

John Baltrus

From: A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education) [gail@appleamericanprofessionalpartnershipforlithuanianeducation.ccsend.com] on behalf of A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education) [jonaspb@comcast.net]
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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

Spring is finally here. We just had a marvelous reception at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, D.C. on April 24th in honor of A.P.P.L.E.'s twenty-fifth anniversary. It was great seeing so many long time A.P.P.L.E. friends and supporters. The following day we had our Spring Board of Directors' meeting to plan our twenty-fifth and final year of A.P.P.L.E. activities. What a great weekend.

We look forward to a wonderful summer. Our final A.P.P.L.E. summer seminar will be held the week of June 29 - July 3 in Vilnius.

Have a wonderful May and productive end of the school year.

Again, thank you for your continued support of A.P.P.L.E.

As always,

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. Translator Profile - Zivile Nemickiene



Zivile Nemickiene Ph.D.

I teach languages, English and Russian, in Vilnius University and Kaunas College/University of Applied Sciences. I have been an A.P.P.L.E. interpreter for ten years. When the teachers were hungry to learn new ways of teaching, I was hungry to communicate and practice interpreting in English. We all were seeking our personal aims and had a patent way of improving.

I learned about A.P.P.L.E. in 2005. My invitation to become an interpreter came from my teacher of English, Vilma Backiute. She knew that I want to try interpreting but was hesitant about taking on such responsibility. I realised that perhaps 80 percent or even more of a lecturer's success depends on interpreter's expertise and skills. A worthless interpreter can ruin the noblest undertaking. Vilma gave me a call and said "the time is ripe for this." I had never had an opportunity to communicate to any English native as a colleague face to face before. That was a huge challenge. I had the nerve to become responsible for participants' satisfaction and K. Phillip Taylor and James W. Hill's classroom success.

The first introduction meeting in Klaipeda was full of surprises and even quite stressful. Three ladies (Vida Anton, Aldona Marijosius and Giedre Stankunas) were staring at me during the entire get-to-know thing. They caught me in the lobby immediately after it with searching, distrustful, KGB-like faces and a strange question "What is your surname again?" As a former Soviet Union citizen I was in a fluster and somewhat alarmed. I was stunned when I found out they know two brothers Nemickai in America who are my father's-in-law relatives. It is a small world indeed. I became a real member of A.P.P.L.E. family, and not only me but also my daughter and husband were involved some way in this too.

It was wonderful to witness the endless enthusiasm and discretion, professionalism and interminable positivism radiating from Americans - hula and belly dancers, storytellers, singers and players and what not. Volunteerism is still alien for Lithuanians. Ten years ago, it even looked suspiciously to many of us. People were puzzled why "they should want to help us? They have come here with huge boxes of stuff and dispensing everything free of charge! They must get profit somehow! they needed to know who pays for everything."

Especially cordially, I remember Professor JoAnn Hammer. We had a good time together and my little daughter treated JoAnn as her American granny. JoAnn Hammer was an unofficial, however, valuable consultant and reviewer of my dissertation. I appreciate her criticism, guidance, and encouraging very much.

During those ten years, I was asked to interpret for a great number of different lecturers in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda, Palanga and Prienai. As a lecturer, interpreter, even mother and simply a human being I have gained priceless and enormous amount of experience in A.P.P.L.E.(teaching methods, creative ideas, as an interpreter - different pronunciations, vocabulary, and technique of consecutive translation) as

never stayed with one strand or lecturer, and I was not only interpreting but also participating. From 2005-2014 I worked with the following lecturers, doctors and professors: Anne Erbe, Tracy Mandara, Carol Ramsey, a group of lecturers from Lewis university Deborah Augsburg, Pamela Jessee, Dorene Huvaere, Jeanette Mines, Barbara Mackey, Suzanne O'Brien; Dr. Pledger Fedora, Sue Kohfeldt, JoAnn Hammer, Gayle Cooper, Susan Roppa, Kathi Garrettson, K. Phillip Taylor, Blanche Woolls.

A.P.P.L.E. has made a substantial impact in my life. It was, no doubt, an exceptional phenomenon in Lithuanian teachers' lives. I will not be able to forget my American friends, teachers, lecturers and who knows, maybe one day we will meet again in Lithuania or America.

A.P.P.L.E. Achievements Saluted at Lithuanian Embassy



On Friday evening April 24th, The Lithuanian Embassy in Washington DC hosted a reception in honor of A.P.P.L.E.'s twenty-five year partnership with Lithuanian educators and administrators. Ambassador Zygimantas Pavilionis welcomed the group comprised of A.P.P.L.E. founders, lecturers, and supporters. Among those in attendance were A.P.P.L.E. board members; Vida Anton, John Baltrus and Jurate, Karl Janowitz, Sue Kohfeldt, Ilona Laucius, Amanda Muliolis and Algirdas, Kristen Ross, Audre Ruzga, Shirley Sabo, Anita Scarborough, and Giedre Stankunas. Past Presidents Gita Kupcinskas, Irene Ross, and Barbara Henriques joined the festivities, as did Ramute Zemionienė, A.P.P.L.E.'s administrator from Vilnius.

The group was addressed by Jurate Krokys, Philadelphia PA, A.P.P.L.E. co-founder and Jim Gust, Durham CT, spouse of the late co-founder Vaiva Vebraite. Musical entertainment was provided by the children's group 'Spindulelis' from New Jersey, under the direction of Violeta Kundrotiene.

Additional write-ups of the event have appeared in *Draugas News*, *Dirva* and online at [Delfi](#).

Anita Scarborough



Ambassador Zygimantas Pavilionis with Violeta Kundrotiene and the group Spindulelis. Photograph provided by Ludo Segers. This and other event photos (search:apple; password: apple) are available: <http://www.ludosegersphotography.com>

Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science Proclamation



Gerbiamieji A.P.P.L.E. savanoriai ir rėmėjai, bendraminčiai,

Nuoširdžiai dėkojame Jums už naujas idėjas ir reikšmingą paramą modernizuojant ir humanizuojant Lietuvos švietimą, už pasiaukojantį darbą ir pasišventimą įgyvendinant A.P.P.L.E. (Amerikos pedagogų taryką Lietuvos švietimui) bendrijos siekius.

Jūsų profesionalumas ir prasmingi darbai – ženklus indelis atkuriant ir tobulinant Lietuvos mokyklas, paskata mūsų šalies mokytojams eiti naujų iššūkių ir atradimų keliu. A.P.P.L.E. programa – neišsenkanti šaltinio versmė mokytojų kūrybiškumui plėtoti.

A.P.P.L.E. ir Lietuvos Respublikos švietimo ir mokslo ministerijos vaisingo bendradarbiavimo 25-mečio proga linkime Jums stiprybės ir kūrybinės sėkmės Jūsų ateities darbuose Lietuvos labui.

Ir ateityje tikimės tolesnio sėkmingo bendradarbiavimo.

Dear A.P.P.L.E. volunteers and donors, colleagues,

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for introducing new ideas as well as for your enthusiastic support of modernization and humanization of Lithuania's education, for your outstanding dedication to the ideals of the A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education).

Your professionalism and meaningful initiatives have been an invaluable asset in the renaissance of our schools and in the encouragement of teachers to choose a way of discoveries. The A.P.P.L.E. programme has always been an inexhaustible source for the inspiration of teachers' creativity.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of a fruitful cooperation between the A.P.P.L.E. and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, we express our sincere wishes for every success and determination in your further endeavors for the good of Lithuania.

We are also looking forward to enjoying rewarding results of our already established and future partnerships.

*Švietimo ir mokslo ministras
prof. Dainius Pavaalkis*

Vilnius, 2015 m. balandžio 24 d.



A.P.P.L.E.'s Board of Directors Meets



A.P.P.L.E.'s Board of Directors met on Saturday, April 25th in Arlington, VA. The main items discussed were A.P.P.L.E.'s program for this summer and the Lithuanian Scholars' Fund. This summer's program will take place from June 29 - July 3rd in Vilnius. An exact location is yet to be determined. Program directors for this summer will be Vida Anton and Anita Scarborough. There will be 3 strands with a total of 4 lecturers. More details will be published in the June EZine.

Amanda Muliolis indicated that reports were being received from the most-recent Lithuanian Scholars Fund winners. This year, A.P.P.L.E. will be expanding the eligibility for grants under the program as well as slightly increase the maximum amount of the grant. Both are being done to aid in dispersing remaining funds.

Discussions also included various ways of publicizing A.P.P.L.E.'s accomplishments and preserving the legacy of the organization. The next and final board meeting will be held in September. We were glad so many of our A.P.P.L.E. colleagues were able to stay around Washington and join us for dinner after the Board Meeting.

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.

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

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A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education) | 105 Sturbridge LN | Chapel Hill | NC | 27516