



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community

volume 13, issue 11 • november 2011

www.northcentralnews.net



Nancy Kravetz shows just some of the family photos and documents that were used to create her 190-page book detailing her family history, and her Jewish heritage (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

Tracing family roots is a growing trend

By Chelsey Heath

When Nancy Kravetz started researching her family history about 35 years ago, she didn't have any intention of writing a book about what she found. Her husband, Dr. Robert Kravetz, had always been interested in interviewing his own family, and he encouraged her to do the same.

Kravetz started by attending a genealogy seminar and writing about herself. She then decided to preserve her family history in a book.

Kravetz recently published "Remember Me to the Little Ones: A Family History," a 190-page, color tale of families, history and a culture.

Her first idea was a children's book, with a new chapter each year; that quickly became a cookbook, and then a keepsake box. She finally settled on a professionally designed, published book.

Kravetz said she wasn't sure anyone else would use the information she had gathered to sit down and "put a story together." She said the best part of writing the book "was contacting relatives and reconnecting." She admitted she found the index and the book's extensive foldout family tree the most tedious part.

Arthur Kurzweil, a leading Jewish genealogist who spoke at the seminar that helped inspire Kravetz, wrote the forward to her book.

Family reactions about the book were "really overwhelming," Kravetz recalled. Many people in her family sent her compliments, thanks and stories to add to the genealogical work. She said the book is "completed thus far" but she may expand it in the future.

"I never imagined that this would make so many people happy," Kravetz said. "It's worth the effort, even if what you do is something very simple."

please see ROOTS on page 6

in this issue

- Group supports cancer survivors, page 3
- Enjoy a variety of upcoming events, page 12
- Kiwanis honor several local students, page 28
- See unique homes on two tours, page 38
- New food and events at Wrigley, page 40