

Momentum

Feb 24

In this edition...

This month marks the second anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Our volunteers are invited to the commemorative event which takes place on Sunday 25th February. Also, we meet the young athletes making their mark in competitive sport in Switzerland, helped by a special donation to the Centre. And we learn about the extraordinary career of Centre volunteer Vira Ostashchuk.

Equal Access for All

It is important for the Centre that our resources are within reach of all members of our community. It is for this reason we insist that language courses, workshops and all other services provided to the Ukrainian community at the Centre are free. Teachers are not permitted to accept donations, although small non-cash thank yous will be permitted. In return the Centre does not charge for premises or snacks and helps our volunteer teachers meet the cost of materials.

Two years on: coming together to remember

Connected by War



Ukrainian Day center
Av. de Rumin 26, Lausanne

25.02.2024
14:00



All our volunteers and members are invited to a small commemorative event marking two years since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It will take place in the main hall at the Scots Kirk on Sunday, February 25th at 14.00. There will be a programme of music including an open mic' session.

Funding boost for young athletes

Three young athletes have been allocated one-off grants from a fund specifically donated to the Centre de Jour Ukrainien for this purpose. The money will provide some support for two years as they pursue their chosen sports in Switzerland. There was fierce competition for the money, and we regret we could not allocate funding to everyone in a very strong field of candidates. These youngsters are already proving themselves in Switzerland, despite the upheaval and upset of being forced from Ukraine.



(L to r) Ivan Petryn, Sofia Vorontsova and Myron Moroz

Myron Moroz, aged 11, was competing in Taekwondo at a high level before the Russian invasion in February 2022. He was placed third in the 2021 national championships. He now trains with Taekwondo Académie Genève and won the national championship in Switzerland in 2022 and 2023. Myron will use the money for training and associated expenses.

Gymnast, nine-year-old Sofia Vorontsova has scooped several titles since arriving in Switzerland. In 2023, she won first in the Kyolis Cup Tournament in Chambéry, France, and also in the Friendship Cup in Baden, Switzerland among other competitions. She was invited to join the centre régional de performance en gymnastique rythmique of the Association Cantonale Vaudoise de Gymnastique. The money will help pay her association membership fees and other costs.

Ivan Petryn has switched from gymnastics in Ukraine, where he was with an Olympic reserve school, to diving since arriving in Lausanne. The eleven-year-old now trains with the club Lausanne Aquatique in Malley. He was placed third in the Swiss Junior Championships 2023 and first at the Championnat Vaudoise 2023, among other titles. He needs help with training, competitions, coaching, club membership and a uniform. The Centre is pleased to partner these young athletes as they strive to achieve their dream of representing Ukraine on the world stage.



Who we are

The Ukraine Day Centre is a not-for-profit association opened in April 2022. It is an ecumenical initiative between Our Lady of Faith, Christ Church and the Scots Kirk. We support those fleeing Ukraine irrespective of language, race, faith or gender. The Centre's services are free.

Volunteering Certificate

We truly value the vital contribution of all our volunteers every week. If you are a volunteer, we wish you to receive proper recognition for your efforts. We are happy to issue a certificate showing the voluntary work you undertake at the Centre. The certificate can be used to apply to official institutions, for paid work, residency, or educational programmes. If you need proof of your involvement in the Centre's activities, please contact Lyudmyla Bahmut at ludmila.bahmut@gmail.com or Jeremy McTeague at jeremy@mcteague.ch. We will gladly provide the relevant document in French, English, and Ukraine.



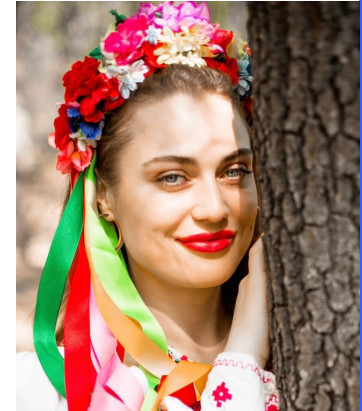
How can you help ?

Please help with our new French and English conversation classes.
Contact: 076 558 6805 or e mail ukrainecentrelausanne@gmail.com

Meet Centre volunteer and EPFL lecturer Vira Ostashchuk

By Alla Kyrda-Omelian

Vira Ostashchuk has enough energy, diligence, determination and creativity for two. A volunteer at the Ukrainian Day Centre, she has completed scientific and pedagogical internships at universities in Poland, Slovakia, Austria, and Kazakhstan, worked as guest lecturer at Heidelberg University in Germany and as visiting professor at the University of Geneva in Switzerland since 2022. Vira is a historian, a researcher, and an author of monographs, training manuals and scientific articles with a PhD in historical sciences. During the last two years she has managed to combine teaching Ukrainian students online at the National University, the "Odesa Polytechnic," with lecturing Swiss students on the History of Eastern Europe.



Vira Ostashchuk has also found time to set up a series of lectures on the History of Ukraine at the EPFL and conduct history brainstorming sessions at the Centre de Jour Ukrainien. She leads discussions on the identity of Ukrainians and encourages her students and listeners to seek answers to why Ukrainians are so freedom-loving, how they can help their country or how they can contribute to the country that has sheltered them during the war.

Ukrainians are known for their singing, that is why, in her free time, Vira and her daughter Roza sing in the choirs organised by CDJU partner – the IvAlive foundation. Vira is proud to head the organisation "Territory of Women of Odessa region". Describing the organisation's members and activities, she says "to be a Ukrainian woman today is to travel thousands of kilometers so that your children are safe, to buy pickup trucks and drive them across the border, to organise rallies anywhere in the world, to participate in round tables, to give charity concerts, to prepare food for Ukrainian military, to weave nets, to make trench candles, to donate blood, to work in warehouses with humanitarian aid, to evacuate people, and to fight in the ranks of the Armed Forces."

Safeguarding our Children

Protecting children and vulnerable adults using the Centre du Jour Ukrainien remains a central concern of ours. This is why we set up the safeguarding programme for our Ukrainian volunteers. More than 19 have already undergone the course and received a signed certificate. It is led by two teachers, Oksana Dolgova and Anna Khtema. The training is mandatory for people helping at the Centre which is based at the Scots Kirk and falls under the Church of Scotland regulations. The Swiss volunteers underwent the same programme in 2023. It is essential that everyone who wishes to help completes it. The Centre will sign a lease shortly to allow it to continue using the Church of Scotland's premises and we must comply with this requirement, or we risk losing permission to use the building. Thank you to everyone who has undergone the training to date. We urge everyone to complete it as soon as they can. The next course will take place at our partner Ukraine Reborn's facility in Montreux on 28 February. Please contact our teachers by email : oksana.dolgova2013@gmail.com ; and anna.khtema@gmail.com

Donate

Centre de jour ukrainien
Ave de Ruminé 26, 1005 Lausanne
IBAN: CH11 0076 7000 C555 4695 4

Editorial Team

Heather Lima and Jeremy McTeague
and Alla Kyrda-Omelian