

Meet Tatyana Tsyrlina-Spady

Introduction by Connie Miller

Southwest of Moscow, in the European part of Russia there is an old city called Kursk. Our new member, Tatyana Tsyrlina-Spady, grew up there.

Born into a family where both her grandfather and father were philosophy professors, her grandmother a schoolteacher, and her mother a pediatrician working with children, Tatyana was destined to become a teacher herself.

And her family, close friends, books, and mentors taught her some fundamental life principles that she holds high to this day.



After receiving her degree in linguistics and teaching, she started working at a local boarding school for at-risk children. Anti-Semitism was high in the Soviet Union. The regime allowed her to receive free secondary and higher education and she had excellent university credits, but because she was Jewish she was prevented from being admitted to the Doctoral Program. Undaunted, she figured out that she could get her doctorate by correspondence at the Moscow Academy of Education. She was then accepted to the Department of Education at the Kursk State University, where she was a Professor for almost 30 years.

Tatyana always considered it critical to develop in her students a calling for teaching – a desire and readiness to work with children during and after their formal classes. So, she provided future teachers with a number of community service opportunities.

Due to her commitment to service and because of her meeting with a Bellevue Rotarian, Dick Spady, Tatyana cofounded Rotary club “Kursk” in 1998. She did a couple of projects for the children’s hospital together with our Seattle #4 club. In one project, with Rotarians from Anchorage, she arranged community health fairs for underprivileged children and their families.

In 2007 Tatyana came to Seattle to join her American husband, John Spady - who is here today! She’s been busy. She continues to write books about education - 20 so far. She started an online journal. She’s an Adjunct Professor at Seattle Pacific. She’s has been a senior consultant at American Cultural Exchange with David Woodward. She started her own company. And, she has produced several international seminars and conferences in Russia, France, and the United States, including an International Education conference at Seattle Pacific University this coming August.

Tatyana’s classification is Education and her proposers are David Woodward and Rob LoBosco.