

routes. They understand me and if I ask them to speak slowly, I understand them as well.

During one of our university courses in Bratislava I was interviewed by a radio station and introduced as "A 70 year old American woman speaking Slovak with an Eastern accent." I had an eastern Slovak accent because that's what I heard as a child. Imagine a French person coming to the USA and addressing you as "y'all"

So Joe and I intend to continue our language study while living as hermits in the hope we will be able to travel again safely.

My only regret is that I did not make more of an effort when I was younger. Wow, that's the same thing I say about my delayed attempt to lose weight. It's never too late, but the sooner the better.

If I hadn't learned to speak to Grandma Katarina,



I would not have had the confidence to seek out my roots and meet my cousins. Like this group in Slovakia in 2008



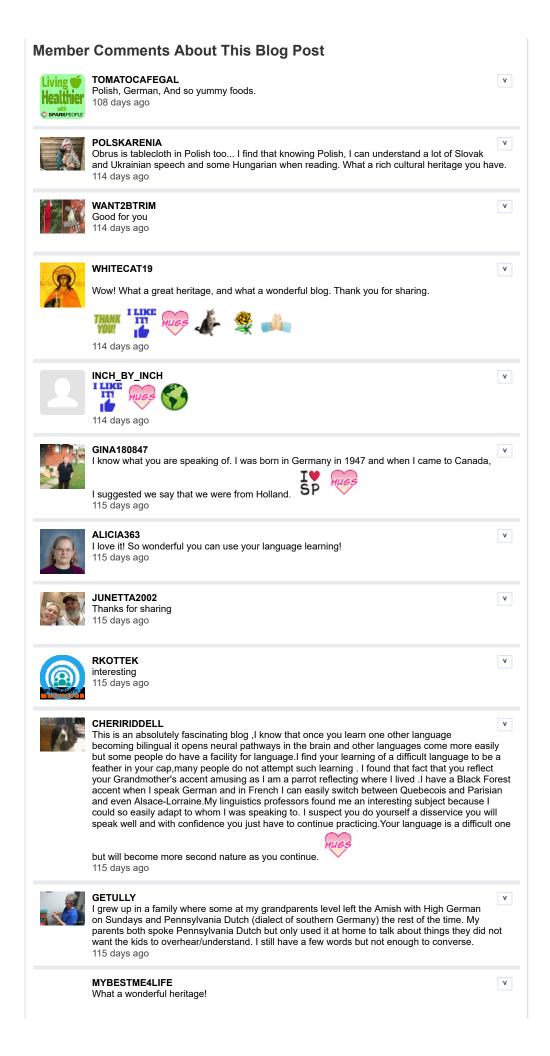
However, I do understand why so many needed to deny their heritage. This cartoon from 1903 expressed a common attitude at the time, The text reads "The High Tide of Immigration, A National Menace" "Riff Raff Immigration, Danger to American Ideals and Institutions"



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ALIHIKES

Another great blog. I really appreciate the diversity of culture and languages within our borders. And of course we gain even more by traveling to foreign countries. I always try to learn a few words whenever I visit another country that speaks a different language.

It is so true that children learn languages much more easily. It is much harder for me now 116 days ago



GREYTDOLPHIN

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My mom's parents came to the US from Germany before World War II. They added a "t" to their name, thinking that it would sound more American. I used to stay (not willingly) at my greataunt's farm. Her sister was also there. It was a dizzying experience trying to understand them. They alternated quickly between German and French. They were from Alsace-Lorraine, which originally was Germany, then became a part of France. As a little girl I was confused and always wondered if they were talking about me. 116 days ago



BONIFIANT

My own mom was always disappointed that her German grandfather would not teach her to speak German. his answer in very broken English was, :"Ve ist American now!!!" But certainly when one is a child is the very best time to learn.



116 days ago



LGRIF22

This is a wonderful explanation of how names, heritage, and people's genealogy changed when they immigrated to the US. At least you have an idea of where they actually came from. It makes doing genealogy difficult for some.

Your remark about your accent reminded me of a time I went to Munich, Austria during college. We stayed with a German family in a small apartment on the 5th floor. The neighbor boy spoke perfect English...but with the thickest southern accent I'd ever heard. Turned out he learned to speak English with a girlfriend from Louisiana. LOL.

One of my sons' children are in the Chinese Immersion program in their schools. They are learning to speak, write, and do history and math in Mandarin. Another child, our oldest daughter has 2 of her children in the German immersion program. I feel they will have such an advantage over any of us who just took High school and college languages. Thank you for such an interesting blog!

116 days ago

CHALLENGE

DIANEDOESSMILES

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My grandparent's were DEEPLY ashamed of being,, get this,, from CANADA!! Their parents were French. Hmmmm everyone bleeds the same, has the emotions of humans, and NOT A ONE OF US had a choice on where we were born. No one. Ever.

What difference does it make? I'll get to know anyone, based on their talk, actions either they are someone I'll enjoy or I choose to not become in their circle of friends. IF ONLY everyone was this way. We are all people. 116 days ago

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NANANANA

As a child, I was exposed to Yiddish phrases. Only enough to understand The Jazz Singer. I studied German and the most important phrase I learned? Langsamer Bitte. [Slower please]

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With our travels, I've learned 'Thank you' in many languages. Some people are eager to teach their language. One many was teaching me something in Italian. When I got it right, he said 'Brava'. I looked at him and my questioning expression turned to a smile. Then he smiled too. 116 days ago



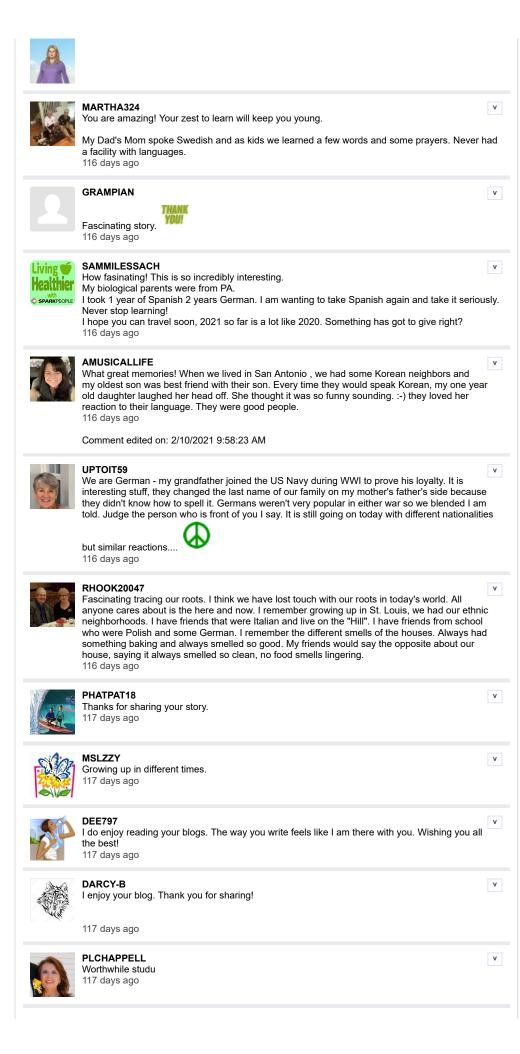
THINCPL2004 That was a a awesome blog! Thank you so much! Its great to learn that much as a kid! 116 days ago
AZMOMXTWO this is awesome that you were able to learn some as a child 116 days ago

BUTTERFLYJANS What an interesting blog. Thanks for sharing your story with us. 116 days ago v

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SUNSHINE		
2	AKA_TROUBLE I have only learned Spanish (8 years in school, staring in 5th grade) and a smattering of Polish and Greek from working in restaurants of the same where the cooks spoke little English. Still, unless we are 100% American Indian, we are all descended from immigrants. 116 days ago	V
	FRITZYS_MAMA Very interesting information! Love to get your perspective on language and your experience. Thanks for sharing!!	V
R	KNEESOCKS1945 Thank you for sharing your family with us. 116 days ago	V
	MSMOSTIMPROVED I loved that your husband shares your interest in language and travel. My goal is to one day master Spanish beyond the bare minimum. 116 days ago	V
	KITTYHAWK1949 That political cartoon text sounds like something we might have heard from the previous administration. So sad. Image: Spark source 116 days ago	V
(* 1	JPPERSELL You always have the best blogs about your family history. I just love them. I am so amazed that you are still going to school at seventy and plan to travel. It is truly wonderful. 116 days ago	V
	RACHNACH KEEP SPARK NG! 116 days ago	V
	YELLOW09RED Good afternoon Eileen, Thank you for sharing your family. I love listening to other languages being spoken. You are blessed. Hugs and smiles, Debbie	V
	CD26438932 Interesting 116 days ago	V
	SHAKERATTLEROLL For the history, English and speaking of a new language but also for the language of love that you use ever so much as you talk about your family. Do you know as much about hubby's family? 116 days ago	V
	PATRICIAAK very interesting 116 days ago	V



- 37	ETHELMERZ Thought provoking themes. I was born in Berlin, right after the war. Parents and family learned all too well, what the signs and symbols of what has been going on here, for the past 4 years meant! Now cowards want to sweep it under the rug! There need to be punishments for the offenders! 117 days ago	V
	JOE14250 Thank you for your entry. Obviously It has touched a lot of people. Our country can do much to improve. Teaching language by emersion would be a great choice in a charter type model. Start when 5 or 6. 117 days ago	v
	SUNNYBEACHGIRL This was a very interesting discussion and t enjoyed everyone sharing there story. My grandparents were immigrants and did not speak much English. My sisters and I were not encouraged to learn their native language and never developed a relationship with them 117 days ago	v
AWESOME A PILOT	CINCINMORECIN My grandfather immigrated from Switzerland and everyone thought he was Scottish. He never corrected them and was called "Scotty" by his co-workers until his death. 117 days ago	v
	LIS193 Interesting family history	v
	117 days ago	
<mark>e</mark> t a	MARYJEANSL You have such a fascinating heritage! My Swiss (they really were Swiss, IoI!) and German ancestors seem much less interesting.	v
8- J.	I too wish I had made more of an effort to learn languages when I was younger. I did study Frend and remembersome of it. I live in an area where knowing Spanish would be very useful, but, alas, I never learned any. 117 days ago	зh,
August Intervention Date	DOVESEYES Diversity can help us become one if we let it :) embracing it not pushing it away :) 117 days ago	v
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	Veight loss results will vary from person to person. No individual result should be seen as a typica wing the SparkPeople program.	I