

Oral history questions of Elizabeth Vainraub

Introduction: I am Armin Weinberg and I am interviewing Dr. Elizabeth Vainraub.

Today is May 24, 2017. We are in Elizabeth's home at Goldberg Towers in Houston, Texas. Sara Rozin is also here to help with the visit and to help translate anything should that be helpful or necessary.

Today we are talking about Elizabeth's work which was related to addressing the effects of the Chernobyl accident on those in the area at the time and those who immigrated from there to other locations including the US and Israel.

Seed Questions

First question would ask for a little bit of background on an Elizabeth her family where she lived grew up where she went to school and with her career in the Ukraine.

Could you describe your role within the pediatric leadership of the Ukraine at the time of the Chernobyl accident?

How did you first hear that there was a problem at Chernobyl?

What did you do when you learned that there was a problem at Chernobyl?

Did you take any precautions personally or for family members and friends when learning of the accident?

What are some of the concerns your fellow immigrants had because of the accident? Where they more concerned for their children and grandchildren?

Was she concerned about food safety?

When did she immigrate to the United States and how?

You became a leader of the immigrant community because of your knowledge and connections back to the Ukraine and former Soviet Union. Who did you approach here in Houston to try and get help for the people who were exposed to the fallout from the Chernobyl accident?

Do you remember how we met?

Can you comment on the distinction between residents and liquidators?

Do you remember developing the content for the RadEFX website?

Does she still maintain connections with people who share her concerns?

What advice would you give scholars, historians, the public looking to learn from the lessons of Chernobyl?

Would you be willing to submit any of your papers to the Archive?

Is there anything that you've always wanted to tell me but haven't?