

THE BERMAN FAMILY ANNOUNCER

Vol. 2010, No. 6

August 10, 2010

Contact Gene Berman @ eberman1@cox.net

It's Back to School Time...

It is that time of the year when the kids get ready to enter (or return to) college...their venture away from home into a new and wondrous world.

We have all heard the stories about cousins attending the same schools without realizing their mutual presence. We have all been outraged to discover that the child of a relative has attended a nearby college or university and we did not know it...that we did not have an opportunity to offer our hospitality to the "cousin" nor comfort to their parents. Indeed, members of the family are on the faculty or members of the administration of schools that relatives attend without knowing of their mutual presence. It is a shame.

To remedy the situation we suggest that, perhaps, the college kids use facebook ("The Berman Family") to communicate the name of the school that they will be or are attending and to provide contact information to their relatives who may wish to contact them. Yes, members of the teaching staff and administration may also post contact information to share with the students and/or their parents. A free dinner may be the reward for participation.

(Note that there are 58 participants on facebook's The Berman Family. If you are not as yet enrolled, you are encouraged to do so and to make the page a source for Berman family communication.)

To further expedite the communication by, between and among our college attending constituents, you are requested to e-mail to eberman1@cox.com you

name, the college that you attend or will be attending and your contact information to be shared with members of the family....your contemporaries who may very well be at the same school or who has a friend or roommate for you to meet and other members of the Berman Family who would welcome the opportunity to extend their hospitality (a free meal) to you and/or your parents.

Let's give it the old college try!

(Perhaps there is someone attending college who would be willing to undertake the coordination of compiling and sharing a list of those members of the family who are now attending college and the colleges and universities that they attend along with their e-mail and other contact information. Who knows, planning a group activity is even possible. Let us know if you are willing to volunteer.)

A very preliminary start on the "student" list:

Students:

BERMAN, Kayla	Franklin & Marshall (2014)	Lancaster, PA
(Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/GusBerman/David Berman/Brad Berman)		
BERMAN, Sam	Hampshire College (2011)	Amherst, MA
(Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Gus Berman/David Berman/Brad Berman)		
NEMTZOW, Alex	University of Massachusetts (2012)	Amherst, MA
(Chonon Berman/Gustave Berman/Eugene Berman/Caren Nemtzw)		
NEMTZOW, Zach	University of Massachusetts (2012)	Amherst, MA
(Chonon Berman/Gustave Berman/Eugene Berman/Caren Nemtzw)		
YOELI, Max	Dartmouth College (2012)	Hanover, NH
(Chonon Berman/Gustave Berman/Milton Berman/Meredith Yoeli)		

Please help us compile a meaningful and complete list!

Your help is urgently needed....

We are disappointed with the lack of response to our request for e-mail and other contact information concerning the members of the family listed here. Because all communications directed to the family are now only by e-mail, we urgently request that you help us obtain the missing e-mail addresses and current contact information for each of the following family members:

(Please do not assume that someone else will get the information... do it yourself to be sure! Maybe someone (you) will assume the task of contacting one or more of the "missing" individuals on the list and obtain the required contact information! Please?)

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)

(?)

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

(?)

(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 *your* 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.**
- * **Inform us as to any new contact information relating to any member of the Berman family to assure that we have the changes.**
- * **Report any life cycle events (marriages, births, deaths, etc.) providing information as to name of parents, name (full), event, date and place.**

CONTRIBUTIONS

The following contributions have been made in the name of

The Descendants of Chonon & Khasia Berman

(1) **Save Ellis Island, Founding *Member***

The name, "The Descendants of Chonon & Khasia Berman" will be listed in the leather bound Ship's Manifest that will be on permanent display on the newly restored part of Ellis Island.

(2) **The Statue of Liberty Ellis Island Foundation**

(3) **The Peopling of America Center**

at The Ellis Island Immigration Museum, Charter *Member*

The name, "The Descendants of Chonon & Khasia Berman" will be added to The Registry of Charter Founders and will be on permanent display at the Center when it opens.

(4) **National Museum of American Jewish History, 2010 Founding *Member***

The National Museum of American Jewish History is currently being built on Independence Mall in Philadelphia, across the street from the Liberty Bell.

(5) **American Fund for Lithuanian-Latvian Jews, Inc.**

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

DR. ROBERT P. SPRAFKIN (Chonon Berman, Chana Esther, Dora Sprafkin) has recently become engaged to Martha Copithorne, a retired marital court judge from Plymouth and Ossipee, New Hampshire. "Once we sell our homes in Plymouth and Syracuse, we plan to move to Philadelphia, home of the Sprafkins" Bob wrote.

* * * * *

MICHAEL BURACK (Fanny Kravitz/Rose Kravitz) has written: "My family is all here, believe it or not. Cristina's in from Vienna and Vick's in from Madrid. We have another month all together before they leave. Cristina just sang the role of Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro* in an opera workshop, something that should delight the musicians in the family."

(Hopefully the musical tradition continues....alive and well.)

* * * * *

Among the updates to the Berman Family Mailing List, **Sam Y. Berman** (Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Gus Berman/David Berman/Brad Berman) has a new e-mail address (sberman68@gmail.com) as does his sister Kayla Berman (Kayberman10@yahoo.com).

Après pro of the "college initiative," **Kayla** was accepted early decision to **Franklin & Marshall** in Lancaster, PA for the 2014 class. She was also a participant in the *March of the Living* and spent two weeks in Poland and Israel this past spring.

Sam has begun Division III at **Hampshire College** in Amherst, Massachusetts and will graduate in June of 2011. His first movie, a silent zombie love story, completed his Division II.

(Those of us who have an offspring who attended Hampshire College are not at all surprised by such things as a "first movie, a silent zombie love story".)

* * * * *

Dianne Linder, wife of **David R. Berman** (Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Morris Berman/Samuel Berman) and mother of **Ilan Rafi Berman** (b. 2002) and **Aaron Matan Berman** (b. 2004) is the author of the recently published book, ***Beyond Words, Reflections on Our Journey to Inclusion***.

Diane writes:

*“I am a teacher and a parent of a child on the autistic spectrum. Even as a successful teacher for 18 years, I had a very difficult time finding an educational setting for him which was growth promoting. In the end my family had to relocate to a suburb of NYC in order to find what he needed. Once we moved, I saw such immediate growth that I realized I had a responsibility to understand the journey and to share with others in similar situations. The result was a book called **“Beyond Words, Reflections on Our Journey to Inclusion”** about my experiences navigating the world of special education from the dual perspective of parent and teacher. As the school year comes to a close, I am more eager than ever about spreading the message far and wide.*

“My son just completed 2nd grade and as his general education teacher handed me folders full of his work, she looked at me and said ‘Mrs. Linder, look all of this over carefully, it is time for you to raise your expectations for your son.’ She thanked me for ‘sharing him,’ and added that he is ‘delicious.’ He ended the year completing all of the work expected from any second grader. Considering he still tests in the ‘borderline’ IQ range, this is a strong statement in favor of inclusion. Considering two years ago, he ‘failed to function’ in two self contained kindergarten placements this is nearly miraculous.”

The book has been widely acclaimed. Typical of the responses are this of Ellen Waldman, PhD., Clinical Psychologist:

“This is a remarkable, touching and beautifully written story of a mother’s journey to help her son communicate, to enjoy life around him and to thrive in a world that challenges him every day. It reminds us as parents to trust our deepest instincts with regard to our children and to advocate, sometimes relentlessly, for them. It also stands as a strong reminder to the professionals who work with

children with special needs to listen carefully to parents and to look at every child with both creativity and an open mind."

The Berman Family takes pride in the efforts of **Dianne** who proves that all Bermans are indeed special.

David, who noted that his wife **Dianne** and he "attended the first Berman family Seder sponsored by **Sue and Michael Zamkow** in NYC in 2001 and the Passover Seder in New Haven in April 2002, right before our older son was born" concludes his recent e-mail with, "***We hope to see you and the rest of the family at an event in the future.***"

We all look forward to a Berman Family event in the future!

In the meantime, we hope that everyone will buy a copy of "***Beyond Words, Reflections on Our Journey to Inclusion***" and share the experiences of Dianne, David and their (our) family.

Please note the following additions and/or corrections to e-mail and other addresses on the most recent Berman Family Mailing List:

Din Thi Morgan Appel Kelly

(Chonon Berman/Hyman Berman/Max Berman/Elizabeth Berman)
e-mail: thelovelymrs.kelly@yahoo.com

Elizabeth Berman

(Chonon Berman/Barnett Berman/Arnold Berman/Kenneth Berman)
% Kenneth R. Berman, 21 Black Bear Drive, Apt. 1623,
Waltham, MA 02451

Katherine (Kate) Berman

(Chonon Berman/Barnett Berman/Arnold Berman/Kenneth Berman)
% Kenneth R. Berman, 21 Black Bear Drive, Apt. 1623
Waltham, MA 02451

Thomas Berman

(Chonon Berman/Barnett Berman/Arnold Berman/Kenneth Berman)

e-mail: tberman4@yahoo.com

Stephanie Berman

(Chonon Berman/Barnett Berman/Arnold Berman/Kenneth Berman)

490 Angell St., Apt. 209 D, Providence, RI 02096

Adam Forest Oelsner

(Chonon Berman/Benjamin Berman/Sidney Berman/Leslie Oelsner)

4103 Libby, Olympia, WA 98506

Tel: (479) 387-2802

GENEALOGY UPDATES

1. We are endeavoring to establish the relationship between **Chonon Berman** and **Fannie Kravitz**. There has been a question raised as to whether they were brother and sister or, perhaps, cousins. While the family believes that they were siblings, they apparently had different fathers. We have ascertained that Fannie and her son Abraham came to this country from Smorgon, Russia, now Smorgon, Belarus, a town not far from Dolginovo where Chonon's family was originally from.

This particular research is being conducted for purposes of determining if there are siblings of Chonon and, if so, what happened to them, i.e. were they victims of the Holocaust, did they emigrate from Russia to the United States or elsewhere or, perhaps there are survivors still living in Russia or Belarus.

2. Whatever the relationship between Chonon and Fannie, we continue to clarify Fannie's genealogy and track her descendents. While we remain convinced that the **Michael Burack** family is genealogically related, research continues to fill in the existing gaps.

Addressing the questions relating to the relationship between Chonon and Fannie, Ted Gostin, the Genealogical Researcher from Sherman Oaks, CA who has been engaged in doing our Berman family genealogy, has preliminarily reported:

“Both the stories that Michael BURACK said he heard about Fannie from his mother, and the things I have found, suggest that Fannie’s husband died before Fannie and her son Abraham came to the United States. As for having friends or family here before she came ...we have no information on who this may have been. All of your grandfather Honon BERMAN’s family arrived after Fannie did, not before.”

We are embarked on continuing research to determine the relationship between Chonon and Fannie and the existence of (other) siblings of Chonon as a basis to undertake the goal set forth in (3).

3. One of the defined goals of our genealogical quest is to determine if any of our family members were victims of the Holocaust.

While we do not presently know if they have any connection to our own Berman family, we have identified the following “Berman” Holocaust victims from Dolginovo:

* Yehoshua or Shaya BERMAN, born 1898, son of Elye BERMAN, occupation hairdresser, died May 1942 in Dolginovo, age 45.

* Khasia or Hasia (Katz) BERMAN, wife of Yehoshua/Shaya, daughter of Girsh KATZ, born 1899, died May 1942 in Dolginovo, age 45.

* Zelig or Zelik BERMAN, son of Yehoshua/Shaya & Khasia (Katz) BERMAN, born 1922, died May 1942 in Dolginovo, age 19.

* Rivka or Riva BERMAN, daughter of Yeshoshua/Shays & Khasia (Katz) Berman, born 1925, died May 1942 in Dolginovo, age 17.

The research continues.

4. Eugene B. Berman, Sr. (me, the “subject”), as an expansion of his research, has undergone genetic (DNA) testing with DNA Consulting of Sante Fe, NM. A portion of the Report stated:

“To explore geographic origins of the subject’s type in history, we compared 11 of these sources, representing the subject’s haplotype with the forensic gene bank known as the Y Chromosome Haplotype Reference Database (YHRD) in Berlin. A single match was found in a world sample of 52,655 haplotype in 464 populations.

“The male in Poland and the subject are genetic cousins descended from the same forebear as the subject within about the past approximately 3,000 years (Heyer et al, 1997). The haplogroup is R1b. In Ysearch there was an exact match on an extended basis to a descendant of Yacov Epstein ha Levi, born about 1820 in Slonim, Belarus (DJF3C: contact sorlen@email.arizona.du). This descendant and the subject are very likely cousins in a genealogical, as well as a genetic, sense.”

In the surprising turn of events that is common to genealogical research, it turns out that Steve Orlen’s (sorlen) family was from Holyoke, MA where Eugene was born and raised. The families knew one another. The fact is that one of the Epstein families (“Haberman”) was Eugene’s best friend. Ah, the excitement of discovery in the world of genealogy! The DNA match means that all of the Berman family is related to the Epstein family through the common ancestor, Yacov Epstein ha Levi.

*As we continue the process of building the family tree and retrieving the family history, we would welcome members of the family sharing such knowledge that they may have that has been passed down from one generation to the next. Take the time to write those special remembrances of earlier generations and forward them to be preserved in **This Is Us** (the Berman family history) and shared with members of the family.*

Copies of old photographs are most welcomed...if accompanied with identification of the individuals, date and place...as known.

Copies of documents, pictures of gravestones and other historic artifacts are also solicited to be added to "the Berman collection."

While everyone may not be a genealogy or history buff, the interest in things Berman is great and it is surprising to see the number of the young people who use the accumulated information for their own further research or as the basis for school essays or family history papers.

IT'S GREAT TO BE A BERMAN !

Visit our family website at: bermanfamily.com
