

Zawid's Guest House / Kosher Catering

Jack & Rose Zawid



Rose Zawid serving dinner at the boarding house on S. Kingston Avenue.
Inset: Rose with husband Jack.

Location

119 S. Kingston Ave,
Atlantic City, NJ
Atlantic County

Years Active

1966 - 2003

About Jack & Rose Zawid

Jack Zawid was born Yankel Zawidowicz in Wladimir-Wolynsk, Poland (today in Ukraine) in 1913.

Before the war, Jack was studying to become a

lawyer. When the war started in 1939, Jack and his family were forced into a ghetto, and he was sent on a work detail. He left the ghetto for a short period but eventually returned and found out his wife, children, parents, and siblings had all been killed. He escaped again and remained in hiding until the end of the war. After the war, he traveled to Warsaw, where he met his second wife, Rose.

Rose (Rachel) Spiegel Zawid was born in Lublin, Poland in 1925. The Germans occupied Lublin in 1941, and soon herded all the Jews into ghettos. Her mother and two brothers were murdered by the Nazis. After liberation, Rose made her way westward. In Warsaw, she met, Jack, and they married in 1945.

They spent more than three years as “displaced persons” in American-occupied Germany while waiting for papers to immigrate to the United States. They had two children, Joseph and Libby, who were born in Germany. Finally, in May 1949, they were able to board a ship that took them to the United States. After various jobs in Baltimore and New York City, they became chicken farm owners in Dorothy, New Jersey, for the next ten years, after which they opened their guest house in Atlantic City. Jack passed away in 2003, and Rose in 2005.

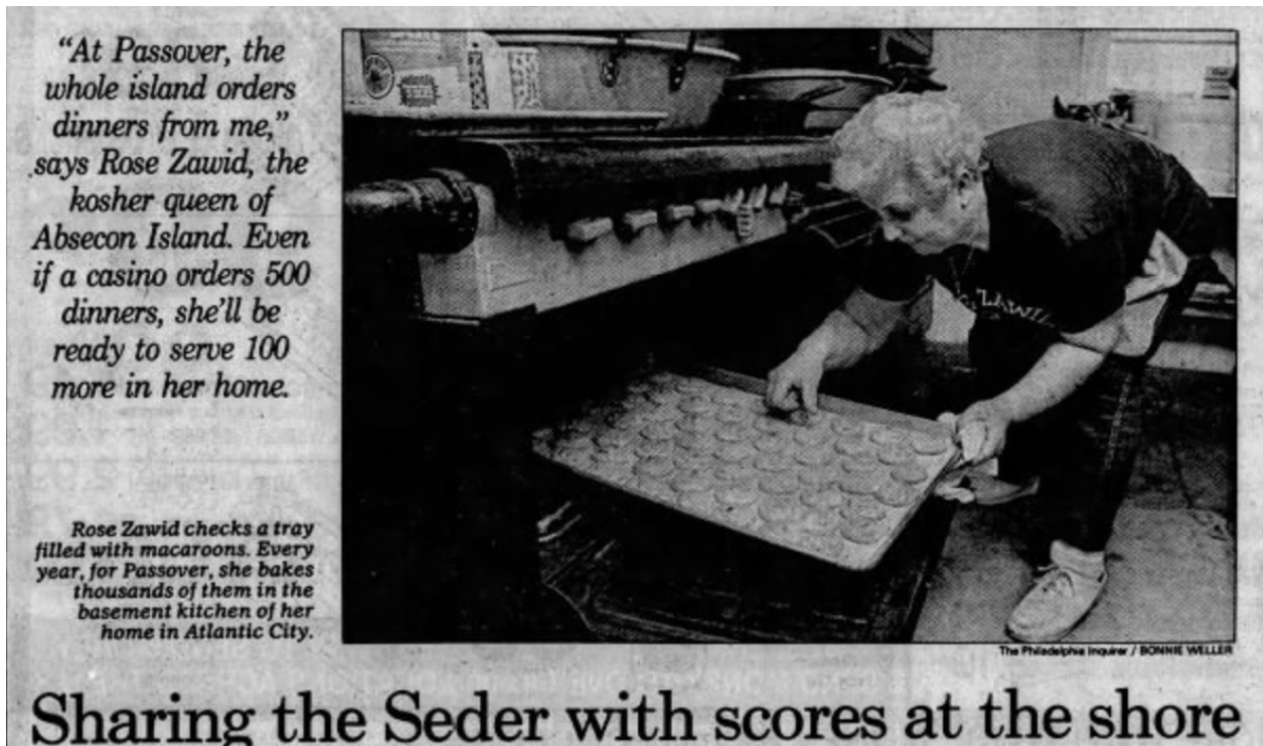
Zawids Kosher Catering & Guest House

In 1964, an Atlantic City rabbi was hosting an event and asked Rose to cook homemade kosher European dishes. People were impressed and praised Rose’s cooking. This encouraged her to buy a ten-room guesthouse with a large dining room. For the next thirty-five years, people who came to Atlantic City from all over the world and wanted kosher food went to Rose’s restaurant. Libby Goodman, Rose’s daughter, said, “For Rose, the Jewish community of Atlantic City was family. She nurtured and nourished it with her great kosher cooking, charity, and zest for life.”

Zawid’s guest house and kosher catering operated in Atlantic City for 37 years. After working in the restaurant industry, the Zawids purchased their property on Kingston Ave, formerly a boarding house. The four-story building had ten guest rooms and a ground floor dining room and commercial kitchen.

Over the years, the Zawids expanded their business to include catering. The first catering job came when a hotel guest who appreciated the quality of the kosher food asked the Zawids to cater an event, their daughter Libby Zawid Goodman recalled.

The Zawids became known as the premier kosher caterers for the Atlantic City area. They supplied everything from small dinners to parties with 500 guests. *The New York Times* lauded Rose Zawid’s recipes, and many have appeared in Kosher Cook Books.



A 1989 article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* dubbed Rose Zawid the "Kosher Queen of Absecon Island." A 1997 review by Alex Witchell in the *New York Times* recommended the Zawid Guest House highly. Witchell wrote, "Mrs. Zawid, who is a Holocaust survivor, has a free hand with both salt and sugar, and her love of excess extends to the decor; she has cornered the market on tchotchkes." Jack & Rose Zawid donated countless Shabbat and High Holiday meals to the disabled, elderly and infirm. Remembering their own deprivation and hunger in World War II and the Holocaust, they made sure not to let anyone they knew go hungry.

Atlantic City Hotels owned by Holocaust Survivors

The Zawids Guest House served as one of many lodging facilities in Atlantic City owned by Holocaust Survivors. In addition to smaller hotels owned and operated by the Zawid family, the Gurwicz, Greenman & Schoffer families, among others, were involved in the hotel industry in Atlantic City. Most of these other properties were sold to make way for large casino resorts. The sale of these properties primarily took place in the late 1970s and early 1980s after legalizing casino gambling.

Kosher Catering Businesses owned by Holocaust Survivors

In addition to the Zawid's Kosher Catering business, Delsea Kosher Catering, owned by Francis Leopold, served a similar role in the Vineland area. Both provide food and beverage for - bar/bat mitzvahs, weddings, Seder dinners, and other large events. Both the Zawids and the Leopolds were Holocaust survivors and established similar businesses.

For more information see

South Jersey Holocaust Survivor Digital Archive, Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton University.

"Rose Spiegel Zawid." In *Portraits of Resilience: Holocaust Survivors of South Jersey*, 98. McLoughlin-O'Donnell, Maryann. Margate, NJ: ComteQ Pub., 2008.

Schoffer, L. B. (2009). *A Dream, A Journey, A Community: A Nostalgic Look at Jewish Businesses In and Around Atlantic City*. Comteq Publishing.

Photo Sources: Schoffer Et al.

Philadelphia Inquirer, 12 April 1989, p. 26.

"Eat at Grandma's, Not at Mom's," *New York Times*, July 17, 1997.

Profiles of South Jersey Holocaust Survivors by George D. Quinn (Project Lead), with contributions by Dr. Michael Hayse (Curator & Editor).



Rose Zawid in 2009