

SUZDAL SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

Our friends in Suzdal, Russia have been dealing with the Coronavirus as we have here in the United States. They have been isolated for a time and are wearing masks in public. On Facebook, I can see that our quilt club friends have continued their work as best they can. There have been displays and competitions in Moscow and other locations. Oksana Vinnichenko, the group leader and very talented artist also works with young students passing on the craft to the next generation (see photos below of her and some of those students). I hope very soon to be able to resume sending fabric to the group from us for them to incorporate into some of their quilts.

Very recently, I had a conversation on Messenger with Evgeny Borisov, who is a fireman and son of the Fire Chief Sasha Borisov, who visited Windham with a group in the 1990s. Genya expressed to me the news that our friends in Suzdal are dealing with COVID19 as we are here. He tells me that our friends are faring well. Suzdal was founded in 1024 and Genya reminded me that the town will celebrate 1000 years in 2024. Huge celebrations are already in the planning stages. He said even building a new school is in the planning. That would be terrific. I just hope that the beautiful, historic nature of Suzdal does not change.

I and others dream to return to Suzdal. The last visit was in 2013, when I traveled there alone. Since then. It has become a bit more difficult to obtain official letters of invitation. I am told that being invited personally by a family may be the best route to go. Hopefully, vaccines will soon make international travel once again be the wonderful adventure that many of us love.

Because of computer access, we are able to keep in touch easily with our friends there. Many young people who visited Windham as students keep us updated on their lives. Many are parents now and share their children with us digitally.

We cherish our almost 30year relationship with Suzdal, Russia and her wonderful people. Suzdal has Sister Cities in other countries and it was fun to be there in 1999, with delegations from Germany and Portugal. Perhaps in 2024, we can all be together again.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Coish, President

