

Consul General of Azerbaijan to Los Angeles presentation at UVU



Consul General of Azerbaijan, Mr. Nasimi Aghayev at UVU

I was able to attend the event hosted by UVU on October 8, 2018 at which the Consul General of Azerbaijan to Los Angeles, Mr. Nasimi Aghayev, was the keynote speaker. To be honest I didn't even know that Azerbaijan was a country until a few days ago. Mr. Aghayev did an amazing job speaking about his country. The most fascinating aspect to me was how accepting they are of all religions. Whereas many of the countries around them have a lot of violence because of religion, in Azerbaijan there is almost every religion and they live in harmony. Some examples of this are the government (mostly Muslim) built a synagogue for the Jewish population. At the Muslim Friday prayer Sunni and Shia Muslims, come and pray together and rotate listening to an Imam of the other faith. This is fascinating to me because we know that Sunni and Shia Muslims do not get along in most parts of the world, but here they live and pray together in harmony.

Azerbaijan was a republic in 1918 where they created the first ever secular Muslim democracy and in 1919 they would give women the right to vote, one year before the United States. Unfortunately in 1920 they were invaded by the Russians and remained under Soviet Control until 1991. Now they are in their second republic and are a very advanced country with a literacy rate of 95%. There are all faiths in their government including a Jewish woman in the supreme court justice. Another Jewish man represents a part of the country where the population is nearly 100% Muslim. Azerbaijan is a great example to all of the rest of the world on how any country and anybody can live in harmony together no matter their race, religion, gender, etc.

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