

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



(American Professional Partnership

for

Lithuanian Education)

E-Zine

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Message from the President

Now that the timeline for the applications for the 2011 Summer Programs has passed, we realize that we have very few applications. For this reason, I will extend the deadline and urge our readers to

seriously consider submitting an application, if they have expertise in the area that deals with our theme, i.e., **The Integration of Technology into Curriculum**. You may find the applications on our web page www.applequest.org. Applications can be submitted on-line, and then hard copies sent to the three people listed on the application. Now that the holidays are behind us and the anticipation of spring and summer are looming before us, consider joining us in Lithuania this summer. It would be an unforgettable experience. If you need further information, please call Shirley Sabo at 203-758-4600.

I would also like to urge any of our members, who would like a mini-vacation in Florida, to join us for our annual meeting this spring, which will be held in Orlando on April 30. Our Annual Meeting is an open meeting, and all of our members are welcome. Please contact Vida Anton for details regarding reservations, etc. at crolit@optonline.net. It would be a great time for us to reconnect or to make some new A.P.P.L.E. friends!

Hope that the groundhog will predict an early spring. Those of us living in snowy areas have had enough of winter and look forward to an early spring!

Happy Groundhog Day!!

Dr. Vida R. Gavin
A.P.P.L.E. 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.P.P.L.E. Member Profile - Giedre Stankunas



Giedre Stankunas

- Born in Vilnius with early childhood in Ingolstadt, Germany
- Attended elementary & secondary schools in Brooklyn & Queens, N.Y.
- B.A. in Zoology from Hunter College, NYC
- M.A. in Library Science from Queens College, NYC
- Librarian, Middle School English Teacher, Media Specialist in Greenwich, Ct.

I have spent my entire life in support of Lithuanian causes, preserving our culture and providing a positive representation of Lithuanian ethnicity. From attending the N.Y. Lithuanian Saturday school "Maironis" as a student and then as a teacher for seven years, to dancing with the folk group "Tryptinis", to growing through the ranks of the Girl Scout groups and becoming the Council Leader for the N.Y. Metropolitan Area as well as the Director for the Atlantic Region, to serving as a Board Member of the Lithuanian-American Community for the past ten years, to being the delegate from the United States to the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania and the World Community, to being the current Vice President of the Federation of Lithuanian Women, I have been totally immersed in my Lithuanian heritage.

I have always been involved with the American-Lithuanian community. It was a way of life for my parents, for me and for my sister, as it was for our friends. We wondered when and if Lithuania would ever become an independent country; we dreamed of that day but never really believed it would come. In 1991 we all rejoiced, watching our local TV news, as the historic event unfolded before our eyes. I was only sad that my parents had passed away in the mid 80's and would not experience this emotional and joyous moment.

It seemed natural that I would somehow become involved with the newly awakening democracy. When I read about A.P.P.L.E. in one of our Lithuanian newspapers, an article written about Jurate Krokys and Vaiva Vebraite and what they had started in Lithuania, it seemed a perfect fit. I was an educator, and with A.P.P.L.E. I could return to Lithuania every year, the land where I was born, with a purpose.

My first summer with A.P.P.L.E. I was stationed in Marijampole, translating the iSnowballi curriculum -- a program for adolescents concerning the dangers of alcohol at youth gatherings. Our Lithuanian teachers commented on my language skills: they thought my Lithuanian was very good considering I had grown up in the States. They said my vocabulary was old-fashioned and reminded them of their grandmothers! Be as it may, they learned from us and we certainly learned from them -- my vocabulary expanded as we spent time socializing and working together in the classrooms.

Every summer I was assigned to a different region: Alanta, Utena, Taurage, Salcininkai, Klaipeda

and, of course, Vilnius. I served as Program Director for six consecutive years and then remained on the administrative staff with people who would become close friends.

Through A.P.P.L.E. I visited parts of Lithuania that I would not have otherwise seen. We were often driven to local places of interest and people proudly showed us their towns and homes. My most memorable visit was with the Agricultural strand under the leadership of Dr. Donald Meaders. We visited pig farms, sausage factories, and dairy farms. I believe it was not an experience normally open to ordinary teachers. Everything was very orderly and clean, the smokehouses smelled delicious and of course the sampling table was ever-present!

A.P.P.L.E. has come a long way in these 20 years, thanks to the municipal Ministries of Education and their staffs. They are dedicated people, committed to the education of the children in their districts. We also cannot underestimate or forget the educators that spend their vacation time and funds so that A.P.P.L.E. is a presence in Lithuania not only in the summers, but very often during the school year. I had the privilege of being part of the A.P.P.L.E. summers for 17 years and I hope they will continue their important work for years to come.

Membership Guidelines for Lithuanian Citizens

A.P.P.L.E. MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES FOR LITHUANIAN CITIZENS

We believe the opening of membership in A.P.P.L.E. to our primary constituents, the citizens of Lithuania, will provide them and us with considerable benefits and improve our ability to be more responsive to their educational and social needs.

Many of you may know that we do have three Lithuanian citizens who currently hold Lifetime A.P.P.L.E. Membership status based on their long and outstanding service with A.P.P.L.E. They are Emilija Sakadolskas, Maryte Spieciene and Anele Biliunaite.

This new initiative is expected to further develop rewarding and positive relationships for all those interested in supporting the goals and aspirations within the Lithuanian Education Community.

Membership Eligibility

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Must agree that their membership will be governed according to the official By-Laws of The American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education.
- Must be a citizen of Lithuania.
- Must not have a criminal record of any kind.
- All Lithuanian team teachers, aides and volunteers working with A.P.P.L.E. personnel in our summer programs will be required to become members prior to their participation in any A.P.P.L.E. programs.

Membership Dues

Dues will be prorated to the Lithuanian economy and will be 25 litas per year.

Membership Opportunities

- All Lithuanian members are entitled to the same benefits as U.S. members.
- They are eligible and will be encouraged to participate as members of U.S. based committees, where their unique expertise and/or experience can provide insights and support to our mutual goals.
- They will be eligible to become members of the official A.P.P.L.E. Lithuanian Advisory Board and participate in a leadership role in the local governing of their members. (Details regarding this process will be made available within the next ninety (90) days)
- Members will be encouraged to submit articles relative to their activities, successes, needs and ideas to ***The A.P.P.L.E. Seed***, for publication in our monthly online newsletter, as well as our hard copy newsletter.

Application

As is the case with American members of A.P.P.L.E., the application process is simply a matter of contacting A.P.P.L.E, in this case Ramute Zemioniene, with your request to become a member of A.P.P.L.E., along with your name, home address, e-mail address and a check in the amount of 25 litas made out to A.P.P.L.E. Lithuanian Membership.

Timing

- Application for membership is available effective March 1, 2011.
- All applications will be handled through our primary contact in Lithuania, [Ramute Zemioniene](#). She can be contacted at obuolys_lt@yahoo.com.
- In this first year, a select group of Lithuanians, who have been supportive of and familiar with A.P.P.L.E. programs, will be invited to participate on an Advisory Board for Lithuanian members. These individuals will be contacted during this first quarter of 2011.

Any questions regarding this program can be referred to Ed Topar at edtopar@gmail.com.

Summer Program Personnel Notice!

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. **We are looking for personnel to fill six (6) open teaching positions in the following disciplines: Two (2) teachers certified in either ESL or ELL at any level; two (2) teachers of Science at Secondary (7-12) level; and two (2) teachers of math and/or reading at the Elementary level.**

If you choose to join us this summer, be prepared to be challenged and rewarded beyond any previous teaching experience. Your current experience, talent and enthusiasm for supporting fellow teachers will be recognized and appreciated by your Lithuanian counterparts who are waiting for the knowledge and skill development that you can provide.

Your 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

The highest cost of petrol in the Baltics.....as reported recently in the *Baltic Times*, the cost for one liter of petrol in Lithuania during the recent holidays reached 4.40 litas (1.28 euros). This price represents the highest price for a liter of petrol ever in Lithuania. Before excise taxes, a liter of petrol costs 1.97 litas. The same liter of petrol, before taxes, costs 1.89 in Estonia and 1.82 litas in Latvia. Diesel was recorded at 4.40 litas per liter during the same period.

Best Lithuanian Athlete of 2010 goes to.....Cyclist Simon Krupeckaite

For the second year in a row, Ms. Krupeckaite has won the award for being the Best Athlete of The Year in Lithuania. At a gala awards ceremony held on January 7, she officially received a sculpture titled "Sagittarius" by the artist Stanislav Kuzma along with a check for 50,000 litas. Congratulations to her, **again**.

A U.S. Senator visits his roots and meets the President.....Illinois Senator Richard Durbin, who is of Lithuanian descent, visited President Dalia Grybauskaitė in January to discuss her impressions of the recent elections in Belarus this past December. This discussion was held in anticipation of his

upcoming visit to Belarus. She stated that the policy of isolation, currently being practiced in that country has had a serious limiting effect on the development of a civic society with its neighboring countries, including Lithuania. She also thanked Senator Durbin for his long and continuous support to Lithuania.

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 THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

1. How many Municipalities are there in Lithuania?
2. Who is the Patron Saint of Lithuania?
3. What is the National Plant of Lithuania?
4. When did Vilnius become the capital of Lithuania in modern times?
5. What is the term of office for the President of Lithuania?

(Answers can be found under the [Reminders](#) block.)

"In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the previously learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists."

Eric Hoffer

Reminders

All A.P.P.L.E. members are invited to attend the Open Session (Saturday, 4/30/11) of our Annual Meeting.....for those of you who may be in the Orlando, Florida area or who are able to travel there during the weekend of April 30th, why not join us and be a part of our annual get-together. Watch for our periodic updates. We will provide additional details here as they become available.

Answers to Quiz above:

1. **Sixty (60)**
2. **St. Casimir**
3. **The Rue (Ruta)**
4. **1940**
5. **Five (5) years**

Note:

In our January issue, we misspelled the Lithuanian word "Nauju" in our New Year's greeting to you all. We apologize for this error. We trust it will not negatively affect anyone's prospects for 2011.

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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