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

TWG intern fills Embassy needs, own career goals

By Yaro Bihun

TWG continued its annual Ukrainian Embassy summer intern program for the fourth year in 1999.

This year's intern was Valentina N. Yarr, 23, a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota, who spent July and August working at the Embassy of Ukraine while receiving a \$1,500-stipend from the TWG Fellowship Fund.

The internship not only fit the needs of the Ukrainian Embassy but also helped further her own career plans, Ms. Yarr said in an interview.

She did quite a bit of translating of news releases and other documents from the Ukrainian into English, and helped the embassy staff prepare brochures and fact sheets about Ukraine as



Embassy intern Valentina Yarr

well as draft letters in English. The subjects varied from official government policy to parking problems in front of the embassy building.

In the process, she expanded her knowledge of Ukrainian, learned to work in a "Ukrainian environment" and saw how a Ukrainian diplomatic mission operates—all in all—a "beneficial" and "unique experience," Ms. Yarr said.

(See *Intern*, Page 7)

'Kaffee klatch' for Rukh presidential candidate Kostenko

By R. L. Chomiak

American political candidates often take their election campaign to Israel, or China to get an effective exposure at home.

Ukrainian candidates now come to the United States. Recently it was Yuriy Kostenko—the leader of the Rukh II party, former minister of the environment of Ukraine, and one of a dozen candidates for the October 31 election for president of Ukraine.

Mr. Kostenko came to Washington August 6 at the invitation of the Kennan Institute to give a lecture about his election program. The next day, Nadia Diuk hosted a get-together at her home for Mr. Kostenko and a few members of TWG.

If this event were in New York, it would have been classed as a "kaffee klatch," but this was Washington,

(See *Kostenko*, Page 8)

Coming TWG events: *Details inside this issue*

- Oct. 15 – Andrew Bihun: *U.S.-Ukraine business* – p. 9
- Oct. 17 – Horowitz pianists winners recital – p. 9
- Oct. 23 – Virginia wineries tour – p. 7
- Oct. 30 – TWG Halloween Party – p. 7

IN THIS ISSUE

- New members/notes 2
- Camp TWG 3
- Krysa concert 3
- Independence Day picnic 5
- TWG website photos 9

New Members



Notes on Members

- **Choma, Peter Z.**, engineer/computer consultant, Lockheed Martin, Elkins Park, PA.
- **Dmytrijuk, Andrew**, physician-internal medicine, George Washington Univ. Medical Center, Alexandria, VA.
- **Fastovets, Serhiy**, computer programmer, IBM, Chapel Hill, NC.
- **Goi, Vasyl**, electrician, Meest, Inc., Baltimore, MD.
- **Lomacky, Oles**, retired, Washington, DC.
- **Kurganska, Alysa**, investment banker, Credit Suisse First Boston, New York, NY.
- **Parabaniuk, Julia**, journalist, Worldnet Television, Washington, DC.
- **Pakush, Myron S.**, civil engineer, planning & programs administrator, Ohio Dept. of Transportation, Westerville OH.
- **Stercho, Olena W.**, attorney/partner, Stern and Stercho, Jenkintown PA.
- **Wowk, Andrij**, computer consultant, Chubb Computer Services, Bound Brook, NJ.
- **Wowk, Larissa**, psychotherapist, Bound Brook, NJ.
- **Wynnyk, Ostap**, industrial engineer, retired, Yonkers NY.

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Bihuns return

Andrew Bihun, former TWG vice president, recently returned to the Washington area after four-years as the commercial attaché with the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. He and his wife Lesia returned in time to attend the double wedding of their daughters, Lida and Ulana, in Colorado.

Marples honored

David Marples, professor of history and TWG honorary member, has received the 1999 Faculty of Arts Research Award for Full Professors "for extraordinary contributions to knowledge." This is an annual award offered at the three levels of assistant, associate, and full professor at the University of Alberta. Dr. Marples is currently acting director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

Feduschak with Washington Times

Natalia Feduschak has joined the Washington Times as their international trade reporter. She recently completed a Foreign Policy Fellowship with Sen. Frank Lautenberg. In the early 1990s, Ms. Feduschak worked as a journalist in Ukraine, writing for the Wall Street Journal.

Thank You

The Board of Directors of TWG wishes to thank TWG Member Arthur Belendiuk for donating \$5,000 of his legal fees from the CBS 60 Minutes settlement. His generous donation will be divided between the TWG Fellowship Fund and TWG Cultural Fund. (Mr. Belendiuk has made similarly generous donations to other Ukrainian-American organizations.)



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TWG campers enjoy summer on Maryland's Eastern Shore

By Natalie Sluzar

Thanks to the hospitality of Oleh and Kim Hudyma, TWG members again had an opportunity to relive their camping days in Plast or SUM.

Located in Willard, Maryland, about 20 miles from the Atlantic Ocean, the Hudyma campsite had all the enjoyable feature of a genuine *tabir*, but without the rigors and discipline. It was just a relaxed, casual get-together.

For some of the campers, the days were spent on Assateague Island, basking in the sun, and swimming in the ocean. Assateague, a barrier island, is part of the National Park Service's national wildlife refuge. Others enjoyed the many hiking trails, went bird watching, and even kayaking on the many inlets and bays.

The famous ponies of Chincoteague National Park frequently paid a visit, arrogantly taking over the roads, beaches, and sand dunes. For the more active types, Ocean City, with its carnival atmosphere, was just a few miles away.

Evenings were always very special. Almost miraculously, more than 30 people, including children, got fed a delicious meal—smoked meats, grilled meats,

fresh corn, salads, and, of course, watermelon for dessert. There was plenty of home-made beer and wine to go around, and *medivka* (honey liqueur) topped-off the fete.

Lazily, people settled in around the huge *vatra* (campfire), watching the flickering flames shoot up into the dark sky. This was where the real *tabir* pros showed up the amateurs—in the building of a the *vatra*—and at this camp, we had the very best.

Happy and relaxed, everyone joined in the singing. Every Ukie song known to mankind, the sillier the better, was sung; every *kolomyjka* round was sung over and over. As the evening progressed, the singing gave way to disco and dancing. In true kozak fashion, the men would challenge each other to jump over the fire, not once but several times. What those brave kozaks won't do for fun or glory!

The partying lasted into the wee hours of the morning, as few campers wanted to give up the magic of the night for something as routine as sleep. Eventually, everyone staggered to their tents, and the stillness of the night took over. "*Nitch vzhe ide.*"

Krysa concert at National Gallery

Violinist Oleh Krysa and pianist Tatiana Tchekina will perform at the National Gallery of Art on Sunday, October 24, in the West Garden Court of the West Building, at 7 p.m.

If you get to the Gallery before it closes at 6 p.m., proceed to the West Garden Court. Seating is on a first-come-first-seated basis after 6 p.m.

For those arriving after 6 p.m., the Constitution Ave. entrance will remain open until 7 p.m.

The program includes sonatas for violin and piano by Beethoven, Brahms and Debussy; *The Ukrainian Triptych* by Stankovych; and pieces by Paganini and Paganini-Kreisler.

The concert is free; no tickets or reservations are required. Most avid fans of this concert series get in line early.

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TWG Marks Ukraine's Independence at Fort Washington picnic

By Oles Berezhny

An artillery crew in 19th-century uniforms with fancy plumed hats loaded and shot their Civil War cannon at Fort Washington National Historical Park. It was a salute to the independence of Ukraine, during the annual picnic organized by the Washington Group on Sunday, August 22. This living history re-enactment added to the significance to the celebration of Ukraine's independence by the greater Baltimore-Washington area Ukrainian-American community.

Last year's picnic was held half-way between Washington and Baltimore. Fort Washington—a 10-minute drive south of the nation's capital—was a new location for the annual TWG picnic, and organizers feared that this might keep many Baltimoreans away. But quite a number made the longer journey from Baltimore...and from even farther away: a computer science professor from Poltava, currently



teaching at the Research Triangle at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, drove with his wife and two sons more than five hours to participate in the picnic.

This historical fort is an attractive spot and may well be the best hidden sightseeing treasure of the capital area.

Located at the confluence of the Potomac River and the Piscataway and Swan creeks, it commands the southern approaches to the capital. It also commands a magnificent view of Washington and of Mount Vernon, directly across the widening Potomac.

The first fort to protect the national capital was erected here in 1809 and destroyed six years later as the British troops marched on Washington, burning the White House and other public buildings. Pierre Charles L'Enfant, the French architect who designed the plans for Washington, was commissioned to rebuild the fort within less than a month of its destruction.

The fort's importance, which was considerable during the Civil War, diminished over time until it was deactivated in 1946, when it was made part of the National Park System. □



The long drive was well worth it—the weather was perfect, the complimentary beverages for TWG members were chilled, the hamburgers and hotdogs were sizzling hot. There was a good game of soccer, in which five-year-olds teamed up and mixed it up with fifty-year-olds. Some chose hiking along the park trails, while others rode their bikes around the park. The picnic area was a great grassy expanse the size of several football fields, shaded by tall oak





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* TWG Member

Intern... (continued from Page 1)

"They kept me quite busy" at the Embassy, she said, especially with translations. "That was the most challenging part of my work, because my Ukrainian is more conversational, and coming here I had to broaden it."

"One part of my reason for getting involved in international relations was that I've always had a life-long interest in *Ukrayina* just because of the way I was raised."

A second-generation Ukrainian American, born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Ms. Yarr went through what many would call a "traditional" Ukrainian-American upbringing.

"We were raised speaking Ukrainian before speaking English," she recalled. Most of her weekends and spare time were spent in Ukrainian school at St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, at activities—including summer camps—of the youth organization ODUM, playing in a bandura ensemble, dancing in the local SUMA dance ensemble, and, last year, teaching at the St. Catherine's Ukrainian Orthodox Church Ukrainian school near St. Paul.

Ms. Yarr majored in international relations at Minnesota University, with a focus on Eastern Europe and minoring in Russian. Before graduating and coming to Washington for the TWG internship, she spent three months as an intern at the Minnesota International Center, assisting in its international outreach program, which brings U.S. and foreign government officials to speak before Minnesota audiences.

In 1998, Ms. Yarr attended the Harvard University Ukrainian Research Institute summer program, and she spent the summer before that in Ukraine—her first visit to her parents' homeland.

Undecided whether to continue concentrating on international relations in graduate school or going to law school, Ms. Yarr plans to stay in the Washington area for the time being, finding work with a "think tank" or some other institution that deals with Ukraine. □

TWG Tour of Virginia Wineries **Saturday, October 23, 1999**

We will meet at the Tarara Vineyard & Winery in Leesburg at noon. Tarara is a 60-acre winery with a 6,000-sq.-foot cave overlooking the Potomac River. From there we'll tour 3-4 wineries in the area, then go on to historic Middleburg for dinner at the venerable Red Fox Inn, an award-winning country inn in the heart of Middleburg. Cocktails at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m. Prices range from \$19 to \$29 for the entree. Reservations are required for dinner. Please call Natalie Sluzar, 703-573-6118 by October 20 for reservations and information. Some wineries may charge \$1-\$3 for the wine tasting.

Directions:

Tarara Vineyard and Winery: From Washington take Route 66 West to Route 7 West. Stay on Route 7 West to Leesburg, approximately 30 miles. From Leesburg, take Route 15 North for about 8 miles. Turn right on Route 622, go approximately 3 miles. Look for sign for Tarara Vineyards on the left.

Red Fox Inn: From Washington, take Route 66 West, exit at Route 50 West. Go 26 miles west to Middleburg. Go to the stop light in the center of town. The Inn is on the northeast corner.

How Come?

R.L. Chomiak passed along the following political anecdote:

When Yeltsin finally came to Kyiv after many postponements, he asked why Clinton got a 21-gun salute on his visit to Kyiv in 1995, and he didn't? One official was said to have replied: Clinton ended his speech with "Slava Ukrayini," and you didn't. □

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Refreshments provided

(The occasion will also celebrate the departure of Membership Director Adrian Pidlusky to Ukraine)

For more information, call Adrian Pidlusky at (202) 723-8699.

Kostenko... (continued from Page 1)

and the spread was a catered sumptuous Middle Eastern fare.

Just as at a Manhattan kaffee klatch, the candidate was more relaxed than at his formal Kennan Institute lecture, talked about his party's election strategy, answered questions and had almost no time to try the cuisine; the others did.

TWG President Orest Deychakiwsky, who managed to snare Mr. Kostenko for this get-together from a heavy schedule of a very short visit, introduced him, and after the presentation, Nadia Diuk handled the question-and-answer session.

So what is Mr. Kostenko's strategy?

Yes, he is a serious candidate, whose people managed to collect the highest number of signatures to make him a candidate (more than 2 million or twice the minimum number) and from the greatest geographic spread—from more oblasts than required.

He is seriously going after the top job in Ukraine and is convinced he has a chance. Here's why:

- during last year's multiple elections for speaker of Ukraine's parliament, Mr. Kostenko was within 14 votes of winning; it was the vote during which a number of democrats were not in the chamber, he notes with some bitterness;

- after campaign visits to 22 of Ukraine's 25 oblasts so far, Mr. Kostenko sees no evidence of any big desire among the people to return to Communism, but there is a lack of understanding of what is happening in Ukraine; (Mr. Kostenko's constant answer is, You haven't seen economic reforms, because former Communists who don't understand reforms or democracy have been running the country for the past eight years. He says he can put together a team of people who are not burdened by Communist thinking.)

- unlike the late Vyacheslav Chornovil, who turned a democracy movement, Rukh, into a political party, but shortly before his fatal car accident wrote that Rukh is not ready to assume power (this was the main reason for the split in February, 1999, into what is now Rukh and Rukh II), Mr. Kostenko feels that Rukh II has a chance if it behaves like a real political party and stops what he calls "servicing the present government." (He adds that the result of "servicing the government" over the past years resulted in merely one cabinet position—his own, as former minister of the environment, and two oblast governorships.)

Even if he doesn't get the brass ring October 31 Mr. Kostenko has a fallback position: his current election

campaign also has as its goal to build up Rukh as a solid national party (he says that new members are joining Rukh II throughout Ukraine and his two million signatures are evidence of that. By the year 2002, when Ukraine is scheduled to hold its next parliamentary elections, Mr. Kostenko sees his party winning the majority in the Verkhovna Rada followed by a government that would have the support of the Rada, unlike all the governments to date.

Asked how he hoped as president to implement his program in view of so many of President Kuchma's initiatives that were blocked by local authorities, Mr. Kostenko explained that President Kuchma's problem is that he is a "non-political" head of state, he is not identified as leader of any one party. As president, Mr. Kostenko would have a viable party structure throughout Ukraine that would make sure Kyiv initiatives are implemented locally.

Before leaving Washington for Ukraine, Mr. Kostenko visited Ukrainian communities in Philadelphia, Newark and New York. His itinerary was arranged by the new Action Ukraine Coalition, whose membership so far includes the US-Ukraine Foundation, the Ukrainian-American Coordinating Council and the Ukrainian Federation of America. □

TWG FRIDAY EVENING FORUM

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ANDREW BIHUN

who recently returned after 4 years as
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US-Ukrainian business relations: Can they improve

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TWG DIRECTORY

Don't leave home without it!

Whenever the Sunday New York Times decides to photograph and list the contents of my briefcase (a Land's End canvass bag with multiple sections and pockets), one of the things that will spill out of it will be the new, millennium-end, orange TWG Membership Directory. Years ago I used to keep one copy (my wife's) at home, and one (my own) at the office. Then I noticed my colleague Yaro Bihun pull out his Directory out of his shoulder bag, and promptly copied the habit.

The TWG directory has evolved over the past decade. The current one has such then-unknown additions as Web Page addresses and E-mail addresses. It has a much longer list of resources, and it has advertisements that serve as resources.

Like the early editions, the Membership Directory is a very handy thing to have within reach. And I have reached for it in Kazakstan and Poland and Ukraine and Canada, as well as in the "Washington Metropolitan Area."

A lot of effort has gone into publishing it in the old days (when the database was stored in the bowels of some Washington mainframe computer), and a lot of effort goes into producing it now, when it's possible to do things on laptops with a lot of fancy formatting programs that can be taken "off the shelf." So I want to commend each person involved in producing the Directory. The efforts are appreciated. The little orange book is getting as much use as its predecessors.—R.L. Chomiak

(From the editor: Actually, for some time now I've been traveling with copies of at least two TWG Directories—the current one, the 1993 edition and usually one in-between. I've added so much important information in the margins and covers of the earlier editions that I would be lost without them.—YB) □

Collecting photos for TWG website

The Washington Group is collecting photos of its past and current events for posting on its internet website at www.TheWashingtonGroup.org.

If you have such photos, please send them to TWG Webmaster Steve Boyduy at 1419 Church Hill Pl., Reston, VA 20914 or through sboyduy@uu.net. Please label on the back of the photo the event, date, and correct spelling of the names of the individuals in the photo. You may also submit a caption and the photographer's name, if you wish. All photos will be returned to the sender after their posting in the "Events" section of the website. □

Horowitz winners recital

The Third Annual International Competition for Young Pianists in memory of Vladimir Horowitz Winners Recital will take place Sunday, October 17 at 4 p.m. at Temple Micah, 2829 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.

The recital is sponsored by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the TWG Cultural Fund, in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine.

Admission is free; donations are welcome. For more information call Laryssa Chopivsky (202) 363-3964.

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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:

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

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