



# Atop world's tallest peak, a dream come true

*A Canadian man climbed Mount Everest as his fiancée celebrated in Bucks.*

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Werner Berger has made it to the top — again. Berger, 69, a Canadian citizen, reached the summit of Mount Everest late Monday night.

“I never had a single doubt

that he would make this,” said Berger’s fiancée, Heshie Segal of Lower Makefield. “It’s awesome. This is his dream come true. For him, it’s freedom and joy. Werner loves the outdoors, he loves climbing, and he loves sleeping in a tent.”

Berger left Lower Makefield

on March 28. It took him and a team of eight just under seven weeks to reach the 29,028-foot summit of Everest in the Himalayas of Nepal.

Berger, who has four children from a previous marriage and six grandchildren, is an example of exceptional health, Segal said.

“Werner gets everybody into feeling healthy,” she said. “When you’re around him, you don’t get into saying, ‘I can’t do it.’”

Berger now has successfully climbed the highest peaks on all seven continents: Mount McKinley (20,320 feet, North America); Mount Aconcagua (22,841, South America); Mount Kilimanjaro (19,340, Africa); Mount Elbrus (18,510, Europe); Vinson Massif (16,067, Antarctica), and Mount Kosciuszko (7,310, Australia).

In 2004, Berger started talking about climbing Everest. He had been physically planning to climb the world’s highest mountain for two years, said his son, Karl Berger of Ontario,

Canada.

“I’m personally glad he waited for Everest until after he had other mountains under his belt,” his son said.

Berger helped Segal prepare for her first climb — California’s Mount Whitney in October 2005. He encouraged her to start her training by climbing the stairs in her home for 12 minutes.

“I thought I was going to die because I was out of breath,” Segal said of her first day of training.

When it was time to tackle Mount Whitney, Segal was able to make 108 round-trips of stair climbing in her home.

Berger is proof that it’s never too late to follow your dreams, Segal said.

“You have to have a vision of what you want. You dream it, you envision it as if it already happened, and then you live out that vision,” Segal said of the philosophy she and Berger live by.

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