

THE BERMAN FAMILY ANNOUNCER

Vol. 2012, No. 1

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January 1, 2012

100 YEARS....a Century

February 16, 2012 marks the 100th Anniversary of the date that **Chonon Berman** (*b. 1852-1936*) a citizen of the United States of America (Petition for Naturalization No. 636)...a century of citizenship for the Berman family!

Two of his sons, **Hyman** (*1882-1936*) and **Benjamin** (*1885-1964*) became citizens at the same event before the United States District Court for the State of Connecticut in New Haven, CT and **Harry** (*1897-1974*), a minor at the time, obtained derivative citizenship through the naturalization of his father, Chonon.

Chonon, a peddler by occupation at the time of his naturalization, was born in Dolginow, Russia on or April 3, 1852, departed from Liverpool, England aboard the vessel Cornia on or about June 12, 1906 and arrived at the Port of New York on June 20, 1906.

(For additional historical information concerning the family of Chonon & Khasia Berman see "This is Us" at BermanFamily.com)

FRANCES RUSSION LEVIN 1912 – 2011

We regret to inform the family that Frances Russian Levin, age 99, died peacefully in her apartment in Miami, Florida on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2011. Her daughter Jane Levin Mallow, her son, Bruce Levine and a Hospice Nurse were with her.

Frances, the daughter of Golda & David Russian, was born in New Haven, CT on August 2, 1912, the year that Chonon was naturalized as an American citizen. She was a dedicated and devoted member of The Berman Family, taking an interest in all things Berman and a pride in the accomplishments of the greater Berman family.

Frances was one of four surviving grandchildren of the family patriarchs. Only Ruth Berman Harris (*b.1916*)(*Chonon Berman/Benjamin Berman*), Eugene B. Berman (*b.1928*)(*Chonon Berman/Gustave Berman*) and Judy Berman Levine (*b.1933*)(*Chonon Berman/Harry Berman*) survive.

Frances is survived by her children:

Jane Levin (Mrs. Robert Mallow (b.1940))
7461 SW 62nd Street, Miami, FL 33143
Tel: (305) 666-0782, e-mail: ilmram@bellsouth.net

Bruce Levin (b.1943)
100 S.W. 130 Terrace, Pembroke Pines, FL 33027
Tel: (954) 435-5073, Cell: (954) 647-5141, e-mail: bruced1@comcast.net

There will be a small graveside funeral this week.

She will be sorely missed by the Berman Family!

SAVE THE DATE: April 21, 2012....PLAN AHEAD

It is never too early to start making plans to attend the next meeting of The Lunch Bunch...to contact other members of the family and to arrange to have lunch and enjoy the fellowship of the Berman Family:

TIME: 1:00 PM
DATE: Saturday, April 21, 2012
PLACE: Carmine's Restaurant
1500 Whaley Ave., New Haven, CT
(Just off Exit 59 of the Merritt Parkway)

Please confirm your intentions 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

EDITOR'S NOTE, Mailing List

The rules of inclusion on the Chonon & Chasia Berman Family Mailing List includes provisions that (1) the non-Berman Family widows and widowers are listed in non-bold type with the family lineage of the Berman decedent spouse included in parentheses and (2) a divorced, non-Berman Family member is included when that individual is the parent of a child of the marriage.

As to the Berman Family Tree, all life cycle events are recorded as matters of fact and of record without editorial review. Although we have had requests to "purge" certain entries, historic accuracy cannot accommodate historic revision.

We welcome your comments concerning our editorial policies and any changes will be carefully considered for implementation. The Family Tree is maintained for genealogical history and the Mailing List for the benefit and convenience of members of the family. Your input and guidance is earnestly solicited.

Changes of Addresses

JOHNSON, Kimberly Paige (Paige) (b.1985)(Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Morris Berman/Leila Schulman/Marcy Johnson)
545 S. Los Robles Ave., Apt 8, Pasadena, CA 91101
Tel: (540) 588-7861, e-mail: kpaigejohnson@gmail.com

PETERS, Cyvia (b.1934)(Chonon Berman/Golda Russien/Herman Russian) & **Robert**
Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Hampden, CT 06517
Tel: (203) 974-4776; e-mail: cyviapet01@gmail.com

ROBINSON, Kelley Nicole (b.1982)(Chonon Berman/Gold Russien/Dora Padowitz/Howard Padowitz//Step Daughter of Adam Padowitz)
17780 128th Terrace, Jupiter, FL 33478
Tel: (561) 281-4537, e-mail: NONE

SPRAFKIN, Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. (b.1940)(Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Dora Sprsafkin) (Martha)
Winter: 1810 Rittenhouse Square, Apt. 1402, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Summer: 111 Roland Park Road, Center Ossipee, NH 03814
Tel: (Robert) (315) 727-3951, (Martha) (315) 751-2124
e-mail: rpsprafkin@gmail.com

Corrections

BERMAN, Ann (Ms. Arthur)
e-mail: annberman@optimim.net

SPRAFKIN, Mr. & Mrs. Neal (b.1970)(Lisa)

New Addresses

SANDGROUND, Evelyn Yager Heller (ex-wife of Allan Heller (Chonon Berman/Bailia Berman/Faye Heller, mother of Eric J. and Peter G. Heller)
2200 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201-3324
Tel: (703) 525-2260, e-mail: UNKNOWN

New Additions

GOMEZ, Katelyn Rose (b.2009)(Chonon Berman/Golda Russion/Dora Padowitz/Howard Padowitz/stepdaughter, Adam Padowitz)
% Kelley Nicole Robinson, 17780 128th Terrace, Jupiter, FL 33478

HELP !

We would very much appreciate receiving e-mail addresses, if any. for the following:

Diane Byer, Milford, CT
Robert Berman, Ph. D., Tuxedo Junction, NY
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Heitman, Houston, TX
Carol Padowitz, Davie, FL
Philip Padowitz, Lake Helen, FL
Kelley Nicole Robinson
Evelyn H. Sandground, Arlington, VA
Gertrude Stull, South Norwalk, CT
Mr.& Mts. Laurence Sulkis, Bethany, CT

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

In announcing their recent move to Hampden, (Dr.) **Robert Peters** informed us that his wife, **Cyvia** (*b. 1934*)(*ChononBerman/Golda Russien/Herman Russian*) “is making a nice recovery from unexpected open heart surgery in May. We have survived the surgery and the usual multi-traumatic move.”

Cyvia/Bob “hope to join the Lunch Bunch next time”... 1:00 PM on Saturday, April 21, 2012 at Carmine’s Restaurant, 1500 Whaley Avenue, New Haven, CT. We look forward to seeing them there!

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We are much obliged to **Adam Padowitz** (*Chonin Berman/Golda Russien/Dora Padowitz/Howard Padowitz*) for informing us of “a new addition”... **Katelyn Rose Gomez**, the child of his step-daughter, Kelley Nicole Robinson, born on April 29, 2009 in West Palm Beach, FL.

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We are pleased to announce that **Judith Berman Levine** (*b.1933*)(*Chonon Berman/Harry Berman*) has recovered from her recent surgery with a good prognosis.

Judy has provided the Berman Family Archives with the original July 28, 1906 Certification of the intention of Honon Berman “that it was *bona fide* his intention to become a CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State and Sovereignty, whatsoever – and particularly to Nicholas, Emperor of Russia.”

Also included in the cache of materials provided are original copies of “*The Berman Announcer*”, Vol. 1, No. 8 dated March 1951 and Vol. 2, No. 4 dated October, 1955.

The **Announcers** are fascinating in their revelation of tidbits of the family history.

The March, 1951 issue announced the April 21st Seder to be held at Beth Hamedrosh Hagodol at George & Dwight Streets in New Haven at a cost of “only \$6.00 per adult” with “every unmarried child will attend the Seder at no cost to his parents.” Herman Russion was to be the Master of Ceremonies with Elders David Russion and Meyer Berman scheduled to officiate at the Seder Services.

(Editor’s Note: *I remember the 1951 Seder well. It was the first Seder that I attended after being admitted to the bar, being discharged from the Army and having married.*)

The October, 1955 issue, a carbon copy typed on onion skin paper, announced a Berman Family Meeting to be held in the Vestry of Beth Hamedrosh Hagodol. Arnold Berman was President, Sidney Rhein Vice-President, Benjamin Berman Treasurer, Celia Beyer Corresponding Secretary and Bess Doff Recording Secretary. The notice of the meeting sets the tone:

“Everyone is looking forward to this meeting, not because of any earth-shattering Matters to be resolved, but to be together as a Family and enjoy being with one another. Family matters, of course, will receive the earnest consideration of all of us, for therein lies our strength and our unity.”

We would welcome receiving the original or copies of old issues of *The Berman Family Announcer*. Several old issues are posted at www.bermanfamily.com and others will be added in due course as they are received. We will endeavor to quote past issue in future issues of *The Announcer*.

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Eugene B. Berman, Sr. (b.1928)(*Chonon Berman/Gustave Berman*) and his son, **E. Bruce Berman, Jr.** (b.1955) will be visiting Cuba January 14 – 21, 2012 on a Traveling Humanities Seminar sponsored by MassHumanities.

Saludos !

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And speaking of Gene, he has obviously recovered from his hospitalization and diagnosis of “hypertension” and has shed his 24/7 involvement as Chair of the Hampden County Bar Association Foreclosure Prevention Task Force and of the Alliance of Providers of Legal Services to Individuals Facing Foreclosure.

Gene's "significant other", **Patricia Kozaczka**, is recovering nicely from surgery at Brigham & Women's Hospital/Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. Thankfully it was operable and the prognosis is excellent.

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To bring you up-to-date on the doings of the **Sue (b.1954)(Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Samuel Berman) and Michael Zamkow** family:

Sue and Michael spent last summer traveling – New York, San Francisco, New Hampshire, Maine, California and Italy. They celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in London over Thanksgiving weekend. They more recently visited the Pritkin Institute in Miami, Sue "for a tune up" and Michael "to learn how to develop a healthier lifestyle."

Son **Max (b.1987)** "moved into San Francisco in June and I enjoying being back in an urban environment. He shares a house in The Mission with two of his fraternity brothers. He is between jobs and exploring opportunities with other start-ups and more established technology companies."

Son **Sam (b.1991)** "is in his second year at Rochester Institute of Technology majoring in mechanical engineering with a concentration in automotives. He ideally would like to work for engineering department of a car company this summer, preferably one that makes race cars." If anyone has a connection in the industry, your help would be greatly appreciated.

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Robert (b.1940)(Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Dora Sprafkin) & Martha Sprafkin have - as husband and wife – settled into residences (winter) at Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia and Center Ossipee, NH (summer). They have written:

"We are thoroughly enjoying city living. Our condo has a lovely view of Rittenhouse Park and the varied skyscrapers beyond. We walk nearly everywhere for concerts, theater, museums, restaurants and shopping. And the buses are free for senior citizens. Martha has found a wonderful gym with a 25 meter pool, yoga and zumba classes, and machines to replace the Bowflex that was left behind in NH. We are connecting with old friends and meeting new folks. Moving and letting go of stuff was stressful, but now having pared down to 3 rooms, it feels liberating with less drag and more energy for new adventures."

Bob and Martha, who, last January visited Belize with Sustainable Harvest International (www.sustainableharvest.org) concluded their 2011 Seasons Greetings with a lovely:

"As we move again towards the light of the returning sun, we are grateful for our blessings. May our hopes for social justice and the future of the planet continue to guide us."

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While we do not have the details at this time, **Neal** (b.1970)(*Chonon Berman/Chana Ester/Dora Sprafkin/Robert Sprafkin*) & **Lisa Sprafkin** were married in September in Philadelphia.

Congratulations...and welcome to the family, Lisa.

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Max Yoeli (b.1990)(*Chonon Berman/Gustave Berman/Milton Berman/Meredith Yoeli*). Student body president of Dartmouth College, was quoted in the August 3, 2001 issue of *Inside Higher Ed* in an extensive analysis on the subject of “Drunk Support” Commenting on projects named Green Team and SOTER that are designed to curb college drinking, Max, a fraternity member who has worked with both programs, believes that the groups’ programs can work on any campus.

“You make small interventions to change the trajectory of an individual’s night such that a potentially bad situation doesn’t turn into a dangerous situation.”

Max graduates from Dartmouth this year. He embarks on a new career with Bridgestone, the hedge fund located in Westport, CT.

Changing Borders...Interactive Map

We frequently refer to the Republic of Belarus as the country from which the Berman Family emigrated to come to the United States. The truth is that at the time of our family’s emigration, the area from whence we came was, in fact, Russia...the then Russian Empire.

The Republic of Belarus, a land-locked country in Eastern Europe in the heart of the 19th century Pale of Settlement, became a country after the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1990. Most of the territory of present-day Belarus was in Poland on 1920 and in the USSR during World War II and during the post-war period until 1990.

To see how the borders of Poland and surrounding areas changed over the millennia, vist polmap.republika.pl/polska1.htm or tinyurl.com/35vsmc8.

IT’S GREAT TO BE A BERMAN!

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