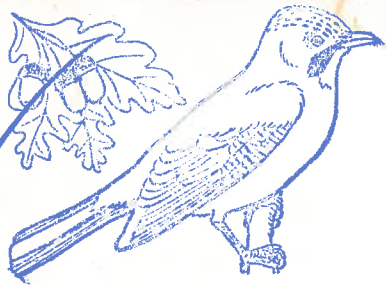


Linda Williams

MC GENTEE RD.

R. D. WITAKARI



20073-281-032a

May 19, 1986

Dear New Zealand Home Birth Association,

My name is Sandy Johnson Lafky. I am an American mother and Childbirth Educator, and very involved in the alternative birth movement. I am a member of a local group, Natural Birth Association which is a group member of I.C.E.A. (International Childbirth Education Association). I am at a turning point in my career and making a decision to either apprentice with a lay-midwife or to return to formal education and receive my degree in nursing. Either way my goal is to be involved in birthing as a primary care-giver.

My husband, Herbert Alan Lafky is a Machinist with much of his experience in marine related work (boat repair and building). He has approximately 12 years experience as a machinist. He is also a fly fisherman and supporter of protecting the rivers in his native state of Oregon. We have two children, Alyson and Evan, ages 6 and 4.

To get to the reason for my correspondence: My husband and I have had the dream of moving to New Zealand since we first met. We still have the desire to make a move and think it is time to begin investigating the possibility. What I would like to know from you is some information on the birthing scene in New Zealand. Basically what direction things are moving towards. How many women are having hospital births, how many home births? What is the role of midwives in New Zealand? Are lay midwives (or as we sometimes call them, direct-entry midwives) legal and practicing and in what setting (home, hospital, birth centers)? Are Certified Nurse Midwives practicing, and in what setting? What are the education opportunities?

for aspiring Midwives. Are there schools or programs for them and do they require a nursing degree to enter?

Also, the basic attitudes concerning home births, hospital births, or birth centers?

This information will help me to determine what direction to take in my education while still in this country. We hope to make our move within the next two years, so I want my education here to be appropriate to continuing my work in the birth-related field.

I appreciate any information you can give me and look forward to hearing from you. I hope also as a result of your information to write an article for our local newsletter on birthing in New Zealand. My hope is that all countries can further the movement to bringing back birth to where it belongs, in the hands of parents, mothers, midwives and people truly concerned about the health of the birthing family!

Thank-you so much for any time involved in answering my questions. I would gladly reciprocate if you desire any information on birth-related issues in this country.

Sincerely yours,

Sandra Johnson Lafky

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