

PEACE CAUCUS

Newsletter • Fall 2009

www.peacecaucus.org

The “Burdens” of Hope and Peace

Robert Gould, MD, Chair, Peace Caucus

The astonishing award of the Nobel Prize for Peace to Barack Obama is a welcome global affirmation of our President’s strongly stated commitments for new American leadership dedicated to breaking with the unilateralist and militarist agenda of the Bush-Cheney administration. President Obama’s personal story, and his lofty eloquence in reaching out to diverse global communities towards a true partnership for “saving the planet” have raised universal hopes for substantive changes in U.S. policies that would truly benefit all.

We have been especially struck by Obama’s forthright embrace of the goal of a world without nuclear weapons, the central aim of the International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) that the 1985 Nobel Peace Laureate International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) has been working on steadily for many years. Unique in the annals of modern presidents, Obama’s calls for nuclear abolition in Prague, Russia, and most recently at the UN, at the rhetorical level have fundamentally challenged the doctrine of *escalation dominance* – the desire to at all times possess the overwhelming upper hand of military (nuclear) force at any increasing level of violent confrontation -- that has been central to U.S. nuclear strategy since the dawn of the Cold War. Packaged euphemistically for decades as *deterrence*, this doctrine has rationalized nuclear weapons and related modernization programs and budgets now running at approximately \$50 billion a year. Recognizing the dangers of fresh thinking on the subject, forces of the American Right in sync with the worldviews of the Project for a New Century (PNAC) that had dominant sway during last

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The Peace Caucus
&
Physicians For
Social Responsibility

Invite You To
Visit Us At

Booth 236

APHA Public Health Exposition
Pennsylvania Convention Center

APHA Governing Council to Consider The Role of Public Health Professionals in Relation to Armed Conflict and War

Get Out Your Section’s Vote!

APHA Governing Council members will be voting on a position paper at this year’s annual meeting that would guide APHA on the role of public health practitioners, academics and advocates in response to war and armed conflict. The purpose of the position paper is also to lay a platform for the adoption of future APHA policy statements and advocacy work on specific wars as they arise. The paper provides the scientific basis and justification for an acknowledgment that war is one of the most significant threats to health, and articulates the roles that public health professionals can play in preventing war itself, as well as mitigating the public health consequences of war.

The position paper was conceived of and initiated by Amy Hagopian, PhD, MHA, of the University of Washington, Health Alliance International. Emily deRiel, MPH, also of the Health Alliance International spearheaded this collaborative interdisciplinary effort among APHA colleagues representing the International Health Section, the Maternal and Child Health Section, the Occupational Health and Safety Section, the Disability Section, the Peace Caucus, the Socialist Caucus, and the Labor Caucus. **A summary of the position paper can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.**

Please come to speak in favor of the position paper at the APHA Public Hearings which will be held on Sunday, November 8th between 3:30 and 6:00 PM. Check the program for the precise location of the hearings. Urge your Governing Council representatives to vote in favor of this critical policy statement.

“Burdens” of Hope and Peace

(continued from p.1)

Administration, have bitterly counterattacked against even the mildest of disarmament measures, as exemplified by the small cuts envisioned under the current START talks with Russia. From Fox Media and Wall Street Journal Op-Eds through the recent “Nuclear Deterrence in the 21st Century: Getting It Right” white paper of the neoconservative New Deterrent Working Group, there has been unrelenting pressure in opposition to any disarmament deals with the Russians, redeployment of missile defense systems from Poland and the Czech Republic, any Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), any fundamental questioning of nuclear weapons superiority defining national security, period.

In addition, at a time when the same forces have been driving dangerous confrontational policies with Iran over its *potential* nuclear weapons program, there has been a renewed push on the Obama Administration to expressly support the funding of costly new nuclear weapons programs such as the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) housed within the framework of a robust Department of Energy (DOE) “Complex 2030.” Such programs, emblematic of the “do as I say, not what I do” perspective of the world’s nuclear powers, are what ultimately encourage the *horizontal proliferation* of new nuclear states, increasing the threat to all of us.

Central to the issue are the current debates within the Administration regarding the strategic vision at the heart of the soon to be released Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), which would update the last one of late 2001, utilized by the Bush Administration to permanently place nuclear weapons at the heart of military strategy. The NPR effectively drives the development of the Single Integrated Operational Plan (SIOP), still based on a *counterforce* doctrine that informs the targeting of nuclear warheads and missiles against “enemy” weapons and hundreds of millions of innocent civilian populations around the globe. Given that enough nuclear-armed missiles remain on alert, “launch on warning” status, the chance of the world ending in a matter of an hour or so remains with us. With President Obama raising an alternative vision in his recent speeches, there is an unprecedented and conceivably last real possibility to reverse the inevitable “mutually assured destruction” of a renewed global nuclear arms race.

To this end, Daniel Ellsberg has recently underscored the stakes for the planet by his recent revelations of how many deaths have been considered “acceptable” by U.S. political and military leaders in the formulation of the still, essentially unmodified SIOP. In “A Hundred Holocausts” it is starkly clear that the consequences of the targeting of the U.S. arsenal could, in DOE-jargon, “safely and reliably” extinguish the lives of at

least 600 million people, when including other victims beyond the anticipated roughly 325 million Soviet and Chinese deaths.

Since being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, President Obama has been characterized by a number of media figures as being “unworthy” given his short tenure and consequent inability to attain the concrete ambitions invoked in his speeches. In addition, it has been asserted that the Prize is a “burden” on him --- that he is ultimately set-to-fail, given the present coordinates of American political realities, and the presumed impossibility of being able to effectively plot a new course away from where old habits and worldviews lead. Now indeed is the time for public opinion to register strongly for new directions on nuclear weapons, and to challenge all of the assumptions underlying the militarist paradigm that has driven us through too many wars and to fiscal ruin, and which if unabated, will simply destroy our ability to cope at all with climate change. If the Nobel Prize has effectively been given for the renewed sense of hope and peace personified by our President, it behooves us to do our part to make real that promise at this critical time.

War and Social Medicine

The latest issue of *Social Medicine*, an open-access, online academic journal is of special interest to Peace Caucus supporters. This special issue on *Social Medicine & War* was guest edited by **Victor W. Sidel, MD**. The issue includes, *The Health Consequences of the Diversion of Resources to War and Preparation for War*, authored by Dr. Sidel and Barry S. Levy, MD, and papers examining the Civil War in Nepal, the ongoing health impact of the Spanish Civil War, and violence along the border between Colombia and Ecuador. In August of 2009, the WHO’s Commission on the Social Determinants of Health issued a bold call to eliminate health disparities within a generation. Three articles look at what has - and has not - happened in the intervening year. View the journal at: www.socialmedicine.info/index.php/socialmedicine/issue/view/39

Medical Ethics at Guantanamo Bay Detention Centre and in the US Military: A Time for Reform Lancet 2009; 374: 353–55

Leonard S Rubenstein and George J Annas address many key aspects of how physicians working for the military and CIA had a conflict of loyalty in fulfilling their ethical obligations to their imprisoned patients and the Bush administration’s demands to further the goals and interests of military commanders and intelligence officials. They also offer recommendations or moving forward.

APHA Honors Two Peace Caucus Members

ROBERT M. GOULD, MD is being presented with APHA's Sidel-Levy Award for Peace, which recognizes an APHA member who has made outstanding contributions to preventing war and promoting international peace. Dr. Gould is associate pathologist at Kaiser Permanente Hospital, San Jose, California. He chairs the Peace Caucus, is on the National Board of Directors of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), served as PSR's National President in 2003, and has been President of the San Francisco-Bay Area Chapter of PSR since 1989. Among his peace efforts, Gould has authored or co-authored numerous resolutions passed by the APHA Governing Council against nuclear testing, an excessive military budget, the Strategic Defense Initiative, landmines, chemical weapons and other issues. He has many peace-related publications including, *Rollback! Rightwing Power in U.S. Foreign Policy*, *Public Health Effects of Biological Weapons* in the book "War and Public Health," *Prevention of Nuclear Terrorism* in the book "Terrorism and Public Health" and editorials for the American Journal of Public Health addressing a public health response to U.S. bioterrorism initiatives. He is an active speaker on peace, social justice and environmental health at hospital grand rounds, community and international events. In 2008 he was part of a special delegation during the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War World Congress in New Delhi that met with the President and Prime Minister of India to advocate for Indian leadership in the global movement to abolish nuclear weapons. rmgould1@yahoo.com

THOMAS L. HALL, MD, DrPH is being awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in International Health. Dr. Hall is a lecturer in the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Executive Director of the Global Health Education Consortium. He received undergraduate, MD and MPH degrees from Harvard and his DrPH degree in international health from Johns Hopkins. Dr. Hall has held faculty appointments in the schools of public health of the Univ. of Puerto Rico, Johns Hopkins, Univ. of NC at Chapel Hill, and the Univ. of Washington (Seattle). At UNC he was director of the Carolina Population Center. Non-academic positions have included medical director of a rural hospital, director of a regional health planning agency, and Chief Medical Officer (Research) in the New Zealand Dept. of Health (1985-86). He joined UCSF in 1988, directed a postdoctoral training program in HIV research (1989-96) and since then has taught and mentored students in international health. He has consulted with WHO, the World Bank and many countries on strategic health workforce planning. He is primary author of the WHO ToolKit for Human Resources Development. thall@epi.ucsf.edu

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY! APHA Health Activists Dance & Party Come meet new people, have fun, and DANCE

Tues, Nov 10, 8 pm-midnight Urban Saloon, 2120 Fairmount Ave, Philadelphia, PA
(Near the Philadelphia Art Museum - About 15 blocks from the Convention Center)

Sponsored by APHA's OHS Section, Student Assembly, Spirit of 1848 and Peace Caucus
Proceeds to the OHS Section's Keogh Student Scholarship Fund

Live music, by Choo Choo Charlie and the Spitfires*

Classic rock and roll, rhythm and blues, swing, zydeco, Chicago and more!
Cash bar with light snacks. Kitchen will stay open until 9pm for anyone who wants to order off the menu. Lots of good restaurants nearby.

Tickets: \$25 (\$15 for students) Sold at OHS Section (Booth 116), the Peace Caucus & Physicians for Social Responsibility (Booth 236), by Student Assembly and OHS Section members and at the door.

* Choo Choo is a highly admired blues harmonica player and has performed for more than 25 years throughout the US and in Europe. [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpDFnvN39Ik>] *www.choochoocharlie.com. Choo Choo is a long-time member of APHA and recently retired from his full-time public health work with SAMHSA. He has some great musicians joining him for this special APHA gig.

Peace Caucus Program

November 9 - 11, 2009 Philadelphia, PA

MONDAY (3245.0)

12:30 - 2:00 PM • PCC 108A

WAR AND PUBLIC HEALTH

V.W. SIDEL, MD AND B. S. LEVY, MD, MPH, PRESIDERS

- 12:30 War and public health under the Obama Administration *V. W. Sidel, MD; B. S. Levy, MD, MPH*
- 12:48 Afghan Mass Grave Crisis *S. Sirkin*
- 1:06 "A tool of warfare": Economic sanctions and the right to health in North Korea *S. S. Shin, MSc; C. Ahn, MA; R.Y. Choi, MD, MPH; H. Kim; T. Park*
- 1:24 Healthcare for Active Duty Persons and Veterans *A. Hirschman, RN-C, FNP*
- 1:42 Role of MCH in Serving Families Affected by War and in Creating a Culture of Peace
R. A. Aronson, MD, MPH; C. A. Kus, MD, MPH

CO-SPONSORS: • SOCIAL WORK, SOCIALIST CAUCUS, WOMENS CAUCUS, ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDERS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

MONDAY (3431.0)

4:30 - 6:00 PM • PCC 108A

TERRORISM AND PUBLIC HEALTH

B. S. LEVY, MD, MPH AND V. W. SIDEL, MD, PRESIDERS

- 4:30 "War on Terror" and the Constitution *H. J. Geiger, MD, MSciHyg*
- 4:50 Appraising the Bioterrorism Threat *S. Wright, PhD*
- 5:10 Torture, health professionals, and the Obama Administration: Where we go from here? *L. Rubenstein, JD*
- 5:30 Terrorism preparedness and the local health department – Ready for what? *E. Chernak, MD, MPH*

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TUESDAY (4007.0)

8:30-10:00 AM

WINTER SOLDIER: IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

Organized by: APHA-Film & Technology Theater - This is a Joint session organized by the Peace and Labor Caucuses

Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan. Winter soldiers, according to Tom Paine, are the people who stand up for the soul of their country, even in its darkest hours. Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan, a four-day event sponsored by Iraq Veterans Against the War in 2008, featured testimony exposing the human consequences of failed policy. It was named Winter Soldier to honor a similar gathering 30 years ago of veterans from the Vietnam War. This 65-minute DVD, especially produced for APHA, features public health related excerpts and testimony. Further footage can be accessed from the Website: www.ivaw.org

TUESDAY (4084.0)

10:30 AM-12:00 NOON

WATER RIGHTS AND WATER FIGHTS: RESOLVING CONFLICTS BEFORE THEY BOIL OVER

B. S. LEVY, MD, MPH AND V. W. SIDEL, MD, PRESIDERS

Special Plenary Session Organized by: APHA-Special Sessions Endorsed by: Environment, Peace Caucus

- 10:30 Water rights and water fights: Resolving conflicts before they boil over - An overview
Barry S. Levy, MD, MPH and Victor W. Sidel, MD
- 10:48 Water and conflict in South Asia *Gregory Pappas, MD PhD*
- 11:06 Denial of water by Governments in Africa: Elements of crimes *Susannah Sirkin*
- 11:24 Water and conflict in the Middle East *Alan F. Meyers, MD, MPH*
- 11:42 Management approaches to address water conflict in the United States *Karin Bencala, MESM*

Peace Caucus Program

Kathleen Fagan, MD, MPH, and Patrice Sutton, MPH, Program Planners

TUESDAY (4222.0)

12:30 PM-2:00 PM • PCC 109B

HEALTH EFFECTS OF WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

A. F. MEYERS, MD, MPH, PRESIDER

- 12:30 Effects of war and occupation on access to health care: A study of women in the West Bank, Palestine C. Sousa, MSW/MPH; M. Barghouthi, MD, MSc; M. el-Zuhairi; M. Hriesh; B. Amra
- 12:50 Transition to Lower Fertility and Childhood Mortality in the Occupied Palestinian Territory M. Khawaja, Professor
- 1:10 Human Rights Violations during Israel's attack on the Gaza Strip: December 27 2008 to January 19, 2009 R. Marton, MD
- 1:30 Medical Responses to the Israeli Siege and Attacks On the Gaza Strip G. C. M. Watt, Professor

CO-SPONSORS: • INTERNATIONAL HLTH, SOCIALIST CAUCUS, WOMEN'S CAUCUS, PUBLIC HLTH NURSING

TUESDAY (4385.1)

4:30 PM-6:00 PM • PCC 109B

BUILDING A PEACE ECONOMY

K. FAGAN, MD, MPH, PRESIDER

This is a Joint session organized by the Peace and Labor Caucuses

- 4:30 — Costs of militarism R. Gould, MD
- 4:50 — Costs of war for working people J. Braxton, MS
- 5:10 — Green thoughts for a blue economy R. Baugh
- 5:30 — Blue-Green Alliance: Good Jobs, a clean environment, a safer world R. Brown

CO-SPONSORS: • SOCIALIST CAUCUS, OCC H&S

TUESDAY (436.0)

PEACE CAUCUS BUSINESS MEETING

To be rescheduled - please check at the Peace Caucus booth (236) in the Expo Center for the new time and place

WEDNESDAY (5071.1)

8:30 PM-10:00 AM • PCC 104A

BUILDING PEACE THROUGH CULTURE AND ART

M. DONOHOE, MD, FACP, PRESIDER

- 8:30 For peace to flow like a river we need a durable bridge: Performance Text as call to action G. Gorman, RN, PhD; S. Buck, MA
- 8:50 Peace Art M. Snyder
- 9:10 War and peace literature: Reflecting on the consequences of war and militarism using fiction and non-fiction M. Donohoe, MD, FACP
- 9:30 Discussion

CO-SPONSORS: • SOCIALIST CAUCUS, OCC H&S

WEDNESDAY (5180.0)

12:30 PM-2:00 PM • PCC 202A

WATER AND POLITICS: CONTEMPORARY STRUGGLES OVER WATER ACROSS THE GLOBE

J. MARSHALL, MD, PRESIDER

- 12:30 Politics of water in Afghanistan: Scarce supply in an arid landscape Z. Rasekh, MPH
- 12:50 Water shortage as a form of structural violence J. Gilligan, MD
- 1:10 Politics of water in Pakistan : Historic struggle over flow G. Pappas, MD PhD
- 1:30 Politics of water in Akron, Ohio: Struggle over privatization of a public good J. Marshall, MD

CO-SPONSORS: • INTERNATIONAL HLTH, ENVIRONMENT, SOCIALIST CAUCUS, TRADE AND HEALTH FORUM, ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDERS FOR PH, PUBLIC HLTH NURSING

The Role of Public Health Practitioners, Academics and Advocates in Relation to Armed Conflict and War

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this position paper is to guide the American Public Health Association (APHA) on the role of public health practitioners, academics and advocates in response to war and armed conflict, and further, to lay a platform for the adoption of future APHA policy statements and advocacy work on specific wars as they arise. This paper provides the scientific basis and justification for an acknowledgment that war is one of the most significant threats to health, and articulates the roles that public health professionals can play in preventing war itself, as well as mitigating the public health consequences of war.

PROBLEM STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE

War has profound public health consequences, and is an entirely preventable source of some the world's worst public health catastrophes. War is responsible for more death and disability than many major diseases combined, in military populations as well as civilians through the destruction of health infrastructure, loss of health workers and environmental contamination. Diversion of resources to building weapons and waging war depletes funds that could be spent on improving health.

EXPANDED ROLE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Preventing war and its effects should be on the public health agenda. The WHO has a peace-building program, and schools of public health can play a role in developing and training on areas relevant to conflict prevention and resolution. Other public health institutions, such as the World Federation of Public Health Associations, can also contribute.

EXPANDED RESEARCH BASE

Public health research should contribute to primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of war. Primary prevention involves understanding the causes of conflict and estimating and educating policy makers on the likely health impacts of a conflict. Secondary prevention would encompass documenting morbidity and mortality and sustaining medical services during conflict. Tertiary prevention includes efforts to end conflict, rebuild health systems and manage intergenerational effects of trauma.

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INFRASTRUCTURE TO PROMOTE PEACE

Resources should be reallocated from war promotion and preparation to peace building. Military intervention by the international community to stop human rights violations is a last resort when peaceful means of conflict resolution have been exhausted. The APHA has a long history of adopting policy statements against specific conflicts and weaponry due to the harm to public health. This position paper does not preclude future statements on individual wars and issues.

ACTION

The APHA should demonstrate a leadership role by: 1) recognizing war prevention as a global health priority; 2) educating APHA members, policy makers and the public about the effects of war and advocate for alternatives; 3) encouraging and supporting research into areas related to the prevention of war and mitigation of its impact; 4) building partnerships with international public health stakeholders; and 5) improving the competency of the global health workforce to prevent war and promote peace.

Get Inspired!
See You At the APHA Health Activist Dinner

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 6:00 - 9:00 PM
OCEAN HARBOR RESTAURANT, 1023 RACE STREET (3 BLOCKS FROM THE CONVENTION CENTER)

BARSKY AWARD RECIPIENT
DR. MARDGE COHEN -- WOMEN'S EQUITY IN ACCESS TO CARE AND TREATMENT (WE-ACTx)

CORNELY AWARD RECIPIENT
DR. JOSH SHARFSTEIN -- PRINCIPAL DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE FDA

WELLSTONE AWARD RECIPIENT:
REP. ERIC MASSA (D-NY) -- CO-CHAIR, HR 676 COALITION

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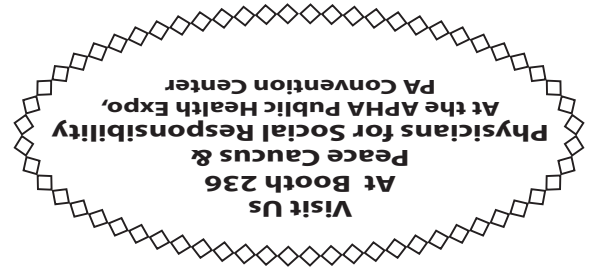
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APHA Peace Caucus
c/o SF Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility
2288 Fulton Street, Suite 307
Berkeley, CA 94704

2009 Peace Caucus Activities At-A-Glance

SUNDAY

6:00 - 9:00 PM OCEAN HARBOR RESTAURANT
Health Activist Dinner - Eat, meet, and be inspired! (see p. 7)

MONDAY

12:30 - 2:00 PM PCC 108 A
War and Public Health (3245.0)

4:30 - 6:00 PM PCC 108 A
Terrorism and Public Health (3431.0)

TUESDAY

8:30 - 10 AM APHA Film and Technology Theater
The Peace and Labor Caucuses Present
Winter Soldier (4007.0)

10:30 AM - Noon APHA-Special Session (4084.0)
Water Rights and Water Fights: Resolving Conflicts Before They Boil Over

12:30 - 2:00 PM PCC 109B
Health Effects of War in the Middle East (4222.0)

TUESDAY (CONTINUED)

4:30 - 6:00 PM PCC 109B
The Peace and Labor Caucuses Present
Building A Peace Economy (4385.1)

6:30 - 8:00 PM PCC (TBD)
The Sidel-Levy Award for Peace
Presented to Peace Caucus Chair, Robert M. Gould, MD.

8:00 PM - Midnight Urban Saloon
Health Activists Dance and Party (see p.3)

WEDNESDAY

8:30 - 10:00 AM PCC 104A
Building Peace Through Culture and Art (5071.1)

12:30 - 2:00 PM PCC 202A
Water and Politics: Contemporary Struggles Over Water
Across the Globe (5180.0)