

Ways You Can Get Involved:

Donate to [United Help Ukraine](#)

Donate to [CARE](#)

Donate clothes to the Ukrainian Army through the Jewish Educational and Cultural Center Makor's Clothes For Ukraine

Read up with Brookline Booksmith's [Selection of Essential Reads](#) that spotlight "voices from a culture under siege"

Watch the Brookline Booksmith's live zoom-event, ["All That We Have is a Voice: Writers from Ukraine Speaking to Writers in Boston"](#)

Brookline — Moved by Russia's sudden invasion of Ukraine, local painter and nurse practitioner Zoe Paschkis painted a bedroom scene using the colors of the Ukrainian flag to artistically combat her feelings of helplessness regarding the conflict. Six weeks later, through various fundraisers held in Brookline, Paschkis had generated over \$5000 for medical supplies, protective equipment, and humanitarian relief.

Paschkis' first effort was incentivizing her Instagram followers to donate by raffling off her Ukraine-inspired painting to donating participants. On February 28th, the recipient of the painting was selected and the raffle garnered \$535 towards United Help Ukraine, a non-profit organization dedicated to aiding those affected by the crisis.

"The images and stories coming out of Ukraine were just so heartbreaking from the very beginning. The day Russia invaded, I felt such powerlessness, anger, and despair. After I came home from work, I started painting one of my room portraits, but I changed the colors to match the Ukrainian flag. It was just a way to channel my feelings somehow and to show some solidarity by posting the painting to Instagram. My husband suggested selling it to raise money for Ukraine, and so I announced a raffle," said Paschkis, who has been painting portraits of rooms for the past two years.

Soon after, Paschkis initiated a ten day fundraiser through two art shows at the Newton Center J.P. Licks and the Brookline Bank in Coolidge Corner, and her Etsy shop, from March 4th to March 14th that raised \$2390 for United Help Ukraine.

Paschkis' efforts did not stop there, however. Hosting another art show, titled "Cozy Corners" at the Brookline Bank in Coolidge Corner from March 24th to April 7th, Paschkis generated \$1200 which was matched up to \$1000 by the Brookline Bank to CARE, a humanitarian organization that is currently organizing emergency aid to Ukraine.

Along with co-sponsoring Paschkis' efforts, the Brookline Booksmith was also inspired to take action upon Russia's sudden invasion of Ukraine.

"The minute the tanks rolled in, our president who lives in California, wrote in and said we need to take a stance immediately, we gotta get on this now. So we did," said Lisa Gazoshti, co-owner and manager of the Brookline Booksmith.

Passerbys of the Coolidge Corner location of the Brookline Booksmith can see their window display with titles like *The Ukrainian Night: An Intimate History of Revolution* by Marci Shore and *Ukraine: What Everyone Needs to Know* by Serhy Yekelchuk. Hung above the rows of books is a banner, proudly displaying the message: *Ukraine, We Stand With You*.

In addition to the display, the Brookline Booksmith hosted a live zoom-event with six female Ukrainian poets and writers as part of their Transnational Literature Series where 220 people from around the world tuned in to watch.

"We are very much active and aware of things that impact our community, and also our mission, our values are freedom and equality and democracy for all. So equal rights and protections for all citizens of the world. So we typically feel that if there's something affecting our community, we speak out," said Gazoshti.

Throughout the month of march, the Brookline Booksmith also allowed customers to donate directly to various organizations such as the Rian Immigrant Center, a Boston-based organization that helps displaced Ukrainians, as well as refugees in 120 other countries. For the Rian Immigrant Center, the Brookline Booksmith garnered over 2300 individual donations from customers.

The Brookline Booksmith plans to keep the display up for as long as the conflict is occurring, refreshing the collection as new titles are published.

Across Brookline, both town administration and residents are feeling similar sentiments towards the conflict in Ukraine.

During the Brookline Select Boarding meeting of March, select board members Bernard Greene and Raul Fernandez gave statements on the situation in Ukraine, or what Greene labeled as the “Big Russian bear in the room.”

“I think we all agree with people around the world that We are all Ukrainians now. We should support the brave people of Ukraine on purely humanitarian grounds, but also because the fate of Ukraine is a mirror on our own fate. We must understand that attacks on democracy anywhere restrict the ability of people to fight against injustice everywhere,” said Greene in a statement.

Zoe Paschkis’ first painting in a series of paintings dedicated to gather donations in support of Ukraine, which she raffled on 2/28/22





The Brookline Booksmith's "Ukraine We Are With You" window display on Harvard Street. Shot by Meghan Bohannon