

WINDHAM-SUZDAL SISTER CITY ASSN.

For 23 years now, Windham and Suzdal, Russia have been Sister Cities. Over these years, we have shared much – traveling to visit each other’s communities, making life-long friends, learning about the culture of each other’s country, and watching the families we know and love develop and grow.

In addition to making life-long personal relationships, we have made strong connections with the hospital, the library, the art community and the group of women who call themselves “*Suzdal Swatch*”. These women enjoy sharing the art of quilting by creating wall hanging quilts and potholders with depictions of local churches, as well as depictions of recognizable Russian folk characters and more. There are many Windham homes that enjoy some of this craft work.

Today the women have modern sewing machines that enable them to work much faster. Those of us who have older creations, that were completely done by hand, certainly possess wonderful works of art.

Since it has now been four years since we have been able travel to Suzdal and carry gifts, we have been mailing boxes of fabric to the quilt club and they have continued to incorporate the gift fabric with their own into their creations. During this year, we have sent two, 16 (sixteen) pound boxes of fabric, which safely arrived to the group and were happily shared among them. Recently, it has never failed that we receive a small box of their crafts in return when they receive a box of fabric from us.

One of the leaders of the group, Oksana Vinnechenko, also works with children doing art and other projects. Passing on the knowledge of the crafts is so important so as not to lose this art in the future. We are happy to help support them as well with this fabric.

As the years pass, we continue to hope for the day when further exchanges will happen. We have such wonderful memories of past exchanges and the close connections that continue to flourish.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Coish
Barbara A. Coish, Chair



Oksana Vinnechenko (left) and other members of the “Suzdal Swatch”.