

John Baltrus

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Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 4:04 AM
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The A.P.P.L.E. Seed

(American Professional Partnership
for
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E-Zine



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Dear John,



Karl Janowitz

Message from the President

It is hard to believe that A.P.P.L.E.'s summer seminar for 2015 will be here in a few short weeks . Our 25th and final summer in-service program for Lithuanian educators will begin in Vilnius on June 29.

The theme for this summer's seminar, "Meeting Today's Educational Challenges" seems especially relevant when addressing educational concerns on both sides of the Atlantic.

We welcome our lecturers and everyone involved in this summer's program, and thank all of you for your generous support in making this summer and indeed our entire A.P.P.L.E. program possible.

Have a wonderful summer.

Karl

Dr. Karl P. Janowitz
President

Editor's Note: There will be no EZine in July. Look forward to a report on this summer's activities in Lithuania in the August issue.

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 - Katie Hoyle



Katie Hoyle

When asked to write a member profile a few years ago, I begged off, crediting my busy schedule with no little spot of time in which to write...but I said I'd do it later. A few weeks ago in Washington, D.C., the Lithuanian Embassy honored A.P.P.L.E. for 25 years of service in Lithuania as we come to our closing year. I was reminded of my promise to write, but now I can't find the words. I understand that we've all said this many times in the past. How can you describe such a feeling, such an opportunity, such a uniquely amazing thing that left you permanently changed? Maybe better to say, how did something so far away from your everyday life, end up having the power to shape your life?

I begin this writing with the decision that words will fail me, as I try to give you a glimpse of A.P.P.L.E. through my eyes. Enough words, stories, people, places and majestic events are jumbled in my head that could easily fill a book but to find the perfect thing to say here, I'm finding this a rather difficult task.

So, how did I, a North Carolina mountain native with no Lithuanian heritage, end up working with A.P.P.L.E.? Well, here's the short version: While music and theatre have been the focus of my education, I have long been an advocate for those with special needs, growing up with a sister with developmentally disabilities, then teaching music to students in self-contained classrooms, then mainstreamed and later in inclusion classrooms. It was the combination of the arts and special ed that first brought me to Lithuania in 1992. Before our A.P.P.L.E. experiences, Myra Goodwin and I worked with the leaders of the Dainava Ensemble from Alytus. Our plan was to bring a group of general ed and special ed students to perform together in Lithuania. While that trip never came to be, many other projects both in Lithuania and America took place. And without our Dainava connection, we never would have known A.P.P.L.E. We are forever grateful.

I first worked with A.P.P.L.E. in Lithuania in the summer of 1993. Those wonderful glory days of new freedom filled the air with a heady, contagious optimism. Lithuanian hospitality put Southern hospitality to shame. I'd never seen people with such generosity.

While many teachers wrote the specific "recipes" we gave in our lectures, I had the rather unique opportunity to see them plunge into music as I taught English Language through song and presented American Square Dance as choice lectures. No pens. No paper. Just the smiling faces of person after person lifting their voices in song and moving with that Lithuanian gracefulness that we clunky Americans couldn't quite figure out.

As the years passed, the teachers as participants were more and more open with their

own ideas. As American lecturers, we learned to offer more projects and the Lithuanians shone with creativity. Lithuanian teachers became lecturers alongside us, often returning year after year with stories of their own efforts in collaboration with the teachers in their hometowns and in foreign exchanges.

After several years, A.P.P.L.E. gained a new component. For years, the Viltis organization in Vilnius had presented a camp for students with special needs. Working with Viltis, we had the chance to work with teachers and students and even family members, all in the magical area of the Baltic Sea. Working for several years with Vitas Underys, an inclusion specialist from Detroit, we saw Lithuanian special ed and general ed teachers create amazing projects for the inclusion of special ed students. What a blessing to be able to work with A.P.P.L.E., Viltis, Lithuanian families, and both Lithuanian and American teachers in the former Soviet land of separation, watching the seeds of inclusion steadily grow.

As I write, my head and heart are flooded with opening ceremonies, closing ceremonies and final parties in our classrooms. I hear the melodic flow of the poetry selected by the participants to thank us for coming and the laughter as the groups perform for talent night. I see the smiling faces of dancers, and the hands moving in sign language to say that love can build a bridge. I hear the voices singing Sia Naktele, bodies swaying to the beat. I feel the wind and the mist as we stand and sing on the shore to say goodbye to sea and the warmth of the bonfires. I can almost taste the sausages and potatoes cooked over those fires. I feel the hands holding mine, hugging me and staring into my eyes.

And I would be remiss not to mention the lovely Americans I came to know and love. People with such open hearts to give of their time, knowledge and resources...people I will never forget.

Thank you A.P.P.L.E.,
Katie Hoyle

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

This year will mark the 25th and final summer program in Lithuania. It will take place in Vilnius from June 29th to July 3rd. Compared to previous years, there will be fewer strands this year and the program will last only one week. Nevertheless, we expected informative and spirited sessions. Anita Scarborough and Vida Anton will be co-directors of the summer program and the theme will be "Meeting Today's Educational Challenges". Brief descriptions and lecturers for each strand are found below:

Educational Leadership

Lecturer: Linda Brenneman, M.Ed

This seminar will cover how to define, assess, and restructure the culture of your school; a framework for pinpointing the type of culture you have, the type that you want, and the actions you need to take to bridge the two; and the second part of this seminar will present the basics of inquiry-based instruction and why it is important to 21st century learners.

Cultivating Language Skill in Middle School Students

Lecturers: Linda Higgins Spoletti, M.Ed & Juli Leitnick Roberts, MA

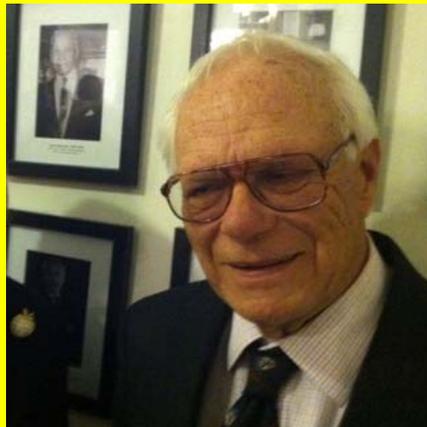
Topics to be presented are: Cooperative learning structures for the classroom. Physical games that enhance learning based on Howard Gardner's multiple intelligences. Daily

vocabulary lessons-with or without technology. Practical grammar exercises. Poetry activities designed to promote the awareness of the nuance of language. Utilizing works of art to stimulate discussion and writing skills.

Elementary Education

Lecturer: TBD

Reflections at the Embassy - Gabe Kajeckas



Gabe Kajeckas next to a photo of his father, Juozas Kajeckas

Especially in its early years, A.P.P.L.E. helped hundreds of Lithuanian teachers to become liberated from the oppressive Soviet system. But for me personally, there was another very personal and dramatic liberation that took place.

When I was at the Lithuanian Embassy in celebration of A.P.P.L.E.'s quarter-century of service, I was photographed alongside a small picture of my father, on the staircase as one arrives at the second floor of the Embassy. His picture is among others of Lithuanian diplomats who represented the legitimate government of Lithuania in Washington during the half-century of Soviet occupation. When I was born in January, 1940, my father was a Lithuanian diplomat in Berlin (of all places!). When the Soviets seized Lithuania in June, 1940, he convinced my Vilnius-born mother that the three of us should flee from Berlin and war-torn Europe while it was still possible.

That's how, at the age of nine months, I came to America, where my father spent the rest of his life working in the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, representing the right of Lithuania to be free and independent again. I learned English in school and gradually flourished in the American culture. This put me completely out of sync with my mother, who never stopped grieving the loss of her homeland, and assumed that my life's purpose should be activity on behalf of Lithuania; in my younger years, I was regularly put in "son of exile" roles for media consumption. I often felt trapped between the American culture in which my life unfolded, and the cause to which my mother planned for me to devote my future.

At the end of my college years - while living in the Lithuanian Embassy with my parents -- I fell in love with an American girl (English-Welsh-Irish) and resolved to marry. My mother tried to break up the relationship, and my father - an otherwise reasonable man - followed her lead in opposing my choice. My parents did not attend my wedding, and my mother never saw, met or acknowledged her three grandchildren. Although my father reconciled with me before the birth of my first

child, and was a loving and doting grandfather, because of my mother's intransigent attitude my children and spouse were not welcome in the Embassy. So in my emotional life as a young man, there was often painful conflict - I was proud of being Lithuanian and part of a magnificent heritage, but it also felt dangerous to be Lithuanian, subject to demands and expectations that I might not in fidelity to myself be able to fulfill.

It was only when A.P.P.L.E. came into my life in 1993, fifteen years after both my parents died, that I had a chance to put the fragmented parts of my life experience together. It was a joy to work with dozens of Lithuanian teachers, and to form bonds of mutual appreciation and collegial respect with so many of them during my several APPLE seasons (and later in other trips to provide addictions training). Those teachers had no idea of who my parents were or what the other facts of my life were - they simply responded to my wholehearted involvement with them with appreciation and affection. It was life-changing for me, being able to grow into being 'my own Lithuanian person' just because of who I was, not because of Where I Came From. So thank you, A.P.P.L.E., for setting me free from the toxic parts of my history and helping me to achieve more wholeness in my life. When I visit the Lithuanian Embassy nowadays, I still feel the ghosts of my difficult past, but can keep them where they belong - in the past. When I was back in the Embassy recently with my fellow A.P.P.L.E. teachers, celebrating a quarter-century of service to Lithuanian education, I felt immensely proud to be there as part of a remarkable history of generosity and dedication.

Gabe Kajeckas

A.P.P.L.E. Scholars' Fund Project Progress Report



We recently received progress reports on many of the projects funded through the most recent round of A.P.P.L.E.'s Scholar's Fund grants. An example of one of those reports is reproduced below. We will still be making more Scholar's Fund grants later this year with expanded eligibility and a higher dollar limit. You can still contribute to A.P.P.L.E. and be assured your donation will be used for this purpose.

[Juzintu Juozo Otto Sirvydo Middle School](#)

"The school is 125 years old"

The following schedule was planned:

1. Create scarves with a logo;
2. To create leaflets about the school's activities and its history;
3. Fill in information about the school on Wikipedia.

Work completed:

Collected and reviewed information about the school and J. O. Sirvyda. Prepared posters for the school's corridor and History office about J.O. Sirvydo's 140th birthday. The work was performed by 11th grade students with history teacher L. Skardziene.

A contest was organized to draw a logo for the scarves. Students from art classes and non-formal education classes created sketches. Sketches and final scarf design was selected by the schools directors. This was led by teachers A. Gabiene and J. Kareniauskiene.

Information technology students created notebook and leaflet mock-ups and selected the information for them. Leaflets were changed to booklets because of their durability and more practical applications. Leaflets will also be produced, but using our own resources. The Sartu Park administration will contribute to the booklet's creation.

Headscarves and booklets have already been created and ordered. They will be produced by the first of week of May.

The leaflets will be completed and made the first week of May.

A lot of information was gathered. Therefore it was difficult to select the appropriate Wikipedia augmentation. But the work continues and will be completed by the school's birthday celebration.

A.P.P.L.E. Video

At the reception for A.P.P.L.E. held at the Lithuanian Embassy, a short video with a collection of photos and media clips was shown by Amanda Muliolis. At that point it was, and still is, a work in progress. The DVD that she is preparing will contain several presentations - one will be all 25 years in pictures. Then she divided it up into 6 parts - five 5-year segments, and the sixth - closing year - embassy reception, last seminar and closing in Lithuania. She will also include a 10-year presentation prepared by Romas Sakadolskis. She is not sure yet what else she will include, since she has a lot more information, like president Adamkus' speech during A.P.P.L.E.'s 15-th year celebration and some videos.

Amanda will be offering copies of the DVD to anyone who would like to purchase a copy. The cost is \$10.00, and the DVD will be ready this fall, (September or October). She will send it to all who order by end of September. They can order it from her by sending their address and \$10.00 to her at: 1820 Dansy Dr. Euclid, OH 44117-2010. Questions may be directed to Amanda at atmuliolis@gmail.com

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.

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.

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

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