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

### TWG members observe, Report on Ukrainian Presidential election

A number of TWG members, in one way or another, were involved in the recent presidential election in Ukraine.

Three were international observers of the elections—Nadia Diuk, of the National Endowment for Democracy, kept an eye on balloting in the Kyiv area, while Ustina Markus, of the Defense Department, and TWG President Orest Deychakiwsky, staff advisor to the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, were checking on the voting in Donetsk and Ivano-Frankivsk oblasts—both as part of the OSCE Election Mission.

Also observed observing the elections in Ukraine were Ross Chomiak, representing the Ukrainian-American Coordinating Council and writing for *Svoboda*, and Marta Pereyma, now assistant cultural affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. And, on this side of the ocean, Michael Sawkiw, Jr., who heads the Ukrainian National Information Service and the Ukrainian Congress (See *Election*, Page 10)

### Bihun reports on US-Ukraine business ties

#### *Says TWG should create US-Ukraine business group*

Former TWG vice president Andrew Bihun, who recently returned to Washington after four years in Kyiv as head of the U.S. Embassy's Foreign Commercial Service in Ukraine, called on TWG to create a business component to help that segment of its membership interested in establishing and expanding business relations with Ukraine.

Such a sub-section of TWG, he said, would work much as the Cultural Fund and Fellowship Fund do, but in the Ukraine-oriented business sector. He estimated that some 30-40 percent of TWG members could, in one way or another, be interested in this area.

Mr. Bihun made this suggestion October 15 at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, during a Friday Evening Forum co-sponsored by TWG and the SAIS Russian and East European Studies program.

Analyzing the overall economic situation in Ukraine and the future of U.S.-Ukraine business relations, Mr. Bihun said that the government of Ukraine and U.S. investors must be willing to make some serious commitments if they truly intend to



**Andrew Bihun**

build a mutually beneficial economic relationship. Both sides want it, he said, but neither has thus far done all that it could and should to bring it about.

The Ukrainian Government must get serious about executing structural reforms and privatization programs, he said, and U.S. companies must approach their involvement in

(See *Bihun*, Page 5)

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## Notes on Members

*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 President's foreign travel

TWG President **Orest Deychakiwsky**, following his assignment as election observer in Ukraine (see story on page 1), went to the 54-nation OSCE Review Conference in Turkey, as part of the U.S delegation, which also included Ambassador **William Courtney** (one of the delegation heads) and **Christine Lucyk**, Ukraine desk officer at the Commerce Department. Before returning to Washington, he also accompanied Assistant Secretary of State Harold Hongju Koh to Miensk, Belarus, where he pressed human rights and democracy concerns.

### ...and press appearances

**Natalia A. Feduschak**, now writing for the Washington Times, had a lengthy piece about the presidential elections in Ukraine October 24, one week before the first round of balloting. Among those quoted in the article was Orest Deychakiwsky.

### Acting Membership Director

With the departure of TWG Membership Director Adrian Pidlusky for a year in Kyiv, **Juliana Kinal** has taken over the reins as acting membership director. She can be reached at: juliana\_kinal@ita.doc.gov, or (202) 364-3888.

The restructured TWG Membership Committee also includes TWG Mailer **Volodymyr Yakymets** and TWG Mail Distributor **Jim Fedorko**.

### Pidlusky on Ukrainian nukes

Before departing for Kyiv, **Adrian Pidlusky** gave a lecture on "US Policy With Regard to Ukraine's Nuclear Weapons" October 24 at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine. The evening was sponsored by the Washington chapters of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the USA.

### Szul heads MRC info systems

TWG Board member **Andy C. Szul Jr.** was recently hired as director of information systems at the Media Research Center [<http://www.mrc.org/>], a media watchdog organization based in Alexandria, VA. Szul manages the MRC's websites and network information systems.

### Sluzar photo on exhibit

**Natalie Sluzar's** photograph has been selected for the annual Arlington Country photography Exhibit held at the Ellipse Arts Center. Her work was one of 80 selected from more than 600 photographs submitted. The photograph is a hand-colored silver gelatin print, using infrared film. The image is a landscape depicting a beach scene taken at Assateague State Park in Maryland.

### PR Director sticks neck out

**Ihor Kotlarchuk**, TWG PR director, as he passed the ad for the *Malanka 2000 Gala* (see page 11), said it would be the greatest Malanka ever. We'll see. □

### TWG NEWS

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### Free Student Memberships

The Washington Group is once again offering 10 free one-year new student memberships funded by the donation of an anonymous donor. Students must be attending an accredited institution full-time to qualify. Those interested may contact Acting Membership Director Juliana Kinal or visit the TWG's web site at [www.TheWashingtonGroup.org](http://www.TheWashingtonGroup.org). Snail mail may be sent to Washington Group, PO Box 11248, Washington, DC 20008.



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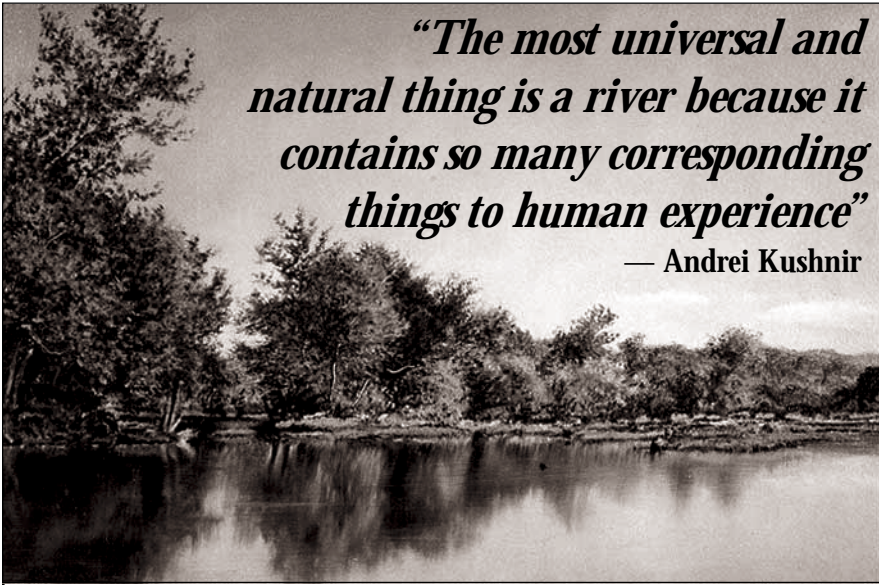
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*“The most universal and natural thing is a river because it contains so many corresponding things to human experience”*

— Andrei Kushnir



Artist

Andrei

Kushnir

a portrait  
by Natalie Sluzar

Although he has been painting for 20 years, and his works have been included in numerous national shows, until a couple of years ago Andrei Kushnir was also an attorney for the Navy, carrying briefcases loaded with legal briefs, and scurrying through the hectic pace of bureaucratic life in Washington. Today he spends his daylight hours in an equally hectic manner, but somewhere along the Potomac, in Great Falls Park, or some other scenic location, trying to catch the light in his paintings, or preparing for his next exhibit or workshop. Andrei ultimately gave up his career as a government attorney to focus full time on his career as a professional artist.

It seemed to be the right decision. Andrei recently had a very successful exhibit at the Taylor and Sons Fine Art gallery on Capitol Hill, and *The Washington Times* featured him in a lengthy article “Font of Inspiration: Seneca to Georgetown, Painter Follows His Muse Along Banks of Potomac,” (October 4, 1999, page C4).

“The river originally served him as a place of escape where he could be alone to paint a landscape he loves,” writes An Geracimos, in the *Times* article. “He seldom introduces people into his paintings, preferring to extract the timeless effect of landscape under an ever-changing sky.”

He prefers to work on location, in the early morning, to get the natural light. He works on site usually from April through mid-November. He takes his easel, oil paints and boards and finds a spot that stirs something in him. “People change the whole focal point of a painting,” he says, preferring to capture the moods of the seasons and nature.

Andrei studied at the Art League in Alexandria with

Michael Francis, a professor at George Washington University and belongs to many artists groups, including the Alexandria, Capitol Hill and Fairfax Art Leagues, Blue Ridge Arts Council, Salmagundi Club (NYC), and Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society of Washington, of which he is vice president. He also belongs to a group of artists who call themselves “the



Andrei Kushnir

new naturalists.” The Taylor Gallery’s owner and founder, a painter herself, is also part of this group, who “hang out” and paint together outdoors, in the American tradition of the famous Hudson River school.

Most of Andrei’s paintings are of an intimate scale, as though the artist is whispering, “I want to show you something special.” They express the beauty he sees in places along the Potomac that are often unnoticed.

A long-time TWG member, Andrei lives in Bethesda with his wife Raissa. They have two children, Larissa, a high school senior, and Basil, who attends UMBC.

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## ***Bihun...*** (from Page 1)

Ukraine with all of the seriousness that its potential deserves.

Mr. Bihun pointed out that the needs of the two sides compliment each other: Ukraine needs to stimulate economic growth, create more jobs and enlarge its middle class so that it can bridge the huge gap between the country's rich and poor; and U.S. investors, for their part, want their share of Ukraine's expanding market and to use their presence there as a base for expanding their business activities within Eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union, as well as, ultimately, with Western Europe, the Near East and Asia.

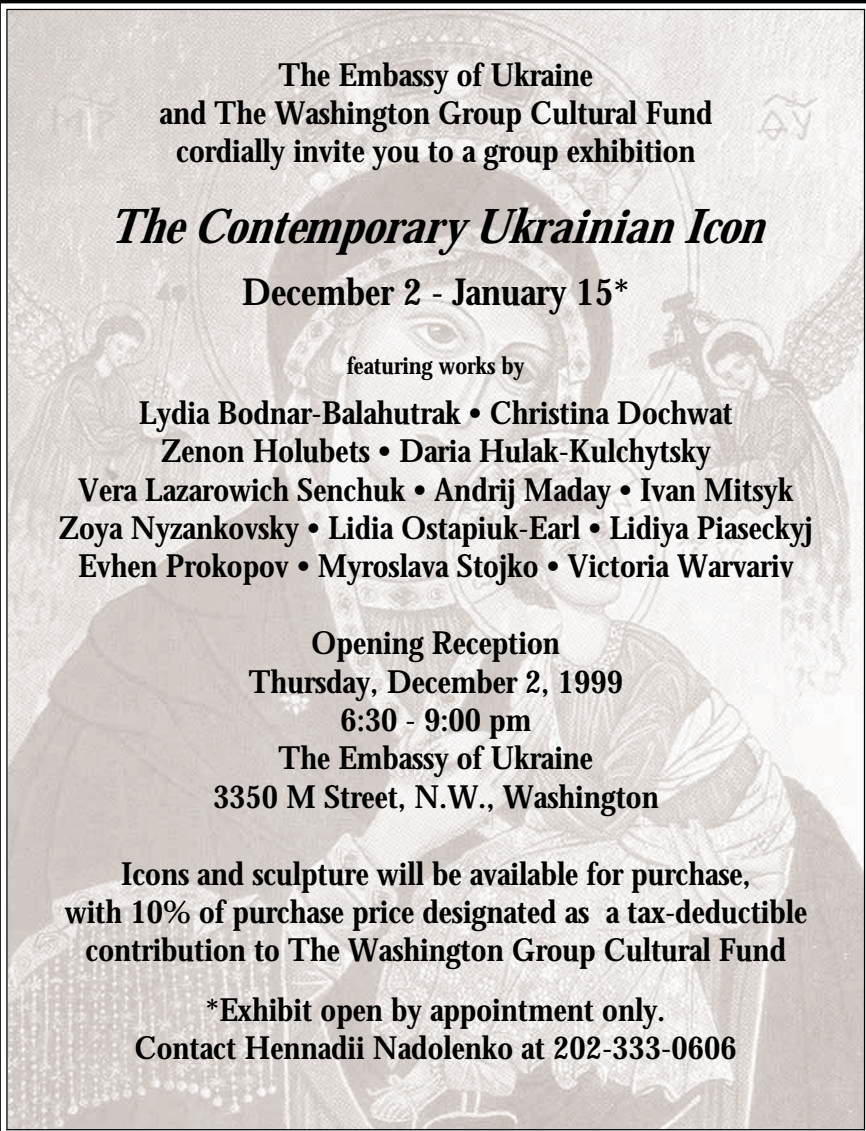
Bringing these needs together, however, he added, will require a lot of effort.

Based on four years of observations, Mr. Bihun made a number of recommendations about what the Ukrainian government and the business community should do to help themselves and each other.

He suggested that the Ukrainian government speed up its privatization program, especially with respect to large enterprises, restructure its industry, reform its unwieldy government apparatus, lower tax rates to broaden the tax base, de-regulate, eradicate corruption and reform its agricultural sector.

Lack of progress in these areas "have caused over half of the economy to operate informally or on the shadow economy," Mr. Bihun said.

"The most fundamental obstacle to developing a sound business environment is still a lack of a dedicated, comprehensive policy commitment to stimulating investment." There has been "a lot of lip service" on the subject, from the president on down, Mr. Bihun said, "but the implementation of those policies are just woe-



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fully lacking right now."

The reason the government's privatization program "is ballyhooed but not implemented," Mr. Bihun said—underscoring that this was strictly his own opinion—"is simply because the main reason for privatization right now is to collect money to fill the coffers of the budget, which is on the margins of constant, perpetual deficit, instead of privatization being motivated by the need to create an atmosphere of capital formation."

Mr. Bihun stressed that Ukraine should take a "western business vector" and "globalize" its economy—similar to the western orientation it

has pronounced in its foreign policy.

Without this western orientation, he said, even under the best of conditions, there will be no improvement in the quality levels of its products, services, deliveries, telecommunications, accommodations, etc.

He also suggested that more emphasis should be paid to business education in order to develop a highly skilled economic and political leadership in the country. Changes in the tax policy could be used to encourage private support for business schools, he added.

Ukraine's success in tackling these  
(See *Bihun*, Page 8)



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## Horowitz finalists' concert

As it has done since its inception five years ago, the Washington Group Cultural Fund this year again sponsored the Washington recital of the winners of the Vladimir Horowitz International Competition for Young Pianists. The competition is held in Kyiv, where the famous pianist was born and raised.

The winners from among the more than 80 pianists from all over the world who competed in this year's competition performed October 17 at Temple Micah in Washington. The recital was co-sponsored by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

The Ukrainian Embassy's cultural attaché, Hennadii Nadolenko, introduced the winners in the three age groups, two of whom were from Ukraine: Vadym Kholodenko, a sixth-grade student at the Lysenko Secondary Music Boarding School in Kyiv, and Oleksiy Hrynyuk, a fifth-year student at Tchaikovsky National



Horowitz Competition winners: Daniil Shleyenkov (Belarus); Vadym Kholodenko (Ukraine); Seiko Tsukamoto (Japan); Jian Liu (USA), and Oleksiy Hrynyuk (Ukraine).

Music Academy of Ukraine and a third-year student at London Royal Music Academy.

Also present at the concert were Yuri Zilberman, the general director of the competition, and composer Ivan Karabyts, chairman of the competition jury. Irina Smekhov, the competition's director of public relations, also spoke briefly, thanking all for their financial support.

A reception followed the performance, at which CD's were available for sale. — by Natalie Sluzar

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For more information on the TWG Christmas Party, please contact Tanya Stasiuk (703) 875-8036.

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## ***Bihun...*** (continued from Page 5)

problem areas will, in large measure, depend on the president's appointments to key economic cabinet and advisory positions and the working relationship the administration develops with the Verkhovna Rada. (Mr. Bihun's remarks were made a three weeks before the re-election of President Leonid Kuchma.)

"Unless the administration and cabinet of ministers know how to play that instrument called the Verkhovna Rada, you're not going to have much motion towards reforms," he said.

Mr. Bihun also listed a number of recommendations for U.S. firms interested in doing business in Ukraine:

- Be prepared with up-to-date information, not just on the economy, but on political and in other areas as well.
- Send the A or B management team, and not the C or D team; they have to be sharp to succeed.
- Look for financing alternatives before entering the market; Ukraine has run out of "sovereign guarantees" that were used to prop up credit in the past.
- Teach and learn: educate your local employees and show a willingness to learn as well.
- Use the business information resources available in Ukraine and in the U.S.—the Ukraine-U.S. Business Council in Washington, the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine, and the Ukraine-specific offices in the various departments and agencies of the U.S. government.

Asked to name some of the positive developments he witnessed in Ukraine over the past four years, Mr. Bihun pointed to the growth of professionalism in the government and private sector; a working political process, which passed a constitution and holds regular elections; the smooth transition from the hyper-inflated karbovanets to the hryvnia and maintaining its relative stability; the development of competition and actual economic growth in some sectors of the economy; and the rebuilding of the infrastructure of Kyiv and the increased vibrancy evident in a number of major cities.

As the head of the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service in Kyiv, Mr. Bihun and his staff of 15 professionals advocated the development of U.S. business activities in Ukraine, covering all of its economic sectors and in all of its oblasts. The FCS provided economic opportunity analyses, created foreign special interest groups, helped in closing business transactions, worked for the improvement of the business climate and the resolution of trade and investment disputes, developed new bilateral eco-

nomic programs, such as the Kharkiv Initiative, and prepared the annual commercial country guide and numerous industry sector analyses.

Some ten years earlier, Mr. Bihun helped design the specifications of these reporting mechanisms at the U.S. Department of Commerce. Now back at the Commerce Department in Washington, he will work on improving the effectiveness of the services provided by the FCS in some 70 countries worldwide. Before his assignment to Kyiv, Mr. Bihun was head of the Commerce Department's foreign market analysis division. He is a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. A founding member of TWG, he served as its vice president before leaving for Ukraine in 1995.

Among those attending the TWG-SAIS forum were the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, William Green Miller, and the head of the trade and economic mission at the Ukrainian Embassy, Yaroslav Voitko.

At the end of the discussion Mr. Voitko expressed his country's gratitude for Mr. Bihun's work in Kyiv.

"Many people there will miss you," he said. □

### **Letter**

#### ***Re "Don't leave home without it"***

Dear Rostyk [Chomiak],

As one of those who worked on the 1999 TWG Membership Directory (along with Yaro Bihun and Adrian Pidlusky, with a welcome assist from Oleg Jerschowsky), I thank you for your praiseworthy commendation published in the recent TWG News.

You're right, a good deal of hard work went into the TWG Directory to make it current and up-to-date in its expanded format, which includes Internet and other additional resources. The Directory has also grown to include listings for more members, along with additional advertising from TWG Corporate Members and others.

It's good to know that TWG members like you appreciate the Directory, and frequently turn to the little orange book as a popular and well-used resource. By all means Rostyk, "Don't leave home without it!"

Best Regards,  
Mike Drabyk  
TWG Secretary





Participating in the TWG winery tour (from the left): Marina Lomacky, Oles Lomacky, Roberta Drabek, Michael Drabek, Ksenia Lutz, Bohdanna Gott, John Gott and baby Andrijko, Marta Mostovych, Andrew Mostovych, Lida Teluk, Myron Teluk, and Natalie Sluzar.

## *Sampling the best wine and food northern Virginia has to offer*

By Natalie Sluzar

Only an hour's drive from downtown Washington takes you away from the high-tech corridors of Tysons Corner and the Dulles toll road into a setting of rural peace and tranquillity. The scenic foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the lazy winding Potomac River, lush farmlands, and the riding trails are more reminiscent of an 18th century setting than the harried and hassled pace of our own 20th century. Yet, such scenic locations are still common in northern Virginia, and are home to some of the state's oldest wineries.

TWG members and their guests spent a windy but sunny Saturday afternoon, October 23, sampling the region's wines, especially those of Loudon County.

The tour began at the 475-acre Tarara Winery, overlooking the Potomac River, known for its good wines as well as being a bed-and breakfast inn. This is the only Virginia winery that has natural caves to store and age the wines. Its production includes chardonnay, cabernet, pinot noir, and cabernet sauvignon wines.

After touring the caves and sampling the wines, everyone settled on the terrace for a picnic—lots of cheese, fruits, and even kovbasa. It was wonderful to see the hills, rolling

farmlands, the brilliant foliage; to breath in the fresh air, to sniff and sip the wine.

From there, the tour visited three other wineries, each with a unique history, with its own specialty of wines, and splendid settings.

The Loudon Valley has that "Old World" charm. In the Stadwell-Windham Winery, which is housed in the basement of an old farmhouse, the hostess invited us into her kitchen to sample some delicious Italian dishes, and, being Greek, she gave us a generous serving of baklava. And the Breaux Vineyards, one of Virginia's newest wineries, likes to call itself the place where the "Napa meets the Mediterranean."

Having sampled the region's wines at their place of origin, we proceeded to Middleburg, the historic Revolutionary War town. There, we reassembled at the venerable Red Fox Inn and Tavern, a popular and award-winning country inn, known for its original fieldstone structure and fine dining. We settled into a private room to enjoy some more wines, delicious entrees, and, most important of all, enjoyable, friendly conversation.

It was a truly memorable day, topped off by a wonderful meal. Who could ask for more. □

## ***Elections..*** (continued from Page 1)

Committee branch in Washington, was a UCCA observer of the election process at the Ukrainian Embassy.

Two weeks before the first round of the election, Amb. Courtney and Ms. Diuk participated in a briefing on the election on Capitol Hill. The briefing was organized for the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe by Mr. Deychakiwsky.

The briefing panel also included Michael Conway, senior program officer for the New Independent States at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES); and John Tedstrom, director for Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian affairs at the National Security Council.

Amb. Courtney, who was the moderator of the panel, said the stakes in the coming elections were very high—both in charting Ukraine's own economic and political future and its future relationship with the U.S. and the West.

While Ukraine's previous elections were "not without problems," he said, they had been "free and fair." In this pre-election period, however, he said the commission was "troubled" by the grenade attack on a leading candidate Natalia Vitrenko and "distressed" at the government harassment of the opposition media, using tax and fire inspections, lawsuits and other forms of intimidation.

The United States does not have a favorite candidate in the elections, Amb. Courtney said. It only wants them to be free and fair and to reflect the will of the people.

Ms. Diuk, who has supervised NED programs in that region since 1987 and has co-authored two books on the break-up of the Soviet Union, pointed out that Ukraine was the first post-Soviet independent country to pass the reins of power from one president to another by way of an election and it has also held two parliamentary elections. This emphasizes an encouraging trend that has taken hold in the former republics of the USSR, she said, "and that is that elections have now been definitively established as the only legitimate means of taking power."

She pointed out that Ukrainian elections also have their own "specifics" that are not readily understood by outsiders: how is it, for example, that Leonid Kuchma, considered on the extreme left in 1994, is now thought of as being right-of-center, or that presidential candidate Yevhen Marchuk had the backing of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, who were persecuted by KGB, which he once headed.

In order to win the presidential race a candidate needs an *aparats*, money and the media, she said—and Mr. Kuchma has all three. And as for what one can expect from a second Kuchma term, she said it would probably be more-or-less like the first, with some reforms and a pro-Western orientation. □

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**FOR MORE INFO:** Contact Olenka Stasyshyn via e-mail: olenkaESSM@aol.com, or phone: 410-379-8588. Please RSVP by December 1, 1999.

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## *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:**

**The Washington Group, P.O. Box 11248, Washington, D.C. 20008.**

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

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  NEW MEMBER  RENEWAL  DIRECTORY CORRECTION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Profession \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Business address \_\_\_\_\_ Office phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

*Circle information you would like omitted from the published TWG Directory.*

Membership Dues (Please check where appropriate):

\$50 Full Membership

\$35 Associate (Members outside Washington metropolitan area and retirees)

\$15 Full-time students

\$10 Surcharge for foreign addresses (*Payment must be in US Dollars*)

VISA/Master Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

THE WASHINGTON GROUP  
P.O. Box 11248  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**