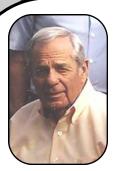
TWINLESS TIMES

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Dear Twins,

As I watched that gently falling snow this morning, my thoughts turned to TTSGI. This summer, July the 19th, will mark the 10th anniversary of my twin having succumbed to melanoma. My daughter, Tryllis, immediately put me in touch with TTSGI. A wiser choice, I believe could not have been made. My ten years of membership are filled with unforgettable memories, best of all are the friendships that have developed for me. I have many friends among you that I will cherish the rest of my life.

At the Board's mid-year meeting in Atlanta, which Le Ann and I hosted, I experienced a sense of camaraderie and dedication to TTSGI business by the members that was truly heartwarming. The Board is very sound. Its strength is derived from ideas from new members seasoned with the stability and institutional knowledge of veteran members.

Our organization is sound. We are most certainly moving in the right direction.

Please continue to offer the twinless twin experience to twinless you may know, take advantage of the opportunity for friendship among us and plan for us all to be together in Minnesota.

My best,

Renie Hallford, President 🎔

SPRING 2011

VOLUNTEER!

If you are interested in volunteering for TTSGI, there are many opportunities available to you!

We are looking for volunteers who can assist their Regional Coordinators or help with the TTSGI website.

Please contact your Regional Coordinator using the website's "Contact Us" map in your area.

Go to: www.twinlesstwins.org

IN THIS ISSUE





THE EMPTY CHAIR

"IF I COULD JUST SEE HOPE"

By Sandy Goad

Pike a firestorm blazing through a forest, the grief of losing a twin seems to leave nothing but ashes in its path. The hope and meaning in life appear to vanish. Yet even after a forest fire eventually there is new growth. You too can experience hope and the promise of new growth as illustrated in the story below.

"When hurricane Andrew swept onto South Florida several years ago, it destroyed homes, wiped out neighborhoods, took some lives and some futures, wiped out businesses and left Dade County looking like a war zone. One of the things that hurt to look at was the trees . . . those that had not been uprooted, torn apart or blown away were completely defoliated. There were naked skeletons of trees upon our barren landscape . . . an area that is, despite its metropolitan design and large population, usually tropical green and lush with foliage now seemed to be nothing but broken concrete and shattered glass. Even the tree trunks wore that dead gray look that offered no color, nor comfort.

Even as the trees began to "come back" and we realized it would literally take years for the damaged areas to return to the lush green we had grown accustomed to, we knew it would never again be the same in Dade County. But as the sun broke through in places that had always been in shade before, something new took place. That winter, there was an abundance of wild flowers . . . beautiful bright flowers covered the ground in places that even grass would not grow before. Experts were amazed, as flowers that had not grown here for generations suddenly bloomed in abundance . . . and flowers that had always bloomed here suddenly were everywhere . . . everywhere! Apparently the stripped trees had allowed sunlight into places that it had not touched for so long . . . even touching on dormant seeds that had lain in the dirt for years. Salt water that had drenched the inland soil had damaged roots and leaves of existing plants, but fresh rains had rinsed it and left nutrients behind that the soil had been without. Nutrients these little flowers had needed to grow.

I was thinking about this, and remembering . . . and it struck me that grief is like that. As we look at the devastation left behind by our losses, we realize it will never be the same again. As we feel emptied out and stripped of the hopes and dreams we had held on to, we find ourselves laid bare to the elements . . . exposed in a way we have not been before. But just like the aftermath of a hurricane, as we struggle to pick up the pieces and resume some sort of life . . . a different life . . . we find flowers. Flowers we may never have seen if the horrible storm had not entered lives. Flowers like friends who we may never otherwise have known, tenderness for suffering we may never have been sensitive to, appreciation for life, love and the blessings we used to take for granted.

There is nothing in this world that could make me want to experience another hurricane. There is nothing that will ever make it alright to me to have lost a twin . . . not once, not five times. But I do know that there are things I can be thankful for in the aftermath."

May you find something to be thankful for this spring and may this be a time for you to remember the love you shared. Love and memories are forever. Light a candle. Remember the joy of their love. They lived. You Loved. You still do. "May love be what you remember the most." •

IDENTICAL SAANICH TWINS BECOME GRANDFATHERS ON THE SAME DAY

Editor's Note: Doris Giroux asked us to share this article. She thought it would be interesting to identical twins.

kids shared a bedroom and had many of the same birthday. friends

milestone. The 51-year-old Saanich residents became have bought a lottery ticket." grandfathers on the same day.

seven-pound, 11-ounce daughter named Malia Moss at Marie Moss, 86 and 85, respectively. Donald Moss said 4 a.m. Sunday. Less than 10 hours later, at 1:25 p.m., his mother spent the day calling everyone she knew. David's daughter Catherine MacDuff gave birth to a seven-pound little girl named Georgia Teresa MacDuff.

"Here we are identical twins and both of our kids had babies today. That was a major miracle," Donald Moss said Sunday evening.

The uncanny coincidence happened because Ashley was a few days past her due date and Catherine was a few days early.

When David Moss exchanged congratulations over the phone with his brother, he said: "This is pretty unique right? We're both grandfathers on the same day and we're twins — you could have never called that one. It's a long shot, I'd say."

David Moss was at Victoria General Hospital Sunday night and got to see both Georgia and his greatniece Malia, who were in rooms just around the corner from each other.

"They both have really dark hair," he said, the pride clearly audible in his voice. "Both are just beautiful little girls so we're pretty happy."

Malia's parents are Shane and Ashley Moss, who have been married for less than a year. Georgia's parents are Matt and Catherine MacDuff, who have been married just over one year. Both mothers are healthy and expect to leave hospital this week, after

which there will be a big party to welcome the new family members, David Moss said.

Matt MacDuff, who is also an identical twin, said onald and David Moss are used to sharing he predicted two months ago that his baby would be things. They share the same birthday, and as born on Nov. 21 — exactly one month after his Oct. 21

"I predicted Nov. 21 but I didn't predict it would be Now, the identical twins will share another [two births] the same day," MacDuff said. "I should

The newborns are the third and fourth great-Donald's daughter-in-law Ashley gave birth to a grandchildren for the older twins' parents - Bob and

> "I think it's going to be a very exciting Christmas, that's for sure," he said.

kderosa@timescolonist.com

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Identical twins Donald and David Moss hold their granddaughters Malia Moss and Georgia Teresa MacDuff at Victoria General Hospital.

Photograph by: Adrian Lam, Timescolonist.com

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING

By Joan Angelis, North Central Regional Coordinator

MEETING DATE, TIME - Sunday, December 12, 2010, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

MEETING LOCATION - Jim Kloe's home

CONTACT PERSON(S) -

- Joan Angelis, 612-741-6583 sea.angel@mchsi.com
- Sandy Meyer, 952-270-1157 sandrameyer51@hotmail.com

COMMENTS – Seven people were in attendance. Light refreshments were available. Topics included:

1. TTSGI and their goals.

2. 2011 national TTSGI conference- July 20-24, 2011, Minneapolis Airport Marriott, Bloomington, MN (across the street from the back side of IKEA and within view of Mall of America). Handouts on this topic – a) list of potential volunteer jobs, b) Conference Volunteer Signup Sheet. Hotel rate - \$94 / night. Conference fee - \$199. Rooms will be held and rate will be honored until July 6, 2011. There was much discussion about possibilities for pre-conference activities that could be offered as a choice, especially activities that highlight the Twin Cities area.

3. Personal Sharing

4. Next meeting – This will be decided by email, and will probably be sooner than the normal three months, due to need for planning the conference. All input on good or bad dates for the next meeting is welcome.

Joan Angelis, *Twin to Jean* North Central Regional Coordinator **•**

ARIZONA REGIONAL MEETING



Attending are top row, left to right, Mary Essick, Rena Bridgewater, Eileen Jensen. Bottom row, Dawn Barnett, Gail Londry, Shirley Dawes.

The AZ meeting in Chandler was on January 16, 2011, and it was really good to be together. There were six attending in all, enjoying the pot luck luncheon, video of the interview of Joan Woodward by Mary R. Morgan, sharing our twin stories and finishing with the candle lighting ceremony. Those attending were Dawn, Gail, Mary, Rena, Shirley, and Eileen.

By Eileen Jensen, Regional Coordinator, twin to Elaine Ψ

CANADIAN TWIN GATHERING

Nov. 6, 2010



This year we h a d our gathering at Judy Wilson's lovely new home in Huntsville, ON. As usual, u d I V welcomed

everyone with open arms. It was a lovely day and seeing the twins again brought such joy! In attendance was Judy Wilson, Mary Cannon, Mary Stephens, Karen Shields, Debbie Tranter, Darlene Moore (new twinless twin), and myself. Our potluck meal was delicious! After the meal, we gathered around the table to talk about our twins. It is always good to hear about each other's twins and know how we all feel. Listening to one another's story makes us stronger and helps us to reach out to others in need of a shoulder to cry on. Darlene was the new twin this time and we gave her the time she needed to speak about David, her twin. I think that being in Judy's house gave us all the comfort and made it easier to quickly connect amongst each other. Judy has been a godsend to me this year in helping out with this gathering. I can't thank her enough! I love you Judy!! Judy also generously managed to accommodate everyone to sleep at her house that night so we didn't have to drive home in the dark. She is such a godsend!

Next year, I am hoping to have the meeting in the London, ON area to help out the twins closer to that area. If Judy has another one in Hunstville, that would be great also! I am hoping to have more than one meeting a year to help accommodate those who live in different areas. I am in contact with a twin in the Saskatchewan area (Jason Lamb) who has generously offered his services in organizing a gathering in the Saskatchewan area – Thank you Jason!!

If there are other twins in Canada who are interested in hosting a meeting, please let me know.

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY REGIONAL MEETING

By Kim Hafner, Regional Coordinator, twin to Beth

The December meeting of the NY/NJ Region of Twinless Twins International took place on a rainy and cold December 12, 2010 in midtown Manhattan. Despite the bleak and soggy weather, we had a robust crowd, 22 twins in all, and four support members. Our group came from as near as a few blocks away and as far as Chicago and Connecticut. We had many familiar faces, a few new ones and a returning honorary New Yorker, Paul Heiden.



Mary R. Morgan facilitated, the only way Mary can, filled with warmth and understanding, love and compassion, one twinless twin to a roomful of others. The topic focused on relationships after the loss of a twin. How do we interact with people, make new friendships and partnerships after our first (and most important) individual in our lives is no longer there? Each and everyone discussed their perspective on the question and were guided by Mary. She urged us all to take the risk of being vulnerable, to include someone new in our lives, and to share ourselves with others. She stressed that it is so worth it in the end.

What struck me the most was that we each have our unique experiences and stories. To see the hands go up as Mary asked, "How many of you lost your twins in the past year, five years, ten years, more than twenty years?" made me realize that even with our differences, we have our similarities to bring us together. Our loss is our commonality. We are all searching to fill the void that was created however long ago when our twin left us. I suppose that's why we come four times a year to these

Doris, twin to Dianne, Canadian Regional Coordinator 🎔

(Continued on page 9)

FIRST MEETING OF THE NORTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL GROUP OF THE LONE TWIN NETWORK

Ten members of the Lone Twins attended the first meeting of the new North East England Regional Group on Saturday February 5th, 2011.



We all met up at the Just B centre, which is the bereavement centre for St Michael's Hospice in Harrogate, North Yorkshire. The venue is almost brand new and has a welcoming and peaceful atmosphere.

After months of planning, we all introduced ourselves as we sat around a giant boardroom table. As the group was quite small we didn't split into adult and birth twin loss - and this proved to be a valuable experience for all as we heard and learnt about each other's experiences as lone twins.

We talked about the future of the group and filled in a questionnaire to suggest activities and events. I told the twins about the Twinless Twins Detroit conference schedule which included discussion groups and other activities like the memorial walk and we decided a walk might be one event to plan. One trip we hope to take is to Paris, where one local twin now lives. Eurostar here we come! NOMINATION PROCEDURES

TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP, INT'L.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elections of the board of directors will take place at the annual meeting of Twinless Twins Support Group, Int'l.

The slate will be presented by the nominating committee appointed by the President of the Board of Directors.

This committee will carefully select the slate based upon the qualifications established by the Board, which are as follows:

- Must be an active member of TTSGI for at least two years and have a pattern of attendance and giving.
- Must have been a twinless twin for at least two years and able to cope with their loss.
- Must own and be conversant with a computer for the sake of communicating with the board through email.
- Must attend the annual TTSGI conference, as well as attend a winter meeting of the Board of Directors, at their own expense.
- Must be willing to actively participate in the administrative duties assigned to them.

The nominating committee will seek recommendations for nominees to fill the office of "Board Director" beginning the first of January of each year.

We need and value the input of our membership in this process and will be receiving recommendations through **May 15th** (an email or notice in the Twinless Times will share this information with our voting membership).

The nominating committee will review the recommendations that are received by May 15th and prepare the slate which will then be presented to the President for approval.

The General Membership will be notified of the slate at the conference and will be asked to vote on the slate at the General Membership Meeting held on the Saturday during the conference. There will be no nominations taken from the floor!

Please email your recommendations by May 15th to:

Dena Stitt, Nominating Committee Chair at <u>denastitt@mac.com</u> •

(Continued on page 7)

THE COACH ON THE COUCH

by Jean Bruce, twin to Joan Potts

A letter to my twin, who became the coach on the couch and whose voice and advice I so dearly miss.

Dear Coach,

The curling bonspiels are almost due to start. You are probably the only one who understands why l look forward to those telecasts. They bring you back as vividly as any description. Do you remember the first one we watched together? First, you were up, visiting me, in March.

To my amazement, you wanted to turn on the television, and then you put me into shock, trying to find the Sports channel. Those were two shocks which became minimal, compared to the days that followed.

Whatever the 'Tournament of Hearts' was, you were determined to find it. Find it, you did. Then the roaring began. You not only knew the names of the players, but you knew the game and why each player acted as she did, or swept in the fashion she swept. I had tried to curl in one season, and all I could see was a bunch of people trying to sweep the ice clean. It was probably the best sweeping l ever did, if l had swept at the right time and in the right places. You sat there, bellowing at each player, telling them when, where and how to sweep. l listened, stared and jumped in awe simultaneously.

l can still hear one standard conversation. "Did you see that?" l told the truth. Yes, l had, but l did not add that l knew no reason for the bellowing advice each player received, from the couch in this living room! l put on the face of total wisdom and agreement.

Well, that's my first confession. Now, in summer, fall, spring, and finally winter, l look forward to the curling. l am intuitively no wiser, but my entertainment comes from imagining what the coach on the couch would be saying. Would you be praising, advising, or scolding? Curling is almost here again, and l will force myself to watch, if only to imagine l can hear the Coach on the Couch. How l miss you.

Love, Jean 🎔

(NE ENGLAND REGIONAL GROUP MEETING—Continued from page 6)

We had a group photo taken then enjoyed sandwiches and banana bread brought by one twin. Then it was time to go, with June planned for our next meeting. We left with waves and smiles, empowered by being together.

Janet Baird, twin to Margaret

6/2/2011

Editor's Note: Janet Baird attended her first TTSGI conference last year in Detroit and is now the new Affiliate Member for the UK for TTSGI. She held her first regional meeting for the Lone Twin Network UK but hopes to include any new twinless twins who contact her in the future.

THE HEALING JOURNEY



Margery (Mercy) Runyan, LCSW, ACSW

www.twindreams.info

SACRED VIOLENCE

The theme of warring brothers and even warring twins is extremely common in history and mythology. We are familiar with the legends of Cain and Abel, Jacob and Esau, Romulus and Remus, and Richard the Lion Hearted and John Lackland who succeeded Richard as King of England. For those of us who experienced little conflict in our twinship, these stories can be painful to hear. Why would one twin turn on the other?

The simplest answer is that the subject desires the object which his rival also desires, a process known as mimesis or mimicry. It is not the differences between them but the loss of differences that gives rise to reciprocal violence and chaos. The rivalry is often symbolic, and divinity or succession is the prize. The roles of dominating and dominated, oppressor and oppressed, are constantly reversed; kingship and exile are alternated. Identity, symmetry and reciprocity are the primary processes. One hero is ultimately sacrificed to protect the community. This one is the scapegoat who carries the sins of all people on his shoulders into exile and death. The unity of the community is restored and miracles are wrought. Myths, rituals and kinship systems are the first fruits. The loss of the identical twin is cause for celebration because the reciprocal violence is ended and peace settles over the land.

Is this our human experience as twins? Rivalry is endemic in twinship, and so twins often find different arenas in which to excel rather than allow the twinship to deteriorate into outright competition. There are times however when we wish that the other twin would disappear, so that we could have more freedom, more attention, and more goodies. There are also times when one twin appears as the evil one, the usurper, the magician, and the other manifests as the good child, the cooperative and compliant twin. Then the family or community may will that the evil one be exiled.

None of these symbolic losses or 'little deaths' substitute for the absolute physical wrenching that occurs within the surviving twin when the co-twin actually dies. Immortal power, divinity, long life, fame and fortune would all be sacrificed in one moment for the return of the twinship. That is our truth. \heartsuit

(New York/New Jersey Regional Meeting — Continued from page 5)

meetings. As an identical twin, Beth and I were always compared. It is hard for me to stop doing that. To stop likening myself to others, to find out how different and the same I am from everyone else. It was a comfort to see

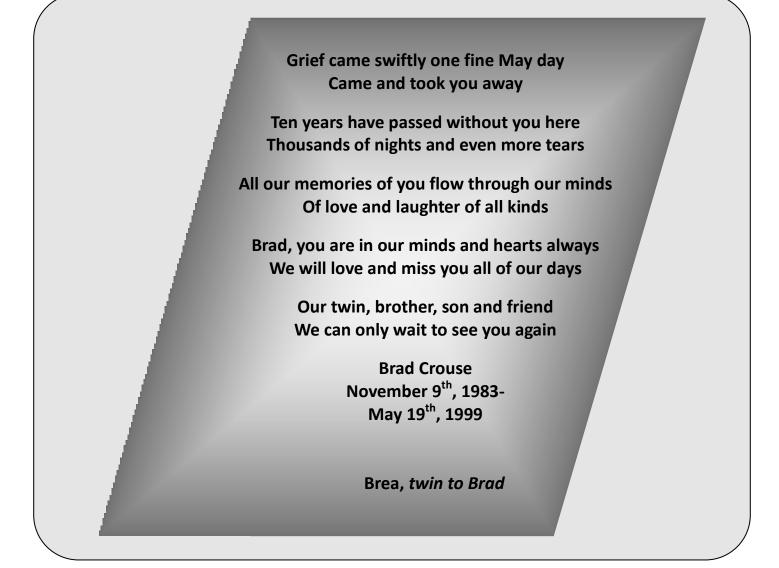
how the same I am to a room full of people whom I would never have met otherwise.

The meeting portion of chatting and questions always ends too quickly! There's always another comment to say, another feeling to share, but the meeting must always end. Mary closed the group with one of her circles, which was to demonstrate that we are all connected as twins and because of that we can support each other through our journeys of grief.

After the meeting concluded, the group went to a nearby Mexican restaurant for food, drinks and more twin camaraderie. I hope everyone left feeling better than when they first arrived. I know I certainly did.

"The meeting portion of chatting and questions always ends too quickly! There's always another comment to say, another feeling to share, but the meeting must always end."

The next meeting will take place on Sunday, March 27 in New Jersey. The venue has yet to be determined.



Our souls have always been together

Our souls haven woven in and out of days and years and memories.

Our souls were fused in touch and growing of tiny bodies in the womb, well hidden from the breathing world of blatant, crude realities.

Your soul has shared my lonely flight that endless dark and amrish night, crossed like a comet, now and then, extinguished and alight again.

And I'm like turning, turning, turning, a compass which has lost its north-

and still your light and warmth is burning within my life and bringing forth such glowing strength, such shining light your soul has always shared my flight.

My soul will anchor by your side on deep, uncharted midnight seas, will gently sway upon your tide on waves of eternities.

Until that day the dark will flee and calm will be on us forever,

all turmoil past and all can see: our souls have always been together.

Angela Roemelt (and her twin)

The Broken Chain



We little knew the day that God was going to call your name, In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you, but in God we put our trust, In times as difficult as this, faith is such a must.

You left us peaceful memories, your love is still our guide, And though we cannot see you, you are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same, But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.

© Ron Tranmer

THE LAST ONE LEFT

By Dawn Barnett



Dawn, Jackie and Michael

uly 15, 2009 and August 30, 2009 are days that changed my life forever. While I was in the Dallas airport waiting to board my flight to Denver for the Twinless Twin conference, my mother called me to say my sister, Jackie, had a massive stroke that morning and was in a coma. I rushed to her bedside in Vero Beach, Florida but by the time I could get there, her organs were shutting down and she had no blood pressure. She died the next morning on July 15. Jackie was my younger sister, by nine months. I guess you'd say she was a "substitute twin" for me because my identical mirror twin sister, Daryl, died when we were 10 months of age. We were different as night and day but because of the closeness in our ages, we were in the same grade, shared bedrooms, clothes and last name. Three years before her death she married a man named Barnett, no relation to my husband, Dan.

Then on August 30, I received a call that my younger brother, Michael, had passed away from a massive heart attack. On doctor's orders, my mother (who is 80) could not attend Michael's services. I had just had foot surgery three weeks before this so I guess with God's help I was able to make the arrangements and get through burying my siblings within seven weeks of each other. Jackie and Michael were very close so I surmise Jackie couldn't stand being in heaven without him or knew he couldn't live without her. We were 59, 60, and 61 at the time of their deaths.

We don't know why things happen but I was in a fog and hardly able to discern why I was left here on earth all alone and not with my twin. In 2005 and 2006 I came close to dying on three occasions. I suffered a heart attack where my heart stopped three times - I went into a coma and it was feared I would be rendered brain dead. While I was in the coma my twin came to me and told me "it wasn't my time yet, I still had things to do". Secondly, I had heat stroke while playing golf and later on the admitting nurse in the ER told me my blood pressure was so high I should have been dead, not walking in the ER. Then I was in an elevator where the cable broke, sending it 20 ft to the ground and I could have been killed or paralyzed; instead, miraculously the only injury was a crushed heel.

Since I lost Daryl before one year of age I have gone through life asking why and thinking "what if". What if she had lived; how my life would have been different. I would see twins and be envious of their being together. Then with the death of my siblings I wondered why they were with her and not me. I've always been lonely but feel incredibly alone now, just devastated. I am so jealous that my siblings are together, without me. But I have to remember what Daryl said to me in that hospital room. I know my mission is to help twinless twins and live my life the best I can. So, until that time comes where I am reunited with my twin and siblings, I will be patient. After all, when I talk to twinless twins I tell them that the time we have here on earth is like the twinkling of an eye compared to eternity. I believe that with all my heart. •



Dawn and Daryl

IN RECOGNITION OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS SINCE FALL 2010

Anonymous Donor – with thanks Paul Angelis – in memory of Jean Angelis Majeski Phyllis Ashliman - monthly pledge and donations in memory of her twin, Phil Dawn Barnett – monthly pledge for general fund, membership & conference assistance fund in memory of her twin sister, Daryl Steve Bergman – in memory of his twin, Hal Bergman Debe Portman Bloom - donation in Carol Marinoff's memory to the "Life" of TTSGI **Raymond Boyle** - monthly pledge **Michael Caruso Marge Clapp** – in memory of Mary – a birthday gift for their birthday on October 11th Barbara Dabrowski – in memory of her twin Betty Jane Margaret Daffin - quarterly pledge and donations in memory of her twin, Josie Gale Erlewine – in memory of his twin, Dale ExxonMobil Foundation – for volunteer hours and matching grants by Margaret Daffin - in memory of her twin, Josie Wilson **Doris Giroux** Jacqueline Gabbe Goldman - in memory of her twin, Fredda Gabbe Gottwals GoodSearch.com – from all twinless twin members who use this search engine – THANK YOU! **Renie Hallford** – in memory of his twin, Ernie Virginia Holleman – in memory of her twin, Betsy Katz Elaine Igelman – in memory of her twin Irene IGive.com - from all twinless twin members who use IGive to buy online - THANK YOU! **Eileen Jensen** – donations in memory of Mary, twin to Marge – a birthday gift for their birthday on October 11th and in memory of her twin, Elaine Moench Beatrice Lee – in memory of her twin Belle **Donna Linscomb** – in memory of her twin, Dianna G Welsh June Loertscher – in memory of her twin Jeanette **Roberta Margolin** – in memory of my twin Jane Margolin Kevin Mullen – in memory of his twin Brian **Miriam Pedrick** – in memory of her twin. Frank Pedrick Shayam Rai – in memory of my twin, Ram Julia Ramey – monthly pledge Carolyn Reed – in memory of her twin Carol Sgarzi Darla Ridnour - in memory of her twin, Darren Brendel Judith Rockey – in memory of her twin Janice Thompson **Margaret Ryan** – in memory of her twin, Fran Ryan Ruth Selig – in memory of her twin, Rollyn Osterweis Kricheaum Beverly Smyk – monthly pledge and donation **Dena Stitt** – in memory of her twin Dean Laura & Phillip Stoltenberg - in memory of Eileen Jensen's twin, Elaine Moench Sally Tobias – in memory of her twin Susan Tobias Susan Williams -- in memory of Josie Wilson Linda Stephens & Laura Wilson - thank you for the wonderful work you do in HIS name for all the twinless - twins who give so generously to TTSGI Joyce Woodman – in memory of my twin Joan Folsom

> We apologize if we have missed you. Please let us know and we will recognize you in our Fall 2011 newsletter. Contact Margaret Daffin at medaffin@aol.com

TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP INTERNATIONAL

2011 DONATION FORM

Please enter the required information below if you would like to sign up as a Donor for Twinless Twins Support Group International.

Please print **this form** and mail it, along with your check, money order, or Visa/MasterCard/Discover information to:

Twinless Twins Support Group International P.O. Box 980481 Ypsilanti, MI 48198-0481 Or fax to: 1-888-205-8962

(Alternatively, you may make your donation online at **www.twinlesstwins.org** and use the DONATE button in the middle of the left hand side of the home page.)

Designate Funds – please check one:

□ General Fund	Conference Assistance Fund
\Box Scholarship Fund	□ Matching Gift

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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TWINLESS SUPPORT TWINS GROUP 2011 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION • JULY 21-24, 2011 • MINNEAPOLIS, MN Name of the Twinless Twin: Street Address: City:_____ State:____ Zip code:_____ Area code & phone number: _____ Email Address: _____ Twin's name (if named): Date of loss: Cause of loss: Do you have any special need we should to be aware of?_____ Adult T-Shirt Size: Are you a Member of TTSGI? Note: You must be a current paid member to attend the annual conference. ALL the guests that will be attending with you must register too: Name of Guest(s): T-Shirt Size: 1._____ 2.____ T-Shirt Size: 3. T-Shirt Size: Guests who are <u>NOT</u> attending the conference but wish to resister for the Saturday banquet dinner ONLY (Banquet only - T-shirt and walk NOT included). Cost is \$60.00 per person. Number of extra dinner tickets to the banquet: Hotel & Transportation • Room Reservations are to be made directly with the hotel. The hotel information is below - be sure to tell them you are with the Twinless Twins Support Group to get the rate of \$94.00 + tax/night! Minneapolis Airport Marriott 2020 East American Blvd. Bloomington, MN 55425 1-800-228-9290 or 952-854-7441 Make your reservation before July 6, 2011 for our group rates. We only have a limited number of rooms on hold! Transportation to and from the hotel if flying: If flying, members will want to fly into the DTW (Detroit airport). There is a complimentary Marriott shuttle to this hotel.

• AUCTION/RAFFLE DONATION •

We encourage you to consider donating a gift for our silent auction/raffle

or for our live auction at the Saturday banquet.

We rely on your participation, as this is our main fundraiser for the year. Please help!

Questions? Email us at: Contact@twinlesstwins.org

• Cost to Attend •		
The registration fee includes: Thursday evening reception, Friday & S lunch, Saturday evening banquet meal (semi formal), all conference is space.		
Registration fee is \$199.00 per person, AFTER 5/17/2011 the fee is	\$245.00 per person.	
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after 5/17/2011 \$245.00 X	# of people = \$	
Guest for Saturday Banquet Dinner ONLY \$60.00 X	<i>t</i> of people = \$	
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Mail payment to:		
Twinless Twins Support Group		
c/o Michelle Getchell PO Box 980481, Ypsilanti, MI 48198-0481		
Toll-free: 1.888.205.8962		
Email: <u>contact@twinlesstwins.org</u>		
Our founder Dr. Brandt said: Remember ~ tears and cheers ~ don't i Bring photos for the poster board and be ready to sh I never met a twin who couldn't use a big	are about your twin.	



Dear twins: If you would like to share the loss of a loved one in the Twinless Times, please send us your name, the name of your loved one, date of birth and death, cause, if known, to twinlesstimes@yahoo.com and we will list them in our new Memorial section. Unfortunately, we will not be able to include photographs. Thanks. Margaret Daffin.

This memoriam is for Jeffrey Stone, twin to Ernie. He lost his mother, Rose from Aperix-Pneumonia & dementia, in her sleep, she was 98 yrs old.

Rose Stone - On Thursday, February 3, 2011 at Leisure World. Rose Stone, beloved wife of the late Michael Stone. Loving mother of Jeffrey, and the late Ernest Stone, and mother-in-law of Daisy Stone. Dear sister of the late Sam, Joe, and Louis Blumenthal, and Shirley Craft.

.

This submission is from James Wangemann:

Elnora Titus Wood, 91, died November 5th at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center, Johnston, lowa. Elnora was born on June 12, 1919 to Edward and Etter (Christian) Titus at Guthrie Center. She graduated from Guthrie Center High School, class of 1936. She lived in Des Moines most of her adult life. She was employed by Meredith Corp. for 35 years. She was a member of the Hawkeye Twin Club of Iowa and the International Twins Association. She is survived by her daughter, Connie (John) O'Connell of Des Moines; twin sister Elzora (Jim) Wangemann of Urbandale; a brother Max Titus of Clarion; five grand-children, nine great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild; Elnora was preceded in death by her son James Wood, a brother Harold Titus and her husband Floyd Wood.

NOTES AND NOTABLES ...

TTSGI Financial Reports and Minutes from the Board Meetings are available upon request.

Contact:

David Jones for Financial Reports at naner2@comcast.net

and

Carolyn Shane for Board Minutes at <u>CShane@tewnj.org</u>

TTSGI IS IN NEED OF A NEW WEBMASTER

Requirements: Proficient with .NET Web development, using C# and ASP.net, SQL server experience and experience with DotNetNuke a plus, but can be learned if applicant is experienced .NET Web Developer.

We wish to thank **Aaron Tarvin**, son of Dawn Barnett, for the tireless work he did in developing and maintaining this site since 2006.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION, SEND QUALIFICATIONS FOR REVIEW TO DAWN BARNETT, Website Chairman, barnettdawn@hotmail.com.

INTRODUCING JANET BAIRD, U.K.'S NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER



am pleased to welcome Janet Baird, twin to Margaret, as our new Affiliate Member, covering the United Kingdom.

As many of you know, Janet joined us in Detroit for her first TTSGI conference and wrote her first article in the Fall 2010 Times about her experience at the Detroit conference.

Janet lives in Harrogate, North Yorkshire in England and is also a member of the Lone Twin Network

(LTN) in the UK. Janet will be TTSGI's liaison for any twinless twins who find TTSGI and who live in the UK.

Janet wrote: 'I'm 58, single, live in North Yorkshire, lost my twin 7 years ago- I continue to run our tutoring business in Harrogate teaching 6 to 16 year olds in Maths, English and Science- and I like poetry and writing. I am also involved with the LTN and have started a new northern group-meeting for the first time shortly. I went to the Detroit conference and I am coming to Minneapolis in July! I feel very honored and pleased to be a part of TTSGI.'

We are pleased to have Janet on board.

Margaret Daffin, twin to Josie

DOUBLE'S TROUBLE

2011-01-05 / Support group starting up for twins who have lost their sibling

By Chris Simon

Local resident Darlene Moore is attempting to start a support group for twins who have lost a sibling. Moore's twin brother, David, died in April 2008 following a lengthy battle with cancer. After attempting to cope on her own, Moore joined Twinless Twins Support Group International. For more information, visit www.twinlesstwins.org.

When Darlene Moore lost her fraternal twin brother David, it felt like a void had opened in her heart.

David died in April 2008, after a lengthy battle with

cancer. He underwent chemotherapy and radiation treatment, and stayed positive throughout. He even surpassed doctors' expectations, living about four years after being initially diagnosed.

But when David eventually passed away, Darlene lost her best friend and 'protector'. She says it's a different loss for twins, when compared to the relationship between typical siblings, parents or close relatives. In many ways, the death of a twin brother or sister can be disorienting and angering. "When a fraternal twin dies, they say it's like a double whammy for the female. The male is the protector, and he

always was with me. He always felt like he had to make it better. (We were) amazingly close, you have such a bond. I had a hard time for a long time, I had memories playing over and over in my head. The worst thing is you can't help the other one."

Finally, she started writing a journal, walking, visiting bereavement websites and talking to relatives.

She also joined Twinless Twins Support Group International, an organization with branches across North America. She recently attended a Twinless Twin conference in Huntsville, which included guest speakers and networking opportunities with others living in similar circumstances. The non-profit organization offers bereavement and coping services, book recommendations, a newsletter and a chatline.

> "I couldn't believe how good I felt just finding these people. I attended my first event a couple of weeks ago and cannot even tell you the connection; (it) is unreal and hard to describe in words," she said. "I also began doing a lot of journal writing, and writing down everything I was feeling and thinking. Now that I have just finished reading a book I was given, I now feel justified in everything I was feeling, but was keeping to myself because no one else understood."

Darlene is currently attempting to start a local branch of the organization. She

says it has had a significant affect on her life.

"I kept having a crash, where I would just breakdown," she said. "I'd come home and close the blinds and procrastinate. I gained like 70 pounds ... and was crying all the time. Twins feel the need to share that person with everybody, so when that happened, I couldn't even refer to him as dead. I needed to figure out why I couldn't move on. I'll never let him go, but need to move on with my life. Unless you've experienced it, you can't possibly know."

For more information on the group, e-mail Darlene at <u>sf49errice@rogers.com</u>.

"A lot of people think fraternal twins are not as close as identical; that might be in some cases, but not ours," said Darlene. "When a fraternal twin dies, they say it's like a double whammy for the female. The male is the protector, and he always was with me. He always felt like he had to make it better. (We were) amazingly close, you have such a bond. I had a hard time for a long time, I had memories playing over and over in my head. The worst thing is you can't help the other one."

After trying to cope with David's death, Darlene realized she was masking her discontent, which began bleeding into other aspects of her life. She was prone to mood swings and breakdowns, and was unable to express her true feelings.

STRUGGLE DOUBLED

By CHERYL BROWNE, SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER

INNISFIL -- Darlene Moore jokes that her twin, David, kicked her out of the womb first because he wanted the extra space.

Moore's face crinkles into a gorgeous smile when she talks about her young brother by two minutes, who died of cancer two-and-a-half years ago.

"He called me 'Weenie' when we were small and it stuck. He was everything to me," she said, "With a twin, it's unconditional love. There's nothing you'd be afraid to share. It goes way beyond him being my brother."

Moore, a tall woman with long, golden hair, was seated in an office at Nantyr Shores Secondary School in Alcona, where she works as a secretary.

The last three years have been extremely hard, she said. Watching David get diagnosed with cancer, going through chemotherapy and then have it return to take his life was hell.

"I told him I'd be fine when he was gone. Not to worry, because he always worried about me. But I lied. I'm not fine. With the loss of a twin, it takes a while to realize that you're not going to be fine again," she said.

Moore's struggle with losing a sibling goes beyond a sister losing a brother.

We all know there's a closer bond between twins, both identical and fraternal. It's since been recognized that the death of one leaves a permanent scar on the psyche of the twin left behind.

Moore sunk into a deep depression after David passed away. She did the usual counselling, taking anti- director of the Twinless Twins chapter in Ontario. depressants and more counselling.

"I was asking them, 'How do I become a me instead drove herself to the Huntsville meeting last fall. of a we?' and they really didn't have an answer."

her boyfriend suggested she search for help sites on the everything about your twin'," said Moore. Internet

Moore found help was a quick click away.

Twinless Twins Support Group was created by Dr. Robert Brandt, whose twin died from accidental

electrocution in 1949 at the age of 20. Brandt struggled with the loss of his twin for years, asking himself the same questions Moore was asking 50 years later: "Am I still a twin?"

Feelings of loss, developing an aimless attitude, a higher propensity for carelessness and suicide and guilt for being the one still living linger long after the death of a twin



With the loss of her twin brother 2 years ago Darlene Moore has since discovered support on line and through books which helps her share her feeling with others. MARK WANZEL THE BARRIE EXAMINER

Moore felt this and called Doris Giroux, the regional

Not feeling especially up for it, she persisted and

"I got out of the car and they came outside to In a desperate attempt to get Moore back on track, welcome me and the first thing they said was, 'Tell us

> Finally able to discuss his death, their bond, and her loss, Moore began to find her way back to a new sense of normalcy.

> > (Continued on page 21)



GIVING SO THAT OTHERS MAY RECEIVE

here for each one of us, for the list." TTSGI can continue providing amount stated from your bank account twinless friends we meet at support and services with the loving or credit card as instructed by you. conferences and meetings, and for all help of all of us! new twinless twins reaching out for compassion and healing for the first time

But the non-profit organization that supports us in our time of need also needs us to be there too!

TTSGI provides us with newsletters, conference planning and coordination, communication services via our website and telephone, give on a regular basis and share your Margaret Daffin financial management, a board of resources with TTSGI?

directors to provide guidance, regional Year after year, TTSGI has been budget to meet, and we have a "wish- make the arrangements to deduct the

> How can we help? By making a pledge to give on a regular basis monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, whatever plan works best for give TTSGI the gift of financial planning — and the essential resources to help us thrive and grow.

Is there a creative way you too can

If you agree that giving is coordinators, and so many "behind the receiving, please complete the scene" services. And, just like any donation form in this newsletter and organization or household we have a send it to Michelle Getchell. She'll Alternatively, you can send a check to Michelle on a regular basis. Any amount is welcome (but please "stretch" if you can!)

You can make a pledge in memory you. By setting up a giving-plan you of your precious twin - it's a gift that only you can give — so that TTSGI can continue to give back.

In Gratitude ~

Fundraising Coordinator 🎔

COMPANIES DONATE TO TTSGI WHEN YOU SHOP ONLINE THROUGH IGIVE.COM

Twinless Twins Support Group International earns a percentage of sales when you link directly to these associate stores from the TTSGI website. Remember to pick up gifts for your friends, birthdays and the holidays. Please enjoy shopping at these associated websites:

You can shop online and donate to TTSGI at the same time!

iGive.com will link you to hundreds of popular retail websites. A portion of your of your online purchases will go directly to Twinless Twins listed as Twinless Twins Support Group.

The true gift at any time is knowing you will be helping another twinless twin just by shopping for others !!

Included: Electronics, Toys, Books, Flowers, Food, Gifts, Groceries, Jewelry, Computers, Health Supplies, Sports, Pets, Travel & more.

http://twinlesstwins.org/STORE/ AssociateStores/tabid/207/ Default.aspx. (As of December 21, 2010. Twinless Twins has raised \$326.41 through the iGive program!) •





SEARCH WE

Use GoodSearch.com to search the Internet. Every time you do, money goes to TTSGI. The site is powered by Yahoo! So you'll get the same quality search results that you're used to. What's unique is that they have developed a way to direct money to TTSGI with every click. The more people who use this site, the more money will go to TTSGI. So please spread the word to your friends and family. Go to the website http://www.goodsearch. Enter Twinless Twins Support Group into the "Who do you Goodsearch for?" box (typing in "twins" won't find it. It has to be "Twinless Twins Support Group"). Since February 2007, we have had 7,289 hits; donating \$88.85 to TTSGI. We urge you to search the Internet using Goodsearch. It doesn't sound like much, but think what could happen if we have all of our friends and family join us in this way to get FREE MONEY!! 🎔

(STRUGGLE DOUBLED — Continued from page 19)

Giroux, who lost her twin Diane to cancer in '98, said she shared a wordless communication with her twin few people would understand.

"We thought each other's thoughts for 36 years. It's very difficult to lose that bond," said Giroux.

Her relief with the twinless association mirrors Moore's.

She wasn't really able to "get the words" right to discuss her grief with her other siblings for four years.

"You still have the bond, but it's broken now. You can't reach out to your other half," she explained over the phone from Caledon.

With Twinless Twins, she said, the group of about 60 in Ontario get to help each other, "So we don't go insane."

While there are more women in the group, about 30% of the attendees are men, said Giroux.

There are even twins who lost their sibling in the womb, who have felt a great sense of 'disappointment' throughout their lives who attend the meetings, she said.

The annual regional meeting will be held in London this year, and the international meeting that brings twins from Australia, Europe and beyond will be announced on the webs www.twinlesstwins.orgit e: later this year.

For Moore, it's a celebration of her twinness that she enjoys.

"Whenever we get together we get to celebrate them, we talk about them," she said. "This is my way to heal."

Originally published by The Barrie Examiner online.

http://thebarrieexaminer.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx? archive=true&e=2926936#

<u>EDITOR'S NOTE:</u> the writer of this piece incorrectly stated that "Twinless Twins Support Group was created by Dr. Robert Brandt, whose twin died from accidental electrocution in 1949 at the age of 20." It should read Dr. Raymond Brandt. Also, our 2011 annual conference will be held in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis/St. Paul.

LIFE AFTER DEATH OF MY TWIN AND THEIR FBI STORY

Author: Sheldon A. Chrysler



A true life novel, filled with intrigue, emotion, sorrow and laughter, this is the story of identical twin brothers, Barry and Sheldon Chrysler, beginning with their birth, and up to the time of the death of one twin. You will take a journey through their lives, from beginning to end. There's the high profile Federal trial over several years and the pain and anguish when one twin learns of his twin's death. Sheldon describes the incredible loneliness that sets in after the loss of his twin brother in great detail.

This intriguing book, written by TTSGI member, Sheldon Chrysler, twin to Barry, delves into the lives of these twins after an FBI investigation. The brothers owned an airplane parts business which ultimately was raided by the FBI and the Chryslers were put under investigation of alleged theft. This investigation would last about five years before finally going to trial and, from that day forward, their lives would never be the same. The twins lost their business to a thief. Shortly after, Barry and Sheldon became teachers and it wasn't long after they began to teach that Barry died of a heart attack. Sheldon's life further unraveled as he coped with Barry's death. Close relatives took Sheldon to court over Barry's estate. It wasn't long after all that had transpired that Sheldon found out he had become a victim of identity theft. A few years later, Sheldon learned he'd become a victim of identity theft for the second time. This time, however, it proved to be devastating to him not just financially but personally.

Review by Dawn Barnett, twin to Daryl 💗

Twinless Twins Support Group International

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LIVE TWIN CHAT

The live chat is getting very active on twinlesstwins.org - check it out under *Get Involved*.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Spring Issue: February 10th Summer Issue: May 12th Fall Issue: August 11th Winter Issue: October 27th Submissions should be emailed to: twinlesstimes@yahoo.com



Twin "Tiggers"

TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP, INTERNATIONAL

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Write For The Twinless Times Newsletter

All members are invited to submit articles for publication in the Twinless Times. The email subject should be "Twinless Times Submission."

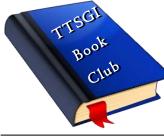
Submit to: twinlesstimes@yahoo.com

Stories about you and your twin are always welcome and rewarding to see in print. Our founder, Dr. Brandt, encouraged the act of writing as a means to healing.

We value articles about twin meetings, conferences, your healing journey, twin book reviews, poems, or words of wisdom. Photos can be emailed with your article in JPEG format. **Please be sure to identify each person in your photos.**

All articles should be sent as a Word document and we ask that you keep any article to 500 words or one page. \heartsuit

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RECOMMENDED TWIN BOOKS

www.twinlesstwins.org/store/recommendedbooks:

"TWIN LOSS"



Living Without

Livin

By Raymond W. Brandt, PhD

Dr. Brandt was the founder of Twinless Twins Support Group and was considered by many an authority on twin loss. The 400-page book discusses all aspects of the loss and also speaks to the family members on how to help the survivor twin.

"Living Without Your Twin"

By Betty Jean Case

Author Betty Jean Case generously makes a donation to Twinless Twins each time one of her books is purchased through us. Betty is a twin, grew up with twin siblings, and had a set of twin grandsons. This 150-page book discusses how to keep living without your twin and best friend by your side. It also explores the uniqueness of twin loss.

WHARE, IN THE AM IB

Exploring Twin Relationships

Is Being a Twin Always Fun?

Betty Jean Case

"WE ARE TWINS, BUT WHO AM I?"

By Betty Jean Case

This book focuses on what it is like to be a twin, including the problems of keeping your uniqueness. Betty Jean's candor and insight into twins speaks volumes about identity within a twinship. With her usual clarity, she sheds light on this unique aspect of twinning, making reference to the many twins she spoke to.

"Exploring Twin Relationships"

By Betty Jean Case

This book examines the twin relationship and all aspects of being a twin. Betty Jean has personal insight into twins and speaks with clarity; making reference to the many twins she studied.

"THE LONE TWIN: A STUDY IN BEREAVEMENT AND LOSS"

By Joan Woodward



The reader is taken through the closeness of being a twin, including its negative aspects and twins' need to be different to one another. But what happens when twins are separated, especially by death? The text examines death and bereavement of twins, including the parental attitudes to the surviving twin, the surviving twin's guilt, coping, bereavement in childhood and adulthood. The book also covers the psychological effects in later life for children who lost their twin at birth. Throughout, the book is illustrated by the words of lone twins themselves. This book is available through the TTSGI website or through the distributor, International Specialized Book Services (<u>http://www.isbs.com/partnumber.asp?pnid=307963</u>).



"My Twin VANISHED Did Yours?" by Dr Brent Babcock

A survivor himself of a vanished twin, Dr. Brent H. Babcock is sharing with the public for the first time his knowledge concerning the vanishing twin.

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- Rhode Island
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