

The A.P.P.L.E. Seed



(American Professional Partnership

for

Lithuanian Education)

E-Zine

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April President's Message

Happy Spring! We are all grateful that the winter is behind us. With the horrendous tragedy in Japan, complaining about our weather here seems to be a mild inconvenience, to say the least. Our thoughts and prayers are with the courageous people of Japan as they begin to recover from this catastrophe.

We are busy getting ready for our Annual Meeting taking place in Orlando this year on April 30th. We will be discussing our plans for the summer sessions in Lithuania this July. We have not heard as to our location, but expect to hear from the Ministry shortly, as they currently looking for the best place for us to be housed.

We are also still in need of lecturers, and I encourage anyone who has been thinking about coming to Lithuania this summer to give this some serious thought. The Requests for Proposals are found on our web page at www.applequest.org. Our theme this year is the Integration of Technology into Curriculum. If you know anyone with expertise in this area, encourage them to give us a try. Please call

Shirley Sabo, A.P.P.L.E.'s Administrative Assistant, at (203) 758-4600 with any questions you may have.

A happy and holy Easter to all our A.P.P.L.E. friends and colleagues!
Linksmu Sventu Velyku!

Dr. Vida R. Gavin
President of A.P.P.L.E.

Mission Statement:

"The American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.) is a volunteer international non-profit educational organization. With the support of the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science, A.P.P.L.E. partners with Lithuanian educators to foster the implementation of innovative educational approaches that contribute to the development of a democratic society."

A.P.P.L.E. Member Profile - Aldona Marijosius



Aldona Marijosius

I was born in Lithuania, fled the Communists and spent some time in refugee camps in Germany, came to the United States when I was eight years old and settled in Brooklyn, New York where I attended elementary and high school. I received a BA degree in foreign languages with a major in German at the City College of New York (which at that time was tuition free), continued with graduate courses in German literature at CCNY, and later obtained a Masters in Library Science from Rutgers University. In addition, I attended graduate courses in ESL at CW Post on Long Island.

However, my first love was always teaching, and throughout my life I have been involved in this profession in various ways and at all levels, teaching: a reading course for a private company to high school and college students; reading and math at a vocational school in NY City; and finally, ESL at our local high school in Port Washington, NY.

But we were brought up with a love for our heritage and nostalgia for a country we never knew. As a result, I was always involved with the Lithuanian community and taught at our Saturday school for about fifteen years, participated in a Lithuanian pre-school (when my children were small), and developed and conducted English language lessons for the "third wave" of Lithuanian immigrants who started coming to the US after Lithuania's independence. This last experience was exciting and satisfying because it brought me in contact with the new generation of Lithuanians whose history was so different from mine. Oh, yes...and I teach Lithuanian folk dancing when the need arises.

In the early 1990's, I had read about A.P.P.L.E. in the Lithuanian press and thought it was a great idea, but it was only one of the many programs that were formed for American-Lithuanian cooperation and assistance. I didn't know Vaiva or Gita personally and had no thoughts of joining this group. Then in early 1993 my good friend, Giedre, (who had participated in A.P.P.L.E. seminars the previous summer) persuaded me to volunteer my services for the summer '93 sessions and I was accepted.

That summer was a difficult time for Lithuanians - there was great uncertainty about the future, and the people seemed depressed because the dream for a better life in an independent Lithuania had not been realized. The cold, rainy weather only underscored the dreary state of affairs. But at PPRC there was optimism, and enthusiasm, and laughter. The eagerness of the Lithuanian participants demonstrated their thirst for new ideas, their desire to learn and interact with colleagues from the West and this is what made my first year with A.P.P.L.E. an amazing experience.

I was assigned in Vilnius as an interpreter, a function I had never attempted before. It was daunting to stand in front of the classroom, knowing that my Lithuanian was less than perfect, hoping that it will be adequate. The Lithuanians, of course, praised my command of the language even though it was "quaint". I survived the two weeks, realized that I had a hidden talent when the lecturer is clear and precise, and I was hooked. (Barbara Henriques is a wonderful lecturer to translate for).

Since then I have been back about fourteen times, and after we started hiring Lithuanian interpreters, I became their coordinator, as well as assistant to the program director in whatever capacity necessary. In addition to Vilnius, I took part in A.P.P.L.E. sessions in Kaunas, Marijampole, Moletai, Taurage, Utena, Anyksciai. Each time I come back to NY, I am high on Lithuania and high on A.P.P.L.E.

There have been funny incidents, inspiring moments, and even frustrating times but the greatest reward is the people that I met through my association with A.P.P.L.E. It is truly an exceptional group of dedicated professionals and I am honored to be part of it.

The Lithuanian Scholars Fund of A.P.P.L.E.

Building a bridge between our summer seminars and our cohorts of participants is a small but very meaningful program that supports teachers and education personnel in the development of creative ideas that have specific meaning to the local communities represented in A.P.P.L.E.'s work. I have long held the belief that education is a change process and oftentimes it takes small amounts of support to generate meaningful change in classrooms, in communities and in our students. The Lithuanian Scholars Fund was designed to help build that bridge. It supports teachers, schools and communities through small grants to support innovations in learning.

The Lithuanian Scholars Fund of A.P.P.L.E. has offered an opportunity for Lithuanian participants in the A.P.P.L.E. Summer Seminars to apply what they have learned in seminars to their schools, classrooms and/or communities through the Lithuanian Scholars Program. Since 2006 participants in our summer programs are offered the opportunity to submit proposals for innovative projects based on the theme of the summer seminars that link educational theory and educational practice.

Each summer, Amanda Muliolis arranges for previous award winners to present their final projects at our summer sessions. These serve as a model of what projects might look like. Over the past several years we have seen a wide variety of projects, some limited to a classroom, others engaging classrooms with their communities and some enabling schools to better accommodate special needs students.

The Lithuanian Scholars Fund grants are submitted each fall for innovative projects based on identified needs that teachers and support personnel identify in their own communities. The proposal includes a rationale and an estimated budget. Most projects seek additional funds from their schools and/or communities or from other sources. The additional support from A.P.P.L.E.'s Lithuanian Scholars Fund makes their project possible.

A team of Lithuania readers using an evaluation criteria rubric assesses each proposal. The highest scoring proposals are then awarded to teachers and support personnel from K-12 and special education centers. Award winners are required to submit their completed projects by the end of the school year. The additional work of Ramute' Zemiņiene, a member of A.P.P.L.E.'s Lithuanian team, supports applicants and award winners through the process.

The support of Amanda Muliolis, and our team of readers is critical to the success of the Lithuanian Scholars Fund. Of course, it would not be possible without the support of our contributors to the project. Please consider making a donation to support this worthy program.

The Lithuanian Scholars Program has supported the following teachers as change agents in their educational communities. Please join us in celebrating the 2010-2011 Lithuanian Scholars Award Winners!

To see the Lithuanian Scholars' Fund 2010-2011 winners, go to the official A.P.P.L.E. website, www.applequest.org and also check the winners' distribution map to see where the winners are located.

Submitted by:

Barbara Henriques



A Working Wedding Anniversary

Board Member Vitas Underys and his wife Taura will travel to Lithuania this month to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary. The significance of this anniversary is that they have chosen to celebrate this anniversary in Lithuania, visiting family and friends, while also participating in a seminar for Special Education teachers. While in Vilnius, Vitas will be volunteering his expertise and services as the primary speaker, with Taura acting as his interpreter (he admits her Lithuanian is better than his), at a seminar in Vilnius at the Viltis Education Center (Viltis Ugoymo Centras). The seminar which will be held on April 4th, is being facilitated by Dr. Augiene Viliuniene, the director of the center. The primary focus of the seminar will be to explore new methods of developing both communication skills and literacy for students with disabilities who, less than twenty-five years ago, were thought to be uneducable.

We will look forward to publishing a follow-up article with photos covering the details and results of the seminar in our May issue.



WANTED!

EXPERIENCED TEACHERS OF BEST PRACTICES IN EDUCATION

We have a limited number of openings remaining for our Summer Programs in Lithuania during July.....

If you are an experienced educator with a passion for supporting best practices in teacher education, **we have an offer you can't refuse.**

This will be our 21st summer providing teacher in-service training programs under the auspices of the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science in support of Lithuania's education community.

NOTE:

Thanks to the recruiting efforts of Barbara Henriques, Vida Gavin and Ed Topar, we have been able to add two additional quality lecturers to our roster for our summer programs in Lithuania this summer.

Barbara, in her capacity as Program Director for our summer programs this year, was able to recruit an excellent K-12 science teacher with 15 years experience. Vida and Ed, in a joint effort, were able to recruit an outstanding teacher/administrator with thirty plus years of experience at every level from elementary through university. She had seen our call for participants in the March issue of *The A.P.P.L.E. Seed* ezine and this led directly to my personal contact with her and her subsequent proposal.

We are still looking for personnel to fill five (5) open teaching positions in the following disciplines: Two (2) teachers certified in either ESL or ELL at any level; one (1) teacher of Science at Secondary (7-12) level; and two (2) teachers of math and/or reading at the Elementary level.

Classes will be held in traditional teaching facilities, with PowerPoint assist capabilities, as well as computer lab access where required, an interpreter in each class and possibly a team teacher. You will be provided housing, usually in student dormitory-type facilities, as well as all meals and local transportation during your approximately three week stay with us in Lithuania.

If this brief description of what it would be like to participate in our mission to support the in-service training of talented and receptive fellow teachers, appeals to your sense of volunteerism or your desire to broaden your experience/resume or your curious sense of adventure, please contact us for more details. You can contact me, Ed Topar, at edtopar@gmail.com or our Summer Program Director, Barbara Henriques, at bhenriques@sjc.edu for an in-depth description of the total experience that awaits our participants this year.

We look forward to your inquiries and promise you a rewarding teaching experience, along with an up-close and personal view of the people, culture and sense of vibrancy that is evident everywhere in Lithuania today. Should you be able to join us in July, it will be a summer

memory that will last a lifetime!

Heard in Lithuania

Household buying/spending habits in Lithuania.....the results of a recent survey taken by the RIMI retail food chain indicate that of the families surveyed, those families that eat out at a restaurant once per week represent no more than 14% of the population. In addition, the average food shopping expenditure, per week, per family was 127 litas.

The "Daring Woman Award".....on the occasion of International Woman's Day, every U.S. Embassy around the world honors a local woman for her leadership, dedication and courage in support of woman's rights. This year's award winner in Lithuania is Margaret Jankauskaite, the project manager of the Equal Opportunities Center in Vilnius. She was honored for her work in improving the position of sexual minorities and her courage in implementing interventions for women's rights throughout Lithuania. The award was initiated and signed by U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton.

Follow-up to the initiation of the E-Census in Lithuania.....as reported in last month's edition of The A.P.P.L.E. Seed, the national census in Lithuania begun on March 1st is now in full swing. The initial phase, the electronic or E-Census, is being hailed as a success through March. It was anticipated that this approach would save time and labor expenses vs. the traditional door to door, labor intensive approach. So far, so good.

Beginning April 5 through May 9 the second phase of the census will be conducted with an enumerator visiting each household that did not respond during the E-Census phase.

YOUR CONTENT

**ATTENTION.....READERS OF THIS NEWSLETTER!
DON'T HESITATE TO LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WANT!!**

This is your e-zine and your opportunity to express your interests and perspective by submitting articles and/or requests for content that you believe would be informative and of interest to all our members, friends and subscribers. So, don't hesitate. Let us know what is of interest to you, and we will make every effort to provide the space and/or content that will allow for coverage of those areas of common interest. We look forward to hearing from each and every one of our readers. Remember, this is your e-zine!

QUIZ

QUIZ FOR APRIL

1. Who brings Easter Eggs for Lithuanian children?
2. Approximately how many lakes are there in Lithuania?

3. When was the first basketball game played in Lithuania?
4. What country has the longest continuous border with Lithuania?
5. Lithuania is in what time zone?

ANSWERS: Can be found under the REMINDERS section.

Quotables

"A teacher who is attempting to teach, without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn, is hammering on a cold iron."

Horace Mann
("Father of American Public Education")

Unseen Lithuania

I found this exceptional travel video of Lithuania online and felt compelled to share it with our readers. The video was shot from above, utilizing 50 separate flights over the entire countryside, capturing Lithuania's beauty, enchantment, and spectacular scenery. From the majestic sand dunes of Nida to the heavenly spires of Vilnius and Kaunas, beside the winding rivers that dissect the countryside and cities to the red-tiled roofs of Lithuania's historic buildings and churches, you will gain a new sense of appreciation for the natural beauty of this country.

This never before seen view of Lithuania takes away the viewer's breath. Amazing views that were captured by Marius Jovaisa, the author of the famous photo album of the same name and also complemented by a great soundtrack by Andrius Mamontovas creates the unforgettable impression.

[CLICK HERE](#)

ENJOY!

Submitted by Ed Topar

Reminders

A.P.P.L.E. will hold its Annual Meeting in Orlando.....come and join us if you can, on the weekend of April 30-May 1 and participate in the open session held on Saturday, April 30. Express your opinion and offer your perspective on what we do, and when and how we do it.

As you may know, it is at the Annual Meeting that we nominate and hold elections for the positions of A.P.P.L.E. officers and Board members. This year the elections are especially critical as we implement a major reorganization within A.P.P.L.E. to strengthen and ensure our ability to support Lithuania going forward.

Answers to Quiz:

1. Easter Granny (Velyku Senele)
2. 3,000
3. 1922
4. Belarus (653 kms)
5. Central European Time Zone

To our Lithuanian readers.....as we announced in our February issue, you are now eligible to participate in our newly announced program to support Lithuanian citizens in becoming official members of A.P.P.L.E. Please contact our coordinator in Lithuania, Ramute Zemioniene, at obuolys_lt@yahoo.com with your name, address and email address for details.

This electronic newsletter is designed for quick delivery of A.P.P.L.E.-related news to an audience that includes current A.P.P.L.E. members, friends of A.P.P.L.E. and interested potential members both within the United States and Lithuania.

Increasing communication and the exchange of ideas among our members increases the strength of our organization and our ability to be relevant to our Lithuanian constituents. Exciting and pertinent events occur all year round, and we want to keep all of you abreast of what is happening, when it's happening.

Editing for grammar, punctuation, and spelling of submitted materials is the responsibility of the authors.

Quick Links

<http://www.applequest.org>

[Quicklink 2 Ed Topar e-mail](#)

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