



...Culture, arts, & heritage of Azerbaijan & the Caucasus

For Immediate Release

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## LETTERS

### **The New Silk Road**

As the executive director of the Karabakh Foundation, an organization focused on Azerbaijan, I found that the discussion of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars (BTK) railway took me back centuries. The new iron horse is the latest caravan to cross the ancient crossroads of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan's strategic location has remained a constant. Waves of foreigners, friendly and otherwise, have contributed to a country that is layered in cultural styles. What a historic moment for those of us in an increasingly global environment.

**DIANA COHEN ALTMAN**  
Washington, D.C.

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### **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*

The December 2010 edition of *National Geographic* magazine featured a Letter to the Editor by Karabakh Foundation Executive Director Diana Cohen Altman.

The Executive Director's letter commended the *National Geographic* on its August article about the coming of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway. The letter also highlighted the global significance of Azerbaijan and the Caucasus.

*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](http://www.karabakhfoundation.org).*

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