

John Baltrus

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Sent: Friday, October 05, 2012 8:00 AM
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In This Issue

A.P.P.L.E. Member Profile - Gita Kupcinkas

A.P.P.L.E. Board Holds Fall Meeting

A.P.P.L.E.'s Scholars' Fund Grants Increase

Fundraising Corner

Dear John,



Karl Janowitz

Message from the President

The school year is underway. I just came back from A.P.P.L.E.'s Autumn meeting which was held in Chicago. It was so good to see the attending A.P.P.L.E. Board members and to process A.P.P.L.E. 2012. We had a lively discussion regarding ideas for the upcoming year including the Summer 2013 seminars.

It was a pleasure to welcome our newest Board member, Dr. Anita Yuskauskas.

Be sure to look for the "Call for Proposals" for Summer 2013 that will be posted on our website soon. And I am sure you will relate to our theme for the Summer 2013 Seminars which is most timely and pertinent.

I wish you a wonderful Autumn,

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 - Gita Kupcinskas



Gita Kupcinskas
Past-President

My invitation to become part of A.P.P.L.E. came from my childhood friend Vaiva Vėbra. The call came in autumn of 1990. Vaiva and Jurate Stirbiene had just been inspired by Darius Kuolys, then Minister of Education in the newly restored Republic of Lithuania, to take practical action to help the educational system and the teachers and, thereby, the children of Lithuania. It was a noble cause. It felt right. After all, we had grown up in the United States, but we cherished the land of our parents and grandparents. We loved Lithuania, and we were caught up in the magic of her new found independence. This was our childhood dream coming true. How could we resist being a part of it?

So out of love and friendship I signed on. And, my oh my, the things we did for love.

When I look back at those early years, I remember lots of laughing and lots of crying. Some things were so touching that we cried. One of the most indelible memories of my life dates to the time of the first seminars in Vilnius in 1991. Those of you who have known me over the years have heard me tell this story over and over. It never gets old for me. Susan Anderson and I were working with the teachers of language arts. We walked into our seminar room after lunch one afternoon, and on the chalk board we found in beautiful Lithuanian script the following words: "*Aciu, uz kelionę namo-jusu i Lietuvą, musu i žmonija.*" Thank you for the journey home-yours back to Lithuania, ours back to humanity. Quite the sentiment after fifty years of Soviet oppression. Yes, we cried over that one.

We cried at moments like this just about every day in those early years. The teachers were so hungry to learn new ways of teaching. Soon enough, we realized that what we were teaching them was not so important as how we were teaching them. We did not want to be whisked away after every session to drink coffee and eat cookies in the back office with the department chair. We wanted to be with the participants to answer questions and continue dialogue. One woman accosted me in the elevator of Baltupiai one morning and demanded, "Are you always like this?" Puzzled, I asked her, "Like what?" To my surprise, she answered, "Are you always smiling, or is this just an act for us?" I must admit, I laughed at that one.

The laughter got us through many rough times. When we had no hot water in Marijampole in 1993, a consequence of the Soviet blockade of Lithuania, Shirley Sabo quickly taught us to take a shower doing the Hokey Pokey. You put your right hand in; you take your right hand out . . . When the bus to Klaipėda broke down, and we were stranded on the side of the road with no bathrooms in sight, what else could we do but laugh and then find the nearest bush? In 1994 we were having such a hard time in Marijampole, I was becoming seriously depressed. I was the program coordinator, and the local organizers (very different from the year before) were being difficult about everything we proposed. So Wendell Mayo and my husband Aidas Kupcinskas thought of a way to cheer me up. We quickly organized the Blacque Cafe. You had to come wearing black, and you had to perform something to do with the color black. Strangely enough, we cheered up after that evening.

The intensity of the emotion which most A.P.P.L.E. lecturers and participants felt from year to year kept us all coming back for more. Sitting through any closing talent show would take you from laughter to tears and back again many times. Seeing that our presence was really making a difference in the lives of the teachers of Lithuania was very rewarding. Sharing these experiences brought us closer to each other as well. Through the laughter and the tears, it was always a labor of love, and I feel both privileged and blessed to have been a small part of this wonderful work which continues to this day.



Juozas Karmuza, Gita & Vaiva Vebra

A.P.P.L.E. Board Holds Fall Meeting

On the weekend of September 22nd the A.P.P.L.E. board met at the Embassy Suites in Rosemont IL. A review of the summer program was presented by President Karl Janowitz and Program Director Nancy Hanssen. Additional commentary was provided by Ramute Zemioniene, Dr. Anita Yuskas, and Vida Anton. The board discussed finding Lithuanian sponsors to support the LMF program, and started planning next summer's program which will have a theme focused on how to transfer learning to life skills. Guest Robert Pine presented a description of the language immersion camps conducted by the Wisconsin Educational Scientific Cultural Organization utilizing volunteer instructors. Information on the organization is available at <http://wiesco.org>



A.P.P.L.E. board members at the meeting, from l to r: Jack Vellis, San Diego CA; Vida Anton, Howell NJ; Anita Scarborough, Chapel Hill NC; Karl Janowitz, Philadelphia PA; Anita Yuskas, Lincoln University PA; Amand Muliolis, Cleveland OH. Nancy Hanssen, San Diego CA, is not pictured. John Baltrus, Pittsburgh PA attended the meeting via Skype.

Anita Scarborough

A.P.P.L.E.'s Scholars' Fund Grants Increase

Applications are now being accepted for the next round of Lithuanian Scholars Fund grants. Those who participated in the summer courses in Palanga, Siauliai, and Kaunas are eligible. Because of the generosity of our donors, A.P.P.L.E.'s Board voted to increase the maximum grant to 1500 LTL. Also, because of the generosity of a company from the Klaipeda region, there will be a greater chance for educators from the Klaipeda district to receive a grant. The rules for applying for a grant plus the grant application form are available on [A.P.P.L.E.'s website](http://www.wiesco.org). The deadline for applications is November 1st.

Fundraising Corner

As noted above, A.P.P.L.E. is seeking sponsors to fund some of the Lithuanian Scholars' Fund Grants. Sponsors can be individuals or companies. If you know of a company, either in the U.S., Lithuania, or possibly somewhere else if they do business in Lithuania, that would like to sponsor a grant, please send a contact name to our [president](#). A company will receive recognition from A.P.P.L.E. by associating their name with a grant to a specific school. We currently have a company from the Klaipeda region that will be sponsoring additional grants in 2013. We would love to be able to fund more applications and provide more funds to grant winners.

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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