

Remembrance by Megan Dixon

Dixon teaches at College of Idaho. Her monograph on the Russian novelist Alexei Ivanov (1969–), who often writes about life in the Urals, is in press. Dixon knew Elena Trubina as both colleague and friend in Russia and in the U.S.

A week ago I lost a very dear friend — along with many other people who loved her. To write this now, I think, means having to accept that I don't get more time to talk with her, in English or Russian, to take walks, to drink tea.

My FB circles do not overlap with a lot of hers, so to what am I bearing witness? That we all have so little time, so often: so tell your friends that you love them, go exploring together, smooth over your quarrels. That I should take many more pictures with people in them, and not just buildings!... That now I have to be feisty of my own accord on my own behalf and for others, because she is not there to say "oh come on!" with her characteristic kindly asperity, or to put her chin down with a characteristic determination to get on with things.

Oh my dear, my dear, what good times we had! I am so honored that you shared yourself with me.



In this photo down in the subway station at the World Trade Center, Elena is making a note-- standing before words about dignity, freedom, and rights. While her integrity seemed to me like the water she swam in, I have been grateful to learn more about what a beacon she was to other people. Inspired by her and by words about her, I conclude: it is indeed important and powerful to be kind, to insist on dignity, to tell the truth about yourself and believe that it matters, to believe in the strength of others and encourage them to find it and use it.

Such a gift to feel so understood. A brilliance to emulate.