

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

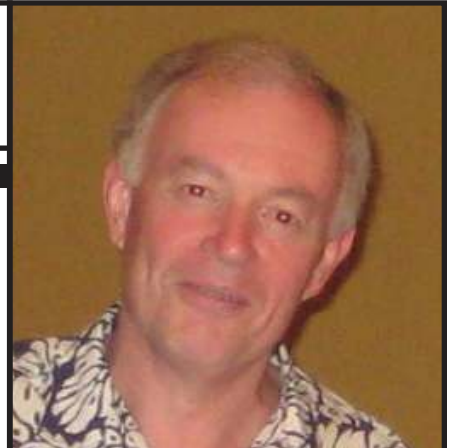
Dear Twins,

Within the newsletter, I've included our financial report for 2013. 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 TTSGI. Plainly speaking, we are a "shoestring operation" that strives 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.

The organization is looking forward to our 2014 conference in Baltimore. This will mark the first time TTSGI is hosting the conference in the northeast. Plans have been underway since the last conference, and it really takes a year of planning to have it appear organized and seamless to our twins. 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 TTSGI. In 2013, we had more twins contact us and our membership reflects this.

Ray Boyle, President



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Darci D. Sims May 20, 1947 – Feb 27, 2014

It is with sadness that I learned Darcie Sims passed away on February 27th as she took an evening nap and never woke up. TTSGI was blessed to have her as our keynote speaker at several of our conferences. She taught us how to grieve. She held our hands and our hearts. She taught us to laugh, smile, cry, scream, and to be silly while still honoring those we love and miss. She taught us to say the word "died"... Darcie Sims has died but she will be forever with us. We are all better for knowing her. She will always be a treasured friend. Love, will be what we remember most.

Dawn, twin to Daryl





THE EMPTY CHAIR

by Sandy Goad, twin to Jim

“Gifts of Hope”

When “hurricane grief” sweeps through our lives and leaves behind emotional destruction and indescribable loneliness, hope can feel as if it has been swept away with the storm. The hope and meaning in life appear to vanish. But hope is essential to life, so we must look for it. We see the beginnings of new growth after a hurricane. Flowers begin to grow back and small seedlings begin to appear. You too can experience the hope and the promise of new growth in your life. We may not always have a map or a GPS system to guide us, but we do have the experiences of other twins who have grieved the loss of their twin and offer us tangible hope.

Hope can come from the most unexpected places and in the most surprising ways. We see hope in the stories that are submitted in our Twinless Times newsletter. We see hope when we attend a Regional Meeting or a National Conference. We even see hope in our emails and phone conversations between our members. If you have missed some of these “gifts of hope”, I would like to use the rest of my column to share a few of them with you.

Submitted by Paul, twin to Pete in 2000:

“There I was, standing alone in the hallway of the Drawbridge Inn, just outside of the “meet and greet” room at my first Twinless Twins National Conference in Cincinnati. I felt dazed, confused, scared, overwhelmed with sadness, and for the first time in my life, I felt totally hopeless. What was I doing here? Pete can’t really be dead. I stared at the colorful design in the carpeting beneath my feet and my thoughts drifted to the events of the last three months. My identical twin, Pete, had died of a heart attack at the age of 46. We had just experienced a wonderful weekend visit together. Pete was on a business trip to Chicago from Dallas where he had lived for the past eight years. I pondered our last conversation we had in my living room that Wednesday morning. We talked about our plans for the future, of Pete’s retirement in four years, and of his moving back home to Chicago to start a new phase in our lives. I remembered driving Pete to the airport with the car windows rolled down and feeling the breeze of that unusually warm February day. Then, there it was, like a kick to my stomach, the memory of what was to be our last hug.

I was jolted back into the present as people began walking past me in the conference center hallway. I remember thinking, “Is he one of the twins? Is she?” I walked over to the doorway and peeked into the quiet room. I saw the neatly arranged round tables covered with white linens and decorated with festive centerpieces. I observed the buffet table filled with bowls of snacks along with trays of cheese cubes, and wondered if I was going to be able find the courage to enter this room later.

I went back to my room and lay on the bed clutching my framed photo of Pete, and sobbed. I did not want to be here. If only I had not promised Dr. Brandt I would attend – then I could

leave. My thoughts once again returned to the memories of the hospitals, the ventilating machine, and the first week of hoping that Pete would regain consciousness. Then I remembered having Pete airlifted back to Chicago where I was sure that his condition would improve. Next, the memories of the family meetings, my signing the documents to have Pete removed from life support, and then the four days of waiting for my twin to die. Finally, the still unbelievable scenes of Pete’s wake, funeral and burial. I remember marveling that I had survived these last three months. I drifted back into the huge dark hole of my hopelessness. There must be hope. There had to be hope. Dr. Brandt made it through this. The other twinless twins that I met on line made it through this. What did they have that I didn’t have that allowed them to survive this? Then, like a tiny flicker of light in a dense fog, I saw that my only chance of finding hope was at this conference. I pulled myself together and mustered as much courage as I could and headed down to the “meet and greet” room. As I neared the room I heard bursts of laughter and sounds of joyful greetings. My first thought was that I was nearing the wrong room. Surely these sounds were not radiating from twins who had lost their twins. As I entered the doorway, I noticed the name tags that people were wearing. The name tags each had two names on them – their name along with their twin’s name. This was the right room. I remember thinking, “but how can this be? – they are hugging, laughing and are happy to see each other.” There it was. HOPE. “Is it possible? Will I really be able to be happy and laugh again, too?” I said to myself, “Maybe? At least I now have hope.”

Submitted by Geri, twin to Sheri in 2011:

“I feel--a vast empty space where there had never been before. Still, even though she is no longer here to share our days, I have been left with a precious gift--a lifetime of cherished memories.”

Submitted by Dawn, twin to Daryl in 2011:

from the book “Who Moved the Sun - A twin Remembers” by Ron McKenzie, twin to Don

“I am learning that I can go through life sad and miserable or I can go through life with all the wonderful memories of when we were together. Life is full of “stuff” and life is what you make of it. I know now that I will be sad at times on this trip, but I will also be happy because I know you are going to be right there next to me. There are only two feelings in life: fear and joy. Joy is hard for me right now, but it is the right road to take. Joy will allow me to experience life with you at my side.”

Submitted by Meredith, twin to Emily in 2011:

“I believe that a huge aspect of my confidence in me, and the faith I have to move through my life is from the immense support given from Twinless Twins. I would like to be in a position to help other twins get to the place I am in life. I never believed I would get to the point of accepting my sister has died, and living a life I know she would be proud of, but I believe Twinless Twins has given me that.”

Thank you to all the twinless twins, who give us their “gifts of hope”. They provide the gift that keeps on giving and help us to move forward on our journey through grief.

“I put my hand in yours, and together we can do what we could never do alone. No longer is there a sense of hopelessness. We are all together, reaching out our hands for strength greater than ours, and as we join hands, we find love and understanding beyond what we could ever have imagined.”



DEBBIE’S TRAIL OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL

By Dana, twin to Debbie

The Bates Country Community Health Foundation has a Christmas tree in the lobby of our local hospital. Each year they offer ornaments for purchase by loved ones. The picture on the right is the Memorial ornament that my family, friends and myself made for my twin Debbie and all twins that have lost their loved ones. I wanted to let all of the Twinless Twins know that their twin was remembered in my hometown. Also, please look at my website in memory of my twin: trailofmemories.org.



ONE OF OUR MANY FUNNY ‘MIX-UP’ STORIES

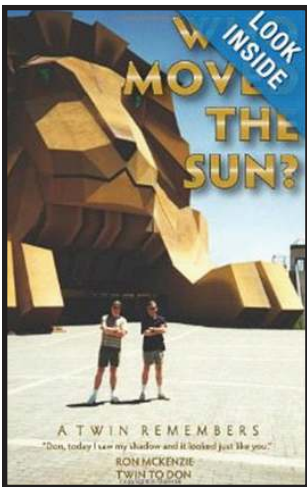
By Jill Earl, twin to Janet



I had spent time in the hospital and my sister, Janet, was there to pick me up. While I was waiting for my doctor to come and sign my release form I went into the washroom. Janet was sitting on the bed waiting for me when my doctor came in. He walked over to her, smiled and said “I see you are all ready and waiting to go.” Before she could say anything, I came out of the washroom and walked up behind him and said “I’m all ready”. He turned around and looked at me and did a double take, and the look on his face was absolutely priceless!



There is a funnier part to this story about what happened when we got back to our home town that day, but I’m afraid it would take up too much space here.



WHO MOVED THE SUN: A TWIN REMEMBERS

Now on Kindle

By Ron Mckenzie, twin to Don

The very personal and potent a story about Ron McKenzie after he loses his twin brother Don, is now available in the KINDLE format on Amazon. The book is a personal look at Ron’s first year without his twin brother. The moving story is a popular favorite of many twinless twins, and he has received very positive reviews by many twinless twins, parents, and friends of twins. It’s one of the better selling books on twin grief and twin loss.

WHO MOVED THE SUN? A Twin Remembers, by Ronald A. McKenzie; KINDLE: ISBN 978-0-578-13504-5, Published by D.E.M. Publishing, A Division of COMPASS Consultants Corporation, Las Vegas, Nevada. Find it on Amazon.

SPOUSES OF TWINS, LISTEN!

Written by Erin Stacey, husband of Millie, twin to Nellie

I never realized what I was getting myself into when I married a twin. The fact that my wife's twin sister, Nellie, had passed away many years ago making her a Twinless Twin did not change anything about their twinship except Nellie, of course, wasn't physically there anymore. But Nellie was still very much a part of her life. Sometimes I would have deep feelings of frustration. I would feel like she was more in love with her twin than me, her husband! I didn't realize at the time that this closeness, this love, was a different love, a love only a twin can feel for their twin.

Trying to understand that love is kind of like a child who is an only child in a family, trying to understand the love that a brother or sister has for another brother or sister. The love a twin has for their twin is a very special love, but a very different love than the love they have for their spouse. Spousal love is one of a kind. Spouses who are in love are greatly committed to each other. They work together in the rearing of children, running a household, etc. They are bonded together as they learn through many trials, tribulations, and accomplishments.

In the same sense, the love a twin has for their utero partner is a very unique love, one that is hard for those of us without a twin to understand. However, when we do understand that there are two different loves here, we can begin to realize that the love a twin has for their twin is not in competition with their love for us, their spouse. The two different loves support and compliment each other. For those of us who were born as a single birth child, this can be a hard concept to grasp.

At first, it seemed like all I was hearing from my wife was Nellie did this and Nellie did that. "I miss Nellie. I wished Nellie were still here"! And on and on and on. Now, after many years, I realize that what Jim Gann, husband to Twinless Twin Janice, said is so very true. When you marry a twin, you will always be second in their life! Their twin is always first. Realizing this was the first step for me. Understanding that being second in my wife's life is okay was the second step.

To understand this concept, accept it, and realize that it is okay, we need to try and understand the bond between twins. Actually, it is almost virtually impossible for us to fully understand this bond. We were alone in the womb. Twins were together. From the very moment of conception they have been together, sharing almost everything. It is hard for a single birth individual to understand this, because we have not had to share since our beginning. At the same time, it is hard for a twin to understand what it is like for us. Just as we do not know what it is like to have a twin, they do not know what it is like to not have a twin. Even if they are a twinless twin, the deceased twin is and always will be, very much a part of their life. Each spouse needs to try to find some common ground.

First, we each need to try and see the perspective of the other. Talk to each other. Twins are used to sharing everything. Your spouse who is a twin may want to share certain things with you. Maybe at the time of this sharing, you are not perceptive. Talk about it. As a spouse of a twinless twin, let them know your feelings also, do not hold your feelings in. Try to find a way to share them with your spouse. If you feel overburdened by twin things, discuss it. Find that common ground. Gage each others attitudes and feelings. Each of you should try to always have an open mind and try your hardest to understand the frustrations, feelings, and longings of the other spouse. Try to see the other spouse's point of view.

One of the biggest problems between a person who is not a twin and a twinless twin is communication. Sometimes a partner is unwilling to listen. Maybe they don't like being second in their spouse's life next to their twin. Especially if that twin has passed on. Try to remember that there is not a competition here. Maybe the twin won't open up and share his/her feelings. A spouse may be willing to hear, but the twin doesn't open up.

It seemed to me that my wife, Millie, held her feelings inside for many, many years and didn't share them with me or anyone else. Maybe she tried to share them with me, and I didn't listen or was preoccupied and didn't want to take the time to listen. For awhile, there was a definite void there. Millie thought that perhaps she wasn't in her right mind. Maybe it wasn't right for her to be putting Nellie before me, her husband. Her feelings ran deep. She was concerned, she was in turmoil. Was this normal? Was it okay? Was she out of her mind?

Then, thankfully, she found Twinless Twins and talked to some other twins that were living as "one" and dealing with these same feelings. When Millie found Twinless Twins and started talking to others who were having the same types of feelings she was, I, her husband, started to notice a change in her. Suddenly she started to open up and actually talk to me and I began to listen. She shared; not just talked, but SHARED with me her feelings, frustrations, and pains to me by talking about a show she had seen or article she had read about twins. She was able to explain more to me by talking about the show and article, and tying it in to her own experiences.

It was then that I really started listening to her and our relationship started to be strengthened. Each twinless that she talked to said nearly the same thing. They all had similar feelings and experiences. I never realized until we went to a Twinless Twins conference that it wasn't only Millie and I who felt these frustrations and misunderstandings but there were many others too.

For those of us who are married to a twinless twin, it is hard to understand their feelings. At the same time, it is hard for them to understand your feelings. It is hard for a twin not to put the other twin first. It is hard for a spouse to not be put first. To come to a common ground here, we must realize that the twin will always be first. And we must realize this is not only okay, but a very natural thing. Again, WE ARE NOT COMPETING FOR LOVE. THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT LOVES HERE. COMMUNICATION IS ESSENTIAL.

Talk to each other. Work with each other. Be open with each other. Come to know your partner's twin, whether they be here on earth, or have passed on. I know a twinless spouse who felt a great, great loss when his spouse's twin was killed. He felt such a great loss that he couldn't talk about it without breaking down. What a great loss it would have been if he had not taken the time to know this person before her death.

The same loss could happen to you, the spouse, of a twinless twin if you do not take the time to get to know your spouse's twin through their association with, reflections of the memories of their twin. Make your love for your spouse grow by sharing with him or her that person who is so precious to them, because the only way to make love grow is to give it away. Share your feelings and concerns.

Don't overburden each other, but work at your own pace. Some things you will only partially understand, the rest, you just accept. Always be open and understanding towards each other. The key to success and understanding in a marriage to a twin is communication, love and respect.

Transcribed by Dawn Barnett

LOOKING BACK AT THE TTSGI CONFERENCE IN LOS ANGELES (LA)

By Kevin Mullen, twin to Brian

My dream had come true! The Twinless Twins conference was to be in LA and with many friends and family members in the area, I couldn't wait for July to come.



Gary Lane, Kevin Mullen, Larry Lane at Hollywood sign

On Wednesday, July 17, 2013, I flew to Los Angeles to attend my 14th TTSGI conference. When I got to the hotel, I was greeted by my twin friends Gary and Larry Lane, who had come to take me to lunch. What great friends they are since they had to wait an hour for me because of a luggage delay. After checking in, it was off to the Capri restaurant (owned by twins Jeff and Jim Thiel) for a nice lunch and visit with them, then we were off on a LA/ Hollywood tour. I saw the Hollywood sign, the Chinese Theater, and Hollywood Blvd, where I saw Annette Funicello & Dolly Parton's stars. We traveled on the 405 and the 110 freeways, but saw no police chases like you see on TV. That night I met up with Sean Joyce, twin to Tom and we had dinner and went to the boardwalk to look at the Pacific Ocean.



Justin Clarke and Kevin Mullen

The next day while everyone was arriving, I took some time and went to lunch with cousins that I hadn't seen in years. Then at the welcome reception, I met new friends Justin Clarke, twin to Scott and Patti Murphy, twin to Mike, both of whom I had been corresponding with for a while. It was great to finally meet them. It was also great seeing old friends Mary R. Morgan, Dena Stitt, Michelle Getchell, Becky Sehenuk, Lea Eriksen, Kevin Johnson, Matt Vierling and so many more.



Kevin Mullen, Matt Vierling, & Becky Sehenuk

What a beautiful memorial walk we had at Santa Monica Pier, and after dining with friends we watched a sunset over the ocean. It was the perfect ending to the day.

The trip was all I had hoped and dreamed of. So to everyone see you next year on my side of the country in Baltimore, Maryland!

NEWS FROM OUR UNITED KINGDOM AFFILIATE JANET BAIRD

Juliette Lee is a 16 year old Lone Twin and a Twinless Twin. She hopes to join the Lone Twin Network (UK version of TTSGI) when she is 18. Juliette is running a memorial walk in memory of her twin. The walk takes place on Saturday March 8th, 2014 at 10am, starting from the Chase Hospice in Artington, Guildford, Surrey. There are two routes - a long and a short walk. This is a sponsored walk in memory of her twin Beatrice Lee, who lost her battle with life on the 6th March 2010. If you would like to take part, or pledge a donation, contact Juliette on juliette.lee@ntlworld.com and she will send you a short health form, the sponsorship form and a poster.

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL MEETING

Host/facilitator: Linda Pountney

A New England winter moved our holiday meeting at a butterfly conservatory to January. We still had snow! In an almost 80 degree indoor rain forest we had a butterfly release and walked a tropical plant, reptile, and butterfly conservatory.

Our lunch meeting had a casual theme of writing a postcard about where you are at with your grief and healing. This took honesty, but clarified our similarities and how we can individually move forward in our healing. The timing was perfect right after the holidays.



Our next meeting is planned for May 17th in Maine... warmer weather with an ocean breeze.

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL GATHERING

By Angela McGuire, twin to Erin

Twins from the North Central region met on the evening of December 13, 2013. Bob (Indiana), Alyssa (Lapeer, MI), and Angela (East Lansing, MI) were the twins who attended. Angela's daughter, Shannon, was there for parts of the gathering. She took the picture of us twins. We ate pie and visited at the Grand Traverse Pie Company in Ann Arbor, Michigan. We enjoyed hearing each other's stories, and it was very helpful to talk to other twins in person right before the holidays. Thanks to Bob who brought us notepads and pens.



NORTH CENTRAL MEETING

Saturday, January 25

People in the photo, from left to right, are - Tim Reiswig, Virginia Carpenter, Rita Glynn, Tom Meade, Alfredo Ojeda, and Joan Angelis



TWINLESS TWINS 2013 HOLIDAY DINNER GATHERING IN HOUSTON

By Margaret Daffin, twin to Josie



left to right: Tammy Walton, Maurice Walton, John Vierling, Margaret Daffin, Paul Daffin, Lucy Wagner, John Rohrer, Betsy Miller, Matt Vierling, Donna Vierling (not shown – taking the photo)

Six twinless twins and four support family members joined together for a holiday dinner gathering in Houston on Sunday evening, December 29th at Piatto Ristorante, Galleria in Houston. Three other twins who had planned to join us could not – Carol had the flu, Karla's car was broken into and Barbara Terry and her husband Ralph could not come because his father had been taken into the hospital – we missed them all.

This is the second year that the Houston twins have met during the holidays, and hopefully, it will become a tradition. One of our new board members, Matt Vierling, was in Houston visiting his family for Christmas and so

this was a great occasion for us to be together and Matt brought along his mother, Donna and father, John to meet us all (Donna was actually in LA at the 2013 conference). Maurice Walton brought his wife, Tammy, and Paul came with me. The other twins who were present were: John Rohrer, South Central Regional Coordinator; Betsy Miller and Lucy Wagner.

It was a great evening with a delicious meal and the special company of other twinless twins and family. It is always good to be surrounded by twinless twins!

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL MEETING

By Eileen Jensen, twin to Elaine

Southwest Regional Meeting was held on November 23, 2013. It was the largest group so far. We met at the Country Buffet in Lone Tree which means our meal was fantastic as always. The new twins were shy and apprehensive but soon were talking to other twins.



After enjoying our lunch we had a short meeting and then shared our twin stories. Hearts are always saddened as each twin told about their twin. Lia Woodall led the candle lighting ceremony highlighted with her readings. All twins agreed that they were available to each other for support.

The twins attending and pictured are as follows: top row and left to right, Jerry Walker, Nick Malec, Gale Erlewine, Joe Basehart, Cindi Costa, Scott Nasso, Jake Yurich, and Greg Council; bottom row, Rose Cahill, Marissa Gannon, Phyllis Ashliman, Eileen Jensen, and Lia Woodall. Elizabeth Hoyt attended but had to leave before the picture. Support persons attending were Marissa's cousin, Storm Knight; Nick's brother, Dusty; Rose's spouse, Pat Cahill; Eileen's spouse, Tim; and parents of Matt Zamora (in his absence), Tom and Florence Zamora.

NOMINATION PROCEDURES FOR 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:

1. Must be an active member of TTSGI for at least two years and have a pattern of attendance and giving.
2. Must have been a twinless twin for at least two years and able to cope with their loss.
3. Must own and be conversant with a computer for the sake of communicating with the Board through email.
4. Must attend the annual TTSGI Conference, as well as attend a winter meeting of the Board of Directors, at their own expense.
5. 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

TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP, INTERNATIONAL FINANCIALS

In the winter newsletter one year ago, the Board shared our financial results with the entire organization. On that basis, we present our statement of income and expense for the comparative years 2011-2013 and 2013 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. In 2013 our conference was held in Los Angeles. This was a comparatively expensive venue. For 2012, Dublin, Ohio and the Embassy Suites offered a wonderful venue for an attractive cost. The 2011 conference was held in Minneapolis. Comparative costs are Los Angeles (\$23K), Dublin (\$11.1K) and Minneapolis (\$18.7K). In 2014, Baltimore will be our host city. 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)

1. membership dues (15% in 2013 vs 17% in 2012 and 18% in 2011)
2. conference registration/events (49% in 2013 vs 48% in 2012 and 47% in 2011)
3. contributions (35% in 2013 vs 32% in 2012 and 44% in 2011)

In general, it is evident that our membership dues (held at \$50 for the past 15 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. We encourage our renewing twins to double their registration in memory of their twin, if possible

Our conference registration attempts to cover our conference costs. This was not the case in Los Angeles. It is hoped that our conference events (50/50 draw, auctions and memorial walk) will help to improve the financial health of the organization. Conference events were successful in Los Angeles contributing almost \$19K to the organization, including the memorial walk at the Pacific Ocean (over \$7K).

Individual contributions are integral to TTSGI. We have been fortunate to have had these “angels” assist us.

- Our expenses rose to \$76.9K in 2013 vs \$60.7K in 2012 and \$54.6K in 2011.
- Office expense increased mainly from our Executive Director being required to work more hours. It should be noted that we do not have commercial office space. Our Executive Director maintains an office in her home and stores inventory there, as well. It is our wish to be able to afford commercial space.
- 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. Los Angeles was approximately double the cost of 2012 Dublin. However, the 2013 conference had more twins attend. 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 remained somewhat flat to total expenses in 2013 (6.2%) from 6.5% in 2012. 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 2013 as a Board member hosted the meeting at their social organization. In 2012 there were no costs in 2012, as the Board remained the same (with no new members) and we resolved to have regular conference call contact. In 2011, a board member hosted the meeting at their place of employment.

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, currently at 1,000 subscribers, 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 FINANCIALS
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE - FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

	2013 (Full Year)	2013 Budget (Full Year)	2012 (Full Year)	2011 (Full Year)
INCOME				
Membership	11,260	10,200	10,463	8,759
Conference Registration	15,942	16,000	15,927	15,288
Conference Assistance	5,170		300	850
Contributions	20,452	20,000	19,102	22,561
Interest/Misc	255		20	
Books and Postage	928	1,200	1,325	823
Online Sales	1,321	500	531	186
Conference Events	18,398	10,000	12,948	4,165
	73,726	57,900	60,615	52,632
EXPENSES				
Office • Executive Director	23,600	21,600	17,600	12,100
Assistant			1,572	1,300
Postage	3,780	2,000	3,314	1,149
Printing	2,441	2,500	3,978	1,078
Office Supplies	1,145	1,000	1,552	531
Professional Fees	3,650	5,000	5,183	7,148
Telephone	932	800	761	840
Bank Charges	925	1,000	1,289	946
Petty Cash	576	300	505	708
Refunds	100		631	2,025
Internet	614	500	308	738
Interest Paid			225	
Inventory				1,337
Misc	763	1,500	1,547	241
	38,525	36,200	38,465	30,140
Program • Regional Coordinators	7,541	12,000	3,601	2,850
Authors, Books and Inventory		1,000		
Conference	23,009	15,000	11,096	18,706
Website	104	1,000	127	22
Outside Services	900	1,000	650	1,185
Speakers	1,995	2,500	2,791	
	33,550	32,500	18,265	22,762
Administration • Board Meals	23	1,000		24
Board Meeting	200	500		466
Insurance	1,473	1,500	1,413	
Travel	3,148	2,000	2,534	1,299
	4,844	5,000	3,946	1,720
TOTAL EXPENSES	76,919	73,700	60,676	54,622
Net Gain/(Loss)	(3,193)	(15,800)	(61)	(1,991)
CASH AND EQUITIES				
Bank balance as at January 29, 2014			10,019	
IBM Shares (rec'd as a donation) market value as at January 15, 2013			11,472	
			\$21,490	

Note: We have prepaid \$3,102 towards our 2014 Baltimore hotel. This is not included in our expnses, but is reflected in our cash balance.



2014 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

JULY 17-19

Registration fee is \$210.00 per person. (\$255.00 per person AFTER May 24, 2014)

Registration fee includes: Thursday evening dessert reception, Friday lunch, Saturday evening banquet meal (semi-formal), all conference materials, guest speakers, and breakout space. To register, please fill out this form and mail to:

Twinless Twins Support Group Intl. PO Box 980481, Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Or fax to: 1-888-205-8962. Email to: contact@twinlesstwins.org

You must be a current paid member of TTSGI to attend the Annual Conference. Visit www.twinlesstwins.org to become a member.

Are you a current paid member (circle one)? Yes No

Is this your first Twinless Twins Conference (circle one)? Yes No

First Name: _____ Middle Name/Initial: _____

Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Twin's Name (if named): _____

Date of Loss: _____

Cause of Loss: _____

Do you have any special needs we should be aware of?
(After May 23, we cannot guarantee that your request will be honored)

Adult T-Shirt Size (circle one): S M L XL XXL

REGISTER YOUR GUEST (*Spouses, significant others, family, and friends who wish to attend must accompany a paid member and register themselves.*)

1. First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Relationship to Member: _____

Adult T-Shirt Size (circle one): S M L XL XXL

2. First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Relationship to Member: _____

Adult T-Shirt Size (circle one): S M L XL XXL

Guests who are NOT attending the conference but wish to register for the Saturday banquet dinner ONLY, cost is \$60.00 per person.

Saturday July 20 Dinner Banquet Guests: _____ x \$60 = _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Registration fee is \$210.00 per person. (\$255.00 per person AFTER May 23, 2014)

Circle One: Check Credit Card

Check Number: _____ Check Amount: _____

Name on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Type (circle one): Visa Master Card

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date (mm/dd/year): _____ CSC# _____

Would you like to make an additional donation to TTSGI (circle one)? Yes No

This donation is made in memory of: _____

Total amount to be applied on Credit Card: _____

Thank you! We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

For information about transportation and accommodations for the 2014 Conference, please visit www.twinlesstwins.org

2014 CONFERENCE - SCHEDULE

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

Thursday, July 17, 2014

6:30 – 7:00pm	Early Check-In for first time attendees
7:00 – 7:30pm	Attendee's Hospitality Gathering
7:00 – 9:00pm	Registration Table Opens for all attendees
7:30 – 9:00pm	Welcome & Dessert Reception

Friday, July 18, 2014

7:30 – 8:00am	Inspirations for the Day
8:30 – 9:00am	Announcements
9:00 – 11:00am	Keynote: TBD
11:00 – 11:15am	Break
11:15 – 12:30pm	Sharing Time, Your Twin Story
11:15 – 12:30pm	Parallel Group #1
12:30 – 1:30pm	Lunch Provided
1:30 – 3:30pm	Sharing Time, Your Twin Story (continued)
1:30 – 3:30pm	Parallel Group #2
4:15 – 10:00pm	Group Event: TBD

Saturday, July 19, 2014

7:30 – 8:00am	Inspirations for the Day
8:45 – 9:00am	Announcements
9:30 – 11:30am	Parallel Groups (choose one)
11:30 – 1:00pm	Lunch Break (on your own)
1:00 – 2:00pm	Annual Business Meeting
2:30 – 4:30pm	Parallel Groups (pick one of 4) Keynote Discussion: TBD
4:30 – 5:30pm	Free Time – pick up Raffle & Silent Auction items
6:30 – 11:00pm	Banquet Dinner, Awards & Auction

2014 CONFERENCE - AUCTION & RAFFLE

BALTIMORE, MD - July 17-20, 2014

We know it's not until the middle of July, but we would like everyone to start thinking about the conference and please consider donating items for the conference auction. High dollar items such as jewelry, travel vouchers, condos, vacations, handmade quilts, 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 are featured in the raffle which can number up to over 400 items to select from. More details to follow in upcoming issues of the Twinless Times.

2014 CONFERENCE - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When is the 2014 conference?

The conference begins the evening of Thursday, July 17, and ends at the closing banquet on Saturday, July 19. Plan to depart on Sunday, July 20.

Where is the conference?

DoubleTree by Hilton Baltimore
890 Elkridge Landing Road
Linthicum, Maryland 21090
410-859-8400

Be sure to say you're coming for the Twinless Twins conference so you'll receive the reduced room rate. If you want to split that cost and share a room with another twinless twin, please contact your regional coordinator and they will be glad to assist you.

What is the cost to attend the conference?

Registration fee is \$210.00 per person and you must be a paid-up member of TTSGI to attend. On May 24 the late registration fee takes effect at a cost of \$255.00 per person. The hotel rate is \$109.00/single, \$119.00/double, \$129.00/triple per night plus tax. The cut-off date for the hotel's special rate is July 2 so it is imperative that you make your reservation by that date. There will be no exceptions. Self parking is complimentary.

What airport do I fly into?

Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI)

How do I get back and forth from the airport to the hotel?

There is a complimentary shuttle service you can take.

What will the weather be like?

In July the average Baltimore daily low is 73° and the average daily high is 88°. For more information visit www.weather.com.

What should I wear?

Almost anything goes. For the welcome reception evening some people wear business casual, others their traveling outfit, t-shirt and jeans. During the day, wear what you feel comfortable wearing, pants, t-shirt, blouse, jeans, shorts. Remember, there will be air conditioning, so be prepared if the A/C is cooler than you prefer. In the evening, for dinner, you can choose to change or stay in what you wore during the day. It doesn't matter, attendees do both! For the closing banquet, people tend to dress up a little more – nice slacks outfit, nice dress. Men usually wear suits. This is a nice affair but NOT formal.

What should I bring?

Photographs of your twin.

Consider donating a gift to be used at the auction and raffle to help support for the organization.

I am a first-time attendee, what should I expect and what is expected of me?

To welcome you to the Conference, we invite you to join us for our first time attendees' reception where you will have the opportunity to meet other first-time attendees as well as Board Members and Regional Coordinators. First-timers' registration will be held on July 17 at 7:00 pm with the first-timers' reception

beginning at 7:30 pm. The Board Members and Regional Coordinators will be available to meet with you to answer any questions you may have concerning the conference. After the first-timers' reception you will be asked to join all conference attendees at the dessert reception at 8:00 pm. Be sure to have dinner prior to the first-timers' registration at 7:00 pm. During the conference, there will be time for sharing what you feel comfortable concerning your twin and twinship. There will be speakers, and various different breakout sessions, free time to relax, reflect and casually meet others and a closing banquet on Saturday evening. Plan to depart on Sunday.

What do we do for meals?

READ THIS SECTION CAREFULLY.

Thursday – Dinner at your own expense.

First-timer Attendee Reception – 7:30 pm light snacks and beverages (registration at 7:00 pm).

Welcome Dessert Reception – 8:00 pm desserts and beverages (open registration at 7:30 pm).

Friday Breakfast – Hot breakfast is provided at the hotel and is included in your room rate.

Friday Lunch – Box lunches with an assortment of sandwiches to choose from.

Friday Dinner – At your own expense.

Saturday Breakfast – Hot breakfast is provided at the hotel and is included in your room rate.

Saturday Lunch – At your own expense.

Saturday Dinner – Banquet

Sunday – Depart

Does the hotel have a fitness center?

There is an onsite swimming pool and whirlpool as well as a full-service fitness center featuring cardiovascular equipment and free weights.

How close are we to tourist attractions?

The hotel is located near the Light Rail and train stations, making nearby attractions easily accessible. The hotel has a complimentary shuttle that can take you to the Light Rail or anywhere within a 3 mile radius.

What should I do if I have to cancel at the last minute?

Unfortunately, we are unable to refund any registration fees one month prior to the conference. Once the "firm" attendee count is given to the hotel we are not able to decrease that number. For hotel cancellations, please contact the hotel directly regarding their cancellation policy.

What if I want to attend but am unable to afford the conference?

Please contact our Executive Director, Michelle Getchell at 1-888-205-8962 or contact@twinlesstwins.org to find out about possible assistance.

The Conference Committee, the Board of Directors and the Regional Coordinators are all looking forward to a great conference full of companionship, making connections, sharing our stories, a powerful keynote address, worthwhile break-out groups and MOST IMPORTANTLY SEEING EACH OF YOU THERE!

If you have any further questions or concerns, please consult your regional coordinator or email our Executive Director, Michelle Getchell at contact@twinlesstwins.org.

TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP INTERNATIONAL

2014 DONATION FORM

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

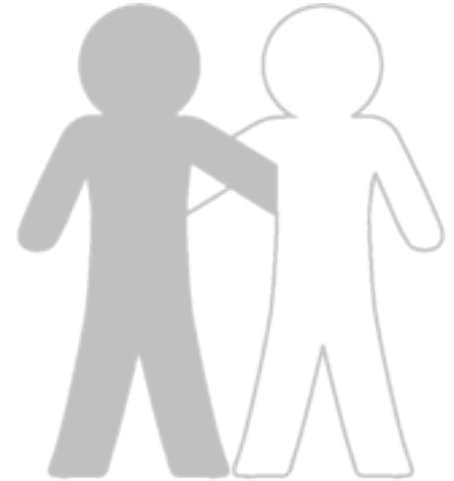
Please print this form and mail it, along with your check, money order, or Visa/MasterCard/Discover information to:

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
 Scholarship Fund Matching Gift



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____
Phone No. _____ Email _____

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
 During the month of _____.
 By making pledge payments of \$ _____ for _____ consecutive months/years.
 My company has a Matching Gifts Program. I am mailing a completed form.

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)

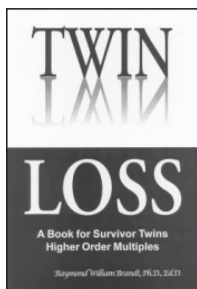
Credit Card Expiration Date: _____ (mm/dd/year)

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

IN RECOGNITION OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS SINCE FALL 2013

Phyllis Ashliman – monthly pledge and donation in memory of her twin, Phil Exstrom
Dr. Brent Babcock – in memory of his twin
Dawn Barnett – in memory of her twin, Daryl
Wendy Bauer – in memory of her twin, Anicka Ticha
Steve Bergman – in memory of his twin, Hal Bergman
Mary George Beyer – in memory of her twin, Georgia Mae
Debbie Bloom – in memory of her twin, Carol Marinoff
Raymond Boyle – monthly pledge
Miriam Brandt Doetsch – donation for two TTSGI memberships
Dana Bridges – in memory of her twin, Debbie Bledsoe
Sandra Brown – in memory of her twin, Sammy
Michael Caruso
Erin Centauro – in memory of her twin, Heather Centauro Osbomer
Angela Chipman
Margaret Daffin – quarterly pledge and donations in memory of her twin, Josie
Tom Doyle – in memory of Heidi Lynne Doyle, twin of Sarah Jean Beebe
Lea Eriksen – in memory of her twin Eve
ExxonMobil Foundation – for volunteer hours and matching grants by
Margaret Daffin – in memory of her twin, Josie Wilson
Eileen Friedman
Joan Garcia – in memory of her twin, Jane Dela Cruz
GoodSearch.com – from all twinless twin members who use this search engine – THANK YOU!
Olivia Greco – in memory of her twin, Penny
Mary Hoover – in memory of her twin, Marjorie
IGive.com – from all twinless twin members who use IGive to buy online – THANK YOU!
Elaine Igelman – in memory of her twin, Irene Benjamin
Eileen Jensen – in memory of her twin, Elaine Moench
Madleen Katkowskas
Beatrice Lee – in memory of her twin, Belle
Terry Lewis-Foor – in memory of her twin, Sherry L. Lewis
Donna Linscomb – in memory of her twin, Dianna Gayle Welsh
Mary R. Morgan
Susan & Kevin Mullen – in memory of his twin, Brian
Jason Noble – in memory of his twin Aaron Noble
Brent Parker – in memory of his twin, Rick C. Parker
Linda Pountney – scholarships for membership and conference attendance
Kelly Quinn – in memory of her twin, Karen Jeanne Quinn
Shyam Rai – in memory of his twin, Ram
Barbara Ritter – in memory of her twin, Bea Gianelli
Margaret Ryan – in memory of her twin, Francie Ryan
Rebecca Sehenuk – in memory on her twin, Jenny Sehenuk
Carolyn Shane – in memory of her twin, Cary Schuman
Jeffrey & Mary Ann Slota – in memory of her twin, Anna Marie Scarpaci Skalon
Beverly Smyk – monthly pledge
Cassandra Spala – in memory of her twin, Brian Robert Szymanski
Rachel Starr – in memory of her twin, Richard R. Matz
Dena Stitt – donation to cover 2013 conference expenses
Sally Tobias – in memory of her twin, Susan
Judy Carol Valdez – in memory of her twin, Linda Ann
Eugene Van Praag
Matt Vierling – in memory of his twin, Mark Lester Vierling
Alice Ward – in memory of her twin, Anita Baily Lanier
Linda Stephens & Laura Wilson – twins who give so generously each year to TTSGI
Joyce Woodman – general fund
Susan Zanca-Burwin – in memory of her identical twin, Linda Binder who passed 7/29/10

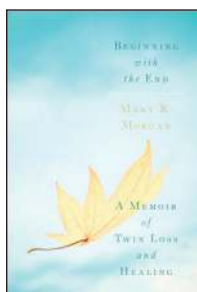
We apologize if we have missed you. Please let us know and we will recognize you in our Fall 2014 newsletter. Contact Margaret Daffin at medaffin@aol.com.



“TWIN LOSS”

By Raymond W. Brandt, PhD

Dr. Brandt was the founder of Twinless Twins Support Group International 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.

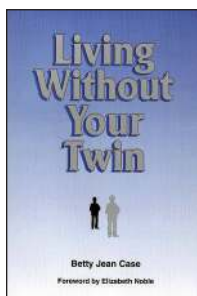


“BEGINNING WITH THE END”

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.

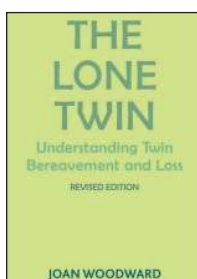
All proceeds from the sale of “Beginning with the End” will go to TTSGI as requested by the author, Mary R. Morgan. The book can be purchased through Amazon for \$26.95.



“LIVING WITHOUT YOUR TWIN”

By Betty Jean Case

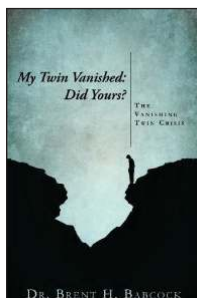
Author Betty Jean Case generously makes a donation to Twinless Twins each time one of her books is purchased through us. Betty is a twin, grew up with twin siblings, and had a set of twin grandsons. This 150-page book discusses how to keep living without your twin and best friend by your side. It also 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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Raymond Boyle – President (2016)

Dena Stitt – Vice President (2015)

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Getchell

P.O. Box 980481
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
1-888-205-8962

contact@twinlesstwins.org

TWINLESS TIMES BY E-MAIL

If any of our members are interested in receiving the Twinless Times via email as a full color 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.

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.

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:
Lea Eriksen & Emily Heekin

REGIONAL COORDINATORS - CONTACT INFORMATION - 2014

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Tel: 707-588-8824
or 707-484-7547 (cell)

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- Hawaii
- Oregon
- Washington