Letter from the Editor

Sharing Your Wisdom: The Perinatal Author

Abstract

Perinatal educators are encouraged to consider the scope of their impact on launching new families by sharing their wisdom through authorship.

Journal of Perinatal Education, 9(4), vi-vii; perinatal educators, authorship.

When perinatal educators decide to teach childbirth classes, a typical goal is to make a difference in the births experienced by mothers, infants, and their families. Truly, it is a noble calling—working to launch new families.

Over the years, as an excellent childbirth educator moves from novice to expert, she refines her teaching strategies and develops new, innovative approaches. She may not have planned on becoming an author. However, the time comes when she should think about how many more lives she can indirectly impact, in addition to the lives she directly influences in the classroom setting.

The editorial staff of *The Journal of Perinatal Education* has long made it a practice to work in a user-friendly manner with authors, ranging from the new author to the experienced researcher. Fostering articles written by the childbirth educator who remains active in the classroom is important to the profession. This particular group creatively problem-solves issues of new parents as they change over the decades.

Whether or not you are waiting until now to celebrate the new millennium or whether you celebrated it last year or, better yet, whether you are celebrating both years—now is the time to seriously consider a New Year's resolution to share your wisdom with other perinatal educators.

—Sharron S. Humenick, RN, PhD, LCCE, FAAN

A Letter from Henry and Blanche Cohen

Dear Linda [Harmon],

We regret that we could not have more exchanges with you during the [Lamaze International 40th Anniversary] conference. You were so occupied, and we were also very much solicited.

I wish to thank you all for the pleasure you gave to Blanche. Indeed we could not imagine the importance of what ASD and ASPO had lead to, through Lamaze International. She was so happy to realize that the little part she played in the beginning had not been lost, as we thought for these last twenty years.

We were glad to meet also, amongst others, Elaine Zwelling, Elisabeth Bing, Harriet Barry, Sunnye Strickland, Sharron Humenick.

I imagine that you were satisfied by the conference. It showed us the importance of the action of women in the States. No such thing in France,

to my knowledge. Just one association, “Planning Familial,” seems to try to help women. I believe they are without any financial possibilities. Anyhow, their domain is not so wide as yours.

Please, tell your Board of Directors how happy we were with you all in Memphis. And all the best for you.

Blanche and Henry Cohen

Saints, France

[**Editor’s Note:** For more information on Blanche Cohen’s historic contributions to the Lamaze method, see Elaine Zwelling’s article, “Looking Back in Time: An Interview with Madame Blanche Cohen,” in the Volume 8, Number 4 issue of this journal.]

Letter to the Editor

I enjoyed the article in Volume 9 [Number 2] of *The Journal of Perinatal Education* by Judith Lothian about birth plans. I agree with Ms. Lothian that birth plans should focus on the journey of the mother. That is why I wrote a birth plan that will help open not only a dialogue between the mother and her caregivers but also a dialogue with herself so that she can decide what is really important to her in her birth. Not only must the mother ask the question Ms. Lothian notes in her article—“Is this possible?”—she needs to ask herself the following question, “Do I feel strongly about this?”

My birth plan focuses on what the mother feels strongly about. The birth plan is a series of questions for the mother about the following topics: diet, spiritual/religious aspects of the birth, blood transfusions, allergies, medications, medical procedures, maternal positions, second stage, the birth itself, postpartum, cesarean birth, and the newborn. The birth plan is written so that the mother begins to think about what is really important to *her*.

This birth plan is available through Cutting Edge Press (<http://www.childbirth.org/CFE.html>) so that other childbirth educators may use it.

Sincerely,

Paulina G. Perez, RN, BSN, FACCE