

November 5, 2001

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 Avilés, Pam Waterman)
RE: REPORTBACK FROM THE 2001 APHA CONFERENCE

Greetings! The Spirit of 1848 Caucus is happy to share our reportback from the 129th annual meeting of the American Public Health Association (Atlanta, GA, October 22-25, 2001). 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. Currently, over 1,100 people subscribe to our email bulletin board, up by more than 300 people since last year!

Please encourage interested colleagues & friends to subscribe to our bulletin board too, and feel free to email them this update/report. Also, 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> and we'll send out a copy by regular mail.

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
- Catherine Cubbin (politics of public health data committee); email: ccubbin@stanford.edu; ccubbin@itsa.ucsf.edu
- Cheryl Merzel (curriculum committee); email: cm449@columbia.edu
- Marion Fass (curriculum committee); email: fassm@beloit.edu
- Babette Neuberger (curriculum committee); email: bjn@uic.edu
- Anne-Emanuelle Birn (history committee); email: aebirn@newschool.edu
- Luis Avilés (history committee); email: laviles@ucsd.edu
- Pam Waterman (e-networking committee); email: pwaterma@hsph.harvard.edu

Note: we're interested in reviving our mentoring committee. Anyone interested? If so, please email Nancy Krieger to let her know if you'd be interested in being on the committee and/or serving as the liaison from the committee to the Spirit of 1848 Coordinating Committee.

Finally, 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, Catherine Cubbin, Marion Fass, Pam Waterman, Babette Neuberger, Sylvia Caras, Sally Guttmacher, Gail Gordon, Zoe Clayson, Juan Antonio Casas, Deborah Kapell, Kristen Marchi, Nuria Homedes, Antonio Ugalde, Xan Young, Elizabeth Fee, Susan Moscou, Stephen Thomas, Martha Livingston

--Unable to attend but provided updates/ideas by proxy: Anne-Emanuelle Birn, Luis Avilés, Cheryl Merzel

--APHA Executive Board Liaison: Cheryl Blackmore Prince

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 our 4 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 expand the role of the e-networking subcommittee to take on the task of organizing the new poster session for student submissions on topics directly linking social justice & public health (see below). We agreed also to nominate two Spirit of 1848 members, one from the coordinating committee (Luis Avilés) and one from the email bulletin board network (Tom LaVeist) to serve on the new APHA Eliminating Racial/Ethnic Disparities (ERED) committee. 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. The subcommittees also communicate regularly by email in relation to their specific projects (e.g., organizing APHA sessions).

3) We reaffirmed our decision to keep our current 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. We also agreed to schedule our 2 new session slots that APHA has given us (one oral session, one poster session) on the Tuesday of APHA (see discussion below regarding ideas for the topics for these 2 new slots). Here, we'd like to note proudly that APHA has given us these 2 slots because of the high attendance at and high quality of our sessions. No easy feat to get extra slots at APHA, since usually the issue is one of cutting down on slots—and this especially now, when the overall meeting is becoming shorter! So congrats to everyone—organizers & participants & audience alike—who have contribute to the Spirit of 1848 sessions being as well-attended as they are!

Thus, the Spirit of 1848 time slots we've agreed to are (with the 1st three slots already pre-assigned to us by APHA):

Spirit of 1848 session*	Day	Time
Radical history walking tour(s)	Sunday	morning & afternoon
Politics of public health data	Monday	2:30 to 4:00 pm
History (social/progressive history of public health)	Monday	4:30 to 6:00 pm
Curriculum (progressive pedagogy)	Tuesday	8:30 to 10:00 am
Student poster session: social justice and public health	Tuesday	12:30 to 2:00 pm
Integrating public health history, the politics of data, and progressive pedagogy	Tuesday	4:30 to 6:00 pm
Business meeting	Tuesday	6:30 to 8:00 pm

*We are also one of the designated co-sponsors of the P. Ellen memorial session (primary sponsor = Medical Care Section) which is in the Tuesday, 2:30 to 4:00 pm slot

Which should keep us all rather busy !! ☺

4) At our meeting, Tony Casas, from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) asked if our caucus or any other caucuses or sections at APHA had considered forming a “social medicine” section, given that there is considerable resonance between what Spirit of 1848 represents and the ideas and practice of social medicine. Two members of the Spirit of 1848 who are also members of the Medical Care section commented that in many ways that section does work in the tradition of social medicine, albeit without using that name for its section title. That said, we welcomed suggestions about ways to make links between our work in APHA and social medicine in Latin America more explicit.

5) Our meeting was also attended briefly by Cheryl Prince, the APHA Executive Board liaison to our Caucus. Our discussion with her focused on issues pertaining to the APHA Task Force on Governance, in relation to both content and process. We explicitly expressed our strong concerns, as previously posted on the Spirit of 1848 bulletin board, about the need to link democracy and accountability. We strongly objected to: (a) the lack of time allotted for membership to give meaningful input (2 weeks in the late summer when many people were not around), (b) the retraction of the offer by APHA staff (made before Sept 11) to share with us the comments received from membership, (c) the consequent inability to have meaningful discussion informed by the diverse and shared views of the entire membership, and (d) APHA’s equally weighting responses to the TFOG proposal sent by individual members and by organized entities at APHA (caucuses, sections, SPIGs), plus their refusal to permit publication of a letter in *The Nation’s Health* expressing concern about the TFOG proposal with the full list of signatories to that letter (instead, only the 1st author, representing 1 section, was allowed to be the signatory, thereby excluding the dozen or so other signatures on behalf of other APHA sections and caucuses). We also said that while we of course are open to efforts to improve efficacy of and democracy within APHA, we did not believe the process followed to engage membership in the TFOG effort inspired confidence vis a vis transparency, accountability, or democracy. Finally, we said we wanted to be kept informed of new developments regarding changes in APHA governance, including their implications for caucuses. Cheryl said she would continue on as the Spirit of 1848 Caucus liaison to the APHA Executive Board and would keep us posted.

B. Plans for the coming year

NOTE: on December 20, 2001, the APHA website for abstracts will go “live”. The deadline for submitting abstracts is Feb 4-8, 2002. We will keep everyone informed of what our call for abstracts will look like via the Spirit of 1848 bulletin board; be on the lookout in early/mid-December.

Also, remember that APHA next year will be shorter: it will open on the morning of Monday, November 11 and close during the late afternoon on Wednesday, November 13; the meeting will be in Philadelphia, PA.

1) Politics of Public Health Data

a) APHA session for next year

This session will focus on issues relevant to monitoring social inequalities in health in the US. Likely presentations will address: (a) how public health agencies and researchers are using the new racial/ethnic categories deployed in the Year 2000 census (especially the “multi-racial” data), (b) new work on geocoding and use of area-based, and also individual-level, socioeconomic measures for monitoring economic inequalities in health, and (c) new work on monitoring inequalities in health in relation to gender and sexuality. We will probably solicit presentations but may also put out a call for abstracts (a decision we will make by early December). (Note: we had also considered the idea of a session on “health impact assessment” but when we brought our ideas back to the full group, those present thought it would be more useful to organize the session on monitoring and measurement.)

Co-organizers of the data session are Nancy Krieger <nkrieger@hsph.harvard.edu>, Catherine Cubbin <ccubbin@stanford.edu; ccubbin@itsa.ucsf.edu>, Kristen Marchi <kmachi@itsa.ucsf.edu>, and Deborah Kapell <dkapell@montefiore.org>

This session will be in the usual Monday afternoon 2:30 to 4:00 pm APHA meeting timeslot.

b) Data toolbox project

Keeping with last year's decision 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 will continue to 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/Progressive Pedagogy

a) APHA session for next year

The committee will be deciding between two possible topics, both raised in response to questions provoked by the curriculum/progressive pedagogy session earlier in the day. One possibility is to focus on implications of “distance learning” via the web for progressive pedagogy. Themes that could be explored are: (a) the political economy of web-based instruction, (b) what ways access to education and classroom participation can be enhanced—or curtailed—by web-based approaches to instruction, (c) implications of the “digital divide” for progressive pedagogy, and (d) whether there are any progressive public health courses currently taught via the web. A second possibility is to focus on evaluation of courses premised upon a community-based participatory or action research framework, to consider such questions as: (a) what kinds of work is actually accomplished by students in such courses?, and (b) to what extent do these courses actually assist (or not) the community-based organizations with which the students work?. The committee will decide by late November which of these two themes will be the focus on next year's session. In either scenario, at least some of the presentations are likely to be solicited while 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 developing 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 Philadelphia, often presented as the home of the “founding fathers” of the US, the committee has decided to organize a session on alternative progressive “founding mothers and fathers” of public health. The idea is to: (a) select 10 or so alternative founders of public health and (b) have presenters first say a few words about the lives of each of these individuals, as framed in the context of their times, and then briefly read out-loud a key passage from their work. These readings would ideally be accompanied by relevant images (possibly slides and/or posters of the selected individuals), possibly also by music, and possibly with the presenters in appropriate costumes as well. Some candidate “alternative founders” mentioned included: Alice Hamilton, Bernadino Ramazzini, Margaret Sanger, Martha May Eliot, WEB Dubois, Friedrich Engels, Che Guevera, Cesar Chavez, Salvadore Allende, John Rock, and Rudolf Virchow, for starters. Most of the presentations are likely to be solicited via the Spirit of 1848 email bulletin board.

If you have suggestions for any alternative founders, or would like to be involved with this session, contact Anne-Emanuelle Birn <aebirn@newschool.edu>, Elizabeth Fee <elizabeth_fee@nlm.nih.gov>, Xan Young <xyoung@edc.org>, or Luis Avilés <laviles@ucsd.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 strong interest in continuing our relatively new tradition of radical history tours—and, preferably, walking tours—on the Sunday before APHA. We will need to find a local contact in Philadelphia 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 <aebirn@newschool.edu> or Luis Avilés <laviles@ucsd.edu>.

4) NEW scientific session: integrating history, politics of public health data, and progressive pedagogy

Prior to our business meeting, the Spirit of 1848 Coordinating Committee had been thinking about having the **NEW** 4th oral session that APHA is allocating us (based on the great attendance we have at our sessions) to one of the existing subcommittees on a rotating basis. So that one year the history subcommittee would organize 2 sessions, the next year the data committee would do so, and the next year the curriculum committee would have the 2 sessions, etc.

HOWEVER, at our business meeting, when it looked like both the curriculum & the data committee each had ideas for 2 sessions and we were thinking about flipping a coin to decide who would get the 2nd session, one of our Spirit of 1848 Coordinating Committee members, Babette Neuberger, had a great idea that we all unanimously endorsed. Which is: to have the 4th session be one that integrates the work of our 3 sub-committees, thereby making that much more explicit why it is that the Spirit of 1848 Caucus keeps our focus on 3 themes: public health history, politics of public health data, and progressive pedagogy.

What we accordingly envision is a session that focuses on one topic directly linking public health and social justice or, conversely, social injustice. Examples might be: Social Medicine in Latin America, scientific racism, or environmental justice. We would then have 3 presentations, by: (a) an historian, to put the selected topic in historical context, (b) an empirical public health researcher (whether trained in or using quantitative or qualitative methods), to discuss different trends of contemporary research that either perpetuate or challenge injustice in relation to types of data collected and how they are analyzed and interpreted, and (c) a public health teacher who describes a course they teach on the selected topic along with relevant resource materials for others who would like to address the topic in their own courses. We would then maybe also have a discussant to address the value of considering a particular theme across these 3 approaches.

Other ideas we also are considering for this session would employ different formats. One would be to have the session consist of an in-depth interview of a progressive public health leader or organization, with questions prepared by selected panelists and added to by the audience, with the idea of drawing out this leader's ideas re links between social justice and public health, in relation to her/his/their own work and more broadly. Another idea would be to have roundtable discussions focused on issues of social justice and public health in relation to the history of public health, the politics of public health data, and progressive pedagogy.

Whatever format we choose, we are likely to include only solicited speakers for the first time in organizing this new session. We may, however, decide to invite abstracts as well. Keep an eye out on the final call for abstracts to see what we decide.

If you would like to be involved with this session, contact Nancy Krieger <nkrieger@hsph.harvard.edu>, Babette Neuberger <bjn@uic.edu>, or Luis Avilés <laviles@ucsd.edu>.

5) NEW student poster session: social justice and public health

We are excited to have a **NEW** poster session, which we have agreed will be devoted to *student* posters on topics explicitly linking social justice and public health. In our call for abstracts, we will encourage students to submit abstracts to this session, and then will pick **10** posters for presentation (this is the maximum number of posters allowed for an APHA poster session). We also have begun brainstorming about what might be a prize for the best student poster (keeping in mind that we are a volunteer caucus with no dues and hence no budget).

If you are interested in helping out with organizing this session, contact Pam Waterman <pwaterma@hsph.harvard.edu>

6) E-networking

a) Email bulletin board: Pam Waterman remains in charge of running our email bulletin board, which now serves over 1100 people. If you have any questions or concerns about how our bulletin board is functioning, please contact Pam at <pwaterma@hsph.harvard.edu>.

b) Web page: our web page currently includes all past reportbacks from Spirit of 1848. We experienced a technical glitch this past year, preventing us from posting additional new materials (e.g., the program for this year's APHA meeting). We have just resolved this glitch, so that this year's reportback is just now on the site. If you know of additional web-links that should be included on our web-page, please email your suggestions to Pam.

7) Additional APHA business

a) We attended the first day of the APHA 2002 planning meeting, as represented by Babette Neuberger, one of our Spirit of 1848 coordinating committee members. Our contribution, as usual, was to suggesting progressive themes and speakers for the APHA plenary sessions, as well as learn about new issues relevant to planning APHA sessions. We already have a volunteer from the coordinating committee to stay for the program planning session after the 2002 APHA meeting: Catherine Cubbin.

b) We agreed to nominate Luis Avilés and Tom LaVeist to represent the Spirit of 1848 Caucus on the APHA Eliminating Racial/Ethnic Disparities (ERED) Committee, and have sent in these nominations to APHA.

II. SPIRIT OF 1848 SESSIONS AT APHA

Our sessions were well attended, thought provoking, and clearly useful to those who attended them. The specifics being:

A) Politics of Public Health Data

Our session was on **“DATA TO ACTION TO ACCOUNTABILITY: COMBINING SOCIAL JUSTICE, EVIDENCE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS”** (Sessions 3149.0, on Monday, October 22, 2:30 to 4:00 pm). About 300 people attended the session. The purpose of the session was learn about kinds of data we have and need to further work for social equity in health, and how public health can be enriched by insights from history, social science, and human rights. The presentations brought home several key responsibilities for public health researchers vis a vis the politics of public health data, in relation to our particular contributions to societal efforts to improve the public's health. With these responsibilities concerning: (a) why we need to evaluate our hypotheses about determinants of social inequalities in health from the standpoint of whether particular determinants are capable—or not—of explaining changes over time, (b) how we have to sharpen our methods and concepts to measure relevant determinants and to improve monitoring of social disparities in health, (c) how we can use our knowledge to assess the likely beneficial impact of good policies geared to improving equity, and (d) how we can better frame our work to take into account governmental accountability for human rights as specified by relevant international human rights conventions and treaties.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22 *2:30 PM-4:00 PM (SESSION 3149.0) *** GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER, ROOM 202E**

- 2:30 PM Introductory Remarks—**Nancy Krieger, Catherine Cubbin**
2:40 PM Understanding the social determinants of mortality in the past: A Diarrhea Dialectic--**Anne-Emanuelle Birn**
2:55 PM Data gaps in behavioral and social sciences research addressing health disparities--**Raynard S Kington**
3:10 PM Estimating the health effects of a local living wage law—**Rajiv Bhatia**
3:25 PM Health & Human Rights: Application and Accountability--**Sofia Gruskin**
3:40 PM Discussion

Primary Sponsor: SPIRIT OF 1848 CAUCUS; Co-sponsors: *Caucuses:* Academic Public Health Caucus; 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; Latino Caucus; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus of Public Health Workers; Peace Caucus; Public Health Student Caucus; Socialist Caucus; Women’s Caucus; *Sections:* Community Health Planning and Policy Development; Environment; Epidemiology; Maternal and Child Health; Medical Care; Occupational Health and Safety; Population, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health; Public Health Nursing; Social Work; Statistics; Vision Care; *SPIGs:* Health Law Forum

NOTE: if you want to contact any of the speakers, email Catherine Cubbin <ccubbin@stanford.edu; ccubbin@itsa.ucsf.edu> and she will send you their email address.

B) History

Our session was on “**2001 A PUBLIC HEALTH ODYSSEY: UTOPIAS AND DYSTOPIAS, PAST AND FUTURE**” (Sessions 3233.0, on Monday, October 22, 4:30 to 6:00 pm). About 50 people attended the session. The purpose of the session was learn whether science fiction writers, historians, and mystics spark our imaginations to create a better & healthier world—and warn us to avoid catastrophes? Rich with images—both visual images of utopias past and present and of planned and “natural” environments (as created or mediated by rational design and concerted effort, or by meditation and conscious “letting go”), as well as images created in our minds by the art of storytelling—the session bought home the critical importance of taking the time to reflect about the kind of world which we want to inhabit. Translated to the realm of public health, evidence is not enough. Nor is unfettered imagination. Rather, dreams and desires are inherent in and vital to our concrete and practical work of public health, and both these visions and our daily worked must be grounded in notions of human dignity, equality, social justice, and human rights. The line-up was:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22 *4:30 PM-6:00 PM (SESSION 3233.0) *** GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER, ROOM 202E**

- 4:30 PM Introductory Remarks—**Anne-Emanuelle Birn, Luis Avilés**
4:40 PM Past future imaginings, ideals, nightmares, and dreamworlds--**Elizabeth Fee, Michael Sappol**
5:00 PM Utopia and the mystics: the monk, the poet, and authentic communities--**Raul Lejano**
5:20 PM SPOKEN WORDS: A SCI FI CONTRIBUTION—a story read by **Andrea Kidd Taylor**
5:40 PM Discussion

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; Peace Caucus; Public Health Student Caucus; Socialist Caucus; Women’s Caucus; *Sections:* Maternal and Child Health; Medical Care; Occupational Health and Safety; Population, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health; Public Health Nursing; Social Work; Vision Care.

We also sponsored two RADICAL HISTORY WALKING TOURS on the Sunday of APHA, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each of which was a great success--thanks to the work of Luis Avilés in pulling them together. Benefiting from the tours were 30 folk for the morning tour and 6 for the afternoon tour; the cost was \$10 for the morning and \$5 for the afternoon, with all proceeds turned over to the tour leaders as an honorarium. The tours were as follows:

Tour #1: “Segregation and uprisings in downtown Atlanta”—organized around themes of repression, resistance, and remembrance, this tour included such sites as: the State Capitol, where Tom Watson’s statue representing turn-of-the-century racial politics stands on a plaza where Civil Rights leaders spoke for racial justice; the Flatiron Building, which housed the office of the Ku Klux Klan; the now nearly forgotten site of the Race Riot of 1906, where white mobs attacked black workers coming home from work on trolleys; and Auburn Avenue, the street of African-American Enterprise, where black business sprang up in a separate part of the downtown after the Race Riot of 1906, and which served as the staging area of the black protests of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Also noted was Grady Memorial Hospital, a charity hospital built in the mid-1950s that physically embodied the color line: built in the shape of an H, one wing (with a marble lobby) was built for white patients, the other wing (with a much more modest lobby) was for black patients, with the connecting hallways letting the white physicians attend patients on either side (the hospital did not employ an black physicians nor did it allow them admitting privileges). The tour emphasize that much as it is important to acknowledge and commemorate progress, it is also important not to let histories of injustice be hidden—else how can we learn from our past?

Tour Guide: Prof. Timothy Crimmins

Tour #2: “Women, struggle, and memory”—a visit to Atlanta’s Historic Oakland Cemetery, where history comes alive through visiting the graves of ordinary and famous Atlanta women alike, including Carrie Steel Logan, founder of Atlanta’s first black orphanage, and Margaret Mitchell, author of *Gone with the Wind*. Reflecting Atlanta’s southern and segregated history, the cemetery was founded with separate sections for blacks and whites, and also contains a section called the “old Jewish grounds” plus one for confederate soldiers.

Tour Guides: Spirry Wilder

If you are interested in helping out with organizing a radical history walking tour in Philadelphia for the 2002 APHA conference, please contact Luis Avilés <laviles@ucsd.edu> or Anne-Emanuelle Birn <aebirn@newschool.edu>

C) Curriculum

Our session was called “**CRITICAL CLASSROOMS, GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES: PROGRESSIVE CURRICULA FOR TEACHING ABOUT DETERMINANTS OF GLOBAL HEALTH**” (Session 4077.0; Tuesday, Oct 23, 8:30 to 10 am). About 50 people attended (at 8:30 in the morning!—and in conflict with a session on the latest updates re bioterrorism ...). The focus was on different ways to teach progressive public health classes about how global & local politics shapes global & local health. The lively discussion after the presentation focused on the extent to which any of the courses used or avoided web-based learning and also whether there was any way of evaluating the ways in which students and community-based organizations actually benefit (or not) from being participants in courses taught from a community-based participatory research or action framework; these topics will likely be addressed in next year’s curriculum session. The line-up for our session was:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23 * 8:30 AM-10:00 AM (SESSION 4077.0)*** GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER, ROOM 202E**

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

8:40 AM Infusing social justice throughout the curriculum: The University of New Mexico MPH Program Experience--**Nina B. Wallerstein, Bonnie Duran, Lorraine Halinka Malcoe, Cynthia Lopez, Howard Waitzkin, Jo Fairbanks, Deborah Helitzer, Marianna Kennedy**

8:52 AM Changes in Health and Health Care in Post-apartheid South Africa--**Sally J Guttmacher**

9:04 AM Fostering Critical Perspectives in Health: A Community Organizing Course for Public Health Students—**Jesus Ramirez-Valles**

9:16 AM Building and Retaining Public Health Capacity in Developing Countries: Challenges & Opportunities--**Yogan Pillay, Claire Botha {CANCELLED}**

9:28 AM Engaging activists: Teaching global perspectives on health and social inequalities at the undergraduate level—**Marion Field Fass**

9:40 AM Discussion

Primary Sponsor: SPIRIT OF 1848 CAUCUS; Co-sponsors: *Caucuses:* Academic Public Health Caucus; 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; Peace Caucus; Public Health Student Caucus; Socialist Caucus; Women’s Caucus; *Sections:* Environment; HIV/AIDS; International Health; Maternal and Child Health; Medical Care; Occupational Health and Safety; Population, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health; Public Health Education and Health Promotion; Public Health Nursing; Social Work; Vision Care.

NOTE: if you want copies of any of the syllabi or related materials handed out at this session, contact Cheryl Merzel <cm449@columbia.edu> , Marion Fass <fassm@beloit.edu> , or Babette Neuberger <bjn@uic.edu> and they will send you the presenter’s email address. We will also see if we can get the syllabi (or links to the syllabi) posted on the Spirit of 1848 webpage.

E) 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 session (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):

Medical care: *Social inequality and public health: the evidence versus the backlash--The P. Ellen Parsons Memorial Session* (Session 4220.0)

Socialist Caucus: *US health students as radical political activists: their work and impact on the field (1930-2001); Neocolonialism and international health: is the world one?* (Session 3148.0); *It's just not fair! Inequalities and disparities in health* (Session 4076.0); *Going the extra "smile": emotional labor, race, and the emergence of the emotional proletariat* (Session 4170.0); *Fighting for our lives: using research to change the world (Part I)* (Session 4239.0)

And we had our usual brightly colored posters visibly posted in all relevant spots!

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

November 2001

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 and scholarly 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, post-colonial, 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 to ensure that our network's projects are grounded in this sense of history, complexity, and context.

Work among 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!

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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, Budapest, and Dakar; 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)