

THE HUMANIST SOCIOLOGIST

Newsletter of the Association for Humanist Sociology

Fall, 2009

An Introduction to This Issue

Jim Wolfe, THS Editor

Inserted in this issue are conference and preconference registration blanks (back to back) for the AHS annual meeting in New Orleans Nov. 12-15 (and before) plus a membership renewal form. Please fill them out and mail them in if you have not done so already. AHS President Jim Pennell suggests restaurants and watering holes to visit while in New Orleans. AHS election results come next. Then there are several blurbs relating to the annual meeting: transportation tips, a note about room reservations, directions for presenters, a note of thanks from AHS Program Chair Greta Pennell plus an update about the program, special sessions, and reminders about any corrections or presentation needs. The main item is a schedule of sessions and events at the annual meeting. The issue concludes with a letter from Joyce Mandell and an article from Shalom Endleman opposing an academic and cultural boycott of Israel plus an Editorial from me about religion and politics in the U.S. and in Israel.

Thinking Outside the Quarter:

A Brief Scouting Report

Jim Pennell, AHS President

As I noted in the last newsletter, Greta and I spent a few nights at this year's conference hotel, the Hampton Inn & Suites Convention Center, in April while attending another conference. Tourists often associate New Orleans nightlife with the French Quarter. If you have never been to New Orleans, it is certainly worth a visit. But there is so much more to New Orleans, including right by our hotel.

Greta and I explored and sampled restaurants and watering holes within five or six blocks of the hotel, and I will share a bit of what we found. These are local places, not chains, so please give them your business, since the money you spend stays in the city. If you want to try some mostly fried Cajun cuisine, Mulate's is a popular, and often crowded restaurant at the corner of Julia St. and Convention Center Blvd. They typically have a Cajun band in the evenings, so you can dance off the extra calories. But a more daring and somewhat more expensive alternative is Cochon, which means pig in French. As the name suggests, this place features pig parts and is very Cajun, meaning it doesn't leave out any parts. They also serve alligator, oysters, and boudin, the Cajun sausage mixed with rice. They have a boucherie, or butcher shop, so you can check out much of what you are ordering. If you are a vegetarian, this probably isn't the place for you, although if you can handle the carnage, you can probably get a decent salad. Some of our friends will enjoy the flight of bourbons option, or the various "moonshines," while others may prefer their interesting beer list. The only thing not Cajun is that the portions are modest, so a heart attack is probably less likely here than at Mulate's.

One of our best dinners was at Rio Mar, on Peters a few blocks from the hotel and the seafood-oriented half of a pair of restaurants in the area that feature Argentinean-style cuisine. I had a speckled trout dish, a local fish that you will rarely find in a restaurant. The place is moderately expensive, but not outrageous.

Sun Ray Grill, a couple blocks west of the hotel, also features seafood. It has a sushi bar as well as a fusion of Asian, Caribbean, Mediterranean, and Tex-Mex seafood dishes, a nice, reasonably-priced beer and wine list, and of course Margaritas, Mojitos, etc. If your budget is tight, you should be able to find things on the menu that won't empty your bank account. This place is big enough that our whole group should be able to fit in it, which I propose as a dinner option on Saturday night after I have said whatever I'm going to say about doing change work. This won't be an official part of the meeting agenda, but an informal take over of the establishment, which of course happens at many of our meetings. I hope you will wander over with a bunch of us.

There are a number of bars that serve food—most commonly the local sandwich, the "po' boy," that would be referred to as a grinder or sub sandwich in other parts. I prefer mine with fried oysters and "dressed" (lettuce, tomato, etc.), but some like shrimp, a combo, or you can get a variety of things on them depending on the place. One of the best po' boys I had was at a trashy-looking place that we think is named The Corporation,



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Jim Gallagher, University of Maine

Judith Gordon, Yale University

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

AHS Needs YOU! Contact Emma Bailey, AHS President Elect for more information.

2009 ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM CHAIR

Greta Pennell, University of Indianapolis
gpennell@uindy.edu

2009 ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to our newly elected officers and committee members:

Dennis Kalob, President Elect
New England College

Dennis will step down as Co-VP for membership to assume presidential responsibilities for AHS. He's already hard at work planning for our 2011 annual meeting in Chicago, IL October 12-16, 2011 – so mark your calendars now.

Alan Spector, Vice Presidents of Publications
Purdue University Calumet

Alan will oversee all AHS publications and continue to serve as moderator for AHS-Talk. Come to the "Meet the Publication Team" session in New Orleans to find out more of what's in store and offer your ideas on what you'd like to see in and from AHS Pubs.

Nominations Committee

Jim Gallagher, University of Maine

Tim Maher, University of Indianapolis

Estelle Record-Stanley, Clinical Sociologists of Boston

Thanks to all the candidates who agreed to run for this committee. The strong field of candidates was underscored by one person's note on their ballot: "Hard Choice!" Jim, Tim, and Estelle's term runs until the end of our annual meeting in 2011. We are lucky to have such a good group of folks to conduct the important work of finding our next AHS president and candidates for the other key board positions to carry AHS into the next decade. Please help them out by nominating yourself or others for the following positions: President-elect, VP for Membership, and two new members to the nominations committee.

Last, but not least . . .

Congratulations and THANKS
to our renewed and newly appointed
AHS Board Members!

Mary Chayko, Treasurer (09-10)

Stephen Adair, Secretary (09-12)

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM NEW ORLEANS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 2009 AHS MEETING

SHUTTLE—CHEAPER THAN A CAB FOR ONE PERSON

If you are traveling alone, the cheapest way to get from the airport to the hotel and back is by airport shuttle. The shuttle is \$15 per person one-way, and \$30 round trip (no price break, unfortunately), three bags per person maximum. Advance reservations are required 48 hours prior to travel for all ADA accessible transfers. Please call well enough in advance for the specially-equipped shuttle to be reserved.

ARRIVAL

If purchasing your ticket(s) at the Airport, proceed to the baggage claim area on the ground level. After you have retrieved your luggage, proceed to the Airport Shuttle Ticket Desk, located across from baggage claim areas 3, 6 and 12. Service is available on a continuous basis with vans departing approximately every 30 minutes.

DEPARTURE

For Departure Reservations, call 504-522-3500 no later than 24 hours prior to your flight. Your advance reservation will ensure your timely departure from the Airport. Domestic flights require passengers to arrive 2-hour prior to flight departure. International flights require passengers to arrive 3-hours prior to flight departure. Please inform the Reservationist of any international flight in order to schedule an earlier pick-up time. Go to <http://www.airportshuttleneworleans.com/> for additional shuttle information.

CAB—CHEAPER FOR TWO OR MORE PERSONS

If two or more people are traveling together, a taxicab is the cheaper way to get to and from the airport. A cab ride costs \$28.00 from the airport to the Central Business District (CBD) for one or two persons and \$12.00 (per passenger) for three or more passengers. Pick-up is on the lower level, outside the baggage claim area. There may be an additional charge for extra baggage.

LOCAL BUS SERVICE—VERY CHEAP BUT SLIGHTLY MORE COMPLICATED

You can take a city bus from the airport to downtown, but will need to make a transfer or two to get to the hotel, or take a cab or street car. One-way fares are \$1.60. For more information, go to: <http://www.norta.com/>.

OTHER TRANSPORTATION MODES

Amtrak and Greyhound serve New Orleans and have stations on the other side of the Central Business District from our hotel that is a short cab or streetcar ride to the hotel. Amtrak's Union Station and the Downtown Bus Station are at 1001 Loyola Ave., 70113.

IMPORTANT: AHS has a contract with the Hampton Inn & Suites Convention Center for a specific number of rooms per night. These conference rates were negotiated based on that projection. Please reserve a room at the Hampton rather than at some other local hotel. Help us make our quotas and avoid additional conference charges.

To receive the special conference rate (\$140/night for a standard room and \$190 for a suite) make sure you tell them you're with AHS and make your reservation by **October 10th** by calling (866-311-1200) or going to www.hamptoninns.com.

Your room reservation is very important!



Left to right: Corey Dolgon, Jim Pennell, and Mary Chayko



SONGS OF SOLIDARITY AND STRUGGLE, VOL. 2, AT THE 2009 AHS ANNUAL MEETING

Don't miss the CD release party on Thursday evening at the 2009 AHS Annual Meeting, in New Orleans. Corey Dolgon, Jim Pennell, and Mary Chayko will be performing songs from the new CD, which features classic anti-war, social justice, and environmental songs, along with four originals. Like the labor-oriented first volume, proceeds from the sale of *Songs of Solidarity and Struggle, Vol. 2* go toward supporting student participation in future AHS meetings.

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since it was stenciled over the door of the shabby pink building, that is only a block from the hotel on Peters. Other nearby watering holes include Dino's Bar & Grill, the Ugly Dog Saloon and Barbecue, Lucy's, and Vic's Kangaroo Café, all on or near Tchoupitoulas.

There are great clubs for music and dancing all over town. But the Howlin' Wolf, which features popular local bands, is a couple blocks from the hotel on Peters. There is a bit more upscale dance club, the Republic, that features DJs and bands and is also on Peters.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the one drawback of the hotel is that there is no food service beyond the continental breakfast in the morning and a snack canteen. But if you are in New Orleans, you really shouldn't be eating hotel food (we have a local caterer for lunches and receptions that will include some regionally-styled dishes). The NOLA Grocery, which makes po' boys and a laundry list of foods, is inexpensive and delivers. There will be a menu from there in the materials you receive at the conference.

This is just a short account of places to eat and drink nearby the hotel. Tony Ladd has put together a much longer list of options around the city that will be included with your conference materials, and those who frequent the city are welcome to contact me or Tony with their suggestions and we will add them. There are great places in the Marigny, Mid-City, Uptown, the CBD, and Garden District, and many are better than what you will find in the French Quarter and more reasonably priced. So check out the Quarter, but don't think you are missing out if you end up at some other place in some other part of town. This is a tourist and service-based town, so spending money at locally-owned establishments helps locals pay their bills. If you want to salve your guilt a bit more for indulging yourself, there are a host of community organizations that can use volunteers to continue the rebuilding or address ongoing problems in other parts of town. Just check on the pre-registration form that you plan to come early and we will connect you with a service opportunity.

Last, remember that New Orleans is a big city that has the usual big-city crime problems, so use precautions walking, especially at night. Don't walk alone at night. If you are alone at night, take a cab, which is a cheap fare from the Quarter and also not that much to the Marigny, where a lot of restaurants and clubs are located. First timers who are from places with wide open spaces might experience some trepidation in some parts of town, especially the French Quarter at night, due to the very narrow streets. Since the Quarter is New Orleans' bread and butter, it is relatively safe, and can be walked after dark. But be sure to see it during the daytime, especially Jackson Square and my and Greta's favorite streets, Chartre and Royal, that have interesting shops. If you can afford the time and expense, this is a great town to visit a day before the conference or stay an afternoon or day after. New Orleans has a unique cultural mix you won't find anywhere else. Our annual meeting is also a unique mix of sociological culture that reflects diverse interests within a progressive and supportive context. I hope you enjoy the meeting and the town.

A Word about the Program *Greta Pennell, 2009 Program Chair*

50 years ago Mills ignited our sociological imaginations; 40 years ago there was Woodstock; 35 years ago, the Greensboro Massacre; 30 years, the revolution in Grenada; 20 years, the "official" end of the Cold War and demolition of the Berlin Wall; 10 years, the Peace Agreement in Northern Ireland & Columbine High School; 5 years ago Hurricane Ivan slammed the Gulf coast and the world shook from a tsunami in the Indiana Ocean. Four years ago, water, wind and the power elite formed a perfect storm in New Orleans, and just 2 months from now the 2009 AHS meeting begins.

Jim and I are very excited about this year's program. We have presentations, films, teaching and other interactive workshops, fabulous plenaries with great music and other special events on tap that touch in one way or another on these significant benchmarks and the important change work that was and is still needed along the various paths to peace, equality, and justice.

I hope many of you will be able to participate in our pre-conference opportunities and special sessions. In true AHS fashion, the service opportunity on Wednesday along with the Activist



Café on Friday will give us a chance think outside the box (or quarter as the case may be) about our host city. We also have three opportunities to tour New Orleans in conjunction with the meeting. Although our comrade and long time leader of the

walking workshops, Brian Sherman, won't be at the meeting this year (we'll miss you Brian!), we're fortunate to have Tim Maher, Dennis Kalob, Al Alcazar, and Jay Arena to lead tours and help us understand what it really means to miss New Orleans.

In these waning dog days of summer, Jim and I will be working like dogs to get the last of the details of the program nailed down and final arrangements for the book exhibit room and other events completed. So, here's how you can help preserve what sanity we might have left.

First, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE send in your pre-registration for the conference (including the special tours, luncheons, and events you plan on attending) right away. You know the semester is only going to get busier, so why not fill out the form right now, send it in, and get one more thing off your "to-do" list? While you're at it, help out our VPs for Membership and renew your membership for 2010 too (we've even included the form to make it easy for you). I understand that travel monies are tight in many places this year. If you are willing or need to room share, please let me know right away and I'll try to put folks in touch with one another.

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Second, review the Guidelines for Presenters in the newsletter. If you have not sent me an AV request and absolutely need it for your presentation contact me immediately (gpennell@uindy.edu). But please remember, AHS is a meeting where we talk *with* rather than *to* one another, so don't feel that a power point is expected.

Finally, please check the program one more time to make sure the information for your presentation is complete and accurate. Contact me immediately if there is anything that needs correction. For those of you who meant to submit something or have a new book that you'd like to showcase at the meeting, there is still a tiny bit of space in the program --- this is truly your last opportunity to be included on the program. The deadline for any changes is **October 14, 2009**.

Jim and I think that you will find a lot to pique your interest in the program. We'll connect theory and practice of change work from a variety of perspectives, share ideas for service-learning and front-lines activism and, of course, enjoy some great music. See you in November for four days of Peace, Love, & Change Work.

2009 GUIDELINES FOR ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

1. AHS is committed to meeting sessions which maximize the exchange of ideas. Towards this end, we have adopted the following guidelines for program presentations:
 - a. presenters are asked **not** to read papers, but instead to talk about the major ideas and findings contained in their work.
 - b. AHS meeting sessions do not, except in special circumstances, include a discussant. Instead, the entire audience serves as discussant. Session facilitators will be asked to obtain abstracts from participants so that they may facilitate discussion.
 - c. presenters should plan presentations to leave adequate time for other presentations and group discussion. Session facilitators will be asked to set and enforce time limits.
2. In keeping with AHS tradition, presenters are asked to begin with a short reflexive statement; that is, a statement of the author's values and perspectives with respect to the subject area (see *Humanity & Society*, the AHS journal, for examples).
3. Innovative and non-traditional sessions are welcomed. Please contact the program chair, Greta Pennell, gpennell@uindy.edu to discuss any special needs or concerns.
4. Given that the AHS meetings are comparatively small, the non-appearance of even a few presenters can create gaps in the program. To maximize the success of the meeting, we ask that presenters consider submission (and acceptance) of a proposal as a *commitment* to appear at the meeting. In the event of an emergency or major change of plans, presenters should either (a) find a colleague who can effectively present (not read) their work, or (b) provide *timely* notification to the program chair of their need to withdraw.
5. Requests for audio-visual equipment or other special needs should be sent to the program chair by August 7, 2009. We do not have the resources to accomodate last minute or on-site requests.
6. Special scheduling requests (i.e., requests for specific dates) should be sent to the program chair as soon as possible.

A Quick Note of Thanks

Much as I love getting your positive feedback about the Preliminary Program, there are several folks who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to help put it all together and also deserve kudos. Thanks to them the program is filled with an inspiring array of sessions, tours, speakers and opportunities for us to walk the AHS talk while we're in New Orleans.

Special Thanks to Kathy and Dennis Kalob for their help arranging several of the pre-conference events, our Friday evening plenary featuring the Treme Brass Band, and being there virtually any time (even in the midst of their family vacation) to help nail down a detail, connect me with local activists and scholars, or just bounce off ideas.

Our local arrangements guru, Tony (Abita Boy) Ladd, is making sure that we have a complete listing of all the best places to eat, drink, dance, and *laissez les bons temps rouler!* Along with Kathleen Fitzgerald, he also organized a series of special film screenings related to life in New Orleans both pre- and post-Katrina.

Thanks to Woody Doane for making sure the preliminary program was up on the website as soon as it was ready...and posting corrections and updates as soon as possible, even when they came in at the 11th hour.

Of course, a gazillion, troglobyte ;-) million thanks to Jim Pennell for cooking dinner, walking the dog, taking care of endless other details to free up my time to work on the program, and always being there for me.

To all of you who organized sessions, sent proposals, and carefully proofread an earlier draft of this preliminary program - Thanks. Like a good gumbo, it's the sum of your individual contributions that has made a mighty fine program.

-See you in November
Greta Pennell, Program Chair



2009 AHS Preliminary Conference Program

Doing Change Work: The Many Paths to Peace, Equality, and Justice

November 12-15, 2009 New Orleans, LA
The Hampton Inn & Suites Convention Center;
1201 Convention Center Blvd.

9 AM-Noon — Creative Community building Workshop,
(pending – watch the AHS website for updates)
Workshop Leader: *Stephen Dahlberg*

9:00-11:30 – Thursday AHS Board Meeting – Open to all AHS members

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

Pre-conference Service Opportunity w/ Dennis Kalob & Friends—Pre-registration encouraged.

We will paint two buildings used to provide transitional housing for homeless families by Hope House (www.hopehouseneworleans.org). As additional service options are finalized information will be posted on the AHS website.

5:00-7:00 PM REGISTRATION

9:00 PM HOSPITALITY SUITE OPENS

Thursday, November 12, 2009

8:30 – 5:00 REGISTRATION

9:00 – 11:30 AM BOARD MEETING – Open to all AHS members

PRE-CONFERENCE WALKING WORKSHOP W/ TIM MAHER

PRE-CONFERENCE VAN TOUR

1:00 – 6:00 PM REGULAR SESSIONS

6:00 – 7:30 PM RECEPTION AND PLENARY SESSION

7:30-9:30 PM DINNER ON YOUR OWN

9:30 PM HOSPITALITY SUITE OPENS

Thursday - Pre-conference Workshop/Tours

(See the AHS website for registration information)

9-11:30 AM - Walking Tour of New Orleans, pre-registration required

Tour Leader: Tim Maher, University of Indianapolis

Cities have the capacity to bring us together or tear us apart, with show different faces to differing groups of people. This Walking Workshop continues the AHS tradition of providing participants an opportunity to get to know the various personalities of our host city. Focusing on New Orleans social and historical development as a major city this walk starts at Jackson Square to consider the socio-historical significance of the river. From there the tour continues through the French Quarter, Faubourg Marigny and parts of the Central Business District (particularly Canal St.) stopping at various sites of historical and social importance, This walk is between 2.5-3 miles and length. Keeping in mind that New Orleans sidewalks are often uneven, participants should wear good shoes for walking and dress for the weather.

9:30 AM -12:30 PM – Driving Tour of New Orleans

(\$20/person; excluding lunch; to cover transportation costs), pre-registration required

Tour Leader: TBA

Although the driving tour will cover different physical ground than its on-foot counterpart, it will also examine the social and historical importance of neighborhoods and public spaces and help acquaint AHSers with the multiple and distinctive personalities of New Orleans. This driving tour is highlights some of the ways in which the city can simultaneously inspire and infuriate. Note- this tour will extend over the lunch hour by taking you to Café Reconcile (www.cafereconcile.com lunch is at your own expense but be sure to save room for dessert because the Banana Foster Bread Pudding is amazing).

1:00-2:30 PM - Thursday

Change Work Where We Work: Faculty Governance and the Academy

Facilitator: *Susan Machum, St. Thomas University*

Presenters:

“The Industrialization of the Academy”

Rick Eckstein, Villanova University

“Changing Faculty Governance”

Susan Webb, Coastal Carolina University

“The Professors, the Legislators and the Students”

John O’Sullivan, Gainesville College

Are the Kids All Right?

Facilitator: *Doug Thompkins, John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY*

Presenters:

“The Problem with Bullies”

Bobby Potters, University of Indianapolis

“Gangs and the Media: Diverting Our Attention from Urban Social Problems”

Brenda Chaney, Ohio State University

“Community Responses to Juvenile Crime”

Marc Settembrino, University of South Florida

Workshop: Constructing and Adopting an Ally Identity

Workshop Leaders: *Kathy McMahon-Klosterman and Jean Lynch, Miami University*

"Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans: Deconstructing New Orleans Through Film: Race, Class, and Culture in the Crescent City"

Co-Organizers and Moderators: *Anthony Ladd, Loyola University and Kathleen Fitzgerald, Columbia College.*

Special Guest: *Filmmaker & Narrator, Lolis Eric Elie*

2:45-4:15 PM - Thursday

Social Justice Symbols and Stories

Facilitator: *Woody Doane, University of Hartford*

Presenters:

“The Intersection of Sociology and Art as a Path to Justice: The Story of the Women of Colonia Plutarco, Juarez”

Emma Bailey, Western New Mexico University and

Alicia Edwards, Thunderstruck Art and Design

“Social Justice, Public Spaces, and African American Parading in New Orleans”

Peter G. Stillman and Adelaide H. Villmoare, Vassar College

“Commemorative Benchmarks: Remembrance and Recovery at Virginia Tech”

Andre Arceneaux and Kathryn Kuhn, Saint Louis University

2:45-4:15 PM - Thursday (continued)

Mediated Means for Change

Facilitator: *Mary Chayko, College of St. Elizabeth*

Presenters:

“Bloggers as Social Change Agents: the March at Jena Revisited”

Rebecca Hensley, Southeastern Louisiana University

“Seeking a Mate On-Line: Difficulties and Advantages for Muslims”

*Kathleen Tiemann and Abdallah M. Badahdah,
University of North Dakota*

“Lessons in praxis: The Case of Motivational Self-help Books”

Susan Machum, St. Thomas University

123 What Are We Fighting For? — Military Sociology

Facilitator: *Chris Dale, New England College*

Presenters:

“Military Sociology: A Needed Agenda”

Jason Smith, George Mason University

“Inside Hanoi Jane (the book): New 'Takes' on Hoa Lo Prison, Barbarella, and the 'Great American' Betrayal Narrative”

Jerry Lembcke, Holy Cross College

“Christian Zionism: The Theology of War and State Terrorism”

Werner Lange, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

“Megiddo Peace Project: Action Research in Peace Making”

Alan Haber & Odile Hugonot-Haber, University of Michigan

Perceptions, Policy, and Possibility: Just (or not) Communities

Facilitator: *James Gallagher, University of Maine*

Presenters:

“How the Campaign to End Homelessness Got Traction in the Bush Administration and Diffused Across the Country”

*Stephen Adair, Central Connecticut State University and
Jamie Taylor, Milano New School for Management and
Urban Policy*

“Nobody Asked for Our Input’: NGO Lessons on Human Trafficking in the U.S.”

Marguerite Hernandez, Ohio State University

“You think I’m a Nuisance? You Should Meet My Brother: Controlling Race Through Nuisance Laws”

*Richelle Swan and Kristin Bates, California State University
San Marcos*

Teaching Workshop: Pedagogical approaches for understanding conflict and change: From the LA Riots to Hurricane Katrina--race, class and media intersections.

*C. Holly Denning and Charles W. Ogg, University of
Wisconsin-Whitewater*

4:30-6:00 PM - Thursday

The Sociological Imagination 50 Years Later: Making Mills Relevant Beyond the Classroom

Facilitator: *Tony Ladd, Loyola University New Orleans*

Presenters:

“Suspicious Minds: From Imagination to Action and Back Again”

Corey Dolgon, Worcester State College

“Sociology, Social Responsibility, and Social Activism”

Robert J. Hironimus-Wendt, Western Illinois University

“Mills and Marx — Points of Convergence and Divergence in their Frameworks”

Alan Spector, Purdue University Calumet

Community Organizing for Change

Facilitator: *Kathleen Tiemann, University of North Dakota*

Presenters:

“Welcoming Idaho”: A Community Action Pro-Immigrant Collaborative Campaign”

Debbie Storrs, University of Idaho

“Invisible Enemies: How One Community Unites to Combat Bedbugs”

Sara Smits, Saint Anselm College

“Fighting for Your Rights in Kalamazoo Michigan”

Cody Wedge, Western Michigan University

“Network Theory Meets Community Development: Towards a Theory and Practice of Network Centric Organizing”

Joyce Mandell,

Engaging Creative Community by Choice Not by Chance

Session Organizer: *Stephen Dahlberg, University of Connecticut*
Creative Community Building program

Revisiting the Greensboro Massacre, 30 Years of Truth and Reconciliation

Organizer/Presider: *Richard Sahn, Pennsylvania College of
Technology*

Walking Tour II – a repeat of the pre-conference walking tour; sign-up at the registration table (note space is limited)

Tour Leader: *Tim Maher, University of Indianapolis*

6:00-7:30 Thursday – Opening Reception and Songs of Solidarity and Struggle, Vol. 2 Performance and CD Release

For the follow-up to the labor-oriented first CD, Corey Dolgon and Jim Pennell are joined by Mary Chayko on flute and vocals. They will perform songs from the new CD that features classic anti-war, social justice, and environmental songs, along with four originals. Proceeds from the sale of the CDs will go toward supporting student participation at future AHS meetings.

9:30 PM Hospitality Suite Opens

New to AHS or the conference? The Hospitality Suite is one of the highlights of our annual meeting, where AHS members gather to renew old friendships and make new ones.

Please join us!

Friday, November 13, 2009

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM REGISTRATION

7:00 – 7:45 AM GREET THE DAY

7:15-8:15 AM FIRST-TIMERS BREAKFAST, EDITORIAL BOARD AND OTHER
AHS COMMITTEE BREAKFAST MEETINGS

8:30 AM – 4:00 PM REGULAR SESSIONS

12:15 – 2:15 ACTIVIST CAFE

4:15 – 5:45 AHS BUSINESS MEETING & BOOK AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS
Open to everyone attending the conference
We need you to make AHS work!

5:45-6:15 PM RECEPTION

6:15 - 7:30 PM PLENARY W/ THE TREME BRASS BAND

9:30 PM HOSPITALITY SUITE OPENS

7:00 – 7:45 AM Greet the Day

Come and begin your day with gentle "opening exercises" of body and mind--stretches, simple yoga, short guided meditations, body movements, beginning-day rituals. Guides will be members who have conducted sessions in previous years.

7:15 – 8:15 AM First-Timers Breakfast

Chris Dale, VP of Membership and Dennis Kalob, outgoing Co-VP of membership & President Elect, New to AHS or our conferences? Join Chris and Dennis to meet your fellow "newbies."

7:15 - 8:15 AM H&S Editorial Board, Nominations Committee and other Committee Breakfasts

Committees can use this time and/or Saturday breakfast to meet and plan. Nominations committee *will* meet Friday Morning and Saturday afternoon, both newly elected and current members of the nominating committee should plan on attending.

8:30 - 10 AM Friday - Concurrent Sessions Begin

[Re] Searching for Peace & Justice

Facilitator: *Tim Black, University of Hartford*

Presenters:

"Exploring the use of PAR as a tool for Empowerment for Marginalized Groups"

Crystallee Crain, California Institute of Integral Studies

"Reflecting on Qualitative work with a Case Study of Immigrants"

Karen Tejada, University of Hartford

"Disrupting Privilege? "Progressive" White Heterosexual Men on Race, Sexual Orientation, and Gender"

Susan Y. Ortiz, Ohio State University

Schools: Avenues of Opportunity or Dead End Roads

Facilitator: *Jim Pennell, University of Indianapolis*

Presenters:

"Is there really a choice, Equity in public school choice options"

Terri Akey and Rebecca Fagen, Center for Evaluation and Education Policy, Indiana University

"Marketing Diversity: An Action Research Ethnography of Race, Space and Place"

Pamela Anne Quiroz, Lindsay Vernon, and Endea Murry,

"Residential Mobility, Family Instability, and School Completion among Adolescent Mothers"

Mary Patrice Erdmans, Central Connecticut State University

Questioning Consumption

Facilitator: *Michael Clow, St. Thomas University*

Presenters:

"Strange Examples (Film) of the Strange Phenomenon of Outsourcing"

Steve McGuire, Muskingum College

"The Commodification of Tatonka (Buffalo): Native American Community and Spirituality"

Anastacia Schulhoff, University of South Florida

The Long Path to Racial and Ethnic Equality

Facilitator: *Kathleen Fitzgerald, Columbia College*

Presenters:

"New Song, Same Old Tune: Racial Discourse in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina"

Woody Doane, University of Hartford

"Assessing the 'Promise' of Long-Term Racial and Ethnic Neighborhood Integration as a Panacea for the Segregation Problem"

Diana L. Karafin, Ohio State University

"The Criminal Justice System and Structural Oppression: Possibilities for Anti-Racism Under the Obama Administration"

Stephen T. Ostertag, Tulane University and

William T. Armaline, San Jose State University

Working for Economic and Sustainable Justice

Facilitator: *Len Krimerman*

Presenters:

"Tracing One Community's Struggle for Economic Justice"

Ottis L. Murray and Anna Netterville,

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke

"Understandings of Prosperity for Small Farmers: Sustainable Visions in Resistance to an Unsustainable Mass Culture"

Jeff Torlina, Utah Valley University

"Seeking the Green Collar Economy? Follow the Yellow Brick Road!: A Case Study of Greensburg Kansas"

Chuck Koeber, Wichita State University

"What Does Diversity Mean in an Era of Color Blindness? Examining Diversity in Major U.S. Corporations"

David G. Embrick, Loyola University-Chicago

10:00 – 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:00 - Friday

The Sociological Imagination 50 Years Later: Paradigm or Pedagogy?

Organizer/Presider: *Robert J. Hironimus-Wendt, Western Illinois University*

Presenters:

"C. Wright Mills' Friendly Critique of Service Learning and an Innovative Response: Cross Institutional Collaborations for Community-Based Research"

Roxana Moayed, Trinity University

"Uneasiness, Alienation and Religious Individualism: Can Mills Re-Enchant Emerging Adults' Religiosity?"

John Mihelich, University of Idaho

"The Continuing Importance of the Sociological Imagination for the Introductory Course in Sociology"

Lisa Handler, Community College of Philadelphia

10:30 – 12:00 - Friday (continued)

"By Invitation Only: Deconstructing New Orleans Through Film: Race, Class, and Culture in the Crescent City"

Co-Organizers and Moderators: *Anthony Ladd,*

Loyola University and Kathleen Fitzgerald, Columbia College.

Possibly the nation's most famous party, Mardi Gras revelry seems to define the city of New Orleans. In this film, New Orleans native and director Rebecca Snedeker forces us to look more closely at the nature of the festivities, particularly the racial exclusivity and social status concerns surrounding Mardi Gras. This film offers a probing and highly personal view into one of our oldest and most controversial cultural celebrations.

Sowing the Seeds of Social Justice

Facilitator: *C. Holly Denning, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater*

Presenters:

"Empowering the mind: Lessons from Teaching Sociology"

Mitra Das, University of Massachusetts Lowell

"Creating a Safe Learning Environment for Social Justice Courses"

Kaitlyn Baker and Jean Lynch, Miami University

"Incongruences in Theory and Practice: Black English Vernacular as used in Society and Education"

Rebecca Campbell, University of South Florida

"Teaching Racism in the Academy: Confronting Privilege, Prejudice and Internalized Oppression"

Jerome Rabow, UCLA

Pathways and Obstacles to Environmental Justice

Facilitator: *Emma Bailey, Western New Mexico University*

Presenters:

"Home Rule: Rights, Framing and Community Organizing"

Joel Schoening, Shippensburg University

"Struggle for Sustainability: The community impacts of aluminum smelter construction in rural Trinidad"

Heidi Renate Ballard, Otterbein College

"But why didn't they just move away?: Social accommodations to poverty and pollution"

Tim Maher, University of Indianapolis; Jason Ward,

David Allender

Humanist Perspectives on Tough Topics

Facilitator: *Kathie Gainguest, Retired, University of Maine*

Presenters:

"Suicide and voluntary Euthanasia: A Humanist Perspective"

Brian Barry, Rochester Institute of Technology

"Special Interest Groups, Lobbying, and Animal Cruelty"

Brenda Chaney, Ohio State University at Marion

"The BDS Campaign: Overcoming the Occupation of Palestinian Territory and Public Mentality"

Werner Lange, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

"Those Who Took Them In: A Study of Host Families during Katrina"

Kathryn Feltey, University of Akron

12:15-2:15 Activist Café – pre-registration required (\$25)

Another Great AHS Tradition - Meet local activists to learn about their work. Make connections and share your own activist endeavors and ideas.

2:30 – 4:00 PM - Friday

The Many Facets of Service Learning

Facilitator: *Shawn Bigham, University of South Florida*

Presenters:

"Gardening as a Path to Community: Service Learning and the Creation of a University/Community Garden"

Emma Bailey, Western New Mexico University

"NEC New Orleans Program"

Dennis Kalob, New England College

"Captured by Popular Culture and Academia: The Shifting Culture of Service-Learning"

Charlie Guthrie, University of Indianapolis

Teacher Meets Critical Friends: Confronting Isms in the Classroom.

Teacher: *Jerome Rabow, UCLA & CSUN*

Critical Friends Panel: *Ray Muller, Terrance Harewood,*

Charles Ogg, Deborah Burris-Kitchen

Helping our students understand and examine social problems and their relationship to them in ways that are transformative and empowering is often a challenge. In this session, Jerry Rabow puts his own teaching up for examination and comment in a highly interactive session akin to our "author meets critics" sessions, but with a twist. The session will start with a 40-minute video shot in Jerry's classroom at UCLA over a 10 week period. Following the video, the panel will serve as critical friends and facilitators of a conversation between teacher, panel & audience. The Critical Friends model is based on the premise that by making our teaching practices explicit and public we can better understand our work with students, our relationships with peers, and our thoughts, assumptions, and beliefs about teaching and learning; and, in the long run, help one another to better turn theories into practice and our goals relative to social justice into actual student learning and action.

Ideology, Identity, and Needed Constructs to Advance Change

Facilitator: *Judith Gordon, Yale University*

Presenters:

"Theory as Ideology: Obstacles to Doing Change Work in the Conception of Social Class"

Jeff Torlina, Utah Valley University

"Bridging the Praxis Divide between Queer Theory, Activism, and Social Change Work"

Benjamin Shepard, CUNY/NYC College of Technology

"The teacher as coolie (over to live and dead in education or over to survive and to die in education)"

Hans Jansen, Hogeschool Utrecht

When Difference Makes No Difference: The Cultural Turn and the Sociology of Race

John N. Robinson, III, George Mason University

Working Behind Bars for Peace & Justice

Facilitator: *Mary Ellen Batiuk, Wilmington College*

Presenters:

"Mothers In Prison: A Humanist Approach"

Marjorie Marcoux Faiia, Rivier College and

Sylvia I. Mignon, University of Massachusetts-Boston

"The Captive Audience: Implementing a Theatre-based Program to Support Incarcerated Women"

Kate Ayres, University of Indianapolis

"Teaching Behind Bars"

Curt Hosier, Ball State University &

Western Michigan University

"Constructing the Other: Gangs and the Prison Community"

Doug Thompkins, John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY

2:30 – 4:00 PM - Friday (continued)

The Post-Katrina Public Housing Movement

Session Organizer & Facilitator: *Jay Arena, College of Staten Island-CUNY*
Mike Howells, C3/Hands off Iberville
Sam Jackson, May Day New Orleans
Sharon Jasper, NOLA Public Housing

4:15-5:45 Getting Down to Business - AHS Business Meeting & Book Award Announcements

All are invited and encouraged to attend the AHS Business Meeting. Learn more about our association and participate in our ongoing development. AHS needs you! If you have something you want included on the agenda for this meeting, please contact AHS President, Jim Pennell (jpennell@uindy.edu).

5:45-6:30 Reception

6:30-7:45 Plenary Session with the Treme Brass Band

9:30 PM Hospitality Suite Opens

Saturday, November 14, 2009

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM REGISTRATION

7:30 – 8:15 AM GREET THE DAY

7:45-8:45 AM WOMEN'S BREAKFAST AND OTHER AHS COMMITTEE
BREAKFAST MEETINGS

9:00 AM – 6:15 PM REGULAR SESSIONS

12:45 – 2:15 LUNCHEON PLENARY WITH ELLIS JONES

6:15 - 7:15 PM RECEPTION AND SILENT BOOK AUCTION

7:15-8:00 PRESIDENTIAL PLENARY

9:30 PM HOSPITALITY SUITE OPENS

7:30 – 8:15 AM Greet the Day

Come and begin your day with gentle "opening exercises" of body and mind--stretches, simple yoga, short guided meditations, body movements, beginning-day rituals.

7:45 – 8:45 AM – Saturday Women's Breakfast, hosted by Emma Bailey, AHS President Elect; Committee Meetings

A special to discuss pressing issues and [re]connect with others.

9-10:30 AM – Saturday

Revisiting the Grenada Revolution 30 Years On: Reflections on the Struggle to Build a More Just Society

Organizer/Presider: *Chris Dale, New England College*

Presenters:

"The Revo Speaks" (A Documentary Film Project)

Faye Anne Wilkinson, Independent Filmmaker, London

"Women in the Grenada Revolution 1979 -1983"

*Nicole Phillip, T.A. Marryshow College and
St. George's University, Grenada*

"The Collapse of the Grenada Revolution: An Interpretation in Progress"

Chris Dale, New England College

Mothers & Children

Facilitator: *Kathie Gainguest*

Presenters:

"Poverty, Vulnerability, and Adolescent Motherhood: Social Mechanisms and Personal Trajectories"

Tim Black, University of Hartford

"Grassroots Domestic Violence Advocacy Still Exists!"

Laura Finley, Barry University

"Do Sociologists Make Good Parents? Changing Classrooms to Teach Scientific Observing with Accessible Reporting and Humanist Intervening in Infant/Toddler Classrooms"

Estelle Record-Stanley, Clinical Sociologists of Boston

Campus Activism

Facilitator: *Austin J. Matthews, Eastern Kentucky University*

Presenters:

"Don't Drink the Plastic, Shower with a Friend"

Wick Griswold and Austy Wilde, University of Hartford;

Jacqueline Rowland, Campus Coordinator;

CT Cleanwater Action

"Civil Rights, Disability Rights, and Service-Learning on Campus"

Kathy McMahon-Klosterman, Miami University

"How Activism Affected My Educational Outlook"

Jillian Doneske, DePaul University

Coexist

Facilitator: *Gayle Baldwin, University of North Dakota*

Presenters:

"Making Peace Among Religions Within Myself"

Jim Wolfe, University of Indianapolis

"Coming Out as an Atheist"

Tom Acaro, Elon University

"Where Church Ain't No Drag"

Gayle Baldwin, University of North Dakota

Work Processes, Choices, and Challenges

Facilitator: *Chuck Koeber, Wichita State University*

Presenters:

"Wage Theft Among Latino Day Laborers in New Orleans"

Lorena Murga, Texas A&M University and

Warren Waren, Loyola University New Orleans

"Wage Employment or Traditional Subsistence? Native Aspirations in the Mixed Economy of Northwest Alaska"

Catherine Seabury, University of New Hampshire

"Accounting for Why It Took So Long: The Industrialization of Pulpwood Production in the Southeastern United States After World War II"

Michael Clow and Peter MacDonald, St. Thomas University

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11 AM -12:30 PM – Saturday

On the Spot: Recent Experiences of Sociologists Abroad

Organizers and Presiders: *Levon Chorbajian, University of Massachusetts Lowell and Timothy Levonyan-Radloff, State University of New York at Fredonia*

“Social Policy and Twenty-first Century Socialism in Venezuela”
James Russell, Eastern Connecticut State University

“The XXXIXth World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology and Images of Post-Soviet Armenia”

Levon Chorbajian, University of Massachusetts Lowell and Timothy Levonyan-Radloff, State University of New York at Fredonia

“Effective Development Aid in Ghana, West Africa: The Importance of the Recipient”

Katie Strickland, Elon University

Raising False Hopes: Implications for Social Equity from HOPE VI Revitalization Efforts in Three Cities

Facilitator: *Stephen Adair, Central Connecticut State University*
Presenters:

Terri Akey, Center for Evaluation and Education Policy, Indiana University

Tim Maher, University of Indianapolis

Mark Abbott, Harris Stowe State University

Don Everard, Hope House

Problems and Possibilities in Creating Equitable Health Care

Facilitator: *Sandy Maher*

Presenters:

“Stronger Under Stress: How the Costa Rican Health Care System Advanced in Times of National Crisis”

Jameson Ramirez, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

“A Society in Crisis: The Social Problem of Health Insurance in the United States, a Contextual Constructionist Perspective”

Curtis D. Hosier, Western Michigan University & Ball State University

“Using Critical Political Economy to Critique 21st Century Health and Social Inequalities”

Sylvia Jalil-Gutierrez, Central Connecticut State University;

Karen Luca Breda, University of Hartford and Helen Raisz,

University of Hartford & Central Connecticut State University

“Single-Payer Health Plans”

Jim Wolfe, University of Indianapolis

Teaching Peace

Facilitator: *Earl Piercy, Truckee Meadows Community College*

Presenters:

“The emergence of structured informal controls and the role of analytical conflict transformation in teaching peace and public ethic”

Casey Welch, Flagler College and Elisabeth Baker

“Peace Studies: Impartiality is Finally Obsolete”

Jeff Torlina, Utah Valley University

“Creating Peace One Person at a Time”

Kathie Gainguest, Retired, University of Maine

“TBA”

Laura Finley, Barry University

Talk to Me, So You Can See What’s Going On

Facilitator: *Corey Dolgon, Stonehill College*

Presenters:

“Imagining Social Problems: Undergraduate Perspectives on Recipients of Community Service”

Kenneth Branco, Stonehill College

“Ally Identity Development in College Students: Crippling a Campus”

Kathy McMahon-Klosterman and

Jean Lynch, Miami University

“Communal Racial Inheritance and One-hand Clapping: The struggle for “the possibility of the impossible” in the still flooded race relations in post-Katrina New Orleans”

Rachel Nicolosi of the Literacy Alliance and Al Alcazar of the Twomey Center for Peace through Justice at Loyola University New Orleans

12:45-2:15 Saturday - Luncheon Plenary w/ Ellis Jones, College of the Holy Cross

“Democratizing Social Change: A Practical Approach to Creating A Culture of Empowerment” pre-registration required (\$25)

Saturday 2:30-3:25 PM

Meet the AHS Publication Team

Nominations Committee Meeting

Meet the Authors Circle Sessions

Conference participants who recently published a book are invited to contact Greta Pennell to schedule a roundtable discussion. We will have a book exhibit room at the meeting as well. Authors interested in displaying their work should also contact Greta for details

Saturday 3:35-4:30 PM

(see below for description)

Humanist Debate: Round III

What the Hull?

2:30-4:30 PM - Saturday

Take it Outside to Teach Beyond Tolerance

Facilitator: *A. Fiona Pearson, Central Connecticut State University*

Presenters:

“Southern Journeys: Teaching Place, Society, and Literature in the American South”

Shawn Bingham, University of South Florida

“Beyond the Walls: Extending Sociological Learning and Activism Outside the Classroom and Into the Urban Environment”

Dina L. Giovanelli, University of Connecticut

“The Race Relations Project: Exploring Sociology's Activist Imagination in and beyond the Undergraduate Classroom”

Ray Muller, East Stroudsburg University

“The Civil Rights Movement as Emancipatory Praxis”

Terrance Harewood, University of Indianapolis

Ideology and Identity: Engendering Change

Facilitator: *Lisa Handler, Community College of Philadelphia*

Presenters:

“Bring it on! Gender Performance, Public Perception, and Organizational Development of a Women's Flat-track Roller Derby Team in Central California”

Heidi Allene Henrickson

“Homosexuality and U.S. National (Non-) Identity”

Austin J. Matthews, Eastern Kentucky University

“Changing Room: The Urban Male Bathhouse”

Andrew Sherwood, Ontario Association of Jungian Analysts

3:35-4:30 - Saturday

The Humanist Debate, Round III

Chayko & Eckstein take on Portable Communities: Source of Solidarity or Commodified Fad?

Mary Chayko, College of St. Elizabeth
Rick Eckstein, Villanova University

What the Hull?

Kate Ayres, University of Indianapolis

"What the Hull?" is an hour long, one-woman interactive play modeled after Howard Zinn's *Marx in SoHo*, that tells the story of Jane Addams life and ideas. Selected scenes from this new play will be performed by the playwright with the goal of creating community dialogue and generating ideas for advancing our change work on a variety of fronts (i.e. poverty, water supply, women, transportation, immigration, employment). Audience reaction and response to the performance and play's content will also be discussed.

3:35 – 6:15 PM - Saturday

"Trouble the Water: Deconstructing New Orleans Through Film: Race, Class, and Culture in the Crescent City"

Co-Organizers and Moderators: Anthony Ladd, Loyola University and Kathleen Fitzgerald, Columbia College.

An award-winning Katrina documentary that has attracted international praise. Much of the footage of this film was captured by a stranded New Orleans Ninth Ward married couple who documented the storm and its impact on her family and neighbors, all of whom lacked the means to evacuate. This film captures many of the racial and class inequalities behind the largest disaster in U.S. history and how the urban poor suffered in the wake of the storm and the levee breaks which flooded the city. It offers insights into both pre-and post-Katrina New Orleans from the perspective of poor black, Ninth Ward residents and ultimately what it means to be poor and black in America in the 21st century

Disaster Capitalism Tour - Pre-registration Preferred (\$20/person to cover the cost of transportation)

Tour Organizer and Leader: Jay Arena, College of Staten Island-CUNY

Despite claims and rhetoric of local boosters, wide swaths of the New Orleans—outside the tourist corridor—remain in shambles and approximately half the pre-storm population remains displaced. Much of the continuing damage and displacement is due not to the storm, but rather the political choices made by powerful state, corporate, and non-profit actors. For example, Charity Hospital, the major provider of health care to the uninsured, was little damaged by hurricane Katrina. Nonetheless, state officials, with the support of the private health care industry, closed the Hospital, alleging that it was "beyond repair." Similarly, federal and local authorities demolished some 5,000 viable public housing apartments, exacerbating the affordable housing crisis and creating additional obstacles for the return of many low income people, especially African Americans. While lauded in some quarters, the decision was met with intense local opposition and international condemnation, including by the United Nations.

This tour of key of post-Katrina New Orleans battlegrounds, led by local social justice activists, includes stops at Charity Hospital and two public housing developments—Lafitte and Iberville. Participants will learn about the race, class, and gender-justice issues at play in the post-Katrina battle over public housing and other public services, and the need for continuing solidarity with the right of return movement.

The tour culminates with a rally/press conference at the Iberville Public Housing development sponsored by the local public housing movement to oppose attempts to privatize and downsize the development. Participants are invited—but not required—to join the rally.

4:45-6:15 PM – Saturday

Confronting Inequality in our Schools

Facilitator: Terri Akey, Center for Evaluation and Education Policy, Indiana University

Presenters:

"Education in post-Katrina New Orleans: Mechanisms for Rebuilding Inequality"

Brian Beabout, The University of New Orleans

"What to do with numbers, cases, and celebrations? Reflections on community engagement with the Minority Achievement Council"

Julie Didelot, Bowling Green State University, Firelands College

"Confessions of an Activist Sociologist from 'Title Town U.S.A.'"

Mark George, Valdosta State University

Changing perceptions of 'race' through public discourse

Session Organizer & Facilitator: Yngve Digernes, Columbia College

Presenters:

"The persistence of the 'race' myth"

Yngve Digernes, Columbia College

"Racism and its relationship to increased incarceration rate of blacks in the Post Civil Rights era."

Deborah Burriss-Kitchen, Tennessee State University

"The Myth of Appalachian Whiteness"

Roberta Campbell, Miami University Hamilton

"Should They Stay or Should They Go: Insights from Enemy Construction and the Debates Surrounding Guantanamo"

Gina Petonito, Miami University

"Race: Socially Constructed or Constructed by Political-Economic Forces?"

Alan Spector, Purdue University Calumet

Unintended Consequences of Social Control Policy

Session Organizer & Facilitator: Doug Thompkins, John Jay College

"Parole in New York State"

"The No Child Left Behind Bill and the School to Prison Pipe Line"

"Public Safety and the Rights of the Citizen"

Where Do We Go From Here?: Extending the Legacy of Humanist Scholarship and Activism

Facilitator: Greta Pennell, University of Indianapolis

Presenters:

"Homage to Frank Lindenfeld: Is there New Life in the Tradition of Radical Democratic Education?"

Len Krimerman,

"Mountain top removal mining and the Big Ugly, Lincoln County, West Virginia"

David Tabachnick, Muskingham College

6:15- 7:15 PM – Saturday – Reception with Silent Book Auction

7:15- 8:00 PM - Presidential Address – Jim Pennell, University of Indianapolis

Sunday November 15, 2009

9:00 – 11:00 AM Board Meeting/Wrap Up Session

Open to all AHS members! Whether you are a first-timer or old-timer, AHS needs the support of all our members to continue the work of promoting peace, social justice, equality, and the day-to-day work of keeping AHS alive. Please come and help continue to build AHS and offer your suggestions for next year's meeting in Santa Fe.

**For more information about the 2009 annual meeting, check the AHS website at:
<http://www.humanistsociology.org/site/humanist/>**

Mark this date

**November 4-7, 2010
2010 AHS Annual Meeting
Santa Fe, NM**

In response to Werner Lange's Case for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel by Joyce Mandell

I have to admit that I was highly surprised and even appalled to read Werner Lange's call for an Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel. In my response, I will neither defend nor justify Israeli policies of land use, discrimination, and continued settlement building across the Green Line. Nor will I try to argue the "other side", how Israelis have suffered with past suicide bombings and dashed hopes of finding viable Palestinian partners for resolution of this conflict. This kind of us vs. them, black and white thinking is just not a constructive use of energy and serves to prolong this conflict.

As sociologists, we should understand the fluidity of a "truth" that is ultimately socially constructed. This one little piece of land contains the victim narratives of two different peoples. True peace-makers are able to hold simultaneously these two stories, knowing that the "truth" can be "both/and". Consequently, Werner Lange's question, "whose side are you on" is simply the WRONG question. Some better questions would be, "what are both sides? How can both sides be brought together to the table so that two peoples can ultimately share this land in peace, security and economic prosperity?"

Here are some salient reasons why AHS should oppose Werner Lange's resolution for an academic and cultural boycott of Israel:

- The boycott does not specifically differentiate between an anti-Israel and an anti-occupation stance. Werner Lange's vitriolic diatribe focuses more on challenging Israel's right to existence than targeting the specific issue of ending the occupation of the West Bank to make room for a Palestinian State.
- Why should we target the academic community? As academics in the United States, are we to be blamed for the imperialist forays of the United States into Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries around the world? Maybe, we should boycott and censure ourselves!

- Many and even most Israeli and diaspora Jews have a consciousness that "everyone is out to get us." A boycott would only foment this kind of collective group psyche, increasing the Israeli/Jewish sense of alienation and paranoia that only fuels this conflict and strengthens right wing, hard line stances in Israel. Here is a case in point: After reading Werner Lange's piece, my first reaction was to run to the one sided, right wing CAMERA, for counter facts. What a horrible thought!

- This boycott makes little room for Israeli and Jewish peace activists who are fighting hard to keep the hope for peace and a two state solution alive. If AHS passes this resolution, will there be a place at AHS for me as a progressive, Jewish Zionist who has dedicated my time to a secure Israel side by side and at peace with a free Palestinian state? Has Werner Lange ever lived in Israel/Palestine? I've lived in that land for several years. I was an active member of Palestinian/Israeli dialogue group which met in Bethlehem. I've been an activist with New Jewish Agenda which advocated for a two state solution long before that stance was popular. Will you isolate and push out Jewish activists like myself who are working hard on this issue?

Israeli and Jewish peace groups who are working on the inside of this conflict deserve our support. Here are just a few examples. J Street (<http://jstreet.org/about/about-us>), an alternative to AIPAC, met with President Obama in July 2009 to advocate for the ceasing of Israeli settlement building. The New Israel Fund (<http://www.nif.org/>) channels financial resources to community based groups in Israel proper that are dedicated to social justice and the strengthening of democracy. Shatil, NIF's action arm, provides immigrant, women, environmental, Israeli Arab and Bedouin groups, the technical resources to increase their capacity to make social change. B'Tselem (http://www.btselem.org/English/About_BTselem/Index.asp), the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights, documents abuses happening in the Occupied Territories and has most recently opened an office in Washington, D.C.

When I first read Werner Lange's piece, I automatically reached out to one of my Jewish peace activist friends, Gordie Fellman. I first met Gordie Fellman, Sociology Professor at Brandeis University when we were New Jewish Agenda activists during the First Gulf War in the 1990s. He too has been an outspoken critic of Israeli policy towards the Palestinians. In response to Lange, he writes:

"Lange's rhetoric is so angry, so enraged that it is not useful as a call to action. For decades, Israelis and Palestinian friends and colleagues have insisted that the conflict will end only when the US insists it ends. I have long suspected they are right. President Obama has the power to do that. Why not focus on organizing pressure on Obama? He is after all a community organizer by training and has said he wants to be pressured on many fronts."

If AHS members would like to participate in a boycott, they may want to consider the boycott against AHAVA, an Israeli cosmetic company based in the Occupied Territories. See <http://www.stolenbeauty.org/article.php?list=type&type=415>. Code pink Women for Peace has called for this boycott to protest

not only the role of business and profiteering in the Occupation but also the sexploitation of women in the cosmetic industry. This boycott seems especially valid because it is also endorsed by the Israeli Coalition of Women of Peace.

In summary, I encourage AHS members not to be swayed by Werner Lange's off putting tone and one sided compassion. If we really want to make a difference, we need to find a way to support Israeli and Palestinian political and grassroots peace initiatives. We need to be strategically wise by pressing on President Obama for the United States to apply pressure to end the conflict. It's important to put what energy we have into constructive, not counter productive efforts!

The Case Against a Boycott *by Shalom Endleman* **Emeritus Quinnipiac University**

A little known historical anecdote. During the height of the Sandinista Contra conflict in the late 1990s Haika Grossman a leftist member of the Knesset traveled to Nicaragua to offer agricultural and technical help by kibbutz members to that government. In spite of her efforts and good will, she was not able to meet with a single government official in Nicaragua. She did learn through other diplomatic sources, that Israeli volunteers would not be welcome in Nicaragua because "Israel is a vassal state of the United States." The question of why volunteers from the U.S. were welcomed in Nicaragua was never addressed.

I tell this story because Israel is and has always been a favorite subject of scorn and punishment of the left. I am as appalled at what is going on in Israel as is Werner Lange, but his suggestion that AHS join in a symbolic punishment of Israel troubles me on many levels. There is no shortage of countries whose governments are violating the human rights of their residents. The first and most obvious question is why choose Israel out of all the countries of the world for our special attention?

I have two thoughts about how we choose villains in the Middle East or in the world for that matter. The first is that outside of the powerful propaganda and censorship forces Werner suggests Israel has at its disposal, Israel's neighbors too have information generating mechanisms. They may generate more noise in Europe than in the U.S., but that doesn't mean that they aren't there. Not insignificantly, a central and persistent message generated by the Arab countries is their goal of the total isolation of Israel. The boycott of Israel was at one time so pervasive that even products made by large corporations like Toyota and Coca Cola could not be sold in Israel. That economic boycott failed, so now there's a suggestion for a cultural and academic boycott of Israel. Evidently, the Arab voice on this issue has not been successfully stifled by the pro-Israel lobby.

A second proposition takes me back to my first historical anecdote. Israel represents in many ways, both practically and symbolically, a stand-in for the United States. Since a boycott of the U.S. is both impractical and unthinkable, a boycott of it's most vulnerable "vassal state" is relatively easy to implement, and with little cost to the boycott participants themselves.. An intellectual or academic boycott is on its face ridiculous. Are we to reject scholarly work simply because it was developed by Israeli academics. Suppose an Israeli sociologist develops a new statistical "test of

significance" (they're big on that sort of stuff there) are we expected not to apply it in our work, or as humanists, not teach it to our students?

From a personal perspective, should Werner's proposal pass, will I be ethically bound as an AHS member, not to complete my reading of "The Bible Unearthed" by Finkelstein and Silberman? These scholars suggest that prior to 700 B.C.E. there is no archaeological support for the key Biblical elements of Jewish historical identity. Should I give up on "Dark Hope," a book I'm about to read by MacCarthur Fellow David Shulman that documents his efforts to "counter the Israeli occupation" by placing himself with others physically on "the line?" Will I have to give up on Gideon Levy's scathing attacks on Israeli policy, which he publishes daily in Haaretz, or Amira Hass' highly descriptive reports from the occupied territories simply because they are written by Israeli scholars and published in Israeli publications? The soldiers who have organized to testify about Israeli conduct during the recent conflict in Gaza are Israelis too. Should their testimony be ignored? Furthermore, if novelists Amos Oz or David Grossman, both peace activists, are invited to my university, should I picket the auditorium or attend their presentations? And what do I do about Daniel Barenboim's West-East Symphony Orchestra, which he founded with Edward Said?

Truth to tell an academic boycott by academics is both counter-intuitive and counterproductive. It violates the principles of free speech and the free expression of ideas, which Werner clearly supports, as well as the organizational purpose of AHS which Werner quotes as ". . . to be an active support network for sociologists and other scholars committed to humanistic values." We should, if we want to take some action, do exactly that. We can support the efforts of groups on both sides of the conflict involved in dialogue and cooperation. A boycott of Israeli academics, who constitute a core element in the peace and human rights movement in Israel, would be counterproductive because 1. It would deligitimize and thus weaken the position of those forces on both sides of the Israel/Palestine conflict that are working toward a negotiated peace, and 2. It would alienate that large segment of the Israeli population that is open to a negotiated settlement and needs reassurance of its possibility. With memories of Nazi boycotts, these people will attribute the one we consider joining to antisemitism and not to a substantive critique of Israeli policy. It will also confirm that very same message delivered to the Israeli public from the extreme right. The present Israeli ruling circles would like nothing better than to be able to identify the Left as undermining Israeli security. Clearly as sociologists we cannot assume that simply because a boycott worked in South Africa it will work in Israel too. It would be good if we could understand what the rest of the world looks like from inside Israel before we try to apply a one solution fits all to this situation.

If we as an organization care enough about the situation in Israel/ Palestine to consider taking sides, as Werner suggests, we should first consider the unintended consequences I noted above. We should instead resolve to find and support those on both sides of the Israel/ Palestine conflict who are seeking peace and who are committed to humanistic values. There are literally dozens of organizations with whom we could affiliate, people who put their bodies and talents on the line to achieve values we could support. It seems to me that if we truly want to take a position against militarism and intolerance in Israel, we could do more than just take

a vote and feel self-satisfied. We should join hands with those on the front lines of this battle, rather than simply take a symbolic step to collectively punish those on one side of an ongoing conflict. I would certainly be happy to sit in committee to identify groups on both sides of the conflict with whom we might establish working relationships. One Israeli group that comes to mind is "Hacampus Lo Shotek" (The Campus is not Silent.)

As an addendum here are a few specific comments about Werner's article. I don't take issue with his documentation of the human rights violations committed by Israel. Sadly he's right. I do take issue with his description of the cabal of pro-Israel forces in this country that he claims are successfully stifling anti-Israel expression. The books and authors I mentioned earlier, which are published in the United States and in Israel, illustrate that the censors are far less influential than he thinks. Each of the refusals of tenure he mentions merit individual examination. Certainly there have been efforts at getting rid of anti-Zionist voices in academia, but in most cases they fail. There are also new Jewish progressive, pro-Israel organizations emerging to counter the influence of AIPAC and those other groups Werner mentions. Perhaps, most importantly, it seems absurd for a humanist academic association to punish these crude right wing, ineffective, propaganda generating agencies in the United States by a blanket indiscriminate muzzling of the intellectual and artistic productivity of a whole country.

Editorial on Religion and Politics

Jim Wolfe, THS Editor

Secular humanists and spiritual progressives teamed up to oppose the Religious Right and can celebrate together the end of its reign as the Bush regime gives way to the Obama era. Surveys show us undercounting the irreligious and overcounting the religious, especially conservatives. A recent Pew survey raised the percentage of Americans with no religion from 8% in their previous survey to 15% now. A count of seats in pews in Ohio found about 20% in church on an average Sunday, half of the 40% obtained by asking people. A recent study of the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination, found lots of people double or triple reported or counted without participation. About a quarter of American voters consider themselves evangelical, but they do not constitute a monolithic force. Rick Warren, who prayed at President Obama's inauguration, not only supported Proposition 8 blocking gay marriage in California but also is addressing poverty in Africa and global warming. My summer reading has included Doug Zimmerman's "Societies Without God," which explores the absence of religious belief and presence of social ethics in traditionally Lutheran Sweden and Denmark, and Robin R. Meyers' "Saving Jesus from the Church," which seeks to replace belief in the saving atonement of Jesus with actually following the Galilean sage. August 1 saw a health care reform rally capping off the national assembly of a denomination called Disciples of Christ. Wouldn't it be wonderful if religion could be a force for social good at home and abroad?

The Israeli-Palestinian situation is truly devilish. The Zionist dream of a safe homeland for Jews has turned into a nightmare of perpetual strife. Misunderstandings surrounded even the early immigration of Jews to the Levant since Jews saw themselves entitled to land they had bought while Arabs were confused by the

Secondly, Werner carefully documents the sins of one side in a complex conflict between two peoples that has lasted over one hundred years. Perhaps we should consider the contribution of the other side to the perpetuation of this conflict before taking sides. The view from inside Israel includes not only its relationship with the Palestinians, but also its relationship with the other countries in the region. From their perspective, Israelis see themselves as living in a tough neighborhood, a neighborhood in which each country has (except for Iran and Morocco) completely rid itself of its Jews. Speaking of ethnic cleansing, many middle eastern countries don't even allow Jewish tourists.

I also object to the parallels Werner draws between Israel and South Africa. The issues in both countries were and are entirely different. If parallels are to be made between Israel and another country, I would try the United States first. Israel's military strategy, its foreign policy as well as many of its attitudes toward the centrality of religion in civil affairs are more like those of the United States than of South Africa. But more on that at another time.

And finally, just to make matters clear, I am in no way associated with, nor do I subscribe to any of the materials published by the organizations Werner mentions in his article. In addition to my membership in AHS, I belong to Meretz USA, an American group associated with a pro- civil and human rights political party in Israel.

switch from communal to private ownership of land, which the Ottoman authorities foisted upon them. The 1948 war and subsequent partition of the land into Israel and Palestine was exacerbated by the operation of Jewish terrorist gangs and the herding of many Palestinians into permanent squalid refugee camps. The over forty years of occupation of Palestine by Israel following the 1967 war has resulted in apartheid and cantonization as ever-expanding Jewish settlements in the West Bank are linked by roads accessible only to settlers and the erection of a fence around Israel walls off Palestinians from some of their land. The recent incursion of Israel into Gaza was unjust for many reasons (see my "Speech on Gaza" in THS Winter 2009). If an academic and cultural boycott of Israel would be counterproductive, at least the US government should stop giving Israel over 2 billion dollars a year without strings to shore up an untenable and unjust situation. Zionism is not racism since Jews and Arabs are not distinguished by physical characteristics, nor is criticism of Israeli policy, such as opposition to settlement expansion by the Obama administration, anti-semitism per se. It is more complicated than that. Jews understand themselves as a people ("am" in Hebrew), a notion older and different from nation, religion, ancestry, and culture though each of these can be a strand in Jewish identity.

Unfortunately, the tiny parties which define Jewishness most in terms of religion and which are accorded inordinate power in Israeli coalition politics are ardent backers of the status quo. Would that they would heed their own prophets' cry for justice! Wouldn't it be wonderful if religion could be a force for social good abroad and at home?

NOTE: As always, the views expressed here are those of the Editor and not of AHS as an organization. Expect a full debate about the Israeli-Palestinian situation and the wisdom of a boycott at the AHS meeting.



**Keep AHS Going Strong
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**Judith Gordon, Chair of the 2008 Book Award
Committee, and 2008 AHS President
Corey Dolgon Congratulate
the recipient of the 2008 Book Award:
Rueben Buford May for
"Living Through the Hoop."**

**Be sure to attend the AHS Business Meeting
on Friday afternoon to find out who
the recipient will be this year**

Who Are We The Association for Humanist Sociology

Our Past: The Association arose out of growing disenchantment with conventional sociology and a need for a more clearly value committed emphasis in sociological work. We came together in 1976, not out of shared politics or similar "schools" of sociology, which were, and still are, richly varied, but out of a common concern for "real life" problems of peace, equality, and social justice.

Our Philosophy: Humanists view people not merely as products of social forces but also as shapers of social life, capable of creating social orders in which everyone's potential can unfold.

Our Purpose: Accordingly, humanist sociologists study life with a value commitment to advance that possibility through scholarship and practice. We intend to be an active support network for sociologists committed to humanist values, as they practice sociology in institutions often hostile to such an approach. To this end, we produce a quarterly journal, *Humanity & Society*, as well as a newsletter, *The Humanist Sociologist*; we organize national meetings and have sessions at regional sociology conferences.