

MONTHLY

FEBRUARY 2025

Russian Cultural Garden Magazine

Preserving Russian Cultural Heritage in America

Discover This Month

Message from the Board Member and Founder of the Russian Cultural Garden of Cleveland



My thoughts today are about time and eternity, the value of continuity, and the joy of service. As one of the founders of the Russian Cultural Garden, I have been elected to the Federation Board for many years, served three terms as Vice President of the Federation of Cultural Gardens of Cleveland, and co-chaired the committee organizing the city's annual One World Day festival. It has been a fascinating experience to step beyond the responsibilities of my own Cultural Garden, as it allowed me to see our mission from a much broader and long-term perspective.

I do not know whether the founders of the Cultural Gardens movement in 1916 envisioned that it would be so fruitful, that even a hundred years later, new gardens—like our Russian Cultural Garden, dedicated in 2018—would continue to emerge. We, who came after them, are truly fortunate: the founders were true visionaries. They left not only a remarkable legacy but also a clear guiding principle and a very high standard. We have inherited a beautiful idea that has become the motto of the Cultural Gardens: "Peace through mutual understanding."

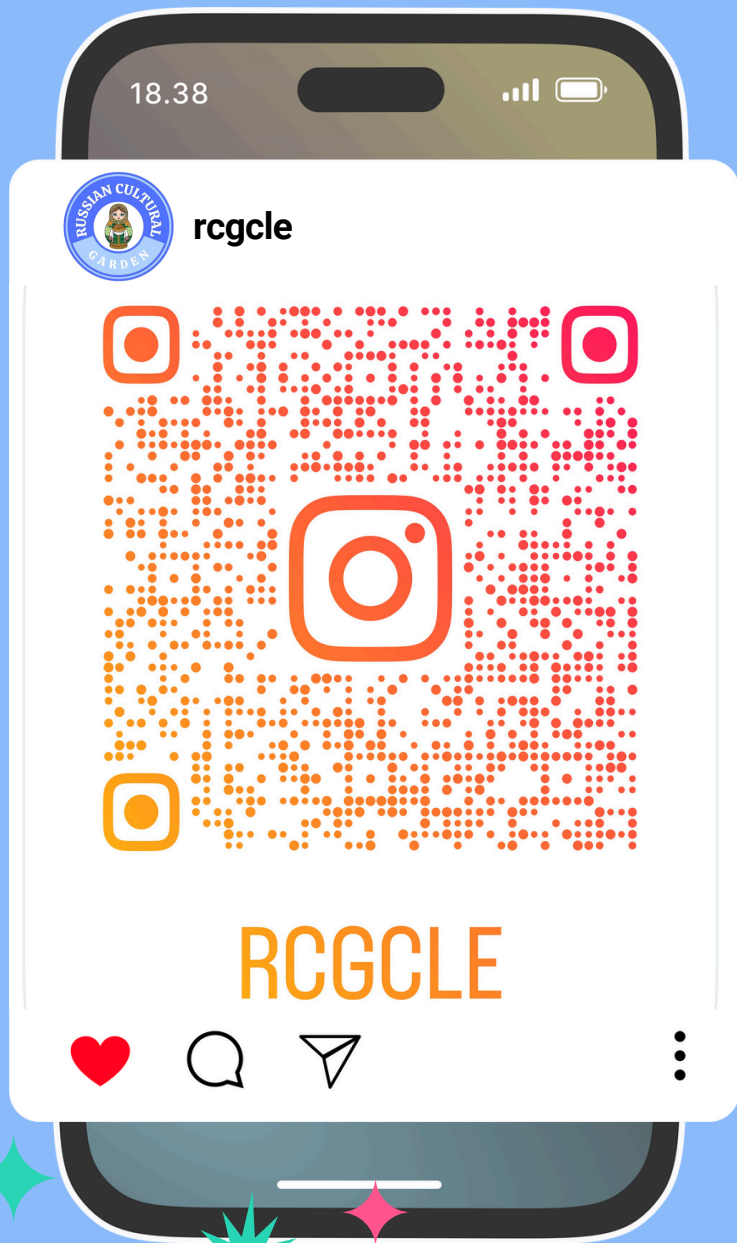
Yes, we are building our Garden through the generous contributions of many individuals and businesses from our community and its supporters. Together with numerous volunteers, we maintain and enhance its beauty, raising funds for further development. However, while we are its caretakers, the Garden itself belongs to the city and is a public park, open to all without restrictions. When we organize large events for residents and visitors of Cleveland, some programs are designed primarily for Russian-speaking participants, but more often, they are intended for a broader audience—those who may not understand the language but are interested in our culture.

I must also highlight one of the greatest and most unique aspects of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens: every community that establishes a Garden is, in essence, gifting its creation to the city of Cleveland, its residents, and its guests. This is a true testament to the maturity and generosity of a cultural community. And our community is truly remarkable. Just look at how many incredible volunteers care for the Garden, organize events, ignite new ideas, and boldly bring those ideas to life!

Our volunteers and Board members share a dream—to see more and more people consider the Russian Garden their own, a place they feel connected to, a place they want to return to and support. And yes, we also have a lot of fun! So come, join us, bring your talents, and I guarantee that you will share in that noble and uplifting joy that comes from serving a truly worthy cause.

Sincerely yours,
Svetlana Stolyarova

WE ARE NOW ON INSTAGRAM!



SUBSCRIBE



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

KATERINA TURICHENKO



We are delighted to announce that this month's "Volunteer of the Month" title is awarded to Katerina Turichenko! Katerina has done an incredible job, putting her heart and soul into our organization. Thanks to her dedication and creative approach, amazing costumes were created for the children's holiday event. Furthermore, Katerina has generously donated a significant amount of supplies and funds, which are already being actively used in our work. This is a valuable contribution that helps make our events even more vibrant and enriching.

Right now, Katerina is also playing a key role in the preparation for Maslenitsa. She is investing not only her time and energy but also her own resources to create an unforgettable event for all of us. Her dedication and passion inspire our team and everyone around her. Thank you, Katerina!

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR VOLUNTEER WORK?

I enjoy working in a friendly team where everyone contributes, and together we achieve great goals. It is especially rewarding to organize events that bring people together and create an atmosphere of joy and unity.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY TO THOSE WHO ARE JUST THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A VOLUNTEER?

By becoming a volunteer, you not only help others but also gain immense joy. It's an opportunity to meet new people, broaden your horizons, and make a positive impact on the lives of those around you. Every hour you spend volunteering is returned to you in the form of new skills, friendships, and the joy of what you've accomplished. It's an invaluable experience that will enrich your life!

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING IN YOUR FREE TIME, AND WHAT IS YOUR JOB? TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR MAIN ACTIVITIES.

In each of our lives, there are important moments when we can help others and make their lives better. I am a licensed insurance broker, managing an agency and helping people find optimal solutions in health and life insurance. I enjoy my work, as it brings together people's destinies, and it's rewarding to know that I was able to make a positive difference. I also provide consulting on social security issues, helping people make important decisions about their future.

Besides work, I find joy in creativity. In my free time, I engage in sewing, bead embroidery, and photo editing – these activities help me express myself and find harmony. I love gathering friends for themed parties with delicious food, games, and fun. Traveling with my family and taking walks outdoors give me new experiences, emotions, and inspiration for both life and work!



JOIN THE TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS AT 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
COMMITMENT TO REGULAR WORK
- YOU CAN HELP WHENEVER YOU
HAVE THE TIME AND DESIRE.**

**INTERESTED? EMAIL US AT
RUSSIANGARDENCE@GMAIL.COM.**

WE WILL BE HAPPY TO WELCOME EVERYONE!

MASLENITSA 2025

WITH THE RUSSIAN CULTURAL GARDEN

MARCH 2ND (12PM, 2PM, AND 4PM)

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MASLENITSA WEEK

MONDAY
(FIRST DAY)

"MEETING"

MASLENITSA BEGINS WITH A JOYFUL MEETING. IT IS A DAY OF PREPARATION: HOMES WERE DECORATED, SNOW SLIDES WERE BUILT, AND THE MASLENITSA EFFIGY WAS PLACED IN THE MAIN SQUARE.

TUESDAY
(SECOND DAY)

"FLIRTATIONS"

THE TIME FOR GAMES AND FUN ARRIVES! ON THIS DAY, PEOPLE TAKE TO THE STREETS: THERE ARE FAIRS, DANCES, AND PLAYFUL DUELS.

WEDNESDAY
(THIRD DAY)

"SWEET TOOTH"

THE MOST DELICIOUS DAY OF THE WEEK! GUESTS ARE TREATED TO PLENTY OF FOOD, AND IN THE EVENING, NOISY FEASTS ARE HELD WITH SONGS AND JOKES.

THURSDAY
(FOURTH DAY)

"REVELRY"

FROM THURSDAY, MASLENITSA ENTERS ITS GRAND PHASE. THIS IS THE DAY OF THE LOUDEST FESTIVITIES: FIST FIGHTS, RIDES IN TROIKAS WITH BELLS, AND SNOW BATTLES.

FRIDAY
(FIFTH DAY)

"MOTHER-IN-LAW'S EVENINGS"

ON THIS DAY, MOTHERS-IN-LAW INVITE THEIR SONS-IN-LAW OVER AND TREAT THEM TO PANCAKES. IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN FAMILY BONDS AND SHOW RESPECT.

SUNDAY
(SEVENTH DAY)

"FORGIVENESS SUNDAY"

THE FINAL DAY OF MASLENITSA. PEOPLE ASK EACH OTHER FOR FORGIVENESS FOR PAST GRIEVANCES AND CLEANSE THEIR SOULS BEFORE THE GREAT LENT. IN THE SQUARE, THE EFFIGY OF WINTER IS SOLEMNLY BURNED – A SYMBOL OF THE DEPARTURE OF THE COLD AND THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING.

SATURDAY
(SIXTH DAY)

"SISTER-IN-LAW'S GATHERINGS"

YOUNG DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW INVITE THEIR SISTERS-IN-LAW (HUSBAND'S SISTERS) AND OTHER RELATIVES TO VISIT. THIS IS A DAY WHEN THE WHOLE FAMILY COMES TOGETHER TO BID FAREWELL TO WINTER WITH WARMTH AND JOY.



Attention!
We are looking for
an architect or
landscape designer.

Dear friends,

The Russian Cultural Garden of Cleveland is looking for a talented architect or landscape designer to create a project for our garden.

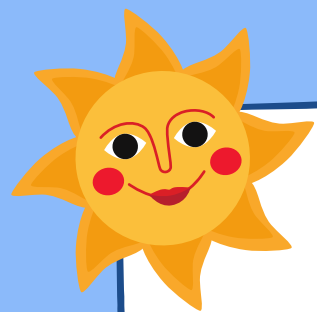
We plan to develop sketches and designs for installing unique compositions that will highlight the cultural heritage and beauty of our garden.

If you would like to contribute to the development of the garden or know someone who might be interested, we would be happy to hear from you!

Please contact us via email: russianguardencle@gmail.com

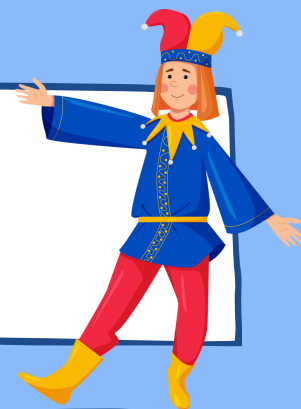
Let's make the Russian Cultural Garden of Cleveland a place that
inspires and brings joy!





DID YOU KNOW?

Interesting and unusual facts about Maslenitsa:



The holiday of pancakes:

The main symbol of Maslenitsa is pancakes. They symbolize the sun because of their round shape and golden color. In ancient times, it was believed that by eating pancakes, people would absorb a piece of the sun's energy.

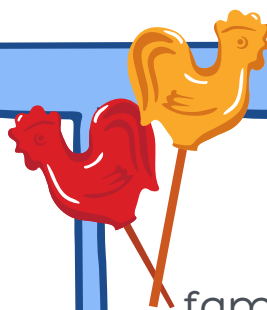


Maslenitsa dolls:

In some regions, small effigy dolls were kept in the home as charms until the next Maslenitsa.

The holiday for animals:

In rural tradition, during Maslenitsa, cows and horses were given extra treats: hay with honey or pancakes. It was believed that this would bring a bountiful harvest and good health to the animals.



The holiday unites:

Maslenitsa was not only a family holiday, but also a time of reconciliation. People visited each other, asked for forgiveness, and strengthened their relationships.



Support the Russian Cultural Garden – together we are creating the future!

Dear friends,

We are actively working on new projects to ensure that the Russian-speaking community in our city thrives. Organizing such events requires significant effort and resources. Currently, most of the expenses are covered by the personal funds of our volunteers.

The Russian Cultural Garden is a non-profit organization, and every bit of your support helps us preserve our garden and continue organizing events for all of us. Your donations go exclusively towards maintaining the garden and developing new initiatives.

You can support us by sending any amount via Zelle to the email:
russianguardencle@gmail.com, with the note: "Donation for Russian Cultural Garden."

Your help, regardless of the amount, is invaluable.

Together, we can do even more to preserve culture and strengthen our community.

Thank you for your support!



Subscribe to the Russian Cultural Garden Magazine!

Want to learn about the most interesting events, projects, and news related to the Russian Cultural Garden every month? Subscribe to our e-magazine and stay up to date with all the important updates!

How to subscribe?

Send an email to russianguardencle@gmail.com with the subject "I Want a **Subscription!**", and we will add you to our subscriber list.

Each issue includes:

- Stories and facts about the Russian Cultural Garden;
- A review of past events;
- Announcements of upcoming events;
- Exclusive interviews and materials;

And much more!

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

