



Summer 1995  
Volume XI Number 5



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

### ***1995 TWG Leadership Conference***

## **The Ukrainian Community: Defining a New Role**

*Conference to be held  
October 6-8 at the Key  
Bridge Marriott Hotel*

By George Masiuk  
TWG President

This year's Leadership Conference will focus on the Ukrainian-American community. The Conference will try to answer the following three basic questions.

- What should the Ukrainian-American community be doing?
  - How should it implement its goals?
  - How can it finance its activities?
- Since 1988 the focus of the Ukrai-

nian-American community has been on events in Ukraine—and with good justification. The Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine, *perebydova* and the rise of Rukh, the Declaration of Sovereignty, Declaration of Independence, the December Referendum and, finally, worldwide recognition of Ukraine as an independent country were dramatic one-time events. Now that the euphoria has subsided, it is time to look inward, at least for a moment, at the state of our community and to start drawing a road map for its future. Old assumptions about our role need to be reexamined, old

methods of doing business need to be overhauled to take advantage of new opportunities, and innovative methods of financing our activities need to be implemented.

#### **Conference Structure**

In keeping with tradition, the TWG Leadership Conference will start with a Friday evening get-together. This year it will be held in the Gannett Building, home to USA Today. We will be on the top floor which will provide a spectacular view of Washington. It will be a great time to meet old acquaintances and develop new contacts.

Saturday will be an intense day. The Conference will start-off with a keynote address. (We'll tell you who in the next issue of TWG News.) Then  
(See *Conference*, Page 4)

### ***Chamber recital, jazz piano, contemporary films begin Cultural Fund's Fall Season***

By Laryssa Chopivsky  
Cultural Fund Director

The TWG Cultural Fund is planning several exciting events for the fall season. First, on Sunday evening September 24 at the Lyceum in Old Town, Alexandria, the Cultural Fund will present Ukrainian classical music excellence as personified by violinist Lydia Shutko and pianist Maria Krushelnytska (of the renowned musical and theatrical Krushelnytsky family), both of Lviv.

Graduates of the Lviv, Kiev and Moscow Conservatories, these outstanding musicians are laureates of numerous international competitions, have recorded extensively and have concertized throughout Eastern and Western Europe, performing works from a wide and diverse repertoire, including many works of major Ukrainian composers.

Next, during TWG's Leadership Conference, the Cultural Fund will  
(See *Cultural*, Page 5)

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## Notes on Members



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

• Former TWG Vice-President **Andrew and Lesia Bihun** are leaving August 9 for Kyiv, where he will head the US Embassy's Commercial Section for the next two years. Mr. Bihun works for the Department of Commerce, where he managed the Industry Sector Analysis section of the International Trade Administration. In Kyiv, he will take over after former TWG member **Stephan Wasylo**. Also leaving the Embassy in August is former TWG News Editor **Maria Rudensky** after a three-year tour in the Consular Section, which she helped establish.

• TWG Secretary **Orest Deychakiwsky** recently returned from Kyiv where he spent a week as advisor for the Indiana University/U.S.-Ukraine Foundation's Parliamentary Development Project. Deychakiwsky met with deputies and staff of the *Verkhovna Rada*, as well as with Ukrainian non-governmental organizations, informing them about how hearings in the U.S. Congress are conducted and about how U.S. citizens interact

with their representatives in Congress.

Mr. Deychakiwsky ran into numerous TWG-ers or ex-TWGers working or touring in Kyiv, including **George Sierant, Orysia Pylyshenko, Kathy Chumachenko, Roman Goy, Taras Shmagala Jr., Marta and Rostyk Chomiak, Maria Rudensky and Vlodko Sulzhynsky**, who also will soon re-join us here in D.C. after completing his tour of duty at the U.S. Embassy. Nonetheless, the Western presence in Kyiv continues to grow!

Mr. Deychakiwsky found Kyiv a very dynamic, happening place—and not only politically. He noted many encouraging signs after a year's absence from Kyiv, including many more Western restaurants and cafes, road improvements and building renovations, and a real-estate boom (it looks as if Westerners who bought real estate a few years ago made a wise investment).

Kyiv is becoming a "modern" city in other respects as well, Mr. Deychakiwsky noted. Coming back from a friend's apartment near Basarabsky rynek late one night, he was robbed at gunpoint by three Russian-speaking "hooligans." (They took his money but left his wallet following brief negotiations, and actually apologized as they were leaving, blaming their action on the current economic situation in Ukraine). Despite this unpleasant incident, the TWG Secretary left with a feeling of optimism about Ukraine's future.

• **COL. Askold D. Mosijczuk**, chief of pediatrics at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, is on temporary assignment to Guantanamo, Cuba. You can keep his spirits up by dropping him a line at: US Army 133-38-1264, A Co. 261 ASMB, JTF 160, DET. D, Unit No. 82266, FPO-AE 09509-8280. (The first card or letter to successfully arrive at this cryptic destination should get some kind of prize from the TWG News.—Ed.)

### TWG NEWS

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#### EDITOR

Yaro Bihun

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

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Jane Kunka

((703) 922-5898 • E-mail: jkunka@fcc.gov

#### CALENDAR

Danusia Wasyliwskyj

(301) 652-3938

Material in this publication may be reprinted,  
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### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If your TWG membership has or is about to expire (see mailing label) please complete the renewal form on the cover page of this TWG News and, along with your check, mail to TWG, Attn: Membership Director, PO Box 11248, Washington, DC 20008.

# **“Could anyone imagine my Steinway Grand in an igloo?”**

## **and other myths about cultural life in Alaska**

By Juliana Osinchuk

If anyone had told me five years ago that I would be living in Alaska, I would have probably laughed it off as a joke. Unbelievably, it has already been almost three years since I moved to Anchorage from New York. Life “up here,” as many would say, is quite wonderful. For those skeptics—yes, we have indoor plumbing, electricity, paved roads, and, no, we do not live in igloos. Could anyone imagine my Steinway Grand in an igloo? For the uninformed: an igloo is simply an Eskimo word for hut or house. Alaskan Eskimos do not live in ice igloos. The ice huts are found in Northern Canada.

Getting back to Anchorage—this is a city of c. 250,000 population, half of the state’s total. Anchorage is

in many ways like other American cities “outside” (the Alaskan term for continental US). We have Wal-Mart, K-Mart, McDonald’s, etc. but we also have some four & five star restaurants, a Performing Arts Center with three halls seating from 350 to 2,000 and lots of other great entertainment and shopping. For a city of its size, it is very cosmopolitan and self sufficient. Our closest neighboring, major cities are Vancouver and Seattle, both about three hours flying.

Anchorage is situated in a gorgeous natural setting, surrounded by ocean on two sides—Turnagain Arm and Knik Arm of Cook Inlet, and the splendid Chugach Range on the third. Views of snowcaps, and the ocean abound. Across the Knik Arm is the Alaska range with famous volcanoes such as Mt. Augustine, Mt. Readout, and Mt. Spur, and farther out Mt. McKinley which at 100 miles is often visible on a clear day. Throughout the city are many lakes and several rivers. My husband, Mark, and I live on a lake where all summer long we are visited by great varieties of ducks, loons, and other birds as well as occasional moose and bald eagles. It is true that you can see moose standing on the side of a main street in midtown. Traffic on a four lane road is also often brought to a screeching halt for a crossing by a large family of lesser Canada geese.

I have a very busy professional and social life. This last season I performed over fifteen solo and chamber recitals in Anchorage and other Alaskan communities. On several programs I was able to present works of Ukrainian composers to Alaskan audiences. The response is always very positive. Also, I have established a private teaching studio and receive many requests to present lecture/recitals at university

forums, local schools, and other organizations. I seem to have far less time now than when I lived on the east coast.

Summertime is beautiful, with long daylight hours—19 1/2 hours—so it gives everyone a chance to plan hikes and, most importantly, fishing trips. I never understood fishing until I got a King Salmon hooked on my line. After you catch them comes the really great part—eating a freshly caught Alaskan wild salmon. Your palette is spoiled forever!

Believe it or not, there is a small group of Ukrainians living here and we had a barbecue together last summer. It was most fascinating to hear all the stories of what brought each one of us to Alaska. We have had a large Ukrainian dance group from Kiev perform here three years ago. There are also Ukrainians who come from Magadan and other Siberian areas. I met one wonderful Ukrainian from Zaporizhzhya who read my name in the newspaper and decided to call and find out if I was Ukrainian.

I just recently returned from Ukraine, where I was invited to speak and perform at the International Music Conference honoring Borys Lyatoshynsky. It has been 2 1/2 years since my last visit and I saw many positive changes in Kyiv. Unfortunately, Lviv struck me as a quite depressed city with greater negative feelings of the future.

I was greatly honored this year to receive a solo recital grant from the National Endowment for the Arts resulting in a recital on October 27, 1995, at the Jon F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, and November 8, 1995, at Merkin Hall in New York City. I cordially invite everyone to attend, and hope to see you all soon. □

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# Amb. Courtney ends tour in Kazakhstan

By R.L. Chomiak

ALMATY, Kazakhstan—William H. Courtney is a “household name” in Kazakhstan.\* In the latter part of June 1995 every important newspaper in this Central Asian country, radio and TV stations carried interviews with and articles about the first American ambassador who was ending his three-and-a-half-year tour.

Amb. Courtney, honorary member of TWG, left Kazakhstan July 1 for Washington with his wife Paula Feeny, and children Will and Allison. Three days later, the fourth Independence Day reception organized by the American Embassy in Kazakhstan was the first without Bill Courtney as the host. But on the eve of his departure there was a farewell party for him at the Embassy which was attended by the now large American and local staff, and several former Kazakstani embassy employees who have moved to other jobs but remain close friends of “Meester Ambassador,” and “Beel.” (I timed my short visit to Almaty from Kyiv to catch Bill Courtney’s farewell.)

The American Embassy opened in Kazakhstan in February 1992, and

many Kazakstanis said they knew they were an independent country when they saw the American Flag fly in Almaty. That flag, kept in a U.S. Information service drawer since the embassy moved to its present, much larger quarters, was presented by the staff as a souvenir to the first ambassador at his farewell reception.

The arrival of William H. Courtney in Almaty, less than two months after Kazakhstan became independent, served as a civics lesson in American democracy for Kazakstanis: he came in as chargé d’affaires, pending his formal nomination by President George Bush, followed by the US Senate hearing, the Senate’s consent vote and the swearing-in ceremony in Washington. So it was in early September, 1992, that Amb. Courtney could present his credentials to President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and become ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary. The ceremony, in fact, took place about half hour after that for the ambassador from Iran.

But there is no doubt in Kazakhstan about which foreign diplomatic mission was first. When the country got around to producing its own diplomatic plates for cars (until 1992 such things were handled by Moscow for all of USSR), the American cars received “001” as the country designation, and the plate on the American ambassador’s car in Kazakhstan is “001 001”.

Throughout his service in Kazakhstan Amb. Courtney stressed the word “American” in his title “American Ambassador.” He was American first and ambassador second, although his tenure included some very serious US-Kazakstani diplomatic initiatives in the areas of

arms reduction, non-proliferation, trade, exchanges. Practicing traditional American hospitality, he opened the embassy doors to the people of Kazakhstan and he traveled throughout the vast country.

Both the embassy chancery and the ambassador’s residence—first in hotel suites, later in small quarters and now in more representational, normal spaces—there were frequent receptions and informal gatherings, and press conferences at which Kazakstanis and visiting Americans could meet and exchange information. The American Embassy hosted artists who displayed their works or put on performances.

All media had no problems with access to the American envoy, and his ties with the Kazakstanis were not limited to those in the capital. The country with 16 million inhabitants is two time zones wide, and Ambassador Courtney got to know virtually every region of this large piece of real estate through personal visits, while the people there got to know this American.

And it was during Amb. Courtney’s tenure that Operation Sapphire took place. After extensive and supersecret negotiations and planning that lasted for months and that could serve as the subject of exciting TV miniseries, Kazakhstan was able to get rid of 600 pounds of highly enriched uranium (warhead quality) left over from the time when the country was the main Soviet atomic backyard. The stuff was bought, packed and transported by the US just before Thanksgiving Day 1994.

And it was also Amb. Courtney, an economist by profession, who never lost an opportunity to encourage market reforms and democratization. (See *Courtney*, page 5)

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\* Note: Kazakhstan is spelled without the “h” because that, apparently, is what the State Dept. geographer has recently determined. It would have been even closer if it were spelled Kazaqstan. Stalin’s linguists who invented a Cyrillic alphabet for the Kazak language created an additional “k” with a “khvostyk” and the sound like “kh” in order to keep the people’s name separate from kazak/kozak, and some Kazaks maintain that the Zaporozhysi, et al., got the name from them.—RLC

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# Soyuzivka bracing for Club Suzy-Q week

The 12th Annual Club Suzy-Q Week will be held August 12-19 at the UNA resort *Soyuzivka*, in Kerhonkson, New York.

This is a fun week for young-in-spirit Ukrainian professionals, students, retirees, etc. People come from all over North America and even overseas sometimes.

The setting is beautiful, interesting people, from all walks of life,

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## Courtney... (from Page 4)

tion in Kazakstan. He even did it in his farewell interviews in the media and he did it in his farewell remarks at the embassy reception. It's safe to say that few post-Soviet Kazakstanis will forget the name of the first American diplomat in their independent country.

While it's never safe to predict what the US Senate will decide, Amb. Courtney is not about to rest in the Foggy Bottom. He is getting ready for his next challenge—Georgia, not the site of the next Olympic Games, but the one in the war-torn Caucasus that is due for a complete political, economic and physical reconstruction. With the Senate's consent, his issues of TWG News will soon be on their way to Tbilisi. □

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*Former TWG News Editor Ross Chomiak helped establish the US Information Agency operation in the early months of the US Embassy in Almaty. Now, his daughter, Tania Chomiak, a USIA foreign service officer, serves there as Information Officer and Acting Public Affairs Officer. Mr. Chomiak has spent the past year in Kyiv as director of the USAID-funded International Media Center.*

married couples, singles, whatever; people make friends for life; now there is even a second generation of Suzy-Q-ers growing up.

Activities include a visit to the Culinary Institute of America (Italian dinner), river rafting on the Delaware, hiking at Lake Mohonk and Lake Minnewaska, winery tour, sports, masquerade, steak night, Hutsul Vatra, slide show, horseback riding, mountain biking, Hudson River cruise, presidential mansion tour, welcome party and hug-in, farewell banquet and hug-out, zabava, zabava, zabava.

Bring your fancy duds, casual clothes, costume for masquerade, Ukrainian outfit for Hutsul night.

Reservations for rooms to be made directly with Soyuzivka (914) 626-5641; fax (914) 626-4638; address: Soyuzivka, UNA Estate, Foordmore Road, Kerhonkson, NY 12446.

For further information/registration forms call these folks evenings until 10 p.m.):

Marta Tyshynsky (NJ) (201) 472-3972.

Roma Nightengale (Rochester, NY) (716) 594-9323.

Marta Terebenec (Toronto) (416) 249-0225.

Roman Nazareqycz (Toronto) (416) 535-0480.

(Information courtesy of *Orysia T. Tracz.*) □

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## Cultural Fund Fall Season... (from Page 1)

feature Canadian-born jazz pianist John Stetch. Mr. Stetch received his music degree with high distinction in jazz piano from McGill University in 1991 and was one of three finalists in the 1993 Thelonius Monk International Jazz Composers' Competition. He has recorded two CDs for Terra Nova Records; "Rectangle Man" and "Carpathian Blues," which have been played on hundreds of radio stations across the US.

He has toured Canada and the US, and currently resides in New York and performing and recording with the Tanareid Band. Many of Stetch's compositions are based on Ukrainian folk themes cleverly interwoven with new harmonies to create innovative structures. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear "some of the best jazz you're likely to hear on either side of the Canada/U.S. border" (Peter Hadekel, *The Montreal Gazette*), live, here in

Washington, on Sunday, October 8, at the Leadership Conference, at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington, Virginia.

In addition, the Cultural Fund has arranged for two subtitled contemporary Ukrainian movies, M. Iliencko's *Fouchoo* and Vadym Castielli's *The Treasures of Hetman Polubotok*, to be shown at the Kennedy Center's American Film Institute in November.

And, for a very special holiday treat, the Cultural Fund has arranged for Lviv soprano, Oksana Krovvytska, who recently sang leading roles in several New York City Opera productions (including Violetta in *La Traviata* at Wolf Trap), to kick-off the International Music Series at the historic and very beautiful Meridian House on Sunday afternoon, December 11. Please watch TWG News for more details on all these events and we hope to see you there. □

## Conference... (from Page 1)

the first panel of the Conference will present ideas on what issues and activities the Ukrainian-American community ought to be focusing.

Next, there will be a panel presentation on how our community can help itself. The following issues will be discussed: How can we as a community protect our legal rights, for example, with respect to defamation and immigration issues, and affect the development of Ukraine as a state based on the rule of law? What can we as a community do to provide adequate care to our elderly, and what can we do to help improve the medical situation for our friends and relatives in Ukraine? How can we effectively provide social services to our needy in the US.

Then we break for a working lunch. During lunch the conference participants at each table will discuss various topics related to the conceptualizing and implementing a new role for the Ukrainian-American community.

Toward the end of lunch the discussion group facilitators at each table will summarize the key ideas generated at their table for the benefit of all participants.

After lunch the third panel will focus on how the Ukrainian-American community can get its message out to the broader community. Participation in election campaigns, lobbying the White House, Congress, and government departments and agencies, participating in and influencing think tanks, and participating in and influencing the media will be among the topics covered by this panel.

The final panel of the day will present information on the how our community can obtain funding to finance the implementation of our goals. Obtaining funds through government, corporate, or foundation grants as well as through direct fund raising will be

covered by this panel.

The hard part is over. Time to change—and go for a dip in the Jacuzzi—if you're staying in the hotel, that is. Otherwise, time to go for a cocktail.

Feeling relaxed and a bit hungry, dinner is served. No banquet would be complete without an Awards Ceremony, and this evening is no exception. TWG will present the TWG Journalism Award for the best coverage of Ukrainian-related matters.

An elevator ride to the top floor gets you to the View Lounge, the site of the TWG dance and another breathtaking view of Washington.

No need to set the alarm clock—Brunch is at 11:30 Sunday morning. It's great to find yourself in a Key Bridge Marriott room on this Sunday morning. No need to travel. Time to eat and to catch-up on things with

your friends.

After Brunch there is entertainment. the Ukrainian-Canadian jazz pianist John Stetch.

The formal part of the conference is over but there are still things to do. If you have an interest in the Information Highway, you'll want to meet some of the participants from ukes-social or ukes-news Internet groups. We'll have a few computers on hand and hooked up to the electronic highway. Don't know about the ukes groups on Internet? We'll tell you all about it.

Don't care for technical talk. How about a leisurely walk across Key Bridge to Georgetown and visit the Alla Rogers Gallery, which will be featuring the works of a Ukrainian artist, Alexander Pogrebinsky.

And before leaving town—don't forget that one last soak in the Jacuzzi.

## UABA to meet during TWG Conference

In view of the compelling need to redefine and evaluate the role and goals of the Ukrainian Diaspora and its community organizations, and their relationship to Ukraine and its people, the Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) has chosen to hold its annual fall meeting in conjunction with the TWG Leadership Conference to be held this October 6-8 in Washington.

In addition to participating in the panel session on "Developing a Consensus on Ukrainian Community Goals," UABA panelists will discuss the nature, complexity and potential conflicts of legal representation and defense of issues of importance to the Ukrainian community, such as, defamation, news distortion, misrepresentation, discrimination, Ukrainian immigra-

tion needs, estate matters, etc.

The private Saturday afternoon session of the UABA will include discussions on: the specific short-term and long-term role and goals of the UABA in relation to Ukraine and the diaspora; the election of a new UABA Board of Governors; government financial grant programs; financial report; plans for the Spring 1996 UABA meeting and the Third World Congress of Ukrainian Jurists in October 1996, and other miscellaneous general UABA business.

For additional information about the UABA meeting, please contact:

UABA President Orest Jejna at 602-254-3872 or OJEJNA@AOL.com or Vice President Bohdanna Pochoday at 201-701-0544 or DPochoday@AOL.com.

*The Ukrainian Community: Defining a New Role*  
**1995 TWG Leadership Conference**

**Program Schedule**

**Friday, October 6**

7:30 - 9:30 Reception at the Gannett Building

**Saturday, October 7**

8:00 - 9:00 Registration

9:00 - 9:15 Introductory Remarks

9:15 - 10:00 Keynote Address

10:00 - 11:00 Panel 1: *Developing a Consensus on Ukrainian  
Community Goals*

11:15 - 12:15 Panel 2: *Providing Services to Our Community*

12:15 - 2:30 Working Lunch: Participatory Discussion on what the  
Ukrainian community ought to be doing.

2:30 - 3:30 Panel 3: *Getting Our Message Out to the  
Broader Community*

3:45 - 4:30 Panel 4: *Financing Our Projects*

7:00 - 8:00 Cocktail Hour

8:00 - 10:00 Banquet

10:00 - 1:30 Dance

**Sunday, October 8**

11:30 - 1:00 Brunch

1:00 - 2:30 Jazz-Piano performance by

2:30 - 5:00 Informal Activities

— *Trip to the Alla Rogers Gallery in Georgetown*

*The works of Ukrainian artist Alexander Pogrebinsky  
will be exhibited.*

— *Cyberspace Enthusiasts get-together*

## TWG's TOP TEN Reasons to Stay at the Key Bridge Marriott

10. Help keep TWG financially solvent. (TWG is financially liable for 100 room nights.)
9. Enjoy a great room with a great view for a great price (\$105) (If reserved early, most rooms provide a view of Washington or of the Potomac river or both.)
8. Georgetown and the Ukrainian embassy are a ten-minute walk across the Key Bridge.
7. You will be close to a Metro stop, with a free hotel shuttle.
6. You will be only 10-minutes away from National Airport and 25 minutes from Dulles Airport.
5. Enjoy hotel amenities such as an indoor/outdoor pool and Jacuzzi.
4. Your best friends will be at the hotel.
3. No need to fight cross-town traffic to change into evening attire.
2. Sleep late Sunday morning and still be on time for the conference brunch at 11:30, or get up early and go for a swim at the hotel pool before brunch.
  1. It's 1:30 Sunday morning, the dance is over, and you can't tell the difference between your house and car keys. Take the elevator home.

### Key Bridge Marriott Reservation: 1-800-327-9789

Reserve a room as soon as possible but BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15. Please specify that you are with TWG in order to get the Conference discount rate of \$105 per night.

Key Bridge Marriott, 1401 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22209

### Advertisement Rates for the Washington Group Leadership Conference Book

The Washington Group will place your camera-ready advertisement in the Leadership Conference Book at the prices listed below. All advertisements must be submitted by September 15, 1995.

Full page	\$500
Half-page	\$250
Quarter-page	\$125
Business Card	\$50

Individual donations also will be listed in the Conference Program.

Please send all of your correspondence to the following address:

TWG 1995 Leadership Conference  
P.O. Box 11248  
Washington, D.C. 20008

If you have any questions, please call Jane Kunka, TWG Public Relations Director, at (202) 418-0254 (day) or (703) 922-5898 (evening) or George Masiuk, TWG President, at (202) 651-2302 (day) or (703) 960-0043 (evening).

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#### TWG COMPUTER CLUB

To help its members share knowledge, exchange information and, thus, improve their computer skills, the Washington Group is forming the TWG Computer Club.

If you're computer-illiterate but would like to learn; if you're somewhat experienced and would like to improve your skills; or if you're an expert and would like help improve your colleagues' skills—call Yaro Bihun at (202) 362-0569 or e-mail yarob@aol.com.