

MONTHLY

JULY 2026

Russian Cultural Garden Magazine

Preserving Russian Cultural Heritage in America



Discover This Month



“IVAN KUPALA” 2026

ON JUNE 28, 2026, THE RUSSIAN CULTURAL GARDEN PROUDLY HOSTED ITS FIRST-EVER SUMMER IVAN KUPALA FESTIVAL—A VIBRANT CELEBRATION OF SLAVIC TRADITIONS, MUSIC, CREATIVITY, AND COMMUNITY. THE FESTIVAL BECAME A MEMORABLE OCCASION FOR OUR COMMUNITY, BRINGING TOGETHER MANY GUESTS WHO SPENT THE DAY WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN A WARM AND WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE.

GUESTS ENJOYED PERFORMANCES BY TALENTED ARTISTS AND CULTURAL GROUPS, A CRAFT FAIR FEATURING LOCAL ARTISANS, TRADITIONAL CUISINE, AND A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS.

OUR VOLUNTEERS CREATED A TRULY SPECIAL ATMOSPHERE FOR THE FESTIVAL. AROUND 100 PEOPLE HELPED ORGANIZE THE EVENT, PREPARE THE VENUE, WELCOME GUESTS, AND RUN NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES. THANKS TO THEIR ENERGY, HARD WORK, AND DEDICATION TO OUR SHARED MISSION, WE WERE ABLE TO HOST AN EVENT OF THIS SCALE AND MAKE IT A TRULY UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE.

WE SINCERELY THANK ALL THE GUESTS WHO SHARED THIS SPECIAL DAY WITH US, AS WELL AS ALL THE PERFORMERS, ARTISANS, AND ARTISTS WHO TOOK PART IN THE PROGRAM. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO OUR SPONSORS, WHOSE SUPPORT HELPED BRING THIS CELEBRATION TO LIFE.





WE SINCERELY THANK EVERYONE WHO JOINED US AND SHARED THIS SPECIAL DAY, AS WELL AS ALL THE PERFORMERS, ARTISANS, AND PARTICIPANTS WHO MADE THE FESTIVAL SO MEMORABLE. WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO OUR SPONSORS, WHOSE GENEROUS SUPPORT HELPED BRING THIS CELEBRATION TO LIFE.

THE FIRST IVAN KUPALA FESTIVAL MARKED THE BEGINNING OF WHAT WE HOPE WILL BECOME A CHERISHED NEW TRADITION OF THE RUSSIAN CULTURAL GARDEN. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THIS CELEBRATION GROW IN THE YEARS AHEAD, WELCOMING EVEN MORE PARTICIPANTS AND CONTINUING TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER THROUGH OUR CULTURE, TRADITIONS, AND SHARED VALUES.



YOU CAN FIND MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS FROM THE IVAN KUPALA FESTIVAL USING THE LINKS BELOW. THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING WITH US AND FOR HELPING MAKE THIS DAY SO SPECIAL!

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE PICTURES & VIDEOS](#)





THANK YOU SPONSORS!

THE VINOGRADSKY FAMILY



**KONSTANTIN
PAVOLOTSKY, DDS**



**NINA
TRAVELUSA**



**DAVID
HUWILER**

**SLAVA
MARTYN**

**TATIANA
PILIPENKO**

**GREGORY
KHRAPUNOVICH**

**NATALIA
ALADYSHKINA**

**GREGORY
STELMAKH**

**GALINA
GLOVATSKY, MD**

**FESTIVAL «IVAN KUPALA»
JUNE 28, 2026**

OPEN AIR

JULY 3RD

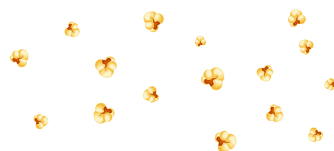
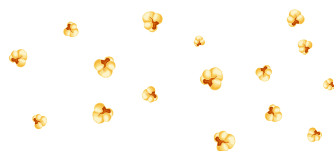
MOVIE NIGHT

730 MLK JR. BLVD (RUSSIAN CULTURAL GARDEN)

WE INVITE ADULTS AND CHILDREN.
COME WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY!

7:30PM

FREE ADMISSION



80th One World Day

Sunday, August 30, 2026

11:00 am - 6:00 pm



**Celebrate the cultures of
the world at the Cleveland
Cultural Gardens**

ClevelandOneWorldDay.org
Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation



SVETLANA STOLYAROVA: AT THE ORIGINS OF THE RUSSIAN CULTURAL GARDEN

Today we would like to tell you about a person whose role in the history of the Russian Cultural Garden is truly special.

Svetlana Stolyarova is the founder of the garden and its first president. It was under her leadership that the first steps toward creating the project were taken, its core principles were established, and the foundation was laid on which the Russian Cultural Garden continues to grow today.

Svetlana not only initiated the creation of the garden but also succeeded in bringing together people around this idea—people who were ready to preserve culture, strengthen the community, and create new opportunities for communication and joint projects.

Today, she remains an active participant in the life of the garden, supports new initiatives, and helps the team implement important projects.

In addition to her community work, Svetlana is the owner of the real estate agency Local-n-Global and a recognized professional in her field. Her contribution to the development of the local community has been honored with her inclusion in the Cleveland Hall of Fame.

We sincerely thank Svetlana for her many years of work, dedication, and contribution to the development of the Russian Cultural Garden.



STAR TIPS: HOROSCOPE FOR JULY 2026



ARIES:
JULY WILL BRING ENERGY FOR
NEW BEGINNINGS. FOCUS ON
WHAT MATTERS MOST—AND
THE RESULTS WILL FOLLOW.



TAURUS:
A FAVORABLE MONTH FOR
FINANCES AND FAMILY MATTERS.
PATIENCE WILL HELP YOU
ACHIEVE WHAT YOU DESIRE.



GEMINI:
YOU CAN EXPECT NEW
ACQUAINTANCES AND
INTERESTING
OPPORTUNITIES. STAY
OPEN TO CHANGE.



CANCER:
IT IS A TIME TO FOCUS ON
YOURSELF AND YOUR FEELINGS.
YOUR INTUITION WILL POINT
YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.



LEO:
YOUR CHARM WILL HELP YOU
ATTRACT ATTENTION AND
ACHIEVE SUCCESS. DO NOT BE
AFRAID TO EXPRESS YOURSELF.



VIRGO:
JULY WILL HELP YOU BRING
ORDER TO YOUR AFFAIRS. EVEN
SMALL STEPS WILL LEAD TO
GOOD RESULTS.



LIBRA:
A MONTH OF HARMONY AND
FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITIES.
COOPERATION WILL BE
ESPECIALLY BENEFICIAL.



SCORPIO:
A PERIOD OF INNER
CHANGE AND GROWTH.
BOLDLY LET GO OF WHAT
BELONGS TO THE PAST.



SAGITTARIUS:
YOU CAN EXPECT NEW
IMPRESSIONS, TRAVEL, OR
INTERESTING DISCOVERIES.
FOLLOW YOUR CURIOSITY.



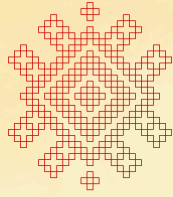
CAPRICORN:
YOUR HARD WORK WILL BEGIN
TO PAY OFF. IT IS A GOOD TIME
FOR CAREER AND PERSONAL
ACHIEVEMENTS.



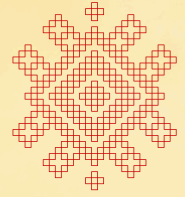
AQUARIUS:
UNEXPECTED IDEAS AND
ENCOUNTERS WILL OPEN NEW
PERSPECTIVES. BE READY FOR
CHANGE.



PISCES:
A MONTH OF INSPIRATION AND
EMOTIONAL BALANCE.
CREATIVITY AND REST WILL HELP
RESTORE YOUR ENERGY.



Dance as a symbol of a people: from circle dance to folk dance.



Did you know that behind familiar Russian folk dances lies an entire world of symbols, traditions, and even a philosophy of life?

The most recognizable and symbolic Russian folk dance is rightfully considered the "Kalinka," although strictly speaking it is not only a dance but also a song to which it is most often performed. In reality, however, the foundation of Russian dance heritage is the khorovod—a древний (ancient) circular dance that unites people in a shared rhythm, movement, and song.

The khorovod is not just a dance but a form of ritual communication. People would stand in a circle, hold hands, and move smoothly, symbolizing unity, the sun, and the infinity of life. This dance was performed at festivals, spring celebrations, and weddings. Its beauty lies in its simplicity and deep meaning: each participant becomes part of a collective movement where no one is above or below, and no one is left out.



In addition to the khorovod, Russian tradition also includes more dynamic and spirited dances: the fast trepak, the lively barynya, and the playful kamarynskaya. They express a different character of the people—bold, joyful, and sometimes full of improvisation, stamping, squats, and sharp turns.

Russian folk dance has always been more than entertainment. It reflects life itself: work, celebrations, love, humor, and inner strength. It combines music, movement, and emotion, which is why it remains widely recognized around the world as a vivid symbol of Russian culture.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

VOICES OF THE RUSSIAN GARDEN



**KRISTINA
SHAPIRO**

Kristina has been part of the Russian Cultural Garden for more than 13 years and has consistently supported us at every celebration and festival.

She performs on stage, delighting guests with dances and songs, and also prepares her famous homemade rooster-shaped lollipops, which have become a favorite treat for many visitors.

Kristina is always ready to support, help, and contribute to our shared mission. Her kindness, talent, and dedication to our garden make every event truly special.



TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF: WHERE ARE YOU FROM, WHAT DO YOU DO, AND WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR FREE TIME?

I am originally from Russia, from the city of Chita, which is located in the Transbaikal region. I currently live in Cleveland with my husband and three children. By profession, I am a nurse, and I am currently studying for my BSN degree. I am also involved in our family business in the field of medical equipment and health products. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, singing, dancing, reading books, gardening, and improving the area around our home. In the winter, I also enjoy skiing with my children. I like learning new things about our work as well, because the field of medical equipment and health products is constantly evolving with new technologies, products, and information.

HOW DID YOU FIRST BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THE RUSSIAN CULTURAL GARDEN, AND WHAT ABOUT IT CAPTIVATED YOU?

I first became acquainted with the Russian Cultural Garden in 2013, although I don't remember exactly how or under what circumstances. It may have happened when I was helping Viktoria Kabo organize children's New Year tree celebrations in the Russian section of the Cleveland library. It seems that it was then that she introduced me to Svetlana Stolyarova and Boris Vinogradsky. I was very impressed that people who already have so many of their own responsibilities and concerns still find the time and energy to create something meaningful for others—organizing festivals, concerts, and various community events. I really liked this, and I also wanted to become part of this team and help. I remember that my first assignment was to play Russian folk games with small children during One World Day.

WHY, IN YOUR OPINION, IS IT IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE AND DEVELOP PLACES LIKE OUR GARDEN?

I believe that the Russian Cultural Garden is very important to preserve and develop. For many of us who came to America as adults, this place helps maintain a connection to our roots, language, and culture. Here, you can meet people who understand you and share similar life experiences and values. Such places help people not feel alone in a new country, find friends, and maintain a sense of community. In addition, they give our children the opportunity to learn more about the culture, traditions, and heritage of their families. That is why I believe the work of the Russian Cultural Garden is very meaningful and deserves support.

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?

4 Interesting Facts About July



July Is Named After Julius Caesar:

Until 44 BC, this month was called Quintilis, but after the death of the famous Roman general Julius Caesar, it was renamed in his honor because he was born in July.

Despite the summer heat, Earth is actually farthest from the Sun in July:

This phenomenon is called aphelion. Summer's warm weather is not caused by Earth's distance from the Sun, but by the tilt of Earth's axis.

In the U.S., July is recognized as National Hot Dog Month and National Ice Cream Month:

Not surprisingly, in the peak of summer Americans consume millions of servings of ice cream and hot dogs at picnics, festivals, and Independence Day celebrations.

In Old Rus', July was called "stradnik":

At this time, the most intensive period of agricultural work began: haymaking, tending crops, and preparing for the future harvest.

Every contribution you make is an investment in 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 →](#)

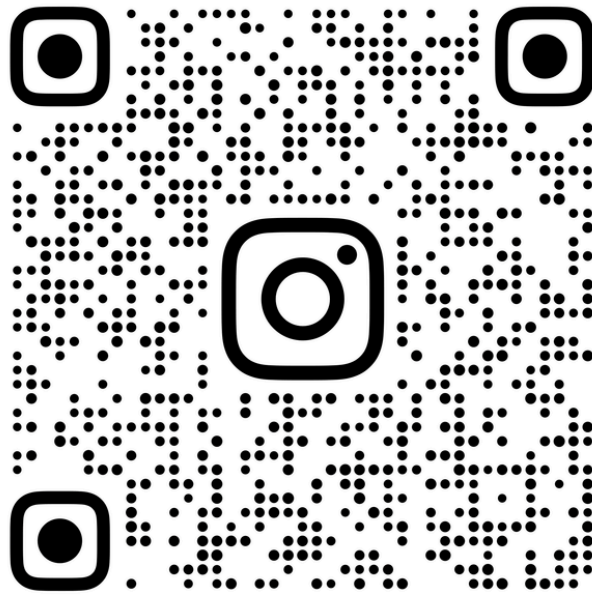
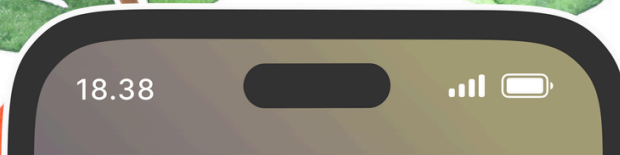
Every donation is more than just a sum of money. It's a warm "thank you," a helping hand, a belief in a shared cause. Even the smallest contribution makes a **big difference**.

Thanks to you, culture continues to live.

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

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

**WE ARE ON
INSTAGRAM!**



RCGCLE



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! 🌿 ✨

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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!**

