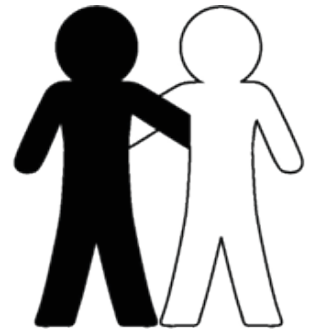


TWINLESS TIMES



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SPRING 2016

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Twins,

I recently partially watched a bio on Elvis Presley, which focused on his life during the 1950s and 1960s. As the backgrounder, it emphasized his twinlessness. In fact, I was taken aback when at the top of the screen were two words: TWINLESS TWIN. This was a term our founder Dr. Brandt had coined several decades ago, and here it had become so widespread in North American lexicon, that it appeared in this documentary.

A biographer was interviewed about Elvis' twin loss and opined that his life was strongly shaped by his loss and that his twin was not forgotten and spoken about frequently during his years of growing up. I was gratified she went onto discourse about the twin bond formed in the womb. I was, however dismayed, when she ventured that twin loss caused a high proportion of substance abuse. Where was the support for this? In any given community, statistics will prevail and x% will have an event happen or a dependency. Over the years of knowing many twinless, I found any dependencies to be at a very micro level.

Anyway, I was appreciative for the period that focused on his twin loss, and that it mirrors ours, in that we miss our twin. Whether the loss was in the womb, childhood or adulthood, it has changed our lives. Twinless Twins and TTSGI "get it".

Ray Boyle, President



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VOLUNTEER!

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

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

Please contact your Regional Coordinator using the "Contact Us" form on the website or from the RC Listing on the back page of this newsletter.

Go to: www.twinlesstwins.org

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

WHAT KEEPS US RUNNING?

Below is one of the “Inspirations of the Day” that I gave at a Twinless Twin’s National Conference.

(This story was written before the tragedy at the Boston Marathon.)

This past spring, I observed an event that for more than one hundred years has taken place on the third Monday of every April. Twenty thousand athletes from all over the world had gathered in Boston, MA. The starter’s gun fired, runners exploded from their positions, and the Boston Marathon was on.

The race is 26.2 miles from start to finish. And 21 miles into the race, the runners come to what is known as Heartbreak Hill. It is considered the most difficult part of the marathon. Even before they start up the hill, many of the runners are already exhausted. Dripping with sweat. Muscles cramping. Gulping for air. By the time they are midway up the hill, their body cries out: Give up! Quit! It isn’t worth it! But they don’t quit. They keep running. Up and up. Pressing on and on toward the finish line.

We also are in a race - not a sprint where we give it our all for a short dash, but a race of distance, discipline, and determination. And no matter how high the hills or how long the agony, God wants us to press on and on toward the finish line.

Sound exhausting? Sometimes it is. Sometimes life does that to us.

One of the most valuable insights I learned from interviewing distance runners was that many experience what they call “hitting a runner’s wall”. At some point during a marathon, they feel like there is an invisible wall in front of them, and they want to give up. It just seems impossible to finish the race.

Because this same sort of thing happens to us when we feel hopeless, I wanted to find out what kept the runners in the race when they came to a wall and wanted to quit. That’s why I went to the Boston Marathon - to interview the runners after they came across the finish line.

Remember, these were people who had just run 26.2 miles. Many were trembling from the sheer shock of what their bodies had endured, and first-aid volunteers were wrapping thermal blankets around them to help. Other runners stumbled across the line and then fell on the ground, holding their sides and curling up their legs

in a fetal position. Some were bent double, throwing up. And still others were absolutely exhilarated - arms lifted high in victory and tears, wonderful, joyful tears streaming down their cheeks.

I had just one question for all of them. What kept you running? And the answers I received fell into three distinct categories. When you hear what they are, you might get a better sense of how the gift of endurance actually plays out in our lives - and how you can survive those times when you’re up against a runner’s wall in your own life-race.

Answer #1: “You see this picture pinned to my jersey? That’s why I kept running.”

Some of the pictures I saw that day were of a young wife who had died of cancer, a boy in a wheelchair, the twin towers that fell on September 11, 2001, and a marine standing proud with his hand touching his forehead in a salute.

Many runners raced because they were honoring someone they loved, and that was reason enough for them to keep running. When our times are the most hopeless, maybe our love for our twin will be reason enough to keep us running too.

Answer #2: “I kept running because people were cheering me on.”

At a marathon the spectators don’t just cheer at the start and finish line. You can see people cheering all along the course - especially at the hardest points of the race. At Heartbreak Hill in Boston, the crowd was sometimes three or four deep. Every time a runner came in sight, a cheer rose from the sidelines. If a runner was struggling, sometimes a spectator would step out and run alongside that person for a while, offering a cup of water and shouting words of encouragement. It was thrilling!

Maybe this is why it’s so important to be part of small groups like Twinless Twins. Sometimes we need someone to cheer us on so we can keep running!

Answer #3: “I kept running for the thrill of crossing the finish line.”

I heard this answer more than any other. When they hit the runner’s wall, they persevered for the absolute joy that comes with finishing. That’s exactly what my friend meant when he talked about a hope that stretches past our world with so many unhappy endings to a place where there will be no more tears or heart-breaks.

For me, this is a beautiful example of what God does for us when we have exhausted all our strength. He comes alongside and holds us up with the gift of endurance so that we can keep running. And if our heartbreak hills are too high and the struggles too long, He does more than hold us up. He carries us. He makes sure we can finish. And that, indeed, is a gift to treasure.

From Alice Gray’s *Stories of Encouragement*



KEVIN'S CORNER

By Kevin Mullen, twin to Brian

Have you ever wondered if you and your twin were the only set of twins in your family? My twin and I aren't the only ones in ours. With the aid of verbal family history and with Ancestry.com, I have found many sets in my family. In fact, I can trace twins spanning back to the seventeenth century! I also found out I wasn't the only set growing up without their twin.

Soon after my mom found out that she was pregnant with twins on Groundhog's Day - which she later named April Fool's Day since she thought the tech was kidding - she found out that one of her mother's sisters had lost a set and that her dad's mother had also lost a set. The only known living set are my twin cousins, David and Terrance Little, who are my 2nd cousins.

In 2011, I started a family tree and a few years ago, I met with a distant cousin Matt Little, my 5th cousin once removed. I'll be talking more about his branch later.



From Ancestry, I found my 2nd great grandfather, William Blackwood and his twin Harmon were born in 1843 and then 14 years later they had twin siblings, Leroy and Myra. Leroy lost his twin Myra at age 7. My 8th great grandfather, John and his twin Hannah Eddy, were born in 1637, and then 12 years later they had twin siblings, Samuel and Elizabeth Eddy. They also had twin cousins, Elizabeth and Caleb Eddy, born in 1678. My 6th great aunt and uncle Thomas and Katherine Davenport, were born in 1766, sadly Thomas was a still born. My 4th great uncles, Mamos and Wade Rice, were born in 1837; my 5th great aunts Dolly and Polly Rice, were born in 1790; my 9th great aunts Mary and Martha Livermore, were born in 1684; my 2nd cousins, three times removed, James and Jason Little, were born in 1836, and my 3rd cousins, two times removed, Katie and Jessie Little, were born in 1873.

James Little is the 2nd great grandfather to Matt Little and we share Joseph Little, my 4th great grandfather, to both of us. The connection to this branch was made by my mom's cousin Edwin L. Little, who wrote to Matt's dad, Thomas Little, back in the mid to late 1990s while researching to join the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), which I also joined a couple years ago.

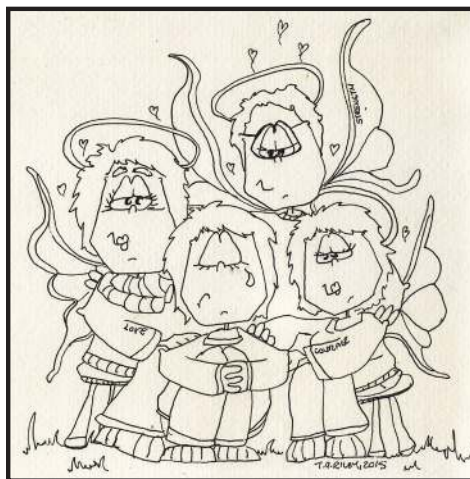
Pictured: James and Jason Little, my 2nd Cousins, three times removed

ROSES

by Jennifer Rudd, twin to Janet

Joining together around the grave
Empty feeling, hollow, like a cave
Numbness helps absorb the pain
Never to hear your voice again
I walk alone this journey now
Facing each day with strength somehow
Every task is hard to do
Remember doing them with you

Roses red mark your place
Until again I see your face
Dedication to your love
Draped softly from above





IN MEMORIAM BETTY JEAN CASE

NOVEMBER 13, 1919 – NOVEMBER 26, 2015

Betty Jean Case passed away peacefully on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2015, in Portland, Oregon, at the age of 96. She was born November 13, 1919, with her twin sister Fay. Betty was the proud grandmother of twin boys and had twin brothers, so her curiosity of twin relationships and behavior inspired a research project that would result in three published books, including *Living Without Your Twin* and an offer to appear on Oprah. Her works took her all over the world for speaking engagements providing insight and comfort to twins everywhere.

A TRIBUTE TO BETTY JEAN CASE

By Miriam Brandt-Doetsch

I feel privileged to have been a friend of Betty Jean Case and her husband, Dr. Laurel Case. They attended the first Twinless Twins Conference ever held in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, home of the founder Dr. Raymond Brandt, my late husband. She had come to Indiana for the express purpose of talking “twin loss” with Raymond. She, herself, an identical twin whose twin was still alive, had written books on being a twin, but wanted to research and write about twin loss. And, who better to talk with than Dr. Brandt! Both of them were twins. Dr. Brandt lost his twin at age 21 but Betty Jean’s sister was still living.

During that first meeting, they spent hours discussing the difference between survival and loss. And, out of that meeting and subsequent meetings as well as phone conversations, they began to write articles for magazines and books on “twin loss”. Talking about the problems that arise from twin loss was so new at the time and the two of them were passionate about researching and writing articles and books on their research in order to open the door for more conversation and future research on this subject.

Betty Jean was a very gracious, humble, giving lady. And I do mean lady. She was one you just enjoyed being with a lot. I visited her twice after Raymond’s death and though there were many years of age difference, we had such fun. She was so happy whenever I called, and she always made me feel happy and privileged just talking with her. Dr. Brandt so enjoyed our western trip to Oregon for both of them to work on their writings, but the four of us took a trip to the seacoast as well to the mountain where their son has a home. Not much writing but a lot of talk and deep friendship. Such a precious time.

She graciously gave Twinless Twins her copies and rights of her book, *Living Without Your Twin*. Many twinless have been helped with their grief because of her writings of such a dear topic to her, for she knew she would be twinless one day as well. Betty Jean once told me that besides being there for her family, she felt she had “fulfilled a need for being there for twins, something that the Lord placed in her heart.” I sincerely agreed.

MY MEMORIES OF BETTY JEAN

By Dawn Barnett, twin to Daryl

Betty Jean Case was a phenomenal woman. I’ll never forget the time I spent at the Twinless Twin’s Delray Beach conference and she ran circles around Miriam Brandt and I when we three roomed together. Here we were, Miriam and I were laying on the beds with our feet up on pillows because my foot was swollen from a recent operation and Miriam was having knee problems, and in comes Betty Jean from the beach raring to go. She was in her 80s at that time and was full of energy; a dynamo of a lady. On another occasion a couple of years ago, she called me to tell me about her twin passing and how it was so much harder losing her than writing about the subject. My favorite all-time twin book has always been *Living Without Your Twin* and I have given away many copies over the years to newly grieving twins and recommended the book to others.

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.

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 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](mailto: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 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, over \$418 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.

LIST FOR ME AND MY TWIN

By Joan Garcia, twin to Jane

When we were 27, I started this list, ironically she died on the 27th, and her favorite number was 27. At my first conference in Ohio I read this to the group. It was only four months since she died and I guess I was in shock still because I bring it with me to all the conferences since and can't read it. This is a list of things that have happened to us both over the years.

Reading this now makes me laugh and I hope to put a smile on your faces:

1. We both failed 1st grade, same classroom
2. Our kids are gemini, sign of the twin
3. We had our periods at the same time
4. We both ran into fly paper on the same day, 1000 miles apart
5. We have each fainted in church
6. We both lost a job on Valentines Day
7. Both had fender benders 1 month and 1 day apart
8. Both got flat tires same week, same tire
9. Both of our rear view mirrors fell off within a week of each other
10. Both call each other and its busy, because we're calling at the same time
11. Both cracked our knuckles
12. We both had allergies in our eyes, same week
13. We have both bought each a bday gift and it was both the same gift
14. She bought a gift for my son and I had already bought the same thing
15. Both toilets overflowed on the same day
16. Both of our husbands were sick same night, driving us both crazy, we just sat on the phone
17. Both fixed same dinner, same night without knowing it
18. Both dressed the same without planning it
19. Both lost our appendix
20. Both wear glasses
21. Both had dreams about her deceased husband on same night
22. Both had pain in our elbows, she got a shot, I didn't
23. Both told total strangers "yes we're twins" at the same time, we just knew they were going to ask
24. Shopped seperate and bought same color lipstick and nail polish
25. Both sprained a foot (different foot) same pain
26. Both hate butterscotch
27. Her bracelet broke, week later my necklace broke
28. Lost our clip for our glasses on same day
29. Both got skin cancer
30. Both have R.A.

When Jane got so sick and my time was always with her, I stopped my list. I lost her 2/27/12 @ 7:48 pm



MY AUSTRALIAN EARLY LOSS TWIN STORY

by Tina Hewkin, twin to Jacinta

I have come across your site and joined as a member after being put onto it by the Australian Twin Registry. I don't know why I haven't reached out sooner to be honest.

I am 41 years old, and my identical twin Jacinta died at birth. I have always known I was a twin and throughout my life I have always missed her and felt like a part of me was missing. I usually brushed this aside with the thoughts that I must be crazy – how can I miss someone I have never met. Throughout my whole life, I have always got very upset emotionally when I have seen other twins or heard stories of twins – an overwhelming jealousy would come over me. Once again I would brush this off as being silly.

Although I have always known I was a twin, it was something that was never really discussed in our family, as my parents also lost another sister of mine when she was a week old to spinabifida. I never wanted to upset my mother by raising the matter. Jacinta and I were three months premature, and I wasn't supposed to live either. All the focus was on me at that time and my twin was never named. She was buried in our family plot as "twin baby hewkin".

About eight years ago my grandma died. My whole family is from New Zealand, but my immediate family live in Australia, with most relatives still in NZ. When my Nan was added to the headstone in our family plot and we visited it for the first time after her death, my older sister casually asked my mum what she would have called my twin – My mum said she would have been called Jacinta. And so began the start of a journey to recognise Jacinta, both on the gravestone and birth certificate. I had a maori tattoo done on my wrist which represents identical twins and that tattoo was put on Jacinta's gravestone next to her name. I felt a whole floodgate of emotions at recognition of Jacinta after all these years.

Four months ago I went to NZ and saw the new gravestone with her name on it for the first time. I cannot adequately describe how I felt when I saw her name but I cried and cried and cried. I felt an inner calm and for the first time I felt complete when I laid there next to her – like that was where I was meant to be. I visited her grave twice a day for the week I was there, and when I left I felt such grief. I truly didn't want to leave her.

Since returning home I genuinely feel like I am grieving as if I have only just lost her!! Once again, I kept telling myself that I am going crazy and trying to brush off the feelings. All I want to do is move back to where we are from and to where her grave is so I can be close to her.

I think that maybe after all this time Jacinta has been finally acknowledged, and with that comes the acknowledgement that she is no longer with us, and hence I am only now grieving for her because she has only just truly come real - but does this make sense?

Last night I watched a documentary on Netflix called *Twinsters* or something similar about two identical twin sisters who were separated at birth and adopted out – but through coincidence found each other. I bawled my eyes out for the whole movie. But watching it made me realise that perhaps the feelings I have had my whole life are not a figment of my imagination at all – maybe they are real and need to be acknowledged.

This led me to doing some internet searching last night and discovering that there are many other twins out there like me – and that have the same feelings as I do. I am looking to make contact with someone who has had a similar experience as me and who would be willing to discuss their feelings with me and help me process mine.

I'm hoping perhaps your site might be able to point me in the right direction. I have checked and I cannot locate any local (Australian) sites like yours so I appreciate it might be difficult and restricted to email contact, etc.

I feel excited and apprehensive all at the same time – but so pleased to know there are others out there the same as me, and that I am not 'crazy'!!

If you can help me in any way, it would be much appreciated. My email is tinahewkin@hotmail.com.

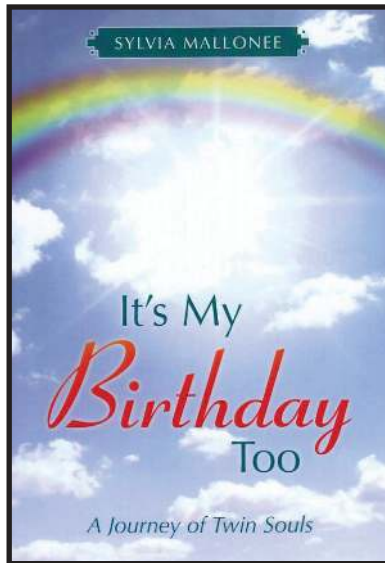


BOOK REVIEW

IT IS MY BIRTHDAY, TOO; A JOURNEY OF TWIN SOULS

By Sylvia Mallonee, twin to Anna Christine
Review by Dawn Barnett, twin to Daryl

“For a number of years, I had a feeling of pervasive sadness in the month of December that I could not explain, especially around Christmastime. Our birthday, Anna Christine’s and mine, is December 12, just twelve days before Christmas. I do not know how old I was when I learned I had a twin sister. The only thing I remember being told is, ‘You had a twin sister and she died.’ End of story. She was never talked about and never even given a name. For a period of time she did not seem real to me, so I gave her the name of Anna Christine. In my heart I wanted to make that connection and tell our story.”



This is the memoir of Sylvia Mallonee and the incredible journey she has had as a twinless twin. Although she has accomplished much and has had an incredibly interesting 85 years she relates how, like so many twinless twins, it’s been a lonely one. She states “I have found that the very early loss of my twin sister has been a struggle from the beginning for me. I have asked many questions and live with the feeling of incompleteness.” She had many losses throughout her life besides her twin; two miscarriages, her oldest son who died at age 43 and first husband at 39. The book contains letters the author has written to her twin with messages after each chapter from Anna Christine to the author. You will be enthralled reading about a walk that changed her life in 2004 where she came upon the realization that her twin, Anna Christine, has been with her all this time. “Once a twin, always a twin” as we say in the TTSGI world. Like so many early loss twins, no one talked about her twin, the most important person in her life, and so throughout her life she had an empty feeling she couldn’t describe or understand. Now available at Amazon.com.

These are excerpts from the book printed with permission from the author:

A Memorable Walk that Changed My Life

There has been a lot of research done on the close bond

of twins. Studies have shown that multiple birth babies begin their unique relationship in the womb. There is a spiritual bond that twins share until the end of time.

THE RAINBOW CONNECTION

It was December 4, 2004. I was in the habit of taking a morning walk but on this particular morning I just did not feel like walking. I’m not sure what was behind this, but I had a lengthy conversation with myself about whether I would go for that walk or not go for that walk. I said to myself, “I really don’t feel like walking today,” however, there was something inside that kept tugging at me. So I thought, “O.K. I’ll take my shower and then see how I feel.’ The whole time I was in the shower the conversation kept going on in my head; ‘I don’t feel like walking today, I have so much to do, I don’t want to take the time,’ and still that very strong pull was there. It was as though a part of me just kept lightly pushing me, so I put on my jacket, went out the door and started to walk.

This is what I saw:

A Glorious Sunrise

I do love to walk, especially early in the morning. I see so many things I would not normally notice and it is the best way for me to meditate. On this particular morning I walked on my usual path, heading east and when I looked at the sky I saw one of the most glorious sunrises I ever remember seeing. It started out being a brilliant gold and pink. It seemed as though the whole sky was lit up with a beautiful light. And as sunrises do, it changed many times during my walk. The clouds turned into an elegant pink, while the background of the sky was a light blue. I thought to myself, if only I were an artist I could capture the extraordinary beauty of that sunrise. But since my talent does not lie in painting the best way for me to capture that beauty is with words. But even then it is difficult to find words that are descriptive enough to portray the picture of that sunrise that I have in my mind. The blanket of clouds changed from gold to a very deep pink. I simply could not take my eyes off of the sky as the colors changed into a wonderful array of brilliance.

It was as though this sunrise was a prelude to an amazing symphony of color because as I turned to go back home, I noticed what looked like a rainbow. But I thought, how could that be, where did that come

from? I thought rainbows only appeared when the sun came out while it was raining, or after the rain, but the sky was crystal clear. There had been no rain for days. That blue sky was becoming brighter and brighter and as I got closer to home, the rainbow became more brilliant with color and it made a perfect arch across the sky. It was truly spectacular. I just had to stop and let my eyes feast on that extraordinary array of colors. I have seen many rainbows that were quite memorable, but none as clearly defined as that one was. It made a perfect arch across the sky and each color stood out with brilliance; Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, and Violet [which may also be seen as White].

When I reflect on that extraordinary beauty of nature, I can only believe that this was truly a gift from the Universe that was meant for me. I believe that this Sunrise and Rainbow were a message and a gift from my twin sister, Anna Christine. After all this was December and near our birthday – December 12th.

I have read and always believed that rainbows appear after a storm. I do not recall ever seeing a rainbow without the rain. I do believe this was clearly a message for me, and that message is leading me to places to explore that I would not have dreamed were

there if I had not seen that special rainbow. I would have missed this wonderful sight if I had not taken that walk.

“Rainbows seem to equate primarily to three concepts Promises, Creation and Bridges. Promises made, kept, or desired; Creation of individuals and the universe; Bridges between us and somewhere else.

That Rainbow Bridge has led me to a powerful realization. To me it is a metaphor to help me bridge the gap between the physical realms to my soul and back to my Source, God. It is my belief that the colors of the rainbow are directly connected to the chakras in our body. It is also my belief that the colors of the chakras are a rainbow bridge that will connect us to our soul.

I believe the Rainbow I witnessed on this most memorable walk was the sign I had been praying for when I asked for help in telling our story. That rainbow was a message for me that reinforced that strong desire to share our story with others and also to honor the memory of my twin sister, Anna Christine.

And so it is!



SOUTHWEST REGIONAL GATHERING

By Eileen Jensen, twin to Elaine

The Southwest Regional Meeting was hosted by Eileen Jensen in the Denver area on October 17, 2015. Beginning with a wonderful lunch prepared by Florence Zamora and many added side dishes to make a really huge spread of good food.

Meeting was next on the agenda, discussion of membership, National Conferences, and more volunteers for various duties. Sharing our twin stories is the highlight, emotional and healing, of our gathering. We share so much and get to know more about each twin and their struggle. We had nine returning twinless twins and

two new twinless twins. Elizabeth and Sally presented a new project to try in our area, a ‘twin pal’. We drew names to connect in twos and will be in contact with that twin during the next few months. We will see just how everyone feels about it at the next meeting. Elizabeth and Sally also led our Candle Lighting Ceremony.

Those attending were: Elizabeth, twin to Elaine; Sally, triplet/twin to Sonia; Patrick, twin to Mike; Scott, twin to Steve; Elaine, twin to Yvonne; Mathew, twin to Michael; Rose, twin to Lela; Eileen, twin to Elaine; Becky, twin to Syndi; Kathie, twin to Kristie; and Will, twin to Jerold. Supporting people were Florence & Tom Zamora and several grandchildren, and Becky, wife to Patrick.

Pictured top left to right, Sally, twin/triplet to Sonia; Elaine, twin to Yvonne; Eileen, twin to Elaine; Elizabeth, twin to Elaine; Will, twin to Jerold; Becky, twin to Syndi; Kathie, twin to Kristie
Bottom row: Rose, twin to Lela; Matt, twin to Michael; Scott, twin to Steve; and Pat, twin to Mike

MIDWEST REGIONAL GATHERING

By Sarah Beebe, twin to Heidi

Joyce twin to Janet hosted a lovely TTSGI meeting at her home in South Beloit, Illinois on Saturday, January 23rd. A total of thirteen twins attended where we shared our twin stories, memories and lots of love. Joyce had beautiful hand-crafted angels for all of the twins, and Paul and Joyce led a candle lighting ceremony for all of the twins. We're fortunate to live in a region where there are so many supportive and uplifting people to rely on. Our next meeting will be in late-April or early-May in Park Ridge, IL.

I'm always looking for TTSGI members to host in Missouri, Kentucky, Ohio (thanks Susan twin to Robin!) and Indiana. If you're ever interested in hosting and would like to talk more about it, please contact me: at sarahtwintoheidi@gmail.com.

Thanks to our Midwest twins for a beautiful meeting filled with "Healing by Helping."



Group Picture:

Front Row, Left to Right: Amber twin to Gina, Joyce twin to Janet

Back Row, Left to Right: Tara twin to Tina, Cathy twin to Char, Debbie twin to Marcia, Ellen twin to Audrey, Paul twin to Pete, Sarah twin to Heidi, Keon twin to an Angel Baby, Jay, twin to Jarrett, Jim twin to John, Missy twin to Mindy

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL POST HOLIDAY GATHERING IN HOUSTON

By Margaret Daffin, twin to Josie

Once again this Holiday Season, I made arrangements for some of the local Twinless Twins in the Houston area to meet up for dinner. 15 of us met at Piatto Ristorante Galleria, Houston, on Saturday, January 2nd 2016 and, for a short while we enjoyed each other's company. After the meal, we sat and talked about our twins and remembered them with love and affection. This year, three new twins joined our group and we welcomed them all. We missed any twins that could not join us.



Present at the dinner were: Lucy Wagner (twin); Matt Vierling (twin) and his wife Abby; Margaret Daffin (twin) and her husband, Paul; John Rohrer (twin) and his guest, Tim Heller; Betsy Miller (twin); Barb Terry (twin) and her husband, Ralph; Carol (Kiwi) Lamb (new twin) and her guest, Angela; Lia Woodall (new twin); Leticia Hahn (new twin) and her husband, Paul.

Carol's twin sister, Louise (Lulu), died on May 17, 2001. Carol was pleased to meet other twinless twins in our region.

Lia's twin brother, Larry, died exactly 25 years ago on the day of our dinner, January 2nd, so she especially enjoyed being with other twins on this difficult anniversary.

Leticia's twin sister, Lilia (Lily) died on December 6, 2015, so she was very brave to join us so soon after her twin's death – we commended her on her bravery.

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



WEST COAST REGIONAL GATHERING

By Debe Bloom, twin to Carol

Our chilly winter weather gave way to the Santa Ana winds which warmed the air to a balmy 75 degrees at the beach as we welcomed Twinless Twins into our home for an afternoon of camaraderie and healing on February 7th.

As we always do, we invited the twins to bring their support person to our gatherings—for a couple of reasons: to allow the twin a level of comfort as they walk into a room of perhaps uncertainty and to allow the support person an avenue to learn how to help the twin.

It was wonderful to have twins that we've met before come together: Michael TT to Joseph, Lea TT to Eve, Amy ET to Andrea (estranged), and we welcomed Rhoda TT to Ruth to her first meeting. After our introductions, we had a potluck lunch and found out more about each other. Then we broke into two groups: The Twins went into a quiet gathering and the support people (Susan came to support Lea and Linda came to support Rhoda) were led to the beach by Rick (my support) for their time of talking and bonding.

The time with the twins, as always, was rewarding. Yes, there were some tears, but those are stepping stones to healing. We talked about ways to take care of ourselves and how to deal with the grieving process. And what our 'new' way of life is all about.

I read the history of the Apache Tear—where they came from and their meaning and why we may want to use them. In summary, these stones are powerful to heal someone from feeling grief and emotional distress. Each twin was given an Apache Tear to hold and make it 'their own' to take home.

We talked about how grief is a process that is always in motion. We talked about how our twins lived for thousands of days and passed in only one of those days and how it is important to celebrate the thousands of days. And most importantly, we recognized that moving on is not a betrayal of our twins or their memory.

Thank you, Twins, for coming to our February meeting and sharing the afternoon with us.

Pictured from left to right: Michael TT Joseph, Debe TT to Carol, Lea TT to Eve, Rhoda TT to Ruth. Amy ET to Andrea not pictured.



NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL GATHERING

By Joan Angeles, twin to Jean

The meeting was at the Minneapolis Central Library, on Saturday, December 12, 2015 and was well attended. Thank you to all who were there.

Those pictured:
Front Row, L-R: Carilyn Masloski, Joan Angelis, Kitty Nikolay, Linda Rude, Rachel Lease, Linda Harding.
Back Row, L-R: Joe Koesters, Betty Koesters, Sandy Meyer, Joe Carlson, Nikki Lenway, Alfredo Oheda, Rae Ann Lenway, Ellen Hunt.

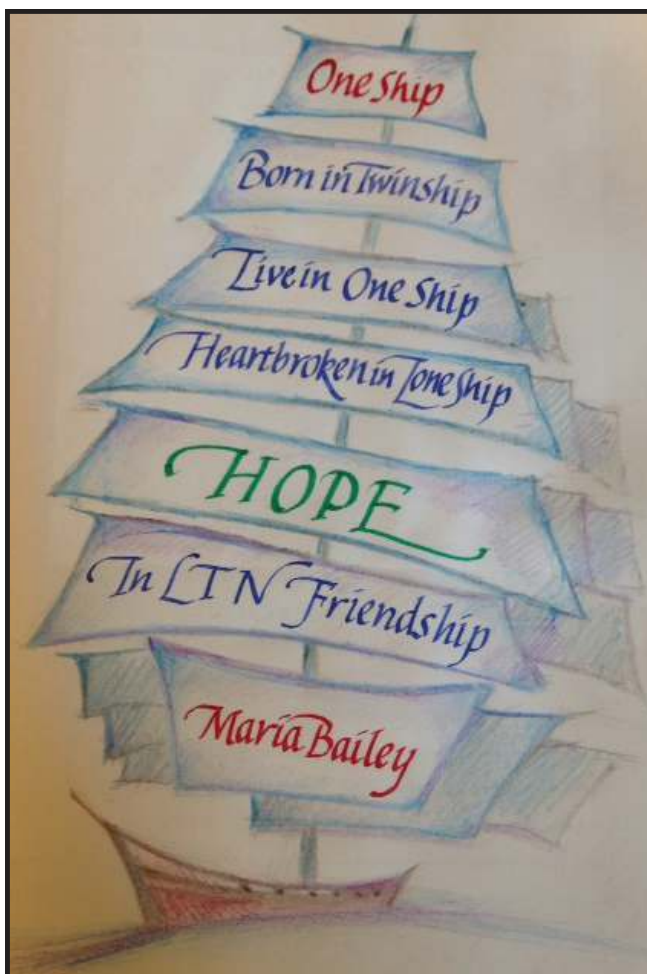
NEWS FROM OUR UNITED KINGDOM AFFILIATE, JANET BAIRD, TWIN TO MARGARET

IRISH TWINS MEETING IN DUBLIN

Following the successful Lone Twin Network residential meeting held at Kylemore Abbey in August 2015, there will be an inaugural meeting for Irish twins in Dublin in March 2016. Martina O'Beirne is running a meeting on March 5th at a counselling centre. This is the first ever Irish Lone twin meeting and it is hoped to run regular meetings if there is sufficient support. The Meeting is open to full members of the Lone Twin Association. For full details and information about future meetings contact Jill Deeley LTN chairman on jill.deeley@yahoo.co.uk.

OUR SHIP

Poem by Maria Bailey, twin to Rose



MARTINA'S TWIN

Poem by Janet Baird in honor of Martina and her twin written August 23, 2015

Your twin slightly in front,
His shirt striped,
Yours the same.
Your shorts
Matching.

Three year olds
Playing,
Kings
Of your own back
Garden.

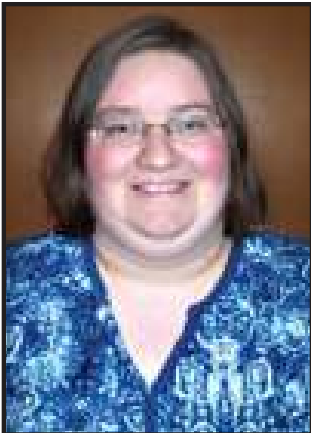
He takes ownership
Of the car,
Lets you have the bike.
He smiles straight into
The lens,
You don't quite.

Both of you
Certain,
Linked by your
Twinship,
But
Neither of you
Knowing.

Now you look
At the photograph,
See the likeness,
Know the bond
Lives on,
In the Kingdom
Of your heart.



THANK YOU TO OUR DEPARTING REGIONAL COORDINATORS



ALYSSA PRATT, TWIN TO KARYN SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COORDINATOR

We at TTSGI would like to thank and acknowledge Alyssa Pratt, the South Central Regional Coordinator, for her dedication and willingness to serve as RC. We wish you well and thank you for all you have done for TTSGI and hope you we be able to take a more active role in the future.

Lea Eriksen, TTSGI Board Member

From Alyssa:

It is with a heavy heart that I resign as the South Central Regional Coordinator.

Due to unexpected personal circumstances, I do not feel that I can continue to serve the twins in my region at this time. I need to take some time to determine where my path is leading me and will likely be moving out of this region and back to my home in Michigan. I have been honored to serve as Regional Coordinator and regret that I was not able to continue in this role for a longer period. I will remain an active member of TTSGI, attending regional meetings and conferences as I am able. It is my hope that I will eventually be able to once again take on a more active role in this organization, but must first address the challenges at my doorstep.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity and providing me with such encouragement and support.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Pratt, twin to Karyn Elizabeth



DARLENE MOORE, TWIN TO DAVID CANADA INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE COORDINATOR

We at TTSGI would like to thank and acknowledge Darlene Moore, the Regional Coordinator for Canada. Darlene resigned her position after serving for several years and hosting a number of twin meetings. She lost her twin David to cancer almost eight years ago. Darlene felt she needed to give herself some more time on her twinless journey. We wish you well and thank you for all you have done for TTSGI.

Ray Boyle, TTSGI President

THANK YOU TO OUR DEPARTING REGIONAL COORDINATORS



MICHAEL KARBELING, TWIN TO HOWARD MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL COORDINATOR

We at TTSGI would like to thank and acknowledge Michael Karbeling, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator, for his dedication and willingness to serve as RC for the past seven years. We wish you well and thank you for all you have done for TTSGI.

Lea Eriksen, TTSGI Board Member

From Michael "A Labor of Love":

After serving as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator for the past seven years, I have decided it is time to step down, effective December 1, 2015.

This decision has been made after much thought, more than a few sleepless nights and many stressful months. The Regional Coordinator position has been a rewarding and wonderful experience. I never expected to do this for seven years. I did because it was a labor of love, and though sometimes difficult and stressful, I have learned so much and made so many life-long friends doing this work. I really feel like I have made a difference in people's lives. Now I need to take precious time focus more on myself - my health and my family.

Thank you for allowing me to have the opportunity to support so many twins and families during these difficult times. Whether the initial grief and shock of twin loss; the ever-present pain of twin birthdays, and of course the hardest task which is the task of moving slowly through the grief process to what I call a new normal (borrowed from Sandy).

It has been an honor and privilege for me. I have helped myself through helping others. As I told Sandy Goad (my guardian angel and sister I never had), I will continue to be a resource and mentor for my successor. I love this organization and the twins that are part of this twin family. I truly believe TTSGI saved my life (or at least my sanity).

I plan to continue to attend regional meetings and the national conferences.

Darcie would be so proud to hear that ..."Love of my twin is what I remember most."

This experience has helped to deal with my personal loss and also pay tribute to my twin brother Howard Allan Karbeling. I learned that I am not alone and once a twin always a twin... Thanks to Dr. Brandt!

With gratitude and many thanks,

In twinship, Michael, twin to Howard

WELCOME TO ALIA PFEIFFER, TWIN TO REBECCA NEW MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Alia Pfeiffer, twin to Rebecca, has stepped up to be the new RC for the Mid-Atlantic Region. Alia is looking forward to helping other twins along their difficult healing journey. Alia, has attended and helped plan many meetings in her region. She has attended two national conferences in Dublin Ohio and Baltimore Maryland. For those of you who don't know Alia, I would like to share part of a letter she sent to the TTSGI board earlier this year.



Rebecca

From Alia:

On December 26th, it was 11 years since my twin sister was killed in the tsunami that resulted from the big Indonesian earthquake. Rebecca was missing for five days and my desperate search for Rebecca resulted in connecting with a lovely lady from England. Pauline had been with my twin the night before and during their conversation discovered they were both twins. They had a great conversation about the intricacies of twinship. After Rebecca's death, I wasn't living; I simply existed in a grief fog. In an effort to help, Pauline told me she had a friend who was a twinless twin and she went to a support group with other twinless twins and surely they must have something similar in America. In my grief fog, the thought had never occurred to me.

I attended my first regional meeting in the fall of 2005, approximately ten months after my twin's death and for the first time met people who could truly comprehend what I was going through; who really "got it" and didn't expect me to "get over it". That experience was life changing as well as lifesaving. Sandy Goad was particularly compassionate and entrusted me with her only copy of Darcie Sims' keynote speech from a prior conference. I listened to Sandy, to the other twins who attended that meeting, and to Darcie and for the first time I realized I could have hope, and I had a purpose - I had to live until the next meeting so I could return the tape to Sandy.

In the past ten years, I have come a long way in my grief journey. At my first meeting, I could hardly talk, I certainly could not say a coherent sentence. Since that meeting, I've found my voice and shared my story. I have learned there is great healing power in this support group, and that there is much truth behind the saying "healing through helping others."

Alia Pfeiffer, twin to Rebecca

IMPORTANT: BOARD POSITION OPENING

This is your chance to nominate a member for the TTSGI Board of Directors for the 2016-2017 Term of Office. You have until June 1st to send your nomination into Dena Stitt at denastitt@mac.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

In the quest for organizational transparency, I have included the financial statements for TTSGI for the year 2015, with 2014 included for comparison.

Any not for profit organization continually struggles to remain financially solvent, in order to continue its mandate. We are no different. TTSGI is unique, and therefore small.

In 2015, we posted a loss of \$4,9K. This contrasted with 2014, which posted a net income of \$17.9K. This was an unfavourable variance of (\$22.8K). There are several factors for this:

- Contributions were down \$12.2K
- In 2014 some donated shares were sold. The gain in excess of the writedown of remaining shares was \$2.0K. In 2015, the remaining shares were sold, at a loss of \$1.4K, for a year over year unfavourable variance of \$3.4K

For the years 2013, 2014, and 2015, the conference registration plus conference assistance less hotel and speaker charges has caused a net loss. In 2015, the loss was \$7.0K vs a loss of \$2.0K in 2014. As an aside, the loss in 2014 could have been larger, except that our keynote speaker Mary R. Morgan waived any fee. It's important to understand that tourist venues, such as L.A., Baltimore and Nashville have higher hotel charges. At most of these venues, we have to pay for meals (i.e., banquet), meeting rooms, sound system, etc. It is only through the conference fundraising activities that these losses were eliminated. So I ask our twins to understand that we try to price our registration fees at a reasonable level.

It's important, on a macro level, to understand the composition of our main sources of revenue:

- Membership dues were 17% of our total revenue. In well over a decade, we have not increased these fees. They do not sustain the organization, but help to sustain it. (Up 2% from 2014)
- Contributions were 32% of our total revenue (down 8% from 2014). Our contributions really declined in 2015. Fortunately, for the second year in a row, we had a private donor agree to match contributions in our "Double Your Donation" campaign, which very generously helped mitigate this year over year decline. We are fortunate to be a 501(c) charitable organization. Donors receive a tax receipt.
- Conference registration fees were 34% of total revenue (up 10% from 2014). Although we had more attendees in Nashville, the hotel costs were higher.
- Conference Events (auctions, raffles, 50/50) were 13% of total revenue in both years.

As always, I am willing to answer any questions arising from our statements. My email address is boylaray@aol.com.

Twinless Twins Support Group International Profit and Loss January - December 2015

	Total		
	Jan - Dec 2015	Jan - Dec 2014	Change
Income			
Books & Postage	194	142	52
Conference Assistance	2,750	2,153	597
Conference Events			-
Total Conference Events	10,563	12,260	(1,697)
Conference Registration	27,615	22,240	5,375
Contributions	22,892	35,073	(12,181)
Dividend Income	279	344	(64)
Gain on Sale of Investments		2,978	(2,978)
Interest	410	40	370
Membership Dues	13,449	14,127	(677)
Online Sales	3,249	3,982	(733)
Total Income	81,401	93,337	(11,937)
Gross Profit	81,401	93,337	(11,937)
Expenses			
Administration			
BoD Meals	506	502	(4)
BoD Meetings	(100)	1,252	1,352
Insurance	3,278	1,834	(1,443)
Travel & Lodging	2,981	2,345	(635)
Total Administration	6,664	5,933	(731)
Office Expenses			
Assistant	220	185	(35)
Bank Charges	1,506	1,319	(187)
Executive Director	24,000	21,800	(2,200)
Licenses & Subscriptions	641	1,367	726
Miscellaneous	2,113	701	(1,412)
Office	105	168	64
Office Supplies	342	893	551
Petty Cash	487	445	(42)
Postage	1,379	3,616	2,236
Printing	1,098	1,446	348
Professional Fees	3,650	3,650	-
Refunds	99		(99)
Telephone	1,300	1,128	(171)
Total Office Expenses	36,940	36,718	(222)
Program			
Conference	35,535	26,426	(9,110)
Conference - Speaker	2,021		(2,021)
Inventory		2,506	2,506
Outside Services	600	600	-
Regional Coordinators	2,802	2,185	(617)
Website	50		(50)
Total Program	41,008	31,717	(9,291)
Total Expenses	84,612	74,368	(10,244)
Net Operating Income	(3,212)	18,969	(22,181)
Other Expenses			
MTM Investments/ Loss on Sale of Inv	1,367	974	(393)
Reconciliation Discrepancies	312	44	(268)
Total Other Expenses	1,679	1,018	(661)
Net Other Income	(1,679)	(1,018)	(661)
Net Income / (Loss)	(4,891)	17,952	(22,842)

Twinless Twins Support Group International Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2015

	Total	
	As of Dec 31, 2015	As of Dec 31, 2014
ASSETS		
Total Bank Accounts	40,073	32,193
Accounts Receivable	207	4,004
Investments - Other	0	7,380
Prepaid Expenses	330	0
TOTAL ASSETS	40,609	43,577
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	73	0
Scholarship Fund	7,900	6,050
Total Liabilities	7,973	6,050
Equity		
Opening Balance Equity	7,044	7,044
Retained Earnings	30,482	12,531
Net Income	-4,891	17,952
Total Equity	32,636	37,527
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	40,609	43,577

2016 TTSGI ANNUAL CONFERENCE - REGISTRATION

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 July 14th at 7:00pm and ending July 16th at 10pm in Detroit, Michigan!

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.

2. Reserve your room at the Eagle Crest Marriott at by clicking on this [special Marriott group link](#) or by calling toll free 1-800-228-9290 or direct at 877-757-7133.

* Be sure to say you're coming for the Twinless Twins conference so you'll receive the reduced room rate of \$129/single (includes breakfast for one), or \$139/double (includes breakfast for two). A block of rooms have 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.

3. Make your travel arrangements

Book your flights into Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW)

* Most participants will arrive July 14th in the early afternoon and depart July 17th in the morning.

WE'LL SEE YOU IN DETROIT!

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



2016 TTSGI ANNUAL CONFERENCE - SPEAKER



ALICIA S. FRANKLIN, LICSW, GMS

Allie Sims Franklin is a bereaved sibling and bereaved daughter, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and a grief management specialist. She is the author of *Am I Still A Sister?* and a contributing author in *Dear Parents* and *The Dying and Bereaved Teenager*. She co-authored *A Place For Me: A Healing Journey for Grieving Kids*, *Footsteps Through Grief*, *The Other Side of Grief* and *Finding Your Way Through Grief* with her mother, Darcie D. Sims. She is featured in the video, *When A Loved One Dies: Walking Through Grief As A Teenager*.

In addition to her work in the field of grief and bereavement, Alicia has worked in the field of Mental Health for the past 20 years. She combines personal experience and professional training to provide a dynamic and practical approach to coping with grief.

LIVE AUCTION, SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLE TABLE

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

by Dena Stitt, twin to Dean

The 2016 Conference Committee is asking our membership to begin thinking about the live/silent auction and raffle table items they may want to donate for the July 2016 Conference to be held this year in Detroit, Michigan. This is our major fundraiser and it is through your generosity that we have a successful event. Here are some suggestions:

LIVE AUCTION: High ticket items such as: Jewelry, travel vouchers, condo rentals, air miles on major airlines, paintings, or handmade quilts, t-shirts, jackets with Twinless Twin's logo, picture frames, crystal. The live auction takes place on the evening of the final banquet dinner. It is always high energy and lots of fun!

SILENT AUCTION and RAFFLE TABLE: You have an opportunity to bid on these table items throughout the Conference until the bidding stops on Saturday at noon. Here the items range in price and are as eclectic as you can imagine. From jewelry, to soft sculpture and anything in between!! Miscellaneous items are always great.

We so appreciate your participation in this part of the Conference. We would ask that you bring the items with you or if they need to be mailed, we ask that you contact our Committee Member, Dena Stitt (denastitt@mac.com) for information on how to make that happen or for any questions that you may have about the auction. Thank You.

2016 TTSGI CONFERENCE - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHEN IS THE 2016 CONFERENCE?

The conference begins on the evening of Thursday, July 14, and ends at the closing banquet on Saturday, July 16. Plan to depart on Sunday, July 17.

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?

Eagle Crest Marriott Hotel
1275 S. Huron St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
1-800-228-9290 or direct at 877-757-713

Reserve your room by clicking on this [special Marriott group link](#) or by calling toll free 1-800-228-9290 or direct at 877-757-7133. If making a reservation by phone, be sure to say you're coming for the Twinless Twin's Support Group, International conference.

WHAT AIRPORT DO I FLY INTO?

Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW)

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

The hotel does not provide shuttle service. You will need to arrange your own transportation from the airport to the hotel, which is a distance of about 15 miles. Here are some options:

<http://goldenlimo.com/shuttles> and <http://www.migreencabs.com/>.

WHAT WILL THE WEATHER BE LIKE?

In July the average daily low is 62° and the average daily high is 83°. 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 dinner, 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 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 invite you to join us for our first-time attendee's 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 14 at 7:00pm with the first-timers' 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 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 dinner 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 – Not 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

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 an onsite indoor swimming pool 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 in Ypsilanti, MI, close to Ann Arbor, home of University of Michigan. **[Click here for more information on local activities.](#)**

WHAT IS THE COST TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE?

Conference Registration:

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

Regular Registration: March 1 to April 29 – \$225.00 per person

Late Registration: May 1 to June 17 – \$275 per person *(Online registration closes June 17)

Note: The Conference Registration does not include your hotel reservation

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

The hotel rate is \$129.00/single and \$139.00/double per night, plus tax. This amount includes a hot breakfast each morning. *The cut-off date for the hotel's special rate is June 13 so it is imperative that you make your reservation by that date.* There will be no exceptions.

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.

MEMORY WALK - 2016

“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 8th Memory Walk at our 2016 International Conference in Detroit, Michigan on **Friday afternoon, July 15th**. The one-mile walk will take place at North Bay Park, and I encourage everyone to join us for this incredible and moving experience. At the end of the walk, we will have a balloon release.

Last year, the walk was held in Nashville, Tennessee. 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 PAYPAL.**

Thank you,
Margaret Daffin, twin to Josie, Chairman of the 2016 Memory Walk



MEMORY WALK - 2016

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 2016 Twinless Twin Memory Walk will be held at our International Conference in Detroit, Michigan on **Friday afternoon, July 15th**. The one-mile walk will take place at North Bay Park, and I encourage everyone to join us for this incredible and moving experience. At the end of the walk, we will have a balloon release.

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 Detroit.)

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.

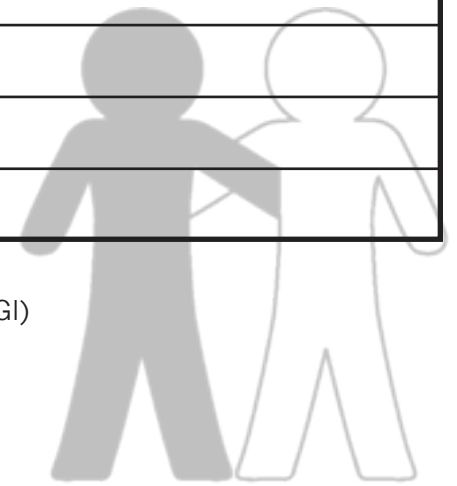
TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP INTERNATIONAL

MEMORY WALK 2016

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 Detroit Conference
 I will not be attending the Detroit Conference

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

MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN

TTSGI's Matching Gift Campaign (Double the Donation) at the end of 2015 was another huge success because of the number of donors who participated. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your contributions, in memory of your twins.

A special thank you to the anonymous donor who matched these contributions up to \$5,000 – without you, this campaign would not have been possible.

Please consider a financial contribution to TTSGI during the year to help us support the twins in need.



IN RECOGNITION OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS SINCE FALL 2015

Bill Anderson

Anonymous Donor – matching gift to TTSGI

Phyllis Ashliman – in memory of her twin, Phil

Dr. Brent Babcock – in memory of his twin

Steve Bergman – in loving memory of my twin, Hal Bergman

Kathleen Bowe – Ann Bowe and Chip Piccolo

Michael Caruso – in memory of his twin

Margaret Daffin – quarterly pledge and donations in memory of her twin, Josie

Gale Erlewine – in memory of his twin, Larry Dale

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

Sally Faust – Sally and Elizabeth

Pamela Fender – in memory of my beloved twin, Steven

Robert Fitzmaurice – in memory of his twin, Lisa Jayne

Laraine Frost – in memory of her twin

Joan Garcia – in memory of Jane, twin to Joan

Sandy Goad – in memory of her twin, Jim

GoodShop – up to 20% of every purchase goes to TTSGI – THANK YOU

Renie Hallford – in memory of his twin, Ernie

Ami Hoyt – in loving memory of Angela Hoyt

IGive.com - from all twinless twin members who use IGive to buy online – THANK YOU!

Catherine Lennon

Jane Malcolm – in memory of her twin, Joan

Linda Miller – in memory of her twin

Susan Mullen – in memory of Brian, twin to Kevin Mullen

Jason Noble – in memory of my identical twin, Aaron! I love you and miss you every day

Ronnie Piracci – memories of my twin Ruthie

Shyam Rai – monthly donations for TTSGI in memory of his brother, Ram Rai

Jennifer Rudd – in memory of her twin, Janet

Joan Sandherr – in memory of my twin, Jean Sandherr

Amber Schweitzer – in memory of her uncle, Phil

Russell Scott – in memory of my twin, Ralph Scott

Becky Sehenuk – in memory of her twin, Jenny

Rachel Star – in memory of her twin brother, Richard R. Matz

Debra Swanson – in memory of her twin

Barbara Terry – in memory of her twin, Brian Swank

Sally Tobias – in memory of my twin, Susan

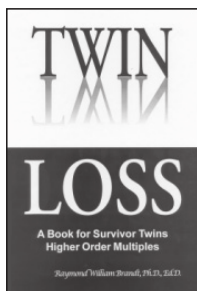
Judy Carol Valdez

Alice Ward – in memory of her twin, Anita

Suzanne Wedow – in memory of her twin, Sandy

Gene & Laura Wilson – Twincereely and with all our love, Linda and Laura

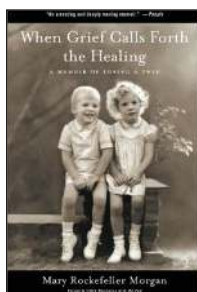
We apologize if we have missed you. Please let us know and we will recognize you in our Fall 2016 newsletter. Contact Margaret Daffin at medaffin@aol.com



“TWIN LOSS”

By Raymond W. Brandt, PhD

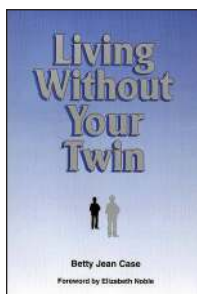
Dr. Brandt was the founder of Twinless Twins Support Group International and was considered by many an authority on twin loss. The 400-page book discusses all aspects of the loss and also speaks to the family members on how to help the survivor twin.



“WHEN GRIEF CALLS FORTH THE HEALING”

By Mary Rockefeller Morgan

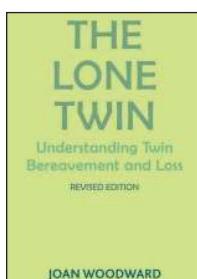
In this startlingly frank and moving memoir, Mary R. Morgan struggles to claim an individual identity, enabling her to face her twin brother Michael’s death and the huge loss it engendered. With remarkable candor, she shares her spiritually evocative healing journey, which moves her forward into a life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



“LIVING WITHOUT YOUR TWIN”

By Betty Jean Case

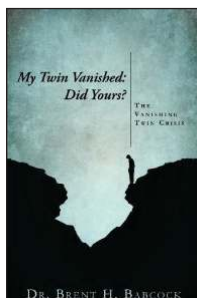
TTSGI receives a donation each time one of author Betty Jean Case’s books is purchased through us. Betty was a twin, who grew up with twin siblings and had a set of twin grandsons. This 150-page book discusses how to keep living without your twin and best friend by your side. It also explores the uniqueness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

REGIONAL COORDINATORS - CONTACT INFORMATION - 2016

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AFFILIATE MEMBER

janetmaybaird@hotmail.co.uk

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