



New TWVG Board Approved At Annual Meeting

TWVG President Announces Dinner Cruise Scheduled for October 26

by Michael Drabyk

TWVG President Ihor Kotlarchuk announced that The Washington Group will hold a Dinner Cruise & Dance on the Potomac River, in Washington, DC, on October 26. The event will be held in place of the TWG Leadership Conference, which is currently scheduled to take place again in October 2003. (See our advertisement on page 4.)

Kotlarchuk made the announcement during TWG's Annual Meeting, held June 14th in Washington DC. Members elected a slate of candidates headed by Kotlarchuk, who became the second President in TWG history to be re-elected to a third term. George Masiuk was the first TWG President to serve three consecutive terms, from 1995 until 1998.

The slate also included a new position, Community Liaison, to be held by TWG member and *Svoboda* Editor, Irene Jarosewich. She will act as contact between The Washington Group, and other Ukrainian groups located in northeast U.S. and elsewhere.

President's Report

Members heard a series of reports, starting with the President's, describing activities of The Washington Group since the previous annual meeting, held in June 2001.

The activities included the TWG Leadership Conference held October 19th – 21st 2001, with the theme of "Ukraine: Focus on the Future." President Kotlarchuk indicated that despite being held a month after the Sept. 11th tragedy, the conference attracted many attendees from around the country. He pointed out a forum featuring Ambassadors from four Eastern European countries as just one of the

events that made the conference "both intellectually stimulating and socially enjoyable."

Referring to the upcoming dinner cruise, Kotlarchuk said it would be held aboard the "Dandy" on Saturday, October 26th. He said that further details would be forthcoming.

Kotlarchuk also encouraged members to visit the TWG Web site maintained by Steve Boyduy (visit www.TheWashingtonGroup.org).

Additional Reports

Outgoing TWG Treasurer Roman Stelmach reported assets at

TWVG President Ihor Kotlarchuk announced that The Washington Group will hold a Dinner Cruise and Dance on the Potomac River, in Washington, DC, on October 26.

the time of the Annual Meeting of more than \$48,000.

Membership Director Adrian Pidlusky reported that TWG membership stood at 328, down from last year's level of 449. Pidlusky attributed the drop to the fact that membership renewal

letters had not been sent out prior to the Annual Meeting. He expressed confidence that response to the letters would boost membership numbers.

The TWG Cultural Fund reported it continued its Music Series during the year, with five concerts at the Lyceum in Old Town, Alexandria, VA. These included a performance by the winners of the Vladimir Horowitz International Competition for Young Pianists, along with a jazz concert by the Louisiana Swamp Romp that included some Ukrainian folk songs performed with a New Orleans twist. Other Cultural Fund events also included entertainment for the 2001 TWG Leadership Conference Sunday Brunch, with performances by singer Marianna Vynnytsky, accompanied by Braty Blooz member Andrij Vintsersky.

The TWG Fellowship Fund reported the Ukrainian Embassy was screening candidates submitted by the fund for the annual Embassy student internship. It was reported that the Embassy wanted to select two student interns for work during the summer.

List of Candidates

The following slate of candidates was presented and approved: Ihor O.E. Kotlarchuk, President; George Masiuk, Vice President; Luba Cehelska, Secretary; Steve Boyduy, Treasurer; Adrian Pidlusky, Membership Director;

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Common Goal: "To paint like hell."

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on the back cover.**

From the Editor...

Ukraine Moving Forward

Lately, Ukraine has seen its share of protests. On September 16, over 20,000 Ukrainians took to the streets calling for President Leonid Kuchma's resignation. Chanting "Away with Kuchma!" the crowds were joined by several opposition leaders, including the country's most popular politician, former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko. But, by early morning, authorities undoubtedly under orders from Mr. Kuchma's crew, stormed the demonstrators' tents and reportedly resorted to Soviet-era tactics that involved "beating people left and right, peaceful people who were tired and half asleep."

Several days later, on September 24, thousands more Ukrainians again rallied against Mr. Kuchma, demanding his resignation. Fed up with economic struggle and unending corruption at the highest levels of Mr. Kuchma's administration, Ukrainians courageously gathered to tell the world they wanted [and needed] new leadership.

Many in Ukraine believe that Mr. Kuchma is corrupt and somehow involved in the brutal murder of investigative journalist Georgy Gongadze, who was found beheaded two years ago. In fact, an opinion poll last month showed that about 70 percent of Ukrainians support kicking Mr. Kuchma out of office. But Mr. Kuchma won't budge, repeatedly refusing to meet with opposition leaders.

Granted, Ukraine has come a long way since it gained independence in 1991, but Kuchma's behavior during the past several years has been mucked in a dangerous downward spiral. Re-elected in 1999, Kuchma seems to think that he can get through all these scandals. Yet, it looks like the people of Ukraine have different plans for him.

In support of the yearning for true democracy in Ukraine, the U.S. and its Western partners ought to take immediate steps toward putting together a "Marshall Plan" that will offer Ukrainians hope for a secure and prosperous future. No longer is it a question of one corrupt man's future, but the future of nearly 50 million people who demand a better life.

It's time for the West to help the Ukrainian people achieve true independence, free of Mr. Kuchma and his bankrupt policies.

-- Andy C. Szul, Editor-in-Chief, 9/25/02

(The above represents the views of the writer and not The Washington Group.)

TWG News

Published for members by The Washington Group
P.O. Box 11248, Washington D.C. 20008

Editor-in-Chief: Andy C. Szul, TWGNews@yahoo.com

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Publisher: Nicholas Babiak

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Advertising: Business card size: \$10/issue, or \$25/three issues for TWG members; \$15/\$40 for non-members. 1/4 page: \$45 for members, \$55 for non-members. 1/2 page: \$60 for members, \$75 for non-members.

Full page: \$100 for members, \$140 non-members. To advertise, e-mail TWG Treasurer Steve Boyduy at TheWashingtonGroup@yahoo.com.

Fellowship Fund Report

by Adrian Karmazyn

As of June 14, 2002, the Embassy of Ukrainian had narrowed its list of candidates for the TWG-funded summer embassy internship to two applicants.

This year we received nine applications and Mike Drabyk helped me review them and make recommendations, before we forwarded them to the Embassy for their diplomats to make the final decision. The Fund provides a stipend of \$1,500 for this annual project.

Last year, Maria Sonevitsky, a Slavic Studies and Music double major at Barnard College-Columbia University in New York, spent two months at the Embassy working primarily on their English-language newsletter that is available in both print and electronic versions.

I wish to thank everyone who has contributed to the Fund over the years.

These donations have provided many young people with the opportunity to gain valuable experience in terms of observing the work of a foreign embassy in Washington. *(For more information about the Fellowship Fund, see p. 7)*

I wish to thank everyone who has contributed to the Fund over the years.



Horowitz Recital

March 24, 2002

The Recital showcased the first prize winners of the *IV International Competition for Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz*.

Pictured, L-R: Kyrlyo Keduk of Belarus, 1st Prize, Junior Group; Mariya Kim of Ukraine, 1st Prize Senior Group; Dmytro Onishenko of Ukraine, 1st Prize, Intermediate Group

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TWG President's Annual Report: "Good Year"

by Ihor Kotlarchuk

This was another good year for The Washington Group. Our annual and traditional three-day Leadership Conference was held this year on October 19 – 21, 2001 only a few weeks after the tragic incident of September 11, 2001. At a time when most people were afraid to travel, our members were not deterred by the fear of travel to the Washington, DC area and came by car, plane, and train to our conference from various parts of the United States.

As a result, we had a very successful conference. More than 170 individuals attended and participated in the various conference events. The theme of our conference was "Ukraine: Focus on the Future". The conference panels, which were extremely well received by the audience, consisted of prominent experts in various fields, including representatives of both the United States and Ukrainian governments, professors from renowned academic institutions and officials from international organizations.

One of the highlights of the conference was the Ambassador's Forum that consisted of Ambassadors from four East European countries: the Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Ukraine and the Republic of Hungary. They focused their presentations and discussions on a very timely and important topic which concerned itself with Ukraine's integration into the European Community and NATO.

Later that evening, at the banquet, TWG presented its annual award to Major General Nicholas Krawciw, US

Army (Ret.), an extremely worthy individual who did so much to promote closer U.S. – Ukraine military ties. All in all, the conference was both intellectually stimulating and socially enjoyable. TWG continues to operate on a conservative and sound financial basis. Our assets at this time are over \$48,000. The TWG Cultural Fund has had a very successful year and was staged some very high quality cultural and musical events.

The TWG Fellowship Fund was also very active. The activities of both are detailed and explained in their respective annual reports.

TWG Socials continue to be popular and offer our members and prospective members an opportunity to meet on a regular basis where they can socialize and network. The socials are always held on the first Friday of each month. This year, we sponsored a very well attended "Hockey Night" at the MCI Center and hosted a very interesting presentation by Dr. Natalie Kononenko, professor at the University of Virginia and author of a book, entitled "Ukrainian Minstrels". Members of TWG festively celebrated the changing of the seasons at a "TWG Spring Fling" which was hosted by our former TWG President Orest Deychakiwsky.

Many thanks for their hard work and dedication to our departing members of the Board: Vice-President Anya Silecka Piazza, Adrian Karmazyn, Director of the Fellowship Fund, and our very conscientious Treasurer Roman Stelmach who managed to keep our

organization on a sound financial basis. Many thanks also go to George Masiuk, Chairman of the Leadership Conference, for his outstanding work on last year's conference.

Special thanks go to Anya Silecka Piazza (TWG Directory Committee Chair) and the members of her hard working TWG Directory Committee (Yaro Bihun, Juliana Kinal, Michael Drabyk, and Jurij Mojsiak) for producing such an excellent, thorough, and well designed TWG Directory for 2001-2002 which was provided to all of our members a few months ago.

Steve Boyduy continues to maintain and develop the TWG Web site which provides timely information about our organization and our activities. I encourage everyone to visit our Web site: www.TheWashingtonGroup.org.

TWG, as an organization, continues to attract many dedicated and talented Ukrainian American professionals to its ranks and as a result, TWG continues to be a very viable and vibrant organization. Thank you for the trust, confidence and the generous support you have given me and the Board during the year. More importantly, I ask and hope that you will continue to support TWG during the coming year.

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Upcoming TWG Cultural Fund Events

In cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, the TWG Cultural Fund (TWGC) announces the 2002-2003 Music Series:

November 3 -- Harmonia, a folks ensemble featuring music from Ukraine, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Croatia. For more information, visit www.harmoniaband.com.

November 24 -- Wasyl Popadiuk, violinist, and Ihor Bohdan, singer, performing original violin solos and popular contemporary Ukrainian songs by Ivasiuk, Bilozir & others.

March 9 -- Leontovych String Quartet

April 6 -- Stefan Szkafarowsky, baritone

May 18 -- Lydia Artymiw, pianist

All concerts take place at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Old Town Alexandria, VA, at 3pm.

To become a sponsor of this series, please send a check made payable to "TWG Cultural Fund" (\$100, individual; \$175, couple). Benefits include free admission & recognition in programs. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated.

Mail your check to the TWGC Treasurer: Rosalie Norair, 7514 Honesty Way, Bethesda, MD 20817.

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TWG Cultural Fund's Active Year

by Laryssa Courtney

In 2001 - 2002, the Cultural Fund continued its Music Series, initiated the year before by Chrystia Sonevytsky. This year's concerts were held on Sunday afternoons in the Lyceum, a museum in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia.

The concerts were publicized in the press, both Ukrainian and American, on the Internet and by mailings, and turned out to be quite popular. Receptions for the artists followed the concerts and added to everyone's enjoyment.

The 2001 - 2002 Music Series consisted of five concerts, featuring diverse art forms; from singers of both folk and opera music, to a bandurist, pianists and a Dixieland Jazz Ensemble, all including Ukrainian themes in their performance.

On September 23, Ukrainian folk singer Marianna Sadovska, accompanying herself on a harmonium, enchanted a capacity audience with songs from various ethnographic regions of Ukraine. The second concert of our Music Series featured soprano Oleksandra Hrabova,

who performed a very moving recital which included Italian arias and songs by Ukrainian composers: Liudkevych, Sichynsky, Kropyvnytsky, Sonevytsky, Kytasty and others.

On January 27, we once again featured the Louisiana Swamp Romp (who are also members of the U.S. Army Band), whose program included music from the repertoire of Louis Armstrong, the Dukes of Dixieland and Al Hirt, as well as Ukrainian folk songs with a New Orleans twist!

In the Spring, our series continued with a recital showcasing the First Prize winners of the *IV International Competition for Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz* in the three age categories. Mariya Kim (Ukraine), Dmytro Onishchenko (Ukraine), and Kyrylo Keduk (Belarus) performed a wonderful program exhibiting their very impressive technique, and sensitive expression. Their program included works by Chopin, Liszt, Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky, Nyzhankivsky, Kosenko and Glebov-Olovnikov.

See TWG Cultural Fund, page 8



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-Andy

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TWG's Fellowship Fund Kicks Into High Gear...

TWG Summer Interns Gain Invaluable Experience

by Michael Drabyk

This past summer, the Ukrainian Embassy selected two interns as part of The Washington Group Fellowship Fund's annual embassy internship program. The two students, Andrew Rylchik and Victor Shutkevych, were chosen to work at the embassy throughout the summer.

Andrew Rylchik, born in Kyiv, is from a family of a diplomat, and is interested in Foreign Service. He is an undergraduate pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree at the School of Diplomacy and International Relations at New Jersey's Seton Hall University, where he is active in the student government. Mr. Rylchik previously attended Beverly Hills High School in Beverly Hills, CA.

Victor Shutkevych traveled to the U.S. from Ukraine, and prior to working at the Embassy as a summer intern, spent a year at Jackson State University (JSU) in

Mississippi. At JSU he participated in the Junior Faculty Development Program as an exchange scholar. The American Councils for International Education administers the program for faculty members from the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. In Ukraine, Mr. Shutkevych teaches analysis of foreign economic activity.

As it has traditionally done throughout the years, the TWG Fellowship Fund solicited, collected and submitted student applications to the Embassy for consideration. The Fellowship Fund has also typically provided the selected intern with a stipend of \$1,500. However, this year the Embassy requested that they choose one intern. With the concurrence of Mr. Rylchik and Mr. Shutkevych, the stipend was split between the two, each getting \$750.



TWG Board, 2002-2003. (L-R) Treasurer Steve Boyduy, Board Members Oleg Jerschkowski & Andrew Sorokowski, President Ihor Kotlarchuk, Events Chair Olena Gaponenko, Fellowship Fund Chair Michael Drabyk, Vice President George Masiuk, Secretary Luba Cehelsky, Board Member Marta Zielyk, Auditing Committee Member Andrew Masiuk, Immediate Past President Orest Deychakiwsky, Membership Director Adrian Pidlusky, and Board Member Oles Berezny. Several board members not pictured. (Want to contact a board member? E-mail TheWashingtonGroup@yahoo.com)

New Board Approved At TWG Annual Meeting

TWG Annual Meeting, from cover page

Andy C. Szul, Public Relations & TWG News Editor; Laryssa Courtney, TWG Cultural Fund; Michael Drabyk, TWG Fellowship Fund; Andrew Bihun, Business Development Forum; Olena Gaponenko, Events; Community Liaison Irene Jarosewich, Orest Deychakiwsky, Immediate Past President; Members at Large: Nick Babiak, Arthur Belendiuk, Oles Berezny, John Hewko, Oleg Jerschkowski, Jurij Mojsiak, Natalie Sluzar, Andrew Sorokowski, Volodymyr Yakymets, and Marta Zielyk; Auditing Committee: Andrew Masiuk, Michael Kowalysko, and Ihor Procinsky.

Other Business

Kotlarchuk also commended four long-time TWG board members who were leaving the board: Vice President Anya Silecky Piazza, Treasurer Roman Stelmach, Fellowship Fund Chair Adrian Karmazyn, and Board Member-at-Large Maria Kulczycky. He thanked them all for their hard work and dedication, and wished them well in their future pursuits. (Above photo includes many members of the TWG Board. E-mail the TWG Board at TheWashingtonGroup@yahoo.com)

TWG Members Work as Election Observers in Ukraine

by Michael Drabyk

Two TWG members recently discussed their experiences in Ukraine as OSCE observers of the parliamentary elections held there earlier this year. Marta Zielyk and Orest Deychakiwsky recalled their observations in an event held immediately following the TWG Annual Meeting in Washington DC on June 14th. (See *Cover Story about TWG Annual Meeting.*)

Zielyk was in Kyiv for a month preceding the elections. She was a long-term OSCE observer, preparing research for short-term poll-watchers who would be observing the actual balloting. Deychakiwsky served as a poll-watcher, arriving in Ukraine in time for the voting.

As part of her job, Zielyk spoke with Ukrainian candidates and individuals, as well as the media and press. She was among those tasked with documenting cases of alleged election law violations. While open violations were reported in various regions around Ukraine, Zielyk termed election law violations in and around Kyiv as being more subtle. She recalled observing activities such as attempts to use legal technicalities to deregister and remove certain candidates from the ballot.

Deychakiwsky was in Ukraine as a short-term OSCE elections observer, visiting different polling places in the Lviv Oblast. Problems noted by OSCE, he said, included lack of a "level playing field" for all candidates and parties, interference in the election process by authorities, media bias, and compromised conditions hampering the ability to cast a secret and confidential vote.

Deychakiwsky, who has been observing elections in Ukraine for more than ten years, expressed some optimism however.

"A significant portion of the Ukrainian electorate showed that it has a mind of its own — and this, of course, is very encouraging and could bode well for the future," he said.

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TWG Cultural Fund "growing stronger than ever"

TWG Cultural Fund, from page 5

In addition to the Music Series, the TWG Cultural Fund organized entertainment for the TWG Conference Brunch on October 21, 2001. Delighting the audience in a cabaret atmosphere, singer Marianna Vynnytsky, along with keyboardist/percussionist and member of Braty Blooz, Andrij Vintsersky, performed romantic love songs written by Myroslav Skoryk.

A well-attended reading and book signing party for Askold Melnyczuk, author of the novel *Ambassador of the Dead*, was organized by Larysa Kurylas at Chapters Literary Bookstore in downtown Washington on October 26.

On November 14, bandurist Alla Kutsevych and singer Ludmila Hrabovsky performed Ukrainian folk music in the State of the Arts Cultural Series at the Dean Acheson Auditorium at the Department of State. Thanks to Chrytyna Kinal, it was a well-organized event.

On December 23, the Cultural Fund organized an excursion to the Baltimore Opera House to see the *Nutcracker* performed by the Donetsk Ballet. Thirty individuals participated in this excursion and a reception followed the performance. Thanks to Oleh Voloshyn for his assistance.

On March 14, Dr. Patricia Grimsted, an Associate at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Center and author of *Trophies of War and Empire, Ukraine, and World War II: An Update on Restitution Politics*, gave a book talk at the Embassy of Ukraine, along with Dr. Konstantin Akinsha, Associate Editor, ARTNews. A reception and book signing followed. Again, thanks to Larysa Kurylas for organizing this very successful event.

As you can see, the TWG Cultural Fund is still going strong and is stronger than ever, thanks to its committee members: Theresa Ben, Lesia Bihun, Olesia Bozhko, Yaro Bihun, Nadia Diuk, Natalia Holub, Chrystyna Kinal, Larysa Kurylas, Ksenia Kuzmych, Marta Legeckis, Stefan Maksymjuk, Suzanne Miller, Rosalie Norair (Treasurer), Slavko Nowytski, Chrystia Sonevysky, Daria Stec, Morgan Williams, Marta Zielyk and Honorary Chairman Natalya Gryshchenko, and, thanks to your support and participation.

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* TWG Member

TWG Members Open Gallery & Share Common Goal: "To paint like hell."

by Natalie Sluzar

After four years on Capitol Hill, artist and art dealer Michele Taylor closed up shop and moved to Ellicott City, 24 miles north of Washington. The Taylor & Sons Gallery was well known in the art world, eventually representing as many as 18 local and national artists, among them Ukrainian landscape artist Andrei Kushnir.

Kushnir, a TWG member, began painting after leaving his position an attorney for the US government. The September 11 terrorist attacks greatly affected the art world. With sales down dramatically, Taylor and Kushnir decided to become business partners and move the gallery to Ellicott City. With the help of friends and family, an empty space in a historic stone building on Main Street was renovated.

The March 23rd opening of the new Andrei Kushnir/Michele Taylor LLC American Painting Gallery brought many elite Washington patrons as well as art lovers and potential patrons from the Ellicott City area. The gold-framed paintings hung on the freshly-painted cream-colored walls start at \$500. The first painting sold even before the gallery officially opened.

Describing his paintings as "new naturalism," Kushnir spends his days on location in parks around the area, such as Great Falls and Sky Meadows. He spent all of June fighting 90-degree heat and mosquitoes to complete a 3-by-6-foot painting, now hanging in a prominent place in the new gallery, on sale for \$30,000.

Kushnir is a credentialed Coast Guard artist as well as a recognized landscape artist. His pictures of rivers and waterways have been featured in national shows such as the Arts for the Parks Exhibition. His work is also exhibited by several galleries around the United States.

Michele Taylor is a self-described American impressionist painter, specializing in painting gardens with splashes of colors, especially violet, blues and greens. The iris is her favorite flower. Taylor studies in Paris, but her work is traditional American. Her paintings have even been donated as gifts to the Emperor of Japan, and were featured in *Architectural Digest*.

Kushnir says that working together with Taylor has spurred a creative synergy. "We have the same common goal," Kushnir said. "To paint like hell."

Taking advantage of their new surroundings, Taylor and Kushnir are working on a collection of paintings that capture the lovely Patapsco River, which winds its way between Oella and Ellicott City. The river winds through some of the most spectacular scenery in the state or Maryland, filled with gorges, woods, and rolling hills. An abundance of abandoned mills, and historic stone houses create a visual feast for artists to capture on canvas.

The Andrei Kushnir/Michele Taylor Gallery is located on 8289 Main Street in Ellicott City. For more information, call the Gallery at 410-465-4467.

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Artist Andrei Kushnir painting on the Patapsco. (May, 2002)



"Patapsco River at Oella" by Andrei Kushnir

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TWG thanks UNA for its continued support!

The Washington Group Membership Application/Renewal Form

TWG is a global association of Ukrainian American professionals. TWG membership offers members an opportunity to meet others through a variety of professional, educational and social activities. In addition to networking opportunities, TWG members receive the *TWG News*, and a membership directory, made available to members only. Visit TWG at www.TheWashingtonGroup.org or e-mail TheWashingtonGroup@yahoo.com.

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Company: _____ Title (position): _____

Business address: _____ Work number: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Business address: _____

Circle information above that you would rather not have included in your listing.

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