



TWG Members & Guests Enjoy *Dandy* Cruise "The cruise turned out to be a truly memorable event!"

by Ihor Kotlarchuk, *TWG President*

On a warm balmy evening, late last year, approximately 100 TWG members, friends and invited guests from the Embassy of Ukraine set

Among the guests, some arrived from as far as Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

sail on the luxurious cruise ship, *Dandy*. The ship left port from historic Old Town

Alexandria, Virginia, and cruised along the scenic Potomac River in Washington, DC.

Among the guests, some arrived from as far as Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

Winding its way up the Potomac, the ship took guests past the beautifully lit Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, the Kennedy Center, the elegant Harbor Place in Georgetown, and the Embassy of Ukraine, where the blue and yellow Ukrainian flag visibly flew in the breeze.

While cruising on the Potomac River, guests enjoyed meeting new people, chatting with friends, feasting on several delicious dishes, dancing to Ukrainian music and relaxing with loved ones (*see photo below and pages 8 and 9*).

The cruise turned out to be a truly memorable event. ■



Enjoying TWG's *Dandy* cruise ship trip on the Potomac in Washington, DC: standing (L-R) are Ihor Kotlarchuk, TWG President, George Masiuk, TWG Vice President, William Courtney, Ambassador and Ed Gay. Seated (L-R) are Laryssa Courtney, Director of TWG Cultural Fund and Martha Zielyk, TWG Board Member.

TWG Cultural Fund Presents *Harmonia* Ensemble

by Laryssa Courtney, *Dir. Cultural Fund*

On November 3, in Old Town, Alexandria, just outside Washington, DC, *Harmonia*, presented by The Washington Group Cultural Fund in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, performed a program of traditional folk music from Ukraine, Hungary, Croatia, Romania and the Slovak Republic. As everyone in the audience discovered on the beautiful autumn Sunday afternoon, the group, referred to as "a musical gem" by National Public Radio, and "obscenely talented" by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington, deserves its praise.

The *Harmonia* ensemble included five musicians and a female vocalist. Walt Mahovich, *Harmonia's* founder, who grew up listening to Hungarian and Croatian music, played the accordion, and provided illuminating introductory comments along with the spirited Slovak singer, Beata Begeniova Salak. Alexander Fedoriouk, the cymbalom phenomenon from Kolomia, Ukraine, took everyone's breath away in his solos in *Ca la Breaza*, a Romanian song, and in *Bereznianka* and *Veselo Se Divca*, variations on a Ukrainian and Rusyn dance tune.

The cymbalom is the hammered dulcimer of Eastern Europe and is a chromatic 4 1/2 octave instrument. The violinist, Marko Dreher, who as a child played with his father's gypsy orchestra and at 13 joined the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, exhibited his virtuosity in numerous songs including *Hutsul Fantasy*, a

Highlights in this Issue....

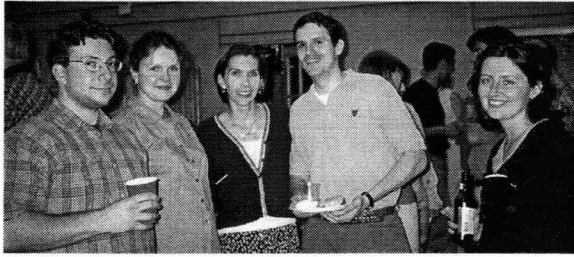
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TWG Spring Fling

Spending Time With Friends and Meeting New People

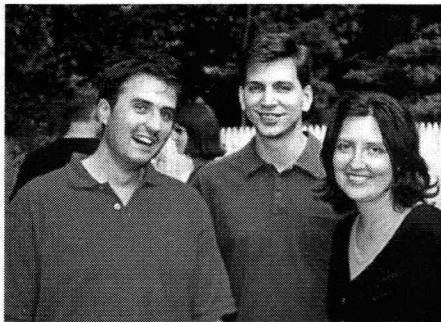


(L-R): Brian Preslopsky, Tatyana Kramskaya, Andrea and Ivan Bilaniuk, and Olena Gaponenko



(L-R): Olena Gaponenko and Zina Poletz

Learn about upcoming events. Visit TWG at www.thewashingtongroup.org



(L-R): Alexander Kirilkin, Cliff Hall and Olena Gaponenko

TWG News

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New TWG Members

by Adrian Pidlusky, *Membership Director*

Join us in welcoming the following new members:

1. **Irina Baran-Clark**, Portsmouth, VA, Pilot, Flight International, Inc.
2. **Lesya Covert**, Silver Spring, MD, Student, Johns Hopkins SAIS
3. **Anton Dobronogov**, Arlington, VA, Economist, World Bank
4. **David and Melissa Hess**, Philomont, VA, Retired
5. **Liliya Horodisky**, Philadelphia, PA, Executive Director, Disabled and Vulnerable Orphans of Ukraine
6. **Alexander Kalashnik**, Binghamton, NY, Sociology Student, Binghamton University
7. **Marko Kipa**, Arlington, Law Clerk, US Court of Federal Claims
8. **Nicholas Milanytch**, Waterford, CT, Retired
9. **Roman Ponos**, Vienna, VA, Consultant, CARANA Corp.
10. **Luba Procy**, Springfield, VA
11. **Larissa Szupak**, Washington, DC, Linguistics Student, Georgetown University
12. **Andrij V.R. Szul**, Wall Street, NY

For more TWG Member News, see page 11. ■




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Shortage and High Cost of Information Technology Talent

Ukraine's IT graduates are highly educated, creative and brilliant techies...

by Luba Cehelska, *TWG Secretary*

Despite dot com layoffs, there is still a significant Information Technology (IT) labor shortage in the US. According to the May 2002 findings of the Information Technology Association of America [ITAA], "hiring managers estimate that they will attempt to fill 1.1 million positions in the next 12 months, up 27 percent over the level measured last year. Of this total, almost 600,000 will go unfilled due to a lack of qualified workers..... Companies employ more programmers than any other type of IT worker...."

Venture capital funding is now in short supply after the dot coms "bombed," and IT companies are closely scrutinizing costs, tightening their belts to produce the profits expected by investors. Companies looking to reduce high software programming costs are more interested than ever in finding highly skilled labor at a low cost.

IT outsourcing

Large US companies have long understood how to focus on core competencies while outsourcing IT to save costs and reduce time-to-market. Now, small- and medium-size companies are learning what the large companies have known for so long: remote software development can significantly improve a company's competitive edge. And countries around the globe have responded to this need: India is now well entrenched and continues to expand its services, having provided software development outsourcing services to countries around the globe for over two decades. The Philippines, China, Pakistan, Korea, Egypt, Ireland, to name a few, have been jumping into the fray. The newest ones on this scene are the countries from the former Soviet bloc, including Ukraine.



Pictured at the TWG-sponsored event featuring Taras Kytsmey, President of SoftServe in Lviv, Ukraine, from L-R, TWG President Ihor Kotlarchuk and TWG Secretary Luba Cehelska.

Ukrainian IT: what exists and what's needed

Taras Kytsmey, President of SoftServe in Lviv, Ukraine, discussed Ukrainian IT in an April 27, 2001 TWG program (see photo below). He indicated that Ukraine has an abundance of highly skilled and sophisticated IT professionals as a result of a long IT tradition in Ukraine.

The first computer in the former Soviet Union and, in fact, in Europe, was

"Ukraine has a new natural resource to cultivate and nurture: its IT professionals."

developed and assembled in Kyiv's Electrotechnical Institute in 1950, following which time Ukrainian IT specialists led major automation projects for the Soviet government, especially the military.

The traditionally high level of technical education developed to prepare professionals for the powerful military complex of the former Soviet Union is still in place. Graduates of computer science or applied mathematics departments of Ukrainian universities excel in the resolution of complex, large-scale technical problems. They are highly educated, creative and brilliant techies. I have personally heard numerous US IT professionals assess the skills of Ukrainian IT professionals very highly. Yet their salaries are a small fraction of those paid to their US counterparts.

See Ukraine's IT, page 7

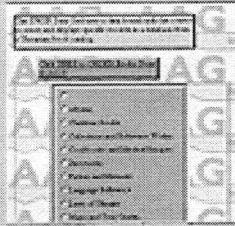
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Pictured above, L-R: Vice-Rector Natalia Lominska, Natalia Holub, Cultural Attache, Embassy of Ukraine, Rector Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk, Ihor Kotlarchuk, TWG President, Lesia Kuropas and Dr. Myron Kuropas. Full Story on page 9.

TWG's Fellowship Committee Offers Students Opportunity to Work at the Ukrainian Embassy in DC

This exciting opportunity offers the intern invaluable experience...

TWG News Staff

In cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, TWG is seeking candidates to participate in TWG's annual summer internship program at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, DC.

The project is conducted under the auspices of the TWG Fellowship Committee, to provide the Ukrainian Embassy with an intern who could serve as a research assistant to the embassy staff. This exciting opportunity offers the intern invaluable experience to learn how a foreign embassy in Washington operates on a daily basis and how the Ukrainian embassy interacts with various Washington-based individuals and institutions.

Candidates for the two-month internship should have completed at least two years of undergraduate studies and be proficient in both English and Ukrainian languages. Applicants should possess excellent oral and written communication skills and be able to demonstrate excellent computer skills, including proficiency with the Internet. Candidates should expect to assist the embassy with various issues and duties, including various administrative tasks.

All applicants must submit the following by April 15, 2003: one-page essay explaining their interest(s) in the

internship, preferred starting date (in May or June), and how their educational and personal experience would help them achieve the program's goals, copies of all academic transcripts, one (1) letter of recommendation and two (2) references with complete contact information.

To be considered for this internship, candidates must submit this information to TWG no later than April 15, 2003. The Washington Group Fellowship Committee will provide the successful candidate with a stipend of \$1,500.

Application materials should be addressed to: The Washington Group Fellowship Committee, Ukrainian Embassy Internship Project, P.O. Box 11248, Washington, DC 20008

For more information, call Michael Drabky at (703) 442-7898. E-mail inquiries can be sent to drabkym@aol.com.

Tax-free contributions to the Fund may be sent to the above address. Checks should be made out to "The Washington Group."

Thank you for your interest and continued support of The Washington Group Fellowship Fund! ■

Harmonia, from cover page

mountaineer's song from western Ukraine and the fast Hungarian czardas.

Dexterity with wooden flutes was demonstrated by Andrei Pidkivka, who graduated from the Lviv Conservatory in Ukraine and played the panflute, a folk instrument consisting of numerous pipes joined together. Conjuring up the ephemeral sounds and haunting echoes of distant mountain forests, he displayed his magical musical abilities with the sopilka, a wooden flute from Ukraine, the tylynka, also a wooden flute from the Carpathian mountains, and the dvodencivka, a double flute.

The bassist, Adam Good, who became interested in Eastern European music several years ago, provided steady backup for all the pieces. Beata Salak, evoking passion and nostalgia, the hallmarks of traditional gypsy music, transformed the Lyceum auditorium into a cabaret. She generated excitement with everyone clapping to the accelerating beat in songs from Croatia, Ciganka Sam

Mala and Eva Banke Cigane Moj, and from Slovakia sung in Romany, the Gypsy language.

Throughout the performance one sensed common threads weaving through the tapestry of the multi-ethnic repertoire. This was no surprise, given the geographic proximity of these ethnic groups (*see event photo on next page*).

The standing room only audience (over 150 people) was on its feet after the last song, demanding more. At a reception following the concert, members of the audience, which included many folk musicians and a cross section of Eastern European ethnic groups, mingled and had an opportunity to meet the artists.

The events offered a wonderful beginning for The Washington Group Cultural Fund 2002-2003 Music Series. For more information on *Harmonia*, which is based in Cleveland, visit their website at www.harmoniaband.com. ■

A Few Thoughts About Life

"Every image is a clue to the tragedy, comedy or happy destiny of one's life."

by Tetyana V. Gaponenko, *guest columnist*

Old photographs, messengers from the past, make you think about your outlook on life. Touching them makes your heart hurt as if an unbearable pain bores through your body. These little pieces of paper carry strength that cannot be controlled. They capture that critical moment by giving eternal life to the people that died ages ago. Every image is a clue to the tragedy, comedy or happy destiny of one's life.

Sounds echo people's feelings as the roaring, flooding river of pain fills their soul. Tears, like dew, dry out in the sun, but a trace of suffering will scar your heart forever. The strings of the soul tighten and a hot tear wells up, enlivening your memory. Water can clean dirt, but not lies; it can destroy your notes, but leave memory. What for? Perhaps, to give another opportunity to feel the bitter taste of sorrow, to recollect the warmth of hands of people that were a part of your life a long time ago, and to smell the scent of passed times.

A tear is a drama of every life. While the tears of some people fall into a chasm, Franz Kafka's tears fell onto

paper and were transformed into words that make one rethink the purpose of one's existence.

A hallmark of this renowned writer's craft is his autobiographic novella "Metamorphosis." It is a very special composition that struck me with its vividness of events. It feels as though everything happens in real life. Also, it particularly impressed me with its mythic quality, which creates new riddles and inspires a desire to grapple with questions, answers to which cannot be easily found.



Tetyana V. Gaponenko

In "Metamorphosis" Franz Kafka illustrated the tragedy of his existence by sharing his emotions with the reader. Loneliness becomes the main character and an inseparable part of his existence. The

See Life, page 8



Harmonia, presented by The Washington Group Cultural Fund in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, performs in Old Town, Alexandria, located just outside Washington, DC. National Public Radio called the performance "a musical gem."

Cultivating and Nurturing Ukraine's IT Talent

Ukraine's IT, from page 3

Kytsmey indicated that there are approximately 200 software development companies in Ukraine. Ninety-nine percent of the employees in these companies have a higher education, around 10% have received a second higher education, some have received special diplomas and certificates in the fields of project management, economics, personnel training. In addition, proficiency of the English language is mandatory. Ukrainian companies strive to develop their professionals by providing internal software training courses for employees, including English communications skills, software development, project management, quality assurance, and understanding Western business, among others.

Ukrainian companies are also realizing the necessity to conform to Western software development standards and to be CMM [Capability Maturity Model] and ISO9000 certified. Such credentials provide American companies with the confidence that a company has the experience of training people and getting them tested, then ultimately getting the job done properly.

While Ukrainian companies are extraordinarily proficient technically, there are obstacles they need to overcome, namely, Ukraine's image needs to improve in the world community in general. But also, companies need to learn how to work with Western business based on Western standards, must adopt Western principles of management in their organizations, must learn how to engage in marketing and sales, and must continually improve and expand their knowledge of English. All of these are formidable tasks which Ukrainians have only just begun to undertake and which require training and expertise that are in short supply in Ukraine.

Promoting Ukrainian IT in the US

The government of Ukraine has started to promote Ukrainian IT in the US. A conference held on June 18, 2002 at the Ukrainian embassy, familiarized attendees with US-Ukrainian IT success stories. Ukrainian ambassador Gryshchenko's December 17, 2002 appearance before the Northern Virginia Technology Council's International Committee represents another important step on Ukraine's part to familiarize US companies with Ukrainian talent. More needs to be done. India's success is due in part to powerful Indian

government support and promotion. Russia has iterated a three-pronged initiative, promoting software development, biotechnology research, and aeronautics/astronautics research and development for US companies.

Former Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev has met with American officials to raise funds, has lobbied US organizations (e.g. he met with Management and members of the Northern Virginia Technology Council in 2001), and has initiated a promotion campaign in the US to provide information about the availability of these Russian skills. The Gorbachev Project, currently funded by the Gorbachev Foundation, has leadership in place, along with a carefully planned strategy, to promote Russian IT in the US. Creating awareness that this talent exists, and establishing the image of the Russian IT professional as being highly skilled, is an important first step toward business success. The campaign is effective. For example, I personally receive meeting announcements promoting Russian IT from the US Department of Commerce, on a regular basis. The same needs to be done for Ukraine.

Ukrainian IT companies

Word is getting around Ukraine that outsourcing assignments can be a lucrative business. Ukrainian journalist Olha Shvahulyak-Shostak, who was in the US in April 2001 with a group of Ukrainian journalists, wrote an in-depth article about this topic in the Ukrainian-language publication *Halytski Kontrakty* (<http://www.kontrakty.com.ua/ukr/gc/nomer/2001/22/22.html>). Companies like privately-held SoftServe (www.SoftServe.com) are flourishing. SoftServe's clientele, for example, is 85% US-based, the company has a staff of about 160, including software engineers, programmers, quality assurance specialists, among others, and Management team that has learned how to work with the West after 9 years of continued expansion and profitability.

In the past, Ukraine relied on the land for sustenance, and agriculture played a key role in the economy. I'd suggest that now Ukraine has a new natural resource to cultivate and nurture: its IT professionals. By working with them, I have developed the hope that Ukraine can soon position itself as an important source of intellectual IT capital in the world. ■

Mark Your Calendars! March 30, at 1: 30 PM

Dr. Taras Kuzio, Resident fellow at the Center for Russian & East European Studies; Adjunct Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto will be our **featured guest speaker on the topic: UKRAINE: QUO VADIS AFTER KUCHMA**. This event, co-sponsored with the Shevchenko Scientific Society, will be held at the **Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, Washington, DC.**

EXTRA! EXTRA! All Aboard! More *Dandy* Cruise Ship Trip Photos...



Aboard the *Dandy*, left side (F-R): Andrij V.R. Szul and Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Dutkowych. Right side (F-R): I. Cathy Pompetti-Szul and Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Sorokowski



Captain of the ship *Dandy* poses with TWG President Ihor Kotlarchuk

Life, from page 6

author demonstrates that life is a horror. The content of the novella, however, crosses the limits of the writer's personal tragedy and enters universal realms. Is it easy to be an insect in the world, where even a human is an unprotected and a weak being? There is only one answer. It is extremely difficult to be an insect with a human heart, able to love and believe until death. How unbelievably happy Gregor Samsa becomes, when his sister plays the violin!

After reading "Metamorphosis," I understood that life is a unique instant. It is like a spark. It barely lights up before it is extinguished. Moreover, it taught me to believe that the most important thing is to preserve the genuine feelings of love and respect. Only then will one be able to solve a problem of human character and find the ability to listen to oneself, which is the key to mutual understanding with others.

Destiny is like a new crescent moon on the lonely and endless sky. It has two ends: one is joyful and fair; the other is sad and unjust. Human life is like autumn. People live from winter to winter. They are born to die, striving to find happiness and believe that they are worth it.

Happiness is a short, but wonderful part of a life. It is like a tangle of threads from a ball of yarn. A little kitten will jump and the ball will fall, leaving the thread, like destiny, in your hands at the most unexpected moment. The chords of the thread will merge into a melody that creates human feelings. It is the laughter of a child, the baritone of the wind, and the soprano of the green forest. All of a sudden the sound of music flows into the still of the night. Or perhaps another person found her colorful thread?

Tetyana V. Gaponenko is a senior at Kagarlyk Secondary School #1 in Ukraine, a straight "A" student, and an academic gold medal candidate. Tetyana is very enthusiastic about her writing, enjoys playing the piano, and is currently in the process of applying to a number of US universities. Tetyana is interested in studying International Affairs and Chemistry. Tetyana has been accepted to McDaniel College, formerly known as a Western Maryland College, in Westminster, MD. Based on her academic achievement, she was offered a \$16,000 academic merit scholarship. ■

TWG Sponsors Event Featuring Special Guest Speakers from the National University of Ostroh Academy

Today, students from Ukraine and across the world study at Ostroh Academy

by Ihor Kotlarchuk, TWG President

TWG recently invited Professors Ihor Pasichnyk (Rector) and Natalia Lominska (Vice-Rector) of the National University of Ostroh Academy to give a presentation on the history of the academy and its plans for the future. The well-attended event was held this past winter at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family.

Many in the audience showed their enthusiastic appreciation by donating to the university fund.

After a brief welcome speech by TWG

President Ihor Kotlarchuk, the honored guests were introduced to the audience by Dr. Myron Kuropas. The presentations by both Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk and Professor Natalia Lominska were exceptionally interesting and extremely informative. The National University of Ostroh Academy is located in Western Ukraine, in the city of Ostroh (Rivne Region) and located very close to the Khmelnytsky and Ternopil Regions. This area is known for its picturesque landscapes and numerous historical sites.

On April 12, 1994, the academy was once again reestablished as the Ostroh Higher Collegium pursuant to

a decree of Leonid Kravchuk, former President of Ukraine. The academy accepted its first students in 1995. Later, on June 5, 1996, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma signed a decree which renamed the institution as the National University of "Ostroh Academy" (its original name).

Today, the students from Ukraine, as well as from foreign countries, have an opportunity to receive an excellent education in a beautiful setting and a rich cultural atmosphere. The university offers a broad range of courses and provides degrees in the humanities, social and economic studies.

Among those present was Ms. Natalia Holub, Cultural Attache, Embassy of Ukraine. Mr. Kotlarchuk also thanked Dr. Myron Kuropas for arranging the visit (see photo on page 4.)

At the conclusion of the event, Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk thanked the audience and presented an Honorary Diploma from the Ostroh Academy to TWG President Ihor Kotlarchuk for his "contribution to the Ostroh Academy Brotherhood and to the rebirth of the National University of Ostroh Academy." ■

Enjoying dinner aboard the *Dandy*, pictured below, left (F-R): Eugene Kotlarchuk, Christine Krup Gaynor and James Malone. Right (F-R): Eugene Kotlarchuk, Jr., Luba Chehelska, TWG Secretary and Susan Reardon



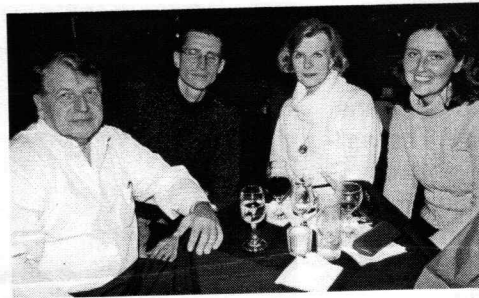
Relaxing aboard the *Dandy*, pictured above: (L-R) Steve Boyduy, TWG Treasurer, Roberta Drabek, and Mike Drabek, Director of TWG's Fellowship Fund.

TWG Evening with Renowned Jazz Pianist John Stetch

by Natalie Sluzar, *TWG Board Member*

The Washington Group members and guests was privileged to spend an evening with the renowned jazz pianist John Stetch (pictured at right with TWG members). The Canadian-born pianist kicked-off the U.S. segment of his tour with a November 12th return performance at *Blues Alley* in Washington, DC.

The highlight of the evening included two compositions from Mr. Stetch's new CD, "Ukrainianism," using Ukrainian melodies in a jazz arrangement. It was delightful to hear a familiar tune, then pick up bits and pieces in a dozen variations, with different rhythms, keys and modes. It was like



meandering a musical maze. Mr. Stetch, who lives in New York City, was one of three finalists in the 1993 Theolonious Monk International Jazz Composers' Competition. Since then he has released seven albums and won the first prize at the 1998 Montreal Jazz Festival. The *Jazz Times* called him "an abundantly gifted artist who bears watching."

The newest piano-solo CD "Ukrainianism" is released by Justin Time and available at major record stores.

Visit Mr. Stetch's website at www.johnstetch.com or send an email to

johnstetchinfo@aol.com. ■



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TWG Member News *Continued...*



Stephen Bren and Olenka Stasyshyn (L-R, pictured above, in front) were married in July, 2002, in Ellicott City, Maryland.



Oleh Voloshyn and Halyna Oleksyuk (pictured left) were married at St. Mary's Assumption Eastern Rite Catholic Church in Joppa, MD, on June 29, 2002.

Wedding of Dr. Lidiya Leshko (right), daughter of Drs. Mykhaylo Leshko of New York City (NYC), and Paul Szerszen, son of Vera Szerszen of Arlington, VA, took place on October 26, 2002, at the St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in NYC's scenic East Village.



Andrij V.R. Szul, Ph.D., J.D., (seated at left), a new member of TWG, was elected President of the Long Island, NY, Chapter of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Inc, on February 2, 2003. He was joined by his wife, Dr. Irene (Cathy) Pompetti-Szul (3rd from left), a professor at Molloy College in Rockville Center, at the Parish Prosfora Dinner, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church, in Hempstead, NY, on January 19, 2003.

Until recently the Secretary of the National Executive Committee of the U.C.C.A., Attorney Szul currently serves as Founding Corresponding Secretary of the Rotary Club of Wall Street at India House, chairs the International Committee, and recently was elected President-Elect (2005) of the organization. A former professor of international business (commercial transactions) and law (contracts and intellectual property) at Penn State University and SUNY, he also serves as chair of the Law Advisory Commission of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the U.S.

Szul is a Professional Partner with the Private Wealth Management Group of the international Wall Street firm of Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., and Of Counsel to the law firm of Szul & Associates (NY & PA).

American Volunteers Help Make a Difference in Kyiv

"American Friends of For Survival" formed in 1996 to "make a real and immediate difference"

by Katie Fox, *guest columnist*

A group of Americans living in Kyiv have set up a program to directly and simply assist Ukraine's elderly. Based on a model often associated with "Save the Children," a donor "adopts" a Ukrainian pensioner and provides him or her with a \$10 monthly supplement for food, medicine and other essentials.

The Americans teamed up with an established Kyiv charity "For Survival," which already ran first aid classes and other self-help programs for the elderly and handled Western grants and humanitarian aid. When the program began in 1996, giving was initially limited to Americans in Kyiv. This year, the group recently began fundraising from Americans in the U.S. who care about Ukraine.

"This is the generation that fought the Nazis, lived through Stalin's famine and an artificial genocide engineered to break the will of the Ukrainian people. We couldn't stand to see them spending their last years hungry and cold," said an American working with the group. "For Survival"



Ukraine's elderly and disabled buy food, clothes, shelter and medicine using their \$10 monthly pension.

identifies potential recipients and verifies their income level. Program volunteers distribute and accounts for funds, under the supervision of a Ukrainian-American volunteer in Kyiv. "Because we use all volunteer labor, and have no other administrative expenses, 100% of contributions go to pensioners," said Katie Fox, president of "American Friends of for Survival."

"For Survival's motto is 'Help yourself – help others,'" and aid recipients are asked to help an elderly person less fortunate than themselves, even if it's just bringing food to the homebound. Faina Naiman, president of "For Survival" says she started the organization because she "refused to join the other elderly begging in the pedestrian walkways under Kyiv's streets."

For more information or to make a contribution to "American Friends of for Survival," please contact Katie Fox at 202-728-5682, katief@ndi.org, 3100 Connecticut Ave., NW, #235, Washington, DC 20008. ■

TWG Cultural Fund Brings Horowitz Recital to DC Area

His stirring rendition brought out the myriad colors and exquisite cantabile lines...

by Zdana Krawciw, *guest columnist*

On March 24, three young pianists presented an impressive program at the Lyceum in Alexandria, VA. The concert was sponsored by The Washington Group Cultural Fund under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine.

The performers included winners of the fourth International Competition for Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz, which started in Kyiv, Ukraine. A total of 416 young pianists from 25 countries have participated in the competition since the program began in 1994.

This year's recipient of the first prize in the Junior Group, 14 year old Kyrylo Keduk of Belarus was the first performer. His rendition of the Chopin Polonaise, Op. 71 exhibited his polished technique and his adeptness at producing a wide range of dynamic shading. The charming Polichinelle and one of the Etudes Tableaux by Rachmaninov further displayed Mr. Keduk's technical

mastery. A warm singing tone came through in Glebov-Olovnikov's lovely miniature, Adagio "Little Prince and the Rose." Mr. Keduk's program concluded with the most challenging piece of the set, Liszt's Tarantella, in which the performer once again delighted the audience with his precise finger technique and singing tone in the contrasting slow section.

The second performer, Dmytro Onishehenko, 18, of Ukraine, was the first place winner in the Intermediate Group. He opened his program with the hauntingly beautiful Meditation by Tchaikovsky. According to the program notes, one of Mr. Onishehenko's interests is writing poetry and throughout his performance his poetic nature came through. His stirring rendition of Nyzhankivsky's impressionistic Little Suite "Letters to Her" brought out the myriad colors and the exquisite

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Ukraine Begins To Deal Seriously With Soviet Past

by Taras Kuzio, *guest columnist*

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On 12-13 February, Ukraine held for the first time parliamentary hearings on the question of the famine of 1932-33 that led to the deaths of between 3 million and 7 million people. The hearings were held in accordance with a resolution passed by the Verkhovna Rada on 28 November 2002.

Ukraine has long held an ambivalent attitude toward its Soviet past. Until now, only a small monument to the famine has existed in Kyiv next to the rebuilt Mykhaylyvskyy Sobor. A presidential decree dated 28 November 2002 supported the call by the Ukrainian diaspora to build a far bigger monument to the famine in central Kyiv on the 70th anniversary of the famine this year. The new monument will be part of a Famine Memorial Complex housing a museum and research center.

Ukraine's ambivalent attitude toward the Soviet past rests upon its three-way division of political forces in Ukraine. National democrats have long held negative views of the Soviet past and what they call its crimes against humanity, such as the famine and Stalinist terror.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, the Communist Party (KPU) acknowledged only as late as 1990 that a famine had even taken place. At that time, Social Democratic Party-united (SDPU-o) parliamentary faction leader and former President Leonid Kravchuk was in

charge of communist ideology and propaganda. Many of today's "political scientists," such as Deputy Prime Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk, lectured on Marxism-Leninism in the Soviet era and wrote articles condemning the diaspora for raising events such as the 1932-33 famine.

The KPU was banned in August 1991 and then a new KPU was allowed to register in October 1993. During the Verkhovna Rada hearings on the famine, KPU leader Petro Symonenko denied that the famine was artificial and blamed it on disastrous weather conditions, low harvests in 1931-32, the pre-Soviet agricultural heritage, and local mismanagement.

Socialist Party leader Oleksandr Moroz argued that Soviet Ukraine reunited Ukrainian territories and, in contrast to the tsarist regime, it at least recognized Ukrainians as a separate ethnic group. The Socialists blame Stalinism for crimes committed in Ukraine, not Soviet rule as such.

The attitude of centrists is the most confusing, as they, unlike national democrats, refuse to condemn the Soviet regime as a whole, perhaps understandably, as they are themselves a product of that very same regime. Since Kuchma faced Symonenko in the 1999 presidential elections and used the "Red Scare" to encourage Ukrainians to vote for him to thwart a Communist comeback, centrists have been comfortable attacking Soviet crimes against humanity.

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cantabile lines of this interesting music. It's worth noting that this little-known work compared favorably with the well known masters represented in the program.

Mr. Onishehenko's last offering was Liszt's brilliant Spanish Rhapsody. In his interpretation of this showpiece, he not only met all the technical challenges but also demonstrated his superb control over a wide range of expression and his great sense of rhythm.

Mariya Kim, 20, of Ukraine, winner of the first prize in the Senior Group, was the last performer. She opened her program with Chopin's Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise Brillante, displaying her talents as an accomplished pianist and a seasoned performer. In the Andante, the graceful runs were at once crisp and delicate; there were subtle rubatos incorporated in the melodic passages, but the rhythm was preserved throughout and the mood was never overly sentimental.

Ms. Kim's interpretation of the contrasting Polonaise, benefited from the unhurried tempo and was distinguished by its warm fluid tone and the attention paid to the rhythmic nuances. The concert concluded with Kosenko's Poem, Op. 5, a complex work with an interesting harmonic structure. Ms. Kim's rendition was powerful, moving, and musically mature.

The appreciative audience rewarded each of the performers with a great deal of well-deserved applause. Afterwards, a short reception provided an opportunity for the members of the audience to meet the performers.

The piano recital was one of a set of five concerts sponsored by The Washington Group Cultural Fund's 2001-2002 Music Series. The high caliber of the performances at these concerts has earned praise for the project and has attracted a devoted audience in the greater Washington area. ■

Ambassador Gryshchenko Addresses Northern Virginia Technology Council

Software development outsourced to Ukraine increased from \$32 million in 2000 to \$47 million in 2002

by Luba Cehelska, TWG Secretary

His Excellency Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Ukraine's Ambassador to the US, appeared as guest speaker at a meeting of the International Committee of the Northern Virginia Technology Council [NVTC] on December 17, 2002. He discussed Information Technology opportunities with Ukraine.

This annual program and holiday social event of the NVTC International Committee traditionally includes a brief

Important growth in Ukraine includes telecommunications revenues, Microsoft sales, desktop and server sales, and highly developed internet banking systems sales... Ukraine is the fastest growing market in the world for Intel products...

meeting, guest speakers, and an opportunity for members to network while also enjoying holiday goodies. On this occasion there were two sponsors for the event: the Ukrainian Embassy, which contributed varenyky, holubtsi, and Ukrainian horilka and champagne, and

SoftServe, a custom software development firm based in Lviv, Ukraine.

The occasion was of special significance for two reasons: the prominence of the NVTC and its President Bobbie Kilberg in the Information Technology community, and the

strong participation of Michael Considine, Ukraine Country Desk Manager at the US Department of Commerce.

The Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC) is the membership association for the Northern Virginia technology community with more than 1600 member companies representing over 180,000 employees from all sectors of the technology industry. Bobbie Kilberg, NVTC President since 1998, served President George H.W. Bush in the White House as Deputy Assistant to the President for Public Liaison from 1989 to 1992. In December 2001, President George W. Bush appointed her to serve as a member of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST).

Appearing on the program prior to Ambassador Gryshchenko was Michael Considine, Business Trade Specialist for Ukraine at the US Department of Commerce/ BISNIS, who spoke about the current business climate in Ukraine. He indicated that despite unfavorable press regarding Ukraine's political climate, the Ukrainian economy is growing and improving. For example, real wages for Ukrainian citizens have increased, consumer spending power has gone up, positive growth trends have emerged in retail, among other sectors, and progress has been made from a legislative perspective, including improvements in tax and customs legislation. Mr.

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(L-R) Ambassador Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, NVTC President Bobbie Kilberg and TWG Secretary Luba Cehelska



(L-R) Jim Asher, Chrystia Sonevytsky, US-Ukraine Foundation, Ihor Kottlarchuk, Luba Cehelska, Vera Andrushkiw, US-Ukraine Foundation, and Nadia McConnell, US-Ukraine Foundation President

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Considine indicated positive trends on the part of US companies in their interest in Ukraine.

Introducing Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Bobbie Kilberg cited his impressive background and experience. Ambassador Gryshchenko presented extensive information about the consistent improvement of Ukraine's economic indicators. Focusing on the high-tech industry, Ambassador Gryshchenko indicated that high tech in Ukraine includes space and aircraft design and production, shipbuilding, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, information technology, telecommunications, and design of new materials, welding technologies, and super-hard tools.

Important growth in Ukraine includes telecommunications revenues, Microsoft sales, desktop and server sales, and highly developed internet banking systems sales. The internal software market has demonstrated steady growth and is projected to make even steeper climbs in the next 2-3 years. Gryshchenko indicated that according to the Intel Corporation, Ukraine is the fastest growing market in the world for Intel products, exceeding even Russia.

Software development outsourced to Ukraine has gone from \$32 million dollars in 2000 to \$47 million dollars in 2002. Ukraine has immense intellectual potential based on its 98% literacy rate; 87% of high school graduates go on to higher education, and 37% of those in higher education select information technology as their focus. 400 universities are educating 1.5 million students. 180,000 specialists in the R&D sector work in 1,500 R&D institutions. There are 23,000 certified Information

Technology Specialists in Ukraine, a significantly higher per capita certification rate than in India.

Two million internet users in Ukraine provide significant business opportunity. The Hughes Network and PARADYNE Networks provide established satellite communications for direct internet and DSL. Ukraine is home for 1400 software development companies, 260 internet providers, and 490 PC manufacturing companies. American companies are pleased to outsource software development to Ukraine and to receive low-cost high-quality service.

Following Ambassador Gryshchenko's talk, Luba Cehelska provided information about SoftServe www.SoftServe.com, mentioned by Ambassador Gryshchenko and a member of NVTC. Luba is SoftServe Account Executive and talked about the firm, its 9-year history, its capabilities, and its clients. She has been active in the NVTC International Committee, held the chairmanship of the European/NIS Subcommittee, and organized a very successful NVTC symposium on the subject of software outsourcing.

About 100 attendees at the event included NVTC members and guests, as well as US-Ukraine Foundation President Nadia McConnell; Vera Andrushkiw, and Chrystia Sonevsky, also of the US-Ukraine Foundation; and Ihor Kotlarchuk, President of The Washington Group.

This event was an important step in familiarizing the US information technology community with the amazing IT talent available in Ukraine. ■

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At the same time, the center disagrees with the national democrats over whom to blame for Soviet crimes. Centrists blame Marxist-Leninist ideology and Stalinism for crimes, including the famine, not Russians. Both centrists and national democrats see the famine as directed against Ukrainians.

The timing of the Verkhovna Rada hearings remains suspicious. On the one hand, Kuchma undoubtedly wanted to deal with the issue early in the year, as it may cause difficulties with the Year of Russia in Ukraine. National democrats have already complained that the Year of Russia in Ukraine should not be held in the same year as the 70th anniversary of the famine.

The hearings also took place a month before planned opposition protests. In his November decree, Kuchma sought to inflame the already difficult relations between Our Ukraine and the KPU by putting them to yet another test. Our Ukraine has refused to join any joint

opposition platform with the KPU and has only agreed to cooperate with the Socialists and the Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc.

A final factor is next year's presidential elections. With stable popularity ratings over the last three years of 25-30 percent, Yushchenko will inevitably advance to a second round. If he faces Symonenko, Ukraine would have a rerun of the 1999 elections, but this time pro-Kuchma centrists would be forced to rally behind national democrat Yushchenko. If Yushchenko faces a pro-Kuchma centrist, the KPU will back the centrist oligarch and thereby repeat their tactics in April 2001 when they voted with the centrists to remove the Yushchenko government. ■

This report was written by Dr. Taras Kuzio, resident fellow, Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Toronto.