



Brooklyn Daily Eagle

Community News



Russian Heritage Festival Kicks Off With Coney Event

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CONEY ISLAND — The eighth annual Russian Heritage Festival will kick off its month-long celebration of Russian culture in New York on Sunday, June 6, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a free outdoor festival featuring Russian foods, arts, crafts, music and dance performances at Seaside/Asser Levy Park (corner of Ocean Parkway and Seabreeze Avenue) in Coney Island.

One of the highlights of the day will be a live performance by Tatiana Ovsienko, one of Russia's biggest pop stars. A popular, annual event for people of all ages, the Russian Heritage Festival will feature performances by numerous youth groups in the New York metropolitan area, performing traditional music, song and dance and wearing traditional costumes showing the diverse heritage of countries such as Russia, Ukraine, Armenia and many others.

Then, on June 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Brooklyn Public Library's main branch at Grand Army Plaza, there will be a Russian-American book fair. Authors will offer readings and book signings, showcase their books and much more. This event provides visitors with an exceptional opportunity to meet and greet authors. There will special appearances by the Moscow Folks (folk musicians) and the Somona Kukun Siberian folk music group.

On June 20 at the Bukharian Jewish Center, 106-16 70th Ave., Forest Hills, there will be a Jewish-Bukharian Heritage Festival. This annual event draws together local performers and numerous organizations servicing the community. Community health care organizations and medical centers will educate visitors about important health care issues and offer free health care services.

The Russian Heritage Festival is presented each year by the Russian-American Foundation. The only festival of its kind in the U.S., it celebrates the rich diversity of Russian culture and history in the New York City metropolitan area.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg commended the festival for "showcasing the vitality and success of the flourishing Russian community. Russian is now the third most-

spoken foreign language — after Spanish and Chinese — in New York City.”

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