



## UCCA HOSTS VARIOUS MEETINGS...

*In late May through mid June, the UCCA had the pleasure of hosting various guests from Ukraine. Below please find a snippet of the meetings.*

### MP DEREVIANKO

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, UCCA hosted a community event with Yurii Derevianko, a member of the Parliamentary Committee against corruption and organized crime and one of the authors of the law on lustration. MP Derevianko, discussed the efforts of Ukraine's Parliament to fight corruption, one of the biggest problems Ukraine currently faces.

### "PUTIN. WAR"

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, with the Free Russia Foundation, the UCCA co-hosted the English language release of "Putin. War." The Russian opposition leader, Boris Nemtsov, was assassinated in Moscow on February 27<sup>th</sup> while working on uncovering the truth about Putin's actions in Ukraine. Shortly before his death, he reached the conclusion: Putin's war is being fought in Ukraine at the cost of Russian lives. Published posthumously in Russian, the independently produced report, "Putin. War", was presented for the first time in NYC by Ilya Yashin, Russian oppositionist who completed the report and Leonid Martynyuk, co-author of Nemtsov's recent reports exposing the corruption & lies of Putin's regime.

### MINISTER OF YOUTH & SPORT

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ukraine's Minister of Youth and Sports Ihor Zhdanov met with representatives of Ukrainian-American youth and sports organizations at the UCCA. After briefing the attendees on the current state of affairs in Ukraine, Minister Zhdanov engaged the room to share ideas and projects focused on the development of Ukraine's youth and about the humanitarian relief efforts of our community. The Ukrainian-American community, which has a long history of youth development also shared their most recent events and activities and agreed that the youth of Ukraine would benefit greatly from additional exchange programs, and promised to keep the minister abreast of any developments.



*L to R: Meeting with Minister Zhdanov (center); Josef Zissels*

### JOSEF ZISSELS

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, Josef Zissels, Vice President of the World Jewish Congress and Executive Vice President of the Congress of Ethnic Communities in Ukraine, spoke at a community event hosted by the UCCA. Mr. Zissels addressed the political and military realities on the ground as they relate to Russia, and the incredible spirit of Ukrainian civil society.

*Further information about the meetings can be found on the UCCA website.*

## UCCA SUPPORTS NDAA AMENDMENTS

The UCCA applauds the inclusion of the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2016. The UCCA has repeatedly called for the U.S. to provide defensive lethal assistance to Ukraine, and the legislative recognition of continued Russian aggression in Ukraine gives us hope that the U.S. will begin addressing the growing national security threats around the world. Authorizing \$300 million of new military assistance to Ukraine, the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative builds upon the congressional support Ukraine received in 2014 with the passage of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act.

However, as President Obama has repeatedly blocked military assistance to Ukraine, the UCCA commends the leadership of Senator Portman (R-Ohio), a staunch supporter of the people of Ukraine and co-founder of the Senate Ukraine Caucus, who is introducing further amendments to the NDAA that would help the U.S. better assist Ukrainians as they defend their sovereignty:

- Amendment 1850 directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a number of critical defense capabilities to Ukraine, including real-time intelligence, counter-artillery radars, defensive lethal assistance, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), secure communications, and the necessary training to develop key combat, planning, and support capabilities.
- Amendment 1497 requires an assessment of U.S. and NATO efforts in eastern Ukraine for the U.S. military based on lessons learned from the tactics, techniques, and procedures used by the Russians and separatists. It would study the implications of the conflict in Ukraine for the U.S. military.
- A further amendment would require the State Department to submit to Congress a list of all applications for export licenses for military equipment and assistance to Ukraine with status updates every three months. This reporting requirement would expire ONLY when the President certifies that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine has been restored.

We applaud Senator Portman's efforts and **urge all supporters of Ukraine to contact their Senators and advocate for passage of these three amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2016.** Time is of the essence! Without critical legislation like the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, the credibility of the U.S. commitment to uphold the postwar order is in doubt. Help us help Ukraine defend itself from Russian aggression and restore its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

## UCCA ATTENDS GLOBAL FORUM

On the invitation of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), on June 8<sup>th</sup> members of UCCA's Executive Board attended the Global Forum held in Washington, DC. Ukraine's Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk delivered a heartfelt address to more than 2,000, including diplomats from 30 countries, representatives of Jewish communities from across the U.S. and more than 70 countries around the world. Fifty Ukrainian Jews came to Washington for the event, as did leaders of the Ukrainian American community.

After thanking the AJC for inviting him to the Global Forum, the prime minister spoke about the aspirations of the Ukrainian people to chart their own destiny, to forge a stable, strong, democratic country, and to confront the menace of a Russia that wants to turn back the clock of history. However, he underscored that this is not Ukraine's fight alone, stating "Today, Ukraine is the only country in the world fighting against the regular Russian army...This is a war not just between Ukraine and Russia. This war is between the past and the future, between day and night, between freedom and dictatorship", said Yatsenyuk.

The prime minister also said the situation Ukraine faces today will have implications for global nuclear non-proliferation. He reminded the audience that in 1994 Ukraine signed the Budapest Memorandum, to relinquish "one of the largest nuclear arsenals in the world" with the understanding that the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine would be assured.



*L to R: Yatsenyuk addressing Global Forum; Community meeting at Ukrainian Embassy.*

Yatsenyuk declared that unity of Western democracies would help Ukraine win the war. "We will regain control of Donetsk and Luhansk, and Crimea will again be part of Ukraine." "We will never surrender. We will fight and win. We will succeed."

Following the Global Forum, UCCA's President, Tamara Olexy, was invited to a private, off the record, dinner hosted by AJC for Prime Minister Yatsenyuk.

Prior to the Prime Minister's address at the AJC, he and Ukraine's Finance Minister, Natalie Jaresko, met with leaders of the Ukrainian American community at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, DC.

## UCCA MEETS WITH FORMER PM YULIYA TYMOSHENKO

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the UCCA met with Ukraine's Former Prime Minister, Yulia Tymoshenko, who was in Washington, DC to meet with members of Congress and government officials to highlight the need for further U.S. assistance to Ukraine, specifically military, economic and humanitarian.



*L to R: M. Sawkiw, Jr., Director UNIS; M. Sloniewsky, UNIS; Rev. Vasyl Kharuk, Pastor – Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family; Yuliya Tymoshenko; I. Chalupa, former correspondent - RFE/RL; T. Olexy, UCCA President; A. Chopivsky, CEO – Transnational Education Group; H. Nemyrya, Parliamentarian.*

During her stay in Washington, Ms. Tymoshenko asked to also meet with UCCA to exchange ideas on how best the diaspora can continue assisting Ukraine.

## SAVE THE DATE: JULY 15, 2015

The UCCA and its Washington, DC public relations bureau, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) will sponsor the second in a series of "**Ukrainian Day**" advocacy events on **Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>**. This "Ukrainian Day" event is extremely important as it will coincide with the 1st anniversary of the shooting-down of Malaysian Airline MH17 over Ukraine. Our goal in July will be to reinforce Ukraine's most pressing need for security assistance in order to preserve its territorial integrity and safeguard its independence against continued Russian threat!

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact UNIS at [202 547-0018](tel:2025470018), or by e-mail at [unis@ucca.org](mailto:unis@ucca.org).