2012
ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

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UCCA: REPRESENTING AND SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1940

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is a non-profit, community-based organization that for over 70 years has been representing the interests of the Ukrainian community in the United States. Since its founding, the UCCA has been instrumental in disseminating information about the history and plight of the Ukrainian nation by actively implementing both local and international programs and educating U.S. legislators about issues important to Ukrainian and the Ukrainian American community.

Working through its various committees, the UCCA also coordinates the Educational Council that maintains the Ukrainian Saturday School System in United States, publishes the only English-language scholarly journal, The Ukrainian Quarterly, provides assistance to Ukrainians in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through its Council on Aid to Ukrainians, and produces feature films on Ukrainian historical topics once banned by Soviet authorities.

The UCCA has also taken an active role in the events unfolding in Ukraine, particularly since Ukraine’s renewed independence over 20 years ago. The UCCA has successfully carried out dozens of civic education programs and organized multiple delegations of international election observers to monitor presidential, parliamentary and local elections in Ukraine in order to help secure a democratic foundation for the future of the Ukrainian nation. Currently, the UCCA has a National Office in New York City, a public relations bureau in Washington, DC and dozens of Branches throughout the United States. Together with its staff and hundreds of volunteers nationwide, the UCCA successfully accomplishes many dynamic and multifaceted projects. With this annual report we would like to share some highlights of our work in 2012.

A Word from the President…

2012 proved to be a challenging year for the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. Responding to the continued backlash against democracy in Ukraine was surely one of the great hurdles we faced. However, it is difficult to reflect upon this last year without also feeling optimistic, as it was a year of significant accomplishments for our organization.

We are proud of the wide-ranging work that was accomplished in 2012, and hope that this Annual Report will provide an overview of the past year. The achievements outlined in this report are just a few from a long list of accomplishments in 2012.

I would like to especially thank those who have generously contributed, both financially and morally, to the work of the UCCA. Without your support none of the highlights outlined in this report could have been realized. Your continued support, active participation, and generous donations have helped UCCA to, among other things: inform the U.S. government of our community’s concerns; promote the importance of the Ukrainian language, combat the backsliding of democracy in Ukraine and advance and represent the interests of the community --all of which has made 2012 an unprecedented year for the UCCA. But as you know, the challenges faced by our community are not simply faced and forgotten - they must constantly be contended with. Together, we must remain committed to building and maintaining a strong and vibrant Ukrainian American community. Therefore, I extend a special invitation to members of our community to reach into their
hearts and help preserve what is ours. Our united efforts are needed now, more than ever. Let us make our collective voice heard – I urge you to encourage your friends and family to join the UCCA today!

In closing, I would like to thank the delegates to the XXI Congress for electing me to serve for another 4-year term as the UCCA’s President. It is a great honor to hold this position and I accept this responsibility with a great sense of humility. There is much work before us, which will take a lot of dedication, skill and commitment. Therefore, I turn to you for your support, cooperation and input. In looking forward to working with you all throughout the coming year, I assure you that I will do my utmost to serve the community to the best of my ability.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2012…

Defending Human & National Rights

*With respect to democracy in Ukraine, the UCCA worked diligently to express the concerns of the Ukrainian American community over the current political situation in Ukraine. As a result, the UCCA was in the forefront of this issue -- protesting the continued backsliding of democracy in Ukraine, while at the same time taking an active role in ensuring that all levels of government were supporting Ukraine’s fledgling democracy. Below are just a few examples of the swift and decisive action taken by the UCCA in defense human and national rights in Ukraine:*

- **On February 15th,** the UCCA held various meetings in our nation’s capitol to address both the continued backsliding of democracy in Ukraine and the upcoming parliamentary elections. Meetings were held with Members of Congress, State Department Officials, and Ukraine’s ambassador to the United States. Discussions focused on the Ukrainian community’s growing trepidation over the Ukrainian government’s assurances to uphold all international norms and ensure a transparent process, both during the pre-election campaign as well as on Election Day.

- **On June 7th,** the UCCA issued a statement condemning the Verkhovna Rada’s introduction and passage of Law No. 9073 “On the Principles of Language Policy” in its first reading. Sponsored by MPs Kivalov and Kolesnichenko, the law, de facto, allowed for the colonialist Russian language to become a second official state language in Ukraine.

- **In response to this anti-constitutional measure of introducing Law #9073 taken by the Ukrainophobic Verkhovna Rada,** the UCCA called upon its Branches to organize demonstrations throughout the country during the month of June in order to show our brethren in Ukraine that we stood with them in defense of the Ukrainian language.

- **On July 11,** the UCCA called for the community to protest the recent passage in Ukraine’s Parliament of Law No. 9073 “On the Principles of Language Policy”, which de facto, allowed for the colonialist Russian language to become an official second language in Ukraine. Demonstrations were held in New York City, Chicago and other communities throughout the United States.

- **In August,** as the U.S. presidential campaign went into full speed, members of the UCCA Executive Board met with a representative from the Romney campaign in Washington, DC. A
meeting was held with the Honorable Paula Dobriansky, senior foreign policy advisor in the Romney campaign and Amb. Roman Popadiuk, the U.S.’ first ambassador to Ukraine which concentrated on the foreign policy objectives of presidential candidate Mitt Romney. Particular attention was paid to Romney’s recent trip to Poland where he spoke of regional issues and U.S. engagement in Central and Eastern Europe.

In addition to holding meetings with U.S. government officials and protesting the backsliding of Democracy in Ukraine, the UCCA issued statements to inform the community and the American government of our concerns. Such timely statements included:

- UCCA Condemns the Sentencing of Lutsenko
- UCCA Condemns Continued Convictions of Opposition Leaders
- UCCA Condemns the “Law on Languages
- UCCA Condemns July 3rd Passage of Law #9073
- UCCA Expresses Concern during Ukraine’s Election Campaign
- UCCA Condemns Persecution of Ukraine’s TVi

The UCCA’s statements can be read in their entirety on the UCCA website at: www.ucca.org.

XXI Congress of Ukrainians in America

As per the UCCA Bylaws, a convention of all members of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) shall take place under the heading Congress of Ukrainians in America every four years, coinciding with U.S. Presidential election years, The Convention is convened to review reports by the executive branches and provide them with a vote of confidence, elect ruling bodies, decide the future direction of activity of the UCCA and settle such issues as may come before it.

Thus, from September 27-29th, the UCCA held its quadrennial convention at the Ukrainian Youth Center in Yonkers, New York. The XXI Congress, which convened over 70 delegates, representing numerous branches and member organizations, also attracted many visitors. Among the honorary guests, at the Congress were: Eugene Czolij, President of the Ukrainian World Congress; Mychajlo Ratushnij, Chairman of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council; Pavlo Grod, President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress; Oles Yanchuk, Ukrainian Film Director and Producer; Fidel Sukhonis, Editor Ukrainian Journal Burestejnu; Oresta Starak, First Secretary, Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, DC; Konstantyn Vorona, Vice Consul, Consulate General of Ukraine in New York; Baxter Hunt, Director, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Mike Spano, Mayor of Yonkers, NY; and Shevchenko Freedom Award Recipient, Congresswoman Nita Lowey.

On Saturday 28, prior to the official proceedings, UCCA President, Tamara Olexy had the honor of bestowing the Shevchenko Freedom Award, the UCCA’s highest accolade, to Congresswoman Nita Lowey, for her recognition of Ukraine’s vital importance to the peace and security of the European continent, and her cooperative efforts with the Ukrainian American community.

Following the Congresswoman’s brief remarks, the following individuals were elected to run the Congress’ proceedings: Askold Lozynskyj, Chairman; Kenneth Wanio, Deputy Chairman; Adrian Dlaboha, Deputy Chairman; Marie Dulpak, Ukrainian language secretary; Halyna Dolynska, Ukrainian language secretary; and Andrij Szul, English language secretary. The delegates then elected various congressional commissions to examine crucial aspects of our community, including: Aid to Ukraine, Student and Youth Groups; Veterans’Affairs; External Relations; Educational Concerns; Financial Matters; New Immigrants from Ukraine; and Organizations Issues. Throughout the Congress, committees drafted proposals that were then presented to all the delegates on Sunday for discussion and approval. Reports from outgoing members of the UCCA Executive Board, National Council and Committee Chairs were also presented.
Saturday afternoon was devoted to panel discussions that addressed several issues of importance and concern to our community. The topics of discussion included: Revitalizing Our Community – Overcoming Our Challenges; Ukrainian Community’s Influence on a Local and Federal Level; and, Supporting/Saving Democracy in Ukraine.

On Saturday evening Gala Banquet to mark the XXI Congress of Ukrainians in America was held. Serving as Master of Ceremonies, Jaroslaw Palylyk, UCCA Yonkers Branch President, officially welcomed the over 200 guests and then invited Andrij and Yarko Dobriansky to sing the Ukrainian and American national anthems. His Excellency the Most Reverend Bishop Chomnytsky opened the banquet with a prayer.

Entertainment during the banquet was provided by the Trembita Dance School, under the artistic direction of Orlando and Larisa Pagan; and by a young, dynamic 5th generation Ukrainian-American family band “Korinya.”

Ukrainian World Congress President Eugene Czolij, who served as keynote speaker at the Banquet, eloquently relayed the UCCA’s recent successes, expressing gratitude to UCCA for its cooperation with the UWC and work for the benefit of Ukrainians in the U.S. and Ukraine. He highlighted the activities of the UCCA in defense of Ukraine’s statehood and democratization, the important role of UCCA observer missions, as well as its success in raising awareness of the Holodomor, particularly the work done towards the erection of a monument in Washington, DC.

Following the entertainment, UCCA President Tamara Olexy presented the Shevchenko Freedom Award to the following deserving recipients: Judge Bohdan Futey; Wolodymyr Kozicky; and Jaroslaw Fedun. [Shevchenko Award recipients Ihor Smoliy, Congressman Maurice Hinchey and Senator Charles Schumer were unable to attend the XXI Congress. Congresswoman Nita Lowey accepted the award on Saturday.]

The banquet concluded with a benediction by Very Reverend Archpriest Fr.Kiril Angelov.

Following mass on Sunday at St. Michael’s Ukrainian Catholic Church, delegates nominated and unanimously re-elected Tamara Olexy to serve another 4-year term as president of the UCCA. Other members of the newly-elected Board include: Andrij Futey, Executive Vice President; Marie Duplak, Executive Secretary; Yaroslav Zaviisky, Treasurer; Stefan Kaczaraj, Chairman of the National Council; Leonid Rudnytsky, UQ Editor, Ivan Burtyk, CAU Chairman; Andrij Dobriansky, UCCA NYC Branch; Oles Strilchuk, UCCA Illinois Branch; Roksolana Lozynskyj, External Affairs; Prof. Evhen Fedorenko,
Educational Council; Myroslava Rozdolska, New Ukrainian Wave; Kvitka Semanyshyn, Providence Association; Larissa Kyj, UUARC; Michael Sawkiw, UNIS Director.

The UCCA Executive Board would like to sincerely thank the entire UCCA Yonkers Branch for their hospitality and for organizing a wonderful XXI Congress of Ukrainians in America!

UCCA Delegations of International Election Observers

Deeming that International Election Observers play a critical role in enhancing the transparency of the election process, and at the request of various Ukrainian NGOs and political parties, the UCCA once again took an active part in monitoring Ukraine’s October 28th parliamentary elections.

In an effort to maximize the effectiveness of International Observers, cover as much territory as possible, and consolidate election observation experience, the UCCA’s 66 International Election Observers registered with Ukraine’s Central Election Commission were folded into the Ukrainian World Congress’ (UWC) Mission. As a result, the UWC’s Mission deployed over 250 international observers, from 20 countries, to monitor the Parliamentary elections in every region of Ukraine, as well as at several diplomatic missions throughout the world.

On October 29, at the UNIAN Information Agency in Kyiv, the UWC Mission Co-Chairs, UCCA’s President Tamara Olexy and Ukrainian Canadian Congress’ President, Paul Grod, along with UWC’s Chief Observer, Ambassador Derek Fraser, presented a Preliminary Statement summarizing the work of the mission. Based on the findings of both the long-term and short-term observer missions, the UWC Observer Mission, one of the first to publically issue a preliminary statement, acknowledged that the 2012 Parliamentary elections in Ukraine failed to meet numerous international standards for the conduct of democratic elections.

This UWC Preliminary Statement was made prior to the final tabulation of votes and the announcement of pre-election and final election results, as well as judicial review of any potential grievances and appeals.
Unfortunately, the following day there were reports coming from the field that there were widespread election law violations, specifically during the vote tabulation. Believing that the systemically slow tabulation of Precinct Election Commission protocols at the District Election Commissions (DECs) may result in falsifications and affect the will of the Ukrainian electorate, on October 29th, the UWC Co-Chairs issued a widespread appeal calling upon all registered International Election Observers to continue monitoring the election process. That same day UWC redeployed its Short-term Observers to a dozen DECs in Kyiv and the Kyiv Oblast where less than 50 percent of the Precinct Election Commission protocols were tabulated, and urged the government of Ukraine to uphold democratic standards and the election law.

The UWC IEOM called upon the Central Election Commission to investigate undue delays in the tabulation of votes and called for an immediate review of all Precinct Electoral Commission (PEC) protocols in relation to the posted results on the CEC web site.

The UWC IEOM also underscored the fact that, in accordance with international practice, official election observers must be allowed unhindered access to all proceedings and be able to receive copies of all protocols upon request. The UWC Election Observer Mission expected Ukrainian officials to focus on the satisfactory resolution of problems occurring in these still contested electoral districts.

**CONFERENCES**

An important aspect of the UCCA’s work is organizing and participating in conferences. Such forums provide an opportunity to freely exchange ideas and address issues of importance to the Ukrainian American community as well as U.S.-Ukraine relations. In 2012, the UCCA participated in several such forums, of which a few are highlighted below.

**70th Anniversary of the Babyn Yar Tragedy**

On January 25th, the UCCA participated in a commemorative event to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 70th Anniversary of the Babyn Yar Tragedy. The event, hosted by Ukraine’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations, and supported by the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, was moderated by Ambassador Kuchinsky, former Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN and Professor of International Relations at Columbia University. Over a dozen individuals, including the UCCA’s President, provided remarks during the event which was held at the United Nations.

Ms. Olexy read a statement on behalf of the UCCA on the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, in which she outlined the horrific tragedy of Babyn Yar. She highlighted the fact that in addition to the thousands of innocent Jews who perished, many innocent Ukrainians were also mercilessly massacred by Hitler’s henchmen as part of the Final Solution to rid Europe of the Jewish people.

In conclusion she stated, “The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the representative organization of the over one million Americans of Ukrainian descent, strongly condemns the heinous crimes committed 70 years ago at Babyn Yar as well as the inhumane atrocities of the Holocaust which resulted in the deaths of millions of innocent victims. We mourn the loss of the tens of thousands of Jews, Ukrainians and other victims murdered at Babyn Yar as a result of Hitler’s crimes against humanity, and will continue to honor their memory and pray for the repose of their souls. May the
tragedy at Babyn Yar, a dark page in history shared by both the Jewish and Ukrainian people, serve as a reminder to us all of the immeasurable value of human life. May it also remind us of the need to show honor and dignity to our fellow man, regardless of our differences, or perhaps, because of them, as we are all unique and valuable members of the human race.”

**Ukraine’s Quest for Mature Nation Statehood Roundtable**

A special edition of Ukraine’s Quest for Mature Nation Statehood Roundtable entitled: *Ukraine’s Report Card* on the Eve of Parliamentary Elections took place on September 19-20, in Washington, D.C. The conference was co-hosted by the UCCA and a dozen other organizations, during which over 30 government and non-government representatives from the U.S., EU, Canada and Ukraine took measure of Ukraine’s recent progress/regress in six categories. Such distinguished panelists as Paula Dobriansky, Foreign Policy Advisor to Governor Romney; Philip Gordon, Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia; Borys Tarasyuk, Verkhovna Rada; Oleksandr Sushko, Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation; John Herbst, National Defense University; James Sherr, Royal Institute of International Affairs; Volodymyr Viatrovych, Center for Research on the Liberation Movement of Ukraine; Andreas Umland, Kyiv Mohyla Academy; Oleh Rybachuk, New Citizen; and Jan Pieklo, Polish Ukrainian Cooperation Foundation, to name a few, addressed the status of Ukraine’s democracy, market economy, social cohesion, security, energy security and national identity.

The forum's 'Pre Election Report Card', based on a 1 to 5 point grading system (1 – serious regress; 2- some regress; 3- stand still; 4-some progress; and 5-serious progress) reads as follows: established national identity – 3.5; viable social cohesion – 3.4; ever greater energy security – 3.8; ever greater general security – 2.6; developed market economics – 3.8; and, robust democratic politics – 1.875.

**UKRAINE’S GENOCIDE OF 1932-1933 - HOLODOMOR**

*Each year, the UCCA solemnly commemorates one of the darkest pages of our history – the Genocide of 1932-1933. Below please find a review of the 79th anniversary of the Holodomor.*

On November 17th, hundreds of Ukrainian Americans from around the tri-state area gathered before St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in the East Village to embark on the almost 3 mile “March of Remembrance” in memory of the 7-10 million victims of Ukraine’s Genocide of 1932-33. Under banners reading “Ukraine Remembers – The World Recognizes!” over 600 participants solemnly walked to St. Patrick’s Cathedral in midtown Manhattan where they joined the thousands already gathered there for the ecumenical requiem service to launch the 80th anniversary of Ukraine’s Genocide. An enormous bell led the procession, tolling at every block in memory of those who perished. Following the bell were members of the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Church hierarchies, Ukrainian government officials, Ukrainian American veterans, Ukrainian students, the leadership and members of numerous national and local Ukrainian organizations as well as some non-Ukrainian supporters.

The ecumenical service at St. Patrick’s Cathedral began at 1pm with a solemn procession of Holodomor survivors and children – all donned in native Ukrainian embroidered shirts and carrying a traditional Ukrainian funeral bread along with stalks of wheat – which proceeded up the main isle of the Cathedral to the altar where they reverently placed their symbolic offerings in memory of the countless victims of this tragedy. Prior to the start of the requiem service, con-celebrated by the hierarchies of the Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic Churches, with the participation of the Dumka Choir of New York, Bishop Chomnycky of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford welcomed the faithful and recounted the reasons why we gather each year at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

Following the service, UCCA President, Tamara Olexy, commenced the commemorative program. In her remarks she highlighted that “…one of the greatest mass killings of the 20th century, the Holodomor of 1932-1933, which claimed 7-10 million lives…is still not widely known today or recognized by all as an act of Genocide against the Ukrainian nation” and hoped that “During this year-
long 80th anniversary commemoration…the world will finally understand the true nature and sheer magnitude of the Holodomor and will recognize it for the genocide that it was.”

The next to speak was NY Senator Charles Schumer, who stated, “We stand here together to remember the victims of the Ukrainian genocide of 1932-1933 and never will we forget their sacrifice in the face of the brutal dictator Josef Stalin. It is our testament to say that Stalin failed in his attempts to eradicate the Ukrainian nation as witnessed by our presence here today, the fact that Ukraine is an independent country today, and by the fact that a memorial will rise in Washington DC next year.”

William Pope, Senior Advisor for Europe to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations delivered a statement from the White House Press Secretary [see White House Statement on 2nd page]. H.E. Oleksandr Motsyk, Ukraine’s Ambassador to the United States then took to the podium to deliver brief remarks stating “I am convinced that due to joint efforts of the Ukrainian state and Ukrainian-American community, we will open this memorial, which would become the symbol of the immortality and courage of the Ukrainian nation…This is our sacred duty and our responsibility for the future generations.”

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church concluded the requiem service by thanking Archbishop Timothy Dolan for graciously allowing our community to commemorate the Holodomor at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

UCCA National Office Internship Program
The UCCA National Office continues its successful internship program, providing young members of our community, as well as American students, with an opportunity to better acquaint themselves with Ukraine and gain valuable experience working on issues of concern to the Ukrainian American community. The UCCA National Office has a long-time relationship with various universities in the NYC area as well as with several national and international schools. In addition to our University Internship Program, the UCCA has as working relationship with the local Ukrainian Catholic High School – St. George Academy – where 12th grade students can volunteer their time at the National Office in order to fulfill their mandatory community service requirements before graduating. The UCCA takes great care to tailor the internship to each student’s interests and skills in an effort to provide the best work experience possible.

In 2012, the UCCA was privileged to host a number of interns from various U.S. universities, as well as, a few high school students from Saint George Academy.

UCCA BRANCHES: News from the Front Lines
Representing the interests of the Ukrainian American community in various locations, the UCCA Branches organize numerous successful events around the country. Below are just a few highlights.
UCCA Branches Combine Efforts to Host first Hugely Successful Ukrainian Heritage Night at Met’s Stadium

On June 19, UCCA Yonkers Branch partnered with UCCA New York Branch to celebrate the first annual Ukrainian Heritage Night, hosted by the New York Mets at Citifield. Over 500 Ukrainian-Americans gathered from around the tri-state area to watch as members of the community displayed the Ukrainian heritage before thousands of onlookers and accepted awards for their community service and for the spirit of Ukrainian Culture. The evening started with a performance on centerfield by Yonkers’ own Trembita Dance Ensemble. As part of the pregame show, the dance was displayed on two jumbo screens for all to see. This event was followed by the presentation of the Mets’ Spirit Award to those who have spent years in the service of the Ukrainian community. Among those recognized were UCCA Yonkers Branch President Jaroslaw Palylyk, UCCA New York Branch President Ivanka Zajac, Ihor Czernyk and Orlando and Larissa Pagan. Following the presentation, everyone enjoyed the baseball game.

To complete the experience, journalists from 1+1 International Television joined the celebration and filmed the event as part of their project to record Ukrainians from around the world. This special program was aired on August 24th to commemorate the 21st anniversary of Ukraine’s Independence.

Yonkers Hosts a Plethora of Events

In addition to co-hosting the first annual Ukrainian Heritage Night at Met’s Stadium, the UCCA Yonkers Branch hosted a plethora of events in 2012. Much of their efforts concentrated on conducting humanitarian aid projects, hosting various community events and making political inroads with the new city administration. In 2012, UCCA Yonkers Branch hosted a reception for the newly elected Mayor of Yonkers; held a film screening of “3 Stories of Galicia”, to name a few.

UCCA Yonkers Branch also dedicated much time and consideration to appropriately marking the 79th anniversary of Ukraine’s Genocide. The Branch conducted a food drive together with the Ukrainian American Youth Association, which was dedicated to the Holodomor, hosted a Photo Exhibit depicting the true story of the Holodomor, and held a requiem service to commemorate this tragic page in Ukraine’s history.

Illinois Boasts another Busy Year

By far the most notable accomplishment of the UCCA Illinois branch in 2012 was the successful undertaking of hosting the conference: Assessing Ukraine/NATO Relations On the Eve of the NATO Summit. The branch played host to a plethora of distinguished guests and panelists during the varied roundtable discussions which took place in May.

In both June and July, the branch co-organized two community protest actions in support of the Ukrainian language. As in previous years, the branch has continued to produce the Ukrainian “Vechirnia Tribyna” weekly radio program providing news, interviews and notable events in Ukrainian history and culture.
In August, the UCCA Illinois Branch held its annual Ukrainian Days festival celebrating Ukrainian independence and culture in the heart of Chicago. Members also organized a large community presence at the Ukrainian flag raising ceremony in Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago on August 24th at midday. There was quite a turn-out of community youth that day, who sacrificed their lunch hours to attend the event and proudly displayed their Ukrainian heritage by wearing embroidered shirts to work that day.

In September, UCCA Illinois Branch sponsored the Western Ukraine tour of Chicago-based Ukrainian rock ensemble “Ephyra”. The primary focus of the tour was participation in “Diaspora Fest”, which was in held in conjunction with the World Congress of Ukrainians (CKY) youth conference. The goal of the conference was Ukrainian language preservation; and the rockers from Chicago were able to show Ukrainian youth that their language is alive and well in the States.

The Branch hosted a visit from Ruslan Zabilyj director of the Lonsky Prison Museum in Lviv in October – this included a town hall meeting with the Ukrainian community, various radio and newspaper interviews, and some lucrative fundraising. Donations were collected for the Lonsky Prison Museum and for the Litopys UPA.

Long Island- celebrates the 21st anniversary of Ukraine’s Independence and much more!

On August 24th, Ukrainian flags were raised in City Halls throughout Long Island in towns such as Hempstead and Mineola to mark the 21st anniversary of Ukrainian Independence. The occasion was also celebrated on the grounds of St. Vladimir’s Parish Center in Uniondale, NY. UCCA Long Island branch also held its 2nd annual volleyball tournament, assembled and sold over 1000 dozen pierogies, and ran clothing and toy drives during the Christmas season. Proceeds from the drives were sent directly to orphanages in the Lviv Oblast of Ukraine. Finally, UCCA Long Island held several meetings throughout the year to discuss plans for Holodomor remembrance as well as support to the Holodomor Memorial in Washington, D.C.

After years of inactivity the Amsterdam, NY Branches Revitalizes

Thanks to the hard work of former UCCA Board Member, Myron Swidersky, 2012 saw the revitalization of the once active UCCA Amsterdam, NY Branch. Although small in number, the branch was very busy during this first year of its reactivization.

In May, the Ukrainian-American community in Amsterdam dedicated a three-stone monument that was erected in St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery. Funded by the Ukrainian American Citizen’s Club, the monument was set in place to remind the youth and future residents of Amsterdam where their ancestors came from as well as to inspire them to keep and carry on the traditions and culture of Ukraine. Present at the dedication were Memorial Committee Chair Ihor Rymanuk, Congressman Paul
Tonko, Amsterdam Mayor Ann Thane, Ukrainian American Citizen’s Club president Myron Swidersky, and members of the Ukrainian American community.

To mark the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor, the UCCA Amsterdam Branch organized a flag-raising ceremony on the steps of City Hall. Amsterdam Mayor, Ann Thane read a proclamation acknowledging the Ukrainian community’s influence on the city and declared the week “Ukrainian Holodomor Remembrance Week.” In addition to selling black Holodomor Remembrance wristbands, an informational display about Holodomor was exhibited at the Amsterdam Free Library.

Jersey City- Marks Holodomor Anniversary with Candlelight Procession and Program Dedicated to the Holodomor
On December 2nd, UCCA Jersey City Branch honored the victims of Holodomor with a Candle of Remembrance at Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Church. The 80th anniversary program began with a requiem service led by Father Vasil Putera and continued with the carrying and lighting of the memorial candles by members of the UCCA Jersey City Branch, UAYA, OOL, Ukrainian National???, and “Ridna Shkola” school. Afterwards those gathered heard speeches, songs, and a list of names of those who perished during the Holodomor. The program ended with a poem and the singing of the Ukrainian National Anthem.

New York City Branch: Still Going Strong…
2012 was a very busy year for the UCCA NYC Branch.
To commemorate Ukraine’s famous Bard, Taras Shevchenko, the NYC Branch organized a successful concert by hosting the Canadian Bandurist Capella in March which performed “Slovo Tarasa” to a standing-room only audience.

The Branch also expended a lot of energy in organizing several timely demonstrations protesting the backsliding of democracy in Ukraine, specifically in support of the Ukrainian language. As has become a tradition, the Branch diligently made plans to appropriately mark the 79th anniversary of Ukraine’s Genocide of 1932-1933. The branch organized a March of Remembrance to commemorate the Holodomor, and produced dozens of posters and signs, organized the local youth to participate in the march and the annual requiem service held at St. Patrick’s Cathedral and made sure that the Holodomor survivors in the area attending the requiem service.

NYC Board Members are always visible within the community throughout the year and attend numerous community events in the New York City area.

A sincere Thank You goes out to all the members of the UCCA Executive Board, National Council and UCCA Branches, for their continued guidance and cooperation. Without their support and hard work, the various UCCA projects outlined in this Annual Report would never have been so successful. Let us continue to work together for the greater good of our community and Ukraine!
**Slava Ukrainyi!**

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization as defined under Section 501 C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

All donations to the UCCA and its various committees are tax deductible.

For more information about the work of the UCCA, please visit our website at www.ucca.org

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