

In the Fall of 1981, I contacted Planned Parenthood ignorantly believing someone would answer the following question..."Should I risk horseback riding, if I was seeking to become pregnant and not yet know?"

I was thirty-three, Black and believed Planned Parenthood to be a Pro-life organization based on its name. Married for eight years and well-established in my career, beginning a family was an anticipated joy.

In today's world, this scenario might seem like a 1950s sitcom. We are now well-informed of the intention of Planned Parenthood rooted in the eugenic machinations of Margaret Sanger to control US populations of Black and Brown babies.

We find ourselves in 2021 with the legacy of one million American babies aborted per year. Across the globe, this number is astronomical.

The denial of these lives through abortion, promoted by biased and incomplete counseling since the adoption of Roe v. Wade in 1973, leaves all Americans complicit through tax payment for services that deprive women of life-giving options.

In late 1981, I was blessed and grateful to be in the care of an OB/GYN who exercised due diligence regarding my advanced child-bearing age. He consulted with specialists who offered guidance on pregnancy for older mothers. The odds of birth anomalies was weighed against the known risks of amniocentesis. Gratefully, I did not have to choose.

In 1982, a beautiful son was born with Down Syndrome. Yes, there was a flurry of "unknowns" associated with this birth as there will be with every birth. We were bombarded with information and options, but it was the arrival of a congratulatory blue floral arrangement that set us on the path of appreciating the significance of this life...not just a boy, not just with Down Syndrome, but a human being whose love we could never have imagined.

To this day, we marvel at his accomplishments and the opportunities open to our son. He is a high school graduate with a culinary certificate earned through a Manchester Community College/Community Enterprises collaboration. He is gainfully employed in the food service industry and is a self-taught DJ streaming music to bring joy and entertainment to many isolated through the inconvenience of covid.

This summary is intentionally brief. Our story could fill books. Our son is but one example of a wonderful life that could have been snuffed out through fear, ignorance, poor or absent counseling and misguided thinking. Countries now boast of "wiping out Down Syndrome" through abortion.

Some of us know stories of women who choose abortion over bringing life into the world. These stories are often hidden in a veil of secrecy and shame, because there is an inherent judgement of those who would choose this option.

Sadly, these stories go untold, many women suffer in silence and those deprived of knowing the unresolved mental and physical effects associated with abortion choose this option. Please remember my son when you consider S.B. 835.

Respectfully submitted written testimony - S.B. 835,

Lynette T. Grande

