

## ***BAKER-BLUMIN FAMILY REUNION 2004***

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February 1, 2004

Dear Cousins, Relatives and Extended Family Members:

I am **Howard Baker**, son of **Abraham** Baker whose father - **Nathan** - was the oldest of the six "Baker Brothers" who arrived in the United States more than 85 years ago. Since Nathan and his younger brother **Sidney** settled on Staten Island, I grew up knowing my aunts, uncles and cousins who are the descendants of these two brothers as well as the Staten Island **Blumins and Liebman**s.

Unfortunately, I have met very few relatives who are the descendants of the other "Baker Brothers" - **Sam, Max, Alex and Harry** - or those Blumin descendants with sur names such as **Robinov, Passin, Halsinger, Feinberg and Rubenstein**.

In looking back over the years, it seems that the only times an assemblage of family members get together for more than a couple of hours is either to celebrate at a happy occasion or to mourn at a sad one. When Aunt **LaRea** (Nathan's youngest child) from Canada visited New York City last year we spent time with "family genealogist" **Sylva Baker**, wife of David Baker, Sidney's oldest son. For the past several years, Sylva has been compiling a "family tree"; an impressive undertaking, which shows family members scattered throughout the country. She introduced me to cousin **Jeff Baker**, a transplanted Texan now living here, and before long the idea for a family get together - a reunion - started to blossom. Now that some additional ground work has been done, ***you are invited to join together at the first-ever BAKER FAMILY REUNION to be held Thursday to Sunday, June 24-27 in Orlando/Lake Buena Vista, Florida!***

We hope our Reunion attracts a wide range of ages - from infants to seniors - representing two, three and four generations. We would anticipate a full agenda of events, activities and dining experiences and, of course, lots of opportunity to meet, talk, catch-up, and get to know each other. To help us plan an enjoyable Reunion, we ask for your ideas, suggestions and thoughts. And, we are mindful of the need to keep costs under control.

The Reunion will be held at **Mariott's Spring Hill Suites** located in the Marriott Village, 8623 Vineland Avenue in Lake Buena Vista/Orlando, Florida where we have reserved a block of rooms. The hotel is very close to Disney World and many other well known attractions. We have secured a favorable group room rate of \$79 per night which includes a daily continental breakfast. The hotel is less than three years old and all rooms are "suite size" and can sleep up to 6 people. *Please read the attached information sheet about the hotel and make your reservations as soon as possible.*

Traveling to Orlando should be relatively easy as the airport is one of the largest in the US with frequent service to most cities via full-fare and discount airlines. Convenient ground transportation

between the airport and the Spring Hill Suites is available and there is no need for an auto rental.

*Please make your travel arrangements as soon as possible to get the best air fare and most convenient travel schedule.*

In addition to the hotel information sheet, you will also find attached a *family information form* that we ask everyone to fill out and return as soon as possible. In putting together our initial mailing list we probably have inadvertently overlooked some family members and have surely misspelled many names and addresses. We apologize for these oversights and want to correct them as soon as possible. One of our immediate tasks is to create a master family list with accurate contact information. Also, if you know of any cousin, family or extended-family member who did not receive a copy of this mailing, please let me know immediately and I will get a copy to them. We do not wish to exclude anyone - Bakers, Blumins, or anyone else!

And, as we start to make detailed plans for the Reunion itself, we can use the assistance of a computer literate family member to create a Reunion website so we can communicate easily with those who have e-mail and internet access. Do we have one or more volunteers to help on this project?

Our next task will be to plan the agenda for the Reunion. As noted above, we would very much like to have your input in doing so. Please feel free to call, fax, e-mail or write to me with your ideas and suggestions. My mailing address is 12 Shelbourne Lane, Commack, NY 11725; my telephone number is (631) 499-6066; my fax number is (631) 462-1050; and my e-mail address is habaker@att.net. In about a month's time, a further *Reunion Update* should be in the mails (and hopefully posted on our website) giving more details and information about our Reunion.

In concluding this letter, I am sure many of you are quite surprised to have received this kind of a mailing. I admit I, too, would be surprised if I had received such a letter. My hope is that you will react positively and make plans to attend the Family Reunion and encourage as many family members as possible to do so. Many of us have never met before, yet we are all related. Others among us may have met briefly in the past but haven't seen each other in years. Still others may only have heard stories about other relatives but have yet to meet in person. Perhaps you may just be curious to find out who your relatives are or what they are like or where you fit within the family tree. Whatever your reason, I'm sure you'll enjoy the Reunion and I look forward to hearing from you and meeting you in June. Meanwhile, please save June 24-27 and make your hotel reservations and book your travel to Florida . . . and, again, call me with any questions whatsoever!

Sincerely,

Howard A. Baker

For the Baker Reunion Committee (in formation): Bill Baker, Bonnie Baker, Jeff Baker, Seth Baker, Sylva Baker, Brian Butler, Arthur Gelman, LaRea Baker Moody, Debbie Baker White, Garrett White

## **BAKER FAMILY REUNION 2004**

**June 24 - 27, 2004**

### **HOTEL INFORMATION**

A block of rooms has been reserved at Marriott's Spring Hill Suites located in Lake Buena Vista in the Marriott Village. A special per night room rate of \$79 has been arranged but you need to mention "*The Baker Family Reunion*" to receive it. Call 1-(800)-390-8647 for reservations. The hotel will require a first night room deposit which can be guaranteed with a major credit card. Be sure and ask about their cancellation policy. If you are a member of the *Marriott Rewards* program, you can use your points to book accommodations. All the rooms are "suites" and furnished with either a king bed or two doubles. Each suite has a separate eating/working area with a pullout sofa bed, refrigerator and microwave. *A deluxe continental breakfast is included in the room charge.* Rooms are being held for only a limited period of time so please do not delay - make your reservations as soon as possible. For additional information about the hotel, you can call direct at (407)-938-9001 or check out the *Marriott.com* website and navigate to Spring Hill Suites, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Hotel check-in is 3 PM; check-out is 12 Noon.

Spring Hill Suites Lake Buena Vista Marriott Village

8623 Vineland Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32821

For Reservations call: 1-800-390-8647

Mention the "Baker Family Reunion" - Special Rate \$79 per night

### **TRAVEL INFORMATION**

Orlando International Airport is the closest airport to the hotel. It is one of the largest airports in the US with most airlines -both full service and discount carriers - providing daily and frequent service. At the airport, ground transportation is available by taxi, van, bus and limousine so there is no need to rent a car. We ask that you please make travel arrangements so you can be at the hotel by Thursday afternoon, June 24. We anticipate the final Reunion event will be a luncheon on Sunday, June 27.

A further note: although we have not yet finalized the program of events and activities for the Reunion, it may be impractical (and expensive) to plan a visit with our entire Reunion entourage to a Disney World theme park. Accordingly, if you have an interest in visiting Disney World (which is located just a few minutes from the hotel) or any of the other world-class Orlando area attractions such as Sea World or Universal Studios, you may wish to consider arriving in Orlando early and/or staying on after the Reunion. The hotel has indicated it will extend the \$79 per night Family Reunion rate if you choose to do so on a space available basis.

### **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**While our Reunion schedule has not yet been finalized, it can be anticipated that we will incur certain charges that need to be shared equally among all attendees (example: three gala dinners, a farewell lunch, recreation room fees, activities, etc.) We expect that the cost per person will not exceed \$200. Payment in advance will be required. More detailed information will be forthcoming as our planning continues.**

**BAKER FAMILY REUNION - June 24 - 27, 2004**

**FAMILY INFORMATION FORM**

**PLEASE COMPLETE & RETURN IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO  
HOWARD A. BAKER, 12 SHELBOURNE LANE, COMMACK, NY 11725  
OR FAX TO (631) 462-1050 ASAP!**

**FULL NAME of Family Member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTS NAMES of Family Member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPOUSE'S NAME (& MAIDEN NAME):** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME TEL #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **BUSINESS #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FAX #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILDREN - NAMES & AGES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Will you attend the Reunion?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Can we call upon you to help?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note your comments, suggestions, ideas, etc. as to what you would like to do - or not do -  
at the Reunion:**

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**ON THE REVERSE SIDE PLEASE PROVIDE THE NAMES & ADDRESSES & TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF ANY OF YOUR CHILDREN OR OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE REUNION INFORMATION**

## **A BRIEF WORD ABOUT THE FAMILY TREE . . . . .**

**How are we related?**

**Where did the family begin? And when?**

**Where do we fit on the tree?**

At the Reunion, I am sure much discussion will center around the *Family Tree* and how we're related to one another. We'll hear stories about our ancestors and undoubtedly many of those stories will differ depending on who's telling the story and who was the source for the story. This is all part of the "oral history" that's been handed down through the generations. Since the tree is still a "work in progress" we will all need to help out and give input before it can be finalized.

Family genealogist Sylva Baker has traced the Baker family lineage back to about 1833 with the birth of Mordecai Baker in Choinick, Russia.

You might say the Baker and Blumin families became "joined at the hip" in 1890 when Mordecai's son - Jacob-Moshe - married Leah Esther Blumin and became the parents of the six "Baker Brothers" - Nathan, Sam, Max, Alex, Harry and Sidney. Once in the US, the brothers settled in Chicago and Staten Island . . . married . . . and started families of their own which are now spread across the country and hopefully will all join together at our Reunion.

On the Blumin side, Sylva has traced the first Blumin ancestor to 1825 in Retchitza, Russia. It was his son - Abraham Blumin - who married Shane Freda Goldstein and became the parents of Leah Esther who married Jacob-Moshe Baker (see above).

When Shane Freda passed away, Abraham Blumin re-married Sylvia Goldstein and they had 6 children - Simon, Raisel, Eva, Ida, Harry and Hilda.

Unlike the Baker Brothers who had mainly male offspring, the subsequent marriages of the "female Blumins" caused the family tree to widen and, over time, included new sur names such as Liebman, Robinov, Passin, Halsinger, Feinberg and Rubenstein, among others.

At the Reunion we'll work our way through the Family Tree and find out how we all fit together.