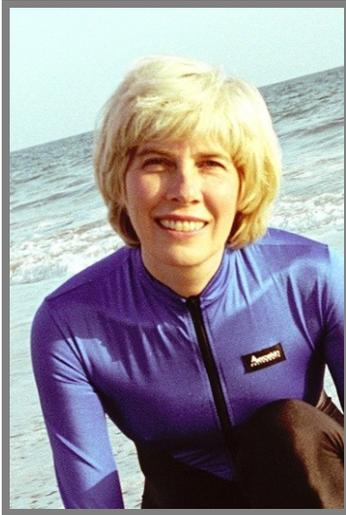


## Cynthia Lazaroff - Biography



Ms. Lazaroff's career spans more than twenty years as a Russian-American specialist, educator, filmmaker and activist. Presently, she is Executive Vice-President of the Planetary Coral Reef Foundation where she is directing an international campaign to advance awareness about coral reefs, the endangered "rainforests of the sea," and promote action for their preservation and restoration.

Previously, Ms. Lazaroff worked as an independent producer and served as Director of Creative Affairs at Armand Hammer Productions where she supervised the development of feature film and television projects. She developed *Mother Russia*, an eight hour mini-series for HBO, *The Cuban Missile Crisis*, a four hour mini-series for NBC, and *The Last Russian Tsar*, an NBC Special narrated by Jeremy Irons. She also co-wrote the story and served as Executive Consultant on the award-winning mini-series *Hiroshima*, broadcast by Showtime on the 50th anniversary of the dropping of the bomb. Her producing credits include: *Inside the KGB*, a prime-time special for NBC, *As It Happens*, a six hour live satellite broadcast from the US for London's Channel Four, and *Styles in Soviet Education*, an inside look at schools in the former USSR.

Ms. Lazaroff also co-produced the documentary, *The Challenge of the Caucasus*, featuring the first joint climb of young Soviets and Americans whom she led to the summit of Mount Elbrus, Europe's highest peak (18, 481'). Narrated by Leonard Nimoy, the film was broadcast on TBS and PBS and was also released internationally. *The Challenge of the Caucasus* captured several prestigious awards, including a First Prize at the American Film Festival and a CINE Gold Eagle award. An adviser and consultant on numerous other Russian film and television projects, Ms. Lazaroff has extensive experience in negotiations and film production in the former USSR. She has served on many Russian-related boards and is one of nine Americans profiled in the critically acclaimed book, *Citizen Diplomats: Pathfinders in Soviet-American Relations and How You Can Join Them*.

A magna cum laude graduate in Politics and Russian Studies from Princeton University, Ms. Lazaroff speaks fluent Russian and has made over forty trips to the former Soviet Union since 1978 when she was an exchange student at Leningrad State University. She taught American culture in Soviet schools and is the author of the innovative curriculum, *Step One: Getting to Know the USSR and Its People*. As Co-Founder and President of the first US-USSR Youth Exchange Program, Ms. Lazaroff successfully launched an international grassroots educational effort to break down enemy stereotypes during the 1980's and pioneered a variety of Soviet-American exchanges in the fields of: art, literature, theatre, education, film, sports, wilderness adventures, urban leadership and environmental service.