

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH MUSEUM



IN THIS ISSUE

PHM Trains Next Generation	1-2
Collections Committee Seeks Members	3
PHM Expansion	3
PH Nurses in History	4-5
Calendar of Events	5
PHM Information	6

PHM Trains the Next Generation of Public Health Professionals

For the past four years, the Public Health Museum (PHM) at Tewksbury Hospital, has hosted a week-long event called “Outbreak.” “Outbreak” is a free five-day program that provides a wonderful opportunity to high school juniors and seniors who are interested in pursuing a wide variety of careers in public health, medicine, and epidemiology. The students participate in fun hands on activities, receive intriguing lectures, and are able to ask questions from experts in their respected fields.

This year, “Outbreak 2016” consisted of twenty-two students from eight different high schools, as close as Tewksbury to as far away as Cape Cod. The week was an extremely wonderful learning experience for the students as they were introduced to experts from multiple professions, including a doctor that is an Ebola survivor, public and occupational health nurses, epidemiologists, a veterinarian, and the medical director of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.



The 2016 Outbreak Participants with Dr. Michael McGill, the first MA State Public Health Veterinarian.

Continued on page 2.

Only three scheduled walking tours of the Tewksbury Hospital campus remaining this season. **Reserve** your spot today and enjoy history and nature in an informative tour of the beautiful Tewksbury Hospital campus.

PHM Trains Next Generation cont.

Outbreak cont. from page 1.

This year, the students learned about oral health, infectious and zoonotic diseases, emergency dispensing sights, ethics in public health, and many other incredibly valuable things. On the first day, the students were also given a tour of the Tewksbury Public Health Museum where they saw past inoculation devices used to prevent small pox, information on the polio epidemic, and an iron lung.

During the course of the week, the students attended two field trips. At the State Public Health Laboratory, students were given the opportunity to examine mosquitos under a microscope and learn about vector borne diseases. The students also visited the Worcester Family Health Center where they met Dr. Rick Sacra, an Ebola survivor who contracted the disease in Liberia. At the Health Center, students learned about quarantine containment centers and were even able to try on Ebola protection suits. The students were paid a visit by Senator L'Italien during one of the ethical discussions.

On the final day of the program, the students set up an emergency dispensing sight at the museum for a zombie outbreak. There, the students switched between playing the roles of zombies and civilians to the people working at the dispensing site, handing out antidote and dealing with difficult patients. After, they played Jeopardy with categories drawn from lectures over the week. Family members were invited to watch the game and celebrate with cake. At the end of the week, students left with a certificate of completion for their college resumes, personal connections to professionals in various fields, and a greater understanding of the importance of public health and the vast careers that it involves.

By Teri Clover, Outbreak 2013 Alumnus and annual volunteer

See the *Tewksbury Town Crier* article about **Outbreak 2016 [here](#).**



Outbreak participants meet physician and Ebola survivor Rick Sacra and experience donning personal protective equipment like that used during the Ebola response.



Senator Barbara L'Italien joins in a public health ethics discussion.



Mosquito identification by microscope at the W. Hinton State Laboratory Institute.

Museum Collection Committee Seeks Members

The Public Health Museum's Collection Committee's goal is to accession and catalog all documents, objects, books and photographs in the museum's collection, providing a digital photo or scan where applicable. For each item, the process is considered completed when its record has been entered into the museum software, Past Perfect 4.0 (PP4), and properly stored (sorted and stabilized).

On-going activities:

- Many documents, photos, books and some items of clothing have been entered into PP4. There are many more items "found in collection" (FIC) that need to be catalogued and entered into PP4.
- We completed digitizing and entry of many Tewksbury Hospital Buildings photographs, a TB Christmas Seal Collection, several small collections from families of Tewksbury Hospital Nursing School graduates,
- We have an extensive collection of Public Health Reports and books related to Public Health that are being organized. Many have been entered into the computer, but many more have been catalogued and are ready for computer entry.
- We periodically receive public health related objects and keep up with the newly acquired items while working (sorting and stabilizing) on those found in collection.
- We have completed a Collection Policy Manual and will be working on Procedure Manual for Collections.
- We are working on space and storage issues and would eventually like to upgrade our version of PP4.

There is a lot of work to do and the committee would be happy to have assistance from anyone interested in photographing objects, organizing and/or cataloging materials or performing data entry to join the committee. Please contact phmuseum@gmail.com or call 978-851-7321 x2606 during business hours or leave a message.

By Emy Thomas, Collections Committee Member

New Workspace for Museum!

The Public Health Museum is in the process of expanding its administrative space and has embarked on a summer long project to clear-up space in the Museum's basement which for years has served as a repository for the Museum's storage needs. The basement space, typical of buildings constructed during the 1800s, offers natural lighting with a 15 foot ceiling and enough space to provide for both the Museum's storage and office needs. The project's summer phase has been dubbed, "Operation Clean Out". The task is daunting as Museum staff and volunteers must examine, inventory, and evaluate many years of collected donations and assorted stored objects to determine their continuing value to the Museum's collection. Once this phase is completed the Museum will begin the process of rehabbing the space for its new purpose. Completion of the project, barring delays, is planned for the summer of 2017. When the project is completed we hope to provide Museum staff and its growing cadre of volunteers with a wonderful new work space. More to come - Stay Tuned!



Matthew Haley (Tewksbury Hospital) and Daniel West (Greater Lowell Tech) help with the basement cleanup.

Public Health Nurses in History

Through my work in the archives of Public Health Museum (PHM) and Boston University I am discovering America's rich nursing history and it is a resplendent story. Influenced by England's Florence Nightingale and her tireless work, the first US "nurses" were born of the Civil War. Clara Barton, Walt Whitman, and Louisa May Alcott - a teacher and two writers - were among the first caregivers we now call nurses. Mortality during America's Civil War, because of Florence Nightingale's work during the British War in the Crimea led to advancements in the field and led a larger decrease in mortality for soldiers during the American Civil War.

Jane Hitchcock, one of America's early trained nurses, discovered that when people living in over-crowded tenements of New York City were visited in their homes by a Public Health Nurse, they lived healthier, longer lives. Hitchcock ran the American Red Cross Bureau of Placement during World War I, teaching Public Health to student nurses and developed the role of Public Health Nursing.

Mary Breckinridge, RN, began the Frontier Nursing Service in 1925. She was a pioneer in the field of Public Health nursing, riding horseback to visit isolated, low-income and under educated communities in Appalachia that would otherwise have gone without any health care.



Linda Richards was the first American trained nurse graduated in 1873 from what later became the Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing in Boston. Working at Bellevue Hospital in New York City Richards began keeping notes about her patients. Though not an immediately accepted practice, the medical community gradually embrace the idea and Richards is credited as the founder of "hospital records". In 1885 Richards traveled to Kyoto Japan where she established the first Japanese Nursing School. A deep believer in education (as opposed to simply training) nurses, Linda Richards is credited for laying the foundation for modern nursing education.

The American Nurses Association states, "Nursing is the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, facilitation of healing, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations," (2016).



In order to see the Future of Nursing we must know where it has been. The PHM has a rich collection of nursing artifacts, literature, and photos telling the riveting tale of the evolution of modern nursing. Searching for nursing's past brought me face-to-face with nursing heroes of yesterday and in the archives of the PHM I have been transported to another time, immersed in another era.

In discovering how the nursing society of yesterday responded to tuberculosis, polio, and smallpox I see the present and future of nursing. Throughout history and continuing today, nurses populate the front lines, responding to war, disease, poverty, and industrialization fighting foes from polio to ebola.

Continued on page 5.

2016 Calendar of Events

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER

National Food Safety Education Month
National Preparedness Month
Newborn Screening Awareness Month
Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
Prostate Cancer Awareness Month
Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
1st-7th, National Childhood Injury Prevention Week
10th, World Suicide Prevention Day
24th, Family Health and Fitness Day
28th, National Women's Health and Fitness Day
28th, World Rabies Day

OCTOBER

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
National Dental Hygiene Month
National Down Syndrome Awareness Month
16th, World Food Day

NOVEMBER

American Diabetes Month
Lung Cancer Awareness Month
National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month
19th, Great American Smokeout

MUSEUM OF PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 3 Walking Tour of Tewksbury Hospital Campus
Thursday, September 15 Walking Tour of Tewksbury Hospital Campus

OCTOBER

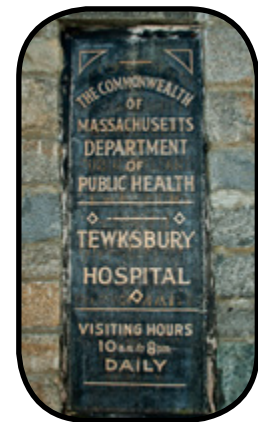
Saturday, October 1 Walking Tour of Tewksbury Hospital Campus

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, November 16 Public Health Museum Members Annual Meeting 5:00 pm at the Public Health Museum

Explore the history of public health and the Tewksbury Hospital on a walking tour of the Tewksbury Hospital Campus.

[Sign up today.](#)



Nurses, cont. from page 5.

Are you a nursing hero or do you know one? Do you have a picture, artifact or story to share? I'm working to tell the story of Nursing at the PHM with an eye to a redesigning and reopening the Nursing Room in May 2017. The room will reflect the spirit of American Public Health Nursing and I invite you to be a part of history by telling your story. Please contact me at lswillette@comcast.net with your stories, thoughts or ideas.

By Linda S. Willette, MSN, RN, CMSRN

Linda Willette teaches Nursing at North Shore Community College and began her volunteer service at the PHM after bringing her nursing students to the museum last spring. You can contact her at: lswillette@comcast.net

THE PUBLIC HEALTH MUSEUM IN MASSACHUSETTS

Our Mission

The Public Health Museum is a non-profit educational and cultural museum. The Museum strives to preserve records and artifacts from our nation's public health history; educate the public about the achievements and contributions of public health; and inspire people to build upon the past and continue to advance the future of public health. Our Museum provides a space to explore public health artifacts, inspire future public health professionals, and foster community involvement.

Our History

Incorporated in 1990 and open to the public since 1994, the Museum has the distinction of being the first of its kind in the nation. Massachusetts has a rich history of leadership and notable firsts in the birth of our nation. In the field of public health, Massachusetts was the first to record vital statistics; the first to implement a sustained board of health; and the first to implement a communicable disease surveillance system, among many others.

MUSEUM HOURS

Wednesdays, Thursdays and the first Saturday of each month 10:00am-2:00pm
OR
By Appointment

WALKING TOURS

Seasonal (May through October, weather permitting)
The third Thursday and first Saturday of each month 10:00am-2:00pm
OR
By Appointment

ADMISSION

\$5.00 per person for museum
\$10.00 per person for walking tour

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to others who may be interested in the Public Health Museum.

To subscribe to this newsletter, please reply with SUBSCRIBE to Newsletter in the subject line. To unsubscribe, please reply with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

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