

**John Baltrus**

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**From:** A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education) [gail@appleamericanprofessionalpartnershipforlithuanianeducation.ccsend.com] on behalf of A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education) [jonaspb@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 05, 2013 6:01 AM  
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**Subject:** News from A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education)

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April 2013

Vol. 5, Issue 4



Kaunas  
Spring  
by  
Mstislav  
Dobuzhinsky

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

(American Professional Partnership  
for  
Lithuanian Education)

## E-Zine

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**Dear John,**



Karl Janowitz

## Message from the President

Greetings from beautiful, cold, somewhat snow covered Lithuania. The weather is crisp, and the countryside is perhaps more beautiful at this time of the year. I have had wonderful meetings in Vilnius and Kaunas concerning the A.P.P.L.E. Summer Program. People are looking forward to the Summer seminars and it looks like a wonderful program. Besides having productive meetings I have been visiting schools and am looking forward to participating in a conference concerning children with disabilities.

I look forward to meeting those of you who will be participating in our Board of Directors and Annual Meetings in Baltimore in the middle of the month.

As always, feel free to contact me.

This truly is a wonderful trip.

*Karl*

Dr. Karl P. Janowitz  
President

### 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 + A - A.P.P.L.E. Supporter - Thomas Griglun



**Thomas Griglun**

Thomas B. Griglun, former Meriden Probate judge, died peacefully at home on Tuesday, March 26, 2013. His wife, the former Florence Pinkevich, predeceased him. Judge Griglun was a supporter of A.P.P.L.E. for many years reports Jane Serbent.

Surviving him are his sons, John and his wife, Jean; Michael and his wife, Linda; and Thomas C. Griglun. He is also survived by his six grandchildren, James, Jennifer, Joseph, Catherine, Sarah and Andrew; and his three great-grandchildren. Also

surviving him are his brother, James and his wife, Susan Griglun; and longtime friend, Cynthia Swift.

Judge Griglun graduated from Bassick High School in Bridgeport. He was active in student government and played varsity football and was voted "Best Athlete" in his graduating class. He earned an A.B. at Brown University where he was a dean's list student, a Francis Wayland scholar and played varsity football. He also earned M.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Connecticut. He began legal practice in 1959. He was a member of the Connecticut and Federal Bars. In the later years of his practice he served as a Superior Court Trial Magistrate. He was twice elected Judge Probate for the District of Meriden by what the local newspapers called "landslide victories". He retired in 1994.

He was active in many law-related activities, serving as President of the local bar and as Editor of its newsletter. For many years he was a member of the Board of Governors of the Connecticut Bar Association. He was also a member of the American Bar Association committee advising the republic of Slovakia on court reorganization and was a contributing author to a "Concept paper on specialized court's" published by the American Bar Association. He was an officer and active member of the Lithuanian American Bar Association which was instrumental in initiating and implementing law reform in newly independent Lithuania, whose legal system had been subverted by 50 years of Soviet occupation and repression. In 1999 and 2000 he taught trust law at the University of Vytautas the Great in Kaunas, Lithuania.

He was a veteran of World War II having served in the South Pacific with the USAF. Active in veteran's affairs, he was for many years the Judge Advocate of the Polish Legion of American Veteran's and of the Disabled American Veterans, from whom he received DAV's "Distinguished Service Award." He was a parishioner of St. Stanislaus R.C. Church. He was legal counsel to Father Kriss during his administration, a member of the church's St. Cecilia Choir, a charter member of the Holy Name Society, chairman of the Renew program, and member of the St. Stanislaus School Board. He was a member of the Kiwanis for over 40 years. He also served on the board of directors of the Salvation Army, Easter Seals, and Friends of the Meriden Library of which he was President from 1984 to 1988. He also was on many scholarship committees' including the Kiwanis, Swedock and Meriden Foundation panels. He was President of the Meriden Foundation from 2007 to 2008 and presently.

He enjoyed playing a Mandolin and in 1973 established a musical group known as the Peasant Symphony Society, consisting of Peter Salomone, accordion; Walter Alwang, guitar; Ginger Alwang, auto-harp; with he and Dena Vouras, playing mandolin's. The group featured European folk music selected from his collection of over 3000 folk songs. The group played for local church groups, convalescent homes and community organizations.

His funeral was held on April 2nd in Meriden, CT.

**Editor's Note: We are actively looking for members of A.P.P.L.E. to profile in upcoming EZines. If you wish to submit a profile or suggest someone's profile you would like to see, please contact us by simply replying to this EZine email.**

### **Lietuvos Mokytoju Fondas (LMF)**

In Lithuania it would be difficult to find a teacher or anyone working in the system of education who would not know about A.P.P.L.E. In the past five years, more than a 173 Lithuanian educators have received financial support from the LMF, so it is also hard to find a teacher who doesn't know about the LMF and its activities.

Though the number of teachers submitting proposals is fewer than it was in the first few years of the program, the quality of the projects reflecting teachers' innovative ideas, creativity and complexity is increasing every year.

Last year the general topic of the A.P.P.L.E. summer courses was "Building educational communities in our school". All participants of the seminars, who were improving their knowledge in Palanga, at Siauliai and Kaunas' Vytautas Magnus Universities, as well as in seminars presented in several pre-school facilities in Kaunas, had an opportunity to submit proposals for the 2012/2013 school year. Twenty-six educators from various Lithuanian towns and districts submitted their proposed projects. This year the A.P.P.L.E. appointed panel reviewed the proposals and decided to fund nineteen judged to be the best, most creative and reflective of the content of the courses that were presented during the summer session. The total sum spent on implementation of the projects this year was 21,000 Litas (~7,800 USD). Also, for the first time this year two projects from teachers in schools in the Klaipeda area were financed by Klaipeda region businessman Zilvinas Zilinskas. APPLE deeply appreciates Mr Zilinskas' collaboration with the organization to specifically support the innovations of teachers in his area of Lithuania. His generosity exemplifies how the community can support the efforts of teachers in the education of Lithuanian students.

The largest proportion of projects, fifteen of them, was submitted by teachers of middle schools and higher secondary (gymnasiums) schools. Seven projects were proposed by educators at the pre-school institutions and four were proposed by special school educators. Overall, the majority of projects, sixteen, were submitted by the participants of the summer sessions that were held in Palanga, six projects came from the participants of the Kaunas program and four, from those who attended the program at Siauliai.

The overall highest rated proposal was that of Renata Bogusko from Vilnius Salininku gymnasium with the project "Musical - teaching methodology using information from several teaching subjects". This project has an impressive model of how, in a short period of time to bring together not only the students, their parents and teachers, but also the whole community of the local area. The musical "Spider's Wedding" will be presented as the result of a huge number of people involved in these creative activities.

Another project that demonstrates building educational communities in schools is Aurika Stepankeviciene's project from the Kaunas Jonas Lauzikas School. She described how children with special needs while seeing the close relationship and cooperation between parents, teachers and other specialists feel safer, more motivated and confident in themselves. Children with special needs are particularly sensitive to the tone of their environment, so it is very important that the students' parent be active members of the school community and be involved in as many activities as possible. Aurika suggests having lots of meaningful and interesting events in her school promoting interaction within the whole community to share best practices and to simply have time together. All of the nineteen winners for this school year emphasize in their projects the importance of encouraging school administrators, teachers, students' parents and the entire community to work together for the benefit of their students.

In mid-April all of the projects that were awarded funding will submit an interim report and we will learn about how successful they are in the implementation of their proposals.

Ramutė Zemionienė, A.P.P.L.E. Office Administrator  
Vilnius, Lithuania



## Board & Annual Meetings

The Board of Directors of A.P.P.L.E. will meet on Saturday, April 13th at the Homewood Suites, Baltimore Inner Harbor. Plans for this summer's program and other important business will be discussed. This meeting is open to members of A.P.P.L.E. More information can be obtained by contacting Vida Anton at [croilit@optonline.net](mailto:croilit@optonline.net).

The Annual Meeting of the Board for the purpose of electing officers will be held on Sunday morning, April 14th.

## Fundraising Corner

Would you like to support future projects awarded through the Lithuanian Scholars' Fund? Now is the perfect time to make a gift to A.P.P.L.E.

You may click on the button below to make a donation using PayPal. Make sure to add a note if you wish that your donation be specifically used for a Lithuanian Scholars' Fund grant.

What will different levels of donations accomplish?

- For \$100, you can provide an ink cartridge and paper so that A.P.P.L.E. can distribute lesson notes to teachers.
- For \$200, you can provide a stipend for a translator.
- For \$450, you can underwrite the distribution of our newsletter.
- For \$500, you can sponsor a Scholar's Fund Grant. Lesser amounts will be combined to fund a grant.

A minimum donation of \$25-individual or \$40-family will enroll you as a member of A.P.P.L.E. for one year. Of course, donations are still welcome by mail: A.P.P.L.E., P.O. Box 179017, San Diego, CA 92177.



A.P.P.L.E. is a 501(3)c organization, which means that your gifts are tax-deductible. Our tax-exempt number is 23-2682202. Because of strict IRS regulations, we cannot accept donations intended for specific people. If you would like to support relatives or

friends, please do so directly. The A.P.P.L.E. scholar grants are intended for Lithuanian educators who do not have contacts in the United States.

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.

Consider passing this email along to a friend who you think might be interested in hearing about us.

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