



CENTER NEWS



Ukrainian parliamentary deputy Olesia Orobets (left) and Rep. Marcy Kaptur of Ohio.

WASHINGTON, DC – During a September visit to the nation’s capital, Ukrainian parliamentary deputy **Olesia Orobets** (pictured, on left) sat down with Congressional Ukrainian Caucus Cochair Rep. **Marcy Kaptur** of Ohio (on right) for a peer-to-peer conversation about economic development, current affairs, and representative government. Deputy Orobets chairs an education subcommittee and is fighting for greater transparency in the education system. She is also a pioneer in using social media to communicate with the Ukrainian electorate, so meeting with technology expert **Alec Ross**, now senior advisor for innovation to the Office of the U.S. Secretary of State, was another highlight of her four-day stay in Washington. Deputy Orobets also met with political and education leaders in Chicago and New York during her U.S. trip, which Open World helped organize.

HOSTING CORNER

WASHINGTON, DC – Five Ukrainian Supreme Court justices explored topics ranging from judicial independence to the opinion writing with retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice **John Paul Stevens** on the first full day of their September Open World visit to Washington, DC, and Minnesota. At the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO), the Ukrainian justices, along with other visiting Open World judicial delegates, explored the U.S. court system with U.S. District Judges **Richard Bennett** of Baltimore, **Stephen Friot** of Oklahoma City, and **Anthony Trenga** of Alexandria, VA. The Ukrainian justices were especially interested in learning about judicial selection, ongoing education and training for judges, and judicial ethics in the United States. While at the AO, the Ukrainian justices also took part in sessions on court budgeting, financing, and administration. And seeing and discussing the Braille signage at the AO introduced the Ukrainians to the accessibility of the U.S. judicial branch generally. Chief U.S. District Judge **Michael J. Davis**, U.S. Magistrate Judges **Jeanne J. Graham** and **Jeffrey J. Keyes**, and **World Services of La Crosse** then hosted the Ukrainians in the Twin Cities for a week of observing the U.S. court system in action.



Ukrainian Supreme Court justices meet at the U.S. Supreme Court with retired Justice John Paul Stevens (center) on Sept. 8. Open World Executive Director John O’Keefe is second from the right. Photo credit: Steve Petteway, Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.

IN THE FIELD

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Several women small-business leaders from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, visited their sister city of Albuquerque in mid-September to learn about small-business development and microcredit programs and to see how their New Mexico counterparts operate their businesses. During their exchange, the delegates met in Santa Fe with the organizers of the largest international folk art market, studied New Mexico’s restaurant and catering industry, and compared the U.S. and Turkmen real estate markets. The delegates returned

to Ashgabat full of ideas for creating a vibrant cottage clothing industry among wives of migrant workers, sharing their business knowledge with others, and encouraging women’s entrepreneurship. The **Albuquerque/Ashgabat Sister Cities Committee**, which conducted the exchange, has previously hosted Turkmenistani water-quality specialists for Open World; one of these alumni is now Turkmenistan’s deputy minister of water resources. Committee members travel to their sister city of Ashgabat annually, and our just-returned businesswomen



Participants join host Oguljan Young (far left) at a reception capping their September visit to New Mexico.

alumni are preparing to receive a sister-city delegation from Albuquerque on Turkmenistan’s Independence Day, Oct. 27.