Dear ALA participants,

We had an absolutely wonderful time and hope that you did as well. We also hope you were able to return home safely despite weather conditions! Thank you for your participation and contribution in making this year’s conference a success.

To summarize this success, we’d like to share with you the following facts:

- Attendance included 400+ participants plus numerous guests at the public events
- 106 separate panels (including caucus business meetings, creative writing sessions, and professional development sessions) and 4 film-screenings in 12 concurrent sessions over 4 days
- Opening and closing keynote sessions featuring veterans of the Civil Rights struggle and anti-apartheid struggle (Cleveland Sellers and Albie Sachs), both of whom drew attention to the mutual reinforcement of the African freedom struggle and the African-American experience
- Five caucus speakers (Emory Campbell, Laura Murphy, Gcina Mhlope, Leonora Miano, and Patrick Chabal) including four caucus luncheons, and the first ever Iuso-hispanophone caucus luncheon
- Two special events: one honoring the dead of the Middle Passage and the under-acknowledged Africans and African-descended people who built new worlds in the Americas (see photos at the end of this message); the other honoring the passing of Chinua Achebe
- Two conference-sponsored receptions: one at the Avery Research Center; the other featuring a performance by Lapiro de Mbanga
- A reception sponsored by African Heritage Press featuring Tanure Ojaide
- Kora and balafon music provided throughout the conference by Alhaji Papa Sussou and Balla Kouyate; additional kora performance by Kurt Lamkin
- A reading and book-signing by Moyez Vassanji
- A dramatic reading of new play adaptation by Jay Ball of Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela’s A Human Being Died That Night
- We estimate that about 25 hours of the proceedings have been recorded

Two aspects of this conference that made it especially significant:

1) The sudden passing of Chinua Achebe and the tribute panel arranged on Friday night to honor his life and work; and

2) That the conference generally met its major goals, both in its own right—academically speaking as an exploration of the theme of Literature, Liberation, and the Law within the association—and in this year of Jubilee, as an intervention in public history, going some way to addressing the acknowledgment gap that Anthonia commented on in her introductory remarks at the Brittlebank Park ceremony and that Albie Sachs mentioned in his keynote address.
It will take us some time to process final numbers; however, we do expect to be within budget and even to have raised additional funds for the ALA through the conference t-shirt sales. Speaking of which, **we do still have some t-shirts available in M, L and XL**. So if you are interested in purchasing one, please send us a check payable to “African Literature Association” for $20 and we will ship it to you for free.

We are also in the process of making DVDs from recordings taken of keynote addresses and other special conference events. More details to follow.

The conference was a labor of love for all of us. It was completely exhausting, but unbelievably important to us and we feel privileged to have been able to host everyone. And while the conference may now be over, the excitement of this Jubilee year continues; we encourage you to take a look at our blog-site and stay connected with us at [http://jubileeprojectsc.wordpress.com/](http://jubileeprojectsc.wordpress.com/). We also invite you to leave comments regarding any aspect of the ALA conference which you feel may be appropriate to have appearing on the blog-site.

Caucus chairs, we further request that you add your own comments/reports to this one and send them out to the general ALA conference list.

Many thanks,
The Conference Planning Team, Support Staff & Volunteers
A Few Selected Images from the Ceremony of Remembrance
At Brittlebank Park, March 21, 2013
Photos courtesy of Leslie McKellar
Additional photos can be viewed at:
https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.547907035250185.1073741825.513384905369065&type=1&l=fa808cb059