

Program

- 1:30 p.m. Introduction to the Italian Holocaust Remembrance Day
- Virginia Sapiro, *Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University*
Giuseppe Pastorelli, *Consul General of Italy in Boston*
Shai Bazak, *Consul General of Israel to New England*
Rob Leikind, *Executive Director, AJC Boston*
Paola Bassani, *Art Historian*
- 2:00 p.m. “Giorgio Bassani’s Garden: The Challenge of Holocaust Commemoration,” presentation by Prof. Nancy Harrowitz, *Department of Romance Studies, Boston University*
- 2:30 p.m. Refreshments
- 3:00 p.m. Film “The Garden of the Finzi-Continis” (“Il giardino dei Finzi-Contini”), by Vittorio De Sica
- 4:30 p.m. “The Anger of an Italian Jewish Writer,” presentation by Dr. Paola Bassani
- 4:45 p.m. Round table discussion with Prof. Nancy Harrowitz and Dr. Paola Bassani

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:

Prof. Nancy Harrowitz



**Department of Romance Studies,
Boston University**

Professor Harrowitz is currently completing a book entitled *Primo Levi and the Identity of a Survivor*. Her work includes publications on Primo Levi, Giorgio Bassani, Carlo Levi, Cesare Lombroso, and Margherita Sarfatti. Her courses on modern Italian literature and on fascism and the Holocaust in Italy often include film as part of the curriculum. She also teaches courses in the comparative literature program on Holocaust literature and film, and on Primo Levi and Holocaust literature.

Dr. Paola Bassani



Art Historian

The daughter of Italian writer Giorgio Bassani, Paola Bassani studied at the University of Bologna, Italy and at La Sorbonne in Paris, France. She is an art historian and an expert in the relations between Italian culture and French Art of the XVII century. She published a book on Claude Vignon and is the chief editor of the international art magazine *Bulletin de l'Association des Historiens de l'Art Italien*. She founded the *Fondazione Giorgio Bassani* in 2002 together with her brother Enrico, and currently lives in Paris, Rome and Ferrara.

ABOUT THE FILM:

Il Giardino dei Finzi-Contini, by Vittorio De Sica (1970)



This year's Italian Holocaust Remembrance Day honors the legacy that Giorgio Bassani left behind in his writings about postwar Italy. Based on Bassani's gripping and beautifully written novel, Vittorio De Sica's classic and moving film, starring Dominique Sanda and Helmut Berger, tells the story of the Jews of Ferrara as they are faced with the reality of the Fascist regime. The film starts in 1938 when Mussolini's racial laws are beginning to take force, and explores the themes of persecution and loss of innocence while serving as a powerful work of memory.

ABOUT THE LAW:**Legge n. 211**

Law number 211 was passed in the Italian parliament on 20 July 2000, after debate in the Chamber of Deputies on 27 and 28 March 2000 and in the Senate on 5 April and 5 July 2000. The final text, known as the 'Colombo-De Luca' law, reads as follows:

Institution of the 'Day of Memory' in memory of the extermination and persecution of the Jewish people and of Italian political and military deportees in the Nazi camps.

Article 1

1. The Italian Republic recognizes the day of 27 January, date of the pulling down of the gates of Auschwitz, as the 'Day of Memory', to remember the Shoah (extermination of the Jewish people), the racial laws, Italy's persecution of its Jewish citizens, Italians who underwent deportation, imprisonment and death, as well as those, with differing positions and allegiances, who opposed the extermination project and, risking their own lives, saved others and protected the persecuted.

Article 2

2. On the occasion of the 'Day of Memory' (for which see art. 1) there will be organized ceremonies, initiatives, meetings and shared moments of recounting of events and of reflection, particularly in schools of all categories and levels, on what befell the Jewish people and the Italian military and political deportees Modern Italy 169 in the Nazi camps, so as to preserve for the future of Italy a memory of a tragic, dark period in the history of our country and of Europe, in order that nothing similar might ever happen again.

(Gazzetta Ufficiale, 31 July 2000, n. 177)



Boston University and the Consulate General of Italy in Boston

in collaboration with:

*American Jewish Committee
the Consulate General of Israel to New England
Professionisti Italiani a Boston*

proudly present:

A Commemoration of Italian Holocaust Remembrance Day

GIORGIO BASSANI AND THE CALL FOR REMEMBRANCE

in the Academy Award winning Italian feature film

The Garden of the Finzi-Continis

by Vittorio De Sica

Special guest: Paola Bassani

Sunday, January 29, 2012 - 1:30 p.m.

**Boston University Photonics Center, Room 206
8 St. Mary's Street, Boston, MA 02115**

Our thanks go to the Jewish Cultural Endowment, Interdisciplinary Italian Studies and the Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies at Boston University for their co-sponsorship of this program

The event is free and open to the public