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



(American Professional Partnership

for

Lithuanian Education)

## E-Zine

### In This Issue

Member Profile - John Baltrus

Heard in Lithuania

Quiz

Quotables

Reminders

### Greetings!

## LAIMINGU NATU METU!



### Message from the President

Hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends.

The deadline for the Calls for Proposals for our 2011 Summer Programs in Lithuania has come and

gone. These will be reviewed this month and notices will go out to all the applicants shortly after that.

Our Spring Meeting is scheduled for April 30-May 1, 2011 in Orlando, Florida. Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> is an open meeting, and we are urging many of our members and supporters to join us. Vida Anton is the coordinator of this event, and for further information, including accommodations, please e-mail her directly at [crolit@optonline.net](mailto:crolit@optonline.net)

At the start of this new year, my wish to all of you is good health for you and your families!

Happy New Year! Ilgiausiu Metu!

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 - John Baltrus**



I became involved with A.P.P.L.E. in 1998 when as chairman of the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP) and working with Mointa Leavitt, who was A.P.P.L.E.'s Science Division Chair at that time, I was able to secure a grant from SACP for A.P.P.L.E.'s science strand. After two subsequent years of grants from SACP, A.P.P.L.E. was made a line item in the yearly SACP budget and remains so to this day. I have continued to serve as the liaison between SACP and A.P.P.L.E. to administer that grant.

While never involved as formal instructor in A.P.P.L.E.'s summer program, I visited Lithuania a couple of times when the summer sessions were in progress. One year in Klaipeda, I was briefly able to sit in on and take part in the Science Strand being conducted by Jim Brousseau and Sandy Buczynski. I brought with me friends of mine and their daughter, who was probably about 11 years old at the time. She was given the opportunity to participate in the workshop, which dealt with showing

the teachers hands-on how to perform simple demonstrations in the classroom to teach scientific principles. She came away very excited and remarked how the teachers in her classes never used such techniques.

I am no stranger to Lithuania, having visited there many times beginning in 1984. My father was born there, as were my maternal grandparents. Now, in addition to relatives, I have many professional colleagues and friends whom I visit.

I was born and grew up in DuBois, PA, attended St. Francis University and earned a B.S. degree in chemistry with a minor in math. I was honored with the Distinguished Alumnus in Science Award from St. Francis in 2005. I earned my Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh and then went to work for the U.S. Department of Energy in Pittsburgh where I have remained for 24 years. My current position is a research chemist specializing in surface analysis of materials related to the use of fossil energy.

I joined the Board of A.P.P.L.E. three years ago and I feel my extensive experience with non-profits and especially other Lithuanian-American organizations is an asset to the organization. I am currently the president of the Lithuanian Citizens' Society of Western PA. I was national treasurer for the Knights of Lithuania and served in various roles at the district level, including president. I was a member of the Pittsburgh Lithuanian dance group Neris for over 25 years.

On a professional level, I was president of the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy, the world's largest annual chemistry conference and the proceeds of which go to support science education, including the SACP's annual grant to A.P.P.L.E. I served and continue to serve in various capacities for the conference as well as its two supporting societies, the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh and the SACP. I also serve on the Heritage Council of the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia.

## Heard in Lithuania

**Enjoy these striking photos of Nida in Winter.....**For those of us who visited the beauty of Nida this past July as part of A.P.P.L.E.'s Summer Program, these images are in stark contrast to the sweltering heat that blanketed this wondrous place last summer. Now, the entire area is blanketed by wind driven ice that created these bone chilling, yet wondrous sculptures that somehow dilute the memories of just how hot it was there last July. For those of you who do remember.....Enjoy !

Do you think it is cold where you are? Take a look at conditions in Lithuania.



Brrrrrrrrrrrr!!!!

**Now what .....**? A recent article in the daily Lietuvos Rytis was quoted as saying that the last serious bidder for the planned construction of a new nuclear plant in Lithuania to replace the outdated nuclear plant located in Ignalina has dropped out. According to the article, South Korea's state energy corporation, Kepco, which had been the last major bidder on that project has withdrawn from that process.

With the EU requirement that the old Soviet style nuclear plant be decommissioned and replaced as a condition of Lithuania's continued membership in good standing within that organization.....**Now what ?**

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**The other Dream Team. Lithuanian Basketball History! Lithuanian basketball history was made during the 1992 Olympics.**

**[YOU'VE GOTTA WATCH THIS-](#)**

Narrated by U.S. sportscaster, Jim Lampley, this video provides the behind the scenes story that many people in the U.S. did not know about the resurgence of Lithuania's basketball prowess as an independent nation.

## **ARTICLES**

Additionally, we want to remind you that **you are encouraged to send articles** to us that you feel would be of interest to our readers. They can be items that you have authored or articles from others, including photos, from whom you have received permission to duplicate and to publish.

## **QUIZ**

### **QUIZ FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY**

1. How many counties are there in Lithuania?
2. Lithuania has a flat income tax. Do you know what the tax rate is?
3. What % of high school graduates go on to higher education?
4. Most people know the top three largest cities in Lithuania. Which is fourth?
5. Who wrote the Lithuanian National Anthem?

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

## **Quotables**

**"It is our choices.....that show what we really are.....far more than our abilities."**

Author **J.K. Rowling**

## **Reminders**

**Airline ticket prices for Summer travel are less expensive now....**for those who are participating in our Summer Programs in Lithuania next July, you may want to consider researching the best available prices for your flights at this time. Last year at this time, we were able to secure roundtrip tickets from New Jersey to Vilnius in July for less than \$1,000. It is not too early to begin checking out the best pricing for your flights next summer.

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**Answers to Quiz above:**

1. **Ten (10) Counties: Vilnius; Alytus; Marijampole; Utena; Kaunas: Taurage; Klaipeda; Telsiai; Siauliai and Panevezys**
2. **Twenty One Percent (21%)**
3. **Seventy Percent (70%)**
4. **Siauliai**
5. **Vincas Kudirka wrote it in 1898 and it became the National Anthem in 1919.**

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.

Organizational Development Committee  
A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education)

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