



Adinkra Symbol

"Changing oneself: playing many roles"

# African Literature Association Newsletter

An independent, non-profit professional society of scholars, teachers and writers  
dedicated to the advancement of African Literacy Studies, Founded in 1974

## A Message from your ALA President: Debra Boyd

Dear ALA Members, Affiliates and Associates:

Greetings to all! I begin by affirming that the African Literature Association is an inclusive organization. You are invited to full participation in our activities. The officers and executive council urge you to join the caucuses and to serve on one or more of the many committees.

We would like to offer a word of encouragement to our colleagues and friends who have been displaced due to Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters. We thank God that, to our knowledge, not one of you perished even though you may have suffered great material and personal loss. The ALA has not forgotten about you. You are in our thoughts and prayers and we are seeking appropriate ways to demonstrate our support.

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation are extended to Mildred "Mimi" Mortimer, Adeleke Adeeko and to the University of Colorado community. The 2005 conference

was indeed a rich and memorable season of intellectual and cultural engagement, fellowship that ended with a blizzard that brought us again to novel levels of comradeship (smiles).

We are looking forward with great anticipation to our return to Ghana for the 2006 meeting. Some of us were present for the first ALA conference in Ghana almost 12 years ago. Our last ALA sojourn to the Motherland (Egypt 2003) took place at a critical moment in world history. The stress of the decision to convene at that time strengthened us and reinforced our commitment to activism. Make your plans now to attend the 2006 conference in Accra, Ghana (May 17-21, 2006). The preliminary preparation resonates the advent of an extraordinary gathering of African literature scholars and artists from several continents.

During the upcoming African Studies Association meeting in Washington, DC (Nov. 17-20, 2005) the

ALA officers and Executive Council will discuss future venues and other important business of the organization. Send to me as soon as possible issues of concern that you would like to see included on the agenda.

Meanwhile, you have my best wishes for a successful academic year. Hope to see you in Ghana!

Debra S. Boyd, Ph.D.  
ALA President  
dsboyd@udc.edu



## YOUR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**Eustace Palmer, Ph.D.**  
(Vice President)

Eustace Palmer is a professor of English, and Coordinator of Africana Studies at Georgia College and State University. He received his MA, Ph.D. from University of Edinburgh in Scotland, and is one of the pioneer critics of African literature. He has helped promote the study of African literature in academia through his teaching and many publications.

**Hal Wylie**  
(Past President)

Dr. Wylie was a charter member of the ALA whose involvement began on the steering committee which organized the first conference held at UT in 1975. He has been involved with the organization on every level since that time. In 2000 he retired from teaching but is still directing dissertations and plans to attend many more ALA conferences.

**Amy Elder**  
(Secretary)

Dr. Elder has been a member of the ALA for several years, and has devoted much of that time to WOCALA. Dr. Elder would like the ALA to continue its work in the community here and abroad. She wants to see more scholarly

### Debra Boyd

*Dr. Boyd-Buggs has been a member of the African Literature Association since 1982. She holds a Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures from Ohio State University where she studied under the late Richard Bjornson. She has been a pioneer for many years for the publication of Sahelian literature, with a focus on works from Niger, Senegal, Mali and Chad. Her goals for ALA include expanding the use of technology to offer a wider range of ALA sponsored information to the world. This would include African Literature, research and pedagogy.*

Produced by ALA Headquarters - JoAnne Cornwell, Director San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile  
Dr. San Diego, CA 92182-8132 jcornwel@mail.sdsu.edu

## Your Executive Council (cont....)

voices in academia and would like to help strategize new methods of increasing the academy's recognition of the importance of Africa and its curricular and budgetary planning.

### **E. Anthony Hurley (Treasurer)**

'Tony' Hurley teaches in the Department of African Studies at SUNY. He earned his Ph.D. from Rutgers University, joined the ALA in 1989 and has been a member ever since. Anthony Hurley has been committed to the organization's continued growth and its effectiveness in contributing to the development of new generations of scholars.

### **Becky Ayebia Clarke (Executive Council)**

Born in Ghana, Becky Clarke earned her BA in literature and MA in Women's Studies from Oxford University. She founded Ayebia Publishing and Literacy Agency, and brings a wealth of knowledge in post-colonial literature and educational publishing to the ALA Executive. She would also like to bring more women's writing and criticism to the fore and enable contemporary writers to reach an international readership.

### **Wangui wa Goro (Executive Council)**

Wangui wa Goro been an active member of the ALA for several years. She is a critic, writer, translator and translation scholar based at she University of Middlesex in the UK. Her Background in Modern European literatures and languages has also provided Wangui wa Goro with an appreciation for Francophone and Italianphone literatures of

Africa.

### **George Joseph (Executive Council)**

George Joseph has been a member of the ALA since the 1970's and was the association's secretary from 1989 to 1993. Joseph is a professor of French and Francophone studies at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. His goals for the African Literature Association are to establish more new voices within the organization, and bridge the gap between American scholars and African scholars based in African Universities.

### **Keiko Kusunose (Executive Council)**

Keiko Kusunose is a Professor of African Literature at Kyoto Seika university, Japan. She has been a member of African literature Association since 1999 and served as one of the executive members that same year. She has made great contribution to the study of African literature in Japan since 1977, including translations of texts into Japanese.

### **Mark Lilleleht (Executive Council)**

Mark Lilleleht is a graduate student in the Department of African Languages and Literatures at UW Madison. He has been a member of ALA since 1995 and also serves as the chair of ALA's Issues Committee and the Employment committee. Mr. Lilleleht goals for the organization are to build on our international membership quality and to push for a more active outreach program for international scholars. He would also like to see the ALA push for more educational transfer programs, to benefit deserv-

ing and underserved communities by providing tools for accessing today's technology.

### **Soraya Mekerta (Executive Council)**

Soraya Merkerta is currently a professor of French at Spelman College. Originally from Algeria, she received her formal education in France and the United States. Dr. Mekerta's goals for the Association are for the members to become visionaries and

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Once the system is fully operational, we will post a link for paying your dues on our website at:

[www.africanlit.org](http://www.africanlit.org).

Of course, new membership and renewal dues may still be paid by check or money order made out to "ALA."

Since we are exploring a new option, we would like to hear your feedback regarding this method of payment. Please send email to:

*African Literature Association  
Treasurer@notes.cc.sunysb.edu*

A "Call For Papers" for the inaugural issue of JALA, the Journal of the African Literature Association, will appear in the next ALA Bulletin, and will also be posted on the ALA website

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## Use PayPal for Memberships and Renewals

As of September 25, 2005, we will have instituted an additional and convenient method of payment for the ALA's 2006 membership dues. We have established an account with PayPal ([www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com)), a website that allows electronic transfer of funds. This account will allow you to use money from your bank account or credit card to pay the ALA treasury directly. The money will go directly into the ALA's bank account and you will receive an automated receipt stating that your money has been received. In order to utilize PayPal, you must establish your own free personal PayPal account. If you already have an account, please feel free to use it to pay your dues. Once you have a PayPal account, you may send payments via our new (and unfortunately quite long) email address:

*African Literature Association  
Treasurer@notes.cc.sunysb.edu*