

MONTHLY

MAY 2025

Russian Cultural Garden Magazine

Preserving Russian Cultural Heritage in America



Discover This Month



MESSAGE FROM NATALYA ALADYSHKINA

BOARD MEMBER AND TREASURER

Dear friends,

As a board member and volunteer for the Russian Cultural Garden of Cleveland, I often reflect on how meaningful it is to be part of this unique space. Our garden is more than just a collection of stones and trees – it is a living tribute to the culture, resilience, and contributions of the Russian-speaking community in Northeast Ohio.

But above all, it is a celebration of people. It is the kindness, creativity, and generosity of our volunteers that truly bring the garden to life. Every event we host, every flower we plant, every child's laughter echoing through the garden paths – none of it would be possible without the time, heart, and friendship that our community gives so freely.

In my role as Treasurer, I see firsthand how deeply invested our volunteers and supporters are – not just financially, but emotionally. Many of our projects are powered by personal donations, but even more by hours of thoughtful work and genuine care. And with every new face who joins us – whether to help, learn, or simply enjoy – we gain something far greater than just funds. We build relationships. We create lasting memories. We grow a family.

The Russian Cultural Garden is a place where heritage is honored, yes – but it is also where friendships bloom, where teamwork inspires, and where every act of kindness makes a difference. I invite you to come see it for yourself. Be a part of something special. Whether you have an hour, a skill, or simply a smile to share – you are always welcome.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Natalia Aladyshkina

THE EVENT IS FREE TO ATTEND. DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!



**A FESTIVE PROGRAM
DEDICATED TO
CHILDREN'S DAY.**

1 JUNE

**VENUE:
RUSSIAN CULTURAL GARDEN
12:00-6:00PM**

12:30-1:15PM

**THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE OF THE
FAIRY TALE "THE TURNIP"**

1:15-3:00PM

FUN RELAYS

3:30-6:00PM

**CARTOON SCREENING
"WELL, JUST YOU WAIT!"**

**THE PROGRAM ALSO FEATURES:
PAPRIKA DANCE ENSEMBLE, DIRECTED BY ALENA RESHETNIKOVA
CLEVELAND BALLET THEATER, DIRECTED BY AIGERIM ALIBEK**



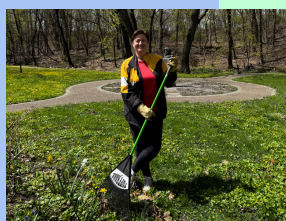
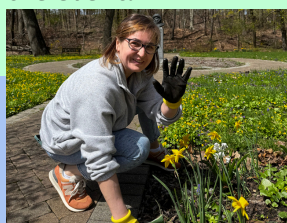
ATTENTION!

**BY ATTENDING THE EVENT, YOU CONSENT TO BEING
PHOTOGRAPHED AND FILMED.**

REMEMBRANCE, UNITY, AND CARE: A DAY OF COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP AND NEW MEMORIALS IN THE RUSSIAN GARDEN

On April 20, 2025, two significant events took place in the Russian Garden — the traditional community clean-up day and a solemn ceremony to unveil new memorial stones honoring prominent figures in culture, the arts, and spiritual life.

The highlight of the day was the unveiling of a new commemorative stone dedicated to writer Mikhail Zhvanetsky (1934–2020). The initiative to replace the old stone, which had been installed during the satirist's lifetime, came from sponsor Konstantin Pavolotsky. He personally attended the ceremony and played a key role in organizing the event.



On the same day, memorial stones were also installed in honor of the following distinguished individuals:

- Nikolai Sokolov (1886–1965) — Composer
- Dmitry Muratov — Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (2021)
- Savely Kramarov (1934–1995) — Actor
- Andrei Rublev (1360s – 1427/1430) — Icon Painter
- Sergius of Radonezh (1314–1392) — Spiritual Leader
- Alexey N. Tolstoy (1883–1945) — Writer

The community clean-up was a success: the garden was thoroughly tidied and is now ready for upcoming events. The day unfolded in a warm and solemn atmosphere, bringing together guests and volunteers who paid their respects to the great individuals who left a lasting mark on history and culture.

We sincerely thank everyone who took part and helped make this day truly special!

CONGRATULATIONS TO SVETLANA STOLYAROVA: A NAME ETCHED IN CLEVELAND'S HISTORY!



Dear Clevelanders!

April 22, 2025, is a special day: the inauguration of Svetlana Stolyarova, founder of the Russian Cultural Garden and member of the Cleveland International Hall of Fame! Through her dedication, Cleveland has become a place where Russian culture shines brightly, proudly, and soulfully.

Support the fundraiser in her honor and contribute to preserving cultural heritage and fostering international dialogue.

Thanks to Svetlana's efforts:

- The Russian Cultural Garden was created—a symbol of intercultural connection;
- A bust of Yuri Gagarin was installed, honoring Russia's scientific contributions;
- Festivals like “Maslenitsa” and “Stars of Summer” have united hundreds of people;
- Eastern European culture has gained a stronger presence in Cleveland's Cultural Federation.

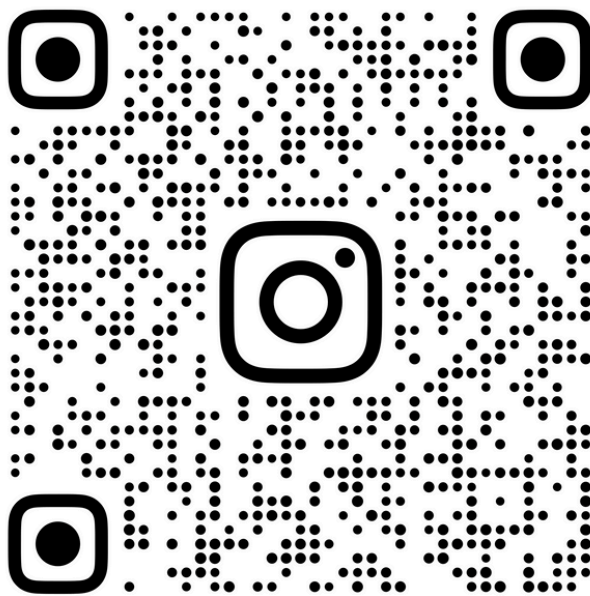
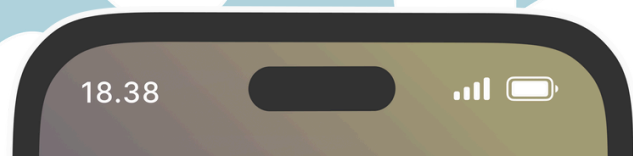
How to support:

- Make a donation (Zelle: russiangardencle@gmail.com)
- Share this with friends and acquaintances
- Become a partner or sponsor of events

Let's preserve and enhance Svetlana Stolyarova's legacy—for future generations, culture, and unity!



**WE ARE ON
INSTAGRAM!**



RCGCLE



ZODIAC IN SHOCK: WHAT AWAITS IN MAY 2025



ARIES:
YOUR ENERGY IS OFF THE CHARTS! JUST REMEMBER — DON'T TRY TO "FIX" EVERYONE AROUND YOU. LET THEM SUFFER NATURALLY.



TAURUS:
A MONTH OF PLEASURES AWAITS YOU. FOOD TASTES BETTER, THE WEATHER'S WARMER, LIFE FEELS SWEETER. JUST DON'T CONFUSE "LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE" WITH "EATING EVERYTHING IN SIGHT," THE STARS GENTLY WARN.



GEMINI:
MAY WILL BRING YOU AN OCEAN OF CONVERSATIONS! SO MANY MEETINGS AND CHATS, YOU COULD OPEN A CALL CENTER. JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T FORGET TO CHARGE YOUR PHONE!



CANCER:
ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR! YOU MIGHT HAVE A FATEFUL MEETING, OR YOU MIGHT JUST END UP MEETING THE FRIDGE AT 3 AM. EITHER WAY, IT'S BOUND TO BE UNFORGETTABLE!



LEO:
YOUR TIME TO SHINE IS COMING! JUST REMEMBER — DON'T SAY "I TOLD YOU SO" TOO LOUDLY. OR AT LEAST, NOT TOO OFTEN.



VIRGO:
STOP OVERANALYZING! LIFE ISN'T AN EXCEL SPREADSHEET. ALLOW YOURSELF A LITTLE CHAOS: FOR EXAMPLE, START YOUR MORNING NOT WITH PLANS, BUT WITH SOMETHING UNEXPECTED (LIKE SLEEPING IN A BIT LONGER!)



LIBRA:
FATE WILL PRESENT YOU WITH A TOUGH CHOICE. SPOILER: JUST TAKE BOTH — WHY SUFFER?



SCORPIO:
YOU'LL HAVE SO MANY SECRETS THAT EVEN SPY NOVELS WILL BE JEALOUS. JUST DON'T OVERDO IT — SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO SPEAK UP THAN TO TURN EVERYTHING INTO A QUEST FOR THOSE AROUND YOU!



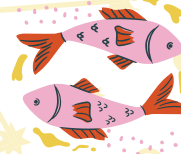
SAGITTARIUS:
WANTED A STRESS FREE MONTH? NOT THIS TIME! A WHIRLWIND OF EVENTS WILL SWEEP YOU UP, AND THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO IS ENJOY THE CHAOS.



CAPRICORN:
WORK CAN WAIT, BUT A PICNIC WITH FRIENDS CAN'T. IN MAY, EVEN CAPRICORNS DANCE IN THE RAIN!



AQUARIUS:
MAY IS YOUR MONTH FOR REVOLUTIONS: YOU'LL EITHER OPEN A PORTAL TO A PARALLEL WORLD OR ACCIDENTALLY CRACK THE CODE TO THE HEART OF A MYSTERIOUS STRANGER!



PISCES:
GO WITH THE FLOW — MAY WILL BRING YOU DAYDREAMS COME TRUE AND A FEW UNEXPECTED COMPLIMENTS.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

INTERVIEW



ELENA SYSUYEVA

Dear Elena, congratulations on your well-deserved title of Volunteer of the Month!

Your incredible energy and amazing charisma inspire us all to achieve new heights.

You are a born actress and an essential part of our big team.

We're still in awe of your portrayal of the princess at the children's New Year celebration and your incomparable Baba Yaga at Maslenitsa.

Cleveland is holding its breath in anticipation of your next transformation – keep shining and inspiring us!

TELL US WHERE YOU'RE FROM AND WHAT YOU ENJOY DOING IN LIFE WHEN YOU'RE NOT SHINING ON STAGE?

I'm originally from the central part of Russia, the wonderful Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk. My husband, two sons, and I moved to the United States two and a half years ago. In my free time, I love cooking, watching movies, and gathering with friends. I especially enjoy rehearsing and preparing for events with the Russian Cultural Garden.

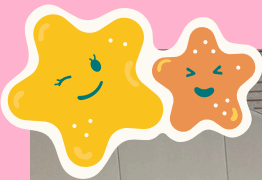
WHERE DOES THIS AMAZING TALENT AND LOVE FOR THE STAGE COME FROM?

In school, I participated in all cultural and mass events, playing various roles. After school, I planned to attend a drama school, but things didn't go as planned, and I became a doctor instead. 😊 While working in a hospital, I bought costumes of Ded Moroz (Father Frost) and Snegurochka (Snow Maiden) and put on a New Year's performance with my friend. On New Year's Eve, I would celebrate with my dad and congratulate our relatives. The stage for me is like a mystical portal that allows me to enter a different, magical reality. I absolutely love when people (especially children) look at me, seeing a fairy-tale character, and experiencing that amazing moment with me. It charges me up and gives me energy for further accomplishments!

IF YOU COULD SEND A MESSAGE TO THE FUTURE ABOUT YOUR VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS, AND HOW WOULD YOU PORTRAY IT ON STAGE?

There's a large mirror on stage – the mirror of the future. I approach it dressed as Baba Yaga and see... exactly the same Baba Yaga. I breathe a sigh of relief and say: 'Phew, thank goodness, I still need the makeup!'





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!



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 design for our space. We plan to develop sketches and projects 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 would be interested, we would be happy to hear from you!

Email us at russianguardencle@gmail.com



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



DID YOU KNOW?



The significance of the month of May in Russian culture:



May as a symbol of youth and love:

In Russian poetry and prose, May often symbolizes the beginning of life, passion, and romance. For example, in Alexander Blok's poem "Oh, Spring Without End or Boundaries" (1907), spring, including May, is a time of dreams and hopes. Turgenev's prose, such as "First Love," is also infused with the May atmosphere of blooming and first emotions.

Theater and spring performances:

In Russian theatrical tradition, May is associated with the end of the season and premieres of light, spring plays. For example, plays by Chekhov, such as *The Cherry Orchard* (where the blooming of cherries is a key image), were often staged during this time, highlighting the connection between May, beauty, and loss.

May in folklore and fairy tales:

In Russian fairy tales and beliefs, May is a time when nature "speaks": the bird cherry blossoms, and forest spirits (such as the Leshy and the Mermaid) come to life. This adds a mystical quality to the month, especially in rural culture, where May was considered a transitional time between spring and summer.



Literature May:

Many Russian writers and poets, whose names are closely linked to culture, were born in May: Mikhail Bulgakov (May 15), Joseph Brodsky (May 24), Anna Akhmatova (May 23, according to the old calendar). Their works can be recalled as part of the May inspiration.



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

Dear friends,

We continue to actively work on new projects to help the Russian-speaking community of our city grow and thrive. Organizing such events requires significant effort and resources, and currently, most of the expenses are covered by the personal funds of our volunteers.

The Russian Cultural Garden is a non-profit organization, and any support from you helps us maintain our garden and organize events for all of us. All donations go directly to improving the garden and implementing new initiatives.

You can support us by sending any amount via Zelle to the email: russiangardencle@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 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!**

