

MONTHLY

FEBRUARY 2026

Russian Cultural Garden Magazine

Preserving Russian Cultural Heritage in America



Discover This Month



Dear friends and residents of our city!

The Russian Cultural Garden announces the completion of **Kristina Makhneva's** term as **President of RCG**. During her leadership, the Garden significantly strengthened its position, implemented many **cultural initiatives**, and became a place that unites people who love **Russian culture, traditions, and creativity**.

We express our sincere gratitude to Kristina for her **dedication, energy, and invaluable contribution** to the development of the Russian Cultural Garden and our entire community.

In accordance with the organization's Charter, **Antonina Mohamed** has been elected as the new President of the Garden for the next two years. We wholeheartedly congratulate Antonina on this **responsible and honorable position** and are confident that under her leadership, the Russian Cultural Garden will continue to **grow, develop, and delight** us with new inspiring projects, events, and gatherings.



WINTER OLYMPICS 2026



From February 6 to 22, 2026, the world will once again hold its breath – the XXV Winter Olympic Games, known as Milano Cortina 2026, will take place in Italy. This is an event eagerly awaited by athletes and fans from all over the world!

WHERE AND WHEN?

For the first time in history, the Olympics will officially be held in two host cities – the famous fashion capital Milan and the legendary winter resort Cortina d'Ampezzo, in the Lombardy and Veneto regions of northern Italy.

Opening ceremony: February 6, 2026

Closing ceremony: February 22, 2026

SPORTS AND HOT DISCIPLINES

The Games will feature over 15 winter sports, ranging from classic alpine skiing to thrilling hockey and figure skating.

What to Look Forward To:

- Cross-country skiing, biathlon, snowboard, and freestyle – speeds and tricks that get your heart racing.
- Figure skating and short track – beauty, grace, and incredible turns on the ice.
- Hockey – team battles where every goal can become historic.
- Curling – strategy and precision at its finest.

Additionally, the Games will feature a new sport – **ski mountaineering**, combining uphill climbs with thrilling downhill runs!



THE ORIGINS OF MASLENITSA: A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FESTIVAL

Maslenitsa is one of the **oldest holidays** of the Eastern Slavs. Its origins date back to the 1st millennium AD, when agricultural tribes celebrated the farewell to winter and the arrival of spring. The festival was closely connected with the cult of the sun and fertility, and its main symbols became the sun and pancakes. The round, golden pancake symbolized **warmth, life, and abundance**. By baking pancakes, people symbolically “invited” the sun and prepared for a new agricultural year.

Originally, Maslenitsa was celebrated around the spring equinox (approximately March 20–22). However, after the **Christianization of Rus' in 988**, the holiday was incorporated into the church calendar as the last week before Great Lent. Folk festivities, sleigh rides, games, and feasting were preserved, but they acquired a new spiritual meaning – **forgiveness, reconciliation, and inner renewal**.



Thus, Maslenitsa has traveled a long path of more than a thousand years, preserving both its pagan roots and Christian traditions. Today, pancakes remain its main symbol: round, warm, and golden, they remind us of sunlight, **the warmth of the family hearth**, and **the joy of celebrating together**.

This year, due to the cold and unpredictable weather, Maslenitsa will not take place, but very soon we invite everyone to join the big summer celebration – Ivan Kupala!

JUNE 2026

**AT THE RUSSIAN
CULTURAL GARDEN**



FOR THE FIRST TIME

Ivan Gupala

WITH THE RUSSIAN CULTURAL GARDEN

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAM:

- A MARKETPLACE WITH TRADITIONAL CUISINE**
- FUN CONTESTS FOR KIDS AND ADULTS**
- FOLK PERFORMANCES**
- AND SEVERAL PLEASANT SURPRISES**







WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR SPOKEN ENGLISH, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, AND HAVE A GREAT TIME? JOIN OUR MULTICULTURAL ESL CLUB OF CLEVELAND, ORGANIZED BY TEACHER TONYA MOHAMED!

CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD MONTHLY – STAY UPDATED ON OUR PAGE:

[FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/1798737884382405](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1798737884382405)



THE CLUB INCLUDES:

-  **SPOKEN ENGLISH PRACTICE**
-  **SHARING RESOURCES AND EXPERIENCES**
-  **BOARD GAMES**
-  **WARM AND FRIENDLY SOCIALIZING**

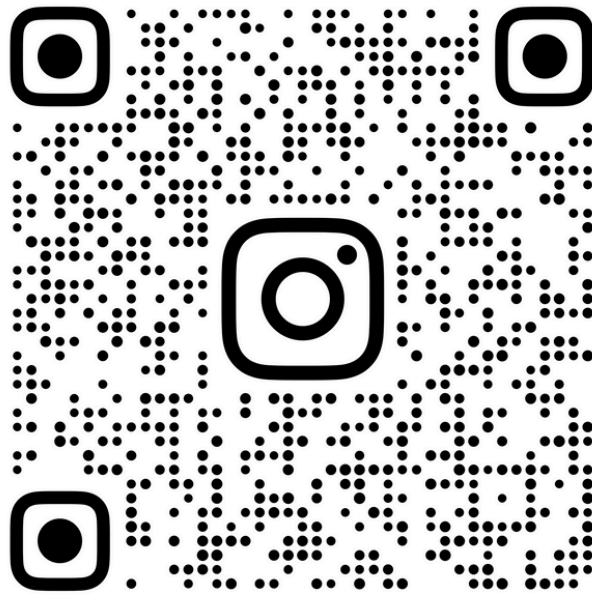
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME – ANY ENGLISH LEVEL, ANY AGE!
COME WITH YOUR WHOLE FAMILY AND INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!**





**WE ARE ON
INSTAGRAM!**

18.38



RCGCLE



ASTROLOGICAL TIPS: FEBRUARY 2026 HOROSCOPE



ARIES:
THIS FEBRUARY CALLS FOR AWARENESS IN WHAT YOU DO AND SAY. STAYING FOCUSED ON A CLEAR GOAL WILL HELP YOU STEER CLEAR OF UNNECESSARY CHAOS AND PRESERVE YOUR ENERGY.



TAURUS:
FEBRUARY IS PERFECT FOR ORGANIZING — IN YOUR WORK AND IN YOUR MIND. MOVING AT A STEADY, CALM PACE WILL BE FAR MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN HURRYING.



GEMINI:
THIS MONTH, SOCIAL INTERACTIONS TAKE CENTER STAGE, BUT BE CAREFUL NOT TO SPREAD YOURSELF TOO THIN. CHOOSE ONLY THE CONVERSATIONS AND PROJECTS THAT TRULY COUNT.



CANCER:
THIS MONTH, LET YOUR INTUITION LEAD THE WAY. TUNING IN TO YOUR INNER VOICE WILL HELP YOU MAKE CONFIDENT DECISIONS WITHOUT SECOND-GUESSING.



LEO:
THIS MONTH OFFERS A CHANCE TO STAND OUT THROUGH RESPONSIBILITY AND LEADERSHIP. ACTING WITH CONFIDENCE WILL BOOST YOUR INFLUENCE AND RESPECT.



VIRGO:
THIS MONTH IS IDEAL FOR REFLECTION AND PLANNING AHEAD. CAREFUL ATTENTION TO DETAIL WILL KEEP MISTAKES AT BAY AND SPARE YOU UNNECESSARY STRESS.



LIBRA:
FEBRUARY ASKS YOU TO CULTIVATE INNER BALANCE AND BE TRUTHFUL WITH YOURSELF. PEACE AND HARMONY WILL FOLLOW ONCE YOU FACE THE IMPORTANT DECISIONS YOU'VE BEEN DELAYING.



SCORPIO:
THIS MONTH COULD SPARK INNER TRANSFORMATION AND A REEVALUATION OF WHAT TRULY MATTERS. EMBRACE THE PROCESS — IT'S GUIDING YOU TOWARD PERSONAL GROWTH.



SAGITTARIUS:
THIS MONTH BRINGS A THIRST FOR BROADER HORIZONS — WHETHER THROUGH LEARNING, CONNECTIONS, OR FRESH IDEAS. JUST BE SURE TO STAY FOCUSED ON YOUR MAIN PRIORITIES.



CAPRICORN:
THIS MONTH, YOUR DEDICATION AND DISCIPLINE WILL YIELD REAL RESULTS. JUST REMEMBER TO CARVE OUT TIME FOR REST AND REJUVENATION.



AQUARIUS:
FEBRUARY ENCOURAGES INNOVATIVE THINKING AND FRESH APPROACHES. HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR UNIQUE VISION, EVEN IF IT GOES AGAINST THE NORM.



PISCES:
THIS MONTH INVITES INTROSPECTION AND CREATIVE DISCOVERY. EMBRACING CALM AND ACCEPTANCE WILL ALLOW YOU TO PROGRESS WITH ASSURANCE.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

VOICES OF THE RUSSIAN GARDEN



**NIKITA
SYSUEV**

Nikita, a high school student, has been supporting our garden since 2024. In that time, he has become a vital member of the team and has made a lasting impression on everyone attending our events.

He has taken part in children's New Year celebrations, brought joy as a skomorokh at Maslenitsa by involving everyone in lively games, and has enthusiastically contributed to the June children's festival and One World Day, demonstrating both energy and creativity.

To us, Nikita exemplifies how a teenager can play a key role in a celebration. Thoughtful, proactive, and eager to help, he's always ready to assist in organizing and carrying out events.

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF AS IF YOU WERE INTRODUCING YOURSELF TO A NEW FRIEND. WHAT HOBBIES, DREAMS, OR FUNNY HABITS COULD WE GET TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

My name is Nikita. I came to the U.S. almost four years ago from Siberia. I'm good with technology and cars, and right now I'm working on my car in the garage.

SHARE A MOMENT IN THE GARDEN THAT BROUGHT A SMILE TO YOUR FACE, CAUGHT YOU BY SURPRISE, OR GAVE YOU A LESSON.

A year ago in February, when we were preparing for the role of skomorokhs for Maslenitsa, my friend and I were trying to learn the dance. No matter how hard we tried, at first it looked funny and a bit sloppy, but in the end, we managed to get it right.



WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF OR REALIZED SINCE JOINING THE GARDEN TEAM?

Since becoming part of the garden team, I've noticed that I've become less afraid of speaking in public. Over time, I've grown more comfortable with the audience's attention and can confidently interact with people, no matter what role I'm given.



JOIN THE VOLUNTEER TEAM OF THE RUSSIAN CULTURAL GARDEN!



**LOOKING FOR NEW FRIENDS IN CLEVELAND? VOLUNTEERING
AT THE RUSSIAN CULTURAL GARDEN IS A GREAT WAY TO
MEET NEW PEOPLE AND BECOME PART OF A FRIENDLY TEAM!**

**IT DOESN'T REQUIRE A PERMANENT COMMITMENT – YOU CAN
HELP WHENEVER YOU HAVE THE TIME AND DESIRE.**

**INTERESTED? EMAIL US AT
RUSSIANGARDENCE@GMAIL.COM.
WE WELCOME EVERYONE!**

DID YOU KNOW?

Surprising Facts About Valentine's Day:



The History of Saint Valentine:

Saint Valentine, a Roman priest of the 3rd century, secretly united lovers in marriage despite Emperor Claudius II's ban. Believing that unmarried men made better soldiers, the emperor had him arrested. Valentine was executed on **February 14, 269**, and has since become a lasting symbol of love and fidelity.

The Earliest Valentine's Cards:

The first love letters in Europe appeared during the **14th** and **15th centuries**. The oldest surviving Valentine, from **1415**, was written by Charles, Duke of Orléans, to his wife while he was imprisoned, signed simply, "From your Valentine."

Symbols and Traditions:

The heart as a symbol of love didn't appear until the **14th century**, and Cupid, borrowed from Roman mythology, became the iconic god of love with his bow and arrows. The practice of giving **flowers**, **chocolates**, and **plush toys** emerged in the 19th century, as Valentine's Day grew into a mass celebration.

Interesting Numbers:

Every year in the U.S., schoolchildren send around 145 million valentines, and over 36 million boxes of chocolate are sold for Valentine's Day. In both the U.K. and the U.S., valentines rank second in popularity, just after Christmas cards.

Every time you participate, you contribute to the future of the Russian-speaking community!

Dear friends,

The Russian Cultural Garden is a place where Russian culture lives. Here, children discover Pushkin for the first time, familiar melodies are heard, and adults feel part of a big family. Here, we laugh together, sing, create, and simply feel that **we are one**. Everything you see in the garden is made with love by our **volunteers**. Every flower, every bench, every celebration is the result of hard work, inspiration, and a belief that culture must live. We do this for **you**, for the **children**, for the **future**.

But for the garden to continue to bloom and grow, we need your support. **Support** that brings ideas to life, that allows music to play, flowers to flourish, and people to come together.

💛 **Making a donation is now easier than ever!**

We accept donations via **Zeffy** — safe and convenient.

👉 [Click the link to make a contribution →](#)

Every donation is more than just a sum of money. It's a warm "thank you," a helping hand, a belief in a shared cause. Even the smallest contribution makes a **big difference**.

Thanks to you, culture continues to live.

Thanks to you, the garden **blooms**.

Thanks to you, we are **together**.

Subscribe to the Russian Cultural Garden Magazine!

Do you want to stay up to date every month on the most exciting events, projects, and news from the Russian Cultural Garden? Subscribe to our e-magazine and never miss the most important updates! 🌿 ✨

How to Subscribe?

Go to our [website](#) and enter your email in the subscription field at the bottom of the page — and you'll receive new issues directly in your inbox.

Each issue includes:

- a review of past events;
- announcements of upcoming events ;
- exclusive interviews and materials;
- and much more!

**Stay connected with our culture
and history!**

