

The Union di Ladins da Fodom

The history of the Union dei Ladins da Fodom starts at Christmas 1913, when Father Antonio Pallua received a diploma in Innsbruck for having founded the Union. The association had been formed 8 years earlier and was already well known, particularly for its Calendri Ladins, which were published from 1911. Father Antonio Pallua was born in Ornela and was priest of Rèba and then became deacon of Cortina in 1913. During WW1 and during fascism the Ladin movement continued to exist, but unable to form an association as such.

On 1st February 1965, in the Hotel Alpino at La Plié da Fodom, the Union General dei Ladins-Sezion da Fodom was created. The first president was Bruno Trebo. At that time he was town councilor and later he became mayor of Fodom.

The ULF got off to a good start, supported by the local population who contributed in various ways.

In 1967 the periodical El Feral (the lantern) came out, although in 1972 it gave way to La Usc di Ladins. In 1983 the Region of Veneto gave full recognition to the Ladins and agreed to contribute financially to the protection and promotion of the Ladin culture. Since then the Union has published many books: for schools, for enjoyment, of songs, about country life and local history. It has also published 3 editions of the Fodom-Italian-German dictionary, and there have been CDs on local crafts and drama courses. The Union also contributes to the running of the museum, and collaborates with schools, and associations which promote the Ladin language and culture, for example the choirs, the band, folk musicians and the local group Mario and Max. On the 15th August every year, the Union and the local authority organize the largest festival of the valley to celebrate Assumption Day.

In conjunction with the Union di Ladins of Anpezo and Col, there is a council which facilitates collaboration between the various local authorities. In 2005 this favorable situation led to the opening of the Ladin Cultural Institute Cesa de Jan. Another major step has been the historical referendum on 28th October 2007, demanding a return to the Trentino Südtirol Region which in Fodom came in with a resounding 86.4% in favour, showing how the Ladin identity is still alive and requires serious protection.

Member of the community who have contributed to the life of the Union:

Sergio Masarei (1943-2006). Writer. He wrote many books and plays in Fodom, contributed to the SPELL project and wrote for the Usc di Ladins for 30 years.

Nani Pellegrini (1934). Playwright and songwriter. He directed a multivision film about Fodom, and has been at the head of various Ladin institutions.

Luciana Palla (1950). Historian. She has contributed to the study of many questions of recent history.

Franco Deltedesco (1942). Museum curator. He has produced a number of CDs about country life.

The current president of the Unione dei Ladins da Fodom is Maria Cristina Lezuo.

The vice president is Nani Pellegrini and the council members are:

Franco Deltedesco (secretar), Gianpaolo Soratroi, Lorenzo Soratroi, Daniela Templari, Maria Teresa Crepaz, Sisto Crepaz, Elisa Gabrielli, Manuela Ladurner, Raffaele Irsara. Pierina Foppa represents the Union in the local authority. Bruna Grone is the honorary president.

Presidents of the Union di Ladins da Fodom from 1965 to the present day:

Bruno Trebo	(1965-1978)
Bruna Grones	(1978-1995)
Elena Pellegrini	(1995-1997)
Raffaele Irsara	(1997-2002)
Nani Pellegrini	(2002-2004)
Maria Cristina Lezuo e Raffaele Irsara	(2004-2005)
Maria Cristina Lezuo	(2005-)