

George Sand Association at 40: Past, Present, Future

The George Sand Association (GSA) began at Hofstra University in 1976 as The Friends of George Sand – thus creating not only a North American home for studies on George Sand’s work but also establishing the Hofstra University Cultural Center. In 1984 the society was recast as the George Sand Association and officially registered as an Allied Organization of the MLA. The initial publication, *The Friends of George Sand Newsletter*, was reorganized as a scholarly journal (with CELJ status) in 1984 as *George Sand Studies*; and in 1992, it was restructured in the format we have today. During this time, twenty-two international conferences have been sponsored and/or co-organized by the society in the US, Canada, France, Italy, Ireland, Hungary and Germany. 2016 marks the 40th anniversary of the group that launched and has sustained Sand studies in North America and abroad. We return to Hofstra University to celebrate this anniversary and especially to brainstorm and develop ideas for the future of GSA.

Friday, 23 September 2016, we invite you to participate in a one-day symposium to acknowledge this benchmark in Sand studies. We invite you to send a brief proposal for a 15-minute presentation that highlights some aspect of the society’s contribution and inspiration to your work on Sand. **Please send proposals no later than 15 January 2016.**

We are also hoping to organize a round table for 4-7 speakers who could speak for 5-10 minutes on a topic related to the past, present, and future of the society. This topic could focus on:

- works by Sand that are rarely studied;
- works that have become better known thanks to studies occasioned by GSA;
- publications and/or events sponsored or inspired by GSA;
- and other suggestions.

This moment of acknowledgment will be further enhanced by the presentation of the long-awaited volume *Approaches to Teaching George Sand’s Indiana* in the MLA “Approaches to Teaching” series, edited by David A. Powell and Pratima Prasad.

A modest registration fee of \$35 will include coffee in the morning and after lunch, a buffet lunch, and a closing cocktail. Lodging will be provided at the nearby Marriott. For those who arrive early enough on Thursday evening before the symposium, we will convene for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. At the close of the symposium, we will have a small cocktail and then we will enjoy dinner at another local restaurant.

Hofstra University is serviced by flights to JFK and LaGuardia, both at very close proximity to the Marriott and to campus. A shuttle bus will facilitate movement from the hotel to campus and back (a 10-minute ride). Details will soon be posted on the GSA and the Hofstra University Cultural Center websites.