

WINDHAM-SUZDAL SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

For 25 years now Windham has enjoyed a Sister City relationship with the Town of Suzdal, Russia. Over that period of time, we have spent many weeks visiting with one another and have made lifelong friends with people of all ages.

The last physical visit by Windham to Suzdal was four years ago and more recently contact stays vibrant by computer, phone and other electronic communication. The families with whom we stay have had their numbers grow with grandchildren, and young people who traveled here in the past have now families of their own.

By Facebook, we almost daily stay in touch with the women of the quilt club “Suzdal Patch.” These women have become experts with the crafts that they create. They attend events and exhibit their work all over Russia and win prizes for their creativity.

In recent times we have mailed boxes of cotton fabric to them, as they like to incorporate our small prints into their pieces. Boxes of fabric were mailed and received by the club in August 2015, and



November 2016. This year, 2017, we mailed a box in July and September. The July box arrived with no problem in about 10 days. However, there was a customs hang up at the post office in Vladimir with the September package. Each time I have sent a box, the address has been exactly the same and every other package went directly to the Suzdal post office.

The women ultimately had to wait until November 17, and be present for the opening of the package at the Vladimir post office, at which time the contents were viewed and photographed. After another slight delay, they were made to return on the 20th to pick up the box, which at this moment is in their possession. They will open the box again on the 24th when all of the club women are together. Beautiful fabric is in there, they say to me by messenger, and you can see as much in the photo - even in black and white!

The reason for this long two month delay was explained to the women by officials. It was stated that because I mentioned the club name in the address, it was an entity and should require a tax. However, since the recipient’s name and address matched the information on the mailing label, they were allowed to have the package. So, I shall alter my wording on mailing labels in the future.

May we soon meet once again face to face. There is nothing like it. But for now I shall share photos of happy women with our American fabric.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Coish
Barbara A Coish, Chair

