



The Archangel Committee
A Greater Portland – Russian Sister City Project
P.O. Box 105, Portland, Maine 04112 USA

2020 - Year in Review

- January -** The "Bridges of Friendship" Photography Exhibition opens at the Prince Memorial Library in the Town of Cumberland; this beautiful exhibition is made possible by the dedicated work of Committee members Dennis Marrotte and Dan Glover.
- February -** The City of Archangel distributes its 2020 Student Arts Calendar. Each month features art from a student in each of Archangel's Sister Cities and Haley Leavitt, a student at the Maine Arts Academy in the Town of Sidney, provides the artwork for September.
- March -** Committee member Greg Rossel is the on-air host for a day of Russian music at the WERU Community Radio Station in the Town of Orland (89.9 FM).
- April -** The global COVID-19 pandemic starts disrupting travel plans between our communities; eventually, no travel takes place in 2020.
- May -** Maine World War II Army veteran James Mardin sends written greetings to Archangel in commemoration of Victory Day 80 on May 9, 2020; Sergeant Mardin's anti-aircraft unit crossed into France just after D-Day and fought into Germany and eventually into Czechoslovakia where Russian forces had advanced from the east.
- June -** We join with the City of Archangel and send electronic greetings to the International Space Station where astronaut Chris Cassidy (from Maine) and cosmonaut Ivan Vagner (from the Archangel Oblast) are on orbit as part of Expedition 63. Also, the Maine Chess Club participates in an on-line chess tournament sponsored by the City of Archangel.
- July -** We continue discussions with the Northern Maritime Museum in Archangel about their upcoming virtual 2020-2021 "International Forum for Wooden Historical Shipbuilding" (www.matitsa.ru); Committee members Dennis Marrotte and Dan Glover are instrumental in organizing Maine wooden boat builders and maritime museums.
- August -** We promote William Geroux's new book "The Ghost Ships of Archangel" about World War II Arctic Convoy PQ-17 which was almost completely destroyed by the enemy; one of the few surviving merchant ships that reached Archangel was captained by Clyde Colbeth of Chebeague Island.
- September -** We join with representatives of the Archangel Regional Museum and the Royal Air Force Museum in London to commemorate the 76th Anniversary of "Operation Paravane"; in September 1944, British bombers flew from an Archangel airfield to attack the German battleship Tirpitz in a northern Norway fjord.
- October -** A number of Maine wooden boat builders and museum personnel join in a large virtual on-line video conference with the "Matitsa" organizers in Archangel; plans for future cooperation and events in 2021 are discussed.
- November -** After much planning and in recognition of the marking of 32 years as official sister cities, our Committee launches our website at: www.archangelportland.org - please check it out as it evolves in the future. Also, we send official greetings to the new Mayor of Archangel Dmitri Morev as he begins his 5-year term.
- December -** We exchange Christmas and New Year's Greetings with many of our professional and personal friends in Archangel.