

TW/G News



Special Issue
2004 Leadership Conference



Newsletter of The Washington Group • Association of Ukrainian American Professionals

TWG Cultural Fund Sponsors a New Season of Performances

The Washington Group Cultural Fund will launch its 2004-2005 Sunday Music Series with a concert by the New York-based Forte String Quartet at the Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria on October 17. This concert is one of four scheduled for the coming season. Canadian-born bass-baritone Taras Kulish will give a solo recital on November 14. Pianist Juliana Osinchuk will perform on March 14, 2005. The artist of the last concert in the series, scheduled for May 22, has not yet been announced.

All Sunday concerts are at the Lyceum and begin at 3:30 p.m. The seating is unreserved. There is a suggested donation of \$15 to help cover the costs of the series. Students are admitted free of charge.

To become a sponsor of the 2004-2005 series, please send check made out to TWGCF for \$100 (indi-

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Leadership Conference Celebrates TWG's 20th Anniversary

On June 11-13 The Washington Group held a Leadership Conference titled "TWG at 20: Reflection, Renewal and Celebration." George Masiuk, the conference chairman, opened the conference by observing, "Our previous TWG conference was held in the shadow of the events of September 11 and this conference is being held in the shadow of Ronald Reagan's state funeral. The world is a different place from the one when TWG was formed in 1984." TWG's President Ihor Kotlarchuk in addressing the conference noted that, "Twenty years ago, The Washington Group was organized by Ukrainian-American professionals to promote Ukrainian arts, music, and culture, as well as, to make the American public at large and its political leaders aware of the aspirations of the Ukrainian nation - to become a free, independent, democratic, and sovereign nation."

The conference reflected on the events that occurred during TWG's 20 year history. The Ambassadors' Forum reflected on the history of U.S.-Ukraine relations as seen through the eyes of Ambassadors Oleh Bilorus, William G. Miller, and Steven Pifer. During the banquet, a slide show organized by Natalie Sluzar allowed conference participants to reflect on TWG's history and on the role many of them played in TWG events.

The conference addressed the theme of renewal with a panel on *Improving Our Professionals' Organizations*. The panel on Elections in Ukraine addressed the issue of Ukraine's renewal - because for Ukraine, the renewal of its political life is centrally tied to its upcoming presidential elections and the atmosphere in which they are held. Ambassador Reznik, during his Luncheon address, spoke at length about Ukraine's economic renewal that is presently on its way. Ukraine's former Minister of Defense, Kostyantyn Morozov, spoke about the difficulties that Ukraine has faced and still faces, as it tries to renew itself as a European country.

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The celebration of TWG's 20 anniversary (the fun part of the conference) included an Embassy reception, Zabava, and a performance of East European folk music by Harmonia.

In this special issue of TWG News you will find articles by Christine Demkowych summarizing the conference speeches and panels. You will also find photographs by Natalie Sluzar from the conference as well as many TWG historical photographs.

Born in Montreal, Taras Kulish is quickly emerging as a leading bass-baritone at many opera houses and orchestras in North America. In the summer of 2002 he made his European debut to critical acclaim in the title role of Don Giovanni in France and Belgium. The production was filmed live for TV5 and broadcast worldwide in 2003.

Pianist Juliana Osinchuk, a long-time member of TWG who now lives in Alaska, has performed internationally to critical acclaim since her surprise debut in Carnegie Recital Hall at the age of eleven. She has continued to dazzle audiences and critics from Alaska to New York, from London to Amsterdam, and from Germany to Ukraine.

TWG Would Like to Thank The Conference Sponsors and Advertisers

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TWG President, Ihor Kotlarchuk

TWG Cultural Fund

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vidual) or \$160 (couple) to Rosalie Norair, 7514 Honesty Way, Bethesda, MD 20817. Sponsors will be listed in the programs.

The Lyceum is located at 201 South Washington St. in Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia. For those not wishing to drive, there is a free "Dash" Shuttle bus available every 15 minutes from the King Street Metro Station in Alexandria (on Blue and Yellow lines) to Washington and King Streets, one block from Lyceum.

The Forte String Quartet, founded in 1990, consists of Mikhail Kuchuk, violin, Alexander Abayev, violin, Roumi Petrova, viola and Kalin Ivanov, cello. Their artistic portfolio includes concert tours in England, France, Austria, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Greece and the United States.

Ms. Osinchuk is no stranger to Washington, performing at the National Gallery concert series in 2001, at a TWG Cultural Fund concert at the Sumner School auditorium in 1998, at a benefit for the Rwanda Project of the Women for Women organization at Trinity College in 1997 and her solo recital at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 1996.

More information about the Music Series artists can be obtained from their web sites:

- www.fortequartet.com
- www.taraskulish.com
- www.jlodmusic.com

For more information about this series and other Cultural Fund activities, please contact its director, Laryssa Courtney, at **202-363-3964**.

Ambassadors' Forum

By Christine Demkowych

Ukraine's October presidential election will play a pivotal role in determining whether the significant decline in bi-lateral relations between the United States and Ukraine improves, announced former Ukrainian and U.S. ambassadors at the June 2004 Leadership Conference honoring The Washington Group's 20th anniversary in Arlington.

"Ukraine is now at a crossroads," said Oleh Bilorus, Ukraine's first ambassador to the United States (1991-1995). "It [Ukraine] has reached a point of inertia, especially in the sector of executive power. A time for change has come."

The ambassadors agreed the best strategy Ukraine can follow at this time is to hold free and fair elections in October. "Nothing would

give a more positive impulse than getting the election process right. It would be a huge affirmation that it [Ukraine] is going toward democracy," said former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer (1998-2000).

"If Ukraine meets international standards [during the election process], we're eager to work with whomever emerges as the winner," Pifer added, noting that the U.S. vision for Ukraine is that of a stable, independent and democratic state with a strong market economy and increasingly strong ties to Europe.

Pifer attributed the slump in bi-lateral relations to a few significant events, including the arms transfer shipments to Macedonia in 2001 that took close to eight months to terminate; the lack of follow through with hundreds of signed agreements; the Melnichenko tapes that implicated President Kuchma in the death of journalist Georgy Gongadze; and the Kolchuga case in which President Kuchma was accused of authorizing the transfer of an aircraft detection system to Iraq, considered potentially threatening to U.S. pilots' safety.

Despite Ukraine's setbacks in political reform, the ambassadors noted the tremendous progress Ukraine has made with its economy. "Ukraine is one of the fastest growing economies in Europe," Pifer said,

acknowledging that Ukraine's GDP increased recently by 9 percent.

Although it was pointed out that much of Ukraine's economic growth is being driven domestically, with the majority of investments coming from Russia, Bilorus criticized the United States for not actively investing in Ukraine at this time.

According to former Ambassador to Ukraine William Miller (1993-1998), the initial road map that was

created to help Ukraine achieve a prosperous and democratic nation can be traced back to his tenure in Ukraine. Miller's mission was to improve bi-lateral relations through a policy of direct engagement. The goal was to create a prosperous and independent Ukraine within a new Europe;



From the left: Amb. William G. Miller, Amb. Steven Pifer, and Amb. Oleh Bilorus

overcome decades of stereotypical thinking; eliminate all nuclear weapons; lay a foundation for a new relationship; encourage the development of democratic institutions of governance; and develop a sizeable free market sector in the economy.

Between 1993-1998, Ukraine became the highest policy priority for the Clinton-Gore Administration. U.S. officials were concerned that if Ukraine failed to achieve its goals, the revival of an imperial state in Russia was a very real and highly undesirable threat that could not be ignored.

As a result, the frequency of visits by U.S. officials increased dramatically, as face-to-face discussions were considered crucial for a positive outcome. "Official presence was constant and very visible," Miller said.

During that period, President Clinton visited Ukraine three times; Vice President Gore traveled to Kyiv four times; and Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott conducted meetings in Ukraine five times. It was rare for NATO or Pentagon officials not to be in Kyiv, Miller said.

The result of these meetings was the signing of various treaties and agreements, including the 1994

Tripartite Agreement to eliminate all nuclear weapons from Ukraine; the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program; the Partnership for Peace Program; and joint military activity resulting in actual exercises with NATO forces and units from the Ukrainian military held on Ukrainian territory.

Miller said these negotiations also produced direct financial assistance from the United States for eliminating nuclear weapons, making Ukraine the third largest recipient of U.S. aid.

Other benchmarks that contributed to Ukraine's development include the 1997 Madrid-NATO Summit where a formal partnership was launched, and the 2002 Prague Summit that resulted in an action plan for political and economic reform.

While the agreements and various treaties provided

Elections

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partment Office of Russian and Eurasian Analysis, said there have been several incidents of pre-election tampering over the past few months, including the closing of Radio Liberty's offices, attempts to shut down select independent Ukrainian newspapers, sudden tax inspections and illegal searches of opposition candidates' offices.

Fishel said there have also been reports of citizens being intimidated by authorities when they have demonstrated their support for the opposition candidate. The distribution of unauthorized opposition leaflets and the removal of opposition candidates' billboards has become a common occurrence. Coverage of the campaign on state-controlled television channels is heavily biased in favor of Yanukovich, while opposition candidates are blocked from having access to electronic media. Physical assaults designed to intimidate and unnerve opposition candidates are reported on a regular basis.

"It is difficult to imagine free and fair elections under these conditions," Fishel said.

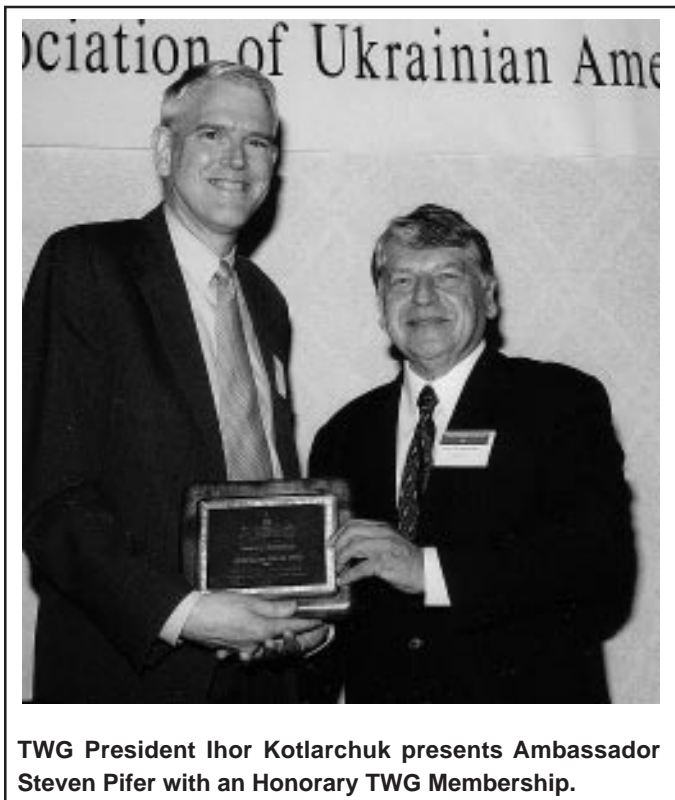
In an effort to help voters have a clear understanding of candidates' platforms, the U.S. government has invested approximately \$13 million in voter education. According to Marta Kolomayets, director of Partnership For a Transparent Society, a USAID project, the focus of NGOs this election year is to raise voter participation and election awareness among urban youth and rural women.

However, Kolomayets said that numerous NGO organizations based in Ukraine have been attacked for trying to carry out their assignments. Some have been subjected to tax audits, while others have been closed down. Monitors are also concerned by recent reports showing evidence that government agents might seek to provoke ethnic tensions between Tatars and Russians in Crimea and by allowing extremist groups to incite ethnic hatred.

Orest Deychakiwsky, staff advisor at the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, said the need for ensuring a free, fair, open and transparent presidential election in Ukraine was highlighted in the closing statement of a letter recently sent to President Kuchma to improve OSCE compliance. The letter called into question Ukraine's commitment to OSCE principles in light of the troubling pre-election environment.

There is no doubt that the election is of critical importance to the future of Ukraine. Panelists at the conference suggested that sanctions be imposed on Ukraine if the election is deemed unfair. Diuk noted, however, that the entire population of Ukraine should not be penalized for the actions of certain government officials. "Sanctions should only be imposed against the individuals committing the crimes," she said.

Note: Additional reporting and analysis were added to the story to provide readers with updated information.



TWG President Ihor Kotlarchuk presents Ambassador Steven Pifer with an Honorary TWG Membership.

Ukraine with a blueprint for strategic partnerships with both the United States and Europe, the ambassadors said Ukraine failed to meet many of the requirements outlined in the negotiations. "Ukraine would be close to membership if it had implemented 90 percent of the steps defined at the Prague Summit," Pifer said.

The ambassadors concluded, however, that even if Ukraine is successful in holding a democratic election this fall, it still needs to demonstrate that its political-economic structure is compatible with NATO countries. In addition, Ukraine needs to implement a defense structure consistent with NATO guidelines, showing that it can make a contribution to Euro-Atlantic security. Ukraine also needs to adapt its laws to conform to World Trade Organization rules.

END

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Elections in Ukraine

By Christine Demkowych

The October presidential election is a high stakes election with the potential to free Ukraine from its Soviet past. But experts in the field invited to assess the pre-election environment at The Washington Group Leadership Conference this summer said the steady onslaught of dirty election tactics will most likely result in keeping Ukraine's ruling elite in power. There are more violations in the election process now because the government knows the population doesn't want to vote for Kuchma's regime," said Nadia Diuk, director for Central Europe and Eurasia at the National Endow-

while Yanukovich is expected to garner most of his support in southern and eastern Ukraine, particularly in the Donbass region.

While most polls currently show Yushchenko leading national polls, conference analysts said they fear that Yanukovich will be installed illegally, even if Yushchenko wins. According to Taras Kuzio, visiting professor at George Washington University and resident fellow at the University of Toronto, the final outcome of the presidential race may echo the spring 2004 mayoral election held in Mukachevo, where a



From the left: Orest Deychakiwsky, Amb. Nelson Ledsky, Dr. Nadia Diuk, Marta Kolomayets, Dr. Taras Kuzio, and Gene Fishel

ment for Democracy. "They [the ruling elite] realize they're losing and it's the only way they can stay in power."

Ukraine's October 2004 election represents the first time since the collapse of the Soviet Union that an opposition candidate has a strong chance of winning and replacing the old order. The 1994 presidential election—when Leonid Kuchma beat incumbent Leonid Kravchuk by a 7 percent margin in a run-off vote—was a case of presidential power passing from one member of the nomenklatura to another. In 1999, Kuchma was reelected for another five-year term.

Of the 24 candidates registered to run in October's race, opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, the government's frontrunner, are expected to face off in a second round of voting. Election forecasts predict that Yushchenko will sweep central and western Ukraine,

candidate representing the government's interests was declared the winner after he clearly lost the vote.

"The Mukachevo election crossed the bounds of what is free and fair," Kuzio said. "The gap between Yushchenko and Yanukovich can only be overcome by outright falsification during the counting."

Kuzio pointed out, however, that President Kuchma believes Western institutions will only consider the election free and fair if a member of the opposition wins.

The recent signing of a Declaration on Honest Elections by Yushchenko and efforts to prevent election fraud by socialist candidate Oleksandr Moroz have not allayed the concerns of U.S. non-governmental organizations (NGO) monitoring the election process.

Gene Fishel, senior analyst for the State De-

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Ambassador Reznik Addresses TWG Conference

Note: Ambassador Reznik's speech was delivered in Ukrainian. The text below is a translation provided by the Embassy of Ukraine. Excerpts from the speech with minor editorial corrections are provided below.

Dear friends!

.....Today I would like to talk about the historical importance of the current moment for Ukraine and about its influence on Ukraine-US relations.

We all remember how Ukrainian independence began. Namely, with a big desire of Ukrainians to live in a country of their own - strong, stable and democratic. Shortly, a European one. As it often happens, dreams dissolve in real life, but give us strength and inspiration to overcome difficulties. We couldn't integrate with the European Union as soon as our neighbors. I will not conceal that it was a bitter disappointment. But the desire to live well, like in Europe, gave Ukrainians strength to overcome economic chaos of early 90-s, to take steps on the way to economic revival. And it was the biggest accomplishment of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian state is becoming more influential and competitive, which is a huge success for all of us. Having no European perspective and no big protectors in the continental and global politics we nevertheless managed to get back on our feet. By our own strength we created the current situation, where annual economic growth totals 9-10% and industrial growth amounts to 15-17% (twice as much as for instance in oil-rich Russia). According to this May's statistics the growth of the economy is running at a rate over 11 percent. Many branches are really booming: construction industry - 32% growth, manufacturing - 21%, wholesale and retail trade - 18%, power engineering and water-supply - 13%. Ukrainian exports were 45% (!) higher the first quarter of this year compared to the same period of 2003.

According to statistics of the National Bank of Ukraine, national hard currency reserves have reached about 9 billion dollars. Oleh Bilorus and Kostyantyn Morozov must remember completely different figures

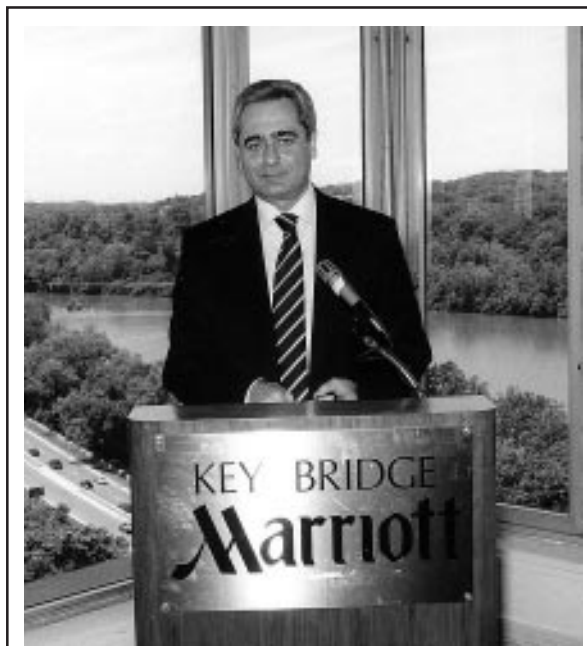
Ukraine had in early 90-s. By that time the Ukrainian treasury was half-empty: 180-300 million dollars. Not to mention the real tragedy of average Ukrainian's personal savings: they were eaten up by catastrophic inflation. In contrast, during last year the personal savings of Ukrainians deposited in domestic banks grew by 6 billion dollars. During the last two years we had a 230% growth in this sphere. This was a moment when the timely privatization and consequent modernization of Ukrainian banking system undertaken in last years really paid off. Moreover, in this sphere Ukraine is ahead of such countries as Romania

and Bulgaria, although they have already been recognized as EU accession candidates. Last year investments in Ukrainian economy grew by 33%.

European financial bonds amounting to 1 billion dollars issued by Ukraine last year were recognized by "Business Week" magazine as the most promising ones in emerging markets. This year we repeated this positive experience and started a presentation, so-called "road show", of Eurobonds for another 600 million dollars. Could we ever dream about that six years ago, when Ukraine undertook a similar project placing Eurobonds in the markets and later on couldn't pay credits back? You will say: he is an Ambassador and must say positive things about his country and his government. But isn't it a patriotic duty for every Ukrainian wherever he lives?

Of course, the legacy of recession still lies as a heavy burden on Ukrainian households. One third of them are still below the official poverty line. But, again, it is progress compared to 2001 when over 40% of Ukrainian households lived in poverty. More and more Ukrainians are becoming aware that their country has turned the corner. They look towards future, not the past. Maybe 13 years ago this nation was deemed in a different way than it turned out to be. But the Ukrainian state, the way we see it now, already yields fruits we can be proud of. And I am sure it's just the beginning of its long and glorious way in a new Europe.

.....Does it mean that today's Ukraine is interested in the United States less than in recent years? Not at all. However, our countries' interests toward each other indeed have become different. Ten years ago Ukraine



Ambassador Mykhailo Reznik delivers Address at TWG Conference Luncheon

needed, so to say, a life vest in order not to sink in a deep economic crisis and not to get into political isolation under pressure of its own nuclear potential. Today we need a long-term strategic partner, who would support Ukraine in resolution of issues, which can't be resolved individually, including membership in European Union and NATO. Ten years ago the matter was about short-term crisis management, which was vitally important for Ukraine as an independent country. Nowadays Ukraine needs a strategic partnership with the United States relying on mutual interests of our countries. Using diplomatic slang, Ukraine is ready to be not only a recipient, but also a contributor in relations with the US.

Our participation in Iraq is only the most vivid political illustration of this idea. The economic illustration can and should be participation of the US investors in large and small projects in the Ukrainian market - one of the most dynamic in Europe. I'm sure that we are standing on the verge of investment boom in Ukrainian economy. Economically it is not so important where these investments come from. However politically we are interested that they come from our priority partners, in particular from the United States.

.....Our ambition is to transform the Ukraine-US partnership from a rollercoaster to a regular railway going both ways. A railway carrying not only single diplomatic cars, but multiple passenger and cargo trains. A railway functioning in a normal operating mode, perhaps with no political breakthroughs, but definitely with no emergencies.

The basis for that remains unchanged. As in the nineties, the very existence of Ukraine as a strong European country is a guarantee of stable development in Europe. As in the nineties, the real independence of Ukraine is a guarantee against appearance of new empire on the former Soviet terrain. These are generally known and generally accepted geopolitical concepts, which can be referred to as Brzezinski-Kissinger theory.

However, the new millennium made its corrections here as well. The matter here is about three most significant political moments related to the ongoing development of

Ukraine.

First of all, Ukraine has clearly and unambiguously declared its aspirations to become a NATO member. In this way its importance for European affairs became even more significant. A complete Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine must become a token of its equally complete juncture with Western community of democracies. We appreciate the United States' support to this aspiration. I hope that Ukraine's invitation to the Istanbul summit will initiate a political shift, after which our way towards NATO becomes faster and smoother.

Secondly, economic growth of Ukraine makes it an active political player, not a political card in hands of others. Z. Brzezinski, visiting recently Kyiv, mentioned that Ukraine is not a queen, but definitely not a pawn on the global chess-board. I would add: Ukraine's will and desires can't be ignored anymore, and its questions can't be left without answers.

Thirdly, somewhat unexpectedly for many, it turned out that a strong European Ukraine not only can but must be a close partner of the former Soviet republics. Politically these countries go different ways and have different aspirations, but they are connected historically and economically.

That's why

their way is not confrontation, but mutual and equal complementation for the sake of welfare of their peoples and European stability. This makes the importance of Ukraine, as a geopolitical platform supporting European Union on the one side and the CIS region on the other side, even bigger. Again this makes Ukraine a bit different nation, than it was anticipated by many people in early nineties. But isn't such a nation - peaceful, growing, stable and geopolitically important - a natural partner for the United States? This question sounds to me as a merely rhetorical one.

Sometimes it seems that United States understands the importance of the current moment, but procrastinates with the formation of the new policy towards Ukraine till presidential elections in both countries. If so, we will take



Ambassador Mykhailo Reznik receives TWG Honorary Membership from TWG President, Ihor Kotlarchuk

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TWG Through the Years -the artists



Literary critic, Ivan Dziuba at TWG sponsored event in 1990. Mr. Dziuba would later become Ukraine's Minister of Culture.

Poet Lina Kostenko (center) receives the 1990 Antonovych Award for Literature from the award's founders, Omelan and Tatiana Antonovych.



Harmonia performing during the 2004 Leadership Conference.

Composer Mykola Kolessa, Conductor Hobart Earle, Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak and TWG Cultural Fund Director Laryssa Courtney celebrate the Odessa Philharmonic Orchestra's concert in Washington in 1996.



Fashion Show - Fund Raiser at the Embassy of Ukraine sponsored by the TWG Cultural Fund to purchase a mammogram machine in connection with a breast cancer awareness program in Ukraine.

The Leontovych String Quartet, with violinist Oleh Krysa (right) in their performance in 2003.



Ambassador Reznik

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the decision made by our partners with due respect. However I would like to fulfill my moral duty as Ukrainian Ambassador and a consequent optimist concerning the future of Ukrainian-American relations. Namely, to assure this distinguished audience and the whole American establishment that the partnership with America stays Ukraine's priority whatever outcome of elections. Strong relations with the United States are indispensable for a strong European Ukraine. I am also personally convinced that Washington's interests in Eastern Europe will be served best if America stays on the course of partnership with Ukraine.

.....It is no secret that Ukraine has been lately subjected to criticism. Some of this criticism was deserved, some - not. I do not intend to justify or comment in any way on the controversial events in my country that provoked this reaction. Let me just say that for some reason local events and actions of private companies sometimes get extrapolated to the Ukrainian government as a whole. This approach appears to me, as Americans say, counterproductive.

It's quite obvious that attention fixed at these events is closely related with forthcoming presidential elections in my country. The elections are deemed as a key for the future both of Ukraine and Ukraine-US relations. Personally I agree only with the first half of this theory. Indeed, there is no doubt that elections are important for Ukraine. However is it worthwhile to bind the very future of US-Ukraine partnership with this event?

.....I can only add: unlike most post-Soviet countries, six months before the presidential elections nobody has enough courage to predict the winner in Ukraine. In some of our neighboring countries the winner is obvious before the presidential campaign even gets started. In the United States holding elections simultaneously with Ukraine, it's quite obvious that the name of the future president will be either John or George. Ukraine doesn't have even this luxury, keeping all options open. Doesn't it speak in favor of Ukraine as a young democracy?

Again, unlike most post-Soviet countries, in Ukraine the opposition has a serious influence on decision-making process. Enough evidence was delivered during recent parliamentary debates over so-called political reform.

Then why, again unlike most post-Soviet countries, it is Ukraine which is branded as the human rights violator in the region? I'm sure that this year's presidential elections will be the next political exam successfully passed by Ukraine. There is no reason today to stigmatize Ukraine as a violator and criminal. And making in advance conclusions based on suspicions and local cases, to my mind, just plays into hands of those interested in spoiling relations between Ukraine and West.

There will be no collapse. There will be however conclusions made by both sides based on today's situation.

For Ukraine the conclusion is very simple and it was articulated many times by numerous political forces, including President Kuchma: the elections must be transparent and democratic. For the United States one of the conclusions was voiced at the recent Congressional hearings on the situation in Ukraine. One of the American participants mentioned: what influence can we, United States, have on Ukraine, if American investments in this country are so insignificant?

I agree with that only to some extent. I don't agree because I know that all political forces in Kyiv listen carefully to the voice of the United States. I don't agree because American investments in Ukraine are growing. But I do agree that American interests will be served best, if businesses of this country don't waste an opportunity of the present moment and start confidently investing in one of the most dynamic economies on the European continent. Political reputation of Ukraine could be decisive in this sense, either stimulating investment now or making businesses wait.

..... I would like to stop here. Once again let me thank you for the invitation and wish The Washington Group many years of fruitful work for the sake of successful Ukrainian-American relations.

Thank you for your attention!
God Bless America!
Slava Ukraini!

Organizations

From page 12

Understanding of the law profession; facilitate exchanges of students, lawyers and scholars; create local chapters throughout the United States, Canada and Ukraine; hold bi-monthly lunches; create a newsletter; expand access to its membership directory to non-members; offer advertising on its website; provide a mentor program with local law schools; and offer scholarships to Ukrainian students wanting to attend law school.

The directors of the Ukrainian-American professional organizations agreed that ideas and methods used to increase membership must be reviewed on a regular basis to reflect the concerns of the community and the changing environment. Paying attention to the needs of the "fourth wave" of Ukrainians is vital to the future of any Ukrainian-American organization. Offering discounts, scholarships and other forms of financial assistance to potential members whose incomes prevent them from joining, is an investment with strong, long-term gains.

END

Improving Our Professionals' Organizations

By Christine Demkowych

The future of Ukrainian-American professional organizations depends on attracting younger members, broadening membership criteria; forming alliances with other organizations and ensuring that events and publications are more accessible to non-Ukrainian speaking members.

That was the message delivered by directors of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA), the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA), the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA), and the Ukrainian-American Bar Association. Of the four aforementioned groups, UMANA, in existence since 1950, has experienced the largest increase in membership over the past few years. Dr. George Hrycelak, executive director of UMANA, says the organization averaged 370 members in the 1990s. But in 2002, membership jumped to 412. Interest in the organization continued growing in 2003, with membership increasing to a record number of 453. In 2004, membership levels are expected to eclipse last year's figures.

Hrycelak says he believes a 2001 board decision to pay the executive director an annual salary of \$30,000 is responsible for the increase in membership. In his capacity as executive director, Hrycelak handles membership, writes press releases, contributes to the newsletter, and responds to all phone, email and fax inquiries.

"Volunteers can only put in so much time," Hrycelak says. "I am always available to respond to member problems or questions. So far membership is growing."

Hrycelak explained that one of the biggest problems UMANA faced in past years is that it was perceived as a regional organization. "When our main office was in New York for the first 25 years, everyone thought we were an East Coast outfit. When our

headquarters moved to Chicago, the same attitude was adopted for the mid-West," he said.

In an effort to address the misconception, Hrycelak said board members now represent all parts of the country. Board meetings are held four times a year and each board member travels to attend the meetings. More recently, Hrycelak said board meetings are teleconferenced.

Other measures recently adopted by UMANA include the expansion of membership criteria to include PhDs, nurses and chiropractors, among others. In addition, all financial records related to UMANA's activities and expenditures are open to members for review.

"Our biggest challenge right now is figuring out a way to engage young members. If we don't, they'll go elsewhere," Hrycelak said.

The Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) is a 75-year-old organization with over 3,000 members from North and South America, Europe, Ukraine, Australia and the Far East.

The UNWLA spearheads a variety of fundraisers, runs day care centers and actively participates in a variety of community activities. The UNWLA unites women who are of Ukrainian descent, or belong to the Ukrainian community, for common action in preserving their cultural heritage and developing an enhanced sense of identity.

In an effort to address issues related to women's health and wellbeing, the UNWLA is taking active steps to forge alliances with other organizations and governmental institutions in the United States and Ukraine. The UNWLA has also become a member of several women's clubs in the United States, including the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the National Council of Women in the United States.



From left: Nancy Medwid (UABA), Andrij Wowk (UESA), Oksana Xenos (UNWLA), George Masiuk (TWG), Dr. George Hrycelak (UMANA)

According to Oksana Xenos, a parliamentarian of the UNWLA, the organization is continually seeking ways to increase membership. Xenos said the UNWLA is reviewing a concept that would provide inactive members—those with job and family responsibilities—with access to Ukrainian day care centers. The theory is that the inactive members would return as active members once their time frees up and they can again offer their services to the organization.

Xenos said the UNWLA is experiencing increased interest among members who are requesting the establishment of new English-only branches. The UNWLA is receiving requests to hold its conferences and seminars exclusively in English. Xenos said that when UNWLA Branch 95 decided to follow-up on the English-only conference suggestion and held such a meeting last year at Soyuzivka, it had an encouraging turnout.

The Ukrainian Engineers Society of America (EUSA), founded in 1948, has expanded its membership guidelines to include scientists, economists, business people and technical professionals.

Andrij Wowk, president of EUSA, said a review of the organization's mission in 2001 revealed several challenges that needed attention: the EUSA's membership base was primarily composed of retired professionals; the organization provided membership to many non-paying members due to a faulty dues collection process; the organization was perceived as an old boy's club whose only sponsored event was an annual debutante ball; and the EUSA had limited visibility in the Ukrainian-American community.

Wowk said that in 2003 UESA agreed to implement a centralized dues collection process and a system of fiscal transparency within all the chapters. The UESA will expand its membership base to students and associate members who may not be degreed professionals but work in a technical field. A system of deactivating non-paying members was also put into place.

The EUSA has increased its visibility in the community by publishing a column in the Ukrainian Weekly on science and technology news. Members of the EUSA have also started giving lectures in the New York area.

"As a result of all our efforts, membership among younger people has increased," Wowk said, noting that the EUSA plans to take better advantage of funding possibilities that are available from U.S. organizations.

The Ukrainian-American Bar Association (UABA) was founded 26 years ago. According to Nancy Medwid, UABA Vice-President, its initial aim was to offer pro-bono legal services, provide a scholarship fund to help Ukrainians coming to the United States to attend law school, and help those in need navigate through immigration laws.

Today, the UABA hopes to promote a better un-

Morozov explained that interest in European integration waned when Ukraine's top leaders discovered that becoming a part of Europe required the adoption of business practices reflecting democratic norms and moral codes of conduct. This revelation, he said, ultimately led to the creation of the Single Economic Space Agreement.

Morozov said the question of integration was "reduced to a series of opportunistic shifts and tactical moves in various directions to meet the often personal needs of the moment."

The concept of integrating with the West has received quite a bit of opposition from Ukraine's various political parties. Ukraine's Communist Party, for example, advocates total opposition to the West, with complete support for Russia. The Socialist Party sees the value of political and economic ties with the West, but does not recognize the benefit of such ties from a military perspective.

The national democratic or right party, supported by Viktor Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko, supports European integration, but has not been an effective voice for promoting this option, Morozov said, adding that even this group is divided when it comes to NATO and the merits of a Trans-Atlantic versus purely European course.

Morozov said the democratic or right party has been "timid in fighting anti-Western propaganda, and made too feeble an effort to defeat the Single Economic Space project in Parliament....they have done too little to educate the public in the relevance of European integration to the betterment of their own lives.

"In fact, preoccupied as many of them are with tactical issues of the upcoming presidential election, the opposition has seemingly lost the initiative in defining Ukraine's strategic geo-political future," Morozov said.

In conclusion, Morozov said that in the 21st century Ukraine's future can be safeguarded not in isolation, but in integration. "This integration must be into those structures that can best insure the state's security and the people's well-being, those who espouse values that maximize freedom through democracy. For me, this means integration with Europe," he said.

Morozov said the movement toward the EU cannot be made without membership in the NATO alliance. "The acceptance of the benefits of EU membership and the values that it represents—democracy, market economy, civil society and civil rights—must be accompanied by a readiness to defend them," he said. "Ukraine must understand that the European Union and NATO integration processes are not separate from each other."

END

General Morozov's Address

By Christine Demkowych

Why has Ukraine not achieved the level of success predicted by the global community shortly after it gained independence in 1991?

Kostyantyn Morozov, Ukraine's first defense minister, said he believes Ukraine squandered the many opportunities it was granted over the years because it never clearly defined its priorities and the type of state it should build.

The circumstances in which Ukraine finds itself today can be traced back to its first 10 years of statehood. During that period Ukraine was caught in the middle of a balancing act between Europe and Russia. Although Ukraine showed interest in integrating with Europe and its system of democracy, it continued maintaining ties with Russia, whose goal was to preserve its influence over the former Soviet republics.

Ukraine's intention to integrate into the European Union (EU) prompted the development of legal structures that were incorporated into the international political process. It removed all nuclear weapons from its territory and signed a nuclear non-proliferation treaty. A democratic constitution was adopted and national minorities and religious groups were provided with full rights and liberties. Embassies were established in over 150 countries and Ukraine accepted the permanence and inviolability of all interstate borders.

But the West's lack of applause for the progress Ukraine was making during its first years of independence caused great disappointment, influencing many politicians in Ukraine to believe that its entry into the EU was not expected, nor welcomed. Morozov contends that Russia took advantage of the dispirited attitude toward the EU to promote its own policy interests in Ukraine.

Ukraine's indecision over which economic system it should integrate with—Europe or Russia—caused a lack of clarity in its foreign policy, rendering it virtu-

ally ineffective. Divergent policy measures—such as partial cooperation with NATO and the EU, versus the signing of the Single Economic Space agreement (with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan)—negated Ukraine's efforts in either direction.

Morozov argues that organizations like the European Union and NATO must adjust their policy guidelines to reflect the changing needs of member states. The fall of the USSR no longer defines NATO priorities, he said, therefore the needs of interstate relations are no longer unified. The needs of individual states must be addressed to reflect new global conditions.

As a non-bloc country, Ukraine has faced numerous security challenges, primarily resulting from the foreign military presence on its territory. The Russian Black Sea Fleet, based in Crimea, is not only dangerous from a military, strategic perspective, but has also caused territorial concerns.

Morozov said he fears the possibility of serious armed conflict resulting from the Russian Black Sea Fleet's presence. He said that while he understands that NATO would not want to engage in such a possible conflict, the Russian Fleet has become a serious barrier to Ukraine's involvement with NATO.

Russia's financial and security interests are increasingly pushing Ukraine toward Eurasia. Russia's financial investments in Ukraine continue to increase every year, causing another barrier for Ukraine's relationship with the West. The terrorist threat in Russia has spurred a proposal to develop a joint anti-terrorist center, which would increase Russia's role in Ukrainian security policy and make Ukraine hostage to Russia's North Caucasus policy, namely the war in Chechnya.



General Morozov

Continued on page 12



Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Victor Yushchenko discusses Ukraine's economic situation at a joint SAIS-TWG forum in 1994. Currently, Mr. Yushchenko is the leader of the Nasha Ukraina party and is a leading Presidential candidate.



Dr. Nadia Diuk, Director for Europe and Eurasia at the National Endowment for Democracy addresses the 2004 Leadership Conference. She has recently accepted an appointment to the Advisory Board of the Kennan Institute.



Ukraine's former president Leonid Kravchuk meets with two TWG former presidents, Mykola Babiak and Lida Chopivsky Benson during a Washington visit in 1996.



John Deutch, Director, Central Intelligence (left) exchanges views with Russian Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov (right) during a TWG Leadership Conference reception at the Embassy of Ukraine in 1996.

TWG Through the Years



TWG Presidents at the 2004 Leadership Conference. From the left: Orest Deychakiwsky, Daria Stec, Ihor Kotlarchuk, Natalie Sluzar, George Masiuk, and Mykola Babiak.



Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney meets with TWG-member reserve officers following the Ukrainian Independence Day dinner at Fort Meyer January 22, 1991. Standing with him are: Wolodymyr Sulzynsky, Juriy Petrenko and Ihor Kotlarchuk.

Ambassador William G. Miller, former NSC director Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Ukraine's first Ambassador to the United States, Oleh Bilorus at a TWG reception.



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.

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