

UCCA WELCOMES PRESIDENT POROSHENKO TO NEW YORK CITY

On September 26th, the UCCA hosted a community meeting with His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, and Maryna Poroshenko, the First Lady of Ukraine at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City during their trip to the U.S. for the opening of the 70th UN General Assembly.

Following the singing of the Ukrainian and American anthems, His Grace Bishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA delivered the Invocation. Tamara Olexy, UCCA President, who served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies, welcomed President Poroshenko and Mrs. Poroshenko noting that "although an ocean may separate us from our homeland, the entire Ukrainian American community stands side by side with our brethren in Ukraine." Ms. Olexy then invited Andrij Futey, UCCA's Executive VP, to present a special gift, an icon of the Virgin Mary written by well-known Ukrainian American iconographer, Daria Hulak-Kulchytsky, from the Ukrainian American community to President Poroshenko on the occasion of his 50th Birthday. Mr. Futey remarked, "... We know from history that the Virgin Mary was the protector from enemy hands and the key to life from the days of Kyivan Rus through the Kozak period to the present day. Mr. President, may the Virgin Mary always protect you and bless you in your fruitful work for the good of Ukraine and all her people..."

Mr. Poroshenko graciously thanked the Ukrainian American community for its contribution to the development of the Ukrainian army, noting "We are fighting for the freedom of the world, democracy in the world. That's why we will win." The President concluded that it would be a "good tradition" to begin every foreign visit with a meeting with the Diaspora, stating, "They are true heroes who made a significant contribution to Ukraine's struggle for freedom and are now making a vital contribution to the reformation of the country." The President noted that the Diaspora contributes greatly to the international support for Ukraine, and "such support is the key to our victory."



Following his remarks, Mr. Poroshenko bestowed the Order of Princess Olga of the III grade to Ms. Olexy; and the Order of Danylo Halytsky to the family of Ukrainian American Mark Paslawsky, who was killed in Donbas defending Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity.

UCCA would like to sincerely thank the evening's sponsors – Self Reliance (NY) Federal Credit Union and SUMA Yonkers Federal Credit Union for their generous donations; as well as the Ukrainian Institute of America for allowing us to host the event in their building.

UCCA HOLDS A SERIES OF ANTI-PUTIN PROTESTS

Over the course of two days in late September, thousands of demonstrators gathered to protest Vladimir Putin's address to the United Nations General Assembly. As this address was the first in 10 years, Diaspora organizations representing American Belarusians, Poles, Georgians, Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians, Russians, Circassians and Crimean Tatars all answered the call from their members that protests must be held. In order to maximize turnout, planning meetings were initiated by the American European Solidarity Council, a New York based ethnic coalition co-founded by UCCA's local chapter the United Ukrainian American Organizations of New York. The UCCA hosted the planning meetings at the UCCA NYC Headquarters, and encouraged the participation of other Ukrainian organizations such as the Ukrainian National Women's League of America and Razom.

With only three weeks of planning, flyers were generated in multiple languages, several video clips were posted online and announcements of an upcoming series of demonstrations were made at community and religious centers across our respective communities. The results of this advanced organizing were 3 gatherings, each exceeding the turnout the NYPD anticipated. Video footage of the protests was carried live on channels in Ukraine, with recorded reports on US, Japanese and Russian-language media outlets, as well as traditional Diaspora print publications.



Ivanka Zajac, UCCA NYC Branch President

The protesters' demands include the release of political prisoners, the restoration of borders, prosecution of those responsible for shooting down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, and an end to "Putin's War of expansion."

UCCA ATTENDS MEETING HOSTED BY LITHUANIAN PRESIDENT

On September 29th, UCCA's President Tamara Olexy, was invited to attend an informal high-level discussion, entitled: "Future of Eastern Europe: Empowerment of Women" hosted by the President of the Republic of Lithuania HE Ms Dalia Grybauskaitė. As Chair of the Council on Women World Leaders, President Grybauskaitė invited various world leaders from Central and East Europe and representatives of several international organizations to discuss ways to draw the international community's attention to the situation of women in countries affected by armed conflicts, as well as, help women survivors of wars, especially in Georgia and Ukraine.

Among those invited to participate in the roundtable were: Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvile; Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic; former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright; Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova Natalia Gherman; to name a few. A delegation from Ukraine also took part in the discussion, including: Vera Savchenko, sister of Ukrainian POW Nadiya Savchenko; MP Mariia Ionova, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on European Integration; and MP Svitlana Zalishchuk, Chairperson of the subcommittee on Euro-Atlantic cooperation and Euro-integration of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Committee on Foreign Affairs. Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton also sent a video message to the participants.



Following the conclusion of the meeting, several world leaders, politicians and diplomats gathered for a group photo holding "Free Savchenko" signs to bring attention to the plight of Nadiya Savchenko.

To read the full report please visit www.ucca.org

UCCA ATTENDS UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS ANNUAL MEETING

UCCA's President, Tamara Olexy, and Executive VP, Andrij Futey, attended the Ukrainian World Congress' Annual General Meeting in Madrid, Spain, on September 11-13. The official opening, held at the renowned Cervantes Institute, was attended by 64 delegates and 53 guests from 20 countries. Throughout the meeting, delegates discussed countering Russian disinformation, defending human and national rights of Ukrainians, coordinating the international effort to support Ukraine and the development of humanitarian initiatives, including the UWC project *Patriot Defence*. Delegates also discussed projects designed to further promote UWC's work.

On September 12 delegates were invited by the Ukrainian community in Madrid to a concert celebrating the 70th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Spain and the 10th anniversary of the Association "Ukrainian Community in Spain for the Rights, Honor and Dignity of Ukrainians".



On September 13th the UWC together with the local community, held a march through central Madrid, under the banner, "Ukrainians throughout the world with Ukraine." The peaceful march was a show of support for the Ukrainian people in their struggle for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Following the march, participants attended a divine liturgy at the Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

CEC REGISTERS UCCA INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS

Ukraine's Central Election Commission (CEC) has registered the first applicants from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America to serve as International Election Observers for the upcoming municipal elections in Ukraine to be held on Sunday, October 25, 2015.

The UCCA International Election Mission will be holding a comprehensive briefing for its observers on October 23rd in Kyiv, Ukraine, before teams of observers depart for various regions throughout Ukraine.

A report on Ukraine's municipal elections will be published in the upcoming UCCA Bulletin.