

ITALO SVEVO

TRIESTE, 1861 - 1928



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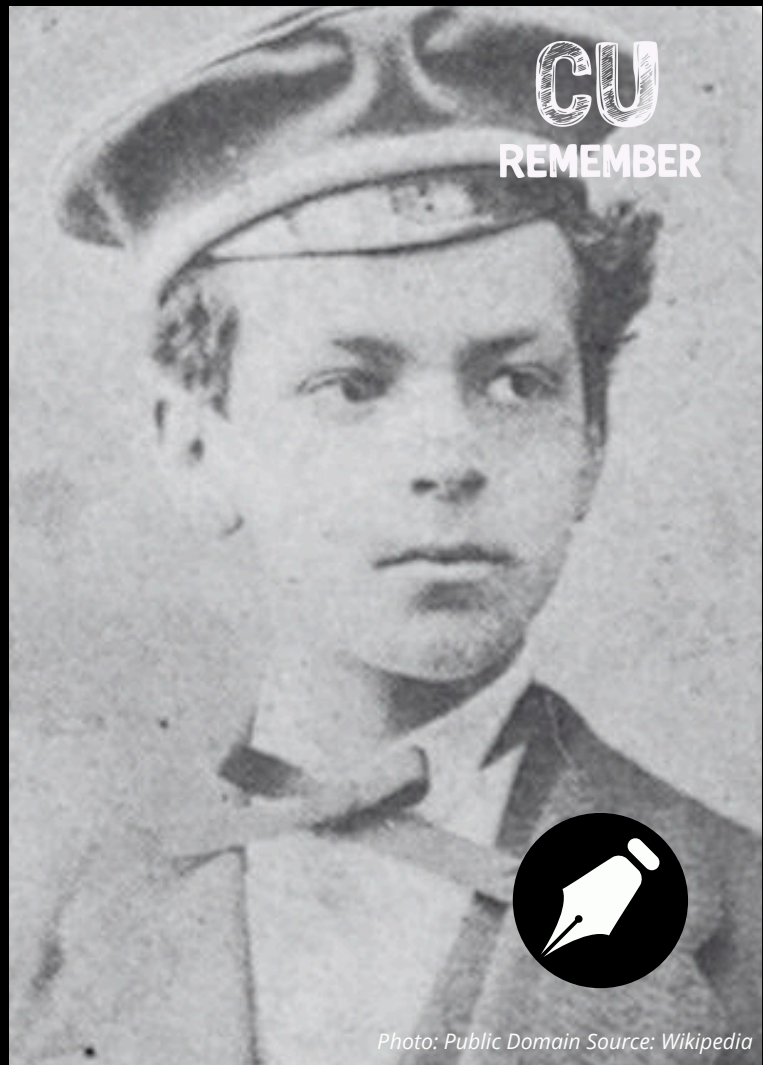
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ITALO SVEVO

One of the greatest writers in the Italian language of all time, of Jewish origin, was strongly influenced by the introduction of psychoanalysis in Trieste, by his friend Edoardo Weiss. Svevo often used psychoanalysis in satirical form as a narrative device in his most important novel, *La coscienza di Zeno*.

“During those days, the only psychoanalyst in Trieste and a close friend of mine, Dr. Weiss, came to see me. Looking at me anxiously, he asked whether the psychoanalyst in Trieste whom I had mocked in my novel was meant to be him”



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EDOARDO WEISS

TRIESTE, 1889 - CHICAGO, 1970



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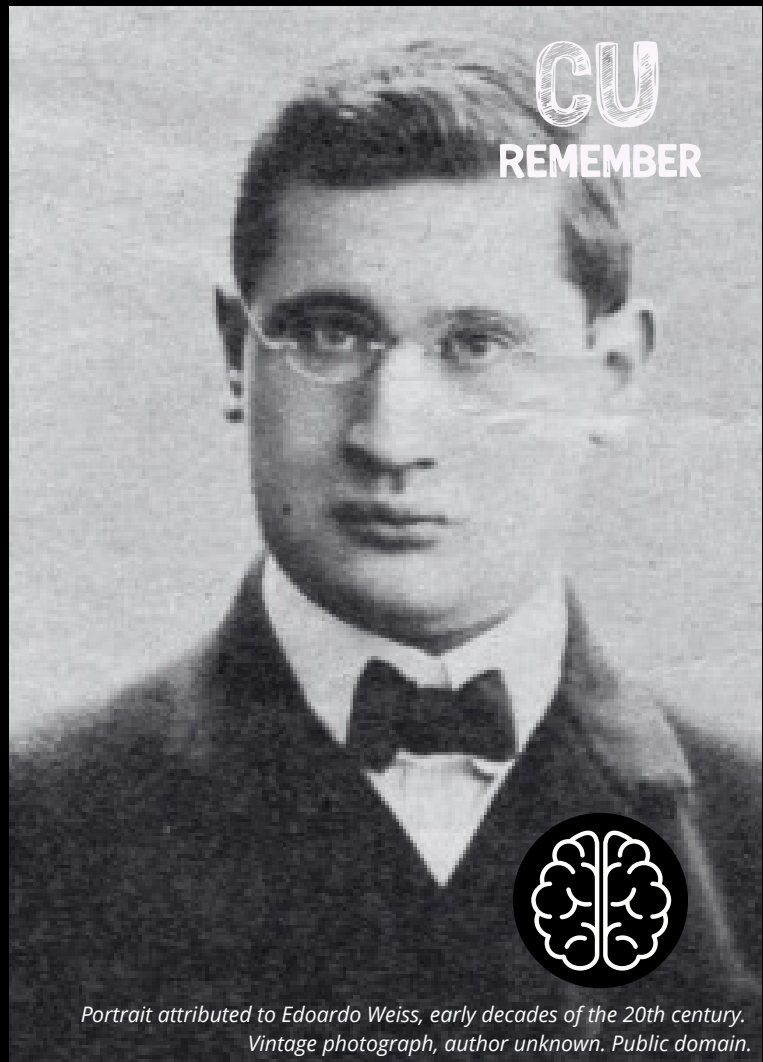
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EDOARDO WEISS

A student of Sigmund Freud in Vienna, he and his wife, Vanda Schrenger, were the first to introduce psychoanalysis to Trieste and Italy. His patients included some famous names, such as the poet Umberto Saba and the painter Arturo Nathan. Following the racial laws, he moved to the United States. He never returned to live in Italy.

"Before my appointment as chief physician, I was given the condition that I change my last name (since I have a German surname). At that point, I preferred to resign."



Portrait attributed to Edoardo Weiss, early decades of the 20th century.
Vintage photograph, author unknown. Public domain.

VANDA SCHRENGER

PAKRAC, 1892 - BERKELEY, 1968



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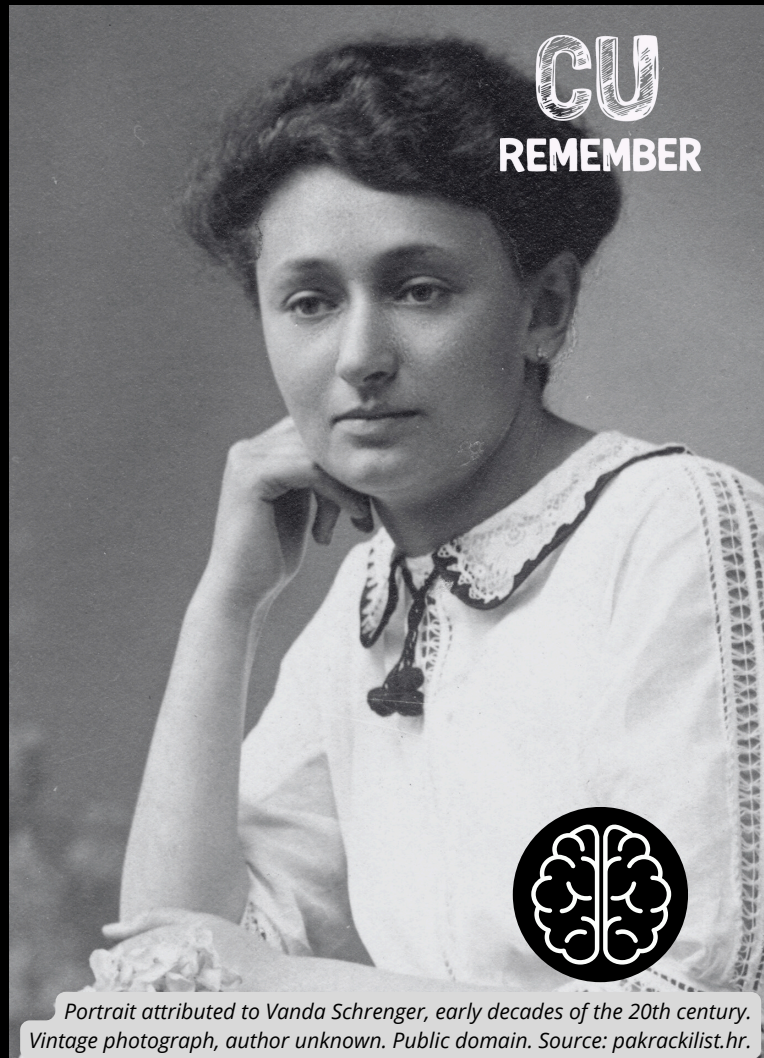
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VANDA SCHRENGER

She was the first Italian female psychoanalyst. With her husband, Edoardo Weiss, she introduced psychoanalysis in Italy. She also worked as a pediatrician, using an approach focused on child psychology. Her life was strongly influenced not only by Nazi-Fascist persecution (in 1937 she moved to the United States) but also by the pogroms, anti-Jewish massacres in the Russian Empire and Central and Eastern Europe between the 19th and early 20th centuries.

“Analysis is a human relationship between two individuals, and no true relationship can exist if the truth is ignored.”

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Portrait attributed to Vanda Schrenger, early decades of the 20th century.
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SIGMUND FREUD

PRÍBOR, 1856 - LONDON, 1956



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SIGMUND FREUD

Sigmund Freud, just under twenty years old, also lived in Trieste. As a student at the Zoological Station, the future founder of psychoanalysis dissected the reproductive organs of around 400 eels — work that may have influenced his later theories on sexuality. When he returned permanently to Vienna, he changed his field of study from the natural sciences to medicine, beginning at an early stage to take an interest in the human psyche.

***“I have tormented myself
and the eels in a vain effort
to rediscover male eels, but
all those that I open are of
the fairer sex.”***

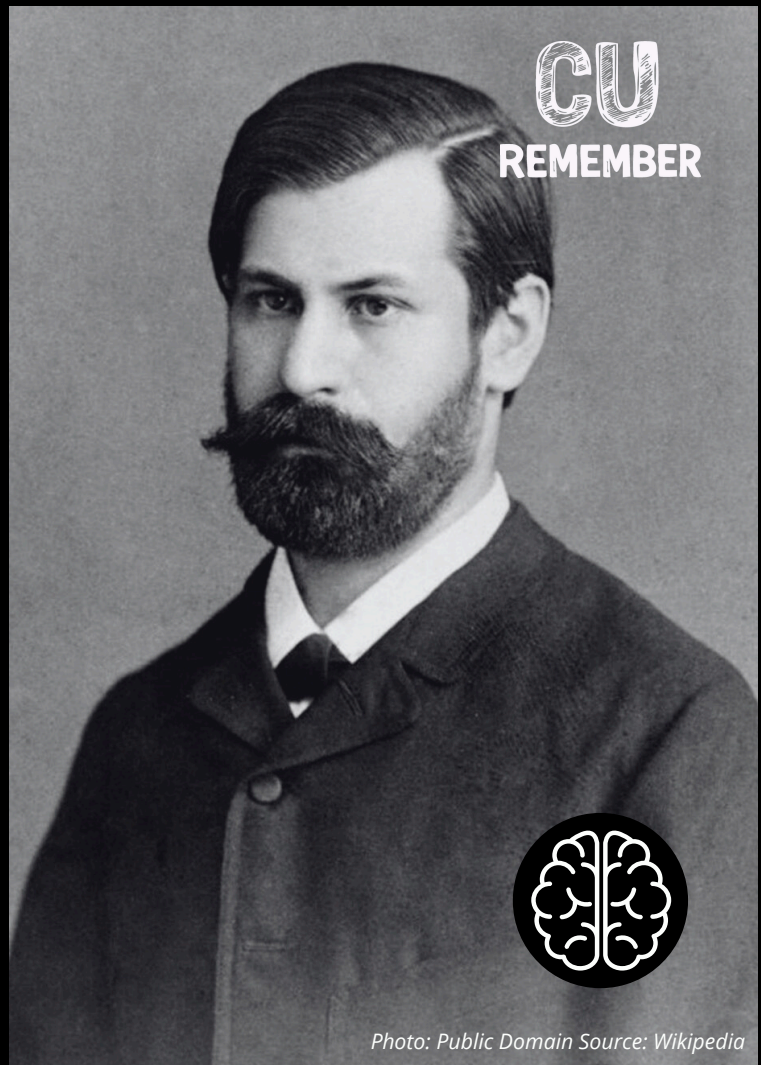


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ARTURO NATHAN

TRIESTE, 1891 - BIBERACH AM DER RISS, 1944



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ARTURO NATHAN

Arturo Nathan was a metaphysical painter from Trieste, also admired by the celebrated painter Giorgio De Chirico, founder of this artistic movement. He was among Edoardo Weiss's patients. A victim of Nazi-Fascist persecution because he was Jewish, he died in the Biberach an der Riss concentration camp.

***“At that time I was
analyzing a young painter
suffering from a non-
melancholic depression
that was also expressed in
the subjects of his
paintings: ruins and animal
corpses.”***

(from the letters of Edoardo Weiss)

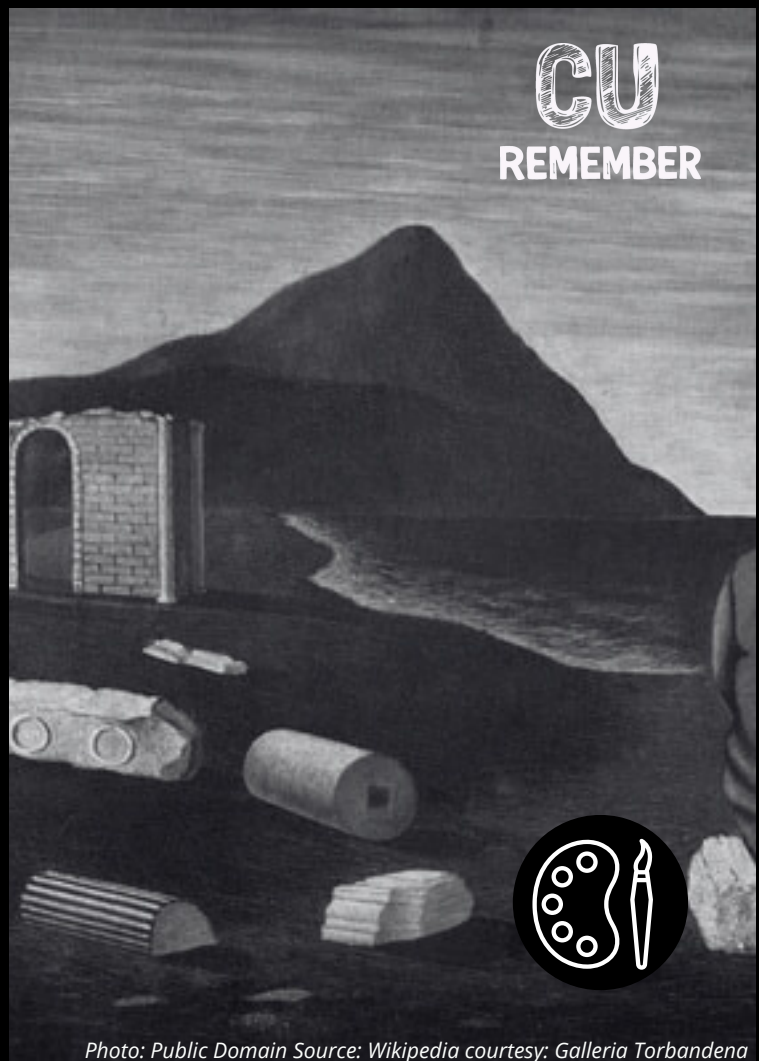


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UMBERTO SABA

TRIESTE, 1883 - GORIZIA, 1957



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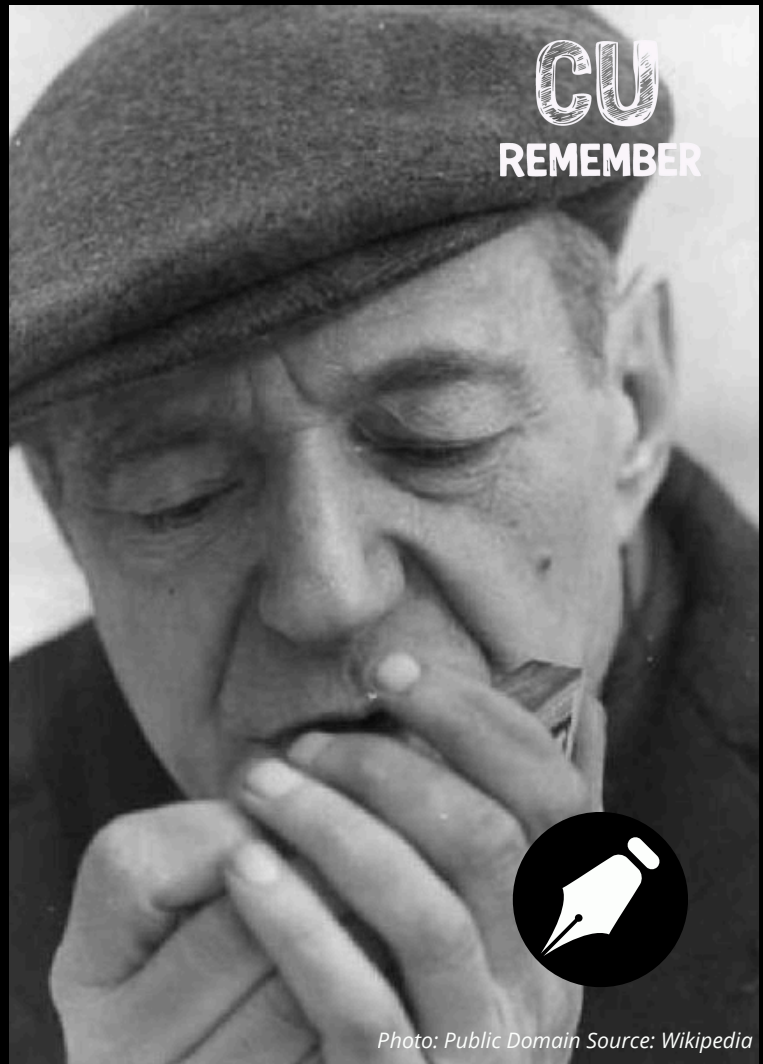
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UMBERTO SABA

A Trieste-born poet and author of the famous Canzoniere, Saba was treated by Edoardo Weiss in the 1920s and 1930s. For him, psychoanalysis was a way to better understand himself and his inner torments. Even after Weiss left Trieste, Saba continued a correspondence with him that lasted until the poet's death.

“Dear Saba, I'll be coming to Trieste in a month or two, [...] One of the people I most look forward to seeing is you. I wanted to improvise my unexpected appearance at the bookstore. But I've learned that you're now in Gorizia...”

(from the letters of Edoardo Weiss)



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LICEO PETRARCA

TRIESTE, 1912 -



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LICEO PETRARCA

Founded in 1912 under the name "Ginnasio Superiore Comunale Francesco Petrarca," it was initially located at Viale XX Settembre 26. In 1938, like all Italian schools, it expelled its Jewish teachers and students.

In 2018, in collaboration with the University of Trieste, the Jewish Museum, and the State Archives of Trieste, the school inaugurated the exhibition *Razzismo in cattedra*, which recounts these dramatic events.

***“In 1938, shamefully, racism
was institutionalized in
schools, forcefully entering
everywhere, leading to the
expulsion of 69 students and
2 teachers at the Petrarca
High School”***

(from the preface of the exhibition)

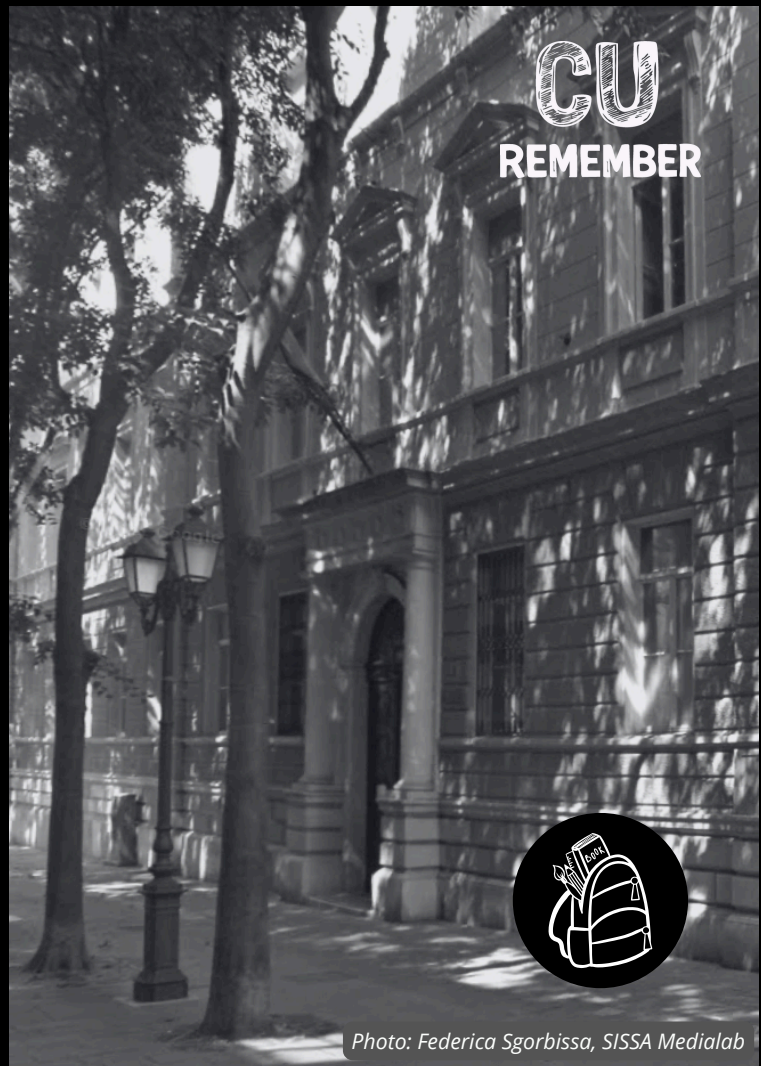


Photo: Federica Sgorbissa, SISSA Medialab



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IDA MARCHERIA

TRIESTE, 1929 – ROME, 2011

STELLINA MARCHERIA

TRIESTE, 1930 – ROME, 1970

IDA E STELLINA MARCHERIA

Ida and Stellina, arrested in 1943 with their parents and two brothers, were deported to Auschwitz. Used in the arduous labor of sorting the looted prisoners' belongings, they were then evacuated to Ravensbrück and liberated on May 1, 1945. Stellina never recovered and took her own life in 1970; Ida moved to Rome and became a tireless witness to the Holocaust.

“We arrived in the morning. Dogs barking. And they took away our father and brothers and then separated us from our mother. [...] I never saw her again. She got into the truck and told us: Girls, always stay together. [...] My mother didn't cry.”

(from Ida's first video interview, 1996)



Photo: Museo della Comunità ebraica di Trieste "Carlo e Vera Wagner"



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MUSEO
DELLA
COMUNITÀ
EBRAICA
DI TRIESTE
CARLO
E VERA
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MAURA MORPURGO

TRIESTE, 1908 – AUSCHWITZ, 1944

BIANCA MORPURGO

TRIESTE, 1906 – 1996

MAURA E BIANCA MORPURGO

Maura and Bianca, upper-middle-class Jews, could study: Maura became a classics teacher at the Petrarca High School, Bianca a doctor. With the racial laws, both lost their jobs. In 1943, they were deported with their parents and sister Annetta. Only Bianca survived, thanks to her profession exploited in the concentration camps. She has never spoken publicly about her experience.

"I haven't written to you for a long time because I'm still too shocked and disoriented by what we've been through. [...]"

You know what I lost in Auschwitz and how for me the return was more of a torment than a joy."

(from a letter to another survivor, 11.23.1945)





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VERA KREILSHEIM WAGNER

TRIESTE, 1910-1984

CARLO WAGNER

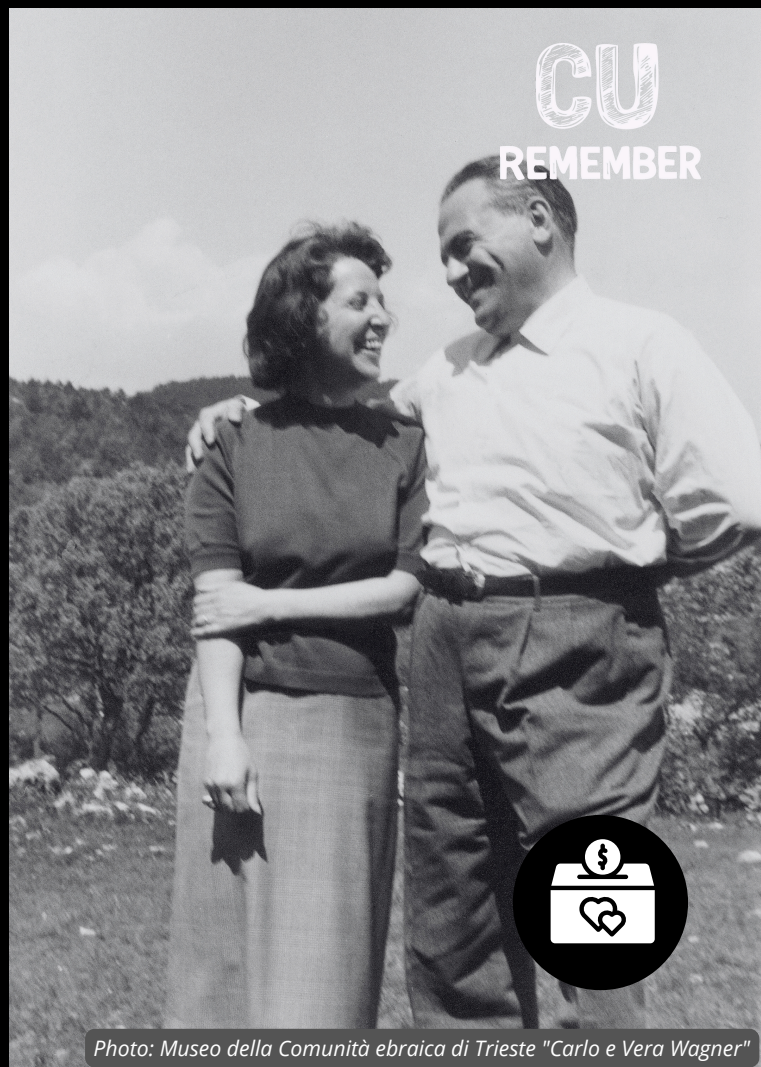
VIENNA, 1902 – TRIESTE, 1980

CARLO E VERA WAGNER

Carlo and Vera well represent the Jewish bourgeoisie of Trieste, which prospered between the 19th and 20th centuries, but was then severely challenged by Nazi-Fascism. They took refuge in Switzerland during the occupation, and returned to Trieste after the war, contributing to its revival: Carlo ran the Stock company, and Vera devoted herself to culture. The Museum, founded in 1993, is named after them by their daughter Gianna, its first supporter.

The driver talks about my grandfather, loved by the workers in his factory so much that he earned their applause even for the delicious canteen food, to ensure the quality of which he personally tasted it every day.

(memories of his granddaughter Gabriella de Polo)



RITA (ROSENZWEIG) ROSANI

TRIESTE, 1920 – MONTE COMUN, 1944



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RITA ROSANI

In 1938, Rita Rosani graduated as a teacher; the racial laws prevented her from teaching in public schools, and she worked in the Trieste Jewish school. Her relatives in Czechoslovakia were deported to Nazi concentration camps, as was her fiancé. After the Armistice, having secured her parents' safety, she joined the liberation struggle in Veneto. She died during a clash between her partisan band and the Nazi-Fascists, and was subsequently awarded the Gold Medal of Military Valor.

***“She was a companion, a sister,
a leader of indomitable
courage and ardent faith. [...] With her band surrounded by
overwhelming Nazi-Fascist
forces, she took up arms and,
the last to retreat, fought
strenuously until she fell
valiantly on the battlefield.”***

(from the motivation for the Medal)

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Photo: Museo della Comunità ebraica di Trieste "Carlo e Vera Wagner"

BRUNA LEVI

TRIESTE, 1921 - 2010



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BRUNA LEVI

Bruna Levi, a successful student at the Petrarca High School, was only two years away from graduating when, in 1938, she was expelled for being of "Jewish race." After her expulsion, she attended the school organized by the Jewish community and managed to graduate privately. After the war, she devoted herself passionately to teaching at the Jewish school, where she served as director and a key figure for 25 years.

"Days pass, school starts... and you, Jewish girl, stay at home. You can't even listen to the radio [...] You can read the newspapers, but they overflow with ever new decrees against the Jews, with obscene stories against the Jews [...] that bring tears to your eyes!"

(My crazy faith in life, 2011)

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Photo: Museo della Comunità ebraica di Trieste "Carlo e Vera Wagner"

LIONELLO STOCK

SPLIT, 1886 - TRIESTE, 1948



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LIONELLO STOCK

Lionello Stock was born into a family originally from Frankfurt, which settled between Trieste and Split in the 19th century, a family from which Vera Wagner also descended. In Trieste Lionello found the ideal economic situation to establish a distillery in 1884. This distillery was later located in a building that still exists today in Roiano, producing some of the most iconic liqueurs, such as the "Stock 84" brandy.

"I was born in Split to a father from Trieste and a mother from Split, and lived in that city until my adolescence [...] After moving to Trieste, I completed my secondary education at the Academy of Commerce, actively participating in all the student movements and manifestations of Italianness of that era..."

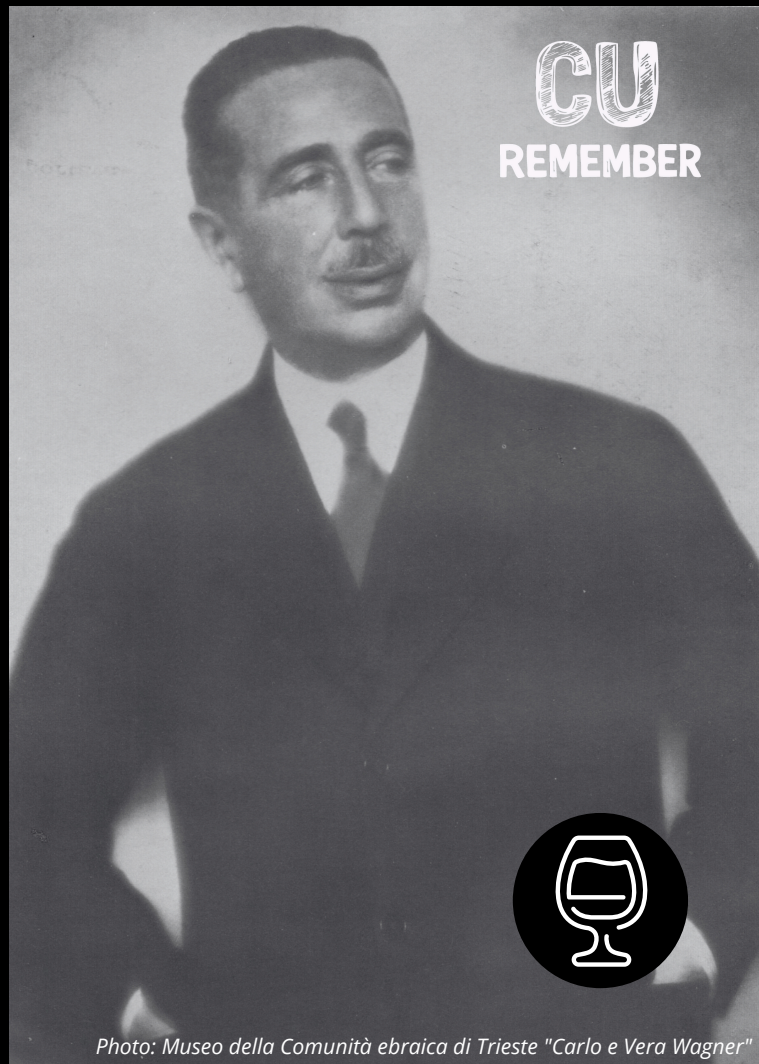


Photo: Museo della Comunità ebraica di Trieste "Carlo e Vera Wagner"

MATILDE MORPURGO

TRIESTE, 1869 - CONEGLIANO, 1961



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MATILDE MORPURGO

Matilde Morpurgo is the niece of Baron Carlo Marco Morpurgo and lives in a building that later becomes the Morpurgo Museum, on Via Imbriani. As an adult, she converts to Catholicism and marries the Roman prince Fabio Colonna di Stigliano. Having no children, they bequeath their assets, dividing them between the Episcopal Seminary, the Municipality, and the Trieste hospitals.

“Her life was a continuous journey: Naples, her husband's residence in Rome, Trieste [...] she always remained very close to her mother and brother [...], she always kept up a close correspondence with them, preferring family affections to the social life imposed on her by the noble status she assumed through marriage”

(from the website of the Colonna Foundation, Trieste)

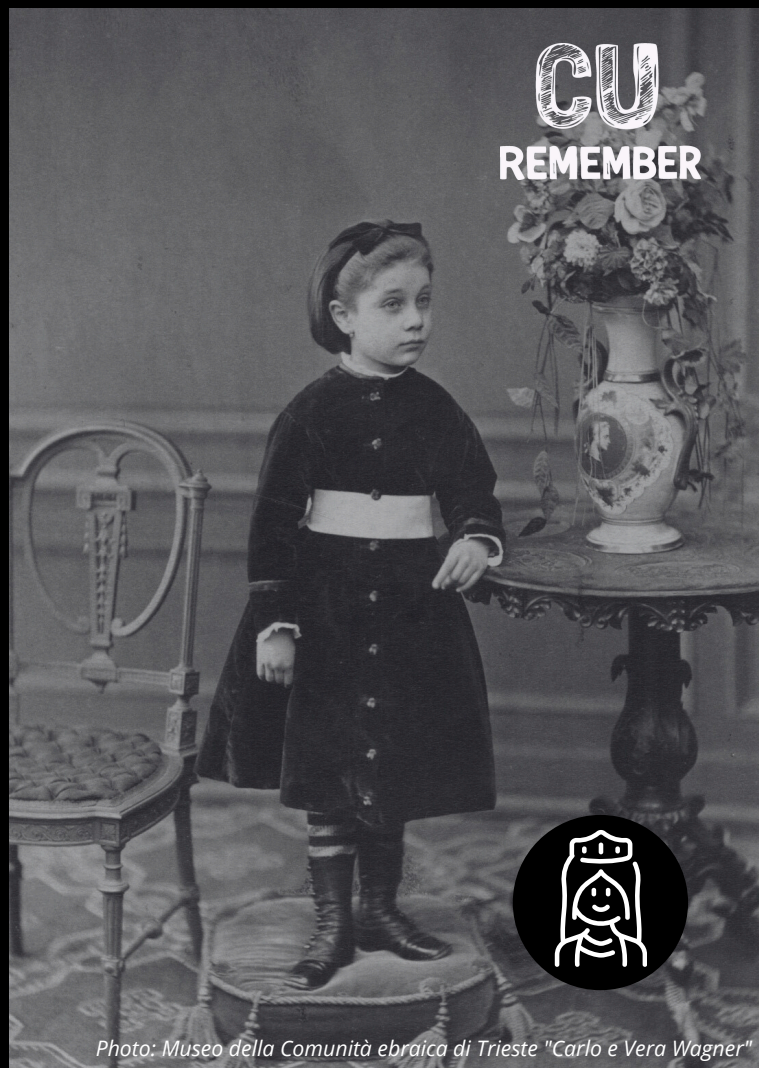


Photo: Museo della Comunità ebraica di Trieste "Carlo e Vera Wagner"

CARLO MORPURGO

TRIESTE, 1890 - AUSCHWITZ, 1944



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CARLO MORPURGO

Carlo Morpurgo, having lost his clerk's job in 1938, was hired as secretary of the Jewish Community. Solidarity was central to his life: towards Eastern European refugees fleeing anti-Semitism, foreign Jews interned in fascist camps, and the citizens of Trieste under Nazi occupation. Although he could have escaped, he chose to continue working in the office above the synagogue, and was eventually arrested, deported, and killed in Auschwitz.

“Dear Dr. Morpurgo! Please excuse my freedom in writing to you even though I don't know you personally [...] Having heard [...] of your kindness towards the inmates and especially towards the children, I have decided [...] to draw your attention to this case...”

(from a letter written to Morpurgo by an inmate of the Ferramonti Tarsia camp, 06.24.1942)

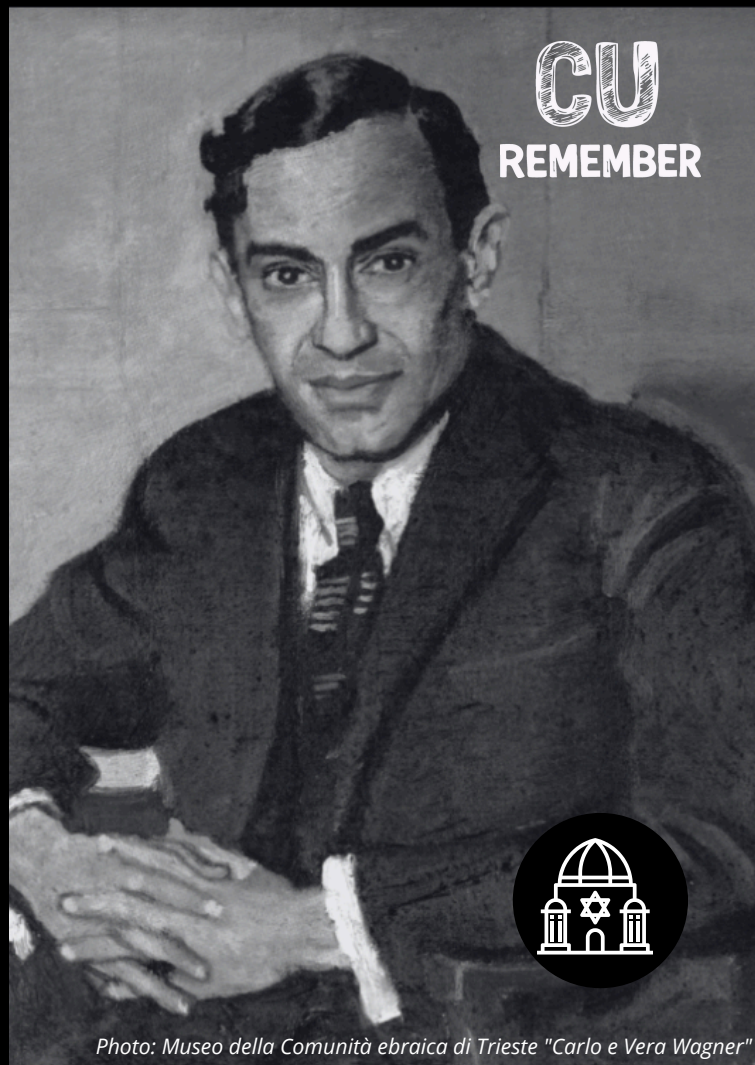


Photo: Museo della Comunità ebraica di Trieste "Carlo e Vera Wagner"

SAMUELE CESANA

TRIESTE, 1924 - UNKNOWN LOCATION, 1944



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SAMUELE CESANA

Samuele was born into a large, humble Jewish family living in the former ghetto. At just 20 years old, he decided to join the liberation struggle against Nazi-Fascism in Istria, where he died from wounds received in combat. His father, three brothers, and a nine-year-old sister were deported and disappeared in extermination camps.

"It is declared that Cesana Samuele, son of Vittorio, born in Trieste on February 7, 1924, joined the partisan forces in Istria on September 8, 1943. He was later transferred to the Garibaldi Brigade and never returned to his unit after December 1944.

(statement of the Provisional Committee of the Julian Partisans, 10/30/1945)

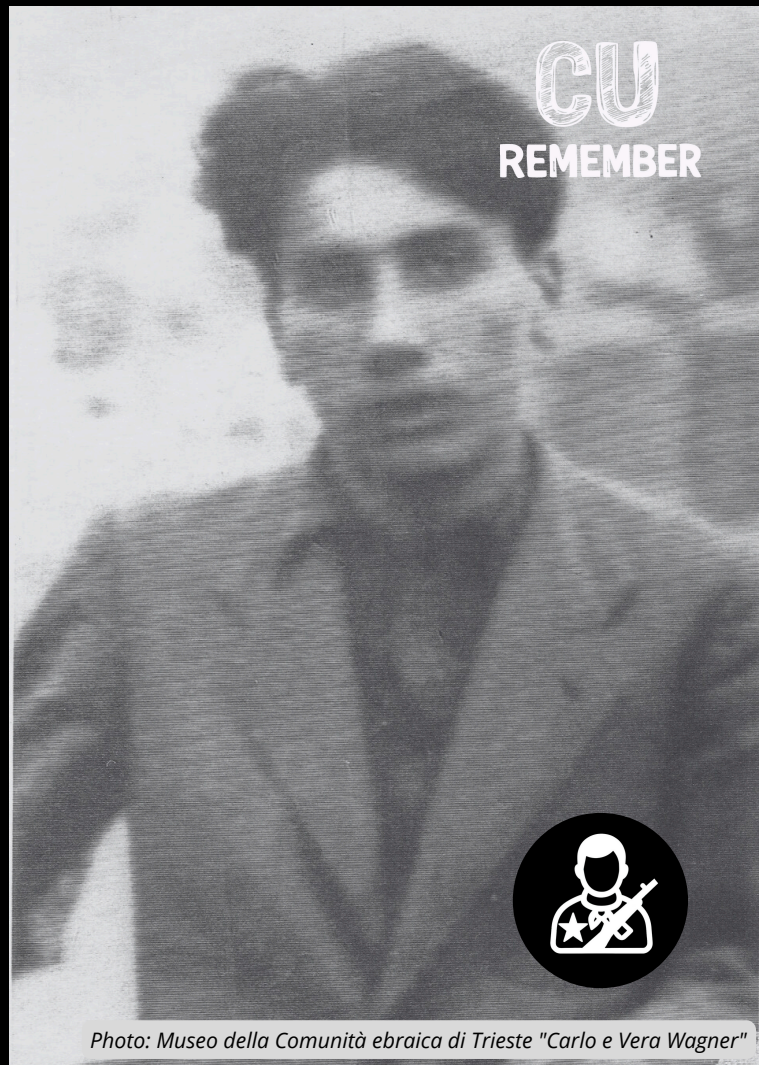


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