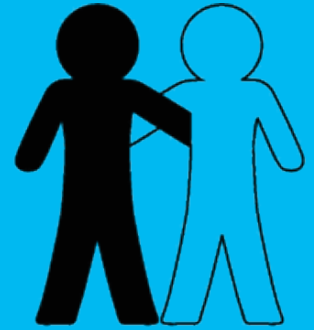


TWINLESS TIMES

FALL 2021

HELPING TWINS WHO
HAVE LOST THEIR TWIN



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Twins,

As I write this, I am reflecting on our second virtual conference held in place of our annual inperson conference this year. I want to thank the Conference Planning Committee for putting on another great event this year: Wilmette Combs, Michelle Getchell, Venice Lacy, Judith Olson, Alyssa Pratt and Dena Stitt. This year we started the conference with a virtual auction held on our Facebook page in coordination with our Facebook Moderators, organized by Wilmette Combs. The auction netted \$785 for the organization. The Conference T-shirt fundraiser, organized by Venice Lacy, also netted \$725 for the organization. I also enjoyed the Virtual Memory Walk in the morning and seeing many familiar and new faces, some walking outside and some just standing or sitting. I want to thank the chair of the Memory Walk fundraiser, Margaret Daffin. Through her fundraising efforts and yours, we raised a total of \$6,930! These funds support our organization so that we can continue to exist to help twinless twins, as well as provide scholarships for twins in need for membership dues and conference registration fees.

We then held our Annual Business Meeting, where we voted in new Board members: Larry Adams, Eduardo Echeverria, Judith Olson, and Beverly Smyk and thanked outgoing board members, Margaret Daffin, Venice Lacy, Terry Lewis-Foor and Bob Osterholt. Also, at our Business Meeting, we announced the creation of the TTSGI Founders' Memorial Endowment Fund, which currently has pledges of over \$200,000. This Endowment Fund was made possible by the generosity of Mary Rockefeller Morgan. Mary chose to make an extraordinary financial gift to TTSGI of \$100,000 in order to make sure our organization would always exist for twins who lose their twin. You can learn more about the Endowment Fund in this newsletter.

Next, Dr. Joan Friedman provided a Keynote address on twin loss and answered questions from twins. I found the Q&A very valuable and I am sure that other twins have more clarity on why so many twins struggle with moving forward in their lives. I want to emphasize that Once a twin, Always a twin from early loss to recent loss of just two weeks ago, to know that you are not alone. Twins can heal by helping each other in our journeys to healing. We are strengthened as an organization by being a diverse community with different types of loss, backgrounds and lived experiences. Also, I believe our twins are always with us and I wear a bracelet every day that says "We are never far apart" to remind me of that. I liked Dr. Friedman's reminder that we can still talk to our twins each day and on those special occasions. As a reminder, the Keynote was taped and is included in the Member's Corner of the TTSGI website.

Then we had breakout groups to provide a safe space for twins to share and listen to one another as part of our journey to healing. Thank you to breakout group leaders, Venice Lacy, Alyssa Pratt, Paul Heiden, Ruth Selig, Ed Echeverria, Dena Stitt and Judith Olson. Finally, we finished with a panel Q&A discussion regarding twin loss from different "alumni" twins, including myself, Joan Angelis, Margaret Gron, Ray Boyle and Ed Echeverria, who have been on our healing journeys for a while.

I want to thank all the twins involved in planning and facilitating the day. Also, I want to thank our Executive Director Michelle Getchell and her husband Rick who facilitated the Zoom logistics for the virtual conference. I look forward to our next inperson conference in Denver 2022, but in the meantime, please take advantage of all the opportunities to gather virtually. I want to thank our Regional Coordinators, who are hosting both regional gatherings virtually and a series of specialized virtual meetings based on type of loss or other common factors. While I miss seeing you all in person, I am glad that we can continue to use technology to gather safely.

Lea Eriksen, President



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THE EMPTY CHAIR

by Sandy Goad, twin to Jim

THE CRACKED DIAMOND

There is an old Jewish folk story told in the 1700's that I often read in my grief groups. There is a lesson in this story that can help all of us find hope in the midst of our grief.

"Once upon a time there was a king who ruled a small kingdom. The king had a great perfect diamond that had been in the family for generations. He kept it on display for all to see and appreciate. People came from all over the country to admire and gaze at it. Word of it spread to neighboring countries, and more people came to look at it. Then one day a soldier came to the king with news that, although no one had touched the diamond, for it was guarded night and day, the diamond was cracked. The king ran to see and sure enough there was a crack right through the middle of the diamond. Immediately the king summoned all the jewelers of the land and had them look at the diamond. One after another examined it and gave the bad news to the king: the diamond was irredeemably flawed. The king was crushed. Then out of nowhere came an old man who claimed to be a jeweler. He asked to see the diamond. After examining it, he looked up and confidently told the king that he could fix it. The king was shocked and a bit leery. But the old man said to give him the jewel, and in a week, he'd bring it back. Now, the king was not about to let the stone out of his sight so he gave the old man a room, all the tools and food and drink he needed, and he waited. The whole kingdom

waited. It was a long week. At the end of the week, the old man appeared with the stone in his hand and gave it to the king. The king couldn't believe his eyes. It was magnificent. The old man had fixed it, and he had made it even more special. He had used the crack that ran through the middle of the stone as a stem and carved an intricate, full-blown rose, leaves, and thorns into the diamond. It was exquisite. The king was overjoyed."

What the jeweler had done was to take something flawed and cracked at its heart and turn it into something beautiful. There is a lesson in this story for each of us. Death leaves a wound, much like the crack in the diamond. After our twin loss, we can't comprehend that a new life, not better, but different, can be carved out by us. But what often appears to be flawed and cracked holds value beyond words. When we grieve, we are the gifted craftsman. With time, patience and encouragement, a rosebud can grow from the deepest crack.

[Twinless Twins Support Group International](#) can help make that possible. Making twin connections with other twins at our regional meetings, our national conferences (virtual and in person), and on Facebook can be a way of transforming our hurt and sorrow into something beautiful and worthwhile. We listen, we share and we find hope. And in time, we reach out in compassion to others who are on their journey of grief.

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.

TTSGI GUIDING PRINCIPLES: JOURNEY TO HEALING

TTSGI has five guiding principles:

1. Once A Twin, Always A Twin, 2. You Are Not Alone, 3. Healing by Helping, 4. Journey to Healing, 5. Uniting Our Diverse Community

The Fall Edition will focus on the first one

Once A Twin, Always A Twin – The Twin or multiple birth experience, whether it is experience, whether it is experienced exclusively in utero or continued for any period of time followed 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 “twinsip” experience of loss is recognized, valued, and honored by TTSGI.

Below is an article by a twin that illustrates this guiding principle:

ONCE A TWIN, ALWAYS A TWIN

By Jane Malcolm, twin to Joan

It has been 17 years, (7-11-2004), since I lost my identical twin sister Joan to breast cancer. I found TTSGI after looking on the internet and googling twin loss. The following year after finding this wonderful group, I saw that the yearly conference would be held in Detroit. Horray! 70 miles from my house. I am going! It was the best thing I ever did! Meeting other twins who understood and listening to each and every twin's grief story at the breakout sessions was truly heart breaking though. I had my twin for 46 years. I felt very lucky. There were a lot of twins that lost their co-twin in utero or when they were very young and had no memories. The one thing that was always said, was 'Once a twin, Always a twin'. Love it! I started thinking that celebrating birthdays were going to be a lot

harder. What about the twins that shared a mother's womb from that very first day of conception? Our lives before we were born started at that very moment.

Over the last years since losing Joan, I had some health issues arise. My twin sister showed so much strength and love throughout her illness. Her positive attitude was a guiding light on making the most of her days here on earth. She has taught me that there is nothing that cannot be achieved as long as you have a great love of life with gratitude, faith, love, hope and understanding. Thank you for all of your twinsip and love. It has made my grief journey so much easier. I cherish all of the twin friends I have made. You are family and I love you all.





KEVIN'S CORNER

By Kevin Mullen, twin to Brian and Twinless Times' Correspondent

Twins Days 2021

The 4th of August, I started my trek to the 46th Annual Twins Days festival in Twinsburg, Ohio. It was a great time although a smaller number of twins came this year. For the first time ever Toronto, Canada took the farthest place award for the international traveling award. The theme of the festival was the "Roaring TWINTies". The Queens this year were Heather and Christina Lawson. There were lots of twins in flapper dresses such as Debbie and Donna Urban. Russell Scott, twin to Ralph made the trip and it was nice to see him and his brother Stanley. There's a special recognition for triplets, quads, twins from the city of Twinsburg and twinless twins where they all get medals.

On Sunday, after the festival is over, twin bowling is the fun way to the end the weekend. Ed Wasko and his twin brother JJ started this bowling event several years ago and continues this tradition with his twin family. Ed Wasko and I were the 1st place winners in the men's division. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again next year.

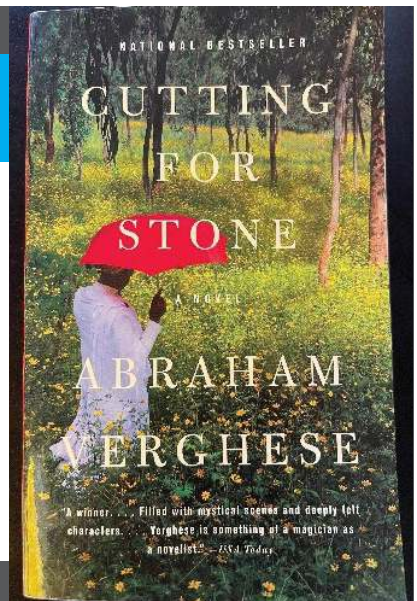


EDITOR'S PICK

TWIN 2 TWIN

By Margaret Gron, twin to Edith
Twinless Times Editor

If you are looking for a good twin story to read, consider *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese. Here is my [book review](#).



IN RECOGNITION OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS SINCE SPRING 2021

Adele Ambrose

Phyllis Ashliman – monthly pledge in memory of her twin, Phil

Ramona Beasley

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

ExxonMobil Foundation – for volunteer hours by Margaret Daffin in memory of her twin, Josie Wilson

First Giving – GoFund Me

Goodsearch – website search engine

Delaina Gumbs

Donna Hague

Virginia Holleman – in memory of my twin Betsy Katz

Lorraine Horstman – operating fund in memory of Elaine Horstman

IGive.com – money earned from online searches

Karyn Jacobs

Lisa Kulha

Sherry Learned – in memory of my love Donald Learned and his twin David

Eileen Mace

Laurie Meier – in memory of Linda Marie Meier

Network for Good – anonymous donors through Facebook

Lionel Persaud – in memory of our beloved sister, Donna Angela Persaud

Shyam Rai – in memory of his twin, Ram Rai

Susan Riddle – in memory of her twin, Judy

Beth Saffer

Carolyn Shane – monthly pledge in memory of her twin, Cary

Carolyn Shane – donations for another twin's annual membership and in appreciation and honor of the following twins who facilitated specialized Zoom groups: Ed Echeverria; Paul Heiden; Beverly Smyk; Phyllis Ashliman and Garry Rayno

Margaret Shields

Melissa Stricklin

We apologize if we have missed your name in this listing. Please let us know and we will recognize you in our Spring 2022 newsletter. Contact Margaret Daffin at medaffin@aol.com

2021 VIRTUAL MEMORY WALK

By Margaret Daffin, twin to Josie



Bridgehampton beach
New York. Walking in memory
of my twin Josie

Once again, this year, because of COVID-19, we held a TTSGI Virtual Memory Walk on Saturday morning, July 10th. Twins from all over the United States, Canada and the UK, walked or rode their bikes, at their own pace, in memory of their twins.

Each year, the Memory Walk is held as a fundraiser for TTSGI and this year we successfully raised approximately \$6,000. Our goal of \$5,000 was to help cover the loss of revenue normally raised during the annual conference – the memory walk; the sales table; the silent and live auctions, and the raffles.

A number of individual twins helped raise donations from family and friends.

Thank you to all twins and family/friends who walked and/or supported this wonderful event. We hope to see you all in 2022 in Denver, Colorado.

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

TEA FOR TWO

By Janet Baird, twin to Margaret

As I wasn't able to ride my bike this year, after a hand operation, I decided to raise money for the USA Twinless Twins Virtual Memory Walk in a different way. Tea for Two! For every take-out tea or coffee, I bought in the ten days of July leading up to the Virtual Conference, I put the same amount in my fund. On the morning of the actual Memory Walk, I walked down to our local Starbucks in Harrogate. I asked for a take-out cup of Breakfast Tea and asked for 'Margaret' to be written on the side. It felt very right. My total was £25.27.



REGIONAL ZOOM GATHERINGS:

For upcoming Regional Zoom Gatherings please check our website
<http://www.twinlesstwins.org/events/> and your Regional Coordinator.

2021 VIRTUAL MEMORY WALK DONATIONS

Individual Donors:

Joan Angeles, in memory of her twin, Jean
Janet Baird, in memory of her twin, Margaret Baird
Julie Belgue, in memory of her twin, Martha
Lea Eriksen, in memory of her twin, Eve Richards

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

Paul & Margaret Daffin
Jane Borst
Maureen Rogers
Adriana Boretti & Pedro Jaldin
Elizabeth Woelfel
Phuong Vuong
Meggy & Brandon Biss
Elizabeth & Joe Ivers
Madeleine Maciula
Alice Gruber
Robert Ducharme
Dr. Robert Porter & Joy Shiller
Edward & Madeleine Maciula
Joanne & Steve Downes
Marion & Gary Geer
Angela McCarthy
Jane Kendrigan
Howard Molofsky
Carol Coats
Tracey Smith
James Walsh
Ella Forel
Susan & Michael Klaveness
Maria & Kenny Jamail
Dr. Susan Williams
Marion & Richard Dare
Sue Smith

The following donors gave in honor of Eileen Jensen, in memory of her twin, Elaine Moench:

Raymond & Melba Rader
Larry & Carol Dyke
Wes Moench
Zeta Graham
Marlene Meinscher
Bette Dunbar
Serena Moench
Ward & Carrie Larson
Shirley Bennett
John Roberts Motor Works Company
James Chandler
Eileen Jensen
Dr. Michael & Patsie DeHuff

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

2021 ONLINE AUCTION DONORS

Lea Eriksen
Phillip Eriksen
Joan Garcia
Alyssa Pratt
Dena Stitt

Judith Olson
Lisa Cox Summers
Sarah Baumgartner
Wilmette Combs
Eileen Jensen

Thank you to all who participated in the Online Auction for the 2021 Twinless Twins Conference. Your generosity and willingness to give is so appreciated

CONFERENCE T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER

Bonfire Funds, Inc. – Venice Lacy – Organizer

TWIN GATHERINGS & SPECIALITY GROUPS

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

By Joan Angelis, twin to Jean

A silver lining of living in a pandemic: You can be in a group of people from three different states in the country, all at the same time. There are three states represented in this photo, from our seven-state North Central Region. Travel costs: zero.



MEN'S ONLY (SPECIALIZED) TWIN GATHERING

By Margaret Gron, twin to Edith

It can be difficult to express your grief but even harder when society dictates a boy needs to 'suck it up' and be strong. To be vulnerable, a safe environment is needed and this can be difficult when the majority of our twin gatherings are all women. Men's Only twin gatherings have allowed the guys to build camaraderie and feel safe to share their twin journey.



TWIN GATHERINGS & SPECIALITY GROUPS

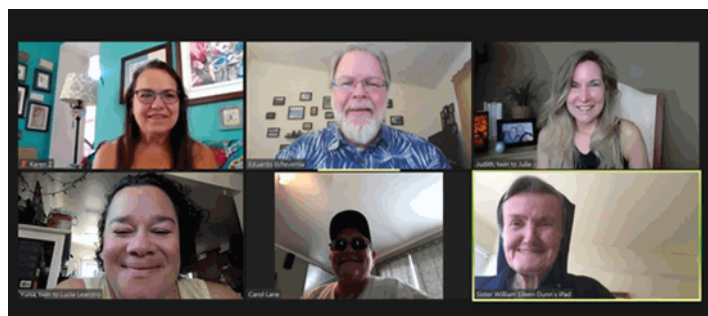
RECENT LOSS (SPECIALIZED) TWIN GATHERING

By Eduardo Echeverria, twin to Alfredo

The theme for this issue of Twinless Times is “Once a twin, always a twin” but when we first lose our twin, many don’t always think this is true. We have difficulty coping with our loss and the first few years can be pretty rough. Everyone is telling us to get over it and they just don’t understand.

One of the new specialized Zoom gatherings developed by Regional Coordinators is the Recent Loss Gathering for those twins who lost their twin during the past three years. This gathering allows twins to tell their story in an intimate secure environment. We talk about potential roadblocks that may come up and some coping mechanisms to help manage them.

Recent Loss Gatherings are limited to eight twins. If you are interested in attending, please check the TTSGI Calendar on the website for the next date. You can also send an email to Edtwin2Al@gmail.com indicating your interest in attending the next Gathering.



TRAUMATIC LOSS (SPECIALIZED) TWIN GATHERING

By Carolyn Shane, twin to Cary

On August 1st, ten members participated in this afternoon’s Zoom gathering led by Facilitator Margaret Daffin and Hosted by Carolyn Shane. The topic was, 'ANGER and its Repercussions.' The Twins discussed: Why do we feel angry about our twin dying? Do we feel partly responsible and if so, how do we manage/cope with our anger through exercise, counseling, talking to others? It was a very interactive gathering and could have continued for hours. Another Zoom session will be planned for the winter season.



REMEMBERING THE TWINS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

By Margaret Daffin, twin to Josie



Their voice is gone... but not their spirit
Their hands are gone... but not how they touched our lives
They are gone... but our love and memories will live forever
We Will Always Remember Our Twins

The following is a list of Twins who perished on September 11, 2001, together with their twin's names. We remember them now and always, on this the 20th Anniversary of that tragic day:

Gregory & Stephen	Pam & Jeff
Jay & Neil	Monique & Michael
Linda & Brenda	Billy & Charlie
Kelvin & Kevin	Margaret & Dorothy
Donna & Karen	Robert & John
Ronnie & Richard	Dynpnia & Michael
Steven & Gregory	Lance & Joseph
Neal & Nigel	Kevin & Keithroy
Paul & Jan	Mark & Harry
Margaret & Kevin	Lynn & Elaine
Daniel & John	Will & Gerald
Karen & Kristen	Michael & Mark
Lisa & Michael	Stuart & Andrew
Leigh & Leonard	Paul & Peter
Zach & Andre	Art & Scott
Bob & Bill	Diane & Mary
Joel & Ian	Gary & Geoff

Note: I came across this list in my files from 20 years ago. I believe Gregory Hoffman put the list together, after his twin, Stephen, died in the World Trade Center. Records show that there were 46 twins who lost their twin on 9/11. You can read an article, written by the Daily Mail in the UK, called [The Twins of the Twin Towers](#).

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA

by Janet Baird, twin to Margaret

I first heard about Patricia Freitas when I was in New York, November 2014. Twins, from the United States, emailed me to ask if I would support a twin in Portugal, as she'd lost her twin and had no support there. I immediately said yes and contacted Patricia. We sent long emails to each other over the next ten days and found we had so much in common. Patricia was single and had lived and worked with her twin Susana. They were top freelance translators and lived at home with their parents in Lisbon. Her life and work had been shattered by the sudden loss of Susana, who had a rare form of endocrine cancer. Like me, Patricia carried on with her translation work, on her own as she saw it as a way of honoring her twin. I had done the same with my and my twin's tutoring business.

Patricia and I stayed in close contact and a day never went past without a good morning email and a good night wish. Sometimes we'd exchange up to 20 quick email exchanges in a day. Patricia and I spoke the same language and she had no twin support where she lived. She had an older brother and elderly parents. Although I had already lost both my parents prior to the loss of my twin Margaret, I too have an older brother.

In June 2015 I went to see Patricia for five days in Portugal and had the honor of meeting her and her parents in person and also see the beautiful city of Lisbon. Patricia loved London as she had visited there with her twin, shortly before she lost her. She was also intensely interested in yoga and went to Yoga conventions in London and other European cities. I met her near the London Eye once and she took the most amazing photos, as that was her other talent.

The years ticked by and Patricia slowly adjusted to her twin loss. We supported each other through lockdown, which she was so concerned about as she had older vulnerable parents. Her health was an ongoing problem as she had thyroid issues, but she never stopped smiling, working, and attending Lone Twin Network (LTN) Zoom meetings; which she was so delighted to be able to do. Early in 2021, I introduced Patricia to two twins from Great Britain and we set up a weekly Zoom meeting. Fran and Sarah were so supportive. Sarah had lost her twin Caz only two years ago from ovarian cancer. Fran and I had supported Sarah before her loss, which was unusual but so special.

In February 2021, Patricia was diagnosed with a benign ovarian cyst and was due to have surgery, but her health took a sudden dive and she was finally diagnosed with ovarian cancer on May 8, 2021, which happens to be the anniversary of my mother's death. Patricia had a course of intensive chemotherapy but sadly her fragile body couldn't withstand the treatment. Sarah knew how serious the situation must be and forewarned Fran and me. The last email I sent to Patricia was on Thursday, August 12th. I asked her if she was ok, after her hospital check-up the day before. She sadly said no but she'd try and email the next day. That was the last I heard until her



brother Paulo posted on Patricia's Facebook page about the sad loss of his sister on August 16th. Fran saw the post just after midnight and messaged Sarah and me. I woke up to the devastating news on Tuesday morning at 6:00 am.

We don't expect to lose our twin pals and the loss of the second twin is unthinkable, as we've already had the huge loss of our own twin. Patricia was never my twin and I was never hers, but I invested heavily in our friendship and we had a very special bond. I'm lucky as I have other strong twin pals and they are supporting me now but I still am left with an actual physical pain over the loss of Patricia. She loved all things Disney and she was always sending me Mickey Mouse gifs. The last one she sent was a week last Tuesday when she heard she was in the final of a top Translation competition. I'm so pleased she knew about that. These days, it is the silence I'm finding difficult.

By Sarah Radford, twin to Caz

I was introduced to Patricia in early 2021 through our mutual friend Janet who had asked myself and Fran, another very good friend from the Lone Twin Network (LTN), to befriend a lone twin living in Portugal via our weekly zoom meetings during the long winter covid lockdown. We were of course very happy to welcome Patricia into our little friendship group



which first began years ago in 2012 when my identical twin sister Caz had been diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. Our twin friendship has grown from strength to strength over the years with meet-ups, outings for coffee and cake, and mini-breaks together (except during Covid). It was particularly comforting to have Janet and Fran for support when Caz finally lost her battle with cancer in Dec 2018 aged just 53. Before, during, and after Caz's passing our little group has evolved to become an amazing source of happiness and support as we moved forward in life together.

From the moment I met Patricia and heard her story of losing her twin Susana, I felt an immediate connection with her. She was a very gentle, quiet person with an enormous heart whom I liked immediately. She was also extremely intelligent and I was always in awe of her ability to speak a number of different languages fluently being a professional translator. Patricia was always very hard working and possessed an admirable work ethic being totally committed to her clients and her work. She was equally devoted to her family.

It is tragically sad that Patricia's parents have lost both their twin daughters within seven years of each other. It is truly heartbreaking. Although I didn't get the opportunity to meet Patricia in person, I feel very privileged to have known such a wonderful, kind, gifted, and compassionate twin. Her premature death at such a young age has been a great shock to us all. It is no understatement to say that we will miss her hugely. May she rest in peace now reunited with her beloved twin Susana, two soul sisters now together forever.



THE TTSGI FOUNDERS' MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

Ruth O. Selig, Twin to Rollyn, TTSGI Emeritus Board Member

At the summer 2021 virtual annual conference, TTSGI Board President Lea Eriksen announced that the Board had established the TTSGI Founders' Memorial Endowment Fund, made possible by the extraordinary gift of \$100,000.00 from Mary R. Morgan, TTSGI friend of many years who lost her beloved twin brother Michael when she was 23 years old. Mary holds a unique place in TTSGI's history because of the many contributions she has made since 2003 to the organization. Mary's professional work as a psychotherapist working with twins, including surviving twins from the 9/11 World Trade Center disaster, enabled her to increasingly become involved with TTSGI, serving as Keynote Speaker at multiple annual conferences, leading workshops, and providing assistance to Regional Coordinators, including helping develop their handbook. Throughout these years, many twins sought out her insight and counseling, and we all continue to benefit from her caring and trust in our organization, expressed through her generous financial gift.

Lea also shared with members the good news that the Endowment Fund, invested through Vanguard, had already grown to over \$200,000.00, thanks to generous donations from Board members, Regional Coordinators, and others who had learned informally about the new Endowment Fund.

At the summer 2021 virtual annual conference, Mary spoke informally of her pleasure in making her gift to establish the Endowment Fund, believing that this initiative would ensure the organization would endure long into the future to support twins who have lost their twin. She complimented TTSGI for its increasingly strong leadership, and said how pleased she was to learn that the Endowment Fund had already doubled due to gifts made by others.

PURPOSES OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND:

As outlined in several documents created by the TTSGI Board to administer the Endowment Fund, the TTSGI Founders' Memorial Endowment Fund creates a permanent sustaining source of financial support for TTSGI; provides stability for the organization into the future; augments the funds available for scholarships



to attend the Annual Conference; enables the Board to undertake special initiatives to strengthen the organization and realize its vision as articulated in the strategic plan; provides a mechanism to attract major gifts to the organization; honors some of the organization's earliest and most generous donors and their twins; and creates a special legacy for twin donors to honor their twins.

WHAT CAN THE ENDOWMENT FUND INCOME BE USED FOR?

The Board can spend income from the Endowment Fund to support one or more of three purposes:

1. Special Board Initiatives to enhance TTSGI as the leading resource for information, communication, support, and personal connection for Twinless Twins;
2. Scholarship funding for the Annual Conference; or
3. Specific projects identified in the TTSGI Strategic Plan.

WHO CONTROLS THE SPENDING OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND INCOME?

The Board President must recommend and the Board must approve through a supermajority the use of all funds coming from the Endowment Fund. The Board Treasurer will be responsible for tracking and annually reporting to the Board and the membership the assets, income, and use of any funds generated by the Endowment Fund, which must always be kept, for accounting purposes, as a separate, permanent fund within the organization.

ENDOWMENT FUND DONORS:

Initial donors to the Endowment Fund must pledge a minimum of \$5,000.00, payable in full or up to three (3) installments, by December 31, 2023. These donors will be considered, in perpetuity, the "Founding Donors" of the Endowment Fund. After January 1, 2024, donors who make at least a \$5,000.00 minimum contribution to the Endowment Fund, payable in full or over a maximum three-year period, will be known as "Sustaining Donors." No further gifts will be necessary for donors to be forever named "Founding Donors" or "Sustaining Donors" to the Endowment Fund. Each donor signs a Donor Pledge Form for Twinless Twins, Inc., regarding their gift to the Endowment Fund, including those who choose to give their entire gift in one year and those



THE TTSGI FOUNDERS' MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND, CONTINUED

who give their gift over several years. The Pledge Form is printed in this edition of the Newsletter and can be obtained from Margaret Daffin, Fundraising Committee Chair (Medaffin@aol.com). The Executive Director will receive all gifts to the Endowment Fund by checks made out to Twinless Twins, Inc., and sent to the following current address:

Michelle Getchell c/o Twinless Twins, Inc.
10399 Cobb Hollow Farm
Saline, MI 48176

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT TTSGI:

In her remarks, Lea stressed that the Endowment Fund is the newest, but by no means the only way, that members of TTSGI support our organization. First, and perhaps most importantly, we are an organization dependent on volunteers, since we have only one part-time paid position (Executive Director, Michelle Getchell, TTSGI member from its very beginning). These volunteers, more than a hundred throughout the years, have served as Regional Coordinators, Facebook Page Moderators, Board and Committee members, and in many other volunteer roles supporting TTSGI. In addition, financial donations of every size have supported the organization, including funds raised through our Annual Conference, with its auction, raffle, and Memorial Walk, as well as various matching fund opportunities.



FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ENDOWMENT:

For those interested in learning more about the Endowment Fund, the Board has made available a Q&A Information Sheet detailing many aspects of the TTSGI Founders' Memorial Endowment Fund. This Q&A Information follows this announcement, along with the Pledge Form for those wishing to consider a donation to the Endowment Fund.

TTSGI FOUNDERS' MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

"FOUNDING MEMBERS"

AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

Mary R. Morgan, twin to Michael Rockefeller
Ruth Osterweis Selig, twin to Rollyn Osterweis Krichbaum
Laurie Everitt, twin to Judy Anne Nobel Jakups
Margaret & Paul Daffin, twin to Josie Wilson
Lorraine Horstman, twin to Elaine Horstman
Renee Manger, twin to Stephen Manger
Lea Eriksen, twin to Eve Richards
Nadeen (Dena) Stitt, twin to Dean Arthur Thompson
Michelle & Rick Getchell, twin to Melissa (Missy) Janssen
Janice Konya-Grabill & Dennis Grabill, twin to Hal Robert McCracken
Sandy & Paul Goad, twin to Jim Shillato
Paul Heiden, twin to Peter Heiden
Jane & Bob Osterholt, twin to Bill Osterholt
Margaret Gron, twin to Edith Gron
Dr. Camille Wissmann, twin to Carmen Sigrid (Johnson) Gruman
Phyllis & Monty Ashliman, twin to Phillip (Phil) Exstrom
Laura & William Wilson, twin to Linda Stephens
L.S. Stephens Living Trust (Linda Stephens), twin to Laura Wilson

I wish to thank all of the above Endowment Fund "Founding Donors"
for their generosity and commitment to TTSGI
Margaret Daffin, Fundraising Committee Chair

Q&A FOR THE TTSGI FOUNDERS' MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

WHAT IS THE TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP INTERNATIONAL FOUNDERS' MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND?

The TTSGI Founders' Memorial Endowment Fund, (hereinafter referred to as "Endowment Fund"), has been established with the 2019 gift of \$100,000.00 by Mary R. Morgan. The Endowment Fund was created to provide TTSGI with a permanent sustaining source of financial support; to provide stability for the organization into the future; to augment the funds available for scholarships to attend the TTSGI Annual Conference; to enable the Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") to undertake special initiatives to strengthen the organization and realize its vision as articulated in its strategic plan; to provide a mechanism to attract major gifts to the organization; to honor some of the organization's earliest and most generous donors and their twins; and to create a special legacy for twin donors to honor their twins.

The establishment of the Endowment Fund is a key action item of the organization's Strategic Plan, falling under the strategic goal of strengthening the health of TTSGI by augmenting funds through charitable contributions.

WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE ENDOWMENT FUND INCOME CAN BE SPENT?

1. Special Board Initiatives to enhance TTSGI as the leading resource for information, communication, support, and personal connection for Twinless Twins;
2. Scholarship funding for the Annual Conference;
3. Projects that help carry out the TTSGI Strategic Plan.

WHO CONTROLS THE SPENDING OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND INCOME?

The Board President must recommend and the Board must approve through a supermajority the use of all funds coming from the Endowment Fund. The Board Treasurer will be responsible for tracking and annually reporting to the Board and the membership the assets, income, and use of any funds generated by the Endowment Fund, which must always be kept, for accounting purposes, as a separate, permanent fund within the organization.

HOW CAN I BECOME A DONOR TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND?

Initial donors to the Endowment Fund must pledge a minimum of \$5,000.00, payable in full or up to three (3) installments, by December 31, 2023. Such donors will be considered, in perpetuity, the "Founding Donors" to the Endowment Fund. After January 1, 2024, donors who make at least a \$5,000.00 minimum contribution to the Endowment Fund, payable in full or over a maximum three-year period, will be known as "Sustaining Donors." No further gifts will be necessary for donors to be forever named "Founding Donors" or "Sustaining Donors" to the Endowment Fund. Donors also may represent multiple members of the family/friends of a deceased twin who have pooled their resources together into a single donor unit such as the

"Family" of (the name of the deceased twin).

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BECOMING A DONOR TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND?

Contact Margaret Daffin, Fundraising Committee Chair (medaffin@aol.com) for further information about the Endowment Fund or to obtain a Donor Pledge Form to make your pledge and/or make a gift to the Endowment Fund.

ARE ALL DONORS TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND REQUIRED TO SIGN THE DONOR PLEDGE FORM?

Yes. For accounting and record-keeping purposes, everyone who wishes to donate to the Endowment Fund must sign the Donor Pledge Form that will be kept on file with both the Executive Director (Michelle Getchell) and the Fundraising Committee Chair (Margaret Daffin).

WHAT IS THE ANNUAL PAYOUT FROM THE ENDOWMENT FUND?

After the Endowment Fund is announced to the entire TTSGI membership, and if the total Endowment Fund (exclusive of any pledged funds) exceeds \$200,000.00 (or a larger amount if the Board should so determine), the Board Treasurer will announce to the Board, on an annual basis, how much of the income generated by the Endowment Fund's investments can be spent during the following calendar year (the annual payout). If the income in any given year is not spent, that income can be added to income to be spent in following years.

The Treasurer will be responsible for tracking both the principle and the income generated by the Endowment Fund year by year. As with many Endowments for non-profit organizations, the "payout" does not necessarily need to equate to the exact income generated by the Endowment Fund since the Board may decide instead on a specific PERCENTAGE (for example, 4% or 5% of the principle) as an alternate way to establish an annual payout that would reflect both the income and the fund's annual appreciation due to investments. This approach also takes into account the volatility that can occur due to the market fluctuations through time.

At no time, except under "Exceptions in Times of Emergency" as described below, can funds be spent that would bring the bottom line of the Endowment Fund below \$200,000.00 (or a larger amount if the Board should so determine).

CAN THE ENDOWMENT FUND PRINCIPLE EVER BE SPENT IN ADDITION TO THE ANNUAL INCOME IT GENERATES?

In general, the answer is NO, except where the organization's existence is threatened. Although the Board cannot anticipate a national or organizational emergency that might threaten the existence or operational viability of TTSGI, these guidelines allow the Board to declare that such a situation exists for TTSGI. The declaration of a "viability emergency" would enable the

Board to approve, with a super majority and on a one-time basis only, the spending of a portion of the Endowment Fund principle that might bring the total Endowment Fund below \$200,000.00 (or a larger amount if the Board should so determine.) It is expected that once the emergency situation has been ameliorated, the Endowment Fund would be built back up to its previous level.

HOW WILL TTSGI INVEST THE FUNDS IN THE ENDOWMENT FUND?

Under the leadership of the Board Treasurer, and in consultation with the Finance and Audit Committee, an investment policy has been developed that will be voted on by the full Board. The Finance and Audit Committee also selected an investment firm (Vanguard) to assist with the investment and reporting needs of the Endowment Fund.

HOW WILL THE BOARD REPORT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENDOWMENT FUND TO THE MEMBERSHIP?

The Board Treasurer will include in the TTSGI Annual Report the financial performance of the Endowment Fund, what monies were used and for what purposes, and any accomplishments or results that came from spending income generated by the Endowment Fund. This information will be shared with the membership at the Annual Conference Business Meeting.

WHO ARE THE FOUNDING AND SUSTAINING DONORS TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND?

The initial donors to the Endowment Fund must pledge a minimum of \$5,000.00, payable in full or up to three (3) installments, by December 31, 2023. Such donors will be considered, in perpetuity, the "Founding Donors" to the Endowment Fund. After January 1, 2024, donors who make at least a \$5,000.00 minimum contribution, payable in full or over a maximum three-year period, to the Endowment Fund will be known as "Sustaining Donors." No further gifts will be necessary for donors to be forever named "Founding Donors" or "Sustaining Donors" to the Endowment Fund. There is no end date for donors to become Sustaining Donors.

HOW WILL DONORS BE RECOGNIZED?

The Endowment Fund will be recognized and described, as appropriate, in outreach materials that publicize the existence of TTSGI; in the TTSGI Annual Conference Program where the donors' names and the names of their twins will be printed; on the TTSGI Website; and in one quarterly issue of the Twinless Times, where the Endowment Fund will be described and all of its current donors' names and the names of their twins will appear. When the listing of the Endowment Fund donors is printed, the "Founding Donors" will be listed alongside the names of their twins, followed by the "Sustaining Donors" alongside the names of their twins.

HOW WILL THE FULL MEMBERSHIP LEARN ABOUT THE ENDOWMENT FUND?

The public announcement of the Endowment Fund was

made at the 2021 Virtual Annual Conference. The inclusion in this newsletter is another aspect of the "roll out" of the Endowment Fund initiative so that all members and friends of TTSGI will have the opportunity to participate and become "Founding Donors" to the Endowment Fund.

WHERE SHOULD PLEDGED GIFTS TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND BE SENT?

The Executive Director will receive all gifts to the Endowment Fund by checks made out to Twinless Twins, Inc., and sent to the following address:

Michelle Getchell c/o Twinless Twins, Inc.
10399 Cobb Hollow Farm
Saline, MI 48176

The Board Treasurer will determine how these checks will be handled and deposited. Other forms of donation (stock gifts, matching gifts, Paypal, etc) are possible, but should be discussed with the Executive Director in advance of the gift.

WHO IS IN CHARGE OF ACKNOWLEDGING THE ENDOWMENT FUND GIFTS?

The Board President, Past Board President, and Board Treasurer must approve all documents as well as the mechanism for tracking and acknowledging all gifts to the Endowment Fund. Margaret Daffin, Fundraising Committee Chair, will draft the official letters of thanks to the donors to the Endowment Fund from the organization. In addition, the Board President will write a hand-written note to each donor to the Endowment Fund when the first payment pledged has been received by TTSGI.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND IF TTSGI CEASES TO EXIST?

The Endowment Fund Guidelines specify that should TTSGI as an organization dissolve or merge with another organization, the Board would decide on the disposition of the Endowment Fund. In this regard, the Board might identify other 501(c)3 organizations such as Compassionate Friends that provide support for those in grief, or provide support to twinless twins, including parents of multiples. Other possible organizations to receive a portion of the Endowment Fund could include research institutions or centers that support research into twins and other multiple births.

In establishing the Endowment Fund, the Board assumes the responsibility of ensuring the long-lasting impact of the Endowment Fund, whether it continues under Twinless Twins, Inc., or under another similar organization should TTSGI ever merge with another organization or cease to exist.

Prepared by:
Ruth O. Selig, TTSGI Emeritus Board Member and
Margaret Daffin, TTSGI Fundraising Committee Chair
8/5/2021

THE TWINLESS TWINS SUPPORT GROUP INTERNATIONAL (TTSGI) FOUNDERS' MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND DONOR PLEDGE FORM



TTSGI FOUNDERS' MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND:

The TTSGI Founders' Memorial Endowment Fund (hereinafter referred to as the "Endowment Fund") has been established with a 2019 gift of \$100,000.00 by Mary R. Morgan, to create a permanent sustaining source of financial support for TTSGI; to provide stability for the organization into the future; to augment the funds available for scholarships to attend the Annual Conference; to enable the Board to undertake special initiatives to strengthen the organization and realize its vision as articulated in its strategic plan; to provide a mechanism to attract major gifts to the organization; to honor some of the organization's earliest and most generous donors and their twins; and to create a special legacy for twin donors to honor their twins.

DONORS RESPONSIBILITY:

Initial donors to the Endowment Fund must pledge a minimum of \$5,000.00, payable in full or up to three (3) installments, by December 31, 2023. Such donors will be considered, in perpetuity, the "Founding Donors" of the Endowment Fund. After January 1, 2024, donors who make at least a \$5,000.00 minimum contribution to the Endowment Fund, payable in full or over a maximum three-year period, will be known as "Sustaining Donors." No further gifts will be necessary for donors to be forever named "Founding Donors" or "Sustaining Donors" to the Endowment Fund.

THE BOARD CAN SPEND ONLY INCOME FROM THE ENDOWMENT FUND TO SUPPORT ONE OR MORE OF THREE PURPOSES ONLY AFTER THE FUND REACHES A SPECIFIED LEVEL:

1. Special Board Initiatives to enhance TTSGI as the leading resource for information, communication, support, and personal connection for Twinless Twins;
2. Scholarship funding for the Annual Conference; or
3. Specific projects identified in the TTSGI Strategic Plan.

DONOR PLEDGE:

I/We _____ pledge the TOTAL amount of \$ _____ to the Endowment Fund, to be paid in Full or up to three (3) installments by the end of 2023 as follows:

- \$ _____ Amount of donation Paid in Full
\$ _____ Amount of first donation by December 31, 2021
\$ _____ Amount of second donation by December 31, 2022
\$ _____ Amount of third donation by December 31, 2023

PRINT NAME & TWIN'S NAME BELOW (As you would like them to appear for recognition purposes in all printed materials):

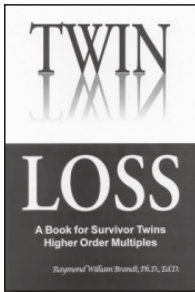
Signature of Donor(s) _____ Date _____

Pledge Received by Michelle Getchell, Executive Director

Signature _____ Date _____

CC: Margaret Daffin, Fundraising Committee Chair

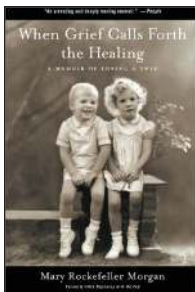
RECOMMENDED TWIN BOOKS



“TWIN LOSS”

By Raymond W. Brandt, PhD

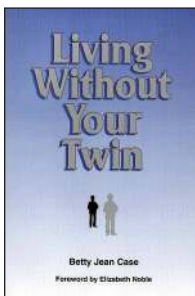
Dr. Brandt was the founder of Twinless Twins Support Group International and was considered by many an authority on twin loss. The 400-page book discusses all aspects of the loss and also speaks to the family members on how to help the survivor twin.



“WHEN GRIEF CALLS FORTH THE HEALING”

By Mary Rockefeller Morgan

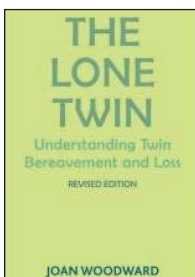
In this startlingly frank and moving memoir, Mary R. Morgan struggles to claim an individual identity, enabling her to face her twin brother Michael's death and the huge loss it engendered. With remarkable candor, she shares her spiritually evocative healing journey, which moves her forward into a life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



“LIVING WITHOUT YOUR TWIN”

By Betty Jean Case

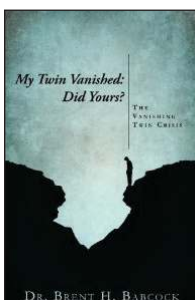
TTSGI receives a donation each time one of author Betty Jean Case's books is purchased through us. Betty was a twin, who grew up with twin siblings and had a set of twin grandsons. This 150-page book discusses how to keep living without your twin and best friend by your side. It also explores the uniqueness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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lea Eriksen – President (2022)
Jan Konya-Grabill – Vice President (2022)
Matt Vierling – Secretary (2023)
Ray Boyle – Treasurer, Past President
Judith Olson – Director (2022)
Wilmette Combs – Director (2023)
Alyssa Pratt – Director (2023)
Larry Adams – Director (2024)
Eduardo Echeverria – Director (2024)
Beverly Smyk – Director (2024)
Ruth Selig – Board Emeritus
Dena Stitt – Board Emeritus

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Getchell

P.O. Box 980481
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
contact@twinlesstwins.org

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@gmail.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@gmail.com

Twinless Times Co-Editors:
Margaret Gron & Emily Heekin

LIST OF REGIONAL COORDINATORS – 2021

PLEASE USE CONTACT@TWINLESSTWINS.ORG TO CONNECT WITH YOUR REGIONAL COORDINATOR.

UNITED KINGDOM
JANET BAIRD
AFFILIATE MEMBER

AUSTRALIA
• OPEN •
AFFILIATE MEMBER

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PATRICIA
WILBEE-MATESIC

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

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- New York

NEW ENGLAND
GARRY RAYNO

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

MID-ATLANTIC
MICHAEL KARBELING

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

SOUTHEAST
JESSICA WICKEY

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- Florida
- Georgia
- North Carolina
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- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Wisconsin

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SARAH BEEBE

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- Kentucky
- Missouri
- Ohio

SOUTH CENTRAL
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- Mississippi
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- Tennessee
- Texas

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JACOB YURICH

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

NORTHERN MOUNTAIN
• POSITION OPEN •

- Idaho
- Montana
- Wyoming

WEST COAST
EDUARDO ECHEVERRIA

- Alaska
- California
- Hawaii
- Oregon
- Washington

