

TWINLESS TIMES



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SPRING 2013



President's Corner

Dear Twins,

As TTSGL looks forward to our 2013 events, it is important to look back at 2012. As promised in the fall newsletter, I have included in this newsletter our 2012 financial results. A commentary has also been provided. This is being done to provide full transparency to our twins, so that you may understand how vital your support is to maintain TTSGL. Plainly speaking, we are a "shoestring operation" that often rises above to provide first-rate support for our twins that find us and a source of community for "alumni". So please take a moment to review our results.

We also look ahead to our 2013 events. We will be traveling to Los Angeles which will be the first time we have held a conference there. We have top notch speakers and a special event planned, along with many other activities, but most importantly, the special bonding of twins that happens each year at the conference. Please try and make an effort to attend. Without you, this important venue would cease to be possible.

As well, it is important to recognize, without naming, all of the volunteers that help make this organization run. We all have gratitude for your efforts, because without you, there would be no TTSGL.

Ray Boyle, President ♥

VOLUNTEER!

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

We are looking for volunteers who can assist their Regional Coordinators.

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

Go to: www.twinlesstwins.org ♥

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THE EMPTY CHAIR

“THE BEAUTY OF THE ROSEBUD”

By Sandy Goad, twin to Jim

We have recently celebrated Valentine’s Day. As a young school girl, I can remember exchanging valentines among my schoolmates. It was always exciting to read all the cards, hoping to find a special note from that special someone. And I loved eating all those candy hearts! As I grew older, I was thrilled when I received beautiful rosebuds from my husband.

Contrary to what some may think, Valentine’s Day is not exclusively for lovebirds. It’s a day we set aside to express our love and appreciation for all those who have played a special role in our lives. It’s a day to say “I love you” to anyone we feel a special bond with in our lives.

But how do you get through this day with a heart that is broken by the loss of a twin:

- * a heart that catches its breath on a memory and is overwhelmed
- * a heart that feels it absolutely cannot hold one more ounce of pain
- * a heart that searches for hope in the midst of grief

A special twin friend of mine shared this story of hope with me several years ago as I searched for hope in the midst of my grief:

“A king once owned a large, beautiful, pure diamond, of which he was justly proud, for it had no equal anywhere. One day, his diamond was accidentally deeply scratched. The king called in the most expert diamond cutters and offered them a great reward if they could remove the imperfection from his jewel.

But none could repair the blemish. The king was sorely distressed. After some time a gifted craftsman came to the king and promised to make the rare diamond even more beautiful than it had been before the mishap. The king was impressed by the craftsman’s confidence and entrusted to him his precious stone.

The man kept his word. With superb artistry he engraved a lovely rosebud around the imperfection, using the scratch to make the stem.”

Death leaves a wound in our beings, much like the scratch in the diamond. When we grieve, we are the gifted craftsman. With time, patience and encouragement, a rosebud can grow from the deepest scratch. We can take the pain and become an angry person or we can take the pain and use it as a means to growth. We can become bitter over the loss of the one we loved or we can acknowledge the loss and eventually reach out in compassion to others who are on their journey though grief.

As I thought about Valentine’s Day this year, hearts and rosebuds were still very much a part of the season, but I saw those symbols differently now. I saw hearts that can be broken, bruised, and bandaged, but not defeated; hearts that can grow and love and heal again. And I saw lives that can grow into that beautiful rosebud, reaching out to others with a message of hope, just as my twin friend reached out to me years ago.

Next Valentine’s Day or any day, why don’t you consider giving a single rosebud to someone who has reached out with compassion to you? What that person offered was so rare. They made themselves available to you. They took their time to help support, listen, encourage and give you hope. They have become that beautiful rosebud.

When people give of themselves they also receive. When you are ready and when you feel it deep inside, you too can reach out to help someone else who may be in need. How you do it is by calling, sending a card, writing a letter, or some other action, depending on what’s comfortable, natural and meaningful to you. You might find it brings healing to you as well.

My hope and prayer for you is that sometime in your life, someone will say, “Thank you for being there for me when I needed someone.” What they have just done is acknowledge to you that you have become that beautiful rosebud! ♥

TWINLESS TWINS: This Could Happen To You. . .

By Ron McKenzie, twin to Don

Recently my wife Pamela and I relocated to Las Vegas from Illinois so that Pam could be near her elderly mom. It was also the beginning of our pre-retirement planning. For me, it was a perfect move as my twin brother and I had spent a great deal of time here, so I have many fond memories of my twin brother Don in Las Vegas. I cannot go anywhere and not be reminded or see something that Don and I did together.

This was documented in a book I wrote, *Who Moved The Sun: A Twin Remembers*. Details of the book are listed below.

Another item on our list was to sell the car I was driving. The goal was to lower payments, increase our gas mileage and move from premium to regular gas - all designed to save money. So, we did the usual comparison -shopping and then selected the car and started the buying process. We have always put both names when applying for a loan, so we filled out the paperwork, which the salesman took to run our credit checks. After several minutes, he came back and showed us the report. He said Pam's credit was perfect, and my credit had all the right information except I was listed as DECEASED.

"But I'm sitting right here," I said.

"We've never had anything like this happen on a credit check."

"Can we still do the deal?"

"No . . . no one is going to loan you money as you're considered deceased by the credit agency and a deceased person has no credit score."

"Can I call them right now?"

"No. You're not allowed to talk directly to credit agencies because of Identity Theft issues."

"Can I change the report?"

"Yes, but it will take you from three-to-six months to make the change effective, and is going to require multiple government agencies. In the credit world you're considered guilty until proven innocent."

"Why would that take so long?"

"You're going to have to prove you're alive."

So, we bought the car only using Pam's credit. The next day I went online and retrieved my credit report and found two of my past Illinois bank accounts listed me as being deceased. They were my accounts, but the last entry

showed I was deceased, even though I had received reports from them, and talked to them on the phone.

Credit agencies refer to this as a "mixed file" where someone else's data gets mixed with yours. Apparently, my twin brother Don's information, who had passed away over four years ago, had become "mixed" with mine. Since our parents, date-of-birth, and place-of-birth are all identical, (like us), and our Social Security number has only three digits that are different, it was probably easy to confuse, even though we lived 2,000 miles apart. I have no idea of what must be done to fix this, and what the process is going to be. In addition, there's a very good chance I'm listed as deceased on the other credit reporting agencies, so I'm going to have to duplicate the effort with the other agencies.

Within three days of that happening, I received an email indicating that my credit file had received a black mark because I'd been denied a car loan. I called and asked "why are they sending me the report if I'm deceased?" Then, when I went to register the Title of the newly purchased car, the DMV would not issue me a refund credit for the car license I traded in, which means I lost money because of the inaccurate reporting.

I would like to recommend that all twinless twins, about a year or so after their twin has passed away, obtain copies of their credit reports, and check each entry carefully.

It's a twin thing!

About the Book:

Who Moved The Sun: A Twin Remembers

By Ron McKenzie, Twin to Don

ISBN 978-0-578-04753-9

<http://www.amazon.com/Who-Moved-The-Twin-Remembers/dp/0578047535>



<http://www.whomovedthesun.com/>

Ron, twin to Don, has published numerous books and articles, and is a frequent speaker at trade shows and conventions.

Ron McKenzie

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WEST COAST REGIONAL MEETING

Pamela Fender, West Coast Regional Coordinator

Our West Coast annual twinless twins meeting held in my home in November 2012, was a small, intimate gathering. Cancellations happen, and others surprise us with their attendance. How blessed we were this year to have Emily Slosberg fly into California from Florida the day before, just to attend the meeting here!

As usual, we had our traditional candle-lighting ceremony along with the sharing of our stories.

We had our balloon release followed by our traditional Indian dinner which was provided by Shyam Rai and Emily Slosberg. Thanks you two!

Many hugs, great conversation and our twinship filled the room. Thank you for always being there for me, too. With many blessings—



Photo (left to right): Shyam Rai, Emily Slosberg, Liz Maker, Pamela Fender and Mary Baldizan. ♥

2012 CONFERENCE EXPERIENCES

Vikki, Ohio

The Conference was so incredible... like I walked smack into my twinship.

Fred, New Jersey

Attending the national conference for the first time was a big step. I didn't know exactly what to expect, and I thought it might be a little uncomfortable. It didn't take long to overcome those feelings and know that this was a place where people already understood what I struggled to explain to everyone back home. They all got it! And they helped me deal with everything I was feeling in a very productive way. By the time it was over, I didn't want to leave. If you have not yet attended then give yourself a gift this year, and GO!

Emily, Florida

The conference was life changing. I feel like I let out a secret that I had been holding onto for 16 years. Yes, settling back into my routine is challenging, but expected.

I decided to attend the conference this year because after 16 years I finally met my first twinless twin. It invoked bottled up emotions.

Pamela, Florida

Although my twin had died over four years earlier, it was 2012 before I could summon the courage to attend a national conference. I arrived in Columbus with just enough time to shower, change, and experience a minor meltdown. After some tears and a few deep, cleansing breaths I was on my way. I appreciated the extra attention the first timers received. Being paired up with a buddy, the mini reception Thursday night before the event started, all put me at ease. I was pleasantly surprised at how accepting everyone was throughout the weekend. I made some good friends that weekend and am looking forward to reconnecting with everyone in LA in July. ♥

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL MEETING

Hosted by Amy McDonald, twin to Mandy

From Katie, twin to Crissy, Connecticut

Seven months have passed since I lost my twin and there are moments when I want to scream so loudly and others where I have no strength to utter a noise. Days where it seems like life and people are whizzing right by me and I don't seem to care. I hurt, ache, and feel tremendous pain and sadness at times. I hope for a day when I focus more on the memory of my twin than her death. But I am not there yet. Twinless Twins understands this.

The twins I have met have stood with me in my pain. They don't tell me what to do, what to say, or when to cry. They simply love me. Not only do they not try to change me, they get my pain.

Attending the regional meeting this past December enabled me to not only make it through the first birthday without my twin, but to celebrate our lives. Four other Twinless Twins flew into Boston for the weekend from Canada, Virginia, Georgia and Florida to spoil me for the weekend and take me out for our birthday. What an amazing show of love and support to me and my twin!

I'm beginning to grasp that the memory of my twin is better honored by my pressing on. Mourning, though, is a process that takes time and it's best not to

rush grief. Twinless Twins has helped me to realize this. I see that I, and the memory of my twin, deserve this time for me to heal in any way I can, wherever I am at. I am grateful for the strength that the other twins give me that I wouldn't otherwise have. Strength to face this great loss.

From Pam Roberts, attending the meeting from Georgia

The December New England meeting found a larger group than expected at an Italian restaurant in West Boylston, MA. Amy McDonald put together a fine feast in a holiday decorated private room. She had also made ornaments with our twin's picture on it for each of us. We were fortunate to have not only the regional group in attendance, but also twins from Canada, Virginia, and even Florida.

The topic of the meeting was surviving the holidays. A number of twins shared great strategies that work for them. Since we also had two newly grieving twins in the group we were able to offer them our love, support, and encouragement.

A big thanks to Amy for organizing an event in which Twinless Twins could laugh, draw strength from each other, share twin memories, and make a potentially difficult time of year more manageable. ♥



NOTHING PREPARED ME

By Mary George Beyer, twin to Georgia Mae Terry

I was thrown into a world for which I was not prepared; that of a twinless twin. Nothing prepared me for what was to come. Not the screaming sirens of ambulances racing along what seemed to be an endless highway towards Emergency Triage prepared me! Not the red and blue strobe lights flashing in synchronicity through the night, or the agonizing vigil by the chain link fence with eyes searching the skies for the helicopter carrying her lifeless-like body. Not the ear straining to hear the whumping sounds of its blades and the whirring of its engine prepared me. Not the anguish of Doctors gently urging me to remove my twin from Life Support prepared my breaking heart!

Solitary, frightened, and lonely, I paced the darkened night hallways. With an agonizing, anguished heart, I made the wrenching decision to remove Life Support. Heart twisted with grief, I waited to be told that she was gone. Fear was all consuming. A doctor approached, simply shaking his head in amazement. My twin lived. Her Will to Live baffled medical expertise. Fifteen months she continued her struggle toward life. Some days filled me with energized hope. Other days swallowed me like a sink hole. Her health gradually declined in a downward death spiral. I prayed continuously, pleadingly and beseechingly for God to intervene. No matter the begging and imploring prayer appeared to make any discernible positive changes. I couldn't save her! The decline was relentless until even her valiant will to live could carry her no further. "I can't make it, Sissy", she uttered with brutally short gasps of breath. "Hold me." Sliding from my bedside chair and onto the bed I held her in my arms, her head on my chest, and returned the deep gaze of her colorless, questioning eyes. "I'm all right!" my gaze replied. Aloud, I spoke my last



words to her. "I love you! I'm here. I will be okay." Her colorless eyes spoke, "I love you, too." Colorless eyes of death closed quietly in unfathomable fatigue for the last time.

For the next four hours I kept the vigil listening to the staccato rhythmic pachoo-ing sounds of two Concentrators melding with the ticking clock over her bed. Ten o'clock! Her voice came to me, clearly, although she spoke not an audible word, "Leave the room." I leaned over, kissed her forehead, and whispered, "I'm going for a cup of coffee. I'll be in the hall when you need me." I knew! I knew she didn't want me to watch her leave. My Protector to the very end, she was. An incomprehensible massive energy heaved from somewhere deep in my soul, leaving me collapsed on the floor in the darkened hallway with agonizing wailing cries I recognized as my own. Life left my body the split millisecond it left hers. She had left this plane for a Higher Plane. Not my "living" grief prepared me for my "dying" grief: a grief for which I will live the entirety of my life.-----

Bookends we were called. Night and Day: so different, so alike. The pair was broken. A replacement bookend, no matter how beautifully sculpted, will function with the same beauty as its twin. Nothing prepared me to learn the breathing process of a solitary bookend. My twinship, my gyroscope, could no longer help keep my eyes focused on the horizon of tomorrows. Nothing prepared me for what lay ahead; for life in the world of a twinless twin. ♥

TWINLESS TWINS HAS REGISTERED WITH MISSIONFISH AND GIVING WORKS

What is **MissionFish**? Since 2003, MissionFish has been eBay's exclusive charitable partner, helping to raise over a quarter billion dollars by powering the eBay Giving Works program. In 2011, eBay established the PayPal Charitable Giving Fund, an IRS-registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to operate MissionFish and further its charitable purpose of helping nonprofits raise funds through online commerce.

The primary channel for raising awareness and support for nonprofits is through eBay Giving Works, an award-winning program that enables members of the eBay community to donate to their favorite cause. Sellers can give a portion of the proceeds from their sales.

How does an eBay seller donate part or their entire sale to Twinless Twins Support Group, International™?

eBay seller lists an item for sale, chooses a percentage to donate, and selects Twinless Twins as the beneficiary.

Listings appear on eBay with a special Giving Works features.

When the listing sells, MissionFish collects the donation from the seller and distributes the proceeds to Twinless Twins Support Group, International™. ♥



WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR TTSGI!

By Carolyn Shane

Twinless Twins Support Group, International™ is a volunteer led, not-for-profit organization. We need the active support of volunteers like you to help us become a better and stronger organization to more effectively meet the needs of our members.

We also depend on our members to help raise the much needed funds to support TTSGI financially. Our dues do not pay for all of our expenses. We depend on donations sent to us throughout the year as well as various fundraising activities held during the conference.

We need you to donate for the annual conference: items large and small • vacation homes • jewelry • and items with our logo to raffle off. We also need you to bring whatever extra cash you may have – and your credit card. This way you can bid on the many items that are a part of the live auction held at the banquet, and during the conference you can choose from a wide assortment of both silent auction and tricky tray items.

Please do your part – whatever that may be – to help TTSGI continue its good work in benefitting those who need us. ♥

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL DINNER

by Margaret Daffin, twin to Josie

Things have been a little quiet in the South Central Region so I decided it would be nice if the local Houston twins got together for dinner before Christmas. Five twins and their respective family members met on Friday, December 7th at Piatto Italian Restaurant in the Galleria for a nice meal and conversation. We welcomed Ann Bunting, a new member of TTSGI and the South Central Region - Ann lost her twin sister 40 years ago this January to a drunk driver. I met Ann through a mutual friend.

The twins who came were: John Rohrer (RC for the South Central Region), Betsy Miller, Maurice Walton, Ann Bunting and Margaret Daffin. Family members were Scott Miller, Natalia Miller, Tammy Walton and Paul Daffin.

John hopes to hold a regional meeting in Houston in the spring. ♥



MEMORIAL WALK 2013

I am pleased to announce that once again at the 2013 TTSGI conference in Los Angeles, we will be holding a Memorial Walk. This is always a favorite activity with our attendees.

The walk will be held on Friday evening, July 19th at the Palisades Park on the bluff overlooking the ocean, so please plan to participate. Further information will appear in the Summer issue of the Twinless Times. Please try to get your family and friends interested in donating for this event as you walk in memory of your twin.

Margaret Daffin ♥

ALPHABET WRITING PROMPT

By Jennifer Rudd

A...adulthood. One evening we were at my Uncle and Aunt's for dinner. She was also asked when are you considered an adult. She said "18 is considered an adult but some people never get there".

B...brave. It's a word for a long time I didn't understand. I certainly didn't think I was. I didn't have everything figured out, I was just doing the best I could.

C...crabby. Janet was like Lucy in Peanuts. If she was mad the whole house knew it. She outgrew it. It was the one thing we were opposite on.

D...doll. Janet and I were given Bert and Ernie dolls for Christmas when we were 6. She loved hers so much that the arm came off.

E...everything. Someone once asked me what I miss about Janet and I knew "everything" wasn't the answer they were looking for. The answer I always give is her laugh. I have friends to talk to but her laugh is irreplaceable.

F...first born.

G...girls. We were known as "the Rudd girls".

H...hug. My Mom would say we were the mushiest people but Janet and I loved each other and we would show it.

I...Idiosyncrasies.

J...JandJ, that's how we were known...like it was one word. It was very confusing having the same initial for paper work. We both had to have our wisdom teeth removed and the nurse thought I had already been.

K...knit. My grandmother didn't know how to knit but taught Janet to crochet. She made beautiful afghans as wedding gifts.

L...legacy of love.

M...memories. I wanted to write down everything because I didn't want to forget.

N...no pretences. Janet and I are the same "what you see is what you get."

O...Janet wanted to be an only child, she didn't like to share (and never outgrew it!)

P...priceless.

Q...questions. When Janet died my Dad said I wanted someone to give me the answers.

R...My minister once asked me "If Janet was a colour what colour would she be?" "That's easy, red". "Why Red?" he asked. Because it's a strong colour.

S...Slob, yep I can admit my twin was a slob--the exact opposite of me. She was the type of person who wore clean clothes out of the laundry basket. When it became empty time it was time to do laundry. It's the only thing I would get mad about. We never fought.

T...Triggers.

U...uncomfortable. I remember the first time I went to a family party by myself. They treated me differently and yet the only thing that changed was Janet wasn't there.

V...Vancouver, a place I went to honour Janet because we had always wanted to go together.

W...walk. Janet and I would go for daily walks. I realized after she died that I still walked on the same side as when we walked together. It was like she was still walking beside me (because she does).

X...An extra voice in making decisions.

Y...died young.

Z...her zany sense of humour. ♥



MY BEST FRIEND JANE

by Joan Garcia

Jane was born first by 12 minutes. I was breach birth. Jane and I lost our mom when we were only 11 years old. Dad remarried soon after. All we needed was each other. We grew up in a family with 5 kids - 2 older brothers and 1 younger sister. We both grew up in Key West, FL., a very small community. Jane married, I married.

We were all very happy and then in December 1998, the day after Christmas, Jane's husband died. She never recovered from losing him. After his death Jane had many, many medical issues. I was always the one who took her to Miami to see specialists (I would not have wanted it any other way).

In 2008 Jane had problems breathing. The doctors said she needed a trac. Jane was not happy with this. She had to cover it to talk. She became very depressed. I was at her apartment everyday to change it, clean it, clean up, empty trash, do dishes and give her all the medications. She felt like a burden to me, and as I often complained to my husband, I think it was because I wanted her be the way she used to be - LIKE ME.

On February 25, 2012 Jane tried to start some stupid argument with me and wanted her house key back. I left it on her table and left. Two days later, feeling like crap, I was getting ready to go and "face the music", when the phone rang and it was Jane's daughter. I will never forget the screams on both ends of the phone. She had just found Jane dead in her apartment all alone. I will live with sadness and regret for not keeping her house key and not being with her when she died. I believe she wanted it that way. I know she wanted to die because she often told my husband how much she hated to depend on me for everything...how I would give anything to have her back.

I don't know how I would survive without the support of the TTSGI.

Twin hugs, Joan, *twin to Jane* ♥

THE STORY BEHIND THE PICTURE *By Sandy Goad*



This picture of a theater with TWIN 1 and TWIN 2 was a special discovery I made this past summer. It had been 40 plus years ago since I had visited the small town of Wellsville, NY where my twin Jim and I were born **many** years ago! The theatre was once called the Babcock theatre and when Jim

and I were 4 years old we modeled in a fashion show on that very stage! I always remembered that day because I had to model a woolen snow suit and it itched terribly! When Jim and I would get ready to leave the stage, he would want to go one way and I would want to go the other!! I am sure there was plenty of laughter in the audience. When I pulled up to the now remodeled theatre, I couldn't believe my eyes! There were the words "Twin 1 and Twin 2" printed clearly for all to see! I was Twin 2 (born a month early and 3 minutes apart)! What a beautiful memory. My beloved twin Jim has now been gone 21 years.

Sandy, *twin to Jim* ♥



AUCTION AND RAFFLE - LOS ANGELES, CA - JULY, 2013

By Dawn Barnett, twin to Daryl

Please consider donating items for the conference auction. High dollar items such as jewelry, travel vouchers, condos, vacations, TT logo items and such are featured in the live auction. Other nice items will go into the silent auction to streamline the banquet. Smaller items will be available in the raffle (please, no junk). All these wonderful items serve to raise funds for our organization to help more twins such as yourself. The auction is our major money maker for funding the conference the following year.

We need **YOUR** involvement for the auction/raffle to be successful - both in donated items and in purchasing them at the auction or buying raffle tickets sold at the conference. You are invited to donate items even if you cannot attend the conference. Simply ship or bring your items to the conference. You may mail the items directly to the Renaissance Hotel, Attn: Michelle Getchell, TTSGI, 9620 Airport Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045-5402 (needs to arrive no earlier than July 15). As all who have attended in the past know, it's a fun event and the future of our conferences depends on it.

Carolyn, Sandra and I look forward to seeing you in Los Angeles, CA. Hopefully, this will be our best auction/raffle ever!!!

Dawn Barnett, *twin to Daryl* ♥

TTSGI FACEBOOK

by Dawn Barnett

Just to keep you updated on the TTSGI Facebook site, we are now at **515** members and growing daily. It never ceases to amaze me how many twins, with different types of losses in areas from coast to coast (and overseas), are "finding us" and getting help from this site. I can't tell you how many come on who are anywhere from one day to one month in their loss and elaborate how thankful they have found TTSGI and for the help we on the site have given. It is the true meaning of "healing by helping".

If you have not already joined, please go to our website: www.twinlesstwins.org and at the bottom of the home page, under Contact Us, click on "Our Facebook Page".

Dawn, *twin to Daryl* ♥

TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP INTERNATIONAL™

2013 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 on the home page.)

Designate Funds – please check one:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Assistance Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Matching Gift |

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City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____
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PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Amount of Donation: _____

Canadian twins should send money orders in U.S. funds only

- In full at this time Check enclosed Credit Card
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- By making pledge payments of \$_____ for _____ consecutive months/years
- My company has a Matching Gifts Program. I am mailing a completed form. If so,
Name of matching company _____
Recognition for the Newsletter _____

Name on Credit Card: _____
Type of Credit Card: _____ (Visa/MasterCard/Discover)
Credit Card Number: _____ (no dashes or spaces)
Credit Card Expiration Date: _____ (mm/dd/year)

Twinless Twins, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit tax-exempt organization and your donation is tax deductible within the limits of the law.

TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP, INTERNATIONAL™

2013 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Schedule subject to change. Start and end date will remain the same so you are safe to book your flight!

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2013

6:30 – 7:00 P.M.	Early Check-in for first time attendees
7:00 – 7:30 P.M.	First Time Attendee Hospitality Gathering
7:00 – 9:00 P.M.	Registration Table Opens for all attendees
7:30 – 9:00 P.M.	Welcome & Dessert Reception

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2013

6:30 A.M.	Van leaves for breakfast with Dave Jones & Ray Boyle
7:30 – 8:00 A.M.	Inspirations for the Day
8:30 – 9:00 A.M.	Announcements
9:00 – 11:00 A.M.	Keynote: Dr. Shear
11:00 – 11:15 A.M.	Break
11:15 – 12:30 P.M.	Sharing Time, Your Twin Story
11:15 – 12:30 P.M.	Parallel Group #1: Fond Memories of Your Twinship
12:30 – 1:30 P.M.	Lunch Provided
1:30 – 3:30 P.M.	Sharing Time, Your Twin Story (continued)
1:30 – 3:30 P.M.	Parallel Group #2: Suicide
1:30 – 3:30 P.M.	Parallel Group #3: TBD
4:15 P.M.	Bus leaves for the Pier
5:00 P.M.	Memorial Walk
6:00 P.M.	Dinner (On Your Own)
10:00 P.M.	Bus leaves to the Hotel

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2013

6:30 A.M.	Van leaves for breakfast with Dave Jones & Ray Boyle
7:30 – 8:00 A.M.	Inspirations for the Day
8:45 – 9:00 A.M.	Announcements
9:30 – 11:30 A.M.	Parallel Groups (choose one): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sudden Loss• Lingering Illness• Family support• Early Loss
11:30 – 1:00 P.M.	Lunch Break (on your own)
1:00 – 2:00 P.M.	Annual Business Meeting
2:30 – 4:30 P.M.	Keynote Discussion: Dr. Shear
4:30 – 5:30 P.M.	Free Time – pick up Raffle and Silent Auction items
6:30 – 11:00 P.M.	Banquet Dinner, Awards and Live Auction

Linda Pountney's Experience Listening To Mary R. Morgan, LMSW

Mary R. Morgan's twin loss radio interview is available on opentohope.com

Mary did a wonderful job conveying the importance of the twin relationship to a twin, the fact that it is often dismissed when a twin dies, the bond twins share in-utero reaching out to each other as early as 14 weeks (shown on sonograms), and how twins grow in relationship to each other. She took us on a journey encompassing how a bereaved twin needs to establish a sense of themselves because their "I" has always been framed in a "we"; letting go of one's twin can happen after gaining their own identity.

Explaining how a twin can actually start to listen internally to themselves as an individual person, accepting who they are solo, where they are in their journey, learning to trust in their own feelings, brings them full circle. It was life-changing to hear Mary say that singletons are used to self-talk; it is unnatural for twins to listen internally to themselves. Twins are accustomed to bouncing their thinking and emotions off of their twin.

As a regional coordinator for many years, I have heard and seen this in other twins and myself, but never could word its importance in gaining my identity. The funny thing is, my twin Paula is always a part of who I am, so she is in a way giving her feedback in my life anyway. Trusting in my process was put to the test recently, falling back into feeling only half of a person due to some life changes. Coming out of it I realized how much I care about the person I have become. We really need to be our own best friend.

Accepting feelings was/is huge for me! Back with our founder Dr. Brandt I used to tell him that I needed to let myself feel the pain. This proved true throughout my journey. Of course a good amount of fear, anxiety and

avoidance can surface, especially if you have avoided grief for decades, as was my experience.

Mary makes an excellent point about claiming the time needed to heal and grieve, even though others may not recognize the loss of a mere sibling relationship (twin) as being vital to who you are, and the loss as feeling threatening to your very existence.



The graphic is a promotional poster for "Open to Hope Radio". At the top left is the "Open to Hope" logo with a bird icon and the tagline "Finding hope after loss". Below the logo is a photo of two women, Linda Pountney and Mary R. Morgan. To the right of the photo, the text reads "Open to Hope Radio" with a microphone icon, and "Next Show: 1/24/2013". The main title of the show is "Grieving the Loss of a Twin" with the guest "Mary R. Morgan". A short bio of Mary R. Morgan follows, stating she is a licensed psychotherapist and bereaved sibling specializing in working with twinless twins, and has led a bereavement group for twins whose twin died in the 9/11 World Trade Center disaster. At the bottom, there is a website URL: www.opentohope.com, a brief description of the website's purpose, and the "Open to Hope" logo again.

Bravo Mary... you provoked me to do some thinking and listening!

I urge you to listen at opentohope.com, then click "Radio" (1.24.13 air date). ♥

FINANCIALS

The Board feels it is important to share our financial results with the entire organization. On that basis, we present our statement of income and expense for the comparative years 2010-2012 and 2012 Plan.

As a background, it is important to note that conference expenses can vary significantly from year to year. This is mainly due to the hotel and host city. For 2012, Dublin, Ohio and the Embassy Suites offered a wonderful venue for an attractive cost. The 2011 conference was held in Minneapolis, and the 2010 conference was held in Ypsilanti, Mi. In 2013, the annual conference will be held in Los Angeles. This venue will be more expensive. However, the organization strives to distribute the locations to make the conference accessible to varying regions.

The following points are noteworthy and integral for a fuller understanding of the sources and applications of TTSGI finances:

- Our revenue is virtually derived from three sources. (Percentages quoted are out of total income)
 - Membership dues (17% in 2012 vs 18% in 2011 and 15% in 2010)
 - Conference registration/events (48% in 2012 vs 47% in 2011 and 53% in 2010)
 - Contributions (32% in 2012 vs 32% in 2011 and 30% in 2010)
- In general, it is evident that our membership dues (held at \$50 for the past 14 years) are inadequate to meet our obligations. We also have a policy for not turning anyone away who wishes to join, but finds themselves in financial distress, for a year.
- It is generally hoped that net conference revenue (registration + events – costs i.e. hotel) will help to improve the financial health of the organization. In our three comparative years, we were positive in 2012 and 2010, but relatively flat in 2011.
- Individual contributions are integral to TTSGI. We have been fortunate to have had these “angels” assist us.
- Our expenses rose to \$60.6K in 2012 vs \$54.6K in 2011 and \$56.1K in 2010.
- Office expense increased mainly from our Executive Director, being required to work more hours and a necessary salary adjustment. Also, postage and printing increased year-over year.
- Program expenses are mainly conference related (including speakers) and Regional Coordinators. Conference costs do vary from year to year dependent upon the city and the hotel used. Regional Coordinators are allowed a budget to host meetings in their region. Some find it necessary to use a hotel, while others are able to use a private residence.
- Administration Costs increased to 7% of total expenses in 2012 from 3% in 2011, but down from 17% in 2010. Travel expenses are incurred by our Executive Director to interview hotels in a prospective host city for our annual conference and to travel to our annual conference. It might be noted that Board Meals/ Meetings expenses arise when the Board will meet in December. Board members are expected to attend and pay their own travel costs. The organization will pay, if the meeting is in a hotel, the meeting room and food costs plus one dinner (no alcohol). There were minimal costs in 2011 as a Board member hosted the meeting at her office facilities and no costs in 2012, as the Board remained the same (with no new members) and we resolved to have regular conference call contact.

With the exception of our Executive Director, without whom there would be no organization as we know it, we are all volunteers agreeing to share our time and talent on behalf of TTSGI. As we see the dramatic growth in our Facebook site, it is evident that the need for such an organization will become greater in the future. This organization requires our financial nurturing. ♥

Twinless Twins Support Group, International™
Statement of Income and Expense
For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

		2012 (Full Year)		2012 Budget (Full Year)		2011 (Full Year)		2010 (Full Year)	
Income									
Membership		10,463		10,000		8,759		9,434	
Conference Registration		15,927		18,000		15,288		22,336	
Conference Assistance		300				850		775	
Contributions		19,102		18,000		22,561		18,403	
Interest/Misc		20							
Books and Postage		1,325		1,200		823		1,087	
Online Sales		531		500		186		381	
Conference Events		<u>12,948</u>		<u>8,000</u>		<u>4,165</u>		<u>9,561</u>	
		60,615		55,700		52,632		61,978	
Expenses									
Office	Executive Director	17,600		19,200		12,100		14,502	
	Assistant	1,572		2,400		1,300		2,200	
	Postage	3,314		1,000		1,149		3,183	
	Printing	3,978		1,200		1,078		2,061	
	Office Supplies	1,552		600		531		1,810	
	Professional Fees	5,183		4,500		7,148		1,400	
	Telephone	761		1,000		840		1,011	
	Bank Charges	1,289		900		946		535	
	Petty Cash	505		300		708		724	
	Refunds	631				2,025		238	
	Internet	308		1,000		738		80	
	Interest Paid	225							
	Inventory			1,000		1,337			
	Misc	<u>1,547</u>	38,465	<u>1,000</u>	34,100	<u>241</u>	30,140	<u>1,428</u>	29,170
Program	Regional Directors	3,601		12,000		2,850		1,218	
	Authors and Books			500					
	Conference	11,096		18,000		18,706		14,655	
	Website	127		1,000		22		120	
	Outside Services	650		1,000		1,185		494	
	Speakers	<u>2,791</u>	18,265	<u>2,000</u>	34,500	<u>22,762</u>		<u>16,487</u>	
Administration	Board Meals			1,000		24		657	
	Board Meeting			500		466		892	
	Insurance	1,413		1,500				3,510	
	Travel	<u>2,534</u>	3,946	<u>1,500</u>	4,500	<u>1,229</u>	1,720	<u>5,362</u>	10,422
Total Expenses		60,676		73,100		54,622		56,079	
Net Gain/(Loss)		<u>(61)</u>		<u>(17,400)</u>		<u>(1,991)</u>		<u>5,899</u>	
Cash and Equities									
	Bank balance as at January 15, 2013			10,044					
	IBM Shares (rec'd as a donation) market value as at January 15, 2013			<u>8,847</u>					
				<u>\$18,891</u>					

TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP



2013 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION • JULY 18-21, 2013 • LOS ANGELES, CA

Name of the Twinless Twin: _____

Address: _____

Area code/phone number: _____ Email Address: _____

Twin's name (if named): _____ Date of loss: _____

Cause of loss: _____

Please list any special needs we should be aware of: _____

(If this form is submitted after May 24, we cannot guarantee that your request will be honored)

You must be a current paid member to attend the conference.

Are you a Member of TTSGI? Yes No Is this your first conference? Yes No

Your T-shirt Size: (adult sizes only) S M L XL 2XL 3XL

Any guests who will be attending the conference with you must also be registered.

Name of Guest(s)

1. _____ T-SHIRT: S M L XL 2XL 3XL

2. _____ T-SHIRT: S M L XL 2XL 3XL

3. _____ T-SHIRT: S M L XL 2XL 3XL

Members may purchase additional tickets for the Saturday evening banquet for any family or friends who will not be attending any other part of the conference, but would like to attend the banquet. Cost is \$60.00 per person.

Number of additional tickets for the Saturday evening banquet: _____

• HOTEL & TRANSPORTATION •

Room Reservations are made directly with the hotel. The hotel information is below - be sure to tell them you are with Twinless Twins Support Group, International™ and use Group Code “TTSTTSA” to get the rate of **\$104.00** + tax/night.

RENAISSANCE LOS ANGELES AIRPORT HOTEL.
9620 AIRPORT BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90045-5402
(310) 337-2800
<http://tinyurl.com/TTConf2013>

Make your reservation before June 25, 2013 for our group rate. There is a limited number of rooms on hold!
We recommend flying into the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).
The hotel provides a complimentary shuttle to and from LAX.

• AUCTION/RAFFLE DONATIONS •

Please consider donating a gift to be auctioned at either our Silent Auction or our Live Auction at the Saturday banquet! Raffle prizes are also needed. "High Dollar" items are especially needed. We rely on your participation, as this is our main fundraiser for the year.

Questions? Email us at contact@twinlesstwins.org

• COST TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE •

Registration fee includes: Thursday evening dessert reception, Friday lunch, Saturday evening banquet meal, all conference materials, guest speaker, and breakout space.

Registration fee is \$199.00 per person if received by 5/24/13. Late registration fee is \$245.00 per person.

\$199.00 X _____ # OF PEOPLE = \$ _____

After 5/24/2013 - \$245.00 X _____ # OF PEOPLE = \$ _____

Guests for Saturday Banquet Dinner only - \$60.00 X _____ # OF PEOPLE = \$ _____

Would you like to make a voluntary donation to the 2013 Conference Assistance Fund? (This is a special fund set aside to assist members who, without help from this fund, would not be able to attend this conference.) If so, please enter the amount of your donation here: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

(Twinless Twins, Inc. is a registered 501©3 tax-exempt organization.
All donations are taxable within the limits of the law.)

TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD PLEASE PROVIDE THE INFORMATION BELOW.

Type of card: Visa MasterCard

Name as appears on card: _____ CVV #: _____

Credit card #: _____ Expiration date: _____

Signature: _____

Make your checks payable to:
Twinless Twins Support Group, International™

Mail payment to:
Twinless Twins Support Group, International™
PO Box 980481, Ypsilanti, MI 48198-0481
Toll-Free: 1.888.205.8962
Email: contact@twinlesstwins.org

IN RECOGNITION OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS SINCE FALL 2012

- Phyllis Ashliman** – monthly pledge and donation in memory of my twin, Phil Exstrom
Dr. Brent Babcock – in memory of my twin
Steve Bergman - in memory of my twin, Hal Bergman
Raymond Boyle – monthly pledge and donation is made in lieu of attending the winter board meeting
- board will give donations of the money they would have spent to benefit TTSGI
Dottie Bruch – in memory of my twin, Patty Schelly
Cynthia Clement – in memory of my sister Carrie Clement
Merna Crasper – in memory of my twin, Verna
Margaret Daffin – quarterly pledge and donations in memory of my twin, Josie
Miriam Doetsch – in memory of Dr. Raymond Brandt
Gale Erlewine – in memory of my twin, Dale Erlewine
ExxonMobil Foundation – for volunteer hours and matching grants by
Margaret Daffin in memory of her twin, Josie Wilson
Pamela Fender – in memory of my twin, Steven Pepper
Eileen Friedman – in memory of my twin
Joan Garcia – in memory of my twin, Jane DeLa Cruz
Hope Glassmyer – in memory of my twin, Holly Headley-Yakel
Lynn Goldfarb – in memory of Helen Schwey Levine by Matthew & Lynn Goldfarb
GoodSearch.com – from all twinless twin members who use this search engine – THANK YOU!
Mary Anne Hoover - in memory of my twin, Marjorie
Ami Hoyt – in memory of my twin, Angela
Vickie Huntwork – in memory of David Boone, twin to Kristyn Boone from their former classmate and
twin friend, Vikki Huntwork, twin to Valerie
IGive.com - from all twinless twin members who use IGive to buy online – THANK YOU!
Eileen Jensen – in memory of my twin, Elaine Moench
Beatrice Lee – in memory of my twin, Belle
Terry Lewis Foor – in memory of my twin, Sherry L. Lewis 8-5-94
Donna Linscomb – in memory of my twin, Dianna Gaye Welsh
Stacey Kehrer – from Joplin Denise Kehrer in memory of my twin, Bonn David Kehrer
Kevin Lee – in memory of my twin, Keith C. Lee
June Loertscher – twin to Jeanette
Debra Mackler – in memory of my twin, Donna J. Block
Kevin Mullen (Susan Mullen) – in memory of my twin, Brian
Kathleen (Kitty) Nikolay – in memory of my twin, Kate Nikolay
Debe Portman Bloom – in memory of my twin, Carol Portman Marinoff
Shyam Rai – in memory of my twin, Ram
Carolyn Reed – in memory of my twin, Carol Sgarzi
Renaissance of Temple Emanuel – in honor of Carolyn Shane – we dearly love her
Darla Ridnour – in memory of my twin, Darren Brendel
Phillip & Jane Rink – please accept this donation in memory of Helen Levine
Barbara Ritter - in memory of my twin, Bea Gianelli
Margaret Ryan – in memory of Francie
Jennifer Rudd – in memory of my twin Janet at Christmas
Kevin Schmaing – Twins COME HOME
Daniel Sheps – in honor of Mark L. Vierling
Beverly Smyk – monthly pledge
Cassandra Spala – in memory of my twin, Brian Szymanski
Dena Stitt - Conference event: speaker, deposit for Friday night event
Debra Swanson – in memory of my twin, Marcia Shives
Judy Carol Valdez – in memory of my twin, Linda Ann
Lucy Wagner – in memory of my twin, Elizabeth Anne Wagner 12/19/53-8/27/54
Trudy Weinstein – in memory of my twin, Celia Weinstein
Mary Wetter – in memory of my twin, Margaret Albano Hartung
Linda Stephens & Laura Wilson – Merry Christmas – May the Love of Jesus Shine Bright in Your
Hearts this Christmas Season - twins who give so generously to TTSGI
Heidi Zisch – Scholarship Fund in memory of Sarah J. Flower
- We apologize if we have missed you. Please let us know and we will recognize you in our Fall 2013 newsletter.
Contact Margaret Daffin at medaffin@aol.com

NOMINATION PROCEDURES

TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP, INTERNATIONAL™

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elections for the board of directors will take place at the annual meeting during the annual conference of Twinless Twins Support Group, International™.

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 **June 1st**. (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 June 1st 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 **June 1st** to:

Dena Stitt, Nominating Committee Chair at denastitt@mac.com. ♥



Review of “Her” and “Two Little Birds”

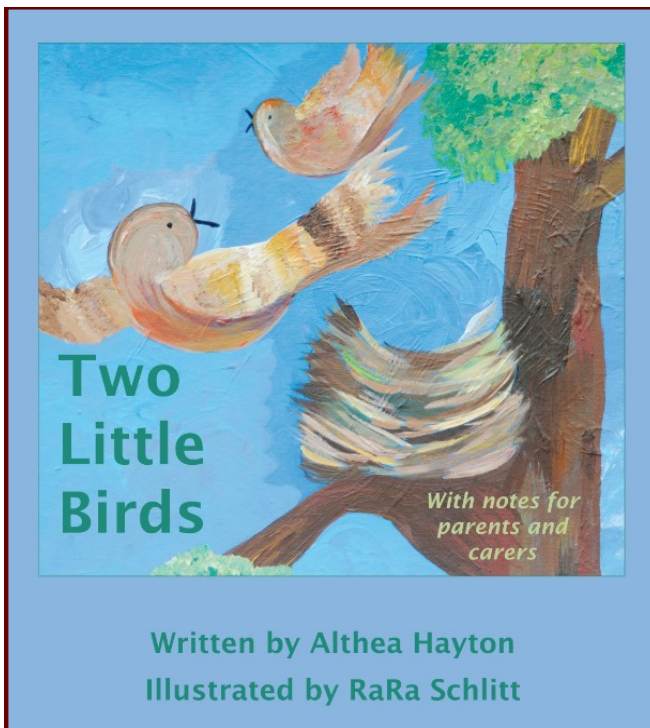
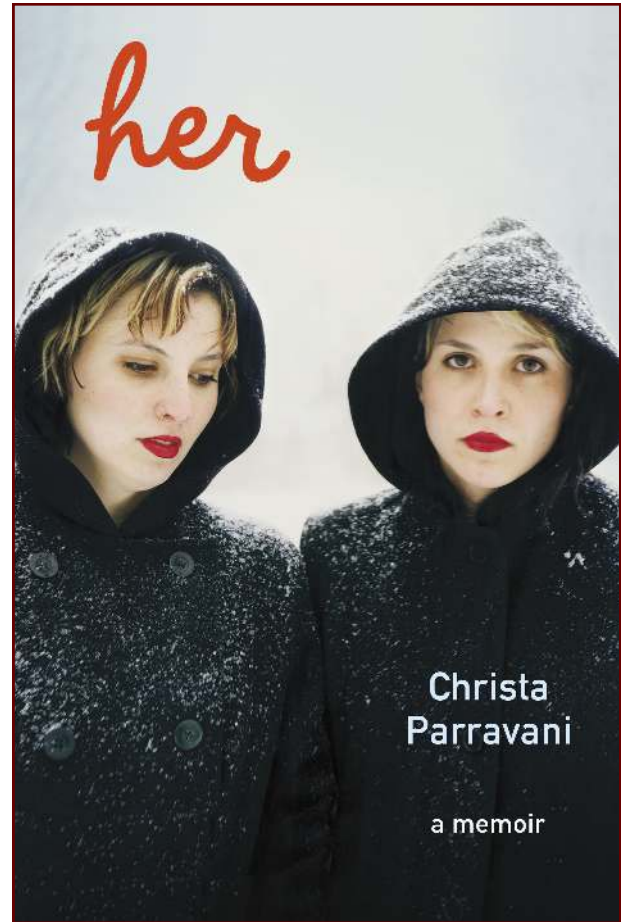
by Dawn Barnett, twin to Daryl

Christa Parravani has captured the essence of twinship in her new memoir, *Her*.

Raised by a single mother from poverty, Christa and Cara were able to carry on in a world of their own as twins. Talented, they went to esteemed colleges and became artists. Cara had bad childhood experiences as far as father figures and was further damaged by being raped as a young adult. This caused her to spiral downward into a deep depression, resulting in drug use and her tragic death.

As a twin survivor, Christa tells of the horrible loss and the painful process of getting out of the abyss, coming through to the other side. This bio is sharply perceptive with raw feelings and profoundly moving; it is poignantly written. I experienced many emotions upon reading the book from the moment I opened the cover to the last page; heartbreaking and sad, yet the author brought forth humor and the ending promised hope with the birth of her daughter, Josephine.

Extremely well-written, I highly recommend this book to any twin who has lost their twin. Christa has shown how hard it was to overcome the loss of her other half. She succeeded to come through in her talent for photography and writing to show us the depth of twin loss and how she triumphed. Available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), Barnes & Noble or major bookstores. ♥



Althea Hayton, twin researcher in the UK, has written many books on womb twins. Her latest book is *Two Little Birds* written for parents to read or give to their little ones explaining the loss of their twin. It is beautifully written with colorful illustrations; Hayton states: "This story is based on the healing journey that all womb twin survivors must make if they are to come to terms with the loss of their twin. It is an allegory of a twin pregnancy that started with two babies but one baby died at some stage during the pregnancy or close to birth". It's the story of Birdie and Beaky and how Birdie is stronger than the other and eventually Beaky doesn't make it. Althea writes this in a way a youngster can understand and wrote it with the help of parents, carers and teachers of young womb twin survivors. I recommend it to parents of womb twin survivors and professionals who care for them. Available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for \$9.50. ♥



Review of “*Beside Myself*”

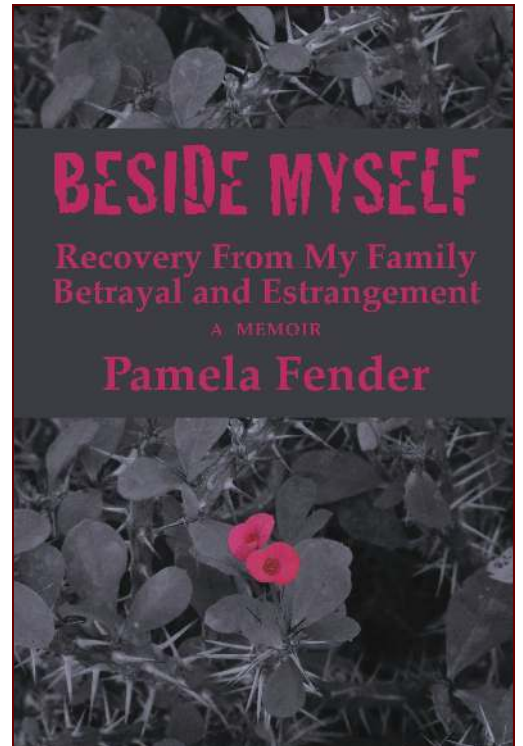
by Debe Bloom, *twin to Carol*

When I am in the company of a group of people, and the subject of book reading comes about, I’m usually left out of the conversation. I would not consider myself a book-reader. I have started many books and have never completed them.

I shocked myself when I received, started and completed Pamela Fender’s **Beside Myself** in a 24 hour span. This book is compelling, and mind-boggling---where there were times I found myself out loud exclaiming “No Way”...

And I was touched whenever I read about Pamela’s twin brother, how she reached down into her own depth, her own truth and had the bravery to share her deepest emotions on her relationship with her twin in their childhood, their adult life and at the end of her twins’ life. Not many of us have the chutzpah (guts) to expose our inner thoughts.

This is a composite of a woman’s struggle being a woman on her own personal journey; and yet on a journey that is intertwined with twinship—a very unique situation.



If I could read a 352 page book in a day’s time, it clearly is captivating.

Pamela Fender's book: ***Beside Myself*** does an excellent job of sharing about our TTSGI organization. I hope everyone gets a chance to read this book for the truth from Pam's point of view....and for the encouragement for each of us to share our own truth.

Beside Myself is available through Amazon.com.

and....remember....once a twin, always a twin....

Always,

Debe Bloom/Carol's Twin

Confidence Coach-Compassionate & Certified

805.659.3323

Blog: <http://debebloom.wordpress.com/>♥

MY CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

by Katie, twin to Crissy

When I found out my twin was gone, I felt like I was standing in a pile of rubble of what had been my life. I was completely paralyzed and had no idea how to move forward. I knew I needed help. I never dreamed an organization called Twinless Twins existed and was so relieved to arrive at the conference, this past July, just 5 weeks after losing my twin. I could finally take my first deep breath surrounded by people who really understood my pain and loss.

I expected to mostly sit and listen and to hear what to do to survive. What surprised me, though, was how the other twins genuinely wanted to hear my story. They asked about what I loved and missed so much about my twin. It was this love, in the simple gift of listening, that gave me my first feelings of hope.

My twin is gone but the memories of her and who she is will never be. Especially around other Twinless Twins who love me, encourage me and listen to me. We are all deeply connected in our twinship and in our loss. Not only am I loved in this group, but my twin is loved too simply because she is my twin.

The loss of my twin and the pain I feel is beyond words. But I am eternally grateful for the amazingly brave twins I have met in Twinless Twins who walk this road beside me. ♥



NOTES AND NOTABLES ...

FROM TAIPEI TO UK

Janet Baird wrote from the UK - "My Twinless Times went to Taipei! It says went to Taipei by mistake on the front of the envelope. But it's correctly addressed as usual. I suppose UK and Taipei sound the same."

I am happy to know that Janet finally received her copy of the Winter Times after it had traveled half-way around the world!

Margaret Daffin ♥

☞ In Memoriam ☜

Hal Sauer, husband of TTSGI member Shirley Sauer, twin to Sally, passed away on Monday, January 7, 2013 - our thoughts are with Shirley and her family and friends at this time.

A Note from Dawn Barnett:

Hi Everyone,

I just learned from Sarah Beebe, Midwest Regional Coordinator, tonight that her grandmother passed away about two hours ago. She said she was very close to her; she was like a mother to her, as she raised Sarah and her twin, Heidi, after her parents' divorce. I thought y'all might like to send her a card to 3928 North Sayre Avenue, Chicago, IL 60634. ♥

A FITTING SYMBOL OF OUR TWIN STRENGTH

by Susan Schneider, twin to Robin

Kudos to whoever designed the Twinless Twins logo. Two identical figures intertwined in support of each other. It perfectly embodies the "twinenergy" that empowers most of our twinships. When I snuggle in the jacket that Eileen, twin to Elaine, so lovingly sewed, I am comforted by the presence of my identical twin sister. I wanted to support the organization that has helped me carry my grief, so I worked Robin and my media contacts and arranged for an interview in the local paper and an appearance on our radio station home (where the Travel Twins could be heard every week, live, for over twenty five years) when TTSGI came to Dublin, Ohio in 2012. The media exposure accomplished our goal of bringing more lone twins into the shelter of TTSGI.

Still, with all the lovely things for sale at the TTSGI online store, something seemed lacking - a lasting memento to celebrate the splendor of our twinship, the joy of the power of two. So, I commissioned our long time jeweler and good friend to cast the logo for a pendant, in remembrance of Robin and all our twins. Our Mom, who lost Dad, her best friend and soulmate, two weeks prior to their fifty-ninth wedding anniversary, advised me to wear my necklace over my clothing, protected. She has hers on a long chain, and it sparkles like the effervescent joy of our twinship. I first wore mine on a short chain close around my neck in July at the Dublin conference. Of course, I perspired a lot, and tarnished it some. I knew this would happen. Robin and I always wore sterling silver necklaces long enough to go over blouses or turtlenecks, protecting them so they retained their sparkle.

Of course, mothers are always right. Still, our twinship changed with Robin's death. My necklace reflects a harder truth that my life shines less now. So it symbolizes the reality of my present life. Our baby brother, Scott, said "we understand that you will never be really happy again, Susan. We don't expect that but we want you to try to find some joy in life again." Our other younger brother, Doug, said "the Buddhists believe that pain is inevitable, but suffering is optional." Doug also said, very early on, "your problem, Susan, is that you and Robin always shared most of your experiences. Whatever she is experiencing now, you have no access to it." So, no airbrushed dreams for me anymore, no shiny pendant adorning my neck each day. This slightly worn pendant symbolizes the tarnished existence that I am left with.

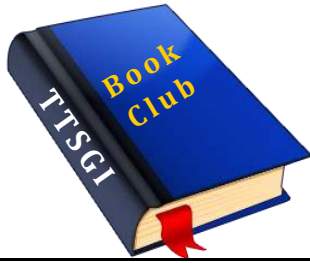
Yet, I recently bought another pendant, and I put it on a longer chain to dangle over my clothing. This one does symbolize the splendor of our twinship, the stupendous joy of the power of two. Recently, I have begun work to honor her, to accomplish the things we wanted to do in this life in her name. When, as I believe, I am reunited with my twin, I want to be able to tell her "we made a difference." The brighter pendant commemorates the resilience of the twin bond.

When our mother looks at the Twinless Twins logo, she sees two adorable toddlers, giggling over Christmas decorations. When I stare at the Twinless Twins logo, I recall two confident businesswomen, laughing, and striding boldly toward their future. Twins who "had each others' backs". When you study the Twinless Twins logo, what do you see?

(My pendant is to the right, Mom's to the left)

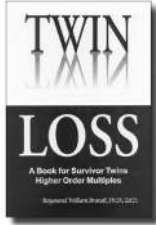


Note: The Twinless Twins pendants are available in the TTSGI online store for \$59.00 each. ♥



RECOMMENDED TWIN BOOKS

www.twinlesstwins.org/store/books



"TWIN LOSS"

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.

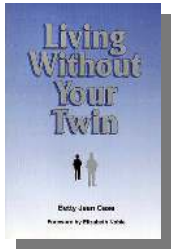


"BEGINNING WITH THE END"

By Mary R. Morgan

In this startlingly frank and moving memoir, Mary R. Morgan struggles to claim an individual identity, enabling her to face Michael's death and the huge loss it engendered. With remarkable candor, she shares her spiritually evocative healing journey, which moves her forward into a life of new beginnings and meaning, especially in her work with others who have lost a twin.

All proceeds from the sale of "Beginning with the End" will go to TTSGI as requested by the author, Mary R. Morgan. The book can be purchased through Amazon for \$26.95.



"LIVING WITHOUT YOUR TWIN"

By Betty Jean Case

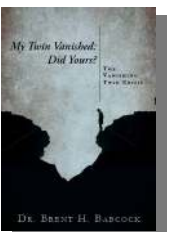
Author Betty Jean Case generously makes a donation to Twinless Twins each time one of her books is purchased through us. Betty is a twin, grew up with twin siblings, and had a set of twin grandsons. This 150-page book discusses how to keep living without your twin and best friend by your side. It also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



"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 (<http://www.isbs.com/partnumber.asp?pnid=307963>).



"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.

Twinless Twins Support Group International™
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TWINLESS TIMES BY E-MAIL

If any of our members are interested in receiving the **Twinless Times** via email as a colored .pdf file instead of the regular mailed hard copy, please send your name and email address to Ray Boyle at: boyler@firstline.com. He will forward this to you.

Thank you.
Margaret Daffin, Co-Editor

**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

Twinless Times Co-Editors:
Margaret Daffin and Celia Homer



Nepal's first jumbo elephant twins.

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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. ♥

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