

A FACT-FINDING MISSION TO RUSSIA

By American Citizens

Co-led by Ambassador (Ret.) Jack Matlock

June 20 - July 5, 2021

**When official diplomacy is non-existent,
When both political parties choose militarism over diplomacy,
When questionable versions of events fill American mainstream media...
*It's time for American citizens to make their own inquiries and analyses.***



CCI's delegates interacting with Russian experts in Moscow. Both sides learn from the process.

The Center for Citizen Initiatives (CCI) will take up to 100 Americans to Moscow to meet with a dozen Russian Experts for Q&A. Next, they will travel in dyads and triads to 30 Russian regional cities to meet a broad mix of local citizens for additional information. They will reconvene in St. Petersburg for "Report Out." Each delegate will share what they learned in cities far from Moscow, followed by meeting St. Petersburg's citizens and exploring the city's classical culture.

These experiences will provide a rare look into Russia 2021. The exposure to people and events will be shared in YouTube videos, print media, presentations to Congress members and on the Internet, thus providing vital data for a number of challenging issues between our countries. CCI delegates leave a spirit of goodwill and diplomacy wherever they travel.

Join us! Be part of the solution!

Request a Trip Application for this Mission to Russia by emailing us at sharon@ccisf.org.

Citizen Diplomacy Today: Listening, Questioning, Searching for Ways to Cooperate



Russian and American Women immersed in discussion.



Group Q&A with President Gorbachev at his Moscow Foundation.



American and Russian men discussing current issues.

- CCI became 'Citizen Diplomats' in 1983, before the term existed.
- We went to see the "Enemy" (the USSR) out of deep fear of Nuclear War.
- Other Americans wanted to travel, so we've now led hundreds of trips to Russia.
- CCI began programs in the 1980s to help our new Russian friends deal with huge problems.
- Gorbachev ascended to power in 1985 and soon the Gorbachev-Reagan era began.
- Gorbachev allowed us to start Alcoholics Anonymous across Russia in the '80s and '90s.
- We began training young Soviet entrepreneurs in business management in 1989.
- During Russia's tragic 1990s, we shipped over 300 tons of vegetable seeds to private farmers.
- USAID gave CCI large grants to take business training across Russia's 11 time zones.
- By 2009, we had brought some 6,000 entrepreneurs to the US for business training.
- CCI took 100 of them to the US Congress to speak about trade with Russia's new firms.
- We took 100 entrepreneurs to the Kremlin. They gave advice to Putin regarding laws for new businesses.
- Vladimir Pozner hosted our 100 on prime-time TV speaking on the corruption of officials.
- CCI keeps close watch today on all issues between the U.S. and Russia regarding Ukraine, Crimea, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and other countries.
- We work for honest, non-aggressive, cooperative solutions between US and Russia.



Russian and American men debating hot topics.



Defense Expert Vladimir Kozin and Sharon.



Serious communications even at an art gallery.



Engaging students in Torzhok.



CCI traveler (second from left) and Sharon at Krasnodar NGO meeting.



Exchanging views on culture.

Can you guess which person in each photo is Russian and which is American? Look for numbers in photos.

Answers: 1. Russian on left; 2. American on left; 3. Russian on right; 4. American on right; 5. Russian on left.