As with most everyone else, UCCA’s staff (both at the National Office & the Ukrainian National Information Service) has been working remotely for several weeks, and unfortunately will have to continue doing so for the foreseeable future. During this stressful time we are doing our best to adjust to our new work environment. We ask for your continued support and patience as we work through the challenges of balancing our work obligations, children’s remote learning and general home life.

The health and well-being of our Ukrainian American community is and always will be a priority for UCCA and its leadership and thus we urge everyone to continue heeding the guidance being issued by the White House, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as your local government and public health officials!

According to the CDC (coronavirus.gov), the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- Avoid in-person gatherings to minimize and hopefully prevent the spread of the virus.

Please continue to stay in touch with UCCA’s National office and UNIS to keep us abreast of your local hromada. Stay safe and please know that we start and end each day with good thoughts for everyone’s health and safety. Let us acknowledge the positives that are still present in this surreal and scary time – Remember - we are all in this together!

Please visit UCCA’s Facebook page
https://www.facebook.com/UCCA.org/
for continuously updated closings and cancellations in our community due to the #CoronaVirus.

“`The very purpose of the Congress is to manifest before the whole world the right of the Ukrainian people to develop freely in their own national state, equally with the other peoples of Europe, and to streamline the further actions of Ukrainian organizations in America in order to assist the national struggle of Ukraine towards an independent, united and democratic statehood.”`

And with that pledge, in our nation’s capital, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) was born on May 24, 1940.

Since its founding, UCCA has faithfully served the Ukrainian people, both in the United States and abroad, in practically all areas of human endeavor. The organization has been and continues to be the representative body for the over 1.5 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, defending the interests of our community while assisting our homeland, Ukraine.

In the days of the “Evil Empire,” UCCA served as a staunch defender of human, religious and national rights of the downtrodden peoples of the Soviet Union and, since Ukraine’s renewed independence in 1991, it has made a significant contribution to the development of democratic and free-market traditions in Ukraine, while supporting our vibrant community in the U.S.

After 80 years, UCCA’s foundation is strong! Despite the challenges that we are bound to face in the future, we will persevere — because “great deeds require great efforts” — and UCCA’s cause is greater than ourselves.

We hope that someday soon we will be able to celebrate UCCA’s 80th Anniversary in person!

God Bless the United States and Слава Україні (Glory to Ukraine)!
Thirty-four years ago, Chornobyl’s Nuclear Reactor Number Four exploded in the early morning hours of April 26, 1986. Releasing 400 times more radioactive material than the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, the explosion remains the worst nuclear disaster in history. The subsequent acts of the imperialistic Russian regime not only intensified the irreparable harm done to Ukraine and its people, but also demonstrated a blatant and callous disrespect for human life.

Located just 64 miles north of Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv, the explosion that occurred at the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant subjected the Ukrainian nation to catastrophic loss and devastation. Only when radiation levels set off detection alarms at a nuclear power plant in Sweden two days later, did the Soviet authorities issue an acknowledgment of the disaster. By then, the majority of people in the nearby town of Prypiat had already suffered nuclear poisoning. Moscow continued to deny and conceal the explosion’s magnitude in an effort to uphold the totalitarian regime’s Iron Curtain. Thousands of innocent Ukrainians, including young children, were forced to go about their days, completely unaware of the nuclear contamination that was urgently poisoning their bodies. To this day, the detrimental consequences of Moscow’s incompetence are still evident. On April 4, 2020, a forest fire caused radiation levels to spike to nearly 17 times above the normal levels, reminding the Ukrainian people that the memory of this catastrophe is still fresh. Adverse economic, ecological, and health effects stemming from this disaster are expected to plague Ukraine for many years to come.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) annually commemorates this disaster, offering our prayers for all the victims killed by this tragedy and all those who continue to suffer from its effects. This year, we call upon the international community to help us ensure that the ongoing needs of the victims are never forgotten. In light of Russia’s continued disrespect for human life in Eastern Ukraine, we ask that the international community join us in bringing justice to all those who have fallen victim to the acts of the Kremlin.

As we commemorate the 34th anniversary of the worst nuclear disaster in the history of the world, let us never forget the lives that were lost to this catastrophic crime against humanity.

Due to the Coronavirus, President Trump has asked for a delay to the 2020 Census to make sure it is completed safely and accurately. Therefore, although Census Day was April 1st, there is still plenty of time to participate in the US Census. The 2020 Census is America’s first digital census where U.S. households received a 12-digit census ID number in the mail, instructing you to visit www.my2020census.gov to participate. However, you may still respond to your census letter by mail or phone.

UCCA asks all members of the Ukrainian American community to make sure to fill out the space listed under Question No. 9 (RACE or ORIGIN) by writing in the word UKRAINIAN in that space.

The more UKRAINIANs self-identify as such on the 2020 U.S. Census, the more our community will benefit.

In an effort to provide some distraction during these unprecedented times, UCCA is launching a new service for our members and friends. Over the next few weeks, and perhaps months, UCCA will be hosting a series of virtual programs, which can be viewed on our Facebook page.

UCCA is pleased to announce that the first phase of this project - the screening of “Vladyka Andrei”, a co-production with Ukraine’s renowned film Director Oles Yanchuk, will be available online. Also please be on the lookout for over 150 videos of UCCA past conferences and presentations.

We hope you will visit UCCA’s Facebook page frequently, as we will be adding new programs and videos on a regular basis.