



The Archangel Committee
The Russian Sister City Committee of Greater Portland
P.O. Box 105, Portland, Maine 04112

2021 - Year in Review

January - Our Committee receives a package from NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy containing the original documents carried on the International Space Station in 2020 and signed by the crew.

February - The U.S. Embassy in Moscow sponsors an online forum featuring Duke University Professor Peter Wood speaking about Maine painter Winslow Homer.

March - American author Andrea Pitzer provides our Committee with photographs of her 2019 trip to Novaya Zemlya where she researched the tragic 1596-1597 William Barents expedition.

April - Professors and students from USM and NARFU participate in an online program focusing on historical and cultural themes. Maine archaeologist Tim Spahr and UNE Professor Arthur Anderson speak in an online forum with the Northern Maritime Museum in Archangel about traditional wooden dugout boats.

May - Westbrook WWII veteran Elmer T. Graffam sends written remembrances to Archangel veterans on Victory Day 76. Archangel City Councilor Dmitri Akishev publishes a book about the Arctic Convoys with a cover painting of a Liberty Ship provided by the Maine Historical Society. The Maine Chess Club participates in the annual on-line tournament sponsored by the City of Archangel.

June - Archangel Mayor Morev sends congratulations to Maine Judge Valerie Stanfill, who visited Archangel in 2004 and helped to host Archangel legal delegations in 2004 and 2005, upon her confirmation as the Chief Justice of Maine's Supreme Judicial Court.

July - Maine wooden boat building interests participate in an online forum called "Matitsa" sponsored by Archangel's Northern Maritime Museum. Maine Fire/Rescue/US Navy personnel conduct a Memorial Service at the Arctic Convoy Monument in Portland and send a video of the Service to Archangel.

August - Westbrook Mayor Michael Foley sends video greetings to Archangel's official commemorations of the WWII Arctic Convoys.

September - The "Bridges of Friendship" Photography Exhibition opens at the Baxter Memorial Library in the Town of Gorham; this beautiful exhibition is made possible by the dedicated work of Committee members Dennis Marrotte and Dan Glover.

October - Pursuant to a grant from the Eurasia Foundation, Cleveland Ohio holds a Forum called "Four Cities for Peace" with participants from Cleveland, Greater Portland, Archangel and Volgograd. Committee members Jim Butler and Chris Thomson spoke in person and member Lara Cakmakci spoke virtually.

November - Archangel Vice Mayor Svetlana Skomorokhova and City Councilors Dimitri Akishev and Andrei Baleevsky commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the signing of our Sister City Treaty by placing a Memorial Stone at the birch trees planted by Maine high school students near Archangel City Hall in April 1989.

December - We exchange Christmas and New Year's Greetings with many of our professional and personal friends in Archangel.