

MONTHLY

JULY 2025

Russian Cultural Garden Magazine

Preserving Russian Cultural Heritage in America

Discover This Month



MESSAGE FROM ANNA MAKHNEVA

**AUTHOR OF THE MAGAZINE
AND VOLUNTEER AT RCG**

Dear friends,

The past few months have been filled with vibrant events and inspiring growth. The Russian-speaking community of Cleveland is thriving — and it's impossible not to notice! More and more people are attending our events, and you can hear our native language more often in parks, on stage, in hallways, and in everyday conversations. Together, we are creating a space full of warmth, creativity, and mutual support.

Our team of volunteers is a true source of pride. These are incredibly kind, passionate, and energetic individuals, each putting a piece of their soul into our shared mission. Some write texts and design posters, some lead rehearsals, others help with decorations or welcome guests at events. Thanks to their efforts, ideas come to life, projects grow, and our city becomes a little more joyful and cozy.

I created this magazine especially for you, dear readers — to share news, tell stories about events and people, to inspire and connect. I truly hope you enjoy reading it.

If you have ideas, suggestions, or just kind words — please write to us at russiangardencle@gmail.com. We always welcome your feedback!

Thank you for being with us. Together, we are making our city a kinder place.

Warmly,
Anna Makhneva

CHILDREN'S DAY

with the Russian Cultural Garden



A MAGICAL DAY IN THE RUSSIAN CULTURAL GARDEN



On June 1st, a warm and lively celebration of Children's Day took place at the Russian Cultural Garden in Cleveland. Guests enjoyed a theatrical performance of the fairy tale "The Turnip," fun games and races, dance performances, and a screening of the beloved Soviet cartoon "Nu, Pogodi!"

We thank everyone who joined us that day — participants, guests, volunteers, and friends of the garden. Thanks to you, the celebration was truly heartfelt and family-friendly!

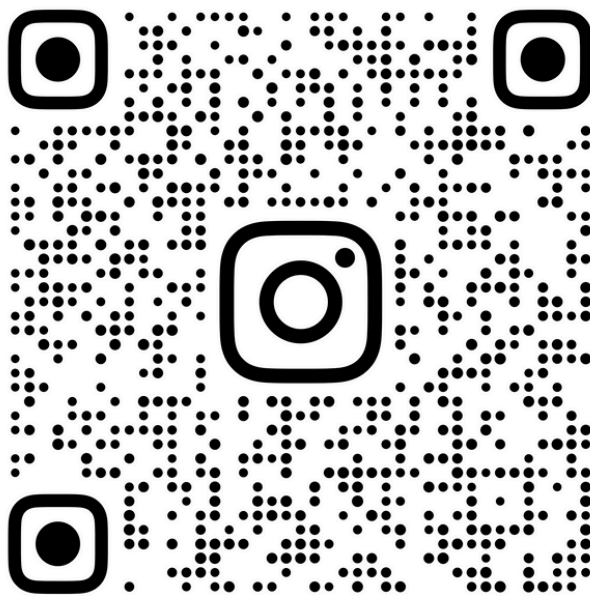


**VIDEO LINK FROM THE
CELEBRATION**



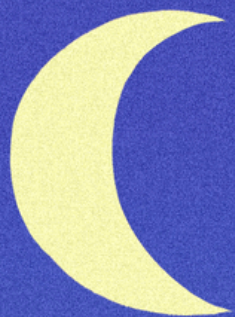
**WE ARE ON
INSTAGRAM!**

18.38



RCGCLE





OPEN AIR MOVIE

WITH THE RUSSIAN CULTURAL GARDEN

AN EVENING OF SOVIET CLASSICS UNDER THE OPEN SKY

On June 20th, the Russian Cultural Garden hosted our first summer Open Air Movie Night. Under the starry sky on a big screen, we watched the legendary comedy “Love and Pigeons” — a film familiar to many from childhood that never fails to bring a smile.



Guests laughed, shared memories, quoted their favorite scenes, and simply enjoyed the warm atmosphere. The Friday evening turned into a cozy gathering of friends — with movies, conversation, and good vibes.

Thank you to everyone who came!

Stay tuned for our announcements — and be sure to join us for the next movie night in the Russian Cultural Garden. New films, lively conversations, and heartfelt evenings under the open sky await you.



OPEN AIR MOVIE



**FRIDAY, JULY 18TH
7:30PM**

**WE ARE MEETING AT THE RUSSIAN
CULTURAL GARDEN GROUNDS.**

ZODIAC IN SHOCK: WHAT AWAITS IN JULY 2025



ARIES:
YOU'LL SUDDENLY FEEL THE URGE TO DANCE... IN THE MOST UNEXPECTED PLACES. IF YOU WANT TO SALSA BY THE CHECKOUT LINE — DO IT WITH THE EXPRESSION OF "I'M ACTUALLY A COACH."



TAURUS:
ON THE HORIZON — PROFIT OR PIE. YOU'LL MOST LIKELY CHOOSE THE PIE, AND YOU'LL BE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.



GEMINI:
YOUR SECOND PERSONALITY WILL WANT A VACATION, AND THE THIRD ONE — A BARBECUE. FIND A COMPROMISE IN THE FORM OF A PICNIC AND CONVERSATIONS WITH YOURSELF.



CANCER:
FATE WILL GIVE YOU A RIDDLE: WHY DID YOU BUY THREE IDENTICAL TOWELS? THE ANSWER LIES IN A NEW LOVE... FOR LAUNDROMATS.



LEO:
THIS MONTH, YOUR EGO WILL DEMAND A MAGAZINE COVER. AT LEAST AN INNER ONE — "ME AND MY VICTORIES." START KEEPING A JOURNAL; IT WILL UNDERSTAND YOU.



VIRGO:
EVERYTHING AROUND YOU WILL BE CHAOS, WHILE YOU'LL BE AN EXCEL SPREADSHEET WITH COLOR CODING. DON'T WORRY — SOMEONE HAS TO KEEP ORDER IN THIS JULY MADNESS.



LIBRA:
YOU'LL BECOME THE HERO OF A DRAMA, EVEN IF YOU JUST WENT OUT FOR BREAD. FORTUNATELY, TRAGICOMEDY SUITS YOU — ESPECIALLY WITH A BAGUETTE IN HAND.



SCORPIO:
YOU'LL BE DRAWN TO THE DARK... MAYBE CHOCOLATE. OR THE SECRETS OF SOMEONE ELSE'S MESSAGES. IT'S BETTER TO CHOOSE CHOCOLATE — SAFER AND TASTIER.



SAGITTARIUS:
JULY IS THE PERFECT TIME TO GO SOMEWHERE WHERE NO ONE KNOWS YOU. FOR EXAMPLE, THE LEFT-HANDED SECTION OR A LECTURE ON JAPANESE GARDENING.



CAPRICORN:
YOU'LL START MAKING PLANS FOR 2027, FORGETTING THAT YOU DIDN'T BUY MILK. THE STARS ADVISE AT LEAST WRITING YOUR LISTS IN THE RIGHT ORDER.



AQUARIUS:
THE FEELING THAT YOU'RE A CHARACTER IN SOME EXPERIMENTAL FILM ISN'T AN ILLUSION. THE CAMERA IS JUST A FRIEND WITH A PHONE, BUT THE EFFECT IS REAL NONETHELESS.



PISCES:
YOU'LL FIND YOUR ZEN WHEN YOU FORGET THE PASSWORDS TO ALL YOUR ACCOUNTS AND DECIDE IT'S FATE. AND RIGHTLY SO — IT'S GOOD FOR YOU TO BE OFFLINE RIGHT NOW, EVEN IF BY ACCIDENT.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

VOICES OF THE RUSSIAN GARDEN



**TATIANA
PILIPENKO**

Dear Tatiana, congratulations on earning the well-deserved title of Volunteer of the Month!

Your persistence, energy, and conscientious approach to every task inspire our entire team.

Not a single volunteer clean up day in the Garden goes by without your help, and your organizational skills in sales are simply unmatched!

Thank you for your caring spirit, active involvement, and readiness to take action.

We're so happy to have you with us. Here's to new heights ahead!



My husband, our young son, and I came to Cleveland from Odesa many years ago—this year marks 30 years. So now, I've lived in Cleveland longer than I lived in Odesa. And though I'm no longer there, Odesa lives in me—with all its charm, quirks, and soul.

Over time, we settled in, started working, made friends, and became part of American life. Our daughters were born here. All of my free time outside of work has always gone (and still goes) to our home, our family, our children—and now our grandchildren. At the same time, I've always been deeply interested in the history of our country and our city. I love exploring new places, learning their stories, and visiting local landmarks. I enjoy reading, spending time with my extended family and friends, and staying active. I've even learned to ski—my favorite winter activity. In summer, I love swimming in the lake and kayaking down the rivers. I adore our theaters and museums—they are truly world-class. There's so much to see and do... the only problem is that there's never enough time.

We came to the U.S. through a family reunification program, thanks to the Jewish community of our hometown. My family and I will always be grateful for that. We are still active members of the community, take part in its life, and donate to support its needs.

We've also made an effort to connect with the Ukrainian community—after all, we were born in Ukraine, spent the formative years of our lives there, and it is our homeland. My husband is half Ukrainian. Today, during these tragic times for Ukraine, I try to support and participate in events organized by the local Ukrainian community to help the country.

When we first arrived in Cleveland, one of the first local landmarks we were told about was the Cultural Gardens. When I visited them and wandered through the different gardens, I was disappointed to find that there was no Russian Cultural Garden. "Well," I thought, "it is what it is." Still, I felt a little sad.

That's why, when in 2012 (or maybe earlier—I can't remember how or from whom) I learned that there were wonderful people like Boris Vinogradsky and Svetlana Stolyarova, who had managed to raise enough funds to create the Russian Cultural Garden, I immediately wanted to get involved. When I came to my very first volunteer clean-up day, I met people of many nationalities from various former Soviet republics. What united everyone was the shared desire to create a garden that would reflect the culture we were raised in—the language we speak with our children and with each other.

The atmosphere was incredibly kind and joyful. I immediately felt something I had been missing since leaving Odesa: a **sense of belonging**. I realized that I had found what I had been looking for all those years.

Many years have passed since then, and much has changed. The Garden slowly took shape, new volunteers came and helped however they could. Over the years, we've held many events in the Garden, open to everyone. And the warm, welcoming spirit has never gone away—it's always stayed the same. More recently, the leadership of the Garden changed. Kristina Makhneva and Mikhail Khoretonenko took it into their very capable hands, revitalized its activity, and brought it to a new level.

It makes me so happy to see that more and more people are becoming part of the Garden. Many young families with children have joined. The Garden and its events are becoming more and more popular.

New Year's celebrations, Maslenitsa, Children's Day, outdoor movies and concerts—all these events are drawing more and more people.

Each event is a real celebration—for both visitors and volunteers. The feeling I experienced on my first day in the Garden—that sense of belonging—has stayed with me to this day. **And that is the most important thing. I treasure it deeply.**

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 PERMANENT COMMITMENT – YOU CAN HELP
WHenever YOU HAVE THE TIME AND DESIRE.**



**INTERESTED? EMAIL US AT
RUSSIANGARDENCE@GMAIL.COM.
WE'LL BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU ON BOARD!**

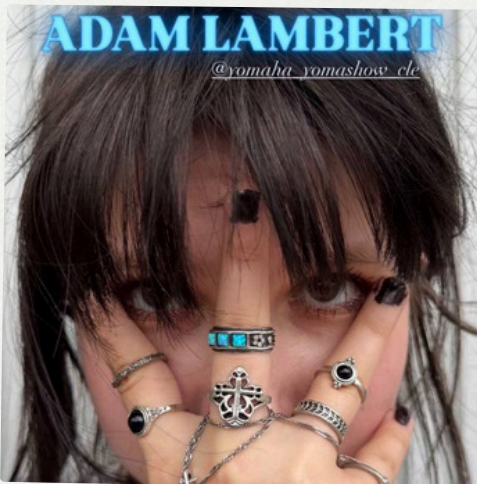
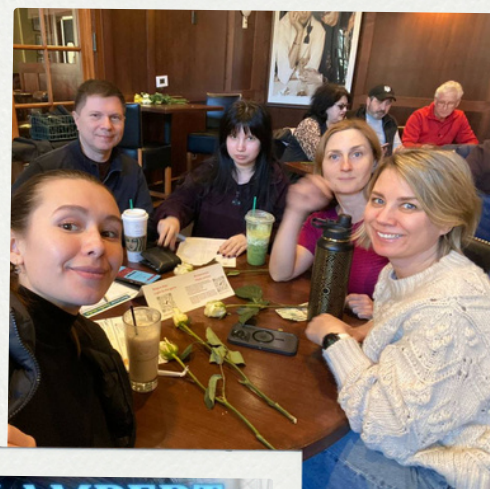
EDITORIAL RECOMMENDS!

IF YOU LOVE MUSIC AND
FUN QUIZZES, THEN
YOMAHA YOMASHOW IS
JUST WHAT YOU NEED!

IT'S AN EXCITING MUSIC QUIZ
WHERE PARTICIPANTS
GUESS SONGS AND SIMPLY
HAVE A GREAT TIME WITH
FRIENDS.

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE
REGULAR GUESTS! WE
COMPETE FOR PRIZES,
PARTICIPATE IN CONTESTS,
AND SING AT THE TOP OF
OUR LUNGS.

IF YOU WANT TO JOIN THE
NEXT GAME, KEEP AN EYE
OUT FOR UPDATES AND
DON'T MISS THE CHANCE TO
SPEND AN ENERGETIC
EVENING!



Dear Clevelanders!

The Russian Cultural Garden of Cleveland continues its search for a talented **architect** or **landscape designer** to create a design for our grounds. We plan to develop sketches and plans for installing unique installations 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 by email at: russianguardencle@gmail.com



Let's work together to make the Russian Cultural Garden of Cleveland a place that inspires and delights!

WHAT TO TRY IN JULY?

A few simple yet magical things to make the month brighter and warmer
– even without a vacation.



An evening without lights and screens:

Turn off your phone, switch off the lights, light some candles, and create an evening like in the good old days: read a book, play board games, write something by hand. This kind of “quiet time” is like a deep breath: you slow down, hear yourself, and suddenly start to truly dream.

Be a tourist in your own city:

Visit a place you’ve never been before: a library, an antique shop, a botanical garden, or a new neighborhood. Buy a souvenir magnet or take a photo by the fountain – imagine it’s your first time here. It’s an amazing way to fall in love with the familiar all over again.

A jar of summer moments:

Take a jar, a box, or a hat, and each evening drop in a note: “Today I saw a dragonfly,” “We laughed until we cried,” “Bought a peach like in childhood.” By the end of summer, you’ll have a warm chronicle of the month that’s cozier than a blanket.

A book under the tree:

Find the greenest spot nearby and bring a book there. Not just to check it off your list, but for the pure joy of being here and now: the rustle of pages, the whisper of leaves, the chirp of a grasshopper, and the quiet within. This is what real summer feels like.

THE RUSSIAN CULTURAL GARDEN NEEDS YOU!

Dear friends,

Imagine a place where Russian culture lives. Where children hear Pushkin for the first time, folk songs are sung, and we gather as one big family — this is the Russian Cultural Garden.

With love and the efforts of volunteers, we create a space where you can connect with your roots and pass that strength on. Everything — from blooming flowerbeds to concerts — is done by hand and often funded personally. But for the garden to continue living and growing, we need your support. **Every donation is an investment in culture, in community, in all of us.**

Making a contribution is easy:

Send any amount via Zelle to: russianguardencle@gmail.com

In the note, please write: **"Donation for Russian Cultural Garden"**

Every contribution matters — even the smallest amount makes a big difference.

Thanks to you, culture continues to thrive.



Subscribe to the Russian Cultural Garden Magazine!

Want to stay updated on the most interesting events, projects, and news related to the Russian Cultural Garden? Subscribe to our monthly newsletter and stay in the loop with all the important updates!

How to subscribe?

Send an email to russianguardencle@gmail.com with the subject "I Want to **Subscribe!**", and we'll 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!

