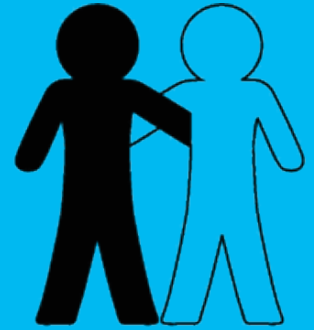


TWINLESS TIMES

SPRING 2019

HELPING TWINS WHO
HAVE LOST THEIR TWIN



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Twins,

This edition of the newsletter includes the financial statements of TTSGI for 2018. Included with them is a narrative offering information on some of the balances. I encourage the members to review the statements to have an appreciation for what goes into them. I have included a fair amount of granular detail in the Income Statement. I would encourage anyone to contact me, by my email boylaray@aol.com, if they wish greater clarification.

Although it doesn't seem like it, as I write this, spring is around the corner, and therefore the conference committee is busy with details for our summer conference in Huntsville in July. As you'll see from the statements, there is an approximate balance in our Scholarship Fund. As scholarships are approved, these monies are moved from the balance sheet to the income statement.

It is worth noting, that historical policy has been to require an applicant to complete a form which is then reviewed by four members of a scholarship committee. If the twin is approved, they are required to advise if they wish to accept it. If they find they are unable to attend, they must advise Michelle thirty days before the conference. Also, there is only one scholarship granted to each twin. Rarely has the committee deviated from this practice, unless there are unusual circumstances. The scholarship only covers the registration fee. It does not include transportation or accommodation costs. The applicant should be able to explain how they will get to the conference, as well as their accommodations.

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.



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THE EMPTY CHAIR

by Sandy Goad, twin to Jim

REMEMBERING “OUR ANGEL” JOAN SANDHERR, TWIN TO JEAN / 1930–2018

Our website states, “Established in 2003, the *Angel Award* may be bestowed by the board of directors at any time for any reason. The award symbolizes the idea that we all have twin angels lifting us up and watching out for us. Sometimes they are subtle and sometimes obvious, but nonetheless, we feel their presence and receive their blessing.” Joan, twin to Jean, received the Angel Award at our National Conference in 2010.

I first met Joan in 2002. Our founder, Dr. Brandt, had died and Twinless Twins had just divided our country into regions to bring twinless twins together for regional meetings. It was in 2002 that a group of twins from the Mid-Atlantic Region first met at a restaurant in Frederick, MD. Among those twins at our first meeting who served on my advisory committee for the region were Joan, twin to Jean, Linda, twin to Lee, and Ruth, twin to Rollyn.

Joan never missed a regional meeting until a few years ago when she could no longer drive from Harrisburg, PA. Whether our meetings were in Frederick, MD, Lancaster, PA, Arlington, VA, where we laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on behalf of our organization, Richmond, VA, Gettysburg, PA or Deep Creek Lake, MD, Joan was there to greet all the twins coming to our meetings and she became a close friend to all of us in our region.

Joan also attended several national conferences and she was my roommate several times. I particularly remember the year we planned a “Miss Twinless Twin Contest”. Joan helped me come up with a skit for our pageant. (Marge, twin to Mary will remember this well because she was one of the contestants and her husband was a judge!) We worked together and we laughed together. What a boisterous laugh she had!

I remember one of the last meetings Joan attended in Frederick, MD. She brought a book with her to share with all of us called *Encore Performance* printed in 2012. This book is the story of Vicki Riordan, who at sixty-two, opened the doors to what has become “America’s largest adult tap dancing studio, making Harrisburg, PA the unofficial tap capital of the world”. You are probably asking yourself, “What does this have to do with Joan?” Joan was one of her students – the oldest one in fact. Vicki writes about Joan and her twin sister Jean in the second chapter of her book.

After hearing about Joan’s death and talking with

her niece, I had to order the book and read the chapter on Joan and Jean again. The chapter is dated Sunday, June 12, 2011. It was rehearsal time and “right in the middle of the group, lacing up her shoes is Joan. At eighty, she’s the oldest dancer performing today. She’s put together beautifully – as she always is – her short, light brown hair with golden highlights set to perfection, makeup on, ready to go.” Joan had auditioned for Vicki’s “Tap Pups” and went straight to the advanced class! Vicki said that “when she danced, she was ageless.”

As little girls, Joan and Jean went to tap dancing classes and they loved to dance! Vicki states, “When they danced standing opposite each other, it was like they were looking into a mirror. At 12, they appeared on the popular radio show Ted Mack’s Original Amateur Hour, the sound of their “twin taps” broadcast across the country... At twenty Joan and Jean even tried out for the Rockettes. Although they didn’t make the cut (they couldn’t kick to the regulation height), they had the unforgettable experience of auditioning on the stage of New York’s Radio City Music Hall!”

At 24, dance faded out of their lives. They never married and lived together and worked together, barely spending more than a night apart. At 56 and ready for retirement, they dusted off their tap shoes and for 10 years they began tap dancing again until 1997 when Joan’s sister Jean died of cancer. After her twin sister died, Joan stopped going to tap classes.

I remember the day Joan called me and told me she had seen an announcement in the paper about the Tap Pups, an adult tap dancing group. Joan picked up the phone and called. Vicki states in her book, “She knew it wouldn’t be easy tapping without Jean by her side, but she felt that she owed it to her twin sister to give it a shot. The first class was a surprise to Joan. She’d thought dancing without her sister would make her feel too sad, but in fact, the opposite was true. When she was dancing, her sadness slipped away. Those steps were like a lifeline for Joan. They were in her bones. They connected her to her childhood. Tap actually brought her back to the person she’d been as a young girl and woman, dancing with her sister by her side.”

Joan, twin to Jean, was compassionate, kind and generous. Those of us who knew Joan had come to love her and truly felt her presence. We were blessed. She was “Our Angel”.

TTSGI GUIDING PRINCIPLES: ONCE A TWIN, ALWAYS A TWIN

TTSGI has four guiding principles:

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

The Spring Edition will focus on the third one:

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

HEALING BY HELPING

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 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 help TTSGI, please contact Ray Boyle at boyle-ray@aol.com.

Assist with the Conference:

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

Thursday: Starting in the morning, we need volunteers to help collate the programs and compile the attendee packets which includes badges and t-shirts.
Friday: Before and in-between sessions, we need volunteers to help us intake and set-up raffle and auction items.

Saturday: In the afternoon, we need volunteers to help us close out the raffle and silent auction, and in the evening, we need volunteers to help with the live auction and at the end, with tabulating winners and tear down.

Assist in your Region:

We are looking for volunteers who can assist their Regional Coordinators. Please use contact@twinlesstwins.org to connect with your Regional Coordinator.

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 \$740 has been raised from you all using this site.

GoodShop

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

AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Please choose Twinless Twins Support Group.

MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN

DOUBLE
the **DONATION**
Giving with the power of two!



Right now, through the generous gift of an anonymous supporter, any donation received will be matched, dollar for dollar! If you give \$100, it turns into \$200!

Every gift, no matter the amount, will be used to help support hurting twinless twins around the world.

Make a donation today by visiting www.twinlesstwins.org.

TTSGI's Matching Gift Campaign (Double the Donation) at the end of 2018 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 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 2019 to help us support the twins in need. Complete and send the donation sheet in this newsletter or go online to www.twinlesstwins.org/donate.



KEVIN'S CORNER

By Kevin Mullen, twin to Brian – Twinless Times Correspondent

HEALING BY HELPING OTHERS

Due to a conflict with my schedule I was not able to attend the TTSGI conference held in Dublin, Ohio last year, but that did not stop me from having my own twinless twin meet up. In July, I flew to Houston Texas for the 128th SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) Congress. On the last day of the Congress I got to meet up with Matt Vierling, twin to Mark. To my benefit Matt was in town seeing his parents.

The last weekend of September I flew to Louisville Kentucky to attend the SAR fall leadership conference. During my time there I was able to see Jon Hilber, twin to Justin, for a few hours. Jon drove to Louisville after work so we could spend some time together. I last saw Jon in 2007 at the Dallas TTSGI Conference. When this newsletter releases, I'll be back to Louisville for the SAR Spring Leadership conference and hope to see Jon once again.



In October, for Columbus Day weekend, my mom and I drove to New London, Connecticut for another lineage society gathering. I texted Lindsay, twin to Melissa to meet up but sadly due to time conflict we were not able to get together. Lindsay, Adam and her boys were off to Florida the following day but I told her we would try to get together once again the next time I was in Connecticut.

My advice to everyone, when traveling, is to stop and visit with a twin. It is the best time to connect outside of the regional gatherings and summer conferences. This is a standing invite to anyone wanting to visit Vermont.

IN RECOGNITION OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS SINCE SPRING 2018

- Anonymous Donor** – matching gift to TTSGI
- Joan Angeles** – for twin’s membership dues & conference registration
- Phyllis Ashliman** – monthly pledge in memory of her twin, Phil
- Kelly Bailey**
- Eileen Belgue** – in memory of Martha Belgue
- Michael Caruso** – in memory of his twin
- Charles Charitable** – Schwab Charitable grant – in memory of Nancy Springgate, twin to David
- Kimberley Crews**
- Margaret Daffin** – quarterly pledge and donations in special memory of her twin, Josie
- Thomas Doyle** – in honor of Sarah Jean Beebe
- Lea Erikson** – General Fund – in memory of her twin, Eve
- ExxonMobil Foundation** – for volunteer hours and matching grants by
- Margaret & Paul Daffin** – in memory of her twin, Josie Wilson
- Fidelity Charitable (Mr. & Mrs. Joe Behreendt)** – grant to be used where needed most
- Joan Garcia** – in memory of my twin, Jane
- Paul & Sandy Goad** – 2018 donation in memory of her twin, Jim
- GoodShop** – up to 20% of every purchase goes to TTSGI – THANK YOU
- Lorraine Hortsman** – in memory of her twin, Elaine Fleming
- Ami Hoyt** – Scholarship Fund
- IGive.com** – from all twinless twin members who use IGive to buy online – THANK YOU!
- Michael Jackson** – in memory of his twin, Christine
- Eileen Jensen** – in memory of her twin, Elaine Moench
- Michael Karbeling** – conference scholarship donation in honor of his twin, Howard Karbeling
- Eleanor Maddy**
- Renee Manger** – in memory of her twin, Stephen
- Deral & Nelva Mays** – in memory of Elaine Moench
- Network for Good** – Donations through Facebook
- Shyam Rai** – General Fund – in memory of his twin, Ram Rai
- Alexandra & Ananda Robie** – monthly pledge for Scholarship fund
- San Isbel Electric Association (gift from Tim Jensen’s work)** – in memory of Elaine Moench
(each employee was allowed to choose an organization – Tim chose TTSGI!)
- Russell Scott** – in memory of his twin, Ralph
- L.S. Stephens Living Trust** – with love, Skip, Linda, Gene and Laura
- Dena Stitt** – in memory of her twin, Dean
- Mary Virginia Tuinstra (Paul Daffin’s sister)** – in memory of her twin, Raymond George Daffin

We apologize if we have missed your name in this listing. Please let us know and we will recognize you in our Spring 2019 newsletter.
Contact Margaret Daffin at medaffin@aol.com

2019 DONATION FORM



TWINLESS TWINS
Support Group INTL.

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/Master Card/Discover information to:

Twinless Twins Support Group International
P.O. Box 980481
Ypsilanti, MI 48198-0481
Or fax to: 1-888-205-8962

(Alternatively, you may make your donation online at www.twinlesstwins.org and use the DONATE button.)

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.

HEALING BY HELPING

BY BECKY DURHAM, TWIN TO SUSAN

Twinless twin... I had never heard the term 'till 26 years after living as a twinless twin. When I tell others about Twinless Twin Support Group International, I am often asked, "What is a twinless twin?" To me it is common sense if you look at the term and think about the words. I politely state, "A twin who has lost their twin." Those of us in this community and those who will enter know and understand so deeply the effects of losing our twin.

When we have such a profound loss, no matter the age, it is devastating. Waking in the morning and looking in the mirror is often such a difficult task. I am not ever going to tell someone that it gets easier because it has not for me. For over 30 years I have searched for something or someone to fill the void of my loss. It was not until the South Central regional gathering I attended that I finally felt like I was not alone.

Spending the weekend in Texas with so many that have suffered such a terrible loss was bittersweet. I met some wonderful, beautiful twins. As each one of us took the time to speak and listen, I could not help but be thankful. My story was no longer strange. The common thread amongst us is we have suffered such a profound loss, and are doing our best to live, sometimes moment by moment. The beauty and support I discovered that weekend forever changed my life.



This past December, I graduated from nursing school. This was a dream of mine and it took twenty-seven years to accomplish. I found myself desperate for my twin. As I overcome hurdles and reach goals, I want to share the experience with the one who understood me best; my twin.

Four twins I met during the South Central regional gathering came to support me during my nurse pinning ceremony. Some of these ladies traveled from other states just to support me while I took my nursing oath and received my pin. To show me their support each one wore purple. The explanation of purple is that my favorite color is blue and my twin's (Susie) was pink. When you mix these two colors together you make purple.

I will forever be grateful for this community who understands my feelings. If, for some reason, you have not been able to connect with the right person, I encourage you to reach out. It does not matter at what age your loss occurred, or if your twin is living and the two of you are estranged. There is comfort here. This is a safe community. While everyone's situation is unique, we all understand this profound loss.

HEALING BY HELPING

BY MARGARET GRON, TWIN TO EDITH

For the Christmas holidays I had supper with Margaret Daffin, twin to Josie and her husband Paul. I enjoyed hanging out with a lady I met so many years ago; I just didn't know it until recently. I attended my first TTSGI conference in 1997 and my mother captured the moment when we all gathered for our twin photo. I don't remember Margaret at this conference but, if only for a brief second in time, I did indeed meet her. I've circled where Margaret and I stood next to each other shoulder to shoulder. Margaret wearing blue and I wearing red.



efforts of our local TTSGI South Central regional group. I am probably missing other important contributions she has given since some things are done behind the scenes and easily missed. A prime example of this was when I took over as Co-Editor of the Twinless Times newsletter. As I finished my first newsletter edition, I discovered Margaret Daffin was the Proofreader! Margaret is a shining example of Dr. Brandt's TTSGI principle of healing by helping.

Our paths took us in different directions and I never saw Margaret again until I returned to TTSGI for the 2017 conference. This last year I've gotten to know Margaret a bit more and I admire all that she has contributed to TTSGI. I know Margaret serves on the TTSGI board, she handles the donation campaign for TTSGI, she is the Chairman of the Memorial Walk for the annual conference every year, and she supports the



When I think of Margaret, I can't help but ponder how we share the same name, both twins and twinless, both dedicated to TTSGI and, as fate may have it, we are once again standing side by side, if only for another brief second in time.

Thank you for all you do Margaret, twin to Josie from Margaret, twin to Edith!

UPCOMING EVENTS

HERE ARE A FEW THAT ARE COMING UP:

- SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL GATHERING, FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019, 6:00PM TO 10PM IN DALLAS, TEXAS
- SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL GATHERING, SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019, 9:00AM TO 5:00PM IN DALLAS, TEXAS
- SOUTHWEST REGIONAL GATHERING, SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019, 12:00PM TO 3:00PM IN LONETREE, COLORADO
- SOUTHEAST REGIONAL GATHERING, SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019, 11:00 AM TO 4:00PM IN MARIETTA, GEORGIA
- NORTHEAST REGIONAL GATHERING, SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019, 12:00PM TO 5:00PM IN NEW JERSEY
- NORTHEAST REGIONAL GATHERING, SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019, 12:00PM TO 5:00PM IN NEW YORK

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

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

BOOK REVIEW

HOW I LOST MY TWIN BUT LEARNED TO LIVE AGAIN THE STORY OF THE "HINOJOSA TWINS"

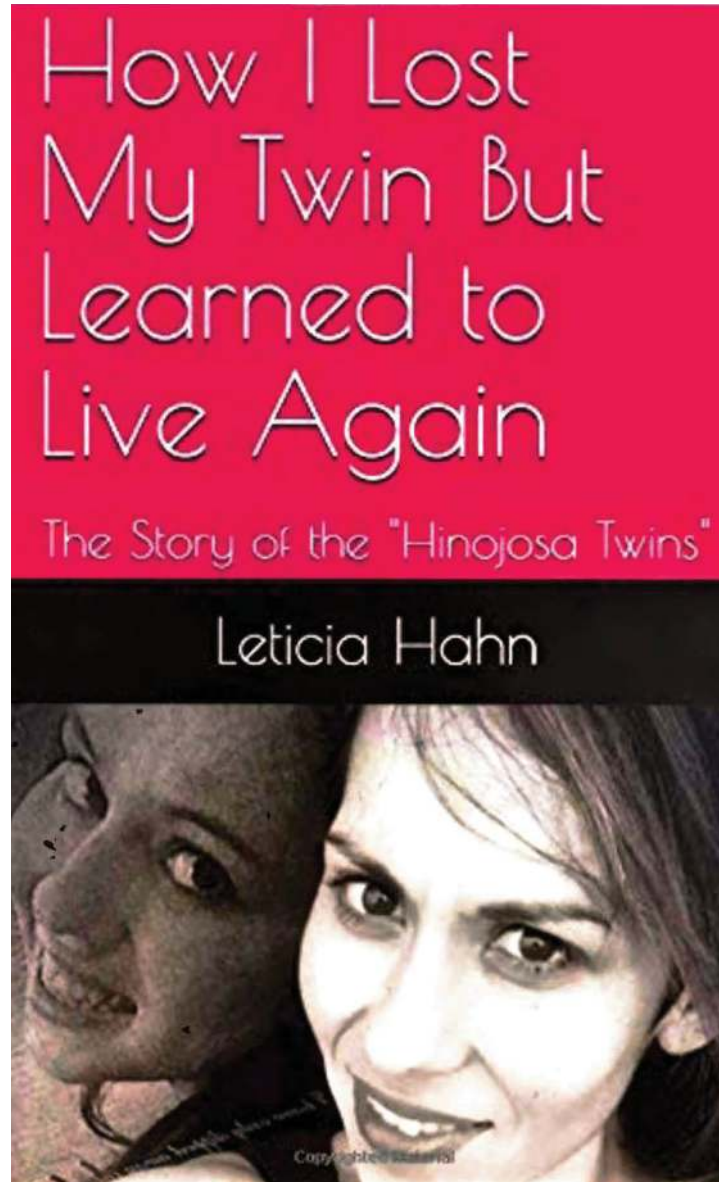
by Leticia Hahn, twin to Lily

Reviewed by Dawn Barnett, twin to Daryl

Leticia "Letty" Hahn and Lily Budd were the Hinojosa Twins through and through. So identical that even both sets of their grandparents couldn't tell them apart. Their mother would label the back of their pictures but on those she didn't, even they did not know who was who. They were a comedy duo and could tell what the other was thinking just by looking at each other. They dressed alike and on birthdays guests were asked to bring the same gift so they wouldn't fight over one or the other. Letty thought that was kind of dumb because when Lily would open the gift first, she would know what she was getting next. As they got older in school they were known as "the Hinojosa twins" to differentiate them from other twins that were becoming more numerous. Like a lot of identical twins, they would switch classes in school and not get caught. Letty felt she was the mean twin because she "spoke her mind" and Lily was the nice one who used comedy to mask bad news. I loved the way she told about their closeness and growing up as twins. Lily fought a courageous 6-year battle against an aggressive form of kidney cancer, one that had no successful treatment at the time and lost the battle at the young age of 32.

This book is more than a memoir in that the author wrote it for other twins who have lost their twin. She shares what they might likely expect in the grieving journey such as triggers, seeking help and things she learned to get on the path of living again. Letty has left me with a sense of what not to do after loss and tips that will help you get back on your feet.

A must-read that can be done in a short amount of time. Can be purchased on Amazon.



PAY IT FORWARD

BY SUNDAY THOMAS, TWIN TO CINDY

IMPORTANT: BOARD POSITION OPENING

The love we have for each other
Can be shown in so many ways
We lift up our fellow twins
Every single day

Losing our twin has been tough
As only a twin can understand
Sometimes we reach out to help others
Sometimes we need someone to hold our hand

The concept of paying it forward
Has run rampant in our group
You don't need to be part of a movement
You don't need to be in the loop

Just think how special it feels
When someone does something nice for you
You feel so appreciated
When they do the things they do

No need to pay them back
For the thoughtful thing they've done
Why not pay it forward
And do something kind for someone

Just imagine how contagious
Your good deed could spread around
It would inspire others to do so
And pick them up when they are down

So find your special niche
And maybe figure out what you can do
To give away part of your heart
Because someone gave theirs to you

Through acts of kindness among strangers
The love will trickle down
There will be more happiness in our group
Erasing every frown

This is your chance to nominate a member for the TTSGI Board of Directors for the 2019-2022 Term of Office. You have until May 1st to send your nomination to Vice President Lea Eriksen at lea.eriksen111@gmail.com.

CRITERIA AND DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

1. Must be an active member of TTSGI for at least two years and have a pattern of attendance and giving and is willing to donate their time, talent and/or treasure.
2. Must have been a twinless twin for at least two years, who is in a good place in their grief journey and is able to cope effectively with their loss
3. Must demonstrate integrity and ethics and abide by the TTSGI Code of Conduct
4. Able to act with tact and diplomacy in interactions with other twins
5. Able to demonstrate empathy and discernment and able to keep sensitive issues confidential
6. Must have access to and be proficient with technology in order to communicate with Board through emails.
7. Must attend the Annual TTSGI Conference as well as attend a Winter meeting of the Board, at their own expense.
8. Must be willing to participate in administrative duties that may be assigned to them.
9. Must be willing to commit to entire Term of Office, which is for three (3) years.

PROCESS

1. The Nominating Committee will review the recommendations that are received by May 1, 2019 and submit list to the President for evaluation.
2. The Nominating Committee will review the proposed candidates using the above criteria and desirable qualifications and also consider who brings diversity to the board whether it is geographical, gender, race, type and age of loss, type of twinship, and other factors to ensure an inclusive and welcoming board.
3. 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.

TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP, INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REVIEW

BY RAY BOYLE, TWIN TO JIMMY AND TTSGI PRESIDENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENT INFORMATION

Balance Sheet

The cash balance of nearly \$99,000 is indeed a healthy balance. It should be noted that 22% of that balance is represented by early conference registrations for Huntsville received in Columbus. Also, the scholarship fund cannot be touched until funds are allocated in a current period. In essence, these funds are held in trust.

Prepaid Expense – we took the option of prepaying our storage unit in Michigan for a 2-year period, so as to receive a discounted price. The balance represents the unexpended portion, most of which will be expensed in 2019.

Income Statement

TTSGI receives its income from three main sources: Conference registration and fundraising events; Membership Dues and; Donations. In 2018, the respective weighting was 45%, 23%, and 31%. It should be noted that all three are essential for the organization to remain an ongoing concern.

The conference registrations were \$26,540. It should be noted that the hotel cost and supplies were \$22,771, and the speaker was \$2,457, for a total cost of \$25,228. This meant that there was a surplus of \$1,312. Conferences held in LA., Baltimore and Nashville produced deficits. So, it falls to conference events to attempt to boost revenue for the organization. It takes much effort from the conference committee and the generous support of our twins who understand the need to support, if possible, TTSGI this way.

Our membership is currently above 350. We have not raised our registration fee since at least 2002. It is also an important component. We consider membership so important that any twin who is not able to afford the \$50 fee,

will be bursaried for one year. Other twins are encouraged to also pay a registration fee for their twin.

As noted, donations in 2018 comprised 31% of the revenue pool. This is down from 37% in 2017. So, what happened? The reality is that although we receive many contributions, significant (over \$1,000) donations are made by very few twins. Consequently, the organization is sensitive to changes in donations.

All told, the revenues are essential to meet the expenses, as detailed. We pay our executive director, as the level and sophistication of the work, far exceeds the scope of even the most committed volunteer. We happen to have a very skilled executive director.

The organization must carry insurance for regional and conference events. The board, RCs and Facebook moderators are insured. We also carry social media insurance.

Board meals of \$684 covers two conference working lunches and one winter meeting dinner. It should be noted that all board members pay conference registration fees and are required to attend these meetings out of their own pocket.

Travel and Lodging relates to expenses incurred by our executive director who must attend on-site cities for prospective hotel / city venues for conferences.

Bank charges of \$1,771 is the commissions our credit card carrier Paypal charges to handle these transactions.

Regional Coordinator expense- each RC has an annual budget of \$1,200. This may be used for renting meeting space, etc. Some regions will utilize this, while some do not. It really depends upon the venue used.

TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP, INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REVIEW

BY RAY BOYLE, TWIN TO JIMMY AND TTSGI PRESIDENT

Twinless Twins Support Group International Balance Sheet

	As at Dec 31, 2018		As at Dec 31, 2017	
ASSETS				
Total Bank Accounts	\$	98,794	\$	88,143
Prepaid Expenses		2,376		0
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	101,170	\$	88,143
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Accounts Payable		0		5,000
Equity				
Conference Registration Next Year		8,465		2,975
Opening Balance Equity		7,044		7,044
Retained Earnings		59,557		53,681
Scholarship Fund		14,238		13,567
Net Income		11,865		5,876
Total Equity	\$	101,170	\$	83,143
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$	101,170	\$	88,143

Profit and Loss

	Jan - Dec 2018	Jan - Dec 2017	Change
Income			
Conference Assistance	4,205	2,505	1,700
Conference Events			
50/50	590	800	-210
Auction	4,471	5,025	-554
Memorial Fund	6,502	10,861	-4,359
Memorial Fund Contra	-3,251	-5,431	2,180
Raffle	1,780	1,132	648
Sales Table	1,720	1,137	584
Silent Auction	410	597	-187
Total Conference Events	12,222	14,121	-\$ 1,899
Conference Registration	26,540	24,349	2,191
Contributions	24,429	26,927	-2,498
Miscellaneous	125	21	105
Membership Dues	20,099	18,197	1,902
Online Sales	1,085	1,989	-904
Total Income	88,705	88,109	596
Expenses			
Administration			
BoD Meals	684	771	-87
BoD Meetings	40	173	-133
Insurance	3,582	3,565	17
Travel & Lodging	2,447	1,901	546
Total Administration	6,753	6,410	\$ 343
Office Expenses			
Assistant	1,920	1,960	-40
Bank Charges	1,719	1,631	88
Executive Director	28,200	26,400	1,800
Licenses & Subscriptions	681	1,039	-358
Miscellaneous	817	389	428
Office	98	30	68
Office Supplies	257	388	-131
Petty Cash	683	654	29
Postage	1,057	1,189	-132
Printing	320	324	-4
Telephone	24	24	0
Total Office Expenses	35,775	34,026	\$ 1,749
Program			
Conference	22,771	25,990	-3,219
Conference - Speaker	2,457	2,223	235
Inventory and Storage	3,624	4,222	-598
Outside Services	600	450	150
Regional Coordinators	4,188	3,525	663
Website	671	5,387	-4,716
Total Program	34,312	41,797	-\$ 7,485
Total Expenses	76,840	82,233	-\$ 5,393
Net Operating Income	11,865	5,876	5,989

TTSGI STRATEGIC PLAN: 2018–2022

The 2018–2022 TTSGI Strategic Plan was developed during the Summer 2017 board meeting and provides an update of the 2014–2019 plan. The current plan celebrates the high-level achievements from the previous plan and incorporates the earlier plan's Mission/Vision/Values Section. The current Plan outlines a new set of objectives/action items using the same three major goals from the previous Plan, and organizes those objectives/action items within 1-year and 3-year time frames as well as a 5-year vision. The Plan incorporates unmet action items from the previous 5-year plan still considered priorities. In addition to specific action items, the current Plan concludes with a section devoted to "Big Ideas." These are listed below, followed by highlights from the new Strategic Plan.

BIG IDEAS TO CONSIDER WORKING TOWARDS:

- I. Overall Improvement to Organizational Infrastructure with Databases and Software for Financial, Membership, and Fundraising Data.
- II. Establishing and naming an Endowment Fund to build while only using its income for annual operations; Soliciting Major Gifts/Bequests for the Endowment Fund.
- III. Major Website Improvement highlighting Videos, Conference Proceedings.
- IV. Professionally edited published book offering a selection of our twin stories. These stories would cover twinship, loss, the grief process and new lives forged.

STRATEGIC PLAN: 2018–2022

By Ruth Selig, twin to Rollyn

TTSGI: "HELPING TWINS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR TWIN"

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.

VISION:

TTSGI is the leading resource for compassion, information, communication, support, and personal connection for twinless twins and other multiples worldwide.

TTSGI GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. 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.

2. You Are Not Alone — Twinless twins need to be heard and to know they are "not alone" in their feelings. Every twinless twin has a history and a story to tell, a sorrow to express, a pain to endure, a twin to remember, and a life to continue to live. TTSGI encourages the sharing of stories and feelings in a mutually supportive environment without judgment or unsolicited advice.

Members of TTSGI offer compassionate listening and emotional support for sharing and telling these stories. Information shared among twins is held in confidence in mutually supportive group settings.

3. 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.

4. Journey To Healing — The loss of a twin can affect many areas of a twin's life for varying lengths of time. The ability to accept one's loss and to move forward is valued and supported by TTSGI. Membership status offers a myriad of personal and informational resources and support in the form of small and larger meetings, newsletters, telephone and electronic communication, an official website, books and articles and other media. The organization honors each twin's "journey to healing" and exists to help each person find her or his own time and way to accept and grow beyond loss.

SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM THE PREVIOUS STRATEGIC PLAN (2014–2019):

OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS: 2018–2022

- TTSGI name and logo have been trademarked to protect the mission and the TTSGI tagline is included on website and newsletter.
- Improved post-conference follow-up contacts through follow-up survey to all attendees and post cards for new attendees. Post cards included with the conference packets for attendees to fill out and turn in to be sent to themselves in six months.
- Membership has increased to 391 from 268 since 2014, which at approximately 10% annual growth is less than the target of 20% growth each year.
- New Financial Accounting System implemented, audit committee formed and outside review of Form 990 is conducted.
- Enhanced use of website and Facebook to provide information and connection to twins using google ads to drive traffic to website from search results, along with a moderated Facebook group and “fan” page.
- Enhanced benefits of membership include birthday and anniversary “angel” date e-cards and a redesigned newsletter. Membership dues kept at historic level.
- Board succession planning put in place through term limits; board orientation process developed.
- Initiated annual Double Your Donation campaign, which has driven increasing donations.
- Consolidated TTSGI inventory to Michigan; hired part-time administrative assistance for Executive Director.
- Developed Regional Coordinator budget and subsidy for RC conference registrations.
- Successfully conducted three annual conferences in diverse areas/cities in the Country: Nashville (2015), Detroit (2016) and Tucson (2017).

Action Items are organized under three Strategic Goals and below each goal within 1-year and 3-year time frames, and a 5-year vision. [IN THIS SUMMARY ONLY THE GOALS ARE LISTED, NOT THE SPECIFIC ACTION ITEMS].

STRATEGIC GOAL I: INCREASE TTSGI IMPACT THROUGH CORE PROGRAMS (CONFERENCE; WEBSITE; NEWSLETTER; MEMBER SERVICES).

STRATEGIC GOAL II: DEVELOP EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND PROCESSES FOR TTSGI.

STRATEGIC GOAL III: STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL HEALTH OF TTSGI BY AUGMENTING FUNDS THROUGH CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.

2019 TTSGI CONFERENCE – REGISTRATION

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

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

We look forward to seeing you this year at our Annual Conference beginning 7 PM on July 11th and ending at 10 PM on July 13th in Huntsville, Alabama!

To join us, please follow the steps below:

1. Register for the Annual Conference

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

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

Early Registration:
Before March 1 – \$225 per person

Regular Registration:
March 1 to April 30 – \$275 per person

Late Registration:
May 1 to June 5 – \$300 per person
***(Online registration closes June 5th)**

Walk-in/at door registration fee:
\$325 per person

***All attendees must register individually.**

2. Reserve your room in the room block at **Element Huntsville – Marriott** or calling **256-327-9000**.

*Be sure to say you're coming for the Twinless Twins Support Group conference so you'll receive the reduced room rate of \$139/2 doubles or 1 king. Cost includes a breakfast buffet. A block of rooms has been reserved for this conference. However, the special room rate is only for a limited number of rooms so please book early.

3. Make your travel arrangements

We recommend you book your flights into the Huntsville International Airport (HSV). This has both international and domestic flights.

* Most participants will arrive Thursday, July 11th in the early afternoon and depart Sunday, July 14th in the morning.

We'll see you in Huntsville!

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



2019 TTSGI CONFERENCE – SPEAKER



DR. EILEEN M. PEARLMAN

Dr. Eileen M. Pearlman, Ph.D is a psychotherapist, educator and author. She specializes in the dynamic and challenging world of multiple births. She holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, a Master's Degree in Special Education and is a licensed Marriage, Family and Child Therapist. She has dedicated her life to understanding the twin relationship.

Dr. Pearlman, an identical (monozygotic) twin herself is married to a fraternal (dizygotic) twin, has been seen on ABC, NBC and the Discovery Health Channel. She is the Director of Twinsight which provides counseling, workshops and seminars to multiples and their families. Dr. Pearlman is the co-author of "Raising Twins: What Parents Want to Know (and What Twins want to Tell Them)".

LIVE, SILENT AND RAFFLE AUCTIONS WE NEED YOUR HELP!

THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!!

by Dena Stitt, twin to Dean

One of the most fun, as well as most important events at our Conference, are the Silent, Live and Raffle Auctions. This is our premiere fundraiser for the year. All of the items we auction are coming from you, our TTSGI family. By the way, the items donated are tax deductible, within the limits of the law. We have a lot of fun receiving your donations on Thursday evening; the first evening of the Conference.

Here is how you can help!

Live Auction: Airline tickets; destination get-aways (donation of condos, etc.), art pieces; sculpture pieces; items with the TTSGI logo; jewelry; and any donation you think would bring in a good amount for the organization.

Silent Auction/Raffle Auction: These are miscellaneous items of lesser value, but still highly desirable by our conference attendees. There is often a contest to see who gets what they have seen that they like, this makes it a lot of fun for those competing for items!

We are only as successful as you make us. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have, including how to ship the items safely, so please email me at denastitt@mac.com. Please know, I look forward to seeing you in Huntsville in July!!

2019 TTSGI CONFERENCE – TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Note: This is a tentative schedule. However, the start time on Thursday and the end time on Saturday will not change. Please feel free to make transportation reservations based upon the start/end times in this schedule.

Thursday, July 11, 2019

7:00pm Registration Opens: first-time attendees
7:00pm – 8:00pm First-time attendee gathering
7:30pm – 10:00pm Registration opens for all
8:00am – 10:00pm Dessert Reception
10:00pm Bring all raffle and auction items to main meeting room
Note: Memorial Walk Banner will be available to sign at registration table

Friday, July 12, 2019

7:30am– 8:30am Breakfast on your own (included in room rate)
8:00am– 8:30am Inspirations for the Day
8:30am–9:00am Housekeeping announcements to help navigate the weekend
9:00am– 9:30am Introductions: Remembering our twins
9:30am–10:30am Keynote: Dr. Eileen Pearlman
10:30am– 11:00am Break
11:00am– 12:15pm Self-introduction time
11:15am– 12:15pm Breakout: TBD
12:15pm–1:30pm Lunch on your own
1:30pm– 5:30pm Self-introduction time continued
Note: There will be 2 scheduled breaks during this session
2:00pm– 4:00pm Breakout: TBD
5:30pm Free Time: Enjoy your twin friends!
10:00pm SHARP! Candle Lighting ceremony

Saturday, July 13, 2019

7:30am – 8:30am Breakfast on your own (included in room rate)
8:00am – 8:30am Inspirations for the Day
8:30am – 9:30am Annual TTSGI Business Meeting & Board Elections
9:30am – 9:45am Break
9:45am – 11:45am Breakouts: Please choose one:
• Early Loss (in-utero or shortly after birth)
• New & Raw Grief: Processing the shock of it all
• Anguish and Anger
• Unfounded Guilt: I should have or I wish I would have
• Other
• For loved ones (family members and friends)
11:45am – 1:00pm Lunch break
11:45am – 12:00pm Last call of all bids and raffle tickets
12:00pm Private drawing of raffle winners
1:00pm – 2:00pm Keynote: Dr. Eileen Pearlman
2:00pm – 2:30pm Pick-up you auction and raffle winnings
2:30pm SHARP! Load Bus for Memorial Walk
2:30pm – 3:00pm Arrive at park
3:00pm – 4:00pm Memorial Walk to honor our twins
4:00pm – 4:30pm Balloon release
4:30pm Load bus to return to hotel
4:45pm Arrive at hotel
6:30pm – 8:00pm Dinner & Awards
8:00pm – 9:00pm TT Annual Live Auction

LIST OF PAST TTGSI CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

1994 First conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana

1995 Fort Wayne, Indiana

1996 Fort Wayne, Indiana

1997 Chicago, Illinois

1998 St. Louis, Missouri

1999 Memphis, Tennessee

2000 Cincinnati, Ohio

2001 Denver, Colorado

2002 Detroit, Michigan

2003 Delray Beach, Florida

2004 Chicago, Illinois

2005 San Francisco, California

2006 Delray Beach, Florida

2007 Dallas, Texas

2008 Toronto, Canada

2009 Denver, Colorado

2010 Detroit, Michigan

2011 Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota

2012 Columbus, Ohio

2013 Los Angeles, California

2014 Baltimore, Maryland

2015 Nashville, Tennessee

2016 Detroit, Michigan

2017 Tucson, Arizona

2018 Dublin, Ohio

2019 TTSGI CONFERENCE – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHEN IS THE 2019 CONFERENCE? The conference begins the evening of Thursday, July 11 and ends at the closing banquet on Saturday, July 13. Plan to depart on Sunday, July 14.

WHO MAY ATTEND THE CONFERENCE? Current members of TTSGI and their guests (family, friends) are welcome to attend. A current member is one who has joined or renewed membership (\$50.00 annually) within the last 12 months.

WHERE IS THE CONFERENCE? The conference will be held in Huntsville, AL. Sleeping rooms for the conference will be at the Element Huntsville, and meeting space will be in the Westin Hotel. These hotels are connected. TTSGI has contracted a block of sleeping rooms for this event at a discounted room rate. Please make your reservation early, as we only held a limited number. The cost of the rooms in our block will be \$139.00/night (+tax), which includes breakfast. Book your room at the group rate for Twinless Twins now. The TTSGI room block will be held until June 14, 2019, unless all the rooms are reserved from the block before that date. **Important Reminder:** The link may allow you to book 3 days before/after the conference at our discounted rate if the hotel has availability. However, the dates of the conference and the rooms held in our block are from July 11-14, 2019.

WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE FOR THE CONFERENCE? A final 2019 Conference Schedule will be posted soon. See page 17 for a tentative schedule, to get an idea of what to expect.

WHAT AIRPORT DO I FLY INTO? Huntsville International Airport (HSV). This has both international and domestic flights.

HOW DO I GET BACK AND FORTH FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE HOTEL? There are several options for ground transportation from the Huntsville airport. Please follow the following

link to select the option that is best for you: <https://www.airportshu,les.com/huntsville.php>

WHAT WILL THE WEATHER BE LIKE? In July the average low is 71° and the average high is 91°. For more info visit www.weather.com.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR? The conference is a casual event. Most attendees wear comfortable clothes such as pants, t-shirt, blouse, jeans, shorts. The hotel meeting rooms will be air conditioned, so be prepared in case the hotel is cooler than you prefer. The Saturday night closing banquet is a bit dressier event. Men may wear a sports coat and ladies often wear dresses or nicer pant outfit.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING? Attendees often bring photographs of their twins to show to other twins they meet. Also, please consider bringing something to donate for the auctions, which help support the organization.

I AM A FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE, WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT AND WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME? The first two items on the schedule are Check-in and the First Time Attendees Welcome Reception. At check-in, each first-time attendee will receive a name tag and a packet of information. Once checked-in, the attendee can go to the welcome reception. This event is designed to ease first-time attendees into the conference weekend. At this reception, attendees will have the opportunity to meet others attending for the first time. They will also meet Board Members and Regional Coordinators. After the 30-minute reception, first-time attendees will be invited to join the other conference attendees at a dessert reception. We recommend having dinner prior to check-in. During the conference, there will be keynote speaker sessions, breakout sessions, memorial events, and workshops. Our goal is to offer ample time for sharing. However, no one is required to speak. Between

2019 TTSGI CONFERENCE – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

sessions, there will be scheduled free time for attendees to relax, reflect, and casually meet others. Finally, we will have a closing banquet on Saturday evening, followed by our annual charity auction. Plan to depart on Sunday.

WHAT MEALS ARE INCLUDED?

Thursday – No dinner provided; Light dessert reception provided

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

Friday Lunch – Not provided

Friday Dinner – Not provided

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

Saturday Lunch – Not provided

Saturday Dinner – Banquet meal provided

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

DOES THE HOTEL HAVE A FITNESS CENTER? Yes, there is a complimentary 24-hour fitness room and a swimming pool (6:00am – 11:00pm).

ARE ANY TOURIST ATTRACTIONS NEARBY?

There are many local attractions such as the Bridge Street Town Centre, Huntsville Botanical Gardens, and the U. S. Space and Rocket Center.

WHAT IS THE COST TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE?

Conference Registration:

Early Bird Fee (Jan 2 – Feb 28):
\$225.00/person

Regular Registration Fee (March 1 – April 30):
\$275.00/person

Late Registration Fee (May 1 – June 5):

\$300.00/person

Walk-In/at door registration Fee:
\$325.00/person

*All attendees must register individually for the conference, which does not include hotel reservations.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE TO CANCEL AT THE LAST MINUTE?

Unfortunately, we are unable to refund any registration fees 30 days 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 cancellation, please contact the hotel directly regarding their cancellations 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 you all 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 – 2019



“TOGETHER WE WALK”

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

I am very pleased to announce that we will be holding our Annual Memory Walk at our 2019 International Conference in Huntsville, Alabama on **Saturday afternoon, July 13th**. I encourage everyone to join us for this incredible and moving experience.

Last year, the walk was held in Columbus, Ohio. As we joined hands on that beautiful Friday morning 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. A number of twinless twins raised a considerable amount last year from family and friends (including asking via Facebook) 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.

Margaret Daffin, twin to Josie
Chairman of the 2019 Memory Walk



MEMORY WALK – 2019

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 2019 Twinless Twin Memory Walk will be held at our International Conference in Huntsville, Alabama on Saturday afternoon, July 13th at McMillian Double Helix Park.

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 gatherings. (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 Huntsville.) 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.

MEMORY WALK 2019 DONATION FORM



Your Name _____

Donations in Memory of _____

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

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

Conference Information: I will be attending the Huntsville Conference
 I will not be attending the Huntsville Conference

GATHERINGS & UPDATES



TTSGI 2018 WINTER BOARD MEETING, HOUSTON

By Margaret Daffin, twin to Josie

I was delighted to host the 2018 Winter Board Meeting in Houston, Texas, hoping that it would be a mild, sunny November weekend, but the weather failed me – it was cold and rainy, but for some board members, it was warm compared to where they had traveled from!

Transportation was arranged by a few local twins (Betsy Miller, Barbara Terry, John Rohrer and my husband, Paul Daffin) to pick up board members flying in to take them to the Sorella Hotel, City Centre, where everyone stayed for two nights. A few extended their stay to see something of the Houston area.

On Friday evening, I organized a welcoming dinner at Brio's Italian Restaurant and included the local twin chauffeurs and their significant others. We had fun being together again.

Saturday morning, everyone left the hotel for the short ride to Royal Oaks Country Club, where our board meeting took place in their board room (Paul and I are members and we hosted this). As always, we had a lot to cover in the seven hours allotted for the meeting, but we succeeded. Lunch was served and then we stayed at the club for the Saturday evening dinner. Prior to dinner, some members were content to sit by the fire and chat, while others explored the Club's grounds. After dinner, everyone returned to the hotel and departed on Sunday.

Thank you to the board members who were able to come to Houston and we missed those that did not attend this year. I look forward to seeing everyone in July in Huntsville, AL.

Members, L to R: Ray Boyle, Bob Osterholt, Lea Eriksen, Michelle Getchell, Venice Lacy, Jan Grabill-Konya, Margaret Daffin, Terry Lewis-Foor, Ruth Selig



NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL GATHERING

By Valerie Dosland, twin to Joanne

The Minneapolis contingent of Twinless Twins met on December 8, 2018. The meeting brought new and long-time twins together to share a range of experiences, but all came together in a spirit of helping and healing.

As we usually do, the group started with introductions and each shared their story and photos as they were able. It was heartbreaking to hear the newcomer's stories, their fresh twin loss felt inside each of us in our own way. The stories of long-ago twin loss showed me how deeply the loss is felt. Yet, the openness with which we shared helped me to find a little more strength to continue to move forward.

Thinking back to that day, I'm reminded of something a mentor taught me – showing up is a powerful act. Our presence matters. We were brought together by pain and loss, but we were given gifts. Our shared stories help us to not feel as alone. Hearing another say "me too" helps us to see our feelings are not uncommon. Sharing our indescribable connection is easier with people who understand. And, hearing how others have lived a life or made it past milestones, gave way to maybe see that hope is possible.

I'll close with a little nugget I learned from Sandy Meyer that day. Grieving for our twin is like eating a Tootsie Roll Pop. It takes time but we will get to the good stuff. We must keep actively moving toward the center, that's where the healing is. I think of this group as the center of my healing journey. So, thank you to everyone who joined us that day. Know that you made a difference!

Front row, L to R: Cathy Piepkorn, Dave Piepkorn, Colleen Espinoza
Rear, L to R: Kristine Baier, Bryce Hogan, Patti Barton Murphy, Joan Angelis, Maryellen Richter, Sandy Meyer

GATHERINGS & UPDATES

LONE TWIN NETWORK (LTN)

By Janet Baird, twin to Margaret

This is not an easy article to write. As regular readers of this newsletter will know, for the last four years, I have been supporting a UK twin, Sarah, on her twin journey. She found out that her twin Caz had terminal ovarian cancer and she wanted support from other twins before she'd actually lost Caz. Plus, Caz was thousands of miles away in Tasmania where she lived with her husband and son.

As part of the LTN, I couldn't help Sarah as we only support twins who have actually lost their twins, but TTSGI support twins at all stages of their journey. So, when the LTN got the request to support Sarah, Jill Deeley (LTN Chairman) asked me if I would help. I put my twinless twin hat on and contacted Sarah by email and she explained her situation. There was no professional help available until after she'd lost her twin. I knew from my own loss how valuable knowing another lone twin was because my twin and I had supported a UK twin after he'd lost his identical brother. We'd both known him before he died. When my twin died the other surviving lone twin was a fantastic support to me and he introduced me to the LTN.

The dynamic was different with Caz and Sarah but I just knew deep inside me that this was something I could and must do. Another twin in my Harrogate UK group joined me in my support. We had no time scale at that point. We just knew Caz's ovarian cancer was terminal but she was on some drug trails. We all emailed each other and arranged to meet up. Caz knew what Sarah wanted to do and was fully supportive.

We met Sarah halfway between Yorkshire and Windsor for a vintage afternoon tea. It felt like we'd all known each other forever. The twin bond between all twins is unique irrespective of where they are on their journey. From there we met in Harrogate for tea at the famous Betty's Tea Room and we went to stay with Sarah at her flat in Dorset.

We skyped Caz who was in Tasmania and on a new chemo trial. Fran met Caz when she stayed with Sarah and was amazed at how alike they were. We continued sending each other detailed emails with Sarah giving us updates on Caz's progress. All seemed fine until late 2018. Fran went to stay with Sarah again and they Facetimed Caz. She was very tired after a bout of chemo. Then one Sunday in early December we got the devastating news that Caz



was ill and had pneumonia. Sarah got straight on a flight to Tasmania the next day and was with Caz by Tuesday. She was in an isolation ward and also had the flu. I lined up the Angels on my coffee table and lit candles. Caz got through the crisis and was soon sitting up by her bed eating ice cream. The relief was incredible but it didn't last. Sarah emailed us a few days later to say Caz had

been diagnosed with leukemia and only had months or weeks to live. The pain I felt was awful. When you support another twin through their loss you experience your own loss again. So be aware if you sign up to do this you are going to have to be strong.

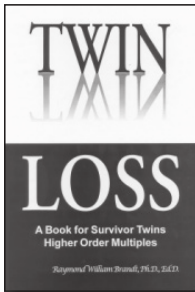
Sarah flew back to be with her children and husband as it was coming up to Christmas. She promised Caz



she'd fly back as soon as the end was near but Caz passed away while Sarah was on the long flight back from Tasmania to London. Her relatives met her at Heathrow Airport with the news. I think that is what twins do; they slip away when it's their time.

Now Sarah is one of us; she is a lone twin and a twinless twin. She is being very strong and amazing and Fran and I are there to support her. She has a long journey ahead but I think she's a little stronger already because of the strong bonds forged with other lone twins. Also, Caz knew Sarah would have our support and I think that was a comfort to her. So, I think befriending a twin before their loss is a really beneficial thing to do. It's not easy but if you can reach out, then do it!

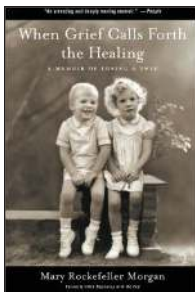
RECOMMENDED TWIN BOOKS



“TWIN LOSS”

By Raymond W. Brandt, PhD

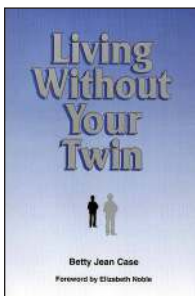
Dr. Brandt was the founder of Twinless Twins Support Group International and was considered by many an authority on twin loss. The 400-page book discusses all aspects of the loss and also speaks to the family members on how to help the survivor twin.



“WHEN GRIEF CALLS FORTH THE HEALING”

By Mary Rockefeller Morgan

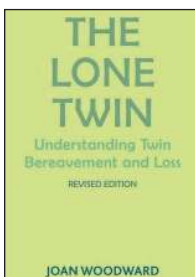
In this startlingly frank and moving memoir, Mary R. Morgan struggles to claim an individual identity, enabling her to face her twin brother Michael's death and the huge loss it engendered. With remarkable candor, she shares her spiritually evocative healing journey, which moves her forward into a life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



“LIVING WITHOUT YOUR TWIN”

By Betty Jean Case

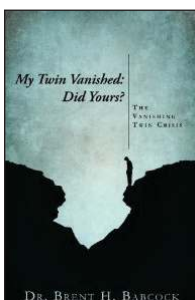
TTSGI receives a donation each time one of author Betty Jean Case's books is purchased through us. Betty was a twin, who grew up with twin siblings and had a set of twin grandsons. This 150-page book discusses how to keep living without your twin and best friend by your side. It also explores the uniqueness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



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WRITE FOR THE TWINLESS TIMES NEWSLETTER

All members are invited to submit articles for publication in the Twinless Times. The email subject should be “Twinless Times Submission.”

Submit to: twinlesstimes@yahoo.com

Stories about you and your twin are always welcome and rewarding to see in print. Our founder, Dr. Brandt, encouraged the act of writing as a means to healing.

We value articles about twin meetings, conferences, your healing journey, twin book reviews, poems, or words of wisdom. Photos can be emailed with your article in JPEG format. Please be sure to identify each person in your photos.

All articles should be sent as a Word document and we ask that you keep any article to 500 words or one page.

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.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Spring Issue: February 10th

Summer Issue: May 12th

Fall Issue: August 11th

Winter Issue: October 20th

Submissions should be emailed to:
twinlesstimes@yahoo.com

Twinless Times Co-Editors:
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