

# FOOTE FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC

## FOOTEPRINTS

SPRING 2026

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 2

### 2026 EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

***Time to Register***

***Foote Family***

***Educational Conference***

***August 6-9, 2026.***

We will be staying at:

***Hilton Garden Inn***

***85 Glastonbury BLVD***

***Glastonbury, CT 06033***

***Hotel # 860-659-1025***

***Booking # 800-506-4235***

***FFAA Rate: FOOTE***

***Rooms: \$159/night w/o breakfast***

***\$169/night with breakfast for 2***

***Breakfast only: \$15.95***

***The group rate will be available if you would like to stay on August 5th or August 10th as well.***

***Deadline to make reservations at this rate is:***

***JULY 7,2026***

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## Gary “Red Oak” O’Neil

Gary “Red Oak” O’Neil is our afternoon featured speaker on Friday August 7 at 3:30pm in the Hospitality Room at the Hilton Garden Inn. Gary is a Tribal Elder of the Wangunk Indian tribe.

*“The **Wangunk** name is most accurately interpreted as **“where the river bends”**.”*  
[www.nativenortheastportal.com](http://www.nativenortheastportal.com).”

The Wangunks have lived along the Connecticut River for thousands of years. (Nathaniel Foote and his family probably knew them.) Most of their land was lost to white settlers moving into the area and at times it seemed the Wangunks would vanish into the annals of history. But that never happened. The tribe adapted but also held true to its history and traditions. Today the Wangunks are stronger than ever largely thanks to the leadership and passion brought to bear through the voice and pottery of Gary O’Neil. Gary is an educator and a potter of no small repute. The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art recently added one of his pieces to their permanent collection. One cannot separate the person from his craft. He is a force that is raising the awareness of not only the Wangunks but also of all indigenous tribes throughout the world.

Gary was interviewed on NPR radio’s “Disrupted” program. *“Disrupted* is about the changes we all encounter and the forces driving those changes. Some disruptions spark joy and possibility. Others move us to take action and re-evaluate our world. But the show isn’t just about those disruptions; it’s about embracing them, exploring new perspectives, and feeling more connected to ourselves and our communities.”\*

You can learn more about Gary Red Oak O’Neil by listening to his interview on Disrupted. [Click](#) the link below to open up the interview. If it does not open, copy and paste the link into your browser.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMmN6mjaC2E>

\*Taken from the description of the “Disrupted” published on the NPR website.

Want to learn more about the history of the Wangunk? Click on this link

[https://www.iaismuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Pre-colonial\\_History\\_of\\_the\\_Wangunk-1.pdf](https://www.iaismuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Pre-colonial_History_of_the_Wangunk-1.pdf)



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### THE STOWE CENTER FOR LITERARY ACTIVISM

Located at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Hartford, CT

7 Forest Street, Hartford, CT 06105

A visit to the Harriet Beecher Stowe house is not a home tour in the traditional sense. A tour at the Stowe Center for Literary Activism is a totally different educational experience as described below by Anita Durkin:

*“Tours at the Stowe Center are not focused on rooms and what is in them. It is very important that visitors understand that all of our tours are focused on history, not on collections. Though we go into the Stowe House, we do not talk about architecture or objects; instead, we tell a story of Harriet Beecher Stowe as a white woman writing an anti-slavery novel. And, rather than share a full biography of Stowe, we share only parts of her life that explore why she writes *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. We consider her in context of the broader abolitionist movement, and also consider the impact of the book and its pop culture adaptations.”*

On Saturday August 8th, there are 3 tours available that go within the Stowe House:

At **12:30 pm**, we have **Inspiring Stowe: The Real Josiah Henson**. This is a 60-minute conversational tour about Stowe as an anti-slavery writer in context of a broader, more inclusive history of anti-slavery and abolitionist activism. The tour considers Stowe's life and writing while encouraging a deeper engagement with the freedom narratives she drew from to write her famous anti-slavery novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, particularly the life and writing of Josiah Henson, whose freedom narrative inspired Stowe's fictional character, Tom. Visitors are encouraged throughout to share their questions and ideas about history and how it informs their perspective on the world today.

At **2 pm**, we have **Writing Freedom**. On this 30-minute tour, visitors learn about three 19th-century Black abolitionists: Harriet Jacobs, Frederick Douglass, and Josiah Henson, whose lives intersected with Harriet Beecher Stowe. Please be aware, however, that this tour does not discuss Harriet Beecher Stowe at all. It is also not a conversational tour, though visitors are encouraged to return to the Visitor Center to ask questions after the tour has finished.

At **3:30 pm**, we have **Inheriting Freedom**. This is a 60-minute dual biography of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Beecher Stowe that tells the story of how each became activist writers, with a focus on love, family, and education as central to freedom struggles in both the past and present. *Inheriting Freedom* is designed as an intergenerational tour and tells a story of enslavement in the U.S. with an emphasis on resistance through writing, and incorporates tactile, visual, and collaborative, conversational learning, in addition to compelling storytelling.

You may sign-up for one or all of the tours. Tours are limited to a maximum of 12 individuals on a first come first serve basis. Indicate on your registration form the tour or tours you would like to take. All the tours are open to the public at large so the sooner you are booked in the better.

## 2026 Educational Conference Reservation Thursday, August 6 - Sunday, August 9, 2026

Registration per member: \$20. Total # \_\_\_\_\_ Total paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration per non-member: \$25. Total # \_\_\_\_\_ Total paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Self-genealogy research in the state library** (no charge) carpool Total # \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, Bus Trip to Colchester, CT \$20 each**

Leaves at 8:30 a.m. from Hilton Gardens Hotel, Glastonbury, CT

Total # \_\_\_\_\_ Total paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday afternoon: Gary O'Neil, Wangunk elder** will give a talk in the Hospitality Room (no charge). Total # \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**

9 a.m. **Group photo on the Green and walking Wethersfield Tour** (no charge) Total # \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> Tour of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Home**

**FOR A DESCRIPTION OF EACH TOUR PLEASE READ THE "STOWE" ARTICLE  
INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.**

**\*\*Tours are limited to 12 participants on the first come/first served basis. The deadline to sign up is July 7, 2026.**

We will car pool for this.

**12:30 pm "Inspiring Stowe" 60-minute tour**

65+ # \_\_\_\_\_; \$15 each; Total Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

17-64 # \_\_\_\_\_; \$20 each; Total Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

6-16 # \_\_\_\_\_; \$10 each; Total Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**2 pm, Writing Freedom 30-minute tour**

65+ # \_\_\_\_\_; \$10 each; Total Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

17-64 # \_\_\_\_\_; \$15 each; Total Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

6-16 # \_\_\_\_\_; \$5 each; Total Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**3:30 pm, Inheriting Freedom 60 minutes**

65+ # \_\_\_\_\_; \$ 15 each; Total Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

17-64 # \_\_\_\_\_; \$20 each; Total Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

6-16 # \_\_\_\_\_; \$10 each; Total Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday evening: Banquet and Membership meeting**

**Banquet \$47 each Special food needs? \_\_\_\_\_**

Included with meal: Garden Greens, rice pilaf, carrot cake

Chicken Marsala w/portobello mushrooms in a wine sauce: Total # \_\_\_\_\_

Lobster ravioli with garlic rose cream: Total # \_\_\_\_\_

Grilled marinated flank steak w/ burgundy mushroom sauce: Total # \_\_\_\_\_

Pasta primavera with Aioli (vegetarian) Total # \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Meal includes fries, fruit cup, and soda or juice

chicken tenders #\_\_\_\_\_, burger #\_\_\_\_\_, cheese burger #\_\_\_\_\_ ,

spaghetti with meatballs #\_\_\_\_\_, macaroni and cheese #\_\_\_\_\_

Total #: \_\_\_\_\_

Total for banquet: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed for registration and all events: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this reservation form, **make check out to FFAA**, and return reservation form and payment to:

**Pam Ryan, 600 N. Spur Drive, Payson, AZ 85541**

## FOOTE FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC

ROBERT FOOTE  
7781 N. AVENIDA DE CARLOTTA  
TUSCON, AZ 85704-2008 USA

WE ARE ON THE WEB,  
CHECK US OUT AT:  
[FOOTEFAMILY.ORG](http://FOOTEFAMILY.ORG)

**AND NOW WE  
ARE ALSO ON  
FACEBOOK**

JOIN US ON OUR  
"FOOTE FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICA" PAGE

### More Conference News!

Details of the Wethersfield tour and the trip to the State Library of Connecticut opportunity will be in the next newsletter coming very soon.

Plan not only to attend the conference, but have an extended stay to visit other places of interest during this special year as we celebrate our 250th anniversary of our great nation. A list of additional places of interest will be included in the next issue.

The highlight at every conference is our TEACUP AUCTION held at the end of our conference, after our business meeting. So we graciously ask you to bring along an item or two to donate to the fun event. We sell tickets to raise funds for the association. Its always fun and you never know what you might win!