





## mission

Together, we access peace by bridging ancient wisdom with today's world.

## objectives

- We facilitate the use of the unique energy field of Altai as a resource for global renaissance.
- The best of the carefully sustained wisdom of indigenous cultures forms a framework for sustainable human existence on Earth.
- The valuable culture and ecology of the Altai region are internationally nurtured according to local indigenous leadership, so that the legacy is available to meet global needs, especially the health and spiritual resources for which the region is renowned.
- Special efforts are made to find positive, inclusive solutions to the issue of land registration and ownership—especially communal and ancestral lands.

## from the president

**O**ver the years, our effectiveness has continued to increase as our personal relationships with Altai leaders have developed, and time and trust have allowed our deeper understanding of the ancient Altai culture, as well as their modern strategies.

In January, my 20+ years as a citizen diplomat were honored by the National Peace Foundation in Washington, DC.

As with 2008, our main thrust in the spring of 2009 has been to raise funds to save traditional Altai lands from commercial development. We collaborated with many different groups and organizations, with great success. The requested funding was provided in the two highest risk regions (to Danil Mamyev working in the Karakol Valley of Onguday Region; and Svetlana Katynova working in Ust Koska Region, where Mt. Belukha is).

In the summer, we deepened our relationships with our Altai allies, and I took time to make 20 visionary “Sacred Masculine” paintings and to trek to Mt. Belukha once more.

In the fall, we moved forward with collaborative strategic planning of the next stage of strengthening the Altai people—stewards of these sacred lands—through development of village cooperatives to create sustainable culturally appropriate livelihoods.

In this process, the ancient human technologies are beginning to re-emerge, for the welfare of both the Altai people and the world at large. And we are exploring ways to make these human technologies and histories readily available in a way that also sustains the Altai culture.



*Carol Helmer*

# milestones



How thrilling it was that the necessary funding was raised to save strategically located traditional Altai lands from commercial exploitation. Huge thanks to all of you who have supported our work! Detailed written reports on all our activities, with maps and photographs, are available on-line at [www.AltaiMir.org](http://www.AltaiMir.org)

***Objective:* Special efforts are made to find positive, inclusive solutions to the issue of land registration and ownership—especially communal and ancestral lands.**



- Raising funds to support culture-enhancing communal ownership of traditional and sacred lands in Altai was our major thrust for the spring of 2009.

With the help of a challenge grant from GlobalGiving.org, our dedicated team raised \$37,000 from about 250 donors, which was leveraged by two heroic Altai colleagues.

Danil Mamyev moved forward on several interlocking initiatives:

- mapping the status of each tract of land (which uncovered all sorts of errors, inconsistencies, and fraud
- documenting existing ownership rights, which was an extremely meticulous, time-consuming task.
- our contribution, raised through the efforts of Jackie Stratton, went toward surveying and registration fees for villagers with no money
- and perhaps most importantly, working to pull together the leadership of Karakol Valley into a cohesive team.

In Ust Koksa region, Svetlana Katynova organized a collective in Ak-Koba village. Our funds helped them survey and register their lands, and also contributed toward surveying/registration of two farms in other villages that included sacred heritage sites. The 2008 collective of 10 people in Tyungur/Kucherla was folded into a larger collective of 126 people that self-organized with Svetlana's help.



# milestones

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- In October, AMU signed an agreement that places most of our work under the auspices of the UNESCO Leadership Chair at Siberian Academy for Public Administration in Novosibirsk.
- By request of Marina Aloshkina, Director of the National Library of Altai Republic Carol located some Altai literature that was published in the US in the 1960s. With publisher's permission, she photographed all 2000 pages and delivered them. The event was celebrated with a throat-singing concert.
- We continued discussions and strategizing with local Altai leaders, and wrote numerous articles, as well as grant proposals supporting local strategies as the opportunities arose.

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- Several of our "Painting Light" workshops in Russia facilitated people's re-connection with their creative abilities (and were great fun as well!)
- During the summer, Carol created 20 paintings out of 52 in a series of sacred masculine archetypes based on visions that came to her through the Altai energy. The originals stay in Altai, but proceeds from sale of reproductions of these and the sacred feminine series support AMU. Because the inspiration stays with the painting, they spread Altai energy through many exhibitions in both Russia and the US.
- AMU was a sponsor of the 11th Global Leadership Forum in Istanbul in September, using it as a vehicle to raise awareness around the world of the Altai energy field as a resource.



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- We started the process of an on-line library by installing a search engine and language translating function on our website, and holding planning discussions with the Altai UNESCO office and members of the Altai Writers' Union.
- We organized a sponsorship program to assist promising young throat-singers as they finish their schooling
- We continue to network internationally through the internet, with groups working to create just, sustainable, human society on the planet.



# looking ahead

In the fall of 2009, Carol spent about a month working with Svetlana, Tamara Sadalova, Danil Mamyev, Chagat Almashev, and other Altai elders exploring how Altai Mir University can best meet its mission.

Out of this collaboration has come:

- Long and short term strategies for sustainable, culturally appropriate livelihoods, fostered through an interlocking system of village cooperatives;
- An inclusive plan for environmental stewardship and public education focusing on Mt. Belukha, involving UNESCO, the Belukha National Park administration, the National Weather Service, the regional Mountain Rescue Service, and various nonprofit organizations;
- Beginning steps of a comprehensive on-line library of writings, recordings, and videos by, about, and for the indigenous Altai people, including new works by now-elderly wisdom-keepers.

In the US, we will continue to seek out ways to foster sustainable “human technologies” offered by Native American wisdomkeepers and others; as well as interactions between Native Americans and the Altai people.

All donations to Altai Mir University go directly toward our work in Altai.





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### **[www.AltaiMir.org](http://www.AltaiMir.org)**

Comprehensive reports, with photos, of our initiatives are available on our website, in English and/or Russian.

Unaudited financial report available on request.

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