

John Baltrus

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Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2013 7:03 AM
To: jonaspb@comcast.net
Subject: News from A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education)

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June 2013

Vol. 5, Issue 6



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

It's finally here! A.P.P.L.E.'s 23rd summer of in-service programs for Lithuanian educators will begin in a few short weeks. Seminars will be held in Prienai/Birstonas as well as in Kaunas.

The theme for this summer's seminars, "Real World Applications of What We Teach", seems more relevant than ever in light of major educational and societal issues on both sides of the Atlantic.

We welcome our new as well as our returning lecturers and thank all of you who, through your generous donations of time and money, have made this summer's program possible.

Have a wonderful summer.

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.P.P.L.E. Member Profile - Philip Gorrasi



Philip Gorrasi

I remember that day in 1996 when a colleague of mine was speaking of his going to Lithuania. He painted a vivid picture of the country and the people. He then said that a member of his team dropped out at the last minute and he needed a replacement. Having the background needed in religion, I thought I'd volunteer to fill the space. I thought to myself, "It's a place I never thought I'd ever see and if I didn't enjoy it, it was only two weeks." Well, that trip in July 1996 began for me a love affair with Lithuania, a country I truly love.

Filled with apprehension, I entered a room filled with 40 women. They listened attentively and wrote down every word. There were growing pains, getting used to a translator and the rhythm necessary to deliver the message, there were some minor misunderstandings but we grew together. I can honestly say I learned more from "my ladies" than I was able to give. Coupled with that, I have made life-long friends among the lecturers. I greatly admire all who give of themselves to be APPLE lecturers.

After that first year in Vilnius, I traveled back to my adopted country four more times: 1997, 1998, 2000, and then for my last time in 2007. The early years were filled with days of an emerging Lithuania. There were changes every year. Smiles appeared, people looked you in the eye, clothing changed, and there was laughter. Of course, there was also the delicious food and the dancing. Oh the dancing! There were few men willing to dance so ethnic dance night was a workout better than any personal trainer could provide.

I always worked in the religion/ethics strand but part of our duties was to teach English right after lunch. Numbers, colors, parts of the body, pronouns, etc. were the topics covered but oh those days of the week. I can still hear the "th" of Thursday being the hardest sound to make. The students got the biggest kick from trying to speak perfect English. We laughed but we learned.

Lithuanian teachers were so impressive. They traveled from all corners of the country, arrived promptly, were well prepared, and always brought flowers. They wanted to absorb as much as they could so they could be excellent teachers. They just wanted to be the best they could be.

It has now been a number of years since I have been in Lithuania. After all this time, I

still speak fondly of my 5 summers in the "land of rain." Though the weeks flew by and the work was hard, there was such a sense of satisfaction when we sat at closing ceremonies. While we were strangers when the strand began, by the last day, there were many tears and newly formed friendships.

If I could ever influence someone to accept the invitation to travel with APPLE, I would say Not to think twice! Go, for you will never be the same. You will gain so much more than you will ever give and you will be able to say that the imprint of Lietuva shall always be on your heart.

A.P.P.L.E. 2013 Summer Program

Below is a summary of this year's summer program based on the theme "real World Applications of What We Teach". Sessions begin June 25th.

Carol Ramsey will lead a strand on the personal nature of storytelling, writing, and presentation as a method of learning for many school subjects.

Linda Brenneman and Ed Topar will continue their work with administrators on peer-coaching, teacher evaluation and support.

Dr. Leslie Young will continue her work in the University Strand in the area of Special Education and Pre-school. She plans to arrive a week early to work in the schools in Kaunas with students and teachers.

Dr. Anita Yuskauskas and Nancy Hanssen have a proposal for the University Strand to continue Anita's work from the summer of 2012 as well as qualitative research design. Nancy will present on Action Research in Special Education. Anita and Nancy plan to arrive a week early to work with graduate students at the university.

Marge Pett will be with the University Strand in the area of Special Education and Social Work. Marge participated in the summer program of 2005.

Sandra Dollinger, English Adjunct Professor from the College of St. Rose, Albany, New York. Secondary Literature Strand.

Dr. Edward Jakubauskas and his daughter, Marilyn Edwards will co-teach a strand on research regarding the impact of family and community on school readiness and well as integrated curriculum in the areas of math, science, language arts and writings for grades 4 and 5. Dr. Jakubauskas has previously participated in the A.P.P.L.E. summer program.

Dr. Blanche Wools, Snaige Raguckiene and Aldona Paulauskiene will offer a strand in library science. School librarians will learn effective practices to improve student learning, using cooperative learning methods.

Klaipėda - Lietuvos Mokytoju Fondas 2012-2013

In 2006 A.P.P.L.E. implemented **Lietuvos mokytoju fondas** (LMF), a small grant program designed to encourage and support teachers who attend A.P.P.L.E. sessions to implement new ideas to enhance teaching and learning in their schools and classrooms. During the summer program the LMF goals and the application process is explained to teachers from all over Lithuania participating in A.P.P.L.E. Applications are evaluated and ranked by three independent reviewers, and awarded based on available funding. In 2012 A.P.P.L.E. was fortunate to receive a generous donation from a Klaipėda businessman specifically designated to support projects from the

Klaipėda area. These funds provided support to two projects. The awardees were "Goodness has a Place in Our Hearts" a project submitted by teacher Inga Bagdonienė from Klaipėda Levos Simonaitytės Middle School and a project from teacher Lilijana Dambrauskienė from Klaipėda Sendvario Middle School to publish a newspaper commemorating the school's 50th year jubilee. A.P.P.L.E. is pleased to be able to support the innovations of these teachers and gratefully acknowledges the important contribution of a member of the Klaipėda community to enhance the educational experience of these students.

The project at **Klaipėda Levos Simonaitytės Middle School** focused on 7th through 10th grade students considered at-risk for academic failure because of learning, motivational or attendance problems. They are described as having low self-esteem, feeling unwanted, and not being academically motivated. Teacher Inga Bagdonienė proposed a project to help these students become productive members of the school and community.



Students at Klaipėda Levos Simonaitytes Middle School

The project outcome was the production "When You Are at My Side". Tenth grade girls were in charge of organizing the show. Students in the Drama Club created two musical stories; "A Stone and a Butterfly" and "What There is Most in the World". Students were responsible for all aspects of the production. During literature classes, students were asked to write a poem on the topic: "I exist to bring goodness and beauty into the world." Poems judged to be best were part of the production. Using the internet and the library, younger students collected sayings from great people all over the world about goodness, love, sacrifice, friendship and used them to create a PowerPoint presentation used in the production. Music Clubs performed songs by prominent artists that carry the same theme. Dance Club members involved in the project practiced with a dance group from another Klaipėda school.



Student Organizers

Students in home economics class baked cookies and a cake which was presented to residents at the home for the elderly during a presentation, while art classes made felt and paper flowers with written messages presented to women in the audience at the May 7th Mother's Day performance. Performances were May 2nd at the Golden Age Home, May 7th to the school community, and May 29th at the Rega Education Center in Klaipėda.

Klaipėda Sendvario Middle School is celebrating its 50th year. Liliana Dambrauskienė requested funds to publish a commemorative newspaper to highlight this historic event. Once work on the newspaper started, the school administration decided to supply additional funds in order to publish a commemorative book containing the information that the students collected about the history of their school, the school administrations, teachers and other personnel. Their research included collecting the remembrances of retired teachers and alumni reflections on their school experiences. The book highlights school sporting achievements, awards, theatrical performances and notable events.



Liliana Dambrauskienė of Klaipėda Sendvario Middle School

Students also wrote their own stories and poems about their school. These will be incorporated into the 24 page book. Pictures and drawings will illustrate the text. The participating students had a field trip to the publishing house to observe the process of printing and binding the book.



Students at Klaipeda Sendvario Middle School

Anita Adamitis Scarborough, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

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.

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