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

Kravchuk Addresses TWG Public Forum

The Washington Group January 20 hosted a lecture and discussion forum for Ukraine's first president Leonid Kravchuk at the International Club of Washington.

Addressing a gathering of some 300 persons, Mr. Kravchuk said the United States and other Western countries have not been clear enough in the expression of their position on Russia's war in Chechnya.

And neither has Ukraine, the former president said.

The West should not view events in Chechnya as a local, internal matter, Mr. Kravchuk said. "The West should send clearer signals to Russia that it is not acting as a democratic country and that her actions can become a threat to democracy not only in Russia but in the entire region."

He contrasted the West's weak reaction to the killings in Chechnya at the hands of a "democratic" Russia to what it would have been had a similar



Photo by Natalie Slezar

Leonid Kravchuk, Ukraine's first president, listens to a question from the audience at the International Club, as George Sajevych (left) translates.

action been undertaken by the former "totalitarian" Soviet regime.

But he cautioned against cutting back economic aid to Russia, which he said would be counterproductive.

The Ukrainian government should also state clearly that Russia's military actions in Chechnya are in violation of human rights and of the highest right of all, to life.

It is in Ukraine's interest that Russia be free and democratic, Mr. Kravchuk said. Unfortunately, because of Chechnya, Russian democracy is being severely tested, and Ukraine is be-

ginning to feel new pressures from Russia.

Similarly, he said, both the West and Ukraine should state their posi-

(See **Kravchuk** on page 7)

REMINDER

TWG ANNUAL MEETING

**Friday, Feb. 24, 1995
at 6:30 p.m.**

**St. Sophia's
2516 30th St., N.W.**

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New Members



Notes on Members

- **Oleh Bilorus**, first ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, now in Kyiv, honorary member.
- **Dennis De Santis**, director, Development Policy & Management Development Alternatives, Inc., of Falls Church, VA
- **Christine Demkowych**, journalist-publisher, Intelnews, Inc., a Kyiv-based English-language news wire, of Baltimore, MD.
- **Linda Perilstein**, executive director, Cradle of Hope Adoption Center, Inc., of Washington, DC.
- **Roman Popadiuk**, first ambassador of the United States to Ukraine, now teaching at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute, honorary member.

Thank You

Thank you to TWG Treasurer **Roman Stelmach** for organizing a *kolyada* session on behalf of TWG on January 8. Mr. Stelmach and his band of merry carollers—**Hania Cherniak**, **Marta Jarosewich**, and **Mazia Lishchak**—visited elderly and ailing members of the Washington Ukrainian-American community.

Thank you to **Halyna Breslawec** for her generous donation of \$200 to The Washington Group's Fellowship Fund.

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EDITOR
Yaro Bihun

(202) 362-0569 • E-mail: yarob@aol.com

CALENDAR
Danusia Wasylkiwskyj
(301) 652-3938

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

• A one-year gag order was finally lifted, so the 1993 Army Medical Mission to Ukraine, in which Drs. **Yaromyr Oryshkevych**, **Askold Mosijczuk** and **Inia Yevich** participated, was finally featured in a story in *Army Times* (Nov. 28, 1994). The good doctors were under certain restrictions when they delivered presentations to the Wash-Baltimore communities in late 1993.

• *Ukraine and Ukrainians throughout the World: A Demographic and Sociological Guide to the Homeland and Its Diaspora* is a 508-page encyclopedia of information about the status of Ukrainians in Ukraine and in the diaspora. Published by the Shevchenko Society through the University of Toronto Press (1994), the volume has been edited by Ann Lencyk Pawliczko, and includes contributions by Wsevolod W. Isajiw and Andrij Makuch (in the section on Ukrainians in Canada) and by Daria Markus and TWG member **Oleh Wolowyna** (in the section on Ukrainians in the US).

• **Juliana Osinchuk**, pianist and teacher, who moved from New York to Anchorage, Alaska, in 1992, is doing her share in energizing the cultural life of that state, performing as a soloist and as co-director of Augustine's Artists, according to a report in *The Ukrainian Weekly*. The group has earned a reputation for its innovative chamber concert series, exciting guest artists and educational programs and international exchanges. In her recitals, Dr. Osinchuk has premiered the performances of 20th century Ukrainian composers **Borys Liatoshynsky** and **Ivan Kurabyts**.

• In listing the TWG media people covering Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's visit to Washington in the last issue of TWG News, we failed to mention **Slavko Nowytski**, who covered for the US Information Agency's Worldnet weekly Ukrainian television program "Window on America."

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS: If you have noticed any mistakes in the 1994-95 TWG Directory, please report your corrections on the form on the back page of this TWG News and mail it to TWG.

Cultural Fund Highlights

Olga Hirshhorn, Washington Opera's *Semele*

The TWG Cultural Fund concluded its 1994 activities with a discussion about art with Olga Hirshhorn, and started 1995 with an evening at the Washington Opera's performance of Handel's *Semele*.

Appearing at a CF evening at St. Sophia's December 8, Mrs. Hirshhorn described how she met Wall Street millionaire and art collector Joseph Hirshhorn, their life together, and their friendships with many of this century's great artists—Picasso, Calder, De Kooning, Steichen, among others—whose art adorned their residences and, later, the Smithsonian Institution's museum of modern art that bears Mr. Hirshhorn's name.

The best thing that Joseph Hirshhorn left her (he died in 1981), Mrs. Hirshhorn said, "was an interest and involvement in the arts," which she has since pursued on her own.

Mrs. Hirshhorn also spoke about her more recent involvement with Cuba, trying to improve conditions for the people there and to bring down the barriers that separate that country and the US.

She recounted her visit to a Cuban hospital that was treating 200 Chernobyl children from Ukraine.

A TWG member since 1992, Mrs. Hirshhorn has Ukrainian roots

that reach back to the Ternopil region.

At the conclusion of the evening, Ms. Chopivsky presented Mrs. Hirshhorn with a gift of a bronze sculpture *First Warrior*, donated to TWG by Ukrainian artist Ruslan Naida, whose sculptures and ink

was corrected, and that Archipenko's works now state that the artist was "born in Ukraine."

The Cultural Fund welcomed in the New Year January 4 at the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater, enjoying the Washington Opera's full technical rehearsal of Handel's *Semele*.

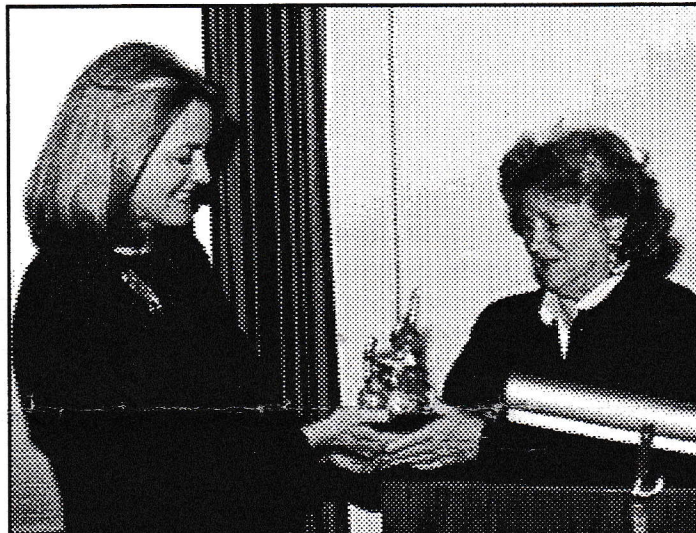
The opera was directed by Roman Terleckyj, a panel participant in the 1993 Leadership Conference, whose recent opera direction has been getting very favorable reviews.

Among the 34 participants of the CF's "Night at the Opera" were 10 guests from the Embassy of Ukraine, including Ambassador and Mrs. Yuri Scherbak. Occupying the theater's box seats (excluding the President's, which was being used by the opera company's technical per-

sonnel) the TWG party had the theater all to itself.

The performance was followed by a champagne and desert reception in the Eisenhower Theater's Bird Room.

The next TWG Cultural Fund attraction, according to Ms. Chopivsky, will be a concert of Ukrainian and Western liturgical music by the University of California's Berkeley Chamber Chorus, conducted by Maria Kuzma. The concert will be on May 21 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Georgetown. □



Cultural Fund Chairman Laryssa Chopivsky (left) presents Ruslan Naida's *First Warrior* to Olga Hirshhorn following a discussion about her art collection.

drawings were part of a companion exhibit to the exhibit of priceless Ukrainian Trypillian artifacts exhibited in Washington and New York.

One of Mr. Naida's recent causes has been to correct erroneous nameplates under two works of Alexander Archipenko at the Hirshhorn Museum. Since their installation, the two sculptures had carried labels stating that Archipenko was "born in Russia." Mr. Naida implored Mrs. Hirshhorn to correct the error, noting that Archipenko was born in Kyiv. By early February, Mr. Naida reported that, thanks to the intercession of Mrs. Hirshhorn, the error

The following article, and accompanying photograph, is being reprinted, with permission, from the Winter 1994 issue of the Carroll Alumni Journal, published by The John Carroll University, in University Heights, Ohio.

Andy Fedynsky said that when he was traveling in Ukraine with three friends in 1970, he stopped to gas up their van. The attendant couldn't believe the fluent Ukrainian he was hearing roll off an obviously American tongue and he called his co-worker to hear the wonder. "Then he says to me," related Fedynsky, "Oh my God! Where did you learn to speak Ukrainian?"

"And I asked him, 'Have you ever heard of Taras Shevchenko?' So he starts reciting one of Shevchenko's poems. Where he broke off, I continued. With that, he put the closed sign on the gas station and said, 'You guys have to have 50 grams (of vodka) with us.' We went in the back and they brought out all these bottles of vodka and cucumbers and vegetables. It was marvelous, but Shevchenko was the link. There is no American you could compare him to because you have to see him in the context of Ukrainian history. Ukrainians were peasants and their language and culture were suppressed by the Russians. Anyone who wanted to be someone had to abandon his language and culture. Shevchenko wouldn't do that. He articulated the aspirations of a people, what was latent in the Ukrainian soul."

Fedynsky, a middle-aged man with a mustache, would never be mistaken for a WASP. He seems earnest and a bit dour until he finishes a paragraph, makes his point, and leans toward you with a blossoming smile. He was sitting in Dempsey's Oasis Tavern in the Tremont district of Cleveland when

he told of his visit to the Ukraine.

The man who got a master's in history at JCU after working as a legislative aide to Sen. Robert Dole is a Tremont guy. He didn't grow up right here, but he hung out in this heart of Cleveland's Ukrainian community, hard by the steel mills where so many immigrants labored. Young Andy took Ukrainian language classes at nearby Merrick Settlement House, attended services at SS. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, played baseball in the green oasis of Lincoln Park, only steps from Dempsey's Oasis. Tremont, enjoying a modest boom as a haven for artists and their followers, is home for Andy Fedynsky, and it becomes clear this is a man for whom coming home means a great deal.

Alexander Fedynsky, a native of what is now called Lviv in the independent Ukraine, was a political activist who served prison time under the governing Polish regime and was subsequently pursued, alternately, by the Soviets and the Nazis. Forcibly separated from his wife in her rural village behind Soviet lines, the activist spent most of World War II keeping a low profile in Vienna while earning a Ph.D. in jurisprudence. The couple were reunited amidst the chaos of the war's end, and in 1947 they celebrated Andrew's birth in a displaced persons camp in Innsbruck, Austria.

The family emigrated to Cleveland, where the father found work as a factory bookkeeper. Ukrainian nationalism became a subdued passion, but the family's native tongue was the only language spoken in the home. Andrew left

TWG Profile

Andy Fedynsky: Ukrainian Legacy

He came home to carry on his father's work

By
Jerry Pockar



Andy Fedynsky with Archipenko's bust of Taras Shevchenko at the Ukrainian Museum-Archive

for the University of Notre Dame, and then went back to his birthplace spending a year studying in N.D.'s sophomore year-abroad program. "I went to the University of Innsbruck with the feeling I was going home to Europe" he recalled. "Once I was there, I decided I'm not a European; I'm an American."

After graduation in 1969, he returned to his old neighborhood and for the next eight years was a junior high school teacher. His commitment to human rights and Ukrainian fluency led to translations of dissident political literature smuggled out of the Ukraine during the 1970s.

Those efforts prompted him to write journal articles on Soviet human rights abuses, articles which brought him to the attention of the powerful senator from Kansas. After a year's service on Dole's staff, Fedynsky came to John Carroll, studying with Prof. Michael Pap, a now retired native of the Ukraine.

At JCU, Fedynsky underwent a "political conversion when I found out I was really a Democrat, not a Republican." As a born-again Democrat, he went to work for Congresswoman Mary Rose Oakar, who was successful in bringing federal funds to northern Ohio until she became an electoral casualty in 1992.

In over a decade as a key Oakar aide, Fedynsky had a central role in the passage of legislation enabling major developments in his hometown. There is pride but not boasting in Fedynsky's recitation. He's not the kind of guy to "blow his own horn," as they'd say at Dempsey's. Filial piety is more his style.

Alexander Fedynsky died in 1981, and his wife Alexandra, succumbed to cancer in 1985. Prior to his Washington service, Fedynsky regularly drove his father to the Ukrainian Museum-Archive (UMA). That archive in an 80-year old house next door to a funer-

al home directly across Lincoln Park from Dempsey's, is the destination of this story.

The archive has a larger collection of Ukrainian documents than Harvard, Illinois or the Library of Congress, the other U.S. sites with notable Ukrainian collections. In the rambling three-story house, you find rare documents from Ukraine's previous experience of independence from 1917-20; 20,000 books; 350 separate journal titles, published by long-dead exiles in places like Shanghai, Manchuria, Paris, Australia. There are rooms full of *pysanky*, the intricately decorated Ukrainian Easter eggs, displays of national costumes, bronze castings of renowned sculptor Alexander Archipenko's bust of Shevchenko, the multi-talented Shevchenko's marvelous drawings, recordings, posters, maps, and a wide range of documentation of the Ukrainians' experience in America.

UMA is an important time capsule, the embodiment of the serf poet's hope that the words of an imprisoned people would be carried to tenderly welcoming listeners. Fedynsky said there are rare documents at UMA the museums of the Ukraine do not possess. The man from the Library of Congress came for a brief stopover and stayed two days.

Leonid Bachynsky, a professor in the old world and a machinist in the new, began this archive in 1952. His brother was a diplomat for the Ukrainian republic, which was swallowed by the Soviets in 1920, and both men had widespread connections in the far-flung Ukrainian Diaspora. Alexander Fedynsky began devoting his time and energy to the archive when his three sons left home. Many other local Ukrainians, the son noted, have labored long and lovingly on the collection.

Nonetheless, in 1987 Fedynsky

perceived, "This place was going to seed, and I just felt an obligation; it was almost an imperative. I inherited this thing as a moral obligation, to at least preserve it." He acknowledges he also wanted to get out of Washington, where he was working 12-14 hours a day—"politics is like a gas; it takes up all available space." He switched his base to Oakar's Cleveland office and now works with her in the governmental consulting firm she established.

So, in 1987 Fedynsky came home. He rehabilitated the old house with the help of his friends and spent roughly 20 hours a week in the intervening years professionalizing the archive and beginning to bring it online in the Information Age. There is a long way to go and the path isn't altogether clear. Fedynsky charted multiple possibilities: putting the archival materials on CD-ROM, moving it back to the now independent Ukraine, creating a more suitable building in Tremont. A great deal of cataloging and bibliographical work remains to be done. UMA has received grant money, but needs more. The archive is, he said, probably a lifetime commitment.

But there was an unexpected benefit to coming home to continue his father's work. Shortly after returning, Fedynsky met Christine Panchuk, another Ukrainian American. Marriage followed in 1988 and son Michael arrived in 1990. "I would never have met her if I hadn't come back to deal with the museum," said Fedynsky. "When I came back, I thought I was coming back to do this, but I guess you could also say I was coming back to meet her."

"In my beginning is my end . . . In my end is my beginning," said T.S. Eliot, the American poet. It's a message Taras Shevchenko would have understood full well. □

TWG Hosts "Kiev-Mohyla Academy" Eve; Contributors Pitch In To Help University

TWG played host to officials of the University of the "Kiev-Mohyla Academy" November 14 at St. Sophia's and helped launch an informal local chapter of the "Friends of the Kiev-Mohyla Academy Society" to assist that institution during this period of hard economic times in Ukraine.

During the evening, Dr. Serhiy Ivaniuk spoke about how this unique Ukrainian institution of higher learning was established in 1991—or, more accurately, re-established, since the Kiev-Mohyla Academy was originally established 1632—and how it has developed over the past three years.

The university is bilingual; the students must know both Ukrainian and English, and lectures by staff professors and visiting professors are conducted in both languages.

The university has succeeded in hiring some of the best professors available in Ukraine, Dr. Ivaniuk said, and strives to maintain the broadest possible contacts with Western universities. It does so through joint conferences, visiting professors and with the help of its international advisory board, which includes, among others, Bohdan Havrylyshyn and Zbigniew Brzezinski.

So far, the university offers bachelor programs in the humanities (cultural studies, philosophy, history, comparative studies, religious studies and social work), social sciences (economics, sociology, political science and public administration), and in natural sciences (ecology, radiobiology, environmental protection and physics).

Future plans include masters programs in law, medicine and ecology, and postgraduate and doctoral programs in economics, history, literature and sociology (to begin in 1996).

Its facilities include a library, computer center, computer-equipped classrooms, language and research laboratories, a planetarium and museum. Its students participate in various extracurricular activities, including art, choral and theater groups, student newspapers and literary and art journals.

During the question-and-answer session that followed the presentation, George Chopivsky followed up on a statement made by Dr. Ivaniuk about how inflation is threatening to undermine the university's high-caliber faculty by diminishing the value of their salaries. Mr. Chopivsky asked how much would it take to compensate for the loss to inflation.

On learning that the salary level of the entire faculty could be maintained with an additional \$1000 per month, Mr. Chopivsky suggested that it would not be unreasonable for Washington area Ukrainians to finance such a maintenance program for one year, and that other cities could do the same.

At his suggestion, Yaro Bihun agreed to head up such effort, which resulted in immediate donations of \$1075 and \$500 more within the following month, for a total of \$1575.

Contributors: Constantine and Theresa Ben \$25*; Yaroslav Bihun \$200; Michael Boretsky \$100; Eustachiy S. Derzko \$500; Claudia and Dmytro Korbutiak \$100; Ada Kulyk \$250; Valentina Limonczenko \$200; Halyna and Stefan Maksymjuk \$100; Irene and Adrian Strytsky \$100*. (* In memory of the late Dr. Oleh Kudryk)

If you would like to join this effort, make your check out to Mohyla Academic Society and send it to: Yaro Bihun, 3114 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Apt. 501, Washington, DC 20016.

Huger Sworn In As USAID Kiev Mission Director

Gregory F. Huger, a featured participant in the 1993 TWG Leadership Conference, was sworn in February 3 as the new U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director in Kiev, serving Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova.

As Mission Director, Mr. Huger will oversee a \$201 million program.

In his previous position as director of the Europe and the New Independent States Office of Privatization and Economic Restructuring since 1992, Mr. Huger has been involved since the beginning in the privatization efforts currently taking place in Ukraine.

Mr. Huger has had extensive experience in both international development and the private sector. He has many years of experience in the Peace Corps, with John Deere Intercontinental in Latin America and since 1984 with USAID.

COMING EVENTS

25 February, Saturday, 9:00 p.m. Ukrainian Association of Washington **Winter Festival Dance**, Crowne Plaza Holiday Inn, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville. \$40 per person. Contact: (301) 770-6911 or (703) 941-4958.

5 March, Sunday, 1:00 p.m. New book presentation: **Taras Shevchenko and Ukrainian Literature**, by Prof. Pavlo Odarchenko, St. Andrew's Ukr. Orth. Cathedral, 15100 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring.

26 March, Sunday, 1:00 p.m. **Ukr. Washington Credit Union annual meeting**, Holy Family Ukr. Cath. Nat. Shrine, 4250 Harewood Rd. NE, Washington.

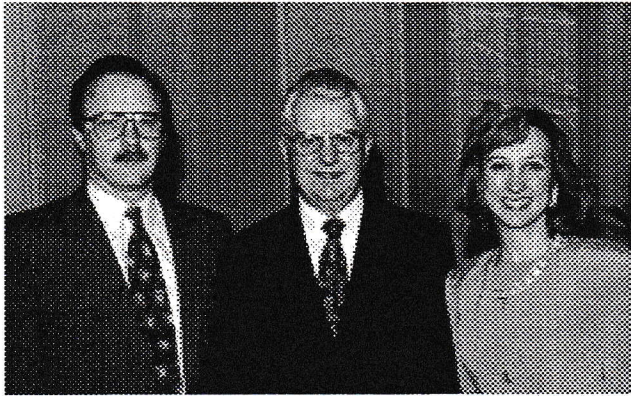


Photo by Natalie Sluzar

Former Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, flanked by TWG President Mykola Babiak and Lydia Chopivsky Benson, president of the Federation of Ukrainian American Business and Professional Organizations.

(Continued from page 1)

tions more clearly with respect to the expansion of NATO and Russia's relationship to it. He said he is against ceding any "zones of influence" to Russia.

Asked about why there was so little progress in reforming Ukraine's economy during his presidency, Mr. Kravchuk said that critics should understand that Ukraine inherited a developed but colonial economy: 90% of the economy was directed from Moscow; 80% of its productions was finished elsewhere in the USSR, and a third of its industry was devoted to military production. Such an economy cannot be changed overnight, he said.

Mr. Kravchuk was introduced by TWG President Mykola Babiak. TWG member George Sajewych, who has translated for Presidents Bush and Clinton during official visits, translated for the former Ukrainian president.

Mr. Kravchuk came to Washington as part of a two-week tour of major American cities. His two-day stay in Washington, organized by the Federation of Ukrainian American Business and Professional Organizations, included meetings with President Clinton's National Security Adviser Anthony Lake; Undersecretary of State Strobe Talbott; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Elizabeth Sherwood; congressional leaders, among them senators Mitch McConnell, Richard Lugar and Sam Nunn; and a number of prominent business persons.

UKRAINIAN BUSINESS DIGEST

Richard H. Shriver
Publisher

PO Box 3127, Westport, Connecticut USA 06880
Phone 203 221-7450 Fax 203 221-7414 Telex 49603090

Chamber of Commerce Offers Briefings, Other Opportunities

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce offers an opportunity to participate in a series of Policy Briefings on trade/investment in Central/Eastern Europe and the New Independent States. To be a part of the Business Information Network and to receive invitations to attend these timely business events, where you can meet high-level government officials and representatives of companies doing business there, send a check for \$20 payable to "U.S. Chamber of Commerce" to:

U.S. Chamber of Commerce
International Division
P.O. Box 1200
Washington, D.C. 20013

Members of the US Chamber of Commerce are also invited to join the newly-created European Task Force of its Foreign Commercial Relations Subcommittee. The purpose of the task force is to promote U.S. trade with, and investments in, the EU by identifying key areas requiring U.S. policy initiatives. The task force will address such issues as EU external trade policy (including tariffs), EU enlargement, and the continuing transformation of Central and East European economies.

For more information contact Christopher Novak at 202-463-5473.



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The Washington Group Membership Information/Application Form

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

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

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

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

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