



November-December 1997
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Monthly newsletter of The Washington Group
An Association of Ukrainian American Professionals



Photo by Laryssa Chopivsky

The Kyiv Chamber Choir performing Ukrainian Christmas carols at the White House, one of three performances in the greater Washington area.

Kyiv Chamber Choir Performances Cap Cultural Fund's 1997 Season

The Kyiv Chamber Choir visited Washington a few days before Christmas, and it came bearing gifts—the best of Ukrainian ecclesiastical and Christmas music.

The choir sang Ukrainian carols at the White House, baroque and contemporary religious music masterpieces at the National Cathedral, and a program combining both before a large audience at the George Mason University Center for the Arts.

The choir's Washington visit began a Friday, December 19, with a reception at the Ukrainian Embassy, where the ensemble hinted at what would follow through the weekend. The choristers sang a tantalizing selection from their repertoire and joined the other guests in a sing-along of Ukrainian Christmas carols.

The reception was sponsored by the Washington Group Cultural
(See *Kyiv*, page 6)

TWG meets with new US envoy to Ukraine

The Washington Group sponsored a reception for the new U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Steven Pifer, a few days before he replaced William Miller in Kyiv.

The reception, held December 29 at the Gannett headquarters in Arlington, was attended by more than 60 TWG members and friends.

Those attending had a chance to question Ambassador Pifer about U.S. policy and share their views on relevant issues. Among the issues raised was published criticism of the disrespectful way the U.S. Embassy treats visa applicants in Kyiv and the high rate of visas denials.

At the ambassador's request, his remarks were "off the record," and cannot be reported here.

1998 TWG embassy internship announced

The Washington Group, in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, is seeking candidates to participate in a two-month summer internship at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of the project, which is being conducted under the auspices of the TWG Fellowship Committee,
(See *Intern*, page 2)

Notes on/for Members

• **TWG Board Member Orest Deychakiwsky** was recently in Warsaw as a member of the US Delegation to the 55-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Meeting on the Human Dimension. There, he delivered several speeches on behalf of the U.S. on human rights and democratization issues.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reported that in one speech Mr. Deychakiwsky told the conference that while non-governmental organizations (NGO) are considered an essential part of democratic societies, many countries still regard them as a threat and restrict their activities through various measures such as registration requirements.

• **TWG Membership Director Michael Drabyk** is pleased to announce his engagement to Roberta van't Veld Oliver, of McLean, VA. Many of you know Roberta as a Friend of TWG who has assisted with registration at the last several Leadership Conferences. The wedding is planned for later this year.

• **TWG Directory:** The 1998 TWG Membership Directory went out in the mail last month. If you are a TWG member, and you have not yet received your copy, please contact TWG Membership Director Mike Drabyk by phone at (703) 560-7734, or by e-mail at mdrabyk@aol.com.

• **TWG Directory Corrections:** E-mail addresses for some TWG members were inadvertently omitted or listed incorrectly in the 1998 Directory. The new/corrected e-mail addresses are:

- Laryssa Chopivsky should be laryssac@aol.com
- Oxana Horodecka should be ohor@loc.gov
- Slavko Nowytski should be slavkon@earthlink.net

We apologize for any inconvenience.

TWG NEWS

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ADVERTISING: Business card size: \$10 per issue, or \$25 for three issues for TWG members; \$15/\$40 for non-members. Quarter page: \$45 members, \$55 non-members. Half page: \$60 members, \$75 non-members. Full page: \$100 members/\$140 non-members. Please contact TWG Treasurer Roman Stelmach (410) 997-0853.

Intern...(continued from page 1)

is to provide the Ukrainian Embassy with an intern who could serve as a research assistant to the embassy staff. In turn, the intern would gain valuable experience in learning how a foreign embassy in Washington works and how the embassy interacts with various Washington individuals and institutions.

TWG has previously funded two successful internships at the Embassy of Ukraine. Helena Zyblikewycz, a student at Georgetown University, served as a summer intern in 1996. Alexandra Richardson, a student at Marquette University, worked in the Ukrainian Embassy last summer.

Candidates for the 1998 summer internship should:

- have completed at least two years of undergraduate studies;
- be proficient in English and Ukrainian;
- possess excellent oral and written communication skills;
- be able to demonstrate excellent computer skills, including the Internet;
- anticipate assisting the embassy with whatever issues and needs should arise, including general office work;
- submit a one-page essay explaining their interest in the internship, when they would be available to participate in the project, and how their work, educational and personal experience would help meet the goals of the project;
- submit copies of academic transcripts and one letter of recommendation, and provide two references.

To be considered for this internship, candidates must submit this information to TWG by no later than April 17, 1998.

The Washington Group Fellowship Committee will provide the successful candidate with a stipend of \$1,500.

Application materials should be addressed to:

The Washington Group

Fellowship Committee Ukrainian Embassy Internship

Project

P.O. Box 11248

Washington, D.C. 20008

For more information call Adrian Karmazyn at (301) 460-9755 or Orest Deychakiwsky at (202) 225-3964.

"THE 1998 ELECTIONS IN UKRAINE"

a discussion – in Ukrainian – by

Osyp Zinkevych

Director, Smolosiy Publishers, Kyiv.

Sunday, February 1, at 2 p.m.

St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral Church Hall
15100 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, Md.

OBITUARIES

Pat Kruczak Filipov



Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not the absence of fear.
— Mark Twain.

Most of us have had our moments of courage—when we faced fear, went against the grain, tackled the seemingly impossible, when we said, “Enough!” For most,

these were neither daily occurrences nor widely known; they were the quiet, private things we do as we muddle through life.

Some of us, however, are called on to show more courage, and more often, than others. Pat Kruczak Filipov was one of these. Diagnosed with lymphoma in 1988, she battled the dreaded disease for 10 years, turning her life itself into an act of courage.

Pat was born March 25, 1953, in Plainfield, New Jersey. Her grandparents instilled in her their love of all things Ukrainian—its language, culture, history, traditions. That commitment to her heritage stayed with her throughout her life. When she moved to the Washington area to attend Catholic University, she became involved in the Ukrainian Washington community. It was at one of the open houses (informal monthly gatherings) at St. Sophia’s that she met Andree. They were married a couple of years later.

When TWG was being organized, Pat volunteered to be its Activities Director, a task that few wanted, much less volunteered for. In her usual “take charge” manner, she organized programs for the Friday Evening Forums, invited speakers, organized outings and parties. And despite her uneasiness with speaking before large audiences, Pat would also do the introductions and announcements. Needless to say, the events were tremendously successful, in large measure due to the effort, passion and care Pat brought to them.

Pat loved to travel. No matter how badly she felt, she always managed to get in that one last trip. In-between her bone marrow transplant and chemotherapy, Pat sneaked in a trip to Disney World without her doctor’s knowledge. Before her round of

(See *Filipov*, page 7)

George Kuzmycz



The TWG family lost a close friend and colleague December 5 in a auto accident in Ukraine.

George Kuzmycz, 53, who had shared his professional expertise during TWG’s leadership conferences and other events, died December 6 in a head-on automobile accident

while being driven from the South Ukraine Power Plant to Mykolaiv. His driver also died in the accident, as did the driver and his wife of the other car, who, police said, apparently fell asleep at the wheel and crossed into the oncoming lane.

Mr. Kuzmycz was visiting Ukraine as the program manager of the Ukraine Program on Nuclear Material Security Task Force in the Office of Arms Control and Non-Proliferation at the Department of Energy. The program seeks to help Ukraine upgrade its nuclear energy facilities by improving its nuclear storage safety and accounting procedures.

During a memorial service attended by more than 400 family, friends and colleagues, U.S. Secretary of Energy Federico Peña called Mr. Kuzmycz “a great American” and “peacemaker.”

“His cause—to ensure that nuclear materials in Ukraine were secure and protected against theft—is the cause of peacemakers. And George truly was a peacemaker,” Mr. Peña said.

Ambassador William Courtney, special assistant to the President and senior director for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasian affairs at the National Security Council, read a letter from Vice President Al Gore, who praised Mr. Kuzmycz, “who was highly regarded in the international arms control and non-proliferation communities,” for his “unprecedented” accomplishments in Ukraine.

The U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller, in a letter to the family, said George Kuzmycz’s work “was and is valued highly by our government and the government and people of Ukraine.”

Born in Ukraine in 1944, George Kuzmycz grew up in New York. He received his B.S. degree in

(See *Kuzmycz*, page 7)

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Kyiv Chamber Choir Caps TWG Cultural Fund's 1997 Season

(Continued from page 1)

Fund, one of many organizations and institutions that assisted in bringing the ensemble to the U.S. under the lead sponsorship of American Friends for Ukraine, Inc. The Washington area sponsors also included the Washington Performing Arts Society, the George Mason University Arts Center and the Embassy of Ukraine.

The choir's performance capped the 1997 Fall Season of the TWG Cultural Fund, which included a concert by the Ukrainian Bandura Chorus of North America, the Horowitz International Competition for Young Pianists Winners' Recital, and the performance by mandolinist and fiddler Peter Ostroushko and guitarist Dean Magraw during the TWG Leadership Conference.

Washington was the second of four cities on the choir's debut tour of the United States, which also included performances at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Philadelphia, at New York City's Carnegie Hall, and at the Music Hall in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

"The group has only 20 singers, but what singers they are—big, marvelously focused voices, the kind that might easily hold their own on the opera stage but without the kind of operatic vibrato that can make an ensemble rattle," wrote Washington Post reviewer Joan Reintaler following their December 20 performance at the George Mason Arts Center. "They can

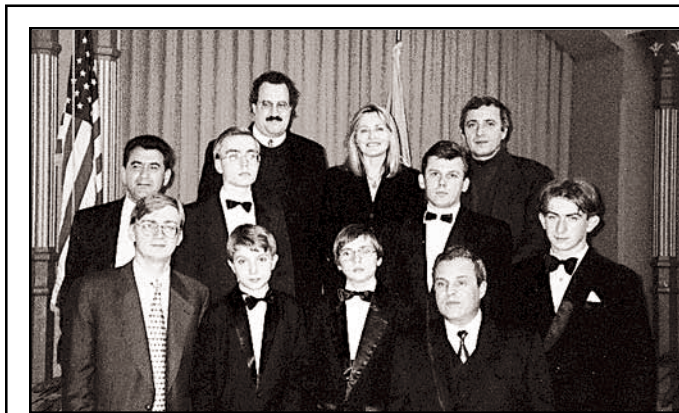
sing wonderfully clean unisons and the basses have low E's to die for," she added. "These are, of course, the sort of voices that the music on their all-Ukrainian program was written for."

Ms. Dychko and Mr. Stepurko, the choir sang carols by Yuriy Alzhnev, Anatolii Avdiievsky, Yevhen Stankovych and Alexander Yakivchuk.

The audience, which filled most of the 1,800 seats of the George Mason Arts Center, rewarded the singers with a standing ovation, and in return, were presented with a few encores.

While the Saturday evening concert was the primary reason for the Kyiv Chamber Choir's visit to the capital area, the most memorable event for the choristers was their performance earlier that afternoon at the White House. They were invited to sing Ukrainian carols during the annual VIP viewing of the Christmas-decorated White House, where they performed before the visiting diplomatic corps and were greeted by the First Lady's chief of staff, Melanne Vermeer, who is of Ukrainian descent.

Another memorable moment came the following morning, when the visiting choir stood in front of the main altar of



TWG President George Masiuk and Cultural Fund Director Larysa Chopivsky (top left and center) and Ukrainian Cultural Attaché Vasyl Zorya (bottom left) join the winners of the Horowitz International Competition for Young Pianists and their teachers following their Washington recital.



Photo by Natalie Sluzar

Ukrainian Embassy Cultural Counselor Natalia Zarudna greets the Ukrainian Bandura Chorus during its TWG-sponsored concert in Washington.

The ecclesiastical part of the concert program included works by such noted composers as Artem Vedel, Mykola Diletsky, Kyrylo Stetsenko, Mykola Leontovych and Mykola Lysenko as well as by two contemporary composers, Lesia Dychko and Victor Stepurko.

The second half of the program, devoted to Ukrainian Christmas music, highlighted even more contemporary works. In addition to carols by

the National Cathedral and sang a half-hour choral prelude to the cathedral's Sunday religious service, filling the gothic structure with the religious works of Bortnyansky, Berezovsky, Stetsenko, Lysenko, Leontovych and Stepurko.

Founded in 1990, the Kyiv Chamber Choir, have performed extensively in Europe, winning at a number of prestigious choral festivals, and have recorded a number of CDs. □



TWG Wine Tour

Taking a break following a TWG tour of Virginia wineries and dinner at the Bistro Belle Fleur in Middleburg: (kneeling l to r) Jaroslav Martyniuk, Myron and Mrs. Teluk, Natalie Sluzar; (standing and sitting in back row) Ulana Bilynsky, Edward Wizniak, Simon Roman, Lamar Brantley, Mike Drabek, Roberta Oliver, Ross Chomiak, Maria Kulczycki, George Masiuk and Andrij Masiuk.

Filipov... (continued from page 3)

radiation treatments, Pat went to Alaska. She loved the beauty and grandeur of the Northwest and the Southwest. She loved traveling in Europe.

Most frequently, it was the weekend trip on the Filipov's motor boat Veselka—anchored in a “gunk hole” somewhere in the Chesapeake—that brought her the greatest pleasure. Pat enjoyed swimming, exploring the shoreline, watching the wildlife. The magical colors of the sunsets brought peace and tranquillity, especially during those fearful and uncertain times in her life.

Professionally, Pat earned a B.S. degree in microbiology from Catholic University and received additional training to become a medical technologist. She worked at the National Institutes of Health. She was a supervisor in the M&M (mycology and myco-bacteriology) Division, dealing with molds, fungal infections, and other biological hazards. Working in a clinical laboratory setting, she frequently advised medical doctors on the proper treatments to be administered. Prior to coming to NIH, Pat worked at the Walter Reed U.S. Army Hospital, at the Veterans' Administration Hospital, and at the Children's Hospital, all in the Washington area.

It was at NIH that much of the experimental and

progressive treatments for lymphoma were conducted. Pat underwent chemotherapy, radiation, bone marrow transplants, and immuno therapy with Interleuken 2. After a six-year period of remission, however, the tumor became active again. This time, NIH, the leading center for cancer treatment, told her that there was nothing else that could be done for her.

To the very end, Pat didn't let the cancer get in her way of living. She continued to see her friends, she continued to play with her nieces and goddaughter, she continued to sing Christmas carols at the annual round of Christmas parties. She continued to take trips. Just one more time. Just one more trip.

Even when she knew that her cancer was terminal, Pat showed dignity, courage, and above all, love and compassion for everyone around her. She was concerned about her husband, Andree; she talked about her funeral arrangements. She asked that some of her personal things be given to her family. She was concerned that her staff at NIH would not get the computer glitches fixed.

She died—on November 27, 1997—as she had lived: a courageous, loving, caring person. Those of us that knew her were blessed by her brief presence amongst us. May God shine His light upon her and grant her eternal peace. *Vichnaya Pamiat.* —Natalie Sluzar

Kuzmycz... (continued from page 3)

nuclear engineering from Queens College and an M.S. degree in nuclear engineering from the University of New York at Buffalo.

He came to the Washington area in 1975 to work for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Before joining the Department of Energy, he also worked on export controls at the Department of Commerce.

Since childhood, Mr. Kuzmycz has been a member of the Ukrainian scouting organization Plast and had been a

member of the Chornomortsi senior scout fraternity. He was on the board of directors of the Washington-area Ukrainian Saturday School and sang in the Ukrainian National Choir, at one time serving as its president.

Secretary Peña echoed the thoughts of all who knew the tall, broad-shouldered and ever-smiling Mr. Kuzmycz when he said that on a personal level, he was “larger than life” and that he had “a passion and a zest for living.”

George Kuzmycz is survived by his wife, Ksenia; two sons, Yuri, 22, and Danylo, 20; his mother, Valentina Kuzmycz, of New York; and sister, Yara Sydorak. □

The Washington Group Membership Information/Application Form

TWG is an association of Ukrainian-American professionals who live throughout the United States and in several countries of the world. It offers its members an opportunity to meet and get to know each other through a variety of professional, educational and social activities. TWG NEWS is a monthly newsletter for TWG members, and a membership directory, published for members only, helps them in networking.

To apply for membership, please fill out the form below and mail with a check to:

The Washington Group, P.O. Box 11248, Washington, D.C. 20008.

(The Board of Directors considers membership applications at its monthly meetings.)

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