

2011 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 THE 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 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 2011.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT...

In 2011, Ukraine marked its 20th anniversary of renewed independence. Unfortunately, during this same year we bore witness to the backsliding of democracy, and as a result, the UCCA has had to once again concentrate its efforts on actively defending human and national rights in Ukraine.

As we watched events unfold in Ukraine, much of what we saw was eye-opening, and, almost always, prompted us to take swift and decisive action. From our efforts and the impact of our contributions we have learned just how significant our actions can be, while in other cases we have discovered how much work still needs to be done.

Although there have been setbacks with regard to Ukraine's progress toward true sovereignty, 2011 has had its share of momentous accomplishments. We are proud of the extensive work that was completed in 2011 and we hope this Annual Report will shed some light on our success throughout this past year.

In closing, I urge each and every one of you – whether you are involved in politics, education, business, culture or the arts --- to realize your immense value as an individual within this Ukrainian community, and recognize the difference that your unique contribution can make for our community as a whole, especially if we stand together as a unified front. As members of a community which for decades has vociferously opposed tyranny, we must not allow ourselves to become complacent to events unfolding in Ukraine today. At the same time we must be cognizant of the importance of maintaining our unique and wonderful heritage here in the United States. We encourage you to contribute your time and talents to unifying our efforts in attaining full human and national rights in Ukraine, as well as ensuring that our Ukrainian American community endures and prospers!

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2011...

DEFENDING HUMAN & NATIONAL RIGHTS

To defend the national and human rights of Ukrainians and protest the backsliding of democracy in Ukraine, the UCCA organized various demonstrations throughout the summer and fall of 2011. The protests were widely publicized in media outlets of Ukraine. Below are just a few highlights.

On August 10, the UCCA organized a demonstration where over 100 Ukrainian Americans gathered before Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York City to protest the severe backsliding of democracy in Ukraine. The protest also called for the immediate release of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who was charged with contempt of court and jailed a few days earlier. Many Ukrainians both in Ukraine and the West, as well as numerous Western leaders including representatives of the EU and the U.S. government, believed the charges were politically motivated to win a conviction that would render Tymoshenko ineligible to run for office in the 2012 parliamentary elections, or, against Ukraine's current president, Viktor Yanukovich, in the 2015 presidential elections.



The following month, during Victor Yanukovich's visit to New York City to participate in the 66th opening session of the UN General Assembly, the UCCA once again organized a demonstration before Ukraine's Mission to the United Nations. On the eve of the demonstration, in an attempt to dissuade participants from attending the protest, a false press release stating that the UCCA had not received a permit for the demonstration was circulated by unknown sources. This false statement did not dissuade protestors from attending, and the September 21st demonstration was a success.

During both demonstrations, the UCCA invited community leaders to address the gathering. Amid the speeches, protesters sang Ukrainian national songs, loudly condemned the anti-democratic actions of the Yanukovich regime, and called for the release of Yulia Tymoshenko and Yuriy Lutsenko, as well as the dismissal of Dmytro Tabachnyk and the impeachment of Viktor Yanukovich.

To coincide with the September 21st demonstration, the UCCA issued an Open Letter to Ukraine's president outlining many of the Ukrainian American community's concerns. The letter reads in part:

"In September of 2010 the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the umbrella organization representing over one million Americans of Ukrainian decent, addressed our concerns to you in an Open Letter. To date, the Ukrainian government, under your leadership, has done very little to address the issues and concerns brought up in the letter. Rather, the situation with regard to human and national rights has only deteriorated...

We remain hopeful that you will recognize the error of your current policies and that you will accept the burden of honest service to our people in Ukraine and abroad, by taking specific actions to change your political course and follow a path of constructive action in accordance with international standards of human and national rights, as well as in the humanitarian, judicial and economic spheres...

Today we reaffirm our position and underscore that we will continue to stand by our principles. As stated in our previous letter, we are prepared to meet with you and other government officials to engage in

constructive dialogue, but only when democratic principles are adhered to in all branches of Ukraine's government and when we detect from you a genuine concern for the Ukrainian nation and the trials that it continues to suffer...

As previously stated, the UCCA continues to be, not only fully committed to Ukraine becoming an equal partner in the global community of independent nations, but more importantly, the UCCA remains steadfast in its defense of Ukraine's interests and will continue to do so for the prosperity and welfare of our homeland, the state and the entire Ukrainian nation."

The complete text of the Open Letter can be read in both Ukrainian and English on the UCCA's website – www.ucca.org

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S RENEWED INDEPENDENCE

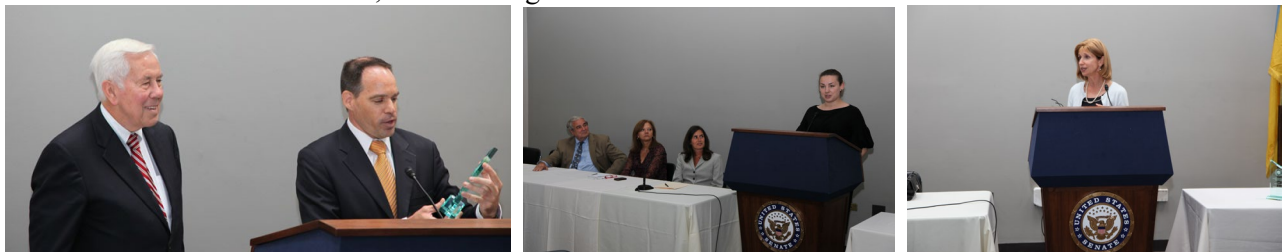
RECEPTION AT NEW YORK CITY'S UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE

On September 8th, the UCCA in cooperation with the Ukrainian Mission to the United Nations and the Consulate General of Ukraine in New York hosted a gala reception at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City to mark the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's renewed independence. The fete, which was attended by over 300 people, including dozens of foreign ambassadors, government officials and community representatives, included a short program, during which Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev of the Ukrainian Mission to the United Nations, Serhiy Pohoreltsev from the Consulate General of Ukraine in New York and Tamara Olexy, President of the UCCA, delivered remarks. The UCCA would like to thank the following credit unions for their financial assistance: Self Reliance (NY) FCU, SUMA Yonkers FCU, Selfreliance Ukrainian American FCU, Self Reliance (NJ) FCU and Ukrainian National FCU.

GALA IN WASHINGTON, DC

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), in co-sponsorship with the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, hosted a very special event commemorating the 20th anniversary of Ukrainian Independence in the United States Congress on September 15th. The celebratory event, held in a Senate conference room overlooking the dome of the United States Capitol, consisted of a luncheon as well as two panel discussions. Participating in the event were many distinguished guests including members of the Ukrainian church hierarchy, community leaders, dignitaries from various countries, numerous past and present government officials, guests from Ukraine, Members of Congress, and members of the Ukrainian American community. Everyone gathered to collectively celebrate a free and independent Ukrainian state, as well as to witness the presentation of the special "Hrushevsky Award," given to a select few for their efforts in promoting U.S.-Ukraine relations.

During the luncheon, at which the keynote speaker was the first U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, the Honorable Roman Popadiuk, the UCCA bestowed the distinguished Hrushevsky Award on the following recipients: Senator Richard Lugar, Congressman Sander Levin, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, former Congressman Don Ritter, Ambassador Roman Popadiuk, Ambassador William Green Miller, and Emily Schaffer on behalf of her father, former Congressman Bob Schaffer.



L to R: Senator Lugar receives Hrushevsky Award from UNIS Director M. Sawkiw; MP Lesya Orobets; Paula Dobriansky

Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Oleksandr Motsyk, the Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament, distinguished members of the Ukrainian-American clergy, and the youngest member of Ukraine's Parliament, the Honorable Lesya Orobets, also addressed the gathering.

The afternoon portion of the celebration included two panel discussions focusing on the role of the Ukrainian American community and the U.S. government in assisting Ukraine in attaining and sustaining its freedom. Under the title, "Perspectives on Ukraine's Independence", the panels included the following speakers: Askold Lozynskyj, Chairman of the International Conference in Support of Ukraine; the Honorable Paula Dobriansky, former Undersecretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs; Irene Jarosewich, former editor of *Svoboda* and former director of RUKH foreign media office; former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine the Honorable William Green Miller; Irene Chalupa, RFE/RL correspondent; member of Ukraine's Parliament the Hon. Lesya Orobets; Director for Disarmament and Export Control Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Oleksandr Alexandrovych; and, the UCCA's President, Tamara Olexy.

On October 16, the UCCA also presented its prestigious Hrushevsky Award to the Honorable Bill Pascrell, currently serving in his 8th term as the representative of New Jersey, 8th district, who was unable to attend the September 15th event

UCCA Branches also marked this historic date in Ukraine's history. A few local events are highlighted in the Branch section of this annual report.

78TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLODOMOR

The Holodomor is an extremely important issue for the UCCA and the Ukrainian American community.

Over the years, the UCCA National Office, UNIS and our UCCA Branches have worked diligently to expose the true nature of the Holodomor by educating the public through various means.

REQUIEM SERVICE AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

On November 19th, thousands of Ukrainian Americans gathered at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City to commemorate the 78th anniversary of Ukraine's Genocide. Accompanied by the Dumka Choir of New York, under the direction of Vasyl Hrychynsky, children from local Ukrainian Saturday Schools and the NY Chapter of the Ukrainian American Youth Association began this year's requiem service with a solemn procession to the altar, where they placed stalks of wheat and flowers around the *Holodomor* Remembrance Candle. His Beatitude Sviatoslav, the newly elected Patriarch of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, then led the requiem service, con-celebrated by the hierarchies of the Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic Churches.



His Beatitude Sviatoslav and Religious hierarchy at St. Patrick's; Members of the Ukrainian Youth Organization CYM

Following the requiem service, prominent guest speakers addressed the gathered including His Eminence Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., UCCA President Tamara Olexy, who also served as MC, and New York's Senior Senator Charles Schumer who expressed his heartfelt sentiments to the victims and their families and reminded those gathered that "we have a moral responsibility to never forget and a moral responsibility to make sure the world knows the truth." Other speakers included, William Pope, Senior Advisor for Europe to the U.S. Mission to the UN, H.E. Oleksandr Motsyk, Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. and His Excellency Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy in

Stamford, who concluded the service with a prayer of remembrance for the millions of innocent victims, after which the Dumka Choir of New York sang “Bozhe Velykyj.”

UCCA TESTIFIES BEFORE MASSACHUSETTS JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

On June 14th, the Joint Committee on Education of the State of Massachusetts held a public hearing to discuss the curriculum. Taking advantage of this opportunity, the Massachusetts *Holodomor* Committee and the UCCA Boston Branch organized a panel of presenters in support of bills H. 1076 and S. 234 which would require the instruction of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933 in the public schools of the Commonwealth. .



Panelists testifying before Massachusetts Joint Committee on Education

Panelists included: Massachusetts *Holodomor* Committee Chair and UCCA Boston Branch Board Member Paul Rabchenuk, UCCA President Tamara Olexy, Chairman of the U.S. Committee to Commemorate Ukraine’s Genocide of 1932-1933 Michael Sawkiw, Jr., Pastor of the Christ of King Ukrainian Catholic Church Father Nalysnik, and Alisa Raniuk, who testified on behalf of her grandmother, a *Holodomor* survivor. All the panelists urged the Committee to support the bills and highlighted the moral implications of why teaching about the *Holodomor* was critical.

COMMUNITY FORUMS AND CONFERENCES

An important aspect of the UCCA’s work is hosting guests from Ukraine by organizing meetings with their counterparts in the United States as well as with the Ukrainian American community. 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 2011, the UCCA organized several such forums, of which a few are highlighted below.

VOLODYMYR ARIEV

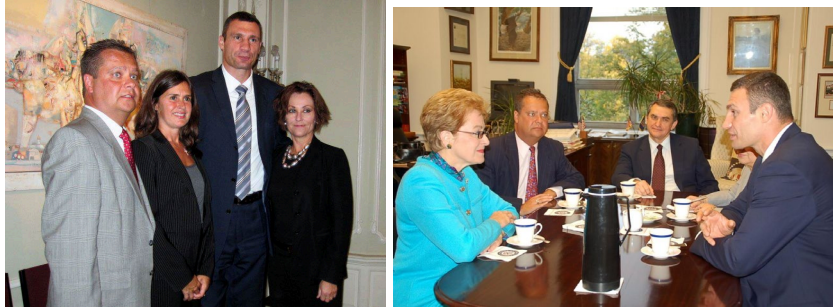
In February the UCCA organized several community meetings for well-known investigative journalist and opposition Member of Parliament, Volodymyr Arieiev. Mr. Arieiev shared his perspectives on the current political situation in Ukraine by speaking about the backsliding of democracy that has occurred since Yanukovich became president. He highlighted the current threat to press freedoms and the political arrests and persecutions of opposition legislators.

LESIA OROBETS

September 18th, one of Ukraine’s youngest members of Parliament, Lesia Orobets spoke in New York City. As a member of Ukraine’s opposition, she addressed the current state of affairs in Ukraine, and concentrated her remarks on the upcoming 2012 parliamentary elections, the election law and the need to reform Ukraine’s educational system.

COMMUNITY EVENT WITH VITALY KLYCHKO, THE POLITICIAN

On Thursday, October 13th, the UCCA, in co-sponsorship with the Ukrainian Institute of America, hosted a special evening discussion and reception with Vitali Klychko.



L to R: UCCA Executive Board members with Klychko; Klychko with Congresswoman Kaptur

As leader of the Political Party “Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms”(UDAR – which means “punch” in Ukrainian), Mr. Klychko discussed the problems that Ukraine is facing today, the political goals of UDAR and the vision of his party for the future. Following his speech and a Q&A session, Vitali was kind enough to sign autographs and take pictures with those in attendance, after which the guests enjoyed an elegant reception.

SEMINAR WITH GUEST SPEAKER ROMAN KRUTSYK, HISTORIAN & ARCHIVIST

On November 10, at New York University’s Torch Club, scholars, community leaders and the general public had an opportunity to hear, perhaps for the first time, that following WWI an active liberation movement existed not only in western Ukraine but also in the eastern half of the country. The special Ukrainian Historical Encounters Series event, entitled “The People’s War: National Liberation Struggles in Eastern Ukraine (1917-1932)” was opened by Dr. Walter Zaryckyj who provided a brief overview of the Series and then introduced the evening’s guest speaker Mr. Roman Kruttsyk, President of the Kyiv Memorial Society and Director of the Museum of Soviet Occupation.



L to R: Stepan Kaczurak, Walter Zaryckyj, Tamara Olexy, Roman Kruttsyk, Yuri Symczyk, Adrian Dlaboha; R. Kruttsyk

Accompanied by a slide show presentation, Mr. Kruttsyk opened his remarks with the compelling assertion that following renewed independence in 1991 Ukraine began its new life without a political history. He explained that generations of Ukraine’s citizens had been raised on a history that was written by their occupiers, and that most archival materials pertaining to Ukraine’s resistance to Soviet occupation were banned and marked “secret.”

Reviewing thousands of documents convinced Mr. Kruttsyk that the armed national liberation movement in eastern Ukraine was proportionally just as large and widespread as the activities of the OUN and the UPA.

Based on years of research and archival material located in the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, Mr. Kruttsyk resolutely refuted the Soviet myth that Ukraine “voluntarily” joined the USSR, stating that “the seizure of Ukraine was carried out exclusively by force.” Concentrating his remarks on insurgency movements in Soviet Ukraine from 1918-1933, Mr. Kruttsyk concluded that resistance to Soviet rule in eastern Ukraine was Stalin’s primary motive for ordering the Holodomor of 1932-1933.

The event was sponsored by: American Conference in Support of Ukraine, Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms of Ukraine, Women’s Association in Defense of Four Freedoms of Ukraine; Ukrainian American Youth Association, Society of Veterans of UPA, National Tribune, and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL DISASTER

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster, the UCCA's President participated in the 20th International Conference on Health and the Environment "Chornobyl – Lessons for Nuclear Security, 25 Years Later", at the United Nations. Ms. Olexy reported on the Ukrainian American community's work in aiding the victims of the Chornobyl tragedy, both morally by exposing the truth about the disaster through various programs and publications, as well as monetarily through fundraising and humanitarian aid projects. An abstract of the UCCA President's speech can be found on UCCA's website at www.ucca.org.

Additionally, on May 4th the UCCA co-sponsored, with the Embassy of Ukraine and the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, a conference in the United States Senate. Michael Sawkiw, UNIS Director, served as the MC for the conference during which the following individuals delivered remarks: H.E. Ichiro Fujisake, Ambassador of Japan to the U.S.; H.E. Zygimantas Pavilionis, Ambassador of Lithuania to the U.S.; Vann H. Van Diepen, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nonproliferation; Alice Kiple, Central and East European Coalition; and Tamara Olexy, UCCA President. The morning's keynote speech was delivered by Viktor Baloha, Ukraine's Minister of Emergency Situation. The Conference also included several afternoon panels which discussed the health, energy, ecological and environmental effects of Chornobyl.

UKRAINIAN MINORITY IN RUSSIA WORKING GROUP DINNER

On July 19th, the UCCA together with the Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations and the American Foreign Policy Council, sponsored a U.S.-Ukraine Working Group dinner at the University Club in Washington, DC to discuss the dire situation of the nearly 10 million strong Ukrainian diaspora in the Russian Federation.

The Symposium included presentations by Askold Lozynskyj, former Ukrainian World Congress and Ukrainian Congress Committee of America president, and Rev. Leo Goldade former Consulter-General of the OSBM, during which they highlighted the alarming lack of human, cultural and religious rights of the Ukrainian community residing within the Russian Federation. They concentrated their remarks on the unfounded closing of various Ukrainian NGO organizations, the inability of the Ukrainian community to organize Ukrainian language schools, as well as the suppressed Ukrainian Catholic Church, which is legally unable to exist. Due to the fact that many in Washington's policy establishment were unaware of this dire situation, the UCCA was pleased that the response to the symposium was not only positive but also garnered much interest and support among those present.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTING UKRAINE'S BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH POLAND AND TURKEY

On October 19-20, the UCCA co-hosted, together with the Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations, the "Ukraine's Quest for Mature Nation Statehood Roundtable" forum, held annually in our nation's capital. This year's forum addressed two bilateral relationships that carry deep political and economic significance as well as powerful cultural and historic meaning to Ukraine. The Roundtable event focused on the interrelations of Ukraine and Poland (which presently holds the presidency of the EU), as well as Turkey (which has been a very significant player with a growing economy in the Middle East). Strengthening these bilateral relations can prove to be important in Ukraine's political and economic development as well as Ukraine's stated goal of integration into the European Union, which were highlighted during the various panel discussions.

This twelfth conference of its kind brought together key government and non-governmental representatives from Ukraine, Poland, Turkey, the European Union and the United States to discuss the compelling bilateral relationships in the broader context of seeking a Europe whole, free and prosperous. The event began with words of welcome from Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S., Oleksandr Motysyk, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Poland to the U.S., Maciej Pisarski; and Consular of the Embassy of Turkey to the U.S., Huseyin Dogan. The evening's keynote speakers included Baxter Hunt, Director of Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus at the U.S. Department of State, and James Sherr, Director of Eurasia

Programs at Chatham House. Following the presentations, the UCCA bestowed its prestigious Hrushevsky Award to the Honorable John Herbst, for his efforts in promoting U.S.-Ukraine relations during his tenure as U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine.

The following day, over two dozen featured speakers addressed the conference including: Former US National Security Advisor, Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski; Ambassador of Ukraine to Turkey, Serhiy Korsunsky; Member of Euro-Parliament, Pawel Zalewski; Former Minister of Defense of Poland, Janusz Onyszkiewicz; Dep. Head of the Dept on Euro Integration, Presidential Administration of Ukraine, Yevhen Burkat; as well as members of Ukraine's opposition including: Volodymyr Arieu (National Self Defense Electoral Bloc), Mychajlo Sokolov (Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc), Oleh Rybachuk (New Citizen), Valentyn Nalyvaichenko ('Our Ukraine' Bloc) and Borys Tarasyuk (RUKH).



L To R: UCCA President T. Olexy & UWC General Secretary S. Romaniw; Zbigniew Brzezinski

We sincerely thank the conference sponsors, namely: Self Reliance (NY) FCU, Self Reliance (NJ) FCU, Cleveland Selfreliance FCU, SUMA Yonkers FCU, Ukrainian National FCU, Ukrainian Home Dnipro FCU, The Heritage Foundation of 1st Security Bank, Ukrainian National Association and American Foreign Policy Council.

NOVA UKRAINSKA KHVYLIA JOINS UCCA

In June, the UCCA National Council, the highest governing body of the UCCA between the organization's quadrennial Congresses, voted to accept the New Ukrainian Wave, Inc. (Nova Ukrainska Khvyliya) as a full-fledged member of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. At the June 11th National Council meeting the UCCA Membership Committee reported that after meeting with the officers of the New Ukrainian Wave and thoroughly reviewing all documents submitted by them, legal and otherwise, it recommended their admission as full-fledged UCCA members. Pursuant to UCCA Bylaws, the question was put to a formal vote and by a show of hands the motion to admit passed unanimously.

Following the vote, UCCA's President, Tamara Olexy warmly welcomed the decision of the National Council stating, "We are thrilled that Nova Ukrainska Khvyliya is joining the UCCA family... we look forward to working together for the benefit of the Ukrainian American community and Ukraine. The UCCA recognizes the pressing need for our Ukrainian community to stand strong and united because only from such a position of mutual cooperation and strength can Ukrainian Americans speak with a powerful, united voice in the public arena. And for such unity to flourish, we must endeavor to include our newest immigrants into the ranks of our established organizations in the United States."

UCCA BLESSES RENOVATED OFFICE

On June 11 the UCCA officially blessed its newly renovated office after months of repairs and renovations following the August 2010 building fire. UCCA President Tamara Olexy, warmly welcomed the many Board Members and friends in attendance, and gave special thanks to the UCCA members, branches and credit unions that donated to the UCCA Fire Fund, which greatly helped renovate the National Office. Following the blessing officiated by Father Kyrylo of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City, guests sang "Mnohaya Lita" and were invited to a champagne toast followed by a reception during which they were given a tour of the newly renovated UCCA National Office.

We sincerely thank all those who donated to the UCCA Fire Fund, including: UCCA Branches in NYC, Long Island, Riverhead, NY and Bridgeport, CT; Self Reliance (NY) Federal Credit Union, SUMA Yonkers FCU, Ukrainian National FCU and Self Reliance (NJ) FCU, The National Board of Selfreliance Association; and UCCA members and friends specifically, M. Lozynskyj, A. Zynych, Y. Oberyshyn, A. Blashkiw, L. Kyj, M. Kokolska, B. Halahan, A. Mulak, H. Charuk, M. Wasylyk, Mr. & Mrs. Pyl, Mr. & Mrs. Brodyn, N. Duma, I. Kurowycky, and E. Ivashkiv.

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS

As a founding and integral member of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), the UCCA actively participates in the work of this world umbrella organization, which represents the interests of the over 20 million Ukrainians outside of Ukraine.

ANNUAL MEETING

On August 21st -23rd, UWC convened its annual 2 day meeting at Kyiv Mohyla Academy in Kyiv, Ukraine, where reports were rendered from the UWC Executive Board, Councils, Commissions and International Member organizations. UCCA's President, Tamara Olexy reported on the work of the UCCA over the past year. Additionally during the annual meeting, Ms. Olexy and Paul Grod, President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, prepared a presentation regarding the upcoming 2012 parliamentary elections in Ukraine and the need to host a large delegation of International Election Observers. Their proposal was discussed and approved by the UWC's Board.



Prior to the UWC annual meeting, UCCA Board members actively participated in the 5th All Ukrainian World Congress, where Mychajlo Ratushnyj was elected Chairman.

HOSTING UWC'S PRESIDENT IN NYC

On October 5, the UCCA organized a working dinner with Eugene Czolij, President of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) and community leaders in New York City. Mr. Czolij presented the work of the UWC over the past year and its plans going forward. These include the continued support of Ukraine's Euro-integration, the defense of human and national rights of Ukrainians in Ukraine and abroad, the Annual General Meeting decision to open a UWC office in Kyiv and the organizing of an international observer mission to monitor Ukraine's Parliamentary elections in 2012.



UCCA Board members and community leaders with UWC President, E. Czolij

There was also an engaging discussion on how UWC member organizations can most effectively support the work of the UWC and Ukrainian communities worldwide that require assistance.

2011 – A REFLECTION FROM WASHINGTON

The year 2011 brought many unique opportunities for UNIS to expand its objectives in Washington, DC, as it was a year of many anniversaries and “firsts.” As the primary objective of UNIS’ presence in our nation’s capital is to promote the concerns of our community, the concluding year saw UNIS in the forefront of commemorations, celebrations, and monitoring new issues in Ukraine.

In what has become a ritual in the springtime in Washington, the Ukrainian National Information Service sponsored the annual “*Ukrainian Days*” advocacy event in April of 2011. Detailed preparation went into the successful completion of the event, which featured a dynamic group of community activists from throughout the country traveling to Washington, DC to knock on congressional doors to meet with their elected representatives and deliver our message. The theme and focus of the 2011 “*Ukrainian Days*” was ‘commitment’ – the commitment of the United States, as a strategic partner of Ukraine, to stand together with the Ukrainian people as they experience dangerous backsliding of their democratic rights. Briefing papers were prepared and distributed to the congressional offices dealing with a wide range of issues: Civil Liberties Violations in Ukraine; U.S. Foreign Assistance to Ukraine; the 25th Anniversary of the Chornobyl Nuclear Explosion; recognition of the Ukrainian *Holodomor* as a Genocide; Membership in the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus; and, the 20th Anniversary of Ukraine’s restored Independence in 1991. “*Ukrainian Days*” participants also had an opportunity to interact with other non-congressional foreign policy advisors from the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) and the Heritage Foundation.

Much focus and consideration were given to the current developments in Ukraine, including the underpinning of democratic rights in that country. As a clearinghouse of information for congressional offices, UNIS consistently briefed Members of Congress about unfair and unjust actions in Ukraine. Congressional concern for the imprisonment of the former Prime Minister of Ukraine, Yuliya Tymoshenko, resulted in significant retribution, including a resolution condemning her arrest and detainment and letters written to the Ukrainian government and U.S. Department of State. These issues underscored UNIS’ resolve to advocate for greater transparency in Ukraine and bring public attention to an otherwise bleak political environment in that country.

The Ukrainian community’s Washington connection was also prominently exhibited in various anniversary commemorations in the U.S. Congress, the highlight of which was the observance of Ukraine’s 20th anniversary of independence. Participants filled into a Senate room overlooking the U.S. Capitol to partake in a special event honoring Members of Congress and U.S. government officials who have remarkably dedicated their efforts in promoting greater awareness of Ukraine. Honorees of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America’s (UCCA) “Hrushevsky Award” participating in the event included prominent officials such as the Ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Honorable Richard Lugar (R-IN); Congressional Ukrainian Caucus co-chairs, Representatives Sander Levin (D-MI) and Marcy Kaptur (D-OH); former Member of Congress Bob Schaffer (R-CO) and Don Ritter (R-PA); as well as, former U.S. ambassadors to Ukraine Roman Popadiuk and William Miller. Their words of encouragement and hope for greater U.S.-Ukraine relations sparked exuberant reaction and applause from the audience.

Other anniversaries observed in Washington included the commemoration of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster. Twenty-five years later, UNIS and the Congressional Ukrainian caucus co-sponsored a day-long congressional briefing on the lingering effects of the nuclear disaster in Ukraine in 1986. The Ukrainian National Information Service brought together foremost specialists from the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Institute of Health, physicians, environmental groups, and authors to discuss the role of societal and governmental efforts to mitigate Chornobyl’s aftereffects. In light of the tragic events at the Fukushima nuclear facility in March 2011, the ambassador of Japan cordially joined in the congressional observance to relate his country’s experience, similar to that what Ukraine experienced twenty-five years ago.

Notwithstanding the exuberance of the congressional reception for Ukraine’s independence, the Washington area was also fortunate to partake in a first-ever event – the visit of the newly-elected Patriarch of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav. Facilitated by UNIS, the Patriarch’s two-day

agenda was filled with congressional, administration, and non-governmental meetings geared towards relating the current climate in Ukraine. During the meetings, the role of religious organizations in Ukraine was significantly portrayed by the Patriarch as a conduit to social issues and government interference. The Patriarch's initial stop in Washington included the blessing of the land on which the future Ukrainian Famine-Genocide Memorial will be erected.



L to R: His Beatitude meets with Congresswoman Kaptur; Meeting with M. Verveer; 2011 Ukrainian Day participants with Congressman Quigley.

The latter months of 2011 also saw the future of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide Memorial become more apparent. After months of bureaucracy, progress was finally made in selecting a featured design for the future memorial in Washington, DC. This issue has always been of particular importance to the Ukrainian National Information Service in monitoring its evolution from a bill in Congress, to a signed law by President Bush in 2006, and now on a path to becoming reality. In its infant stages, the project will require more government hearings and regulatory overview, though it is expected to be completed during the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide (*Holodomor*).



The Holodomor Memorial Design

The Ukrainian National Information Service also actively contributes to the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC). The CEEC participated in a wide array of government meetings addressing many topics of concerns for the Central and East European communities in the United States, as well as sponsored a congressional briefing session dedicated to the upcoming NATO Summit in Chicago in May 2012. Featured prominently in the CEEC's efforts was a joint advocacy event in September 2011, which brought representatives from various communities to Washington to advocate for a greater role in U.S. engagement in the region. Together with our other communities, UNIS was able to focus on issues concerning Russia's influence in the Central and East European region, in particular Ukraine, and advocacy of the Ukrainian Holodomor as a genocide against the Ukrainian nation.

UNIS recognizes that to be relevant with the newest generations in our community, it, too, had to join the social media mainstream. In the spring of 2011, UNIS joined Facebook to enhance its capabilities of delivering information and as a medium for an exchange of ideas. This tool helps UNIS interact digitally with those interested in the foreign policy environment in Washington, DC. To follow UNIS on Facebook, search for 'Ukrainian National Information Service' and get first-hand posts from Washington.

UCCA BRANCHES: NEWS FROM THE FRONT LINES

One of the biggest projects in 2011 was to appropriately culminate the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the UCCA and honorably mark the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence. These events were successfully done by various UCCA Branches around the country. Below are just a few highlights.

UCCA NEW YORK HOSTS CONCLUDING GALA CELEBRATING UCCA'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY... AMIDST VARIOUS PROTESTS...

To mark the 70th anniversary of the UCCA, the NYC Branch hosted a celebratory event on May 21st aboard *The Jewel*, a 120 foot chartered yacht. After the 70th anniversary program which included speakers and a slide presentation of the UCCA's history, over 100 guests enjoyed a buffet luncheon, music, dancing and spectacular views of Manhattan from the boat's canopied deck.



Photos from 70th Anniversary of UCCA Cruise hosted by the NYC Branch

2011 was a very busy year for the UCCA NYC Branch. The Branch assisted the Executive Board in organizing the various demonstrations protesting the anti-democratic policies of the Yanukovych regime, hosted a variety of community events with special guests from Ukraine, actively participated in the "Ukrainian Days" advocacy program, the requiem service marking the 78th anniversary of the Holodomor at St. Patrick's Cathedral, and greeted the Ivano-Frankivsk Theater during their traveling performance of the play "Solodka Darusia."

SYRACUSE MARKS 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

On August 24th the Ukrainian Community in Syracuse, NY marked the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's renewed independence with a flag-raising ceremony before city hall. Mayor Stefanie Miner opened the ceremony which was followed by a Benediction by Rev. Borislav Kroner, Pastor of St. Luke's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and the singing of the Ukrainian National Anthem. The event's key note speaker was Pat Burak, Ph.D., director of the Lillian and Emanuel Slutzker Center for International Services. The Odesa Dance Ensemble under the direction of Slawka Bobesky, entertained those gathered, before UCCA Syracuse Branch President Orest Hrycyk provided closing remarks.



FOR THE 55TH YEAR IN A ROW UCCA NASSAU COUNTY (LONG ISLAND) MARKS UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

On August 24th, Independence Day celebrations began with brunch at St. Vladimir's Parish Center in Uniondale. Everyone then gathered around the Hon. Kate Murray, longtime Supervisor of the Town of Hempstead, who welcomed the large group of Ukrainian Americans and friends on the front steps of Town

Hall. The assembly included a number of school children, dressed in embroidered shirts, eager to participate in this first flag-raising of the day. At 10:30 am, Ms. Murray, a former New York State Legislator, was joined by the Hon. Mark Bonilla, Hempstead Town Clerk, to present the Anniversary Proclamation for the occasion. The Ukrainian National Anthem rang out as Ukraine's blue and yellow flag was raised by Supervisor Murray, and assisted by UCCA Chapter President Stepan Kunitsky.

At 12:30 pm, everyone reconvened on the front steps of the grand Theodore Roosevelt Nassau County Executive and Legislative Building in the county seat of Mineola, NY, where they were again personally greeted by the Hon. Ed Mangano, Nassau County Executive. He was joined by representatives of the County Legislature.



Elsewhere on the Island, the UCCA Chapter helped arrange such festivities as: a traditional flag-raising at Oyster Bay Town Hall with the participation of another stalwart friend of the Ukrainian American communitiy, the Hon. John Venditto, Town Supervisor, who also issued a special Proclamation for the occasion. On the eastern end of Suffolk County, the E North Port Chapter assisted UCCA-Riverhead Chapter with their programs at Riverhead Town Hall and also at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church. And in Lindenhurst, the Chapter assisted Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Parish, where during the past decade Fr. Mykola Popovych has developed a large, flourishing community. Joining these events were the Hon. Thomas A. Brennan, Lindenhurst Mayor; the Hon. Steve Levy, Suffolk County Executive; and, Congressman Peter King (R-NY).



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 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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Should you like to donate to the UCCA please send checks/money orders to:

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