

could be happy about it, but that's the way it's got to be. I read a little bit. I praise all the time the television. Thank God my husband lived to 86. It's a lifetime.

I never was jealous. I have faith in myself. I said if he could change for somebody else, let him do it. He knew he had something good. Even the night before he died I had to put my ear to him to hear what he said: "Esther, tell me something." And I said, "I love you." And always he said he loves me, all the time until the end, and I remember his words.

In life we can't say always is glory, you have to sometimes fight. He had a lot of different circumstances. They say what's a wife if you can't take out your anger? He used to yell. In the young days I didn't have a mother, a sister to talk to, so I used to sometimes just cry for myself. But we were not mad for a long time or not talking to the other. He got better and maybe he felt sorry for that.

I had love enough to keep me warm. He was passionate. I kept him satisfied and I was satisfied and he didn't have to look for anybody else. A lot of times when I sit by [Moishe's] picture, I put on the light and look at my husband, how beautiful he looks and how nice he was. It just feels, sometimes I talk to him like he is alive. I say, "See, Moishe, how nice it was, the way we were living..."

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*This interview was conducted in Yiddish and English. The Yiddish sections of the conversation were translated into English by Sheyne Pearl Enusheusky Davis.*

<sup>1</sup>Josh Segal, who married Ruth.

<sup>2</sup>Yiddish for countryman.

<sup>3</sup>Ritual slaughter "to prepare kosher meat and poultry."

<sup>4</sup>The plural form of *schoichet*.

<sup>5</sup>The act of kosher slaughter.

<sup>6</sup>A window and memorial plaques from The Eternal Light Synagogue, useless because of Welland's diminished Jewish population, were recently "resettled" in Israel.

<sup>7</sup>Pearl was soon forced out of nursing by Sister M., an anti-Semite at St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton.

<sup>8</sup>Ruth taught at the time when Ontario's ads for teachers specified no Jews or Catholics. She was, however, derailed from her career not by racism but by sexism.

<sup>9</sup>To Edith Yanofsky who also grew up in Welland.

<sup>10</sup>Pearl's experience was not unusual. After serving overseas in the Canadian army during World War II, Julius was unable to complete his pediatric internship at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. Their quota system limited the number of Jews allowed, so he finished his studies in

Baltimore. Rita did graduate work in sociology at the University of Toronto. After her marriage to Marvin Weintraub, they were forced out of their first house purchase in the 1950s, in what proved to be a "restricted" area of St. Catharines, legally reserved for Christians and whites.

<sup>11</sup>Bunny built what started as the family junk business into a large company for steel warehousing and fabrication.

<sup>12</sup>Lillian Janis Ennis, married to Julius.

## CAROL ROSE

### The Sabbath

this is where  
i come alive  
this every friday night  
at sunset with candles  
welcoming me  
from weekday cares

this is where  
i reconnect  
with children lover  
friends a world at war  
with itself my resting  
place of wine & loaves

this double portion  
of long ago gathered  
around my sofa  
with a good book  
& loved ones praying  
for peace in Jerusalem

this is where  
i return always  
to the Sabbath  
dancing my way back  
to ancestral chambers joy  
encircling my heart

*Carol Rose is a writer, educator, and counsellor. She lives in Winnipeg with her husband and five children. She has been published in numerous journals and anthologies including Dandelion Magazine, Quarry, Prairie Fire, and The Jewish Women's Literary Annual.*