
La Voce della Dante

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April 2009

April Annual Business Meeting

Wednesday April 8th 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Headquarters House,
2336 15th Ave. S., Seattle
Pre-Dante pasta, 6:30 – 7:30 PM.

If you are a paid up member of Dante, you are welcome to join us tonight for a business meeting and a free dinner. In order to validate our new officers and counselors we must have a quorum present. In fact, a wonderful evening of pasta and friendship, free for paid members, has been planned for you. Our treasurer will be there to take your money if you have not yet renewed. Your hosts will be the Dante Board, who will prepare this meal for you. We will also be distributing our new official Dante Society cards, with official stamps on them so that you can use them in Italy for discounts. We look forward to seeing you. Please remember to call and reserve your dinner by Monday April the 6th at 5pm. Come meet the people who will be leading us into another successful year. You will not want to miss this meeting!



Linda Bavisotto's wonderful spread for the March Italian meeting.

Dante Language Program's Silver Anniversary

Wednesday, April 22th, 7:30 - 9:00 PM
Headquarters House, 2336 15th Ave. S., Seattle

For the second meeting in April, you are invited to a party to celebrate 25 years of the Italian Language Program by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington. Bring goodies to share and come to see old friends. Italian Conversation will be encouraged.

Upcoming Events

April Business Meeting

Wed. April 8th

5:30-6:30; Dinner preparation,
6:30; Dinner, 7:30; Meeting
Headquarters House

25th Anniversary Party

Wed. April 22th

7:30-9:00
Headquarters House

May English Program

George Gibbs

Wednesday, May 13

5:30-6:30; Dinner preparation,
6:30; Dinner, 7:30; Meeting
Headquarters House

* DAS Star List *

While we appreciate those who support our Society through membership dues & volunteering, stars are awarded to those making extra cash contributions which allows us to provide services without having to raise membership dues.

Grazie Mille for supporting the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington.

Bronzo up to \$25

- * Crawford, Dick & Barbara
- * Cottrell, Jane & David
- * Van Tilborgh, Peter
- * Hollingshead, Norm
- * Mazzola, Arthur
- * Munizza, Joseph
- * Shiroyama, Sylvia
- * Richard and Carol Schroeter
- * Tobe, Robert & Maddalena
- * Rosa Borriello
- * Veronica Huggins

Argento \$26 to \$50

- * Huntermark family
- * Canorro, Anthony & Cathy
- * La Fornara Family
- * Goldy Kleinman
- * Allan and Laura Veigel
- * Eileen Cooney

Oro \$51- \$100

- * Mulally, Catherine

Platino—over \$100

- * Harmon, Gini

From the President's Desk

From the President's Desk:

I wonder how many people in the Dante Society are taking advantage of the poor worldwide economic downturn to ratchet up their overseas travel. My husband and I made plans to travel to France in May and Italy in September and that was when the dollar was taking a beating from the Euro. For us, the trips are looking like a smart move. The travel industry is in a real slump and hotel merchants, restaurateurs, and tour guides are desperately trying to drum up business. I sometimes feel that the economy of the world makes it imperative that I get on a plane right now.

Serendipitously, the efforts of Giuseppe Tassone, the Director of our Language School, to make the Dante Alighieri Society of Seattle compliant with the main office in Rome comes at the right time for us travelers. The Dante Society has awarded each of us our own card, rather like your AAA card, that provides discounts to hotels, restaurants, museums and lots of other businesses in Italy. I think there are about 2000 places that recognize the card. Seattle Dante member, Anita Bingaman, left for Sicily on March 24 and will be testing it out. If you are a paid up member of DAS, Seattle this year, you can pick up your card at the next few meetings.

Of course, this card is more prestigious than merely being a discount card. The main purpose of us joining the central Dante Society in Italy means that our Language Program is recognized as a location as a Certifying Center, where exams may be conducted to qualify students proficiency in Italian. The brochure states "The PLIDA (Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri) certificate attests proficiency in Italian as a foreign language on the basis of a 6-level scale: from level A1, the most elementary, documenting the ability to use Italian in everyday situations, to level C2, the most qualified, guaranteeing an expertise comparable to that of an educated mother-tongue speaker, and which can be used in all professional contexts."

I recommend that you check out the www.ladante.it website, to check out the 6 PLIDA levels of proficiency, the exam structure, special certificates, etc. I feel sure that there are people in our organization who will want to pursue just such a certificate. Admittedly, the website is mostly in Italian. However, if I can read most of it, I'm sure that you will have no trouble navigating the site. And for those of you who want to practice listening to some good spoken Italian, there are even videos on such topics as cooking styles, cooking schools and travel. It's worth checking out.

Grazie! to Giuseppe for keeping after the Board members to get all our paperwork registered with the Rome office of the Dante Alighieri Society.



Language Program News
by Giuseppe Tassone
Italian Language Program - Director

Spring quarter started on March 31st. More than 50 students enrolled in the previous quarters are committed to complete the entire program, that is, most of them. Our program runs over three quarters from late September to early June. At the end of spring quarter, students who have successfully completed the elementary and intermediate level have reached the proficiency to continue with the intermediate and advanced level the following year. Our students find our instructional material and methodology pretty effective and in general they love our program as you can read from the comments from students:

Good text and handouts. I really love the weekly conversation questions when we get to practice speaking in Italian. I like the homework packets as well.

The instructor made class enjoyable though at times he went through a few of the lessons rather quickly. But, he was always willing to go back and re-explain something if we didn't understand. He made class fun and purposeful.

The instructor is a joy. He makes learning fun and interesting, teaching us Italian as well as about Italy.

Intelligent, organized, complete, and well-balanced presentation--very thorough--very professional--I was impressed with the instructor's patience in helping us (again and again) with our pronunciation until we got it 'right'.

She is an outstanding teacher! She helps us in so many ways, and can understand our questions as we try to understand how to express ourselves in Italian; and she is very precise about grammar, so we know we are using exactly the right verb tenses, etc.

Yes, I would recommend. I have taken lessons at other Language schools, and Dante is as good or better than others costing much more.

Excellent--I think it is a very good program.

I do like the fact that there is English & Italian being spoken in the beginner's class. I have taken an intense Italian class that was only in Italian and felt I missed out on a lot of the explanations I already have recommended it to some clients.

In discussing this program with friends who have taken classes through XXX, we are covering the same material at a fraction of the price. Perfect!

There are no classes during the summer but we'll resume in the fall with all levels of Italian. Visit our website www.danteseattle.org at the end of spring quarter or later for information about the subsequent school year, 2009-2010.

If you took a class in the past and you want to leave a testimonial, please fill the form at: www.danteseattle.org/comments.html

Grazie e arrivederci!!
Giuseppe

LACRIME

Amare sono le lacrime
che scorrono sul tuo dolce viso.
Perchè piangi fanciulla?

Il tuo cuore
è colmo di tristezza
la disperazione ricopre,
come coperta,
il tuo corpo.

Le lacrime non si fermano,
rompono le tue difese
e come un fiume in piena
inondano i tuoi occhi.

La calma
è un lontano ricordo,
le lacrime scorrono impietose
su di un viso
contraffatto dalla disperazione.

Giorgia Bracchetti - Rovereto

Giorgia is a young woman married to Roberto, and together they have a four year old daughter named Sara. Although Giorgia works as a chemist for a drug company, she is a romantic dreamer. She loves to write poems and has written hundreds of them.

Claudio Mazzola—Italian Meeting, the Films of Michelangelo Antonioni

Claudio Mazzola gave us an impassioned and fascinating lecture about the films of Antonioni. He focused on two films in particular, *L'Avventura*, an odd film about a group of people who have lost a member of their party, and *The Passenger*, starring Jack Nicholson. Wikipedia says: "*L'avventura* has a narrative structure in which an apparently important central mystery is gradually forgotten and left unsolved." For me, and apparently many of Claudio's students, this structure is something that in the past, has left me groaning with dissatisfaction and frustration. Claudio finally helped us see that this is an art form unlike what we Americans have come to understand as cinema. Instead of being warned at every step of the way what is going to happen to the characters, with music and screenplay, the watcher must watch the faces and body language of the characters as well as the scenery for clues. Dr Mazzola explained that these movies are best viewed multiple times. With each subsequent viewing, they get better. That night, I felt like a door had been opened. Thanks Dr Mazzola, you succeeded in making us finally understand that genre of Italian movies.

Paolo Tosolini - The Media and Things Italian

Anyone who has previously heard Paolo knows he is a speaker not to be missed. The lucky Dante members who happened to attend the English language meeting in March were treated to a timely and excellent lecture on using electronic social media to learn more about Italy and things Italian.

Paolo talked to us about the future of communications. He taught us about Facebook, Twitter, Digg, Technorati, and Podcasts. Everyone in the room had questions and as a result of this meeting I have several more Facebook friends. Paolo talked to us in a language we could all understand about scary technical stuff. We walked out of that room amazed and charmed. Thanks Paolo, you're great!

La Voce needs you!

Tell a story, write an article, share your Italian heritage; send it to danteeditor@gmail.com. You can also mail it via regular US mail to Mimi Torchia Boothby, 8018 36th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98118, USA. Keep it coming! Thanks to everyone who is helping! Next issue's deadline is the 23th of February.

Dante on the Internet!

We have a website. We have all the more recent newsletters there (including this one!) as well as the latest information on speakers. Our web address is:

<http://das.danteseattle.org/>

From LaDante.it

Conosci i suoni dell'italiano? [Livello A1]

Indica soltanto le parole con il suono [č] come cena.

1. cinque
2. chiesa
3. celeste
4. casa
5. cane
6. cinese
7. incidente
8. sbucciare

Conosci i suoni dell'italiano? [Livello A1]

Indica soltanto le parole con il suono [dč] come giro.

1. ghepardo
2. gennaio
3. ginocchio
4. gatto
5. gelato
6. gonna
7. gesso
8. goloso

(answers on page 10)

Don't forget to buy your Dante gear at:
<http://www.cafepress.com/dantewashington>

Dante Alighieri Society
of Washington

*"Società per la diffusione della
lingua e della cultura italiana
nel mondo"*

Mailing address:

PMB #1244
1122 East Pike Street
Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 320-9159

The Dante Alighieri Society of Washington is a nonprofit corporation organized to promote Italian language and culture within the state of Washington. Membership is open to anyone interested in the goals and ideals of our society regardless of ethnic origin. *La Voce della Dante* is published eight times a year by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington. All rights reserved.

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Language Program Director

Students Give Up Wheels for Their Own Two Feet

By ELISABETH ROSENTHAL, New York Times

LECCO, Italy — Each morning, about 450 students travel along 17 school bus routes to 10 elementary schools in this lakeside city at the southern tip of Lake Como. There are zero school buses.

In 2003, to confront the triple threats of childhood obesity, local traffic jams and — most important — a rise in global greenhouse gases abetted by car emissions, an environmental group here proposed a retro-radical concept: children should walk to school.

They set up a *piedibus* (literally foot-bus in Italian) — a bus route with a driver but no vehicle. Each morning a mix of paid staff members and parental volunteers in fluorescent yellow vests lead lines of walking students along Lecco's twisting streets to the schools' gates, *Pied Piper*-style, stopping here and there as their flock expands.

At the Carducci School, 100 children, or more than half of the students, now take walking buses. Many of them were previously driven in cars. Giulio Greppi, a 9-year-old with shaggy blond hair, said he had been driven about a third of a mile each way until he started taking the *piedibus*. "I get to see my friends and we feel special because we know it's good for the environment," he said.

Although the routes are each generally less than a mile, the town's *piedibuses* have so far eliminated more than 100,000 miles of car travel and, in principle, prevented thousands of tons of greenhouse gases from entering the air, Dario Pesenti, the town's environment auditor, estimates.

The number of children who are driven to school over all is rising in the United States and Europe, experts on both continents say, making up a sizable chunk of transportation's contribution to greenhouse-gas emissions. The "school run" made up 18 percent of car trips by urban residents of Britain last year, a national survey showed.

In 1969, 40 percent of students in the United States walked to school; in 2001, the most recent year data was collected, 13 percent did, according to the federal government's National Household Travel Survey.

Lecco's walking bus was the first in Italy, but hundreds have cropped up elsewhere in Europe and, more recently, in North America to combat the trend.

Towns in France, Britain and elsewhere in Italy have created such routes, although few are as extensive and long-lasting as Lecco's. In the United States, Columbia, Mo.; Marin County, Calif.; and Boulder, Colo., introduced modest walking-bus programs last year as part of a national effort, Safe Routes To School, which gives states money to encourage students to walk or ride their bicycles.

Although carbon dioxide emissions from industry are declining on both continents, those from transportation account for almost one-third of all greenhouse-gas emissions in the United States and 22 percent in European Union countries. Across the globe, but especially in Europe, where European Union countries have pledged to reduce greenhouse gas production by 2012 under the United Nations' Kyoto protocol, there is great pressure to reduce car emissions.

Last year the European Environmental Agency warned that car trips to school — along with food importing and low-cost air travel — were growing phenomena with serious implications for greenhouse gases.

In the United States and in Europe, "multiple threads are warping traditional school travel and making it harder for kids to walk," said Elizabeth Wilson, a transportation researcher at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Among those factors are a rise in car ownership; one-child families, often leery of sending students off to school on their own; cuts in school-bus service or charges for it as a result of school-budget cutbacks and fuel-price gyrations; and the decline of neighborhood schools and the rise of school choice, meaning that students often live farther from where they learn.

Worse still, said Roger L. Mackett, professor at the Center for Transport Studies at University College in London, there is growing evidence that children whose parents drive a lot will become car-dependent adults. "You're getting children into a lifelong habit," he said.

In Lecco, car use has proved a tenacious habit even though the *piedibus* has caught on. "Cars rule," said Augusto Piazza, the founder of the city's program, an elfin man with shining blue eyes, a bouncing gait and a yellow vest. As he "drove" along a bus route on a recent morning, store owners waved fondly to the familiar packs of jabbering children.

Yet as they pulled up to Carducci School, dozens of private cars were parked helter-skelter for dropoffs in the small plaza outside as gaggles of mothers chatted on the sidewalk nearby. "I have two kids who go to different schools, plus their backpacks are so heavy," said Manuela Corbetta, a mother in a black jacket and sunglasses, twirling her car keys as she explained why her children do not make the 15-minute trek. "Sometimes they have 10 notebooks, so walking really isn't practical."

(Piedibus continued)

Some children are dropped off by parents on their way to work, and some others live outside the perimeter of the piedibus's reach, although there are collection points at the edge of town for such children. But many live right along a piedibus route, Mr. Piazza noted.

Yet other parents praised the bus, saying it had helped their children master street safety and had a ripple effect within the family. "When we go for shopping you think about walking — you don't automatically use the car," said Luciano Prandoni, a computer programmer who was volunteering on his daughter's route.

The city of Lecco contributes roughly \$20,000 annually toward organizing and providing staff members for the piedibus. The students perform a public service of sorts: they are encouraged to hand out warnings to cars that park illegally and chastise dog owners who do not clean up.

Naturally some children whine on rainy mornings. Participation drops 20 percent on such days, although it increases during snowfalls. On rainy days, "She says, 'Mom, please take me,' and sometimes I give in," said Giovanna Luciano, who lives in the countryside and normally drops her daughter Giulia, 9, at a piedibus pickup point in a parking lot by a cemetery.

To encourage use, children receive fare cards that are punched each day. The bus routes have distinctive names (the one through the graveyard is the mortobus), and compete for prizes like pizza parties for the students. Teachers have students write poems about the piedibus.

In Britain, about half the local school systems now have some sort of incentives to encourage walking, although generally less formal ones than the piedibus, said Roger L. Mackett, a professor at the Center for Transport Studies at University College in London.

"It's quite a lot of effort to keep it going," he said. "It's always easier to put children in the back of the car. Once you've got your two or three cars, it takes effort not to use them."

Fiducia e sostegno, la ricetta per diffondere la lingua

italiana all'estero



Questa mattina primo seminario di formazione per i Comitati italiani della Società Dante Alighieri Roma - Si è aperto questa mattina con la Lectio Magistralis di Nicoletta Maraschio, Presidente dell'Accademia della Crusca, il primo seminario di formazione per i Comitati italiani della Società Dante Alighieri, incentrato

sul "Rilancio delle attività di promozione culturale: presentazione del Progetto 'La Poesia salverà il mondo' e della collana didattica del PLIDA" e in programma oggi e domani 26 marzo in Palazzo Firenze a Roma, Sede Centrale della "Dante".

«Le ragioni ideali, la consapevolezza linguistica e la fiducia nelle potenzialità e nell'importanza della propria lingua sono, accanto a una precisa e determinata politica di sostegno, i presupposti fondamentali per una sua migliore conoscenza e diffusione - ha affermato la prof.ssa Maraschio partendo da un'orazione in lode della lingua fiorentina pronunciata nel 1564, ma ancora profondamente attuale, da Leonardo Salviati, fondatore dell'Accademia della Crusca -. L'Italia è stata all'avanguardia in Europa per la riflessione linguistica. Non solo l'italiano nasce dalla poesia e dalla letteratura, ma sono stati proprio i poeti e gli scrittori quelli che prima di altri hanno stimolato la crescita di una consapevolezza linguistica. Oggi il quadro sembra essere cambiato e ci si trova di fronte a un concetto debole della propria lingua caratterizzato dall'insicurezza, dalla paura di fronte alle trasformazioni linguistiche in atto e da un senso di crisi e di decadenza. Questo è il primo, vero ostacolo da superare. In questa direzione sono impegnate l'Accademia della Crusca e la Società Dante Alighieri, seppure con mezzi e attraverso percorsi diversi».

La mattinata è proseguita con la Tavola Rotonda coordinata da Giuseppe Patota, Responsabile scientifico PLIDA, sul tema "Editoria e glottodidattica: strategie e progetto di rilancio dello studio della lingua italiana nel mondo", e con la presentazione dell'accordo tra Società Dante Alighieri e Alma Edizioni, che prevede la realizzazione di una linea editoriale denominata "Alma-PLIDA" con la pubblicazione di testi didattici per l'apprendimento dell'italiano come lingua straniera: manuali, corsi di base, esercitazioni e materiali didattici, anche in versione multimediale.

Andrea Camilleri—Bruce Leone

By Ida Callahan



The unexpected cancelation of the original speaker brought us instead one of our own members Bruce Leone for the Italian meeting. From his presentation of good understandable Italian, you could tell the passion that Bruce has for the living Italian writer Andrea Camilleri, who was born in Porto Empedocle (Agrigento) Sicily in 1925. The author began his carrier as a theater director followed by author, screenwriter and director of cultural program TV and Radio.

His most popular literacy success is a series of books based on detective stories of Inspector (Comissario) Montalbano.

Constantly hovering between comedy and tragedy, the characters around which the stories resolve serve to allow us a better understanding of the social and economic conditions of Sicily, even more so, the essential nature of life, the culture and the traditions of the island, relying on the usual and inimitable mixture of language and dialect.

The popularity of his books made possible the TV adaptation of Montalbano's adventures.

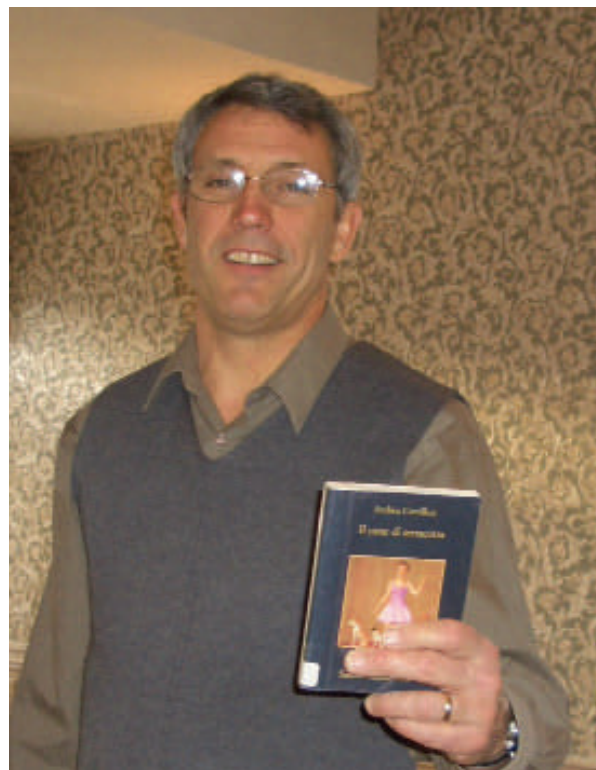
Bruce also provided us with related websites pertaining to Andrea Camilleri which includes one complete TV episodes

<http://www.montalbano.tv/> lots about the filming of tv series

<http://www.montalbano.tv/cineteca> this site has complete tv episodes

<http://www.vigata.org/index.html> Camille fan club website

<http://www.rai.tv/dl/RaiTV/homeTv.html> general RAI video website with lots of good Italian video



Taralli Dolci di Pasqua (Sweet Taralli)

From the Washington Post, April 4, 2007

This is a great traditional cookie, loosely based on a recipe shared by Marie Ciampi. If you're going to make these ahead, store them in an airtight container between sheets of wax paper. Or better yet, freeze them without the icing, and apply it the day they are to be served.

Makes 16 cookies

Ingredients:

For the dough

5 1/2 cups flour (spoon flour into dry-measure cup and level off),

plus more for working the dough

1 1/2 tablespoons baking powder

6 large eggs

1 cup sugar

6 ounces (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, melted and cooled

1 1/2 tablespoons vanilla extract

For the icing

3 cups confectioners' sugar

4 tablespoons water

1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Multicolored nonpareils, for decoration (optional)

Directions:



Position racks in the upper and lower thirds of the oven; preheat to 350 degrees. Line 3 large baking sheets with parchment paper.

For the dough: Combine the flour and baking powder, mixing well. Set aside.

Whisk the eggs in a large bowl, then whisk in the sugar, butter and vanilla extract, in that order. Fold in the flour mixture. Turn the dough out onto a floured surface and knead lightly to mix. Separate into 16 equal pieces. Roll each to a thick 8-inch rope, then press the ends together to form a circle. Place 5 or 6 on each baking sheet.

Place the baking sheets on the upper and lower racks and bake for 15 minutes, then rotate top to bottom and front to back. Bake for 15 minutes, or until the taralli are slightly puffed and deep golden. Transfer to wire racks to cool completely.

For the icing: Combine the ingredients in a large saucepan over low heat, stirring to combine and gently heat through. Brush over the tops of the cooled cookies. Sprinkle with the nonpareils, if desired.

Membership Application

I (We) want to promote Italian language and culture and request membership in the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington. Enclosed is my (our) check in full payment of annual membership dues (\$30.00 for individual, \$40.00 for a family).

Mark one : () **New Membership** () **Membership Renewal**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Telephone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Amount Enclosed:

Membership Amount: _____

Contribution: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Contribution Categories (For recognition stars):

Bronzo (bronze) - Up to \$25

Argento (silver) - \$26 - \$50

Oro (gold) - \$51 to \$100

Platino (platinum) - Over \$100

Please return completed membership application with check to:

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

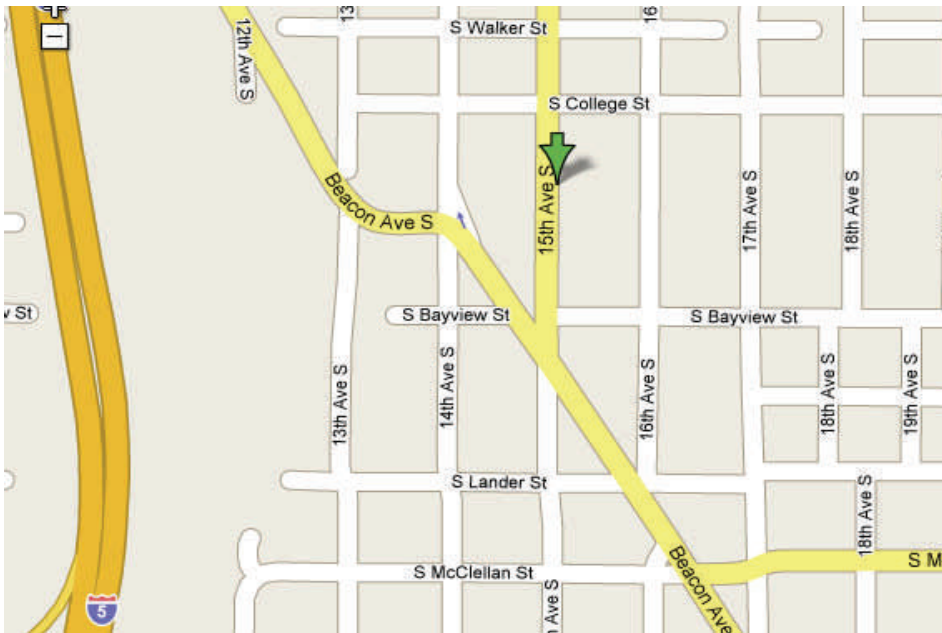
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1122 East Pike Street

Seattle, WA 98122

If you have any questions, please call (206) 320-9159 and leave a message.

Answers to PLIDA quiz: c: 1,3,6,7, 8 g: 2,3,5,7



Directions to Headquarters House

Headquarters House is located at **2336 15th Avenue South** in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Seattle. From I-5, take the Columbian Way/Spokane Street exit, eastbound. Turn left at the first light, Spokane Street and left again at the next light, 15th Avenue S. After crossing Beacon Avenue, Headquarters House will be on the right side between Bayview and College Streets.