

# La Voce della Dante

Published by the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington (DAS)

<http://das.danteseattle.org>

February 2016

## February English Meeting:

### **"Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda*"**

#### **Presented by Dan DeMatteis**

Wednesday, February 10th, 6:30 pm, Headquarters House

Please join our President, Dan DeMatteis, presenting the historical and musical background of Donizetti's 1835 bel canto opera, *Maria Stuarda*. The Seattle Opera will be staging this thrilling and touching *opera lirica* this season from February 27 to March 3 at McCaw Hall. So this is a good time to brush up on bel canto, 16<sup>th</sup> c English history, early 19<sup>th</sup> c Neapolitan politics and Donizetti – as well as the musical delights of this engaging opera.

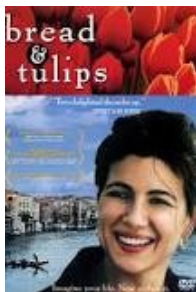
Dan discovered opera and rock'n roll at the same time when he was a teenager in the 50's. His interest in rock 'n roll and the music it influenced ran dry after Janis Joplin and the Beatles. But opera still remains for him a staple for daily consumption.

Wednesday, February 10th – pasta dinner at 6:30 pm at Headquarters House, presentation at 7:30 pm.

## February Italian Meeting:

### **"Movie and Antipasti Evening"**

Wednesday, February 24th, 6:30 pm, Headquarters House



Our scheduled presenter, Beatrice Arduini, is unable to be here for our February Italian meeting. In place of her presentation, we will have a special movie night with antipasti beginning at 6:30 pm. The movie to be shown is titled "*Pane e tulipani*" (Bread and Tulips).

This is a 2000 romance comedy film directed by Italian director Silvio Soldini and stars Licia Maglietta and Bruno Ganz.

The story is about an Italian housewife of Abruzzo, Rosalba Barietta (Maglietta) who finds herself stranded during a family vacation. Instead of waiting for her controlling businessman husband, she hitchhikes home, impulsively detouring to Venice, meeting a restaurant maitre d' Fernando Girasole (Ganz), and soon finds herself enjoying her new life. And so the plot thickens...

Come and enjoy a relaxing evening watching this movie along with wine, antipasti, and dolci on February 24th beginning at 6:30 pm.

## Upcoming Events

Wed, Feb 10th:

"Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda*"

presented by Dan DeMatteis, Headquarters House, Pre-dante pasta at 6:30 pm, presentation begins at 7:30 pm.



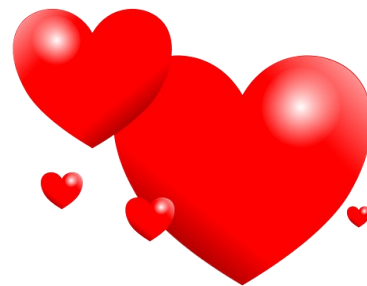
Wed, February 24th:

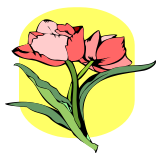
"Move and Antipasti Evening"

Movie: "*Pane e tulipani*"

6:30 pm at Headquarters House  
(The movie is 114 minutes)

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day





## Our New Members

**Benvenuti  
Nuovi Membri**

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

### **\* DAS Star List 2016\***

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**

- \* Crosetto, James & Deborah
- \* Gillett, Debra Rovetto
- \* Hoffman, Pat

#### **Argento \$26 to \$50**

- \* Crawford, Barbara
- \* Morton, Lorraine
- \*

#### **Oro \$51 to \$100**

- \* Cottrell, David & Jane
- \* Greenfield, Peter

#### **Platino—over \$100**

Consider making a donation to DAS today. Your donation helps DAS maintain the excellent programs and activities sponsored. Everyone benefits!

The names on the donation list will remain through December 31, 2016. If you make a donation after May 2015, your name will be on the donation list through 2016 then a new DAS Star List begins January 2017.

## From the President's Desk

**C**iao tutti –

2016 is in full swing now and I want to remind you all to renew your Dante Alighieri Society of Washington membership – or to join if you're not already a member. Membership is open to anyone who enjoys all things Italian and would like to expand their knowledge of a beautiful country, a musical language, a rich history, delicious food and wine as well as Italy's friendly and diverse people. The mission of our Society is to promote Italian language and culture around the world – and for us here in Seattle that means:

- getting together regularly to share food, wine and friendship, and enjoying presentations on many aspects of Italian culture
- offering Italian Language classes to members and the general public through our D.A.S Italian Language Program
- receiving a copy of our monthly online newsletter, *La Voce*, with notices and articles about things Italian and
- supporting local Italian cultural events like Festa Italiana and the SIFF Italian Film Festival.

Membership is only \$40 a year, \$50 for a couple or a family, payable on a calendar year basis and is due at the time of joining and at the first of each year thereafter. If you join at Festa, your first membership is good for the year you joined and for the next year.

Many of our members also make a donation to Dante at the time they join or renew their membership. Donations can be earmarked for the Society or for the Language School. This helps us keep our prices for both as low as possible. All donations are tax-deductible as well. Dante Alighieri Society of Washington is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Tax ID: 91-0988808.

You can sign up at any of our regular meetings, English or Italian. Just ask for the Treasurer or any of the Board members. The membership application is also on our website, along with instructions for its use:

[http://www.danteseattle.org/pdf/dante\\_print\\_membership.pdf](http://www.danteseattle.org/pdf/dante_print_membership.pdf)

Finally, I urge you all to read the article in this edition of *La Voce* by and about the Nominating Committee, which is organizing a slate of candidates for our Annual General Meeting on April 13th, 2016. The best way to enjoy your membership in Dante is to volunteer and the Nominating Committee will be happy to help you do that! Members of the Nominating Committee for this year are:

- Jane Cottrell, Chair
- Nancy McDonald
- Melinda Jankord-Steedman
- Sylvia Shiroyama

Please contact them if you'd like more information.

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

*A presto!*

*Dan DeMatteis*



## Language Program News by Giuseppe Tassone Italian Language Program Director

Winter quarter started on January 5th with 54 students enrolled and four levels of Italian (A1, A2, B1, B2) taught by Dida Berretta, Marina Gagliardi, Michela Tartaglia and Nicla Rivero. Winter quarter is the second quarter for all levels. Most of the students attended fall quarter while others, who studied Italian previously, joined the program in the winter and were placed in their appropriate level.

Once again Seattle University is hosting our program and as a result our students have multimedia classrooms with Internet, in addition to the printed text, and are exposed to videos, news, commercials, and music in order to enhance their learning experience. We are very fortunate to be able to use their facilities and classrooms and are very grateful to the administration for allowing us this use.

The use of multimedia has many benefits such as improvement of students' listening comprehension skills. When taking the PLIDA exam students find the oral part pretty challenging, especially at level B1 and above as we experienced last November. Their exposure to spoken Italian through both listening to the instructor and follow up exercises is fundamental for a successful completion of the exam. Other skills tested in the PLIDA are reading, writing, and speaking.

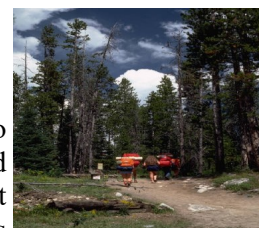
Last May we offered the PLIDA A2 exam and in November we offered the PLIDA B2 exam. The students who took the exam received the official certificate issued by the *Società Dante Alighieri* with the seal of the *University of Rome – La Sapienza* and the *Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs*. I encourage our students to consider taking the exam in May or November not only for practical reasons, such as to satisfy the language requirement for the permit of long stay in Italy or to enroll to Italian universities, but also for personal gratification and to formally assess proficiency in Italian. Although the Rome Headquarter administers the exam, students can take the exams in Seattle since the Dante Alighieri Society of Washington is one of the few institutions in North America to offer it under my coordination. The exam is open to everyone not only to students, and the fee is very reasonable. If a student fails any of the four skills he/she can re-take only that portion of the exam instead of taking the entire exam again.

To conclude, I want to thank Seattle University for hosting the courses, our students for their dedication to the program, and our instructors for their excellent work. Students in their evaluations praised their skills and their ability to create a friendly atmosphere in the classroom that enable them to make progress and attend class regularly even after a day at work. Class meets from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.!

Here are some excerpts of their comments at the end of fall quarter 2015: *I enjoyed the exercises in this class, and the reading was easily understandable. The handouts were helpful, and I LOVED the cultural notes and presentations that Dida gave to us (A1). Marina is VERY encouraging and supportive and kind. She makes the classroom a safe place to practice*

## Club Alpino Italiano (CAI) PNW

Club Alpino  
second  
Saturday event  
for February is  
as follows:



Feb 13th: Birding in Skagit with  
Elena Bianco

Check the CIA PNW website for further information:

[cai-pnw.com](http://cai-pnw.com)



## DAS Board Meeting

Board meetings are held on a Wednesday every other month from September through May.

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 16th, 2016.

Meetings are held from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Community Room at Merrill Gardens at First Hill (formerly Faerland Terrace), 1421 Minor Avenue on Capitol Hill. Meetings are open to all members.



(Continued on page 4 )

*speaking Italian and she makes the concepts much more clear and easier to understand (A2). I found Michela to be a fantastic instructor. She sets a good pace and does a great job of accommodating to all skill levels within the class. I am looking forward to continuing on with her (B1). Nicla did an exceptional job with handouts, activities, videos, sharing of cultural exchanges, grammar explanation, and the small group activities were great. We learned so much under her expert tutelage (B2). Laura inspired lively and engaged conversation, and carefully included every student in it. Laura's ability to make this work is exceptional. Although the fluency of the individual students varied significantly, all were challenged and all made progress (C2). This is a great program and I would definitely recommend it. Excellent, I would recommend it!*

### **The Program:**

Since 1984, the local chapter of Dante Alighieri Society has offered a comprehensive Italian Language Program for all those interested in learning or perfecting their Italian language skills. Our instructors are qualified and native speakers, classes are small and our per hour instruction cost provides you good value.

### **Classes Available:**

Six class levels from A1 to C2, each level consisting of three quarters—Fall, Winter, and Spring, are offered during the year as enrollment permits.

### **Schedule:**

The school year extends from late September or early October to June with a class break every 10 weeks. **Each class level begins in the fall and lasts for three quarters or 30 weeks.** Classes meet twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

### **Location:**

Seattle University campus, Administration Building

### **Class Descriptions:**

*Beginning Italian (Level A1)* - This course is 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. During the three-quarter course, students will be engaged in a variety of fun activities and begin their journey of learning Italian.

*Elementary Italian (Level A2)* - The elementary level is the continuation of the beginning class or for those who have already studied some Italian. Students will finish exploring essential grammar structures while learning appropriate and relevant words and expressions. At the end of the three-quarter course, students should be able to use basic structures of the language with confidence and be able to communicate well in daily situations.

*Intermediate (Level B1)* - This course will review and reinforce the student's basic knowledge of Italian. Students will review and reinforce their knowledge of the language in addition to expanding their vocabulary and ability to understand written and spoken Italian. Students will be exposed to cultural and literary readings and will develop a greater understanding of Italian culture, lifestyle, and way of thinking.

*Upper-Intermediate (Level B2)* - This course is the continuation of B1. It completes the review and reinforcement of grammar covered in the previous beginning and elementary levels in addition covering any missing structures. This course will help students understand articles from newspapers and the web, song lyrics, literary excerpts, videos, and excerpts from films and commercials. At the end of the three-quarter course, students will be able to engage effectively in a conversation, express opinions, and give simple explanations.

*Intermediate—Advanced (Level C1)* - This course is designed for students who have completed the grammar topics reviewed and expanded in level B1 and B2 or have a good grasp of them. Students will perfect their grammar and greatly improve their comprehension, conversation, and writing skills. Students will read and discuss literature, watch films and videos in Italian and converse about the cinema, art, Italian news, and current events. At the end of the three-quarters course, one will be able to interact with Italian speakers fluently and spontaneously.

*Advanced Italian (Level C2)* -

Level C2 is the capstone of our program. It is designed for students who have completed level C1 and wish to continue for an additional year. The goal of the three quarter course is to deepen and perfect the student's existing knowledge of the Italian language.

(Continued on page 5)



## Course Schedule:

<i>Fall Quarter 2015:</i>	October 1 - December 10
Thanksgiving—No classes 11/26	
Pre-registration Deadline:	September 27
<i>Winter Quarter 2016:</i>	January 5 - March 10
Pre-registration Deadline:	December 21
<i>Spring Quarter 2016:</i>	March 31 - June 7
Pre-registration Deadline:	March 21

## Class Fee:

Level A1 & A2 - \$180 per quarter  
Level B1 & B2 - \$275 per quarter  
Level C1 & C2 - \$300 per quarter

For further information email: [info@danteseattle.org](mailto:info@danteseattle.org)  
To register: [www.danteseattle.org/register.html](http://www.danteseattle.org/register.html)



[www.facebook.com/danteseattle](http://www.facebook.com/danteseattle)

## La Voce

**I**t's been a wet winter both in the Pacific Northwest and here in Georgia. We had an inch and half of snow fall while we were in the Pacific Northwest in January so glad we missed that. Here's hoping for a beautiful spring.

If you find an interesting article, event, book, anything related to the Italian life, please consider sharing this through La Voce. Submissions are always welcome and by all means send the articles to me any time. The sooner the better!

*Linda*

La Voce Editor

[LTHDesign@comcast.net](mailto:LTHDesign@comcast.net)

*Happy Valentine's  
Day*

## Delivering La Voce to Members



**L**a Voce will be sent as a pdf file attachment to your email address. Or you may log onto the Dante website to see the latest issue as well as back issues of La Voce. The website is:

[www.das.danteseattle.org](http://www.das.danteseattle.org)

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

Be sure your mailbox isn't full otherwise you will have to check the Dante website.

## Inclement Weather Procedure

**I**t's not winter yet but weather can still be prickly. Hopefully, there will be no repeat of winter pasts but in case there is, keep in mind when 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, 425-243-7663, 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.



DO NOT attempt to travel to Headquarters House, we want everyone to be safe.



## 2015 Plida Dates

### November 2015 Session

Nov 25th:

Levels A1, A2, B1

\*Due to Thanksgiving the date will change

Nov 26th:

Levels B2, C1, C2

\*Due to Thanksgiving the date will change

*Registration Deadline:* Nov 13th

#### Exam Fees:

Level A1 (\$72)

Level A2 (\$72)

Level B1 (\$96)

Level B2 (\$108)

Level C1 (\$156)

Level C2 (\$156)

#### Registration:

Mail the registration form available at:

[www.danteseattle.org/plida](http://www.danteseattle.org/plida) along with your check or money order made payable to Dante Alighieri Society of WA - PLIDA

#### Mailing Address:

Dante Alighieri Society of WA - PLIDA

PO Box 16257

Seattle, WA 98116

Registration form with payment must arrive on the day of the registration deadline or before.

#### Exam Location:

Seattle University campus

Seattle, WA

#### Further Information:

Contact the PLIDA Coordinator, Prof. Giuseppe Tassone at: [plida@danteseattle.org](mailto:plida@danteseattle.org)

**Note:** 2016 information will be updated as soon as possible.



## PLIDA

*The Dante Alighieri Society of Washington is one of the few institutes in North America authorized to offer PLIDA (Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri-Dante Alighieri Italian Language Project) certification.*

The Dante Alighieri Society of Washington in Seattle is an official examination center of the Società Dante Alighieri and provides its students and others the opportunity of taking PLIDA exams in order to obtain a PLIDA certificate.

#### *The PLIDA Certificate*

The PLIDA certificate is an official Diploma issued by the Società Dante Alighieri under an agreement with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the University of Rome *La Sapienza*. It is recognized by the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and by the Italian Ministry of University and Research as a qualification for the proficiency in the Italian language for foreigners.

The PLIDA certificates attest proficiency in Italian as a foreign language on a 6-level scale according to the parameters established by the Common European Framework for Languages (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2).

#### *Why Take the PLIDA Exam*

Students who may wish to be certified include those who plan to study at Italian universities (which accepts PLIDA Certification - level B2 minimum - as proof of proficiency), American high school and college students who may seek college credit, or persons wishing to be certified for obtaining an application for the Italian Permit of Stay in Italy (level A2 minimum). Certification may also interest students who see the examination as a capstone experience after taking their language courses.

For more information on the PLIDA certificates, visit the official PLIDA website: [www.plida.it/plida/](http://www.plida.it/plida/)

#### *Dates, Registration, Location, and Exam Fees*

PLIDA certificate sessions will be held every year in May and November. Candidates may choose to take an exam at the level they feel is closest to their proficiency. Registration does not require having taken lower-level tests.

Candidates need to register approximately 30 days prior to the exam date. Dates of each exam, registration deadlines, location, exam fees, and registration instructions check the Language School's Plida website at:

[www.danteseattle.org/plida.html](http://www.danteseattle.org/plida.html)

For any questions, email: [plida@danteseattle.org](mailto:plida@danteseattle.org)





## La Voce Needs You!

**T**ell 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 has contributed articles.

Article submission deadline:

<u>ISSUE DATE</u>	<u>SUBMISSION DEADLINE</u>
March 2016	February 18th
April 2016	March 20th

(La Voce is not published June, July, or August)

**NOTE:** Please keep in mind the above submission deadlines and it's great if articles were submitted as early as possible.

## 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

**J**oin 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 (425) 243-7663 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:

PO Box 9494

Seattle, WA 98109

(425) 243-7663

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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*La Voce Editor*

Terry Hanlon  
*Hospitality*

Melinda Jankord-Steedman  
*Program Chair*

Giuseppe Tassone  
*Language Program Director*



## Elections

Please become involved. Our annual elections will be held at our April 13th English meeting.



Dante needs nominees for the following positions:

*Vice President*

*Secretary*

*3 Consigliere positions*

*Festa Italiana Manager*

*Wine Tasting Dinner Manager*

*Italian Night Antipasti Manager*

Please consider volunteering for these open positions or nominate some of your friends.

Vote on Election Night, Wednesday, April 13th. If you are a current member (dues paid for the new year), enjoy a free pasta dinner prepared by the DAS Board.

## Donations

When you send a donation to DAS, please designate the donation as going to the Society (DAS) or to the Language School or if you wish to donate to both, please designate the amount for each.

The membership form found in La Voce now reflects how donations can be designated.

## Carnevale 2016

Carnevale 2016 began January 23rd, 2016 and runs through February 9th in Venice. If you have been in Venice during Carnevale, perhaps you would like to write an article about this event! But, for those who have not, here are some pictures from this year's event.

In Seattle, Fat Tuesday was celebrated on a large scale until the riot in 2001 which led to a moratorium on large Mardi Gras celebrations in the city but if you search, there may be a few Fat Tuesday celebrations still going on in Seattle, but on a much smaller scale.





# DANTE CALENDAR 2015–2016

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

<p><b>2015:</b></p> <p>September 9th: English Meeting Rob Prufer “Great Italian Artworks of Parties &amp; Feasts”</p> <p>September 23rd: Italian Meeting Giuseppe Tassone “Maratona infernale: in viaggio con Dante</p>	<p><b>2016:</b></p> <p>January 13th: English Meeting Terry Tazioli, Journalist of TVW’s <i>Well Read</i></p> <p>January 27th: Italian Meeting Anna Veraldi, Architect “Renaissance Gardens of Lazio”</p>
<p>October 14th: English Meeting Adrienne Bandlow “Holy Cannoli”</p> <p>October 28th: Italian Meeting Cecilia Stretto “The American Way and the Italian Way: Differences in Every Day Life”</p>	<p>February 10th: English Meeting Dan DeMatteis “Donizetti’s <i>Maria Stuarda</i>”</p> <p>February 24th: Italian Meeting Movie &amp; Antipasti “Pane e Tulipani” (Bread and Tulips)</p>
<p>November 11th: English Meeting “Festa di Natale per i Bambini: It’s Origin &amp; Preview of our Celebration December 5th”</p> <p>No Italian Meeting in November</p>	<p>March 9th: English Meeting Wine Tasting Dinner w/Chris Zimmerman</p> <p>March 23rd: Italian Meeting David Chapman “La Pantera Biondo, Italian Comic Book”</p>
<p>December 5th: Festa di Natale per i Bambini</p> <p>December 9th: Annual Christmas Party</p> <p>No Italian Meeting in December</p>	<p>April 13th: English Meeting Election Night</p> <p>April 27th: Italian Meeting TBD</p>
	<p>May 11th: English Meeting Vickie Olson (Newcastle Historical Society) “The Italian Immigrants of Newcastle”</p> <p>No Italian Meeting in May</p> <p><i>June-August 2016: Summer break, no meetings.</i></p>

**A**t the first meeting of each month (English program), pre-Dante pasta is communally prepared at 5:30 pm and served at 6:30 pm. Call the Activity Line (425) 243-7663 by the Monday before to reserve your spot (s) or email your request to: [dante.reserve@gmail.com](mailto:dante.reserve@gmail.com). Cost: \$8.00 per person or \$15.00 per couple

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

## 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 (\$40.00 for individual, \$50.00 for a family).

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed:

Membership Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution: Society: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

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

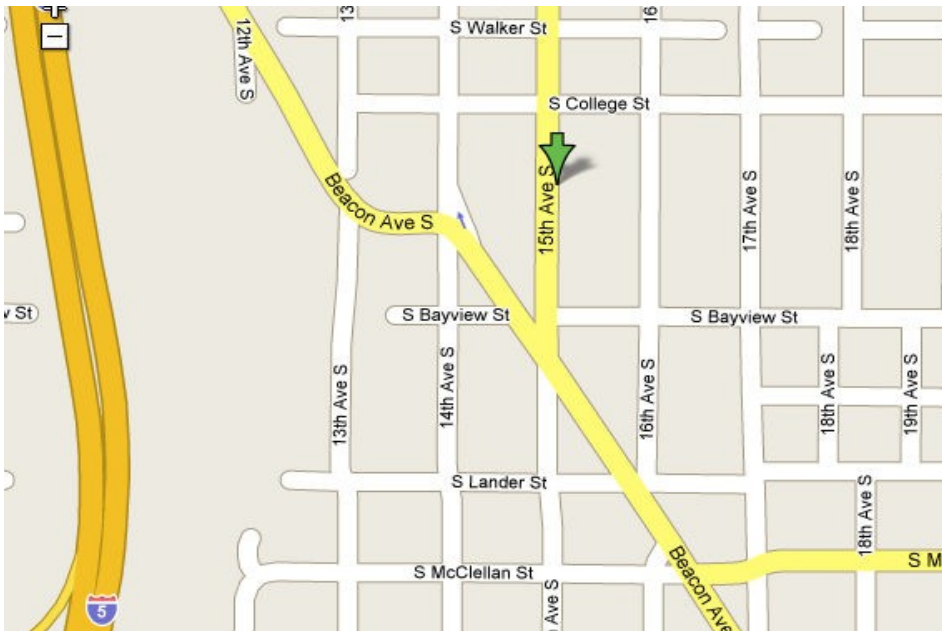
Please return completed membership application with check to:

Dante Alighieri Society of Washington

PO Box 9494

Seattle, WA 98109

If you have any questions, please call (425) 243-7663 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.