

An Appreciation

Chava was an outstanding scientist and a great personal example for me. I joined her group in 1992 as a graduate student. At that time I had a very vague idea about scientific research and barely spoke any language except Russian. Chava introduced me into the exciting environment of the experimental mass spectrometry laboratory and helped me to make the first steps that were crucial for my future. She was an excellent teacher and a great scientist. I appreciated her approach to scientific problems and admired her thoroughness, her knowledge and curiosity. I also learned from Chava that a very successful female scientist may have some life outside the lab. A mom of three children and a growing number of grandkids she was always carrying pictures of her treasures and she loved sharing stories about them.

I will always remember few small things that were so characteristic of Chava's personality. Every Friday morning she spent in the library reading the new chemistry journals that arrived during the week. Each publication that Chava found interesting was marked with a small pencil dot. As a young graduate student I was getting very excited finding this small dot by any paper that attracted my attention. I knew I was on the right path. It was even more rewarding to find a paper that Chava had not seen yet but this was a really challenging task — she was following the literature very thoroughly.

In 1994 Chava became a chairperson of the Institute of Chemistry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and took this assignment with all her responsibility. She also continued being actively involved in research and I continued bombarding her with questions. Sometimes it became too much even for Chava. In that case she was telling me that she would get back to me with answers a little later. It never took her long to respond — next morning I would find a piece of paper on my desk with clearly stated answers supported, if necessary, by mathematical derivations. Chava knew how to deliver a message. This was the key to her very clear and crisp papers and presentations. This was also a key to her success as a teacher and mentor. I saw her once explaining something to a new postdoc, who could barely speak English at that time. She was facilitating communication by writing her words in capital letters on the blackboard. Being an impulsive person she could be very patient when it came to teaching and mentoring.

I always admired Chava's ability to stay active and extremely productive despite all the health problems that she was going through over many years. She had a very serious heart attack briefly after I joined her group. I thought it would take three months or so for her to recover but only two or three weeks after the surgery Chava organized a small group meeting at her home and soon after that she came back to the lab. It is not surprising that her last proposal got funded just two months before she passed away – Chava never gave up. She worked hard until the last day of her life – two manuscripts appeared in the *Journal of Physical Chemistry A* in March 2005; a book chapter that she was working on in the last weeks of her life will be published soon.

Dear Chava, thank you for your energy and responsiveness. Thank you for teaching me and sharing your approach to high-quality science. Thank you for the small pencil marks in the journals. Thank you for everything. Farewell.

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January 2006