



Keeping the Memory of the Roman Jews Deportation in Times of Covid-19 Pandemic

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Roma - Italia



The 16 October 1943 roundup of the Jews of Rome



The memory of the roundup and deportation of more than one thousand Jews in Rome still provides an open wound among the Jewish families.



Apart from the mourning and loss in almost every Roman family, one of the reasons, still unresolved, of this persisting wound is the non-intervention of the Vatican in order to rescue or, at least, to give assistance to the prisoners.

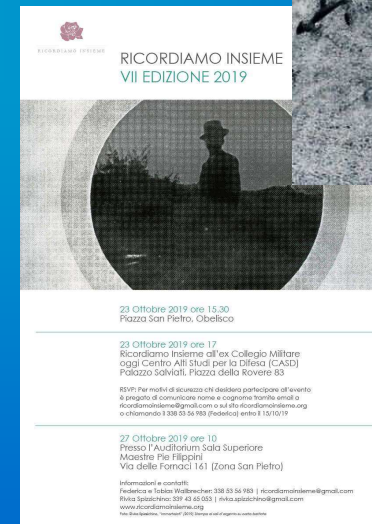
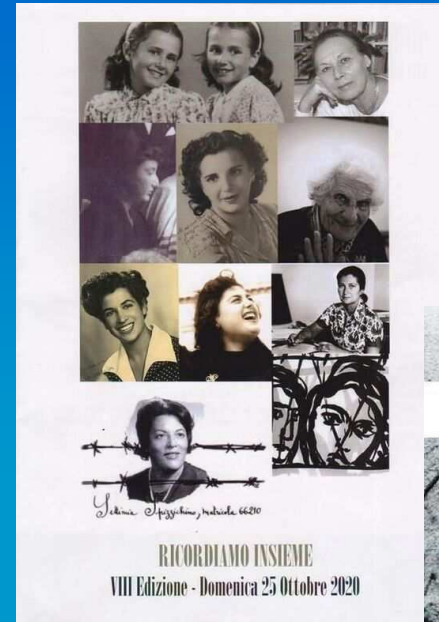
This is also a major cause of distress in sensible Christian contexts, mainly the ones involved in the interreligious dialogue.



Sharing Memory



An original and emotional way to keep and share this memory has been put into effect under the name **“Ricordiamo Insieme” - Let us Remember Together**, since 2012, conceived by Friederike and Tobias Wallbrecher, members of the German Catholic community in Italy and by Sara, Rivka and Grazia Spizzichino, three grand-nieces of Settimia Spizzichino, the only woman among the sixteen survivors of this deportation.



Convergence

A direct convergence of aims and feelings led our association, "Progetto Memoria", to get involved and become partner of the events "Ricordiamo Insieme".

The major goal to create a path of remembrance, connecting the distinguished sentiment of Jews, Christians, Italians and Germans, has been achieved throughout a continuous sharing of experience and ideas, resulting in four moments:

1st day:

- Gathering at Piazza San Pietro
- 1.000 steps walk to the Military College
- Moment of Memory at the Military College

2nd day

- Conference and Art performances



All of these moments require a long and careful activity.

Challenge

- The events planned for 2020, intended to celebrate the memory of Settimia Spizzichino, in the centenary of her birth and to commemorate the nearly 800 Jews arrested, deported or killed in Rome after October 16, by reading all their names at the Military College.
- The second wave of the Covid-19 Pandemic started right in Oct. 2020 and there was the serious risk of cancellation of all the events.
- There was the challenge of preserving memory while maintaining the rules and share all of this with the largest possible number of people.
- The whole program had to be revised and the only solution was to cut drastically the number of people, while there was no time to plan an on-line meeting.

The necessity of keeping physical distances forced us to change the time-frame, modifying and editing it day by day, in the firm belief that Covid-19 was to be defeated, sooner or later, while the remembrance of the Shoah was to be renewed each year.



2019 ↑

2020



Piazza San Pietro





**1.000
steps**

2019





Moments of Memory In the Courtyard

2019 ↑

2020





25th October, 2020: Testimonies, art and music to keep the memory alive

•Records and photographs were published in the web site of Ricordiamo Insieme and collected in a booklet, in order to be kept and shared.

•Hoping that the Covid-19 emergency has done its time, we are now working for the 2021 events, which will involve some of the themes and items planned for 2020.

***Thanks for Your kind
attention!***

Sandra & Friederike

