

MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 2026

Russian Speaking Clevelanders

A magazine about the people, stories, and lives of our community.

Discover This Month



Dear friends,

We would like to share some **important news** with you.

After lengthy discussions and fundamental disagreements regarding management, future development, and the organization of our work, we have made the decision to conclude our activities with Russian Cultural Gardens and continue our work independently, in a new format.

We are now Russian Speaking Clevelanders.

The name is new, but our goals remain the same: to **bring together** Russian-speaking residents of Cleveland, **support** one another, **preserve** our culture and traditions, and **create** meaningful cultural and community projects.

We would like to thank all of our **volunteers, partners, sponsors,** and **friends** for your trust, support, and everything we have been able to accomplish together.

We are not leaving Cleveland's community and cultural life. On the contrary, we are beginning a **new chapter** as Russian Speaking Clevelanders.

And we have many new **ideas** and **projects** ahead! The first one is our already traditional **New Year's Christmas Tree Celebration** for the children of our community, taking place on **December 20** at our traditional venue, **Romantic Party Center**.

Stay with us!

There are many new projects, events, and good deeds ahead for the residents of our city!



The 80th One World Day at the Cleveland Cultural Gardens

August 30, 2026 - As part of One World Day, the Kazakh Cultural Garden became part of a wonderful celebration of friendship and cultural unity.

A multicultural concert was held at the Uzbek Cultural Garden, bringing together the music, dances, and traditions of different cultures.

It was wonderful to see people of **different nationalities** enjoying the performances, connecting with one another, and supporting the artists.

Cleveland is a **multicultural** city where different **cultures** and **traditions** come together and enrich one another. We preserve our roots, respect the cultures of others, and together create an atmosphere of **friendship** and **unity**.

**Different cultures. Different stories.
One city. One friendship!**



**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 19TH
11am to 8pm**



**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20TH
1pm to 7pm**



ST VLADIMIR'S 12TH ANNUAL

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX Festival

AUTHENTIC MUSIC AND DANCES!

Slavic cuisine, Eastern European beers!

Bouncy house and petting zoo!

Church tours, souvenirs and more!

FREE ENTRANCE AND FREE PARKING

9900 Jackson Rd. Dexter, MI 48130
annaborrussianfestival.org





Poetry Corner

Yevgeny Baratynsky

September is a time of quiet transition from summer to autumn. Nature takes on a special clarity: the sunlight becomes softer, the leaves begin to change color, and there is a hint of the coming cold in the air. Yevgeny Baratynsky beautifully captured this delicate beauty of early autumn in his poem.

**And now September! Slowing its ascent,
The sun shines with a cooler light,
And in the waters' wavering mirror
Its rays tremble in uncertain gold.
Gray mist winds around the hills;
The meadows are drenched with dew;
The curly canopy of oaks turns yellow,
And the round leaves of the aspens turn red;
The lively voices of the birds have fallen silent,
The forest is still, the heavens are hushed!**

Yevgeny Baratynsky (1800–1844) was one of the outstanding Russian poets of the 19th century, a contemporary of Alexander Pushkin and a prominent figure of the Golden Age of Russian poetry. His poetry is distinguished by its depth, subtle emotion, and special attention to nature. In his verses, autumn becomes more than simply a season — it becomes a state of mind: quiet, contemplative, and beautiful.

Aleksandra Okhapkina



BEYOND VOLUNTEERING



“My name is Alexandra. I’m from the city of Yaroslavl. I’ve been living in Cleveland for 3.5 years, and my main hobby is gardening.”

Alexandra’s love of gardening began in childhood, when she spent every summer in the countryside with her grandmother. After moving to Cleveland, she started growing plants on her windowsill in ordinary pots. And when she and her husband moved into their new home, the first thing Alexandra asked him to do was build her a garden bed along the fence.

The first year, the garden bed was quite small. But the following season, it stretched the entire length of the fence. Then came another important addition — a homemade greenhouse, which they built themselves.

Alexandra loves growing anything that can be started from seeds. She begins planting her seedlings as early as February, using special grow lights. During the winter months, the room gradually transforms into a real greenhouse.

“The hardest part for me is dealing with squirrels and the local wildlife,” Alexandra laughs.

But all the hard work is worth it. For Alexandra, gardening is first and foremost a way to relax and unwind. It’s also an opportunity to make something with her own hands and share it with others.

Each season, Alexandra typically makes between 50 and 80 jars of homemade preserves. Every year is a little different, but what remains the same is the joy she finds in the process — and the happiness of knowing that others enjoy what she makes.

“I really love sharing what I grow. It makes me happy when everyone enjoys it.”

And perhaps that is the secret to Alexandra’s passion for gardening: for her, it’s more than just a hobby. It’s a way to create something with her own hands, care for her plants, and bring joy to the people around her.

She also believes that you don’t need a large piece of land to grow your own garden. If you have the desire and a love for the earth and plants, you can grow things anywhere — on a windowsill or even on a balcony.

So perhaps your next garden could begin with just a single pot.



SEPTEMBER 2026 HOROSCOPE



ARIES

SEPTEMBER WILL CALL FOR DECISIVENESS. A BOLD MOVE WILL BRING SUCCESS, AND IN LOVE, A PLEASANT SURPRISE AWAITS.



TAURUS

SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN STUCK FOR A LONG TIME WILL FINALLY START MOVING FORWARD. AN IMPORTANT CONVERSATION MAY TAKE PLACE, ALONG WITH GOOD FINANCIAL NEWS.



GEMINI

NEW CONNECTIONS AND UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITIES WILL MAKE THIS MONTH EXCITING. THE KEY IS NOT TO TAKE ON EVERYTHING AT ONCE.



CANCER

IT'S TIME TO LET GO OF THE PAST AND OPEN THE DOOR TO NEW POSSIBILITIES. A PLEASANT TURN OF EVENTS MAY BE COMING IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE.



LEO

YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF IN THE SPOTLIGHT. LUCK IS ON YOUR SIDE — ESPECIALLY IN YOUR CAREER AND LOVE LIFE.



VIRGO

SEPTEMBER WILL ENCOURAGE YOU TO STEP OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE. TAKING A RISK NOW COULD BRING YOU MORE THAN YOU EXPECTED.



LIBRA

A MAJOR DECISION AWAITS YOU. DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS — ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO RELATIONSHIPS.



SCORPIO

THE PAST MAY UNEXPECTEDLY REMIND YOU OF ITSELF. ONLY YOU WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO GO BACK.



SAGITTARIUS

YOU'LL CRAVE CHANGE AND ADVENTURE. A NEW OPPORTUNITY MAY OPEN AN UNEXPECTED PATH.



CAPRICORN

YOU'LL SEE THE RESULTS OF YOUR EFFORTS. AT WORK, YOU'LL RECEIVE RECOGNITION; IN LOVE, A HEARTFELT CONVERSATION AWAITS.



AQUARIUS

SEPTEMBER WILL BRING UNEXPECTED NEWS OR A NEW ACQUAINTANCE. BE READY TO CHANGE YOUR PLANS QUICKLY.



PISCES

INSPIRATION AND A SENSE OF EASE WILL RETURN. IT'S A GREAT MONTH FOR LOVE, CREATIVITY, AND NEW BEGINNINGS.

THE LANGUAGE WITHOUT WORDS: WHAT RUSSIAN FOLK DANCE TOLD STORIES ABOUT

Russian folk dance was not only a beautiful spectacle, but also a unique language through which people expressed their feelings, character, and even their attitudes toward one another.

Every movement had its own meaning. The graceful steps and gentle gestures of women symbolized modesty, dignity, and inner harmony. Men's dances, by contrast, were full of energy, strength, and agility. Squats, high jumps, and quick turns were a way to demonstrate endurance, courage, and boldness.

During celebrations, young people often met and got to know one another through dance. Young men and women could exchange glances, invite each other into the circle, or respond to an invitation with specific movements. In a time when openly expressing romantic interest was not always accepted, dance became a true language of communication.





Interestingly, many elements of folk choreography are connected to everyday life. Some movements resemble working in the fields, bows express respect for those around you, and circular formations symbolize the unity of the family and community, as well as the eternal cycle of nature.

And even today, centuries later, Russian folk dance remains a living heritage. It helps preserve traditions, introduces new generations to the history of their people, and reminds us that sometimes movement can tell us far more than words.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

VOICES OF RUSSIAN-SPEAKING CLEVELAND



**ELDAR
MAZITOV**

Eldar is a valued part of our team and always helps out at our biggest celebrations.

If you attended Maslenitsa last year or recently joined us for the Ivan Kupala Festival, you probably tasted the delicious, aromatic shashlik prepared by Eldar himself.

His skill at the grill has become a true signature of our events.

Eldar is always happy to take on this important role, making sure our guests can enjoy delicious food and the warm atmosphere of the celebration. Thanks to his hard work and passion for what he does, our festivals become even more welcoming – and even more delicious.



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

I was born and raised in Yekaterinburg, where I also received my culinary education. I now work as a chef. In my free time, I enjoy playing computer games with my friends – it's my main hobby. It's a great way for me to relax, spend time with friends, and take my mind off the everyday routine of work.

HOW DID YOU FIRST HEAR ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY, AND WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO IT?

I was first introduced to our community when I attended a screening of the film *Gentlemen of Fortune*. I really enjoyed the atmosphere of the event – everything was organized with genuine warmth and care. The people were kind, welcoming, and supportive. That was when I realized that I wanted to become part of the community and take an active role in its life.

WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE AND GROW COMMUNITIES LIKE OURS?

I believe it is very important to preserve and grow communities like ours because they bring people together. Here, you can make new friends, meet interesting people, spend time with your family, and feel like you're part of something bigger. Events like these create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where everyone feels like a valued guest. Delicious food, an engaging program, and genuine conversation make these gatherings truly memorable.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH: KARELIAN KALITKI WITH POTATO FILLING

PREPARATION:

1. BOIL THE POTATOES UNTIL TENDER AND PREPARE A SMOOTH MASHED POTATO FILLING BY ADDING BUTTER, MILK, AND SALT.
2. COMBINE BOTH TYPES OF FLOUR WITH SALT, ADD KEFIR, AND KNEAD INTO A SOFT DOUGH.
3. DIVIDE THE DOUGH INTO SMALL BALLS AND ROLL EACH ONE INTO A THIN OVAL FLATBREAD.
4. PLACE THE POTATO FILLING IN THE CENTER, LEAVING THE EDGES UNCOVERED. FOLD THE EDGES INWARD AND GENTLY PINCH THEM TO CREATE OPEN-FACED PASTRIES.
5. BAKE AT 400°F (200°C) FOR ABOUT 20–25 MINUTES, UNTIL THE EDGES BECOME GOLDEN BROWN.
6. IMMEDIATELY AFTER BAKING, BRUSH THE KALITKI WITH MELTED BUTTER AND COVER THEM WITH A TOWEL FOR 5–10 MINUTES – THIS WILL MAKE THEM ESPECIALLY SOFT AND FRAGRANT.

INTERESTING FACT:

THE NAME “KALITKA” COMES FROM AN OLD WORD MEANING A SMALL GATE OR DOORWAY. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE PASTRY’S OPEN-FACED SHAPE RESEMBLED THE ENTRANCE TO A HOME. FOR MANY GENERATIONS, KALITKI HAVE BEEN AN ESSENTIAL PART OF FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND EVERYDAY CUISINE IN KARELIA. TODAY, THEY CAN BE ENJOYED NOT ONLY IN THE RUSSIAN NORTH BUT ALSO IN MANY REGIONS OF RUSSIA AS ONE OF THE MOST RECOGNIZABLE DISHES OF NORTHERN CUISINE.

FOR THE DOUGH:

- 1 cup rye flour
- ½ cup wheat flour
- ½ cup kefir
- A pinch of salt

FOR THE FILLING:

- 4–5 potatoes
- 2 tbsp butter
- ¼ cup warm milk
- Salt to taste

FOR BRUSHING:

- 1 tbsp butter

KALITKI ARE TRADITIONAL OPEN-FACED PASTRIES THAT HAVE BEEN PREPARED IN KARELIA AND THE RUSSIAN NORTH FOR CENTURIES. THEY ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR THIN RYE DOUGH AND SIMPLE, HEARTY FILLING. THIS DISH IS CONSIDERED A SYMBOL OF HOME COMFORT, WARMTH, AND HOSPITALITY.





JOIN OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS!



LOOKING TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS IN CLEVELAND? JOIN OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS! IT'S A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO MEET INTERESTING PEOPLE, CONNECT WITH LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS, AND BECOME A PART OF A WELCOMING RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY.

IT DOESN'T REQUIRE A PERMANENT COMMITMENT – YOU CAN HELP WHENEVER YOU HAVE THE TIME AND DESIRE.

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

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

DID YOU KNOW?

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SEPTEMBER:



Day and night are almost equal:

In September, the autumnal equinox occurs – the moment when the Sun crosses the celestial equator. It marks the symbolic transition from longer days to longer nights.

September's birthstone is sapphire:

Since ancient times, sapphire has been associated not only with beauty, but also with wisdom, clarity of thought, and inner peace. That's why its symbolism fits the mood of September so perfectly.

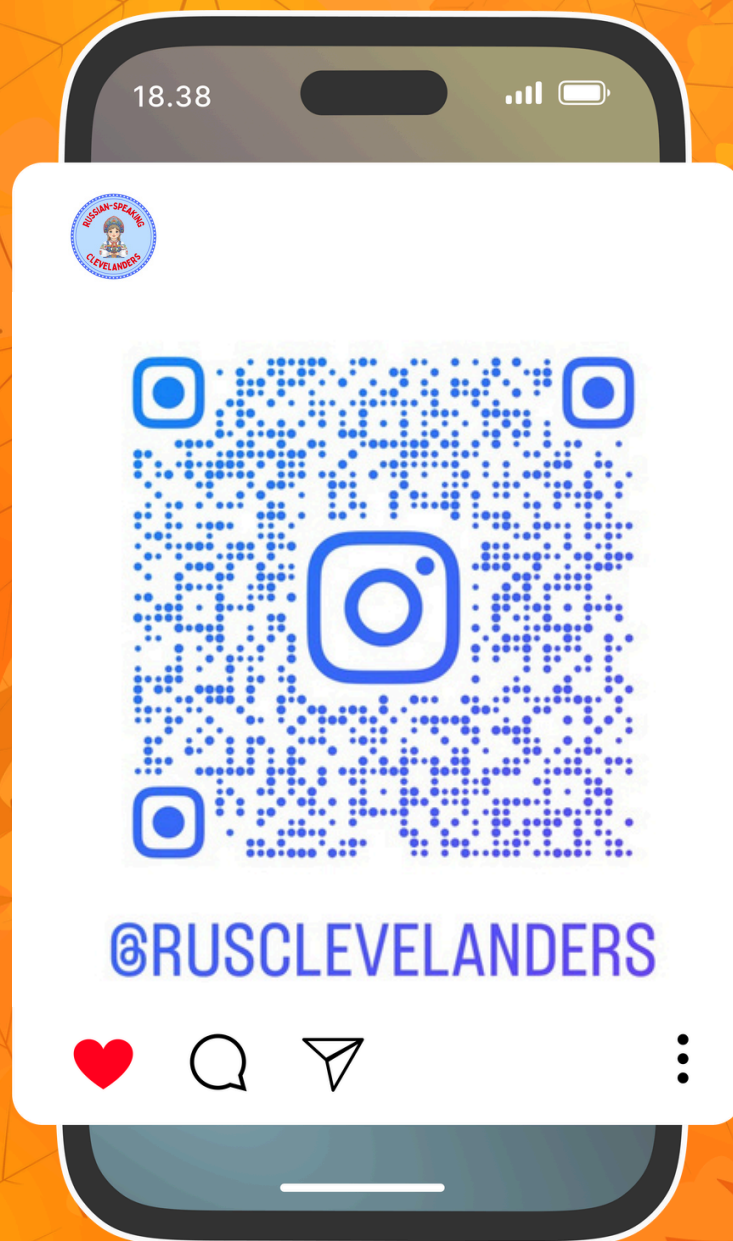
September doesn't always mean autumn:

In the Southern Hemisphere, it's the opposite: September brings spring. The same month can mean nature fading for one half of the planet and coming back to life for the other.

Harvest season is no coincidence:

In many ancient cultures, the autumn harvest marked an important turning point of the year. September was a time for giving thanks, preparing supplies for winter, and reflecting on the year's accomplishments.

**WE ARE ON
INSTAGRAM!**



Subscribe to the Russian Speaking Cleveland Magazine!

Would you like to stay connected and learn about the most exciting events, projects, and news from our community every month? Subscribe to our e-magazine and stay up to date with everything important! 🌿 ✨

How to Subscribe?

Go to our [website](#) and enter your email in the subscription field — 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!**

