

THE WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

THREE MAIN EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE *MAITREYA FOUNDATION*

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE *INTERRELIGIOUS ROUNDTABLE OF ROME*

FROM THE 3rd TO THE 8th of FEBRUARY 2015



Fondazione Maitreya presents

‘Azioni e Percorsi di dialogo’ (Actions & Paths of Dialogues)

Capitolini Museums in Piazza Campidoglio

La Sapienza University, St. Pietro in Vincoli

Vascello Theatre



ROMA CAPITALE

TAVOLO INTERRELIGIOSO
di ROMA



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Under the auspices of the **United Nations**, the **Ministry of Labor**, Representation in Italy of the **'European Union'**, **ASL RME**, **Lazio Region**, **Bic Lazio**, **Fondazione Maitreya**, **Paema**, **Italian Hindu Union** and **Italian Buddhist Union (U.B.I)**

1st Event

Conference: The contribution of religious traditions: "freeing talent" for the common good

Tuesday, 3rd of February 15,30

Pietro da Cortona Hall

Capitolini Museum in Piazza Campidoglio, Rome

2nd Event

Conference: Share issues, routes and operational proposals related to cultural and religious pluralism, places of worship and co-existing in harmony.

Friday, February 6, 09.30 am

Cloister of the University St. Pietro in Vincoli,

University La Sapienza Faculty of Engineering, via Eudossiana Rome.

3rd Event

Expressions of Faiths: Two Music Concerts from different Faiths

- **Evelina Meghangi** - Jewish songs from the Mediterranean and Europe

- **SHŪSŪRRUS QUARTET** - Music inspired by the Buddhist Dharma with **JACELYN PARRY** - voice and sapeh, **STEFANO SALETTI** - bouzouki and oud, **RICCARDO MANZI** - guitar and live electronics, **PASQUALE LAINO** - duduk, soprano saxophone, clarinet. Accompanied by the videoart of Alessandro Trapani with selections of text from the Buddhist book, the Dhammapada.

February 8 at 18:30

VASCELLO THEATRE

Via Carini 78, Rome.

(free admission)

With the kind participation of :

Speakers of the 1st Event

Hon. Paolo Masini, Councillor School, and Sports Participation of capital Rome

Hon. Biondelli Franca, Secretary Ministry of Labor and Social Policy

Sen. Lucio Malan Member of the Constitutional Affairs Committee

Adv. Franco Di Maria, President of the Hindu Italian Union

Hon. Khalid Chaouki, Parliamentary Minister of the Union for the Mediterranean

Dr. Marina Zola, Head of Interfaith dialogue Focolare Rome

Prof. Gheorghe Militaru, Director Public Relations Orthodox diocese of Romania

Prof. Saul Meghnagi, Director Association Of Jewish culture Hans Hjonas

Prof. Maria Angela Falà, President Fondazione Maitreya and Vice President of the Italian Buddhist Union - UBI

Moderated by Prof. Paola Gabrielli Piperno, President "Interfaith Roundtable of Rome"

Speakers of the 2nd Event

Prof. Ing Antonio D'Andrea, Director DICEA

Hon. Francesca Danish, Councilor for Social Policies of Roma Capitale

Hon. Rita Visini, Councilor for Social Policies Lazio Region

Hon. Silvia Costa, MEP

Omar Camiletti, Islamic Cultural Centre of Italy

Denise Bertone, Italian Hindu Union

'Keiko' Gianfranco Lustrissimi. President of the Italian Buddhist Union, UBI

Prof. of Architecture, Ruggero Lenci, Professor Faculty of Engineering

Dott Angelo Tanese, Director General ASL RME

Ing Laura Tassinari, Director BIC Lazio

Moderated by Prof. Paolo Palomba, Maitreya Foundation and the Interfaith Roundtable of Rome

Testimonials:



Minister Khalid Chaouki, Italian Democratic Party:

“The dialog between faiths has to develop a stronger presence in the communication efforts of the media. Thanks to the World Interfaith Harmony Week held in Rome 2015, it is helping to signal a favorable advancement in paving the way towards starting a constructive discourse on Interfaith dialog here in Rome.”

Senator Lucio Malan, Forza Italia Party:



“Thanks to the meeting of the World Interfaith Harmony Week in 2015, it has opened up a new discourse on the need of understanding how we can help to promote the fullest freedom of expression of all the faiths in Rome. This event will be a significant step towards the creation of a law recognized by the state that can easily express a new multicultural Italian society.”

Minister Paolo Masini, Comune of Rome:



“The city of Rome has been pleased to support and spread the initiatives promoted by the Maitreya Foundation in informing it’s citizens and students on the importance of an open dialogue between the different religions in the city of Rome and for promoting the values transmitted by the different faiths in contributing towards the growth of a harmonious society cohesive to a peaceful and collaborative coexistence.”

Prof. Paola Gabbrielli Piperno, President of the Interreligious Roundtable of Rome:



“The World Interfaith Harmony Week proposed by the United Nations has for the first time debuted in the city of Rome with the keen participation of it’s citizens and students. During the unfolding events of the week, there has been successful developments in the various debates that took place offering proposals for new projects and eventually closing with artistic performances involving music, dance and poetry, all of which seek to express harmony between the different faiths.”



Prof. Antonio D'Andrea, Director of DICEA, Sapienza University of Rome:

“We are honored to have been able to host here in the department of engineering of the university of Spienza, the first World Interfaith Harmony Week in Rome 2015. The result of the exchanges that took place this week has shown that open interreligious dialogue can offer the city new ideas and projects to help to requalify spaces in the suburbs of the city with a strong presence of different religions in order to favor openness and sharing.”

Nell'ambito della *World Interfaith Harmony Week*, promossa annualmente dalle Nazioni Unite nella prima settimana febbraio, il Tavolo Interreligioso di Roma promuove tre eventi nella città

AZIONI E PERCORSI DI DIALOGO

**Martedì 3 Febbraio 2015
ore 15,30**

Musei Capitolini, Piazza del Campidoglio – Sala Pietro da Cortona

IL CONTRIBUTO DELLE TRADIZIONI RELIGIOSE: "LIBERARE TALENTI" PER IL BENE COMUNE

On. Paolo Masini, Assessore Scuola, Università e Partecipazione – Comune di Roma Capitale

On. Franca Biondelli, Sottosegretario Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali

Sen. Lucio Malan, Membro Commissione Affari Costituzionali

Avv. Franco Di Maria, Presidente dell'Unione Induista Italiana

On. Khalid Chaouki, Assemblea parlamentare Unione per il Mediterraneo

Dott.ssa Marina Zola, Incaricata Dialogo Interreligioso del Focolari a Roma

Padre Gheorghe Militaru, Consigliere relazioni pubbliche Diocesi Chiesa Ortodossa di Romania

Prof. Saul Meghnagi, Direttore Associazione di cultura ebraica Hans Hjonas

Prof. Maria Angela Falà, Presidente Fondazione Maitreya Istituto di cultura buddhista – UBI

Moderata Prof. Paola Gabrielli Piperno, Presidente Tavolo Interreligioso di Roma



**Venerdì 6 Febbraio 2015
ore 9,30**

Facoltà di Ingegneria, via Eudossiana 18, Sala affrescata del Chiostro di S. Pietro in Vincoli

QUALI LUOGHI A ROMA PER CONDIVIDERE CULTURE, ARTI, STILI DI VITA, TRADIZIONI RELIGIOSE DIVERSE

Prof. Ing. Antonio D'Andrea, Direttore DICEA, Sapienza Università di Roma

On. Francesca Danese, Assessore alle Politiche Sociali di Roma Capitale

On. Rita Visini, Assessore alle Politiche Sociali Regione Lazio

On. Silvia Costa, Europarlamentare

Omar Camiletti, Grande Moschea di Roma

Arch. Denise Bertone, Unione Induista Italiana

Prof. Arch. Ruggero Lenci, Facoltà di Ingegneria, Sapienza Università di Roma

Dott. Angelo Tanese, Direttore generale ASL RME

Ing. Laura Tassinari, Direttore BIC Lazio

Moderata Prof. Paolo Palomba, Tavolo interreligioso di Roma

Domenica 8 Febbraio 2015, ore 18,30
Teatro del Vascello, via Carini n. 78

"ESPRESSIONI DI FEDI" PERFORMANCE DI DANZA, MUSICA, CANTO E POESIA

Evelina Meghnagi – *Canti dal Mediterraneo*

Swamini Atmananda Giri – *Danza indiana Kuchipudi*

Quartetto Sùsumus con Jacelyn Parry – *Musica ispirata dal Dharma buddhista*

Sotto gli auspici di Nazioni Unite, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali, Rappresentanza in Italia dell'Unione Europea, ASL RME, Regione Lazio, BIC Lazio, Fondazione Maitreya, Atelier Paema, Unione Induista Italiana e Unione Buddhista Italiana

Actions & Paths of Dialogues

The World Interfaith Harmony Week now in its fifth edition, together with the Commune of Rome, institutions, religious communities and the world of culture has mobilized to open a new era of *actions and paths of dialogue* in the spirit of the indications outlined by the *King Abdullah II of Jordan*, creator of the *World Interfaith Week of Harmony* and proclaimed by the *UN General Assembly* October 20, 2010 with Resolution A / RES / 65/5.

This yearly celebration held in the first week of February, is an event of great symbolic value for the world whereby all can freely participate and proactively contribute to the dialogue of peace and interfaith initiatives created by the commitment and creativity of the participants in promoting positive and constructive Interfaith exchanges.

The [*Fondazione Maitreya*](#) proposed to the *Interfaith Roundtable of Rome* to organize in the eternal city of Rome, a week of events to commemorate the spirit of the World Interfaith Harmony initiative. Organizing these events has thus given rise to a strong involvement of representatives from all the main religions who participated in the roundtable of Interfaith discussions, to the presence of the institutions of Rome (The Commune of Rome, La Sapienza University, the Vascello Theatre) and for the contribution that the Holy Father has made in encouraging interfaith harmony and dialogue between the major faiths of humanity.

The event, held every year during the first week of February, has become an occasion for promoting international social cohesion, peace and understanding among followers of different religions. In this context, the general assembly encourages member states, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental leaders of interfaith movements and civil society to spread the message of harmony between faiths in churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship, each in accordance with their traditions and religious beliefs, and through the organization of cultural events and awareness campaigns.

The Maitreya Foundation and the Interreligious Roundtable of Rome, in following the spirit and the basic values of this event, they have taken an original and somewhat innovative approach in choosing civil institutions as the backdrop to the World Interfaith Harmony Week, taking place from the 3rd to 8th of February 2015.

The Commune of Rome, La Sapienza University and the Vascello theatre, emblems of politics, culture and art in our city, have in fact joined the project and targeted the discussion and the sharing of critical routes and operational proposals of action on issues related to cultural and religious pluralism, tolerance, places of worship and opposition to all forms of closure and extremist fundamentalism.

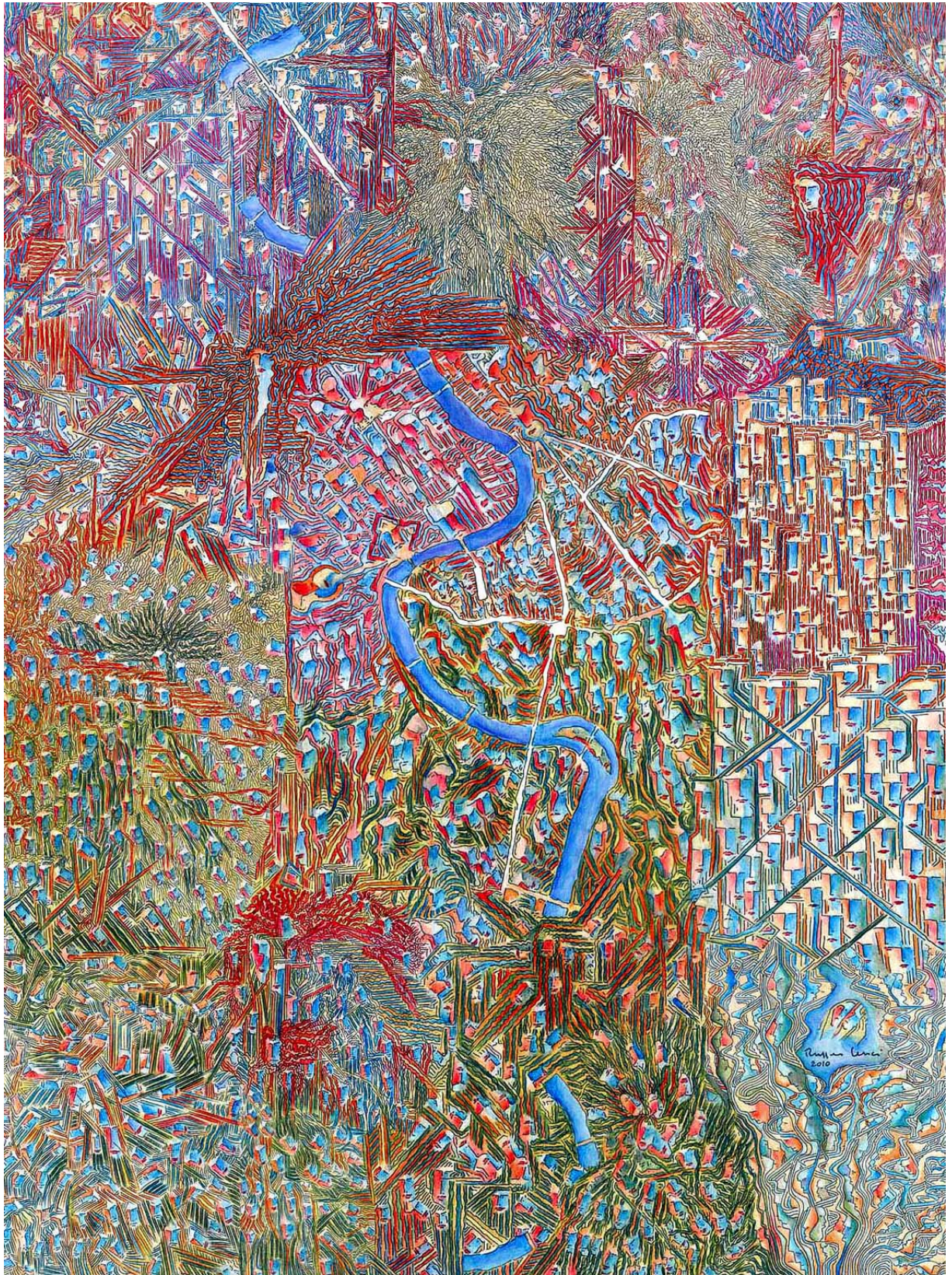
The calendar of events that unfolded involved two conferences where the main speakers of the events offered constructive proposals and shared their ideas and solutions on how, through collaborative institutional effort and innovative organizational design can we as a city create and push forward to actualize the discussions that took place and on how we can constructively seek to spread peace and Harmony. The final closing events of the week were two musical performances first with Evelina Meghnagi and in closing, [Jacelyn Parry](#) with the SHÛSÛRRUS Quartet.

Creation of the Interfaith Museum

During the conferences organized for the World Interfaith Harmony Week, the institutional bodies and participating religious representatives all agreed on pushing for the creation of a public space that can reveal, interact and communicate the daily lives of differing religious backgrounds. It was finally agreed that an Interfaith museum featuring not only the Abrahamic religions but also the Hindu and Buddhist faiths in a unique public space whereby cultural activities can take place in order to engage the wider public in the much needed discourse of Interfaith dialogue, identity, tradition, openness and tolerance. This will be a space that will encourage people to spend time, relax, reflect, engage, exchange, learn, create and debate with the aim of raising positive awareness of the beauty and diversity of humanities great spiritual traditions.

Art

The main poster design that promoted and publicized the events for the week was drawn and conceived by the Artist, Professor and Architect, [Ruggero Lenci](#). The drawing he created seeks to capture the faces of diversity in the city through a rendering of many faces that are arranged on either side of the two banks of the Tiber river that runs through the ancient heart of Rome.



Drawing by artist, professor and architect, Lenci Ruggero www.ruggerolenci.it

Summary of the events of the Week

Tuesday, February 3 Pietro da Cortona Hall, in the Capitoline Museums, Piazza del Campidoglio, was held the Conference **The contribution of religious traditions: "liberate talents for the common good"** which was attended by representatives of the junta Capitoline and members of Parliament whom for years have been engaged on the issues of freedom, dialogue and various national representatives of all religious faiths. Each speaker has shown that his talent has generated a result in favor of the common cause: the harmony between different faiths.

Friday, February 6 at the Hall of the frescoed cloister of San Pietro in Vincoli, (the seat of Michelangelo's masterpiece 'Moses') - Faculty of Engineering - where the conference **"What places in Rome can be created to share cultures, arts, lifestyles and different religious traditions"**, took place. With the participation of some councilors from the Commune of Rome, the Lazio Region, the Faculty of Engineering and the representatives of the Great Mosque of Rome, Hindus and Buddhists who were joined by the leaders of public health and agencies of the Lazio region such as the Business Innovation Centre - BIC - engaged for years on programs of social inclusion in the segment of business startups and the result of dialogue and integration of skills among young people of different ethnicities. **These various religious, organizational and institutional bodies have agreed to push for the realization of an Interfaith museum, the first of it's kind in the city of Rome.**

Sunday, February 8, at the Theatre Vascello, took place the show "Expressions of Faiths" featuring two performances of music, song and poetry with Evelina Meghangi singing in yiddish and **"Songs from the Mediterranean,"** and the SHŪSŪRRUS Quartet with Jacelyn Parry with **"Music inspired by the Buddhist dharma"**, accompanied by the metaphorical images of Alessandro Trapani featuring the words of wisdom of the Buddhist text, the Dhammapada.

Music



Evelina Megnagli sings Yiddish songs and songs from the Mediterranean



SHŪSŪRRUS Quartet with Jacelyn Parry at the Vascello Theater of Rome

World Interfaith Harmony Week 2015

8 febbraio 2015 h. 18.30 Teatro Il Vascello

ESPRESSIONI DI FEDI

Performance di danza, musica e canto

EVELINA MEGHAGI – Canti dal Mediterraneo
ATMANANDA - Danza indiana Kuchipudi
SHUSURRUS QUARTET – Musica ispirata dal Dharma buddhista
JACELYN PARRY - voce e sapeh
STEFANO SALETTI - bouzouki e oud
RICCARDO MANZI - chitarra e live electronics
PASQUALE LAINO - duduk, sassofono soprano, clarinetto

Teatro Il Vascello

Via G. Carini 78
Roma

Ingresso Libero



Ruggero Lenci

Settimana Mondiale dell'Armonia e del Dialogo tra le Fedi

Poster of the final musical event

The last of the events to take place and to celebrate the World Interfaith Harmony Week were two musical artistic performances. Both of these groups come from different cultural and religious backgrounds. Each of the performers sought to capture the essence of harmony by evoking musical atmospheres conducive to peace and identity. The first concert of the evening was music from Yiddish and Mediterranean traditions (with Evelina Meghnagi) and the closing performance of the evening was a Buddhist inspired music fusing melodies from South East Asia and harmonies of the contemporary European jazz music of today with Jacelyn Parry and the SHŪSŪRRUS Quartet accompanied by the videoart of Alessandro Trapani featuring selected text from the Dhammapada.

Conclusion

The city of Rome took part (over thirty publications of press releases announcing the event, on Teletext Rai Tv, as can be seen from the material attached) and welcomed the decision of the institutional bodies to take part on the key pressing issues related to 'harmony between the various faiths.' and to find actual solutions that can bring and involve the dialogue to the wider public.

Seeking a collective mutual path over these few events has led us to believe that in order to achieve a wider understanding of harmony and tolerance between the differing faiths in the city of Rome, we need to encourage the differing religious institutions to be more open and accessible in their precincts of worship and to genuinely welcome the possibilities of an open dialogue by sharing openly and warmly the beauty of their faith with respect and openness to differing traditions.

With this aim and conclusion in mind, we proposed to create a new generation of spaces that can facilitate the Interfaith dialog in a more intimate and neutral way.

The main idea is to set up an organizing committee among all the partners mentioned above to achieve in the city of Rome an "Interactive museum" that captures and reveals the intimate daily lifestyles and the Arts of the different traditions of all the major faiths. We believe that it is through the sensibilities of the Arts, Music, Dance, Poetry and Cinema, that can help to communicate the idea of harmony and tolerance in actualized spaces of interaction.

As a result of the events organized for the World Interfaith Week of Harmony, the next step of action for the committee is to raise the necessary funding in order to

realize the first Interfaith Museum in the City of Rome that can represent all the major faiths of humanity.

The common heritage of the different traditions is shared by the harmony that binds the paths of our daily lives to the practice of each practicing faith. When interweaved *Together* with artistic expressions such as music and art, it can propel manifestations of creative endeavours that allows for integrative spirituality to flourish and this perhaps can start to spearhead the dialogue here in Rome with the differing traditions in a state of openness, harmony and peace.

Please refer to the following links for a short video and press releases:

Video Presentation of the event in Rome:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oKMutvQ89o&feature=youtu.be>

News Links:

- <http://www.dazebaonews.it/italia/item/31988-a-roma-la-settimana-mondiale-dell-armonia-e-del-dialogo-tra-le-fedi.html>
- <http://www.catapulta.com.ar/archivos/14220>
- <http://www.distampa.it/news.asp?id=3466>
- <http://www.ematube.it/video.asp?id=8164>
- http://www.primapress.it/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=19284:per-la-prima-volta-a-roma-la-settimana-mondiale-dell-armonia-e-del-dialogo-tra-le-fedi-dal-3-al-8-febbraio-2015
- http://www.comunicati.net/comunicati/societa_civile/varie/344093.html
- <http://www.romaamor.it/wp/?p=14819>
- <http://ultima-ora.zazoom.it/news/256113/a-roma-la-settimana-mondiale-dell-armonia-e-del-dialogo-tra-le-fedi-dal-3-all8-febbraio-2015>
- <http://www.italialaica.it/eventi/53438>
- <http://www.informazione.it/a/9D3FC0A6-A414-4385-9F8F-FBEB7FCD2D08/A-Roma-l-a-Settimana-Mondiale-dell-Armonia-e-del-Dialogo-tra-le-Fedi-dal-3-all-8-Febbraio-2015>
- <http://www.regioni.it/news/2015/02/01/taccuino-settimanale-da-domenica-01-01-2015-a-sabato-07-02-2015-387029/>
- http://www.interculturando-roma.org/index.php/component/k2/item/505-tavolo_interreligioso
- <http://www.romatoday.it/eventi/settimana-armonia-dialogo-fedi.html>
- <http://www.newslocker.com/it-it/regione/roma/settimana-mondiale-dell-armonia-e-del-dialogo-tra-le-fedi-2015/view/>
- http://vd.pcn.net/it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2560:38-febbrario-settimana-mondiale-dell-armonia-e-del-dialogo-tra-le-fedi-&catid=22:dialogointerr&Itemid=9
- <http://comunicazioneinform.it/a-roma-la-quinta-edizione-della-settimana-mondiale-dell-armonia-e-del-dialogo-tra-le-fedi/>
- http://www.nev.it/archivio/NEV_7770001590.html

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