

Episode 0 Transcript

[00:00:00.00] [MUSIC PLAYING]

[00:00:11.46] This is In Solidarity, a podcast where we draw connections between power, place, and health, and discuss how our lives, our fates are all interconnected. Here are your hosts, Ericka Burroughs-Girardi, and Beth Silver.

[00:00:26.37] Hi, there and welcome to In Solidarity. I'm your host Ericka Burroughs-Girardi here with my co-host, Beth Silver. Great to finally be together, Beth, in person for the first time.

[00:00:38.07] And great to be kicking off our new podcast. Finally, I get to sit at the table with you Ericka and make the connections we've been making over the internet for so many months now.

[00:00:48.15] I can just feel it, this is going to be a lot of fun. And I think it's so fitting that we're starting by talking about connections, truly, the theme of this podcast. We're deeply connected to one another in ways that we often are not even aware of.

[00:01:02.65] In fact, Ericka and I have an interesting connection that extends back to before we were even born. I'm a former newspaper journalist, Ericka spent 27 years in public health, most recently as the producer of our incredibly successful webinar series at County Health Rankings and Roadmaps at the University of Wisconsin. We've certainly had different experiences. We came together on such different paths. And yet, on what I think was maybe the first or second time we met, right, Ericka.

[00:01:32.67] That's right.

[00:01:33.45] We discovered that our parents, my dad, Ericka's mom were in the same place at the same time, 1963. They were there for different reasons, but that experience shaped their world views. And what they handed down certainly shaped ours.

[00:01:50.37] What Beth is talking about is the Civil Rights Movement, specifically the march on Washington. My mom, whom everyone called Margie, was a certified nursing assistant, who worked the night shift. When she got off work on August 28, she boarded a bus to Washington DC to attend. Beth's dad, Ben Silver, was a broadcast journalist, and he was there covering the event for CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite.

[00:02:14.97] Ericka, I remember you saying as your mom recalled it, she didn't know the gravity of what she was witnessing. And you asked me if my dad knew. He did, he was there covering it to broadcast it to the world.

[00:02:28.00] Beth, had my mom not been there to march and your dad not been there to cover it, our lives would have turned out differently.

[00:02:35.55] That's right, Ericka. Our stories, whether we see an obvious connection or not are intertwined.

[00:02:41.31] And it's certainly fitting that the anchor for us as we kick off this podcast is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who knew how to harness the collective power of humanity. We are so thrilled about this podcast, In Solidarity. We're going to have some great conversations, ask provocative questions of the brightest minds and biggest thinkers in public health. We'll also challenge assumptions, and step out of comfort zones, and get down to the deeper meaning of it all.

[00:03:07.83] Our first series, six episodes and all, will cover the racial wealth gap. Research has shown that wealth, the opportunity to build it, and use it is deeply connected to health. Research also shows that countries with smaller wealth gaps are healthier overall. So even rich countries like the US might suffer from poor health if we don't focus on opportunity for everyone.

[00:03:32.76] Beginning in April, we're going to explore six different angles to this issue. You'll join us at the table as we talk with leading experts about the history of the racial wealth gap in the United States, how this wealth inequity continues to impact the health of Black Americans, Indigenous people, and other people of color.

[00:03:52.72] I love this particular topic Ericka because it's fascinating, it's infuriating, and it's fixable. There are proven solutions we can use.

[00:04:02.04] That's right, Beth, and a huge emphasis on we. We got here together and together we can fix it. It's going to take social solidarity, the idea that our fates are all connected and the foundation for this podcast.

[00:04:14.91] We hope you'll join us this April as we hear from leading experts on the racial wealth gap to understand how we got here, and how to begin to close the gap, and create economic opportunities for those who have been excluded by design.

[00:04:29.37] This podcast is produced through County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, a national program of the University of Wisconsin population Health Institute with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

[00:04:39.72] At County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, we believe that everyone deserves an opportunity to be healthy. So we use data and evidence-based strategies to improve health outcomes for all. In Solidarity, we want to break down the barriers that exist for so many based on race, ethnicity, gender, income location, or any other factor.

[00:05:01.20] I'm Ericka.

[00:05:02.16] And I'm Beth.

[00:05:03.09] And we're In Solidarity, connecting power, place, and health.

[00:05:10.99] In Solidarity is a production of County Health Rankings and Roadmaps from the University of Wisconsin with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Check us out on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or wherever you get your podcasts. Or to find out how healthy your community is, visit us at [CountyHealthRankings.org](https://www.CountyHealthRankings.org).

[00:05:30.67] [MUSIC PLAYING]