

Momentum

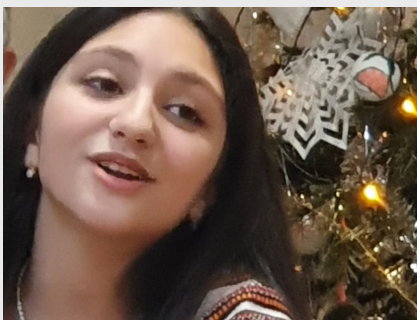
January 2023

The Centre in numbers

Since the start of December, 34 more people have registered at the Centre. A total of 2700 visits have been made to the Centre since we opened in April 2022.



Pictured above: the cake made for January 6 says it all. Presented here by Oleksandr, whose wife Rada was the cook. Their daughter Anna-Maria, below, was one of the acapella singers. Bottom: Makar, his sister Biata, Anastasia and Natalia in the Christmas story.



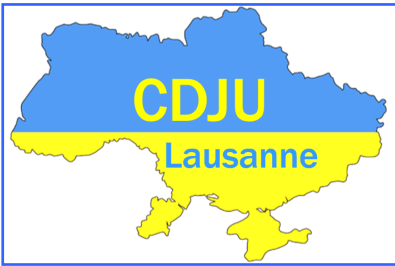
Ukrainian Christmas brings warmth to winter in Lausanne



Our talented youth group stages a Ukrainian Christmas

Snow lay all around, the wind was howling, and a sudden, sharp knock at the door caused all inside the steamy kitchen to stop what they were doing and open up. The guests had fought their way through the bitter storm raging outside. It was Ukrainian Orthodox Christmas Eve when families gather to eat the sviata vecheria supper. Performed and written by the Centre's members, this short sketch served as a scene setter for our own community, which had gathered around 40-strong, inside the Scots Kirk main hall on January 6th. Volunteers from the Ukrainian Day Centre, a joint venture by three Churches: Our Lady of Faith, Christ Church, and the Scots Kirk, had been invited to share food and music. Organiser, Ludmila Bahmut said it was intended as a heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers supporting those forced to flee the war in Ukraine. Ludmila and her team had carefully prepared the twelve typical dishes of fish and vegetables that represent the months of the year, or the 12 apostles. Every now and then, younger members would burst into acapella singing at their tables and be rewarded with sweets or money. Anyone could sing at any time. Following a Ukrainian Orthodox mass in the Church, this hearty meal marked the culmination of events organised around the first Christmas spent in Lausanne for our Ukrainian members. 'We put our hearts and soul into preparing this Christmas Eve as though at home for our friends and family,' said Ludmila. One guest volunteer, Orla Bogue, told Ludmila, 'I felt like an honoured guest. It was an insight into the cultural richness of your homeland and the pride you all feel.' Centre coordinator, Jeremy McTeague, thanked the organisers for 'a magnificent meal and a truly moving experience.'





Who we are

The Ukraine Day Centre is a not-for-profit association opened on April 28th. 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.

Sweet Christmas

Thanks once again to everyone who contributed to buying sweets for 160 Ukrainian children this Christmas. We doubled our CHF 800 target, and will use the extra money for more gifts for the children for other cultural celebrations.



Pepperdine Steps Up

Students from the Lausanne campus of California-based Pepperdine University are to join the Centre as volunteers. Pepperdine's Associate Director, Mark Barneche, said: "We are touched by how much the Centre is helping Ukrainians forced by war from their homes. We are keen to help this project which exemplifies the best ethical values."

How can you help ?

We especially welcome volunteers and really appreciate donations of winter clothes, money and food.

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

Online journal Watson follows our Ukrainian Christmas story



At the feast: (from left) English teacher, Ann Bless, and volunteers Kathy Overlack, Orla Bogue, Rosemary Raedler

Swiss romande journalist, Joanna Oulevay, really earned her supper when she joined the guests for the Christmas Eve meal. The evening before she had stumbled across the preparations and immediately rolled up her sleeves to peel the very many potatoes and prepare the other vegetables with Ludmila's team. She then wrote an article for the online newspaper [Watson](#), under the heading, "Fear is something you get used to": Ukrainians have celebrated their Christmas in Lausanne - she features one of our regular helpers at the Centre, Natalia. 'I learned so much from Natalia. I talked to so many people, it was a real exchange of experiences,' she said.



Natalia (pictured left) is from Kharkiv and left Ukraine in July, forced out by the widespread bombing of her city, which is still being struck. After having attended Kharkiv Conservatoire, Natalia, a choir leader, set up in business as a piano restorer. She told how her fellow Ukrainians find it hard to share the many sad stories that have brought them to Switzerland. 'There are smiles, but no-one sees the tears behind closed doors.' At the Centre de jour ukrainien, Natalia helps organise cultural events, especially the singing.

