

La Voce della Dante

Published by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington (DAS)

<http://das.danteseattle.org>

January 2011

January English Meeting — Live Chamber Music

Wednesday, January 12th, 2010, 7:30 pm
Headquarters House, 2336 15th Avenue S, Seattle

Three Italian composers from the classical period, Alessandro Rolla, Niccolò Paganini, and Gioachino Rossini, will be the subject of the English meeting on January 12th. Dante Society member, Joyce Ramée, (founder of the Max Aronoff Viola Institute and faculty, University of Puget Sound) will be joined by Kerry Bollinger (viola) and Laurel Lisez (cello), who are graduates of the Institute's adult studies program, and guest artist, Heather Hoskins (double bass).

The program will include biographical and anecdotal information on the composers and performance of a piece by each of them. Rolla was widely acknowledged in his time as a violin and viola virtuoso, composer, and teacher. Sadly, his work is practically unknown now, except to violists, who treasure his original compositions for this alto member of the string family. Paganini was actually one of Rolla's students, and was one of the most celebrated violin virtuosos of all time. Rossini wrote 39 operas, sacred music, chamber music, songs, and instrumental pieces. He was also a gourmet cook, famous for his love of food and wine.



Joyce Ramée, Violist
Photo by Ross Mulhausen

Come learn about these musicians and enjoy some good music. Be sure to call in your reservations for the pre-Dante pasta dinner.

January Italian Meeting—Sicily

Presented by Nicoletta Machiavelli

Wednesday, January 26th, 7:30 pm, Headquarters House

Nicoletta Machiavelli is a Seattle based Italian language instructor, cooking instructor, and tour guide. A native of Italy, Nicoletta leads tours to Sicily and other Italian regions with an emphasis on cuisine, art, and meeting locals.

This evening she will tell us about her experiences with the history, people, food, and wine of Sicily, illustrated with many photos from her travels to help us see the beauty of this island.

Upcoming Events

Wed, Jan 12th:
English Meeting -
6:30 pm Pre-Dante Pasta
Presentation:
Live Chamber
Music at 7:30 pm



Wed, January 26th:
Italian Meeting - Sicily - Nicoletta
Machiavelli
Antipasti pre-meeting at 7:00 pm

*It's January 1st -
Please renew your DAS
dues for the year.*

Walker-Ames Lecture: Paolo Valesio

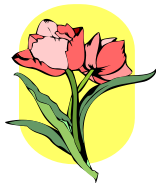
Tues, Jan 11th, 6:30-7:30 pm
Kane Hall, Room 120, UW Seattle
Free but advance registration required.

Phone: (206) 543-0540 or

Online: www.UWalum.com/learn

The University of Washington Graduate School 2010-11 Walker Ames Public Lecture Series presents *On Mysticism and Modern Italian Poetry* a talk by Columbia University Professor Paolo Valesio.

Valesio, the Walker Ames Endowed Lecturer, proposes the grounding of poetry and mysticism in historical context to break from their abstract natures; for poetry, the context of modern Italy; and for mysticism, that of Judeo-Christian tradition.



Welcome to Our New Members

Dominick Minotti

Frank & Margherita
Pellegrini

Benvenuti Nuovi Membri

**We thank you for your
support of DAS.**

* 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 additional services. Grazie Mille for supporting the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington.

Bronzo up to \$25

- * Borriello, Rosa
- * Crawford, Dick & Barbara
- * Henke, Charlotte & Mcgrath, Dick
- * James, Mike
- * Shiroyama, Sylvia
- * Showell, Gianna

Argento \$26 to \$50

- * Cottrell, Dick & Jane
- * Hanlon, Terry
- * Hundertmark, Louise & Fritz
- * Tobe, Robert & Magdalena
- * Veigel, Alan & Parma, Laura

Oro \$51- \$100

- * Pietrafesa, Louise
- * Forte, Giselda
- * Van Tilborgh, Peter

Platino—over \$100

- * Harmon, Gini
- * Minotti, Dominick

From the President's Desk

A new year for the Dante Alighieri Society, our programs, our friendships, and our sharing of culture and language! This year promises to be another exciting one with some amazing programs and new opportunities to learn and grow with some of my very favorite people. I'm looking forward to the new experiences of our programs as well as sharing wonderful dinners, conversations, and new friends. I hope you are as well!

The year 2010 ended with a bang! As we do every year, we gave the program chair a break in December and held our potluck Christmas party. This year's program was coordinated by Chris Kantor and what a great party it was. For those of you who were not able to make it, we had more food than we needed to feed an army and to feed it very well indeed! Lots of great wines were brought and I think everyone's sweet tooth was more than satisfied by the dolce that was brought. We sang songs, more than last year even! We had a great game of Tombola, and it has been decided that Giuseppe Tassone must be our caller every year; he did a wonderful job that had us all in stitches! Thank you all who were able to attend, it was a great way to start the Christmas season.

In addition to our Christmas party, Festa di Natale per i Bambini was also a great success. Caterina Wartes and her wonderful volunteers put on another great program this year. It was wonderful to see even more children and families than last year and to see them have such a good time. The children enjoyed homemade pizzelle, crafts, games, singing, and of course, the story of La Befana as read by Gini Harmon and performed by Terry Hanlon. I want to recognize and give thanks this year to Tutta Bella for their donation of pizza, juice, gelato, and tiramisu for this program. This wonderful addition was greatly appreciated by all who attended. A very special thank you also to Joyce Morinaka of Tutta Bella for helping to arrange this for us.

I hope that this will be a fun, rewarding, and very productive year for everyone. I look forward to seeing you all in January. We have a very special program to start us off this year. Led by Joyce Ramée, we will enjoy a live performance of music by Italian composers. What a special treat!

Keep warm and happy this winter and join us for the fun each and every month!

Felice Anno Nuovo!

Frank Paterra



Language Program News by Giuseppe Tassone Italian Language Program Director

The Italian Language Program offers classes in fall, winter, and spring. Classes are held at Seattle University in the Administration Building. Class fee is \$130 per quarter unless indicated otherwise in the class description.

Fall Quarter 2010: October 5th - December 14th

Pre-registration Deadline: September 30th

Winter Quarter 2011: January 6th - March 15th

Pre-registration deadline: December 9th

Spring Quarter 2011: March 29th - June 2nd

Pre-registration Deadline: March 10th

Classes Offered:

Elementary Level - For people with little or no Italian language. Students will be introduced to the basic phonetic, grammatical, and lexical structures through conversation and simple dialogues. Held Tuesday and Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Intermediate Level - This is the second half of the elementary class or for those who have some Italian language skills. Students will become familiar with more difficult grammar structures and should be able to communicate well in daily situations by the end of the course. Held Tuesday and Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Advanced Level - This course reviews grammar covered in the previous levels. It is mainly conversation-based to expand students' vocabulary and increase their ability to understand newspapers, magazines, and literature. Class is conducted entirely in Italian. Held Tuesday and Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Additional Classes - Additional levels of Italian, Italian for Travelers (An introductory class for people planning a trip to Italy or for those who want to learn some Italian in one quarter), or Italian for Children courses can be scheduled for groups of at least 8. Class fee, location, and schedule may vary based on the request and number of students. To organize a class, please contact the director at least 30 days before the beginning of the quarter. Contact Giuseppe Tassone at tassone@danteseattle.org or call 206-320-9159.

For more information, check the language program website at:
<http://www.danteseattle.org>

The Dante Alighieri - Italian Language Program is a non-profit self-sustaining program operating exclusively with the income from the tuition.

Thank you students for your support and Seattle University for hosting our courses.

Inclement Weather Procedure

As the seasons change, we are approaching a time when the weather can turn quickly. If schools, community centers, and businesses are closing early or remain closed, we will postpone any scheduled meeting for Headquarters House. We will do our best to have a message on the DAS reservation line, 206-320-9159, to let you know if our meeting needs to be canceled. If the weather is treacherous in your area, PLEASE DO NOT attempt to travel to Headquarters House, we want everyone to be safe.

Board Meeting

There will be a January Board meeting on January 10th.

Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Community Room at Faerland Terrace, 1421 Minor Avenue in Capitol Hill. These meetings are open to members.



Club Alpino Italiano (CAI) PNW



CAI-PNW will be having their annual meeting on Thursday, January 27th beginning at 5:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the upstairs meeting room of REI in downtown Seattle. Mark your calendars for this event. Agenda and detailed information will be sent to members in January or see the CAI- PNW website at: www.cai-pnw.org.

DAS-Seattle 1908

Ray Sylvester of Houston, Texas was searching for Dante Alighieri societies a while back and was happy to find Washington still had a chapter. He still considers himself a Seattleite although he hasn't lived in Seattle for many years and wanted to share a bit of history of the society in the early 1900s and sent the picture below.



The DeDonatos and Sylvesters grew up on Capitol Hill and most attended either Seattle Prep or Holy Names Academy.

In the photo is his grandfather, Dr. Xavier Placidus DeDonato, who had an office in the Cobb building in downtown Seattle. Those in the photo signed their names and titles. John Corgiat was Dr. DeDonato's brother-in-law. He's not aware of who the others are but indicated a couple of the names showed up as patients of his grandfather from the office ledger he has from that period.

(Maybe some of you can add more about this period of DAS. If so, please send the info to me for publication in a future issue of La Voce....Linda)

La Voce

Hopefully, everyone is enjoying the holiday season as well as the new season of Dante.

If you traveled and found something or a place interesting and related to the Italian culture, send photos or an article about your experience. Or maybe you've tried a great new Italian restaurant or read a great book. We would love to hear about it. These are all things that make a great La Voce so submissions are welcome. Submit, submit . . .

Delivering La Voce to Members



Just a reminder that La Voce will not be sent to the membership via an email attachment. For many emails, the file size is too large. Instead, an email will be sent to members that includes a link to the current issue of La Voce on the DAS website. Just click on the link and you will have La Voce to read for your pleasure.

Adobe Reader is necessary to be able to view La Voce. You can download this program from the

You can buy your Dante gear at:
<http://www.cafepress.com/dantewashington>



La Voce Needs You!

Tell a story, write an article, share your Italian heritage; send via email (as a Word document) to lthdesign@comcast.net. You can also mail it via regular mail to Linda Heimbigner, 4355 Little Falls Drive, Cumming, GA 30041. Keep things coming! Thanks to everyone who is helping.

Article submission deadline:

<u>ISSUE DATE</u>	<u>SUBMISSION DEADLINE</u>
February 2011	January 20th
March 2011	February 20th
April 2011	March 20th

Dante on the Internet!

Check our website. It has links to our recent newsletters (including this one) as well as information on speakers and other matters of interest. Our web address is:

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

Pre-Dante Pasta

Join us for the pre-Dante Pasta dinner preceding the English language programs. **To attend the dinner, reservations are required. The only way to make these reservations is by calling the activity line at (206) 320-9159 by 5 pm on the Monday before the meeting or send your request via email to: dante.reserve@gmail.com.**

Please remember to bring your homemade Italian desserts to finish off this great meal.

This is a communally prepared meal – the preparations start at 5:30 and the meal is served at 6:30. People who come early help with set up and cooking, those who come late help with the clean up.

Pasta dinner cost is \$8 per person, \$15 per couple, if reservations are received on the Activity Line by 5 pm on Monday before the meeting. Late reservations and walk-ins are charged \$10 per person and subject to availability. We meet at Headquarters House, 2336 15th Avenue, Seattle, WA. DAS will not be providing wine for the pre-Dante pasta dinners so bring your own wine to enjoy and share with others.



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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Program Chair

Giuseppe Tassone
Language Program Director

Membership Renewal

January 1st, 2011 marks the time for membership renewal. It is time to renew your membership if you joined before September 2010.

Membership is \$30 for an individual or \$40 for a family.

Fill out the membership form on the last page of La Voce and send your renewal in today.

Natale Pictures



New Sponsors for Festa di Natale per i Bambini

by Caterina Murone Wartes

December 4th, 2010 ushered in a new era for Festa di Natale. Our event has been blessed with the generosity of a community-minded local business, Tutta Bella Neopolitan Pizzeria. Joe Fugere, owner, grew up in the culture and history of the Beacon Hill Italian community and wants to participate in this experience again by donating time, creativity, and authentic Neapolitan pizza to the Natale event.

The effort to make this happen was skillfully designed and managed by his top employee and long time Dante member, Joyce Morinaka. You may remember Joyce for her outstanding work on our Board of Directors, when DAS produced the Carnevale events of past years. Now, she is promoting the generosity of Joe Fugere's Tutta Bella in Columbia City, and in the process, honoring the Italian culture of our area.

Joe came to our Natale on Saturday to join Joyce in announcing his intention to continue donating to our DAS event and the local community. Before he arrived the children and their parents signed a large thank you card for the wonderful dinner which included several authentic Neapolitan pizzas, delicious green salad, apple juice, gelato, and tiramisu!



Joyce brought on board two other businesses for our event. The children were delighted with the kind donation of apple juice which this year came in individual apple-shaped bottles, from Jeff Biesold at Merlino Foods! And, who could imagine we would have authentically-made, chocolate gelato donated by Tiernan Gillan from Bottega Italiana. But, it didn't end there. Joyce and our secretary, Marcella Mascio, served tiramisu made in Tutta Bella's kitchen!

With all this excitement we did have a very sweet afternoon of doing crafts, processing with the figures to the presepio, singing "Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle", and listening to the Befana story. Many thanks must be given to all the volunteers who planned, organized, and set up our Natale event. Remember, we meet every year on the first Saturday of December, rain, snow, or shine for this special event.

Pictures from Festa di Natale per i Bambini



Italian Names are Funny!

by Mimi Torchia Boothby

Growing up Italian-American, one of the first things I noticed about Italian names was that they often sounded funny, or just wonderful as they slid out of your mouth. Even as a child, not knowing what the names meant, it was clear to me there was some humor in names like Fressola, Bacigalupo, Zoppi, and Soriano. Little did I know.

According to Wikipedia; Italy, with 350,000 surnames has more surnames than any other country. It starkly contrasts with China, for example, which only has about 750.

In 1564, the council of Trent mandated that all churches had to keep track of baptisms, matrimones, and deaths and had to include a name and a surname for each soul. At this time most people did not have surnames unless they were nobility with titles and property. So, they started giving people surnames. Some people easily assumed the nicknames they already had, others were given names related to their profession, some were given names based on where they are from. Literally, thousands of Italian names are simply place names, like Siciliani, Calabrese, Romano, and Greco. Finally, some names seem to have been randomly assigned, perhaps by a noble or a clerk with too much time on his hands; like Fragola (strawberry).

I thought it would be fun to discuss some of the more unusual and silly names that happen to be Italian. A lot of Italians have animal names; Coniglio (rabbit), Riccio (hedgehog), Gatti (cats), Gallo (rooster), Colombo (dove), Ciucchio (donkey).

Other names clearly do not have noble origins. In Italy, there are 18 families listed in the pagine bianche (Italian white telephone pages) with the name Rutto (burp), some unfortunate people with the name Morbillo (measles) and hundreds with the name Troia – a female pig, the ultimate insult. In fact, other swine also commonly found are; Maiale (pig), Porcellini and Porcini, little pigs.

In my research I discovered a youtube video where they interviewed several people with funny names like Mastronzo - contrary to what you might think, this name is derived from the words Maestro and Enzo.

Many Italians are named after fruits and vegetables. Cipolla (onion), Cavoli (cabbage), Finocchio (no kidding! Even though this name is an insult in Italy, there are over 300 people with this name listed in the pagine bianche), Cetrioli (cucumbers), Fagioli (beans), Pera (pear), and so many others.

Then there's what they eat; Mangialardi (eat fats), Mangiapane (eat bread), Mangiacapre (eat goat), Mangiacavallo (horse eater), Mangiacarne (eat meat), Bevilacqua (drink water), and Bevivino (drink wine).

Returning to those first four names, what do they mean? Fressola, a name in my family, had an origin seemingly lost in time. I researched a little bit and discovered that in a dialect from the area near where the Fressolas originated, the word described a frying pan. So, I took this information back to my family who declared, "oh yeah, we knew that. Bacigalupo means kiss a wolf (or maybe kiss like a wolf?). Zoppi, maybe not so funny, it meant crippled.

Then there's Soriano, a common name. It is also the Italian word that describes a dark tabby cat. For a while, I was thrilled that so many people were walking around with a name that meant tabby cat, but with a little further research I discovered that Soriano actually meant Syrian.

There are many more Italian names that we could giggle over, some of which I can't even include in this article because they are so risqué, yet some Italian people are walking around with names like these because it's so hard to get them legally changed there. So, the next time you hear a nice-sounding Italian name, think about it, it probably means something rather unexpected.



Headquarters House—The “Home” of DAS

by Dan DeMatteis



The Dante Alighieri Society holds its meeting in Headquarters House (also known as Garden House), a restored 19th century Queen Anne building listed on the National Registry of Historical Places and the oldest house in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Seattle.

Headquarters House has a fascinating history. It was originally built in 1882 in the Italianate Style by the architect J.D. Duncan as a private residence for E.A. Turner, a newspaperman originally from Maine who later became a prominent real estate broker. The house, then a box-like two-story structure, was originally located about 100 yards east of its present location. But during the 1906 regrade when 15th Ave E became a recognizable dirt road, the house was moved to its present location in an orchard off the roadway. Around that time in 1907, the house was remodeled in the more up-to-date Queen Anne style with a porch, columns, a cupola, and steeple as well as a weathervane which still decorates the rooftop.

In 1916 the Jefferson Park Ladies' Improvement Club took over the property and used the house as its venue until 1977 when it was acquired by the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs, the current proprietor, which has its offices on the second floor of the building. The Federation has a number of active programs both locally, through its more than 125 Washington State clubs, and nationally, through its membership in the National Garden Clubs. The local clubs are involved in many community garden projects, last year planting more

than 23,000 daffodil bulbs statewide. The Federation as well sponsors scholarships in agronomy and agriculture and participates in the national Blue Star Marker Program which pays tribute to "All who have served, are serving and will serve" by placing memorial signs at highways, veterans facilities, national cemeteries, parks, and many other civic locations.

As you would expect, Headquarters House (or Garden House) has a large, well-kept garden with many beautiful flowers, shrubs and trees. The garden is often used for weddings, picnics, and receptions during the summer months.

DAS holds its meeting on the ground floor, recently made more accessible with the addition of a ramp. The meeting space holds about 60 for dinner and can easily be re-configured as an "auditorium" space for our speakers. There's also a well-equipped kitchen which we've used to prepare many scrumptious pre-Dante pasta meals. The Festa di Natale per i Bambini, our traditional Christmas celebration for children and their families, is also held in Headquarters House.

We are very lucky to have found this comfortable, convenient, and well-equipped facility. DAS has been holding its meetings in Headquarters House since the 70's. Prior to finding a "home", DAS met in a number of restaurants, libraries, and other public facilities.

The Garden Club is always looking to expand its community ties. If you are looking for a place to hold a family reunion, a group picnic, a large party, a wedding or fundraiser, you might consider our "home" base. You can contact Carolyn Erickson by email at carolynerickson1@comcast.com or by phone at 206-949-2854 for further information.

Blue Star Highway Marker, the oldest in Washington State



DANTE CALENDAR 2010-2011

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

<p>September 2010</p> <p>8 Norizan Paterra/ Chris Kantor Hiking in Sardegna</p> <p>22 Ornella De Stavola Tour of Pistoia</p>	<p>February 2011</p> <p>9 Jonathan Brandt Architect's Tour: The Piazzas of Rome</p> <p>23 Claudio Mazzola Italian Film</p>
<p>October 2010</p> <p>13 Eric Scigliano <i>Michelangelo's Mountain</i></p> <p>27 Donna Yowell (UW) Dante's <i>Inferno</i></p>	<p>March 2011</p> <p>9 Joe Zavaglia Cooking School in Friuli</p> <p>23 Marco D'Ambrosio The Art of Making Gelato</p>
<p>November 2010</p> <p>10 Chris Zimmerman Italian Wine Tasting</p> <p>No Italian meeting in November</p>	<p>April 2011</p> <p>13 Election night (no speaker)</p> <p>27 Albert Sbragia Artistic Renaissance in Rome</p>
<p>December 2010</p> <p>4 Natale per i Bambini</p> <p>8 Christmas party</p> <p>No Italian meeting in December</p>	<p>May 2011</p> <p>11 TBA</p> <p>No Italian meeting in May</p>
<p>January 2011</p> <p>12 Joyce Ramee Live performance of music by Italian composers</p> <p>26 Nicoletta Machiavelli Sicily</p>	<p>June - August 2011</p> <p>Summer Break - No meetings held</p>

At the first meeting of each month (English program), pre-Dante pasta is communally prepared at 5:30 pm & served at 6:30 pm. Call the Activity Line (206) 320-9159 by the Monday before to reserve your spot(s). Cost: \$8.00 per person or \$15.00 per couple

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at Headquarters House, 2336 15th Ave S, in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Seattle. Directions are on page 12.

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:

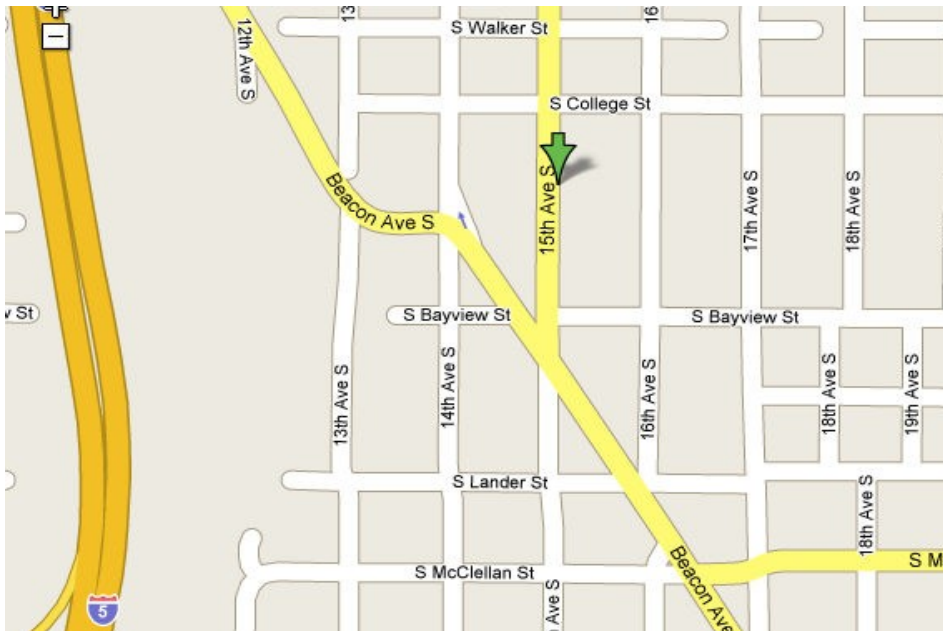
Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

PMB #1244

1122 East Pike Street

Seattle, WA 98122

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



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.