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

Sestanovich sees role for TWG, Diaspora in U.S.-Ukraine relations

TWG joined together again with the Johns Hopkins University School for Advanced International Studies to host a prominent speaker on U.S.-Ukrainian relations. The joint discussion forum, held Oct. 19 at SAIS, featured Stephen A. Sestanovich, ambassador-at-large and special advisor to the Secretary of State on the New Independent States.

Ambassador Sestanovich spoke about Ukraine's numerous successes since independence and pointed to some problem areas that needed to be addressed—its currency, foreign debt and trade.

While these are problems that only Ukraine can solve, he said, Ukraine could count on U.S. support if it continues its reform policies. And the Ukrainian-American community, through organizations such as The Washington Group, have a role to play

(See *Sestanovich*, page 7)

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Conductor Virko Baley and the Kyiv Camerata acknowledge the applause of the audience at the Dumbarton Methodist Church in Georgetown.

Cultural Fund launches 1998-'99 Season

The TWG Cultural Fund launched its 1998-1999 season with two chamber music concerts, featuring the Kyiv (Kiev) Camerata and the Leontovych String Quartet—with composer Myroslav Skoryk, conductor Virko Baley and pianists Mykola Suk and Volodymyr Vynnytsky—and an exhibit of works by artist Volodymyr Makarenko.

The season began October 30 at the historic Dumbarton Methodist Church in Georgetown, as Virko Baley led the Kyiv Camerata in a

program that included some old classical favorites by Tchaikovsky, Beethoven and Prokofiev as well as contemporary Ukrainian compositions by Yevhen Stankovych, Ivan Karabyts and Valentin Silvestrov.

Calling the 32-member chamber group “a cohesive, finished ensemble,” Washington Post reviewer Ronald Broun said the Tchaikovsky’s Serenade for Strings was “deftly sculpted” by conductor Baley, although he found it lacking (See *Cultural Fund*, page 5)

Remember your 1998 contributions to the TWG Cultural Fund and Fellowship Fund

New Members



Notes on Members

- **Adrian Blanarovich**, Student/Engineer, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC.
- **Larysa Kalyta**, Graduate MBA Student, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Clarion, PA.
- **Irina Stanislavivna Khmelko**, Student, Public Policy, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- **Alex Kiselev**, Student, International Affairs, Johns Hopkins SAIS, Washington, DC.
- **Daria Melnyk**, Student, Georgetown University, Washington, DC.
- **Walter John Meyer**, Graduate Student & Art Historian, University of Southern California (USC), Pasadena, CA.
- **Larisa Oblescuk**, Lorton, VA; Student, Computer Science, Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA).
- **Zirka Voronka**, Professor, Passaic County Community College, Paterson, NJ.
- **Andrij & Lidia Zakrewsky**, Retired, Middle Village, NY.

GIANT, SAFEWAY RECEIPTS

REMEMBER: Save your Giant and Safeway food store receipts and pass them to the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian School. After the drive, the school can redeem them for computer equipment for school use.

TWG NEWS

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ADVERTISING: Business card size: \$10 per issue, or \$25 for three issues for TWG members; \$15/\$40 for non-members. Quarter page: \$45 members, \$55 non-members. Half page: \$60 members, \$75 non-members. Full page: \$100 members/\$140 non-members. Please contact TWG Treasurer Roman Stelmach (215) 572-1481.

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

TWG bids farewell to Ambassador Shcherbak

TWG Honorary Member Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak left for Kyiv November 20 after four years in Washington as Ukraine's ambassador to the United States. During a community banquet in his honor October 25, TWG presented him with a photograph by Natalie Sluzar of the view of the Potomac River from the Embassy site in Georgetown. Mrs. Maria Shcherbak, the honorary chair of



Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak, Natalie Sluzar and TWG President Orest Deychakiwsky.

the TWG Cultural Fund, was presented with a print of George Washington, who had signed some historic documents at Marbury House, which is part of the Embassy complex. Upon his return to Ukraine, Ambassador Shcherbak was appointed by President Kuchma as his

(See *Notes* page 3)



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William Petrach

William Petrach, a retired linguist and benefactor of Ukrainian studies, died September 26, when he fell off the roof of his Arlington home. He was 80.

In 1996, Mr. Petrach donated \$400,000-worth of stocks to the George Washington University to fund the William and Helen Petrach Endowment for Ukrainian Exchanges and Programs, administered by the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies.

The endowment supports exchanges of faculty and graduate students between The George Washington University and Lviv State University, visiting professorships, and other closely related activities designed to facilitate scholarly and cultural exchanges between Ukraine and the United States. The endowment also funds such GWU programs as a recent seminar of agriculture in Ukraine and the series of courses on Ukrainian history, economics and politics in the coming spring semester at GWU.

Mr. Petrach was born on March 13, 1918, in the town of Dobrotvir, then under Polish administration. In the tumultuous period just before and during World War II, Mr. Petrach had served in the Polish and Soviet armies, spent time in German and Soviet prisons and

still found time to earn a Master's degree in Slavic languages from Lviv University.

In the post-war years, Mr. Petrach taught Russian language and literature at Broumov College in Czechoslovakia. He emigrated to Canada in 1948, and in 1952, he moved to New York, where he met his future wife, Helen Vasilevsky.

In 1964 he joined the National Security Agency at Fort Meade, Md., as an instructor of Slavic languages, and, one year later, became a linguist and research analyst for the U.S. Army. He retired in 1994.

Mr. Petrach's wife, Helen, after retiring as a librarian at the New York Academy of Medicine, worked as a financial analyst at the Federal Reserve in Washington. She died on June 26, 1984.

Mr. Petrach had said that the Petrach Endowment Fund could be viewed as a legacy to his wife's interest in the stock market, which led to the purchase and increased valuation of the stocks he later donated to The George Washington University.

He is survived by his brothers Steve, in Germany, and Paul, in Ukraine.

Mr. Petrach was a member of TWG since 1994.

Notes... (from Page 2)

foreign affairs advisor.

...and to Cultural Attaché Zorya

A few days earlier, at an Embassy reception, TWG also bid farewell to the Embassy's cultural attaché, **Vasyl Zorya**, who over the past few years had served as a liaison in the various cooperative efforts between TWG and the Embassy. He also served on the board of the TWG Cultural Fund.

Miller addresses Famine memorial, Wilson Center

TWG honorary member and former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine **William G. Miller** was the keynote speaker in November at the commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the Great Famine in Ukraine at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Earlier, he spoke about the development of the U.S.-Ukrainian relationship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, where he currently is a public policy scholar. The Wilson Center's Kennan Institute announced in November that it was opening a Kennan Kyiv Project under an agreement with the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and its Pylyp Orlyk Institute for Democracy in Kyiv.

Deychakiwsky traveling again

TWG President **Orest Deychakiwsky**, a staff advisor on the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, was in Warsaw recently, where he served as a member of the U.S. delegation to a meeting concerning human rights and democratization of the 54-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In Warsaw, he delivered the U.S. intervention on national minorities in Europe. Following Warsaw, Deychakiwsky, along with a colleague from Congress, traveled to Belarus where they met with high-ranking government officials to press various human rights issues as well as with opposition leaders and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

Futey discusses Ukraine's Constitution

Federal Judge **Bohdan Futey** of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims was a panelist discussing "The New Constitution of Ukraine: Development and Perspectives" at conference on Ukraine October 2-3 at the University of Ottawa. The conference, "Towards a New Ukraine II: Meeting the Next Century," featured legal, economic, academic, social and government experts from Ukraine, (See *Notes*, page 6)

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UMANA/TWG Forum

Evening focuses on medical mission to Ukraine

The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) Greater Washington Chapter, in cooperation with The Washington Group, November 5 sponsored an evening forum with Dr. Richard Casuccio, president of the Virginia chapter of Interplast, a non-profit American organization dedicated to performing reconstructive surgery on disadvantaged children throughout the world.

Dr. Richard Casuccio, a plastic surgeon, along with Dr. Askold Mosijczuk, a pediatric hematologist/oncologist and TWG member, headed a 9-member team on a mission to Zaporizhzhia in September to help Ukrainian doctors in conducting corrective surgery on children with congenital defects, such as cleft lips and palates, and to exchange medical

information on reconstructive techniques.

The team members were Dr. Lidia Chapelsky, pediatrician; Mary Ann Markus, RN; Dr. Nicholas Marsh, anesthesiologist; William Oscanyan, secretary; Dr. Joseph Pelkofski, oral surgeon; Dr. Chili Robinson, plastic surgeon; and Lori Rodrigo, RN.

Dr. Mosijczuk, who is president of the Washington chapter of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA), wrote a lengthy piece about the mission in the Dec. 6 issue of *The Ukrainian Weekly*.

The mission was endorsed and supported by Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, and Ukraine's minister of health, Dr. Andrii Serdiuk.

Cultural... (from Page 1)

in "richness, bloom and tonal projection."

Mykola Suk's performance of Beethoven's Fourth Concerto was "overly muscular," he said, but added: "if the slow movement was short on poetry, Suk's rhythmically propulsive playing in the fast movements that flanked it added more voltage than this concerto usually receives, and to surprisingly good effect."

Prokofiev's *Classical Symphony* "sang sweetly, as it should, but along the way Baley elicited wry, sardonic touches through unusual phrasing and teased dynamics—a gently mocking, highly successful performance," he wrote.

The Stankovych, Karabyts and Silvestrov compositions, in the opinion of the Post reviewer, "broke no new ground but were intelligent and engaging."

Two days later, on November 1, TWG sponsored an exhibit of paintings by a Ukrainian-born artist who has been living in France since 1980, Volodymyr Makarenko. The exhibit of some 20 of his works were at the Alla Rogers Gallery in Georgetown.

Cultural Fund Chair Laryssa Chopivsky introduced the artist, who, with Ms. Rogers translating, discussed his life and work before a large gathering of art lovers. Among those present was art collector Olga Hirshhorn, whose husband donated his collection of modern art now housed in a Smithsonian museum bearing his name.

Three weeks later, on November 21, again at the Dumbarton Methodist Church, the TWG Cultural Fund hosted composer Mykola Skoryk's 60th Anniversary Con-



Alla Rogers (left) and TWG Cultural Fund Chair Laryssa Chopivsky and artist Volodymyr Makarenko during the exhibit of his paintings at the Alla Rogers Gallery.

cert, with the Leontovych String Quarter, pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky and the composer himself at the piano.

The concert, featuring Mr. Skoryk's works, was filmed by the U.S. Information Agency's Worldnet television service for broadcast in Ukraine on the USIA's Ukrainian-language "Window on America" program.

The concert was not reviewed in the press, but it was enthusiastically received by the audience, which included members of the joint U.S.-Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Commission, among them Deputy Minister of Culture and Arts of Ukraine Leonid Novokhatko, Oleksandr Fedoruk, chairman the Ukrainian Commission on the Restitution of Cultural Treasures, and Natalia Zarudna, charg e d'affaires at the Embassy of Ukraine. □

Important Notice: The 1999 TWG Membership Directory

The Washington Group soon will be publishing the 1999 TWG Membership Directory.

• If you are a current member and have additions or corrections to your address, telephone or other membership information, please fill out and return the form on the back of this issue, or send the information via e-mail to mdrabyk@aol.com, or call (703) 442-7898. Please do so before January 20, 1999. We cannot guarantee that any changes or additions received after January 20 will be included in the new directory.

• The 1999 directory will be sent to those whose dues are paid, as well as honorary members.

To ensure you receive and are included in the new directory, please renew your membership, if it has expired or is about to do so, using the form on the back of this issue, before January 20, 1999. Your membership expiration date is printed on the TWG News mailing label.

If you are not a TWG member, then take this opportunity to join. Again, do so before January 20 to be included

in the new directory.

Your membership dues directly support TWG activities, which include:

• Panel discussions, symposiums, and lectures hosted by TWG throughout the year, featuring U.S. and Ukrainian government policy-makers.

• Concerts, art exhibits, and receptions.

• Activities hosted by other organizations interested in similar issues.

In addition to notices for these events, TWG members will also receive:

• Our newsletter, TWG News.

• The 1999 Membership Directory.

• A special membership rate for "The Mother of All Conferences," to be held in Washington in June 1999.

You can also take this opportunity to include your donation to the TWG Cultural Fund and Fellowship Fund.

Thank you for your continued support of The Washington Group!

Notes.. (from Page 3)

Canada and the United States.

Participate in military medical conference in Ukraine

TWG members Lt. Col. **Yaromyr Oryshkevych**, DDS, LTC **George Turiansky**, MD, and Maj. **Roman Golash**, MS, were among several U.S. military active and reserve component soldiers participating as translators or lecturers in the First Emergency Medicine and Dental Conference sponsored by the California Air National Guard in Ukraine. The conference, held at the Lviv State Medical University in mid-October, was part of the National Guard State Partnership program which pairs California with Ukraine. Lectures were presented by more than 15 military faculty in emergency cardiac and airway management, emergency management of abdominal and thoracic trauma, initial stabilization of trauma patients, immunization programs, toxicological emergencies, electrical injuries, disaster medicine, hyp- and hothermia, and human immunodeficiency virus infection in the U.S. Army. Dental topics included dental emergencies, endodontics, preventive dentistry, suturing techniques, oral and periodontal surgery, and anesthesia. Other Ukrainian-American military officers participating included Lt. Col. Victor Onufrey, MD, and Maj. Roman Bilynsky, MD.

Rabchenuk honored at the Fletcher School

Boston-area Ukrainian activist Attorney **Paul T. Rabchenuk** was honored at a recent reception held at the

Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. He was awarded the school's first Certificate in International Relations, being the first to complete the new program designed for professionals within the global marketplace. Mr. Rabchenuk, who holds a masters degree in public affairs from the University of Pittsburgh and a law degree from the New England School of Law, has taught public management courses up to the graduate level at several local universities and has held several positions in public administration, including those of town manager of Saugus and North Reading Massachusetts. □

Malanka Zabava

January 16, 1999, 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

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or at the door.**

Sestanovich...(from Page 1)

in this effort, he added.

Because of their close relationships with both countries, he said, Ukrainian-Americans can help the U.S. government understand what is really going on in Ukraine, what kinds of assistance programs can be most effective there, and help ensure that the Ukrainian Government understands how it is being viewed—both positively and negatively—in the United States.

“Because American interests are at stake in Ukraine’s future, we need to find ways to keep Ukrainian policy moving in the right direction,” Ambassador Sestanovich stressed. And despite all of Ukraine’s past successes, he added, “This is no small task. It requires commitment, clarity and resources.”

He said that Ukraine’s increased controls to preserve its foreign reserves, has made the hryvnia, in effect, a non-convertible currency. While understandable, it “is not a viable long-term solution” for Ukraine, he said. “And the longer it continues, the longer Ukraine’s national currency is taken out of international exchange markets, the more vulnerable it will be to a big drop when it becomes convertible again.”

Ukraine has to proceed “very carefully” and in close cooperation with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to gradually expand the trading of the hryvnia, to allow it to find its new level, as well as to keep moving on its deregulation and reform programs, he said.

“On that basis, the U.S. Government will be able to support continued disbursements—which are essential for Ukraine at this period—from the IMF,” Mr. Sestanovich said.

Ukraine has managed its foreign reserves well, and there have been encouraging presidential reform decrees

by the president, he said.

“The key is to follow through,” he added. “Unfortunately the record cannot by itself provide confidence that those are going to be implemented.”

He said Ukraine has the advantage of a good relationship with the international financial institutions, and they have to be further cultivated and strengthened.

Ambassador Sestanovich pointed



Stephen R. Sestanovich

out that the global financial crisis has aggravated Ukraine’s problem and, at the same time, made it easier to handle, because both the borrowers and lenders realize that, in the current situation, debts will have to be rescheduled.

In this, as in some other respects, he pointed out, Ukraine is much better off than Russia, which has “virtually cut itself off” from international capital markets. “Ukraine hasn’t, and it needs to make sure that it doesn’t,” he added.

Turning to trade, Mr. Sestanovich pointed out that more than 40 percent of Ukraine’s trade is with Russia; Europe is increasingly restricting Ukraine’s exports; Ukraine’s currency problems are limiting imports from the West; and it is facing new problems with its exports to the United States, where the U.S. steel industry

has protested the dumping of foreign—including Ukrainian—steel on the U.S. market.

Ukraine must diversify its markets and produce more competitive goods—which will require new policies concerning foreign investment, new business formation, and the bankruptcy of inefficient enterprises, he said.

The United States has worked with Ukraine in this area by exchanging trade missions and by providing assistance in areas where there have been reforms, he said.

“Unfortunately, improvements in the climate for private business—although they’re taking place—are moving very slowly—in some cases not at all,” he said. “The government is still wedded to protecting bankrupt industries and is doing too little to increase the productive potential of some potentially very powerful sectors, such as Ukrainian agriculture.”

Ambassador Sestanovich also discussed Ukraine’s many accomplishments—in democratic development, nation-building, integration with its neighbors and international groupings; and building sound relationships with the United States and international financial institutions.

The U.S.-Ukrainian relationship evolved into a “strategic partnership” through cooperation on many crucial issues, the most important of which, he said, was arms proliferation.

And—what is especially beneficial now, he said—Ukraine has developed and maintained a good relationship with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, receiving new credits from them even in the midst of the Russian financial crisis.

“Looked at one measure after another, Ukraine is a success story,” he said, “but there’s no dodging the big problems that it continues to face,” Ambassador Sestanovich said. □

The Washington Group Membership Information/Application Form

TWG is an association of Ukrainian-American professionals who live throughout the United States and in several countries of the world. It offers its members an opportunity to meet and get to know each other through a variety of professional, educational and social activities. TWG NEWS is a monthly newsletter for TWG members, and a membership directory, published for members only, helps them in networking.

To apply for membership, please fill out the form below and mail with a check to:

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

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