

MONTHLY

JANUARY 2026

Russian Cultural Garden Magazine

Preserving Russian Cultural Heritage in America

Discover This Month





Happy New Year and Merry Christmas!

*May this New Year bring warmth, joy, and inspiration into your life.
May each day be filled with bright moments, the smiles of loved ones,
and new opportunities for dreams and accomplishments.*

*Christmas is a time of miracles and kindness. May your hearts be
open to happiness, and may your home be filled with comfort, laughter,
and harmony.*

*Thank you for being with us! May 2026 become a year of bright ideas,
joyful gatherings, and unforgettable stories for all of us.*



MESSAGE FROM ANTONINA MOHAMED AND KATERINA TURICHENKO



EVENT MANAGERS OF THE
RUSSIAN CULTURAL GARDEN

WE CONGRATULATE ALL CLEVELAND RESIDENTS ON THE HOLIDAYS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, INVOLVEMENT, AND THE WARM ATMOSPHERE YOU CREATE TOGETHER WITH US. WE ARE HAPPY TO SEE THAT OUR WORK RESONATES IN YOUR HEARTS.

IN 2026, OUR TEAM PLANS TO HOST THE EVENTS YOU'VE COME TO LOVE: THE NEW YEAR'S TREE CELEBRATION, MASLENITSA, AND PARTICIPATION IN ONE WORLD DAY. WE WILL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU AT OUR EVENTS.

SEE YOU SOON!



MASLENITSA 2026

ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026, AT 12:00 PM.

THE EVENT LOCATION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN OUR
FACEBOOK GROUP: RUSSIAN CLEVELAND.

COME WELCOME SPRING WITH US!
WE WILL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!



NEW YEAR'S YOLKA: TREASURE ISLAND AT THE RUSSIAN CULTURAL GARDEN! 🎄🚩💀



ON DECEMBER 21, WE WENT ON A NEW YEAR'S JOURNEY TO TREASURE ISLAND! OUR PERFORMANCE WELCOMED **165 CHILDREN** – GUESTS CAME NOT ONLY FROM NEARBY CITIES, BUT ALSO FROM OTHER STATES.

EVERY LITTLE PIRATE WENT HOME WITH SPARKLING EYES, A GIFT, AND THE FEELING OF HAVING FOUND A TREASURE. OUR CELEBRATION WAS MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE TIRELESS WORK OF OUR **VOLUNTEERS**, WHO SPENT SEVERAL MONTHS PREPARING COSTUMES, DECORATIONS, AND REHEARSALS.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR **SPONSORS** – YOUR SUPPORT HELPED US CREATE A BRIGHT ADVENTURE, PREPARE GIFTS, AND BRING SUCH A LARGE-SCALE PRODUCTION TO LIFE. AND OF COURSE, THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE DONATIONS. TOGETHER, WE STRENGTHEN THE RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY AND CREATE CELEBRATIONS THAT BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER.

THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US! 🚢🌟

[**PHOTO LINK**](#)



BAPTISM IN RUSSIAN CULTURE: WINTER RITUALS AND HOLY WATER

Every year on January 19, Orthodox Christians celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – the day when Jesus Christ was baptized in the Jordan River. In Russia, this holiday is filled with winter atmosphere, folk traditions, and the mysticism of holy water.

Holy Water and Its Power

The main symbol of the holiday is blessed water. It is believed to cleanse the soul, heal illnesses, and protect the home. Many people collect holy water to bless their houses or drink a small amount in the morning for health.

Epiphany Ice Bathing

One of the most striking traditions is immersion in an ice hole. It is a test of courage and an act of faith in spiritual purification. After the dip, it's important to warm up with hot tea and warm clothes – the emotions last a long time!

Folk Beliefs

It is believed that those who immerse themselves on Epiphany night will stay healthy throughout the year. Even a small amount of holy water kept at home is thought to bring good luck and bright thoughts.

Today, Epiphany unites religious and folk traditions: some people go to church, some bravely plunge into icy water, and others preserve family customs. This January holiday remains a time of courage, purity, and winter magic.









**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**

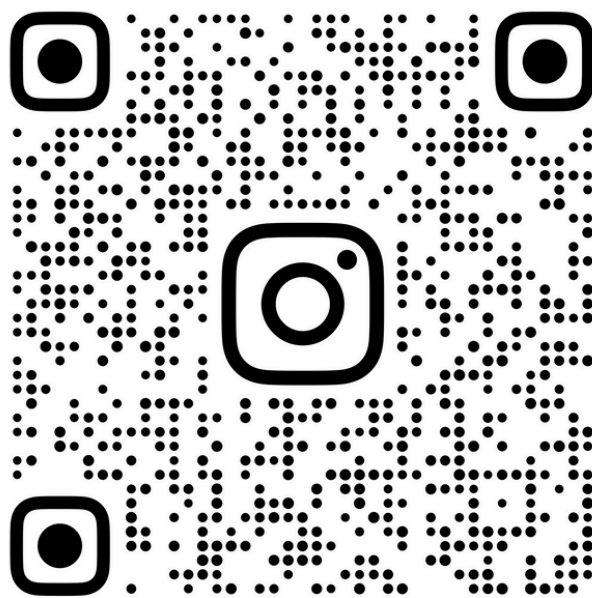
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME – ANY ENGLISH LEVEL, ANY AGE!
COME WITH YOUR WHOLE FAMILY AND INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!**





**WE ARE ON
INSTAGRAM!**

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STARRY STAND-UP: HOROSCOPE FOR 2026



ARIES:
A YEAR OF "ACT FIRST,
THINK LATER." BUT IT'S
GOING TO BE FUN AND
LOUD!



TAURUS:
COMFORT WILL BE YOUR
SUPERPOWER. DON'T
APOLOGIZE FOR IT.



GEMINI:
A YEAR OF "CHANGED MY
MIND — AND THAT'S
TOTALLY OKAY."



CANCER:
YOU'LL BE SURPRISED
HOW MUCH POWER LIES
IN YOUR GENTLENESS.



LEO:
LESS PROVING YOURSELF
— MORE LIVING. THAT'S
WHERE THE MAGIC
BEGINS.



VIRGO:
IN 2026, YOU'LL FINALLY
ALLOW YOURSELF TO NOT
CONTROL EVERYTHING... WELL,
ALMOST.



LIBRA:
YOU'LL LEARN TO CHOOSE
YOURSELF. NO LONG
EXPLANATIONS NEEDED.



SCORPIO:
ALL THAT'S HIDDEN WILL
BECOME... USEFUL. AND
PERFECTLY TIMED.



SAGITTARIUS:
CHANGES WILL COME
WITHOUT WARNING. AND
YOU'LL LOVE IT.



CAPRICORN:
YOU'LL REALIZE THAT YOU
DON'T HAVE TO CARRY
EVERYTHING ON YOUR OWN.



AQUARIUS:
THE STRANGEST IDEAS
WILL TURN OUT TO BE THE
MOST ACCURATE.



PISCES:
YOU'LL STOP WAITING
FOR A SIGN — AND
BECOME ONE YOURSELF.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

VOICES OF THE RUSSIAN GARDEN



**OLESYA
TSAREVA**

Dear Olesya,
Congratulations on being named
Volunteer of the Month – a truly
well-deserved honor!

Your charisma, energy, and genuine
love for children make every
celebration at the Russian Cultural
Garden truly magical and warm!

You shone brilliantly as the host at
Maslenitsa, played a lively, modern
granddaughter on Children's Day,
and helped organize fun games
and activities.

Thank you for your hard work, talent,
and ability to create a festive
atmosphere. You are a true
inspiration for the entire team!

We wish you new creative
successes, vibrant roles, and
endless energy!

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF — WHERE ARE YOU FROM AND WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING IN YOUR FREE TIME?

I'm originally from the Ural region – a small, cozy
town called Lysva in Perm Krai. I studied in
Yekaterinburg, then lived 6 years in Moscow, 9 years
in the United Arab Emirates, and the past 1.5 years
in the United States. Who knows where life will
take me next... By education, I'm a chemical
engineer specializing in electrochemical coatings,
and I've been working in the aviation industry for
over 10 years. In my free time, I love dancing and
traveling. During our years in the UAE, we explored
much of Europe and Asia, and now I'm excited to
discover America.

HOW DID YOUR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH OUR GARDEN HAPPEN, AND WHAT WAS IT THAT CAPTURED YOUR HEART?

I was looking for new people, friends, and a
community in my new country. Last summer,
together with my neighbor, I accidentally attended
an event at the Russian Garden – and it turned out to
be a real revelation for me. I was incredibly struck by
the feeling of being part of something big and
meaningful. There were amazing people gathered
here – vibrant, diverse, with active life positions and
strong charisma. I simply couldn't leave. The
atmosphere in the UAE was completely different:
mostly centered around family life, whereas here,
these are bold people who weren't afraid to leave the
past behind and start everything anew. I think it's
exactly this sense of community and inner freedom
that I was searching for when I decided to emigrate.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU THE MOST IN OUR GARDEN?

I really resonate with the atmosphere of freedom
here – you can be yourself and do what you truly
enjoy, without judgment or constraints. I ended up as
a rock granddaughter instead of a coquette – and
that's perfectly fine. What's especially meaningful for
me is that my daughter is always by my side. She is
getting acquainted with the culture, fairy tales, and
traditions, even though she has only been to Russia
three times in her life. She genuinely enjoys
participating in everything, and her curiosity and joy
inspire me even more each time.



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?

What makes 2026 special:



Anniversary: 250 Years Since the Signing of the United States Declaration of Independence

On July 4, 2026, America will celebrate a quarter millennium since the signing of the Declaration – a monumental milestone for the country and a reason for grand celebrations.

FIFA World Cup 2026:

It will take place in the USA, Canada, and Mexico – the first-ever World Cup hosted across three countries and the first expanded to 48 teams.

2026 Winter Olympics:

Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo will combine a fashionable city with legendary mountains. Sports, style, and snowy adventures – for the first time, the Games will be split between two cities, and almost everything is ready!

In 2026, the global coordinate system will be updated for the first time in over 20 years:

The global geodetic community is introducing a new model for tectonic plate positions. This will affect maps, GPS, navigation – everything!

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.

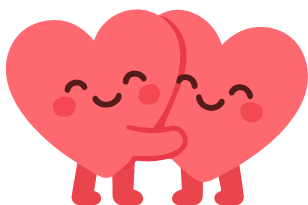
💛 **Making a donation is now easier than ever!**

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

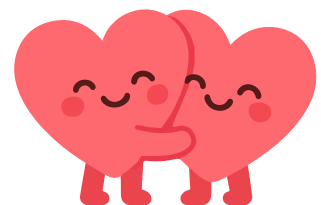
👉 [Click the link to make a contribution →](#)

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!

