

Extraordinary Teacher revered in New Biography

The Unlikely Journey of a Teacher Extraordinaire

BROOKLYN, NY, UNITED STATES, January 1, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Extraordinary [Teacher Revered](#) in New Biography 'FROM SIBERIA TO ST KITTS: A Teacher's Journey'

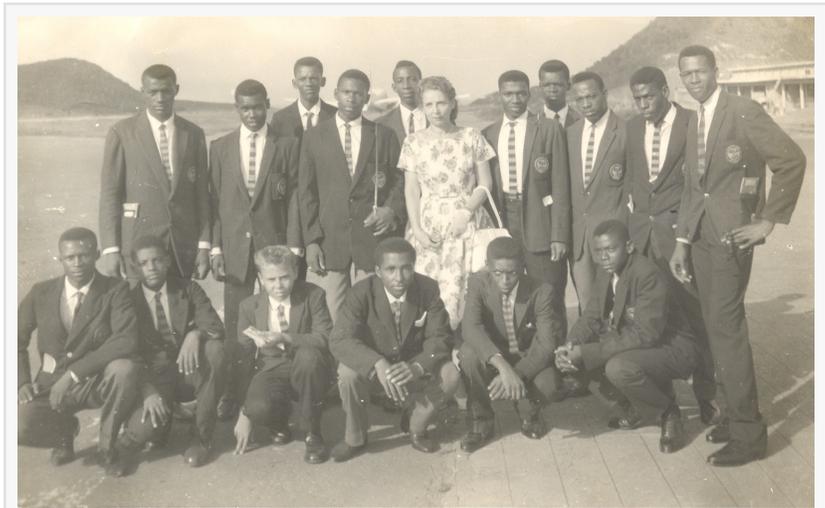
Author and educator Ira Simmonds reveals the remarkable story of Zenaïda Katzen, an extraordinary teacher who made a difference.

BROOKLYN, N.Y. - January 1, 2019 -

Author [Ira Sumner Simmonds](#)' new book, 'FROM SIBERIA TO ST. KITTS: A

Teacher's Journey,' is a captivating and

deeply researched biography of Zenaïda Katzen, a master of foreign language instruction who embraced a comprehensive approach to teaching. Simmonds was a student of Katzen's in the 1960s on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts, and after his retirement from 25 years with the New York City public school system, he was compelled to learn all he could about the special woman who inspired him to become an educator.



Trip to Puerto Rico

“

An unconventional but affecting biography”

Kirkus Review

When she arrived in St. Kitts in 1961 to teach French and Spanish to teenagers (mostly boys), Zenaïda Katzen (Zina) had already lived an extraordinary life in Siberia, China, France and Chile. What Simmonds uncovered during his five years of painstaking research is the complex story of a

dynamic, driven, independent woman who dedicated her life to education and advancing the lives of children.

Zina Katzen wasn't simply a French teacher or a Spanish teacher - she was an educator who believed in providing students with an experience while they were learning. In St. Kitts, she organized activities and programs outside the classroom, and was able to secure funding from a wealthy friend in China who supported her work. A chapter of Simmonds' book includes letters between Zina and her benefactor, offering a unique perspective into how Zina carefully managed the financial, educational and extracurricular needs of her students, and revealing a more personal side of Zina - an animal lover who was devoted to her mother and aunt, both of whom lived with her in St. Kitts.

Simmonds' story is beautifully written, thorough and includes photos of Zina, her students, friends, family and the places where she lived and taught. Thoughtfully placed throughout the narrative are French phrases and words, which contribute to the cadence of the story, and lend authenticity to its message.

"Everyone had a teacher who touched his or her life in a special way," says Simmonds. "I spent five years on a research journey traveling to Chile, Hong Kong, Shanghai, St. Kitts and France. I wrote the book to tell the world about this teacher extraordinaire who has profoundly touched the lives of an untold number of students in China, Chile and the Caribbean."

'FROM SIBERIA TO ST. KITTS: A Teacher's Journey' is published in paperback and ebook format by ISS Publishing and is now available on Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com.

Review copies of 'FROM SIBERIA TO ST. KITTS: A Teacher's Journey' are available to media contacts upon request. Ira Simmonds is available for interviews.

About the Author

Born on the Caribbean island of Nevis, Ira Simmonds received a B.A. in French from St. Francis College, Brooklyn, New York, and M.A. and M.Ed. degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University, NYC. After a ten-year stint as House Manager at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, he spent the next twenty-five years in New York City Public Schools as a teacher, Assistant Principal and Acting Principal. He currently works as an educational consultant.

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