

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



(American Professional Partnership

for

Lithuanian Education)

## E-Zine

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### Greetings!



### Message from the President

Now that the Holiday Season is fast approaching, it is time for us to reflect on all the things for which we are grateful. Thanks to the many supporters of A.P.P.L.E. we are able to continue our mission in Lithuania. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support and commitment to A.P.P.L.E during these past twenty

years. Without your generosity of time, money, and spirit, there would not be an A.P.P.L.E.

The Requests for Proposals for the Summer of 2011 will be posted on our web site shortly. The theme for next summer is The Integration of Technology Into Curriculum. We hope to receive many applications. The Ministry is currently looking for sites for our seminars. More on that later.

My wish to all of you is a blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends!

Vida Gavin

#### **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."

## **Organizational Development Message**

**Over the period of the past two years**, we believe the Organizational Development Committee has provided the Board of Directors and Officers of A.P.P.L.E. with all of the mechanisms, policies and procedures and direction necessary to restore the strength and vitality of our organization.

**The necessary components** have all been made available for a more than reasonable period of months; namely, the Improved Organizational Structure, an updated and improved set of By-Laws, the repeated call for an Annual Fund Raising Campaign and Director, a formal Election Policy, an inclusive Membership Program for Lithuanian Nationals, and a Contemporary Communication Vehicle (The A.P.P.L.E. Seed Ezine).

**The delays in implementation of the above initiatives**, both intentional and accidental continue to contribute to the weakening of our organization. As a result, we believe the time for planning, drafting, and revising is over.

**If the Board chooses to accept and implement these offerings**, we believe they will elect and/or recruit and elect qualified and committed personnel at our Annual Meeting in April and genuinely begin the process of renewal for our organization. If the Board chooses otherwise, we believe their

decisions will certainly further facilitate the demise of our cherished organization. An organization that has such an outstanding and well-deserved reputation of supporting Lithuania's educational and social needs for twenty (20) years deserves to be renewed.

**We believe that we have completed our mission** and look forward, optimistically, to the successful and cooperative acceptance and implementation of our considerable efforts. If there is a need for further organizational development activity, we believe those initiatives should emanate from a majority of the Board of Directors and Officers. Our work is completed.

### **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.

## **A.P.P.L.E. Member Profile -- IRENA ROSS --**



**-- IRENA ROSS --**

**EDUCATION:** B.A. - French and English, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

Teacher Training -- Hamilton Teachers' College (now part of McMaster U)

M Ed - Educational Administration

O.I.S.E. - Ontario Institute for Studies in Education,

University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

T.E.S.L. Certificate - George Brown College, Toronto, ON

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My A.P.P.L.E. affiliation began in the summer of 1996 as an invited co-presenter of ESL methodology to teachers of English in a two-week seminar, that particular year, in Trakai. Irene Gedris, an educator and presenter from Cleveland, OH, extended the invitation to me on behalf of A.P.P.L.E.

1996 was my introduction to many productive summers to follow. The established and popular

seminars were usually delivered in partnership with a co-presenter. I had the good fortune of co-presenting with several English specialists from the USA and eventually with three distinguished co-presenters from within Lithuania's teaching pool.

The Pedagogical Professional Center in Vilnius and its adjoining student residence served as our headquarters throughout nearly twenty summers for A.P.P.L.E.-members' volunteer professional involvement in Lithuania's educational context. Additionally, I was also sent to share my practical North American experience with teachers in Utena, Varena, Kaunas and Klaipeda.

Having been an elementary school teacher in Ontario in the early years of my career, I was able to identify with the challenges confronting Lithuania's teachers, my seminar audience. However, I spent most of my educational career working as a professor and professional development consultant at George Brown College in Toronto. That experience and expertise also proved directly applicable to my seminar presentations in Lithuania.

While I did not need to make use of my fluency in Lithuanian in seminars focusing on English methodology, in the early years I was called upon to make use of it as an interpreter in classrooms presenting other specialties. Before sufficient numbers of local English-Lithuanian translators and interpreters became readily available for our English-speaking A.P.P.L.E. presenters, sometimes I was asked to fill in as an interpreter in, for example, a mathematics or science seminar. Those of us who are bilingual were occasionally asked to interpret for visiting dignitaries during opening and closing seminar ceremonies or at Ministry meetings. Life in the A.P.P.L.E. context was never totally predictable and never dull!

My closest involvement and cooperation with those A.P.P.L.E. presidents who preceded me and who followed me carrying out this unique responsibility - in my case in 2003-2004 - truly enriched my life within this organization: the late A.P.P.L.E. co-founder Vaiva Vebraite, Dr. Phil Taylor, Dr. Katherine Dunlap, and Dr. Karl Janowitz retain their specific image in my memory. The cooperation of Lithuania's Ministers of Education and Science and their appointed Ministry personnel has also contributed over the years to the ongoing maturation of the fruits borne so far by A.P.P.L.E. in Lithuania. My last A.P.P.L.E.-related visit to Lithuania to date was in 2008.

## Heard In Lithuania

**KLEIZA is big, strong and can shoot.....**so begins the recent article by Haley Mack of the Globe and Mail submitted by Irena Ross.

Linas Kleiza is not a guy you can pigeonhole as a professional basketball player, and that suits him and the Toronto Raptors just fine. With one practice to go in Vancouver, it's assumed that Kleiza will be the starting small forward, and he will

be asked to slip into the power forward position when the team decides to go small.

This is a major departure from his first foray into the NBA. In four seasons with the Denver Nuggets he was mostly required to jump off the bench and score. Fed up, he transferred to Olympiakos in Greece and finished second in scoring in the Euroleague. There he found his old game, the one he played in college in Missouri. Specifically, he spent more time down low battling bigger guys or overpowering smaller ones.

What remains to be seen is how he will fare defensively, particularly in the power forward spot. Kleiza spent most of his time there during Lithuania's stellar run during the FIBA World Championships this past summer, averaging 19pts. and 7.1 rebounds per game and being named to the All-Tournament Team.

No matter where he steps in, Kleiza will appreciate every minute. "I'm happy to be playing basketball," he said. "It's a great life. How can you ask for more ?"

**IBM has announced that it will open a research center in Lithuania.....**This latest announcement follows similar announcements by Microsoft and Barclays earlier this year that they will be opening facilities in Lithuania. This latest attraction of investments by large international corporations has brightened, to some degree, the prospects for Lithuania's economy and hopes for attracting new jobs to the area.

IBM stated that it will build a research and development center in Vilnius, in partnership with the Lithuanian government. Each partner will invest 42 million Litai (\$15.9 M) annually, and share in any patents they develop. Article by Toomas Hobemagi

**Best companies (over 250 employees ) to work for in Lithuania....**according to a recent survey by cv.lt of four thousand (4,000.) citizens across the country, the following companies were ranked as the Top Ten Best Companies To Work For: 1. SebBank 2. Barclays Tech. Center 3. Omnitel 4.Swedbank 5. Bite LT 6. Nordea Bank 7. Teo LT 8. Lighthouse - Utena Beer 9. Ergo LT 10. Philip Morris LT

## Quotables and Quizzes

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A LITHUANIAN 5TH GRADER?.....

1. How many counties are there in Lithuania?
2. How long, in kilometers, is Lithuania's coastline on the Baltic Sea?
3. What is the average summer temperature in Lithuania?
4. Which Pope, in modern times, had a mother of Lithuanian descent?
5. What is the National Bird of Lithuania?
6. What U.S. state is comparable in land size to Lithuania?
7. What do Lithuanian maidens do on St. John's day to become more beautiful?
8. What per cent of teachers in Lithuania are women?
9. What four (4) settlements are located on the Curonian Spit?
10. What is the life expectancy of men and women in Lithuania?

**Answers are found following the REMINDERS block.**

## Reminders

For many of us, it is time to consider the rapid approach of cold weather....Vilnius had its first real snowfall of this winter on Thursday night, 10/21/10. Bundle up!

## Answers to Quiz

### Answers to quiz:

1. 10; 2. 99; 3. 17c; 4. Pope John Paul II; 5. Stork; 6. West Virginia; 7. Wash their faces with morning dew; 8. 86%; 9. Juodkrante, Pervalka, Preila and Nida; 10. Men-66yrs. Women-78yrs.

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)

### Quick Links

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