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Azeri Voice

Community Newsletter for Azeri Diaspora

Interview

Inside this Issue

- 1 Interview
- 3 Diaspora News
- 5 Azeri picnics and festivals in the US
- 6 Diaspora Organizations in other countries
- 8 Media News about Azeri Diaspora
- 9 New Organization
- 10 Announcement from the reader of Azeri Voice

"Azeri Voice" is an independent grassroots newsletter for Azeri-American community. It is aimed at promoting unity and strengthening activities among Azeri community of the USA.

In this issue of Azeri Voice, we feature the interview with famous writer Mr. Samuel Weems. Mr. Weems has visited Azerbaijan this past summer and has a lot to say about Azeri Diaspora in the US, with whom he keeps in close contact.

(1) How did you first get acquainted with Azerbaijan?

When I began research some five years ago for the book I was writing that is now published-- Armenia: Secrets of a "Christian" Terrorist State. I did research regarding the Armenian invasion of Azerbaijan.

One of my research tools was the internet and I read the websites of Azerbaijan institutions. One site I learned a great deal from was the Sahil Information and Research Center web site. This organization publishes good material and they were my first personal connection to your country. I can not say enough good and positive things about Sahil because they have helped me in so many ways.

(2) How well are you familiar/connected with the Azeri community in the US?

As I have traveled within the United States I have met individual members of the Azeri community. Several of them have been very helpful in sharing information and research materials. These personal connections have been invaluable to me in understanding what had and is taking place in Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijan Society of America has been most helpful as well. I appreciate all the dedication and hard work being carried out by the leadership of this excellent organization. I know of no organization that has harder working individuals leading it.

(3) As a writer and educator yourself, what do you think the role of Azeri students in educating American people should be?

After spending quality time in Azerbaijan, visiting the refugee camps and seeing for myself the end result of Armenian terrorism I think all that is needed is for Azeri students to just tell the truth. However, I don't know how such horror will be received

by most Americans because what I saw, first hand, is so terrible. I can't believe that human beings can do to fellow humans what the Armenians did to Azerbaijan citizens. Frankly, justice cries out while waiting justice sleeps because of the fake Armenian made up less than 200 year old "ancient homeland" excuse for carrying out their mass terrorist campaign to exterminate and cleanse these disputed lands of Muslims just to steal their land for themselves.

Clearly what the Armenians did was a crime against humanity. It will take an ongoing campaign to get Americans to believe this terrible truth. Americans will find it difficult to believe that one human could do to another what Armenians did to Azeris. I have prosecuted many brutal murder cases while I was a state's attorney. Nothing prepared me for the violence and terrorist acts I saw in Azerbaijan.

(4) How do you evaluate US policy toward Azerbaijan?

Because of the Armenian lobby effort there is not a friendly attitude within the American government toward Azerbaijan. This is a case in point to prove what massive amounts of special interest (Armenian) lobby money can do to mold public opinion as well as influence the American Congress even to believing a great lie.

The Azerbaijan government must come to American and build its

own organization to counter the great Armenian lie campaign that the Armenian government is funding. That means one basic thing. The Azerbaijan government must...let me say that again...the Azerbaijan government must spend the dollars to support Azerbaijan Americans in getting their message of truth before the American people and do that in many different ways.

After my visit to Azerbaijan I think this is going to happen and you will see different programs developed to tell this truth and to educate the American public.

(5) What actions shall and can Azeri Diaspora take in order to improve US policy toward our country?

Azerbaijan Americans must become active in the American political system just as the Armenians do to make certain your voice is heard by our elected officials. In addition, you can become involved in civic clubs, community action programs...the list is endless to becoming involved and in that way you can share the truth about what has happened to your country.

I almost forgot to mention one very important point relating to what Azeri organizations can do. Build a working relationship with other organizations such as with Turkish Americans etc. I can't help but think that other nationals in the region will support you

such as Ukraine etc. I would suggest that you research such regional countries as to their American organizations and then think about developing and establishing a working relationship. What makes me think this way is because of how well the Armenians work with the Greeks and a very few others. I think you can build a much larger and stronger support base.

(6) In what areas do you see possible ways to strengthen Azeri Diaspora?

The basic starting point is for your government to commit funding for specific projects that reach into communities across America. In that way you can reach Azerbaijan Americans who are now not involved with your organizations. Every individual counts. The more your government does to promote your activities the stronger your organization will become. This is basic to success and after conversations I have had with your government leaders in Azerbaijan I am certain you will very soon see changes that will make your organization stronger.

I had several meetings with Nazim Ibragimov, Head of the State Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Affairs with Azerbaijanis living in the Foreign Countries. He is a very good man and I know that he loves his country. We have had several quality conversations about this very question. He has a great



heart and I believe you will see good and positive things as a result of his leadership in the near future.

Diaspora News

Azeri successes in the US

Azeri athletes in the US has nother great achievement. Novruz Bashirov recently won Kentucky State Championship in US. could read more about Novruz at <http://www.novruz.com/homepage.html>.

Before that, on June 23, 2002, our compatriot Djabrail Mukhtarov participated in the "US National Tournament" with Team Trials For Olympic Games 2006. Djabrail was representing the State of Massachusetts. There was about 12 Teams from many states. Djabrail's team took the second place in team trials, and he personally took the 4th place. These two Azeris are not all about sports only. Both are educated professionals who stay active in Diaspora lives. Djabrail is also working on <http://www.azerikarate.com> website to spread information about our athletes worldwide. Djabrail Moukhtarov and Novruz Bashirov have an upcoming tournament in Las Vegas. It is going to be one of the Biggest Open tournaments in USA.

Everyone is doing everything they can in their respective fields. That is what we are all about!

ASA News



Azerbaijan Society of America organized a commemorative event "REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11". The event took place in Newark, NJ on Sunday September 15, 2002. Azerbaijani-Americans joined to pay their respect to the victims of this tragic event, to unite against the common enemy and to show solidarity and support.

On August 25th, ASA also commemorated the second anniversary of the death of former President of Azerbaijan, Ebulfaz Elchibey. There were speakers, photo displays and video presentation of the late President.

The Silk Road Festival

By Jeffrey Werbock

Co-sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and the Silk Road Project, the Silk Road Festival was a big success, both in general and for Azerbaijan.

The festival is a function of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC. Every year for the past 36 years they have held

the American Folklife Festival on the National Mall, the strip of land between the Congress and the Washington Monument.

This year's festival was done in collaboration with the Silk Road Project, conceived and promoted by Yo Yo Ma, and featured 22 countries from the so-called silk road, which spanned Italy to Japan. For information on the Festival you can visit www.silkroadproject.org/smithsonian

I had suggested to the executive director of the Silk Road Project that they invite the winners of the past two children's' mugham festivals. His name is Dr. Ted Levin, who made a serious musical study of the music of Uzbekistan. We have known each other for about 27 years. He liked the idea of having children singers attend the festival, and arranged for the two past winners to join us at the Festival. They were definitely one of the most popular of the many presentations at the festival.

The names of the Azerbaijani musicians and singers are: Niyametdin Babayev, singer, Leyla Rahimova, singer, Elchin Hashimov, tar, Elnur Ahmadov, kamancha, Aydin Aliev, garmon, and Adalet Nasibov, saz. There was approximately 30 instances of exposure of Azerbaijani music to the public, ranging from twenty minutes to one hour, but mostly 45 minute sets. Mainly,

my work was to get on stage and present the artists, but I also got the opportunity to publicly perform solo on kamancha in a variety of settings. One of those settings was two well attended workshops in which Dr. Levin presented and explained the traditions of bowed instruments from various Central Asian countries, plus Azerbaijan. Present were musicians from Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and myself.

Dr. Levin had the three Central Asian musicians demonstrate their art And bowing techniques, saving Azerbaijani mugham for last. I chose mugham Dilkesh, and at the end, the Kyrgystani fiddler jumped up and kissed me On the cheek in front of everyone! Be proud, Azerbaijan!

The festival drew record numbers for attendance this year, as well over a million people came through. There was great press coverage. We were featured repeatedly on numerous television and radio programs and interviewed for numerous publications. The Smithsonian Institute and the Silk Road Project each independently video documented the 10 day event, and there will be press releases and video documentaries for broadcast in the near future.

The two children singers were spectacular, and the public favored the boy for his extraordinary clear and high voice. At the end of the performance, the crowd wanted

to shout the boy's name, but I felt that was unfair to the girl, who also has a wonderful voice, rich with feeling, so instead I got the audience to shout the name of the group, the Azerbaijan Mugham Ensemble, a name I made up on the spot. But that was too many words, so I just chanted into the microphone, "A-zer-bai-JAN, A-zer-bai-JAN," etc. until the crowd picked it up.

Can you imagine, there I was standing on the US Capitol's famous 'front lawn', under a huge tent filled with hundreds of Americans and others, listening to the crowds shout, "A-zer-bai-JAN" over and over again. We did this at the end of every one of our appearances.

The ambassador, Dr. Hafiz Pashayev, invited us all as guests of honor and to perform at a reception at the embassy. The six musicians from Baku received certificates of appreciation from the ambassador, and I was awarded an engraved plaque in recognition of my past thirty years efforts to promote Azerbaijani culture in the west. The plaque was actually given to me at the Silk Road Festival at the end of one of the performances in front of a sizable crowd that applauded enthusiastically.

In addition to our success projecting Azerbaijani music in America, Yo Yo Ma made many appearances on the radio promoting the festival, and the one time I happened to hear him

speak in a live broadcast interview, he was explaining how enchanting, sophisticated and marvelous Azerbaijani mugham was. During his interview, he must have repeated Alim Kasimov's name four times. You can imagine how I felt when listening to this world class famous musician champion my favorite music, heretofore unheard in my western world.

The night of the last day of the festival, we had a party at the hotel where we were staying. At least 500 people packed into the hotel's ballroom to hear samplings of what the public had been listening to for the past two weeks. Nearly all the various acts from the many countries represented at the Festival had a chance to do something for five or ten minutes. When it was our turn (the two kids, tar and kemanche), I just leaned over and said into the microphone, "Ladies and gentlemen, the Azerbaijani Mugham Ensemble!" The crowd went wild. The two kids did a duet (Mehriban Olakh) and knocked them dead, as we say in the showbiz trade.

Earlier that same evening, I spotted Yo Yo Ma in his only visit to the hotel where all 500 musicians and workers of the Silk Road were staying for the two weeks. He was in the ballroom where the big party was to be, and I went up to him to thank him for promoting Azerbaijani mugham on the radio. We had a nice chat, and at



the end he looked at me very seriously, made his hands into the 'fist with thumbs up' sign in front of him, and said out loud in front of many people, "A-zer-bai-JAN"!!!!

Picnic of Azeris in Philadelphia. Reported by Jeffrey Werbock.

We had our second Azerbaijani picnic yesterday, which was attended by over sixty people, plus children, in spite of the terrible weather. The gathering began at 1pm, but by 2pm we realized that the rain, which was heavy and steady, was not going to let up. Although we had a picnic pavillion with a sturdy roof, there were no walls, and the wind was cold and damp, and the children were shivering, so local Azeris Tahir and Ilhama, who live nearby the park, generously offered their house as warm refuge against the unexpected inclemency.

Nearly everyone who had managed to come to the picnic headed to Tahir and Ilhama's where we barbecued lamb and chicken tabaka, and had plenty of plov (three kinds). After we ate, we gathered in the living room and Mamed Sadykov and myself explained the purpose of our gatherings, which is to promote Azerbaijani culture in the west and to establish positive relations amongst ourselves and anyone who cares about Azerbaijani culture.

We are not a formal organization or club with members and membership dues. We are an informal gathering of Azerbaijanis and others who love Azerbaijan, with special emphasis on traditional Azerbaijani culture. People came from as far away as New York, Massachusetts, Maryland and Virginia, to join us at the Core Creek Park in Langhorne Pennsylvania. One fellow came from the Poconos. Another from Reading Pa. Someone in England heard about our picnic and notified a friend living in the east coast.

It is a beautiful park. The last time we gathered together there was on May 28th, when the weather was very nice. Hopefully, we will have another gathering on Novruz in 2003.

After the brief introduction and explanations, we gathered around and passed out papers with the words to many traditional Azerbaijani folk songs. We played on tar and gaval and everyone joined in on the singing. We do not have any professional musicians or singers to help us, but we had a good time together singing and playing the great music of Azerbaijan. Rovshan and Ozgan donned authentic Kavkazi "Cherkess" costumes, complete with papakh and leather boots, and danced the Lezginka to the rhythm of pounding drums and recorded music. You can't imagine how delightful it was to be able to have this and share this with

others, here in America, in a suburb of Philadelphia.

Jeffrey Werbock can be contacted at jwerbock@comcast.net

Festival in Indiana

The 2002 Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European, Central Asian and Caucasian Languages of Indiana University celebrated the Tenth Annual Central Eurasian Concert and Art Exhibit in a program of "Silk Road: A Cultural and Musical Journey". There were music and dances by guest artists from Afghanistan, America, Azerbaijan, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

The event took place on Saturday, July 27, 2002 in Bloomington, Indiana. It was a celebration of a decade of cultural and educational programs highlighting the musical and cultural traditions of the regions of Central Eurasia and the Middle East. Together these regions became known as the Silk Road due to the travels and writings of Marko Polo, the well-known 13th Century Venetian traveler. To mark the importance of the contribution of the people and the cultures of Central Eurasia, several educational and cultural institutes have called 2002 the year of the Silk Road.

For ten years, Indiana University has been celebrating the

achievements of the peoples of these regions by offering academic classes, lectures, musical performances and visual presentations to emphasize the importance of the cultural contributions of these regions to our society and the rest of the world. This year's program: Silk Road, A Musical and Cultural Journey consisted of weekend activities presenting many aspects of the and music of the regions.

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Azeri Diaspora Organizations in other countries

VATAN HOLDS A MEETING ON KARABAGH AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS

On 15 of October 2002 a public meeting, entitled "Karabagh: The Refugee Legacy in Azerbaijan – Ten Years On", was held in Moses Room at the House of Lords in London, UK. The meeting was organized by Vatan Society. Lord Ahmed of Rotherham called the meeting at the bequest of the Society to report on his recent visit to Azerbaijan as part of a delegation of parliamentarians, which included Lord Alton of Liverpool, Bob Wareing MP and Lord Hylton. The visit was

organised by the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Britain in May 2002.

The meeting was chaired by Lord Ahmed, whose opening speech was followed by presentations by Azeri Ambassador to UK, HE Rafael Ibragimov, Lord Alton, Lord Hylton, British historian David Barchard and Vatan Society Chairperson, Murad Gassanly. Presentations were followed by a discussion.

Members of the delegation reported on their findings from Azerbaijan mission and reflected on their ideas on the Karabagh conflict and ways to resolve it. Lord Hylton reiterated his proposal for a lease deal, along the lines of the Chinese-UK Hong-Kong arrangement, whereby Azerbaijan would retain territorial integrity whilst leasing sovereignty of Karabagh to Armenia until certain time. There was some debate on the issue, reinforced by statistical estimates on the human and financial cost of Armenian aggression to Azerbaijan, presented by Azeri Embassy.

Various aspects of the conflict were covered by the debate, including the issue of pro-Armenian bias amongst certain sections of Western political establishment. There were strong calls for wider recognition of the situation in Karabagh as an act of aggression by Armenian Republic, rather than a Karabagh Armenian uprising, as it is often viewed in European media and by some political organizations.

There were also strong calls for rapprochement between the two nations and greater effort in finding a peaceful solution to the conflict. Murad Gassanly, commenting on perceived ideas about the nature of the conflict, said that "despite continued practice of discussing relations between the two nations in terms of ancient rivalry and historic schisms, Armenians and Azeris, for most of the centuries-old relationship have lived in peace". This view was echoed by Armenian representative during discussion, who also called for greater effort between the two communities to find dialogue. The Lords also offered their support in mediation between Britain's Armenian and Azeri communities.

The event was attended by specialists on the region, representatives of various embassies including Russia, Armenia and Turkey and general public. There was considerable media interest in the meeting and it was covered by BBC World Service.

For more information contact Vatan Society. Email: vatan@post.com

6th Congress of World Azerbaijan Congress

By Sahil Gasymov from Amsterdam



On October 11-13, World Azerbaijani Congress held its 6th annual Congress. This time, it was held in Hague, the Netherlands. 250 participants from the US, Azerbaijan, Germany, Georgia, Estonia, Great Britain, Sweden and the Netherlands took part in the event. The agenda included discussion of Karabakh problem, the political situation in the South Azerbaijan, election and report of the WAC. There were many official quests from Azerbaijan as well, such as Mr. Nazim Ibrahimov, head of the state committee on the work with Diaspora, Mr. Sabir Rustamkhanli- deputy of the Parliament, Mr. Rauf Zeini- head of Diaspora department of NGO Forum, and others.

News from GAMOH

The leader of South Azerbaijan National Movement (GAMOH) Dr. Chohregani continued his trip to the US. On August 5, he spoke at the Washington, DC-based Center for Strategic and International studies (write to Azeri Voice for the summary of his speech). On August 8, GAMOH members applied for a permission to hold protest in front of UN office in Tehran.

Information is provided by Mr. T. Dizeli, head of the Press Service of GAMOH in Baku

VISIT new website.

www.geocities.com/cehreganli

Diaspora Meeting in Baku

By Rufat Hamidov
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On September 19, the Diaspora Center of the Forum of Azeri NGOs organized a meeting in Baku with the organizations working with Diaspora. The purpose of the meeting was to sign the memorandum of coordination and cooperation between these organizations.

The meeting lasted in a constructive atmosphere and identified a number of common problems that stand on the agenda of the NGOs. Mr. Rauf Zeyni, the head of the Diaspora Center at the NGO Forum pointed out to the fact that these organizations had financial problems that are hard to solve with the assistance of the international financial institutions. Mr. Zeyni said that in order to solve this problem, the organizations must unite and identify alternative sources of funding.

Other speakers pointed out to the weak coordination among the NGOs, related to the lack of information about each other. The representatives of AYAFE (Association of Young Azerbaijani Friends of Europe) и ASI (Azerbaijan Student International) offered to create a new yahoogroup list, called «Birlik gunu» for the solution of this problem.

It was also agreed to hold these kind of meetings once a month. We hope that these initiatives

will help Azeri NGOs to allow Azerbaijanis NGO to strengthen its work in Diaspora sphere to higher qualitative level.

The 2-nd forum of Azerbaijanis studying abroad: a need to work out new approaches.

As many readers of the Azeri Voice already know, on 10th of August the second forum of Azerbaijanis studying abroad was held in the College of Diplomacy's assembly hall. It should be noted that this time there were more participants than last year.

83 students and 15 visitors took part in the second forum, the fact itself speaks about the increased activity of the Azerbaijani youth. The participants represented Azerbaijani student's communities of Russia, USA, Turkey, France, Hungary, and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Egypt. There were representatives of the Presidential Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Youth, Sport and Tourism, and also representatives of the organizations engaged in Diaspora issues- Coordination Council of World Azerbaijanis, World Azerbaijanis Congress, National Assembly of Youth Organization of Azerbaijan Republic, number of other organizations have taken part in a forum.

The basic issues mentioned on a forum were the organization of

the Azerbaijan youth and interaction with Diaspora; distribution of the information about the Armenian aggression and its results; problems of students and outflow of minds. The forum has passed in a free and friendly atmosphere. During the discussion of the specified questions, the participants have shown activity and have put forward a number of the suggestions. It was pointed out that as one of the means of the propagation of Azerbaijan it is possible to consider the edition of book, for a wide circle of the readers, in several foreign languages. Further this book can be presented to various libraries and researchers. The above mentioned project belong to ASI in which all those who wish can take part.

At the same time it is necessary to note the decrease in organizational registration of activity of the Azerbaijani students abroad. Since last year, the work of creating students organizations abroad (especially in Egypt and China) wasn't finished, and it seems now it wouldn't in the nearest future. So what begun as a successful process of creation of student and youth organizations abroad actually now is decreasing. The activity of the existing organizations doesn't go up, no new approaches to the propaganda of Azerbaijan are developed. As the reason one can consider the insufficient financial means of students. Thus, unfortunately only in a number of

special cases the rendering assistance to the students is observed on the part of the Diaspora representatives.

It is possible, that the decision to the problem is the development of non-standard approaches to the specified problems. Azerbaijani students studying abroad could more fruitfully and purposefully use the opportunities created by the ASI. Some mercenary spirit added to the idea of students union will not do any harm to unselfish service to a native land, and on the contrary will attract in our numbers a lot of the young people. The certain commercial projects would allow creating so desirable student foundation that could completely or partially finance student activities, or in a certain cases to render the material help to the students. The movement of Azerbaijani students abroad needs new approaches, new generations. Azerbaijani Students International invites all representatives of Azerbaijani youth abroad to work jointly to promote Azerbaijan, help with solving problems of aggression.

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**ACCORDING TO
UNOFFICIAL REPORTS,
ALMOST 4 MILLION**

AZERIS RESIDE IN CIS COUNTRIES.

BAKU/13.09.02/TURAN: The newly established State Committee for Work with Compatriots Residing Outside Azerbaijan, is planning to cooperate with Diaspora organizations that support the official Baku's policy. Nazim Ibrahimov, head of the state committee has said this at today's press conference in headquarters of the ruling party Yeni Azerbaijan.

He said that the state committee, established two months ago, is called to promote organizational establishment of Azeri Diaspora. Ibrahimov has noted that the Diaspora was being formed after the Soviet regime was established in Azerbaijan 1920 and many intellectuals had to leave. The second wave of migration from Azerbaijan was during the World War II. Diaspora continued growing in the years that followed and significantly extended after the USSR collapse owing to Azeris who reside in other Soviet republics.

Ibrahimov has stressed that the committee did not yet analyze Diaspora activities outside Azerbaijan and specify the number of Azeris who live around the world. He nevertheless has referred to unofficial statistic sources. According to Ibrahimov, almost 4 million Azeris reside in CIS countries, including 2.5-3 million



in Russian Federation and 500 thousand in Ukraine.

Numerous Azeris reside in Europe, though the majority are of Iranian Azerbaijan origin. According to Ibrahimov, the state committee intends to cooperate with organizations that were established by Iranian Azeris. The state committee, however, is not planning to set any contacts with organizations that interfere into internal affairs of Iran.

Commenting upon structural composition of the state committee, Ibrahimov has said that departments and divisions were established in various regions: American, Europe, CIS, Asia. The state committee will be represented with one person in each Embassy.

Ibrahimov also said that Azeri Diaspora Center will be established under the state committee, to form data base on Diaspora.

AZERI AND JEWISH DIASPORA TO COOPERATE

BAKU/13.09.02/TURAN: Nazim Ibrahimov, head of the State Committee for Work with Azeris Residing Outside Azerbaijan has met with Lord Janer, member of the House of Lords of the UK Parliament, vice president of the World Congress of Jews in the state committee today.

The state committee's press service told TURAN that Ibrahimov said during the conversation that the Azerbaijan Republic will focus its attention

not only on contacts with Azeris, but also Russians, Jews and people of other nationalities who moved from Azerbaijan. Ibrahimov considers that many-year experience of the Jewish Diaspora may serve a good example in this sphere.

Janer in turn has noted that each Jew who lives outside Israel is a Diaspora member and takes it for duty to enter into a Jewish community.

The sides have exchanged their opinions about tasks faced by the Azeri and Jewish communities and reached the agreement on further cooperation.

New Organization

Azerbaijani-American Youth Association (AAYA) as a non-governmental organization that unites the youth of the two countries is in activity about one year. The constituent assembly of the Association was held on 5 October 2001. The main goal of organization is to encourage friendly relationships in scientific, cultural and educational areas among the two country's youth for strengthening the close integration between Azeri and American youth. One of the main goals of AAYA is to show Azerbaijan's realities in the frame of its possibility to the American society.

During this year Association has realized some events, programs and projects that played a big

role in a life of American and Azerbaijan youth.

Some of these affairs done till today is a "Debate" have been founded on the AAYA basis, which gather the organization members together. Association conducts cultural, artistic entertaining parties and cocktails dedicated to separate fields, historical days, and celebrations. Azerbaijani-American Youth Association has held a roundtable on a theme "Youth against terrorism" on 11 December 2001. For learning English in practical ways and creating an imagination and detailed information for youth about American culture, education, customs, science and another all areas, AAYA organizes meeting and "Conversation Clubs" among American youth and Azerbaijani members of organization in every week. Also Association has held a scientific conference connected with the "Educational System of America and Azerbaijan in XXI century". Association has conducted a party with the initiative of American youth members of the Association connected with the "Anniversary Year of the Independence Day" of the USA. On August 9,2002, Association organized a roundtable on a theme "Our Constitution and International Spotlight". AAYA established a web-site www.azeri-american.tk where you can get detailed information about the goals and affairs on the Association.

About current activities of organization it is possible to note a training which will be organized with the technical support of International American Organization "World Learning" on a theme "NGO management and Fundraising" on October. Now organization are working on one program about accelerating of Azerbaijani youth activities in Diaspora work living in the USA.

For further information, please contact Vuqar Ahmadov at --- azeri_american@hotmail.com

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**Announcement from
the reader of
Azeri Voice**

Hi!

I have opportunity to offer postdoctoral as well as PhD program for young and talented Azeri. I would greatly appreciate if you could send the following announcement: I am offering positions and scholarships and if anybody interesting they can contact with me directly via e-mail as soon as possible and I will touch with them.

Candidate must have medical or biological education and not older than 35 years and need to be Azeri or the Commonwealth of Independent State resident at the times of the application!

The "Azeri Voice" Newsletter is published by Azerbaijan Society of America. It expresses the views of Azeris around the world. The editorial staff of the newsletter bears no responsibility for the content of materials, submitted for the publication. For comments, contributions or subscriptions, please contact Fariz Ismailzade at fariz_1998@yahoo.com