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## **The Newport Historical Society & the Rhode Island Historical Society to Host the House Museum Anarchist**

*Frank Vagnone to Participate in Public Roundtable Discussion*

**Newport, RI – (December 2016)** – The Newport Historical Society & the Rhode Island Historical Society will host the House Museum Anarchist, Franklin Vagnone, for a visit to Rhode Island in early February.

Vagnone, who has recently accepted the position of CEO at Old Salem Museums and Gardens in North Carolina, is the co- author of *The Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums (with Deborah Ryan)*, a book on innovative and community-connected approaches to presenting the past. Vagnone also is the founder and president of Twisted Preservation Cultural Consulting in New York City.

Vagnone will be participating in a public roundtable discussion, “Lunch with the Anarchist and Other Radicals” at the Colony House in Newport. This event will be an opportunity for students, practitioners and the interested public to participate in a frank discussion with Vagnone and other regional leaders and thinkers about the value of history-related organizations in America today. While here, Vagnone will also have a “One Night Stand” at the John Brown House Museum in Providence; one of his current projects involves spending the night in historic house museums, using them as they were originally intended, and then writing about the experience.

The schedule for these events is below.

**Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, “One Night Stand” at John Brown House.**

**Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12:30 – 2.30 pm “Lunch with the Anarchist and Other Radicals,”** featuring a free-floating conversation about the pitfalls and promise of cultural heritage management in the 21st century. Topics will include innovation vs. tradition in programming for house museums, what public history is and isn't, putting theory in practice, history and politics in the public arena, what the future holds for history and heritage non-profits and more. Local practitioners and students especially welcomed, open to the public, lunch will be served. **Reservations required** (call 401-846-0813 x110). Colony House, Washington Square, Newport.

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