

# THE BERMAN FAMILY ANNOUNCER

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[www.bermanfamily.com](http://www.bermanfamily.com)

April 28, 2011

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*The Lunch Bunch, February 19, 2011 @ Carmine's, New Haven, CT*



Seated clockwise starting with front row left:

Laurence B. ("Larry") Tiven, husband of Barbara Byer Tiven

D. David Berman (Chonon Berman, Chana Esther, Gus Berman (Stamford))

Anne Berman, widow of Dr. Arthur Berman (Chonon Berman, Harry Berman)

Harvey Feinberg (Chonon Berman, Benjamin Berman, Mildred Berman Feinberf)

Eugene ("Gene") B. Berman, Sr. (Chonon Berman, Gustave Berman)

Judy Berman Levine (Chonon Berman, Harry Berman)

Deborah ("Debbie") Berman, wife of D. David Berman

Susan Feinberg, wife of Harvey Feinberg

Barbara Byer Tiven (Chonon Berman, Bailia Berman Levitz, Celia Levitz Byer)

"Out of the room": Diane Byer, widow of Richard Byer (Chonon Berman, Bailia Levitz, Celia Byer)

Photographer Barry Berman (Chonon Berman, Barnett Berman, Arnold Berman)

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*Welcome to the first ever issue of **THE BERMAN FAMILY ANNOUNCER** containing photographs....and in full living color.*

*The editorial and production staffs are pleased to bring to the publication of the **ANNOUNCER** new technologies and desk top publishing techniques as they mastered sufficiently to be integrated in the preparation and “printing” of the family newspaper. The tools that are available for the preparation of newsletters such as this open marvelous opportunities of creative communication limited only by the ability to master the ever changing technology.*

*We cannot assure our readers of cutting edge technology...but we shall try.*

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### **Save the Date: Saturday, May 14, 23011 @ 1:00 PM**

The non-exclusive Lunch Bunch that held its inaugural lunch on January 6<sup>th</sup>, met again on February 19<sup>th</sup> at Carmine’s Restaurant in New Haven with more than twice as many Bermans in attendance. “Twice as many people, twice as much fun” was the enthusiastic refrain from those who attended what has become a regularly scheduled event open to anyone wanting to join in the event...an opportunity to renew – or make – family relationships, share remembrances and family stories with an intergenerational group of interesting and interested relatives.

“When can we do this again?” was the question asked by everyone in attendance.

It was the consensus that the Lunch Bunch would get together every other month, but either because Bermans cannot count or for reason of the Passover holiday, it was decided that the next event would be on Saturday, May 14, 2011 at 1:00 PM at Carmine’s Restaurant, 1500 Whaley Avenue (just off the Merritt Parkway) in New Haven.

Please plan to attend and notify Larry & Barb Tiven (Tel: 203-795-3651, e-mail: [ltiven@aol.com](mailto:ltiven@aol.com)) as to your intention to participate so that adequate seating arrangements can be made at the restaurant.

Join this group of happy Lunch Bunchers:



Seated (and standing) clockwise from left to right:

Deborah ("Debbie") Berman, wife of D. David Berman

Susan Feinberg, wife of Harvey Feinberg

Barbara Byer Tiven (Chonon Berman, Bailia Berman Levitz, Celia Levitz Byer)

Laurence ("Larry") B. Tiven, husband of Barbara Byer Tiven

D. David Berman (Chonon Berman, Chana Esther, Gus Berman (Stamford))

Anne Berman, widow of Dr. Arthur Berman (Chonon Berman, Harry Berman)

Harvey Feinberg (Chonon Berman, Benjamin Berman, Mildred Berman Feinberg)

Eugene ("Gene") B. Berman, Sr. (Chonon Berman, Gustave Berman)

Judy Berman Levine (Chonon Berman, Harry Berman)

"Out of room": Dianne Byer, widow of Richard Byer (Chonon Berman, Bailia Levitz, Celia Byer)

Photographer: Barry Berman (Chonon Berman, Barnett Berman, Arnold Berman)

The day, time, frequency and place where the Lunch Bunch meets is flexible to satisfy the largest number of individuals who want to attend. Your input is therefore earnestly solicited. So that we can attempt to accommodate as many

family members as family members as possible, we request that if you cannot attend that you answer the following question and forward your answer to [eberman1@cox.net](mailto:eberman1@cox.net):

***As much as I would love to join with the Lunch Bunch, I am unable to because:***

### **FAMILY HISTORY**

Did you know that Golda (Berman) & David Russian and their family originally settled in Providence, Rhode Island before moving to New Haven, Connecticut to be with the rest of the family, all of whom were in New Haven ?

Their child Dora was born in Russia in 1899 and their second child, Bessie, was born in Providence in 1908. While the reason for the Providence connection is not now known, it is believed that David's family was located there.

And are you aware that "Russian" is not the real family name ?

The story is that the immigration officer at Ellis Island could not spell David's surname and assigned as the family name his nationality...the nationality of his place of origin: Russian. Henceforth Golda and David were the family Russian.

The fact, however, is that David's September 30, 1920 Certificate of Naturalization lists the name as "Riession".

Ah, the nooks and crannies of the family history yet to be explored!

### **NEWS OF THE FAMILY**

**Judith Berman Levine** who has always had an interest in things medical, reminds us that the Berman family has a history of hypertension, high blood pressure and diabetes but (until recently) no history of cancer.

Judy has repeatedly declined our request to start a documentation of the family medical history although she has most recently indicated the possibility that she might start to record some historical medical information.

Because genetics is becoming ever more important in personal medical history, we would encourage a member of the family to undertake the compellation of such a study of the Berman family. A great thesis or project for one of the medical professionals in the family!

Any takers?

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**Andrew Berman** (Chonon Berman, Chana Esther, Gus Berman, David Berman) of Mill Valley, CA has accepted a new position as Executive Vice President and General Manager of ePals, Inc. ([www.epals.com](http://www.epals.com)) working out of San Francisco.

Andy wries:

“ePals is a technology company based in Herndon, VA, just outside Dulles. We provide a secure, cloud-based policy managed email and social learning environment for digital content & collaboration. The platform was launched in late 2009, and is sold as a service. ePals is currently focused on the education market – a large, growing space in which the use of technology has been minimal compared to the impact it has had in almost every other area of life (e.g., music, magazines). The rime for innovation is ripe.

“ePals has amassed a significant global community: 3M students, 6K schools, 600K classrooms. We have almost 30 patents pending on the platform. We recently announced a strategic partnership with Dell (<http://www.zdnet.com/blog/education/dell-and-epals-take-the-connected-classroom-to-the-cloud/4493/>?), and also have an operating agreement with Microsoft & NY C public schools: <http://www.zdnet.com/blog/education/epals-microsoft-k-12-game-changer/3840>. Both Dell & Microsoft are investors in addition to being operating partners. Other strategics include: National



Geographic, International Baccalaureate, & The Smithsonian Institution. There's an impressive list of private investors too."

Andy concludes: "I'm diving in. Wish me luck. Stay in touch."

Good luck, Andy...and you stay in touch !

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We are pleased to reprint in its entirety a press release received from Boston University:

(Boston) – Boston University Metropolitan College (MET) part-time faculty member **Bruce Berman** was named "Most Valuable Teacher" by JetBlue Airways and will throw out the first pitch at Fenway Park on Saturday, April 9, 2011, as the Boston Red Sox take on the New York Yankees.

Through his MET course "Politics, Public Relations, and Public Policy: The Boston Harbor Clean-Up," Berman has introduced hundreds of Boston University students to the ecology, politics, conservation, business, and history of Boston Harbor. He is one of the region's foremost experts on the restoration as well as the flora and fauna of the Harbor area. Berman also teaches management and business communications in the Department of Administrative Sciences.

Berman is also communications director and spokesman for the non-profit group Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, where he extends his role as an educator as the lead architect of free youth environmental education programs that have connected 50,000 youth and teens to Boston Harbor and the Boston Harbor Islands since 2002.

He and his wife, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay President **Patricia Foley**, are avid Red Sox fans and live for most of the year on their boat "Verandah" at Constitution Marina on Boston Harbor.

"Actually, it is quite an honor – and a big responsibility" said Berman, 55, who watches nearly every Red Sox game but acknowledges that he hasn't played much baseball since 1971. "I have much more experience casting for big striped bass on Boston Harbor than I do pitching at Fenway Park. But I have been practicing since I got the news last week, and promise to try my best for my team."

"Maybe they will play 'Love That Cleaner Water" quipped Berman, who has been the Spokesman for Save the Harbor/Save the Bay for 20 years.

Bruce's father, **Eugene Bruce Berman, Sr.** (Chonon Berman, Gustave Berman), and his partner, Patricia Kozaczka, were allowed to accompany Bruce and Patty onto the field, to meet JetBlue representatives and Red Sox players and staff, and to observe the ceremonial first pitch. "What a thrill!"

Some say that Bruce pitches better than most of the other Red Sox pitchers.

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**Zachary** and **Alexander Nemtsov**, the twin sons of **Caren** (Chonon Berman, Gustave Berman, Eugene Berman) and **Andrew Nemtsov** of Needham, MA, Juniors at Commonwealth College at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA were both recently initiated as members of the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi and will be initiated as members of Phi Beta Kappa at a ceremony to be held in May. Each of them is a candidate for double degrees – BA (Political Science) and BS (Physics) – in the spring of 2012.

For the summer, Zach will be continuing his data analysis work for the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Waves Observatory at the Laboratoire AstroParticule & Cosmologie at the University Paris Diderot, and Alex will be helping to install the DarkSide prototype dark matter detector in the Gran Sasso National Laboratory in Italy.

Their parents intend to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a trip to Europe to visit "the guys". Caren hopes to celebrate her own July 14<sup>th</sup> Bastille Day birthday in Paris.

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**Jilian Berman** (Chonon Berman, Chana Esther, Gus Berman, Kenneth Berman) is Senior Legal Counsel at The Park Avenue Bank in New York City.

Jilian, a graduate of Yale University (BA) and Harvard Law School (JD) was previously an associate at the New York law firm of Davis, Polk & Wardwell and thereafter a Vice President in the Law Division of Morgan Stanley. She lives in the City with her daughter, **Alexandra Rose Berman** (b. 2005).

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**Benton A. R.** (Chonon Berman, Chana Esther, Gus Berman, William Berman) & **Melisa Berman** have moved from South Glastonbury, CT and now reside at 403 Marlborough Street, Apt 13, Boston, MA 02115.

**ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO JANUARY 1, 2011 MAILING LIST**

*Please keep us advised as to life cycle events (births, marriages & deaths)  
and changes in contact information  
(addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses).*

BERMAN, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew (Sabra Ginsberg)

BERMAN, Hannah (1993)

Cell: (415) 686-4688 e-mail: [hannahsberman@ol.com](mailto:hannahsberman@ol.com)

BERMAN, Morrissa (1995)

Cell: (415) 306-6829 e-mail: [morrissab@aol.com](mailto:morrissab@aol.com)

BERMAN, Harley (1997)

Cell: (415) 686-2526 e-mail: [harkeybmv@aol.com](mailto:harkeybmv@aol.com)

BERMAN, Mr. & Mrs. Benton A. R. (Melisa)

403 Marlborough Street, Apt. 13  
Boston, MA 02115

Cell (Benton): (617) 645-5194

Cell (Melisa): (617) 645-4351

e-mail: [bentonb@me.com](mailto:bentonb@me.com)

BERMAN, Mr. & Mrs. D. David (Deborah)

Cell (David): (917) 692-4784

Cell (Debby): (917) 843-6398

BERMAN, Mr. & Mrs. Jamis I. M. (Carrie)

BERMAN, Shayna (20 )



BERMAN, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth L. (Allene)

Cell (Kenneth): (914) 924-0891

Cell (Allene): (914) 924-3583

BERMAN, Matthew Douglas

Cell (NY): (917) 536-6628

e-mail: [mattberman@gmail.com](mailto:mattberman@gmail.com)

BERMAN, Mr. Mrs. William H. (Deborah)

505 Tremont Street

Boston, MA 02116

Cell (Bill): (617) 817-1702

JOHNSON, Ms. Kimberly (Paige)

545 S. Los Robles Ave., Apt. 8

Pasadena, CA 91101

LEVINE, Arthur

e-mail: [art-irvine@comcast.net](mailto:art-irvine@comcast.net)

### **A BIT OF HISTORY**

*(Although the roots of our Berman family are attributable to what was then Russia, for reasons of the magic of history, that part of the Russian Empire from which Chonon & Khsasis Berman came is now a separate country...Belarus. It is, therefore, appropriate that we be aware of our Belarusian history.)*

***(The following is an excerpt from a presentation by historian Rochelle Goldberg Ruthchild, a research associate at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University, introducing a program "Jewish History of Belarus" presented by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston.)***

Belarus began to exist as a country only in 1991, after belonging at various times to Lithuania, Poland, Russia, and the Soviet Union. It was part of the Pale of Settlement, the area within Russia where Jews were permitted to settle. Study of

the areas straddling the changing borders has become a popular field of study called “borderland history.”

Because massacres of many people took place there, those borderlands are sometimes known as “bloodlands.” Two examples are the engineered Ukrainian famine under Stalin and the KGB assaults on groups the Soviets regime considered suspect. For Jews, the bloody history of the area goes back to the Chmielnitski massacres of 1648-54.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries the area was part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Then it became part of Poland. Until the partitions of Poland in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, Russia had not had a large Jewish population. To contain its new, massive Jewish population, Russia confined most of its Jews to the Pale, which included Belarus. In addition to Russia proper, Prussia, Poland, Hungary, and Romania boarded this area. Under Russian rule the area that is now Belarus was divided into four provinces (gubernias), whose capitals were Minsk, Vitebsk, Mogilev and Grodno.

The Berman family has its roots on the gubernia of Minsk.

*(To be continued.)*

Is there a ring to: “It’s Great to be a Belarusian” ?

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# **IT’S GREAT TO BE A BERMAN !**

**Visit the Berman family website at: [www.bermanfamily.com](http://www.bermanfamily.com)**

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