

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

I rise because the last time we were at an occasion such as this -- John and Nina's 25th -- Koskoff delivered himself of an epic poem so spectacular that the rest of the room was silenced -- except for me and I should have known better.

I intend to break three rules of toasts. I'm not going to roast, joust or be ironic. I'm going to talk about myself, a little. I did not run this past my wife, although actually I chickened out and did.

I am descended from a distinguished and large European family, mostly because of the vagaries of the 20th century, only remnants made it to the U.S. at the end of World War II. and those people were so busy coping, that family was mostly the biannual rituals of Thanksgiving and Passover.

So it wasn't until I came upon Susan that ~~under~~ I started to understand what family is really about, when it works, when all those cousins and generations and homebods ~~blend together~~ blend, families are wondrous. I don't know much about the Grams, but let me tell you the Darnton-Libermans are among the best.

John ~~has~~, for ~~different~~ different reasons, has a background like mine. He too has blended into this family with superior results although Nina sometimes forgets. Recently Nina was exclaiming about Jamie's obstreperous adolescence, "How can a son of mine behave like that..." Nina, said John, "he's half me..." This is a wonderful family and it is about getting even better.



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in today's world we are all so smart, rich and safe so we tend to deal in trophies, where we work, where we went to school, where our vacation house is located, where our children go to school, who we know.

But the greatest trophy, the only one that really counts, is a great marriage and the great family that results. so here's to marriage. and here's to david and beloved kyra.

