



May-June 1998  
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Monthly newsletter of The Washington Group  
An Association of Ukrainian American Professionals

# Deychakiwsky elected TWG President

## *TWG Membership at record 415*

Orest Deychakiwsky, staff associate at the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, was elected TWG president at its Annual Meeting May 29. Mr. Deychakiwsky and an unopposed slate of candidates for the Executive Board and board members-at-large were elected unanimously.

Mr. Deychakiwsky replaces George Masiuk, TWG's only three-time president. All of his predecessors had served two terms each.

Also elected to the Board of Directors were: Tanya Stasiuk, vice president; Roman Stelmach, treasurer; Michael Drabek, secretary; Adrian Pidlusky, membership; Ihor Kotlarchuk, public relations; Laryssa Chopivsky, Cultural Fund director; and Adrian Karmazyn, Fellowship  
(See *Meeting*, Page 6)

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Photo by Yaro Bihun

TWG's new president, Orest Deychakiwsky (left), listens as U.S. Ambassador Steven Pifer discusses the economic challenges facing Ukraine.

## TWG, IREX host U.S. Ambassador Pifer

TWG joined with IREX (the International Research and Exchanges Board) in a Friday Evening Forum June 26 that featured U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer.

In his presentation—the second before a TWG audience (he was hosted by TWG before departing for his assignment to Kyiv a half year ago)—Mr. Pifer presented a sobering assessment of how things were going in Ukraine.

If Ukraine does not bite the

bullet on economic reform it faces the possibility of a financial crisis within the next year. It stands to lose \$6 billion in potential low-interest international credits and will default on its ballooning domestic and foreign financial obligations.

Mr. Pifer balanced his words of caution with an expectation that President Kuchma's recent decrees dealing with the economy is an indication that his government realizes this precarious situation

(See *Pifer*, Page 11)

## *New Members*

- **Michael Kochkodin**, Student, University of Pennsylvania Law School; Philadelphia, PA.
- **Ustina Markus**, Political Analyst and Historian, Department of Defense On-Site Inspection Agency; Washington, DC.
- **Orysia Stanchak**, Executive Director, YWCA of the National Capital Area; Washington, DC.

## *Notes on Members*

*Noticing that the "Notes on Members" section of the TWG newsletter asks for "interesting news about a TWG colleague, or about yourself," Diana Howansky, a new TWG member, e-mailed in some information about herself:*

She just graduated from the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Affairs (SAIS) with a master's degree in International Affairs, specializing in Russian Area and East European Studies. She was awarded a Fulbright Grant to Poland for the 1998-1999 academic year to research "Akcja Wisla," the Polish government's 1947 operation that forcibly relocated about 150,000 Ukrainians from their ancestral lands in southeastern Poland to the northern and western territories which Poland received from Germany after WWII. She says the goal of "Akcja Wisla" was twofold: to deny the UPA insurgent army support from the local population and to "Polonize" the Ukrainians. She intends to interview Ukrainians who lived through "Akcja Wisla" and document their experiences, and to measure the extent to which the Ukrainians

(See *Notes* ↔)

### **TWG NEWS**

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## **TWG Board of Directors**

**1998-1999**

<i>President</i>	Orest Deychakiwsky
<i>Vice-President</i>	Tanya Stasiuk
<i>Treasurer</i>	Roman Stelmach
<i>Secretary</i>	Michael Drabyk
<i>Membership</i>	Adrian Pidlusky
<i>Public Relations</i>	Ihor Kotlarchuk
<i>Special Projects</i>	Rotating member-at-large
<i>Events Director</i>	Rotating member-at-large
<i>Cultural Fund Director</i>	Laryssa Chopivsky
<i>Fellowship Fund Chair</i>	Adrian Karmazyn

### *Members-at-Large*

Steven Boyduy  
Oleg Jerschkowsky  
Maria Kulczycky  
John Kun  
Anya Silecky  
Natalie Sluzar  
Marta Zielyk  
Maria Zmurkewycz

### *Auditing Committee*

Andrew Charchalis  
Ihor Procinsky

## *Notes..*

in Poland were assimilated.

"I hope that my research will help to improve Polish-Ukrainian relations," she writes. "I believe that, unless the issue is explored and discussed candidly, bitterness and hatred will continue."

Ms. Howansky will be affiliated with the history department at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. □

### **10 Free TWG Student Memberships**

The Washington Group is looking for students interested in joining TWG. And thanks to the generosity of a TWG member who will be subsidizing the cost of their membership for the first year, 10 students will be able to join The Washington Group as new members at no cost. To be eligible, students should be enrolled full or part-time in a degree program at an accredited college or university. This opportunity applies to new memberships, rather than renewals. For more information or to apply, contact TWG Membership Director Adrian Pidlusky at apidlusky@sais-jhu.edu, or by phone at (202) 667-1831.



**Orest Deychakiwsky** is staff associate at the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) responsible for Ukraine, Belarus, Bulgaria, and Hungary. He also serves as intern coordinator and liaison with non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Deychakiwsky has served as a member on U.S. delegations to over a dozen meetings of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in various countries in Europe. He has also been an international observer at elections in Ukraine, Russia, Bulgaria and Bosnia. Previous employment includes project manager at the Republican National Committee and a consultant for the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation. Deychakiwsky holds an M.A. in Government and International Relations from Georgetown and a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame. Mr. Deychakiwsky's activity in the Ukrainian-American community includes being a founding member of TWG, where he has served in various Board of Director positions, including chairman of the TWG Fellowship Fund. He was active in the movement on behalf of human rights in Ukraine and in the early 1980s served as a member of the editorial board of the Ukrainian human rights quarterly *Smoloskyp*. He can be reached at (202) 225-1901 (office) or (301) 937-4445 (home) or e-mail orest.deychak@mail.house.gov.



**Tanya Stasiuk**, TWG's new vice president, is a contract specialist/negotiator with the Department of Defense. Prior to that, she was a Research Assistant with a telecommunications market consulting firm. She has authored articles for the *East European & former Soviet*

*Telecom Report*. Ms. Stasiuk is a graduate of The College of William and Mary, received a M.A. degree in Russian Area Studies from Georgetown University, and is currently a M.B.A. candidate at the Florida Institute of Technology. She was also the 1989 Women's U.S. National Amateur Tennis Champion. Ms. Stasiuk can be reached at (703) 875-8036 and via e-mail: tanya1s@aol.com.



**Roman C. Stelmach**, joined TWG in 1990 and has served as its treasurer since 1993. Last year he moved a little bit and is now operating in the Philadelphia-NJ-Washington-Baltimore area. In Philadelphia he now serves as the branch manager and marketing director of

the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union. He is still active in the SELFRELIANCE Baltimore Federal Credit Union and continues as the bookkeeper of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Baltimore. Roman has served as the chairperson of the Baltimore Ukrainian Festival and has coordinated the Baltimore/Washington Ukrainian Independence Day Picnic since 1992. He is a member of the Chornomortsi Plast fraternity. Mr. Stelmach can be reached at 215-572-1481 (home) and 888-POLTAVA (office) or directly on 215-379-0400.



**Mike Drabyk**, after three years as membership director, has switched hats on the TWG Board and now holds the post of secretary. He joined TWG in 1993, soon after moving to the Washington area from Long Island, NY. He joined the TWG Board in 1994 as a member-

at-large, and one year later he took over the responsibilities of Membership Director. A resident of Falls Church, Va., he is a computer consultant working on a project for the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) in Rockville, Md. Previous client sites included the U.S. Coast Guard, Bell/Atlantic, Sprint, and Oracle. He also belongs to several technical professional associations, among them IEEE. On a personal note, he recently married the former Roberta van't Veld Oliver of McLean, VA. Many TWG members know her as a friend of TWG who has helped with registration at leadership conferences in recent years. Mike Drabyk's hobbies include visiting places of interest in and around the Washington area. "I've been here nearly six years now," he says, "and there's still so much to see... I still feel like a tourist." He can be reached at (703) 560-7734 or e-mail mdrabyk@aol.com.

(See *Bios*, Page 5)

# UKRAINIAN SELFRELIANCE

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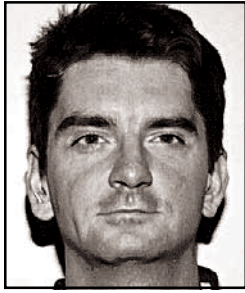
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**Adrian Pidlusky**, TWG membership director, has completed his first year at the Johns Hopkins University graduate program in International Relations. Last semester he worked in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and this summer is working at the Energy

Intelligence Group, a news agency on the energy industry. He is concentrating in American foreign policy with the intent of joining the Foreign Service. He grew up in Maine, lived in Ellenville, NY, and in 1990, graduated from the Ukrainian Pontifical Minor Seminary in Rome. He attended the State University of New York at New Paltz, majoring in international relations, while working year-round at Soyuzivka. After graduation in 1994, he worked as a translator/correspondent at an English-language news agency in Kyiv and later as consular assistant at the U.S. Embassy until July 1997. He can be reached at (202) 667-1831 or e-mail [apidlusky@sais-jhu.edu](mailto:apidlusky@sais-jhu.edu).



**Ihor O. E. Kotlarchuk**, the new TWG Public Relations director, joined the U.S. Department of Justice as a trial attorney in the Tax Division in 1973 and is now a trial attorney in the its Criminal Division. He has served on active duty as a captain in the U.S. Army

Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) from 1969 to 1973, with a tour of duty in Vietnam, receiving the Bronze Star Medal and the Presidential Legion Of Merit. He is now a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. He has traveled extensively to Ukraine to work on legal, military and judicial assistance projects sponsored by the State Department, U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, and the Department of Justice. He is admitted to practice in New York State and District of Columbia and before the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Tax Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals of the Armed Forces. He received a B.S. degree in business (1965) from the Fordham University School of Business and a J.D. degree in law (1968) from the Fordham School of Law. He also received an LL.M. degree in Tax Law (1974) and an M.A. degree in Political Science (1982) from Georgetown University. A member of Plast and the

Ukrainian Institute of America in New York, Mr. Kotlarchuk has also been president of the Ukrainian Students Association of NYC while in college (1963-1965), an officer of the Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) and the D.C. Branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA). He can be reached at (703) 548-8534.



**Laryssa Chopivsky** is in her fourth year as director of the TWG Cultural Fund. Previously, she had served as special projects director and chaired the TWG Leadership Conference. An active member of the Ukrainian community, Ms. Chopivsky was in the leader-

ship of the youth organization Plast in Chicago and in Washington, a founding member of the Ukrainian Washington Federal Credit Union and its first treasurer, and is a member of the Chernobyl Committee of Washington. With a special interest in the arts, she is a longtime member of the Board of Directors of the Washington Performing Arts Society and a performing member of the Friday Morning Music Club. Ms. Chopivsky has a B.A. from the University of Illinois and an M.B.A. from George Washington University, and was formerly an owner and vice president of Commonwealth Broadcasting Company, Inc. Ms. Chopivsky is also a member of the Board of Development of the Hospital for Sick Children. She has two children, George and Alexa. She can be reached at (202) 363-3964 or by e-mail at [laryssac@aol.com](mailto:laryssac@aol.com).



**Adrian Karmazyn**, Fellowship Fund chairman, is a journalist with the Voice of America's Ukrainian Branch. He reports primarily on U.S.-Ukrainian relations, including U.S. policy towards Ukraine, U.S.-Ukrainian exchange programs and economic and political trends

in that country as viewed by American experts. He also reports on reform efforts in Ukraine, including interviews with leading reformers and representatives of Ukrainian non-governmental organizations. Mr. Karmazyn has covered many TWG Annual Leadership Conferences and other TWG news-making events for VOA. He can be reached at 301-460-9755 or by e-mail at [adriankz@aol.com](mailto:adriankz@aol.com). □

## Meeting... (from Page 1)

Fund director. Ms. Stasiuk, Mr. Pidlusky and Mr. Kotlarchuk are new on the Board.

The meeting elected eight members-at-large: Steven Boyduy, Oleg Jerschowsky, Maria Kulczycky, former PR director John Kun, Anya Silecky, TWG's first president Natalie Sluzar, former vice president Marta Zielyk, and Maria Zmurkewycz.

Andrew Charchalis and Ihor Procinsky are on the new auditing committee.

All board members live in the greater Washington, D.C., area—except for Mr. Stelmach, who is branch manager of the Philadelphia Ukrainian Selfreliance Credit Union.

All of the annual meeting reports were upbeat about TWG's present and future.

It was another good year, was the way Mr. Masiuk, the outgoing president, characterized it.

"TWG staged high-quality events which were well-attended; we took in more money than we spent; we increased our membership by ten percent; and our 1997 Leadership Conference was successful from an attendance, customer satisfaction, and a financial point of view," he said.

*(The full texts of all of the TWG Annual Meeting reports and speeches are printed in this issue.)*

His successor, Mr. Deychakiwsky, noted in his acceptance speech that in this respect TWG "is somewhat an anomaly" in the Ukrainian-American community.

"The sad, but virtually undeniable reality is that the community is steadily declining: organizations are losing membership, some rather rapidly," he said. Many organizations have ceased

to exist, including some fellow professionals organizations, while others have turned into "paper tigers," he added.

"TWG, to its credit, has bucked this trend," he said. "And precisely because the community is diminish-



Photo by Yaro Bihun

**Outgoing TWG President George Masiuk receives an award of appreciation and a bottle of champagne from TWG's first president, Natalie Sluzar.**

ing, it becomes all the more important to have a strong, viable organization such as TWG based in the nation's capital," where it "enjoys a solid reputation" within the U.S. Government and international relations organizations, and its members have the opportunity "to provide ideas and input to help promote closer U.S.-Ukrainian relations."

As staff associate at the U.S. CSCE Commission (popularly known as the Helsinki Commission), Mr. Deychakiwsky's responsibilities include Ukraine, Belarus, Bulgaria, and Hungary. He has served as a member on U.S. delegations to numerous meetings of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in various countries in Europe, and has been an international observer at elections in Ukraine, Russia, Bulgaria and Bosnia.

*(Biographical sketches of the new board members are on Page 3.)*

Outgoing membership director Michael Drabyk reported that over the past year TWG membership grew from 366 to 415 thanks to an active campaign to get new members and regain those whose membership had expired.

He also noted a marked increase, to 34, in the number of student members.

The membership is almost equally divided between those who live in the greater Washington area (D.C., Maryland and Virginia) and those who live in 26 other states as well as in Canada, Europe (including Ukraine) and Australia.

On the cultural side, Cultural Fund Director Laryssa Chopivsky noted in her report, the Fund was involved in bringing to Washington the Kyiv Chamber Choir, the Ukrainian Bandura Chorus, fiddler-mandolinist Peter Ostroushko, the winners of

the Horowitz International Young Pianists Competition and Olenka Pevny of the Metropolitan Museum, who spoke about The Glory of Byzantium exhibition at the Met.

Fellowship Fund director Adrian Karmazyn reported that the Fund this year will sponsor TWG's third annual summer internship at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington.

The annual meeting approved all of the changes in TWG's by-laws as printed in the previous issue of the TWG News. Among them: dropping the requirement that a member or his/her spouse be of Ukrainian descent and updating some of the pre-Ukrainian-independence language in the document. A member must, however, "support and promote the goals of TWG," which strive "to establish a professional and business network of Ukrainian-Americans to promote closer ties and contacts, strive to elimi-

(See *Meeting*, Page 8)

**February 1997 – May 1998****Summary**

The last year and one-half (1997/98) have continued to be good for TWG. TWG staged high quality events which were well attended. We took in more money than we spent. We increased our membership by 10%. And our 1997 Leadership Conference was successful from an attendance, customer satisfaction, and a financial point of view.

**1997-1998 Events**

On March 21, 1997, TWG and the Center for Strategic and International Studies hosted an evening with Jack Segal, Director of Ukrainian, Belorussian and Moldovan Affairs at the State Department. Mr. Segal provided a comprehensive analysis of U.S. policy toward Ukraine and of U.S.-Ukraine relations.

On May 5, TWG, Meridian House, USAID, Barents Group, and the International Management Institute in Kyiv sponsored a presentation entitled, "Business and Banking in Ukraine." Five students from IMI-Kyiv's banking program provided an overview of Ukrainian banking. The introductory speech was delivered by Ambassador Richard Morningstar, Special Assistant to the President and the Secretary of State for Assistance to the New Independent States, who spoke about Ukraine's problems with corruption and its poor investment climate. About 200 persons attended this event.

On July 23, TWG and The Embassy of Ukraine sponsored a discussion with a group of visiting Ukrainian journalists about the role of a free press in a democratic society. It was a memorable evening in that our community could meet with a wide variety of journalists from Ukraine and see first-hand the difficulties and the triumphs of establishing a vigorous free press where none existed before.

In August, we had two fun events. On August 2, TWG organized an outing to Virginia wine country, and on August 24, TWG and the Baltimore Credit Union sponsored an Independence Day Picnic in Columbia, MD.

In October, TWG held its annual Leadership Conference, "We Can Do Better: Expanding Horizons for Ukrainian-Americans." The conference assessed the state of Ukrainian-American organizations; emphasized the importance of networking and leveraging in the context of the larger American society; provided suggestions for participating in American political life, including ideas for competing for grants to carry out projects in Ukraine.

The conference's keynote speeches focusing on U.S.-Ukraine relations were delivered by Ambassador William Courtney, Senior Director for Russian, Ukrainian, and Eurasian Affairs at the NSC, and Ukraine's Ambassador to

the United States Yuri Shcherbak. During the conference's Friday evening reception at the Embassy of Ukraine, Ambassador Shcherbak accepted an honorary membership in TWG.

On November 5, TWG hosted a delegation from Ukraine that included several justices from Ukraine's Constitutional Court, including Chief Justice Tymoshenko.

On December 29, TWG hosted the then newly designated United States ambassador to Ukraine, Steven Pifer. Although this meeting was off the record at Ambassador Pifer's request, everyone present had a great opportunity to engage Ambassador Pifer in a wide-ranging discussion.

In January, 1998, TWG held a Christmas Party/Malanka. It was very well attended and everyone had a good time.

On March 23, TWG and Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies hosted Ambassador William Miller who had just returned from his tour of duty as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. Ambassador Miller provided a wide-ranging and highly optimistic assessment of Ukrainian society. At the conclusion of that evening, Ambassador Miller accepted an honorary TWG membership.

On May 4, TWG again hosted a presentation on the "Current State of banking in Ukraine," cosponsored by Meridian House, USAID, Barents Group, and the International Management Institute in Kyiv. Once again Ambassador Morningstar spoke at this event. For attendees of the previous year's forum on banking in Ukraine it was heartening to see the progress in the development of Ukraine's banking sector and in the quality of Ukraine's young banking talent.

**Other Activities**

In addition to the above events, the TWG Cultural Fund organized a number of outstanding events, including a performance during the TWG Leadership Conference by mandolinist Peter Ostroushko and guitarist Dean Magraw, of Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion syndicated radio program. The full TWG Cultural Fund report will be presented later.

The TWG Fellowship Fund last year awarded a stipend to Lesya Richardson for her to serve as an intern at the Embassy of Ukraine. The full TWG Fellowship Fund report will be presented later.

Also, thanks to the efforts of TWG News Editor Yaro Bihun, TWG News kept us all informed about TWG events and about other TWG members.

Another major TWG achievement was the publication of the TWG Membership Directory due to the efforts of Yaro Bihun, Mike Drabyk, and John Kalitka.

(See *President*, Page 8)

### **State of The Washington Group**

Since this is my last report as TWG president, let me summarize the state of The Washington Group.

The current TWG infrastructure, that is, the ability to maintain a membership database; the ability to collect and process dues; the ability to get advertising revenue for TWG News and the Leadership Conference program; the ability to publish TWG News and a TWG Membership Directory—this capability is in reasonable shape now, but it is not on firm footing. This capability rests totally on the dedicated volunteer effort. And I would like to acknowledge Mike Drabek, our membership chairman; Roman Stelmach, our treasurer; and Yaro Bihun, our TWG News editor, for their extraordinary efforts on behalf of TWG. But in the long-run TWG must find a way to transfer many of these crucial organizational functions to paid professionals, and so free our membership chairman, treasurer, and TWG NEWS editor to focus on organization expanding activities rather than burdening them so heavily with organization maintenance activities.

An area where TWG and the TWG Cultural Fund have achieved an unquestioned success is in the ability to organize high quality events typically in partnership with prominent Washington-based institutions. This ability to consistently bring together interesting speakers or performers with a sophisticated audience has made TWG and TWG Cultural Fund the focus of the Washington area Ukrainian-American community's political, intellectual and cultural life.

### **Thanks for the Help**

Now let me take the opportunity to thank the outgoing

### **Meeting... (continued from Page 6)**

nate discrimination and prejudice aimed at Ukrainian-Americans, promote close U.S.-Ukrainian relations, encourage the development of a pluralistic and democratic Ukraine, promote a greater understanding of Ukrainian history and culture in American society, and encourage active participation of Ukrainian-Americans in promoting the welfare of the community."

The changes also stipulate that the Board of Directors—in addition to the Executive Committee and the membership, public relations, special projects and events directors— will also include the immediate past president, the chairpersons of the Cultural and Fellowship Funds and any other "special interest committees" that may be formed, and no more than 15 directors-at-large.

The amended by-laws now also allow for corporate memberships, in addition to current full, associate, student and honorary memberships. □

board for a job well done. And let me thank all those others who helped TWG organize events and those who attended them.

I would also like to thank the First Security Federal Savings Bank, and its President Julian Kulas, and the Ukrainian Federal Credit Unions for consistently and generously supporting TWG.

Finally, I hope that all of you will support the new TWG Board and the new TWG president that we will be electing tonight.

Thank you. □

## **TWG Briefs**

### **EMBASSY INTERN**

The Embassy of Ukraine has selected Taras Siryy of Cleveland as its TWG summer intern. The TWG News will have more about him in the next issue.

### **MEETING WITH JOURNALIST**

On May 22, a group of TWG members had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Vyacheslav Pikhovshek, director of the Ukrainian Center for Independent Policy Research, a Kyiv "think tank" that tracks democratic developments in Ukraine. Mr. Pikhovshek, a well-known TV commentator, anchors the successful public affairs program "Pyatyi Kut." Two months prior to the Ukrainian parliamentary elections, Mr. Pikhovshek hosted the popular TV program "Pyat na pyat" which featured representatives of Ukrainian political parties. It was seen by more than 20 million viewers.

Mr. Pikhovshek was in the United States as part of a Congressional briefing series hosted by the Kennan Institute. He spoke at the Institute and Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and met with State Department and Congressional staffers, as well as with members of TWG.

During the TWG meeting, Mr. Pikhovshek discussed the outcome and implications of the recent parliamentary elections, the current political situation in Ukraine, the friction between President Kuchma and the Verkhovna Rada, the upcoming presidential elections in October 1999 as well as the media and press situation in Ukraine.—*Tanya Stasiuk*

### **HAPPY HOUR**

TWG's new membership director Adrian Pidlusky organized a Happy Hour at the historic Washington Hotel's roof-top lounge July 10. □

First, I'd like to thank you for placing your trust and confidence in me. I hope I can follow in the footsteps of George Masiuk, who did a tremendous job as President over the last three years. George expended much more time and effort than most of us realize to ensure TWG's success as an organization. George will continue to be an active member of the board in his capacity as Immediate Past President, and he can be sure that I will be seeking his advice and counsel. The same applies to Marta Zielyk, who defied the kind of negative stereotype you sometimes hear about vice-presidents, and devoted a lot of herself on behalf of TWG.

I am very pleased to be working with this newly elected Board of Directors—it includes many members with whom I have worked on previous boards, and I know that these are reliable people with proven track records of contributing to TWG in a meaningful way. An effective Board of Directors is a must, especially for a volunteer organization like ours.

### TWG "an anomaly"

For a minute I'd like to look at TWG within the context of the Ukrainian-American community. After all, we are not an organization existing in a vacuum but, by definition, are part of the community. Unfortunately, TWG is somewhat an anomaly in the Ukrainian-American community. What do I mean? The sad, but virtually undeniable reality is that the community is steadily declining: organizations are losing membership, some rather rapidly; many have ceased to exist, including, within the last two years, some of our fellow professional organizations; other organizations are paper tigers. TWG, to its credit, has bucked this trend. It has remained viable and fairly dynamic and, by doing so, perhaps has helped to stem the rate of decline of the Ukrainian-American community. In fact, our membership has actually grown.

And precisely because the community is diminishing, it becomes all the more important to have a strong, viable organization such as TWG based in the nation's capital. Because of our activities and our membership, TWG enjoys a solid reputation in Washington among those involved with U.S.- Ukrainian relations (including in the U.S. government), and TWG members have had the opportunity

to provide ideas and input to help promote closer U.S.-Ukrainian relations.

What do we need to do to maintain and expand our viability? In any organization, infrastructure is vital—membership efforts and the maintenance

of data bases (which Mike Drabyk has done a yeoman's job with); our newsletter, TWG News (thanks to Yaro Bihun's efforts and fine editorial skills), and finances (thanks to our competent treasurer, Roman Stelmach). (In fact, even something like TWG mailings, although often taken for granted, are critical to an organization. Maybe I'm sensitive to that because my kids and I did these mailings for over three years, and it does take some time and effort; and I'm very pleased that Nick Babiak and his boys are doing these mailings now and have agreed to continue to do them.) I'm pleased that many experienced board members are staying on and that new

board members will work with them to maintain and strengthen TWG's infrastructure.

Another vital component of the organization—and what gives us the greatest visibility—are the events we put on—from the Leadership Conferences, to events featuring policymakers to social events that enable TWG members, to interact with each other and that provide more informal avenues for networking. A tremendous TWG asset is the TWG Cultural Fund, under the leadership of Laryssa Chopivsky, which has put on outstanding, high quality cultural events. The Cultural Fund operates as an autonomous entity, with its own meetings and membership. The Fellowship Fund, albeit more limited in scope than the Cultural Fund, also operates semi-autonomously.

### Special interest committees

As president, I would like to encourage the formation of more of these kinds of special interest committees. With the fall of communism, the days of centralization are over, and this applies to TWG as well (even though we were never that centralized)—so as long as various TWG special interest group's actions are consistent with the by-laws and the Board is kept in the loop, there is no reason why we can't have more specialized committees within TWG. So, if members are interested in organizing such groups within

(See *President's Speech*, Page 10)

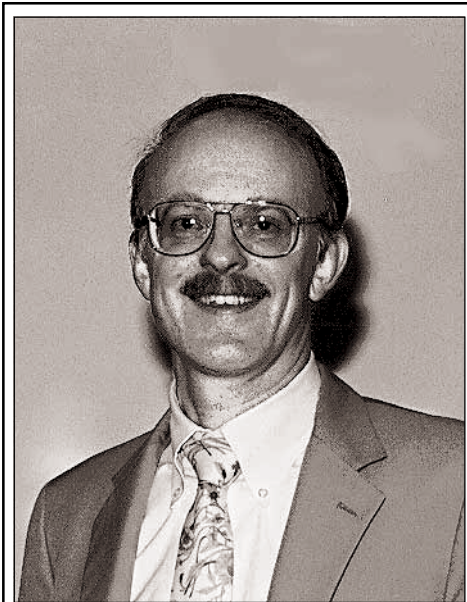


Photo by Natalie Sluzar

Orest Deychakiwsky

TWG (any group with common interests—whether it be Ukrainian history, or a booklovers club, an Internet club, or a tennis club, or what not), by all means, consider coming to the Board with the idea and we will seriously consider it, especially if you are willing to take the lead on it.

TWG, of course, is a membership organization. We are all volunteers, including board members, who, like most members, lead busy lives outside of TWG. No TWG member gets paid to do anything. As president, I want to encourage members to come up with ideas and suggestions for what TWG can and should be doing, but equally important is the willingness to help implement those ideas. I'm especially interested in suggestions that could enable us to network more effectively. TWG specialized committees offer one avenue for this. Our TWG Directory and TWG News also facilitate networking. In fact, with respect to TWG News, Yaro and I strongly encourage members to share news about themselves or fellow TWG members, for the Notes on Members column. Don't be shy. TWG members are doing interesting things that should be shared with fellow members. This, too, could promote networking.

#### **New Board members**

As I said, our new board includes both veterans as well as several newer, younger members, including our newly elected Vice-President, Tanya Stasiuk, and Membership Director, Adrian Pidlusky. I'm very pleased at their energy and enthusiasm—characteristics that every organization needs, and I hope that we can draw more people like them into TWG. I'm also delighted that Steve Boyduy has agreed to join the Board. Steve has agreed to develop the TWG World Wide Web site, which already exists, but which needs a considerable amount of development to form an effective vehicle for TWG to more effectively interact with its membership and with the outside world.

While TWG has a solid membership base—thanks to the tireless efforts of Mike Drabek—we should not take this for granted. A substantial portion of our membership comes from outside the D.C. area, and even from outside the U.S., and I want to especially thank these members for their continuing support of TWG's goals and objectives. I hope that even more people from outside the Washington metropolitan area consider joining TWG. I also think Washington area membership has room for growth. All of us know people who used to belong to TWG or who live and work in this area, but who are not now members of TWG. As a practical matter, TWG has, in effect—and not by design—become one of the very few Washington area Ukrainian-American community-wide organizations. Some

of our mailings, especially for events, go to non-members, including former members, and non-members often attend our events. I appeal to non-members to consider joining (or re-joining) TWG, and I appeal to our membership to help recruit new members, the lifeblood of any organization. Our membership dues are reasonable and affordable, and I'd like to stress that our full membership dues have not gone up once since TWG's inception fifteen years ago.

#### **"The Mother of All Conferences"**

In the coming year, we will continue to offer interesting, serious as well as fun events—a few for this summer are now in the planning stages. At last year's Leadership Conference, it was announced that the New York/New Jersey B's and P's will hold this year's Fall leadership conference in New Jersey, the planning for which I understand is well along, and details of which will be forthcoming. Frankly, this is a welcome break for TWG as these Leadership Conferences take a lot of time and effort. However, as some of you already know, TWG has agreed to participate in what I only half-kiddingly call "The Mother of All Conferences", scheduled for late June 1999 in Washington. At least four organizations will be participating—the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA)—of which former TWG Board Director Roman Goy is President-elect, and, indeed, he is taking the lead on this conference—the Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA), the Ukrainian Credit Union Association, and TWG. This is an ambitious undertaking in which we plan to have four conferences, with separate and joint events, in what will be called a Ukraine Events Week. Work has already commenced on this conference, you will be hearing more about this over the next year, and I want to appeal to as many of you as possible to consider getting involved in the conference preparations.

In conclusion, I'd once again like to thank you for your vote of confidence in me and in the new Board. We're open to new ideas, and suggestions to improve our work. The fact of the matter is that TWG does work. With active support of members and of the Board—with all of us working together—I'm confident that we can make TWG into an even more viable and effective organization. □

#### **UKRAINIAN DIRECTORY**

Nationwide Ukrainian Directory coming soon  
(September - October, 1998)

For more information about listing and advertising  
please contact *Volodymyrs Institute*

by phone 301-610-7364 or fax 301-610-7365

E-mail: volodymyrs@aol.com.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*Michael Drabyk*

The Washington Group is pleased to announce that TWG Membership has exceeded 400. As of May 29, 1998, membership stands at 415. That is an increase from 366, reported at last year's Annual Meeting. The numbers break down as follows:

1998 TWG Membership	
Full	188
Associate	185
Student	34
Honorary	8
Total	415

Newmemberssince1997TWGAnnualMeeting,2/15/97	90
FormerTWGmemberswhojoinedinthesameperiod	48
Subtotal	138
Membershipsasof1997AnnualMeeting	366
NetGain	49

TWG membership first surpassed 400 in October 1997, with the combination of several factors. Many new members typically join TWG following the annual Leadership Conference, and this was again the case in 1997. Many others joined for the first time, or else renewed memberships that had lapsed, during the campaign that culminated in the publication of the 1998 TWG Membership Directory. That effort also raised more than \$4,000 from membership dues and advertising. Other sources of new members included our TWG web pages, word-of-mouth recruiting among TWG members, as well as sign-up sheets at TWG events throughout the year. More recently, membership fluctuated above or just under the 400 mark. The number varied with the combination of new, renewing, and lapsed memberships in a given month.

TWG members are found not just in Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia, but also in 26 other states, the farthest being in Alaska. TWG members are also found around the world—in Ukraine and elsewhere in Europe,

Canada, and as far away as Australia. That TWG member in Australia, by the way, joined via the TWG web pages on the Internet.

Membership by location breaks down as follows:

Maryland	80
Virginia	90
Washington, DC	48
Elsewhere, domestic, foreign	197
Total	415

The Washington Group also made progress on several key membership fronts. The number of student members has nearly doubled to 34 from the 20 reported at last year's meeting. TWG also continued to make headway in the area of membership retention, with 48 former TWG members renewing memberships that had expired, in some cases as long as several years ago. Renewal letters worked effectively to both reach out to these former members, as well as to maintain the base of current members.

TWG's growing membership is a team effort—no one person can take the credit. The list of those to thank is a lengthy one, including George Masiuk, Orest Deychakiwsky, Yaro Bihun, Laryssa Chopivsky, Adrian Pidlusky, Tanya Stasiuk, and Roman Stelmach, among many, many others. For those people we haven't mentioned here, it doesn't mean we have overlooked you. We appreciate your help and assistance, and hope it will continue.

Looking ahead, there is reason for continued optimism. Twenty new members have joined The Washington Group since the first of the year. And the momentum continues as a steady stream of inquiries come in, from individuals interested in becoming members. There is also every indication that the newly nominated Executive Board, and particularly the newly nominated Membership Director, will work hard to keep TWG on an upward course. This indeed is a good time for The Washington Group! □

### *Pifer...*(continued from Page 1)

and is finally willing to act.

Ukraine faces three major challenges, he said—it must restructure its economy, its political system and foreign relations. Of these the greatest challenge is economic reform. If there were to be another Asian and Russian financial crisis, he said, Ukraine would find itself in a position of not being able to borrow any money internationally or sell hardly any of its treasury bills domestically. At the same time, it would have to keep redeeming its high-interest monthly treasury bills and service its

foreign debt.

The best way out this predicament for Ukraine is through the \$2.5 billion Extended Fund Facility credit program offered by the International Monetary Fund, which would lessen its dependency on its costly domestic T-bills that pay 45 to 50 percent on an annual basis.

"You can't maintain that for long before you run into a situation where virtually all revenues are going to be consumed by treasury bill redemption and servicing the foreign debt," Mr. Pifer said.

(See *Pifer*, Page 14)

## TREASURER'S REPORT

*Roman Stelmach*

FOR PERIOD 1/1/97 TO 12/31/97  
GENERAL FUND:

<b>Starting balance:</b>	<b>20,182.34</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>	
Dues	13,550.00
Leadership Conference (96)	275.00
Leadership Conference (97)	21,775.00
Professional functions	1,713.00
Interest earned	935.59
Fellowship Fund	450.00
TWG News:	105.00
TWG Membership Directory	550.00
Miscellaneous income	1,653.20
<b>Total revenues:</b>	<b>41,006.79</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Administrative supplies:	1,600.53
Dues notice expense	535.00
Leadership Conference (96)	4,114.91
Leadership Conference (97)	20,382.78
Professional functions:	1,394.24
Bank fees and charges:	349.65
TWG News:	4,163.16
TWG Membership Directory	77.11
Printing general:	672.46
Fellowship Fund	1,450.00
Federation dues	0.00
Miscellaneous charges	697.75
<b>Total expenses:</b>	<b>35,437.59</b>

NET GAIN (LOSS) FOR PERIOD: 5,569.20

CLOSING BALANCE AS OF 12/31/97 25,751.54

### BALANCES:

CRESTAR Bank, N. A.	2,454.65
SELFRELIANCE Balt. FCU	23,296.89
	25,751.54
<b>TOTAL CASH:</b>	<b>25,751.54</b>

### BALANCE SHEET As of May 29, 1998

#### ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
CRESTAR Bank N.A.	868.13
SELFRELIANCE Baltimore FCU	24,196.89
Total Checking/Savings	25,065.02
Total Current Assets	25,065.02

**TOTAL ASSETS 25,065.02**

#### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity	
Net Income	-686.52
3000 Opening Bal Equity	25,751.54
Total Equity	25,065.02

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 25,065.02**

## FELLOWSHIP FUND REPORT

*Adrian Karmazyn*

For the third consecutive year the Washington Group Fellowship Committee is sponsoring an internship at the Embassy of Ukraine. Seven applications are currently being reviewed for a two-month internship for the Summer of 1998. [Since the report, the intern has been selected.—*ed.*]

As in previous years the reviewing committee consists of Natalia Zarudna and Vasyl Zorya of the Embassy and George Masiuk, Orest Deychakiwsky and Adrian Karmazyn of TWG.

The joint TWG-Ukrainian Embassy project was established in 1996 in keeping with the Fellowship Fund's tradition of sponsoring internships, research or study in the nation's capital. The project has been beneficial for TWG, the embassy and for the participating interns.

The first intern was Helena Zyblikewycz of Georgetown University. Among other things, she helped the embassy

prepare for the Washington visit of then-prime minister Pavlo Lazarenko. Last year's summer intern was Alexandra Richardson of Marquette University. One of the tasks she performed during her internship was translating various documents, including the independence day letters exchanged between President Kuchma and President Clinton. Each intern received a grant of \$1,500.

This year's internship opportunity was advertised in TWG News, The Ukrainian Weekly and Infoukes [on the Internet]. The Summer 1998 intern candidate's resumes are now being reviewed by the Ukrainian Embassy.

The Fellowship Committee wishes to thank TWG members Yuri Deychakiwsky and Yaro Bihun for their contributions to the Fund. As of May 29, the Fellowship Fund account balance stood at \$3,660.69. □

# CULTURAL FUND REPORT

*Laryssa Chopivsky*

In its fourth year of existence, The Washington Group Cultural Fund continued to fulfill its mission to promote Ukrainian culture in the Washington metropolitan area. Our program included the Kyiv Chamber Choir, The Ukrainian Bandura Chorus of North America, a slide/lecture presentation by Olenka Pevny on *The Glory of Byzantium* exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum, the Horowitz International Competition for Young Pianists winners recital, and the popular duo, mandolinist Peter Ostroushko and guitarist Dean Magraw, of Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion syndicated radio program.

These activities were a great success thanks to our many collaborators, supporters, and participants. We wish to acknowledge the Washington Performing Arts Society, the George Mason Center for the Arts, the White House, and the National Cathedral for making it possible for the Kyiv Chamber Choir to perform in a variety of important Washington venues, and Mr. Thor Kritsky and the Rock Bottom Cafe in Bethesda for contributing a very generous reception for the Choir and their supporters. We also wish to thank the Sumner School Museum for the use of their Great Hall for the Glory of Byzantium presentation, as well as for the Horowitz Competition winners recital, and the Fourth Presbyterian Church for the use of their sanctuary and hall for the Ukrainian Bandura Chorus. Our activities would not be possible without the generosity and cooperation of these essential institutions. In addition, thanks to the many individual donors who responded to our annual Christmas fundraising drive, we raised \$6,250 in 1997 and artist Theresa Markiw deserves special thanks for the use of her beautiful painting for our 1997 Christmas card.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Embassy of Ukraine for its cooperation, and members of the Cultural Fund Committee for their friendship and hard work: Teresa Ben, Yaro Bihun, Katya Bowers, Tania Demchuk, Nadia Diuk, Larysa Kurylas, Stefan Maksymjuk, Rosalie Norair (Treasurer), Slavko Nowytski, Chrystia Sonevsky, Daria Stec (Secretary), Marta Zielyk, Vasyly Zorya, and Honorary Chair, Maria Shcherbak.

The TWGCF 1997 financial statement, prepared by treasurer Rosalie Norair, is attached.

## Statement of Revenues and Expenses for Year ending December 31, 1997

### Revenues

Donations: TWGCF	6250.00
Donations: Children's Festival	600.00
Horowitz recital revenue	310.00
Odessa calendar revenue	50.00
Interest revenue on securities	300.49

Pevna recital revenue	198.00
TWG reimbursement	575.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$8,283.49</b>

### Expenses

<b>Fundraising Expenses:</b>	
Postage	58.00
Printing	715.76
Calendars from Odessa	50.00
<b>Total Fundraising Expenses</b>	<b>\$823.76</b>
<b>General Expenses:</b>	
Bank service fee	32.00
<b>Total General Expenses</b>	<b>\$32.00</b>
<b>Program Service Expenses</b>	
Pevna Recital Grant & Expenses	\$429.46
Horowitz Recital Grant & Expenses	\$1419.26
Ukr. Bandura Chorus Food & Expenses	\$1228.84
Ostroushko Performance Expenses	\$1173.00
<b>Kyiv Chamber Choir</b>	
Grants	3560.00
Postage	320.00
WPAS	1023.23
Printing	32.70
Travel (hotels)	1362.00
<b>Total Kyiv Chamber Choir Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,297.93</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,404.25</b>

<b>Excess of Expenses over Revenues</b>	<b>(\$3,120.76)</b>
<b>Add: Account Receivable (TWG)</b>	<b>586.50</b>
<b>Add: Fund Balance 12/31/96</b>	<b>\$9,659.15</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE 12/31/97</b>	<b>\$7,124.89</b>

## TWG Outing to Wolf Trap

Saturday, July 25, at 8:00 PM

National Symphony Orchestra  
Elizabeth Schutze, Conductor  
James Westwater, photochoreographer.

Experience the breathtaking beauty of James Westwater's nature photographs displayed on giant screens and artfully choreographed to enhance the spirit and rhythm of the National Symphony Orchestra's live musical accompaniment. The program includes such classical favorites as Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, and Barber's *Adagio for Strings*.

Lawn tickets are \$18.00  
You can order your tickets  
through Ticketmaster and Hecht's.  
You can also contact Natalie Sluza  
at (703-573-6118).

## **Pifer...**(continued from Page 11)

Ukraine also has to improve its investment climate image, he said. "And, unfortunately, it's a very poor image," he said, pointing to the latest Harvard Institute for International Development survey of 53 emerging world economies which lists Ukraine in last place.

"And it is scaring investors off," he added. Ukraine must work to eliminate excessive regulation, rationalize its tax systems, find a way to enforce contracts in order to win over foreign as well as Ukrainian investors and businessmen.

Mr. Pifer said that a little over a week earlier he was "fairly pessimistic" about the Ukrainian government's economic reform plans. The situation changed dramatically a few days later, he added, when President Kuchma stated that he could not wait any longer for the Verkhovna Rada to pass his economic initiatives and began mandating them through presidential decrees.

This decision has had a favorable impact on the last IMF mission to Ukraine, he said. If the IMF approves the EFF credits, Ukraine would be in a position to get \$4 billion in World Bank loans.

During the discussion, Mr. Pifer was asked why the refusal rate for Ukrainians seeking visas to visit the

United States was higher than for citizens of other countries in that region. He said that he did not have statistics comparing his embassy's refusal rate with other consular posts in the region. The only comparison he could point to was to the refusal rate for Ukrainian visa applicants at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow which, he said, was four to five times higher than to other applicants.

State Department inspection teams had looked into this problem in Kyiv and found the refusal rate "justified by the circumstances," he said, adding that that was his assessment as well.

He pointed out that the consular officers have to work within the guidelines of a law "that is essentially 'un-American,'" mandating the presumption—until proven otherwise—that each visa applicant intends to break the conditions of the visa he requests. And there is a "very high fraud rate" in visa applicants from Ukraine, he said. The fraud is becoming "very sophisticated," forcing

the Embassy to apply more scrutiny and to "raise the bar" for all applicants, unfortunately.

Ambassador Pifer was introduced to the audience by the new TWG President Orest Deychakiwsky and IREX President Daniel C. Matuszewski. □

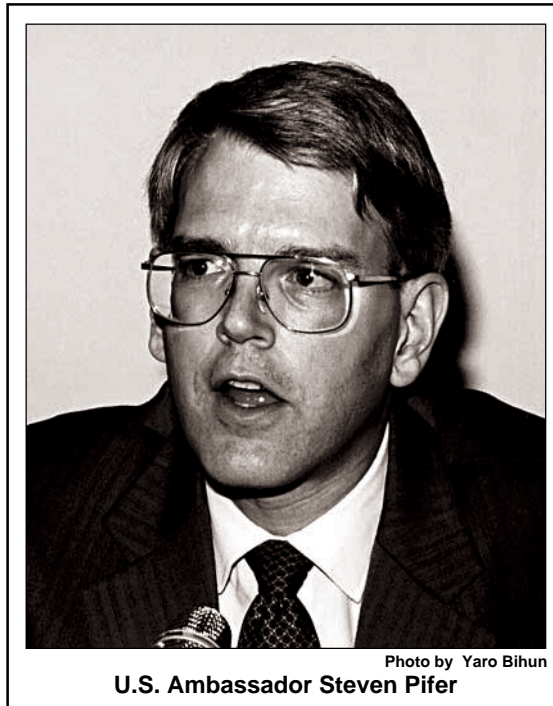


Photo by Yaro Bihun

U.S. Ambassador Steven Pifer

### **LAPTOP COMPUTER NEEDED**

A visiting scholar from Ukraine doing research in Washington could greatly enhance his work with the help of a laptop computer. If you have a "retired" portable around the house collecting dust, consider donating it to someone who can put it to good use.

Call Jurij Dobczansky at (301) 649-6558 (evenings) or e-mail [jdob@loc.gov](mailto:jdob@loc.gov).

**IS YOUR TWG MEMBERSHIP ABOUT TO EXPIRE? CHECK THE DATE ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL, AND RENEW TODAY.**

### **POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

#### **Ukrainian Interpreters Needed**

Berlitz Interpretation Services is searching for Ukrainian interpreters across the United States, and especially in the New York City area. The positions are paid freelance jobs.

Qualified candidates must be either U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Interested individuals can contact:

Sarah Crowell  
888-241-9149 ext.119  
[scrowell@dc.berlitz.com](mailto:scrowell@dc.berlitz.com)  
fax: 202-496-0868

# 1998 UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC

**The Washington Group**

In cooperation with the

**SELFRELIANCE Baltimore Federal Credit Union**

Presents

*The 7th annual Ukrainian Independence Day Picnic*

**August 23rd , 1998**

**At Centennial Park East, Pavilion H,**

**Columbia, Maryland**

**Routes 108 and US 29**

**noon – dusk**

Refreshments

Walking and cycling trails by Centennial Lake, fishing, tot-lot, volleyball, soccer

Bring a contribution of your favorite picnic dish!

**Music by the UKE DJ: 'DARIA'**

4th Annual Washington Metro Area Tennis Tournament

singles and/or doubles, contact Orest Poliszczuk (410) 465-3698

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

Contact Anya Silecky (703) 526-0232; Sophia Caryk (301) 854-2062; Michael Sidlak (410) 561-1312

**RAIN OR SHINE**

Donation: \$1 per person

**non-profit House of Ukraine, Balboa Park, San Diego, California**

*presents*

**SAN DIEGO UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL 1998**

**Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 4-6**

**Friday, September 4:**

Vatra–Welcome Bonfire/Barbecue/Volleyball/Fireworks  
Crown Point, Mission Bay, Pacific Beach, San Diego

**Saturday, September 5:**

Tropak Ukrainian Dance Theatre from Vancouver, Canada  
Mandeville Center-Auditorium, University of California San Diego  
La Jolla, San Diego

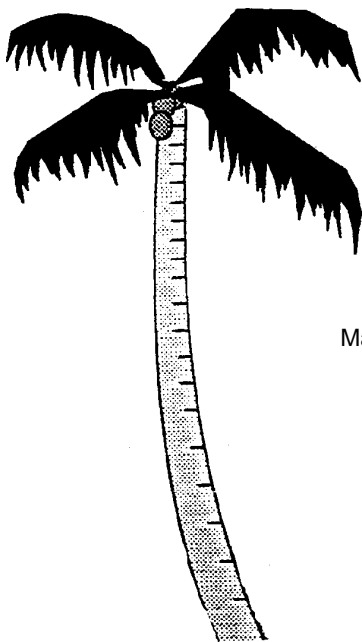
**Sunday, September 6:**

Lawn Program/Ukrainian Food  
House of Pacific Relations, International Cottages, Inc.  
Lawn Stage, Balboa Park, San Diego

Cocktail Hour/Dinner Dance

Hanalei Hotel, Hotel Circle  
Mission Valley, San Diego

Music by *Trubka* of Edmonton, Canada



**For more information  
contact the House of  
Ukraine at 619-291-  
0661(Phone), or 619-  
452-9759 (Fax), or  
sunnyukes@aol.com  
(e-mail)**

## *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.)**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  NEW MEMBER  RENEWAL  DIRECTORY CORRECTION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Profession \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Business address \_\_\_\_\_ Office phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

*Circle information you would like omitted from the published TWG Directory.*

Membership Dues (Please check where appropriate):

\$50 Full Membership

\$35 Associate (Members outside Washington metropolitan area and retirees)

\$15 Full-time students

\$10 Surcharge for foreign addresses (*Payment must be in US Dollars*)

VISA/Master Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

THE WASHINGTON GROUP  
P.O. Box 11248  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**