



January 4, 2016
Tevet 23, 5776



Immediate Past Chairman Stephen Greenberg, President Alexander Smukler, Chairman Daniel Rubin and Executive Vice Chairman and CEO Mark Levin.

[Read NCSEJ Annual Board of Governors Meeting Report](#)

Highlights of NCSEJ's Activities in 2015

As 2016 begins, NCSEJ is taking a moment to reflect on the past year. We worked to address the crisis in Ukraine, fought anti-Semitism, and helped sustain Jewish communities in Russia and throughout the Eurasian region.

Below are a few highlights from our extensive, ongoing work. Together, let's help to make

2016 a year of peace and security for Jews in Eurasia and across the world.

January

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Organized a series of meetings and accompanied the President of the Russian Jewish Congress (RJC) Yuri Kanner during his visit to Washington.

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Participated in the 70th Anniversary Commemoration of the Liberation of Auschwitz. *(right: NCSEJ Deputy Director Lesley Weiss with members of the U.S. delegation to the Commemoration)*



February

- Hosted a meeting with Georgian Foreign Minister Tamar Beruchashvili, during her first working visit to the United States.

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Gave a presentation in a lecture series "the Rise in Anti-Semitism and our Response" at Temple B'nai Israel in Easton, Maryland.

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Interviewed Oleksiy Honcharenko, an elected member from Odessa to the Verkhovna Rada (Ukraine's parliament), as part of the NCSEJ's series on current issues impacting the Eurasian region.



- Organized a series of meetings and accompanied Ukrainian Jewish Committee (UJC) President Oleksandr Feldman and UJC Executive Director Eduard Dolinsky during their visit to Washington.
 - Participated in the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations' annual mission. (above: NCSEJ Chairman Stephen Greenberg and Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman)
 - NCSEJ and B'nai B'rith International co-hosted a meeting with Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius of Lithuania.
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March

- Spoke on a panel about Russia's approach to the Middle East at the 2015 AIPAC Policy Conference. (right: NCSEJ CEO Mark Levin and American Foreign Policy Council Vice President Ilan Berman)
- Organized a meeting for American Jewish community representatives with Chairman of Georgia's Parliament David Usupashvili, in Washington, D.C.
- Participated in and helped coordinate the World Jewish Congress Executive Committee meeting, which met in Washington, D.C. to discuss the growing threats to Jewish communities and the surge in anti-Semitism.
- Addressed participants in Brandeis University's Global Teen Fellowship, a program of the Brandeis-Genesis Institute for Russian Jewry.



April



Hosted a conference call with U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt.



Held a young Jewish leadership event in cooperation with Druzya DC, a local group of young Russian-speaking Jewish Americans. *(above: Kennan Institute Director Matthew Rojansky, NCSEJ CEO Mark Levin, and members of Druzya DC)*



Organized a program for diplomats from Eurasian region to watch a Washington Nationals baseball game at Nationals Park.



Participated in the National Days of Remembrance ceremony at the U.S. Capitol.



Attended Israel Independence Day Reception in Washington.



Participated in a meeting with U.S. Senator Ben Cardin to discuss his work as OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance.



Attended President Obama's speech at Adas Israel congregation in honor of National Jewish American Heritage Month.

May



NCSEJ Deputy Director Lesley Weiss and her mother Irene



Fogel Weiss, an Auschwitz survivor, went to Germany to testify in the trial against former Nazi SS Sgt. Oskar Groening.



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Joined hundreds of participants in Jerusalem at the 5th Global Forum on Combating Antisemitism. Mark Levin co-chaired the Working Group on Anti-Semitism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. (above: Working Group co-chairs Tomas Kraus, of Federation of Jewish Communities in Czech Republic, and NCSEJ CEO Mark Levin)

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Met with Hungarian Ambassador to the United States to discuss the Hungarian chairmanship of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

June

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Held NCSEJ Spring Board of Governors meeting. (right: speakers at the meeting. photo: Ron Sachs/CNP)



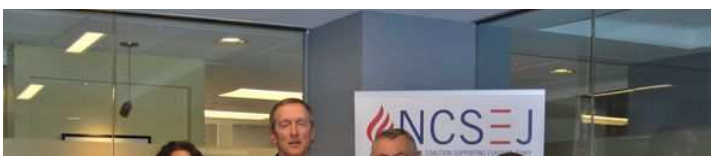
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Attended a farewell lunch for Lithuanian Ambassador to the U.S. Zygimantas Pavilionis.



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Participated in International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance meetings in Budapest.

July

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Addressed participants in the



Jan Karski Institute for Holocaust Education program at the State Department, on Holocaust issues, cultural preservation, and anti-Semitism.



- Co-chaired JDC Entwine event "From Shtetl to Selfie: The Changing Face of Eastern European Jewry."

- Hosted a meeting with former Odesa mayor and former Verkhovna Rada member Eduard Hurvitz to discuss developments in Ukraine and issues of importance to the Jewish community. *(above: meeting participants with Hurvitz, center)*

- Attended U.S.-Ukraine Business Council and Embassy of Ukraine reception in Washington, D.C., in honor of Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk and his ministerial cabinet.

August

- Met with new U.S. Ambassador to Latvia Nancy Petit.

- Attended Ukraine Independence Day reception in Washington.

September

- Participated in a Rosh Hashanah reception at the U.S. Naval Observatory, hosted by Vice President Joe Biden.

- Met with Ukraine's



President Petro Poroshenko, to discuss anti-Semitism, recent desecrations of the



Babi Yar memorial in Kyiv, and Ukraine-Israel relations. (above: meeting at the Ukraine mission to the United Nations in New York City)

- Met with U.S. Ambassadors to Romania and Poland.
- Met with Bridget Brink, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs.
- Participated in a U.S.-Ukraine Foundation forum on political and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.
- Attended swearing-in ceremony of U.S. Ambassador to Poland Paul Jones by Secretary of State John Kerry.

October

- Hosted a meeting with President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili.
- Organized leadership mission to Ukraine. NCSEJ delegation met with members of the government, the Jewish community, volunteers, and youth activists in Kyiv and Dnipropetrovsk. (right: NCSEJ delegation meets with Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, center)
- Met in Washington with the Prime Minister of the Srpska Republic.



November

- Hosted a meeting with Chief Rabbi of Kazakhstan Yeshaya Cohen. (right: NCSEJ Deputy Director Lesley Weiss, CEO Mark Levin, and Rabbi Cohen)
- Met with Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) President Barry Shrage, and briefed our long-time partner, the Federation's Boston-Dnipropetrovsk Kehilla Project committee, on the situation in Ukraine and the recent NCSEJ Leadership Mission to Kyiv and Dnipropetrovsk.
- Met with Slava Vakarchuk, Ukrainian rock star and activist.
- Met with Romanian Speaker of the Parliament at the American Jewish Committee.
- Met with U.S. Congresswoman Nita Lowey, as part of a coalition urging increased humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.
- Attended Lithuanian Embassy event featuring author Rita Gabis, who discussed her book *A Guest at the Shooters Banquet*, a historical memoir about the Holocaust in Lithuania.
- Participated in German Embassy luncheon with Holocaust survivors to commemorate Kristallnacht.
- Attended Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly in Washington.



December

- Held NCSEJ Annual Board



of Governors meeting.
(right: Congressman Ted
Deutch, center, with NCSEJ
leaders, and other meeting
speakers. photo Ron
Sachs/CNP)



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Hosted a meeting with NCSEJ member agencies and Defense Minister of Georgia Tinatin Khidasheli. Minister Khidasheli gave a brief overview of the political situation in Georgia, and discussed Georgia's Western integration and its strong relations with the United States and Israel.

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Participated in a luncheon dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council.

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Attended the U.S. Senate Democratic Holiday Reception, Israeli Embassy Chanukah party, and the White House Chanukah party.

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Attended Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee meeting with Jewish Community leadership.

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Met with Linda Maizels, Director of Israel and International Concerns for the Jewish Council on Public Affairs, to discuss joint projects.

