

FROM SIBERIA TO ST.KITTS

A Teacher's Journey

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- Imagine a teacher devoted enough to personally secure funding for school supplies from an independent financier. Author Ira Sumner Simmonds documents the life of such a person in his new biography, "From [Siberia to St. Kitts](#): A Teacher's Journey". Zenaida Katzen, who met Simmonds while teaching him French on the island of St. Kitts in the 1960s, led a life worth reading about for a lot of reasons. A woman of the world, she had already lived in Siberia, China, France and Chile when she arrived on St. Kitts in 1961 and began to apply what she had learned to advance the lives of teenaged students on the island. She took a unique and comprehensive approach to teaching, often organizing activities and programs for her students outside the classroom.

Simmonds, a 25-year veteran of the New York City public school system, cites Katzen as his inspiration to become an educator. He shares, "I felt compelled to learn all I could about this extraordinary woman, putting five years of painstaking research into the biography." The story includes photos of Katzen and her friends, family, students, and the places she traveled. One chapter features letters between Katzen and her benefactor, offering a unique perspective into how she carefully managed the financial, educational and extracurricular needs of her students.

Simmonds' research for *From Siberia to St. Kitts* took him around the globe, tracking Katzen's influence through Chile, Hong Kong, Shanghai, St. Kitts and France. Zenaida "Zina" Katzen was more than a language teacher, she was an educator who believed in providing students with an experience while they were learning. *From Siberia to St. Kitts* paints a beautiful picture of a brilliant, passionate educator who devoted her life to helping others learn.

“

A recounting of a teacher's globe-trotting life written by a grateful student.... An unconventional but affecting biography.”

KIRKUS REVIEWS

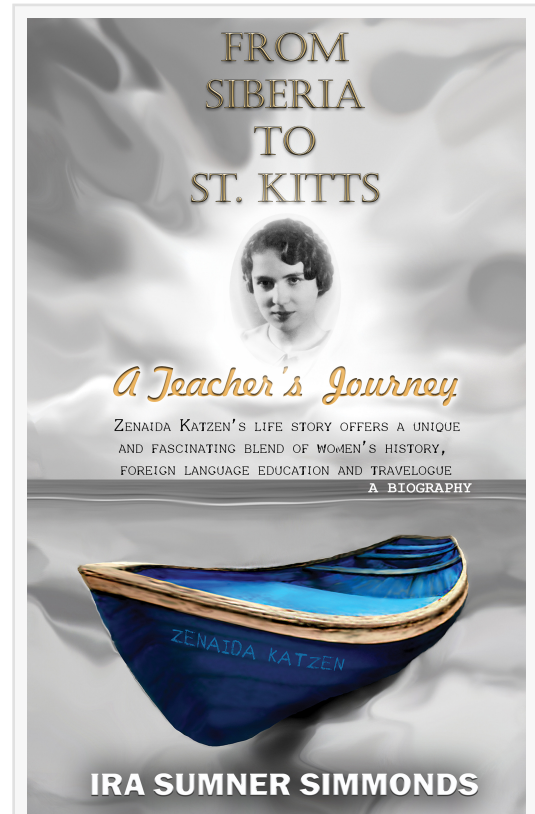
From Siberia to St. Kitts has been hailed as an “unconventional but affecting biography” by Kirkus Reviews.

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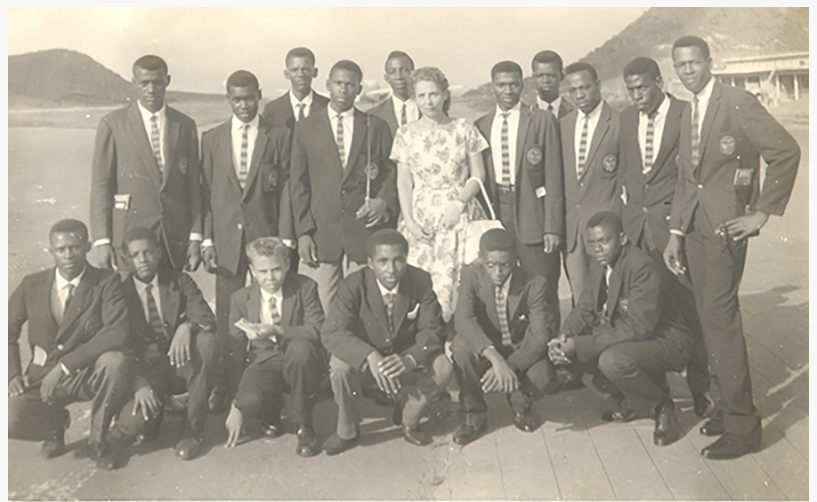
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