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Jamestown  
Sun



Kathy Steiner / The Jamestown Sun

Betty Brosz, right, is one of 90 people featured in “Wisdom of the Century,” a coffee table book featuring people who are 90 years old or older. Left is Jenny Menzel, graphic designer and one of the collaborators on the book, who presented Brosz with a copy New Year’s Day.

## Brosz featured in book of 90 people over the age of 90

By Kathy Steiner - The Jamestown Sun

**JAMESTOWN** — A Jamestown woman is the only North Dakota resident featured in a new coffee table book recently published featuring the wisdom of 90 people over the age of 90.

“Wisdom of the Century” features people who were in Florida, and Betty Brosz happened to be in Florida and was recommended to interview, said Jenny Menzel, Aberdeen, South Dakota, one of the four collaborators on the book. Brosz spends me with her daughter’s family, Roxane and Russ Madio and their children, in Florida during the winter months.

“She’s an incredible woman, over 90 years old and still working,” Menzel said of Brosz.

Brosz is currently employed part-time as a meal time assistant at SMP Health-Ave Maria. She has worked there since May of 1965, according to Ave Maria records, and for most of that time was a certified nursing assistant.

Book collaborators in addition to Menzel are Sandra Coiffman, founder; Merle R. Saferstein, author, and Pipe Yanguas, photographer.

On New Year's Day, Menzel delivered a copy of the book to Brosz in Jamestown. The book was launched on Dec. 12 at the HistoryMiami Museum in Miami, and Menzel said Brosz's photo is featured at an exhibit on in the museum through Feb. 16.

"Wisdom of the Century" is more than a coffee table book, according to a press release. "It's a touching tribute to 90 remarkable nonagenarians and centenarians who have shaped a rich cultural landscape," the press release says.

Through their stories, the "wisdom, experiences, and legacies of these extraordinary individuals are captured," the release says. "The book goes beyond preserving memories; it encapsulates a generation that's endured some of history's most challenging events, including world wars, pandemics, economic upheavals, and unprecedented technological advances. In their own words, these elders share stories of survival, perseverance, immigration, love, and the lessons they've learned through a lifetime of change and resilience."

The book immortalizes the stories of a generation, offering inspiration and insight for future generations, the release says.

Menzel said Coiffman worked in a retirement community with a lot of older people and was inspired by them. That gave her the idea for the book and led her to contact Saferstein.

"... Merle (Saferstein) is kind of a legacy writer," Menzel said, who ran the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center for 26 years in Miami. "She actually worked with many people from the Holocaust that were survivors. She helped them write their stories ..."

"Wisdom of the Century" features a photo of each person interviewed, a page on the person's life story and a quote.

"For me, what's special about the book is just like learning so much from how they lived," Menzel said. "They really grew up in a special era ..." where many changes occurred in the world in a short time span. Many had difficult circumstances, she said.

"And they had to learn to adapt and persevere through a lot of it," Menzel said.

Menzel said she thinks the book makes people reflect on their own lives.

"Something that Merle always says is, 'How you live your life becomes your legacy,' and I think these people, especially Betty, is a perfect example of how she's leaving a legacy just by how she lives," Menzel said.

The book is \$90 and is available through [wisdomofthecentury.com](http://wisdomofthecentury.com).  
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