

Azerbaijani Rugs: Gifts to the World

For Immediate Release

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Washington, D.C. November 7, 2011— On November 6, 2011, rug enthusiasts looking to expand their understanding of world-renowned Tabriz carpets gathered at Lord Oriental Carpets in Falls Church, Virginia. As part of the program, “Azerbaijani Rugs: Gifts to the World,” proprietor David Lotfallahi brought to life the weavers and weaving traditions behind the carpets from the area of his birth, Tabriz, in South Azerbaijan, in Iran.

Many participants in the Karabakh Foundation's "Azerbaijan Carpets: Gifts to the World" expressed admiration for the weavers' precision evident in the rugs. Many also were amazed by the fact that many Tabriz carpets are woven without a pattern, the result of the weavers' capacity to improvise with traditional patterns. All were captivated by the range of splendid colors, and by the natural-dye sources, which ranged from eggplants to onion skins to pomegranates.





Amid these beautiful carpets, participants reflected on the Azerbaijani families who have kept carpetmaking alive in Tabriz for centuries. Few children in Tabriz are learning the craft in this age of increasing global opportunities. The Tabriz rugs on display at Lord Oriental Carpets and elsewhere are rapidly becoming cherished artifacts with few contemporary counterparts. The Karabakh Foundation reasserted its commitment to embracing the role of Azerbaijani designers and weavers and to celebrating this internationally displayed art form.

Tabriz accounts for more than a third of "Persian carpets" from Iran. Tabriz carpets feature a particularly graceful layout of ancient traditional designs and in many cases a subtle color palette originating from natural dyes. According to David Lotfallahi, each of the "masterpiece" Tabriz carpets on display at Lord Oriental Carpets was woven over a period of about eight months by a master weaver with decades of

rugmaking experience.



About the Karabakh Foundation

The Karabakh Foundation is a U.S. 501(c)(3) cultural charity foundation based in Washington, D.C., that 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. Support also comes from the U.S.-based Allaverdy Foundation. Additional information about the Karabakh Foundation may be found at www.karabakhfoundation.org.

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