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Monthly newsletter of The Washington Group
An Association of Ukrainian American Professionals



Moderator Nadia Diuk leads the discussion with Ukrainian pollster Ilko Kucheriv (left) and private TV executive Oleksandr Rodniansky.

TWG-Kennan roundtable focuses on TV broadcasting, opinion polling in Ukraine

Informing, forming and gauging public opinion in Ukraine was the subject of a recent roundtable discussion sponsored by TWG in cooperation with the Kennan Institute.

The event, held September 18 at the Embassy of Ukraine, featured Oleksandr Rodniansky, general di-

rector of Studio 1+1, one of Ukraine's largest and most innovative independent TV broadcast companies, and Ilko Kucheriv, director of the Democratic Initiatives Foundation in Kyiv, the leading private polling organization in Ukraine.

With Nadia Diuk of the Na-
(See *Roundtable*, page 5)

'Mother of all Conferences' set

The Washington Group and four other major Ukrainian-American organizations plan to hold a joint conference in Washington June 23-27, 1999.

The other major co-sponsors include the Ukrainian American Bar Association, Ukrainian American Medical Association of North America, The Ukrainian Engineering Society and the Ukrainian American Credit Union Association. Organizers expect other organizations to join as co-sponsors in the coming months.

For TWG, this conference will substitute for its leadership conference that will not take place this year. As was decided at the 1997 Conference, in its place, the New York/New Jersey Ps & Bs will hold a conference on the future of the Ukrainian-American community October 10-11 in East Hanover N.J. (NY/NJ story on page 3.)

(See *Conference*, page 3)

Sestanovich to address forum October 19

The Washington Group, in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS), is sponsoring a forum on U.S.-Ukrainian relations with Ambassador Stephen R. Sestanovich, ambas-

sador-at-large and special advisor to the Secretary of State on the New Independent States.

The forum will be held Oct. 19 at SAIS, Nitze Auditorium, 1740 Massachusetts Ave. NW (1 1/2
(See *Sestanovich*, page 2)

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Notes on Members



New Members

If you have any interesting news about a TWG colleague, or about yourself, share it with the rest of the TWG family. Send it to the TWG NEWS editor by e-mail, if you can, (yarob@aol.com) or by "snail-mail" to TWG, Attn: Editor, P.O. Box 11248, Washington DC 20008.

That's one for Goliath

In a David-and-Goliath match-up between Washington communications attorney **Arthur Belendiuk** and CBS and the Federal Communications Commission, little Goliath scored a hit in August—if not between the eyes, then at least in the knee cap or a bit higher—when the U.S. Court of Appeals ordered the FCC to revisit the case of the infamous 1994 "60 Minutes" segment on "The Ugly Face of Freedom." Mr. Belendiuk represents Alexander J. Serafyn, et al., who petitioned the FCC not to grant CBS a broadcast licenses for TV stations in Detroit and Providence on the grounds that it would not serve the public interest since CBS intentionally distorted the news in this program. The FCC denied the petition in 1995 without even holding a hearing, but now the Appeals Court has told it to take another look at the arguments, which, it thinks, may have some merit.

Observing again

TWG President **Orest Deychakiwsky** has been traveling in Eastern Europe, observing elections. During the last week of September he was checking on the elections in Slovakia, to ensure that they were free and fair. Mr. Deychakiwsky is staff associate at the Commis-

(See *Notes*, page 7)

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• **Volodymyr Bilajiw**, radio journalist and chief of the Ukrainian Branch, Voice of America, Washington, DC.

• **Victoria Cravchina**, graduate student, Library and Information Systems, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

• **Marianna Kozintseva**, student, international relations, Johns Hopkins SAIS, and consultant, The World Bank, Washington, DC.

• **Oksana Lomazova**, student, international affairs, National Defense University, Washington, DC.

• **Andrew Mac**, student, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

• **Susan Melnyk**, Program Specialist with The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in Silver Spring, MD.

• **Lydia Pidlusky**, of Ellenville, NY, student of jazz and voice, State University of New York at New Paltz, NY.

• **Boris Platonov**, computer engineer, Compucom Systems Inc., McLean, VA.

• **Tania Vitvitsky**, project director, Sabre Foundation, Cambridge, MA.

• **Jaroslav Voloshyn**, student, Georgetown University, Washington, DC.

• **Oleh Voloshyn**, student and graduate assistant, University of Baltimore CIS Dept., Baltimore, MD.

• **Maria Yaworsky**, of Alexandria, VA, psychology student, George Mason University.

• **Helena Zyblikewycz**, economist, Committee for Economic Development, Washington, DC (former TWG Ukrainian Embassy intern).

Two free TWG student memberships remain. 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, not renewals. For more information or to apply, contact TWG Membership Director Adrian Pidlusky at apidlusky@juno.com, or by phone at (202) 667-1831.

Sestanovich... (from Page 1)

blocks east of Dupont Circle; Dupont Circle Metro South exit). A light reception will follow Amb. Sestanovich's presentation. Admission is free.

For more information, contact: Adrian Pidlusky (202) 667-1831 (eve) or Orest Deychakiwsky 202-225-3964 (day). □

NY/NJ P&B Conference to focus on future of Diaspora

The Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey is sponsoring a two-day conference October 10 and 11 devoted to a discussion and analysis of the future of the Diaspora.

The Conference, titled "The Year 2020 Conference: Will There Be a North American Ukrainian Diaspora in the Year 2020, and Does It Matter?" will be held at the Ramada Inn in East Hanover, New Jersey.

In addition to numerous panelists, the conference will have four featured speakers: Ukrainian Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute Director Roman Szporluk, author and columnist Myron Kuropas, and attorney and author Bohdan Vitvitsky.

The many issues to be explored at the conference include:

- Does an independent Ukraine enrich and invigorate the Diaspora or undermine its reason for being?
- What institutional infrastructure, if any, is necessary for the Diaspora to survive and thrive?
- Which conditions are necessary for the continued viability of the Diaspora? Language? Culture? Churches and schools? Fraternal? Credit Unions? Voluntary associations? A commitment to or interest in Ukraine's survival? Merely an interest in things Ukrainian? Some means of communication (newspapers, television shows, the Internet) among those who want to sustain the Diaspora? All of the above? None of the above? Different combinations of conditions in different communities?

These issues will be discussed in a series of panels devoted to the views and perspectives on the Diaspora's future of the younger and the mid-life generations; a

panel on developments in Canada and the relationship of the American and Canadian Diasporas; and a panel on the role of the Fourth Wave (those who have immigrated from Ukraine in the last 10 years) in helping to determine the future of the Ukrainian Diaspora in the U.S. and Canada.



Panelists and moderators will include: Vera Andrushkiw (Michigan), Ihor Bardyn (Ontario), Vitaly Chernetsky (New York), Fr. Andriy Chirovsky (Ontario), Mark Kapij (Massachusetts), Alexis Kochan (Manitoba), Zenon Kohut (Edmonton), Oleh Mahlaj (Ohio), Askold

Melnyczuk (Massachusetts), Alexander Motyl (New York), Serhiy Myroniuk (New Jersey), Kateryna Nemyra (Ohio), Peter Paluch (New Jersey), Xenia Piaseckij (New York), Petro Rybchuk (New Jersey), Victor Satzewich (Ontario), George Sawicki (New York), Michael Stashchyshyn (New Jersey), Oksana Stojko (New Jersey).

Ambassador Shcherbak will address the Saturday banquet, which will also feature the recording artists "Paris to Kyiv"—Alexis Kochan with Julian Kytasty.

On-site registration, at which tickets and conference programs will be distributed, will begin at 8:30 on Saturday morning, October 10. The conference will begin promptly at 9:00 on Saturday, October 10. On Sunday, it will begin with a brunch at 10:30.

The Ramada Inn is located at 130 Route 10 West, East Hanover, New Jersey 07936, at tel. no. 973-386-5622. The Ramada Inn will provide hourly shuttle service from Newark Airport upon request, and the Inn will also provide transportation to Sunday Mass at a nearby Ukrainian Catholic Church. □

Conference... (from Page 1)

Early plans for "the mother of all conferences," as it is being characterized, call for UMANA to lead-off the 5-day conference with three days of business meetings and medical presentations beginning Wednesday, June 23.

TWG and the other co-sponsoring groups will join in with joint and separate programs over the weekend. The joint program includes a Friday evening reception, a gala dinner-dance Saturday evening, as well as a brunch and

cultural program on Sunday.

The organizers expect anywhere from 350 to 600 participants at the conference, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia, across the Potomac River from Washington and near Reagan National Airport.

The organizing effort is coordinated by UMANA President-elect Roman Goy, MD, who has helped organize past TWG conferences.

TWG News will provide more details in the future. □

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***PROUD SPONSOR OF THE
1997 WASHINGTON GROUP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.***

Third intern completes Embassy tour

Taras Seryy of Cleveland, Ohio, recently completed a TWG-sponsored, two-month internship at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington. The internship stipend of \$1,500 was funded by the TWG Fellowship Fund, which began the intern program in 1996.

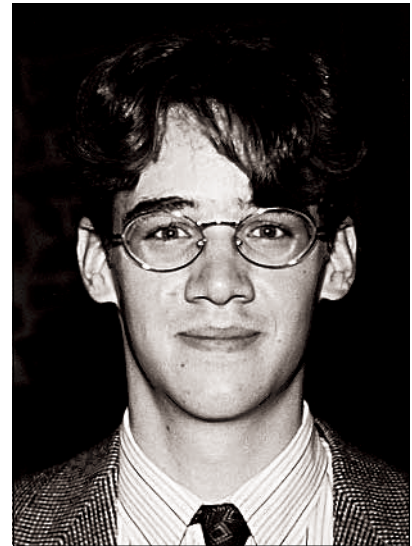
Mr. Seryy is beginning his junior year at John Carroll University in Cleveland, where he is majoring in finance and accounting. He is interested in pursuing a career that will allow him to apply American business practices in Ukraine and other areas of the former Soviet Union.

During his internship, Seryy helped the embassy with preparations for such events as the Washington visit of Ukrainian Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk and the summer meeting of the Kuchma-Gore Binational Commission in Kyiv. On a daily basis he helped out with translations, general office work and with the embassy's web site.

Mr. Seryy said he applied for

the internship, because he saw in it "an opportunity to go abroad without leaving the country." He wanted to experience how an embassy works and how it interacts with the international community based in Washington. He said it was a "positive experience," which taught him about interpersonal relations and how diplomacy functions.

Taras Seryy is an immigrant—sort of. He was born in New York City, where his father worked in the U.N. Mission of the Soviet Union. He recalled that his father fell out of favor with his superiors, because of his growing close ties with local Ukrainian-Americans. His diplomatic tour of duty was cut short and the family returned to Moscow when Taras was about a year old. He spent the next 13 boyhood years in Moscow (with the summers "v babusi na seli" in the family's native Sumy oblast), before his family emigrated to the United States. His father was a co-founder of the Slavutych society in



TWG Intern Taras Seryy

Moscow (sort of a TWG for Ukrainians in the Russian capital) and of the Moscow Ukrainian studies Sunday school (similar to our Ridna Shkola Saturday school here).

Taras Seryy can be reached on e-mail at Taras_S@stratos.net

If you would like to support the TWG Ukrainian Embassy internship program please send your contributions to the "TWG Fellowship Fund," P.O. Box 11248, Washington, DC 20008. □

Roundtable... (from Page 1)

national Endowment for Democracy as moderator, the two Ukrainian guests described the work, problems and accomplishments of their organizations, and commented on some of the current developments in Ukraine and elsewhere in the region.

Mr. Rodniansky, as Ms. Diuk described him, has been "on the cutting edge" of efforts to make the media in Ukraine "truly independent," with freedom of expression, by providing high quality news and information as well as entertainment programs to the public.

When Mr. Kucheriv started the Democratic Initiatives Foundation in

1992, there were no independent, non-government sponsored opinion polls in Ukraine. Since then he has done important polling in Ukraine's two parliamentary elections and one presidential election as well as on numerous other important issues. In effect, as Ms. Diuk put it, he has been researching and analyzing "what the Ukrainian population really thinks" and by doing so, to an extent, "keeping the government honest."

Mr. Kucheriv and Mr. Rodniansky merged their efforts in the live election-night coverage on Studio 1+1 of the March parliamentary election, with the Democratic Initiatives Foundation providing nationwide exit polling

results to gauge election returns. It was the first such effort anywhere in the former Soviet Union, and its accuracy was upheld when the Central Election Committee announced the election results a few days later.

Mr. Kucheriv now is doing further analysis of these results as a fellow at the Kennan Institute in Washington.

Mr. Rodniansky recalled that when Studio 1+1 got started three years ago as a U.S.-Ukrainian joint venture, it had a handful of people and hardly any audience. Today it employs 550 people and has more than a 30 percent audience share, with an youthful average age of 35—compared to a much older

(See *Roundtable*, page 7)

TWG Activities

HAPPY HOUR

TWG member Vera Osidach hosted an well attended social event for TWG members at her home on Friday evening, August 28. There was an abundance of food, drinks, and merriment. The party went on and on and on into the “wee” hours of the night. A great time was had by all who attended. Many thanks to the gracious hostess.

KAYAK OUTING

Early on Saturday morning, August 29, 1998, more than a dozen adventurous TWG members met in downtown historic Annapolis, rented kayaks and canoes, and went on a “great adventure.” The group, under the watchful eye of Ihor Kotlarchuk, who organized the expedition, leisurely explored the many local creeks, and after several hours of very strenuous rowing, the group took an unplanned refreshing dip in the cool waters of a private swimming pool. Having “cooled off” and taken a well-deserved rest, the adventurers continued on their journey into the wild. The day turned out to be beautiful—clear blue skies, warm, and sunny. At the conclusion of this successful expedition, the group celebrated by dining in an Italian restaurant overlooking the Annapolis harbor. Everyone enjoyed the outing. Ihor promises to organize another kayak expedition next summer.



TWG's courageous paddlers pause for a photo in Annapolis, Md., during their “great adventure.”

COMING EVENT—A JAZZ EVENING

Ihor Kotlarchuk will be organizing a “Jazz Evening” which will be held in the swanky and posh new Jazz Club and restaurant in downtown D.C. sometime in early December. Anyone who is interested in attending, please call Ihor at (703) 548-8534 for more details. □



Networking with the State Department's new Ukraine desk officer, Bruce Lowry (second from right), are TWG President Orest Deychakiwsky (second from left) and TWG members Orest Diachok, of Oakton, Virginia, (left) and Andrew Fedynsky, of Rocky River, Ohio.

TWG Cultural Fund Fall Schedule

The TWG Cultural Fund is planning two major events this Fall—performances by The Kyiv Camerata and the Leontovych String Quartet.

- **Friday, October 30, at 8 p.m.**
The Kyiv Camerata
Virko Baley, conductor
Mykola Suk, piano
- **Saturday, Nov. 21, at 7:30 p.m.**
The Leontovych String Quartet
Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano
Myroslav Skoryk, piano

Both events will be held at the Dumbarton Methodist Church in Georgetown, at 3133 Dumbarton Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

U.S.-UKRAINE FOUNDATION POSITIONS

Local Government Consultant Community Partnerships Project (in Kyiv)

Serves as a municipal advisor to Ukrainian communities in an innovative, multi-year, USAID project that is establishing up to 18 community partnerships for training in local government issues between U.S. and Ukrainian communities. Training to be directed in economic development, housing and communal services, transportation, budgeting and citizen participation. Provides technical assistance to established community partnerships according to work plans.

Requirements: Substantial local or regional government experience; international experience helpful. Strong managerial skills. Effective verbal and written communication skills. Knowledge of local government in Ukraine and Ukrainian language skills helpful.

Salary: \$65,000 - \$72,000 (negotiable)

Director of Community Partnerships Project (in Kyiv)

Serves as a chief of party for an innovative, multi-year, USAID project that is establishing up to 18 community partnerships for training in local government issues between U.S. and Ukrainian communities. Manages project operations, leads the project team in Ukraine, represents the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation before government bodies, provides strategic guidance to Washington, DC, operations, responsible for financial and administrative operations in Ukraine.

Requirements: Project management experience in Ukraine. Knowledge of local government in Ukraine. Ukrainian language skills. Strong managerial skills. Effective verbal and written communication skills. Knowledge of USAID project procedures.

Salary: \$60,000 - \$65,000 (negotiable)

Send resume and cover letter with salary requirements to:

U.S.-Ukraine Foundation
1511 K Street NW - Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005
Fax: (202) 347-4267 or E-mail: usuf@usukraine.org

Notes... (from Page 2)

sion on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Helsinki Commission).

Getting it together

The TWG **Chomiak Family** is getting its act together—somewhat, anyway. **Martha Bohachevsky Chomiak** has returned from her Fulbright Fellowship assignment in Kyiv, along with hubby **Ross**, who spent at least some of the time there helping run a U.S.-funded journalism training program in Ukraine. After a couple of weeks of work in getting the house back in order, however, he caught a flight back to Kyiv, promising to return in time for daughter **Dora's** wedding at the end of October in Princeton to Daren Chapin.

Szyszka gets his sub

Long-time TWG member **Cmdr. Stephen L. Szyszka**, who served as the U.S. Naval attaché in Kyiv from 1995 to 1997, this summer assumed command of the USS **Henry M. Jackson**, one of 18 nuclear-powered Ohio-class submarines, the largest submarines in the U.S. arsenal. Armed with up to 24 ballistic missiles and with a crew of 157, the 19,000-ton displacement submarine can cruise in excess of 20 knots at depths in excess of 800 feet. Cmdr. Szyszka had served as executive officer on the USS **Jackson** before his assignment to Kyiv. He joined the Navy as an ensign in 1979. (He must have been too busy last year to renew his TWG membership—a reminder from TWG News ed.) □

Roundtable... (from Page 5)

45 for its main competitor, the government national station UT-1, and 47 for the Russian-Ukrainian joint venture TV.

This large, but especially youthful audience share is a source of optimism, he said. "And we think that's not bad for a Ukrainian-speaking channel, which started as a channel one and a half years ago," he added. Studio 1+1 initially started out as a production company in 1995.

Its programming includes Ukrainian-language entertainment shows as well as news, opinion and documentary programs. It had another "first" in airing a pre-election debate between candidates—an experiment that was not fully appreciated by some candidates, Mr. Rodniansky said.

Democratic Initiatives Foundation not only gathers and analyzes opinion data but also focuses on educating the public about their results—through press conferences, seminars, conferences and the publication of a journal and books. The objective, Mr. Kucheriv said, is to initiate a dialogue and debate on important issues.

The Foundation has conducted 16 polls thus far, covering many of the most important issues facing Ukraine as a nation, he said, and their results have been published in the Ukrainian media as well as abroad—in the *Washington Post*, *Globe and Mail*, *Financial Times* and the *Ukrainian Weekly*.

Mr. Kucheriv said that his organization is an example of how Western ideas can work in Ukraine, with the cooperation and assistance of Western partners and advisors. □

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

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\$15 Full-time students

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