



UCCA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

UCCA GREET'S UKRAINE'S NEW AMBASSADOR

On February 5th, the Ukrainian Mission to the United Nations hosted a welcoming reception for Ukraine's new ambassador to the United Nations, Volodymyr Yelchenko. Ambassador Yelchenko welcomed the community representatives and expressed his hope that we will work together for the betterment of Ukraine and her people.



UCCA Executive Board members with Amb. Yelchenko (center)

UN INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

On February 22nd, the Ukrainian Mission to the UN hosted with the co-sponsorship of UCCA, WFUWO, UNWLA, UWC, and Volya Institute, an event at the United Nations entitled, "Ukraine Celebrates UN International Mother Language Day."

Ambassador Yelchenko opened the event with a moment of silence in memory of the "Heavenly Hundred" killed on the Maidan 2 years ago. In his remarks, Yelchenko noted the importance for Ukraine and Ukrainians worldwide to honor Mother Language Day, drawing attention to the struggle of the Ukrainian people for the preservation of the mother tongue as one of the most important aspects of national identity.



The event consisted of presentations on the historical oppression of the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar languages, given by Professor Yuri Shevchuk, Columbia University, and Ayla Bakkali, U.S. representative of the Crimean Mejlis. The program also included dramatic readings in Ukrainian and English by Sofika Zielyk and Marina Celander; a performance by the Olesya Gordynskiyh musical ensemble; and, recited poems in the English and Crimean Tatar languages by Akhtem Esatov, president of Crimean Tatar youth group American Association. Ihor Dlaboha served as the program's moderator.

The entire program can be viewed online here:

<http://webtv.un.org/.../international-motherla.../4768413214001>

SUPPORT UKRAINE! CAMPAIGN

The Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington DC public affairs bureau of the UCCA, is initiating a **SUPPORT UKRAINE!** campaign to bring more attention to the situation in Ukraine, including the ravages of war in eastern Ukraine, and those who are under constant brutal measures in Russia-occupied Crimea. **SUPPORT UKRAINE!** includes a series of activities in Washington, DC throughout the year. Please mark your calendars now. Detailed information regarding the individual events will be forthcoming.

SUPPORT UKRAINE! calendar of events:

1) **Rally to SUPPORT UKRAINE!**

March 30-April 1, 2016

Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, DC
Washington Convention Center

President Poroshenko has been invited to the Nuclear Security Summit and plans to participate in this meeting of world leaders. **SUPPORT UKRAINE!** as that country voluntarily relinquished its nuclear weapons for security guarantees from the United States, Great Britain, and the Russian Federation in the Budapest Memorandum.

2) **"Ukrainian Days" – An Advocacy Event**

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Congress – Washington, DC

In conjunction with the Central & East European Coalition (CEEC) advocacy event, **SUPPORT UKRAINE!** by meeting your Members of Congress and advocating for increased levels of support to reform Ukraine's economy, provide desperately-needed humanitarian assistance, fend off Russian propaganda, and deter Russia's military onslaught on Ukraine.

3) **Chornobyl 30th Anniversary**

April 25-April 29, 2016

Congress – Washington, DC

Commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster and **SUPPORT UKRAINE!** with an exhibit in the halls of Congress. The exhibit is a mix of Ukrainian contemporary art that depicts the war in Eastern Ukraine through the eyes of artists. A formal opening of the exhibit and remarks about Chornobyl is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26th, the anniversary of the disaster.

4) **25th Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence**

September 2016

Congress – Washington, DC

SUPPORT UKRAINE! and celebrate the 25th anniversary of Ukraine's restored independence. Walk the halls of Congress during the day advocating for greater assistance to Ukraine and join members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to honor Ukraine's renewed independence.

Detailed information to follow.

**“2016 YEAR OF ENGLISH IN UKRAINE”
UCCA’S COUNCIL ON AID TO UKRAINIANS
RESPONDS TO THE CALL**

As many of you may already know, the president of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko officially declared 2016 English language year in Ukraine. This official declaration is very positive, as it may inspire the Ukrainian youth to become more interested in learning English as opposed to Russian. Ukraine’s Ministry of Education will certainly need to provide for the necessary textbooks for secondary schools, universities and libraries. But in Ukraine these books are scarce, and ordering them from Russia, where English language schools are already becoming popular, would not be useful or practical for many reasons.

The Ministry of Education will soon be able to republish Ukrainian-English dictionaries and grammar texts, however providing lecture books will prove more problematic. The UCCA Executive Board has decided to come to Ukraine’s aid. Within the UCCA National Office, there are 72 issues of the Ukrainian Quarterly, the contents of which may provide not only lecture information for students, but also very interesting materials from notable scientists and intellectuals on various topics to which these students have never had access before. If these students do not receive these materials they will undoubtedly receive materials from Moscow filled with lies and propaganda. In addition to the UQs, there are numerous English language publications, starting from the 1950s, which should be sent to Ukraine as well.

The UCCA Executive Board has asked the Council on Aid to Ukrainians (CAU) to develop a plan of action to arrange for the shipment and distribution of these texts to libraries and universities throughout Ukraine. This project needs to take place soon in order for the students to receive these materials in time. Understandably, the shipping and distribution of these texts throughout Ukraine will be a costly endeavor and financial assistance will be necessary. As you know, the CAU-UCCA has for more than 30 years organized and carried out many such humanitarian and education efforts in Ukraine and Kazakhstan. The difficulty at this time is that as needs increase, financial assistance decreases.

A famous philosopher once said “Education is the weapon and national consciousness, the strength of every nation.” This expression sums up the purpose of our action. If today the entire Ukrainian nation was nationally conscious, then there would be no corruption, treachery or Russian presence in Ukraine.

We understand that our generous community is already exhausted from its efforts on behalf of Ukraine, however our difficulties cannot be compared with those of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine who are currently suffering from hunger, cold and death because of Russian aggression. We ask for your help to successfully complete this important project. Every donation will be announced in the press.

On behalf of the CAU – Ivan Burtyk, Chairman

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:

UCCA- CAU
203 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10003

**UCCA SAVE THE DATE!
SEPTEMBER 23-25**

On **September 23-25**, the UCCA will be holding its quadrennial convention, the **XXII Congress of Ukrainians in America**, in Hartford, CT at the Ukrainian National Home located at 961 Wethersfield Avenue. Below please find some preliminary information to prepare for the UCCA convention:

UNF

To participate in the upcoming Convention, your Ukrainian National Fund (UNF) dues must be up to date.

UCCA BYLAWS

According to the UCCA’s bylaws, all members have the right to propose changes to the Charter until six months prior to the Convention – all proposals must be received no later than March 23rd at the National Office.

ADS/GREETINGS

The deadline for ads and/or greetings for the UCCA’s Convention Book is June 30, 2016.

Additional information regarding the XXII Congress will be forthcoming in next month’s bulletin.

**UCCA ISSUES
2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

In order to inform our membership and interested individuals about the work of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, in its 75th year of service to the Ukrainian American community, the National Office has published its 2015 Annual Report.

The report highlights the efforts of the UCCA in various spheres, such as efforts in building strategic alliances, leading a U.S. advocacy agenda, raising awareness of the Holodomor, engaging in social media, to name a few.

To receive a copy of the Annual Report, please contact the National Office either by phone at (212)228-6840 or email at: tolexy@ucca.org.