

## PRESIDENT POROSHENKO MEETS WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS

For the fourth consecutive year, on September 25<sup>th</sup>, President Petro Poroshenko and Mrs. Maryna Poroshenko met with the leaders of the Ukrainian American community during their official working visit to the United States to attend the UN General Assembly.



*L to R: Group photo with President Poroshenko; Head of State awarding UCCA president, A. Futey with award.*

Serving as the evening's MC, Tamara Olexy warmly welcomed and thanked the President and Mrs. Poroshenko for meeting with the community before introducing UCCA's President Andriy Futey. In emphasizing to the Presidential delegation the important work of the Ukrainian diaspora, both historically as well as in just the last 4 years, Futey stated, "It is because of the devoted and proactive work of our local communities, our organizations and indeed the entire united organized Ukrainian diaspora, that both the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate have passed significant resolutions and legislation in support of Ukraine."

Following his opening remarks, and before inviting the President to the podium, Futey noted that it was President Poroshenko's birthday, as it was already September 26<sup>th</sup> in Ukraine – and led the community in singing "Mnohaya Lita."

In stating his appreciation for the community's strong support of Ukraine, President Poroshenko commented, "I am grateful to you not just for today's meeting, but for these long 4.5 years of our joint struggle. Nothing would have happened without you. Because your role is absolutely crucial in shaping global solidarity in support of Ukraine."

The President also underscored the importance of receiving the Tomos of Autocephaly for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which Ukraine had been waiting for several centuries. "People criticize me telling that the church in a true state should be separated from the state. I totally agree with that. Especially when that state is a foreign one," which was received with thunderous applause from the community. The President was also highly appreciative of the community's efforts in recognizing the Holodomor of 1932-1933 as a genocide of the Ukrainian people, thanking UCCA for their work in this regard.

Following his remarks, President Poroshenko awarded UCCA President Andriy Futey with the Order of Merit for his significant contribution to strengthening US-Ukraine bilateral cooperation. Additional recipients of state awards included: Lubow Wolynetz and State Senator from Washington State, Mark Misoscia.

## 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINIAN NATIONAL REPUBLIC COMMEMORATED

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> a full-day conference was held, which gathered several of the world's most knowledgeable students of Ukrainian history, hailing from the United States, Canada and Ukraine, to examine the scope and ultimate meaning of the Ukrainian National Republic (UNR) – the predecessor of the modern Ukrainian state – and the legacy it engendered.

This special Ukrainian Historical Encounters Series gathering, which commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ukrainian National Republic (and the Western Ukrainian National Republic), addressed Ukraine's first attempt in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to establish a sovereign nation state. Nearly two dozen scholars discussed, during four panel discussions and three highlight presentations, the impact that the formation of the UNR had on Ukraine. In effect, they took a critical look and evaluated UNR's legacy during five critical periods: immediately following; the 1920s and early 1930s; late 1930s to the 1950s; the 1960s to the 1990s; and, finally, the era of the Post Euro-Maidan Ukraine.

Video presentations of the panel discussions can be found on UCCA's Facebook page.



The conference was followed by a special evening Banquet with Ivanna Klymush-Tsintsadze, Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine for European & Euro-Atlantic Integration; Ambassador Kurt Volker, U.S. Special Envoy to Ukraine; and, General John Abizaid, former U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) commander and senior defense adviser to Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, as keynote speakers who reflected upon Ukraine's present-day situation.

## U.S. AMBASSADOR MARIE YOYANOVITCH MEETS WITH COMMUNITY

On Wednesday, October 3, 2018, the Honorable Marie L. Yovanovitch, United States Ambassador to Ukraine, met with Ukrainian-American leaders in New York City for an informal lunchtime conversation. Gathering at the Ukrainian East Village Restaurant housed in the Ukrainian National Home of New York, UCCA thanked the Ambassador for agreeing to meet with representatives of organizations such as the Center for US-Ukrainian Relations (CUSUR), New Ukraine Wave, the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA), The Ukrainian Museum, the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC), the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA), the Women's Association for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine (WADFFU), and the World Board of the Ukrainian Youth Association, to discuss the Ambassador's views on the current status of US-Ukraine relations and in turn to inform our US diplomat of the diaspora's effort to support their homeland Ukraine.



The working luncheon was held in a collegial atmosphere during which the Ambassador answered questions from each representative for over 90 minutes, going so far as to delay her original time of departure to allow for additional discussion. Following the conclusion of their luncheon, the ambassador invited UCCA and its delegates to the upcoming Congress of the Ukrainian World Congress to continue their discussion in Kyiv, and made sure that the community representatives knew how to contact her directly and invited all to visit her in Kyiv whenever the opportunity presented itself.

## GOVERNOR KASICH AWARDED, PROCLAIMS HOLODOMOR REMEMBRANCE YEAR

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, members of the Ukrainian American community were invited to Ohio's State Capitol, to meet with Governor Kasich.



During the meeting, UCCA President Andriy Futey bestowed UCCA's highest accolade, the Shevchenko Freedom Award to the Governor for his continued support of Ukraine and the Ukrainian American community.

The Governor also proclaimed 2018 as "Ukrainian Genocide Remembrance Year" – presenting a Proclamation.

UCCA would like to thank UCCA member organization United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio (UZO) and Ohio State University students for their active participation!

## 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLODOMOR – NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

On Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Ukrainian American community will commemorate the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933 with a solemn requiem service in New York City. The ecumenical prayer service to remember and honor the millions of innocent victims of one of the worst tragedies that befell the Ukrainian nation, will be celebrated at 4PM at St. Patrick's Cathedral by the Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic religious hierarchies.

Please join us at 4:00PM on November 17th, for the requiem service at St. Patrick's Cathedral, as we conclude the United States' portion of the year-long worldwide commemoration of the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary prior to Ukraine's official state commemoration - International Holodomor Memorial Day - on November 24<sup>th</sup>.