



The Tusker Tribune



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Spring 2021

Yay! It's Spring Break! Now, What Shall I Do . . . ?



By Eva Nevsky
Tusker Tribune Staff

With this month marking the one-year anniversary of lockdown, I am confident to say that we are all bored out of our minds. That being said, here is a list of things that you can do to refrain from being permanently bored.



- Read.
- Find a Hobby.
- Wash Your Hands!
- Go on Social Media.
- Take a Nap.
- Listen to Music.
- Binge Watch Your Favorite TV Show or Movie.
- Pet Your Pet.
- Play Videogames.



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Editor's Note: Welcome to the first of several "culture and heritage" issues, where our writers tell us about their ancestry and traditions they and their families follow. Enjoy reading about different countries and backgrounds!

Venice is My Favorite Italian City



By Giuliana Baldo
Tusker Tribune Staff

My family is from Italy. We're all Italian, and I'm learning how to speak Italian in school. I've never been to Italy, but my favorite place in Italy is Venice because I've seen movies about people in Venice and I have seen photos of it, and it seems very cool.

Apparently, the meaning of my first name is "youthful", and "graceful" and my last name means "bold", and "daring".

Before COVID, my siblings, parents, and I always had this tradition to visit my grandma (who mostly speaks Italian) on every Sunday. We don't really have any other tradition besides that; that's probably not even a tradition either but that's the only

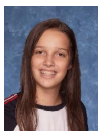


thing.

Something that makes me proud of my heritage is that every year in Italy there are two things: A carnevale (festival/carnival) goes on and there are a bunch of characters with masks and there are tons of floats that they prepare and create every year.

There is this witch called "La Befana" who flies around Italy on the Eve of Epiphany (January 5th) bringing sweets and gifts to good children and coal, onion, and garlic to naughty children. In exchange, many families leave her a glass of wine and a plate of sausages and broccoli.

Fascinating Traditions in Serbian Culture



By Emily Mladenovic
Tusker Tribune Staff

My family originates from Belgrade, Serbia. My last name is Mladenovic, which comes from the name "mladen"

which means "young".

I usually go to Serbia every year and sometimes every other year. My favorite place I've been to is Prokuplje, Serbia, because that's where my aunt and my grandparents live. I speak Serbian with my whole family. Some weird traditions we have are:



- It's not good to enter the house with your arms crossed.
- If you hiccup, someone is talking about you.
- If you bite your tongue, someone lied to you.
- If your left palm is itching, you will get money, but if it's the right one, then you will give money.

Now some actual traditions are we don't celebrate Christmas on December 25th; we celebrate Christmas January 7th and New Year isn't until January 14th.

I Love Visiting Kosovo and Albania



By Bledin Rexhepi
Tusker Tribune Staff

My family and ancestors originate in America and Kosovo. My first

name is Bledin and my last name is Rexhepi, and no, they do not mean anything.



I have been to Kosovo about four times in my life. My favorite place to visit is Kosovo. My parents and I do speak the Albanian language.



My family doesn't celebrate holidays in America, but when I am in Albania, we celebrate something like Halloween. I forget how

to say it in Albanian, but we have Halloween like four times a year.

My grandpa is known in Kosovo a lot. It makes me proud that when my grandpa was in his twenties, he came from Kosovo to America and started doing real estate in the Bronx and now my grandpa owns about 30 properties. This is my culture and heritage and why I am proud of my family. I hope you enjoyed reading about it.

Our Italian Family Has a Lot of Fun Together



By Justin Thomas
Tusker Tribune Staff

My family and I originate as Italians. There is no meaning about my last name, or first name related to my heritage. I have not been to Italy, but my mom has, and she loved it and she said it was so cool and amazing.



Soon, my mom said she will bring me and my



family and grandparents to Italy and I am so excited. I do not speak my heritage language and none of my family can speak it. I take Spanish in school so I might just learn Italian for fun.

My family and I like to have dinner a lot together and have a lot of pizza and pasta. Also, we sometimes celebrate St. Thomas, our Patron Saint's Feast Day, and it is really fun. I am proud of my religion and culture because I have a great family and we all love to eat and can have a lot of fun together.

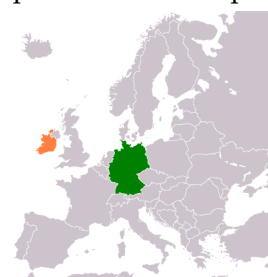
Proud of Being German and Irish



By Kieran Ryan
Tusker Tribune Staff

My ancestors come from Ireland and Germany. My last name, "Ryan", is an Irish name. And it

means "little king". I have never been to Ireland or Germany, but I would like to. I do not and my parents do not speak ei-



ther Gaelic or German, but my grandma speaks German.

I do not want to learn German because it seems really hard.

I celebrate St. Patrick's Day which is an Irish holiday. I'm proud of my heritage but not because of what they do or who someone is. It's just that I like that who I am.

I Really Love My Dual Heritage



**By Emily DeJesus
Tusker Tribune Staff**

My family and I come from El Salvador and Puerto Rico. My mom's last name is Solórzano, but I take after my dad's last name, DeJesus. It has to do with his side of his family since he is 100% Puerto Rican and my mom is 100% Salvadoran.



I have been to Puerto Rico two times and I'm going a 3rd time this summer. I have never been to El Salvador because I don't have a passport.

I love going to the beach in Puerto Rico because the water is so clear and blue and the water is always so

cool and refreshing. I can speak a little bit of Spanish because my mom and grandma sometimes talk to me in Spanish.

One of my favorite traditions is on every birthday, my grandma makes WHATEVER that person wants. What makes me proud about my culture is that everyone is so fun and loud from my mom's side. From my dad's side, what makes me proud is that they really know how to fix problems and thing like that, so each side of my family has a little piece of me from my mom's side and from my dad's side. I'm proud to say I'm 50% Salvadoran and 50% Puerto Rican.

I Would Be a Grade Ahead in South Korea!



**By Chloe Lee
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I am South Korean, 100% percent, from both of my parents. All my ancestors are Korean, and I can speak some Korean. I cannot speak it fluently, but I am still learning some of stuff that I need to learn.



I have visited Korea twice and it was great.



Some facts about South Korea are that it's very hot every season, so mostly, if you go in winter, it will

most likely be warm. We have this tradition that we do every new year (February 1) where we dress up in specific clothes and it's for giving thanks for the year and for all the good occurrences that happened during the year.

In Korea, they count pre-school as one school year so right now, if I were living in Korea, I would be 12 in 7th grade.

I Enjoyed Visiting Hungary And Romania



**By Simon Szabo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

My mom and dad are Hungarian and Romanian.

My last name, if you want to translate, is "tailor". I have only been to both Romania and Hungary once and it was fun. I have been to Budapest (the capital of Hungary) which was really nice.



In Romania, there are a lot of mountains and it was so cool because we went to one of the most famous ones in Romania which had markets on top and different things.

I do speak Hungarian. I do not know much Romanian. We celebrate this tradition called "name day" where there are many different Hungarian names and on different day, it is that day that a particular name was created.

Around Christmas, instead of the Advent candles, we do it with different wreaths and they are very nicely created. The thing that makes me proud of my heritage is the food. They have really good sausages that they make, and on New Years, we cook an entire pig that lasts for the entire year.



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Very Proud of my Unique Heritage



By Christopher Gonzalez-Ceja
Tusker Tribune Staff

My ancestors originated from Machaon, Mexico. My name, Christopher, is from Jesus Christ. I have been to my country of my heritage about four or five times. And I speak Spanish fluently.



Some of my favorite traditions are Dia De Los Muertos and Cinco De Mayo. The thing that makes me proud of my heritage is that I'm different from other people and people are usually impressed at what I do as a Mexican.



Family Characterized by Hard Work



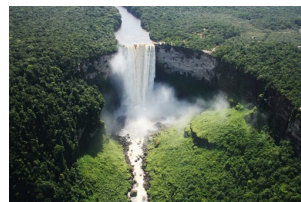
By Jeremy Jawahir
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello, my name is Jeremy Jawahir, and I will be telling you about my heritage.

My family is from Guyana, a country in South America. My last name, Jawahir, means "Jewel" in Arabic. Guyana doesn't have a different language; they speak in English because Guyana was once ruled by Great Britain.



I have visited Guyana once but my family and I plan to go there again after COVID ends. And we have a couple traditions. We celebrate Diwali, which is the festival of light, which is celebrated in October.



Guyana also has a landmark which is Kaieteur Falls, and it's the world's largest one drop waterfall.

One characteristic of my family is that we are hard workers. My dad's dad had to work 7 days a week 10 hours a day just to get a visa and a plane ticket to go to New York. It was the same with my mom and her mom. And when they got to New York, my dad and my mom had to work 7 days a week and 15 hours a day in order to buy our house and have me.

Traditions are Very Meaningful



By Juliana Maffei
Tusker Tribune Staff

The country my family and my ancestors originate from is Italy. My first name, which is Juliana, means "youthful" and "grateful" in Italian. My last name, which is Maffei, was first found in Florence, Italy.



I've never traveled to Italy before, but I am hoping to someday. My parents have both traveled there and they say it's so beautiful and that it was their favorite trip. Both my grandparents used to live there when they were younger, so I would really love to be able to go there and see what it is like.



My mom's parents came by boat to Ellis Island. Also, I have a lot of cousins and relatives living in Italy whom I have never met before that I really want to get the chance to meet.

I have been hearing my grandparents and great grandparents speak Italian since I was born, so I can understand their conversations most of the time. Also, I've been taking Italian for two years in school.

Some of my favorite traditions of my culture/heritage that my family celebrates is baking during Easter and Christmas, eating early dinners on Sundays, and celebrating the seven fishes on Christmas Eve. What makes me proud of my heritage is that Italians are great cooks. I love getting to eat Italian food because it's so delicious and my favorite kind of food to eat!

Proud of Portuguese Soccer Tradition



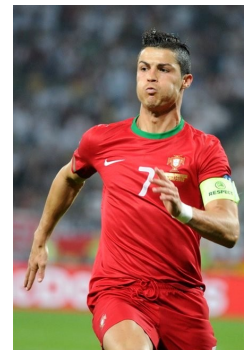
By Nick Goncalves
Tusker Tribune Staff

My family is from Portugal and Italy. My last name in Portuguese means, "Son of Goncalo". I have never visited Portugal, but I went to Italy once and my favorite place was my grandpa's house when he lived in Italy.



I do not speak any language but I am going to learn Portuguese and my mom speaks Italian and my dad speaks Portuguese.

My family does not celebrate any traditions, however, it makes me proud that there is one of the best soccer players who is from Portugal, Cristiano Ronaldo, and every time the World Cup is on, we go to Florida and watch it with my family that lives there in Florida.

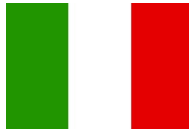


Close Italian Family is Great



By Jade Molina
Tusker Tribune Staff

My ancestors are from Italy and Sicily. My last name has no particular meaning in my language of my heritage. My last name is Molina and it is Spanish, not Italian.



I have not been to the country of my heritage before. But my mom says that maybe one day, we can go to Italy so I can see my aunts and cousins. Also so when I learn more Italian, I can speak to others.

I do speak the language of my heritage but I do not know much of it. My entire family is Italian and they know a lot of it. Sometimes they even speak Italian to each other, so yes, I do want to learn more Italian so I can speak to them.

My favorite traditions of my heritage are when it's Christmas Eve and my mother does the feast of the seven fishes. The seven fishes is when my mother cooks seven different fish dishes on Christmas eve. I am proud of my heritage because my Italian family's very affectionate and loving.

Proud of the Beauty of Ireland



By Ryan Hunter
Tusker Tribune Staff

My family came from Ireland on a boat to America. My name, Ryan, does



not mean anything in Gaelic, but my middle name Thomas, is my dad's name.

Although I have never been to Ireland, I very much want to go because of its beautiful landmarks and miraculous views.

Although no one in my family speaks Gaelic, I love the holiday of St. Patrick's day. My favorite part is the corned beef and cabbage.

A famous person from Ireland is St. Patrick because he has a whole holiday dedicated to him. He is well known for bringing Christianity to Ireland.

Proud of the First Woman President of Ireland



By Olivia Wiegand
Tusker Tribune Staff

My family originates from Ireland. My parents didn't name me after my heritage, but in Ireland, my name, Olivia, is "Oilibhia". I have never been to Ireland but I did a virtual tour the other day. I do not



speak Gaelic, either, nor do my parents, but my great grandparents did. My family and I celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and we make Irish soda bread together.



For my person, I chose Mar Robinson. She was born on May 21st 1944 and is still alive to this day and she is 76 years old. Mary was the first female President of Ireland. She was the 7th president of Ireland. Mary served from 1990

This Photo by Unknown to 1997.

Mrs. Robinson is also a human rights leader. She was born and raised in Ballina, Ireland.

Mrs. Robinson has lived in my places since then, such as Zürich, Switzerland, and Dublin, Ireland. She has 3 children Tessa Robinson, Aubrey Robinson and William Robinson. Mary is married to Nicholas K. Robinson. They have been married for 49 years.

German, Italy and Ireland Are All a Part of Me



By Andrew Underkoffler
Tusker Tribune Staff

My family originates from Germany, Italy, and Ireland. My last name means "Under the Hill" in German. I do not speak any of those languages but since I know Spanish, I sort of speak Italian. I also plan to learn how to speak German.



I have never been to Germany, Italy or Ireland, but I've been to Costa Rica and Canada. My parents haven't been to Germany, Italy, or Ireland, either.

We don't really have traditions during Christmas, Valentine's Day and Halloween, but we do like to have a good time on those special occasions.



I'm proud of my heritage because I have family in all three countries and it's pretty cool. Those places are also beautiful and I wouldn't like to be anything else.

I'm also proud of my great grandfather, who fought in World War II, even though I never had a chance to meet him.