

November 28, 2000

**TO: EVERYONE ON SPIRIT OF 1848 EMAIL BULLETIN BOARD**  
**FROM: SPIRIT OF 1848 COORDINATING COMMITTEE (Nancy Krieger, Catherine Cubbin, Cheryl Merzel, Marion Fass, Babette Neuberger, Anne-Emanuelle Birn, Luis Aviles, Pam Waterman)**  
**RE: REPORTBACK FROM THE 2000 APHA CONFERENCE**

Greetings! The Spirit of 1848 Caucus is happy to share our reportback from the 128<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the American Public Health Association (Boston, MA, November 13-16, 2000). In this reportback, we:

- (a) present decisions we made at our business meeting, and
- (b) give highlights of our sessions.

We are sending this reportback by email (via our electronic bulletin board) and posting it on our web site; nearly 800 people are now on our mailing/email list!

NOTE: If you know of someone who wants our report but does not have access to email or the web page, please feel free to send them a copy OR email their address to Pam Waterman <[pwaterma@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:pwaterma@hsph.harvard.edu)> and we'll send out a copy by regular mail. Similarly, please feel free to forward our report, by email, to interested colleagues & comrades; if any of them want to subscribe to our bulletin board, they should send their email address to Pam Waterman as well.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of us on the Spirit of 1848 Coordinating Committee:

- Nancy Krieger (Chair, Spirit of 1848; politics of public health data committee); email: [nkrieger@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:nkrieger@hsph.harvard.edu)
- Catherine Cubbin (politics of public health data committee); email: [ccubbin@stanford.edu](mailto:ccubbin@stanford.edu)
- Cheryl Merzel (curriculum committee); email: [cm449@columbia.edu](mailto:cm449@columbia.edu)
- Marion Fass (curriculum committee); email: [fassm@beloit.edu](mailto:fassm@beloit.edu)
- Babette Neuberger (curriculum committee); email: [bjn@uic.edu](mailto:bjn@uic.edu)
- Anne-Emanuelle Birn (history committee); email: [aebirn@newschool.edu](mailto:aebirn@newschool.edu)
- Luis Aviles (history committee); email: [l\\_aviles@rumac.uprm.edu](mailto:l_aviles@rumac.uprm.edu)
- Pam Waterman (e-networking committee); email: [pwaterma@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:pwaterma@hsph.harvard.edu)

The address for our webpage (which contains information on our mission statement, activities, etc) is:

**<http://www.progressivehn.org>**

## **I. SPIRIT OF 1848 BUSINESS MEETING**

Present: Nancy Krieger, Cecilia Zapata, Catherine Cubbin, Anne-Emanuelle Birn, Cheryl Merzel, Marion Fass, Pam Waterman, Babette Neuberger, Luis A. Aviles, Nancy Breen, Mary Jo Phelan, Maria Sworos, Barbara Krimgold, Lois Monson

### **A. Review of scope & structure of Spirit of 1848**

1) We reaffirmed we are volunteer network of folk drawn to the combination of politics, passion, and public health, seeking to connect issues of social justice and public health in our lives and work and multiple communities, large and small—and that we want to do this bolstered by a sense of history, learning from the experiences (for good and for bad) of those who have come before (see our mission statement, at end of this report). Our origins lie among folk who began working together in late 1980s as part of the Health Commission of the National Rainbow Coalition. We cohered as the Spirit of 1848 network in 1994 and began organizing APHA sessions as an affiliate group to APHA that year. In 1997 we were approved as an official Caucus of APHA, enabling us to sponsor our own sessions during the annual APHA meetings.

2) We agreed to maintain 4 of our 5 sub-committees: (a) politics of public health data, (b) progressive pedagogy & curricula, (c) history (with the sub-committee serving as liaison to the Sigerist Circle, an organization of progressive historians of public health & medicine), and (d) e-networking. We agreed to disband the mentoring subcommittee in light of the excellent job the new APHA public health student caucus is doing on setting up mentoring relationships. We also reaffirmed that, to ensure accountability, all projects carried out in the name of the Spirit of 1848 are approved by the Spirit of 1848 Coordinating Committee, which consists of the chair of the organization and the chairs/co-chairs of our sub-committees. The Coordinating Committee communicates regularly (by email) and also deals with all paperwork related to organizing & sponsoring sessions at APHA and maintaining our Caucus status.

3) We reaffirmed our decision to keep our Spirit of 1848 sessions in the same time slot every year, so that people know what to expect (and so that we can minimize conflicts with other caucuses scheduling sessions on related topics). The one change is in the time of our business meeting; although it will still be on a Tuesday, it will now take place in the early evening instead of mid-day. The Spirit of 1848 time slots, now pre-assigned to us by APHA, are:

- Politics of Public Health Data session: Monday afternoons (2:30 to 4:00 pm, and, if a double-session, also the 4:30 to 6:00 pm)
- History: Monday afternoons (4:30 to 6:00 pm, if not used by the data committee)
- Curriculum/progressive pedagogy session: Tuesday mornings (8:30 to 10:00 am)
- Spirit of 1848 business meeting: Tuesday evenings (6:30 to 8:00 pm)

4) Our meeting was also attended briefly by Cheryl Prince, the APHA Executive Board liaison to our Caucus. Specific questions we asked her to bring back to the Executive Board were: (a) what plans, if any, does APHA have to ensure that cultural competency becomes a core competency for the public health workforce?, (b) will monthly or semi-annual updates be posted to all APHA Sections, SPIGS, and Caucuses about concrete projects APHA is undertaking to meet its commitment to eliminate racial/ethnic disparities in health?

## **B. Plans for the coming year**

Note: by December 15, we will have posted our final “call for abstracts” on our web page. The APHA website will open for abstracts on December 20<sup>th</sup>; the deadline for submitting abstracts is Feb 2-7, 2001.

### **1) Politics of Public Health Data**

#### a) APHA session for next year

This session will focus on the theme of “Data to action to accountability: combining social justice, evidence, and human rights”. Relevant questions include: what kinds of evidence are required to provide a sound basis for action to rectify social inequalities in health?-- and what kinds of data are useful for holding government agencies and others accountable for initiatives to reduce social inequalities in health? Likely presentations will address: (a) critical historical analysis of determinants of the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century demographic transition to better health and longer life expectancy, (b) health department initiatives to generate data specifically to inform community-based efforts to improve their health, (c) data gaps identified by either the new NIH Center on Health Disparities or the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research that they would like researchers to address, relevant to understanding and/or reducing social inequalities in health, and (d) using human rights frameworks to inform use of data to hold accountable institutions causing or charged with reducing social inequalities in health. Co-organizers of the data session are Nancy Krieger <nkrieger@hsph.harvard.edu> and Catherine Cubbin <ccubbin@stanford.edu>. This session will be in the usual Monday afternoon 2:30 to 4:00 pm APHA meeting timeslot.

#### b) Data toolbox project

We decided to disband this project, given that the amount of time and effort required to do a good job surpasses what we can carry out, as a network of unpaid volunteers. We instead will seek to add links to our web page identifying resources for data instruments relevant to linking issues of social justice and public health. If you have any suggestions for such weblinks, please email them to Pam Waterman at: <pwaterma@hsph.harvard.edu>

## 2) Curriculum

### a) APHA session for next year

Given that the theme of next year's APHA conference is "Global Health: One World" (leading some of us to ask: "whose world"? ...), next year's curriculum session will include courses that address global health from a social justice and human rights perspective. Most of the presentations are likely to be solicited; some may be selected from contributed abstracts. If you would like to be involved with this session, contact either Cheryl Merzel <cm449@columbia.edu>, Marion Fass <fassm@beloit.edu>, or Babette Neuberger <bjn@uic.edu>. This session will be the usual Tuesday morning 8:30 to 10:00 am APHA meeting timeslot.

### b) Web page: progressive public health syllabus/curriculum project

The sub-committee noted continued interest in reviving the idea of a web-based curriculum project. The goal would be to encourage past presenters in the Spirit of 1848 curriculum session, along with others, to make their syllabi and other course-related materials accessible via our web page, so as to share resources and spur new ideas. If you are interested in working on this project or have a syllabus to submit, contact Cheryl Merzel, Marion Fass, or Babette Neuberger.

## 3) History

### a) APHA session for next year

Given that the next APHA will be in the Year 2001, the committee thought it appropriate to invoke a sci fi perspective (maybe with a paper maché model of the computer Hal?) and have the session focus on public health utopias--and dystopias. The basic question is: what kind of world do we envision to guide our work in the present for a better future in which social justice is the foundation of public health? And what kinds of dystopias do we fear? Most of the presentations are likely to be solicited (including from known science fiction writers); some may be selected from contributed abstracts. If you would like to be involved with this session, contact either Anne-Emanuelle Birn <aebirn@newschool.edu> or Luis Aviles <l\_aviles@rumac.uprm.edu>. This session will be in the usual Monday afternoon 4:30 to 6:00 pm APHA meeting timeslot.

### b) Radical history walking tour

The subcommittee also expressed interest in continuing our new tradition of radical history tours—and, preferably, walking tours—on the Sunday before APHA. We will need to find a local contact in Atlanta to be the point-person for organizing the tour, with back-up from the history subcommittee. **Any volunteers?** If so, contact either Anne-Emanuelle Birn or Luis Aviles.

## 4) E-networking

a) Email bulletin board: Pam is in charge of running our email bulletin board, which now serves nearly 800 people. If you have any questions or concerns about how our bulletin board is functioning, please contact Pam Waterman <pwaterma@hsph.harvard.edu>.

b) Web page: Pam has been working with Michelle Murrain to work on up-grading our web page capacity. We have now included all past reportbacks from Spirit of 1848. If you have additional web-links you would like to see included with our web-page, please email your suggestions to Pam.

## 5) Additional APHA business

--We attended (representative = Nancy Krieger) the first day of the APHA planning meeting. In addition to suggesting progressive themes and speakers for the APHA plenary sessions, our main contribution was to argue successfully for continuing the practice of multiple co-sponsors for APHA sessions, in contrast to an APHA staff suggestion that there be a maximum of 3-4 co-sponsors for any given session.

## II. SPIRIT OF 1848 SESSIONS AT APHA

Our sessions went really well, with excellent attendance, good discussion, & great connections. The specifics being:

### A) Politics of Public Health Data

Our session was on “**RACE/ETHNICITY AND THE YEAR 2000 CENSUS: IMPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH DATA**” (Sessions 3147.0 and 3230.0, Monday, November 13, 2:30 to 4 and 4:30 to 6:00 pm). About 450 people attended the session. The purpose of the session was learn about changes in US census racial/ethnic categories and how these will affect monitoring & understanding racial/ethnic disparities in health; it also provided APHA members a chance to ask people in charge of federal and state data systems important questions about their collection and use of racial/ethnic data. The line-up was:

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 \*\*\* 2:30 PM-4:00 PM \*\*\* HYNES CC, 312 \*\*\*(SESSION 3147.0)—PART 1

2:30 PM Introductory Remarks—**Nancy Krieger, Catherine Cubbin**

2:35 PM The history and politics of racial/ethnic classification in relation to medicine and public health--**Evelynn M. Hammonds**

2:50 PM recognizing diversity in our nation's population: Revisions to the federal standards for data on race and ethnicity --**Katherine Wallman**

3:10 PM Implications of the changes in race/ethnicity reporting for health statistics--**Edward J. Sondik, Jennifer H. Madans**

3:30 PM Race/ethnicity and the year 2000 census: Implications for state public health departments – **Daniel J. Friedman**

3:50 PM Questions

[4:00-4:30 PM Break]

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 \*\*\* 4:30 PM-6:00 PM \*\*\* HYNES CC, 312 \*\*\*(SESSION 3230.0)—PART 2

4:30 PM Implications for Hispanic/Latino populations in the US—**Hortensia Amaro**

4:45 PM The Quality of Public Health Data for African Americans--**David R. Williams**

5:00 PM Implications for Asian and Pacific Islander American populations in the US--**Tessie Guillermo, Shobha Srinivasan**

5:15 PM Implications for formulation of racial/ethnic identity and immigrant populations in the US – **Mary Waters**

5:30 PM Implications for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian populations in the US—  
**Linda Burhansstipanov**

5:45 PM Questions

5:55 PM Concluding Remarks—**Nancy Krieger**

**Primary Sponsor: SPIRIT OF 1848 CAUCUS; Co-sponsors:** *Caucuses:* Asian Pacific Islander Caucus of APHA; Black Caucus of Health Workers; Caucus on Refugee and Immigrant Health; Health Equity and Public Hospitals Caucus; Labor Caucus; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus of Public Health Workers; Public Health Student Caucus; Socialist Caucus; Women’s Caucus ; *Sections:* Community Health Planning and Policy Development; Environment; Epidemiology; Food and Nutrition; Health Administration; Maternal and Child Health; Medical Care; Occupational Health and Safety; Public Health Education and Health Promotion; Social Work; Statistics; *SPIGs:* Community Health Workers SPIG; Disability Forum; Forum on Bioethics.

NOTE: if you want to contact any of the speakers, email Catherine Cubbin <ccubbin@ccubbin@stanford.edu>and she will send you their email address. You can find abstracts for all the talks in the APHA abstract book.

### B) Curriculum

Our session was called “**TEACHING SOCIAL JUSTICE IN PUBLIC HEALTH: PROGRESSIVE PEDAGOGY IN ACTION**” (SESSION 4082.0; Tuesday, Nov 14, 8:30 to 10 am). Over 120 people attended (at 8:30 in the morning!)—with many staying long after the session to continue their discussions. Some members of the audience also raised the question as to whether we could sponsor a progressive pedagogy workshop, teaching ideas and applications based on some of the presented courses, on a Saturday or Sunday before APHA, a suggestion the Spirit of 1848 coordinating committee is considering. The line-up for our session was:

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 \*\*\* 8:30 AM-10:00 AM \*\*\* HYNES CC, 306 \*\*\* (SESSION 4082.0)

8:30 AM Introductory remarks: **Cheryl Merzel, Marion Field Fass**

8:35 AM An interdisciplinary graduate certificate program in human rights and social justice--**Sherlina S. Nageer, Barbara S. Keary, Jeremy Hess**

8:48 AM Promoting Diversity and Teaching Cultural Competence: Notes from the Field--**Marian Clarke McDonald, Ted Chen, Carolyn Lebrane Tilton**

9:01 AM Teaching social justice in schools of public health through community fieldwork—**Belinda Reininger, Molly Greaney, Kim Nichols**

9:14 AM History, politics, and public health: Theories of disease distribution across time and culture – **Nancy Krieger**

9:27 AM StandingTogether Program: A Curriculum for Future Leaders of Color—**B. Cecilia Zapata**

9:40 AM Discussion

**Primary Sponsor: SPIRIT OF 1848 CAUCUS; Co-sponsors:** *Caucuses:* Alternative and Complementary Health Practices; Black Caucus of Health Workers; Caucus on Public Health and the Faith Community; Caucus on Refugee and Immigrant Health; Health Equity and Public Hospitals Caucus; Labor Caucus; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus of Public Health Workers; Public Health Student Caucus; Socialist Caucus; Women's Caucus; *Sections:* Environment; Epidemiology; Health Administration; International Health; Maternal and Child Health; Medical Care; Occupational Health and Safety; Public Health Education and Health Promotion; Public Health Nursing; Social Work; *SPIGs:* Community Health Workers SPIG; Forum on Bioethics.

NOTE: if you want copies of any of the syllabi or related materials handed out at this session, contact Cheryl Merzel <cm449@columbia.edu> or Marion Fass <fassm@beloit.edu> and they will send you the presenter's email address. We will also see if we can get the syllabi posted on the Spirit of 1848 webpage. You can find abstracts for all the talks in the APHA abstract book

### C) History

We co-sponsored four (4!) RADICAL HISTORY WALKING TOURS on the Sunday of APHA, 2 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon. Each of which was a great success--thanks to the work of Lois McClosky (at BU School of Public Health), two Spirit of 1848 coordinating committee members (Nancy Krieger and Anne-Emanuelle Birn) and two students, Maleeka Glover and Sara Kershner, who assisted with all logistics. Each tour enrolled approximately 20 persons; the cost was \$10 per person, with all proceeds turned over to the tour leaders as an honorarium. The tours were as follows:

**Tour #1:** "Visiting Places of Memory in the History of Boston's Workers"  
**Tour Guide:** Prof. Jim Green  
**Co-sponsors:** Spirit of 1848, Occupational Health & Safety Section, Socialist Caucus, and MCH/BUSPH

**Tour #2:** "Radical women and their histories"  
**Tour Guides:** Ms. Mary Howland Smoyer and Dr. Polly Kaufman  
**Co-sponsors:** Maternal & Child Health Section/Women's Health Committee, MCH/BUSPH, Spirit of 1848, Socialist Caucus

**Tour #3:** "Women Transformers in Public Health and Medicine"  
**Tour Guide:** Prof. Mary Ellen Doona  
**Co-sponsors:** Maternal & Child Health Section/Women's Health Committee, MCH/BUSPH, Spirit of 1848

**Tour #4:** "African American Walking Tour: Historic South End"  
**Tour Guide:** MYTOWN (Multicultural Youth Tour of What's Now)  
**Co-sponsors:** Spirit of 1848, Black Caucus, MCH/BUSPH

If you are interested in helping out with organizing a radical history walking tour in Atlanta for the APHA conference in 2001, please contact Anne-Emanuelle Birn <aebirn@newschool.edu> or Luis Aviles <l\_aviles@rumac.uprm.edu>.

### D) Other:

We co-sponsored several sessions, following our policy of reviewing & approving all requests for co-sponsorship through the Spirit of 1848 Coordinating Committee. In this process, we review abstracts for presentations in each sessions (not just titles) to ensure the session as a whole is consistent with the mission of the Spirit of 1848. The sessions we co-sponsored for the APHA 2000 meeting were (in alphabetical order, by primary sponsor):

**Academic Public Health Caucus:** *Addressing Social Determinants of Health through Community-Based Participatory Research* (Session 4090.0);

**Health Equity and Public Hospitals Caucus:** *Cutting drug prices and expanding coverage* (Session 3114.0); *Who speaks for public hospitals?* (Session 3115.0); *Political advocacy for home and community-based services* (Session 3189.0)

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus:** *A new millennium for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) health* (Session 3198.0); *Health status and disparities affecting LGBT communities* (Session 3199.0); *Increasing awareness of transgender concerns* (Session 4140.0); *From the margins to the mainstream: increasing visibility of LGBT health* (Session 5134.0)

**Medical Care Section:** *Health Services Research Methodology Session: Understanding the Effects of Socioeconomic Status on Performance Measurement* (Session 4052.0); *From Global Economics to Global Budgets: Keeping the Public in Public Health; P. Ellen Parsons Memorial Session* (Session 4213.0);

**Occupational Health & Safety Section:** *Women's Experience, Work and Health* (Session 4060.0);

**Public Health Education & Health Promotion:** *Community-Based Strategies to Prevent Violence* (Session 3063.0); *Federal Initiatives to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health* (Session 3265.0); *Understanding and Addressing Bias & Its Impacts on Health Disparities (Part 1)* (Session 4223.0); *Understanding and Addressing Bias & Its Impacts on Health Disparities (Part 2)* (Session 4290.0);

**Socialist Caucus:** *The Political Construction of Public Health* (Session 3070.0); *Balancing Health Disparities, Social Inequalities and Structural Inequities* (Session 3071.0); *Special Panel On Inequalities in Health* (Session 4156.0); *Universal Health Care (Part 1): The U.S. Struggle - Still Crazy After All These Years* (Session 4157.0); *Universal Health Care (Part 2): Truth and Myths from Abroad: Canada, UK, Scandinavia* (Session 4231.0); *Colonizing Societies through Medical Diplomacy* (Session 5078.0);

And we had brightly colored posters up just about everywhere .... PLUS co-sponsored a wonderfully successful PROGRESSIVE PARTY on the Tuesday evening of APHA.

FINALLY, if any of the activities and projects we are reporting to you grab you or inspire you--**JOIN IN!! We work together based on principles of solidarity, volunteering whatever time we can, to move along the work of social justice and public health. We look forward to hearing from you**

Onwards! ....

Spirit of 1848 Coordinating Committee

**NB: for additional information the Spirit of 1848 and our choice of name, see:**

--Coordinating Committee of Spirit of 1848 (Krieger N, Zapata C, Murrain M, Barnett E, Parsons PE, Birn AE). *Spirit of 1848: a network linking politics, passion, and public health. Critical Public Health* 1998; 8:97-103.

--Krieger N, Birn AE. A vision of social justice as the foundation of public health: commemorating 150 years of the spirit of 1848. *Am J Public Health* 1998; 88:1603-6 .

## **SPIRIT OF 1848 MISSION STATEMENT**

(prepared in 1994; revised in 2000)

### **The Spirit of 1848: A Network linking Politics, Passion, and Public Health**

#### **Purpose and Structure**

The Spirit of 1848 is a network of people concerned about social inequalities in health. Our purpose is to spur new connections among the many of us involved in different areas of public health, who are working on diverse public health issues (whether as researchers, practitioners, teachers, activists, or all of the above), and live scattered across diverse regions of the United States and other countries. In doing so, we hope to help counter the fragmentation that many of us face: within and between disciplines, within and between work on particular diseases or health problems, and within and between different organizations geared to specific issues or social groups. By making connections, we can overcome some of the isolation that we feel and find others with whom we can develop our thoughts, strategize, and enhance efforts to eliminate social inequalities in health.

Our common focus is that we are all working, in one way or another, to understand and change how social divisions based on social class, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, and age affect the public's health. As an activist network, we have established four committees to conduct our work:

- 1) Public Health Data:** this committee will focus on how and why we measure and study social inequalities in health, and develop projects to influence the collection of data in US vital statistics, health surveys, and disease registries.
- 2) Curriculum:** this committee will focus on how public health and other health professionals and students are trained, and will gather and share information about (and possibly develop) courses and materials to spur critical thinking about social inequalities in health, in their present and historical context.
- 3) E-Networking:** this committee will focus on networking and communication within the Spirit of 1848, using e-mail, web page, newsletters, and occasional mailings.
- 4) History:** this committee is an affiliate of the Sigerist Circle, an already established organization of public health and medical historians who use critical theory (Marxian, feminist, and otherwise) to illuminate the history of public health and how we have arrived where we are today; its presence in the Spirit of 1848 will help ensure our network's projects are grounded in this sense of history, complexity, and context.

Work between these committees will be coordinated by our Coordinating Committee, which consists of two co-chairs and the chairs/co-chairs of each of the four sub-committees. To ensure accountability, all public activities sponsored by the Spirit of 1848 (e.g., public statements, mailings, sessions at conferences, other public actions) will be organized by these committees and approved by the Coordinating Committee (which will communicate on at least a monthly basis). Annual meetings of the network (so that we can actually see each other and talk together) will take place at the yearly American Public Health Association meetings. Finally, please note that we are NOT a dues-paying membership organization. Instead, we are an activist, volunteer network: you become part of the Spirit of 1848 by working on one of our projects, through one of our committees--and we invite you to join in!

## NOTABLE EVENTS IN AND AROUND 1848

1840-

1847: Louis Rene Villermé publishes the first major study of workers' health in France, A Description of the Physical and Moral State of Workers Employed in Cotton, Linen, and Silk Mills (1840); in England, Edwin Chadwick publishes General Report on Sanitary Conditions of the Laboring Population in Great Britain (1842); first child labor laws in the Britain and the United States (1842); end of the Second Seminole War (1842); prison reform movement in the United States initiated by Dorothea Dix (1843); Frederick Engels publishes The Condition of the Working Class in England (1844); John Griscom publishes The Sanitary Condition of the Laboring Population of New York with Suggestions for Its Improvement (1845); Irish famine (1845-1848); start of US-Mexican war (1846); Frederick Douglass founds The North Star, an anti-slavery newspaper (1847); Southwood Smith publishes An Address to the Working Classes of the United Kingdom on their Duty in the Present State of the Sanitary Question (1847)

1848: World-wide cholera epidemic

Uprisings in Berlin, Paris, Vienna, Sicily, Milan, Naples, Parma, Rome, Warsaw, Prague, and Budapest; start of Second Sikh war against British in India

In the midst of the 1848 revolution in Germany, Rudolf Virchow founds the medical journal Medical Reform (Medicinische Reform), and publishes his classic "Report on the Typhus Epidemic in Upper Silesia," in which he concludes that preserving health and preventing disease requires "full and unlimited democracy"

Revolution in France, abdication of Louis Philippe, worker uprising in Paris, and founding of The Second Republic, which creates a public health advisory committee attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce and establishes network of local public health councils

First Public Health Act in Britain, which creates a General Board of Health, empowered to establish local boards of health to deal with the water supply, sewerage, cemeteries, and control of "offensive trades," and also to conduct surveys of sanitary conditions

The newly formed American Medical Association sets up a Public Hygiene Committee to address public health issues

First Women's Rights Convention in the United States, at Seneca Falls

Henry Thoreau publishes Civil Disobedience, to protest paying taxes to support the United State's war against Mexico

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels publish The Communist Manifesto

1849-

1854: Elizabeth Blackwell sets up the New York Dispensary for Poor Women and Children (1849); John Snow publishes On the Mode of Communication of Cholera (1849); Lemuel Shattuck publishes Report of the Sanitary Commission of Massachusetts (1850); founding of the London Epidemiological Society (1850); Indian Wars in the southwest and far west (1849-1892); Compromise of 1850 retains slavery in the United States and Fugitive Slave Act passed; Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852); Sojourner Truth delivers her "Ain't I a Woman" speech at the Fourth Seneca Fall convention (1853); John Snow removes the handle of the Broad Street Pump to stop the cholera epidemic in London (1854)