

## John Baltrus

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**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@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 04, 2012 11:01 PM  
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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

The school year is in full swing on both sides of the Atlantic. We had our Fall A.P.P.L.E. Board of Directors' meeting in Chicago last month to process our 22nd A.P.P.L.E. summer and to prepare for A.P.P.L.E. 23.

I am very excited about this year's theme, "Real World Applications of What We Teach". This topic was suggested by our colleagues in Lithuania and seems most pertinent in light of concerns currently being addressed by educators today. It is gratifying to begin to receive applications for next summer's seminars

All my best wishes for a productive and successful school year and to enjoy this most wonderful time of the year. Of course we realize that many of our supporters reside on the East Coast. If you were affected by the hurricane, please know that you are in our prayers and we hope that your daily routine quickly returns to normal.

All my best,

*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 - Anita Yuskauskas**



**Anita Yuskauskas**  
Director

How honored I am to be writing this as an A.P.P.L.E. Summer volunteer and Board member! It means so much to me to be part of an organization where I can celebrate my motherland and my profession at the same time! I grew up in the hard coal region of Pennsylvania, one of the largest settlements of Lithuanians in the country. It is where my paternal grandparents settled as children and eventually married. I grew up attending a Lithuanian church and a Lithuanian grade school, where I learned how to pray and count - the essentials! I met and married a Lithuanian man, and we had a genuine ethnic Lithuanian wedding with real custom-made costumes and a forest cake straight from Lithuania. We married in an Italian church in Cortland New York, and

invited parishioners to attend in their native costumes. Many from the Knights of Lithuania in upstate New York were also in attendance. It was quite the occasion. Our reception featured kugelis and boilo (a coal region tradition; not sure where it got the name, but every Lithuanian family in the area had their own recipe for "krupnikas").

My ties to A.P.P.L.E. go back to 1992 and 1993. I have a close friend from Lithuania who is a school principle in Panevezys. We met twenty years ago in the US when I was teaching at the University of New Hampshire and she was an exchange professional funded by none other than A.P.P.L.E.! Not knowing anyone in New Hampshire, she found my Lithuanian name in the University staff directory, contacted me, and we have been close friends ever since! She taught me how to make cepelinai and I taught her about paying when driving through toll booths!

Then in the Summer of 1993 I actually purchased my airplane ticket to travel to Lithuania as an A.P.P.L.E. volunteer. Along with a colleague of mine from Minnesota and several teachers from the Washington, D.C. area, we were traveling with A.P.P.L.E. under a grant from USAID. As it turned out, I had to abruptly cancel my plans two weeks before leaving, ticket in hand! I needed an operation and it just couldn't wait. My colleague went with the A.P.P.L.E. group, and brought back a small clay bell for me. Today I hold that bell as a remembrance of those early years of Lithuania's new-found freedom, and my lost opportunity!

In the years that followed I raised a son, Andrius. My Lithuanian husband and I worked to keep our traditions alive in our small family - celebrating Kucios, baking boba, nut, and poppy seed bread, blynai, suris, virtiniai, and kugel (I even created a vegetarian version for my husband). Then in the Summer of 2007 I actually realized my dream; I went to Lithuania for the first time as an A.P.P.L.E. volunteer. I can't tell you what a thrill it was to be there and experience my motherland! I absorbed everything like a sponge, always conscious that I was experiencing the homeland of my grandparents.

It didn't take long to see the impact A.P.P.L.E. made in twenty years, and the respect the organization elicited throughout the country. And on that first trip, my A.P.P.L.E. colleagues and I seemed to travel everywhere... from Vilnius to Panevezys to Kaunas, and finally to Palanga and Klaipeda. It was a sundry trip ...from classroom teachers to parents and their children at Camp Viltis. The hospitality shown to us was like none other I had experienced! While I found a sense of reserve among many of the Lithuanian professionals, and still remnants of the Soviet times all around, after so many years the people of Lithuania were hungry for professional interaction.

After that first visit, embarrassed by my lack of ability to speak or understand the language beyond prayer and counting (and that is only to ten - desimt) I was determined to learn the Lithuanian language. So before my next trip, I purchased CDs and started to learn some basics while commuting back and forth to work. That proved to be so helpful when I visited the second time, this past Summer, participating in the university strand with A.P.P.L.E.. In five short years I observed an amazing transformation! Most people spoke English or at least understood it; this was a significant change! The EU influence permeated every aspect of Lithuanian society. People were interested in partnerships, and reservation had disappeared. The Lithuanian participants wanted and expected group participation. The young professionals were world travelers. The country changed...and yet it stayed the same.

On this trip, when I wasn't working with A.P.P.L.E., I was able to experience the lakes region of Lithuanian. I camped with Daine and her family, and a group of their friends. It was so interesting to be with a group of families, all professionals - doctors, accountants, engineers. I really valued that time. Of course we dined on suralis, alus, chocolates, and a few other very special foods. I thought I heard praying around the campfire.... but came to realize those were instead expressive conversations (perhaps

with a few recognizable prayer words thrown in there for good measure)!

A.P.P.L.E. has had a significant influence in my life, and continues to play an important role. It is a virtual place where I can find my roots, exercise my professional skills, and meet people, who like myself, appreciate this little country at the border of eastern and western Europe. A.P.P.L.E. played a considerable part in the country's transition from Soviet times. And now our organization can play a role as valuable partner in this new transition to the European Union. The people of Lithuania are hearty and adaptable. They will meet the future as they have done for centuries - with acceptance and always keeping one foot steeped in tradition. How will A.P.P.L.E. meet this imperative and adapt to this changing international environment?... of course, in collaboration with our Lithuanian partners - rising to meet a new future and the opportunities it holds, and keeping one foot steeped in our tradition!



**Lunch Debriefing of A.P.P.L.E. Lecturers  
at Vytautas Magnus University**

### **Lithuania Holds First School Library Conference**

In 1992 A.P.P.L.E. lecturer Regina Petruaksas, from Pennsylvania, led the first strand introducing American practices to Lithuanian school librarians. In 1996 Dr. Blanche Woolls took over leadership of the strand. In these summer sessions Lithuanian school librarians learned new ideas about building school libraries and meeting the needs of students. With participants who returned over the years and the addition of participants from other areas of the country a coalition of school librarians evolved. Attendees elected Snaiguole Raguckiene, one of the summer participants, to represent them at the meeting of the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) in Dublin, Ireland. Snaige became a co-instructor for the summer A.P.P.L.E. sessions. One summer when Dr. Woolls was unable to lead the session, Snaige conducted the strand on her own and was extremely successful.

It was Dr. Woolls' dream that the Lithuanian school librarians who had coalesced as a group via A.P.P.L.E. would organize a national meeting for school librarians in Lithuania. In the fall of 2010 Aldona Paulauskiene from the Gabija Gymnasium in Mazeikiai, organized a successful meeting of school librarians in her area. In August 2012 the dream of a national meeting was fulfilled when more than 200 Lithuanian school librarians traveled to Vilnius to attend their first national meeting, "New Generation of a School Library." Speakers from Lithuania and international speakers from the U.S., Italy, Malaysia, Qatar, and Russia gathered to discuss the challenges facing education and school libraries-and to help government officials understand their value in schools. The meeting was supported by the Lithuanian Educational

Development Center (Ugdymo Plėtotės Centras). The conference ended with Valdas Kaminskas, a Lithuanian education consultant, who helped divide librarians into five regions of the country and asked them to volunteer to lead the creation of a new school library association in their area. A formal association would allow school librarians as a group to apply for available funds to hold national meetings and to participate in international conferences.

With the commitment of American volunteers, A.P.P.L.E. has conducted sessions in Lithuania every summer since Independence in 1991. A.P.P.L.E. is particularly proud of the accomplishments of the school Library strand. Their achievements demonstrate how the partnership supports the initiative of Lithuanian teachers by providing information and encouraging independent action.

*Blanche Woolls is a professor Emerita at San Jose State University's School of Library and Information Science and Consulting Editor of ABC-CLIO/Libraries Unlimited*

Anita Scarborough



Left: Snaiguole Raguckiene speaking at the conference. Right: Students fill bags for conference attendees in Vilnius - August 2012

## Fundraising Corner

A.P.P.L.E. continues to ask for your support. Now is the perfect time to make a donation to help support A.P.P.L.E. and its worthwhile programs. You may click on the button below to make a donation using PayPal. Your donation will get to A.P.P.L.E. through a link to our Treasurer's email address. After you donate on PayPal, send Jack an email and he will email you a receipt for tax purposes.

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.

A minimum donation of \$25-individual or \$40-family will enroll you as a member of A.P.P.L.E. for one year.



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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