

# TWINLESS TIMES



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FALL 2017

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Twins,

We recently completed another annual conference. This year, about one third of twins attending were first timers, including one from Australia. Tucson was toasty, but not as oppressively hot as I had anticipated. I hope most who attended, found it to be a healing and social experience to be around other twins for several days. There really is no other event on such a scale as this, that provides that opportunity.

Over the years, newly bereaved twins arrive at Twinless Twins Support Group, International, with such a gaping wound, and they wonder how will they ever move forward? At the conference business meeting this year, I discussed the subject of creating a new twinless twin book. The concept would be, within structure, to explain anecdotally, how a twin travelled the twinless path, toward healing. This would include the struggles, setbacks, support, and successes encountered on the journey.

I discussed that the organization was in a reasonable financial position to pursue this project. I hope within the next newsletter, to be able to share a framework, in which twins wishing to participate, could share their healing experiences. I believe this is an aspect of hope that could be available to our wounded twins.

At the past conference, we honoured Sandra Brown with our biennial Dr. Raymond Brandt Memorial Award. She is the 14th recipient of this award, which is presented to those whose contribution and dedication to helping twinless twins parallels that of the late Dr. Raymond W. Brandt. Thank you to Sandra for your invaluable years of service on the conference committee and the Board of Directors!

Ray Boyle, President



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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.**

TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP

HELPING TWINS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR TWIN





## THE EMPTY CHAIR

by Sandy Goad, twin to Jim

## THE WHALE

Several years ago, I read the following true story in "Grief Digest", a magazine which offers hope, information and support to those who have lost a loved one. The article called "The Whale" appeared in Andrea Gambill's column. The article is about a female humpback whale that became entangled in a spider web of crab traps and lines. She was weighed down by hundreds of pounds of traps that caused her to struggle to stay afloat. She also had hundreds of yards of line rope wrapped around her body, her tail, her torso, a line tugging in her mouth.

"A fisherman spotted and radioed an environmental group for help. Within a few hours, the rescue team arrived and determined that she was so bad off, the only way to save her was to dive in and untangle her... a very dangerous proposition. One slap of the tail could kill a rescuer.

They worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed her. When she was free, the divers say she swam in what seemed like joyous circles. She then came back to each and every diver, one at a time, and nudged them. Pushing them gently around, she thanked them. Some said it was the most incredibly beautiful experience of their lives. The guy who cut the rope out of her mouth said her eye was following him the whole time, and he will never be the same."

When we are bereaved, Andrea says, "We are tangled in webs and restraints, similar to the whale's that threaten our very existence. Every part of us is immobilized in pain, and we are held captive, incapable of freeing ourselves. When we are lucky, along comes someone-like

the fisherman in the story-who cares about us and views us with compassion."

There are lots of "heroes" in our lives like those who saved the whale which may include counselors, funeral directors, friends, family members, co-workers, doctors, and ministers. **Our heroes also include all the twins in the Twinless Twin organization who have reached out to us and given us support, encouragement and hope for 30 years! Our twinship experience is recognized, valued and honored by TTSGI.**

I received the following email from Alia, twin to Rebecca several years ago in response to this column. Her reply will touch your heart. She is an example of how we can develop life-long friendships through sharing ourselves and our stories with each other, continuing to help each other on our healing journey. Alia is now the Regional Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Region.

"When I read Sandy's "The Whale" column I was brought to tears. You see my twin sister was a marine biologist and had spent more than five years living on the ocean studying whales. At one point in her travel she had come across a sperm whale that was caught in some fishing gear. She and her crew mates decided to cut her free. The whale was in shallow water, but did not thrash with the approach of the crew. She looked at them as if knowing they were there to rescue her if she allowed it. These stories remind me of her love, the depth of my pain at losing her and of the fact there are those willing to help you if you open your heart and allow them to."

**With time, patience and the help of others, eventually we can swim free in the ocean of life and even give back some of the love and effort that helped us when we needed it.**

# 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

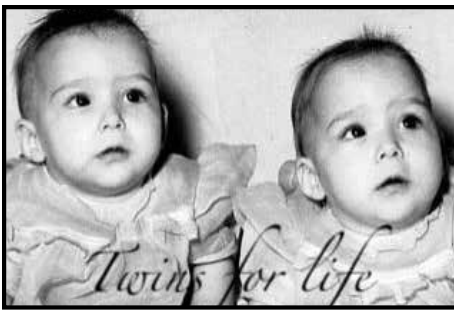
The Fall Edition will focus on the first one:

**ONCE A TWIN, ALWAYS A TWIN** – The twin or multiple birth experience, whether it is experienced exclusively in utero or continued for any period of time following birth, is a profoundly important human experience, differing in major respects from all other forms of human interaction. Twin loss can be experienced in deep and unique ways. This special “twinship” experience of loss is recognized, valued, and honored by TTSGI.

The next story shows what the principle of Once a Twin, Always a Twin means.

## ONCE A TWIN, ALWAYS A TWIN

By Dawn Barnett, twin to Daryl



Because I lost Daryl at the age of 10 months, my parents never talked about her throughout my childhood, and there were never pictures of us with my other two siblings, I never considered myself a twin. That is until I met Dr. Brandt on the telephone after he was on a TV talk show called the Sally Jesse Raphael Show in 1994.

From there on my life changed, as he told me “once a twin, always a twin” and convinced me of that. It took me over three years, but he did. I went to my first TTSGI conference in 1997 in Chicago at the

McDonald College and then I realized, that I not only “was” a twin, I “am” a twin. That “once a twin, always a twin” phrase coined by Dr. Brandt was so true. I realized that although I wasn’t raised like a twin, I am a twin and no one could take that away from me.

My parents were so grief-stricken from the death of my twin because we were both stricken suddenly with pneumonia and had been in the hospital for three weeks, but she died from what the doctors only determined was a “bad heart”. No one really knew the cause of her death and they kept me in the hospital for a month afterwards. Now we know it was an arrhythmia termed “Long QT Syndrome,” and I have it, too. I have a pacemaker implanted from a heart attack I had in 2005 caused by this same arrhythmia.

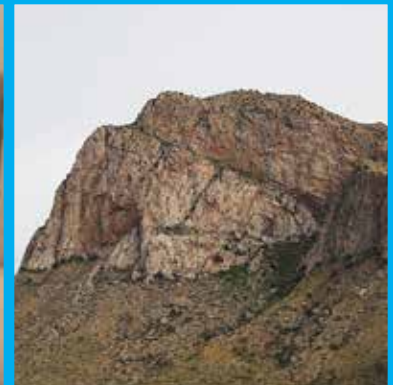
My grandmother, from the time I was about 3 or 4, told me about Daryl and throughout my lifetime told me stories about our short life together. Otherwise, I probably wouldn’t have known about us since my parents never would talk about us. My mother gave me an album of us when I was in my 50s that I didn’t even know existed.

I will always be grateful to Dr. Brandt for being patient with me those three years when he would call and write to me although I would tell him I really didn’t remember my twin, so I didn’t think I was a twin. And he would tell me so many times, “Yes, Dawn, you ARE a twin. Remember “once a twin, always a twin”. Now, so many years later I’ve been a volunteer for the organization and I’m telling twins the same thing. I am so blessed to have had my grandmother and Dr. Brandt in my life to help keep my Daryl in my heart.

Tucson AZ

# 2017 TTSGI CONFERENCE











## THE 2017 DR. RAYMOND BRANDT MEMORIAL AWARD RECIPIENT: SANDRA BROWN, TWIN TO SAMMY

By Renie Halford, twin to Ernie

Dr. Brandt passed away almost one day to the year before I joined TTSGI. Though I did not personally know him, I know much about him. I do have the good fortune of knowing all the recipients of the Dr. Brandt Award. Each of them has made huge personal and resource contributions to TTSGI.

I am especially pleased with this year's recipient, Sandra Brown. Sandra joined TTSGI in 2002, same as I, one year after the death of her beloved twin, Sammy. She has been a stalwart to the organization: involvement in regional meetings and activities, attendance at the annual conferences, a member of the conference committee and a dedicated board member.

The Board of Directors at that time was overjoyed when she was nominated to become a member. She immediately became a productive decision maker and a strong render of service and resources. Along with her own talent, she brought that of her husband, John, who became an integral part of what we do (Sadly, John passed away a few years ago).

For my wife LeAnn and me, Sandra was our first friend in TTSGI. It has now been 15 years since. Each year we cherish her more.



From Sandra Brown, twin to Sammy:

What a special honor to receive the Dr. Raymond Brandt Award! I was never so surprised and honored, at the same time, to receive this award this year at the international conference in Tucson, Arizona. My twin, Sammy, died in August of 2001 and I found the Twinless Twin organization the following July of 2002. I attended my first conference in Detroit, Michigan of that year.

This is where my healing began and I will never forget the twins I met that helped me to begin my grief journey in the loss of my twin. I realized early on how important it was to help other twins. This is why I want to meet all the new twins at their first conference and give them a hug, but I also enjoy seeing all my twin friends whom I have grown to love so much.

Even though I never got to meet Dr. Brandt, I feel so close to him because of all the twins sharing stories of him and how his legacy lives on in everyone who knew him, and how they wanted to continue his mission of helping all the twins who lost their twin. Thank you all again for sharing this great award with me and letting me share my love with you.

Twin hugs,

Sandra twin to Sammy





## KEVIN'S CORNER

By Kevin Mullen, twin to Brian

### MY TUCSON CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

By Kevin Mullen, twin to Brian

My 2017 travels started again with sky hopping from one city to another. I first landed in Knoxville, TN for six days attending the 128th Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Congress there to represent as the Acting President from Vermont, in the absence of the current President Maj. Zachariah Fike.

My next hop was to Houston (I planned it that way) so I could check out their airport for my trip next year. After my layover, I was surprised to share a flight with another twin Jessica, twin to Jennifer and her boyfriend Greg.

Phyllis's husband Monty thankfully met me at the airport and "let the fun begin." The Board was still having meetings, so I only saw a few twins until later mostly because I took a nap having not slept much the night before. We held the Memorial Walk in the early morning hours due to the 100 plus degree weather. Walking outside the hotel with desert scrub along the walkway and mountains in the distances was just beautiful.



There was a large group of new attendees, a grand total of 25! Two of them coming as far away has Hawaii and Australia... putting the Twinless Twins Support Group International right up there in meaning! It was fun getting caught up with Justin, twin to Scott and meeting his family, but sad that so many of our past attendees were unable to make it this year.

Some of the new attendees I had the pleasure of talking to were Larry, twin to Gary, Halley, twin to Connor, and Elliot twin to Andrew. I was pleased to see that Sandra Brown received the Dr. Brandt award. It is with sadness I

will not be able to attend next year's conference as it will be at the same time as my SAR Congress in Houston, but I hope to be there in 2019, if the dates work out right.

## TWINLESS TIMES READER SURVEY

by Lea Eriksen, twin to Eve

We are very interested in hearing your thoughts and feedback on the Twinless Times. So far, we have received just six responses. Please take this brief survey by [clicking here](#) to evaluate the format and content of the Twinless Times and to provide any suggestions for improvements.

# PARTICIPANTS FOR THE AUCTION/RAFFLE

By Terry Lewis-Foor, twin to Sherry

The Board of Directors would like to thank all of our members for donating auction and raffle items at the conference and for those of you who were present to bid on the live auction and purchase tickets for the raffle items. I think you all will agree that the Saturday evening live auction is not to be missed and is always such a wonderful way to end the conference. As this is our largest fundraiser of the year, we need your support and we certainly had an abundance of it this year. THANK YOU!

TTSGI made a record breaking \$1,132 on the raffle, \$800 on the 50/50 drawing, and a total of \$5,622 for silent auction/ live auction combined!

We would also like to thank the following people who took time away from the conference to help us out in the raffle, silent auction and live auction. Because of their tireless efforts it made 2017 another successful year for fundraising and we couldn't have done it without them - a BIG SHOUT OUT to: Venice Lacy, Dave Jones, Margaret Daffin, Lea Eriksen, Dena Stitt, Beverly Symk, Phyllis Ashliman, and Causha Whitney.

## 2017 TTSGI CONFERENCE RAFFLE & AUCTION DONATIONS

Larry Adams	Jacquie Goldman	Terry Lewis-Foor	Russell Scott
Phyllis Ashliman	Karrie Gurwell	Katy Liest	Becky Sehenuk Waite
Dawn Barnett	Richard Gurwell	Theresa Lueth	Robert Sennett Design
Chad Brown	Renie Hallford	Jane Malcolm	Rebecca Shoul
Sandra Brown	Kelly Hammons	Renee Manger	Michael Spitaletto
Justin Clarke	Caren Hoffman	Amber Mariani	Beverly Smyk
Margaret Daffin	Susan Hopper	Missy Milani	Dena Stitt
Paul Daffin	Eileen Jensen	Diana Morgan	Barb Terry
Lea Eriksen	Frederick Jensen	Kevin Mullen	Theresa (Tom & Jerri)
Kari Everett	David Jones	Bob Osterholt	David Tomasko
Pamela Fender	Jan Konya-Grabill	Rusty Perrone	Alice Ward
Kurt Foor	Michael Kukulski	Sharon Pickford	Jessica Wickey
Joan Garcia	Venice Lacy	Alyssa Pratt	Dr. Camille Wissmann
Michelle Getchell	Matthew Lam	Cyndi Pratt	Teri Wolfhagen

Thank you to all who participated in the raffle and silent/live auctions at the 2017 Tucson Twinless Twins Conference.

Your generosity and willingness to give is so appreciated.

To everyone who bought raffle tickets, thank you.

If your name is not listed above, we apologize and thank you.

# MY FIRST TTSGI CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

By Katy Liest, twin to Kay



The first time I ever thought to explore being a twin was when I saw Dr. Brandt on TV in the '90s. I contacted Twinless Twins and received information about being a Twinless Twin. Let me tell you more to understand my twinship journey.

We were born July 5, 1960. Our parents named us Kathleen Ann and Mary Kathleen; today I call us Katy n Kay. Between us, we weighed less than 6 pounds and were each 12 inches long - we were due in mid-September. MaryKay lived for 9:45 hours; she was given to medical research then cremated, but I don't know if she was buried or where. I remained in the hospital and I was not held by our parents until the day before I went home.

I grew up knowing I was a twin, I learned being a twin was shameful and a family secret. Mom only spoke of MaryKay in passing, blaming me for things that went wrong with our birth and her life. I grew up with guilt and self-esteem issues that still affect me today. My brother who is five years younger, didn't know about MaryKay until he was 12 years old.

Flash forward to 2017: In therapy for other issues, I felt I had deeper issues that impacted how I acted and reacted to life. This was proven when I spoke about my twin loss. My therapist told me I could grieve MaryKay - he gave me permission to grieve our twinship. I was struck with disbelief, this wasn't possible, for me to embrace my twinship. I was filled with immense fear as it would mean looking at core beliefs I had held all my life. Yes, I needed permission!

This has been and still is an intensive and soul-searching journey from "me" to "we". Discovering the deep ache and sense of loss in my life, which could not be filled with any other type of addictions I tried - to no avail, until rediscovering Twinless Twins. I looked on the website and discovered that the National Conference was in Tucson, I lived two hours away! What a sign, I registered immediately and fear and anxiety set in. How could this help me when everything else hadn't?

As I drove to Tucson, my anxiety and fear was immense. I had never met a Twinless Twin before. Would they accept me? I tried not to have expectations as I had been let down so many times before. How could this be any different? Oh, the fears and questions I had. I texted several Twinless Twins some of my fears, including Joyce, my twin roomie! They reassured me that this could be life changing. Oh, how little did I know how true this was going to be!

From the time that I met my first ever Twinless Twin, Beverly, to the last conversation with Katie about Hummingbirds. Aloha Michael Ohana means family! Never have I felt so accepted and loved in my life! It was like having an instant family reunion. One I never had, yet I knew none of them a few days before. How could this be? I haven't stopped to question this; I have filled the missing void with my Twinless Twins. No longer am I ashamed to be a twin and the ache has lessened. I'm still on a journey, one made easier by all of my new Twinless Twins! I am so glad to have taken a risk and to be vulnerable in my Twinless Twin Journey with you all. I'll close with an email I sent to my new Twinless Twin.

Margaret,

Thank you for welcoming me to a fantastic group of people. It was such a blessing to meet everyone in Tucson. This conference exceeded my expectations, I came with many questions and anxiety - I left with a peace unlike anything else in my life. I was not expecting the love and acceptance I found. This has changed my life in so many ways. I am able to enjoy my twinship for the first time. Huge progress for me, I will find a way to Ohio next year. Having a twin family is amazing.

Thank you again for taking the time to welcome me with open arms.

Katy, Twin to Kay

# I LOVE MY TWINLESS TWIN FAMILY SO MUCH, I ANNOUNCED IT IN THE NEWSPAPER!

By Terry Lewis-Foor, twin to Sherry

## “Terry Lewis-Foor: Non-profit a legacy for murdered twin”



Sherry in 1994

On Aug. 5, 1994, at age 30, Sherry Lewis, a Decatur real estate agent, was found murdered in a Macon County residence listed for sale. A name was written in her appointment book for a 1 p.m. appointment. None of Sherry's family members recognized the name in her appointment book. Twenty-three years later, the case remains unsolved. We were all devastated by Sherry's murder and continue to be

as it remains unsolved and we continue to seek justice for Sherry.

I never stop thinking about Sherry. She is in my DNA! I never thought my identical twin Sherry would be gone so young. Since Sherry's been gone, crying moments can happen anytime, anywhere, and reminders are all around. I know I will never be the same again. I cherish the memories we had of being twins 30 years together. The moment I found out, I knew I would never stop grieving for my twin.

That day changed everything for me. My whole life was shattered instantly as two men, a Sheriff's Deputy and a coroner, approached me outside my mother's home in Maroa. They were asking for my help to find house number 226.

I started trembling as I pointed to my mom's house. The coroner said, "We need to go in and talk." I knew, and could feel, Sherry was dead. I hadn't been able to find her all day and that evening. We had planned to go to the Decatur Celebration.

I remember Kurt, my fiancé and now husband, weeping as he headed inside to wake my mother. I continued asking questions while trembling on the inside. I was in shock! The coroner repeated that we needed to go inside and talk.

Out there on the sidewalk, I asked him if Sherry was dead. He said yes, indicating Sherry had been stabbed to death. We found out later that Sherry was not stabbed and instead had been beaten and strangled. At that moment, my body and mind felt like never before, a part of me was gone forever.

I tried to remain calm. I just had to know more! I said, "Where did this happen?" He said in a house for sale and I asked if the house was vacant and he replied yes. I continued asking questions, once inside, and I just couldn't believe I would never be with Sherry again. I felt so bad and really didn't know how I was going to move forward.

My whole life revolved around Sherry. A part of me died with Sherry that day and it wasn't like when other family members had died. This feeling would be a lifetime of missing my utero-bonded twin. I have years of anger knowing that someone has gotten away with murder.

Three months after losing Sherry, I was fortunate to find a support group called Twinless Twins Support Group International. Dr. Raymond Brandt founded TTSGI in 1987. There had been no place for twins struggling with the loss of their twin for support.

Dr. Brandt had been a guest on numerous national and international TV and radio programs. He founded the support group years after his identical twin Robert's accidental death at age 20.

In 1995, I attended my first Twinless Twins Annual Conference, where I met Dr. Raymond Brandt. Connecting with other twins through TTSGI gave me a better understanding of the misery I was suffering. After meeting him, I knew I wanted to help with his mission of keeping this support group around for current and future twinless. Dr. Brandt was dying of cancer and didn't tell many people. He finished his book, "Twin Loss," even through the sickness of his cancer.

In 2001 Dr. Brandt succumbed to his cancer. Many members have kept his mission of "Healing by Helping" alive. TTSGI provides a safe and compassionate community within which twinless twins can experience healing and understanding.

I am truly honored to currently serve on the Board of Directors and annual conference planning committee of this 501(c)(3) non-profit support group. In memory of Sherry Lewis, please support TTSGI by visiting [www.twinlesstwins.org/donate](http://www.twinlesstwins.org/donate), or write to Twinless Twins Support Group International, P.O. Box 980481, Ypsilanti, MI 48198-0481



## 2017 MEMORY WALK, TUCSON, AZ

By Margaret Daffin, twin to Josie and Host of the 2017 Memory Walk

The 9th TTSGI Memory Walk was held on the resort grounds of the Hilton Tucson El Conquistador on a warm sunny Friday morning, July 14th. Some of the twins carried the Memory Walk banner, which had been signed by all twinless twins, in memory of their twins. Each year, the Memory Walk is held as a fundraiser for TTSGI and this year we successfully raised approximately \$9,600.

A number of twins raised donations from family and friends:

Kevin Mullen – 7 donors helped him raise \$170

Venice Lacy – 18 donors helped her raise \$930

Becky Sehenuk – 9 donors helped her raise \$330

Lea Eriksen – 6 donors helped her raise \$300

Michelle Getchell – 2 donors helped her raise \$1,700

Beverly Smyk – 2 donors helped her raise \$300

Margaret Daffin – 24 donors helped her raise \$3,435

Additional donors who made contributions during the conference – \$2,500

Thank you to all twins and support guests who walked and/or supported this wonderful event. See you next year in Columbus, Ohio.

A special thank you to Linda Burke who, every year, sends out the TTSGI tax receipt letters to our donors.

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

### **HERE ARE A FEW THAT ARE COMING UP:**

- NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 16, 2017 IN EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN
- SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING, OCTOBER 6-7, 2017 IN HOUSTON, TEXAS
- CANADA/NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING (JOINT) OCTOBER 21, 2017 IN THE DETROIT/WINDSOR AREA
- NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL MEETING OCTOBER 21, 2017 IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

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

# 2017 MEMORY WALK DONATIONS

**Joan Angelis**, in memory of her twin, Jean  
**Phyllis Ashliman**, in memory of her twin, Phil  
**Janet Baird**, in memory of her twin, Margaret  
**Chad Brown**, in honor and memory of Erik Brown, twin to Chad  
**Sandra Brown**, in memory of her twin, Sammy  
**Susan Burgerhoudt**, memory walk for Melissa Janssen, twin to Michelle Getchell  
**Lea Eriksen**, in memory of her twin, Eve Richards  
**ExxonMobil Foundation** – matching grant from Margaret & Paul Daffin  
**Julie Fallon**, in loving memory of Oliver Glenn – your Tula Family will hold you in our hearts forever  
**Joan Garcia**, in memory of her twin, Jane DeLaCruz  
**Jacquie Goldman**, in memory of her twin, Fredda Gottwals  
**Ami Hoyt Erin**, in memory of her twin, Angela  
**Joost Janssen**, in memory of Melissa Janssen, twin to Michelle Getchell  
**Eileen Jensen**, in memory of her twin, Elaine  
**Lauren Johnson**, in memory of Matthew Pennypacker  
**Jane Britz Malcolm**, twin to Joan, in memory of Mary George Beyer  
**Renee Manger**, in memory of her twin, Stephen  
**Mining Optimization LLC** – Sandy Goad, in memory of her twin, Jim  
**Lionel Persaud**, in memory of my sister Donna Angela Persaud, twin to Beverly Smyk  
**Jane Ramnarine**, in memory of my sister Donna Angela Persaud, twin to Beverly Smyk  
**John Roberts Motor Works Company**  
**Geraldine Sanderson**, in memory of her twin Connie  
**Alice Ward**, in memory of her twin, Anita Bailey Ward  
**Camille Wissmann**, in memory of her twin, Carmen

## The following donors gave in honor of Margaret Daffin, in memory of her twin, Josie Wilson

Paul & Margaret Daffin	Lester & Sue Smith Foundation
Sue & Lee Kapetanakis	Betty Yianitsas
Alice Gruber	Elizabeth & Joe Ivers
Jane Borst	Susan & Martin Nusynowitz
Teri Wolfhagen	Susan & Michael Klaveness
Adriana Boretti & Pedro Jaldin	Phyllis Phillips
Eleanor Jicha	Robert Ducharme
Elizabeth Woelfel	Sharon Michaels
Phuong Vuong	Dr. Robert Porter & Joy Shiller
Terhi & Dale Chambliss	Joanne & Steve Downes
Carol & Albert Knowlton	Tracey & Darrel Smith
Meggy & Brandon Biss	

## The following donors gave in honor of Lea Eriksen, in memory of her twin, Eve Eriksen Richards

Cathy Kuhlman, in memory of Eve Eriksen	Jessica Brown
Kerri Green, in memory of Eve Eriksen	Jennifer Dropsey, in memory of Eve Eriksen
Lea Eriksen	John Angelo, Frank Neumann & Amalie

## 2017 MEMORY WALK DONATIONS

### The following donors gave in honor of Becky Sehenuk, in memory of her twin, Jenny Sehenuk

Mary Sehenuk, in memory of Jenny  
Bonnie Fitzgerald, in honor of Jenny Sehenuk,  
twin Becky will be walking in her honor  
Frank Cardamone, with love from Debbie &  
Frank Cardamone  
Lauren Habib

Jamie Fisher  
Theresa Sehenuk  
Merria Iaccino  
Derek Browers, much love Derek and Val  
Quinn Landry

### The following donors gave in honor of Venice Lacy, in memory of her twin, Toni Lacy

Karyn Chin  
Polygon Dropout Media, Mike & Christina Pat-  
terson in memory of Toni Lacy and with all of  
our love to Venice Lacy  
Laurie Marine  
Grace M. Falco  
Robin Epstein  
Justine Friedman, in honor of Toni Lacy  
Karina Napuri, with love Karina  
Richard Smith

Allyson Buda  
Mary Rogers  
Ashley Leafman  
Nicholas Gossett, we miss you so much  
Tracey Jimenez  
Mary Marbach  
Marcy Villavicendio  
Carol Maddon  
Dina Andriotis, for our beautiful Toni  
Daniel Flannery

### The following donors gave in honor of Kevin Mullen, in memory of his twin, Brian Mullen

Shannon Baldwin  
Donna Blackburn  
Joan Finlay  
Debbie Goetz  
Sharon Little

Kevin Mullen  
Matt Mullen  
Sue Mullen  
Terri Zink

I apologize if your name is not shown and you gave a donation for the Memory Walk – contact Margaret Daffin, [medaffin@aol.com](mailto:medaffin@aol.com)

## SAVE THE DATE: 2018 CONFERENCE

Twinless Twins 2018 Conference to be held July 12-14, 2018 in Columbus, Ohio.

Please note that a special early bird rate will expire by March 1, 2018 so watch for registration details and more information to follow in the next newsletter.

From a Twinless Twin who attended the Conference: "Best thing about the Twinless Twin conference... Due to the incredible people that tirelessly work to put on this event, and due to all the incredible twins that are there, we get to feel like a twin again. Like our identity is back, which has been so lost after the death of our twins... Twinless Twins helps you reconcile this grief. "Once A Twin, Always A Twin". Being around other twins is the best available remedy to the identity crisis."



# 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.

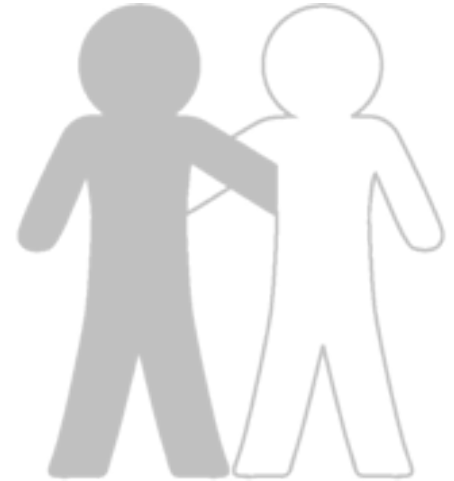
Please print this form and mail it, along with your check, money order, or Visa/MasterCard/Discover information to:

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](http://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 SPRING 2017

**Anonymous Donor** – Double Your Donation matching gift for 2017 to TTSGI

**Mr and Mrs Joe N Behrendt** – in memory of John. Lost on November 25, 2016

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

**Paul Daffin** – donation of 50/50 raffle to TTSGI

**Laurie Everett** – in memory of her twin, Judy

**ExxonMobil Foundation** – for volunteer hours and matching grants by

**Margaret Daffin** – in memory of her twin, Josie Wilson

**First Giving** – GoFund Me

**Goodsearch** – website search engine

**Renie Hallford** – in memory of his twin, Ernie

**Kelly Hammons**

**Maria Hardeman** – I'm donating on behalf of my friend Mike Bussing and his twin in spirit, Justin.

Happy belated birthday guys

**IGive.com** – money earned from online searches

**Elizabeth & Joseph Ivers** – in honor of Margaret & Paul Daffin on their 25th Anniversary

**Mary R. Morgan** – for general support in memory of her twin, Michael

**Sharon Pickford** – in memory of her twin, Sheila Pickford

**Kelli Joy Quinn**

**Ruth Osterweis Selig** – gift of stock in memory of Rollyn Osterweis Krichbaum

**Barbara Terry** – in memory of her twin, Brien Jeffrey Swank

**Judy Carol Valdez**

**Jan Waters** – in memory of her twin, Jeff Barnfather

**Judy Wilson** – in memory of her twin, Jane

We apologize if we have missed your name in this listing. Please let us know and we will recognize you in our Spring 2018 newsletter.  
Contact Margaret Daffin at [medaffin@aol.com](mailto:medaffin@aol.com)

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## NEW AND RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

### THANK YOU TO RENEE MANGER, TWIN TO STEPHEN

TTSGI would like to thank Renee Manger, twin sister to Stephen, who is stepping down from the Board after serving for three years. Renee found TTSGI a few weeks after her twin brother Stephen's untimely death in 2012. Renee served on both the TTSGI's Audit and Scholarship committees and brought past board/trustee experience to the board. Renee is stepping down in order to focus her time on her late father's foundation. We will miss you on the board Renee!

### WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBER BILL OSTERHOLT, TWIN TO BILL!

Bob joined TTSGI in December 2010. Bob was born and raised in Ft. Wayne, Indiana (home of Dr. Brandt, the founder of TTSGI), and comes from a big family of 10 siblings. Bob resides in Angola, Indiana with his wife Jane. In 1986, Bob started his own Printing business, (Printing Place, Inc.) and still operates the business. In his spare time, he loves to play golf, fish, read and spend time with family and friends.

From Bob: "I went to my first conference 2011 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I've attended every conference, but one due to having pneumonia. I lost my twin brother Bill on May 22, 2010, due to esophagus cancer. I was extremely nervous in attending my first conference, I didn't know what to expect, and I felt alone. I came away from the conference with hope. I connected with a lot of the twins who shared their stories with me and found out that I was not alone. I look forward to the conference (each year) to renew my friendship with other twins (my new family) and to be there for the "newbies". I'm very humble to be a part of the TTSGI Board of Directors."



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## MIDWEST REGIONAL GATHERING

By Sarah Beebe, twin to Heidi

On July 16, right as the TTSGI Conference was wrapping up in Arizona, Paul Heiden, twin to Pete hosted a lovely twin gathering at his home in Illinois.

We thank this wonderful man for hosting a special and timely meet up for both old and new twins in the Midwest region. As the Midwest Regional Coordinator, I feel so incredibly grateful and blessed to be a part of this wonderful group of twins who are so supportive and loving to one another. Twin hugs!

Those pictured (Left to Right)  
Rebecca Bencal, Mary Ann Spidale, Priscilla Woppel, Paul Heiden, Michelle Calderone, Cathy Lennon, Cynthia Conforti, Stephanie Schubert



## NEW AND RETIRING REGIONAL COORDINATORS

The TTSGI Board is extremely grateful to Pamela Roberts, twin to Penny, for her years of service as a Regional Coordinator of the Southeast Region. Thank you for all that you have done. We are also excited to add two new Regional Coordinators:



### **Welcome to new Southeast Regional Coordinator Jessica Wickey, twin to Jennifer!**

Jessica joined Twinless Twins in 2011 after losing her mom, her stepfather and her twin Jennifer in less than a year's time frame. From Jessica: "Not a day goes by that I don't think about her, that I don't miss her. Some days are still really bad, but they get easier to manage. Twinless Twins was my best ally, when I felt the deepest darkest hours. Just knowing I had other twins, and that I was not alone got me through the first few years. This is why I want to give back. I am extremely excited to start on my new journey as Regional Coordinator for the Southeast."



### **Welcome to new Canada Regional Coordinator, Ami Hoyt, twin to Angela!**

From Ami: "In 2011, I joined Twinless Twins after hearing about it from a TV reporter. The following year I attended my first conference in Ohio. My life was transformed in one weekend. The weight of my grief became lighter because I had more hands to help carry it with me. The bonds I have formed with other twins is the reason I keep coming back each and every year with my husband. This group has been instrumental in my healing and has also given me the opportunity to give back to other twins. I love my twin family."

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

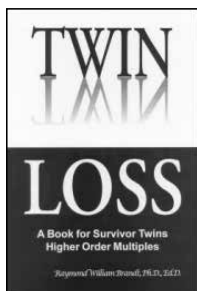


We had a great summer tea party at Hettie's in Skipton on July 1st. Seven twins from the North of England

Lone Twin Network group were there. It's our fourth twin tea party and we have now got into a pleasant routine. Hettie's owner and host David Roberts meets and greets us and we order tea, carrot cake, lemon drizzle cake, ice cream, various salads or a full English all day breakfast! It's not a meeting as such, so we can enjoy each other's company and catch up on news. One twin made us all knitted angels (thank you, Una!) and another twin had designed notebooks for her Lone twin project (thank you Alison!) so it was a productive tea party. Seconds of cake - and Prosecco- followed until it was time for David to turn us out as the cafe had closed!



We will meet again in July next year at Hettie's, but at the earlier time of 1.30pm until 3.30pm, so we don't keep the staff waiting for us to finally say goodbye. That's never easy for twins!



## “TWIN LOSS”

By Raymond W. Brandt, PhD

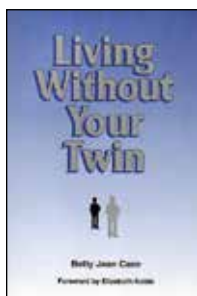
Dr. Brandt was the founder of Twinless Twins Support Group International and was considered by many an authority on twin loss. The 400-page book discusses all aspects of the loss and also speaks to the family members on how to help the survivor twin.



## “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

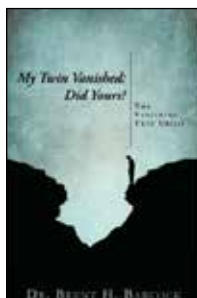
TTSGI receives a donation each time one of author Betty Jean Case’s books is purchased through us. Betty was a twin, who grew up with twin siblings and had a set of twin grandsons. This 150-page book discusses how to keep living without your twin and best friend by your side. It also explores the uniqueness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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Raymond Boyle – President (2019)

Lea Eriksen – Vice President (2018)

David Jones – Treasurer (2019)

Venice Lacy – Secretary (2020)

Margaret Daffin – Director (2020)

Terry Lewis Foor – Director (2018)

Bob Osterholt – Director (2020)

Becky Sehenuk Waite – Director (2019)

Dena Stitt – Director (2018)

Board Emeritus: James “Renie” Hallford

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Getchell

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P.O. Box 980481  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

[contact@twinlesstwins.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

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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](mailto: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

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**Spring Issue: February 10th**

**Summer Issue: May 12th**

**Fall Issue: August 11th**

**Winter Issue: October 27th**

Submissions should be emailed to:  
[twinlesstimes@yahoo.com](mailto:twinlesstimes@yahoo.com)

**Twinless Times Co-Editors:  
Lea Eriksen & Emily Heekin**

# LIST OF REGIONAL COORDINATORS – 2017

PLEASE USE [CONTACT@TWINLESSTWINS.ORG](mailto:CONTACT@TWINLESSTWINS.ORG) TO CONNECT WITH YOUR REGIONAL COORDINATOR.

**UNITED KINGDOM**  
**JANET BAIRD**  
**AFFILIATE MEMBER**

**AUSTRALIA**  
**TOM ROSE**  
**AFFILIATE MEMBER**

**CANADA**  
**AMI HOYT**

- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Manitoba
- New Brunswick
- Newfoundland
- Nova Scotia
- Ontario
- Prince Edward Island
- Quebec
- Saskatchewan

**NORTHEAST**  
**CAROLYN SHANE**

- New Jersey
- New York

**NEW ENGLAND**  
**GARRY RAYNO**

- Connecticut
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- Rhode Island
- Vermont

**MID-ATLANTIC**  
**ALIA LIZOTTE**

- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Maryland
- Pennsylvania
- Virginia
- West Virginia

**SOUTHEAST**  
**JESSICA WICKEY**

- Alabama
- Florida
- Georgia
- North Carolina
- South Carolina

**NORTH CENTRAL**  
**JOAN ANGELIS**

- Iowa
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Wisconsin

**MIDWEST**  
**SARAH BEEBE**

- Illinois
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Missouri
- Ohio

**SOUTH CENTRAL**  
**• POSITION OPEN •**

- Arkansas
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Oklahoma
- Tennessee
- Texas

**SOUTHWEST**  
**• POSITION OPEN •**

- Arizona
- Colorado
- Kansas
- New Mexico
- Nevada
- Utah

**NORTHERN MOUNTAIN**  
**• POSITION OPEN •**

- Idaho
- Montana
- Wyoming

**WEST COAST**  
**• POSITION OPEN •**

- Alaska
- California
- Hawaii
- Oregon
- Washington