

## Lori Uziel

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She came from a family of Sephardic Jews from Thessaloniki, and she moved to Florence to study literature and later chemistry. Around 1939, she returned to her hometown, and, after the city's occupation, she and her family were victims of the deportations which annihilated the local Jewish community.

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[Fanny \(Fruma\) Rubinstein](#)

### Student in Italy

Lori was born in Thessaloniki on 5 June 1919; her parents were Eliezer, an office worker, and Dudun Carasso<sup>1</sup>. In her hometown, she attended the Italian high school (*liceo scientifico*) «Umberto I», an institution under the control of the Italian foreign ministry<sup>2</sup>. The decision to attend an Italian school was functional to the project of moving to Italy to continue her studies, as her family probably had ties with the Italian Sephardic community. Thanks to a scholarship sponsored by the Italian foreign ministry, Lori managed to enrol at the faculty of literature of Florence in the academic year 1937-38. She lodged in via del Castagno 27 with the Scitrug family, originally from Livorno and belonging to the Sephardic community. The Scitrugs hosted other Jewish students in those years, including Fanny Rubinstein, at the time a student of paediatrics<sup>3</sup>.

On 25 November 1938, she asked for a transfer to the faculty of chemistry, passed some exams and asked again for a transfer the next year, this time to the University of Padua<sup>4</sup>. After that, documents on her activities are scarce.

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<sup>1</sup> ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Uziel Laura», application and enrolment form to the Università di Firenze, 1 December 1937.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., consul general in Thessaloniki Michelangelo Zimolo to the rector, 10 November 1937.

<sup>3</sup> Ivi, enrolment form, cit. See in the portal: Francesca Cavarocchi, *Fanny (Fruma) Rubinstein* (2022).

<sup>4</sup> ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Uziel Laura», request to the rector, 25 November 1938; a note has been scribbled by hand: «on 9 XII 1938 she transferred to chemistry».

She certainly lost the scholarship and her plea for support at the University of Florence's *Cassa scolastica* was similarly denied<sup>5</sup>.

### **In the occupied city until deportation**

After the racial laws, Lori was forced to return to Thessaloniki, where she married Antzel Eliezer. She was later deported to Auschwitz on an unprecise date, together with her parents, her sister Matildi and other members of her extended family<sup>6</sup>. The Germans, who occupied the city in April 1941, started organising the deportation of the local Jews in January 1943. On 26 February, they forced them to wear the yellow star and live in the ghetto. On 15 March, the first deportations started, destined to Auschwitz, until the end of August. Of the 60,000 people who belonged to the Jewish community of Thessaloniki, only a few thousand would survive until the end of the war<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid., notification of the *Cassa scolastica*'s negative decision in relation to the fee reduction request, 4 May 1939.

<sup>6</sup> It should be her the «Eliezer Lora» entry, by Eliezer Ouziel, married to Antzel and deported from Thessaloniki to Auschwitz-Birkenau, in: Jewish Community Assembly of Thessaloniki, *List of Holocaust Victims Names*, updated on 23 February 2010, ed. by Heinz D.S. Kounio, available at: *Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum, The Holocaust in Greece* <<https://www.kkjsm.org>> and: *Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki Research Center, Shoah Victims* <<https://research.jmth.gr>> (accessed 10 March 2022). The database was also included in: *The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names* <<https://yvng.yadvashem.org>>.

<sup>7</sup> See on this: Marc Mazower, *Inside Hitler's Greece. The Experience of Occupation 1941-44*, New Haven (CT), Yale University Press, 1995; Michael Matsas, *The Illusion of Safety. The Story of the Greek Jews During World War II*, New York, Pella Publishing Company, 1997; Bea Lewkowicz, *The Jewish Community of Salonika. History, Memory, Identity*, London-Portland, Valentine Mitchell, 2006; Rena Molho, *La politique de l'Allemagne contre les juifs de Grèce. L'extermination de la communauté juive de Salonique (1941-1944)*, «Revue d'histoire de la Shoah», 185, 2006, pp. 355-378; Giorgos Antoniou, A. Dirk Moses (eds.), *The Holocaust in Greece*, Cambridge (MA), Cambridge University Press, 2018; also a summary in: Stefania Zezza, *Come una nave senza capitano e senza bussola: gli ebrei di Salonico nei campi nazisti e dopo la liberazione*, «Trauma and Memory», 9, 3, 2021 <<https://www.eupsycho.com>> (accessed 10 March 2022).

**Archival sources**

- ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Uziel Laura».
- *Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki Research Center, Shoah Victims*  
<<https://research.jmth.gr>>.

Francesca Cavarocchi

Translated by Nicola Cacciatore

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