



UCCA BULLETIN

August 2015 ... Our 75th Anniversary Year

ANOTHER “UKRAINIAN DAYS” ADVOCACY EVENT SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES

On July 16, the UCCA’s Washington, DC bureau, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), hosted its second “Ukrainian Days” Advocacy event of 2015 in our nation’s capital. Over two dozen members of the Ukrainian community from 6 states participated in the program, which began with a morning briefing session with presentations by former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst, currently the director of the Eurasia Center at the Atlantic Council; Senior Policy Analyst for Eurasia at the Open Society Foundations, Jeff Goldstein; and, the coordinator of the Ukraine Crisis Media Center, Vasyl Myroshnychenko. His Excellency John Bura, Auxiliary Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church – Philadelphia Archeparchy led the participants in a prayer for Ukraine and the welfare of the Ukrainian American community. Briefing papers were distributed to all the participants on topics such as: military assistance to Ukraine; ‘How Congress Can Assist Ukraine’ (which included an overview of legislation for Ukraine); membership in the Congressional Ukrainian and Senate Ukraine Caucuses; and, information regarding the Holodomor Memorial dedication ceremonies.

Throughout the day, “Ukrainian Day” participants met with more than 20 offices in the Senate and House of Representatives and staff, among them: Rep. B.Pascrell (D-NJ); Sen. K. Gillibrand (D-NY); Sen. R. Menendez (D-NJ); Rep. C. Maloney (D-NY); Rep. R. Frelinghuysen (R-NJ); Sen. M. Cantwell (D-WA); Rep. C. Dent (R-PA); Rep. G. Meng (D-NY); Rep. S. DelBene (D-WA); Sen. P. Toomey (D-PA); Rep. T. Walberg (R-MI); Sen. B. Casey (D-PA); Rep. N. Lowey (D-NY); Rep. R. Larsen (D-WA); Rep. L. Slaughter (D-NY); Rep. P. Meehan (D-PA); Rep. J. Carney (D-DE); Rep. A. Smith (D-WA); Rep. M. Fitzpatrick (R-PA); Rep. C. McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); Rep. D. Reichert (R-WA); Sen. P. Murray (D-WA); and, Sen. C. Schumer (D-NY). Most Members of Congress joined their respective staffers to acquaint themselves with the community representatives’ concerns regarding U.S.-Ukraine relations.



Participants of the “Ukrainian Day”

Following a successful day of meetings, a special reception was held in the House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee hearing room. In conjunction with the advocacy event, UNIS presented the “Friend of UNIS” award to the following representatives: Congressional Ukrainian Caucus co-chair Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA) for his leadership at the helm of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, his sponsorship of House resolutions on Ukraine and his support of Ukraine-related initiatives in Congress; and, Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), Chairman of the House of Representatives Defense Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, who oversaw the passage of H.R.2685, the House Defense Appropriations Bill which included \$200 million of security assistance for Ukraine. Congressional Ukrainian Caucus co-chairs Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) and Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI) also attended the reception, as did Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI). The highlight of the evening were the remarks delivered by Natalie Jaresko, Ukraine’s Minister of Finance, who “thanked all the supporters of Ukraine in Congress and especially the Ukrainian diaspora for not forgetting about a country which is fighting for its survival and preserving its independence.”

UCCA MEETS WITH LITHUANIA’S AMBASSADOR



On July 14th, the UCCA President and National Office Assistant Director attended a working breakfast meeting at the Ukrainian Institute with a longtime friend of Ukraine and the Ukrainian American community, His Excellency Mr. Žygimantas Pavilionis, Ambassador of Lithuania to the U.S.

Ambassador Pavilionis provided the community with sound advice on how to continue aiding Ukraine. He closed with the promise that he will continue working to assist Ukraine, and that his ultimate goal is for Ukraine to join the European Union and the family of democratic nations.

UCCA CO-HOSTS UKRAINIAN CONSTITUTION DAY

On June 29th, the UCCA and the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN co-hosted a reception at the Ukrainian Institute of America for the UN Diplomatic corps and leaders of the Ukrainian community to commemorate Ukrainian Constitution Day and showcase Ukrainian talent.

Ukraine's Ambassador to the UN, Yuriy Sergeyev, welcomed the over fifty ambassadors and representatives to the UN, as well as, leaders of the community, stating, "Today my country is celebrating a great national holiday - the Day of Constitution of Ukraine. For 19 years the Fundamental Law has been the legal basis for Ukraine's statehood, development of the society and strengthening of the democracy. During the Revolution of Dignity the citizens came out in the streets of Ukraine to protect their constitutional rights against the usurpation of power. Today Ukrainians are also defending the unshakable values provisioned by the Fundamental Law: independence and territorial integrity of the country that are being severely challenged by Russia's aggression against Ukraine..."

Speaking on behalf of the Ukrainian American community, UCCA President Tamara Olexy reflected upon the history of democracy in Ukraine, noting "the deep-rooted democratic ideals that have forged Ukraine as a nation – from its very first Constitution written in 1710 by Pylyp Orlyk" whose ... main theme, was complete independence for Ukraine, emphasizing that this "continues to be the foundation upon which modern-day Ukraine rests. And unfortunately, after almost 24 years of renewed independence, Ukraine still wrestles with the threat of foreign domination, specifically, present-day Russian occupation and aggression which continues to threaten Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity." Following her comments, Ms. Olexy introduced the evening's guest speaker, Judge Bohdan Futey, one of the consultants of Ukraine's 1996 Constitution and current member of the Constitutional Commission. Judge Futey provided an overview of Ukraine's adoption of the 1996 Constitution through the current crisis. Remaining optimistic, he concluded, "Hopefully...the Revolution of Dignity will be an irrevocable incentive and mandate for the implementation of the individual constitutional rights. And that will make us proud to be part of this Ukrainian experience as the country moves forward with reforms to integrate with the European Union."

Following the remarks, an artistic program entitled "Transforming Shared Vision into Action for Peace" commenced with a special concert featuring three pianists - Khrystyna Mykailichenko, Yevhen Motorenko and Dmytro Sukhovienko who inspired the audience with their moving performances. To read in more detail about the event, please visit the UCCA website at www.ucca.org

UAYA CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF "OSELYA CYM"

On Saturday, July 25th the Executive Board of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA) celebrated the 60th anniversary of its resort in the Catskill Mountains in Ellenville, NY – Oselya CYM. The celebration was attended by many representatives of Ukrainian American organizations, as well as Ukrainian Credit Unions but above all - the youth - those whose parents, many of whom have already passed away, built the resort, those who spent their summers here at camps, who met and married here ... for many it was a second home ...

Today, Oselya CYM welcomes their children and grandchildren who attend the various UAYA camps, where they speak Ukrainian, learn about Ukraine's history and culture and are introduced to modern Ukraine.



L to R: R. Lozynskyy, UCCA Chair of External Affairs; G. Mykytyn, UAYA President; M. Duplak, UCCA Executive Secretary.

The UCCA Executive Board congratulates its member organization UAYA on the 60th anniversary of their work with the youth at Oselya CYM. We rejoice in the fact that educating the youth is your most prominent mission, because only patriotic and involved young individuals will ensure a bright future for the Ukrainian American community.

We wish you, dear UAYA members, inspiration and strength in defending Ukrainian affairs in the U.S. It is important for the Ukrainian youth of America to not stand idly by, but rather to celebrate the heritage of their ancestors and share it with their descendants. The UAYA is an organization that can engage the Ukrainian youth on an intellectual level and unite them on behalf of our community's noble and common cause - to inform the US government, and all of its citizens of Ukraine's rich culture, history and traditions. May God bless you and your continued work!

**Chest Ukrayiny! Hotov Boronyty!
Stand Ready to Defend Ukraine's Honor!**