

TWINLESS TIMES



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SPRING 2017

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Twins,

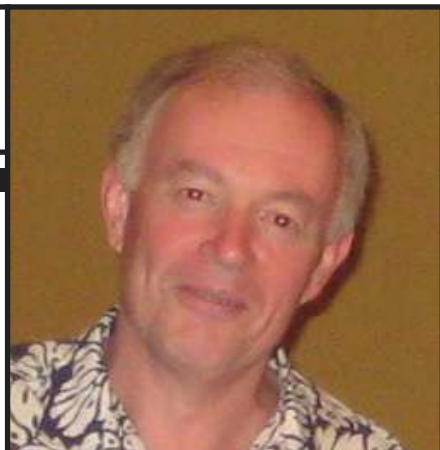
In keeping with my desire to have TTSGI fully transparent, I am including in this issue, the financial position for 2016, as compared to 2015. I would encourage you to review them, as well as my narrative.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of TTSGI. It began, with our founder Dr. Raymond Brandt recognizing that in spite of being twinless, we were still twins, and we missed our twin. It mattered not if we lost our twin in utero, in childhood, or as an adult. When Dr. Brandt succumbed to cancer in 2001, shortly before the conference in Denver, a group formed to ensure there would be a conference. Since then, many volunteers have offered their precious time and talent to ensure there is a TTSGI for wounded twins to connect with, and realize, they are not alone.

We have managed, without interruption, an annual conference, including the upcoming Tucson, Arizona site in July, 2017.

Marking our 30th anniversary, I am pleased to announce that we recently received federal certification, which gives us ownership of our logo and copyright over our name, Twinless Twins Support Group, International. It has been a lengthy process, and it was made possible by a specific twin donation and by our Executive Director, Michelle Getchell, working with trademark/patent lawyers, to see this achieved. This really is a big deal, and it protects the organization, as founded by Dr. Brandt.

Today, with the help of our volunteers, we strive to assist twins heal by helping. The best way we can say thank you to Dr. Brandt, is to carry on his vision.



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MISSION

TTSGI provides a safe and compassionate community within which twinless twins can experience healing, understanding, and the opportunity to help others cope with the loss of their twin.





THE EMPTY CHAIR

by Sandy Goad, twin to Jim

YOU ARE THE LIGHT

Recently, I was reviewing an article in *Grief Digest*, a magazine that offers hope, and support to those who have lost a loved one. Andrea Gambill writes, “In the mid-to-late seventies the notion of peer support was viewed by the professional caregiving community with a high degree of skepticism. In those days, many of them thought that putting together a group of untrained lay people with similar life experiences, with the goal of “helping” each other, was at best, worthless. The only “support” groups in those days that were recognized as potentially valuable were Alcoholics Anonymous and Weight Watchers.”

A few visionary pioneers were beginning to plant the seeds of bringing together other people of similar needs to help support each other. Groups were beginning to form like Hospice, the Compassionate Friends, Madd, and the Centering Corporation. Andrea states, “In the beginning, most of us had little to bring to our missions but enthusiasm, energy, selfless goals, willing hearts and personal life experiences. There was not much in the way of formal training, but what we lacked in academics, we made up for in love and dedication. We didn't

have any road maps to follow... but we followed our unmarked roads with faith and purpose. And we learned a lot.” These support groups were “the light” for others to follow.

“A wonderful garden of hope and healing was spreading like wildfire.” In 1987, **Dr. Raymond Brandt**, twin to Robert, planted a seed. He established a support group for twins who have lost their twin called Twinless Twins Support Group, International, (TTSGI). He was a visionary pioneer! Twins, at different stages in their bereavement, came together to listen to each other and reach out in the spirit of healing by helping others. This year marks the 30th year since Dr. Brandt shared his vision with the world. TTSGI continues to provide support to twinless twins through regional activities, national conferences, their face book page and educational resources.

Andrea Gambill writes, “I've said it before and I'll remind you again: The most positive sign of progress in our grief journeys is the point where we realize we care more about other people than we ever thought we could. When our mirrors start becoming windows, we know we're making progress in our grief journey.”

When you have made progress and you are ready, will you “share your light” with others along this journey?

LINDA & LAURA – THANK YOU

By Margaret Daffin, twin to Josie

For the past 14 years, twins L.S. Stephens and Laura Wilson have given generous year-end donations to TTSGI, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

Linda and Laura had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Raymond Brandt many years ago, and were inspired by what he was doing for twinless twins.

I believe they give, knowing that TTSGI is an insurance blanket for them, if and when they need to reach out to us. Because of their giving and other wonderful donors like them, TTSGI will be around for many years to come to give support, strength and understanding to all twinless twins.

Thank you.

TTSGI GUIDING PRINCIPLES: HEALING BY HELPING

TTSGI has four guiding principles:

1. Once A Twin, Always A Twin
2. You Are Not Alone
3. Healing by Helping
4. Journey to Healing

The Spring Edition will focus on the third one:

Healing by Helping – is one of the founding principles of TTSGI. This principle recognizes that helping other people in similar circumstances helps not only the recipient, but also the giver. Assistance can come in the form of attending meetings in which those twins with new losses or older, delayed, or un-mourned losses meet other twins who become a support system. Other forms of service may occur in the form of volunteer committee and board assignments, serving as a Regional Coordinator, or members' contributions of time, talent, and resources to help TTSGI realize its mission.

HEALING BY HELPING

By Dawn Barnett, twin to Daryl



I'm a big proponent of "healing by helping" on the TTSGI Facebook page and get the word out about this principle coined by our founder, Dr. Brandt, every chance I get. In the early years when I first met Dr. Brandt, I didn't really understand what he meant by the term. But as the years have passed, it has been a part of my life, and it is a great tool in the healing process of grieving. I lost my identical mirror twin, Daryl, when we were only 10 months to pneumonia and a heart disorder called Long QT. I had never considered myself to be a twin because my parents never talked about it, and I had never heard the term "once a twin, always a twin." After I found Dr. Brandt in 1992 and went to my first conference in 1997, I began to grieve for the life I missed with my twin.

In 2001, I became regional director of the South Central Region of TTSGI, and during that time I was able to practice healing by helping by taking calls from twins and holding regional meetings. As time went on, I participated in the TTSGI Yahoo Group, helped run the new website, took calls from twins throughout the US, moderated the chatline, was a member of the Board of Directors, was on various conference committees, and helped in various duties during the conferences. All this helped me in healing by helping.

In 2009, while I was at the airport waiting for my flight to the Denver conference, I found out my sister (she was younger by 9 months) had a massive stroke and wouldn't live through the day. I ended up flying to Florida where she died that night. One month later my brother (younger by 20 months) died of a sudden heart attack. These losses took a toll on me for over a year, but I still had my TTSGI duties which I continued. I truly believe it helped me heal my shattered heart by helping others who were hurting over their lost twins. I think when you're helping others it makes you feel good about it and also helps you to forget what's up with you. You see others in a worse dilemma, and it makes you thankful for what you have.

Dr. Brandt really knew what he was talking about when he said always practice "Healing by Helping". So, every chance you get try to volunteer and do something for the organization. There are many opportunities and take it from me, it does help you!

HELPING THROUGH VOLUNTEERING!

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

ASSIST WITH SPECIALIZED NEEDS:

The TTSGI Board of Directors is looking for twins who are attorneys who would be willing to help with the standard legal needs that typical non-profit organizations face. We are also looking for media experts and marketing professionals who would like to volunteer their time and talent to do public relations work so we can reach more twinless twins. Also, we are looking for twins who have grant writing experience. If you have specialized expertise that you feel would be able to help TTSGI, please contact Ray Boyle at boyle-ray@aol.com.

ASSIST WITH THE CONFERENCE:

The Annual Conference is our largest event that we conduct every year. We have volunteer needs each day of the conference as described below. If you are interested in helping with any of these, please email Terry Lewis-Foor at sherrystwin@sbcglobal.net.

- Thursday: Starting in the morning, we need volunteers to help collate the programs and compile the attendee packets which includes badges and t-shirts.
- Friday: Before and in-between sessions, we need volunteers to help us intake and set-up raffle and auction items.
- Saturday: In the afternoon, we need volunteers to help us close out the raffle and silent auction and in the evening, we need volunteers to help with the live auction and at the end of the evening, with tabulating winners and tear down.

ASSIST IN YOUR REGION:

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 or from the RC listing on the back page of this newsletter. If you are interested in serving on a Regional Coordination Team, please email Sandy Goad at goad1@frontier.com.

GIVE WHILE YOU SHOP:

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

iGive.com

iGive.com will link you to hundreds of popular retail websites. A portion of your online purchases will go directly to Twinless Twins. To date \$730 has been raised from you all using this site.

GoodShop

Use GoodShop.com when you shop online – they work with more than 2,500 major brands, have over 100,000 coupons and donate a percentage (up to 20%) of every purchase you make to us.

AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. ngs, and for all new twinless twins reaching out for compassion and healing for the first time.



KEVIN'S CORNER

By Kevin Mullen, twin to Brian

When I was 20, I joined another twin group called ITA (International Twins Association). They meet every Labor Day weekend, just like we meet in July in different cities throughout the world. Here are a few of the meetings that I went to:

Grand Rapids, MI 2001

I flew out to Michigan a day or two to be with my family, then my Aunt Joan and I drove up to Grand Rapids to attend my 1st convention. I met Cary, Chris & Charles, Jeff and Jim Thiel, Steve and Jeff Nagel and many others there. There are some Twinless twins that attend this convention. One of my highlights from attending this one was going to the Sand Dunes . We all had so much fun there.

Lake Tahoe, NV/CA 2002

I stayed in Michigan after the TTSGI Conference, I had so much fun the last year. We flew out west. It was so great seeing everyone again. The major highlight of that year was going to the Ponderose Ranch and having the entire place to ourselves and another day we did a Parade into downtown Virginia city. They also had a royal court and made the Twinless twins the Kings & Queens.

Atlanta, GA 2003

I flew down to Georgia with my cousin Debi, as my Aunt fell ill that year. Some of the highlights were going to the Garden place, and playing volleyball. I also met Carrie & Lesley Nagy. A guest at the hotel asked Jeff & Jim Thiel if they were the twins from the short lived TV series "Teen Angel."

Springfield, MS 2004

In Springfield, Missouri, we had a great time. I met Matthew & Mike Gagnani and his family, became very close to them. One of the highlights of that year was going to the Lincoln homestead and before we left we all went to the Tomb of the Abe Lincoln as well.

Nashville, TN 2005

My Aunt and I enjoyed the Nashville convention. We did the Grand Old Opry, General Jackson and Wild horse Saloon. Those were the highlights of the convention. The convention went by so fast, I thought they could have an extra day or two. I would have loved to see more of the city.



Oklahoma City, OK 2006

My Aunt and I flew out a day early to attend a triple AAA baseball game. We went to the National Memorial, and to National Cowboys and Western Heritage Museum. I liked both places. Jeff and Jim Thiel and I called up Matt & Mike Gagnani to say "Hi" and talk to the rest of the family too.

They honor the Twinless twins differently there. Each Twinless twin goes up during the church service they have and lights a candle. Wish they did a little twinless twin break out session too.

NEWS FROM OUR UNITED KINGDOM AFFILIATE, JANET BAIRD, TWIN TO MARGARET

“REACHING OUT TO A NEW TWIN”

By Janet M. Baird

I try to name the feeling.
The reversal of my grief,
The softening of
My own inner sorrow,
Seeing outside my own head.

An exchange of looks,
A heartfelt sent email,
Or a few chosen words.

*I feel like that,
I understand,
We know.*

I hold out my hand,
Invite the new twin to
Join me, us.
Feel my own grief
Heal.

MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN

TTSGI's Matching Gift Campaign (Double the Donation) at the end of 2016 was another huge success because of the number of donors who participated. Thank you for your wonderful contributions, in memory of your twins.

A special thank you to the donors who matched these contributions up to \$7,000 – without you, this campaign would not have been possible.

Please consider a financial contribution to TTSGI during 2017 to help us support the twins in need. Complete and send the donation sheet in this newsletter or go online to www.twinlesstwins.org/donate.



WELCOME TO TOM ROSE, TWIN TO ROSY NEW AUSTRALIAN AFFILIATE MEMBER



I shared 8 wonderful years with my twin sister Rosy before she died in a house fire at age 8 (32 years ago). I lost my mum at the same time, so it took many years for me to identify the specific loss of Rosy within the overall grief. I was largely numb to this for many years, but started to get in touch with it about 6 years ago and at the same time ran across TTSGI. Since then the loss of Rosy has been very close to the surface, bringing much joy, sadness, longing and a sometimes ominous vulnerability. Its been a long and often lonely healing path, and it's undoubtedly time to connect and further heal with others who understand and appreciate the unique bond twins share.



My interest in being an RC stems from the recognition of the importance of building more resources and a greater community of support for twinless twins in Australia. I look forward to meeting and sharing experiences with other twinless twins both here and indeed all over the world!

NOTE: UPCOMING REGIONAL GATHERINGS ARE LISTED ON OUR WEBSITE AT [HTTP://WWW.TWINLESSTWINS.ORG/EVENTS/](http://www.twinlesstwins.org/events/)

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE REGULARLY AS EVENTS ARE HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

IMPORTANT: BOARD POSITION OPENING

This is your chance to nominate a member for the TTSGI Board of Directors for the 2017-2020 Term of Office. You have until June 1st to send your nomination into Dena Stitt at denastitt@me.com.

CRITERIA

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 two years and able to cope with loss.
3. Must own and be conversant with a computer in order to communicate with Board through emails.
4. Must attend the Annual TTSGI Conference as well as attend a Winter meeting of the Board, at their own expense.
5. Must be willing to participate in administrative duties that may be assigned to them.
6. Term of Office is for three (3) years.

PROCESS

1. The Nominating Committee will review the recommendations that are received by June 1, 2016 and submit list to the President for evaluation.
2. The Committee Chair will then present the slate at the General Business meeting held on Saturday, during the Annual Conference. There will be no nominations taken from the floor.

Note: Before you submit the name of a candidate, please notify that person to see if they are available and willing to serve.

TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP, INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REVIEW

By Ray Boyle, twin to Jimmy and TTSGI President

2016 was a year where we saw our bank balances grow by approximately \$30,000, and our Scholarship Fund increase nearly \$1,900, as compared to 2015

Our net income in 2016 was \$28,090, as compared to a loss of \$4,891 in 2015. This was a positive change of nearly \$33,000. There are a number of significant variances both positive and negative that caused this swing.

Our largest beneficial variance was in Contributions. This increased \$24,438 over 2015. This was mainly due to a few, very generous donors.

Conference expense (hotel, banquet, etc.) was lower in 2016 by \$17,803. Nashville in 2015 was our most expensive venue, while Ypsilanti, was one of our lowest. This was important, because Nashville, Los Angeles and Baltimore costs were not covered by conference registration fees.

Professional fees were \$0 in 2016 vs. \$3,650 in 2015, due to accounting and regulatory reporting being done by the Board, with regulatory reasonability review done pro bono, by an outside firm.

Membership increased \$2,338, due to renewal retention and an increase in new members.

Travel expenses were lower in 2016 by \$2,253. This was because the travel expense incurred to review Tucson was conducted in 2015.

On the negative side, the following are the significant variances:

Conference registration was \$6,438 lower in 2016. More twins attended Nashville.

Conference events (auction, raffle, etc.) were lower in 2016 by \$2,906, due to fewer twins and donated items.

The rest of the items are evident. As always, any questions may be directed to boylaray@aol.com.

Twinless Twins Support Group International Balance Sheet

As at December 31, 2016

	Total	
	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Bank Accounts	69,816	40,073
Accounts Receivable	0	207
Prepaid Expenses	693	330
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 70,509	\$ 40,609
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	0	73
Total Liabilities	0	73
Equity		
Retained Earnings	32,636	37,527
Scholarship Fund	9,783	7,900
Net Income	28,090	-4,891
Total Equity	70,509	40,536
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 70,509	\$ 40,609

Profit and Loss

January - December 2016

	Total	
	2016	2015
Income		
Books & Postage		194
Conference Assistance	3,225	2,750
Conference Events	7,657	10,563
Conference Registration	21,177	27,615
Contributions	47,330	22,892
Interest	177	689
Membership Dues	15,787	13,449
Online Sales	2,438	3,249
Total Income	97,792	81,401
Expenses		
Administration		
BoD Meetings	1,296	406
Insurance	3,434	3,278
Travel & Lodging	728	2,981
Total Administration	5,458	6,664
Office Expenses		
Assistant	1,835	220
Bank Charges	1,299	1,506
Executive Director	26,400	24,000
Licenses & Subscriptions	2,918	641
Miscellaneous	1,894	3,891
Office Supplies	685	934
Postage	1,179	1,379
Printing	1,291	1,098
Professional Fees		3,650
Telephone	815	1,300
Total Office Expenses	38,316	38,619
Program		
Conference	17,733	35,535
Conference - Speaker	2,035	2,021
Inventory	2,274	
Outside Services	600	600
Regional Coordinators	3,136	2,802
Website	151	50
Total Program	25,928	41,008
Total Expenses	69,702	86,291
Net Income / (Loss)	28,090	(4,891)

TTSGI 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE - REGISTRATION

From a Twinless Twin who attended the Conference: “The loss of my twin and the pain I feel is beyond words. But I’m eternally grateful for the amazingly brave twins I’ve met here who walk this road beside me.”

Surrounded by the comfort and support of other twinless twins, you will discover new tools and new twin friends to help you on your healing journey. You will leave feeling renewed in spirit and more informed about twin loss and grief. You will finally feel that you are not alone. Twinless Twins and their supporters (spouses, significant others, family, and friends) are welcome.

We look forward to seeing you this year at our Annual Conference beginning 7 PM on Thursday, July 13th and ending at 10 PM on Saturday, July 15th in Tucson, Arizona!

To join us, please follow the steps below:

1. Register for the Annual Conference.

You must be a current paid member of TTSGI to attend the Annual Conference. Spouses, significant others, family, and friends may register as well when accompanying a paid member.

[Click here to register on-line.](#) If you would like to register for the conference by using a paper form, please contact us at contact@twinlesstwins.org or 1-888-205-8962 and we will mail a registration form to you.

Early Registration: Before March 1 – \$199 per person

Regular Registration: March 1 to April 29 – \$225 per person

Late Registration: May 1 to June 13 – \$275 per person *(Online registration closes June 13)

****All attendees must register individually.**

2. Reserve your room at the [Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf and Tennis Resort](#) by calling 1-520-544-5000.

* Be sure to say you’re coming for the Twinless Twins Support Group conference so you’ll receive the reduced room rate of \$119/single (includes breakfast buffet for one), or \$144/double (includes breakfast buffet for two). A block of rooms has been reserved for this conference, however, the special room rate will only be available until Monday, June 13th or until the group block is sold-out, whichever comes first, so please book early!

3. Make your travel arrangements.

Book your flights into Tucson International Airport (TUS)

* Most participants will arrive Thursday, July 13th in the early afternoon and depart Sunday, July 16th in the morning.

We’ll see you in Tucson!

If you have any questions or concerns, please consult your Regional Coordinator or contact us at contact@twinlesstwins.org.



2017 TTSGI ANNUAL CONFERENCE - SPEAKER



NANCY WEIL

Nancy Weil is a leading authority on the relationship between humor and grief and is known for her energetic, entertaining and content-rich programs. Nancy is the founder of The Laugh Academy and serves as Director of Grief Support and Community Outreach for Veterans Funeral Care in Clearwater, FL. She has certifications as a Grief Management Specialist, Grief Services Provider, Funeral Celebrant and Laughter Leader. Besides blogging for Legacy.com on grief related topics, she is also the author of the book *If Stress Doesn't Kill You, Your Family Might*. For more information, visit: www.TheLaughAcademy.com.

Nancy has mastered the ability with her humor, fun loving, and enthusiastic way to give us the tools to manage sorrow and give us the practical healthy ways to cope with grief. You can't help but walk away feeling light hearted, happy, higher energy level and grateful for taking the time to sit in on Nancy's program. She is a master of laughter and humor. I believe everyone should take the time to meet this dynamic woman and experience one of her workshops.

- Beth Gerrish, Dengler Roberts Funeral Home

LIVE AUCTION, SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLE TABLE

WOW, IT'S TIME TO BE THINKING OF ITEMS FOR DONATION!

by Terry Lewis-Foor, twin to Sherry

The **2017 Conference Committee**: This is our major fundraiser and it is through your generosity that we have a successful event every year! Here are some suggestions:

LIVE AUCTION: Higher End items such as jewelry, travel vouchers, condo rentals, air miles on major airlines, paintings, handmade quilts, items with the Twinless Twins logo, picture frames and crystal.

SILENT AUCTION and RAFFLE TABLE: From jewelry, to soft sculpture and anything in between. Gift cards: Duncan Donuts, Starbucks, Target, Walmart... etc. Purses, and scarfs and anything small. Any item you think would help increase raffle ticket sales and get the Silent Auction bidding started!

We appreciate your participation supporting our Annual Conference Fundraising. Please feel free to contact Committee Member Terry Lewis-Foor with your questions at sherrystwin@sbcglobal.net.

Donated items that need to be shipped should arrive at our Conference Hotel on July 12th or 13th. Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort

Attn: Terry Lewis-Foor
10000 N. Oracle Road
Tucson, AZ 85704

2017 TTSGI CONFERENCE - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHEN IS THE 2017 CONFERENCE?

The conference begins on the evening of Thursday, July 13, and ends at the closing banquet on Saturday, July 15. Plan to depart on Sunday, July 16.

WHO MAY ATTEND THE CONFERENCE?

Current members of TTSGI and their guests (significant others, family, friends) are welcome to attend. A current member is one who has renewed membership within the last 12 months.

WHERE IS THE CONFERENCE?

Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf and Tennis Resort
10000 North Oracle Road, Tucson, AZ 85704
Phone: 1-520-544-5000

TTSGI has contracted a block of rooms for this event. Please make your reservations EARLY as we only held a limited number. When calling, be sure to let the reservationist know you are with the Twinless Twins Support Group. The cost of the rooms in our block will be \$119.00/single and \$144.00/double this includes the breakfast buffet in the Sundance Restaurant. We have requested our special rate be extended 3 days prior and 3 days post the conference dates. If the hotel has availability they will honor this request. However, this is not a guarantee.

WHAT AIRPORT DO I FLY INTO?

Tucson International Airport (TUS)

HOW DO I GET BACK AND FORTH FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE HOTEL?

Shared-Ride Van – *Arizona Stagecoach* provides on-demand and reserved door-to-door service throughout the Tucson region, including to area hotels and resorts, the University of Arizona, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and to businesses and private residences.

www.azstagecoach.com, (520) 889-1000

Arizona Stagecoach is available after each arriving flight. The company's counter is in the center of the baggage claim area on the lower level.

Car & Limo Service – *Latrikunda Transport Services* provides transportation services to meet a variety of needs including airport transfer car service to-and-from Tucson International Airport. The LTS counter is in the center of the baggage claim area on the lower level.

www.lattrans.com, (520) 445-6580

WHAT WILL THE WEATHER BE LIKE?

In July, the average low is 75° and the average high is 100°. For more information visit www.weather.com.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

Almost anything goes. For the welcome reception evening some people wear business casual, although some wear whatever they have traveled in. During the day, wear what you feel comfortable in (pants, t-shirt, blouse, jeans, shorts). Remember, there will be air conditioning, so be prepared if the hotel is cooler than you prefer. The Saturday night closing banquet will be themed this year – The Old West! Feel free to wear boots, cowboy hats, bandana, etc.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

Photographs of your twin.

Consider donating a gift to be used at the auction or raffle to help support 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 have a special first-timers' registration on Thursday, July 13 at 7:00pm, followed by a reception beginning at 7:30pm. At this reception, you will have the opportunity to meet other first-time attendees as well as our Board Members and Regional Coordinators. The Board Members and Regional

CONFERENCE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, CONT...

Coordinators will be available to meet with you to answer any questions concerning the conference. After the first-timers' reception, you will be asked to join all conference attendees at the dessert reception at 8:00pm. Be sure to have dinner prior to the first-timers' registration. During the conference, there will be time for sharing what you feel comfortable concerning your twin and twinship. There will be speakers and various breakout sessions. Between sessions, you will have free time to relax, reflect and casually meet others. Finally, we will have a closing banquet on Saturday evening, followed by our annual charity auction. Plan to depart on Sunday.

WHAT DO WE DO FOR MEALS?

Read this section carefully as this is a CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEARS.

Thursday – No meals provided. At your own expense.

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

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

Friday Lunch – No meals provided. At your own expense.

Friday Dinner – No meals provided. At your own expense.

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

Saturday Lunch – No meals provided. At your own expense.

Saturday Dinner – Banquet Dinner: The Old West!

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

Sunday – Depart

DOES THE HOTEL HAVE A FITNESS CENTER?

There is a complimentary 24-hour Fitness Room, three golf courses, six pools and lighted tennis courts are all available for you to enjoy. You can also enjoy: Basketball, Bicycle Rental, Driving Range, Fitness Room, Golf course, Hiking Trail, Jogging Track, Pool, Putting Green, Tennis Court, Walking Track and Walking Trails.

HOW CLOSE ARE WE TO TOURIST ATTRACTIONS?

Tucson Hilton Tucson East is in the business district and close to the Gaslight Theatre and Park Place Mall. This hotel is within close proximity of the Museum of the Horse Soldier and Golf N' Stuff Family Fun Center.

WHAT IS THE COST TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE?

Early Registration: Before March 1 – \$199 per person

Regular Registration: March 1 to April 30 – \$225.00 per person

Late Registration: May 1 to June 13 – \$275 per person ***(Online registration closes June 13)**

Note: The Conference Registration does not include your hotel reservation

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. The conference center requires our final attendee count one month prior to the conference, and they calculate our cost based on that number. The conference center is unable to make cost adjustments for last-minute cancellations. 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 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 our Executive Director, Michelle Getchell at contact@twinlesstwins.org.

TTSGI LIST OF PAST CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

- 1994 First conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana
- 1995 Fort Wayne, Indiana
- 1996 Fort Wayne, Indiana
- 1997 Chicago, Illinois
- 1998 St. Louis, Missouri
- 1999 Memphis, Tennessee
- 2000 Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2001 Denver, Colorado
- 2002 Detroit, Michigan
- 2003 Delray Beach, Florida
- 2004 Chicago, Illinois
- 2005 San Francisco, California
- 2006 Delray Beach, Florida
- 2007 Dallas, Texas
- 2008 Toronto, Canada
- 2009 Denver, Colorado
- 2010 Detroit, Michigan
- 2011 Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota
- 2012 Columbus, Ohio
- 2013 Los Angeles, California
- 2014 Baltimore, Maryland
- 2015 Nashville, Tennessee
- 2016 Detroit, Michigan

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL GATHERING

A North Central Regional Gathering meeting was held on Saturday, November 12, 2016 in Lansing, Michigan and was well attended. Thank you to all who were there.

The names for the photo are as follow (no particular order on the names to fit the photo): Julia Nillett, Bob Osterholt, Tim Ponce, Jen Chapin-Smith, Rhonda Sloan, Carol Spencer, Matthew Spencer, Kelli Quinn, Angela McGuire.



MEMORY WALK - 2017

“TOGETHER WE WALK”

“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.”

I am very pleased to announce that we will be holding our Annual Memory Walk at our 2017 International Conference in Tucson, Arizona on **Friday morning at 7:45 am, July 14th**. Because of the Arizona heat, the walk will take place earlier than usual, but it will be a fun time. As the sun rises, we will walk around the grounds of the resort and hotel and see the beautiful surrounding mountain range, and I encourage everyone to join us for this incredible and moving experience.

Last year, the walk was held in Detroit, Michigan. As we joined hands on that beautiful Friday afternoon in July, the Memory Walk became about each twinless twin’s healing journey and as they took each step, they didn’t have to walk alone.

I am deeply grateful for the generosity and support of those who donated to our walk in past years. Your gift does make a difference. Because TTSGI is a non-profit organization, your gift helps us to continue to support twins and other multiples that have lost their twin due to death or estrangement. I promise you that your donations to Twinless Twins will be used wisely.

Please consider giving in memory of your twin. Please ask family and friends to join you in this endeavor and add their names and details to the donation form in this newsletter. I, personally, raise over \$1,000 a year from family and friends and you can do the same - you’ll be surprised as to how generous others will be!

Please see the separate Frequently Asked Questions sheet and the Donation Form in the newsletter.

Or, if you would like to donate online, please go to our website: twinlesstwins.org/donate and remember to indicate that your donation is for the Memory Walk. **All online donations can only be made through PAY PAL.**

Thank you,
Margaret Daffin, twin to Josie
Chairman of the 2017 Memory Walk



MEMORY WALK - 2017

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TTSGI MEMORY WALK

Q: What is the Twinless Twin's Memory Walk?

A: The Memory Walk is an event to raise funds to provide support for twins and other multiples who have lost their twin due to death or estrangement at any age. We are a non-profit organization that depends on charitable donations from twinless twins, their friends and family and the community to fund our organization so we can continue to reach out to all twinless twins. We would like to take this opportunity to raise funds to support our mission of "healing through helping others" so that no twin ever has to walk alone. (Donations are optional and are not required to participate in the walk.)

Q: When and Where is the Memory Walk?

A: The 2017 Twinless Twin Memory Walk will be held at our International Conference in Tucson, Arizona on **Friday morning at 7:45 am, July 14th** and it will take place around the grounds of the resort and hotel.

Q: Do I need to be at the conference to raise money for the walk?

A: No. You do not need to be an actual participant in our walk to take part in this fund-raiser. You can still participate by collecting donations in memory of your twin for TTSGI and another twinless twin, who will be there, will carry the name of your twin on our Memory Walk. You may also choose to walk where you live with twins, family and friends or at one of your regional meetings. (Please be sure to email Margaret Daffin at medaffin@aol.com if you want you and your twin's name to be carried on our walk in Nashville.)

Many companies may have a matching gifts program. Matching gifts are a great way to increase the amount of money you can raise. You can check with your company's human relations department to see if they have such a program in place.

Q: How is the money collected?

A. You can ask friends, family and businesses to support TTSGI with a flat donation. No donation is too great or too small - every amount helps. Use the donation sheet in the newsletter to keep track of your donations.

There will be three ways for you to get your donations to TTSGI.

1. Your donation sheet, along with your donations can be sent to Margaret Daffin, Chairman of the Memory Walk. If possible, Margaret would like to have all your donations mailed to her by **July 1st**. Please do not send cash. Margaret's mailing address is: **Margaret Daffin, 9352 Briar Forest Drive, Houston, TX 77063**. Please make checks payable to TTSGI and write Memory Walk on your envelope. If you are sending your donation sheet to Margaret, please indicate on the donation sheet if you will be attending the conference and be sure to put your twin's name along with your name on the sheet so we can walk in memory of your twin if you cannot attend.

2. Your friends, family and community have the option of donating to TTSGI online by using our website at www.twinlesstwins.org. The donate button is located on the left side of our home page. By clicking on that button, they can go to a secure server to make their donation. However, only PAYPAL transactions will be accepted online. Please be sure they note that this is a Memory Walk Donation. They will receive a thank you from our organization as their tax receipt.

3. If you are attending the conference, you can bring the donated money and your donation sheet with you.

Q: Are donations tax deductible?

A. Yes. All donations are tax deductible in the United States. Twinless Twins Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization making your contribution tax deductible within the limits of the law.

If you have any other questions, you can contact Margaret about the walk at medaffin@aol.com.

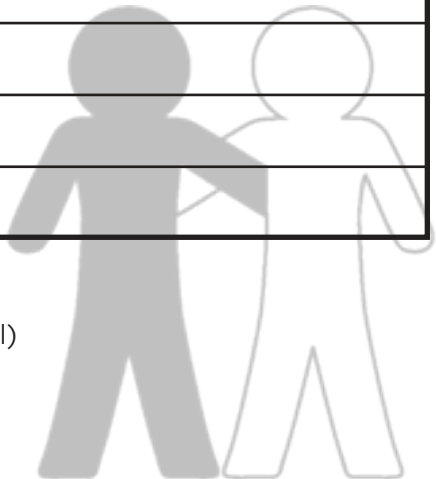
TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP INTERNATIONAL

MEMORY WALK 2017
DONATION FORM

Your Name _____

Donations in Memory of _____

	NAME OF DONOR	ADDRESS & EMAIL	DONATION
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			



Please make checks payable to: Twinless Twins Support Group International (TTSGI)

Conference Information I will be attending the Tucson Conference
 I will not be attending the Tucson Conference

TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP INTERNATIONAL

2017 DONATION FORM

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

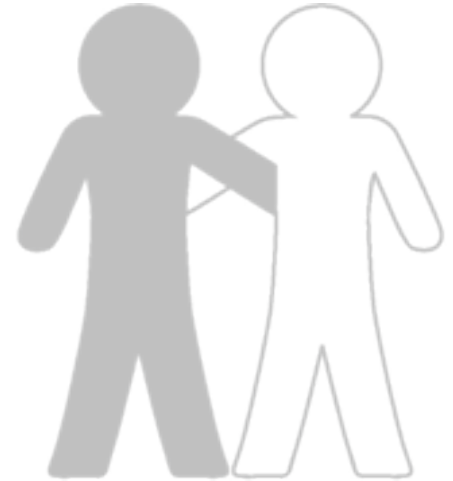
Please print this form and mail it, along with your check, money order, or Visa/MasterCard/Discover information to:

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)

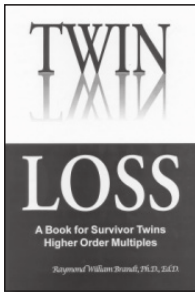
Credit Card Expiration Date: _____ (mm/dd/year)

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 2016

- Anonymous Donor** – matching gift to TTSGI
Phyllis Ashliman – in memory of her twin, Phil
Julie Belgue/Charlie Goodhead – for Martha, missing you always
Stephen Bergman – in memory of Howell Bergman
Michael Caruso – in memory of his twin
Cynthia Conforti – in memory of her twin, Susie Q
Margaret Daffin – quarterly pledge and donations in special memory of her twin, Josie
Miriam Doetsch – in memory of Dr. Raymond Brandt
Thomas Doyle – in honor of Sarah Jean Beebe
Lea Eriksen – in memory of her twin, Eve Richards
ExxonMobil Foundation – for volunteer hours and matching grants by Margaret & Paul Daffin in memory of her twin, Josie Wilson
Pamela Fender – in memory of my twin brother, Steven Pepper, on the anniversary of our loss
Linda Fortier-Eason – in memory of Leslie B. Fortier
Laraine Frost – in memory of her twin
Joan Garcia – in memory of Jane, twin to Joan
Jacque Goldman – in memory of her twin, Fredda Gottwals
GoodShop – up to 20% of every purchase goes to TTSGI – THANK YOU
Elizabeth Hoyt – in memory of Elaine Hoyt Darling
IGive.com – from all twinless twin members who use IGive to buy online – THANK YOU!
Jan Konya-Grabill – in memory of her twin, Hal Robert McCracken
Patricia Little – donation made in honor of my mother, Pat Knox. She lost her identical twin sister a couple of years ago, unexpectedly
Sandra Masnick
Elizabeth Mykietyn – in honor of Uncle Lee Burke – my dear Stepmom's brother
Network for Good
Oppenheimer Funds – matching grant for Thomas J. Doyle, in honor of Sarah Jean Beebe
Linda Pountney – in memory of her twin, Paula
Shyam Rai – in memory of his brother, Ram Rai
Michael Rattigan – in memory of his twin, Gregory Rattigan
Jennifer Rudd – in memory of her twin, Janet
Laura Schmerse – #rememberharper
Carolyn Shane – wherever needed donation
Dena Stitt – matching gift to TTSGI in memory of Dean
Kathleen Strickland – in memory of identical twin, Lynn Gabel Brockelman
Barbara Terry – in memory of her twin brother, Brien Swank
The Beauty Community Impact Fund – United Health donation
Lynn Thompson
Sally Tobias – Sally, twin to Susan and thank you for being there for so many of us, love and blessings
Alice Ward – in memory of Anita Bailey Lanier
Laura Wilson & L.S. Stephens – with all our love, Linda and Laura

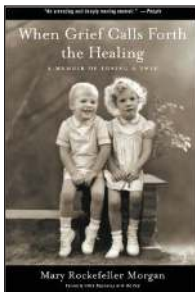
We apologize if we have missed you. Please let us know and we will recognize you in our Fall 2017 newsletter.
Contact Margaret Daffin at medaffin@aol.com



“TWIN LOSS”

By Raymond W. Brandt, PhD

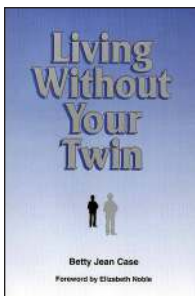
Dr. Brandt was the founder of Twinless Twins Support Group International and was considered by many an authority on twin loss. The 400-page book discusses all aspects of the loss and also speaks to the family members on how to help the survivor twin.



“WHEN GRIEF CALLS FORTH THE HEALING”

By Mary Rockefeller Morgan

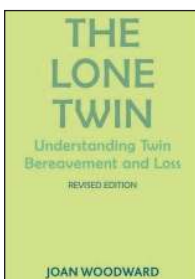
In this startlingly frank and moving memoir, Mary R. Morgan struggles to claim an individual identity, enabling her to face her twin brother Michael’s death and the huge loss it engendered. With remarkable candor, she shares her spiritually evocative healing journey, which moves her forward into a life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



“LIVING WITHOUT YOUR TWIN”

By Betty Jean Case

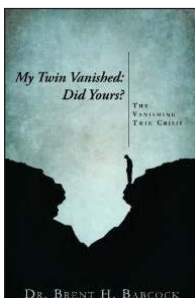
TTSGI receives a donation each time one of author Betty Jean Case’s books is purchased through us. Betty was a twin, who grew up with twin siblings and had a set of twin grandsons. This 150-page book discusses how to keep living without your twin and best friend by your side. It also explores the uniqueness 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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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Getchell

P.O. Box 980481
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

contact@twinlesstwins.org

TWINLESS TIMES BY MAIL

We hope you are enjoying the full color electronic copy of the Twinless Times. However, if you are still interested in receiving the Twinless Times as a mailed hard copy, please send your name and address to Michelle Getchell at contact@twinlesstwins.org and she will mail it to you. Please note that the holiday issue will still be mailed to everyone.

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**

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- Mississippi
- Oklahoma
- Tennessee
- Texas

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- Newfoundland
- Nova Scotia
- Ontario
- Prince Edward Island
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- Saskatchewan

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- New Mexico
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- Oregon
- Washington