

THE BERMAN FAMILY ANNOUNCER

Vol. 2011, No.4

www.bermanfamily.com

August 8, 2011

Please....pretty please !

Because we are attempting to complete an up-date of The Berman Family Mailing List and, as usual, are endeavoring to “fill in the blanks” on The Berman Family Tree (ancestry.com), it would be very much appreciated if those who have previously received requests for missing information (names, dates, places and contact information) would be so kind as to provide the information at this time.

Additionally, it is requested that everyone review the Berman Family Mailing List and advise as to errors and corrections, provide missing information as to individuals on the List and as to individuals not included. We specifically request that you review the list not only for information relating to you...but for other family members as well.

It is our intention to maintain the family records as complete and as accurate as possible. To attain this goal, we require the cooperation and input of you and of all members of the family.

Please...and pretty please!

ANNUAL COLLEGE DIRECTORY

We shall endeavor to publish the Second Annual Berman Family College Directory of the names of family members and the Colleges and Universities that they are attending in 2011-2012 if everyone who has a child (adult) who will be attending school this fall will provide us with the name of the student, the name and location of the college or university and the anticipated year of graduation. Please note if it is a graduate school, i.e. law, medicine, etc.

The kids should know if they are attending a school where a “cousin” is also attending and those families who live in a college town where a Berman is at school should consider reaching out and providing a home cooked meal, etc.

Hey, that is what family is for!

(We have had a suggestion that we compile and distribute a directory or directories by occupation, i.e. doctors, lawyers, Indian chiefs. Let us know if you believe that this is a good idea...and if YOU are willing to volunteer to compile the information. Likewise a directory by city and state of residence! There are no limits!)

THE LUNCH BUNCH: *Saturday, September 17, 2011*

TIME: 1:00 PM

DATE: Saturday, September 17, 2011

PLACE: Carmine’s Restaurant
1500 Whaley Avenue
(Just off the Merritt Parkway)
New Haven, CT

‘Tis time to make your plans to attend the next lunch with “The Lunch Bunch” to be held on Saturday, September 17th at Carmine’s Restaurant at 1500 Whaley Ave. in New Haven. The lunches provide a convenient opportunity to get together with members of the family, to catch up on the news and gossip, to renew old family ties and even meet relatives that you have never met before. The fact is that those who have come once keep coming back...to have lunch with family

The location for these almost regular luncheon family gatherings is really quite central...between Boston and New York...not too far away from almost any place in the northeast...and beyond. If Jane Mallow (b.1940) (Chonon Berman/Golda Berman/Francis Levin) could venture all the way from Miami to attend the May

event, others within driving distance can make the effort to join in the fun. It is well worth the trip !

It has been suggested that everyone planning to attend the September 17th event make the effort to call someone else – a relative who you have not seen for too long a while or someone from New Haven who has not as yet attended – to have that someone else meet you – and all of us – for lunch. While it is nice to be asked, this is a family gathering and everyone is invited and welcome. Please join in the family fellowship... and bring your family !

If you are planning to attend – and we hope that you are – please inform Barbara and Larry Tiven, Tel: (203) 795-3651 or e-mail: LTIVEN@aol.com so that adequate accommodations can be assured.

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

James I. M. Berman (b.1968) (*Chonon Berman/Chaa Esther/Gus Berman/William Berman*) is the Creative Director of Zapcast Creative (<http://zapcast.com>) in New York...the City.

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Samuel Yale Berman (b.1988) (*Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Gus Berman/David Berman/Brad Berman*) is a 2011 graduate of Hampshire College in Amherst, MA.

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Hannah Sophie Berman (b.1993) (*Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Gus Berman/David Berman/Andrew Berman*) is a 2011 graduate of Mt. Tam High School in Mill Valley, CA where he was the Valedictorian. He will be attending the University of California (Berkeley) with a California Regents and Chancellor Scholarships.

(Yes, you guessed it: both Sam and Hanna are the grandchildren of (Donald) David (b.1932) & Debby Berman of Stamford, CT)

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Speaking of graduations, **Gabrielle Arons** (b.1993) (*Chonon Berman/Golda Russian/Herman Russian/Cyvia Arons/Jeffrey Arons*) graduated from Amity High School in Woodbridge, CT and will be attending Boston University...class of 2015. Say her parents, **Jeffrey** (b.1961) and **Lauren (Arch) Arons**: "We couldn't be happier !!!"

Gabrielle's graduation gift was a two week vacation in Italy with her parents.

Editor's Note: Due to a typographical error, Lauren's name was erroneously reported as "Laura" in the June 30, 2011 Announcer. Mia culpa!

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Zachary Arons (b.1996) (*Chonon Berman/Golda Russian/Herman Russian/Cyvia Arons/Jeffrey Arons* and brother of Gabrielle), who finished his first year of high school spent a month in Costa Rica on an adventure/community service/Spanish language program. His parents reported that he was "having a blast" and that they have seen pictures to prove it.

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We try to do the impossible task.... keeping track of the sons of **Robert Sprafkin** (b.1940) (*Honon Berman/Chona Esther/Dora Sptafkin*):

Jeff (b.1965) & **Ella** and son **Joshua** (b.2010) are in Shanghei, China

Neil (b.1970) is in Philadelphia, and

Noah (b.1970) & **Rachana** and daughter **Noor Barbara** (b.2008) are in Washington, District of Columbia

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David Berman (b.1931) (*Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Gus Berman*) of Stamford, CT has been elected Chairman of the Board of Directors Smith House, Snf, one of only two municipally owned skilled nursing facilities in Connecticut.

In acknowledging the family's congratulations, David quipped: "At least we will have rooms for the family."

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We are pleased to report that **Cyvia R. Russian (Arons) Peters** (b.1934) (*Chonon Berman/Golda Russian/Herman Russian*) has been discharged from the Whiney Center where she was in rehab and is now recovering at home, 190 Morgan Avenue, East Haven, CT 06512 under the care of her husband, Dr. Robert, and "hopes to be back in action soon."

Cards and e-mail messages (Cyviapet01@gmail.com) will certainly make her feel better...they couldn't hurt.

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Did you know that **Harvey Feinberg** (b.1938) (*Chonon Berman/Benjamin Berman/Mildred Feinberg*) is the Chair of the New Haven Committee on Equal Opportunity....the oldest of its kind in the United States?

Retirement has not diminished Harvey's enthusiasm or community efforts.

A BIT OF HISTORY...Continued

(The following is the last of three installments 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 and Vol. 2011, No. 3 dated June 30, 2011 in *The Berman Family Announcer*.)

After the Russian Revolution, many Jews were thrilled by the toppling of the czar, the abolition of the Pale and its restrictions, and the end of school and university

quotas. Jews flooded into cities. Many of the new Soviet leaders were Jews, including Trotsky*, Kamenetz, Aronovitch, and Rosenfeld (even Lenin may have had Jewish ancestry). As part of their general opposition to religion, the Soviet persecuted Jewish religious officials, but Jews became a recognized nationality among the many Soviet nationalities.

The German invasion of the Soviet Union progressed through places where many Jews lived, which again became "bloodlands." In Belarus alone, 800,000 Jews were murdered, 90 percent of the population. Most of those who survived had fled eastward. In addition, many Belarusian Jews who had previously moved to Leningrad and Moscow also survived.

It was a Russian canard that Ivan fought while Moshe loved in Tashkent (Uzbekistan). On the contrary, the 500,000 Jews who served in the Red Army was as high a percentage of fighters as any other Soviet nationality. They were the third-most-decorated group (army anti-Semitism probably kept that figure lower than it should have been), and almost 200,000 Jews were killed.

Today the Jewish population of Belarus is about 55,000.

-* *Leon Trotsky was the first cousin of Sonya Bronstein Berman (- 1962), the Second wife of Samuel Berman (not family related), the father of Lillian Berman Berman (1898-1998), the husband of Gustave Berman (1889-1972) (Honan Berman).*

Editor's Note: *Genealogical research undertaken by and on behalf of Eugene Berman (b.1928) (Honan Berman/Gustave Berman) has among its purposes identifying members of the family of Honan & Chasha Berman who may have remained in Russia (Belarus), tracing those relatives, if any, to determine if there are members or descendants of the family still living in Belarus or elsewhere, and to ascertain if any family members were victims of the Holocaust.*

*In 2008 Eugene visited Belarus (and those areas from whence the family
is believed to have come) on a trip to Lithuania and Belarus in 2008.*

IT'S GREAT TO BE A BERMAN !

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