



## Pathways to Portland & Bologna

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### The Year of Italian Culture

The Italian government has designated 2013 as “The Year of Italian Culture in the United States.” Click here

<http://www.italyinus2013.org/en> for a calendar of events as well as a slide show of Italian landmarks. Note that some of the events are online essays dealing with a wide range of topics.

One of the events of which the Italian government is one of many co-sponsors is the annual conference of the American Association for Italian Studies, 11-14 April 2013, at the Valley River Inn, Eugene. Click here for more information:

<http://center.uoregon.edu/conferences/AAIS/2013/> Please note that conference attendees must pay the conference registration fee (\$105.00), well worth it given the wide range of topics on the program.

### Visit by Consul General of Italy

**Mauro Battocchi**, Consul General of Italy, San Francisco, will visit Portland on Friday, April 12, 2013. Members of the Italo-American community are invited to a reception on Friday, April 12, starting at 6 p.m. at the offices of Ater Wynne LLP, 1331 SW NW Lovejoy St., Suite 900, Portland. Please notify Phil Potestio, [potestio@hotmail.com](mailto:potestio@hotmail.com) by Tuesday, April 9, if you plan to attend.

### Save the Date

**May 21, 2013.** The evening of March 21, 2013, is the date of the annual open Board meeting, which includes the election of new officers and Board members, and the Amici dinner. Details about the dinner are forthcoming. Watch your email and for the May issue of our newsletter.

### Italian Radio

It is now very easy to access many Italian radio stations that are broadcasting on the internet. Click here <http://www.listenlive.eu/italy.html> for a list of stations you can now access on your computer.

### Ferrari's Latest



The newest Ferrari, which some car experts consider the finest car ever built, costs \$2.1 million. It's too late if you want one since the entire production has sold out. Most customers were Americans. Now I know why the super-rich need tax cuts.

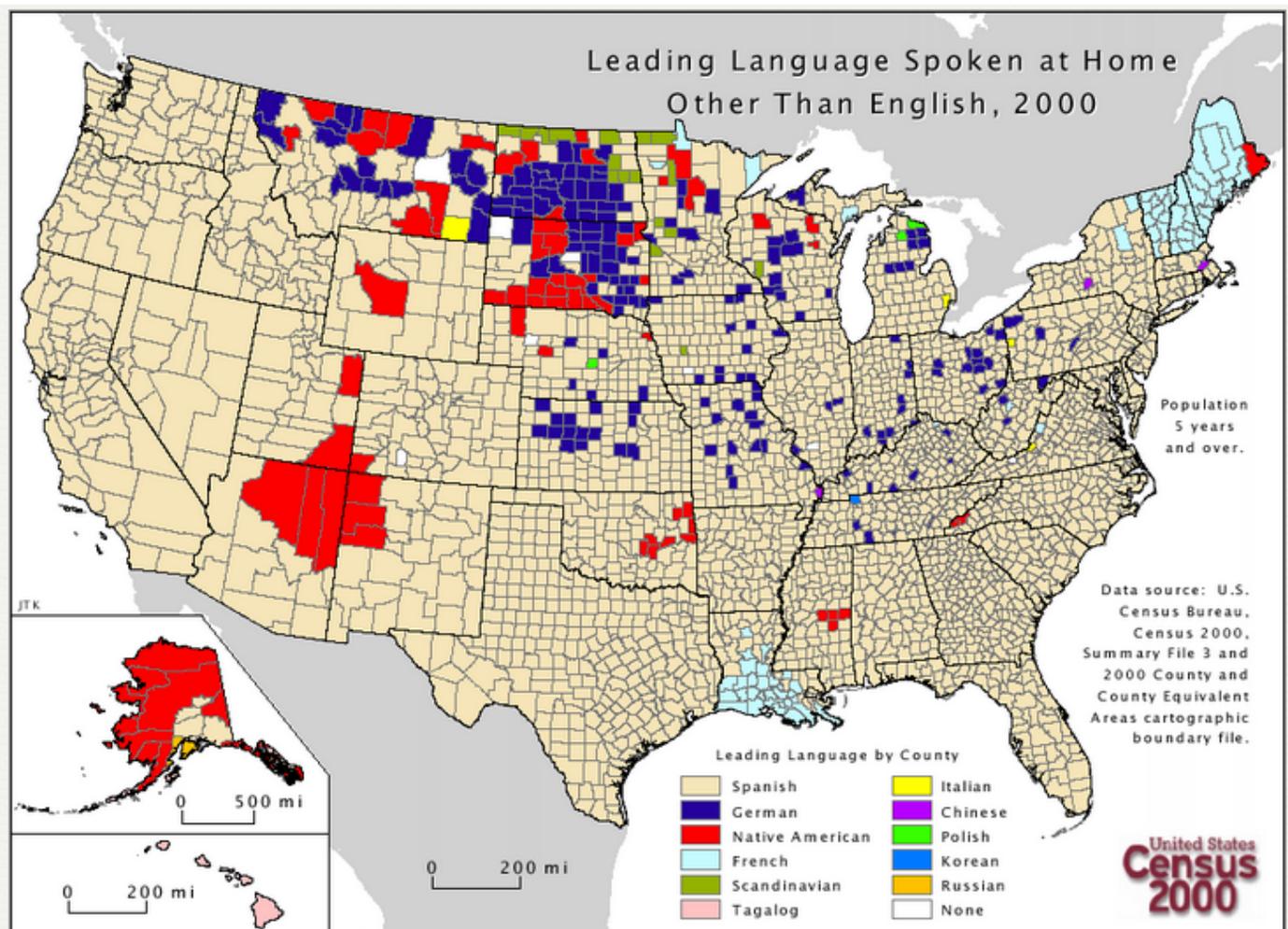
## Where in the U.S. is Italian the 2<sup>nd</sup> most spoken language at home?

The 2000 Census Bureau survey dealt with the question of the predominant second language (after English) people spoke in each county in the nation. If you look closely at the map below, you will find four counties where Italian was the leading language spoken at home, after English, based on the 2000 census. I'm not sure why there are Italian-speakers in Craig County, Virginia. The county has a population of just over 5,000, and it is one of the state's poorer counties. Information on the internet suggests its economy was based solely on small farms in the Appalachians, and that it is now promoting itself as a tourist mountain retreat.

Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, is just west of Pittsburgh. Based on the 2010 over 98% of the population is white, and people of Italian origin (26.1%) is the largest ethnic group, followed by those of Germanic and then Irish origin. No doubt we are looking at descendants of immigrants who worked in the steel mills.

Macomb County, Michigan, is just north of Detroit. The 2010 census doesn't give a breakdown by national origin, but we are no doubt dealing with descendants of immigrants who worked in Detroit's automobile industry.

But what are Italians doing in Powder River County, Montana? Here, as in Craig Co., VA, data may be misleading. In 2010 Powder River Co. had a population of 1,743, down from 1,858 in 2000. Just shy of 99% are white. The 2010 census listed 3 Asian-Americans, 3 Native Americans, and 14 Hispanics. Broadus, the county seat and only incorporated town in the county, had a population of 468 in 2010. The county's major source of income and employment: cattle ranching and supportive professions and occupants, e.g., vet medicine, blacksmith. A second source of income: big game hunting guides. The number of legal foreign-born residents in the county in 2010: four (4). For Italian to be the leading 2<sup>nd</sup> language spoken at home after English may mean there are four native Italians in the county. I'm imagining that an Italian couple with two children bought a ranch.



## Official Notes

- PGE has matched Board member Silvia Melchiorri's contribution to PBSCA. In addition, thanks to Ms. Melchiorri, PGE has given PBSCA a \$400.00 grant.
- Former treasurer Ray Verzasconi registered PBSCA in a contest sponsored by Chase Bank, Inc., and a number of PBSCA donors cast votes for PBSCA. PBSCA didn't win the \$1M grand prize, but it did receive enough votes to receive a \$200.00 donation. Next year hopefully we will do as well or better. PBSCA can't turn its nose up at \$200.00.
- At the May 21 Board meeting that precedes the Amici dinner, the Board will have to elect several officers and Board members. If you would be interested in serving, please contact Phillip Potestio, [potestio@hotmail.com](mailto:potestio@hotmail.com)
- Eight Portland students will be going to Bologna for two weeks this summer under the auspices of PBSCA. Students and their parents are responsible for their airfare and miscellaneous expenses while in Italy, but our Bologna sister city counterpart provides them with home-stays and excursions to Florence and Venice. PBSCA covers only the expenses of the chaperon who will once again be Sally Hudson.

Both Sally Hudson and Karen McKay, of course, have volunteered many hours this year setting up the exchange program, interviewing applicants and their parents, and making arrangements in Bologna.

Without your donations, the Youth Exchange Program could not exist. Everyone on the Board donates their time. We really cannot expect anyone to donate over \$2,500.00 in out of pocket expenses as well.

So to those of you who are donors, thank you. If you aren't a donor, consider becoming one. The Board's goal is to provide one or more scholarships for the Bologna exchange program so that PBSCA can send one or two students from low income homes to Bologna.

Donations can be sent by check (payable to PBSCA), or by credit card via PayPal. Contact PBSCA Treasurer Mirella Rizzatti if you want more information on how to contribute: [mirella@italianlonl.net](mailto:mirella@italianlonl.net) , or visit the PBSCA website, [www.portland-bologna.org](http://www.portland-bologna.org)

## Submissions Requested

If you have something to contribute either about Bologna or Portland, or Emilia-Romagna or Oregon, please don't hesitate to send it to me. We do have readers in Italy who want to know about Portland and Oregon.

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Ray Verzasconi, editor

