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Subject: SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S WORK (1995-1996)

SPIRIT OF 1848: SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S WORK

The Spirit of 1848 has four main working groups, focusing on: public health curriculum, data, networking, and history. Below, the co-chairs of the Spirit of 1848 offer a brief summary of our work in the past year (1995-1996). We will evaluate this work at our annual meeting at the American Public Health Association (Tues, Nov 19, 12:30 to 2 pm, in the Hilton, Morgan A Room), and also make plans for the next year.

During the last APHA meeting, as a group we decided to concentrate our efforts in assessing how the public health field addresses issues of race/ethnicity, class, and gender through teaching (curriculum) and data gathering (state health departments--vital statistics data collection).

**The Curriculum Committee (Spirit of 1848 Coordinating Committee representative: Michelle Murrain). This committee has mainly directed its efforts to organizing a session at APHA ("Curricula in social inequalities in health: teaching in different settings"; Tues, Nov 19, 8:30 to 10 am, Hilton, Sutton South, Session 2074). The committee also undertook the task of conducting a curriculum survey of schools of public health. During the coming APHA meeting in New York, they will discuss the survey and further define their work plan for the coming year. For further information, contact Michelle Murrain at (mpmNS@hamp.hampshire.edu).

**The Data Committee (Spirit of 1848 Coordinating Committee Representative: P Ellen Parsons). This committee has developed, distributed, and followed up on a survey of health departments in all the US states & territories. The aim of the survey is to identify the kinds of socioeconomic data that are being collected as part of their vital statistics and other major public health data bases (cancer registries, TB, and HIV/AIDS). This work is being coordinated by Nancy Krieger (co-chair, Spirit of 1848 Coordinating Committee) and is being carried out by two paid assistants, with the help of several volunteers from Spirit of 1848, both in our data committee (Ann Schwartz, Cathy Wasserman) and non-members of the Committee (Cecilia Zapata). At the APHA meeting in New York, during the business meeting, the Committee will give a progress report (at the present time, the Committee has heard back from nearly all the states).

The Committee has also organized two sessions at the APHA meeting: (1) "Measuring Social Class in Public Health Research: Theoretical, Empirical, and Practical Issues" (Mon, Nov 18, 12:30 to 2 pm, Hilton, Sutton South, Session 1053.1), and (2) "Social Inequalities in Health and Health Care: Using Social Class Measures in Health Services Research" (Tues, Nov 19, 4:00 to 5:30 pm, Hilton, Sutton North, Session 2279). At the business meeting, this committee will evaluate their work and makes plans for the next year. For more information, contact: Nancy Krieger or P Ellen Parsons.

**The Network Committee (Spirit of 1848 Coordinating Committee Representative: Elizabeth Barnett). Currently, over 200 people subscribe to our email Bulletin Board. This bulletin board is kept updated (deleting and adding new addresses) by Cecilia Zapata, co-chair of the Spirit of 1848 coordinating committee. Use of the bulletin board appears to be adequate and is also increasing. Although Cecilia will not be attending the APHA meeting in New York, it will be helpful to discuss and explore how the bulletin board can best serve the Spirit of 1848 members. For more information, contact: Elizabeth Barnett or Cecilia Zapata.

**The History/Sigerist Circle (Spirit of 1848 Coordinating Committee Representative: Anne-Emanuelle Birn). This Committee serves as a liaison between Spirit of 1848 and the Sigerist Circle. The main "joint" activity is 1848's co-sponsorship of the Give Em Health History of the US Health Left conference on November 17, which you will have seen advertised over the last few weeks. Anyone interested in the Sigerist Circle, can email Anne-Emanuelle.

At the APHA meeting this fall we will be planning how to build the presence and effectiveness of Spirit of 1848, given in our particular and chosen niche in public health and social justice movements. In a time of major political drawbacks, the work of the Spirit of 1848 is more important than ever. We invite you to join in!!