

THE TATTLE-TAEL

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERUS EXCHANGE, LTD

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TAEL PRESIDENT EXPLAINS MISSION

With the fall of the Soviet Union, Russian educators found themselves without the support of the Communist Party which had been a strong disciplinary factor behind the country's schools. For the first time teachers had to face the challenges of the classroom alone.

Many world educators ventured to help their Russian colleagues with this task which was so new to them. The forerunner of THE AMERUS EXCHANGE, LTD (TAEL) was among these. Over the past dozen or more years, the experience gained led to the foundation of TAEL and its mission to help build international, cross-cultural relationships that encourage the development and sharing of democratic ideas, methods and strategies.

The primary goal of TAEL would be to organize educational exchange programs between Russia and The United States of America and to provide material support and recognition to students, educators and educational projects. The exchanges would feature participants living with host families and would be open to business and service professionals as well as educators. Grants, scholarships and cash awards would provide material support and recognition to worthy candidates hopefully encouraging them in their efforts to try new ideas.

You can be a part of this mission through your donations or participation in exchanges. Come join us in building peace.— Jack McGurgan, President TAEL.

EXCHANGE PARTICIPANTS SHARE MEMORIES

“Our fondest and strongest memories were of the Russian people, keeping in mind, we were members of the generation that were taught —even forced to learn— that the Russian people wanted to destroy the American people,” said Mike and Dolores Beirne, members of the 1998 group of Exchange participants.

“The Russians we met were warm, friendly, very generous and eager for new educational techniques. We met Russians in their homes and in their schools. The constant theme was: we are happy you are here; what can we do for you; let's share educational experiences and most important, let's hope we can live in peace.”

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

Cal State Long Beach Roundtable in Kursk, May '07

TAEL-Kuhmerker Award Kursk, Russia May '07

TAEL seminars at ROSI Kursk, Russia April '08

*TAEL has worked in :

Moscow, Perm, Yoshkar-Ola, Kursk, Kurchatov

Kurchatov, Stary Oskol Zhelesnogorsk, Sudzha

THE AMERUS EXCHANGE, LTD (TAEL)

is a non-profit organization incorporated in New York State.

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A Point of Information:

The Regional Open Social Institute (ROSI), a private university in Kursk, Russia is headed by Dr. Vladimir N. Petrov. ROSI is a strategic partner of TAEI providing the interpreters needed for successful communication as well as contacts in the business, legal, education and related sectors of Russia. Check our website at:

www.theamerusexchange.org

REPRESENTATIVE BIOGRAPHIES

Professor Tatyana V. Tsyrlina: Known in education circles around the world, Professor Tsyrlina is the author of many books on education; a leader in moral education worldwide; vice-rector and a founding member of ROSI and an organizer of international conferences but essentially a teacher who is loved and respected by her many students

Darlene Cardillo: Currently the Instructional Technologist for Albany Law School. Previously Darlene was Director of Educational Technology for the schools of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany. She also taught French for many years at Academy of the Holy Names in Albany, NY. Darlene has participated in three AMERUS exchanges to Kursk, Russia.

Joseph Rustick: The most recent member to join TAEI, Joe is no new comer to the group. He traveled to Russia in the 1994 group and in just about every exchange since then and recently graduated from the prestigious Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Memories and Comments Continued

“One striking lesson learned by both Russians and Americans was that talking and hugging for a few minutes washed away all the years of war-like propaganda from both of our governments,” commented Dolores Beirne.

A group member from the 1994 exchange, Sue Merrill, recalls meeting a Russian teacher who

participated in Sue’s math workshop in Moscow. “This Russian woman told me that she lived summers at the Russian Embassy in Glen Cove on Long Island. Her father was employed at the Russian Embassy in New York City. She got very excited when I spoke to the workshop participants about where I grew up and she insisted, through a translator, that we, as

children, might have met on the street. She had no idea how imposing the Russian presence was in the U.S. at that time and there was very little possibility of our ever meeting,” Sue related.

“I think that we were all little nervous about going to Russia,” Sue continued, “but we came home with a real appreciation of the Russian people.”



2002 Exchange members: Paula Ptaszek, Darlene Cardillo, and Denise McQuillan