

Project Judaica Alumni

Dear David Levovich!

I just wanted to say that it has been a great pleasure seeing you after so many years and sharing your birthday celebration with you! Thank you so much for remembering and inviting me! Also, I just wanted to say how much I appreciate the amazing opportunity of being part of Project Judaica and your classes. I grew up in a very assimilated family. And although I didn't become a Jewish scholar but instead sell out to the capitalist world, it is thanks to Project Judaica and you especially that I found my Jewish identity. If I can describe it in a few words, (which is almost impossible) it would be Yiddish - the culture, history and the language of Eastern European Jews that you managed to revive to us in your wonderful classes. It is actually thanks to Project Judaica that I met my husband. My classmate and a very good friend Anya Khanina introduced me to Dennis. His mother is a wonderful kind Jewish woman but just like my parents, she was raised in the Soviet Russia. So being Jewish for Dennis meant no more than it was for me before meeting you - a background, which defines how people perceive you but means very little. But the most amazing thing is that although we did have a beautiful Jewish wedding (Anya Khanina's dad performed the ceremony!) and although I did drag Dennis to synagogue once on Yom Kippur, it was after your birthday when Dennis wanted to learn more about Yiddish culture. He said: "Jewish weddings, gefilte fish - what is more to it? What did your professor teach you?" I tried to talk about history, religion, Yiddish writers, songs but I just wished he took your class! So with this long blabbing letter, I wanted to say Thank you for being my teacher! We were really privileged to be part of that class and I think that it was one of the best things that happened to me in life! And one more time many many many warm wishes for your birthday! We will be looking forward to your book! Karina

Karina Kheifetz-Sagiev

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At 12:45 PM 3/12/2008, you wrote:

Dear reb Dovid,

I am so sorry we could not come to your birthday celebration! It was like black magic - we all (all 4 of us!) got sick the night before and just getting better now... It is especially upsetting because I was so excited to receive an invitation and was planning to come from the second I received it...

However, Rochelle, Elis, Oleg and me, we all would like to wish you a very happy belated birthday!!! And we are drinking l'chaim for you!!!! (see attachment), Wishing you to have great friends around you, lots of success, smart students, interesting books, great health, lovable family! And of course (as my grandparents would always add) - a lot of "naches" from your son!

I am sure your birthday was a lot of fun and I hope you enjoyed every second of it.

Hope to see you some time soon - maybe we would be able to congratulate you in person.

Lots of love from me personally,

Lara Vekselman (Trojanovsky)
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Date: Wed, 30 Jan 2008 01:47:13 +0000
From: lev.krichevsky@gmail.com

Mazl Tov!!!

I hope I can meet you next time I am in NYC - I usually stay with my friends on 113 and Broadway.

Date: Mon, 25 Feb 2008 16:08:38 -0500

From: Irina Astashkevich <bella.irina@gmail.com>

Graduate student in Jewish History at Brandeis University.

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