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UCCA BULLETIN



May 2017 ... Our 77th Year of Service to the Community

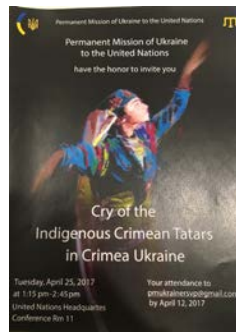
US-UKRAINE BUSINESS NETWORKING FORUM...

On April 27th, the UCCA co-sponsored the **US-Ukraine Business Networking Forum Series Special Event, entitled “Seeking Ways to Fast Track Ukraine’s Economic Recovery.”** The forum, which took place at Dentons in Washington, DC, brought together over a dozen government and business policy makers from the U.S. and Ukraine. The full-day gathering focused on assessing the efficacy of Ukraine’s economic reform efforts after three years of governance by EuroMaidan forces, and studying carefully the sectors that stand the best chances of quickly re-establishing a serious presence in world markets –Agriculture, Renewable energy, Machine building, Aerospace and Information technology.



“CRY OF THE INDIGENOUS CRIMEAN TATARS IN OCCUPIED CRIMEA”

On Tuesday, April 25, UCCA’s delegated representatives of the Ukrainian World Congress to the United Nations joined members of the Ukrainian American and Crimean Tatar communities at a special program at the United Nations, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Ukraine. Coinciding with the 16th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, this official side-event was co-organized by the Mejlis of the Indigenous Crimean Tatar People, their supreme plenipotentiary representative and executive body. Moderating the discussion was Ayla Bakkalli, USA Representative of the Mejlis and a member of the Executive Board at the World Congress of Crimean Tatars. Additional representatives of the Mejlis on the panel included Eskender Bariiev and Gayana Yüksel, a journalist with Crimean news agency QHA.



Entitled “Cry of the Indigenous Crimean Tatars in the occupied Crimea,” the program also featured remarks by Ukraine’s Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko, Marc Behrendt of Freedom House, and Rachel Denber of Human Rights Watch. A highlight of the program included a specially produced film recounting the early days of Russia’s invasion of Crimea, the Crimean Tatar resistance to this occupation, and the growing list of those murdered or imprisoned by Russia for opposing them. Also attending the event, and participating with statements and questions of their own, were official representatives of the UN delegations of the United States, the European Union, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic, among others.

77TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UCCA

May 2017 – marks 77 years since the Ukrainian Congress Committee of American was officially established. In the most impressive demonstration of solidarity – Ukrainian Americans gathered by the thousands on May 24, 1940 at the Hotel Washington in our nation’s capital. At this first Congress of Ukrainians in America, Chairman Nicholas Muraszko opened the forum enunciating the purpose of the gathering, by declaring, *“in these crucial times it is necessary for Ukrainian-Americans to acquaint Americans and the outside world with the true facts of the Ukrainian case and to manifest before the entire world the right of the Ukrainian nation to a free and independent existence.”*

Unfortunately, 77 years later, the words spoken at the founding Congress, still ring true today – as Ukraine continues to fight to secure its independence and sovereignty.

Since these words were spoken, the UCCA has never wavered in its commitment to its mission of representing the interests of the Ukrainian American community, defending Ukraine in all of its manifestations, and supporting the universal values of human dignity and human rights for all.

The pioneering work of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America continues to this day, and our mission remains as relevant today as it did at our founding Congress in 1940.

In wishing the UCCA a Happy 77th Birthday, we call upon our community to unite for the sake of our homeland Ukraine and our community.

SAVE THE DATES: JUNE 14-15

UKRAINIAN DAY

The Ukrainian National Information Service, the Washington DC public affairs bureau of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, is continuing its #SupportUkraine! campaign by hosting its second "Ukrainian Day" advocacy event in Washington, DC on Wednesday, June 14. This second in a series of 2017 advocacy events, will highlight the **20th Anniversary of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus**, with an evening reception on Capital Hill on June 14th. This is a very important event for the Ukrainian community as we focus on Ukraine's security and Euro-Atlantic integration. Our goal in the advocacy event is to seek support for Ukraine's immediate needs - military assistance; increased sanctions against Russia; deterring Russian propaganda and disinformation; and, humanitarian assistance for Ukraine's nearly 2 million internally displaced persons.

Also, on Tuesday, May 23rd, the Central East European Coalition (CEEC) will sponsor a congressional briefing session entitled, "**NATO's Open Door Policy – Who's Knocking**".

For more information, contact UNIS at [202-547-0018](tel:202-547-0018), or by e-mail at unis.sawkiw@gmail.com.

US-UA WORKING GROUP YEARLY SUMMIT V: PROVIDING UKRAINE WITH AN ANNUAL REPORT CARD

On Thursday, June 15th, the fifth "US-UA Working Group Yearly Summit" will take place in Washington, DC. The full-day conference will assess Ukraine's performance in six areas of 'nation building' - *Robust Democratic Politics; Developed Market Economics; Ever Greater General Security; Ever Greater Energy Security; Viable Social Cohesion; and Established National Identity*.

The conference will also include two highlight discussions of "Why a Free, Stable and Prosperous Ukraine Still Matters" from the U.S. Government perspective, as well as from the U.S. NGO perspective.

The event, co-sponsored by UCCA and all of CUSUR's institutional partners, will take place at the University Club of Washington DC on June 15, 2017. The conference will conclude with a Patron's Reception.

Please contact the UCCA National Office either by email at tolexy@ucca.org or by phone at 212-228-6840, should you have any questions or need additional information.

The UCCA is urging our community to make every effort to participate in these extremely important events in Washington, DC!

UCCA ISSUES STATEMENT ON THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF CHORNOBYL

"On Saturday, April 26, 1986, the worst nuclear power plant disaster in history began with the rupture of Reactor #4's containment at the Vladimir Ilyich Lenin Nuclear Power Station. Conceived to be one of the largest nuclear power plants in history during its construction in the 1970s, Soviet planners located this megastructure 11 miles northwest of the city of Chornobyl, Ukraine, and approximately 62 miles north of Ukraine's capital and most populous city, Kyiv...

On the 31st commemoration of this tragedy, the UCCA, the nation's largest representation of Ukrainians in America, honors those who perished and those who survived this catastrophe. We also remember the outpouring of international aid to Ukraine lead by activists from our community, the international diaspora, and those who contributed out of an overwhelming need to aid their fellow man. The UCCA reaffirms its resolve to ensure that the ongoing needs of the victims of this tragedy in Ukraine are not forgotten, as moral and financial support is still needed to assist the affected communities and ease the continued suffering of the countless victims in the wake of this tragedy."

Please visit www.ucca.org to read UCCA's full statement.

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS ANNUAL MAY APPEAL

2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) - the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians.

Traditionally May is the Fundraising month for the UWC, and as such, the UCCA, a founding and active member of the UWC, urges our Branches and members to donate generously to the UWC Fundraising Campaign to support their work on behalf of the 20 million strong diaspora.

Your tax-deductible donation to the UWC can be sent to the UCCA National Office located at:

UCCA
203 Second Avenue,
New York, NY 10003.