Ukrainian Americans stand in solidarity with Ukraine’s Euromaidan...

In support of the heroic stand taken by hundreds of thousands of peaceful Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian protesters in Kyiv’s Maidan square and in other Euromaidans around Ukraine, Ukrainian Americans throughout the U.S. have been organizing their own local Maidans in order to inform to Americans about the situation in Ukraine and garner outside support for the nation. Numerous local Maidans have been organized around the country in many major cities and regions including New York, NY, Chicago, IL, Albany, NY, Philadelphia, PA, Washington, DC, Hartford, CT, Buffalo/Niagara/Western New York area, Seattle, WA, Cleveland, OH, Los Angeles, CA, Arizona, North Port, FL, Portland, OR, Rochester, NY, etc.

Ukrainian Americans have been coming out in full force to show their support for their brethren in Ukraine and to express their outrage at President Yanukovych’s last minute decision to renege on the Vilnius Summit Agreement with the European Union which would have brought Ukraine closer to the West and paved its way for Eurointegration. Instead, to the indignation of millions of Ukrainians in Ukraine and around the world, the President chose to create closer ties with Ukraine’s historic enemy, the Russia Federation, and its president, Vladimir Putin.

It has been over a month now since Ukrainians in Kyiv and around the country have dug their heels in and protested in what is now being called “A Revolution of Dignity”. The peaceful protesters have suffered repeated acts of violence against them at the hands of Ukraine’s riot police, Berkut, and have endured freezing temperatures, illness and exhaustion. Ukrainian Americans have conducted numerous humanitarian efforts to aid the protesters by sending them warm clothes, medicines and other necessary supplies. The United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC), a member organization of the UCCA, was at the forefront of organizing these humanitarian aid projects. We encourage all our members, and the Ukrainian American community in general, to donate generously to the work of the UUARC. To find out how to help aid the peaceful protesters at the various Euromaidans around Ukraine, please visit UUARC’s website at www.uuarc.org.

Senator Murphy speak to Ukrainian Community in Hartford, CT

Over 350 members of the Ukrainian American Community of Connecticut gathered at the Ukrainian National Home of Hartford in support of Maidan and Ukraine's Freedom and Democracy on December 22nd. U. S. Senator Chris Murphy, who along with Senator John McCain traveled to Kyiv on December 15th to support Maidan at Independence Square, spoke about his experiences speaking to the hundred of thousands of peaceful protesters gathered on Euromaidan.

For more information about the community meeting please visit www.thehartfordguardian.com.
Since the abrupt about face by the regime in Ukraine to halt preparations for signing the historic trade and political agreement with the European Union on November 21st, the UCCA has been seeking support for the Ukrainian nation. The UCCA has called upon the U.S. government to reiterate its support for the Ukrainian people and their aspirations to join the European community of democracies; and for immediate economic sanctions, which include freezing of assets and visa restrictions for Yanukovych and his government. Moreover, the UCCA has continuously voiced is condemnation of the acts of violence against the peaceful Euromaidan protesters. On December 13th the UCCA issued the following statement:

“The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the representative organization of the over one million Americans of Ukrainian descent, welcomes the recent statement by Secretary of State John Kerry, and the support expressed by Members of the U.S. Congress, and urges the U.S. government and its EU allies to continue reiterating support for the aspirations of the Ukrainian people. We once again call upon the U.S. government to extend their warning to the Russian government and Vladimir Putin who are attempting to foment civil unrest in Ukraine and in this way reestablish the Russian Empire. The UCCA again encourages the United States government to impose austere sanctions, which will include freezing of assets and visa restrictions against Victor Yanukovych and his regime.

The Ukrainian government must: Refrain from any further acts of violence; Call for early presidential and parliamentary elections; Immediately release all political prisoners, including former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and fully restore her civil rights, including her ability to participate in the upcoming elections; Initiate criminal proceedings against all the members of government, parliament, armed forces (i.e. Berkut, internal ministry forces) and hired civilian thugs, who participated in the brutal crackdown against the peaceful Euromaidan demonstrations.

The UCCA stands in admiration of the hundreds of thousands demonstrating their commitment to their children’s and country’s future. We are humbled by their fortitude and courage and we stand together with all Ukrainians gathered on the Euromaidans throughout Ukraine who are freely expressing their desire for a democratic, European future!”

On January 2nd, Senator and Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Robert Menendez (D-NJ) met with representatives from several prominent Ukrainian-American organizations, including UCCA, in his Newark, NJ office. The meeting was held to discuss the current situation in Ukraine and explore ways the U.S. Government can help. The Senator was given a packet of information including a paper prepared by the UCCA, “Crisis in Ukraine – Background and Recommendations.”

The UCCA Executive Board would like to inform our Branches, members and the greater Ukrainian American community that during 2014, there are several important anniversaries to mark, including:

January 22nd – 95th Anniversary of the Proclamation of United Ukrainian National Republic
February 12th – 90th Anniversary of Olha Basarab’s murder
February 22nd – 120th Anniversary of the Ukrainian National Association (UNA)
March 9th – 200th Anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko
March 15th – 75th Anniversary of declared independence of Carpatho-Ukraine.
May 18th – 35th Anniversary of Volodymyr Ivasiuk’s murder
June 13th – 70th Anniversary of Oleh Olzhych’s murder
June 25th - 60th Anniversary of the 500 women killed during the uprising in Kingir, Kazakhstan
July 19th – 70th Anniversary of Battle of Brody
October – 65th Anniversary of Ukrainian American Youth Association in the United States
November 26th – 80th Anniversary of Mychajlo Hrushevsky’s death

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.