

# Forever Angels



Hello Everyone,

A quick message this time around as I am most anxious to make sure you receive the Survey below so that should you wish to participate, your responses can be worked into a presentation to be given in Belgium at the beginning of June. This is an excellent chance to have your say, although there is no pressure for responses. Thank you for thinking about it.

Also, at last! A book for young children about co-twin loss. Have a look see and if you wish to order a copy, included instructions on how to do so are included.

I do hope this finds you well and enjoying the Spring weather. May the sun continue to shine on you and yours. Don't forget, write to me about any thing you want.

Thinking of you,  
Lynda

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Book Review....

Always My Twin, by Valerie R. Samuels and Illustrated by Najah Clemmons, Trafford Publishing, 28 pages, softcover

At last a book for young co-twin survivors! Samuels gave birth to twin daughters Gina and Julia at term. Gina had Trisomy 13 and Holoprosencephaly and lived for 9 days. As Samuels describes, "She died in my arms, but not in my heart." In order to honour Gina and help Julia deal with her loss, Samuels wrote this book. It is narrated by Julia who explains her parents sadness at losing her sister and joy with having her. It is an easy to read children's book, using language aimed at about age 5. It explains how the pregnancy began as two and that one of the babies died.

*Always My Twin* is interactive in that the reader can complete sentences explaining how they feel about losing their co-twin, paste in a photograph and complete their own Family Tree. The touching illustrations "speak" so that the young reader can understand and perhaps relate to what they, too, might be feeling.

The book may be little, but it fills a gap for young co-multiple survivors in a big way!

***I referred to this book in Issue #07-03 of Forever Angels. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, it can be ordered online at: [trafford.com/05-0937](http://trafford.com/05-0937)***

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SURVEY REQUEST.....

For those LSN members whom have had a loss(es) in a triplet or more pregnancy, would you consider completing the following survey? The results will be a part of the presentation of Dr. Beth Pector and Jean Kollantai, CLIMB (Centre for Loss in Multiple Birth) when they make a presentation at the ISTS (International Society of Twins Studies) in Belgium at the beginning of June. I've had the pleasure of meeting both of these dedicated women and can assure you that they will move mountains to ensure your voices are heard.

Canada's multiple birth voice will be aptly represented by Kim Weatherall, Chair of MBC, and Gail Moore, MBC Director of Communications. While there is no pressure to complete the survey, by doing so you will be ensuring that the needs of grieving multiple birth families are given the attention they and deserve, worldwide.

It's easy to answer and send, just push "forward" and you will be able to complete the form. Beth Pector's e-mail address is [synspectrum@yahoo.com](mailto:synspectrum@yahoo.com) Thank you in advance for agreeing to participate.

Hello,

A MOST (Mother's of Supertwins) medical advisory board member, Dr. Beth Pector, and the MOST bereavement coordinator Pam Chay, R.N., have developed a brief survey for parents who experienced a loss during or soon after their multiple-pregnancy experience. They are both bereaved parents, and seek to learn more about how the significance of pregnancy or infancy losses may change over time for families who are raising two or more remaining high-order multiples. We would value your input, but we recognize that such a survey may bring back difficult memories for you. If this is not a good time for you, please do not feel any pressure to help with this effort. Certainly, please contact us if you feel that we at MOST could be of assistance.

Dr. Pector, together with Jean Kollantai of CLIMB (Center for Loss in Multiple Birth), will be giving a presentation on loss at the International Society for Twin Studies conference in June 2007 in Belgium.

Others from many countries who are interested in twin and multiple-birth issues will be attending, including health professionals, psychologists, educators and researchers. Dr. Pector and Ms. Kollantai will discuss findings from this survey as part of their presentation.

If you are interested in participating, please answer the questions on the attached questionnaire and email back to Dr. Pector at:

[synspectrum@yahoo.com](mailto:synspectrum@yahoo.com).

1. If you had spontaneous loss of 1 or more fetus(es) early in your multiple pregnancy (first trimester), and went on to have 2 or more liveborn children: How significant did the early loss seem to you, given everything else that was going on in your life, at the following times? Please answer on a 1 to 5 scale, with 1 not very significant and 5 extremely significant:

- a. During pregnancy 1 2 3 4 5
- b. At birth 1 2 3 4 5
- c. 1 year after birth 1 2 3 4 5
- d. 3 or more years later 1 2 3 4 5

2. If you had 2nd or 3rd trimester fetal loss(es), delayed interval delivery, or NICU loss of (a) preemie multiple(s), and you have at least 2 survivors from that multiple pregnancy: how significant did the loss(es) seem to you, given everything else going on in your life, at the following times? Please answer on a 1 to 5 scale, with 1 not very significant and 5 extremely significant::

- a) at the time of loss (& birth, if prenatal) 1 2 3 4 5
- b) 1 year after birth 1 2 3 4 5

c) 3 or more years later 1 2 3 4 5

3. If you had a loss during or shortly after a triplet+ pregnancy and have gone on to raise 2 or more living children from the pregnancy: How would you suggest that health professionals and bereavement workers address the loss during hospitalization of living children? How would you describe the process of raising your living children and working through the loss?