**American Literature Association**

**26th Annual Conference**

**May 21-24, 2015**

**Boston, MA**

**Toni Morrison Society Sessions at the American Literature Association Conference, May 21-24, 2015, Boston, MA**

The Toni Morrison Society invites proposals for papers to be presented at the 2015 American Literature Association Conference in Boston, MA. Send proposals (250-500 words) as well as academic affiliation to Evelyn Schreiber at schreiber.evelyn@gmail.com. Deadline for proposals: **January 1, 2015.**

**Panel: Toni Morrison’s *Desdemona***
This panel invites papers that examine Toni Morrison’s play/musical performance, *Desdemona*. First staged in Vienna in 2009 and performed around the world by a touring ensemble, *Desdemona*—where Barbary and Desdemona articulate their thoughts from the afterlife--deserves critical attention. Papers might explore themes of time, memory, narrative performance, absence, storytelling, women and agency, subject/object positions, the politics of race, gender, and class, the multicultural Mediterranean, colonialism, or any other intriguing avenues of scholarship. Papers might also explore *Desdemona* as a reimagining of Shakespeare’s *Othello* through Barbary and Desdemona.

**Roundtable: Teaching Roundtable: Teaching Morrison’s *Desdemona***

As Morrison’s *Desdemona* becomes part of her canon, the challenge of teaching a performance piece warrants attention. In what ways does *Desdemona* compare with Morrison’s novels and non-fiction work? What themes resonate with other oeuvres that make *Desdemona* a companion piece with other works in a Morrison course; with the teaching of Shakespeare’s *Othello*; or with a course in literature? What issues of genre must be included in the teaching of *Desdemona*? How can this work be interdisciplinary or cross-listed with other departments? How might the cross-cultural dialogue be enhanced by gender, race, and class? This Teaching Roundtable invites participants to consider these and other pedagogical issues.