

# THE BERMAN FAMILY ANNOUNCER

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## A very special announcement.....

The first known written history of the Berman family was written by Bessie Levitz Barkan Diamond (1907-2000) (daughter of Balia Berman & Aaron Levitz and granddaughter of Chonon & Khasia Berman) in the 1960s or 1970s. It was a letter from Bessie to her niece, Barbara Byer Tiven (daughter of Celia Levitz & Charles Byer). The original document, written in a bold, legible handwriting carefully scripted on lined paper, contains a family genealogy, vignettes and her memories of her parents that she thought to be of sufficient importance to pass on to her niece and future generations of the family. It is written in the vernacular of the day and is not necessarily politically correct for this day and age.

What a delight it is to read stories about Chonon & Khasia and to learn about the early Berman Family Seders and to obtain insight into the history of the family as it assimilated into a new homeland, a new culture and a new life.

Since that original history, Eugene Berman (son of Gustave & Lillian Berman, grandson of Chonon & Khasia Berman) has diligently endeavored to maintain a family tree and has written a Berman family history, *This Is Us*. The project that was originally prepared for his twin grandsons in 2003 was some twelve volumes in length and neigh on impossible to maintain in its printed form. Unfortunately, the magnitude of the project and its upkeep precluded its general circulation and its being shared with the family. It has always been his desire to maintain the genealogy ant history current and to share them with all members of the family. A loft goal...but impractical in the accomplishment!

Now, thanks to the marvels of modern technology and with the participation and expertise of his son, Bruce (E. Bruce Berman, Jr.), the father-son team of Eugene and Bruce have combined their respective skills and are in the process of revising and updating the original *This Is Us* and putting it online...creating a Berman Family website located at <[bermanfamily.com](http://bermanfamily.com)> and appropriately sub-titled *This Is Us*. The website is presently a work in progress...as it will always be as the family continues to grow and experience life cycle events.

An original family document prepared by an unidentified family member is a family tree (a genealogy) created sometime before 1925. It looks like the work of Bessie Levitz Barkan Diamond, but we are not certain of that attribution. That original diagram of the genealogy of the Berman Family (a copy of which is likewise included on the website) was the forerunner of the extended diagram that is the family tree that is an integral part of our new website.

The family tree incorporated on the family website has been built on the *Family Tree* template of <[Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com)> and that template is separately maintained. If you would like to explore that more complete site, send an e-mail to Gene at [eberman1@cox.net](mailto:eberman1@cox.net) and we will forward a guest pass to you for your access. The Ancestry.com Family Tree is the master where the continuing genealogical research is conducted.

In the meantime, even as the website is being built, expanded and perfected, we urge you to search for – google, if you will - <[bermanfamily.com](http://bermanfamily.com)> . There is plenty to be of interest. Continue to visit the site regularly and watch as it is built, improved and updated.

Search (google) < [bermanfamily.com](http://bermanfamily.com) >

Click on to *This Is Us, The Circle Grows*.

Scroll down and...

Click on to enter < [bermanfamily.com](http://bermanfamily.com)>.

Choose and click on to any – and, in turn, all – of the options provided in the Index.

In the List of Persons, scroll to a name, any name, and click. Scroll and read.

To explore the Genealogy, a good place to start is with Chonon Berman and to follow the tree to wherever you chose to go...to follow the branches and to discover you...and the rest of the family.

Read *This Is Us* and learn about the Berman family history.

View the photographs and see members of the family.

It is to be remembered that what is now on the website is a work in process that has been constructed without all relevant information and may well contain errors and omissions. One of the purposes of the posting at this time is to solicit from members of

the family that information – names, dates and places – that we do not now have so that the additional and corrected information can be added for the posting of up dated and more complete information. We specifically request that each member of the family review the information relating to him/her and your immediate family and that you provide us as to new and correct information. All submissions should clearly identify the individual to whom the information is applicable and should specify the event and the date and place thereof. New individuals to be added should be identified with full names, dates and places of birth, etc. One of the benefits of the software that is now being used allows for a single entry of information that may appear in several locations.

We urge everyone to keep us informed as to all life cycle events: births, marriages, divorces, and deaths...dates and places. In the event of deaths, we specifically request that you forward a copy of the obituary by e-mail or regular mail.

Factual information should be sent to:

Eugene B. Berman, [eberman1@cox.net](mailto:eberman1@cox.net), Tel: (413) 531-4482, Fax: (860) 749-4796  
111 The Laurels, Enfield, CT 06082

Questions and suggestions relating to the technology and structure, etc. of the website should be directed to:

E. Bruce Berman, Jr., [bruce@bostonharbor.com](mailto:bruce@bostonharbor.com), Tel: (617) 293-6243

The father-son team is presently “tagging” and organizing the photographs for ready access. Anyone with pictures of the early generations of the family are encouraged to submit them for inclusion in future updates. Any photograph should contain, to the extent that the information is known, the date and place of the picture and the name or names of the individuals in it clearly identified. The photographs to date have brought back emotional memories to those who have seen them...and tears and laughter too.

*We are, of course, dedicated to discovering, saving and archiving as many of the old family photographs that we can locate and salvage. We know that there are many invaluable old family photographs of which we do not now have copies. We are reminded of our good fortune when Herman Russian, shortly before his death, made certain that he forwarded to us a copy of an early Berman Family Seder of which no other copy was to be located. He cherished that photograph of all of the members of the family that constituted his world. It is for fear of losing similar photographs that we urge anyone having any old photographs or memorabilia to share it for inclusion in future up-dates of the website. Please e-mail or mail copies to either Eugene*

*and/or Bruce . It is requested that the photograph be identified by place and date and that the individuals be identified to the extent possible.*

Among the several enhancements already “under construction” is a section of **Remembrances** in which at least one page will be dedicated to each member (living or dead) of the family. Biographical information will be solicited in due course as the team digests and distills that information already available to it. The Remembrances will be a long time in the making...the family being prolific. As information is submitted for inclusion in *The Berman Family Announcer*, it is saved to be incorporated in the Remembrances. So, keep information coming...the family is interested.

You will note that progress is being made in the project of tracing the family as far back in history as possible. As of this writing we have traced Chonon’s roots:

Parents: Khaim (1828) & Revka (1828) Berman

Grandparents: Berko N. (1808) & Khana Itkova (1810) Berman

Great Grandparents: Nakhi (1783) & Nekhama (1789) Tsirylnik

Great Great Grandparents: Berko (1758) b. @ Dolinovo

The search continues.

The website has been activated to allow everyone to have access to the genealogical and historical family information that is now posted and to provide an opportunity for everyone to test the structure and to have input as to the design and contents as to what is being attempted to be done. Comments – good and bad – and suggestions from the family are earnestly and sincerely solicited. While the compilation of information and construction of the site will take a substantial amount of time, now is the opportunity for everyone to provide the missing factual information and to make suggestions to assure that the website is interesting and usable.

Gene and Bruce, father and son, are equally committed to this Berman family project and are enjoying each and every minute of working together as a team. Says Gene, “This is really father and son stuff! Members of my parent’s generation never talked about their lives. This effort has allowed Bruce and I to share, oh, so very much.” They both hope that other members of the Berman family will enjoy the material as much as they have in discovering, organizing and sharing it.

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Please note that The *Berman Family Announcer* is distributed only to those members of the family for whom we have e-mail addresses. Those family members for whom we do not have current e-mail addresses do not receive a copy and are, therefore, effectively out of the loop.

This is an urgent plea that you help to identify those family members for whom we do not have an e-mail address, ascertain it and advise us of the address so that we can add it to our group list. Your efforts to assure that we are able to contact everyone will be most appreciated.

As to those who do not have a computer or e-mail, please share this copy of *The Berman Family Announcer* with them. We have received communications from some who write that because their parents or other members of their immediate family are not internet connected that when they receive the *Announcer* they call or visit their parents to share the information with them.

Any help in connecting disconnected family members will be most welcome.