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June 12, 2004

Greetings!

On behalf of The Washington Group, I welcome you to the 2004 Leadership Conference. I trust that you had a great time at the Ukrainian Embassy reception last night. This year's conference is a festive occasion as we are celebrating TWG's 20th anniversary.

The theme of our conference is "TWG at 20: Reflection, Renewal and Celebration." The process of reflection starts as you page through this conference book and trace the history of TWG through the eyes of its eight presidents, the Cultural and Fellowship Fund directors, and through the many photos taken over the years by TWG's unofficial photographer, Natalie Sluzar. This process will continue during the banquet with "TWG through the Years – a Retro Look." On a less sentimental level, the conference will reflect on U.S. – Ukraine relations, as analyzed by former Ukrainian and American ambassadors. It will also reflect on how far Ukraine has come, on the eve of its fourth presidential elections — and on how far it has to go. The process of renewal, for our community and for TWG, and for that matter, for Ukraine, needs to be built on an understanding of the past, but, at the same time, it must move beyond the past. For Ukraine, the renewal needs to start with free, fair, and transparent elections. For TWG, and for our fraternal professionals' organizations, renewal needs to start with a new vision, but, equally important, with a sound infrastructure that can deliver services to its members and the community. We look forward to exploring this topic on Sunday morning with spirited audience participation.

Our conference is also about celebration and about renewing friendships and making new ones. Hopefully this got off to a good start at the Embassy reception. This evening, we continue this opportunity to socialize with a cocktail hour, a banquet, and a great dance. On Sunday we hope you will join us for brunch and a performance of East European folk music.

Best Wishes for an Enjoyable Conference!

*George Masiuk
Conference Chairman*

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on

THE WASHINGTON GROUP'S

20th ANNIVERSARY

May it hold fond memories!

IHOR O.E. KOTLARCHUK, Esq.
President

TWG at 20: Reflection. Renewal and Celebration

Friday, June 11	Embassy of Ukraine, 3350 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.	Reception
Saturday, June 12	Key Bridge Marriott Hotel, Arlington, Virginia, Potomac Salons AB
8:00 - 9:00	Registration
9:00 - 9:15	Introductory Remarks George Masiuk, Conference Chairman Ihor Kotlarchuk, TWG President
9:30 - 11:45	Ambassadors' Forum Ambassador Oleh Bilorus Ambassador William G. Miller Ambassador Wteven Pifer
12:00 - 2:00	Luncheon – View Ballroom Address by The Hon. Mykhailo Reznik Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States
2:15 - 4:15	Panel: <i>Ukrainen on the Eve of Elections</i> – Potomac Salons AB Dr. Nadia Diuk, National Endowment for Democracy Eugene Fishel, U.S. Department of State Dr. Taras Kuzio, Resident Fellow, University of Toronto Amb. Nelson Ledsky, National Democratic Institute Orest Deychakiwsky, CSCE – Moderator
6:00 - 7:00	Reception – Potomac Foyer AD
7:00 - 9:00	Banquet – Potomac Salons ABCD
9:00 - 1:00	Dance: to the music of TEMPO – Potomac Ballroom
Sunday, June 13	Key Bridge Marriott, Potomac Salons AB
9:15 - 11:00	<i>Improving Our Professionals' Organizations</i> Dr. George Hrycelak, UMANA (Medical Society) Irena Kurowycky, UNWLA ("Soyuz Ukrainok") Nancy Medwid, UABA (Legal Society) Andrij Wowk, UESA (Engineering Society) George Masiuk, TWG – Moderator
11:00 - 1:00	Brunch Address by Kostyantyn Morozov, former Ukrainian Minister of Defense
1:00 – 2:00	Traditional East European Folk Music Beata Salak, vocalist; Alexander Fedoriouk, cimbalom; Jozef Janis, violinist.

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БУДЬМО В КОНТАКТИ!

SPEAKERS, PANELISTS

AMBASSADOR OLEH BILORUS, Ukraine's first ambassador to the United States (1992-1994), now serves as a deputy in the Verkhovna Rada, where he is a member of the Yulia Tymoshenko's bloc. A Ph.D. in economics, he was the co-founder and first director of the International Management Institute in Kyiv as well as the founder and first director of the International Economics Institute in Kyiv. He has also served in the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

OREST DEYCHAKIWSKY is staff advisor at the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission). His responsibilities at the Helsinki commission include Ukraine, Belarus, Bulgaria; security officer; and liaison with non-governmental organizations at OSCE meetings. Mr. Deychakiwsky has served on more than a dozen U.S. delegations to meetings of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) held in various countries in Europe. He has been an international observer at elections in Ukraine, Russia, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Bosnia, and Bilorus.

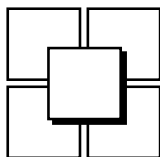
DR. NADIA DIUK serves as director for Europe and Eurasia at the National Endowment for Democracy, a private nonprofit organization funded by the U.S. Congress to strengthen democratic institutions around the world through nongovernmental efforts. She has supervised NED programs in this complex region since before the 1989 revolutions. Prior to her appointment at the NED she taught Soviet Politics and Russian History; was a research associate at the Society for Central Asian Studies, England; and editor-in-chief of the London-based publication *Soviet Nationality Survey*. Her publications include two co-authored books, *The Hidden Nations: The People Challenge the Soviet Union* (New York: William Morrow, 1990) and *New Nations Rising: The Fall of the Soviets and the Challenge of Independence* (John Wiley & Sons, 1993), and articles in *The Washington Times*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Orbis* and *The World and I* and

other publications. She is currently working on a project, "The Next Generation of Young Leaders in Key Post-Soviet States," which will result in the publication of a book. She has appeared on National Empowerment TV, Worldnet TV and has been featured on National Public Radio, Voice of America and Radio Liberty. Dr. Diuk is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She gained a B.A. (hons.) in history at the University of Sussex (United Kingdom). Her Master's degree in Russian and East European studies and Ph.D. in modern history were gained at St. Antony's College, University of Oxford.

GENE FISHEL is senior analyst in the Office of Russian and Eurasian Analysis of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research at the Department of State. His previous assignments included: assistant national intelligence officer for Russia and Eurasia at the National Intelligence Council, director for Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council, adjunct faculty at George Washington University's Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies and postgraduate fellow at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. Prior to joining the State Department in 1991, Mr. Fishel was a research fellow at the Institute for the Study of Conflict, Ideology and Policy. He holds an M.A. degree in international relations from Boston University and a B.A. degree in political science from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell.

DR. GEORGE HRYCELAK has been the executive director the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) since 2001. After receiving his M.D. degree at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 1973, Dr. Hrycelak completed his residency in surgery at the Cook County Hospital (1973-1978). Since then, he has been attending surgeon at the Illinois Masonic Medical Center (1979-2003). In the Ukrainian-American community, in addition to his current UMANA position, Dr. Hrycelak was president of the UMANA Illinois Chapter (1981-1983), president of the UMANA National

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SPEAKERS, PANELISTS

Office (1985-1987) and president of the Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago (1988-2000).

MARTA KOLOMAYETS has worked in Ukraine for more than 13 years, first as a journalist for The Ukrainian Weekly and the Associated Press, then as a public information officer with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Kyiv. She directed a public education program for three years before joining Development Alternatives, Inc., in November 2001, where she currently runs an anti-corruption project, Partnership for a Transparent Society. Both programs were funded by the USAID. Ms. Kolomayets has worked with the non-governmental community, helping develop the third sector in Ukraine. She has also established a network of press clubs in Ukraine's 25 regions which provide journalists with information on economic, social and cultural reforms. She enjoys advocacy work and has managed public awareness campaigns on social and economic issues. She serves on the boards of the Center for Ukrainian Reform Education (CURE); the Ukrainian Women's Fund (UWF); and the Ukrainian Children's Aid and Relief Effort (UCARE), which works with orphans in Ukraine. She is the author and producer of "Patriarch: The Life of Josyf Slipyj," an 80-minute documentary film about the

leader of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (2002) and the coordinator of a breast cancer awareness campaign, "Because Life is Beautiful," which raised close to \$90,000 in the United States, Canada and Ukraine for the purchase of a mammography machine for women in the regions of Ukraine (2003).

IHOR KOTLARCHUK is a former senior trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice. Earlier, he served on active duty as a Captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG) with service in Vietnam. He recently retired as a colonel from the U.S. Army Reserve, where he received numerous awards and commendations, including the Bronze Star and the Presidential Legion of Merit. Mr. Kotlarchuk received his B.S. and J.D. degrees from Fordham University and his LL.M. degree in tax law and an M.A. degree in political science from Georgetown University. He is admitted to practice in New York State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and before the U.S. Tax Court, U.S. Court of Military Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

IRYNA KUROWYCKYJ is President of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA). She is a longtime Ukrainian community activist and advocate



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SPEAKERS, PANELISTS

for women's and family issues whose involvement with the UNWLA spans more than three decades. Before being elected UNWLA president in May 1999, she served in various positions on the organization's national board and represented the UNWLA in the National Council of Women (NCW). In 1994, Mrs. Kurowyckyj was elected president of the NCW. The following year she also became a representative to the United Nations for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including the International Council of Women (ICW), the World Movement of Mothers, and the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO). In her dual role as NCW president and United Nations NGO representative, she participated in numerous international forums on women's and children's issues, including ICW plenary meetings in London, Washington, Paris and Ottawa; "Women in Democracy" conferences in Kyiv (1995) and Vienna (1997); the 1995 World Summit for Social Development; and the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995). In 1997, Mrs. Kurowyckyj (then NCW president) was honored by the United Nations Association of the United States for her role in promoting a civil society and support for the U.N. She also was honored by WFUWO for her work at the U.N. Outside of the UNWLA, United Nations and NCW, Mrs. Kurowyckyj serves on the board of the Ukrainian Institute of America and is a long-time member of Plast, a Ukrainian youth organization. Among other achievements, she was the first woman president of the New York chapter of Plast and was awarded Plast's St. George medal for her work in promoting a civil society.

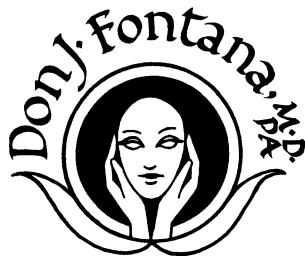
TARAS KUZIO received a B.A. degree from the University of Sussex, an M.A. from the University of London and a Ph.D. from the University of Birmingham, England. Currently, he is a visiting professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University. He has been a resident fellow at the Centre for Russian and East European Studies (CREES),

University of Toronto; a visiting fellow at the Institute for Security Studies of the European Union, Paris; a research fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies; and a senior research fellow at CREES, University of Birmingham; a post doctoral fellow at Yale University; and a visiting fellow at Brown University. Taras Kuzio was also head of mission of the NATO Information and Documentation Office in Kyiv.

AMBASSADOR NELSON C. LEDSKY has managed the National Democratic Institute's democratic development programs in the former Soviet Union since 1992. With offices in Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, NDI has been involved in political party training, civic organizing and election monitoring in all these countries. Ambassador Ledsky retired from the U.S. Foreign Service in 1992, having served as U.S. negotiator in Germany and U.S. special coordinator for Cyprus (1989-1992), both with the rank of ambassador. Ambassador Ledsky also served in the White House from 1987 to 1989 as a special assistant to the president for national security affairs and senior director for European and Soviet affairs, was principal deputy director of the policy planning staff in the State Department (1985-1987), U.S. minister in Berlin (1981-1985), deputy assistant secretary for Congressional relations (1977-1980) and State Department director for Southern Europe (1974-1977).

GEORGE MASIUK is the chairman of the 2004 TWG Leadership Conference. Previously, he was the president of The Washington Group, has held a number of positions on the TWG board and has been chairman of numerous TWG Leadership Conferences. He is a telecommunications engineer by profession and has consulted to NASA, the Department of Defense, and the Federal Aviation Administration. Presently, he works as a senior telecommunications engineer for ITT.

NANCY MEDWID is a lawyer in the Toxic Tort



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SPEAKERS, PANELISTS

Department of the American International Group (AIG) in New York City and an adjunct professor of political science at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York. Previously, she worked for MetLife in NYC in the area of ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act) litigation. A graduate of Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Maine, she received her M.A. degree in political science from Fordham University and a J.D. degree from Seton Hall University. She was admitted to practice law in the state of New York in 1999, and was also admitted in the Eastern and Southern districts of the federal court system in New York.

WILLIAM GREEN MILLER is Senior Policy Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. He was appointed U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine in September 1993 and served until January 1998. From 1986 to 1992, he was president of the American Committee on U.S.-Soviet Relations, president and board member of the International Foundation, and was a senior consultant for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Ambassador Miller joined the Foreign Service in 1959, and served in Teheran and Isfahan, Iran. From 1967 until 1981, he worked for several committees in the Senate, including the Senate Select

Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Select Committee on Emergency Powers. In 1981, Ambassador Miller returned to academia as associate dean and adjunct professor of International Politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and later as a research associate. He served as a faculty associate at Harvard's Center for Science and International Affairs and became a fellow at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Ambassador Miller gained his B.A. at Williams College, M.A. at Magdalen College, University of Oxford, and did graduate work at Harvard University. He speaks six foreign languages—Russian, German, Italian, Farsi, French and Ukrainian—and is the editor and author of numerous publications on the former Soviet Union and the Middle East, including *Toward a More Civil Society?: the USSR under Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev*. Ambassador Miller has received a Commendable Service Award from the U.S. Department of State, an award for his service on the Select Committee on Intelligence and was elected to the National Academy of Public Administration. Ambassador Miller has also received two awards from President Kuchma: The Pylyp Orlyk Award, "for personal support of the democratization of Ukrainian society," and the Presidential Order of Merit.

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GENERAL KOSTYANTYN MOROZOV was independent Ukraine's first Minister of Defense, from September 1991 to his resignation in October 1993. His prior military career in the Soviet Armed Forces was in aviation, beginning as a military pilot in 1967 and progressing to commander of the 17th Air Army in 1990-91. He attained the rank of major general in 1984 and colonel general in 1991, and was awarded numerous military honors, including four orders and several medals. In 1996-2000 Morozov served as Minister-Counsellor at the Embassy of Ukraine in Brussels and concurrently as Deputy Head of the Ukrainian Mission to NATO. In 2000-2001 he was Ambassador of Ukraine to Iran. In 1994-95 and again in 2001-02 Kostiantyn Morozov held appointments as Senior Research Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and the Ukrainian Research Institute. Following his return to Ukraine, he received his Ph.D. in 2003 from the Inter-Regional Academy of Personnel Management in Kyiv, at which he also served as Director of the Military Institute in 2002-04. He is currently Director of the Center for the Study of Ukrainian Statehood in Kyiv. Kostiantyn Morozov is the author of numerous articles on security and policy affairs in Ukrainian and Western periodicals. His memoirs, *Above and Beyond: From Soviet General to*

Ukrainian State Builder, was published by Harvard University in 2000.

AMBASSADOR STEVEN PIFER is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs. He served as ambassador to Ukraine from January 1998 to October 2000. Afterwards, from October 2000 to June 2001, he was a visiting scholar at the Institute for International Studies at Stanford University. From December 1994 until August 1997, he was detailed to the National Security Council, where he spent the last year as special assistant to the president and senior director for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia. Ambassador Pifer entered the Foreign Service in January 1978 and has served at the American embassies in Warsaw, Moscow, and London. He is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. He graduated from Stanford University with a B.A. in economics in 1976 and holds several Superior and Meritorious Honor awards from the State Department.

AMBASSADOR MYKHAILO B. REZNIK presented his Letter of Credence to President George W. Bush on December 4, 2003, becoming the fifth representative of Ukraine to the United States. Earlier, he had served as Ukraine's ambassador to the Republic of Korea (1997-2001) and to the People's Republic of China (2001-2003). His postings abroad also included Washington, as Ukraine's trade representative here from 1994 to 1997, as well as assignments to represent his country in the Trade Committee of the European Union, UNCTAD, GATT and UNCITRAL. Ambassador Reznik joined the Ministry of Trade of Ukraine in 1973. Following Ukraine's independence, he served as deputy minister and first deputy minister of foreign economic relations and trade from 1992 to 1994. In 1996 the president of Ukraine awarded him the title of "Honorary Economist of Ukraine." In 2000, he was awarded the Badge of the Order for Merit, 3rd Class. He is a graduate of the Kyiv Trade and Economic University (1972) and of the Academy of the National Economy of Ukraine (1977). He also completed the Senior Executive program at the Stanford Business School in 1992.

ANDRIJ WOWK is the national president of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA), a position he has held since 2001. Previously, he served as the UESA's national treasurer and the head of the UESA New Jersey chapter. Representing the UESA, Mr. Wowk was a co-organizer of the 2002 and 2003 Summits of Ukrainian-American Organizations in Kerhonkson, NY. Professionally, Mr. Wowk is a senior business analyst within the information services (IS) division of UPS, in Morristown, NJ.



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BEATA BEGENIOVA, vocalist, was born in Medzilaborce, in Eastern Slovakia, where she grew up surrounded by Slovak and Rusyn folk songs sung by her family. She attended the music high school in Presov and received her music degree from J. P. Safarik University in Slovakia. As a student, she was featured as a soloist on many recordings and radio broadcasts and received numerous awards in folk song competitions. As a featured soloist with the professional Rusyn ensemble Dukla in Presov, she toured Europe and North America with Sarisan. Beata Begeniova is a featured soloist on the Harmonia Music of Eastern Europe CD and has toured the United States, performing at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington and Cleveland's Severance Hall, among others.

ALEXANDER FEDORIOUK began playing the cimbalom at the age of seven in Kolomyia, Ukraine. He studied music at the Kolomyia Music School, Chernivtsi Music College and received his Bachelor's degree in music from The Kyiv State Conservatory. He has performed as a soloist with The Cleveland Orchestra, The Odesa Philharmonic Orchestra, The Manhattan School of Music Symphony Orchestra, Canton

Symphony Orchestra, Johnstown Symphony Orchestra, Duquesne University Tamburitzans and Cheres. He has appeared in the Ukrainian musical movies, *Pisne Kalynova* and *Namysto Dlia Berehyni*. He received awards at the national competition on folk instruments in 1987 and 1991 in Ukraine, and in Nebraska in 1997. Since coming to the United States, he has been featured as a soloist on a number of recordings: Cheres, Unblocked, The World in Our Backyard, Klezsqueese, Harmonia. He has recorded with Nigel Pulsford of Bush, legendary jazz flautist Herbie Mann, and performed in Carnegie hall with John Cale of the Velvet Underground. He has recorded for the soundtracks of "The Truth About Charlie" and "Over my Dead Body," and has appeared with The Columbus Symphony Orchestra for the "Lord of the Rings" soundtrack conducted by Howard Shore.

JOZEF JANIS, violinist, hails from the western Slovak town of Puchov. He began to play violin at the age of 15. Later, as a soloist, he toured Europe with the Slovak Army band, Janosik. He came to the U.S. in 2002 as a member of the Duquesne University Tamburitzans. Jozef Janis performed and recorded for the ensemble Lucina in Cleveland, and toured U.S. and Canada.

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**The History of The Washington Group
Through the Eyes of its Presidents
and Fund Directors
(and Natalie Sluzar's camera*)**

<i>Introduction, Natalie Sluzar</i>	14
<i>Fostering a change in the Ukrainian community, Natalie Sluzar (1984-1986)</i>	15
<i>Leading Ukrainians to excellence and influence, Daria Stec (1986-1988)</i>	18
<i>TWG led while others followed, and we made a difference, Yaro Bihun (1988-1990)</i>	21
<i>Changing with the times, Lydia Chopivsky Benson (1990-1993)</i>	24
<i>To build and broaden the existing network, Mykola Babiak (1993-1995)</i>	27
<i>Expanding the range of our relationships, George Masiuk (1995-1997)</i>	30
<i>Trying to get Ukraine past the threshold, Orest Deychakiwsky (1998-2000)</i>	33
<i>Looking to a vibrant future, Ihor O.E. Kotlarchuk, Esq. (2000-Present)</i>	36
<i>Cultural Fund Celebrates Tenth Anniversary, Laryssa Courtney, director</i>	38
<i>Fellowship Fund is expanding its scope, Mike Drabyk, director</i>	40

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Introduction

On a hot, steamy summer evening twenty years ago, a small group of Ukrainian-Americans met in a Capitol Hill bar to discuss establishing a professionals' organization. Despite some trepidation about creating "yet another Ukrainian organization," most of us believed that a different organization was badly needed. Here we were — a group of educated men and women, holding high-power jobs in the government, industry, the military, living in or around the nation's capital without an organizational structure within which to realize our growing needs and aspirations.

And so, The Washington Group, An Association of Ukrainian-American Professionals, (TWG for short) was born on October 18, 1984. Fifty-four charter members wrote out their checks, approved the by-laws, elected the first board of directors and set out to attract other like-minded individuals to help create a large, powerful professionals' group, headquartered in Washington and incorporated as a non-profit organization.

From the start, TWG's mission was very clear — to develop the personal and professional growth of its members. Besides sharing these professional goals, we also shared a cultural bond: we were Ukrainian-Americans, proud of our heritage, sensitive to the perceptions held about Ukraine and all things Ukrainian, and aware of how ill-informed the majority of the people around us were about issues important to us. Their promotion became an important goal for TWG.

The third component of TWG was to provide its varied membership, representing many professions, with a vehicle for networking and professional advancement. And finally, but equally important, TWG had a social agenda: to bring Ukrainian-Americans together, to get to know each other and have fun.

We were not just young Turks taking on the establishment. We had a vision and were passionately committed to making that vision a reality. The "vision thing" was what made TWG so successful. TWG's guiding vision was "leading Ukrainians to excellence and influence." "Think big; think outside the box; we can do it," was our mantra. We strove to achieve this through high-quality, diverse programs, in the high caliber of our speakers and panelists, in our outreach efforts to Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian organizations, in the whole gamut of cultural, social, networking activities.

We were risk takers, bold at times, brash, but confident and fearless. We knocked on the doors of Congress, the White House, the State Department and other government agencies, and picketed the Soviet Embassy and CBS. We wrote letters, editorials, op-ed pieces, and press releases. We prepared press kits, manned phone banks, published a monthly 12-page newsletter and set up an action hot line. Later, we moved into the electronic media with our own Web site and E-mail communications. In a short time, TWG became an organization that U.S. government officials, as well as officials from the newly independent Ukraine, would turn to.

From the outset, TWG focused on the importance of leadership and provided opportunities for people to assume and grow in leadership positions. The highly successful series of TWG Leadership Conferences, often organized with other professional groups, brought together hundreds of Ukrainian-American leaders, and potential leaders, from around the country. These conferences became an important forum for exchanging ideas, discussing goals, and inspiring each other, as well as a catalyst to develop future leaders.

We have achieved much over the past twenty years — as the following reports by TWG's first eight presidents attest — and, they would admit, much remains to be done. We have not lost our vision, about which someone once observed:

*Vision without action is merely a dream;
Action without vision is just passing the time;
Action with vision can change the world.*

Natalie Sluzar

Fostering a change in the Ukrainian community

by Natalie Sluzar

TWG President 1984-1986

I was honored to be elected TWG's first president. It would be a personal challenge for me, yet one which I was eager to take on. We all had a lot of plans for TWG, but bringing them to fruition was something else. There was no guidebook, no "how to" manual. Although we met with and admired the Canadian business and professional organizations, we would be on our own.

I was lucky to have the first Board of Directors consist of dynamic community activists, committed and dedicated to making TWG a success: Ihor Procinsky, vice president; Marta Pereyma, secretary; Yaro Bihun, treasurer; Orest Deychakiwsky, membership; Eugene Iwanciw, public relations; Wolodymyr Sulzynsky, special projects. Auditors were Halyna Breslawec, Jurij Petrenko and Daria Stec. It's because of them that TWG formulated such an impressive list of objectives and set out to make them happen.

From the start, TWG was innovative in the caliber and diversity of programs it provided. A monthly Friday Evening Forum was initiated, where prominent guests from government, academia, industry and the art world were invited to speak. Paula Dobriansky from the National Security Council, Kiev Consul-Designate William Courtney, Marco Carynyk, Bohdan Bociurkiv, Marta Bohachevsky-Chomiak and Oleh Wolowyna were among the early guests. They spoke on a variety of topics: a review of the International Women's Conference in Kenya, the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine, the 1932-33 Famine in Ukraine, foreign policy decision making, intelligence in national security policy, and an assessment of what the most recent census statistics revealed about Ukrainians in the United States.

On a lighter note, TWG members could improve and enrich themselves personally by listening to Don Omec talk about investing and financial planning, or find out how to buy real estate from brokers Tamara Powstenko and Anna Worobij. Olena Boyko gave a fascinating account of her sailing trip around the world.

Promoting Ukrainian artists and musicians was another of TWG's goals. Concerts by noted pianists Juliana Osinchuk and Daria Telizyn introduced audiences to a wide repertoire of Ukrainian composers. Larisa Pastuchiv gave a stirring bandura performance, introducing this magnificent instrument to many for the first time. A visit to the studio of artist Orest Polischuk enabled TWG members to view a contemporary artist incorporating traditional Ukrainian themes in his works.



Renowned Smithsonian discographer and folk music expert, Richard Spotswood, described the rich contribution Ukrainian music made to the U.S. record industry prior to the Depression.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1932-33 Famine in Ukraine, major Ukrainian organizations planned a series of events in

Washington, including a rally on the Mall, a march to the Soviet Embassy, concerts at the Kennedy Center and the DAR Auditorium. TWG members participated actively in the planning and execution of these events.

On a smaller scale, TWG did its share to bring the Famine to the American consciousness. Robert Conquest's monumental work on the Famine, *Harvest of Sorrow*, had been recently published. TWG organized a lecture and book signing for Dr. Conquest at the prestigious Wilson Center.

Supporting efforts spearheaded by Victor Rud and the Ukrainian Famine Research Committee of Toronto, TWG members worked tirelessly to interest the national media in Slavko Nowytski's new documentary on the Famine, *Harvest of Despair*. Through luck and persistence, PBS finally agreed to air this film, but insisted on presenting "diverse viewpoints." William Buckley's "Firing Line" television show was the venue chosen for a two-hour special program on which the documentary was shown, followed by a discussion that included Robert Conquest, Sovietologist Harrison Salisbury and Christopher Hutchins, editor of *Nation*.

TWG organized additional viewings of *Harvest of Despair*, and sent over 300 press kits and many copies of the video to the media. Leasing the Biograph Theater in Georgetown, which had a devoted clientele among Washington's elite, TWG organized a Washington premiere for the documentary. Mr. Nowytski was on hand for questions and answers following each of the three sold-out performances.

In April 1986, another tragedy hit Ukraine, the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. As usual, the Soviet propaganda machine totally distorted and hid the facts, in an attempt to downplay the tragedy. Initially, the Ukrainian-American community was not prepared to take on the major efforts that such a tragedy required.

But it soon rallied and took decisive actions. An informal National Action Network was formed, chaired by Larissa Fontana. Since TWG's membership was nationwide by this time, its members proved to be invaluable contacts for conveying and exchanging information, and coordinating their actions.

Another of TWG's objectives was to reach out to other Ukrainian organizations and become all-inclusive. In cooperation with numerous local and national Ukrainian organizations, TWG sponsored a Congressional reception to celebrate the 100 years of Ukrainian immigration to the United States. We would also go on to co-sponsor, with the Ukrainian-American Army officers, an annual commemoration of the January 22 Ukrainian Independence Day.

The first major banquet TWG organized was done jointly with the Ukrainian-American Bar Association (UABA); it was a benefit to raise money for our respective scholarship funds. Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds was the keynote speaker. This event was a tremendous success. For its part, TWG expanded its scholarship program into the Fellowship Fund.

Informal meetings were held with other Ukrainian business and professionals' organizations, including the New York and New Jersey B's and P's, the Technological Society of Pittsburgh, and the Young Professionals at the Ukrainian Institute of America. Discussions involved coordinating actions against the defamation of Ukrainians and organizing a federation of Ukrainian B's and P's, similar to the successful Canadian organization.

There were many social events sponsored by TWG. Picnics, parties, bike trips, outdoor concerts at Wolf Trap, day trips to Atlantic City, and a ski trip to Hunter Mountain were just a few of the fun activities.

During these two short years, I believe a solid foundation was laid for TWG to succeed. A monthly newsletter, TWG News, became a much-read important source of information and a forum for TWG members to present their views. Under the able editorial talents of Eugene Iwanciw, and, later, Maria Rudensky and Irene Jarosewich, TWG News was a big hit. It was professionally done, interesting, informative, and thought provoking. It was also during these first two years that TWG published its Membership Directory. Amazingly, TWG's membership skyrocketed to over 200 members by the end of the first year.

I felt a tremendous amount of personal satisfaction and fulfillment during these two years as TWG's president. It provided me with an opportunity to challenge and test myself, be creative, think quickly, and act with deliberation. Above all, TWG was able to foster a change in the Ukrainian community at large. When I turned over the presidency to Daria Stec, I had confidence in her able stewardship that TWG would continue to be successful.



U.S. Rep. Edward Derwinski (left) and PR Director Eugene Iwanciw exchanging views during a 1985 TWG function.



TWG President Natalie Sluzar (left) and Events Director Pat Filipov (right) welcome Dr. James Mace and his wife in 1986.



TWG PR Director R. L. Chomiak (left) and Secretary Marta Pereyma in 1986 with U.S. consul designee for Kyiv William Courtney, who would later serve as ambassador to Kazakhstan and Georgia (2nd from left), and Dr. Zenon Kohut, who was appointed director of the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies in Edmonton.

TWG AT 20



Zbigniew Brzezinski addressing the 1986 TWG Leadership Conference.



Assistant Attorney General William Branford Reynolds at 1985 banquet.



First two TWG presidents, Natalie Sluzar and Daria Stec, cutting the 1986 anniversary cake.



Film director and TWG member Slavko Nowytski was on hand at the Biograph Theater for the showing of his documentary about the 1932-33 famine in Ukraine.



No serious political issues were discussed or resolved during this 1986 gathering of TWG members.



Artist Orest Polischuk and his works was the object of a TWG trip to his Maryland studio in 1986.



Leading Ukrainians to excellence and influence

by Daria Stec

TWG President (1986-1988)

It was a great honor for me to serve as TWG's second president from 1986 to 1988. I was fortunate to succeed Natalie Sluzar, who did an amazing job of creating a strong foundation upon which to build.

Looking back on my tenure, I was struck by how much the world has changed in the past 20 years. At the time I became president, there was still a "USSR" and a "Soviet Union." Ukraine was not a household word, and we Ukrainian-Americans spent a lot of time informing people about Ukraine's existence and the fact that it was NOT the same as Russia. The Chernobyl nuclear disaster had occurred six months earlier. Nonetheless, there were stirrings of change. Mikhail Gorbachev's *glasnost* elicited hope and skepticism. Ukrainian political dissidents, such as Mykola Rudenko, Danylo Shumuk, Nadia Svitlychna, Nina Strokata, and Svyatoslav Karavansky, were being released from long prison terms and were coming to the United States to talk about their experiences. A big issue for Ukrainian-Americans was whether the U.S. would establish a consulate in Kyiv. A consul-general — William Courtney — was designated, but because of security problems, politics, and Chernobyl, the consulate was not formally established and the position was not filled until the later nomination of Jon Gundersen.

Now we have an independent Ukraine; the United States and Ukraine have reciprocal embassies and consulates; and the world knows about Ukraine. Who would have thought? As TWG president, I dreamt of these developments, but did not see them as realistic possibilities by the time TWG would be celebrating its 20th anniversary.

During my tenure, the Board of Directors and I had many aspirations. We wanted to continue to build the organization, and to reach out in all directions – to our members, to other Ukrainian-American professionals and organizations, to government officials, journalists, academicians, scientists, and other influential persons – to inform them about Ukrainians, to voice our concerns on relevant issues, and to establish lasting contacts.

Our largest projects were the annual Leadership Conferences. I took over as president just in time to welcome over 150 participants to the October 1986 Leadership Conference at the Capitol Hilton Hotel in downtown Washington, so ably organized by Natalie Sluzar. The highlight of that Conference was a keynote speech by Prof. Zbigniew Brzezinski, a world-renowned expert on foreign affairs who served as Assistant to the



President for National Security Affairs from 1977 to 1981.

Soon after the end of the 1986 Conference, the new Board of Directors began planning for the October 1987 Conference. Held at the Mayflower Hotel in downtown Washington, it was again a success, with over 250 participants. Richard Schifter, Assistant

Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, gave the luncheon address. The lectures, panels and workshops focused on perceptions of Ukrainians in politics, business, and government, and ways to enhance that image through the legal system, the media, and information dissemination. The Ukrainian American Bar Association joined us for one of the panel discussions and for the gala in the beautiful Mayflower Ballroom, with dinner and dancing to the sounds of Tempo.

Another undertaking during these two years was the weekend-long TWG "Camp David Summit" in Maryland's Catoctin Mountains. With Vasyl Korniylo, a management efficiency expert from the Xerox Corporation, the Board and interested members developed a guiding vision for TWG: "leading Ukrainians to excellence and influence," and a mission: "developing personal and professional growth of TWG's members and promoting issues of concern to Ukrainian Americans by influencing national policies through outreach efforts, professional and social networking, cultural, educational and information services."

Because of the recent Chernobyl disaster, much of our work focused on disseminating information about this horror outside the Ukrainian-American community. In December 1986, TWG sponsored a series of events on Chernobyl. Dr. David Marples of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies spoke about his book, *Chernobyl and Soviet Nuclear Power*, at the Wilson Center. A symposium on Chernobyl included Dr. Marples; Dr. Larissa Fontana, Washington Ukrainian Community Network; Paul Goble, U.S. Department of State; Dr. Ihor Masnyk, National Cancer Institute; and moderator Dr. Andrew Hruszkewycz, George Washington University. We also arranged meetings for Dr. Marples with U.S. officials at the White House and U.S. Department of State, and meetings with scholars at the Kennan Institute of



U.S. Ambassador Jack Matlock (right) discussed developments in the USSR during a 1987 TWG Forum. Next to him is Orest Deychakiwsky, advisor to the U.S. Helsinki Commission.



TWG members demonstrating in front of CBS in Washington in 1988, protesting that its documentary about Sobibor was historically inaccurate and slanderous.



Former Ukrainian dissident Leonid Plyushch (left) and historian Robert Conquest received the 1988 Antonovych awards in literature. TWG members Omelan and Tatiana Antonovych had moved the annual awards ceremonies from New York to Washington. TWG was asked to help in organizing the events.

the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and at other venues.

In April 1987, a consortium of Ukrainian-American community groups, spearheaded by TWG, sponsored several events to commemorate the first anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. Highlights included a symposium with Dr. Marples, Swarthmore College physicist Olexa Bilaniuk and other experts; a prayer vigil in Lafayette Park; an Interfaith Memorial Service for Chernobyl victims sponsored by all three DC-area Ukrainian parishes and the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington; and a lecture by TWG member Oleh Weres of Lawrence Livermore Laboratories.

For the first time, in 1987 — and subsequently in 1988 — the Annual Convention of National Religious Broadcaster of the U.S. featured a booth with information about the state of religion in Ukraine, as well as consciousness-raising about the upcoming Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine. TWG worked with other organizations and individuals, particularly Andrij Bilyk, to prepare information and staff the booth.

In further cooperation efforts, TWG helped out with various events. For example, it sponsored receptions for the Antonovych Awards, the Virsky Dancers, and visiting scholars taking part in conferences on the Millennium at the Kennan Institute and the Library of Congress. During Millennium commemorations in October 1988, TWG hosted a midnight reception at Constitution Hall after the Millennium Concert. The Board made a conscious attempt to have TWG representation at all events sponsored by other Ukrainian organizations or relating to Ukraine.

During 1986-88, we continued the popular “Friday Evening Forum” series on a panoply of topics. For example, Ambassador Stephen Rhinesmith, head of the President’s U.S.-Soviet Exchange Initiative, and his deputy, Gregory Guroff, spoke about opportunities for participation in cultural exchange programs in the U.S.S.R. U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union Jack Matlock told us that Ukraine is “one area affected least by the winds of change” that are taking place in Gorbachev’s U.S.S.R. Danylo Shumuk, the longest serving political prisoner in the Soviet Union, urged the press to focus more on Ukraine and warned the West not to be taken in by Gorbachev’s *glasnost* policy. Other speakers included Mike Edwards, National Geographic senior editor; Roman Popadiuk, deputy White House press secretary for foreign affairs; Wolodymyr Mokry, professor of Ukrainian literature and languages at Krakow’s Jagellonian University; and Peter Potichnyj of the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies. We also reached out to the varied backgrounds of our members and had forums on topics such as mixed marriages, working at U.S. Information Agency exhibits in the

TWG AT 20

Soviet Union, living and working in Lviv, Ukrainian traditions, and the like.

The years 1986-88 were not devoted just to serious matters. We continued the tradition of an Annual Christmas Party. We began the tradition of "Tabir TWG" at Dr. Oleh Hudyma's property near Asseateague, an annual gathering that continues to this day. For several summers, TWG members Paul and Lillian Kritsky graciously hosted pool parties at their home. We also went ice skating, cross-country skiing, paddle boating, polka dancing, organized tours at Washington's museums and monuments, and attended concerts at Wolf Trap and the Birchmere.

The Board of Directors constantly strove to solidify the organization. In these two years, as the result of outreach efforts and regular reminder letters, membership swelled to over 300 members in 24 states and 5 countries. The TWG News was published monthly as a 10-12 page double-sided newsletter, thanks to the dedication of Maria Rudensky, editor; George Masiuk, associate editor; Bohdan Kantor, design editor; Chrystia Oryshkevych, Halyna Breslawec, calendar editors; and Irene Jarosewich, Spotlight editor. In addition to articles about TWG events and issues of interest, the newsletter included a one-page Spotlight on a member, Notes on

Members, a list of new members, minutes of the monthly Board meetings, and Ukrainian Trivia contests. We continued regular publication of the TWG Membership Directory. TWG member Andriy Mostovych established the Fellowship Projects Committee, which granted its first two awards in August 1987. TWG member +Pat Onufrak established a TWG Job Bank. In addition, we established a TWG Hotline, a telephone line with recorded messages about upcoming events in the Ukrainian American community.

One of my best memories of my tenure as TWG President is the incredible dedication, motivation, perseverance, enthusiasm and camaraderie of the TWG Board of Directors. Everyone, to a person, gave his or her best to this volunteer effort. My heartfelt thanks to: Rostyk Chomiak — vice president; Darian Diachok, Helen Chaikovsky — secretary; George Hnatiw, Julia Tereshchuk, Myron Maslowsky — treasurer; Marta Pereyma, Anya Dydyk — special projects; +Al Kapusta, Yaro Bihun, Lydia Chopivksy — public relations; Halyna Breslawec, Andrew Rylyk — membership; Julia Tereshchuk, Mark Bilowus, Anna Worobij, Olha Holoyda — events; Anna Worobij, Olha Holoyda — business; Natalie Sluzar, Ihor Vitkovitsky, Andrew Rylyk, Jurij Dobczansky, Larissa Fontana — auditing committee.



Daria Stec and Marta Pereyma welcome the director and dancers of the Virsky Ukrainian Dance Company at a TWG reception following their 1988 performance in Washington.



Former Soviet political prisoner Danylo Shumuk at the National Press Club in 1988. George Sajewych is the translator.



The summer of 1987 saw TWG members and their families enjoying TWG Tabir (Camp) on Maryland's Eastern Shore.



TWG member, pianist Daria Telizyn, performing at a TWG-organized concert in 1987.

THE WASHINGTON GROUP
TWG AT TWENTY

We led while others followed, and we made a difference

by Yaro Bihun
TWG President (1988-1990)

Taking over the helm of The Washington Group from what I respectfully refer to as our “founding mothers” — Natalie Sluzar and Daria Stec — was something I undertook with a good measure of apprehension. Under their leadership, in the first four years of its existence, TWG became the largest Ukrainian-American professionals’ organization, with a nationwide membership of 300, and by far the most active, positive organization in recent memory. Natalie, Daria and others convinced me with promises of help.

And so they did. But history helped as well.

Gorbachev’s *glasnost* and *perestroika* policy in the Soviet Union was going into high gear and it was becoming obvious that there was no turning back. At our 1988 annual meeting we made the decision to get actively involved in the democratic processes that were beginning to evolve in Ukraine. Unlike most diaspora organizations at that time, we did not wait for that *tsunami* (as I characterized it in subsequent annual reports) to hit our shores, but went out and rode on its crest.

Through our various programs and activities, which averaged about two per month during those years, we kept our membership and the community at large well informed and involved. We hosted and provided a forum for numerous visiting Ukrainian scholars, writers, artists and political activists; turned the focus of our leadership conferences on developments in Ukraine and our role in its future (*Changes in Ukraine: Assessment and Response* in 1989 and *Ukraine: Building the Future Together* in 1990), which brought together top U.S. and other Western experts as well as the leading proponents of those changes from within Ukraine; and conducted two TWG trips to Ukraine.

TWG’s first direct contact with *glasnost* came in January 1989, at an evening with poet Vitaliy Korotych, then the editor of the leading Russian magazine *Ogonyok* and a frequently quoted expert on *glasnost* in the U.S. media. Among those that followed were: literary critic Ivan Dziuba, who later became Ukraine’s second minister of culture; historian Mykola Zhulynsky, later to be deputy prime minister; director Les Taniuk, poet Pavlo Movchan and writer Volodymyr Yavorivsky, who later became influential members of Ukraine’s Parliament; the leader of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, Mykola Rudenko; Rukh leader Mykola Horbal; Viacheslav Briukhovetsky, who would found and head



the Kyiv Mohyla Academy University — and many others.

Also discussing developments in Ukraine at various TWG forums were U.S. Rep. Steny H. Hoyer, co-chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission; Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Paula J. Dobriansky; U.S. Ambassador to Russia Jack Matlock, and Ukrainian Orthodox Patriarch Mstyslav.

The focus of these meetings was not limited to political and human rights developments; there were forums and conference sessions covering religious, academic, economic, environmental and cultural issues as well. We continued our involvement in the presentation of the Antonovych Foundation awards for literature and Ukrainian studies. It was at this time that our then special projects director and now Cultural Fund director, Laryssa Courtney, began introducing a cultural element to TWG activities, which four years later she would formalize in the TWG Cultural Fund, by organizing concerts by such leading Ukrainian performers as violinist Oleh Krysa and pianist Alexander Slobodyanik.

Time and energy was also found for pool parties, TWG summer camps, Christmas parties, and the like.

Organizing all of these events took a lot of time and effort on the part of many members of our organization, first of all the members of the board: Vice President Lydia Chopivsky, who would go on to become the next TWG president; secretaries Orest Deychakiwsky and Marianne Woloschuk; treasurers Helen Chaikovsky and Olha Holoyda; Events Director Orysia Pylyshenko; Special Projects Director Laryssa Courtney; Public Relations Director Marta Zielyk; membership directors Andrew Rylyk and Adrian Kerod, who raised the membership total from 300 to near 400; Fellowship Committee Chairman Andrew Mostovych; TWG News editors Maria Rudensky and Irene Jarosewicz, and their MacPageMaker guru George Masiuk; Zirka Hayuk, who organized our two trips to Ukraine; and many, many others.

Through our conferences, forums, receptions, discussions and trips, TWG was recognized, both here

TWG AT 20

and in Ukraine, as an organization that was actively and genuinely concerned and involved in building Ukraine's future. Being out front in this effort was exhilarating, of course, but it was also uncomfortable at times. The initial meeting with Vitaliy Korotych, for example, had its doubters and detractors, as did some of the other meetings that followed. But we persevered, and, in so doing, served the interests of our membership, our community, the United States and Ukraine.

As an organization, TWG led while others followed, and we made a difference. The 1989 leadership

conference was important in many respects, but at least as a footnote to history I would recall that cold October 1990 evening in Kyiv, when a number of our TWG Ukraine trip group joined thousands of Ukrainians in front of St. Sophia Cathedral to greet Ukrainian Orthodox Patriarch Mstyslav on his historic return to Ukraine. Speaking to the crowd that evening, Volodymyr Yavorivsky noted that he had met the Patriarch for the first time a year earlier — in Washington.

They had met at the 1989 TWG Leadership Conference.



Attending the 1989 TWG Leadership Conference was Ukrainian Orthodox Patriarch Mstyslav (left) and Ukrainian writer and political activist Volodymyr Yavorivsky. Sitting next to the Patriarch is Wolodymyr Pylyshenko of Rochester.



Among visiting Ukrainian political activists who spoke at TWG-sponsored events in 1989-1990 were (clockwise, from above left): literary critic Ivan Dziuba, who would become Ukraine's culture minister; editor of *Ogonyok*, poet Vitaliy Korotych; Viacheslav Briukhovetsky, who founded the new Kyiv Mohyla Academy University; historian and writer Raisa Ivanchenko; historian and future deputy prime minister Mykola Zhulynsky; and Rukh leader Mykola Horbal.





Addressing the 1989-90 Leadership Conferences: U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer and Roman Popadiuk, the White House press aide who would become the first U.S. ambassador to Ukraine.



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



TWG Book Night presenting two new history books on Ukraine, written by Zenon Kohut (left) and Orest Subtelny.



TWG members ready to go as guides with a U.S. exhibit "Design USA" to the Soviet Union: Peter Sawchyn, Tania Chomiak, Marta Pereyma, Marta Zielyk and Adrian Karmazyn.



Three more TWG guests from Ukraine: poet Pavlo Movchan and stage director Les Taniuk — both now members of the Verkhovna Rada — and actress Neli Kornienko.



Violinist Oleh Krysa (left) meets with discographer Stefan Maksymjuk following his TWG-sponsored concert.

Changing with the times to be the leader in the future

by Lydia Chopivsky Benson
TWG President (1990-1993)



What an exciting time it was!

If I were to characterize the efforts of the first half of this term, I would say: “Changing with the times”. The fruits of our labor had been harvested, and Ukraine was an independent country. The multitude of changes occurring in Ukraine obviously impacted the Ukrainian communities in the diaspora and in particular, Washington, our nation’s capital, which seemed to be the most popular destination for visiting Ukrainians. At the onset of these changes, TWG was ready, responding to the needs of the community when the call came for organizing any and all events relating to Ukraine. But the question the TWG administration now had to answer was: to which new initiatives should TWG turn its energy??

We Ukrainians knew perhaps better than anyone else that the world was changing radically. TWG didn’t want to simply live out of the past, but wanted to be the leading association of the future. To develop a strategic plan for TWG, the Board of Directors sponsored a management retreat/seminar at the Coolfont Resort in West Virginia, where we undertook a systematic planning process to explore the directions we could take.

What took place in the second half of this term greatly exceeded our hopes and expectations, with TWG bringing events of a truly outstanding nature to the public. Ours was a time when there was no more Ukrainian SSR, just Ukraine.

The 1992 Leadership Conference dealt with this “New World Order”. Attending diplomats, scholars, business people, and journalists — all had first hand knowledge of the new order in Ukraine. Our “Breakfast Speaker Series”, with guests such as Congressman David Bonior (D-Mich.), former CIA Director William Colby, and Republican Party strategist John Sears, garnered excellent reviews, especially from those people for whom evening events were difficult to attend. The Friday Evening Forums similarly attracted top-notch speakers such as Bohdan Havrylyshyn, Yuri Shcherbak, and Susan Eisenhower, and gave our members an opportunity for social, cultural, and professional enrichment. Our Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence Day (January 22) dinner at Fort Myer, featuring then-Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney as guest speaker, was one of the highlights of the year for the Ukrainian community.

When the former Soviet Union dissolved, Hungary

was among the first European countries to recognize newly-independent Ukraine. In Washington, that reality was recognized and celebrated at a gala banquet held under the auspices of The Washington Group, and hosted by the Hungarian Ambassador to the U.S., who graciously opened the Embassy to the Ukrainian community.

We welcomed Ambassadors incoming and outgoing and established relations with each. Our second leadership conference drew a national audience as we examined the role of U.S.-Ukraine relations.

TWG indeed continued to be the prominent Ukrainian organization. We made a concerted effort to strike a balance — focusing on the cultural, business, political, and social needs of our members here, as well as doing our share to impact the situation in Ukraine. Forums with representatives of various levels of government, both Ukrainian and American, helped establish a network of possibilities. Concentrating on building relationships with various other groups proved to be successful and good for our community.

TWG grew to be a dynamic organization, constantly regrouping in order to meet the challenges of the day. We hosted Peace Walkers, IMI Kiev MBA candidates, and political strategists speaking on the Ukrainian vote in the 1992 election. We welcomed noted guests such as Ambassadors Roman Popadiuk and Oleh Bilorus, Consul General Jon Gundersen, Ivan Pliushch, Kostyantyn Morozov, Oleksandr Honcharenko, Volodymyr Mokry, Robert Cullen, Myron Kuropas, Charles William Maynes, editor of the distinguished periodical *Foreign Policy* (and later president of the Eurasia Foundation), and Vyacheslav Brukhovetsky. We sponsored art exhibits, benefit concerts for Chernobyl victims, producing TWG directories, organizing BBQs, brewery tours, Christmas parties, a bon voyage party for the first Peace Corps volunteers to Ukraine, screenings of documentary films and Shevchenko readings. Through its active agenda, TWG took a place at the forefront of Ukrainian organizations, not just in the Washington area, but in North America.

TWG AT 20



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.



Former CIA director William Colby and Susan Eisenhower addressed TWG forums in 1992.



Then the leader of the Ukrainian Green movement, Yuriy Shcherbak, speaks at a TWG Friday Evening Forum in 1991. Later he became Ukraine's second ambassador to the U.S.



The first U.S. and Ukrainian ambassadors appointed after Ukraine gained independence — Roman Popadiuk and Oleh Bilorus — meet during a TWG event in 1992..



The first contingent of American Peace Corps volunteers gather in Washington in 1992 before departing for their assignments in the newly independent Ukraine. The first PC/Ukraine country director is TWG member Jaroslav Dutkewych.





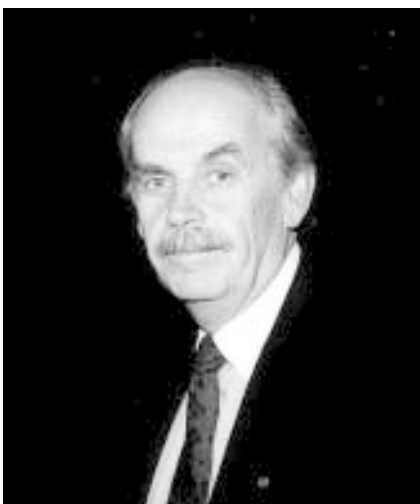
Among the panel discussants participating in the 1992 TWG Leadership Conference: Adrian Karatnycky of Freedom House, Marta Cehelsky of the National Science Foundation and demographer Oleh Wolowyna.



Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko, seen here on the right with Richard Shriver, was the luncheon speaker at the 1991 TWG Leadership Conference..



Halya Duda conducts a management retreat seminar for TWG at Coolfont in West Virginia in 1991.



Economist Bohdan Hawrylyshyn at the 1991 Leadership Conference.



The 1991 TWG Board of Directors.



To build and broaden the existing network

by Mykola Babiak
TWG President (1993-1995)

While democracy continued its struggle to gain a secure footing in the countries of the former Soviet Union, TWG was settling comfortably into its role as the premier forum for sharing ideas and opini. Among our chief objectives was to increase the public visibility, both here and abroad, of Ukraine and Ukrainian-Americans and to take our community beyond our insular mindset.

We strove to develop long-term relationships with influential local institutions, co-sponsoring panel discussions and presentations with the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Center for Strategic and International Studies, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Freedom House and Meridian House, all the while continuing to strengthen ties with the newly established Ukrainian Embassy, which had by this time found permanent quarters in a historic edifice in fashionable Georgetown.

Buoyed by the challenges and hopes of a newly independent Ukraine, TWG leadership during this period focused on presenting to the American public academic, political and cultural representatives of the new Ukrainian nation. The annual TWG Leadership Conference continued to be the bellwether of Ukrainian issues. Among the noted guests who addressed both Ukrainian and American audiences under the TWG banner during my tenure included:

Leonid Kravchuk, former president of Ukraine; Roman Popadiuk, first U.S. ambassador to Ukraine; William Green Miller, the second U.S. ambassador to Ukraine; Oleh Bilorus, first Ukrainian ambassador to the U.S.; Victor Pynzenyk, Ukraine's deputy prime minister; General Kostiantyn Morozov, Ukraine's first minister of defense U.S. Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D - NY), representing a large Ukrainian constituency.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security advisor to President Carter, who had addressed the first Leadership Conference in 1986, was a special guest at the inaugural TWG reception at the new Ukrainian Embassy preceding our annual Conference in 1994. Also present at that reception were two wide-eyed youngsters, fresh from their triumphs at the 1994 Winter Olympics — Oksana Baiul and Viktor Petrenko.

TWG's 1993 Friend of Ukraine Award was awarded to philanthropist George Soros for the work of his International Renaissance Foundation in Ukraine. The award was accepted on behalf of Mr. Soros by IMF executive, Oleh Havrylyshyn, at the Conference banquet.



Besides politicians and policy makers, TWG also welcomed a flood of other visitors passing through the Washington gateway, representing a broad spectrum: journalists, business leaders, artists, students, and academics.

With a performance by Lviv's Les Kurbas Theater, we launched the TWG Cultural Fund, now in its 10th year under the tireless guidance of its founder, Laryssa Courtney, bringing Ukrainian art and culture into the Washington mainstream.

Behind the public curtain, TWG representatives began to be included in private briefings conducted by Clinton administration officials for the Ukrainian and other ethnic communities.

During the state visit of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, November 22-24, 1994, I was honored to represent TWG at the welcoming ceremonies and press conference. The president's chief of staff, Dmytro Tabachnyk, made a stopover in advance of the state visit, meeting with TWG officers at a private dinner/roundtable discussion.

At TWG's farewell reception for Ambassador and Mrs. Oleh Bilorus at the Ukrainian Embassy in September 1994, we celebrated TWG's tenth anniversary.

Working toward accomplishing TWG's mission, steps were taken to build and broaden the existing network of Ukrainian-Americans. At the same time, TWG was intricately involved in examining ways to integrate the global Ukrainian community into a common effort. This became a common theme of our panels and forums, then and in the future.

A new tradition began — the Independence Day Picnic — in conjunction with the Baltimore hromada and the Ukrainian Embassy staff and families.

Employing the example of our Canadian neighbors, TWG provided the impetus for the February 1994 launch of a Federation of Ukrainian-American Business and Professional Associations. Charter member organizations included TWG, as well as the Bs&Ps from Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit/Windsor, NY/NJ, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Rochester. Former TWG President Lydia Chopivsky-Benson was named head of

TWG AT 20

the new Federation. TWG was also called upon for assistance in establishing sister organizations in California and Poland, as well as in Washington State, where the fourth wave of immigrants from Ukraine would soon take up residence.

At the infancy of the Internet age, through the foresight of a cadre of individuals, most notably Max Pyziur, TWG published a *Directory of Internet Resources* as a supplement to its own Member Directory. Max would later become one of the principals behind the Ukrainian website venture, BRAMA. TWG's Internet guide was an early tool encouraging use of the Web for communication among Ukrainians around the world.

Only through the energy, dedication and initiative

of its members, has TWG rightly established its place as the premier organization among Ukrainian Americans. My special thanks go to the talented people with whom I was privileged to serve: Auditing Committee: Steven Boyduy, Andrew Charchalis, R.L. Chomiak, John Kun; TWG News Editor: Yaro Bihun; Board of Directors: Sophia Caryk, Lydia Chopivsky Benson, Laryssa Courtney, Orest Deychakiwsky, Michael Drabyk, Yuriy Holowinsky, Martha Jarosewicz, Adrian Karmazyn, Maria Kulczycky, Ksenia Kuzmycz, George Masiuk, Sofika Nakonechna, Orysia Pylyshenko, Ihor Procinsky, Bohdan Radejko, Natalie Sluzar, Richard Smith, Roman Stelmach, Michael Terpak, Marta Zielyk, and, especially, my vice-president Andrew Bihun.



Viktor Yushchenko discusses Ukraine's economic situation at joint SAIS-TWG forum in 1994.



TWG hosted a reception for a visiting legal delegation from Ukraine in 1993, which included Oleksandr Lavrynovych, the current justice minister (second from right).

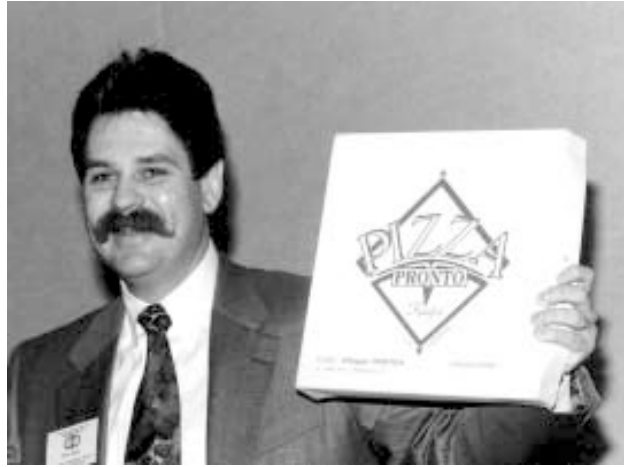


President Kuchma's chief of staff, Dmytro Tabachnyk, discusses upcoming 1994 U.S. presidential visit, as TWG's Nick Babiak and Andy Bihun look on.



Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk during a 1993 visit to Washington.

TWG AT 20



1993, 1994 Leadership Conferences

Among the speakers at the 1993 conference were (left and above): Yara Arts director Virlana Tracz, former presidential advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, lawyer/investor Victor Jejna and businessman/investor George Chopivsky. In the 1994 conference (clockwise right and below): IntelNews founder Christine Demkowych, U.S. Federal Claims Court Judge Bohdan Futey, the State Department's aid coordinator James Collins and Ukraine's first defense minister, General Kostyantyn Morozov.





Expanding the range of our relationships

by George Masiuk
 TWG President (1995-1997)

I was president of TWG during an auspicious time for the Ukrainian-American community in Washington. The enthusiasm generated in the community in the wake of Ukraine's independence was still going strong and it infused me, the TWG board, and our membership.

The major goal that I wanted to achieve as president was to expand the range of relationships in which TWG engaged. My first priority was to establish a close relationship between TWG and the Embassy of Ukraine. This effort was greatly facilitated by Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak, who wanted to establish close relations with our community and by Vasyl Zorya, the Embassy's press attaché, with whom I spent many hours in conversation. The tangible results of this relationship were the establishment of the TWG Embassy internship, our Leadership Conference Friday evening receptions at the Embassy, a regular appearance by Ukraine's ambassador at our conferences, and regular participation of TWG members in Embassy sponsored events.

TWG was also able to expand its relationship with the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and the Meridian House, resulting in a number of joint events.

In addition to expanding TWG's relationships, promoting close U.S.-Ukraine relations was a top priority. Multiple TWG events promoted this, by creating a forum for a dialogue between influential speakers and a well-informed audience. Influential speakers, such as Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick, National Security Council members William Courtney and Coit Blacker, U.S. Ambassadors to Ukraine William G. Miller and Steven Pifer, and Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Yuri Shcherbak, not only spoke at TWG events but also engaged in vigorous dialogue with our community during the Q&A sessions.

Toward the end of my presidency, I proposed and TWG adopted an important change in its by-laws that I hope will have a positive effect on TWG's current affairs. This change opened TWG membership to anyone who is interested in promoting Ukrainian culture and issues.

Let me share some personal reflections on my presidency in the hope of encouraging others to seek a



leadership position in our community organizations. In a humorous test that I took on my job, my leadership skills were rated comparable to "can't lead a hungry pack of wolves to meat." So it was with some trepidation that I took on the TWG presidency. However, with solid support from the Board, with some vision of what I wanted to accomplish,

and a generous reliance on flattery (trust me, it works — despite what textbooks say), I not only survived but I learned a lot about myself and others and enjoyed the experience immensely. Among the interesting experiences I had were my regular invitations to the Department of State, which I received together with other Ukrainian-American community leaders. My preconceived notion was that the American foreign policy Establishment was hostile to Ukrainian issues. On occasion that may be so, but I felt that I was always treated with respect and that we always got to express our views and concerns. If our community was better organized, my experience suggests that the door of our Government is quite open to hear what we wish to say.

The one regret that I have is that, as president, I was not able to build a solid infrastructure for TWG. We were not able to organize an office with a paid staff to conduct all of the day-to-day activities that the maintenance of a large organization requires. Unfortunately, this is still the case today and it seriously affects the long-term viability of TWG.

I had a sense of accomplishment and relief as I made my way to the TWG annual meeting that would elect my successor, Orest Deychakiwsky. On the way, I ran into Yaro Bihun, the editor of TWG News, with whom I was in constant contact, and whose efforts over the years meant so much to TWG. He congratulated me and in the same breath told that he had removed my name from his speed dial. His comment had an unanticipated sting to it. I had not realized how much I had gotten used to the position of TWG President.

1996 TWG Leadership Conference



Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Melanne Verveer, the First Lady's chief of staff, during Embassy reception.



Former U.S. U.N. representative Jeane Kirkpatrick addresses conference participants.



Ukrainian Supreme Court Justice Oleksandr Volkov (right) discusses issues dealing with judicial reform in Ukraine.



CIA Director John Deutch (left) exchanges views with Russian Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov (right) during Embassy reception.



Yara Arts Group of New York performing after Sunday Brunch.



Carlos Pascual takes part in discussion.



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



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



Washington Post Kyiv correspondent James Rupert shares his observations about events in Ukraine.



The Ukrainian branches of the Voice of America and Radio Liberty receive the TWG Journalism Award during the 1995 Leadership Conference..



Members of TWG taking part in a tour — and tasting — of Virginia wineries in 1997.



Trying to get Ukraine past the threshold

by Orest Deychakiwsky
 TWG President (1998-2000)

The two years from May 1998 to May 2000 were very productive and exciting for TWG. We staged many high quality, varied and well-attended events. TWG played a key role in the unprecedented June 1999 Joint Conferences of Ukrainian-American Organizations, and the TWG conference held as part of the Joint Conferences, with its substantive, well-reaking attendance. During these two years, membership reached historically high levels. TWG's infrastructure was enhanced, including the creation of a web site and the institution of corporate sponsorships. One of the strengths throughout the two years of my presidency was an exceptionally committed Board which truly functioned as a team and exhibited strong camaraderie. We truly were a team!

TWG Events can be divided into three broad categories: political, social and cultural. The Board made a conscious attempt to provide events that would appeal to TWG members' varied interests.

One of the highlights of my tenure was the June 1999 Joint Conferences of Ukrainian-American Organizations, under the chairmanship of Dr. Roman Goy of the Ukrainian American Medical Association of North America (UMANA). An integral part of the Joint Conferences, the TWG conference with its five substantive, well-received panels, enjoyed record-breaking attendance. The TWG conference was called "At The Threshold" and panels were held on: U.S.-Ukraine Military Cooperation, Ukraine's Role in International Space Projects, Ukraine on the Eve of the Presidential Elections, U.S.-Ukraine Business Cooperation, and Trafficking of Women from Ukraine. The Joint Conferences was an unprecedented undertaking in recent Ukrainian-American history. Nearly 1,000 people attended at least one Joint Conferences event. Many hours were also devoted by me and other TWG Board Members, as well as leaders of the other organizations involved in preparation for this truly ambitious undertaking, including several planning meetings I attended in Delaware.

TWG events held during this time included, but by no means were limited to: hosting a meeting and reception with Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer; an evening and reception with Special Advisor to the President on the NIS Ambassador Steven Sestanovich; cosponsoring with the Kennan Institute the appearance of former Ukrainian Rada speaker Oleksandr Moroz; a meeting at Johns Hopkins SAIS with Commercial



Attaché at the U.S. Embassy Andy Bihun; a Ukrainian Embassy meeting with Ukrainians Oleksandr Rodniansky of Studio 1+1 and Ilko Kucheriv of the Democratic Initiatives Foundation; cosponsoring a banquet for departing Ukrainian Ambassador to the U.S. Yuri Shcherbak; cosponsoring with UMANA an evening forum with Dr.

Richard Cassucio, president of the Virginia chapter of Interplast; cosponsoring a dinner with members of the Ukrainian delegation to the 1999 NATO summit; cosponsoring a Ukraine bankers event at Meridian International Center; and the Hrushevsky book launch at the Ukrainian Embassy.

The TWG Cultural Fund, under the able leadership of Laryssa Courtney, staged a wide variety of high quality events, including "Paris to Kiev" at the French Embassy, several art exhibits, two chamber music concerts featuring the Kyiv Camerata and Leontovych String Quartet, the Horowitz piano competition recital, a Solomiya Soroka concert, and a Chernobyl evening of literature and music at the Ukrainian Embassy.

An important component of TWG's activities were social events. These included Independence Day picnics, Happy Hours at various taverns, a Valentine's Day party, a Christmas party, several TWG parties, including a TWG Spring Fling and Halloween Party at the homes of TWG Members, an excursion to Virginia wine country, a canoeing trip to Annapolis, a TWG Jazz Night at LaPorta restaurant in Alexandria, an exclusive tour of Scythian Treasures from Ukraine at the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, and the showing of a film by Slavko Nowytski following the Annual Meeting.

During this time, the TWG Fellowship fund expanded its activities. In addition to funding summer internships at the Ukrainian Embassy, it partially funded internships at UACC and UNIS, the two Ukrainian-American offices in Washington, thanks to the generosity of Maria Kulczycky.

A strong infrastructure is key to any organization, and efforts were made to strengthen TWG's infrastructure. These included the creation of the TWG web site by Steve Boyduy, the release of a Membership Directory under the leadership of Mike Drabek, the

creation of a new, and overdue, TWG brochure, the successful recruitment of Ukrainian credit unions as corporate members, thanks to Marta Zielyk, and, of course, publication of our monthly TWG News by Yaro Bihun.

While President, I represented TWG at various meetings and events outside the Washington area, including the New York/New Jersey Ps and Bs 20/20 conference in October 1998, as well as a February 1999 conference in Chicago on the future of the Ukrainian-American community in which I delivered a presentation on TWG and the ingredients of our success.

I also represented TWG at least one-half dozen times at meetings at the State Department concerning U.S.-Ukraine relations (sometimes wearing my TWG hat along with that of my day job as staff advisor for the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission)). In September 1999, along with other Ukrainian-American community leaders, I met with Vice President Gore. Other meetings at which I represented TWG were two telephone conference calls with the Vice President's National Security Advisor and several U.S.A.I.D. briefings. Some of these meetings were

connected with the Ukrainian presidential elections of November 1999, at which I was an OSCE international observer. I also represented TWG at meetings of Ukrainian-American community leaders with Ukrainian Ambassadors Anton Buteiko and Kostyantyn Gryshchenko.

Ukraine was indeed, as our 1999 TWG conference title implied, "At the Threshold" at that time. Shortly after President Leonid Kuchma's victory, we thought that Ukraine had begun to cross the threshold as Viktor Yushchenko became prime minister in December 1999. However, his government's reforms were thwarted a little more than a year later as he was seen to be too much of a threat to the ruling oligarchic powers. Unfortunately, the situation in Ukraine deteriorated during the second term of the Kuchma regime and, as a result, U.S.-Ukraine relations suffered.

What made TWG a strong and viable organization during my tenure as President was that we had an active board where more than just one or two individuals were shouldering the entire burden. We met on a regular basis and communicated frequently, including via E-mails, and this, in my view, was a key to success.

Highlights from the 1999 TWG Leadership Conference



Pikkardiyska Tertsia providing the entertainment during Sunday brunch



Ambassador Stephen Sestanovich, State Department



Ambassador William Miller and Judge Bohdan Futey



Dr. Michael Yarymovych, International Academy of Astronautics



Ukrainian Ambassador Anton Buteiko



Prof. Ronald Sagdeev, University of Maryland



Julian Kulas, 1st Security Federal Savings Bank



Looking to a vibrant future

by **Ihor O.E. Kotlarchuk, Esq.**
TWG President (2000-Present)

When I was first elected president of The Washington Group four years ago, I quickly came to the conclusion that if TWG was to continue to grow and prosper as an organization for all Ukrainian-American professionals, it had to meet its members' ever-changing expectations as well as attempt to satisfy, as best it could, their varied needs and requirements. Let me quickly add that this is not a simple task. TWG's present membership represents a very broad spectrum of Ukrainian-American professionals that includes university students, successful professionals in varied fields, as well as senior citizens. I also concluded that if TWG was to be successful as an organization, it needed to support, cooperate and interact with other Ukrainian-American organizations. Finally, if TWG's membership was truly to be open to all individuals, regardless of their political leanings or religious persuasion, it needed to avoid partisan politics. In my opinion, TWG has been extremely successful on all counts.

Most of TWG's events can be broadly categorized as either political, educational, cultural or social. Each year, The Washington Group Cultural Fund, under the able leadership of its Director Laryssa Courtney, sponsors and presents world class artists, musicians, singers and performing arts groups. The Washington Group also raises funds for worthwhile and deserving charities. Recently, The Washington Group's Cultural Fund and the Embassy of Ukraine, in cooperation with other Ukrainian-American organizations in the Washington area, organized and presented "Because Life is Beautiful," a reception and benefit fashion show at the Ukrainian Embassy featuring Ukrainian fashion designers from Kyiv and Lviv. The event was very successful, and all the proceeds were donated to a breast cancer awareness project in Ukraine. The Washington Group has also set up a Fellowship Fund which sponsors and funds a student internship program each year at the Ukrainian Embassy as well as at other major Ukrainian organizations.

There is no question, however, that the "crown jewel" of all TWG's activities and events is the traditional TWG Leadership Conference. These conferences are usually three-day events that are both intellectually stimulating and at the same time socially enjoyable. They usually commence with a formal reception at the Ukrainian Embassy, followed by panel discussions and



presentations, a formal banquet and dance, and a cultural program. The themes of the two most recent conferences were "Ukraine: Integrating into the Global Community" and "Ukraine - Focus on the Future". Some of the distinguished guests and participants at the conferences, just to name a few, included former U.S.

Ambassador William Green Miller, U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual, former Foreign Minister of Ukraine Borys Tarasyuk, Ambassador Kostyantyn Gryshchenko (presently the foreign minister of Ukraine), as well as ambassadors to the U.S. from Bulgaria, the Slovak Republic, and Hungary. Participating also in the conferences were noted scholars and professors from renowned academic institutions, prominent experts in various fields, including representatives of both the Ukrainian and United States governments, and officials from international organizations.

I am very proud of the fact that TWG is highly regarded by others and enjoys an excellent reputation as one of the largest and most successful Ukrainian-American professional organizations. Recently, Dr. Osyp Moroz, in an article in Hromada, a Meest publication, (No. 12, 25 March 2004) discussed how the Ukrainian community could better unite and organize itself, suggested that the Ukrainian organizations look to The Washington Group as a model.

This year is a very special year for The Washington Group. TWG is holding a Leadership Conference to celebrate the 20th anniversary of its founding. At the conference, we will take a nostalgic retro look at TWG's long and interesting 20-year history and at the various personalities that helped shape its history. The Embassy of Ukraine will join in the celebration by hosting our Friday evening reception.

As for the future, I firmly believe that The Washington Group will continue to attract dedicated and talented Ukrainian-American professionals to its ranks and, as a result, continue to be one of the most active, vibrant and highly regarded Ukrainian organizations in the United States.

Highlights from the 2000 TWG Leadership Conference



Amb. William Taylor, State Dept. aid coordinator



U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual



Andrew Bihun, U.S. Department of Commerce



Dr. Roman Solchanyk, RAND Corporation



Silent Auction



Outgoing TWG President Orest Deychakiwsky receives award from new president, Ihor Kotlarchuk, and Marta Zielyk.



Experimental Bandura trio performing after brunch



Prof. George Grabowicz, Harvard U.



Cultural Fund Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

**by Laryssa Courtney
Director, TWG Cultural Fund**

At the same time that The Washington Group celebrates its twentieth anniversary, the TWG Cultural Fund is celebrating its tenth. The Fund was organized in May 1994 to foster and promote Ukrainian culture in the Washington Metropolitan Area, thereby enriching the community in the areas of music, art, dance, theater, film and literature. Its activities include sponsoring and organizing performances, lectures and exhibitions, facilitating the creation of partnerships between touring artists and Washington's local arts organizations, establishing a clearinghouse for information on Ukrainian culture and funding Ukrainian educational projects in the arts. In June 1994, the newly created Cultural Fund held its inaugural event at the Embassy of Ukraine. It featured the renowned Les Kurbas Young Theater of Lviv, dramatizing the poetry of Bohdan Antonych to the accompaniment of classical music and singing of traditional Lemko folk songs.

The Cultural Fund has sought to bring the Ukrainian arts into Washington's cultural mainstream and to take advantage of its unique location in the nation's capital to attract members of the diplomatic and international communities, as well as political and cultural leaders. To encourage wider participation, the Cultural Fund featured its events in a variety of venues, including the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Department of State, the Library of Congress, universities, museums, embassies, churches and synagogues, galleries, and bookstores.

Over ten years, the Cultural Fund has sponsored some 70 events in twenty venues. These events included concerts featuring orchestras, chamber groups, choirs, singers, pianists, violinists, cellists, bandurists and other folk instrumentalists. The Fund also developed a relationship with the International Piano Competition in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz, presenting winners of all five competitions, which were held in Kyiv since 1996. In October, 2000, the Fund inaugurated a benefit concert series, under the direction of Chrystia Sonevtsky, to raise funds for instruments and instrument repairs in music schools in Ukraine. This benefit series subsequently became our annual music series, which takes place at the Lyceum, a history museum in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia.

Many of the concerts were reviewed in The Washington Post. Two reviews stand out in memory. Regarding violinist Solomiya Soroka's recital in 2000,

Joseph McLellan wrote:

"To the best of my recollection, I had never heard a note composed by Myroslav Skoryk until Wednesday night, when three of his pieces were played at the Chevy Chase Women's Club. He should be better known in this country; he is an original, a composer with a distinct identity, a mastery of many idioms — jazzy, folk-style and moderately avant-garde — that he uses to shape works embodying piquant contrasts, convincing climaxes and sometimes impish wit... The program focused on Ukrainian composers (a sadly neglected group in this country)"

In another excellent review, titled *Bright Voices and Bandura From Ukraine*, of bandurist Alla Kutsevych's recital in 2001, McLellan wrote: "...this unfamiliar instrument flooded the auditorium with uniquely glittering melodies."

He went on to include a short lesson in Ukrainian cultural history about Taras Shevchenko's life, his fight against despotism, and his influence on Ukrainian, as well as Russian composers.

The most challenging project was the Tenth Anniversary Concert commemorating the Chernobyl disaster. Presented by the Washington Performing Arts Society, the concert took place at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall in 1996, and featured the Odessa Philharmonic Orchestra. The many thousands of dollars needed to pay the necessary expenses required the Fund to make personal contact with individuals, organizations and corporations all over the country. The concert was very well attended and it was worth the effort. Not only did this event promote Ukrainian culture, but it also educated the audience about Chernobyl, its effects, and the many problems associated with this disaster still remaining to be resolved.

The Cultural Fund has also sponsored art shows, film screenings, book talks, lectures, theatrical presentations, and a fashion show, featuring Ukraine's top fashion designers, to benefit breast cancer awareness and treatment in Ukraine. The photos included here offer a good sample of our presentations.

The Embassy of Ukraine has worked with the Cultural Fund from the very beginning. Honorary Chairs of the Cultural Fund Committee were Maria Shcherbak, Natalya Gryshchenko, and currently, Iryna Reznik. Cultural attaches who have been members of the Committee include Dmitro Markov, Vasyl Zorya, Hennadii Nadolenko, Mykola Krawchenko, Olesia Bozhko, and currently, Natalia Holub.

TWG AT 20

Founding members of the Cultural Fund who are still on the Committee today include Theresa Ben, Laryssa Courtney, Larysa Kurylas, Stefan Maksymjuk, Slavko Nowytski, Chrystia Sonevytsky, and Marta Zielyk. Both Yaro Bihun, our information technology specialist, and Rosalie Norair, our treasurer, have been

involved since 1995. Many heartfelt thanks to them, to everyone who has worked on the Cultural Fund Committee over the years, and to all the Cultural Fund's enthusiastic supporters. A country's culture is often said to be its best ambassador. Let's continue making new friends and lifting spirits for another ten years!



Joining pianist Valentina Lisitsa on stage after her 2004 concert are Amb. Mykhailo and Iryna Reznik (right), Cultural attaché Nataliia Holub (left) and TWGCF Director Laryssa Courtney.



The Kyiv Chamber Choir at the National Cathedral in 1997.



Soprano Oksana Krovyska talks with Ambassador William Miller at a reception following her concert in 2001.



Bass Stefan Szkafarowsky accepts the warm reception of the audience at his concert last year at the Lyceum.



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



Lviv's Les Kurbas Young Theater singing and doing recitations at the Ukrainian Embassy in 1994.



TWG Fellowship Fund expanding its scope

by Mike Drabyk
TWG FF Director

The Washington Group Fellowship Fund was established within TWG in 1987. It has a history of helping to advance Ukrainian academic achievement by using the unique resources of the Washington area.

Since the inception of the TWG Fellowship Fund, it has awarded more than \$30,000 in funding for more than 25 different projects. Initially these grants were awarded to Ukrainian-Americans or Ukrainian-Canadians. Starting in 1990 however, with new opportunities presented by the dissolution of the Soviet Union and later declaration of a free and independent Ukraine, the TWG Fellowship Fund expanded its activities to include students from Ukraine.

Later in 1996, the Fund started placing summer interns annually at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington. It was helpful to the Embassy — on the one hand — and it gave the interns valuable experience and insight into the day-to-day operations of a foreign embassy. The 2003 TWG Embassy Intern was Roman Didenko, an International Economics graduate of Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). And once again this year, as in the past, another TWG intern has been selected to work at the Embassy this summer. She is Diana Medvedeva, of the Kyiv National Economic University.

The TWG Fellowship Fund is in the process of expanding its programs, and is now starting to offer summer internships with the Ukrainian Desk at Voice of America.

As the chairman of the TWG Fellowship Fund, I would like to express my appreciation for the valuable assistance given by Orest Deychakiwsky and Adrian Karmazyn.


For more information, visit our website at www.TheWashingtonGroup.org and click on “Opportunities.”



1999 TWG Ukrainian Embassy Intern Valentina Yarr.




2003 TWG Intern Roman Didenko (left) and Mike Drabyk.



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