

## *When Being Called Jewish was a Curse*

### Carla Maling Kodish nee Karla Elinor Malligson - Bio

#### By Joan Allyn Kodish, Her Daughter

The woman who became Carla M Kodish was born in Konigsberg Germany on May 26, 1925 and given the name Karla Elinor Malligson. She was the much loved and doted upon only child of Drs Felix and Gertrude Malligson, the apple of her grandparents' eyes and an adored cousin and niece. At the time of her birth, Felix operated his uncle's factory and Gertrude was honing her language skills. Soon, however, Karla and her parents moved to suburban Berlin and Felix returned to the University of Berlin as a faculty member once more. Life was wonderful for a time until Felix lost his professorship, as did all other Jewish faculty members. Thereafter, he bought a pharmacy near the Bundestag. Gertrude and he successfully operated the pharmacy until the Nazi government's takeover of his business. The three left Germany in 1938 leaving most of their family and possessions behind as they followed a circuitous route by train and bus through several countries before reaching LeHavre France. There, they boarded the SS Normandie for their voyage to the United States and settled in Chicago.

After a dismal decade trying to adjust to America, Carla married Eugene Julius Kodish. Together, they raised two children, primarily in Akron, and Carla became an award-winning elementary school teacher. After a career spanning more than thirty years, she retired from the Akron Public Schools. She morphed into an indispensable volunteer at her grandson's school, where she first told her story.

Joan Kodish is willing to come to your class, please email her at: [joanallyn@msn.com](mailto:joanallyn@msn.com).