

IL RAMOSCELLO

ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY BREZZANO - CHRISTIAN SOCIAL WORK
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Dear readers

This issue only briefly touches on what we were privileged to experience in the fall. Once again we are heartily grateful for the way we were led by God in His peace.

Jürg reports on what became important to him during our time together with our Israeli friends at Casa Shalom.

Werner and I spent three days before our annual board retreat at Shalom, at Casa Nuova with Boris. This also allowed us to become more familiar with Daniela and Alessandro, and them with us.

Corinna tells us about her recent October vacation week.

In everything God gave us a cordiality and openness with each other, so things could be clarified and arrangements settled. With joy we look into the new year and are full of expectations. We sincerely thank all of you who continue to support the Comunità with prayer, finances and friendship.

Heidi Dallapiazza 



How do you keep the Sabbath?

During the October vacations, I invited my Jewish friends Veniamin and Olga Sadovski and their three children (ages 4, 8, 10) for a timeout week so that they could find some rest from their challenging lives as a **Living Israel** pastor's family. With them was a young couple, Timur and Margalit, the leaders of the **youth house in Rishon LeZion**. With the three children, it was a tumultuous week at the beginning. The children were constantly demanding attention! The sweets and the constant purchase of new toys did not really help, on the contrary.

Eventually, I wanted to know from my Messianic friends how they keep the Sabbath based on their Jewish tradition. Their answer was very sobering for me: obviously they also belong to the people who hardly come to rest in today's time. For me, this was directly related to their behavior.

Finally I started to tell about my own Sabbath experiences, when I suddenly realized: Now you - a Christian from the nations - are bringing back to them something that actually belongs to them. Knowing that as Messianic Jews they do not want to return to a legal form of the Sabbath, began to speak of what is behind the Sabbath.

In the biblical context, we see that God wants to meet us

at least once a week with undivided attention, not as slaves to work or anything else, but as free people. From Jews I had learned that it has a meaning that the Sabbath begins on the eve, indeed already on the day before: this is the time when one cleans up - also inwardly - and may deposit everything with God. The following night should be marked by shalom, the peace of God. Jesus is not concerned with the legal observance of the Sabbath. He taught that the Sabbath is for us humans, not the other way around. It is to be a benefit to our relationship with God, but also to create space to be open and free to our neighbors and friends. **It is about undivided attention!**

It is like children who long for undivided attention. They are like a mirror in this regard!

And we adult people? Aren't we also grateful when someone turns to us undividedly?



Keeping a non-legal form of Sabbath is challenging. It requires honesty with oneself, and it takes a willingness to leave to the side the things that tend to enslave and steal one's attention.

In my case: no news, no professional work, no meteo sites (this takes me captive).

Keeping the Sabbath can even help us have experiences that serve us in our daily lives during the week.

The Sabbath is definitely a gift from God to us humans.

Jürg Geilinger 

Olive harvest, Cooperativa and Castagnata

In mid-October I spent a week in the Comunità Brezzano with Martin Wunderli, who participated in many timeouts. On two days we helped with the olive harvest. Marco, who was in the Comunità Brezzano to abolish a bus, worked energetically with us. In unusual summer temperature we harvested the trees in the old way with net and plastic forks. Boris and Federica came with the tractor with which the harvest was brought to the Brezzanaccio house. Soon Boris will be able to take everything to an olive press. With Manuela, Maria's daughter, he has agreed that she will receive 50% of the olive oil, since the trees are on her land. Manuela showed up the day Martin had his birthday. Together with her we celebrated it with a fine meal on the terrace of Casa Shalom.



I liked the work in the field. How valuable olives are. Because olive oil is very healthy and is used in Italy in the preparation of many meals. In the Holy Scriptures, priests and kings were anointed with olive oil for their service. And so oil in its symbolism means the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Our Lord Jesus Christ was taken captive in Gethsemane after He was willing to give Himself for us in the battle of prayer. Gethsemane, or Gatchmanim means oil press. To obtain oil the fruit must be pressed, that is, broken. Jesus was ready for this.

With Boris and Federica I had an informative meeting with the Commercialista, the external accountant, in Grosseto at the beginning of the week. We were able to change **Federica Trevisan's** temporary employment contract into a permanent one. Now she is employed at the Cooperative at 80%. It was clarified how the commercialista worked with Maria. Because he has to get the information somehow, so that he can make an annual account at all. I also received the statutes of the "Brezzano società cooperativa sociale onlus" and together with Federica I

better understand their organization. 30% of the soci (cooperative members) must be persone svantaggiate, i.e. "disadvantaged" or we speak of "impaired" persons, because our cooperative is a social one. This difference in designation is typical of Italy, so is the way we treat them. In Italy there are not so many residential homes as in Switzerland. Disadvantaged people often live in the families because the pension is very small. From the meeting with Nicola Verruzzi, the mayor of Montieri, during the board retreat, I already knew that the Cooperativa sociale needs a person professionally trained in social work. I make myself available for this and can fulfill this as socio volontario with sporadic assignments. To celebrate Federica's new employment, we found a restaurant in downtown Grosseto. The owner, a smart Italian, invited us to his restaurant saying that he was the boss and that there would be only fish that day. He had already placed two small tables for us on the street, from where we had a view of the beautiful cathedral. Folkloric music was playing in the background. Then he actually served us a fishy appetizer, a second course of warm mussels, then a third with spaghetti alle vongole and at the fourth I slowed down out of concern for our stomachs and the bill! Already the rather grumpy server appeared with a dessert and the sly mordant wanted to serve us another limoncello. We laughed a lot!

One afternoon I went to Lame, where Federica lives, to work with her on many practical details. For me it is a real pleasure to work with her because she takes everything carefully and knows all about accounting. She also wants to update the "libro dei soci", the cooperative's book of members.

At Circolo, a bar in Gerfalco, I met Daniele Serafini together with Federica as translator. The latter works as a disadvantaged person in the Cooperative. I was amazed at how much I understood right away. Daniele is very grateful for the work in the Cooperative and the help of Boris and Federica. He was very open. I am glad that he reflects so well.

On our last day of vacation, Daniela and Alessandro invited us to the castagnata, their chestnut festival in the woodland they have been given by the Comunità to manage. It was a wonderful atmosphere as a street musician with a professionally trained voice sang Italian songs in the middle of the forest, playing a mandolin. Friends sat around a fire roasting marronis. I had already met Tidio, the musician, at Casa Nova when he put a chicken on my arm. I talked to him in the woods about faith after he told me that he had been in a seminary for a while as a young person to become a priest. The castagnata was a nice ending to our vacation.

Corinna Schmidt





WE THANK:

- for the encouraging cooperation in the board, as well as in Comunità Brezzano
- for the cordial cooperation in all complicated situations with the authorities
- for God's protection and preservation
- for all donors who faithfully support us
- for God's networking with places of prayer in Italy
- for the friendships and contacts in Israel

WE ASK:

- for a committed younger couple or/and singles who want to live in the community and take responsibility, personal initiative needed
- for enough finances for the daily life in the community, also with weaker fellow residents
- for regular stays in Casa Shalom
- for a continued good flow of donations in order to carry on with the pending repairs of the houses
- for wisdom for good decisions within the scope of the subsidy possibilities
- for volunteers and interns
- for a brother from „Living Israel“ who will live with Boris in Casa Nuova from spring



Without a note, we will use your donation where it is needed most.

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Account holder:

Trägerverein Comunità Brezzano

Tellstrasse 2

8004 Zürich

Zürcher Kantonalbank, Postfach, 8010 Zürich

Bankenclearing-Nummer: 700

SWIFT-Adresse (BIC): ZKBKCHZZ80A

QR-Code:



Association seat in Switzerland: Verein Comunità Brezzano, Tellstrasse 2, 8004 Zürich

Address in Italy: Comunità Brezzano, I-58020 Montieri-Travale/GR

Mail info@comunita-brezzano.org, www.comunita-brezzano.org

Editing and design: Heidi Dallapiazza