



Media inquiries contact:

Erica Luke, Executive Director  
[erica@southcountyhistorycenter.org](mailto:erica@southcountyhistorycenter.org); 401.783.1328

Katherine Long, Board Vice Chair & Chair of the Committee on Trusteeship  
[katherinelong53@outlook.com](mailto:katherinelong53@outlook.com); 401.742.3375

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **South County History Center Announces Three New Board Members**

**Kingston, RI – September 2016** – The South County History Center announces the appointment of three new members to its Board of Trustees, as well as the full slate of officers and board members for 2016 – 2017.

Joining the board are Barry Bayon, Dr. Jon Bernard Marcoux and Dr. Joanne Pope Melish. The Center's Executive Director, Erica Luke, noted, "We are very excited to welcome such distinguished new Board members to our team. Their expertise and enthusiasm for protecting and promoting local history will be invaluable as we work to become the South County's leading research and archival center."

Barry Bayon is adjunct professor at Bryant University where he teaches courses in corporate and business strategy. He holds a B.A. from Muhlenberg College in Economics and History and an M.B.A in finance from the Stern School, Graduate School of Business Administration at New York University. In 2002 he retired from a career as a strategic and financial planner at such corporations as NSTAR Electric & Gas; Eastern Utilities Associates/National Grid; Gulf Oil Corporation; Union Pacific Corporation; Commonwealth Oil Refining Company; and NCR Corporation.

Mr. Bayon is an active volunteer and currently holds board positions at Friends of North Kingstown Senior Center and VNA of Care New England advisory board. Previous volunteer service included the board and site committee at Smith's Castle in North Kingstown.

Dr. Jon Bernard Marcoux is an assistant professor and director of the Noreen Stoner Drexel Cultural and Historic Preservation Program at Salve Regina University. He holds a B.A. in Anthropology and Economics from Vanderbilt University, an M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Alabama and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Marcoux is the author of *Pox, Empire, Shackles, and Hides: The Townsend Site, 1670-1715* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2010), as well as numerous monographs, essays, paper and articles in peer-reviewed professional journals on the archaeology of the southeastern United States; Colonialism; households and everyday life; materialization of identity; origins of social inequality; political economy of complex societies; ceramic analysis; statistics; and geographic information systems.

Dr. Marcoux has served as principal investigator and/or field archaeologist for dozens of archaeological excavations and ground penetrating radar surveys in South Carolina, Georgia and Rhode Island, including at the South County History Center's Old Quaker Cemetery in Wakefield.

Dr. Joanne Pope Melish is associate professor *emerita* in history at the University of Kentucky, retiring in 2015. She holds a B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in American Civilization from Brown University. Dr. Melish is the author of *Disowning Slavery: Gradual Emancipation and "Race" in New England, 1780-1860* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998) as well as numerous monographs, essays, papers and articles in peer-reviewed professional journals exploring race, slavery and the African American experience. She is a past recipient of two National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships and a University of Connecticut Humanities Institute fellowship.

Dr. Melish's prior community service includes the boards at Galilee Mission to Fishermen in Narragansett and South County Community Action, board chair for Chariho Child Services and Brown-Fox Point Day Care Center, and historical consultant to the Brown University Steering Committee on Slavery and Justice and to the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities. Currently she serves on the Coordinating Committee, Center for Reconciliation in Providence.

The full slate of board members for 2016 – 2017 is as follows:

Jeffrey E. Taber, Chair  
Katherine Long, Vice Chair  
Graham Nye, Treasurer  
Polly Eddy, Secretary  
Barry Bayon  
Mark K. Gardner  
Kasey Johnson  
Dr. Jon Bernard Marcoux  
Dr. Joanne Pope Melish  
John Parkhurst  
Holly Stephenson  
Joseph (Jay) N. Waller, Jr.  
Erica Luke, Executive Director

### **About the South County History Center**

The South County History Center's mission is to lead the discovery and stewardship of South County's unique historic resources through meaningful and enriching learning opportunities. To achieve this goal, the Center preserves and interprets the material culture of South County through exhibits and study of archival, library and artifact collections. For more information, please visit [SouthCountyHistoryCenter.org](http://SouthCountyHistoryCenter.org).

###