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TWG NEWS

THE WASHINGTON GROUP



AN ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIAN-AMERICAN PROFESSIONALS

UKRAINIANS IN WESTERN CANADA

"Ukrainian Community Development in Western Canada" was the topic of a recent presentation by Professor Bohdan Krawchenko, director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Professor Krawchenko provided a fascinating glimpse into a this unique region of Canada where 4th and 5th generation Ukrainians have developed an active, viable and dynamic community, a region about which most Ukrainians in America have only a cursory knowledge.

Settled by Ukrainians from western Ukraine starting in the mid-1800's, rural Ukrainian communities in western Canada were faced with increasing assimilation and urbanization by the 1960's and the rapid dissolution of established traditions of the Ukrainian community. According to Krawchenko, the key to the current success of the Ukrainian diaspora in Canada was the acceptance by Ukrainian community leaders of a single premise: their future was in Canada, and therefore a unique identity, both Canadian and Ukrainian in nature, needed to be forged. Because of Canada's governmental policy of promoting multiculturalism, which Canada's Ukrainians were instrumental in developing, the Ukrainian community in western Canada was able to obtain government financing for the

See Krawchenko, page 12

TWG MEMBERS ELECT NEW BOARD

November 17th's annual meeting went smoothly - short and to the point: landslide victories for the proposed slate of candidates, brief discussion of possible by-law changes, presentation of awards, adjournment, dinner afterwards at Old Europe.

Yaro Bihun, first elected president of the Washington Group in 1988, with the promise of "an exciting year ahead," was re-elected for another term by a comfortable 29-1 margin. Also elected at the annual meeting were the other ten TWG officers, who bring TWG activist experience, as well as new blood to the board:

Lydia Chopivsky is back in as vice-president, while Marianne Woloschuk, as secretary and Olha Holoyda, as treasurer will be the new faces around the board room table. Leaving their positions as secretary and treasurer are Orest Deychakivsky and Helen Chaikovsky.

Marta Zielyk, as public relations director, and Orysia Pylyshenko, as events director, will continue in their positions, while Alexandra Ivanchuk Bibbee was voted in as the new special projects director, the position held last year by Laryssa Chopivsky. Adrian Kerod will replace TWG veteran Andy Rylyk as the new membership director.

TWG's new auditing committee is comprised of Ihor Kotlarchuk, Larissa Taran and Oksana Dackiw — all elected unopposed.

The annual meeting was conducted by a presidium made up of Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak, chair; Stephen Daisak, vice chair; and Darian Diachok, secretary.

While Yaro Bihun had in fact promised an "exciting year ahead" when he took-up the TWG reins in 1988, he concluded in his 1989 report that referring to "TWG's fifth year [as] 'exciting' would simply be an understatement."

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TWG NEWS

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Quotes for larger ads given on request.

New in town? For information on the most current happenings, call Pat Filipov, 301/622-0838.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE WASHINGTON GROUP
AND

THE EDITORS OF TWG NEWS
WISH ALL OF OUR MEMBERS AND
READERS A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

KHRYSTOS RAZHDAYETSIA!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

RECEPTION HONORING CONGRESSMAN STENY HOYER

On Monday, December 11, from 6-8pm, at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, a reception will be held in honor of Congressman Hoyer, Representative, 5th District, Maryland. As Co-chair of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission), Congressman Hoyer has been extremely supportive on numerous issues of concern for the Ukrainian community. Please come and show your support for him! See Calendar for further details.

TOYS FOR CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL

The month of December will be dedicated to the "Toys for Children of Chernobyl" campaign which was initiated by Ukrainian Saturday Day School/Ridna Shkola. The "child to child" program will focus on collecting both toys, as well as money to purchase toys, for the child victims of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster. Toys will be collected during the St. Nicholas celebration at Ridna Shkola. See Calendar for further details.

NEW CALENDAR EDITOR

For the past two years, Halyna Breslawec has kept track of the events in Washington for our Calendar. She now happily passes on the responsibility to Sophia Nakonechny and we gratefully thank Halyna for her work. Please call in all your event information (date, name of event, sponsor of event, time, location, admission fee, contact name and number, short event description if necessary) to Sophia at: 301/990-8941 or send to: TWG NEWS, Attn: Calendar, PO Box 11248, Washington, DC 20008.

OUR UNSUNG HERO

The "behind the scenes" man who has made the Shevchenko Tape Sales project a great success is Richard Swerda, who has willingly and unfailingly made dozens of copies of the concert tape from Lviv. Added bennie: he now knows all the songs by heart. Thank you Richard, very, very much.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU...

As the new editor of TWG, the first thing I did was ask somebody else to do my first (November's) issue. While the new editor, the co-editor, the P.R. director, the usual contributing writers and production crew went a 'travellin' to Ukraine, Natalie Sluzar, with the help of Rostyk Chomiak and Maria Rudensky put out one of the most difficult issues of the year - the post Leadership Conference. Thank you very much!!

Preparations for a Traditional Ukrainian New Year's Eve

1. Put away the Guy Lombardo album
2. Forget about watching the ball drop in Times Square
3. Save the bubbly for another occasion

Instead, pull out: a bagful of grain, a bunch of candles, some *kutia*, boots, a wooden fence, a hungry dog. These are *de rigueur* for the celebration of a proper Ukrainian New Year's Eve, as well as all the other holidays associated with it. After all, how could Ukrainians, who are known for holding three-day-long wedding celebrations be satisfied with merely one meager night of revelry?

The origins of the Ukrainian New Year's Eve traditions date back to pre-Christian times, when life moved in harmony with the very defined rhythm of nature. Thus many customs are associated with agriculture. With the advent of Christianity in Ukraine, many of these customs were blended with new religious beliefs and rituals, thus creating a symbolic dualism that is prevalent in much of Ukrainian folklore.

Ukrainian New Year's celebrations began on New Year's Eve, which according to the Ukrainian calendar, falls on January 13. In contrast to the meal which is eaten on Christmas Eve, one free of meat and dairy products, anything goes on New Year's Eve - meat, cabbage, potato and cheese *varenyky*, *bubtyky* (yeasty bread treats) and *hrechanyky* (buckwheat pancakes). The meal traditionally began with the serving of *kutia*. (Now admit it. Wouldn't you really rather have buckwheat pancakes than champagne and caviar on New Year's Eve? Mmmm...hmmmm. Thought so.)

The following day, January 14 is the feast of *Malanka*, which was an occasion for revelry, dancing and singing. The young girls of the village would chose the prettiest girl from among them and dress her in their finest Ukrainian costume. She was "Malanka". In addition, a "Vasyl" was found for her, was dressed-up as well, and the couple would then make their way from house to house, offering New Year's greetings.

The feast of *Malanka* was very important for young girls. It was on this day that their futures would be predicted. Girls would eavesdrop on conversations to hear a boy's name, for they believed that such would be the name of their future husband. Or, blindfolded, they were led to a wooden fence and counted pillars. If the ninth pillar was made of smooth, straight wood, the husband would be tall and handsome. If the ninth pillar was gnarled and bent, the husband would be old and ugly.

To find out which from among a group of girls would be the first to marry in the next year, each would make a succulent *pyrizhok* (meat pie) and then all the pies would be lined up in a row on the floor. Enter the hungry dog. Whichever *pyrizhok* Brovko ate first, that girl would be wed before the year was out. (I wonder if this will work with cats. I have two, you see...)

Boots were thrown over the rooftops of houses; whichever way the toes pointed as the boots fell would be the direction from which a future husband would come. To find out whether that husband would be rich or poor, the girls would build a bonfire on a frozen pond and then cut a hole in the ice. Taking a burning splinter from the fire, each girl would toss it in the water. If the splinter crackled before it hit the water, the girl would marry rich, if it fizzled with no sound, her future husband would be a beggar.

See New Year's, page 14

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TWG's MEMORABLE TRIP TO UKRAINE

"So. How was it?"

Pause...You think to yourself, "this is nuts. In 25 words or less? Oh, come on..."

Deep breath.

"Exciting. Demanding. Exhilarating and exhausting. Humbling. Gratifying. Overwhelming. Irritating, exasperating, infuriating. Silly. Happy. Funny. And at times, very, very sad. Yes, I'm glad I went."

There. That's how it was.

The itinerary for TWG's trip to Ukraine seemed simple enough. Two weeks. Fly into Moscow. Then Kiev, Odessa, Lviv. Two side trips: one to Kaniv, one to the Carpathians. Meet professional counterparts in each city, some sightseeing, see family on the side. But almost from the beginning, there was a charged atmosphere. In part, it had to do with the energy of the group, which remained at a constant high, but in greater measure it had to do with the dynamic atmosphere in Ukraine. People on the tour who had been several times before, some as recently as 18 months ago, claimed that "this trip was different." In Ukraine, we frequently heard of "great changes" "uncertain future" "this is new, we couldn't do it last year" "we are hopeful." A coiled spring, becoming unprung.

Many of the tour members had the good fortune to attend the TWG Leadership Conference a few days prior to their departure for Ukraine. They were able to immediately see first-hand the conditions that were described by Yavorivsky, Horbal, Dudko, conference speakers from Ukraine. The country, the people, look tired, run-down, demoralized, worn-out. In Kiev, we all heard the underlying hum of fear of Chernobyl; hotel staff, taxi drivers, family members would rub their face when asked and tell of a sick child, a dying city, expound on the unknown terrors of genetic and ecological disaster. Anybody who spent any time with their families soon saw the consequences of an economy in shambles: limited availability of basic consumer goods, such as food and children's socks, (forget luxury items such as wall clocks and lamps that work), prevalence of the black-market and price speculation, crummy housing, "free" (pay under the table) health care. It appears to be highly russified, largely isolated, and still filled with misinformation about the West. That's the bad news. The good news is that it is a beautiful country, with beautiful cities, generous, intelligent, and kind people who insist on prevailing. And in each place we went, just beneath the surface, for those who cared to look, there exists a powerful urge for change: a revival of Ukrainian consciousness, an economic and political overhaul, hunger for contact with the West, a sense of determi-

nation and focused commitment that we rarely see here.

Neither 25 words nor twenty-five hundred can properly capture all that took place. The officially planned itinerary was packed enough with sightseeing, official meetings, cultural events and side trips. And still, most tour members managed to squeeze in meetings with political leaders and activists, visits with family members, unexpected events with new-found friends. For the next several issues, tour members will be writing about general experiences, as well as highlights from their trip. This issue Yaro Bihun, Adrian Karmazyn and Marta Zielyk are our contributors.

Lest we forget, behind all GREAT EVENTS is a GREAT PLAN. So on behalf of all the "TWG trippers", deep thanks to Zoya Hayuk of Four Seasons Travel and Laryssa Chopivsky, TWG Special Events Director, for planning the trip, arranging the meetings, and for coming through with that extra edge of insistence and persistence that made this trip unique.

Glasnost?

TWG President Yaro Bihun got a taste of *glasnost* as soon as he stepped off the plane in Moscow and tried to get a box of literature through Soviet customs. The box contained both books intended as gifts for organizations and individuals and those intended to help Ukrainians fill in some of the "blank spots" in their history and literature.

The customs officials must not have heard of *glasnost* and democratization. After about an hour's worth of perusal and pretending that they could read Ukrainian and English, they let most of the items in the box go through, holding back "for further study," however, such items as issues of the latest Ukrainian Weekly, Sucasnist magazine, Robert Conquest's Harvest of Sorrow in Russian, a video of "Harvest of Despair", and a few other books.

The confiscated materials were returned on demand as the group was leaving the Soviet Union. Then the customs officials cheerfully bid the group farewell, wished them a safe flight in the friendly skies of Aeroflot and hoped that they all would "have a nice day!"

TWG MEETINGS

The most frequently-used verb throughout our trip to Ukraine was "meet" as in "I'm going to meet my family for the first time!" "I can't believe that we just met Ivan Kandyba..." "I promised to meet with the people from Kobza." "Remember. Meeting at 3pm, Writer's Union." Though the trip was designed to have us meet professional counterparts, all sorts of other meetings, with new-found friends, with informal groups, with family members quickly filled our itinerary as well.

Among the first official meetings that TWG had planned was with representatives of the Ukrainian Writer's Union and of *Rukh*, the Ukrainian reform movement, which has offices in the Writer's Union building. Our 3-hour discussion centered on how the Ukrainian diaspora can assist Ukraine during this changing period of *hlanist* and *perebudova*. A great deal of interest was expressed in the need to help Ukraine solve its immense ecological problems, of which Chernobyl is only the best known.

Possible cooperative ventures in various areas, especially in publishing, were mentioned, although more concrete discussions in these areas were held in the same room a few weeks earlier during a similar meeting with the Ukrainian group of Canadian and American business persons.

The Writers Union representation at the meeting, which was organized by Boris Tymoshenko, included Yuriy Mushketyk, whom the TWG group cheered a week later when he spoke in favor of making Ukrainian the official language in Ukraine during televised debates on the issue. Victor Lishchevsky *Rukh's* secretary for external relations, presented that organization's views during the discussion, which included a surprise guest—Evhen Sverstiuk, the literary critic and former political prisoner.

The visiting TWG group also met with representatives from the Ukraina Society, which had assisted in setting up professional contacts and cultural events. The meeting was short and uncomfortably stiff, possibly due to the presence of a large bust of Lenin at the head of the meeting table.

The two-day stop in Odessa had two official meetings scheduled, and one unofficial meeting organized at the last minute. The scheduled formal meetings included a session at the USA-USSR Friendship Society on the first day, and a meeting at the Odessa City Council on the second day. The unofficial meeting was with leaders of fledgeling Ukrainian organizations in Odessa.

Both of the official meetings underscored the sorry state of the Ukrainian language in the Odessa region. The head of the Friendship Society, Ivan Borshch, who admitted to being Ukrainian, tried but could not address the TWG group in that language. At the request of the group, his remarks, spoken in Russian were translated into Ukrainian. However, TWG president Bihun's remarks in Ukrainian were not translated into Russian. The session then broke into smaller professional group discussions, and concluded with a cultural program.

Present in the audience at the meeting with the Friendship Society were representatives of a number of unofficial Ukrainian groups in Odessa—the Ukrainian Language Society and others, which are united in what is called the Southern Society (*Pivdenna Hromada*). While still in Kiev, TWG learned that these organizations were being repressed in Odessa and that they had been thrown out of their office just a few weeks earlier. TWG president Yaro Bihun raised this issue during his remarks at the Friendship Society and set up a private meeting with the *Hromada* leadership for that evening. While most of the TWG group was attending a ballet, a small TWG delegation met with the Ukrainian activists in a cafe, where they discussed the *Hromada's* work, its problems, and possible ways that Ukrainians in the U.S., and especially in Baltimore, which is Odessa's sister-city, can help them.

The Odessa City Council meeting the next day was similar to the one at the Friendship Society in that the hosts admitted to being Ukrainian but could not express themselves in that language. As a result, almost the entire session was spent discussing the language issue and the lack of Ukrainian-language schools in Odessa. The plight of the *Pivdenna Hromada* was also raised at this meeting, which was held in the plush-red city council chamber, with—again—a large white bust of Lenin looking on.

Although the TWG group was getting the red-carpet treatment everywhere it went (including bread and salt at the Odessa airport), Lviv was really waiting for the group. Upon arrival, TWG was greeted by writer and Peoples' Deputy Rostyslav Bratun. Cultural Fund President Emmanuel Misko, as well as the leaders of *Tovarystvo Leva* and other groups. They augmented our official Intourist guides with what they felt were more appropriate guides and made sure the group went to see the best that Lviv had to offer.

One of the most important events for TWG in Lviv was the presentation ceremony at the Cultural Fund building and the placing of flowers, now a tradition in Lviv, at the spot where the statue of Taras Shevchenko will be erected.

See Meetings, page 12

COMMEMORATING THE SICHIVI STRILTSI

For the past few years popular wisdom has it that while western Ukraine is experiencing a rebirth of national consciousness, patriotic sentiments in Kiev and eastern Ukraine are still dormant. Such a blanket generalization was proven to be incorrect when on October 14, several TWG members witnessed a demonstration in honor of the *Sichovi Striltsi*, Ukrainian Riflemen who died defending their Ukrainian homeland.

TWG members learned of the demonstration in a happenstance sort of way - and as a harbinger for future such "oh by the way" situations - recognized a unique opportunity when it was in front our face. The TWG tour was leaving the statue of Volodymyr, situated on the banks of the Dni-pro, when Oksana Palijczuk, a TWG member from Baltimore and an active participant in that city's chapter of Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine, recognized dissident Oles Shevchenko on the street. She came up to him, introduced herself, explained that she recognized him from photos that she had received through her AHRU work. Mr. Shevchenko, slightly taken aback at first by being suddenly being surrounded by tourists from the States, quickly got over his surprise and informed us of the planned demonstration that afternoon and asked us to attend and see first-hand what Ukrainian activists were trying to accomplish in Kiev.

Though the number of participants in this demonstration was nowhere near the record-breaking crowds which gather in Lviv, there were approximately 2,000 people, evenly divided between young and old. The demonstrators gathered on the site of unmarked graves of *Sichovi Striltsi*, a hilltop overlooking Kiev and the Dni-pro, behind St. Andrew's Cathedral, to hear a *panakhyda* and several speeches, including greetings from activists in Lviv. Several of the TWG members were befriended by a group of students from Kiev University, who showed them the ropes in "demonstration etiquette" - how to get past the sentries, who are on the lookout for militia activity, in order to take photographs; how to spot a provocateur; where to stand to keep from getting crushed.

Even though there was a very strong militia presence, the officers kept out of sight and did not interfere with the event. There was a high sensitivity in the crowd about possible violence, since two weeks earlier, on October 1, militia forcefully broke up a demonstration in Lviv. One lone militia man, speaking into a megaphone above the speeches, ordered the crowd "to disperse out of concern for their well-being and safety." He was derided by several participants and then promptly ignored.

Those of us from TWG who witnessed the demonstration were taken aback by the strong show of Ukrainian nationalism, by the feeling of intensity in the crowd, by the unabashed waving of blue and yellow flags, by the strongly critical tone of the speeches directed at Moscow, such as the words of well-known dissident Oles Shevchenko who spoke of the countless repressions the Ukrainian people have endured during seven decades of Soviet domination.

As several TWG members left the demonstration, the plea of one young student was left ringing in our ears — "Please don't forget about us..." — Marta Zielyk

THE LIGHTS OFF BROADWAY...

Envision if you will, an opera-burlesque, complete with tall, handsome, bare-chested *kozaky*. A revolving stage. Show-stopping tunes. Sabre-fights. Energetic dancing. Dramatic dialogue. 42nd and Broadway? Nahhh... Ivan Franko Square, #3, Kiev, front row at the Ivan Franko Ukrainian Drama Theater, one of the most prominent theaters in Ukraine.

The talented group of actors, who double as singers, dancers, acrobats and even fencers, put on a Broadway-style version of Ivan Kotlyarevsky's "*Eneyida*." A dramatic poem written in 1798, the publication of "*Eneyida*" signaled a new era in modern Ukrainian literature. This greatest work of Kotlyarevsky's, written (and performed for us) in vernacular Ukrainian is a travesty of Virgil's "Aeneid". Whereas Virgil's original was based on the adventures of Aeneas and a band of Trojan warriors, after the fall of Troy - Kotlyarevsky's plot was based on the adventures of Ukrainian "warriors" - the *kozaky*.

We were so captivated by that evening's production of "*Eneyida*" that, at the invitation of the actors, many of us returned the next evening when we were treated to an interesting adaptation of Gogol's surrealistic story "*Risdivyana Nich*" or "Christmas Eve."

Although both the plays that we saw were based on Ukrainian national culture, the repertoire of the Ivan Franko Theater includes plays by Volodymyr Vynnychenko and Mykola Kulish, as well as works by modern European dramatists. The varied repertoire is performed in both Ukrainian and Russian.

So when next in Kiev, treat yourself to a performance at the Ivan Franko Theater. But then again, these performers are so good that you could wait until they come to Broadway... — Marta Zielyk

THE TRUSTEESHIP OF IVAN HONCHAR

Museums - beautiful buildings in which beautiful objects are displayed in well-lit rooms, artifacts carefully placed in individual cases. Right? Wrong! Sometimes, as in the case of Ivan Makarovych Honchar's museum, the "museum" consists of two small, cramped, poorly-lit rooms, which double as his living quarters, where an overwhelming number of artifacts are displayed from floor to ceiling, stacked under tables, cover all walls. The collection is unusual and impressive, as is Ivan Honchar himself: a slight but steely and determined 79-year-old sculptor from Kiev, who has been an avid and conscientious collector of Ukrainian historical and ethnographic items.

In 1960, when even the slightest hint of Ukrainian sentiment was condemned as "bourgeois nationalism," and Ukrainian handcrafts and folk art were considered to be "backwards and provincial," Ivan Honchar set up a museum in his private apartment in order to exhibit the more than 3,000 artifacts of Ukrainian ethnography (icons, embroideries, ceramics, Easter eggs, sculptures, items of clothing, tools, books) that he had collected. Most of the collection was gathered by Honchar himself, as he travelled throughout Ukraine. At present, the collection is estimated to be close to 10,000 artifacts. He is compiling a "book", currently 18 handwritten volumes, which meticulously identifies and describes objects in his collection.

For his efforts to preserve these examples of rapidly disappearing ethnographic items, Honchar was publicly ostracized, harassed, and his own artistic efforts as sculptor and painter were repressed. For 30 years he withstood all pressure, and now is being vindicated. The value of his extraordinary collection has been recognized, and efforts are underway to construct a "real" museum for him.

No longer will visitors, such as the 20 lucky TWG members who were invited to visit Ivan Honchar at his museum/home, have to watch their every step lest they trod on a 17th century Ukrainian rug, or clumsily brush against the edges of richly embroidered *rusnyky*, circa 1800, which hang overlapping on the walls of the tiny stairwell. They won't have to worry about absentmindedly tripping over a stack of ceramic bowls. More than three people at a time will be able to view Ivan Honchar's collection of treasures in order to more fully appreciate the magnitude of this one man's personal vision. — Marta Zielyk

STUDENT REVIVAL

Tovarystvo Leva (Lviv), *Studentske Bratstvo* (Lviv), *Hromada* (Kiev), *Vilna Khvyliia* (Odessa), SNUM (Lviv), and *Plast* (Lviv) are a few examples of the independent youth and student groups which have recently formed or been renewed in Ukraine. Their common goals include: a revival of Ukrainian culture and language among Ukraine's youth, democratization of student life, the protection of student's rights, and greatly expanded contacts with Ukrainians in the West. The student groups are organizing together under an umbrella group called the Ukrainian Student Union. The first meeting of the umbrella organization took place in Lviv in early October. The next meeting is scheduled for early December in Kiev.

Many of the students, including one from Kiev University whom TWG members met during our meeting with representatives from the Ukrainian Writer's Union and *Rukh*, are being harassed, and even dismissed from the university, for speaking exclusively in Ukrainian, or for their participation in "nationalistic" activities. Though this is not the "official" explanation offered for their expulsion, the official reasons are blatantly bogus and trumped-up.

At this same meeting, Yevhen Sverstiuk, in his comments to our group, made the request that the Ukrainian diaspora seriously consider the issue of bringing over talented and ambitious students to be educated at universities in the West. He considers this to be one of the top priorities in relations with the Ukrainian communities in North America and Europe. Intellectual curiosity, exposure to new and varied ideas, the study of history, especially Ukrainian history - the necessary conditions for the development of a "brain trust" for a successful future for Ukraine - are all discouraged by the Soviet system of education. A similar idea was echoed several weeks later by Professor Bohdan Krawchenko, Director of the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies, who, during his presentation in Washington, pointed to the need of training a new cadre of scholars in Ukraine.

Many youth leaders in Ukraine had interesting and valuable proposals concerning student exchanges, journalist exchanges, joint information centers, joint summer camps and other projects of cooperation with the diaspora and expressed a desire to connect with Ukrainian student clubs and organizations in the West. We left with the promise to forward names of student groups in the United States and Canada. — Adrian Karmazyn

UKRAINE'S MASS MEDIA ENVIRONMENT

Russian. Russian. Russian. After nearly five years of glasnost under Gorbachev, Ukraine's mass media environment remains overwhelmingly Russian. To be fair, Ukraine's "Great Russifier" - First Secretary Vladimir Scherbytsky - was replaced less than a month before our visit, and his successor Ivashko has been, at least tacitly, supportive of efforts to revive the Ukrainian language. For example, he spoke in Ukrainian at the Ukrainian Communist Party Plenum, which was being broadcast on television during our second week there, something Scherbytsky never did.

My impressions of Ukraine's media environment are based on casual observations, formed within an all too short two-week visit. But just by flipping through the stations on the radio and on TV, it became immediately obvious that Russian-language programming predominated, offering more hours and more variety than Ukrainian-language programming. Furthermore, Ukraine's supposedly Ukrainian-language stations often carried Russian-language programming. For example, between 9pm and 10pm, Ukrainian TV carries the Russian-language evening newscast from Moscow. This means that throughout Ukraine, there is no Ukrainian-language television programming during this "prime time" hour.

The awkward status of the Ukrainian language and culture in Ukraine is perhaps best exemplified by a phenomenon I witnessed while viewing "Aktualna kamera," an evening current events show on Ukrainian-language television. During one segment, the interviewer posed a question in Ukrainian, and the interviewee, a factory official, gave a rather long-winded reply in Russian. No Ukrainian-language translation or summary was provided. Such is the linguistic norm in Ukraine's media vis-a-vis the relationship between the Russian and the Ukrainian languages.

There were some bright spots, however, on the broadcast media front, including a *Ne Zhurys* (cabaret-troupe "Don't Worry") television special (something akin to the old "The Monkees" TV series), a television program about the *Chervona Ruta* Music Festival and some cute Ukrainian-language cartoons for children.

In cinema and in the periodical press, finding things Ukrainian is also a major problem. The majority of books in the bookstores, even in Lviv, are Russian-language. Throughout our stay in both Kiev and Lviv, I was unable to find a single person in either city who could name a Ukrainian-language movie playing in town. Similar experiences were had by others on the tour, who, at various

times, simply wanted to "go to the movies" and asked family and friends for suggestions. There were no Ukrainian-language films to suggest. At the newspaper kiosks, except for on one occasion in which I found the Ukrainian-language *Robitnycha hazeta*, there were no Ukrainian papers.

Although Gorbachev's policy of glasnost has radically expanded the range of topics discussed in the press, the fact is that most of the culturally progressive periodicals in Ukraine, such as *Literaturna Ukraina*, the newspaper of the Ukrainian Writer's Union, are not widely available. This creates a severe limitation on the speed and depth with which the Ukrainianization process being promoted by the Ukrainian intelligentsia will be achieved. At one establishment in Lviv, the popular journal "Pamiatky Ukrainy" (Treasures of Ukraine) is "reserved" (i.e. hidden in the backroom in a locked cabinet) for "special customers" (i.e. good friends, or those who are willing to pay extra or trade something for a copy). Because of limited distribution and small print runs, most of Ukraine is still not getting the "real story" or only half the story when it comes to many important political and cultural issues.

In Odessa, several TWG members (Irene Jarosewich, George Masiuk, Marta Zielyk and I) crammed in a last-minute visit to a Ukrainian-language radio station. We were the guests of one of the station's younger correspondents, who had a western-oriented concept of the role and responsibility of a journalist in society. The same could not be said of her bosses, who insisted on talking with us, even though we stated that we had a very limited amount of time. As the four of us sat down in a row in front of the four of them, they asked each of us what we did. After I replied that I was a correspondent for Voice of America, they asked me what is VOA's editorial position as far as *Rukh* (Ukraine's Popular Front movement) was concerned. My reply was that as a news bureau, we take no editorial position, but rather have a responsibility to report and inform about significant phenomenon, which includes *Rukh*. Though they nodded, it was obvious that they didn't believe my answer at all. An eerie feeling came over me. Were these fellow journalists that we were talking to? Presumably, at least a few were. In these times of *glasnost* just how effectively would they be able to adapt to journalistic norms that weren't dictated by a higher authority? Would they ever stop the "self-editing" they all practice? Would long-silenced reporters now be willing to report?

At the time of our visit, Ukraine's "legal" press was entirely government-run, i.e. government-controlled. Print runs of newspapers, magazines, publications are not determined by the principles of supply and demand, rather by

See Media, page 10

NOTES ON MEMBERS

For several months this fall, TWG member Pete Fedynsky was in the Soviet Union as a guide for a United States Information Agency exhibit on children's books: "Give Us Books; Give Us Wings." The USIA exhibit arrived in Lviv the day the TWG tour was leaving. TWG tour members Daria Stec and Irene Jarosewich, who stayed on in Lviv past the tour dates, saw the USIA exhibit, which was a resounding success. Twenty three thousand visitors saw the exhibit in the ten days that it was in Lviv. Irene even sat down on the floor with some children and translated a few of her childhood English-language favorites, such as Pippi Longstocking and Madeline in Paris, into Ukrainian. On exhibit were English-language children's classic, as well as Ukrainian-language books printed in America. Below is a postcard TWG received from Pete upon our return to the United States:

Lviv, November 6

Dear TWG:

I wish I could have travelled with the organization to Ukraine and that everybody could have joined me at the USIA children's book exhibit in Lviv. We could have benefitted from each other's experience.

I am certain that we all noticed the wave of legitimate Ukrainian pride and patriotism sweeping western Ukraine.

Although our paths crossed briefly in the Dniester Hotel, I was fortunate enough to stay on in Lviv to witness the day the first Ukrainian Catholic liturgy was openly celebrated here since 1946, to see the solemn commemoration of the 1918 November 1st uprising and to hear televised debates on the establishment of Ukrainian as the state language of Ukraine.

Ukrainians here welcomed me into their homes, schools and institutions, making it eminently clear that Ukraine is seeking ties with the rest of the world. It's an exciting time to be here, but complex problems remain to be solved and caution hovers in the air.

Yours, Pete Fedynsky

Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak Wins the Barbara Heldt Prize

The Association of Women in Slavic Studies awarded its Barbara Heldt Prize to Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak, for her recent book, Feminists Despite Themselves. The presentation was made November 3 in Chicago during the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. Martha's work was judged "a truly pioneering way of looking at the history of women," "a book about a national group that has been totally overlooked" by historians. It was also recognized for its archival base, which has not been used in earlier works in this field.

Overheard in Ukraine...

"Yeh, I only sent one postcard. That was to C&P Telephone. I wrote them 'wish you were here'."

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Every month, the TWG Membership Director sends out dozens of renewal notices. To help defray the cost of postage and printing and to save some time, you can help out by sending in your renewal check before your expiration date. Each TWG mailing label, including the one on this copy of TWG News, has a membership expiration date (month and year) printed in the upper right hand corner. Please check your date and send in your renewal early. Your membership will automatically be extended for a year past your current expiration date. Please send checks to: TWG, Attn: Membership Director, PO Box 11248, Washington, DC 20008. Thank you!

NEW MEMBERS

Full:

Diana Kurylko - Washington DC
Ihor Procinsky - Oakton, VA
Wolodymyr Sulzynsky - Alexandria, VA

Associate:

Tamara Denysenko - Rochester, NY
Lionel Ivashiv - Brookline, MA
Anna Iwanok - Minneapolis, MN
Ulana Leskiw - New York, NY
Joan Zacharko - Philadelphia, PA
Marie Zacharko - New Milford, CT
Maria Zmurkevych - Philadelphia, PA

TWG SHOP

* *Russian Centralism and Ukrainian Autonomy: Imperial Absorption of the Hetmanate, 1760s-1830s*, by TWG member Zenon Kohut, Ph.D., Harvard University Press, \$20; \$2.50 handling

* *Feminists Despite Themselves: Women in Ukrainian Community Life, 1884-1939*, by TWG member Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak, Ph.D., Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, \$30; \$2.50 handling

* *Ukraine: A History*, by Orest Subtelny, Ph.D., University of Toronto Press, \$50; \$2.50 handling

* Videotape of 1987 Shevchenko concert at Lviv Opera House—proceeds to Cultural Fund in Lviv, \$24.95, \$2.50 handling. No TWG member discount.

* Videotape of "Muted Bells," distributed by the Ukrainian Museum in Cleveland; \$25, \$2.50 handling. No TWG member discount.

* *A Thousand Years of Christianity in Ukraine: An Encyclopedic Chronology*, compiled and edited by Osyp Zinkewych and Andrew Sorokowski, et al. Lists Ukrainian metropolitans, bishops and rulers (princes, hetmans, etc.) for the past 1,000 years. Features compilations of Ukrainian churches, many destroyed in this century. 312 pp., 428 photos/illustrations, 80 in color. Published by Smolokyp and National Millennium Committee, \$50; \$2.50 handling.

* Cassette tape of Oleh Krysa, virtuoso violinist from Ukraine, playing works by Brahms, Lyatoshynsky, Sibelius, Paganini and Schnittke, \$12. No TWG member discount.

* Cassette tape of Alexander Slobodyanik, acclaimed concert pianist from Ukraine, performing Chopin and Lyatoshynsky, \$12. No TWG member discount.

NEW ITEMS:

Cassette tapes - \$9/each; 3/\$24:

* Darka and Slavko - Volume II

* Cherymshyna - Volumes I, II and III

* Kvitka - "Two Colors"

* Vatra - Volume I and II

* Bortnianski - "For the Child"

Please send checks to: TWG P.O. Box 11248, Washington DC 20008. Unless otherwise stated, please add \$1 for handling. Except where noted, TWG members get a 10% discount.

Ukraine's Mass Media

From Media, page 8

political goals and technical constraints. This was reinforced for us by our visit to the *Mystetstvo* publishing house in Kiev. Though *Mystetstvo* is a government-approved, Ukrainian-language publisher of books on culture, it must nonetheless contend with a number of obstacles. The enforced secondary status of the Ukrainian language, the chronic shortage of good paper, good film, good equipment all contribute to the limited number of publications and small print runs.

Cooperatives and unofficial or informal organizations (*neformaly*) are not allowed to publish. However, few are waiting for official permission. Though they also suffer from obstacles such as lack of money, lack of ink, lack of presses and newsprint, unofficial publications are nonetheless being established. In Lviv, *Tovaristvo Leva*, *Studentske Bratstvo* (Student's Society) and the local branch of *Rukh* are all publishing and distributing their own periodicals, in spite of official prohibitions. The government is coming around, albeit sluggishly, on allowing officially registered *neformaly* such as *Rukh* and the Ukrainian Language Society (*Tovarystvo Ukrainskoye Movu*) to publish periodicals. In Lviv, TUM recently released a periodical titled "*Prosvita*" and the first issue of *Rukh's* national newspaper is due out in January, both apparently being done with government approval.

As we left Ukraine in late October, one of the key topics being discussed at the Ukrainian Communist Party Plenum was whether or not Ukrainian should be the official language of the Ukrainian Republic. On the surface of it, an absurd question. But as we viewed the proceedings on TV, the majority of representatives from the various districts of Ukraine spoke against making Ukrainian the official language. We watched with anger, confusion and disbelief. The arguments against Ukrainian were strong, even vitriolic. Though the plenum finally concluded with a decision to allow Ukrainian to be an official language, joint with Russian, to be phased in over the next several years, we left with the distinct impression that the inroad of "russification" in Ukraine has been deep.

- Adrian Karmazyn



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UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY DINNER
ORGANIZED BY

UKRAINIAN-AMERICAN OFFICERS OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

You are invited to attend the seventh annual dinner organized by Ukrainian-America U.S. military officers to commemorate the 72nd Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the Ukrainian nation in Kiev on January 22, 1918.

The dinner will be held on Thursday, January 25, 1990 at the Officers' Club, Fort McNair, 4th and P Streets, SW, Washington, DC Cocktails will be served at 6 pm with dinner to follow at 7:15. The cost is \$22.50 per person. Reservations must be received by the 19th of January, 1990.

Please join us in commemorating Ukrainian Independence Day.

Thursday, January 25, 1990
Ft. Lesley McNair Officers' Club
Washington, D.C.

For further information, call Captain Hlib Taran 227-2341 (work) 243-8872 (home) or Lydia Chopivsky 955-3990 (work) 333-6693 (home)

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Checks should be made out to Ukrainian-American Military Officers and mailed to:

Ukrainian-American Military Officers
P.O. Box 9563
Arlington, Virginia 22209

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Military personnel are requested to wear the appropriate dress uniform.

TWG Meetings

From **Meetings**, page 5

The presentation of the video equipment—at a ceremony that included many speeches, songs and exchanges of gifts—was the culmination of a project initiated and run by TWG Events Director Orysia Pylyshenko, who, regrettably was not there.

In 1987, Orysia returned to Washington after 6 months of study at Lviv University. She brought back a video cassette of a concert, which had been held in the beautiful (and recently renovated) Lviv Opera House. The concert was a fundraiser to collect monies for a Shevchenko monument to finally be built in Lviv. Orysia suggested that TWG could have Ukrainian Americans helping the fundraising by buying copies of the concert video and the collected funds would be sent to the Cultural Fund, which was initiator of the project for the statue.

A year later, it was decided that since the Shevchenko Statue fundraising effort in Ukraine had already raised enough money to erect the monument, TWG would give the Cultural Fund and its constituent organizations electronic equipment—a video camera, VCRs and blank cassettes. Future deliveries of additional equipment are planned.

The ceremony included greetings and speeches by the famed composer Mykola Kolessa, who had conducted parts of the televised concert. Misko, Bratun, Bihun, TWG Special Projects Director Larissa Chopivsky, Ihor Kudyn, who heads the Society for the Preservation of Cultural and Historical Monuments, and others. Two ensembles from *Tovarystvo Leva*, a women's bandurist trio and a chorus, performed Ukrainian songs.

Following the ceremony, a TWG delegation went to the future site of the Shevchenko monument, which has become a Mecca and Hyde Park for the Ukrainian community in Lviv. Day and night, the area surrounding the site is crowded with people who come to pay their respects to Shevchenko and to discuss the important issues of the day.

The TWG delegation had a difficult time getting through the crowd that was gathered around the site in order to place flowers by the "rock," as it is called. A ceremony was being held there for a newlywed couple, a common practice now. As the TWG delegation made its way to the front, with the help of people who shouted, "Let them through; they're from America," the pastor who had conducted the ceremony with the newlyweds, asked the visitors where they were from and then proceeded to speak for 5 minutes in TWG's behalf - about how these Ukrainian

Americans came to Lviv to pay homage to Shevchenko and support Ukraine in its struggle for independence. As the TWG delegation retreated, individual members were surrounded by small groups of local people who wanted to share a few minutes of our time.

While in Lviv, TWG also had a business meeting with *Tovarystvo Leva*, which is seeking to initiate exchange programs—for youth, students, and professionals—with Ukrainians in the U.S., and Yaro Bihun had a lengthy discussion about the current state of affairs with Rostyslav Bratun.

Ukrainians in Canada

From **Krawchenko**, page 1

development of many of its programs. This assistance is a key factor in the continued growth of Ukrainian cultural and academic institutions.

An important component of this development of Canadian Ukrainian identity is the existence of bilingual education in Alberta's public schools from kindergarten through the sixth grade. Approximately 3,000 Canadian children of Ukrainian descent participate in a program in which 50% of their time in school is taught in Ukrainian. Most of the parents of these children do not speak Ukrainian themselves, and as a result, there exists a "reverse process" of Ukrainianization of parents by their children. The parents in turn begin to learn the language, become involved in community life and express interest in Ukrainian history and culture. There are more requests to place children than spaces available in these bilingual programs. The children from these programs test higher on academic achievement tests, and this, according to Krawchenko, is a powerful draw for parents.

Other projects described by Professor Krawchenko include the Ukrainian Cultural Village, a \$35 million dollar open air museum funded by the government of Alberta province, which receives over 100,000 visitors annually, and the University of Alberta's Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, which arguably, is the most dynamic and productive Ukrainian research and academic institute in the West.

Among its achievements, CIUS can include the publication of over 70 books on topics related to Ukrainians and Ukraine; an academic journal; the *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, the first two volumes of which have already been published, the next three due by 1993; the Ukrainian Language Education Center, which researches problems of Ukrainian language education and creates innovative programs for teaching Ukrainian to bilingual children; a \$3 million dollar Center for Ukrainian Historical Research.

See **Krawchenko**, page 13

TWG Elections

From Annual Meeting, page 1

Highlights from the reports of the events and special projects directors' support this claim:

— last October, TWG held a reception in conjunction with the Millennium celebrations in Washington, which was attended by over 300 guests from the United States and Canada; concerts by world class musicians Oleh Krysa and Alexander Slobodyanik; presentations by TWG fellowship recipients Adrian Karmazyn and Peter Melnycky; reception hosting the recipients of the Antonovych Foundation Awards; discussions by Reverend Vasyl Romaniuk and Reverend Andrij Chirovsky; reports by "peace walkers" in Ukraine — Darian Diachok, Adrian Kerod and Bozhena Olshaniivsky; presentations by Helsinki Commission staffers Orest Deychakivsky, John Finnerty and Ron McNamara about their meetings in Moscow with Ukrainian dissidents and Soviet officials; exchange of views by students who had visited Ukraine —

Maya Hayuk, Tania and Dora Chomiak, Anastasia Stith and Danylo Schmorhun. There was an author's night featuring Dr. Zenon Kohut and Dr. Orest Subtelny. And we had what TWG President Bihun characterized as tsunami of visitors from Ukraine to give TWG members first-hand account of *perebudova*: Vitali Korotych, Ivan Dzyuba, Mykola Zhulynsky, Raisa Ivanchenko, Ihor Rymaruk, Les Tanyuk, Nelli Kormienko, Pavlo Movchan, the businessmen of Biznex.

In September of this year we held Leadership Conference III, which —all at the meeting agreed — surpassed every expectation. And finally, the first TWG trip to Ukraine.

The treasurer's report prepared by Helen Chaikovsky showed that the TWG general fund and the Fellowship Fund are in the black. The auditing committee reported that the books are in an excellent shape.

Public relations director Marta Zielyk reported high placement of articles about TWG events in Ukrainian community press and paid special tribute to Maria Rudensky, TWG News editor for the past four years, who has relinquished this post in favor of becoming a junior diplomat and heading for Haiti.

Membership Director Andrew Rylyk, who also submitted his last report before heading to Geneva to supply statistical ammunition for U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, showed that TWG membership increased by 15% during the year and now numbers 350 persons.

The auditing committee presented certificates of appreciation to all board members. And Yaro Bihun made a spe-

cial presentation to Orysia Pylyshenko: a glass sculpture of a lion, the symbol of the city of Lviv. TWG received this gift from *Tovarystvo Leva* as a "thank you" for the video equipment which TWG members delivered while in Lviv. The equipment had been purchased with proceeds from the sale of video tapes of a 1987 Lviv concert, a project conceived and completely managed by Orysia. To properly end year number five, and catch their breath before beginning year six, the old and new board of directors and TWG members in attendance closed the evening with dinner at a TWG favorite, Old Europe. - R.L. Chomiak

Ukrainians in Canada

From Krawchenko, page 12

The bilingual teaching program has attracted the attention of both German and Japanese communities in Canada, which plan to buy the copyright to this method.

Taking advantage of the current changes in Ukraine, CIUS has also been extremely active in assisting and initiating contacts with academics in Ukraine. It has established student exchanges with the University of Lviv, "semester abroad" Ukrainian language study courses in Lviv, a program which invites scholars from Ukraine to lecture at Canadian universities, as well as general youth, teacher and library/research exchanges. A project in the planning stages is a scholarship program for students from Ukraine to study in Canada.

Professor Krawchenko stressed the importance, even urgency, of teaching a new cadre of scholars in Ukraine. The humanities disciplines such as history, language, literature have suffered greatly under the Soviet system. The libraries and research facilities are poorly maintained and staffed, scholars do not know how to use archives, the development of entire academic disciplines has been stifled. Professor Krawchenko also stressed the importance of sending literature to academic institutions in Ukraine and appealed to the audience to send books to CIUS, which in turn will send the books to Ukraine.

As the session ended, Professor Krawchenko expressed the hope that Ukrainian communities in both America and Canada begin to develop stronger ties, doing a sort of exchange program within North America. We seem to know more about what Ukrainians in Ukraine are doing, than about that which Ukrainians across the border are up to.

— Orest Deychakivsky

Ukrainian New Year's Traditions

From New Year's, page 3

On the feast of *Malanka*, as on Christmas Eve, or *Sviat Vechir*, people believed that farm animals could talk and would tell God about how they had been treated by their masters. This was also the night to ask for any special favors, as it was believed that the heavens opened up and all the prayers received would be answered.

Celebrations continued into the next day, the feast of St. Vasyi. young children, especially boys, would go from house to house, scattering handfuls of grain into the homes. They would receive food and small gifts for their visits. It was believed that a visit from children at the beginning of a new year assured happiness throughout the remaining 364 days.

Fortunetelling also continued on New Year's Day. But more often than not, it had to do with farming than with love and marriage. Farmers believed that the way in which a candle burned on New Year's day foretold how crops would grow. If the wick of the candle was bent over, the farmer's fields would flourish and yield abundant crops. If the wick stood straight, it was a sign of a late and meager harvest.

Ukrainians also believed that on New Year's day they could acquire protection from evil spirits for themselves and their households. They would gather up all the hay and straw left over from Christmas and burn it in the orchard. The resulting smoke was believed to have protective powers for the orchard and garden. People would also jump through the flames and smoke to get protection for themselves against evil. (Well, my crops are doing just fine thank you..but to get protection from such modern-day evil spirits as the IRS, credit card bills, airport traffic jams — I'll try anything!)

The cycle of celebrations ends with the *Vodokhrishcha* (feast of Jordan) on January 19, which is wholly Christian in character. On the eve of Jordan, as on *Sviat Vechir*, a strict fast was maintained, and supper that night was prepared with no meat or dairy products. In the day, the rites of the blessing of water would be performed, usually on the banks of a frozen stream or river. A giant cross would be erected from a block of ice; afterwards, people would sprinkle their homes with holy water. In this way, their homes would remain blessed throughout the year.

— Marta Zielyk

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December

11 Monday 6:00-8:00pm

Reception honoring Congressman Steny Hoyer
 U.S. Representative, 5th District, Maryland
 Ukrainian Catholic Shrine of the Holy Family
 4250 Harewood Road
 Washington, DC
 \$25.00 - individual donations
 \$35.00 - couples
 contact: 735-1169

16 Saturday noon

St. Nicholas Day celebration for children
 Ukrainian Saturday Day School
 Colonel E. Brooke Lee Middle School
 Silver Spring, MD
 contact: Marika Jurach, (703) 765-0445
 In addition to the traditional giving of gifts to children, toys will be collected for the "Toys for Children of Chernobyl" campaign. See announcement this issue.

13 Saturday

Ukrainian New Year's MALANKA
 Indian Springs Country Club
 Layhill Road
 Silver Spring, MD
 6:30-7:30 - cocktails
 7:30-8:30 - dinner
 8:30-1am - dancing to the music of *Chervona Kalyna*
 contact: Ihor Gawdiuk - (301)622 2238

20 Saturday 6-8pm

"Fun in the Sun" without going to Florida
 Sponsored by PLAST, Washington
 Silver Spring YMCA
 9800 Hastings Drive (off of Colesville Rd)
 \$5.00 - adults/\$2.00 - "novatstvo"
 contact: Adrian Gawdiuk, 703/370-6913
 PLAST in Washington has reserved the pool at the Silver Spring YMCA and invites all to take a winter break and come to a POOL PARTY. All are welcome: young, old and in between to relax and pretend you're in Florida. Take 495 to Colesville Road/Rte 29 South. First left off of Colesville Road is Hastings. Lockers and showers available at the YMCA.

25 Thursday

Dinner in honor of 72 years of Ukrainian independence day
 Sponsored by TWG and Ukrainian American Military Officers
 Officer's Club
 Fort Lesley Jay McNair SW
 Washington, DC
 6pm - cocktails, dinner to follow
 \$22.50
 contact: Lydia Chopivsky, (202) 333-6693 (evening)
 (202) 955-3990 (day)

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THE WASHINGTON GROUP, An Association of Ukrainian-American Professionals, with members throughout the United States, offers its members an opportunity to meet and get to know each other through a variety of professional, educational, and social activities. TWG NEWS serves as a communication network for TWG members and keeps you informed of activities and information of interest to you.

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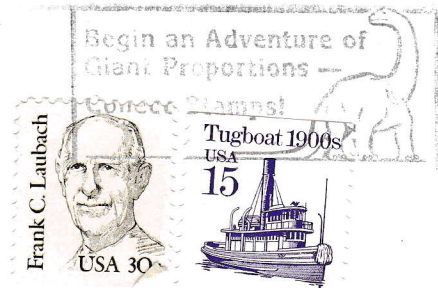
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