

**TONI MORRISON SOCIETY SEVENTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE: TONI  
MORRISON AND HER ROLE AS EDITOR JULY 21-24, 2016, The Roosevelt  
Hotel  
New York, New York  
–CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS–**

**Greetings, Colleagues,**

We are delighted to announce the Seventh Biennial Conference of the Toni Morrison Society. This conference, co-sponsored this year with Alfred A. Knopf, will continue our “Toni Morrison *and*” series and will focus on **Toni Morrison and Her Role as Editor**. We have planned a series of programs to highlight this aspect of Morrison’s career and to discuss its impact even today. Breaking with the tradition of conference papers delivered by individual scholars, the Seventh Biennial will be an all-plenary, full participatory conference with roundtable discussion sessions following each plenary panel.

The Seventh Biennial will take place in New York City, where Morrison began her publishing career in 1973. Panel themes will span major contributions during her editing career and its impact into the present. We have a stellar line-up of invited plenary panelists who will address all of these themes drawing from personal and professional experiences. In lieu of conference papers, conference attendees can apply to be a Principal Discussant in a roundtable discussion session on a topic linked to the theme of one plenary panels.

**Conference Updates**

We have confirmed the participation of the following conference presenters: Keynote addresses by Dana Williams, Professor of English at Howard University and Chris Jackson, Executive Editor at Spiegel and Grau; plenary panelists include writers, scholars, and critics Edwidge Danticat, Angela Davis, Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah, Paula Giddings, Tayari Jones, Kiese Laymon, John McCluskey, Howard Rambsy II, Martha Southgate, Quincy Troupe, and Cheryl Wall.

The Seventh Biennial Conference will be one of the filming sites for the American Masters documentary production featuring Toni Morrison.

Soprano Marti Newland will perform Richard Danielpour’s “Love Triptych” from *Margaret Garner* Saturday evening at our gala birthday tribute honoring Ms. Morrison.

The Roosevelt Hotel, a Madison Avenue mid-town hotel, has extended its TMS Biennial Conference rate (\$219) to include 3 days before and 3 days after the Conference. Go to the Conference Registration page on the Society website ([www.tonimorrisonociety.org](http://www.tonimorrisonociety.org)), and follow the instructions for pre- and-post conference hotel registration dates.

## **The Conference in Brief**

During her tenure at Random House, Toni Morrison shepherded the works of a new generation of Black authors and championed, as in-house editor, one of the most significant collections of Black life artifacts ever published, *The Black Book*. As Senior Editor, Ms. Morrison set an agenda for Black writing in the 70s and 80s and shaped a role for Black editors, which continues to resonate as the ideal in the publishing world today.

This year's program features a format of all-plenary sessions: keynote speakers and plenary panels with invited speakers. Instead of the traditional "call for papers" this Conference will also feature Roundtable Discussion Sessions with "Principal Discussants" who will serve in similar presenter roles. Roundtable Discussion Sessions will follow each Plenary Panel. If you are seeking institutional support for your participation as a Principal Discussant, please complete the [\*\*Principal Discussant Sign-Up form\*\*](#). The Society will send a formal letter of invitation and will review your request and respond within 72 hours of your submission. [\*\*\[For more information about official participation and the role of Principal Discussant click here\]\*\*](#).

The Plenary Panels will focus on many aspects of Morrison's editing career: how she became an editor and how she viewed her role; her impact on the authors whose work she edited; her work on *The Black Book*, and the ways in which her editing career influenced her own writing; and how her editing career continues to influence the work of younger writers who are navigating the contours of today's publishing landscape.

The Seventh Biennial also includes the Authors' and Editors' Luncheon, a Gala celebration of Ms. Morrison's 85th birthday, and the twentieth Bench by the Road Placement at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. These events are all included in the \$300.00 registration fee.

Please plan to join us 21-24 July for what we are sure will be a memorable reunion weekend that brings us together in an exploration of an exciting facet of Ms. Morrison's career.

[\*\*Click here to register for the Conference and to view the full Conference Schedule.\*\*](#)

Further details are on our website: <http://tonimorrisonssociety.org/>

**Sincerely,  
Adrienne Seward and Carolyn Denard  
Conference Co-chairs**