

The Berman Family ANNOUNCER

Vol. 2008, No. 1

< eberman1@cox.net >

December 16, 2008

The Berman Family Announcer Goes Electronic

The earliest edition of *The Berman Family Announcer* in the Berman Family Archives is Vol. 2, No. 2 dated June, 1953. It is a carbon paper copy of a hand typed edition in which the "Editors" are listed as: Mildred Feinberg, Bernice Russian, Helen Rhein, Edithe Berman, Faye Heller, Nellie Berman and Francis Levin. Officers of **The Berman Family Group** were Charles Byer, President, Arnold Berman, Vice-President, Benjamin Berman, Treasurer, Mildred Feinberg, Assistant Treasurer, Edith Berman, Recording Secretary and Celia Byer, Corresponding Secretary.

In reporting a matter of historic significance in the publication of the Announcer, it was recorded that "The Editors are back to pounding their own typewriters. We hope the past few issues which Howard Padowitz so graciously mimeographed for us have not spoiled you to the extent that you expect neat, correctly spelled, artistic Berman Announcers. If this is so, we, the Editors, cordially invite you to do them yourselves! Howard is no longer in a position to do them for us, but we do thank him again for all he has done in the past."

*(If anyone has a copy of any of the pre-June 1953 copies of **The Announcer**, please forward the original(s) or copies to us for preservation in the Berman Family Archives that is attempting to complete its collection of these original editions.)*

Subsequent issues of *The Berman Family Announcer* were typed, photocopied, Xeroxed and mailed to members of the family. **However, for various reasons, mailing is impracticable at this time, thus all future editions of The Announcer will be distributed only electronically, by e-mail, to only those individuals who have e-mail addresses.**

We sincerely regret that distribution must be limited to only those who have an e-mail address. Indeed, we do not presently have the e-mail addresses for all of the family members who may have such access to e-mail. Therefore, to assure the widest possible circulation of *The Berman Family Announcer* and news of “the family”, we request the following:

- (1) Review the Nailing List of The Living Descendants of Chonon & Khasia Berman that is included as an attachment with the cover letter and advise us as to the missing e-mail addresses (and other incomplete contact information) of which you are aware and forward the same to us.
- (2) Use this request to contact those family members for whom we do not now have e-mail or other complete contact information and forward the same to us.
- (3) Contact those individuals for whom we do not have an e-mail address and share with them a copy of this issue of *The Berman Family Announcer*...mail a copy to them.
- (4) Contact the members of your branch of the family and obtain an e-mail address of a friend or neighbor to whom future issues of the *Announcer* can be sent to them. We attempt to be accommodating.

Despite the change in mythology of distribution, we intend to be true to the spirit of the Editorial that appeared in the June 1955 issue in which the then editors aptly observed:

“As we have been composing this edition, we have been noting with great pride and awe, the achievements of the members of our family. They have distinguished themselves scholastically, socially, in the world of business, and the arts. It is not usual that in any one family there should be so many who have accomplished so much. Our children are the prettiest, our young people are the smartest, and our parents are the cleverest to have produced the children and the young people about whom we are talking. WE’RE ONE HELLOVA FAMILY !”

Contact Information: eberrman1@cox.net

Heritage Tour

Eugene Berman (*Gustave Berman*) and his friend Patricia participated in a trip to Lithuania and Belarus this past summer organized by Howard Margol and led by Peggy Mosinger Freedman. A heritage tour...a back to your roots trip. A never to be forgotten experience! "I am still trying to digest all that we saw and did." You should see the pictures!

Peggy and Howard have begun planning for the trip to Lithuania, Belarus, Latvia and NE Poland. The Itinerary calls for individual departures to Vilnius on June 30th and a return from Vilnius on July 10th. Side trips to Belarus can be arranged before, during and after the scheduled tour.

Howard Margol has been taking groups of people interested in their Jewish Lithuanian heritage to Vilnius and Kaunas for 16 years. This will be Peggy Freedman's fourthtrip.

The trip is not organized for profit. Howard's main purpose is to offer those of Jewish background to go back to their roots and to encourage them to research their ancestors. Since profit is not the motive, all arrangements are made in a first class manner intended to make the trip enjoyable and meaningful.

Because a family heritage tour is difficult to arrange, the information concerning the 2009 Trip To Lithuania is being shared for those individuals – or groups – who may be interested. Howard and Peggy go out of their way to take care of everyone's personal needs. The trip is highly recommended.

Contact information/respond to: Loitvaktrip@gmail.com

Howard Margol
4430 Mt. Paran Pkwy NW, Atlanta, GA 30327-3747 USA
Phone: (404) 261-9662, Fax: (04) 228-7125 (press *)
e-mail: homargol@aol.com

Peggy Freedman
245 Dalrymple Road, Atlanta, GA 30328 USA
Phone: (770) 396-1645
e-mail: peggyf@mindspring.com

Up-Date on Berman Family Genealogy

In his continuing interest in the genealogy of The Berman Family and in having taken the Heritage Tour to Lithuania and Belarus, Eugene has stated three goals:

- (1) To trace the Berman family ancestry to the earliest possible date;
- (2) To identify and locate any living relative other than the descendants of Chonon Berman or of his sister, Fannie Berman Kravitz. (It is not known at this time whether Chonon Berman had siblings other than his sister Fannie and “Pesya” or about the descendants of Pesya.)
- (3) To establish a family relationship to one or more of the victims of the Holocaust.

Contacts were made with genealogists in both Lithuania and Belarus to build on the family genealogy already established as follows:

BERKO _____

(a duminitive of Ber)

b. 1758is, assuming a generation to be 25 years

@

The relationship is presumed from the fact that his son’s Name was Nokhim Berkovich (son of Berko) Tsirylnik (“barber”).

NOKHIM BERKOVICH TSIRYLNİK (aka Tsyrulnik)

(Berkovich = son of Berko, Tsirylnik = barber)

b. 1783

@

Married: Nekham Abramova
(Daughter of Abram)

b. 1789

Children: **BERKA NOKHIMOVICH** (son of Nokhim)

b. 1808

@

Bluna

b. 1820

Khanna

b. 1821

Yenkil Berkovich Berman

b.

Married: Pesya

b. 1828

NOTE: Surnames were required by the Russian
government, 1808-1835

BERKO NOKHIMOVICH BERMAN and

(Berka)

b. 1808

KHANA ITSOVA

(daughter of Itsko Isazo)

b. 1809/1810

Children:

KHAIM BERKOVICH BERMAN and **REVKA**

(Khaim Ellyahu, Chaim Elqahe or Hyman Berman)

b. 1828

@ Vilna, RUSSIA

b. 1828

@

Children:

PESYA
b. 1847

MOSHE ELHANAN (Chonon Berman)
(Honon/Chonon/Elchonon)
b. April 3, 1852/1853
@ Vilna/Dolginow, RUSSIA

FANNIE (married to Meyer Kravitz)
b.
@

Moshe Elhano
Chonon/Chonen/Elchonon
CHONON BERMAN
Lipshitz

b. April 3, 1852/1853
@ Vilnia/Dolginow, RUSSIA
d. August 3, 1936
@ New Haven, CT

and **ANNA LIPSHITZ**
(Chashe/Khasia LIPSHITZ
Daughter of Gedaliah

(Gedaliah = Gustave/Gus)
b. 1864
@ Minsk/Glusk, RUSSIA
d. March 30, 1931
@

Emigrated from Liverpool, England
June 12, 1906 and arrived in New York on June 20, 1906
Aboard the vessel *Coronia*

Children:

Chana Esther Berman (Mishalov)
b. July 15, 1874
@

Golda Berman Russian
b.
@

Bailia Berman Levitz
b. August 25, 1879
@

Hyman Berman
b. May 5, 1882
@

Benjamin Berman
b. April 12, 1887
@

Barnett Berman
b. October 1, 1887
@

Gustave Berman
b. March 15, 1889
@

Harry Berman
b. August 15, 1897
@

NOTE: Additions and corrections to the Berman family genealogy are always most welcomed.

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

While the Announcer is anxious to report as much (good) news about members of the family as possible, we can only include the information that is provided to us. Please share your news with the Announcer so that we can share it with the rest of your family. All of us are interested.

MARK J. BERMAN (*Barnett Berman/Arnold Berman*) was on the entry list in six different Grammy categories for his very first solo record entitled “The Genesis Project.” The record is “a jazz/R&B pro-environmental, human rights take on the “first 7 days on Earth.” Mark says that he “feels very lucky to have fantastically brilliant performs” on the CD.

The categories:

1. Category 2 - #054 - Album of the Year “The Genesis Project”
2. Category 4 - #033 - Best New Artist “Mark Berman”
3. Category 46 - # 006 - Best Jazz Vocal Album “The Genesis Project”
4. Category 47 - #102 - Best Jazz Instrumental Solo – William Galison
5. Category 47 - #224 – Best Jazz Instrumental Solo – Ted Nash
6. Category 87 - #138 – Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocals “The Moon The Stars

If you are a Granny voting member, please consider supporting these nominations.

Mark’s e-mail address is markberman1@mac.com , his telephone number is (917) 513-5566 and his URL www.myspace.com/markjberman .

NOOR BARBARA SPRAFKIN (Chana Esther/Dora Sprafkin/Robert Sprafkin/Noah Sprafkin), the daughter of Noah and Rachana Sprafkin was born at 10:56 pm on October 1, 2008. According to Dadaji Bob, she weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz. when she was born. Mother, baby, father and grandfather “are doing well.” “Noor” means “light” in Hindi.

Noah and Rachana were married in India and now live in Ithaca, NY

The Berman Family is a diverse, welcoming family. Welcome, Noor.

ROBERT J. BERMAN, Ph.D. (*Chana Esther/Lewis Berman*), a serious collector of minerals who annually attends the East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show in West Springfield, MA was unable to attend this year for the stated reasons of “senile decay, incipient senescence, general geriatricity and attendant morbidity of sundry body parts. Haltness. Betrayal of limb and joint, stuff like that; we’ve got a semi-ambulatory biohazard going on here all right all right. Specifics inherently uninteresting – the usual, no more.”

The words for which Robert is never without are as interesting as he.

LAUREN ARCH (Ms. Dr. Jeffrey A.) ARONS (*Golda Russian/Herman Russian/Cyvia Arons*) has been a stalwart in her willingness to revive a Berman Family function, be it a Seder, dinner, luncheon or whatever. She is learning first hand the difficulties of attempting to get people to help in the planning and the frustrations in scheduling and planning an event. The family get-togethers are hard work and require the efforts of many individuals who are committed to the event.

If you are interested in a resumption of a Berman Family event and/or are willing to help in the planning and production of the event, please contact Lori directly and give her much needed encouragement...and help.

Lori’s contact information:

e-mail: Xlorix13@aol.com , Telephone: (203) 393-3363

Address: 3 Elderslie Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525

Events only happen if people want them to happen...and are willing to take responsibility in making them happen.

ROBERT MAXWELL (MAX) ZAMKOW (*Chana Esther/Samuel Berman/Sue Zamkow*), one of our British cousins from the other side of the pond, is a student at Stanford in California.

ANNE BERMAN (*Harry Berman*), the widow of Dr. Arthur Berman, was featured in an article in the *New Haven Register*. Ann is the head of a Connecticut environmental organization that is based in Milford. The organization has been achieving good results, mostly as a result of her efforts.

Anne is a well known and accomplished local artist.

ALEXANDER and ZACHARY NEMTZOW (*Gustave Berman/Eugene Berman/Caren Nemtzow*), the twin sons of Caren and Andy Nemtzow, attend Commonwealth College, the honors college of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, MA. Closer to their grandfather!

BARRY BERMAN (*Barnett Berman/Arnold Berman*) provided a photograph of the engraving on the tombstones of Chonon & Chasha Berman that have been translated from Hebrew to English:

Here lies
our dear father
A man upright and pure -
our teacher

Moshe Elhanan
Son of Chaim Elqahe
May his life be bound up
In the bond of life
Chonon
Berman

Died Aug. 3, 1936
Age 86

Here lies
the modest woman
and important: Mrs.
Chashe Daughter of R. Gedaliyah
died: 12 Nisan 5691
May her life be bound up
in the bond of life
Chasha
Berman
died Mar. 30, 1931
Age 82

YALE-GENTON, the men's clothing store in West Springfield that was the successor of the YALE CLOTHING COMPANY that was founded by

GUSTAVE BERMAN in 1921 and owned and operated by his son, **MILTON R. BERMAN**, and thereafter by his grandson, **MARK R BERMAN**, has closed its doors, a victim of the changing men's clothing business and the adverse economic climate. Yale-Genton was a leading men's clothing store and one of the largest in New England.

MARK R. BERMAN (*Gustave Berman/Milton R. Berman*), has become the Associate Vice President for Educational Enterprises at American International College in Springfield, MA. His new position requires extensive travel to the sites of the college's programs in the Middle East, the Far East, Spain and elsewhere. Mark's wife, Martha Baker, is a Dean at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Mark and Martha live in Williamsburg, MA.

MARK J. BERMAN (*Barnett Berman/Arnold Berman*) has been contacted by a Paul Cott who is "currently researching the life and music of trumpet player **SONNY BERMAN** (*Hyman Berman*). It is my intention to produce the first full biography of this important artist...I feel that his contribution to jazz in the late forties has perhaps not been fully appreciated and that publication of a thorough analysis of his music and a detailed account of his life is long overdue."

Information from the Berman Family Archives has been made available to Mr. Cott and he has been provided with the names and contact information of Sonny's siblings and their descendants.

The Announcer will review the book once it is published and shall advise members of The Family as to publication information. As you are aware, we have previously published a list of CDs featuring Sonny.

MICHAEL BURACK (*Fannie Kravitz/Rose Burack*) remains committed to the amalgamation of the families of **CHONON BERMAN** and his sister, **FANNIE BERMAN KRAVITZ**.

MAX DANIEL YOELI (*Gustave Berman/Milton Berman/Meredith Yoeli*) is a freshman at Dartmouth College; his sister, **ALEXANDRIA (“ALLY”)** **LAUREN YOELLI** is a student at the University of New Hampshire.

After more than 50 years of practice, **EUGENE BERMAN** (*Gustave Berman*) has closed the firm of Kamberg, Berman, P.C. and has joined the Springfield, MA law firm of Bacon/Wilson “as counsel”. He is “on the yellow brick road to retirement”.

While he continues with his efforts to rejuvenate The Berman Family Group, he has neglected the writing of his memoirs, ***This Is Me***, a companion series to his earlier ***This Is Us***, a 14 volume genealogy and history of the Berman Family, for reason of the demands of his efforts as Chair of both the Hampden County Bar Association Foreclosure Prevention Task Force and of the Alliance of Providers of Legal Services to Individuals Facing Foreclosure. He says that he will get back to his writing once he has resolved the foreclosure crisis.

IT’S GREAT TO BE A BERMAN !

