

TIME TO GIVE THANKS!! As I type this newsletter I am listening to the gentle moaning of a first time mom in early labor in the adjoining room. All births are special to me but this young woman was 6 years old when I delivered her sister (who happens to turn 15 today), and 10 when I delivered her other sister. What an honor to be reunited with her Mom, 'my' now grown babies and her husband and family as we prepare to welcome her baby girl today. I am so **THANKFUL** for this amazing blessing and for being able to continue to live my joy as I celebrate my 30th year as a midwife!

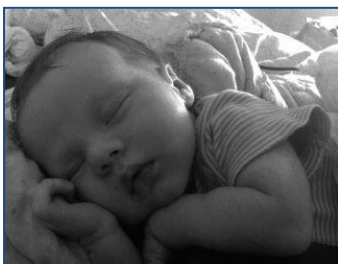


Jennie Joseph LM, CPM
Midwife, Executive Director

MISSION STATEMENT

The Birth Place is a unique, full-service facility providing world-class midwifery and women's healthcare in which our patient's safety and well-being always come first. We strive to create a supportive, educational experience in a relaxed friendly and professional environment.

STAFF NEWS

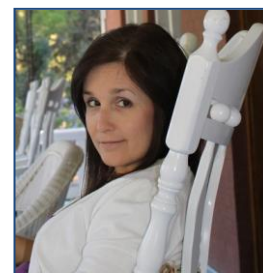


Greyson 10/6/11. "He is a healthy and happy baby and we sing your praises to anyone who will listen! Thanks again for making our first birth magic!" Ashley and Jason

The Birth Place staff is second to none and as always, the biggest **THANK YOU** goes out to them. This dedicated TEAM upholds the standards and principles that make our center one of the finest in the nation. We are always thrilled to receive testimonials from our patients, who are our motivation for everything we do. Thanks to social media we are able to stay in touch much more readily. Check out our Face Book page *Commonsense Childbirth Inc – The Birth Place*, follow me on Twitter, @jenniejoseph or check out the website at www.thebirthplace.org

MIDWIVES

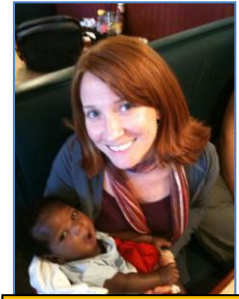
THANKS go out to midwife *Anne Hirsch* for helping us through 2011 and for being there for so many of our moms and families. Anne is now located in Seattle delivering babies in the cold! When Anne moved in September I had every intention of managing the practice on my own for a while. Unfortunately, my husband became very ill two days later and it has been a whirlwind ever since. He is on a slow road to recovery yet with God's grace he will pull through. Subsequently, my ability to manage has been quite impaired and I am **thankful** for the help and support of my sister midwives and students who stepped into the breach to support me through this time.



Melissa Conord Morrow LM, CPM

Melissa Conord Morrow can be counted on to show up anytime I need her. This awesome midwife has been in my life since the 1990's and I am always thrilled to be able to work alongside her. Her calming, quiet air, her gentle touch and her willing heart will endear her to you as soon as you meet her. **THANKS** Melissa for being such a friend to *The Birth Place*.

Kendra Ippel has been a busy mom to baby Ezra since January and is expecting her second one *really soon!* I depend on her help to run our training program, Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery, and her ‘behind the scenes’ support continues to be invaluable. **THANKS** Kendra and **CONGRATS!**



Kendra Ippel, CPM

HONORARY MIDWIVES!

Dr. Chandra Henry, OB/GYN (www.drchanalarice.com) is our medical director and arrived in April to help us put the final stages of my midwifery health care model (The JJ Way®) into place. Providing the ‘continuity of care’ piece for the women in our practice who choose hospital birth Dr Henry put her head around the door, put her roller skates on and has yet to slow down since she got here! The result has been a fun-filled ride whereby natural birth and patient-centered care, delayed cord clamping and skin-to-skin contact became a viable option for all our clients no matter their ultimate delivery site. Dr. Henry is so accomplished, experienced and enlightened in her maternity care that we realized very quickly that she is really a ‘midwife in disguise’. Sadly we are not the only ones who fell in love with her – she’s getting married next year! **THANKS** Dr. Henry for making such a difference, and **CONGRATS** too!



Kathy Bradley CD, IBCLC, ICCE is the world’s best doula, childbirth education and lactation educator trainer, and has led the perinatal training division of [Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery](#) to great heights. Under her leadership we have trained 48 doulas, 6 childbirth educators, 5 lactation educators and have certified 40 Perinatal Educators through our Community Outreach Perinatal Education (COPE) program for paraprofessionals. Kathy and I have been connected for years; I delivered her last two babies at home ‘back in the day’ and we have been through many adventures together. Her expertise is second to none and I am so glad to have her on board as she ‘midwives’ me through the ups and downs of this glorious profession. **THANKS** Kathy!



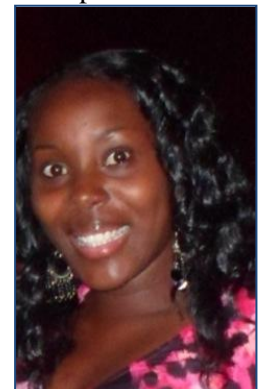
MEDICAL TEAM MEMBERS



Katrina Nelson, RMA

Katrina Nelson is a registered medical assistant and has been at my side since 2005. She takes the best care of *The Birth Place* patients and staff and dedicates herself daily to running a tight ship. Katrina has many responsibilities; she oversees the entire back office as the Clinical Operations Manager, she keeps her assistants and students in check, totally supports the midwives and takes care of *every single* patient in the practice. On top of helping us she is a busy wife and mother and is pursuing her RN degree as well - phew!! **THANKS** Katrina for being an example for us all and handling all the extra work that this year brought.

Beatrice Tynes Jenkins joined us in April and quickly became indispensable in our office. Her responsibilities include checking you in for your prenatal and postpartum visits, overseeing the lab, liaising with outside agencies, and medical records management. Also a busy wife and mom, Bea never misses a beat and can be counted on come rain or shine. **THANKS** Bea for your continued commitment to excellence – not to mention energy.



Beatrice Tynes Jenkins MA



BIRTH ASSISTANT TEAM MEMBERS

Our wonderful Birth Assistants – dedicated women who actually love to get out of their beds in the middle of the night – stand ready, as always, to support you in labor. You and your baby will receive one-on-one care from a trained birth assistant during your birth experience. We midwives depend on them to assist at the birth, help with your postpartum recovery and keep our birthing rooms safe, clean and ready 24 hours a day, every day. All three are getting married next year too – something in the Birth Place water?!! Congrats ladies and **THANKS!**



Misty Millard, SM
Senior Student Midwife



Mary Foster, RN BSN
Junior Student Midwife



Shannon Smith,
BSN Student Nurse

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM MEMBERS



Kaevon McCray BA

Keavon McCray has been on board at The Birth Place since 2004. A staunch advocate for women’s health and midwifery she has delivered all of her four children at birth centers and at home. With Kaevon as our Director of Operations we have seen this center rise to meteoric heights. She continues to provide skilled management of staff, clients, facilities and finances. It is through her leadership, integrity and application that we can keep our doors open to serve you. Kaevon and her husband dedicate much of the little spare time they have to running their own football league. A heartfelt **THANK YOU** Kaevon for a job well done and **THANKS** for all of your hard work for the youth of our community as well.

Joanna Crooms is our office manager. She consistently applies herself to the arduous task of managing our busy practice and brings her years of experience in medical office management to help us through. You can count on her to address all of your needs in a courteous, efficient and professional manner – *every time*. It is such a blessing to have someone as reliable, dedicated and willing as Joanna and she speaks Spanish too! **THANKS** Joanna for caring for our patients the way you do and for truly going the extra mile this year – it has not gone unnoticed.

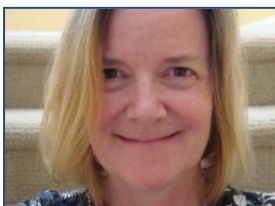


Joanna Crooms



Ayinde Johnson is our IT guru, business consultant and ‘man about The Birth Place’. **THANKS** Ayinde for being a solid support and for bringing *commonsense* and *calm* whenever it is needed!

EDUCATION TEAM



Diane Zimmerman

Diane Zimmerman, childbirth educator and doula, recently joined *The Birth Place* as a volunteer and promptly whipped our education department back into shape. She happily greets and supports our birthing families while they wait, assists with birth plans and generally provides the encouragement for creating a dream birth wherever you choose to deliver. A true volunteer hero. **THANKS** Diane – we love you!!

THE CAMPAIGN FOR HEALTHIER BABIES

Commonsense Childbirth Inc. is the non-profit side of The Birth Place.

www.commonsensechildbirth.org. Our vision is that *all* women have a healthy baby.

September was Infant Mortality Awareness month and November is Prematurity Awareness month every year, so our Campaign for Healthier Babies continues to help focus year round on these awful situations. Many people do not know how horribly high the number is – **in 2010, 1400 babies died before their first birthday in Florida** - mostly lost to prematurity, low birth weight, SIDS, birth defects or accidents. At *The Birth Place* we continue to address this issue by making sure that NO ONE is turned away if they need help to get prenatal care. Our efforts have made such a difference for so many families and we continue to see a marked reduction in babies being born *too soon, too small or too sick* to survive through their first birthday. Our 2010 statistics reflect that we are maintaining our track record with an **average birth weight of 7lbs and gestational age of 39 weeks amongst women who would be at risk for a problem pregnancy** if they didn't receive our care. Remember, our sole purpose is a 'full-term, healthy baby for every mommy' and utilizing my '**JJ Way®**' maternity health care model we continue to be able to meet our goal. A big **THANK YOU** to all our supporters – we cannot do it without you!

To donate to our Campaign go to www.commonsensechildbirth.org/donate. For more information on how you can help email campaign@commonsensechildbirth.org.

FIND US AND OUR CAUSE ON FACEBOOK! Search Commonsense Childbirth Inc – The Birth Place http://www.causes.com/causes/269987-the-campaign-for-healthier-babies?recruiter_id=20527202

BIRTH ADVOCACY 2011 has been a whirlwind but once again our message that 'birth is not an illness' and 'EVERY woman deserves a healthy baby' is being spread. See our latest video [here](#).

Speaking Engagements I have been able to cover a lot of national and international ground once again this year. **THANKS** to the following for being open to hearing about the power of the midwifery model of care and **The JJ Way®**: *Birth Matters VA – the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Birth Summit (I was honored to co-present along with midwife Ina May Gaskin and Nan Strauss of Amnesty International); A rally for International Midwives Day, Orlando, FL; Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands and Polk Counties, Inc.; California Association of Midwives, CA - 'Putting the Community Back in the Midwife: Reframing Contradictions in the Birth World; PUSH Summit 2011, NC – The Big Push for Midwives; Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA), Niagara Falls, Canada – Beyond Boundaries conference.*

I had the distinct honor of being an invited delegate to the historic 'Home Birth Summit' recently held in Virginia. Check www.homebirthsummit.org for the nine consensus statements that were the result of this important meeting of stakeholders.



Super model Christy Turlington's documentary will be released December 6, 2011.

This year *The Birth Place* was featured in a poignant documentary about maternal mortality and its impact around the world. Christy Turlington, a passionate advocate for women's health, came and followed patients and staff at our center to make her point about maternity care in the USA. I was able to share on camera about our experiences with uninsured and poor pregnant women right here in the States. Her film, [NO WOMAN, NO CRY](#) takes a powerful look at the crisis in maternal health and made its TV debut this year on OWN, Oprah Winfrey's channel, in May. Christy has traveled the world showing her film and the US release of the DVD is set for December. To purchase the film click [here](#). More information at www.everymothercounts.org **THANKS** Christy!





Birthing Project USA

The Birth Place became home to **The Orlando Birthing Project** this year. We are proud to belong to the renowned [Birthing Project USA](#), a national and international program founded by CNN hero [Kathryn Hall Trujillo](#). Our local project is under the leadership of the tireless Shaleana Eubanks-Worlds who helps me train SisterFriends as mentors and connect them with pregnant and parenting women, making a tremendous difference for healthier outcomes all round. **THANKS** Shaleana, Orlando SisterFriends and volunteers for making our project a success. To donate and/or support our program please email orlandobpusa@gmail.com



Shaleana Eubanks-Worlds

School is in! [Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery](#) is about to graduate its first class! I am proud of our students and faculty and **THANK** all of you who continue to make this a reality. Congratulations to the women who have stood strong and weathered the physical, mental and emotional journey to midwifery. At *CCSM* we stand for quality, integrity and dedication to our amazing profession – the school slogan is “Getting to the *heart* of the matter”. We are out to change the world, one mommy, one daddy, one baby at a time!



WE ARE MOVING! As of December 1, 2011 we will be located at [213 S. Dillard St, Suite 340, Winter Garden, Fl. 34787](#). We have combined and customized our birth center, clinic and classroom space – I think you’ll love it! **Come on out to our Christmas Open House, reunion and photo shoot on Saturday December 17, 2011 at 10am.** Check our Face Book page for more details.

In our corner - THANKS to Foundation for the Advancement of Midwifery (FAM), Groundswells Community Midwifery Fund, The Charles W. Davidson Foundation, Alarice Enterprises, Ruby Ellis Foundation, Orange County Healthy Start Coalition, National Congress of Black Women, Dixie Morgese – Volusia County Healthy Start, Orlando City Commissioner Samuel Ings, Kathryn Hall Trujillo, Maddy Oden, Kimberly Seals Allers, Shirley MacAlpine, Amy Crouch, Central Florida Friends of Midwives, the community of local and national midwives who offered support through my crisis and all the *Friends of The Birth Place!*



WE NEED YOU! – Please support your midwives and our work by writing to your representatives today and for more details click here to learn about the [MAMA Campaign](#). Join [Florida Friends of Midwives](#) and/or the [Midwives Alliance of North America](#) and make your voice heard. **THANK YOU!**

Giving thanks and wishing you and your family peace and joy for this upcoming Season and for 2012. God Bless!

Jennie Joseph



The Birth Place

A Unique Full Service Birthing Center and Midwifery Practice

info@thebirthplace.org

www.thebirthplace.org

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