

THE BERMAN FAMILY ANNOUNCER

Vol. 2010, No. 2 <bermanfamily.com> eberman1@cox.net February 9, 2010

There is something that you can do for the family.....

Please help us find the e-mail addresses and/or mailing addresses of the members of the listed individuals whose e-mail addresses we do not now have. In order to assure continued contact with all members of the Chonon & Khasia Berman family and to share with them the Berman Family Website at **berman family.com** and to invite them to participate in the family page at facebook, **The Berman Family**, it is imperative that we maintain up-to-date contact information.

Please review the following list of family members, ascertain their present e-mail address (and mailing addresses if not listed) and forward them to eberman1@cox.net. **Additionally, please submit the e-mail addresses of your children, if any, whose addresses have not previously been recorded.** One of our continuing projects is to maintain a complete mailing list of each living member of the family. The list is not maintained on line but is available by e-mail on request from any family member.

EVANS, Mr. & Mrs Eric (Tammy Padowitz McGary Evans)

6006 Cyprus Woods, Green Drive, Spring, TX 77373 (Tel: 281-821-0770)

e-mail:

FEIN, Mr. Harry (widower of Janet Berman Chussil Fein)

1135 Kings Way Drive, Nokomois, FL 34275 (Tel: 941-484-1057)

e-mail:

FURMAN, Ms. Chava (widow of Steven Furman)

5925 Bland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21215

(Tel: 410-466-1727)

e-mail:

(If not Chava, the e-mail addresses of her children)

HARRIS, Jacob Benjamin, % Dr. Kenneth A. Harris,

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

(Tel: 623-933-3865)

e-mail:

HEITZMAN, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas, (Dawn Mallow Heitzman)

3121 Buffalo Speedway, Apt. 5404, Houston, TX

(Tel:)

e-mail:

HELLER, Peter G.

1739 Fernleaf Circle, NW, Atlanta, GA 30318-1417

(Tel: 409-873-5278)

e-mail:

LEVINE, Michael (Hyman Berman/Bessie Levine/Arthur Levine)

(x)

e-mail:

McGARY, Jennifer (Dora Padowitz/Sherman Padowitz/Phyllis McGary)

1617 Truesdale Court, No. 5, Key West, FL 33040

(Tel: 305-295-8300)

e-mail:

MELOCHE, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald (Jessica Daniele Padowitz Meloche)

44 Carlton Ave., Apt. #6, Lannack Village, FL

(Tel: 850-697-4233)

e-mail:

PADOWITZ, David Frederick

200 Central Ave., Mt. View, CA 94043

e-mail:

PADOWITZ, Glen

P. O. Box 793, Carrabelle, FL

(Tel: 850-697-2855)

e-mail:

PADOWITZ, Mrs. Howard (Janet)

952 Casadaga Road, Lake Helen, FL 32744-3340

e-mail:

PADOWITZ, Mr. & Mrs. Peter

7899 NE Bay Shore Court, Miami, FL 33138

(Tel: 305-685-8787)

e-mail:

PADOWITZ, Philip (Golda Russian/Dora Padowitz/Howard Padowitz)

(?)

(Tel: 407-339-2289)

e-mail:

PADOWITZ, Phyllis

(x)

(Tel: 954-797-9610)

e-mail:

PADOWITZ, Mrs. Sherman (Carol)

14320 SW 29th Court, Davie, FL 33330

(Tel: 954-473-4358)

e-mail:

PALMER, Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell (Melissa Padowitz Trail Palmer)

(Golda Russian/Dora Padowitz/Sherman Padowitz/Glen Padowitz)

(?)

e-mail:

REBHUN, Ms. Roberta (widow of Gary Rebhun)

22 Tyler City Road, Orange, CT 06477

(Tel: 203-795-4910)

e-mail:

ROBINSON, Ms. Kelly Nicole

(Tel: 561-747-4264)

% M/M Adam Padowitz, 110 Sherwood Circle, Jupiter, FL 33458

e-mail:

SULKIS, M/M Laurence

70 Ann Drive, Bethany, CT 06524

(Tel: 203-393-3033)

e-mail: None (?)

PLEASE:

- * **Inform us promptly as to any change of address and/or contact information.**
- * **Keep us informed as to new e-mail address as acquired by members of your immediate family, i.e. children, etc.**
- * **Report any life cycle events (marriages, births, deaths, etc.) providing information as to name of parents, name (full), event, date and place.**

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Joshua Sprafkin, the son of **Jeff** (*Chana Esther/Dora Sprafkin/Robert Sprafkin*) and **Ella Sprafkin**, was born in Shanghei “around 2:00” on February 7th in Shanghai....6lbs, 15oz, 50 cm long. “Mom and baby are doing well.”

Robert Sprafkin, the proud grandfather immediately forwarded to us a copy of his son’s e-mail announcing the birth. Jeff wrote to his father “We’ll name him Joshua and his middle name will be his Chinese name, pending input from our fengshui master tomorrow.

The Berman Family is, indeed, diverse and far reaching. Welcome, Jeoshua!

***A tip:** Before taking a trip anywhere, one might well post one’s destination on the family **facebook** page, **The Berman Family**, to locate a family member who resides there or who has friends or family there who might well be willing to extend local hospitality. It is called networking and is one of the many reasons for the **facebook** page. I am ashamed to admit that I was in Shanghei in November and did not even think to call Jeff and Ella to have an opportunity to say hello...even if we had the time. Hello Jeff and Ella...and congratulations!*

(If you are not as yet a member of *The Berman Family* on facebook, we urge you to visit the page and to become a member of the group. It is free...and interesting.)

WEBSITE: bermanfamily.com

The family website (**bermanfamily.com**) continues to be a work in progress being changed, up-dated and improved.

The list of names, addresses and contact information for members of the family has been removed from access from the website for privacy reasons. While it is intended that a copy of the Mailing List will be e-mailed from time-to-time to

members of the family, a current copy will always be available to members of the family upon request to eberman1@cox.net.

(As is apparent from this issue of **The Berman Family Announcer** and other correspondence directed to individual family members, we are expending ever effort to obtain complete, up-to-date contact information for every member of the family. Your assistance in providing missing and/or incomplete information is urgently requested.)

Many new facets for the website are in the works and will be posted periodically as they take shape. Check out the site periodically and see what has been wrought.

“The Berman Family” at facebook

The launch of “**The Berman Family**” as a *facebook* group has been well received: 40 family members (approximately one-third of those for whom we presently have e-mail addresses) have joined the group. All members of the family for whom we have e-mail addresses have been invited to join the group. To maximize the effectiveness of the page, we urge all members of the family to join and to participate. It is free....and fun.

The facebook project has already had one unexpected benefits. **Sue Zamkow** (*Chana Esther/Samuel Berman*) has availed herself of the opportunity to “host” a Berman Family Seder in 2011. You will recall that it is Sue and her husband **Michael** who revived the family tradition by hosting an event in New York in 2001. We were appreciative of and thankful for the hospitality and efforts of the Zamkows then and welcome their renewed efforts now...a decade later. Sue and Michael are devoted in their efforts to maintain the family group and to keep alive family traditions. The time, date and place and other details of the Seder will be shared as they are formalized by Sue & Michael and as they become known.

If you have not already joined **The Berman Family** on *facebook*, we urge that you do so and encourage other members of the family to join the group. Once a member, participate by posting information to share with all of us.

It should be noted that the *facebook* page has superseded the *blog* on the website. New and ever changing technology!

Historical Memory

As the Berman Family enters upon its second century in the United States, many of the folk stories relating to its history in “Mother Russia” and during our early years here get lost. This is, therefore, an urgent request that we attempt to salvage some of those memories before they are lost unto the generations. Please share with us any vignettes and stories of interest that you may remember – or have been told – and inquire of your parents/grandparents/great grandparents to elicit “stories” of interest. The “stories” that are provided will be saved and, as appropriate, incorporated into the family history, **This Is Us**.

There is the family story that when Chonon & Khasia left Russia to immigrate to America they were asked by a neighbor (or perhaps another relative) to take their child with them as their own. The story is that the wife of the neighbor/relative was ineligible to enter the United States because of an illness and her husband would not leave her. Chonon & Khasia did take the child with them as their own. Indeed, their immigration records reveal that they were accompanied by two of their children, Harry (true) and Gustave (untrue). Gus had previously entered the country and was living here.

The questions submitted for answers: What was the name of the child ? ...and does anyone have any additional information concerning him ?

GENEALOGY

For some of us, genealogy is a fascinating pursuit combining family and history, a personal perspective of the life and times of the past. Sometimes one discovers relationships that may or may not be...that heretofore have been unknown.

For several years we have been in communication with a Sue Geiger (now of Simi Valley, CA) who has been attempting to research her firmly held belief that our families are related. She believes that her great grandfather, Joseph Morris Berman, was Chonon Berman's brother – or at least a cousin. Her evidence is credible:

(1) "My grandmother was Rose Berman Lederer. Her parents were Joseph Morris Berman and Rebecca "Bluma" Lear/Lehr who emigrated to New Haven about between 1888 and 1890 from Elizabetgrad, Russia. Joseph Berman was a plumber, and he lived in the early 1900's at 41 Broad Street in New Haven. According to a New Haven directory, (C)Honon and Benjamin Berman moved to that same address in 1907. In 1909, Barnett and Benjamin Berman, both tailors, are living at that address. Therefore, I think it's very possible that Joseph Berman and (C)Honon were brothers or cousins. Joseph was about 12 years older than (C)Honon."

(2) Sue's grandmother's brother's name was Barnett Berman, a lawyer in New Haven. The name "Barnett" appears in both families.

(3) Sue's great uncle Benton Berman was born December 1, 1879 in Russia, emigrated in 1891 with his father, and died December 24, 1929. His son, Benton Berman, was born February 14, 1917 and died in 2003. Yes, we also have a Benton Berman !

(4) Sue had retained a professional Jewish genealogist, Ted Gostin, to research the New Haven ancestors. Quoting Ted Gostin, she has written:

"In 1898, Joseph Berman (who was a plumber) is listed as living at 63 York and working at 32 Oak. Also living at 63 York is an Isaac Berman, tailor." I noticed that several of (C)Honon's sons were tailors. Do you know this Isaac Berman ? Ted

Gostin also suggests the following: "One of the sons of (C)Honon Berman is named Barnett. (My Joseph Berman, as I told you, also had aq son Barnett.) This suggests to me that an ancestor of Joseph and (C)Honon Berman was named Barnett and that both sons were named after him."

Sue has also provided the additional information that according to her great uncle Barnett Berman's biography in the Yale School of Law yearbook, his grandparents were Joseph Maurice and Esther Ida (Astrachan) Berman of Elisabethgrad.

Of further genealogical interest is the fact that Sue's great grandmother's name was Rebecca Lear Berman who had a sister Minnie (Minka) Lear. Her parents were Anna and Jacob Solomon Lear. Her brother Solomon Lear had a daughter also named Minnie Lear. Within our Chonon Berman family there is Mina Lear (1902-1043), the wife of Morris David Berman and the mother of Leila Joan Berman Schulman (1927-2009) and Samuel Lear Berman. There is a synergy.

Some publications have crossword puzzles. The Berman Family Announcer has genealogy puzzles. Can you contribute to the solution of this puzzle. Any information that can be discovered to establish the relationship, if any, between the families of Chonon Berman and that of Sue Geiger will be most welcome.

See what you can discover....and pass it on. Who knows, there may well be an interconnect betewwn or among the families of Chonon Berman, the family of Sue Geiger and even the famly of **Lillian Berman Berman**, the wife of **Gustave Berman**.

PLEASE continue to send family news and up-dated information the **The Announcer** to share with the family, be sure to visit the family website (**bermanfamily.com**) and socialize with other members of the family at **facebook** (**The Berman Family**).

As they say: It's great to be a Berman !

