



**ICOMBO**  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
Multiple Birth Organisations



*Join us at the 2014  
Congress in  
Budapest  
November 2014*

## News From Around The World

October 2014

### Chairperson Report



*Monica Rankin*

Welcome to the latest edition of the ICOMBO newsletter. By the time you receive this newsletter, I will be on my way to Budapest for our Congress and meetings. I am really looking forward to catching up with some of you there - renewing friendships and making new friends.

I have been busy planning our meetings and I think it will be a great program. I am hoping that we can work together to create an exciting year ahead for ICOMBO members.

November 16 - 22 we will be celebrating International Multiple Birth Awareness Week. The theme this year is "Helping our multiples to shine as individuals". By now, you should have received a package with information including a media release and articles by Dr Nancy Segal and Dr Joan Friedman. Please share these articles with your members.

There is lots to read in the newsletter this month, including some pieces from people who will be attending Congress. I hope you enjoy the read.

I am looking forward to seeing some of you in Budapest next month, and hearing from many of you regarding your International Multiple Birth Awareness Week activities or discussions within your organisations.

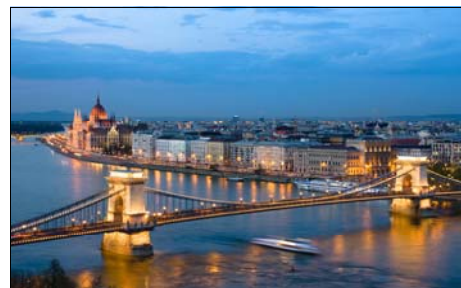
Regards

Monica

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# ICOMBO/ISTS CONGRESS 2014



The 2014 Congress will be held in Budapest from November 16 - 19, 2014. The congress website, [www.twin2014.eu](http://www.twin2014.eu) has the Scientific Program, online registration forms, and links to accommodations at the congress venue.

## International Council of Multiple Birth Organisations (ICOMBO)

### WORKSHOP AGENDA

16 November 2014, Budapest, Hungary

**1:30 Welcome, followed by a short presentation by a representative of each organisation**

	GROUP	SPEAKER
1:35	Australian Multiple Birth Association	Marion Gevers
1:40	Czech-Moravian Association of Twin Clubs	Klara Vitkova Rulikova
1:45	Finnish Multiple Births Association	Ulla Kumpula
1:50	Jumeaux-et-Plus (France)	Emmanuelle Guyot
1:55	Multiple Births Foundation (UK)	Jane Denton
2:00	Multiples of America	Kim Ozark
2:05	Swedish Twin Society	Margareta Olwe/Katarine Oller-Westerberg
2:10	Twins and Multiple Births Association (UK)	Keith Reed
2:15	Tvillingforeldreforeningen (Norway)	Ingun Ulven Lie/Anette Haugen

**2:30 Discussion on how to generate funds for an organisation**

Includes a presentation from Abalone Glahn on crowdsourcing to raise funds to publish materials and how to make funds from casting agencies.

**3:00 Discussion on how to attract and keep members**

**3:25 Final wrap up**

**3:30 Close**

## ICOMBO ON FACEBOOK

ICOMBO public Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalCouncilofMultipleBirthOrganisations?ref=hl>



We are gaining more interest from individuals around the world. Have you taken a look and “liked” the page?

Do you have any information you would like to see posted on this page? If so, please contact Monica at [chair@icombo.org](mailto:chair@icombo.org)

ICOMBO also has a members-only closed group on Facebook. The concept behind this group is so that members can discuss issues about their organisations with some privacy, rather than post comments and questions publically. There are up to 4 or 5 individuals from each of our member groups who are members of this ICOMBO Facebook group. For more information, please contact Monica at [chair@icombo.org](mailto:chair@icombo.org)

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## In Memory..... Dr. Louis G. Keith



ICOMBO is saddened by the recent passing of Dr. Louis Keith. Dr. Keith is survived by his twin brother Donald.

He was very active on the international front and shared a passion with his brother for making a difference for multiple birth individuals and families.

In the 1990's both brothers worked with other international experts to establish the Council of Multiple Birth Organisations, now ICOMBO.

The ICOMBO board and members extend our condolences to Donald and family. Dr. Keith will be missed by many in the multiple birth communities around the world.

## Taking Care of Business in Budapest

We are excited about all the ICOMBO members who are travelling to Congress next month and participating in the ICOMBO sessions. This year promises to provide a full agenda and plenty of time to network and visit with members of multiple organisations and ICOMBO partners at the Congress. Read on as we share some profiles of some of our members attending!

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### Ulla Kumpula, Finnish Multiple Births Association



My name is Ulla Kumpula and I am the executive director of the Finnish Multiple Births Association. My twin daughters Minttu and Nelli are 14 years old.

I have attended congress many times and I always enjoy meeting up with old friends and making new friends from multiple birth organisations.

*My goal for this year's Congress:* I am most interested in attending the ICOMBO sessions and participating in the ICOMBO business meeting. Of course I will attend parallel sessions, too. I hope to hear the opening lecture "Twins in history and art".

*One thing about me that you may not know:* I hope to author a new book about twins and triplets. The book will also deal with cultural meanings of twins and how multiples affect their family and friends. I hope to have it ready in few years time! I would love to hear if you have the same kind of dream.

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### Monica Rankin - Australian Multiple Birth Association (AMBA)



I am a Life Member of Casey & District Multiple Birth Association. This is one of the affiliated organisations within AMBA. I am currently the Membership Secretary for this group, and I also serve as the current Chair of ICOMBO.

I have 24 yr old identical twin boys - Christopher and Anthony. I also have a 21 yr old son - Luke. And 18 yr old daughter - Alison.

*My goal for this year's Congress:* While at Congress I hope to see more people volunteer to be on the ICOMBO Board. I am hoping that we can decide on the details of sharing our online resources and establish a way for us all to communicate better with each other. I am really looking forward to seeing everyone at congress, and working with everyone. I am certain it is going to be a great experience for all of us.

*One thing about me that you may not know:* I love travelling. My husband and I have a caravan that we use for long weekends about every 2 months. We enjoy getting away, to relax in the beautiful Australian country.

I also love meeting people. If you are ever in Melbourne, Australia, I would love to be able to show you around my lovely city and spend some time getting to know you more.

## Meeting-up In Budapest - Congress 2014

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### Ingun Ulven Lie - The Norwegian Twin Parents Association



My name is Ingun Ulven Lie and I am the manager of Tvillingforeldreforeningen (The Norwegian Twin Parents Association (TFF)). I am the mother of twin girls that are 29 years old, and a grandmother to a three year old little girl, and a six month old baby boy.

*My goal for this year's Congress:* I am looking forward to meeting members from the other associations from different countries and taking part in the sessions at the congress and hopefully learning more about twins.

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### Anette Haugen -The Norwegian Twin Parents Association



My name is Anette Haugen and I am the Editor of Tvillingforeldreforeningen (TFF) (The Norwegian Twin Parents Association) membership magazine.

I am a mother of a son 19 years old and identical twin daughters who are 17 years old.

*My goal for this year's Congress:* I hope to be inspired by meeting members from other twin associations and to get some interesting new facts and stories to write about in our magazine.

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### Kristiina Heinonen - Finland



My name is Kristiina Heinonen and I come from the land of Santa Claus, Finland. I am a teacher of nursing and interested in research and methodology.

*My goal for this year's Congress:* It is nice to hear different presentations at the conference, to gain new ideas and meet people from different countries.

*One thing about me you may not know:* It is important to me to develop professionals' family nursing care to better support and understand multiple birth families and parenthood in such families. I hope to find research co-operation in

this research area.

Being a mother of twins, my topic is parenthood and individual family nursing care with multiple birth families.

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#### A note from the editor:

*I will not be traveling to Congress this year and will miss the ICOMBO activities and friends I had the privilege of meeting at the last Congress in Florence, Italy. It has truly been a privilege to volunteer for ICOMBO which has provided me the opportunity to make friends across the globe, and to learn more about so many wonderful multiple organisations. Best wishes to all those attending and I look forward to being able to share your stories and pictures in our next newsletter.*

*Terri Gillis, ICOMBO Newsletter Editor and member of Multiples of America*

### Ainslee Jacobson—New Zealand Multiple Birth Association (NZMBA)



My name is Ainslee Jacobson and I am the Vice President for the New Zealand Multiple Birth Association (NZMBA). I have fraternal boy twins, Hunter and Cameron, who are four and half years old. This will be the first time the NZMBA has a representative at Congress and as an organisation we are looking forward to sharing resources with other, much larger, multiple birth organisations and learning how these organisations support multiple birth families and regional multiple birth clubs.

*My goal for this year's Congress:* Personally, I am hoping to develop good working relationships with the other multiple birth organisation representatives and to convince a few of them to come down to New Zealand.

*One thing about me that you may not know:* In 2004, I was lucky enough to travel to Athens with the New Zealand Equestrian Olympic team where I got to spend time with my equestrian heroes, Mark Todd, Andrew Nicholson and Blyth Tait!

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### Marion Gevers - Australian Multiple Birth Association (AMBA)

My name is Marion Gevers and I am the Secretary for the Australian Multiple Birth Association. My twins Melanie Brice (f) and Jonathan Moylan (m), are 26 years old.

*My goal for this year's Congress:* What I hope to achieve while at congress: glean as much information as possible about multiples, both medically and socially/psychologically, and make or renew contacts with like-minded people from other MB organisations or research teams.

*One thing about me that you may not know:* I come from Belgium and my native language is French. I'm still in very close contact with my family and friends in Belgium, and am in fact holidaying with my very best friend from Belgium, and her son, who is the same age as my kids. I work freelance as a professional translator and interpreter. I quit my day job 18 months ago and it was the best decision I made in a long time.

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### Keith Reed - CEO Tamba



My name is Keith and I have worked for Tamba since 2007. I am an honorary researcher at Birmingham University and reviewer for the Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth group. I have contributed to publications on Multiple Pregnancy, Neonatal Care, Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome and research into the educational and financial issues associated with multiple births. I am also a member of the recent NICE multiple pregnancy quality standards group.

*My goal for this Congress:* Hoping to be able to work with others to create new resources for our families. Keen to see if we can get agreement of areas of research that we would like to conduct or facilitate and to hear what other organisations and attendees have been doing since the last conference.

*One thing about me that you may not know:* My favorite pudding - apple crumbe.

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## Meeting-up In Budapest - Congress 2014

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### Jarmila Haubner, MD. - Czech Republic



My name is Jarmila Haubner and I am looking forward to attending the Congress in Budapest next month along with my close friend Klara Vitkova Rutikova. She does a very effective job serving as director of our multiples organisation.

I have twin daughters that are 15 years old that attend secondary school. I also have an older son who is 24 years old.

*My goal for this year's congress:* I hope to enrich my experience by visiting with other multiple parents.

*One thing about me that you may not know:* I am a rehabilitation doctor in a small private clinic; I like yoga, traveling, and I enjoy organizing parties for my friends.

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### Klara Vitkova Rulikova—Twins and Multiple Birth Club, Czech Republic



My name is Klara Vitkova Rulikova and I am the director of Twins and Multiple Birth Club, in the Czech Republic.

The name of my organization is Twins and Multiple Birth Club (prio to 2013 called Czech and Moravian Association of Twins and Multiple Birth Clubs)

I have four children - Jakub (male) 23, Jan (male) and Klara (female) 21, Jiri (male) 15.

*My goal for this year's Congress:* The first aim I have for the Congress is for me to present our organization and again see the friends from other Twins Clubs from around the world. I also would like to speak about the first Czech quintuplets (on behalf of our Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs) and show the short cut from the document serial about them on Congress.

*One thing about me that you may not know:* My husband Milos who was with me at the last Congress I attended died nearly two years ago. This year I will be traveling to Congress with my new "boyfriend" who asked me to marry him!

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### Kim Ozark - Multiples of America



My name is Kim Ozark and I am the President of Multiples of America in the United States. I have four daughters, two of which are twins. The last few years all four have been in college, keeping me very busy and on the road.

*My goal for this year's Congress:* This is my first Congress and I am very excited about the opportunity to network with members of ICOMBO and learn more about how my organisation can benefit further from our ISTS/ICOMBO connections.

*One thing about me that you may not know:* I love musicals and have been known to belt out the songs in the middle of a performance!

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**Others attending:** Jane Denton, Susan Griffith, Judi Linney, Emma Guyot, Abelone Glahn, Katarina Westerberg, Margart Olwe.

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# International Multiple Birth Awareness Week

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## International Multiple Birth Awareness Week 16 - 22 November 2014 Helping our Multiples to Shine as Individuals



What a great theme to work with for our awareness week this year! It is so important for parents and care-givers to treat their multiples as individuals in order for them to grow into healthy adults. It is also important to assist the multiples to retain their unique bond. This can sometimes prove to be a challenge. ICOMBO has prepared some documents for each member organisation to assist with the promotion of the awareness week. Included in the package are:

- Media release
- Background information sheet
- Fact sheet *Encouraging Individuality*, from Multiple Births Canada
- Article from Nancy Segal, Ph.D.
- Article from Joan Friedman, Ph.D.
- A letter to be circulated to all families in the organisation during International Multiple Birth Awareness Week

In addition, there is information on the ICOMBO website:

<http://icombo.org/international-awareness-week-2014/>

All articles and the fact sheet are freely available to circulate within your organisation. We ask that you acknowledge the original authors.

We hope you have a great week!! And, be sure to share pictures and ideas on our FaceBook page.

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*We hope you enjoyed this edition.*

*Do you have organisation or event news to share?*

*We want to hear what is happening in your organisation! Articles are welcome for the next edition of the ICOMBO newsletter. **Deadline: December 15, 2014***

*Send to: [vicechair@icombo.org](mailto:vicechair@icombo.org)*

Would you like to become an **ICOMBO volunteer**? All members are encouraged and welcomed to become an ICOMBO volunteer. [chair@icombo.org](mailto:chair@icombo.org)