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

Lviv's Kurbas Theater Inaugurates Cultural Fund

By Marta Zielyk

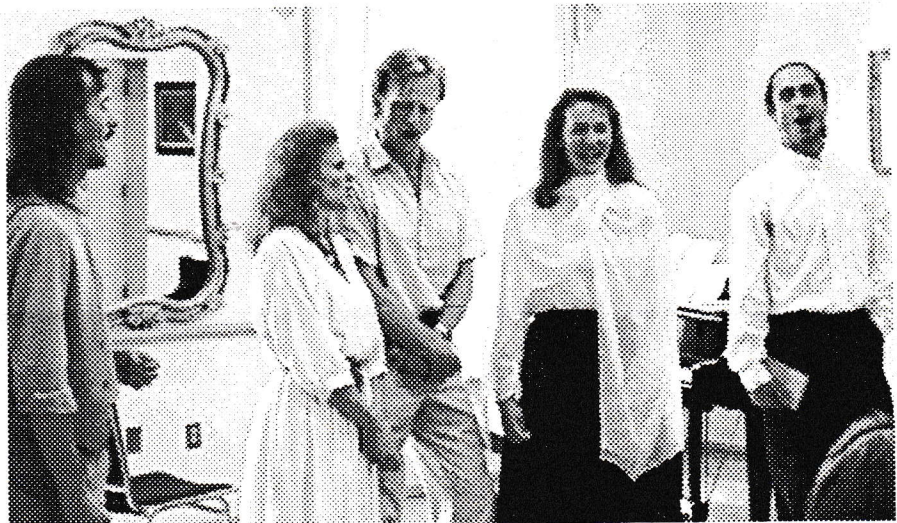
The newly created TWG Cultural Fund held its inaugural event June 5. Under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine, the Fund hosted an afternoon of poetry of Bohdan Ihor Antonych performed by the Les Kurbas Young Theater of Lviv.

The program, under the collective title *A Drunken Kid with the Sun in his Pocket*, consisted of a number of poems of the renowned Lemko poet as well as several popular Lemko songs. They were performed by Oleh Drach, Tetiana Kaspruk, Volodymyr Kuchinsky, Natalka Polovynka and Andrei Vodichev.

Embassy performance

Laryssa Lapychak Chopivsky, Cultural Fund director, introduced Valeriy Kuchinsky, the deputy chief of mission of the Ukrainian Embassy, who—in the absence of Ambassador Oleh Bilorus, who was in Kyiv—welcomed everyone to the well-attended event and pledged the Embassy's continued support and cooperation for the fund's activities. The event was held at the Ukrainian Embassy in historic Georgetown. A courtyard reception followed the poetry performance.

Among the guests were many of the donors to the Cultural Fund. Ms.



The Les Kurbas Young Theater of Lviv performing at the inaugural event of the TWG Cultural Fund at the Ukrainian Embassy. From left: Volodymyr Kuchinsky, Tetiana Kaspruk, Oleh Drach, Natalka Polovynka and Andrei Vodichev.

Chopivsky expressed her gratitude to these special guests for being the very first financial supporters of the fund. Through their generosity, she said, they exhibited an understanding of the importance of the Cultural Fund's undertaking. (A complete list of Fund contributors will be published in the next issue of The TWG News.)

Enthusiastic audience

Members of the Les Kurbas Young Theater once again showed why they are considered among the most respected new theatrical groups in Ukraine: the actors, individually as

well as an ensemble, displayed to the enthusiastic audience a high level of talent and professionalism, coupled with an obvious enjoyment of the

(See *Theater*, Page 7)

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New Members



Notes on Members

- **Gerald Hrycyszyn**, full member, engineer, of Alexandria, VA.
- **Victoria Odinotska**, full member, congressional research assistant, of Arlington, VA
- **Larisa Streeter**, associate member, environmental scientist, of Houston, TX.
- **Sergei Taranov**, full member, academician, of Kyiv.

Thank You!

A sincere THANK YOU to the following for their donations:

- **Truvor Kuzmowych, M.D.** (Great Falls, VA) - \$300 to TWG Fellowship Fund
- **C.L. McIntosh & Associates, Inc.**, in the name of **Halyna Breslawec** (Potomac, MD) - \$50 to TWG Fellowship Fund
- **Myroslava Voloshin** (Fredericksburg, VA) - \$15 to TWG General Fund

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Do you know some interesting news about a TWG colleague—or about yourself? Share it with the rest of the TWG family; forward it to the TWG NEWS editor.

• **Eugene Lemcio**, a professor of New Testament at Seattle Pacific University and president of the Ukrainian-American Club of Washington State, recently returned from Ukraine, where he again lectured at the Institute of Physical Culture, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy University and Taras Shevchenko University.

• **Douglas and Virginia Alexander** attended the International Sister Cities Conference in Moscow in May. There they met and were feted by the mayor of Kaniv, the sister city of their hometown, Sonoma, CA.

• Among two dozen community representatives attending the June 7 White House briefing on Ukraine were several TWG members: **Mykola Babiak** (representing The Washington Group), **Andrew Fedynsky** (Ukrainian Museum of Cleveland), **Natalie Gawdiak** (Ukrainian Fraternal Assn.), and **Robert McConnell** (US-Ukraine Foundation).

• **Andrew Bihun**, TWG vice president, left in late July for a temporary assignment as head of the Commercial Section at the US Embassy in Kyiv, temporarily replacing **Stephan Wasylko**, who went on home leave.

• **Natalie Sluzar** recently returned from a month-long business trip to Ukraine for Science Applications International Corp.

Coming Events

August 5-7

Summer Beach Camp-out—a weekend of summer fun at the Hudyma spread in Willards, MD, near Assateague. Socialize, cookouts, singing at campfires, lounging on the beach. Bring tents, sleeping bags, coolers, food, guitars, etc. Contact: Oleh Hudyma (410) 859-8490 (evenings).

Sunday, August 21

TWG Ukrainian Independence Day Picnic; Columbia, MD. Contact: Roman Stelmach (410) 997-0853.

October 14-16

TWG Leadership Conference, "Building a Worldwide Ukrainian Community," at the Georgetown University Conference Center. Contact: Mykola Babiak (202) 543-4965.

Leadership Conference 1994

Building a Worldwide Ukrainian Community

By George Masiuk
Conference Chairman

This year's Leadership Conference—marking the tenth anniversary of the Washington Group—to be held October 14-16 at the Georgetown University Conference Center in Washington, will address the topic of "Building a Worldwide Ukrainian Community."

The purpose of this conference is to formulate a vision of an effective worldwide Ukrainian community and to discuss practical steps to bring it about, including the development of shared values and an ethic of self-help.

A number of events have made this a timely topic for this year's conference:

First: The emergence of an independent Ukraine allows the Ukrainian community to get beyond the "survival" mode and into the "prosper" mode of thinking and acting.

Second: The emergence of a well-educated, self-confident Ukrainian diaspora that is looking for new opportunities.

Third: The emergence of an electronic highway and its anticipated evolution to an electronic "super-highway" has eliminated geographic distance as a barrier to sustained communications among geographically dispersed people, thus making the notion of a worldwide community highly realistic.

Fourth: The emergence of knowledge and information as the most important assets an individual or a community can possess—such as information about jobs, business opportunities, grants, scholarships, exchange programs, etc.

The Leadership Conference will start Friday, October 14 with a reception at the Ukrainian Embassy celebrating TWG's tenth anniversary, and it will end with a planned Sunday afternoon concert. In between, there will be panels and speakers who will provide the intellectual content of the conference. On Saturday evening, there will be a dinner-dance gala, with Fata Morgana providing the music.

Conference plans call for three panels:

Panel one, *Worldwide Ukrainian Organizations*, will provide a forum to those Ukrainian organizations that have a worldwide membership and that have established a basis of operation that allows Ukrainians in Ukraine and in the diaspora to meaningfully participate. The members of this panel will describe the services that their organizations provide and the needs they have. They will also provide their vision of cooperation with other organizations in order to develop an effective worldwide community.

Plans call for this panel to use a "town hall" approach to maximize audience participation.

Panel two, *Effective Organization Management*, will show how we can improve our organizations. The main focus will be how organizations can raise funds and provide a high quality of service to their members.

Panel three, *Joining the Electronic Highway*, will examine the role that the electronic highway could play in establishing a communications infrastructure necessary for the development of a worldwide community.

Two communications media will be examined: Internet and cable television. The Internet presenter will tell us about existing Internet Ukrainian forums, provide us with an overview of Internet's capabilities and how they are directly applicable to our task of building an effective worldwide community, and explain some of the basics of getting on and using Internet.

The cable television presenter will describe the possibilities that Ukrainian programs on cable television could provide, the difficulties of creating Ukrainian television programs, and how we can bring Ukrainian programs to our viewing areas.

Among the topics to be addressed by the guest speakers will be the implications of the Kuchma presidency for Ukraine, for the Ukrainian diaspora and for US-Ukrainian relations.

Professional Profile: Film Director Slavko Nowytski

By Adrian Karmazyn

Ten years ago film director and producer Slavko Nowytski completed the widely-acclaimed film *Harvest of Despair*—a documentary on the 1932-33 man-made famine in Ukraine. Despite the fact that the film won several prestigious awards, it was difficult to find an American television network that would show it. Even PBS, the nation's public television network, initially declined to broadcast the documentary. One criticism was that it was "one-sided," not showing the "other side," explains Mr. Nowytski. The film's supporters argued that this WAS the "other side" of the story and that it was an accurate portrayal of Ukraine's tragic history that needed to be presented to the American public.

In 1986, PBS finally aired "Harvest of Despair." Slavko Nowytski says that the work of the US government's Ukraine Famine Commission, the publication of Robert Conquest's *Harvest of Sorrow* and the release of the documentary film, all at about the same time, helped to undermine the Soviet government's official denials about the genocide famine. *Harvest of Despair* was shown on Ukrainian television in 1991 just prior to the independence referendum.

Slavko Nowytski generally describes his films as "impressionistic, not didactic." "I try to present an idea, a taste of things or an atmosphere, without boring people with 'how to' details," he says.

Many of Mr. Nowytski's films have won both national and international awards. His *Pysanka: The Ukrainian Easter Egg* is used in pysanka workshops both within and



Slavko Nowytski

beyond the Ukrainian community. He describes the introduction to this film as a version of "the creation myth, Ukrainian style." His *Sheep in Wood* shows woodcut artist Jacques Hnizdovsky practicing his craft. The challenge of this film, explains Nowytski, was to tell the story to an international audience without using any language. The film features original musical accompani-

Selection of films by Slavko Nowytski:

- *Harvest of Despair*
- *Pysanka: The Ukrainian Easter Egg*
- *Helm of Destiny*
- *Immortal Image*
- *Shevchenko in Washington*
- *Sheep in Wood*
- *That the Bells May Ring*
- *Reflections of the Past*
- *Grass on the Roof*
- *Last of the Jacks*
- *Architecture USA*
- *Faces of the Forest*
- *In Defense of the Unvanquished*

ment but no narration.

Slavko Nowytski has traveled to Ukraine several times to meet with colleagues and to tape material for his films. In 1989, he visited Ukraine as part of a tour organized by The Washington Group and was a guest of Kiev's Dovzhenko film studios. In 1990, he participated in film director Iliencko's "Earthfest" film festival in the Ukrainian capital. And during last year's visit he taped forty hours of interviews for a six-part documentary series that he is currently working on, which covers Ukraine during World War II. The series is backed by the Ukrainian-Canadian Research and Documentation Center of Toronto, which also sponsored "Harvest of Despair."

Speaking of this latest project, Slavko Nowytski noted that he interviewed people from all the different factions and military formations of the time. As with previous projects, financial support and lack of time are major obstacles. He explains that he is working on the series during his free time.

Last year Mr. Nowytski joined the staff of *Window on America*, the USIA-sponsored weekly Ukrainian-language television program, which is produced in Washington and broadcast to Ukraine. He emphasized that the program features a significant amount of reporting on the Ukrainian-American diaspora is a means means of conveying the benefits of American-style political, economic and cultural freedom.

Mr. Nowytski readily admits that he misses Minneapolis, where he lived for the past 20 years. His family is there and it's a "quiet,

(See Profile, next page)

Employment situation on the up: Kuchma, Chomiak get new jobs

Leonid Kuchma and Ross Chomiak are starting new jobs this summer in Kyiv.

Mr. Chomiak is now at the International Media Center (IMC) overseeing the implementation of a \$7 million grant from the US Agency for International Development to the Internews Network to support the development of independent media in Ukraine.

Mr. Kuchma will try to run the country.

Ross Chomiak retired from the USIA after 26 1/2 years to leave for Kyiv on Independence Day. While at the Media Center his role will be to advise the management on the development of the IMC

"Feels good"

"For someone who started in this business 34 years ago (on July 5) it feels good to work in the media of an independent Ukraine," he said on his arrival in Ukraine.

Ross Chomiak has worked with Ukraine throughout most of his professional career, which included

Profile... (From previous page)

clean, cultured place to live," he says. As for Washington—"it's beautiful, but it's too hot" he sighs.

As this article was being written for the TWG newsletter, area Ukrainians were preparing to mark the 30th anniversary of what tens of thousands of Ukrainian-Americans remember as one of the hottest days ever in Washington—the day that the Shevchenko monument was unveiled. In case you've forgotten, don't worry, there's a film about that too. And yes, it's by Slavko Nowytski.

the Voice of America, Radio Liberty and The Ukrainian Weekly (and the TWG News!). His last position with USIA was as deputy chief of the African branch of the press division.

The IMC is a production and training center for broadcast and print media which also includes an information center for journalists. It now operates on a grant to Internews Network, a non-profit corporation based in California which uses media technologies to promote international communication.

Training programs

The IMC holds competitions for television producers to create informational programming. Winners receive access to the professional television equipment of the IMC and assistance in covering production costs. Training programs sponsored by the IMC give managers and journalists exposure to international standards as well as a forum to network domestically. The Information Center provides facts for journalists through electronic and print resources.

The International Media Center was developed by Ukrainian journalists working with Internews. Dora Chomiak, then employed by the International Renaissance Foundation brought the project together in 1992. The team secured initial funding from private sources such as the Karl Popper Foundation, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, and the International Renaissance Foundation. Support from USAID was secured in 1993.

The IMC team jump-started several projects which were ripe to

develop in Ukraine, including a network of non-governmental television stations, a private news agency, and the weekly national news program *Vikna*.

The International Media Center registered as a Ukrainian company in March 1994 to provide ongoing support to journalists in Ukraine. It is led by Mykola Kniazhytsky, one of the initiators of the project. Ross Chomiak has been brought on to oversee how this foreign assistance is implemented in Ukraine.

"We were looking for an experienced media person, with Ukrainian and Russian, plus a knowledge of how people in Ukraine think," says the younger Chomiak. "To recommend my father for the job was an unconventional suggestion, but he was the perfect candidate."

Dora Chomiak will now take the time to write several articles documenting media developments in Ukraine over the last three busy years.

Active family

While following in his daughter's footsteps in this case, Mr. Chomiak has also led the way in his family—his other daughter, Tania, a foreign service officer with the US Information Agency, is following in his footsteps. On her first overseas assignment, Ms. Chomiak is serving with the US Information Service office in Almaty, Kazakhstan—the post Chomiak Senior was sent to open in 1992 after that country became independent (along with TWG honorary member William Courtney, who became ambassador to Kazakhstan).

The all-TWG-member Chomiak family also includes Marta Bohachevsky-Chomiak, who spent the 1992-93 academic year as a Fulbright scholar in Kyiv.

Internet—Starting Out in the Slow Lane

By Marijka Oharenko

OK, so you bought a new computer, and it's loaded with all the bells and whistles dictated by the experts (your kids or the kid salesperson at the computer store). You turn on the speedy modem and now you're ready to get on that information superhighway everyone is talking about. The big one, a zillion lanes across, bumper-to-bumper and running along at autobahn speeds—the Internet. I got on just a couple of months ago, and while I'm still operating in the low gears of e-mail and USENET, I have found some interesting Ukrainian traffic out there.

First, since I wasn't already hooked up to Internet through a university, government or corporate account, I needed to get a "provider." With the advice from an expert "netter" (there's always one around every office), I was steered to one of the many small firms springing up around the country which allow you to access Internet by dialing in through their computer. For a flat \$15 per month and the price of a local phone call, I have unlimited, basic access to Internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Internet is a very loose network of computers around the world, originally set up as a way of allowing Defense Department agencies, contractors and academia to communicate with each other. There is no central authority, or kindly tour guide for that matter, so it's a good idea to do a little advance reading. Local bookstores have aisles full of computer aids, and shelves crowded with Internet primers. "Internet Starter Kit" (for Macintosh) gave me enough basic information to get

me going. Once I signed up with my provider, I got online access to FAQs—"frequently asked questions" file—another must-read for every "newbie."

Internet gives computer users a rich array of capabilities—you can literally reach in and pull out tremendous stores of information, software programs, news and archives from universities, the Library of Congress, NASA and thousands of other data repositories all over the world. But many "netters," particularly newcomers, use Internet for just two purposes—accessing newsgroups and exchanging e-mail.

More than 6,000 newsgroups are available worldwide through USENET. Name a topic and you'll find a group of netters chatting about it in a specialized newsgroup. Once you "subscribe" (no charge, of course) to a group, you get in on a free-flowing, uncensored discussion with contributions from around the world. The two Ukrainian newsgroups I subscribe to—alt.current-events.ukraine and soc.culture.ukrainian—have dozens of messages each day from the United States, Canada, Europe, and Ukraine. Soccer scores, daily karbovantsi exchange rates, varenyky recipes, event calendars for some local Ukrainian diaspora communities, transliteration protocol, news reports, funding opportunities, student exchange programs, travel information—a very eclectic collection. And very eclectic language.

Which brings me to another point—Internet is an anarchy. This is not the polite world of CompuServe or Prodigy. Messages

can be foul (in several languages), scatological, rude and, what's worse, full of misspellings. Personal, ethnic and gender slurs will fly during "flames" (arguments). The Ukrainian USENET groups have some contributors with megachips on their shoulders who regularly post inane insults about Ukraine, Ukrainians, the diaspora and each other. After reading these for a few weeks you realize that they're probably just trying to bait others into joining a fight.

Before you take the bait or decide to make any postings, do "lurk" (read without participating) in the groups for at least a couple of weeks. You'll get a feeling for the "netiquette"—the culture and protocol—of Internet and each newsgroup.

If you need a break from the USENET free-for-all, you can join a couple of more mannerly discussion groups. One is "Ukraina" and the other is called "Ukes." Both allow all readers to post messages, questions, comments. Everyone can read everyone else's postings. These groups are "moderated," so postings deemed inappropriate may not be allowed, and consistent transgressors can lose access to the group.

Once you've read the postings for a while and are ready to put in your own thousand-coupons' worth of wisdom, your next challenge will be the Internet address system. The hardworking Internet has quite a job in routing a message from your home Mac or PC through a myriad of telephone wires, intermediary mega-computers and on to the desk of your mailing list base in Canada or your cousin in Australia.

(See Internet, next page)

Internet... (Continued from previous page)

An address like "ifranko@physics.velykij.ua" will not only route a message but give some good clues about the addressee. It's like reading vanity license plates. "Ifranko@physics.ukieuniv.ua" (not a real person, please) could be Ivan Franko at the Physics Department of Velykij University in Ukraine. Reading from left to right, the address goes from the individual on up to the highest level of sorting, either a country, like "ua" for Ukraine, or an organization type ("gov" for government, "edu" for universities, "com" for commercial providers and corporations, etc.).

I see very few "ua" return addresses, however, since Internet access in Ukraine is still very expensive, and slow due to the quality of the phone network there. If you do plan to send e-mail messages to Ukraine, please be considerate and very concise—e-mail users there have to pay, by size of message, for both incoming and outgoing correspondence. Some newsgroup and discussion group members with contacts in Ukraine relay messages from phone calls, letters and e-mail messages. I've also seen postings from diaspora and other Westerners who, in visiting Ukraine, are keeping in touch via laptop and modem.

You appreciate the advantages of your connection to cyberspace when you're hungry for news about Ukraine. When rumors are flying about an imminent flare-up over Crimea, you may see little, if any, coverage on CNN or in your local newspaper. But dial in to your Internet news or discussion group, and you may find some instant information and reassurance. There

it is, some real news. A contributor has posted a message that he talked to his relatives in Odessa a few hours ago and everything's quiet "over there"—at least for the time being.

When you do get on Internet, subscribe to Ukrainian USENET newsgroups by selecting alt.current-events.ukraine and soc.culture.ukrainian. To request an application for joining "Ukes," which has recently split into "news" and "social" subgroups, send a "Subject:

subscribe" e-mail message to the group moderator at: ukes-news-request@soma.crl.mcmaster.ca (substitute "social" for "news" for social group). Be sure to include your full name and a request for the group's introductory document. To get on "Ukraina" send an e-mail message to: listserv@ukanaix.cc.ukans.edu The text of your message should read: SUBSCRIBE UKRAINA yourfirstname yourlastname.

And this newbie will be happy to answer any questions she can. E-mail me at oharenko@kaiwan.com.

Theater... (Continued from Page 1)

beauty of the Ukrainian spoken word.

The Les Kurbas Theater, a recipient of the Vasyl Stus Award, was founded in 1988. Most of the theater's productions are original compositions or premieres of long-ignored works, such as *The Grateful Erody* by Hryhoriy Skovoroda and *Between Two Powers* by Volodymyr Vynnychenko. In the process of developing its own theatrical method, the troupe has been incorporating theatrical techniques from throughout the world.

Under the directorship of Volodymyr Kuchinsky, who is also the founder of the group, the Les Kurbas Theater has taken part in a number of international theatrical events in Russia, Poland and the United States. Members of the theater have taken part in projects created by the Yara Arts Group from New York (artistic director Virlana Tkacz), including *In the Light* (1991), *Blind Sight* (1993) and *Yara's Forest Song* (1994).

The Washington Group's acquaintance with the Les Kurbas Theater dates to the first TWG trip

to Ukraine in 1989, when it was still called the Young Theater of Lviv (*Molodizhny teatr*). The group of young, dedicated artists were among the first to stage works by dramatists and poets previously banned under the Soviet regime (which was still in power at the time).

The Washington Group Cultural Fund, a project conceived and brought to fruition by Ms. Chopivsky, is planning many events to bring Ukrainian performing and fine arts into the American cultural mainstream. Events planned for the coming season include, among others, a music recital series and a film festival.

The Cultural Fund hopes to capitalize on its unique location in the US capital to attract an influential audience to its events, which will be presented in such locations as the Embassy of Ukraine, the Kennedy Center as well as Washington area universities, theaters and prominent churches.

For more information on the TWG Cultural Fund, or to become a donor, please contact Ms. Chopivsky, (202) 363-3964

The Washington Group Membership Information/Application Form

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

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

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

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\$50 Full Membership

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

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