

To Aviezri Fraenkel, on his eightieth birthday; May 2009

Dear Shaula, Aviezri, and friends,

It was a great day for mathematicians, and for human beings, and specially for Eretz Yisrael when Aviezri was born, 80 years ago. The achievements he has made in his lifetime are breathtaking in their importance, and they have been accomplished at apparently no cost to his sense of humor and his self-deprecating mien.

If he had only made fundamental contributions to the theory of combinatorial games and to the theory of numbers, – *dayenu*;

if he had not made those contributions but had only codified the writings of the Responsa, which had been fragmented in many locations worldwide and which now, thanks mainly to him, are available and searchable in one place, – *dayenu*;

and if he had done neither of the above, but instead had only been the warm, friendly, good humored person and family man that he is, that would also have been enough.

But you have done it all, and having seen you and Shaula from time to time over the years has brightened our lives in many ways. We will keep a supply of paper plates, hard boiled eggs, and plastic knives and forks ready for your next visit, which we hope will be soon.

Happy birthday Aviezri, and many happy and healthy returns of the day!

Ruth and Herb Wilf