

John Baltrus

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Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 5:01 AM
To: jonaspb@comcast.net
Subject: News from A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education)

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

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for
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E-Zine



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Dear John,



Karl Janowitz

Message from the President

April has finally arrived and this winter which was quite difficult for many of us is a memory. Spring is here and plans for our twenty-fifth and final A.P.P.L.E. summer program are being finalized. This looks like it will be a very interesting and productive summer. On June 29 our summer seminar will begin in Vilnius.

Our spring Board of Directors' meeting will be held the weekend of April 24 in Washington, D.C. I look forward to seeing everyone who will be attending. And, as always, I thank you for your involvement and interest in A.P.P.L.E.

Atverkime savo sirdi Tikejimui, Vilciai ir Meilei!
Sveikiname visus su Sv. Velykomis.

Wishing all of you a Blessed Easter!

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."

RSVP Now - A.P.P.L.E.'s 25-Year Celebration - Washington, D.C.

By now, those requesting invitations to a special reception recognizing A.P.P.L.E.'s 25th anniversary at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, D.C. on **Friday, April 24th** should have received them. **Attendance is by invitation only.** You are reminded that **you must RSVP in advance** for security reasons. **Those failing to RSVP will not be admitted.**

A.P.P.L.E.'s Spring Board Meeting will follow on Saturday. Another celebration with our friends in Lithuania is also being planned for this Summer. We will publish more information as soon as it is available. We hope you will be able to join us for one of

these events.

English Language Teaching Resources

The U.S. Embassy in Vilnius is pleased to announce a new free educational resource for teachers of English as a Foreign Language: the pilot Shaping the Way We Teach English Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). This MOOC's goal is to improve the quality of English language teaching.

The MOOC will be offered in two sessions on the Coursera platform. Completion of part I is not a prerequisite for part II.

Part 1, The Landscape of English Language Teaching will begin April 6th.

Part 2, Paths to Success in English Language Teaching is not yet scheduled.

Participants can enroll for part I at

<https://www.coursera.org/course/shaping1landscape> and for part II at <https://www.coursera.org/course/shaping2paths>.

This course was developed by the State Department's bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in collaboration with the University of Oregon. As a MOOC, this is a structured and interactive course that can be taken worldwide online at no-cost by an unlimited number of people.

There are no pre-requisites or eligibility requirements for this course. Participants should be current or emerging EFL professionals. Participants need only to register for the course online at Coursera.org:

<https://www.coursera.org/course/shaping1landscape> for part I or <https://www.coursera.org/course/shaping2paths> for part II.

Shaping the Way We Teach English MOOC will be divided into two five-week sessions that can be taken independently. Part 1, The Landscape of English Language Teaching will begin April 6. Part 2, Paths to Success in English Language Teaching will be scheduled later, but you can be added to the watchlist for this course. The MOOC will be asynchronous and will include readings, videos, and discussion forums.

Part I: The Landscape of English Language Teaching:

- Week 1: Authentic materials to enhance student motivation
- Week 2: Pair and group work for collaborative learning
- Week 3: Critical and creative thinking to drive learning
- Week 4: Learner feedback and assessment to evaluate student progress
- Week 5: Language in context and using content to structure language learning

Part II: Paths to Success in English Language Teaching

- Week 1: Integrating skills and using tasks to motivate learners
- Week 2: Alternative assessment to demonstrate language ability
- Week 3: Incorporating individual learning differences in instruction
- Week 4: Effective classroom management
- Week 5: Reflective teaching

Candidates should be self-motivated and have access to a reliable Internet connection, a computer or mobile device capable of playing back web-based audio and video files, and the ability to type well enough in English to participate in discussions. An estimated 4-6 hours a week is required to participate in the course. Potential

participants may visit <http://help.coursera.org/> for support services, technical questions, and assistance using the Coursera platform.

We encourage all teachers of English to take advantage of this opportunity.

National Security Lessons in Lithuania's Schools

In a live broadcast, students of higher grades will be introduced to the country's Armed Forces and its operations, the Education and Science Ministry said. More than 100 schools joined the initiative.

The lesson will feature a film about a soldier's day-to-day life, the army's contribution to the country's security and participation in NATO missions. Students will have an opportunity to pose questions to army representatives during an online conference. After the broadcast, teachers will be able to further discuss the topic with the help of methodical materials prepared by the Education Development Centre together with students and other members of the school, the community and units of the Lithuanian Armed Forces.

This is the first online lesson on national security prepared by the Education and Science Ministry's Education Development Centre in cooperation with the army. A series of online broadcast are planned.

BNS and Delfi

Lithuanian Government Aids Ukrainian Students

The Government of Lithuania has allocated an additional EUR 80,000 to support Ukrainian children receiving education in Lithuania. The money comes from the government reserve. In October, the Lithuanian government allocated EUR 100,000 for the purpose.

There are now 15 Ukrainian schoolchildren from the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, receiving education at Vilnius Lithuanians' House until the end of this academic year. They are accompanied by two teachers.

Also, eight children and one teacher came to Lithuania in October, and seven more with an accompanying teacher arrived in February.

BNS and Delfi

A.P.P.L.E. Acknowledges Donors

A.P.P.L.E. would like to acknowledge the generosity of our donors in 2014. The list below is the second part of the listing that first appeared last month.

\$50 - \$90

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Fundraising Corner

You still have an opportunity to make a donation to honor A.P.P.L.E. and the many volunteers who have served A.P.P.L.E. over 25 years. All donations will be expended towards 2015 programs including A.P.P.L.E. Scholar's Fund. You can make a direct donation to A.P.P.L.E. by [clicking here](#) and 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., 105 Sturbridge Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

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. Note that because of compositional software constraints, we are not able to include proper Lithuanian characters in words and names.

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.

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