

THE BERMAN FAMILY ANNOUNCER

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www.bermanfamily.com

June 30, 2011

REMEMBER THE DATE: Saturday, September 17, 2011

Interest in and support for the every-couple-of-months meetings of The Lunch Bunch continues to grow as members of the family make an effort to participate in what has proven to be a most pleasant event. Ask anyone who has attended. Interest in attending continues to grow...and those who have joined us once look forward to coming back and continuing the never ending conversations.

We encourage those in the easy driving area who have not as yet attended to do so....to come meet members of the family who you may not as yet know...and to introduce your spouse and children to the family. The unfortunate truth is that many members of the family have been estranged....non participants in family functions...and attending the informal lunches provides an easy opportunity to establish neglected family relationships.

The next luncheon is scheduled to be held at **12:00 NOON, Saturday, September 17, 2011 at Carmine's Restaurant, 1500 Whaley Avenue (just off the Merritt Parkway) in New Haven.** The time and location make the occasion easily accessible from New York or Boston...or anyplace in-between.

Jane Mallow (b.1940) (Chonon Berman/Golda Berman/Frances Levin) from Miami coordinated her trip to New York to allow her to attend the May 14th lunch. She was so pleased to have had the opportunity to visit with **Judy Berman Levine** (b.1933) (*Chonon Berman/Harry Berman*) and **Barbara Byer Tiven** (b.1933) (*Chonon Berman/Bailia Levitz/Celia Byer*), her childhood friends and cousins, that she is contemplating a replication of The Lunch Bunch to be held in Miami on Saturday, February 18th commemorating the year of her mother's 100th birthday. **Frances Russian Levin** (*Chonon Berman/Golda Russian*) who lives in Miami was born on August 2, 1912.

If you find the idea of a mid-winter luncheon in Miami intriguing, contact Jane at ilmram@bellsouth.net and encourage her. The Lunch Bunch South! Sounds great! You can hear the sunshine!

Allene & **Kenneth L. Berman** (b.1940) (*Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Gus Berman*) from Rye Brook, NY and Dr. Robert & **Cyvia Russian Peters** (b.1934) (*Chonon Berman/Golda Russian/Herman Russian*) from East Haven, CT were also present at the May 14th lunch.

We sincerely hope that Laura Arch & Dr. **Jeffrey Arons** (b.1951) (*Chonon Berman/Golda Russian/Herman Russian/Cyvia Arons*) of Woodbridge, CT, **Mark D. Arons** (b.1958) (*Chonon Berman/Golda Russian/Herman Russian/Cyvia Arons*) of Enfield, CT, members of the **Rebuhn** (*Chonon Berman/Golda Russian/Natalie Rebuhn*) and **Sulkis** (*Chonon Berman/Barnett Berman/Helen Rhein*) families and other Berman family members will join us on September 17th.

If you are a regular attendee, plan to attend or are considering attending, why not call a relative or two to have them join you – and us – on September 17th. Bring the children! The more the merrier!

Please confirm your intention to join us for lunch by notifying Larry & Barbra Byer Tiven (b.1933) (*Chonon Berman/Bailia Levitz/Celia Byer*) at (203) 795-3651 or by e-mail at ltiven@aol.com. Make your plans early.

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Editor's Note: Commencing with this issue, in response to the suggestion of a member of the family, we are including the date of birth of each family member mentioned in News of the Family. It was the opinion of the suggestor that while the generational information is interesting and important, because of the substantial age differences within the generations, the inclusion of the dates of birth will allow the readers to better relate age-wise with the individuals about whom news is reported.

Please do not hesitate to let us know your opinion as to the new editorial policy.

We are pleased to report the May 14, 2011 wedding of Martha Witherell Copithorne and Dr. **Robert Peter Sprafkin** (b.1940)(Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Dora Sprafkin) in Sonoma, California.

Mark Copithorne was the officiant at the ceremony where the couple was surrounded by their children and grandchildren. His opening words:

We come together as two families to celebrate and consecrate the wedding of Martha and Bob.

And even as we begin, we offer respect to two missing members of our family, to Barbara and David. And we thank them for the love that they taught us. For often at a wedding we witness two people take a leap into adulthood. But today we celebrate the union of two who have achieved the ripeness of maturity and wisdom.

We give them thanks for the gifts that they gave us, for often at a wedding we anticipate to start a new family. But today we start as two families, fully formed, joining in support of a new union.

But for all the maturity, it is no less a miracle of courage two people dare to start a new life together. It is no less a miracle and a marvel of courage that two people dare to begin a new love together. It is no less a miracle of courage that two people dare to create a new world together.

Martha and Bob honeymooned among the Redwoods. They are at 111 Roland Park Road, Center Ossipee, and New Hampshire 03814 for the summer and thereafter to Philadelphia. Martha's cell phone number is (315) 751-2124 and Bob's is (315) 727-3951. Bob writes: "we plan to live part of the year in Center City Philadelphia and part of the year in Ossipee, NH."

Congratulations, Martha & Bob....and welcome to the Berman Family, Martha and your children. When one marries a Berman he/she and their families become part of ours!

Bob, a psychologist, is now retired. He was the Chief Psychologist and Director of Psychology Training, Dept of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Syracuse (NY); Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, SUNY Upstate Medical University; Adjunct Professor of Psychology, Syracuse University; Consulting Psychologist, Arc of Onondaga; Consulting Psychologist, ENABLE, Syracuse; Consulting Psychologist, Community Options, Inc., Syracuse.

(As a matter of history, Bob's father, Ben Sprafkin, was the founder of and dedicated agitator for the subversive "Anti-Bermans" despite his having served as President of The Berman Family Group. Ben was the long time, distinguished Executive Director of the Jewish Family Services of Greater Philadelphia and, at one time, served as the Executive Director of the national organization.)

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As to Bob's children, he has advised:

Jeff (b.1965), Ella and their son **Josh** (b.2010) "seem to be settled in Shanghai",

Noah (b.1970), Rachana and their daughter **Noor** (b.2008) had been living in Karachi, Pakistan where Noah was working for Marie Stopes International, a leading reproductive health organization. The Pakistanis cancelled Noah's visa so the family returned to Philadelphia "while Noah prepares for his next (probably ex-pat) adventure."

Neal (b.1970) has continued to run his mother Barbara's (1940-2006) gourmet dog treat business, My Doggy. "He had been doing it from Syracuse, but decided to relocate himself and the biz to Philadelphia. A fantastic move, as it turns out, since there he met, dated and became engaged to Lisa Yaffe, Dartmouth '93." "We are all thrilled!" wrote Bob.

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On June 16, 2011 **Anne (Ms. Arthur) Berman** (*Chonon Berman/Harry Berman/widow of Arthur Berman*) was honored as a “living treasure” and awarded the Junior Women’s Club of Milford, CT’s 16th Annual “Living Treasure Award” for her work for environmental causes. Anne founded the city’s Environmental Concerns Coalition which she chaired for 10 years until 2009.

Mayor James L. Richetelli, Jr. declared Thursday, June 16th “Ann Berman Day.”

Anne dedicated the award to her late husband, Dr. **Arthur David Berman** (1928-1975). Anne and Arthur were married in 1962 and lived in New Haven, Branford and Milford.

Anne grew up in New Brunswick. Her father was Canadian, her mother was American. She became a United States citizen, attended Tufts University and worked as a physical therapist at Yale-New Haven hospital.

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It is warm and fuzzy to discover details about members of the family, especially when they include in their e-mails such extemporaneous comments such as “I applaud your efforts with the project – it’s great to discover more about your family.” Yes, it is great to be a Berman! Thank you, Houston.

We belatedly report the marriage of **McMillan H. (“Houston”) Johnson, V** (b.1982) (*Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Morris Berman/Leila Schulman/Marcy Johnson*) to Kachina O’lani Julia Grace Binstock Domenick (now Johnson) on November 22, 2008 in Salem, Virginia.

Kachina was born on July 18, 1981 in Maui, Hawaii. She presently works for the Public Relations Department of the Knox County (TN) Public Library in Knoxville.

Houston was born in Salem, Virginia on May 22, 1982. He received his B.A. *magna cum laude* from Roanoke College in May of 2004 with majors in History, Religion and Philosophy. His M.A. in American History was awarded in May of 2006 from the University of Tennessee. Houston has now completed his PhD, graduating with a specialty in 20th Century American History from Tennessee in May, 211. He is currently teaching there.

Kachina & Houston reside at 3100 Lake Brook Blvd., Apt. 216, Knoxville, TN. They can be reached at mhoustonjohnson@gmail.com.

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Kachina & **Houston Johnson** who spent three weeks in Europe this spring were but two of the Berman Family members who visited or are scheduled to be abroad this summer.

Dr. Gideon & **Meredith Berman Yoelli** (b.1953) (*Chonon Berman/Gustave Berman/Milton Berman*) visited Israel in June. Their daughter, **Aly** (b.1987)(Alexandra), who received her Masters in Social Work from Boston University last fall, has passed her licensing exam for New York State and is actively looking for a job in the New York City area. Their son, **Max** (b.1990), spent his winter term in D.C. interning for Congressman Diana DeGette (D-Colorado), has been elected President of the Dartmouth College student body. "He's excited, to say the least" reports his mother.

Andy & **Caren Berman Nemtzow** (b.1957) (*Chonon Berman/Gustave Berman/Eugene Berman*) toured Europe to visit their twin sons who were on research fellowships in physics: **Alex** (b.1990) in Italy and **Zach** (b.1990) in France.

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Brad L. Berman (b.1957)(Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Gus Berman/David Berman) is no longer Executive Vice President and General Counsel of the Liberian International Ship to Corporate Registry (LISCR LLC), he having left that position to return to the private practice of law at the prestigious New York law firm of Holland & Knight.

Brad, who holds a B.B.A. (1978) from George Washington University, an M.B.A. (1984) from CUNY Baruch College and a J.D. (1983) from New York Law School, can be reached at brad.berman@hklaw.com or by telephone at (212) 513-3200.

Brad and his wife Naomi reside in Wilton, Ct with their children Sam (b.1988) and Kayla (b.1992).

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Judy Berman Levine (b.1933) (*Chonon Berman/Harry Berman*), the youngest of the surviving grandchildren of Chonon & Chashe Berman, has donated the following items to the Berman Family Archives:

- * The original certificate, under seal, from the State of Connecticut:

Be it Remembered, That on the 28th day of July, A.D., 1906, before the Assistant Clerk, of the Court of Common Pleas, within and for said County, having Common Law Jurisdiction, with a Clerk, and a seal, personally appeared

Honan Berman

of New Haven, in said County, who was born in Russia aged about 54 years, and on oath did declare that it was *bona fide* his intention to become a CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State and Sovereignty, whatever - and particularly to Nicholas Emperor of Russia, of whom he is now a subject - In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of this Court, the day and year aforesaid.

/s/ Edwin S. Pichett
Assistant Clerk

- * The original July 13, 1962 letter to Harry Berman from the United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service in Hartford, Connecticut attesting:

“Petition for naturalization filed by Honon Berman on February 16, 1912 indicates that son, Harry, was born on August 15, 1897.”

- * Two (2) undated newspaper articles relating to Synagogues in Belaruss, one headlined “Photographer found ‘lost synagogues’” and the other “Synagogue with long history being torn down in Belarus”.
- * Two (2) original editions of ***The Berman Announcer***:

One, Vol. 1, No. 2 dated March, 1951 announcing the forthcoming Saturday, April 21, 1951 "The Berman Family Seder". Harry Berman was President of The Berman Family Group and Herman Russion was to act as Master of Ceremonies.

The other, Vol.2, No. 4 dated October, 1955 announced a Berman Family meeting to be held on Sunday, October 30, 1955. Arnold Berman was President. The newsletter began:

"Everyone is looking forward to this meeting, not because of any earth shattering matters to be resolved, but to be together as a Family and enjoy being with one another. Family matters, of course, will receive the earnest consideration of all of us, for therein lies our strength and our unity."

We are very much indebted to Judy for contributing these priceless artifacts and encourage others to forward Berman family memorabilia for recording and safe keeping.

The Berman Announcers will be posted and incorporated with the other preserved copies of the publication at the family website, www.bermanfamily.com where they can be read in all of their historical glory. They are fascinating...and bring back pleasant memories of the family and of family members who may have died but are remembered by those of us who sincerely believe that "*It's Great To Be A Berman*".

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The Riessions are coming! The Russions are coming ! The Russians are coming !

In response to our recent "Family History" item (***The Berman Family Announcer***, Vol. 2011, No. 2 dated April 28, 2011) concerning the family of **David Riesson** (1873-1955), the husband of **Golda Berman Riesson** (1876-1947), **Jane Mallow** (b.1940) (Honan Berman/Golda Russian/Frances Levin) who has written in clarification of the spelling of her mother's maiden name:

“I have my birth certificate which clearly states that her maiden name is RUSSION, which Poppy Russisn must have used. I think Uncle Herman was the only one who changed it from an O to an A. I don’t think anyone used Riesson.”

Editor’s Note: This ain’t a job for the spelling impaired!

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We belatedly report about the **Zamkow** family (Honan Berman/Chana Esther/Samuel Berman). Our cousins from across the pond continue to maintain a presence (an apartment) in New York.

We extend our sympathy to Michael whose father died last November at age 87 after a brief illness and to **Sue** (b.1954) who lost her Aunt Carol.

Son **Sam** (b.1991) graduated from Proctor Academy a year ago and is now attending Rochester Institute of Technology majoring in mechanical engineering with a concentration in automotives. Son **Max** (b.1987), a Stanford graduate, is working at his second technology start-up in Palo Alto (the first was purchased) and has started his own technology venture that he works on in his spare time. According to their parents, “Both kids are thriving, happy, doing what they are supposed to be doing at this age.”

As for Michael and Sue, Sue philosophizes:

“Michael and I are trying to figure out what we are supposed to be doing at our age; where we want to live, etc. While we have been empty nesters for over 3 years now, it wasn’t until Sam went off to college that the enormity of the kids’ absence hit home. What is this next chapter all about? I admit that I am going through a bit of existential crisis, not unlike that in adolescence, examining the meaning of life.”

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JILLIAN ADELE BERMAN (b.1972) (*Honan Berman/Chana Esther/Gus Berman/Kenneth L. Berman*), who lives in New York, is now a consultant in the Central Policy Office within the Operationsl Risk Department of Morgan Stanley.

Jillian, a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, was most recently Senior Legal Counsel at The Park Avenue Bank and previously a Vice President of Morgan Stanley and an associate at Davis, Polk & Wardwell.

A BIT OF HISTORY...Continued

(The following is a continuation of the excerpt from a presentation by Rochelle Goldberg Rothchild's to a program "Jewish History of Belarus" presented by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston that was reprinted in part in Vol. 2011, No.2 dated April 28, 2011 in *The Berman Family Announcer*.)

In 1852 Russia forced Jews living in other areas to resettle in the Pale and imposed educational and landowning restrictions. Many could work only as artisans and shopkeepers (and eventually factory workers). Quotas and pogroms followed. As the quality of life deteriorated, revolutionary movements arose, particularly in cities, where Jews were concentrated.

Despite economic restrictions in the Pale, the Jewish population exploded from one million in 1800 to five million in 1900, not counting the three million who emigrated. Population pressure and barriers to landownership caused great poverty. The reactionary and anti-Semitic advisors to Czar Alexander III famously suggested to him that a third of the Jews should leave, a third starve, and the rest convert.

In Belarusian villages today, reminders of Jewish settlement can still be seen in the architecture of the houses. Jews were not allowed to own land, so they often became tradesmen. Since they often conducted their trades from their homes, their houses had a front door near the street that led to a room for these activities, still detectable today in those formerly Jewish homes that have been modified to have the more usual side or rear entrance from the garden.

In Jewish homes, women were often the breadwinners of the family, while the men engaged in religious study. In addition to inn-keeping and liquor dealing,

some engaged in prostitution. Scholem Asch's popular play, *God of Vengeance*, was about a brothel keeper and his wife, a former prostitute. The silent movie *The Yellow Ticket* illustrated how girls, as supposed prostitutes, could get permits called "yellow tickets" that allowed them to travel to the big Russian cities. Some used this as a device to become university students.

(To be continued.)

MATTERS RELATING TO GENEALOGY

"Khasia" is now "Chashe"

Judy Berman Levine (*Chonon Berman/Harry Berman*) was right. She has insisted that the correct spelling of the name of Chonon Berman's wife was "Chashe" ...and she was right.

Some of the exciting aspects of genealogy are searching the actual records, comparing the records to the results of others and paying attention to the "leaves" – the red flags provided by Ancestry.com as more records become available to double check what has been recorded. Thanks to JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR), we have confirmed that the apparently correct anglicized spelling of Chonon's wife is, in fact, **C-H-A-S-H-E**. The process of changing the spelling has begun and will apparently be a continuing effort to bring all of the family records up-to-date.

For the record, Chashe was born in (perhaps Koden) Russia in 1849. We are researching to confirm that her father was Gedalia Lipshitz and to reconcile dates of births and marriages. It is a never ending story.

Assuming that Chashe's father was, indeed, Gedalia, it would suggest that her son, Gustave, was named after her father who would have had to have³ died before Gus' birth in 1889. The assumption has credence in a story told by Gus' son **Milton R. Berman** (1921-2010), who, when in New York on a buying trip with his father, recalled being in a taxi cab when the driver apparently recognized Gus and exclaimed: "Gedalia!" Although Milton recalled that the taxi driver and Gus

came from the same shetel in Russia where they knew one another 50 or so years before, he recalled no other facts relating to the fortuitous meeting.

The wannabes

Sue Lederer Geiger of 75 Highland Avenue, Simi Valley, CA (sueaew@sbcvglobal.net) and Todd Berman, 2V Media Marketing, 11521 Danville, MD 20852 (toddberman@gmail.com) are two individuals with whom we are in communication, each of them seeking to establish a relationship to our Berman Family. Todd comes to the table through Sue whose great grandfather Berman once lived at the same address at the same time as several of our Berman brothers. Sue's relative went on to graduate from Yale Law School. Sue and Todd have apparently established a genealogical relationship between themselves and are seeking to link their families to ours.

Although Sue's DNA testing would be inconclusive in establishing a blood relationship, Todd is undergoing DNA Testing through FamilyTree DNA where Eugene Berman's DNA is already of record. It was through DNA that we have established our relationship to the Taunus Lineage Project and Eugene has established the relationship to the Epstein and Haberman families.

If anyone is interested in DNA testing, we respectfully suggest the highly respected **Family Tree DNA** whose website is <http://www.FamilyTreeDNA.com> and whose slogan is "History Unearthed Daily". Genetics is fast becoming a popular tool for genealogy.

YES, THERE ARE THINGS THST YOU AN DO TO HELP...please.

Tracing the Berman family genealogy, maintaining up-to-date records of the descendants of Chonon & Chasia Berman, editing the Berman Family Tree and keeping The Berman Family Mailing List current are ever increasingly time consuming task as more ancestral information becomes available and as the

family continues to expand through marriages and births. It is a good thing, but to keep current requires the support and co-operation of all family members.

There are simple things that **you** can do to help:

(1) Report all life cycle events – births, marriages (divorces) and deaths – including names, dates and places - to eberman1@cox.net.

(2) Advise promptly as to any changes in your contact information – address, e-mail address, and telephone and fax numbers, etc. so that those changes can be made to The Berman Family Mailing List.

Contact information includes the new e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of children and, when relevant, information relating to their colleges and college contact information.

(3) Extend the courtesy of replying promptly and as completely as possible to e-mail inquiries requesting additional information.

(4) Provide as much news and information about you and your family as you are willing to share with the family...and preserve in The Berman Family Archives.

Members of the extended Berman family welcome information concerning their relatives...regardless of the distance in miles or degrees of relationship.

A simple suggestion, if you will: send us copies of newspaper or magazine articles relating to family and, of course, the inevitable obituaries. (It is said that obituaries are the Facebook of the elderly....and, unfortunately, it is true.) We gain much of our reported information from the “seasonal” newsletters that many families send and share with us.

MISSING E-MAIL ADDRESSES

So, while we are at it, we urgently need your help in ascertaining the e-mail addresses of the following family members (other than minor children living at home) who we believe have e-mail addresses of which we are unaware:

HARRIS, Jacob Benjamin

HARRIS, Anna Rebecca

HEITZMAN, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas (Dawn)

HELLER, Peter G.

HELTOWSKI, Sara Jane

HELTOWSKI, Emily Margaret

HELTOWSKI, Chester Raymond

PADOWITZ, Carl

 PADOWITZ, Jessica

 PADOWITZ, Josiah

PADOWITZ, David Frederick

PADOWITZ, Daniel

PADOWITZ, Glenn

 PADOWITZ, Rebecca Ann

SANDGROUND, Evelyn Yager Heller

SHENFELD, Carly

SHENFELD, Erica J.

Indeed, if any member of your family who has an e-mail address did not receive his/her own copy of this issue of ***The Berman Family Announcer***, please be so kind as to forward his/her name and e-mail address to us to be able to add the

information to the mailing list. It is important information that allows us to share information and news with all members of the family. Please!....and keep us informed as to new and changed e-mail addresses as they invariably occur.

IT'S GREAT TO BE A BERMAN !

Visit the Berman family website at: www.bermanfamily.com
