

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS IN KENTUCKY INTERVIEW PROJECT

INTERVIEWEE INFORMATION

Joseph Gavi

Residence: Crestwood, KY.

Length of interview: approximately 2 hours.

Date(s) of interview: 6/14/00

Related resources:

- Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation video interview (note: I did not review this interview; chose instead to read book (see below))
- *Joseph Gavi: Young Hero of the Minsk Ghetto*, book by Carlton Jackson

Evaluation/further information about interview:

The interview was conducted inside Mr. Gavi's restaurant, and was limited by him to two hours. Gavi had assured me that there would be a quiet room in the restaurant where we could conduct the interview, but the clanking sounds of dishes, the whirr of the dishwasher, and the hum of a loud air conditioner can be heard throughout the interview. Due to time limitations, as well as the already published book about Mr. Gavi, I chose to focus on specific aspects of his post-war life which were not explored in detail in Carlton Jackson's book. Thus, the interview was relatively casual and unstructured.

As a child, Gavi helped about 200 people escape from the Minsk ghetto, and helped a partisan group in the nearby forest by doing intelligence work. He emigrated from Russia in 1978 and made his way to Louisville, where he runs Gavi's restaurant, the primary patrons of which are the police officers whose headquarters are right across the street. The interview primarily focused on Gavi's life in the US, and particularly in Louisville.