

UCCA SPEAKS AT THE UN HOLODOMOR CONFERENCE

On December 9th, Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, along with the UCCA, hosted an event to commemorate the 82nd anniversary of Ukraine's Holodomor at the United Nations. Following a short clip from the well-known "Harvest of Despair" film, Ukraine's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev, eloquently explained the importance of marking this tragic page in Ukraine's history.

Ms. Olexy, then took to the microphone and thanked the UN General Assembly for passing a resolution establishing December 9th as the *International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime*, stating that "...the UN General Assembly symbolically chose the date December 9 to coincide with the anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which legally outlawed genocide on this day in 1948...The passage of this resolution adds to the continued efforts of the Ukrainian American community in honoring the innocent victims of genocide and marks an important step in promoting and strengthening international awareness and commitment to preventing genocide from ever happening again."



L to R: Ukraine's Permanent Representative to the UN, Amb. Yuriy Sergeyev; UCCA President Tamara Olexy.



Performers at the UN Holodomor Commemoration

Following the remarks, with many invited ambassadors and guests in attendance, students from the "Self Reliance" School of Ukrainian Studies recited poems and the Saint George Academy Choir concluded the program with the singing of several moving songs.

UCCA HIGHLIGHTS UKRAINE'S ROLE AT SEMINAR ON SECURITY AND TRADE

On December 4th a seminar on "The Future of Baltic Nordic Security and Trade: Sustaining and Strengthening U.S. Engagement in the Region" took place at New York City's Scandinavia House. The seminar, organized by the American Latvian Association (ALA) and the Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC), featured insights from Estonian diplomat and Member of Parliament, Eerik-Niiles Kross; Lane Darnell Bahl from the U.S. Mission to the United Nations; Daily Beast Senior Editor and New York Times best-selling author Michael Weiss; noted Putin critic, best-selling author and CEO of Hermitage Capital Management, Bill Browder; Ilmārs Breidaks, Deputy Chief of Mission from the Embassy of Latvia to the U.S.; and Julius Pranevičius, Consul General of the Republic of Lithuania in NY. Offering a Ukrainian perspective on trade and security was Andrij Dobriansky, UCCA Board Member.



A. Dobriansky on right during the panel discussion

Following introductions, two panel discussions ensued: "Baltic and Nordic Concerns and Cooperation in the new Security Agreement," and "Sustaining Baltic Economic Growth in the Context of Sanctions and Counter-Sanction Battle." It was primarily in the context of European sanctions and economic security that the topic of Ukraine dominated the discussion; being the largest country in Europe, and critical to energy transit and trade at the EU's border. Key themes of the discussion included the efficacy of sanctions against a regime such as Putin's Russia, the success, thus far, of the Baltic economies two decades after liberation from the Soviet Union, and the precarious state of economies neighboring a state involved in eight external conflict zones. Additionally, Mr. Dobriansky highlighted Ukraine's reform process and brought attention to Ukraine's growing tech sector and under-utilized agricultural potential (which is also expanding in certain sectors).

The UCCA would like to thank the ALA and JBANC for coordinating the event, and we look forward to continuing our cooperation.

UCCA EXECUTIVE BOARD SETS ANNIVERSARIES FOR 2016

The UCCA Executive Board would like to inform our Branches, members and the greater Ukrainian American community that during 2016, there are several important anniversaries to mark, including:

April 26 - 30th Anniversary of Chernobyl

May 23 – 125th Anniversary of the birth of E. Konovalets

May 28 – 100th Anniversary of the death of Ivan Franko

June 28 - Ukrainian Constitution Day 20th anniversary

June 30 – 75th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Ukrainian Independence (Lviv 1941) – forerunner of Ukraine's 1991 independence

June 30th – 25th Anniversary of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis Declaration of Sovereignty

August 24 - 25th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence

September 29 – 150th Anniversary of the birth of Mykhailo Hrushevsky

September 29/30 – 75th Anniversary of Babyn Yar
The UCCA urges our community to appropriately mark these important historical dates. UCCA official statements will be available in a timely manner on our website at www.ucca.org for your use.

CHAIR OF NATIONAL HOLODOMOR COMMITTEE AWARDED

On behalf of Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko, Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S., Valeriy Chaly, presented Michael Sawkiw, Chair of the National Holodomor Committee, with a Commemorative Holodomor Coin in recognition of all the work that was done to bring the Holodomor Memorial to fruition.



L to R: M. Sawkiw, Amb. Chaly, Mrs. Chaly

Following Divine Liturgy at Holy Family UCC in Washington, DC, His Beatitude Patriarch Sviatoslav, in the presence of bishops and the faithful, gave Mr. Sawkiw a Metropolitan Sheptytsky Medal as an expression of gratitude for his service in making the monument to the victims of the Holodomor in Washington a reality.

UCCA BIDS FAREWELL TO AMB. SERGEYEV

The UCCA sent a letter of gratitude to Ambassador Yuri Sergeyev, upon hearing that he was recalled from his post. Ambassador Sergeyev has worked closely with the UCCA over the past eight years during his tenure as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine, and Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations.

The letter reads in part:

"...Over the last eight years, you have honorably served the Ukrainian nation. Even during the most difficult times, your resolve never wavered. Your exemplary service as Ukraine's diplomat to the United Nations was nothing short of outstanding, as you continued to defend the interests of Ukraine and the Ukrainian nation. You led an historic effort in the quest to legitimize Ukraine's place in the international arena with the culmination of Ukraine being unanimously elected to represent the countries of Eastern Europe on the United Nations Security Council."

UCCA MEETS WITH UN ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

On 16 December, UCCA President, Tamara Olexy, participated with Ukrainian World Congress President, Eugene Czolij, in a meeting with UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Šimonović at the UN headquarters in NYC.



L to R: T Olexy, I. Šimonović, E. Czolij

UWC and UCCA emphasized the need to counteract Russian disinformation and address the human rights violations of residents of the illegally occupied Crimean peninsula, as well as Ukrainian citizens, including political prisoners, in the Russian Federation. Also discussed was the Russian hybrid war against Ukraine which threatens global security. Participants stressed that the international community must provide humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and pressure the Russian Federation to fully comply with the Minsk agreements.