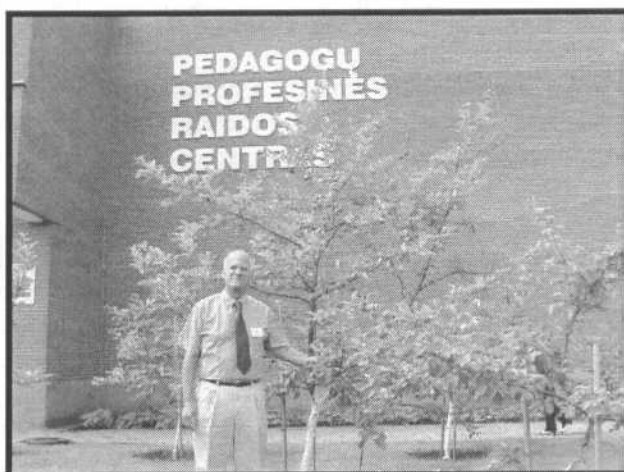
*Karl Janowitz*



*Smiling staff and students from Camp Viltis.*



*Irena Ross presents the shipment of books at the Teacher Center.*



*Karl Janowitz standing by the grove of apple trees outside the teacher center in Vilnius. One tree is planted each year to mark A.P.P.L.E.'s continued participation with the Ministry of Education's program for educational reform and profes-*

## Over 150 donated dictionaries— ***A BIG HIT IN VILNIUS!!***

As part of its 2007 summer seminar activity, A.P.P.L.E. left behind an imaginative, yet practical, contribution throughout Lithuania; namely, 156 (13 dozen) beautifully illustrated, bilingual, hard-cover Richard Scarry dictionaries. As a pictorial dictionary with English language labels, the author's original has been very popular in the U.S.A. since the 1960s.

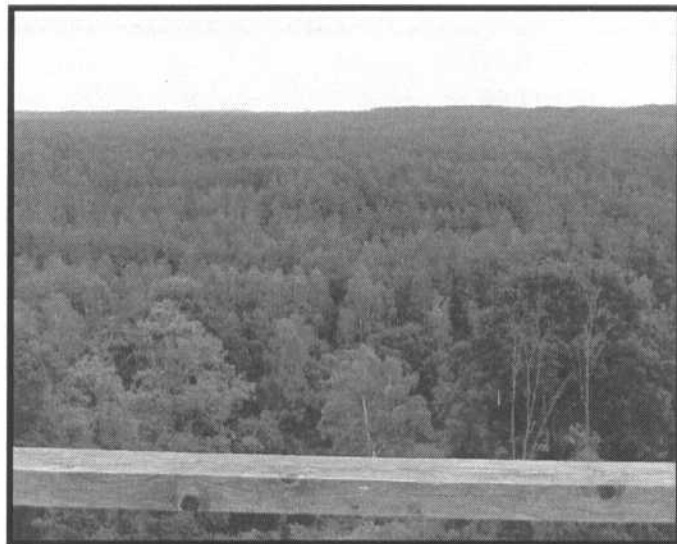
Shortly after its publication, several Lithuanian-American educators succeeded in producing a bilingual (Lithuanian-English) dictionary modeled on the Richard Scarry original. It became a useful teaching tool for the enrichment of Lithuanian language learning in Saturday school classes throughout the U.S.A. The very same dictionaries will be equally useful this fall in the enrichment of English language learning in the younger grades of elementary schools in Lithuania. Each dictionary contains close to 1,500 words or expressions of universal application alongside appropriate colorful illustrations.

This project required the generosity of several donors to acquire the dictionaries and the cooperation of Lithuania's Ministry of Science and Education personnel to distribute them throughout teacher centers in Lithuania. Three dozen of the dictionaries were distributed to students with special needs and their helpers at Camp Viltis.

The principal donors were Audrone and Andrew Messick from Asheville, NC, Amanda and Algirdas Muliolis from Cleveland, OH and Nancy Hanssen and Jack Vellis from San Diego, CA. In Lithuania, Maryte Speiciene and Ramute Zemioniene worked diligently in providing accurate lists of teacher centers and other statistically relevant information for distribution purposes. Algirdas Muliolis produced very attractive book plates identifying A.P.P.L.E. as the donor of these dictionaries.

The publicity surrounding this project aroused unusual interest in these dictionaries among all seminar participants. Many of them were keen to buy them for their own children's or grandchildren's needs. As of the 2007-2008 school year, English will be taught in Lithuania's schools starting in Grade 2 and so these dictionaries will be well used.

Editor's Note: A picture of Irene Ross presenting the books at the PPRC is on the preceding page. If anyone is interested in buying a copy of this book for their own use, you may contact the editor, at [broussea@milan.k12.mi.us](mailto:broussea@milan.k12.mi.us) or use the envelope and address on this newsletter and the information will be provided. We do not sell them but will forward the information, if requested.

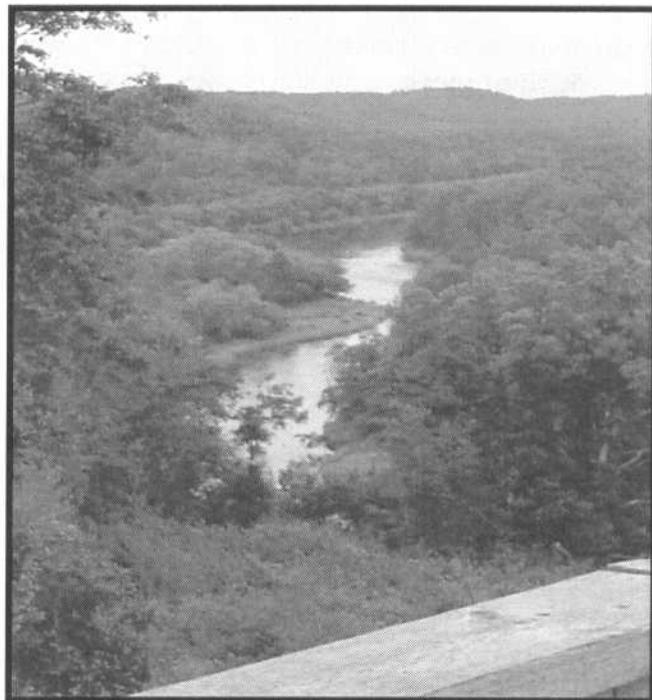


A Lithuanian National Forest

## Land of Forests

We have heard for years that Lithuania is a land of forests, but they are seldom revealed. I have seen much of the landscape driving here and there over the past few years and never thought the forests were a dominant feature. This summer I had the opportunity to have dinner at a regional restaurant with a balcony over the forest. This is the view from the balcony where we had dinner. We could see for miles over the tops of them. They stood there, straight and tall. The Neris River flowed peacefully through them.

by Sue Kohfeldt



The Neris River.

**\$10,000 or more**

Mr. V. O. Virkau Downers Grove, IL  
 In memory of Irena Virkau and  
 Elena & General Zenonas Gerulaitis

**\$3,000 or more**

Lithuanian Foundation, Inc. Lemont, IL  
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# ***A.P.P.L.E. wishes to thank its 2007 major donors!***

*Your generosity  
 directly benefits the teachers, students and country of Lithuania.*

**\$100 or more**

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### **Memorials**

#### *In memory of **Mr. Klaus Pintsch***

Given by: Ms. Laima Sileilis-Hood	New York, NY
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#### *In memory of **Frances Discavage***

Given by: Mrs. Aldona M. Kelly	Cresskill, NJ
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### **Honors**

#### *In honor of **Jane & Walt Serbent***

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Francis Serbent	Rensselaer, NY
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## **Welcome new board member- John Baltrus**

John Baltrus is a native of DuBois, PA and has lived near Pittsburgh, since completing his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh in 1987. He also holds a B.S. degree in chemistry with a minor in mathematics from St. Francis University (PA), from which he received the Distinguished Alumnus in Science Award in 2005. He is currently a chemist working on the development of synthetic liquid fuels from coal and Research Group Leader for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory in Pittsburgh. His research deals with surface analysis. John is currently the president of the Lithuanian Citizens' Society of Western PA and served on their board of directors for a number of years. He is also president of the local council of the Knights of Lithuania and has served as a District and Supreme Council officer. He is the leader of Pittsburgh's Lithuanian dance group, Neris. He is on the organizing committee and has served as president of the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy (PITTCON), the largest conference and exposition for chemists in the world. As the former chairman of the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh, he was instrumental in gaining support from the Society for A.P.P.L.E.'s Science Strand since 1998.

John's father was born in Lithuania and both of his mother's parents were born there as well. He has made several trips to Lithuania, the most recent being this past summer. In the summer of 2005, he had the opportunity to observe the A.P.P.L.E. program in Vilnius and the science strand in Klaipeda.



## **Worthwhile Giving—**

Compare A.P.P.L.E. to others and you will find that ours is one of those rare organizations that pays no administrative salaries to its officers or directors. They are all volunteers. Your membership dues and contributions to either the Scholars Fund and/or the Interpreters Stipends are invested each year in the summer programs for Lithuanian teachers and administrators.

**What more could one ask?** A pre-addressed enveloped is provided with this publication for your convenience in making your donation to A.P.P.L.E., which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible (subject to IRS rules and regulations) and receipted.

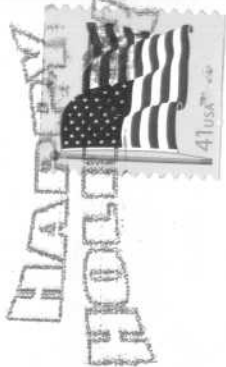
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M/M Algirdas Multiolis  
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**YES! I would like to join in your efforts  
toward educational reform in Lithuania.**

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)** \_\_\_\_\_

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A.P.P.L.E. programs: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Apple.**

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