



# The Tusker Tribune



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## Lots of Tradition from Danish, Italian and Ukrainian Heritage



**By Lia Babaon  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

In my family, my mom's side is Danish and Italian. When I would ask why my name was spelt LIA instead of Leah, or Lea, my grandma would tell me because it's the Danish way.



I have been to Denmark once. But I've never been to Italy or Ukraine. I am currently learning the Danish and Italian languages.

For family traditions, in Denmark, we would normally not use plastic Easter eggs. They would use chocolate Easter bunnies. And there would also be a traditional fish dish with fish and fish eggs. For birthdays, we have homemade pasta and meatballs! And for a Danish desert, we have "Ablaskiva".



I used to call my grandma "mor mor". In Danish, it meant "mother's mom". And soon, I am planning on going to Denmark. Also I am Ukrainian, so we paint egg shells for tradition. My grandma, grandpa, mom and I would sit at the table and get the egg whites and yolks out of the egg and then paint the shell, then hang them on Christmas trees or in glass vases.

## Polish, German, and Italian Roots



**By Alex DiPasquale  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

My family is from Italy, Germany, and Poland. My last name means "Easter", from the root word, "Pasqua" or "Pascha".



In my family, no one speaks Italian. However, my family eats a lot of Italian food, like pasta, pizza, rigatoni, calzones, and Italian pastries.

I have never been to Italy but I'd like to go there some day.

So in conclusion, I have never been to Italy, but I do eat a lot of Italian food.



*Editor's Note: Welcome to the second 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!*

## Mayan Culture Has a Proud History



**By Sammy Abzun  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

My family is from Guatemala, which is in Central America. I don't know, but I'm pretty sure that my name does not have a special meaning in my culture.



I have been to Guatemala more than five times. I mostly go one time every year. My favorite place that we visited was probably this wonderful hotel near Antigua that was close to a volcano.



Guatemalans speak Spanish. My family speaks mostly Spanish. We don't really celebrate traditions in New York, but if we were in Guatemala and there's a traditional event going on, we will participate.

What makes me proud of my country is mostly the history and the landmarks. For instance, there's the Mayan history. The Mayans have a landmark called Tikal where they use to stay at. You can still see the temples and even climb on them, but it's a little unsafe because there are no railings or anything to keep you from falling. People are still discovering more temples in Tikal.



I'm very proud of my heritage because mostly of the traditions with all the bright color and designs shows how creative and shows our meaningful history through art.

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## Learning the Language of My Heritage



**By Mitch Monahan  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

My family and I are Italian. My last name does not have a meaning in my language.

I have never to Italy, but I would like to go someday. I have been taking Italian classes for the past seven months. My parents do not speak the language, but my grandparents do speak the language.

I have a lot of traditions. One of my favorite traditions is to eat St. Joseph's Day pastries on St. Joseph's Day. Another thing that I like to do is eat spaghetti and meatballs on Sundays.

I also like to celebrate Carnevale for the 40 days before Easter. My most favorite thing to do is help my mom and dad cook the food for the holidays.

One thing that makes me proud of culture is that Italians are good cooks and Italian food is my favorite food. That is all about my culture.



This Photo by Unknown Author



## I Hope to Visit Italy Soon

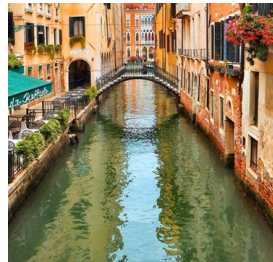


**By Jenna Quas  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

I'm 75% Italian because my grandpa was born in Italy with his sister and brother and mother. When he was my age, they took a boat to the U.S. to live here. That's also why I take Italian because they can all speak Italian.

The exception is my great uncle Willy. He died of cancer a couple years ago. I don't believe my last name has a particular meaning but I should ask my grandpa.

I have never visited Italy, but I really would love to go sometime. However, it's hard with my big family and COVID.



My family and I have a large pasta and bread feast every Christmas or for a birthday. My grandma cooks.

I'm proud that I'm Italian because the language is beautiful and the place is beautiful.



## Grandparents' Cooking Makes My Heritage Come Alive



**By Juliet Gheradi  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

My ancestors originate from Italy. My last name, "Gherardi", is Italian. It does not have any meaning, though.

I have never been to Italy, but I do plan to go there some day. When I go to Italy, I would like to visit Rome, and Venice.

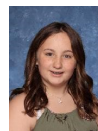
When my grandparents visit my house, they talk to me in Italian. They usually ask me what I am learning in Italian class.



My family does not celebrate Italian traditions, but if we went to Italy, I would celebrate Carnevale. I love being Italian because of the amazing food. My grandparents are very good cooks and whenever I eat their food, it is delicious. I also like being Italian because of how beautiful the cities are.



## Lots to Celebrate with Irish, German and Italian Background



**By Kristin Strang  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

My family originates from Ireland, Germany, and Italy.

My great, great, great, great grandfather grew up in Germany and my great, great grandmother's family came from Ireland.

On my dad's side, my great grandfather grew up in Italy and his wife grew up in Ireland.

My name does not have a particular meaning in my heritage. I also have never been to the various countries of my heritage and I don't speak any of the languages.

I do, however, plan on learning Italian. I love celebrating St. Patrick's Day, and at Christmas, we make gingerbread houses.

We eat potatoes because they are part of an Irish tradition, and we have different Italian foods for different holidays. My grandma makes meat pie every Easter.

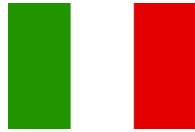


## Some of My Ancestors Were Illustrators!



**By Frank Illuzzi  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

My family originates from Italy. My first name does not have any sort of meaning, but my last name does have meaning. It means "detailed illustrator." Some of my ancestors that have the last name "Illuzzi" have created illustrations.



I have not traveled to Italy, but I would like to go in the future. My dad went to Italy many times.



I don't speak Italian. I do not plan on learning how to speak Italian, but I may learn some basic words if I decide to go there.

One activity we like to do is cook Italian specialties. We make frittelle and focaccia for Christmas. Also, we make meat pie for Easter.

Something that makes me proud is making all the interesting food for the different holidays.

## Looking Forward to a Trip to Italy in Two Years



**By Kate Seeger  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

My ancestors are from Germany, Italy, and Scotland. My middle name, "Ann", was my great grandma's name.



I have never been to any of those places but we are going to Italy in two years. I do not speak any of those languages, and neither do my parents. I am, however, learning to speak Spanish, and eventually, I may try to learn Italian.

We celebrate something called Octoberfest every October with my cousins.



One interesting fact is that Ariana Grande is Italian.

## St. Patrick's Day Plays a HUGE Role in My Heritage



**By George Sullivan  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

This is all about my Irish heritage, what we eat, and the traditions we follow, like St. Patrick's Day.



One thing we do as Irish people is we celebrate St. Patrick's Day and eat Shepard's Pie and other items, like corned beef. We also make tons of Irish soda bread, and we always wear green on St. Patrick's Day.



Another thing we do is we play a lot of golf and rugby and some of the Irish make it to the pros because they like playing the it and become better at it every day.

Also, in Ireland, your steering wheel is on the right side of the car and you drive on the left side of the road, like in England.

In conclusion, all of the Irish celebrate St. Patrick's Day, eat different foods, and play different sports.

I think Ireland is a great country and the Irish are very funny people. I really like my heritage.

## We Love Being Together and Talking About the Past



**Dean Palazzolo  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

My family is from Italy. I do not think that my last or first name have any particular meaning.

I have never been to Italy but we are actually planning on going next year. I do not speak Italian but my mom learned it when she was in school. Also, my dad learned it, too, but they both forgot a lot of it.



I do not want to learn Italian because I am learning a different language now. It would be hard to try to do both.



My family doesn't really celebrate any traditions with our culture. We normally just do our own thing and hang out with each other.

I heard a lot of great stories about our culture, but no one has told us about a famous person or someone who did something good. We normally just talk about our aunts and uncles from a long time ago. Also, we talked about how different it was between then and now..

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