

THE AZERBAIJANI PERSPECTIVE:

News from the Heart of the Silk Road

April 29, 2008 – Los Angeles, California

Aliyev addresses Jewish community

On April 25, President Ilham Aliyev addressed Azerbaijan's Jewish Community expressing his solidarity with all who mourn the victims of the Holocaust. He described resistance of the Warsaw Ghetto's Jewish residents to fascists as a moral victory of human dignity over evil and violence.

President Aliyev once again stated his strong condemnation of racism, ethnic and religious discrimination, which threaten the humanity and undermine international peace and security.

...and greets Orthodox Christians

President Aliyev also extended his Easter greetings to the nation's Orthodox Christian community. According to Mr. Aliyev, the long-standing tradition of tolerance and diversity is Azerbaijan's greatest achievement.

Video-conference promotes dialogue

On May 24, the Los Angeles Museum of Tolerance hosted a historic video-conference between high-school students from Baku, Azerbaijan and the LA Unified School District. Over 70 children from both countries discussed culture, peace-building, tolerance and education. The event conducted in English without translation allowed for direct and vibrant exchange of ideas.

The event was co-sponsored by Azerbaijan's Ministry of Communications, the LAUSD, the Tolerance Museum and the Consulate General of Azerbaijan and moderated by journalist Toni Guyniard, who was joined by the museum director Liebe Geft.

Heydar Aliyev Awards in Montana

Consul General Suleymanov presented the Livingston-Park County Public Library with the Heydar Aliyev Benefactor Award for promoting international education. The library was one of the venues for the 2007 Mugham in Montana tour by Azerbaijani music group Ghadim Sharg. The tour was sponsored by the Friends of Azerbaijani Culture Foundation. This year, the library hosted a Eurasian cultural event featuring "Nomad," a movie about Turkic nations of Central Asia, which was produced by Azerbaijani director Rustam Ibragimbekov.

The Heydar Aliyev Annual Prize for Montana students engaged in Azerbaijani studies was presented to Clay Burnett, Andrew Miller and Ross Pedi for their outstanding research of Azerbaijan's history and culture. All three awardees are students at the Azerbaijani studies class taught by Professor Thomas Goltz at the University of Montana in Missoula.

The awards bear the name of Azerbaijan's late national leader Heydar Aliyev in recognition of his invaluable contribution to the nation's development and in celebration of his 85th birthday.

While in Montana, Consul General Suleymanov participated in the Sixth Annual South-West and Central Asia conference at the University of Montana. He also spoke to the students at the Montana State University in Bozeman and met with the university administration.

As part of the visit, Consul General met with representatives of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes of the Flathead reservation.