

# “IRS – מורשת” magazine – a bridge of communication and friendship

**Musa MARJANLI**  
Editor-in-Chief

Azerbaijan is a country of rich and ancient culture. Suffice it to mention that early state structures Manna, Media and Atropatena appeared on this land long before the new era, whereas Albania is considered as an important milestone in the statehood of the medieval Caucasus.

The fact that Azerbaijan is listed among centers of human civilization is evidenced by the world-famous archaeological complex of the Azykh cave in Karabakh. It was here that the most ancient Zoroastrian document, the Avesta, was written in the first millennium BC. Along with this, Azerbaijan pioneered Christianity in the Caucasus. The patterns on the walls of mosques, mausoleums, palaces and houses are rightfully considered the pride of the nation and have been attracting the attention of people around the world for centuries. Examples of this are the Momine Khatun Mausoleum in Nakhchivan, the Sheki Khans Palace, the Shirvanshahs Palace in Baku – just to name a few...

The appearance of Jews in Azerbaijan dates back to the 8th century BC. Since then, Persian-speaking Tats settled in the country, some of whom profess Judaism. This ethnicity has adopted the name of “Mountain Jews”, whose biggest ethnocultural and socio-economic center, the village of Krasnaya Sloboda, is located near the Azerbaijani city of Guba. Mountain Jews from different countries come here on holidays. Much later, in the 19th century, European Ashkenazi Jews appeared in Azerbaijan almost simultaneously with German colonists. Georgian Jews appeared in the country at around the same time, while the Sephardim a little later. For many centuries, the Jews have lived in Azerbaijan in peace, accord and harmony with the rest of the population, having adopted many cultural features of their neighbors. Azerbaijan is a country with the least manifestations of anti-Semitism, which is practically absent here.

The State of Israel was one of the first countries to recognize the Republic of Azerbaijan – as early as on 25 December 1991. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on 6 April 1992, and the Israeli embassy has been operating in Baku since August 1993.

Despite the absence of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Israel, the opening of which is being delayed due to certain geopolitical factors, the relations between the two countries are developing dynamically and have now reached the level of strategic partnership. It is quite indicative that Azerbaijan accounts for 65 percent of Israel's oil imports and Israel is one of the biggest buyers of Azerbaijani oil in the world market. An active community of immigrants from Azerbaijan plays an important role in inter-parliamentary ties and at the level of relations between public organizations.