

Remember Me: A 30-Year Labor of Love

AMY SESSLER POWELL
Jewish Journal Staff

Nearly 30 years ago, Nancy Kravetz attended a Jewish genealogy lecture by Arthur Kurzweil, author of "From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Family History."

Though inspired to begin to research her family's history, Kravetz had no idea her journey would end as it did: with the publication of a comprehensive and beautiful book on her family's history in Eastern Europe, on the North Shore and around the U.S. and Israel. Her book, titled, "Remember Me to the Little Ones, A Family History," is named for a phrase her late father always wrote in his letters to her after she moved from Newburyport to Arizona.

Interestingly, the man who originally inspired her, Kurzweil, wrote the foreword calling it "a part of our generation's sacred task of rebuilding and renewal." Though the book is about Kravetz's family, it is a Jewish story that will likely resonate with others.

"You will find yourself here. It is the story of Everyperson," Kurzweil wrote.

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Courtesy of Nancy Kravetz
Nancy Kravetz with her father, husband, children and grandchildren.

Blasted Out of the Record Book



Photo courtesy of Associated Hebrew Schools

Boys from Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto sound the shofar as part of an effort to set a Guinness World Record.

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With a mighty, five-plus minute blast from 1,406 students at the Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto, our community's Guinness World Record for largest shofar ensemble, held since 2006 with 796 shofars, was topped.

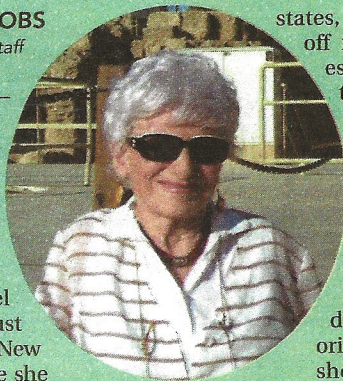
The Robert I. Lappin Charitable Foundation, official holder of the record, set the very first world record in 2004 with 386, only to have it broken in 2005 by a congregation in Philadelphia. The Lappin Foundation reclaimed the shofar record in 2006 where it has stood until now.

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Outspoken Octogenarian is Passionately Pro-Israel

SUSAN JACOBS
Jewish Journal Staff

NEWTON — Margot Einstein has the energy of a woman half her age. The feisty octogenarian is a passionate pro-Israel activist who just returned from New York City, where she and other members of the West Roxbury-based Christians and Jews United for Israel (CJUI) demonstrated outside of the United Nations.



Courtesy photo
Margot Einstein, pictured in Israel, will be honored by Christians and Jews United for Israel.

states, "We must cut off funds to the Palestinians, because the money is being used for terrorism against Israel."

"What we hear about history today has been flipped, perverted and turned upside down. We're the original Palestinians," she says, adding that although Israel has been the Jewish homeland for more than 3,000 years, Jews are being told that they have no right to

it anymore.

"I wore a button that says, 'Never Again is Now,'" said Einstein, who believes that Jews should not stand by passively when the threat of Islamic jihad is at an all-time high.

She is emphatic when she

"Jews pray toward Jerusalem. Islam prays towards Mecca. There are 600 references to Jerusalem in the Bible. There is not one mention of Jerusalem in the Koran," points out the retired educator.

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Three Decades of Service to Merrimack Valley



Cindy Bernstein

Rabbi Ira Korinow has served the greater Haverhill community for three decades.

CINDY BERNSTEIN
Special to the Journal

HAVERTHILL — For the past three decades, Rabbi Ira L. Korinow has not only served as spiritual leader of Temple Emanu-El, but has been a driving force in the

community, especially in the areas of civil rights and Soviet Jewry.

His passion for the plight of Soviet Jewry was so strong that in March 1985, he, along with other Jewish leaders, secured an audience with President Ronald

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Remember Me

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Many North Shore families may find themselves, their institutions, relatives and friends on these pages. Essentially, Kravetz tells the story of her father, Elliott Wein, who immigrated from the Polish shtetl, Ostryna, to Newburyport. He later married Lillian Jaffe of Lynn and they lived in Amesbury and Newburyport. Though she started here, she found so much information, that she has essentially written a family history that would be interesting to anyone.

Kravetz, an artist, mother of three and grandmother of six, calls the book a labor of love, and she really did not set out to write it at first. Inspired by Kurzweil, she gathered photos, documents and stories from people who were still alive, mostly her father.

"It took off from there and years later had evolved to the point where I had a huge amount of information and when the grandchildren started to come along, I thought it would be wonderful for them to know about their family," Kravetz said.

First, she thought she would share the history in the form of a children's book, writing one for each grandchild and presenting it on Chanukah, near her father's birthday.

"That petered out because I had a monumental amount of material. Writing when they were five or six years old was too simplistic and would not work when they got older," she said.

She considered making each grandchild a keepsake box of documents, but that idea also seemed to fail when it became a collection of too many loose papers. She considered a cookbook with family stories to go with the recipes, but in the end, a book seemed like the only way.



The author, Nancy Wein Kravetz

It was a question from her husband that solidified her plan. "He asked: if your grandmother had written a story about her life in the shtetl, would you be interested?"

The answer to that question has become quite clear now that Kravetz has self published her volume of more than 200 pages and over 400 photos and illustrations, including comprehensive family trees and an appendix of documents.

The book is chock full of news clippings, marriage certificates, manifests from the ships that brought over family members and so forth.

She also has letters and oral histories from those who have passed on. Chapter 11 is guest



Photos courtesy of Nancy Kravetz
Ancestors of Nancy Kravetz in
Ostryna, Poland.

written by her aunt, the late Sylvia (Jaffe) Shube.

Sylvia's son, Rick Shube of Colorado, originally from Marblehead, praised the book as a family treasure that his own children and many family members will cherish.

"Many of the folks in my mother's chapter have long since departed and it was nice to read about them in her words. It is just great to get the insights of the bygone years and how special they were. My kids probably enjoyed this book as much as I did. The characters, people we have mentioned, came to life."

Though the book is not widely circulated, those outside the family who have seen it enjoyed it for its historical value.

Jay Williamson, curator of the Historical Society of Old Newbury, praised the high quality of the book's research and production. The information about Newburyport in "Remember Me" had not previously been recorded and will help anyone understand the enculturation of the Jews in the city, he said.

"I think it should encourage others to do something similar. I think it will become a real heirloom for future generations," Williamson said.

Barrie Paster, an active member of Congregation Ahavas Achim in Newburyport where Kravetz's father, Elliott Wein was a longtime member, said, "I read it from cover to cover and I wish my family had a book like that."

Paster noticed some interesting ties to today. In the reprinted newspaper clipping of Osher Wein's obituary, grandfather of Nancy Kravetz, one of the officiating rabbis was Eleazer Poupko of Haverhill, great-grandfather of the synagogue's new rabbi, Avi Poupko.

"I worked that into a speech I gave on Yom Kippur," Paster said.

Kravetz sent reference copies to the Jewish Historical Society of the North Shore, Congregation Ahavas Achim, the Historical Society of Old Newbury and the Newburyport Public Library.

Her own synagogue is selling them to benefit the religious school. To purchase a book for \$25 with \$5 for shipping, Beth El Congregation, 1118 W. Glendale Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85021, attention Janette Silverman. Credit card orders are accepted by phone (602-944-3359 x123) or email jsilverman@bethelphoenix.com.

The book is available at the gift shop at the Historical Society of Old Newbury, 98 High Street, Newburyport, newburyhist.org.