

President: Patrick Di Lullo
1st Vice President: Debbie Miller
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Trustees: Kay Corsaro
 Sarah DiLullo
 Tony Berlinigieri
Parliamentarian: David Young



Mission/Vision Statement

The Italian Community of Akron, Inc. (Ohio), Le Radici' wants to reach the entire Italian-American community and all those who love Italy. The main objective of our association is to organize and promote activities with the purpose of introducing to the Italian community the different facets of the Italian culture. This is why 'Le Radici' targets the whole community with no distinction of regional origin or age group. One of our most ambitious projects involves the construction of an Italian cultural center where various cultural and recreational activities would take place. Such a center would include an Italian library, classes for teaching the Italian language, a hall for theatrical shows, a museum, an indoor bocce court, an outdoor soccer field and tennis courts.

'Le Radici' è un'organizzazione che si propone alla Comunità Italo Americana e di tutti coloro che amano l'Italia. L'obiettivo primario è quello di intraprendere iniziative di vario carattere che possono portare la comunità a contatto con le molte espressioni della cultura e tradizione Italiana. Uno degli obiettivi più ambiziosi riguarda la costruzione in questa zona di un Centro Culturale Italiano che potrà ospitare manifestazioni culturali e ricreative.

PRESIDENT REPORT

We are in the doldrums of winter and we all need a little help to get through our winter blahs.

Sit back, relax, and enjoy a little drink if you are so inclined. Read a book, work on a puzzle or take a brisk walk outside.

Feb. 14, is Valentines Day and I wish all you ladies out there a very Happy Valentines Day.

Our club's scopa class starts on Feb. 20 and our Art class on Feb. 21.

Il mio cuore batte solo per te.
 – My heart beats only for you.

Patrick DiLullo, President of Le Radici

LA CUCINA DELLA RADICI

Recipe by Ann Petzker
 Fried Zucchini

Zucchini	Bread Crumbs
Flour	Oil
Eggs	

Slice whole zucchini in round shapes or 1/2 long shape. Roll in flour, egg and bread crumbs. Fry in oil. Serve hot.

FEBUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 - Corrine Wagner 8 - Mel Todaro, Jr.
 9 - Karen Bakita 11 - Antonietta Altieri
 23 - Richard Chrickshank

CONDOLENCES

Le Radici would like to express our sincere condolences to Sarah DiLullo on the loss of her mother, Mary S. Scaffidi.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Super Bowl - Feb 2
 Valentines Day - Feb 14
 President's Day - Feb 17
 Marde Gras - Feb 25
 Ash Wednesday(Lent) - Feb 26
 Leap Year - Feb 29

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The next meeting of Le Radici will be on Tuesday Feb. 11, 2020.
 5:30pm Board Mtg. 7:00pm Member Mtg.3411 Wyoga Lake Rd.,
 Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

The 'Real' Italian Language

Tony Traficante

So You Want to Speak Italian!

“Which Italian?”

“Wadda ya mean which? The real Italian!”

“Well, now, which one is that?”

“The one they speak in Italy, but of course...”

Actually, there are a number of “real” Italian languages. For example, did you know the “dialect” you, your parents or grandparents may have spoken was real Italian... and still is! In fact, the so-called Italian “dialects” were the official languages of the separate Italian territories, before the unification. During the “Risorgimento” the “dialects” of the territories, became the “other” real Italian languages of an integrated Italy.

The Italian language originated long ago, and as far back as the 3rd century. It came from “Vulgar” Latin, the common (rather than the classical) version of Latin. Italian remains the closest language to Latin than any other language.

One of the first documents written in the vernacular Italian was a legal document called “Placate Cassinese.” Written about 960, it reads “Sao ko kelle terre, per kelle fini que ki contene, trenta anni le possette parte Sancti Benedicti.” (I know that those lands, that here are registered, and everything that they contain, have been property of the Abbey of Saint Benedict for thirty years). It is a very famous document, still in existence, preserved and located in the Abbey of Montecassino.

The various dialects posed a significant challenge for the leaders of the unification of Italy. Even as the nation bound together geographically and politically, a united Italy lacked that singular element of a common language. So it was, that in 1861, Tuscan, the Florentine dialect, was chosen to be Italy’s national language. It seemed Tuscan was a logical choice, since Firenze, at the time, was the cultural and commercial center of the Italian peninsula — and Tuscan was the language of the famous Italian writers Dante, Petrarca and Boccaccio.

But, it would be years before a universal Italian language would become part of the everyday public fabric. Not all Italians were keen to accept the “universal” language. Why? Because, Tuscan, essentially represented the language of the “literati” and it was mostly a written language. As a result, the regions continued using their local dialects.

Benito Mussolini, as some may believe, was not the “architect” of the universal Italian language. However, it was he who outlawed the use of dialects, in the public domain and forced the use of the standard Italian language. Mussolini, as head of the government, was said to have been embarrassed by the Italians of one region, who could not understand Italians of another. He, therefore, made it compulsory that all public schools, local, regional and central governments and media teach, accept and use only the standard Italian language.

Today, the majority of the Italian population speak the national “standard” language. However, many of the regional dialects continue in the home, among “paesani” and within the local towns.

Visit our website: WWW.LERADICI.ORG for further information.

