



LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH

# Russian

## Learning about Culture

History and traditions of Old Russian New Year

## Student Spotlight

## Eating Authentically in Boston

Restaurant recommendations and recipes to try

## Language of the Month Film Discussion

“Счастлив тот, кто счастлив у себя дома”  
“Happy is he who is happy at home”  
- L. TOLSTOY

## Add to Your Playlist and Watchlist

Songs and Movies

## Literature and Authors

# PRACTICE RUSSIAN

with the ERC



The ERC also offers Language Link for Russian! Language Link hosts several informal, half-hour discussions each week. Sessions are led by a native speaker and are offered at three different levels: beginner, intermediate, and advanced.

# CELEBRATE

OLD RUSSIAN NEW YEAR | JANUARY 13-14



Imperial Russia relied on the Julian calendar; however, when the Bolsheviks came to power in 1918, Russia switched to the Gregorian calendar. The Gregorian calendar, the calendar we all use today, is 13 days ahead of the Julian calendar. "Old" Russian New Year marks the new year based on the "old" Julian calendar. The Eastern Orthodox religion, predominant in Russia, still uses the Julian calendar for religious purposes.

# CELEBRATE

## OLD RUSSIAN NEW YEAR

### Ways to Celebrate

Although Old Russian New Year is not an official holiday, there are still plenty of ways to celebrate, and it marks the end of the winter holidays. Families might leave their trees up through Old New Year, and have a smaller feast. Many people bake dumplings that contain a "surprise" inside, like a button or coin; whoever, finds the object in their dumpling is said to have good luck in the new year.

January 14 also marks the celebration of St. Basils, the patron saint of the poor, the underprivileged, and children. It is customary to visit the homes of friends and relatives to sing New Year's carols on St. Basils day

### Similar Holidays

Old Russian New Year features a more quiet celebration than the "New" new year on January 1 which is the main national holiday. New Year is a unifying holiday and celebrated with great fanfare by those across Russia's religious groups.

### Fun Fact

The Eastern Orthodox religion, which is predominant in Russia, still relies on the Julian Calendar. With the 13-day difference between the Julian and Gregorian calendars, Eastern Orthodox Christmas doesn't occur until January 7.

# Student Spotlight



## Sunny

### RUSSIAN LANGUAGE LINK LEADER

Meet our Russian Language Link Leader, Sunny. He is currently a second-year student in Questrom studying finance. Sunny enjoys playing basketball and reading. He also loves attending BU Hockey games.

## Brianna

### RUSSIAN LANGUAGE LINK LEADER

Meet our Russian Language Link Leader, Brianna. She is currently a Junior in Kilachand and Sargent College. Growing up in an immigrant family, Russian holds a special place for Brianna, and she enjoys helping others find a connection to the language in Language Link..



# Q & A

## A CONVERSATION WITH RUSSIAN LANGUAGE LINK LEADER, SUNNY

### What tips do you have for people learning Russian?

I have two tips for people learning Russian. Firstly, treat learning any language as a fun activity! Try to find ways to make learning fun. For example, I like to share Russian cartoons with my Language Link students. Secondly, consistency is KEY. Keep practicing because practice makes perfect.

### What about Language Link do you most enjoy?

My favorite things is that I've gotten to meet great new friends during Language Link sessions. I also enjoy how the sessions consist of informal conversations in a learning atmosphere.

### What advice do you have for someone who's considering Language Link or Peer Tutoring for the first time?

Always try it! That way you can get to know for yourself whether you enjoy it or not.

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Language link is a great resource to help with conversational Russian. Being able to talk with a Language Link Leader not only helps you use what you studied but also helps you see what gaps you have. Brianna is great at teaching phrases and other expressions you either won't see in a book or are out of the book but never used. This has been super helpful as I work to speak with my in-laws.

**A QUOTE FROM BRIANNA'S STUDENT,  
BOBBY, INSTRUCTOR GSDM**

# Q & A

## A CONVERSATION WITH RUSSIAN LANGUAGE LINK LEADER, BRIANNA

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### **What is your favorite thing about Language Link?**

My favorite thing about Language Link is the relationships I've developed with students! I am so inspired by the personal connection and motivation that each student brings to sessions - whether it be wanting to connect more with their Russian-speaking family, order food at local Russian restaurants, or even for the pure challenge and beauty of the language itself.

### **What should students expect when they attend Language Link?**

Students should expect an experience catered to their needs! My mission as a Language Link Leader is to help students achieve their goals. If students want to build vocabulary, practice conversation, or even just explore the Russian alphabet for the very first time I am here for them.

### **How have you seen your students grow as you've worked with them semester after semester?**

It's been amazing to see how students gain confidence in their Russian speaking by not being afraid to make mistakes and learn from them. I love seeing those "aha" moments when a tricky word or grammar concept finally makes sense!

### **How have you grown as a LLL since you first began facilitating Language Link?**

As someone who has been speaking Russian almost my entire life, I've learned through my years as a LLL how to better take the perspective of my students, some who have started learning Russian just a month ago. It can be intimidating at first as a language, so finding ways to simplify concepts and focus on the essentials has definitely been rewarding.

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# Popular Russian Cuisine in Boston



## Cafe St. Petersburg

Set in Newton Center, Cafe St. Petersburg offers Russian hospitality and culinary excellence to the fullest.



## Blue Salt

Blue Salt is a fusion restaurant that serves some classic Russian dishes like borscht (beet soup) and blintzes with mushrooms!

These other local restaurants are frequented by many Russian-speakers, and they serve food closely related to Russian cuisine.

## Jana Grill



## Moldova Restaurant



# zakuski

## What is zakuski?

Zakuski, which comes from the word "bite" can be roughly translated to snacks or appetizers.

Our Russian Language Link Leader, Brianna, highly recommends heading over to the local Russian grocery store and grabbing some ingredients to assemble zakuski. Make sure to get pickles, pickled tomatoes, pickled cabbage, pumpernickel bread, and even caviar if you're up for it!



## Salat olivier



A huge part of the *zakuski* spread is the many different salads! One of which is *Salat olivier* - a hybrid of a potato/egg salad.



Click here for a recipe for *salat olivier*! Then, check out the next page for some local markets where you can buy the ingredients to put together your *zakuski*!



## Featured Recipes

# Russian Markets

## *Brianna's zakuski shopping list:*

- Pickles,
- Pickled tomatoes
- Pickled cabbage
- Pumpernickel bread
- Caviar



Berezka International Food Store

Bazaar Supermarket

Babushka Deli

Waban Market

# Watch Now

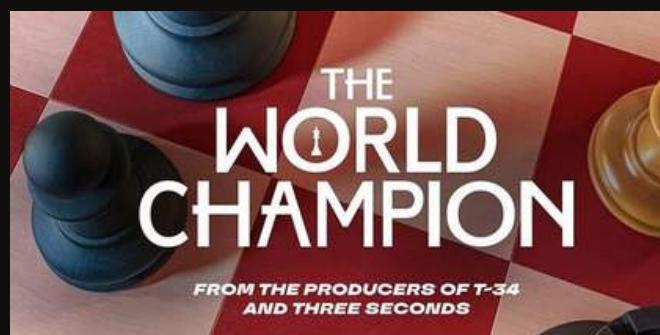
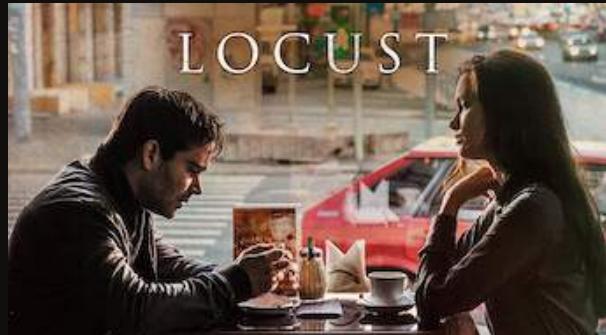
Monday, January 30, 2023 @ 5:00

**PLAY** **More Info**

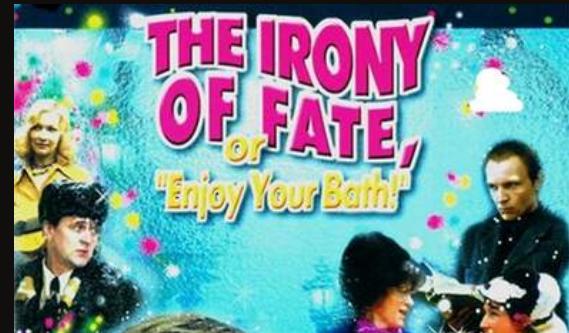
## Drama



## Films



## More

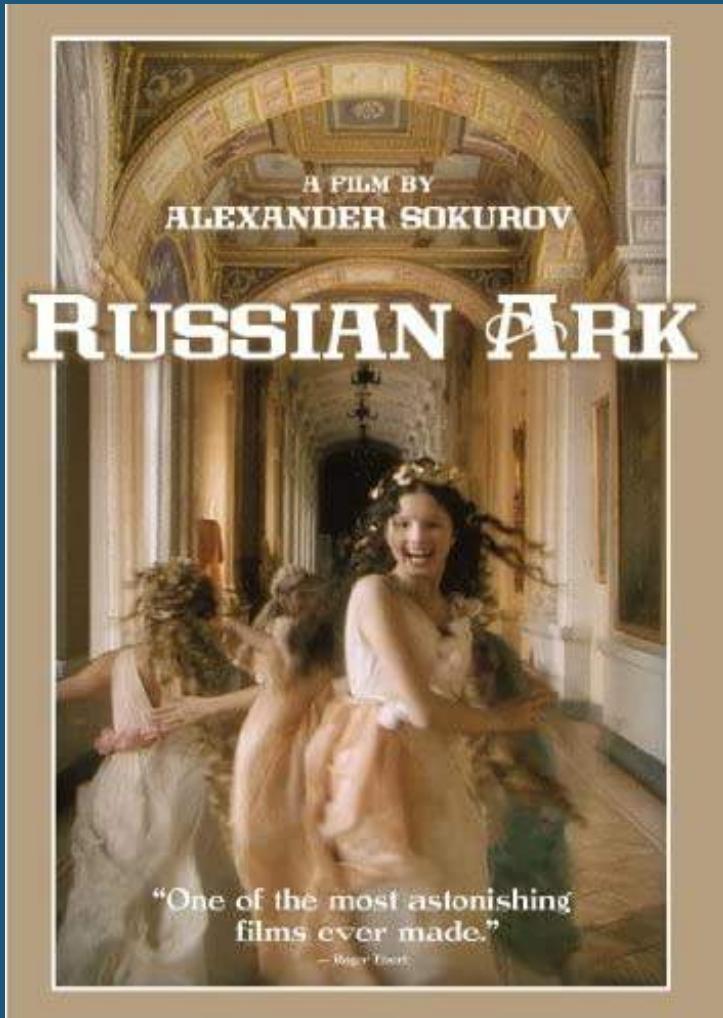


Click on the images to watch now!

# Language of the Month Film Discussion

Watch *Russian Ark* (2002), available through BU Libraries, then join the ERC and BU Libraries for a discussion with special guest, Professor Ines Garcia de la Puente, Research Assistant Professor of Russian and Comparative Literature.

Event is open to current BU students, faculty, and staff.



## Russian Ark

RUSSIAN ARK is shot from the point-of-view of an unseen narrator, as he explores the museum and travels through Russian history. The audience sees through his eyes as he witnesses Peter the Great abusing one of his generals; Catherine the Great desperately searching for a bathroom; and, in the grand finale, the sumptuous Great Royal Ball of 1913.



# Local Excursions

## PLACES TO VISIT IN BOSTON

### Museum of Russian Icons

203 Union St, Clinton MA 01510

The Museum of Russian icons houses one of the largest collects of Russian icons, or images of a holy person or event, outside of North America. The museum is a quick drive from Boston in Clinton, MA.



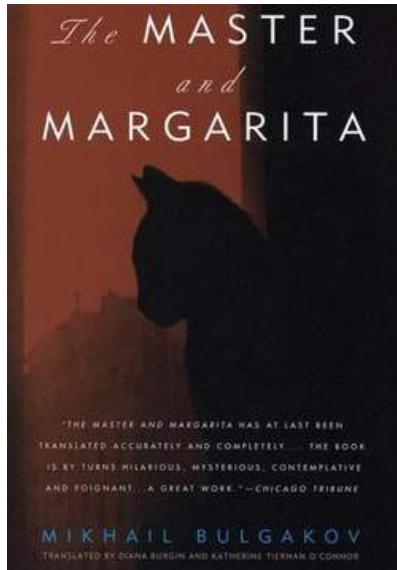
### Dillon's Russian Steam Bath

77 Chestnut St, Chelsea, MA 02150

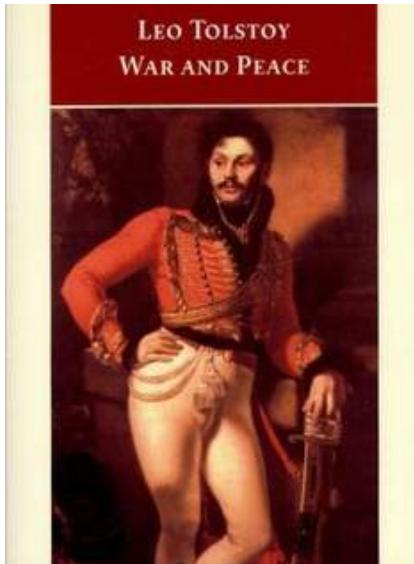
Dillon's has existed since 1885 and grew out of the traditional Schvitz which can trace its roots to Russia and Eastern Europe. Experience the therapeutic value of heat, warmth, and water at Dillon's.



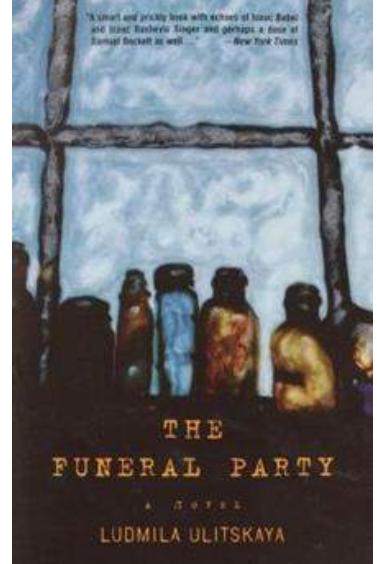
# LITERATURE



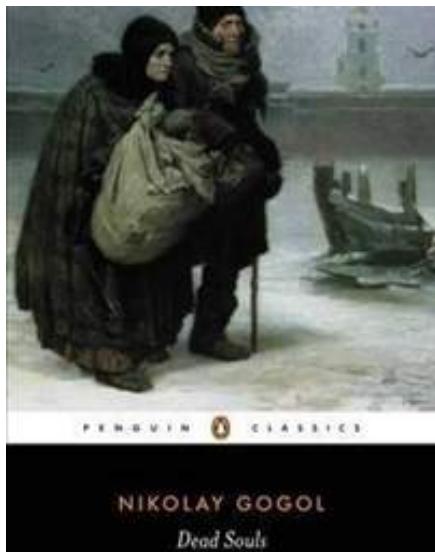
THE MASTER AND MARGARITA



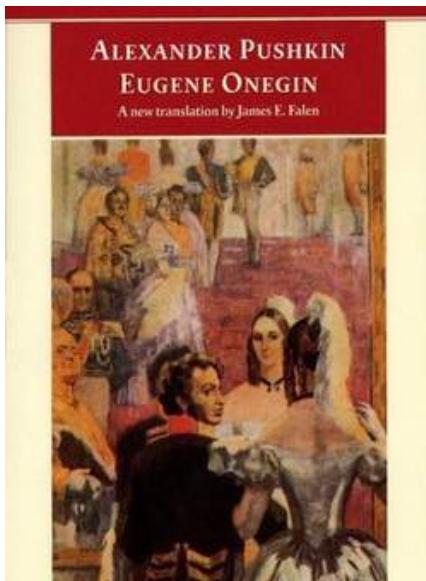
WAR AND PEACE



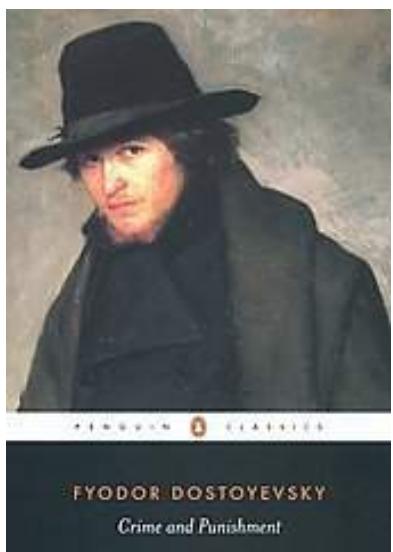
THE FUNERAL PARTY



DEAD SOULS



EVGENIY ONEGIN



CRIME AND PUNISHMENT



Check out BU Libraries' Resource Guide for  
Russian Language & Literature!

# MUSIC



## Featured Artist:

### Tri Dnya Dozhdy

Tri Dnya Dozhdy (Three Days of Rain), a pop punk group, is one of Language Link Leader Brianna's favorites. The band is a part of Spotify's RADAR program that supports the work of emerging artists. Check out their [collaboration](#) with American musician Call Me Karizma.



Check out this [playlist](#) on Spotify, recommended by Brianna.