

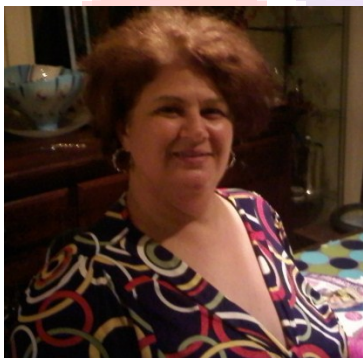


For Immediate Release

Contact: Diana Altman, diana@karabakhfoundation.org

Karabakh Foundation Appoints First Executive Director

Washington, D.C. June 21, 2010 The Board of Directors of the Karabakh Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Diana Cohen Altman as the first Executive Director of the new foundation dedicated to the culture, arts, and heritage of Azerbaijan and the Caucasus.



Diana Cohen Altman brings more than 20 years of experience in the cultural field. She has traveled extensively throughout the world and written for several cultural publications.

During 16 years as exhibition writer-editor at the Smithsonian Institution, Ms. Altman participated as a member of numerous exhibition-design teams. Exhibitions to which she has contributed have appeared around the world. She also has served as Fellowship Reviewer for the Smithsonian Institution.

For 6 years Ms. Altman served as director of the B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum and B'nai B'rith Archives. During this period, she developed the B'nai B'rith Center for Jewish Culture, which presented original programs and traveling exhibitions, including the acclaimed *Cochin Diary: Jewish Life in Southern India* exhibition. She also partnered with embassies, research organizations, and other institutions on public programs geared to increasing cross-cultural communication.

Ms. Altman developed the magazine for the National Association for Museum Exhibition (NAME) and served as its editor for 9 years. She has written extensively for museum publications on topics ranging from exhibition criticism to the use of technology in exhibition design.

Since 2008, Ms. Altman has served as Associate Publisher of *Moment* magazine, a magazine of Jewish life, culture, and thought originally founded by Elie Wiesel in the 1970s. She developed the magazine's first-ever Jewish American Heritage Month Guide and has designed partnerships for the magazine.

Ms. Altman is a member of the Advisory Committee for the Jewish-American Hall of Fame. She serves as a consultant to the Jewish American Heritage Month Coalition.

As a consultant in the science-technology museum arena, Ms. Altman has written articles for the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) and served as content-development advisor on the National Inventors Hall of Fame design team.

Ms. Altman's work as editor for the Smithsonian's 2001 Web exhibition *The Star-Spangled Banner: The Flag that Inspired the National Anthem* was recognized with *Communication Arts* magazine Communication Excellence Award. A designer of textiles in her free time, Ms. Altman also won a Smithsonian Artist-at-Work Juried Exhibition Award for one of her original textile designs.

The recipient of a B.A. in Anthropology from Vassar College, Ms. Altman volunteers in teaching the Junior Achievement program at public schools in Fairfax County, Virginia.

Ms. Altman lives in Falls Church, Virginia, with her husband and two sons.

About the Karabakh Foundation

The Karabakh Foundation seeks to increase awareness and understanding in the United States of the cultural heritage and traditions of the country of Azerbaijan, the Caucasus area, and the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. While coalescing significant artistic and scholarly talent, the Foundation is nurturing a new generation of artists and scholars toward important accomplishments.

The Foundation serves as a dynamic facilitator and clearinghouse raising the public profile of Azerbaijan, its Karabakh region, and the Caucasus region in general. Main activities include preserving and disseminating cultural content via archival collecting, public programs, publications, exhibitions, speaking forums, international collaborations, scholarly exchange, artistic sponsorship, and related venues.

Foundation support comes primarily from Khazar University, the first private university in Azerbaijan and one of the country's leading institutions of higher learning. Additional information about the Karabakh Foundation may be found at www.karabakhfoundation.org.

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