

23 May 2023

Highlights:

- **Visit numbers now over 5,000. We now have 950 registered members at the Centre!**
- **Fundraising ideas? Come to the fundraising meeting on 5 June.**
- **A lecture and recital on organ music on 30 April was a great success! Thanks to Daria Zaleska and Deirdre Kraege.**

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Want to sign up for a session?

To sign up or check when you're volunteering, click here or one on of the messages sent by Des to the Ukraine Day Centre Team WhatsApp group.

**How can you can help?**

We especially value volunteers, and appreciate donations of money and food.

If you can help please email or call:
076 558 6805

Momentum

Simple Registration and Sign-in Process to be Introduced in June

To ensure the safety and peace of mind of visitors to the Centre, we have a firm registration and sign in policy. A year on, we have lots of visitors who come regularly to participate in various activities or to meet friends, and we have dozens of new visitors registering each month. But we

know that registration is slow and it can be a real challenge for people who are unused to using mobile phone apps.

It is also important that we have accurate information about the numbers of people who attend the Centre. The generosity of donors is based not only on the needs of individuals but increasingly on the scope and scale of need. That means (to be blunt)

that they need evidence of attendance numbers at the Centre. So if people are not signing in properly that gives a falsely

electronic file by email which can be stored on their phone. Thereafter, when they visit we just scan their membership card and that's it.

"Simple, no forms, no effort and no bother."

The new system has been developed by Karma Fussel, a volunteer. "This system will greatly reduce the problems some people have when they visit," says Karma. The new system has been successfully tested. We still have to iron out a few glitches and want to make a few improvements, so we expect to launch it on Thursday 15 June.

Although the re-registration process is simple, for the launch, we will have a "Genius Desk" set up on the Thursday and Sunday 18 June with Karma and two or three tech-savvy Ukrainian volunteers available to help with the re-registration.

Ukrainian Day Centre
Centre de Jour Ukrainien
Український денний центр

Im'я/Name: **Jeremy McTeague**

Членський номер/Membership Number: **1684413628621**

Дата народження/Birthdate: **18 May 2023**

чоловічий (Male)

negative impression and risks a reduction in the much-needed support the Centre enjoys.

So we have developed a new system.

Everyone who visits from 15 June onwards will need to re-register.

They will immediately receive a scannable membership card either in hard copy or as an

Volunteer Profile: Heather Lima



"I am constantly impressed by how much our Ukrainian friends give us in return"

Heather started volunteering at the Centre in September, helping with clothing, biscuits and teas. Like many people shocked by the war in Ukraine, I wanted to do something. When Jeremy suggested starting a newsletter, I thought I could help. I worked for 20 years as a journalist in newspapers, radio and TV in the UK after graduating in International Relations. My biggest privilege is still being able to hear and share people's stories.

I have been in Switzerland for 11 years with my husband and son. I have acquired a dog and two tortoises, although one tortoise did escape on horseback once. I managed to get her back. I can barely make fondue but I can now walk up mountains on skis without falling over. The Centre was set up to help our Ukrainian friends settle better here but I am constantly impressed by how much our Ukrainian friends give us in return. Most can not go back home yet but instead, at the Centre, they let us enjoy a little bit more of Ukraine in Switzerland every week.



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Working Smarter to accommodate change

Through our able team of volunteers, the Centre offers a range of services to help our Ukrainian visitors. These include language lessons, a clothes store, a café and social space, and games for kids. Advice is available on issues such as finding employment and local community activities. Additionally, our partner Ukraine Reborn, provides counselling for children, arts and crafts classes, and language classes for young visitors at the Centre.

Then there is the administration of the Centre where we need to stay on top of writing the newsletter, managing rotas, purchasing supplies, developing registration systems, fund raising, and liaising with other organisations such as EVAM.

It is impossible to know how long the Centre's services will be required. Although, we do know that we have to adjust our activities to address the needs of new arrivals from Ukraine who face different challenges from those who arrived a year ago. At the same time, we need to protect the Centre's community from the looming threats of compassion fatigue, social apathy and donor exhaustion.

On a practical level, we should formalise and professionalise our systems. Nothing too dramatic, but we need to work smarter to reduce the time and effort demanded of volunteers. Automation of the registration system; improving communications among all volunteers be they local or Ukrainian; using the website to communicate more widely; and sharing tasks internally are all ways that will really help us meet our aims.

By publicising tasks to our volunteers we can share the planning and administrative work more widely. Generally this type of work is not urgent (until it is) and it can be done in the comfort of home. Several volunteers do this already preferring to work outside of the normal Thursday and Sunday sessions. Volunteers who need assistance can list tasks in each newsletter and also on the volunteers' Whatsapp group. If you want to pick up a task there will be a person to brief you if needed.

And last but not least, if you have ideas and suggestions on how to improve what we do, then please don't hold back. Tell Jeremy, Ludmila, Heather, Orla, Volodymyr, Kathy, Des, Dmitri, Sylvia or any other volunteer.

A few little things that need doing...

Task	Contact
Help name and file the Centre's photographs	Heather Lima
Sort through all the Centre's games and toys	Desdemona de Souza
Sort through, make an inventory and pack sports equipment in easy-to-carry bags	Jeremy McTeague
Tidy up shelf space for the Centre in the cellar	Jeremy McTeague
Help organise an organ music concert/lecture for the public in the Scots Kirk	Ludmila Bahmut/ Jeremy McTeague
Reprint all the Centre's signs on doors etc. and also on dustbins etc.	Jeremy McTeague
Find sturdy clothes rails for the clothes store	Kathy Overlack
Help upload content to the website	Jeremy McTeague

Farewell to Gillean and James McLean

It is with much gratitude tinged with sadness that we say warm farewell to

the President of the Centre, Rev Gillean McLean and her husband James.

Gillean, the minister of the Scots Kirk, was instrumental in setting up the Centre de jour ukrainien and it was largely due to her that the three English-speaking churches came to

together to establish such a positive and enduring collaboration in just a few days.



James set up the wifi and the other electronics for the Centre enabling us to open and operate effectively from the first day. His help and advice over the past year has been invaluable.

We wish them both a happy and rewarding retirement in their new home near Inverness in the north of Scotland.

Are you interested in helping Ukrainians with English or French conversation? Please email:

ukraine-centre@scotskirklausanne.ch

Donations Information

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