

THE BERMAN FAMILY ANNOUNCER

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< bermanfamily.com >

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bermanfamily.com

The predominant comment following the launch of the newly designed Berman Family Website (<bermanfamily.com>) has been “Wow!”

The most satisfying comment came from **Brett J. Rebuhn** (*Golda Berman/ Natalie Russian/Gary Rebhun*) whose father died just a year ago and who wrote: “...It has been a quick year, and Gary’s one year anniversary came and went quickly. My mother (Roberta) and I as well as the girls (Sydney and Jasmine) all miss him terribly. Rarely a day goes by that we don’t reference him, or openly remember him. Your family updates kind of keep him alive in our lives. ..” Brett’s comments remind us of the importance of family and of those relationships that **The Berman Family Announcer** and the **website** are intend to keep alive. Expressions of appreciation such as from Brett make it all worthwhile.

As has been reported, the website is “under construction”, i.e. it is being refined, added to, corrected, up-dated and improved regularly. Those who now visit the website regularly will note what we hope are meaningful additions.

(Please note as a cautionary measure that it takes a minute or two to download “Want to watch a rough cut of a three minute music video inspired by This Is Us – The Berman Family History and Genealogy”...but it is worth the wait. Time to get the popcorn!)

The initiation of the website provides us with an opportunity to up-date the family genealogy and to complete contact information. We request that you explore the current version of the extended Berman Family Tree online and view or download the pdf file of the Descendants of Chonon and Khasia Berman to verify that you and all members of your family are included. If any individual has been overlooked and omitted, please send the name, parents, date and place of birth to eberman1@cox.net to assure that the omission will be corrected and the genealogy and Family Tree will be complete and accurate. Indeed, please notify us as to any other errors or omissions so that the information that has been compiled will be "complete and accurate".

We remain concerned that there are individual family members who have e-mail addresses of which we do not have a record. Because **The Announcer** is now distributed by e-mail only, unless we have the e-mail address, the individual does not receive a copy of **The Berman Family Announcer** or of other notices that we send to the family. We therefore urgently request that you review the pdf file of the *Descendants of Chonon and Khasia Berman* and send to us the addresses and e-mail addresses of those individuals for whom we do not now have such contact information. Indeed, we note that there are many children (youngsters, teenagers) who we suspect have their own e-mail addresses that have not as yet been reported to us for inclusion on the mailing list of descendants. Please be so kind as to forward this missing information.

Among those individual family members for whom we do not presently have mailing and/or e-mail addresses are the following:

Mr. & Mrs. Eric Evans, 6006 Cyprus Woods, Green Drive, Spring, TX 77373

e-mail:

Mr. Harry Fein, 1135 Kings Wat Drive, Nokomois, FL 34275

e-mail:

Ms.Chava Furman, 5925 Bland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21215

e-mail:

Mr. Jacob Benjamin Harris, % Dr. Mrs. Kenneyh A. Harris,

10503 Thunderbird Road, #313, Sun City, AZ 85351

e-mail:

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Heitzman, 3121 Buffalo Speedway, Apt. 5404, Houston, TX

e-mail:

Mr. Peter G.Heller, Fernleaf Circle, NW, Atlanta, GA 30318-1417

e-mail:

Ms. Jennifer McGary, 1617 Truesdale Court, No. 5, Key West, FL 33040

e-mail:

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Meloche, 44 Carlton Ave., Apt. #6, Lannack Village, FL

e-mail:

Mr. Glen Padowitz, P. O. Box 793, Carrabelle, FL

e-mail:

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Padowitz, 7899 NE Bay Shore Court, Miami, FL 33138

e-mail:

Mr. Philip Padowitz, % Janet Padowitz,

577 Sabal Palm Circle, Alta Monte Springs, FL 32701

e-mail:

Ms. Phyllis Padowitz, 2341 SW 80th Terrace, Micimar, FL 33025-2210

e-mail:

Ms. Roberta Rebhun, 22 Tyler City Road, Orange, CT 06477

e-mal:

Mr. & Mrs. Laurence Sulkis, 70 Ann Drive, Bethany, CT 06524

e-mail:

There is no reason why we should not have the correct contact for every member of the family. Please help us to obtain the information so that our "subscription" list is complete. We do recognize that there are some who do not have e-mail and have identified them on the list of the *Descendants of Chonon and Khasia* by the word "NONE" on the e-mail address line.

NEWS OF MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY

Sue Zamkow (*Chana Esther/Samuel Berman*) has written: "Since September I have been struggling...fell down a flight of stairs at home and dislocated and broke the radial head of my elbow. Came to NY for operation. Stayed month for physical therapy. 2nd operation also in NY on February 11. Again here for therapy. In the meantime, **Michael's** dad gets sick and dies within 6 weeks during the time I am here for first surgery, so he is running between me in NY and his dad in NJ." She concludes her correspondence with what we shall describe as a Sueism: "So I have to say lately it has been all about me which is not how I like to live my life..."

We are certain that Michael would appreciate expressions of condolences...and get well wishes would cheer up Sue during the period of her troubles.

Contact information is in the file of the Descendants of Chonon & Khasia.

Not that it is a competition, but **Larry Tiven**, husband of **Barbara** (*Balia/Celia Levitz Byer*) has written to report his own physical ailments: "I've been totally involved with the ruptured Achilles tendon. Since September, I've required two surgeries and am now battling a second infection in the affected foot. Our lives seem to revolve around nothing but doctor visit, special tests and dressing

changes. "It has been a long time since Barbara has practiced her nursing profession, but...

We would bet that Larry would enjoy hearing from members of the family. He is e-mail proficient.

At least **Alex Nemtzow** (*Gustave Berman/Eugene Berman/Caren Berman Nemtzow*) was having fun snowboarding in Vermont when he broke one ankle and sprained the other.

Kerry Padowitz, wife of **Greg** (*Golda Berman/Dora Russian/Howard Padowitz*) "has switched teams". She was previously an Air Analyst-Disney Cruise Lines and now works for Universal Orlando. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management from Nova University.

Greg is a National Technical Support Engineer for Bowe Systec, Inc.

Greg, Kerry and their two children, **Zoe** and **Sasha**, live in Clermont, FL.

Ruth Berman Harris (*Benjamin Berman*) and her daughter, **Susan Harris**, have moved from White Plains, New York and are now at 10014 North 65th Ave., Glendale, AZ. Their telephone number is (623) 266-0440 and can be reached at Susan's cell phone: (914) 479-9718.

Any Berman living or wintering in the Arizona area should give them a call and give them a family greeting. We are certain that they would welcome hearing from the family.

In a special e-mail announcement to members of the family we advised as to the January 1, 2010 death of **Martha Rutstein Levitz** (1906-2010), the widow of

Hyman Levitz (*Balia Berman Levitz*) at her age of 103 in Media, PA. She was the mother of **Judith Levitz Chernoff** and **Nancy Levitz Katz Bayuk**.

The funeral was held on Sunday, January 3, 2010 at the Shure Funeral Home in New Haven, CT.

Attorney **Mark D Arons** (*Golda Berman/Herman Russian/Cyvia Russian*), a Board Certified Trial Lawyer with the law firm of Millman, Arons & Millman in Westport, CT, has recently sought to vet Mark, Larry & Betsy Berman of Westport, CT as part of "Us". He was informed that "they" are not part of "Us" and are interlopers and imposters and, like so many others, are wannabes. Mark's response: "Down with 'them' !"

In informing us of the May, 2009 confirmation of his son **Daniel McCarthy Berman, Barry Berman** (*Barnet Berman/Arnold Berman*) objectively noted that "It was a beautiful and moving service."

Barry also noted that his brother **Mark** "has written (and produced) a good deal of music for the...Showtime program 'Nurse Jackie,' starring Edie Falcoe."

Eugene Berman (*Gustave Berman*) and his friend **Patricia Kozaczka** were two of a group of seventeen who participated in a trip to China sponsored by the Affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Greater Springfield (MA) in November.

"After spending eight days and seven nights in Beijing and Shanghai, I am an expert in Chinese history, culture, philosophy, economy and politics," quips Gene.

"An unforgettable experience! China – at least the cities of Beijing and Shanghai - are modern and exciting. The people were friendly and courteous. A marvelous experience"

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Mia Culpa

We are journalistically embarrassed to find that during the past several years when The Berman Family Announcer was not consistently published, there were family events that were not recorded and concerning which some family members may have no knowledge. We regret not having noted these events timely and apologize for the sins of procrastination and omission. While your review of the Descendants of Chonon & Khasia Berman will provide up-dated information as to births, marriages, divorces and deaths, there follows some of the previously unreported events:

March 9, 2007 - Death of **Janet Berman Chussil Fein** (*Chana Esther/Lewis Berman*), mother of **Mark J. Chussil** and **Paul S. Chussil**.

Noah Sprafkin (*Chana Esther/Dora Berman/Robert Sprafkin*) and wife, **Rachana**, moved from India to Ithica, NY where he has accepted the position of CEO of Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes.

November 1, 2007 – Birth of **Brianna Faith Meloche** (*Golda Berman/Dora Russian/Sherman Padowitz/Glen Padowitz/Jessica Padowitz*) at Tallahassee, FL., the daughter of **Jessica Padowitz** and her husband, **Ronald Meloche**. Brianna weighed 6 lbs, 10 oz

Jessica wrote: “She definitely has very prominent Padowitz features. Her birth has been a blessing to our family. It’s helping to heal some of the grief we’ve been felling these past few weeks, especially for my dad, Glen.”

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January 24, 2009 – Death of **Sidney Berman, M.D.**, (*Benjamin Berman*),
1919-2009.

November 11, 2007 – Wedding of **Jeffrey P. Sprafkin** (*Chana Esther/Dora Berman/Robert Sprafkin*) to **Ella Bee** in Shanghai.

In an April, 2009 e-mail exchange with **Eric Heller** (*Balia Berman/Faye Levitz/Alan Heller*) who now lives in Atlanta, GA, in reference to his Uncle **William (“Billy”) Heller** (brother of **Alan Heller**), Eric advised that he and his brother Peter “have unfortunately lost touch with him but do speak of him on occasion and hope he is well.”

Hopefully this Announcer and the **bermanfamily.com** website will accomplish one of their intended purposes and Eric (ejh495@hotmail.com) will (or has now contacted his Uncle Billy (wheller@stjoebruins.com) or vice-a-versa and one or the other will provide us with Peter’s contact information. It would be most welcomed.

In April of 2009 Lisa Ann Kimmel Allen (*Balia Berman/Bessie Levitz/Harriet Barkan*) reported that “I am in the middle of a divorce from Randy Allen and have moved. Once my divorce is final, I shall be changing my name back to Lisa Kimmel.”

The new mailing address of Ms. Lisa Kimmel and her children, Amanda (b. 1991) and Jonathan (b. 1994) is: 18 Hickory Street, Hudson, NH 03051.

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Joan Hadden Levin Hite, the 1st wife of **Eric Levin** (*Golda Berman/Frances Russian/Bruce Levin*) died on April 13, 2009.

In reporting Joan's death, Eric wrote:

"...my 1st wife Joan Hite (formerly Joan Levin) died of cancer infecting multiple organs. It came on fast last year, and she was diagnosed at stage 4, but managed to go into remission until this last May. Her decline was very fast and with cancer, I think that is something that everyone can be thankful for. Watching loved ones waste away is the hardest thing we can go through. Joan passed away on April 13th, 2009. She leaves behind her husband Ken, our son Sam, and her and Ken's children, Angela, Kenny and Jacqueline."

Eric concludes his e-mail: "While our marriage didn't work, she wasn't a bad person and we had a friendly relationship as Sam grew up. She will be missed."

We have not previously reported on the marriage of **Dinh Thi Hang Morgan Appel** (*Hyman Berman/Max Berman/Liz Berman*) to **Brian Kelly** or the birth of their three children: **Caden Haffe Kelly** (b. 2006), **Patrick Aiden Kelly** (b. 2007) and **Leigha Marissa Kelly** (2009-2009).

It was Thi's sister, **Rebecca Morgan**, who informed us that their youngest child, Leigha, died in July, 2009 at the age of three months. **Liz Berman**, Thi's mother and the grandmother of Leigha lamented that "I never had a chance to meet her. The condolences of the family were extended to Thi, Brian, Liz and the rest of the family.

The May 31, 2009 issue of the Springfield, MA ***Sunday Republican*** featured **Milton R. Berman** (*Gustave Berman*) as one of three WWII veterans interviewed for a front page story commemorating the Allie's invasion of France entitled "The Longest Day". A picture of him from the time that he was a fighter pilot, an "Ace", during the war accompanied the article.

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The article reports: “Berman still flies, remains active with a group of investors, and maintains an office in West Springfield. But he realizes that other World War II veterans have not been as fortunate.” He is quoted as stating “That part of my life is very vivid. That was the most significant time of my life. I’ve been fortunate to live in the present, and nothing blurs that memory.”

Mark R. Berman (*Gustave Berman/Milton Berman*) who was recently promoted to become a Vice President of American International College (AIC) in Springfield, MA travels extensively overseas overseeing the business aspects of the college’s partnerships in the Middle East and elsewhere, recently wrote: “Greetings from Abu Dhabi ! ... It is a little hot here – 120* and humid. Last night I had a traditional Bedouin dinner under the stars out in the desert. Very interesting to say the least.”

Debbie and **(Donald) Dave Berman** (*Chana Esther/Gus Berman*) have graciously shared with us a Remembrance of their cousin, **Leila Berman Schulman** (*Chana Esther/Morris Berman*) who died on May 21, 2009 that they wrote to Leila’s daughters, **Marcy A. Schulman Johnson** and **Debra L. Schulman Doernberg**:

“The news of Leila’s passing gave us a moment to pause and think of our days with her. Nothing chronological about these ramblings. When she was studying nursing at Grace Hospital, my mother (**Adele Pickerstein Berman**) would send me over to the dorm with food for Leila and her friend Ruthie, who would later live in Stamford. I guess the hospital food was pretty bad. I remember when Mrs. Lear (Leila’s maternal grandmother, the mother of Mina Lear, the wife of Morris Berman, Leila’s mother) came to live with Leila, Sam and Uncle Morris. To this day I recall seeing a car pull up to the curb and one of the Lear boys jump out, run up to see their mother and jump back in the car. This happened every day. I hold up those guys as being the best sons that anyone could ever have.

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“Later Hal & Leila moved to Stamford. Think one of you gals babysat for our boys. I could never get many games on Hal. He just could wipe me out. But tell him that later on I discovered paddle tennis outdoors in the winter. I was OK with that game. Debby still makes Leila’s apple cake or apple squares. Not quite as good as Leila’s, but very close.”

Dave added a PS: “Leila was the prettiest cousin I had.”

We bemoan the all too frequent stories of missed opportunities, the revelation that relatives live in the same cities and/or neighborhoods without realizing it or that cousins attend the same colleges and universities without ever knowing it. It should not be.

Brad Berman (*Chana Esther/Gus Berman/David Berman*) wrote that his son Sam is a junior at Hampshire College in Amherst, MA. He was unaware of the fact that **Bruce Berman** (*Gustave Berman/Eugene Berman*) was a Hampshire graduate or that **Alex and Zach Nemtzow**, the twin sons of **Caren Berman Nemtzow** (*Gustave Berman/Eugene Berman*) were sophomores at Commonwealth College of the University of Massachusetts. Sam, sister **Kayla**, Alex and Zach had met at a Berman Family function but, because the annual reunions have unfortunately not been continued, have not continued their contact. Perhaps at least not until now.

Brad wrote that after visiting Sam in Amherst, he “took 5 South through Springfield on our way back to CT. I pointed out the Yale Genton building and told Kayla that the twins’ great grandfather had a store there (which I think is true).” Alas, the three generation family business (**Gus, Milton and Mark Berman**), Yale (to commemorate New Haven from whence **Gus** (Gustave) came when he relocated in Springfield, - Genton (to acknowledge his sons, **Eugene** and **Milton**) is no more. The property on which the store was located has been sold and is now an automobile dealership.

(Gus’ other son, Eugene, was not involved in the clothing business – he deals in other kinds of suits...the law ones.)

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Brad, also a lawyer, is President of the Liberian Ship & Corporate Registry in NYC and with his wife Naomi lives in Wilton, CT.

In reply to an e-mail from **Andrew Berman** (*Chana Esther/David Berman*) announcing the 2007 Bat Mitzvah of his daughter Hannah, he was reminded of an original Berman family tradition that the oldest member of the family of each of the children of Chonon & Khassia were invited to each family commemorative event...weddings, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, etc. It was the tradition that if the oldest member was unavailable to attend, the invitation was passed down to the next in chronological order. A great family tradition!

(**Eugene Berman** tells the (perhaps not) amusing story of his mother-in-law-to-be's reaction to receiving an acceptance to his wedding by uninvited guests, the next in line to a "representative" who was unable to attend.)

Andrew and his wife **Sabra** and their four children – **Hannah, Morrissa, Harley** and **Samantha** – live in Mill Valley, CA.

Jewish Heritage Trip To Lithuania

The American Fund for Lithuanian & Latvian Jews has scheduled its seventeenth Jewish Heritage Trip to Lithuania (with an optional side trip to Belarus) for June 22 to July 2, 2010. The details of the plans, the itinerary and the fine print can be found at www.litvaktrip.peggyspage.org

The individuals involved in planning and conducting the trip are Peggy Mosinger Freedman and Howard Margol who can be contacted at

litvaktrip@gmail.com

Eugene Berman (Gustave Berman) took this trip in 2008. In writing to a would-be Berman Family Heritage Tour Committee he wrote: "It was an unforgettable experience...memorable in so many ways. I only regret that other members of

the family share the wonder of discovery and add to the depth of the experience.” He highly recommends the trip and would be pleased to answer any inquiries.

Genealogy

As we continue to research the Berman Family Genealogy, we are working cooperatively with Ted Gostin, a Genealogist, and have established areas of interest for further research:

(1) To determine if Chonon Berman had siblings other than his sister Fannie Berman Kravitz and a likely sibling Pesya (b. 1847) and to trace their descendants for the purposes of determining:

- (a) if there are, perhaps, living relatives “in the old country”; and
- (b) to identify family members, if any, who perished in the Holocaust.

On a personal note, strange as it may appear to some (and for which I apologize), I have always felt “deprived” that I have no knowledge of having lost a relative – a member of the Berman Family – in the Holocaust and, for that reason have felt removed from a direct relationship with that horror. A goal of our continuing research is, therefore, to seek a family nexus to the Holocaust...strange as that search may appear to be.

(2) To determine the family relationship between Baila and her husband Aaron Levitz, i.e. was Aaron a member of the Berman family and if so to identify that relationship.

Family history records that Bailia married her “second cousin.” It is not clear whether the cousin was on her father or her mother’s side. A fact to be determined.

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