

Cultural Symbols Collide

BABUSHKAS are highly revered in Russian culture and art. The Babushka pictured here, however, is different from the stereotype. She is an inhabitant of the very remote area of Yanrakynnot in Far East Russia. Age may have carved deep furrows in her forehead and whale blubber may have eroded her teeth, but the twinkle in her eyes suggests the kind of warmth that has helped her survive the harshness of long, bitter winters in the Bering Sea. She was on hand to welcome us—the cruise boat tourists—to her village, joining her neighbors who showed off their skills in athletic competitions, music and dancing, and simulating walrus and whale hunts. A playful babushka not timid by any means, she grinned from ear to ear, clapped her hands in rhythmic pulsations, and befriended her guests without the benefit of a common language. From nowhere, she pulled out a kerchief emblazoned with the American flag as if to say that she could bridge the cultural divide between us.

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YOU'RE INVITED! We invite you to submit your photos along with a brief (approximately 200 words) description of why these images are important in your understanding of a person, place, idea, or incident from your experiences in international education. The photos could be of a simple moment on your home campus involving international students, a major event in an exotic location, or anything in between. The editors of *IE* will run selections on this page throughout the year. Please contact us for submission details at elainal@nafsa.org.