

THE BERMAN FAMILY ANNOUNCER

Vol. 2009, No. 2 eberman1@cox.net April 9, 2009

We goofed !

As a result of a technical error, the two most recent issues of *The Berman Family Announcer*, one announcing the December 16, 2008 death of Gary Rebhun (*Chonon Berman/Golda Russian/Natalie Rebhun*) and the other announcing the January 24, 2009 death of Dr. Sidney Berman (*Chonon Berman/Benjamin Berman*) were not e-mailed to one “group” of our e-mail addresses. We apologize profusely that our lack of technical expertise allowed this unfortunate omission to have happened. We believe that the error that allowed the omission to occur has been corrected and that all members of the family for whom we have an e-mail address should receive a copy of this issue.

If you are reading this *mea culpa*, we have your correct e-mail address and you are properly inscribed on our free subscription list. If, however, you have not received this copy of *The Berman Family Announcer* it means that you do not have an e-mail address, that we do not have a record of your e-mail address or, perish the thought, we have not rectified the technical error and have once again goofed. Please advise us promptly if you do not receive this issue of *The Announcer* and advise us as to your current and correct e-mail address.

Please be patient and give us all the help you can.

e-mail delivery only ! Please help us complete our e-mail list

Included as a Supplement to this e-mail edition of *The Announcer* is the most recent compilation of **The Berman Family Mailing List**. The Mailing List is an Attachment to the e-mail cover to the transmission of The Reminder. Be forewarned as you review and/or proceed to print the Attachment that the Mailing List is some fifty (50) pages long. Hey, there are a lot of us Bermans !

Substantial time and effort has gone into the attempt to make the Mailing List complete...to contain the name and contact information of ever living member of the Berman family. Unfortunately, it is likely that some newborns and “Bermans By

Marriage” have not been reported and, therefore, not included. Likewise, you will note that in all too many instances we do not have complete contact information.

We implore you to review the Mailing List and check your own listing and the listings of your parents, children, siblings and other family members to determine if the listings are complete, accurate or are lacking complete contact information. To assure that the Mailing List is accurate and complete, please send any additions and corrections by e-mail to eberman1@cox.net . Please take the time and do it now.

Because *The Berman Family Announcer* is distributed only to those for whom we have an e-mail address, of particular importance is our ascertaining the e-mail addresses of each family member...regardless of age. Please provide us with the e-mail addresses of your minor children if we do not now have them so that they can be added to the Mailing List. Any and all additional e-mail addresses that you can provide will be very much appreciated.

CONTEST*PRIZES***CONTEST***PRIZES***CONTEST***PRIZES**

Because maintaining contact with all members of the family is of prime importance, The Announcer has compiled a list of those adult individuals for whom we do not now have an e-mail address and in offering prizes (incentives/rewards) to those individuals who provide the e-mail addresses of those whose names appear on the following list of family members for whom we do not have that information.

If the individual does not have an e-mail address, please indicate “NONE”. Confirming that the individual does not have e-mail access still entitles you to a prize!

The prize is the eternal gratitude and appreciation of the family. What greater incentive, prize or reward could there be? It is priceless.

(Please note that the following list, with but an exception or two, does not list the minor children – or children living at home – of members of the family for whom we have e-mail addresses. We request that parents of children living at home who have separate e-mail access please inform us of their e-mail addresses.)

FEIN, Harry

(Widower of Janet Berman Chussil Fein)

(*Chonon Berman, Chana Esther, Lewis Berman*)

FURMAN, Nisan (Nathan) (1990)

FURMAN, Sara Rachel (1991)

FURMAN, Naomi (1993)

FURMAN, Menashe (1996)

(Children of Chava Furman, widow of Steven Furman)

(Chonon Berman, Bailia Levitz, Bessie Barkan, Joyce Furman, Steven Furman)

HARRIS, Jacob Benjamin

(Chonon Berman, Benjamin Berman, Ruth Harris, Kenneth Harris)

HELLER, Eric (Only mailing address required)

(Chonon Berman, Bailia Levitz, Faye Heller, Alan Heller)

HELLER, Peter G.

(Chonon Berman, Bailia Levitz, Faye Heller, Alan Heller)

McGARY, Jennifer

(Chonon Berman, Golda Berman, Dora Padowitz, Sherman Padowitz, Phyllis McGary)

MELOCHE, Jessica Padowitz

(Chonon Berman, Golda Berman, Dora Padowitz, Sherman Padowitz)

PADOWITZ, Carl

(Chonon Berman, Golda Russian, Dora Padowitz, Howard Padowitz)
417 Burbank Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33801

PADOWITZ, Dave “Lou” Conrad

(Chonon Berman, Golda Russian, Dora Padowitz, Sherman Padowitz)
14320 S.W. 29th Curt, Davie, FL 33330

PADOWITZ, Glenn

(Chonon Berman, Goldfa Russian, Dora Padowitz, Sherman Padowitz)
P.O. Box 793, Carrabelle, FL 32322

PADOWITZ, Ms. Janet

(Widow of Howard Padowitz)
(Chonon Berman, Golda Russian, Dora Padowitz)
952 Cassadaga Road, Lake Helen, FL 32744-3340

PADOWITZ, Peter

(Chonon Berman, Golda Russian, Dora Padowitz, Sherman Padowitz)
7899 NE Bay Shore Court, #6A, Miami, FL 33138

PADOWITZ, Philip

(Chonon Berman, Golda Russian, Dora Padowitz, Howard Padowitz)
% Janet Padowitz, 952 Cassadaga Road, Lake Helen, FL 32744-3340

PADOWITZ, Phyllis

(Chonon Berman, Golda Russian, Dora Padowitz)
2341 SW 80th Terrace, Micamar, FL, 33025-2210

PADOWITZ, Ms. Carol

(Widow of Howard Padowitz)
(Chonon Berman, Golda Russian, Dora Padowitz)
14320 SW 29th Court, Davie, FL 33330

PALMER, Melissa Padowitz Trail

(Note: Require present mailing address also)
*(Chonon Berman, Golda Russian, Dora Padowitz, Sherman Padowitz,
Glen Padowitz)*

REBHUN, Ms. Roberta

(Widow of Gary Rebhun)
(Chonon Berman, Golda Russian, Natalie Rebhun)

ROBINSON, Kelly Nicole

*(Chonon Berman, Golda Russian, Dora Padowitz, Howatrd Padowitz,
Adam Padowitz)*
% M/M Adam Padowitz, 110 Sherwood Circle, Jupiter, FL 33458

The prize is big enough for everyone, so enter often even if the Padowitz branch of the family appears to have an unfair advantage. We are most anxious to even the odds and welcome the “missing” back into the family.

Welcome Spring and a Happy.....

We all welcome the arrival of spring...whether we celebrate its arrival as Passover, Easter, in keeping with the Druid's tradition or even not formally.

Traditionally the Berman Family gathered to celebrate Passover with a family Seder. Many of us remember those events in New Haven when the whole family gathered. They were part of our "tradition". They were warm and welcoming celebrations. Times and families change. We are now a diverse family incorporating many different races, nationalities and religions. We remain a "warm and welcoming" family and embrace all Bermans and celebrate the differences.

We wish each of the members a Happy Passover or a Happy Easter, to each according to their individual choices. Being a descendant – or spouse of a descendant – of Chonon & Khasia Berman is the common denominator that we share and celebrate together.

Someday, perhaps, someone will do a sociological history of the Berman Family. Our family reflects a history that is common to America, "mixed" marriages, second (and even third) marriages, adoptions and even schisms within the family. We do not believe that these differences should be denied but, rather, acknowledged and even celebrated as a "typical American family."

Is there some budding sociologist in the family who would like to undertake a case study of The Berman Family ? ...perhaps for a Ph.D. or even the grand prize of family appreciation.

Shortly after the death of his uncle Dr. Sidney Berman (*Chon Berman, Benjamin Berman*), Harvey Feinberg (*Chonon Berman, Benjamin Berman, Mildred Feinberg*) inquired as to who ascended to the title of matriarch/patriarch of The Berman Family. He sought to claim the hereditary title for his Aunt, Ruth Harris (*Chonon Berman, Benjamin Berman*).

Sorry, Harvey, Dr. Sidney was not the oldest of the Berman grandchildren nor is Ruth next in line of chronology. The Berman Family Genealogy declares the "winner" and successor, living grandchildren of Chonon & Khasia Berman to be, in order of age:

Frances Russian Levin (*Golda Russian Levin*), b. Aug. 2, 1912
Helen Berman Rhein (*Barnett Berman*), b. June 28, 1915
Ruth Berman Harris (*Benjamin Berman*), b. Nov. 3, 1916
Milton R. Berman (*Gustave Berman*), b. Nov. 12, 1921
Eugene B. Berman, Sr. (*Gustave Berman*), b. June 1, 1928
Judith Berman Levine (*Harry Berman*), b. June 9, 1933

None of the contenders are fighting to claim the title.

It is, perhaps, an interesting aside that the oldest living member of the family is not a grandchild of Chonon and Khasis but, because of the substantial difference in the ages of their children whose dates of birth range from 1874 (Chana Esther Berman Mishelov) to 1897 (Harry Berman), the oldest surviving member of the family is a great grandchild (by marriage) of Chonon & Khasia, Martha Rutstein Levitz Lurie, the widow of Hyman Levitz (*Balia Berman Levitz*) and mother of Judith Levitz Chernoff and Nancy Levitz Katz Bayuk. Martha was born on May 12, 1906 in Minsk, then a part of Russia.

And who is the nominee for the title of the oldest direct, blood descendant of Chonon & Khasia? Is it Frances or are their other contenders?

It has been suggested that the wives of Berman men – Mae Berman (Barnett), Lillian Berman (Gustave) and Martha Rutstein Levitz Lurie (Hyman), for example – lived so long is because the Berman men were (and are) so easy to live with. No doubt.

There were several errors in the December 16, 2008 edition of *The Announcer*, some of which are noted here:

* The correct spelling should have been “Alexandra” as in **ALEXANDRA ROSE BERMAN** (*Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Gis Berman/Kenneth L. Berman/Jillian Berman*), and, while we are at it

* The correct spelling should be “Adele” as in **JILLIAN ADELLE BERMAN** (*Chonon Berman/Gus Berman/Kenneth L. Berman*).

* **ANDREA LYN BERMAN** (*Chonon Berman/Gus Berman/Kenneth L. Berman*) lives in Ellicott, New York.

* It should have been **JAYNE FURMAN** (*Chonon Berman/Bailia Levitz/Bessie Barkan/Joyce Furman*) who lives in Las Vegas and who had then recently celebrated her 51st birthday.

Changes in addresses and contact information that were reported have been made to **The Berman Family Mailing List** that is, as stated, a Supplement to this issue of *The Announcer*.

We regret the spelling and other errors and encourage you to call them to our attention so that they can be corrected.

KENNETH R. BERMAN (*Chonon Berman/Barnett Berman/Arnold Berman*) of the Boston law firm of Nutter, McClennen & Fish, has once again been designated a Massachusetts Super Lawyer.

Two of Ken's daughters, **KATHERINE (KATE)** and **ELIZABETH**, are now emancipated and are living together in New York.

ROBERT BERMAN (*Chonon Berman/Hyman Berman/Max Berman*) and his wife, **CYNTHIA A. LIPPINCOTT** have moved from Colorado Springs, CO and now live at 180 NW 73rd Ct., Newport, OR 97365. Their telephone number is (545) 265-7736, cell number (719) 649-4588 and new e-mail address is CindyAndBob@earthlink.net

The 51- year old **JAYNE FURMAN** (*Chonon Berman/Bailia Levitz/Bessie Barkan/Joyce Furman*) is very active in endurance sports, she recently having completed her third Half Ironman Triathlon in Austin, TX as well as three marathons and a 50k (31.2 miles) run.

And we thought that editing The Announcer was an endurance sport!

We were delighted to hear from **ADAM OELSNER** (*Chonon Berman/Sidney Berman/Leslie Oelsner*) who, in providing us with his e-mail address, wrote: “As an avid reader of The Berman Family Announcer, I am advising you of my e-mail address so that I can relieve my dear mother of the task of forwarding The Announcer to me and receive word of the family directly.”

Adam is in Olympia Washington.

It is communications such as the one from Adam that reinforce the meaning of The Berman Family and make efforts to obtain all of the e-mail addresses and other contact information worthwhile. Thank you, Adam.

NOAH SPRAFKIN (*Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Dora Sprafkin/Robert Sprafkin*), his wife RACHANA and daughter NOOR have relocated to Karachi, Pakistan for his continuing work in reproductive health. Noah writes that he should be there “for a few years” but “hopefully we will be able to get back to the US once a year.”

For the intermittently annual Berman Family Reunion we hope.

Noah would be a most hospitable host to any members of the family finding themselves in Karachi.

EUGENE B. BERMAN, SR. (*Chonon Berman/Gustave Berman*), who describes himself as “being on the yellow brick road to retirement” has been named the Massachusetts Senior Lawyer of the Year by the Massachusetts Bar Association and the *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*.

Memorial services for **DR. SIDNEY BERMAN** (*Chonon Berman/Benjamin Berman*) were held on January 29th in Scottsdale, AZ.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Yale College Scholarship Fund (in memory of Dr. Sidney Berman), Yale University, Contribution Processing, P.O. Box 2038, New Haven, CT 06521.

In providing up-dated contact and other information concerning her family, **MARCY SCHULMAN JOHNSON** (*Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Morris Berman/Leila Schulman*) has advised that on November 22, 2008 her son, **McMILLAN H. (HOUSTON) JOHNSON, V** married **KACHINA DOMENICK**. The newlywed live at 3100 Lake Brook Blvd., Apt. 216, Knoxville, TN 37904.

Welcome to The Berman Family, Kachina. We look forward to you and Houston attending a Berman Family function some time in the future when you both can meet members of your extended family.

Other contact changes for the Johnsons are included in the Mailing List that is a supplement to this Announcer.

LEILA BERMAN SCHULMAN (*Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Morris Berman*) has provided current contact information for herself and her other two daughters, **DEBRA SCHULMAN DOERNBERG** and **MELISSA SCHULMAN SEASE** and her family. The changes have been incorporated in the Mailing List.

Leila, a faithful correspondent, wrote:

“Sorry it’s been so long since I’ve been in touch, but it’s been a lousy 1-1/2 years health wise for both Hal & I. My fall required us to move to handicapped accessible housing – no stairs, stall showers and various other home health care requirements. So move we did on Aug. 1, 2006 to a lovely retirement facility – our apartment is totally independent living. Then, in Nov. 2006, Marcy’s husband Mac Johnson was diagnosed with throat cancer, and things just once again got turned around and upside down. In January of 2007, Hal was once again hospitalized with congestive heart failure, but he recovered and life again became semi-normal, except both of us spending more time in doctors’ offices than in our own home. By fall, 2007, Mac was declared cancer free, except routine check-ups, when Hal ended up needing surgery and once again he is home and doing OK. Me and my walker keep schlepping along and one of these years I hope to drive again.”

It ain’t easy getting older. We all wish Leila, Hal and Mac better health. I bet that all of them would appreciate a note or a telephone call. Hey, that is what families are for.

Anyone interested is reminded of the Heritage Trip to Lithuania, Belarus, Latvia and northeast Poland on June 30th through July 10th that is organized by Howard Margol and Peggy Mosinger Freedman and sponsored by the American Fund For Lithuanian-Latvian Jews.

Contact information is: Litvaktrip@gmail.com .

We have not previously reported the November 1, 2007 birth of **BRIANNA FAITH MELOCHE**, the daughter of **JESSICA PADOWITZ MELOCHE** (*Chonon Berman/Golda Russian/Dora Padowitz/Sherman Padowitz*). Brianna was born in Tallahassee, FL.

In her November 7, 2007 e-mail announcing the birth of her daughter, Jessica wrote:

“She definitely has very prominent Padowiz features. Her birth has been a blessing to our family. It’s helping to heal some of the grief we’ve been feeling these past few weeks, especially for my dad, Glenn.”

One of the evils of failing to publish The Berman Family Announcer on a more regular basis is that all too frequently important news is delayed or set aside and forgotten...never to be published. We apologize for such inadvertence and pledge to try to do better.

One of the items that apparently never made it to print was the November 11, 2007 wedding of **JEFF SPRAFKIN** (*Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Dora Sprafkin/Robert Sprafkin*) to **ELLA BEE** in Shanghai.

With Noah and his wife, Indian born Rachana, in Pakistan the Sprafkin family has certainly taken on an international flavor. It is exciting to have Rachana and Ella join the ever-expanding and cosmopolitan Berman family.

CARLY SHENFELD (*Chonon Berman/Bailia Levitz/Celia Byer/Barbara Tiven/Joanne Shenfeld*), a student at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, wrote about one of her adventures while she was traveling the world for a year before entering college. The piece about her experiences in Larabanga, Ghana was published by the *Globe & World*, Canada's national newspaper.

In a tale about the poverty that she witnessed and her purchase of flip-flops for distribution to 150 barefoot children, she concludes: "Perhaps more of us Westerners need to travel to less fortunate countries, ride their rickety busses and wave to the shoeless, malnourished children who aren't lucky enough to go to school. That way, everyone's eyes could be opened as mine were."

It does not take many generations to forget our own roots...poor, uneducated peasants in Czarist Russia. The family has come a long way, baby !

Carly is a Canadian citizen and, when not at University, lives with her parents in Toronto. Another member of our international family.

The Berman Family Archive is pleased to announce receipt of a copy of the Menu of the March 30, 1953 The Berman Family Seder as illustrated by Dick Hodes and of a copy of the February, 1953 *The Berman Announcer*, Volume 2, Number 1. We are most appreciative of the donation to our permanent collection.

Some of the items from *The Announcer*:

* ...Therefore, it is imperative that these dues be paid before the Seder. Unfortunately, due to our having had only one meeting, many of our members have not paid their dues, which were due in September. As you know, our treasurer is Benjamin Berman, 132 McKinley Avenue, New Haven. In addition, your \$6.00 for the Seder is due at this time.

* Sam Levin spent his vacation in Florida and Cuba.

* Dick Byer's vacation in the Army is over (and we do mean Vacation!). He's home for good! That is why Charlie Byer is in Florida now.

* Bernice and Herman Russian, and Nat and Sid Rebhun, Susan Russian and Mildred Feinberg, spent several days at the Laureks, upstate New York. Winter sports, you know!

And there is more from 1953, all to be continued in the next edition of **The Announcer**.

In her annual, year-end letter, this year from Turneffe Atolls, Belize, **SUE ZANKOW** (*Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Samuel Bernan*) brought us up-to-date on her family:

- * **MAX** will be graduating from Stanford in June. He has applied to continue his studies for another year and to receive his masters degree.
- * **SAM** is a junior at Proctor Academy and has begun the college search. He thinks that he is interested in mechanical engineering.
- * **SUE** has resigned as chair of the London Advisory Board of Facing History And Ourselves after five years “to turn the baton over to someone with fresh leadership ideas” and because she and Michael “are spending more time in the States.”
- * **MICHAEL** “continues to enjoy time spent with friend and family” and his philanthropic efforts continue to be concentrated on his alma mater – Northeastern University

She included in her letter this observation:

“And how can I write this without mentioning how the economy has affected us...all of us. Dear friends have lost their livelihoods and most of us have seen our nest eggs shattered. For the baby boomer generation, the promise of retirement seems an unrequited dream. We unite with friends to offer encouragement in unfamiliar waters guided by our head and hearts. And we refocus our lens on what truly matters – our health, our children, our friends and family. We hope that we have learned something from this, but sadly, history tells us that we repeat the same mistakes over and over again...And as we focus so much on our circle of friends and family, I worry About what happens in more far off places like Darfur.”

BARRY BERMAN (*Chonon Berman/Barnett Berman/Arnold Berman*) has signed in by reporting:

* his mother, **ROZ BERMAN** “is not doing well. She has dementia and 24 hour care.”

Roz was a Connecticut state Representative and active in Connecticut state government...and politics.

* his son **DANNY** is in his first year at Choate Academy in Wallingford, CT and is on the squash team.

* his wife **PEGGY** has taken a part-time job at Yale working for Dwight Hall in development and PR.

* his brother **KEN**, a Boston Lawyer, has been globetrotting with several trips to London where he had lunch with SUE & MICHAEL ZAMKOW.

* his brother **MARK** finished a stint at the Westport (CT) Playhouse. He was the music director and “actually sang the Adam Sandler Hanukkah song on stage.” It is not surprising that Mark has “some exciting projects in the works.”

We note with sincere regret that we did not adequately acknowledge the March 9, 2007 death of **JANET BERMAN CHUSSIL FEIN** (*Chonon Berman/Chana Esther/Lewis Berman*). We belatedly extend the sympathy of the entire Berman family to her sons, **MARK** and **PAUL CHUSSIL**, and her husband, **HARRY FEIN**. She was 77 years old.

Mark paid an extraordinary compliment to his mother: “*She was, and still is to those who knew her, the best person who ever lived.*” What a marvelous tribute!

In a recent telephone conversation **ERIC LEVIN** (*Chonon Berman/Golda Russian/Frances Levin/Bruce Levin*) requested that we inform everyone that the information contained in The Berman Family Mailing List is confidential and for the sole, non-commercial use of members of the family. It may not be shared with others nor be used for commercial purposes. He appropriately warned of the dangers of identity theft. (*I explained to him that everyone has always wanted to be a Berman.*)

Eric is presently on disability but, in good spirits, states that he “has done everything he wanted to do.”

In the event that you have not as yet seen it, *The Announcer* recommends that you try to catch the movie “**Defiance**”, a film based on a true story from the World War II time in the forests of Belarus.

The screenplay is based on the novel of Nechama Tec, “**Defiance: Bielski Partisans**”, a real story of the Bielski brothers. The brothers organized a Jewish partisan party, disobeying the Nazis who had occupied Belarus. The movie chronicles the resistance in the forests of Belarus.

Belarus is, of course, that area of what was formerly part of Czarist Russia, the area from which Chonon & Khashia came. The followers of the Bielski brothers were the contemporaries – and the children of the contemporaries – of our patriarch and matriarch. Had Chonon & Khasia not emigrated, we (or our parents and/or children) could have been the subject of the movie rather than just viewers. It is a fact of history of which we should be aware and upon which we should reflect.

The forests of Belarus are very different than those in the United States. I have been there, been to the places where Chonon & Khashia and their children lived...been to the foests where Uncle Ben Berman met in the woods with the Bolsheviks prior to the emigration, World War I and the Russian Revolution.

The movie is well worth seeing.

There but for the grace of emigration went us.

Eugene B. Berman

Please keep the news about you and your family coming...the rest of the family is interested. Sharing information about one another is what maintains the family ties.