

THE BERMAN FAMILY ANNOUNCER

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www.bermanfamily.com

August 20, 2011

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

Save the date, plan to attend and let us know that you will be attending the next every-couple-of-months meetings of The Lunch Bunch:

TIME: 1:00 PM, Eastern Daylight Time

DATE: Saturday, September 17, 2011

PLACE: Carmine's Restaurant
1500 Whaley Avenue, New Haven, CT
(Just off Exit 59 of the Merritt Parkway)

Please confirm your intention to attend by contacting:

Larry & Barbara Tiven, Tel: (203) 795-3651, LTIVEN@aol.com

or

David & Debby Berman, Tel: (203) 322-6196, DBDB44@aol.com

These informal social events that allow members of the family to get together for lunch and conversation...to get caught-up on what is new in the lives of one another and those who are not there...have become the place to be. Attendance keeps growing as those who have not as yet attended learn about what a good time is had by those who have attended....and keep coming back. The food ain't bad either.

Call one of your cousins that you have not seen recently - who you keep putting off calling - and arrange to meet on September 17th with "The Lunch Bunch". You will like it !

ANNUAL COLLEGE DIRECTORY, 2011-2012

American International College, Springfield, Massachusetts

BERMAN, Mark R. (b.1951)

(*Chonon Berman/Gustave Berman/Milton Berman*)

ADMINISTRATION

Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

BERMAN, Bruce (b.1955) **PART TIME FACULTY**
(*Chonon Berman/Gustave Berman/Eugene Berman*)

Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

YOELI, Max (b.1990) Class of 2012
(*Chonon Berman/Gustave Berman/Milton Berman/Meredith Yoeli*)

Franklin & Marshall, Lancaster, PA

BERMAN, Kayla (b.1992) Class of 2014
(*Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Gus Berman/David Berman/Brad Berman*)

Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York

BERMAN, Danny (b.1993) Class of 2015
(*Chonon Berman/Barnett Berman/Arnold Berman/Barry Berman*)

Massachusetts, University of, Amherst, MA

BERMAN, (Martha Baker, Ph.D. (Ms. Mark R.)) **ADMINISTRATION**
(Wife of Mark R. Berman (*Chonon Berman/Gustave Berman/Milton Berman*))

NEMTZOW, Alex (b.1990) Class of 2012
(*Chonon Berman/Gustave Berman/Eugene Berman/Caren Nemtzow*)

NEMTZOW, Zach (b.1990) Class of 2012
(*Chonon Berman/Gustave Berman/Eugene Berman/Caren Nemtzow*)

Puget Sound, University of, Tacoma, WA

FAIGEL, Madeline R. (b.1993) Class of 2015
(*Chonon Berman/Golda Russian/Herman Russian/Susan Faigel/Douglas Faigel*)

Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT

FEINBERG, Harvey M., Ph.D. **FACULTY (History)**
(*Chonon Berman/Benjamin Berman/Mildred Feinberg*)

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY

MOORE, Jake M. (b.1993) Class of 2015
(*Chonon Berman/Bailia Levitz/Celia Byer/Barbara Tiven/Ellen Moore*)

York University, Toronto, CANADA

SHENFELD, Erica J. (b.1992)

Class of 2015

(Chonon Berman/Bailia Levitz/Celia Byer/Barbara Tiven/Joanne Shenfeld)

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***Please help us compile a complete list by providing the names of students,
name and location of college and class date, i.e. Class of 20__.***

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Doctor **DOUGLAS O. FAIGEL** (b.1963) (*Chonon Berman/Golda Russian/Herman Russian/Susan Faigel*) has taken a position in the Division of Gastroenterology and Herpetology at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona. Doug is Director of Therapeutic Endoscopy and a Professor of Medicine. He also recently became the Treasurer of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE). Doug, wife **Kristin, Olivia** (b.1994) and **Eliza** (b.2000) are settling into desert living. Their new address is: 9333 E. Red Bird Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85262.

MADELEINE FAIGEL (b.1993), the oldest daughter of Dr. Douglas & Kristin Faigel, graduated from Lakewood High School, Lake Oswego, OR in June. She is attending the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington as a member of the class of 2015.

DANNY BERMAN (b.1993) (*Chonon Berman/Barnett Berman/Arnold Berman/Barry Berman*) graduated from the Choate School in Wallingford, CT in June and is entering Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY, Class of 2015.

The graduation/off to college life cycle has brought us news of three of the grandchildren of **BARBARA & LARRY TIVEN** (*Chonon Berman/Bailia Levitz/Celia Byer*):

CARLY SHENFELD (b.1988), one of the daughters of the Canadian **AVERY & JOANNE TIVEN SHENFELD**, graduated from McGill University in Montreal, Canada in June and is currently among the unemployed, diligently looking for a job, preferably in writing/editing. According to her unbiased and obviously objective grandparents, "She writes very well, and has had several

articles published in local Canadian newspapers.” “She would most like to settle in New York City if possible.”

(Now, here is an opportunity for Berman networking! There are several members of the family who live and/or work in New York and we would not be surprised that one or more have contacts in the writing/editing/publishing worlds that could open doors for Carly. Certainly they will extend Berman hospitality to our Canadian cousin as she seeks employment in the City and when she gets her “most like” and moves to New York.)

ERICA SHENFELD (b.1992), the other Shenfeld daughter, graduated high school with honors in June of 2010 and has spent this last year in Israel participating in a program sponsored by the summer camp (Gesher) that she had attended since she was 9 years old. She is entering York University in Toronto this fall and is planning to major in physical chemistry. Her ultimate goal is to attend medical school. Good luck, Erica!

JAKE MOORE (b.1993), one of the children of author **PETER** and **ELLEN TIVEN MOORE**, graduated with honors from high school in June and will enter Vassar College this fall. He is planning to major in math and science with the goal of becoming an engineer. He is in a program that will allow him to complete his arts and science requirements in three years at Vassar and then to transfer to Columbia University to complete the math/science courses necessary for engineering. He will receive BA degrees from each of the two colleges.

...and, JAKE’s mother, **ELLEN TIVEN MOORE** (b.1964), has recently accepted the position of Executive Director of Programming for the Scarsdale, NY Teen Center.

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It always surprises us how little we really know about some members of the family. Take for example **GEOFFREY OELSNER**, husband of **LESLIE BERMAN OELSNER** (b.1951)(*Chonon Berman/Benjamin Berman/Sidney Berman*):

GEOFFREY is a clinical social worker who has been in private practice in Fayetteville, AK since 1982. In addition to conducting psychotherapy with individuals, he has utilized cognitive therapy, hypnotherapy, guided imagery, and Eugene Gendlin’s focusing techniques to foster positive changes. He graduated from the University Of Georgia School Of Social Work in 1978. He went to Arkansas with his wife, **LESLIE**, also a clinical social worker, in 1979. He has held a range of contractual positions since then, as a medical social worker, performing music therapy in geriatric and psychiatric units; as a family therapist for the AR Department of Children and Family Services, and teaching stress and pain management for several area hospitals, and has maintained a private practice. Geoffrey is one of the first Masters degree-level members of the American Society for Clinical Hypnosis, an organization previously open only to M.D.s and PhD.s

for membership, and he has been on the ASCH's national faculty. He has practiced Buddhist meditation since 1947 and helped to found the Northwest Arkansas Buddhist society in 1994. He has facilitated a weekly Buddhist meditation and spiritual support group in Fayetteville since 1996 and a similar, nonsectarian support group for teenagers since 2001. Geoffrey is active in the Fayetteville Ministerial Organization as its Buddhist representative.

Geoffrey & Leslie are the parents of **ADAM FOREST OELSNER** (b.1981) who now lives in Olympia, WA.

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

Considering the fact that the Berman family has its American roots in New Haven, Connecticut, The Family of Chonon & Chasia Berman has become a Life Member of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven.

For those who are interested in becoming Individual Members (\$25.00), Family Members (\$36.00), Patrons (\$50.00), Youth Members (under 21)(\$18.00) or interested in learning more about the Society, you may visit its website (<http://jhsgnh.org>) or write to The Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven, P. O. Box 325, New Haven CT 06515. Marvin Bargar (203-392-6125) is in charge of the archives.

(The story is told about Gustave Berman, one of the sons of Honon:

Gus, who was born in Russia, took great pride in being an American. When he left New Haven and re-settled in Western Massachusetts, he was always active in community affairs. He was always self conscious of the fact that he was not native born and spoke with a wee bit of an accent – a slight difficulty with the letters “v” and “w” - so that to aid his desired assimilation, when asked where he came from (meaning country of origin), he would always reply with great pride: “New Haven”.)

D N A

We continue with our interest in DNA as a tool in tracing the history of the Berman Family, tracing its roots, building the family tree and speculating on its history. While some have no interest in things genealogical, for some of us it is an exciting game of discovery...exploration

and learning. History becomes an adventure when you become a part of it. And there is the excitement of discovering new relatives – albeit related by many degrees of separation...but relatives none the less.

DNA is one of the tools that allows us to look back in time and attempt to discover who and where were our ancestors in 1865 during the American Civil War, in 1492 when Chris set out on his voyage that resulted in the “discovery of America or.... Genetics gives us the methodology to confirm validity of genealogical searches and provide directions for exploration.

In pursuing the DNA route, we are in contact with one Itzhak Epstein (legen@earthlink.net) of New York City the Project Administrator who leads the “Taunus Lineage Project”. In explaining the project, Itzhak has written:

There are 17 of us in the “Taunus Mountains Jews Project”. Several FTDNA (Family Tree DNA) customers who match us have not joined our project and I am trying to persuade them to join.

Each of us can trace his patrilineal ancestry for several generations. A few of us can even trace it several centuries further back. The 17 of us share a common patrilineal ancestor. He was probably descended from European Jews of the late middle ages. Who were their ancestors and from whom did they come?

According to FTDNA’s formalistic calculations the furthest genetic distance between any of us is 8, and there is a 95% probability that these two furthest-apart group members have a common patrilineal ancestor within the last 25 generations, meaning that he was born after 1350 CE (the time of the black plague). This may be fine for the formula, but I am still seeking a more nuanced analysis. With additional qualified project members in the sample, our projects MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) might turn out to have probably lived even earlier.

For the time being, these are the discussions and speculations. With additional research and broader participation in Y-DNA testing some of the anthropological fog may clear in the next few years. Three years ago there was not much data upon which to even speculate.

Is your interest peaked? We hope so!

If you are a male, direct descendant of Chonon Berman interested in the DNA adventure and willing to spend the amount of money required for DNA testing, we urge you to do so. Your participation in expanding the data base will be of a substantial benefit in pursuing this research....for the Project, you and the rest of us individually. You are encouraged to participate...to undergo DNA testing.

If you do decide to undergo DNA testing, we recommend that you do so through **Family Tree DNA**, <http://www.familytreedna.com>. We recommend the broadest testing you are willing to pay for and, if you are willing/able to spend the money, suggest the YDNA111 test. Please let us know if you pursue this adventure so that we in turn can alert our far distant genetic relative Itzhak Epstein.

To learn more, we recommend The International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG) website at www.isogg.org or that you contact isog@msn.com.

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FAMILY HEALTH HISTORY

Regular readers of **The Berman Family Announcer** are familiar with our as yet unfulfilled efforts to collect a Family Health History. As of yet we have been unsuccessful in our efforts to recruit someone in the family to undertake this project. Anyone interested ?

Judy Berman Levine (Chonon Berman/Harry Berman), who has an interest in the study but no desire to pursue the research, regularly drops nuggets to spike one's interest in matters genetic:

- * Brothers Ben and Harry, two of the sons of Chonon & Chasia, and Harry's children, Arthur and Judy all had/have blue eyes.
- * Diabetes is common within the family.

In an article that appeared in **Parade**, it was noted that "Doctors are beginning to predict cancer risk by looking at a person's family history and DNA." (Wow, there is a tie-in!) The article included a box: "How To Collect A Family Health History" and noted that "A complete family history can help your physician identify diseases and conditions that you may have inherited."

A copy of the "How to..." is available upon request. No self-addressed stamped envelope is required.

BELARUS

(Because of the substantial interest engendered by the earlier publication of excerpts from the second of a series of presentations by Rochelle Goldberg Ruthchild, a research associate at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University, to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston entitled "Jewish History of Belarus", we are serializing the Program

Report of the first lecture that appeared in the March 2001 (Volume XX, Number 1, Issue 67) issue of Mass-Pocha, the publication of the JGSGB.)

Political History

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, these borderlands are sometimes known as “bloodlands”. Two examples are the engineered Ukrainian famine under Stalin and the KGB assaults on groups the Soviet regime considered suspect. For Jews, the bloody history of the area goes back to the Chmielnitski massacres of 1648-54. By contrast, Chmielnitski is a hero to Belarusians and is considered the father of Ukrainian independence.

In the 16th and 17th centuries the area was part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Then it became part of Poland. Until the partitions of Poland in the late 18th 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.

To be continued.....

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NOTE: If you have previously received a request for information for the Bermasn Family Mailing List and/or the Berman Family Tree, please (pretty please) be so kind as to provide the information at this time. Your help and cooperation is urgently needed to maintain accurate and complete family records.

IT’S GREAT TO BE A BERMAN !

Visit the Berman Family Website at: www.bermanfamily.com
