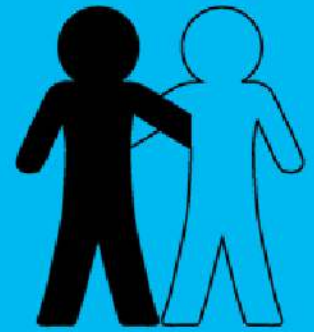


TWINLESS TIMES

FALL 2022

HELPING TWINS WHO
HAVE LOST THEIR TWIN



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Twins,

I am humbled, honored, and excited to be the new President of TTSGI. This organization has meant so much to me over the years and has been such an integral part of my own healing journey. It is truly a privilege to be a part of such a life-giving, compassionate community.

I want to thank Lea Eriksen Talamantes, twin to Eve, for her nine years of service on the Board, including the last three years as TTSGI President. I am thankful that Lea has graciously agreed to remain as Past President for one year to ensure a smooth transition and provide guidance when needed. Under Lea's tenure as President, TTSGI has prospered (even amid a global pandemic) – a credit to Lea's leadership, strategic vision, and all the incredible, selfless contributions of our Regional Coordinators, Board of Directors, Committee members, Executive Director, and everyone who makes this organization so special.

I'd also like to extend a huge thank you and congratulations to our Conference Planning Committee and our Executive Director, Michelle Getchell, twin to Missy, for a very successful conference in Denver, Colorado in July. After two years of virtual conferences, it was so invigorating to be surrounded by twins in-person again. More than anything, I was reminded of how fortunate we are to have TTSGI, an organization that shines light in the darkness and encourages us all to connect meaningfully with our five guiding principles: 1) Once a twin, always a twin; 2) You are not alone; 3) Healing by helping; 4) Journey to healing; and 5) Uniting our diverse community.

For those I haven't met yet, my twin brother, Mark, died in 1996 when we were 9 years old after a lengthy battle with a brain tumor. For many years, I struggled to make sense of his death and navigate this world apart from his physical presence. In 2011, I went to my first TTSGI Annual Conference in the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, where I began a truly "re-Mark-able" healing journey. It is because of TTSGI that I am who I am today. My hope is TTSGI either has had or will have a similarly profound impact on your own healing journey.

I look forward to meeting many of you over my term and working together to continue providing a safe and compassionate community for twinless twins to experience healing and understanding.

In Twinship,
Matt Vierling, President



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THE EMPTY CHAIR

by Sandy Goad, twin to Jim

WE ARE A TAPESTRY

The word *tapestry* is often used to describe something with a rich and vivid history. That describes TTSGI. From its beginnings, Twinless Twins has been a tapestry

weaving many shapes and sizes and colors, gifts and talents together. Each thread, different from the other, woven together in unity and love.

One of the guiding principles of TTSGI is “Uniting Our Diverse Community” which affirms our commitment to diversity and inclusion, providing a safe and welcoming community for all twinless twins. The TT Board has stated, “Our intention is to be the leading resource for compassion, information, communication, support, and personal connection for twinless twins worldwide.”

Maya Angelou has said, “We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color.”

Diversity and inclusion are often mentioned together. Diversity refers to anything that sets one individual apart from another, including the full spectrum of human demographic differences as well as the different ideas, backgrounds, and opinions people bring. At its core, it is the understanding that everyone is unique and should be respected for their differences.

Inclusion refers to “the state of being included or being made a part of something.” Inclusion is about honoring diversity. It implies a feeling of belonging and sense of uniqueness. It represents the extent to which people feel valued, respected, encouraged to fully participate, and able to be their authentic selves.

Conversation has the power to reveal what we have in common – to break down bias and connect us based on who we really are at heart. When we listen and celebrate what is both common and different, we become a more inclusive and better organization. Twinless Twins creates many opportunities for conversation at our conferences, regional meetings, and affinity groups. We also have the opportunity to actively listen to other twins as they speak in each group. Every twin’s contribution is valued.

We all have the power to take actions that promote inclusion and make those around us feel loved and accepted. Even small actions can make an enormous impact. Let us continue to create a sense of belonging. It is important that all twinless twins know they are welcome and integral to our healing community. The world is a melting pot of many cultures and backgrounds and our diversity is what will continue to make us a unique, strong, and vibrant organization.

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

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 fifth one: **Uniting Our Diverse Community**

UNITING OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

By Lea Eriksen Talamantes, twin to Eve and Co-Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee

In December 2020, the Board approved a fifth guiding principle: Uniting our Diverse Community:

TTSGI welcomes all identical and fraternal twinless twins, regardless of when loss occurred, race, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, political affiliation or religion. We share the common bond of twinship regardless of our differences. It is important that all twinless twins know they are welcome and integral to our healing community. Our community includes all twinless twins, defined by our organization as a person who has lost due to death a twin or a sibling who is part of a higher order multiple such as triplets.

As part of implementing this principle, the board also approved forming a Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The purpose of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee is to provide advice to the Board and other committees to ensure that our leadership, programming, meetings, content and operations are equitable and inclusive. The goal of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee activities is to ensure our commitment to provide a safe and welcoming community for all identical and fraternal twinless twins, regardless of when loss occurred, race, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, political affiliation or religion.

We did a call for volunteers to serve on this committee and I am happy to report that we found nine twins to serve on this committee. The Committee is co-chaired by myself and Venice Lacy, twin to Toni. The Committee has met twice to plan our work. One of our initial focuses was to assess if the annual conference was welcoming and inclusive to twins. To do this, committee members approached twins at the conference to ask how they were experiencing the conference. We also asked a related question on the post conference survey. If you haven't already filled out the post conference survey, please do so because we want to hear how welcomed and included you felt at the conference.

I also want to take a moment to thank the current committee members which include Venice Lacy, twin to Toni; Michelle Getchell, twin to Missy; Larry Adams, twin to Gary; Eduardo Echeverria, twin to Alfredo; Margaret Gron, twin to Edith; Janet Baird, twin to Margaret; Tanya Miller; twin to Tami' and Kevin Mullen, twin to Brian. I look forward to continuing our work in uniting our diverse community!



KEVIN'S CORNER

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

On August 3rd, My Mom and I started our yearly trek to Twinsburg, Ohio for the 47th Twins Days Festival. The theme this year was "Welcome 2 the Jungle".

This was my 17th year in attendance which includes the 2020 Zoom festival which couldn't not be held in person.

A new twist to this year's Kings & Queens was there were two sets of identical twin siblings born 18 months apart. The Kings - Drew and Noah Perry and the Queens - Darien and Nina Perry.

Twinsburg friends of mine, Matt and Rachel Zronek met another set of boy/girl twins while standing in line and asked them where they were from - they replied Vermont. Matt and Rachel replied, we know a twin from Vermont, his name is Kevin. At the same moment, I was walking towards the Zroneks, heading to the field for the group photo. The twins they met were Alicia and Josh Muir. Alicia and Josh grew up in my hometown and lived only three miles from me. Our age difference was why we had never met before but the strangest thing is my mother had just spoken with their mother and talked about how we were going to be there. The kids were very excited to meet up. They said they had been looking forward to meet me.

I also met South Central Regional Coordinator, Margaret Gron, twin to Edith on Sunday before the Sunday group photo. This was our first- time meeting. Russell Scott, twin to Ralph was there along with his brother Stanley, always great to see them.

Kevin Mullen, twin to Brian and Ed Wasko, twin to JJ, are twin bowling partners and placed third this year. It's a fun way to end the Festival and to see if the older or younger twins are better. The A Twins won for the second year in a row.

The unofficial count was 2,145 registered sets of twins and multiples.

Kevin Mullen and Margaret Gron at the annual Twins Days Festival in Twinsburg, Ohio.



RELATIVELY SPEAKING

A PLACE WHERE RELATIVES OF TWINLESS TWINS CAN SHARE

MY TWIN MOTHER, BY NATALIE DOUD

Daughter of Twinless Twin, Joan Angelis
Niece of Twin, Jean Angelis Majeski
May 4, 1954-August 11, 1982

My twin mother
Was always there
Inside my mother
In my youth

My twin mother
Shields my heart
From the slings and arrows
Of my mind

When the words repeat
Not_____enough
Not_____enough
Not_____enough
My twin mother reminds me

All you need is to live
To breathe
To be
Alive

For the ones who love you
Need you here
However you are
Whoever you are

And that's enough
Because you're enough
And love will carry you
through
So just keep being you

And I will too
Your love is in my
Jeans.

THINGS WE DO FOR OUR TWIN

[Vogue Skydiving With Silicon Valley Skydiving – Anna D. Smith Fine Art and Real Estate Broker \(adsmith.broker\)](#)

Anna D. Smith provided her account – through this link – chronicling her skydive adventure in honor of her twin Dan. View it, like it, and comment!



TTSGI ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022-DENVER

By Janet Baird, twin to Margaret

I arrived at the Denver conference venue two days before it started on Thursday, July 14th. We went sightseeing and visited Red Rock Amphitheater and downtown Denver. The regional coordinators' meeting was Thursday morning where we discussed our progress (I'm the UK/USA liaison twin to our sister organization, Lone Twin Network - LTN) and then we had a working lunch with the Board. At the Board meeting, we introduced ourselves before Joan Angelis, a regional coordinator, read out the progress made this year which included our monthly Zoom meetings and a series of Affinity groups for different types of twin loss. Joan is retiring after 12 years of service as an RC with TTSGI so we officially thanked her and presented her with a beautiful blue-green necklace.

After the Board meeting, the RCs visited the Denver Science Museum. The museum curator is Stephen Nash, who is a twin! We had a fantastic tour behind the scenes and Steven told us about the new repatriation policy for exhibits and how they work with indigenous groups who own the artifacts.

After the tour, some regional coordinators met for dinner before we all registered for the conference and got our T-shirts and bags. New twins had a Welcome session at 8 pm and afterwards, Lea as outgoing President, gave a welcome address. I tried to speak to as many new twins as I could.

Friday started with Inspirations, which is a mixture of music and readings for all faiths or no faith. I was assisting Eileen Jensen. We went straight on to the executive director's opening session. Michelle told us about the conference schedule then Lea said how much she'd enjoyed being president of the TTSGI. She introduced the keynote speaker who was Nancy Weil. Nancy studied under Darcie Sims, who was very well known for her amazing keynotes and sessions at our conferences. Nancy's session was all about being in the present and not living just in the past or thinking too much about the future. She was very funny which might sound alarming but Darcie Sims used humor in her grief therapy sessions and it works! We have to take a step back and look at our grief journey with open and new eyes.

After a break, I went to the break-out session led by Nancy Weil which was on affirmations and turning around negative thoughts.

In the afternoon there was self intro time where I listened to twin stories before heading to my Diversity Committee meeting at 4 pm. At 5:30 pm two school buses took us to Stanley Market, an area in Denver that used to be an aviation factory. It's now a collection of local food outlets and craft stalls. We got the early bus back at 7:30 pm as there was a Candle Lighting Ceremony at 9 pm. We were all given small battery-powered candles. We stood in a circle and after reading, we all lit our candles one by one around the circle and said our twin's names. It was very emotional.

Saturday started with Inspirations at 8 am followed by our business meeting at 8:45 am. We were given an update on the accounts and the new Endowment fund. We also learned of the new elections to the Board and those who were finishing their term. After a break, we had a choice of breakout sessions and I chose the Family Relationships lead by Margaret Gron. It lasted 2 hours but it was so good I didn't think about the time! It was interactive and very valuable. We had lunch at a Subway before I was interviewed for the documentary on Twin Loss. We had a set of twin filmmakers at the conference! At 3 pm we left for the Twin Walk. We traveled on two yellow school buses to Aurora Park. We had a signed banner with all our twins' names on it. We also stopped to journal and blow bubbles for our twins! After the walk, we went back to the hotel and got ready for the banquet at 6 pm. Speeches were made and the Dr. Brandt Award for long-term service was announced. Ruth Selig was the well-deserved recipient. Then we all cheered and stood up as we heard Matt Vierling is the new President! The evening ended as always with the Live Auction. Venice supervised it with Dave Jones who did the actual auctioneer bartering.

On Sunday I left on the 8 am shuttle after a final breakfast. I was sad to leave but it had been the best TTSGI conference ever!

DR. BRANDT MEMORIAL AWARD 2022

By Lea Eriksen Talamantes, twin to Eve

At the TTSGI Annual Conference I had the privilege of announcing the Dr. Brandt Memorial Award.

Established in 2001, the Dr. Brandt Memorial Award is presented by the TTSGI Board of Directors to the individual whose contribution and dedication to helping twinless twins parallels that of the late Dr. Raymond W. Brandt. This award was established to honor the memory of Dr. Brandt but also point to the future. We all strive to carry on this great man's work and life-long passion, so it is fitting that recognition for exemplary efforts carry his name.

This year we were so thrilled to recognize a twin who has served the organization in different capacities for 20 years: Ruth Selig, twin to Rollie.

1) First, we wanted to recognize her work in the Mid-Atlantic Region, including, helping Sandy Goad to start the group and then facilitating the sharing time for meetings as Sandy and then Mike Karbeling requested.

2) Second, for her time working with the TTSGI Board as a Board member, and most recently



as an Emeritus member. Ruth was the principal rearchitect of the TTSGI Strategic Business Plan, and she was absolutely critical to the formation of the TTSGI Founders' Memorial Endowment Fund, including personally donating one of the largest amounts. Her work on the Endowment Fund guidelines and investment policy will ensure that the Endowment Fund can serve as a permanent sustaining source of financial support for TTSGI.

3) Third for her contributions to the Twinless Times, and particularly the new Feature "What Science Tells Us About Twins" which will lead to a special section of the TTSGI Website devoted to Research About Twins.

4) Lastly, for initiating and facilitating the new Affinity Group for Twins who lost their twin 15 plus year ago.

Ruth's contributions to TTSGI are greatly valued and will have lasting impact for decades. She has truly exemplified Dr. Brandt's passion and this award in his name is so well deserved.

VOLUNTEER!

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

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

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

Go to: www.twinlesstwins.org

2022 MEMORY WALK, DENVER, CO

By Margaret Daffin, twin to Josie
Host of the 2022 Memory Walk



It was so good to be with all of our twinless twin friends in Denver this year and to once again hold the Memory Walk on Saturday afternoon, July 16th.

Each year, the Memory Walk is held as a fundraiser for TTSGI and this year we successfully raised approximately \$6,000.

A number of individual twins helped raise donations from family and friends, and a few held a Facebook Memory Walk Fundraiser.

Thank you to all twins and family/friends who walked and/or supported this wonderful event. We hope to see you all in 2023, possibly somewhere in the Midwest!

2022 RAFFLE & AUCTION DONORS

Larry Adams
Brent Babcock
Tracie Barrett
Joseph Basehart
Julie Baumgartner
Sarah Baumgartner
Brianna Bendixsen
Joyce Blade
Judy Clarke
Jayson Cody
Leanne Convis
Rod Cowan
Maranda Curphy
Leslie Cutler
Margaret Daffin
William Deutschendorf

Eduardo Echeveria
Lea Eriksen Talamantes
Donna M. Etheridge
Diana Foster
Joan Garcia
Ilene Goldman
Brandi Harrison
Eileen Jensen
Fred Jenson
Kevin Johnson
David Jones
Jan Konya-Grabill
Patty Kuhns
Venice Lacy
Katy Kay Liest
Karrie Marton

Laurie Meier
Alyssa Pratt
Michelle Raminez
Carolyn Rayno
Susan Riddle
Karla Scanlan
Becca Scher
Russell Scott
Carolyn Shane
Joy Smith-Kyne
Beverley Smyk
Peter Spanitz
Dena Stitt
Abby Vierling
Jacob Yurich

In addition, prior to the conference, our new President, Matt Vierling, held a Bonfire sale of TTSGI conference t-shirts, and raised \$240.31.

Thank you to all who participated in the raffle and silent/live auctions at the 2022 Denver Twinless Twins Conference. Your generosity and willingness to give is so appreciated. To everyone who bought 50/50 raffle tickets, thank you. If your name is not listed above, we apologize and thank you.

2022 MEMORY WALK DONATIONS

Individual Donors:

Joan Angelis – in memory of Jean
Phyllis & Monty Ashliman – in memory of Phil
Linda Burke – in memory of Lee Burke
Sharon Choate – in memory of Karen J. Choate
Joan Garcia – in memory of Jane DeLa Cruz
Eileen Jensen – in memory of Elaine Moench
Laurie Meier – in memory of Linda Marie Meier
John Roberts Motor Works Company – in honor of Eileen Jensen
Beverley Smyk – in memory of Lisa, twin to Rob Fitzmaurice

The following donors gave in honor of Beverley Smyk, in memory of her twin, Donna Angela Persaud:

Jennifer Chaiton – in memory of my sister
Lionel Persaud – in memory of my sister
Robert Sennett Design
Beverley Smyk – my twin, forever in my heart

The following donors gave in honor of Jan Konya-Grabill, in memory of her twin, Hal Robert McCracken:

Chris Iseri – in memory of my brother
Tamara Johnson – in memory of my brother
Jan Konya-Grabill – in memory of my twin

The following twins held Facebook Fundraisers in memory of their twin:

Lea Eriksen Talamantes – in memory of Eve Richards
Leslie Pennypacker – in memory of Matthew Howard Pennypacker

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

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

Michelle Berg
Meggy & Brandon Biss
Adriana Boretti & Pedro Jaldin
Jane Borst
Christine & Kevin Brown
Kindel Burton
Paul & Margaret Daffin
Joanne & Stephen Downes
Robert Ducharme
Elida El Gawly (Fidelity Charitable)
Marion & Gary Geer
Alice Gruber
Elizabeth & Joe Ivers
Jane Kendrigan
Madeleine Maciula (Schwab Charitable)
Howard Molofsky
Andrea & Glenn Pezzani
Dr. Robert Porter & Joy Shiller
Sue Smith
Phuong Vuong
James Walsh
Elizabeth Woelfel
Beverly & George Yeiter

FACEBOOK MEMORY WALK FUNDRAISERS

Dear Twins: If any of our members held a Facebook Memory Walk Fundraiser this year, please let me know and the amount that you raised for TTSGI.

This way, we can use 50% of the money raised for our Scholarship Fund.

Many thanks.

Margaret Daffin
Fundraising Committee Chair
medaffin@aol.com





AFFINITY GROUP ZOOM MEETINGS FOR TWINLESS TWINS

Organized by Carolyn Shane, twin to Cary,

This past year and a half, through Zoom, TTSGI has made it possible to connect Twinless Twins around the country and even around the world, going beyond our traditional regional meetings to create specialized affinity groups. With support from our TTSGI national organization, we now have a flourishing program of specialized meetings determined by how twins lost their twin or how recently that loss occurred. These meetings are announced in the Twinless Times, on Facebook, on our Website and through individual email invitations. This is one of the best benefits of your membership in TTSGI as only members can attend these meetings.

In this article below, you will find a listing of each of these "affinity groups," along with the date of their next meeting. We also report in the Twinless Times on meetings that have already taken place.

I encourage each of our members to take advantage of these offerings and put at least one of the dates on your calendars now. Every "affinity group" has a host and a facilitator. When you receive the email invitation from the host of the meeting, all hosts are listed below with their "affinity group", be sure to open the email and respond positively. Once you "sign up for the meeting," you will be contacted through email and given the Zoom link the day before the meeting.

Kindly requesting Zoom Gathering etiquette: If you want to sign-up for a meeting but you are not sure you can make it, then when you RSVP let the host know at that time you are a MAYBE. If your plans change for whatever reason and you no longer can attend the Zoom Gathering, then PLEASE let the host know so those on the call will not wait in vain for you to get onto Zoom. Thank you!

We hope you will take advantage of this program. No one understands us more than another twin whose twin has passed away.

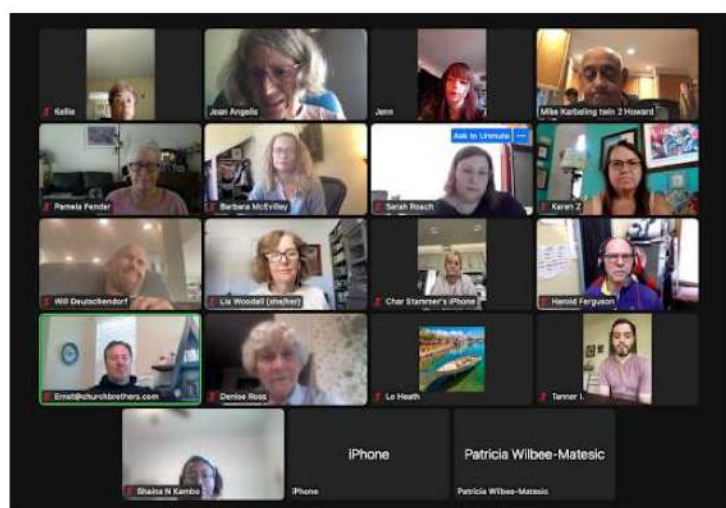
Affinity Group	Host	Facilitator	Meeting Date
Suicide Loss	Joan Angelis	Joan Angelis	October 22, 2022
Early Loss from the womb thru age 3	Carolyn Shane	Alyssa Pratt	February 12, 2023
Alcohol and Drug Overdose	Carolyn Shane	Jessica Wickey	October 9, 2022
Recent Loss: 3 years or less	Ed Echeverria	Ed Echeverria	Sept 24, Nov 12, 2022 January 7, 2023
Unexpected and Sudden Loss due to health issues or accidents	Beverley Smyk	Diana Morgan	October 13, 2023
Traumatic and Violent Loss includes murder, wrong place/wrong time	Carolyn Shane	Kim Crews	November 5, 2022
Mature Loss: 15 years and beyond	Carolyn Shane	Ruth Selig	September 18, 2022
Long-Term Illness	Garry Rayno	Jan Konya-Grabill	September 17, 2022
First Contact/New Members	Joan Angelis	Alyssa Pratt	Sept 3, Dec 3, 2022 February 25, 2023
Men's Only Group	Margaret Gron	Margaret Gron	September 17, 2022
LGBTQ+ (our newest group)	Ed Echeverria	Larry Adams	November 6, 2022

RECENT TWIN GATHERINGS

Regional Coordinators continue their efforts despite the pandemic. Zoom twin gatherings have provided a safe environment to connect and share our twin stories and journey.



**Northeast Region
Zoom Gathering
May 22, 2022**
Carolyn Shane, twin to Cary,
Regional Coordinator



**Twin Loss by Suicide
July 9, 2022**
Seventeen twins attended.
Hosted by Joan Angelis,
Regional Coordinator



**Traumatic and Violent Loss
Affinity Group Gathering
July 31, 2022**
Facilitated by Margaret Daffin
Hosted by Carolyn Shane

RECENT TWIN GATHERINGS

Regional Coordinators continue their efforts despite the pandemic. Zoom twin gatherings have provided a safe environment to connect and share our twin stories and journey.



**Northeast Region
Zoom Gathering
August 21, 2022**
Carolyn Shane,
Regional Coordinator
(photo is a partial attendance)



**Early Loss from the
Womb through Age 3
Affinity Group
August 28, 2022**
Alyssa Pratt, Facilitator
Carolyn Shane, Host

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

TWIN2TWIN INSIGHT

By Margaret Gron, twin to Edith

Hello there! I'm sharing some twin insight, in this fall Twin2Twin, hoping something catches your eye. By the way, if you stumble upon some interesting twin insight in your daily adventures and want to share it with membership, send it my way - gmgron@gmail.com. A big thank you to those twins who contributed to this issue: Alexis Guajardo, twin to Emmie (South Central Region), Joy Smith Kyne, twin to Gay (West Coast Region), and Janet Baird, twin to Margaret (UK-LTN).

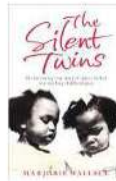
Twin 2 Twin Insight

Fall 2022



I'm Watching:

Twins, June and Jennifer in [The Silent Twins](#) (2.5M views)



We read their [story](#), now let's watch it on the big screen! In theaters September 16th.

I'm Inspired by:

Pilots, Alan and Alex - [click to read more](#)

 @AlaskaAir Twitter



I'm Listening to:

Austin Butler saying Elvis is a twinless twin at 1:13 minutes of this video of [behind the movie](#) for the making of Elvis. Just listen!

His twin Jessie is mentioned 3 times in the new movie, Elvis! [Here's the trailer](#) (20M views)



I'm Reading:

[Twin Flower](#)

Want to plant them in your rock garden, just [click here](#).



© Twin2Twin

INCOMING & OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

By Lea Eriksen Talamantes, twin to Eve and TTSGI Past President

INCOMING

Welcome to new Board Member Phillip Drange, twin to Aaron

Phillip has been a member of TTSGI for seven years. Phillip lost his twin Aaron due to an accidental drowning in 2014. Phillip is a Music Teacher who lives in Chico, California. Phillip is serving on the Board of Directors because he wants to give back to the organization and its members who gave him so much through the early years of his membership in TTSGI. Phillip is particularly interested in serving the younger members of TTSGI, and keeping their interests in the Board conversations.



INCOMING

Welcome to Returning Board Member Margaret Daffin, twin to Josie

Margaret has been an active and involved member of TTSGI for twenty-six years. Margaret joined TTSGI in 1997 after losing her twin Josie to murder in 1996. Margaret is retired and lives in Houston, Texas. Margaret has previously served as a board member, but rolled off last year to serve a one-year break in compliance with board term limits that were put in place. She currently serves as the chair of the Fundraising Committee and the host of the Memory Walk. Margaret is grateful to serve to honor her twin Josie and to bring a sense of continuity to the Board.



OUTGOING

Thank you to outgoing Board Member Wilmette Combs, twin to Wilma

TTSGI would like to thank Wilmette Combs, twin to Wilma for her TTSGI Board Service. Wilmette has served on the board for nearly three years. Wilmette lost her twin Wilma in 2013 due to breast cancer. She attended her first TTSGI conference in 2015 and has attended ever since; missing only twice. Wilmette served as TTSGI Facebook Moderator for about three years and on the Board, she served as a member of the Conference Planning Committee. She also assisted with the online auction for the 2021 Virtual Conference and personally made the popular Twinless Twins Face Masks which she provided to twins and only asked for a donation to Twinless Twins in return. Thank you, Wilmette!



INCOMING & OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

By Lea Eriksen Talamantes, twin to Eve and TTSGI Past President

OUTGOING

Thank you to outgoing Board Member Judith Olson, twin to Julie

TTSGI would also like to thank Judith Olson, twin to Julie, for her TTSGI Board service. Judith filled the unexpired term of a board member and served on the board for the past year. Judith joined TTSGI in early 2019, soon after losing her identical twin sister, Julie, to complications of Breast cancer. Judith has served on the 2020 and 2021 conference committees and co-chaired the 2020 Memory Walk fundraiser. During her board service Judith assisted the Fundraising Committee and was a member of the Marketing Committee. Though Judith has opted to not seek reappointment to the Board, she plans to continue to support TTSGI by working to strengthen ties to similar organizations such as ICOMBO (International Council of Multiple Birth Organizations). Thank you, Judith



OUTGOING

Thank you to Past President and Treasurer, Ray Boyle, twin to Jimmy

TTSGI would also like to thank Ray Boyle, twin to Jimmy, for his 12 years of service to the Board. Ray has been a member of TTSGI since 2002. Ray lost his twin Jimmy to an auto accident at the age of 6. Ray had served as President for 9 years and under Ray's leadership TTSGI, as an organization, became more transparent, financially and legally stable, and began using modern financial and database systems. Ray's dedication to TTSGI also included three years serving as Treasurer where he used his CPA talents to keep track of the bookkeeping and other paperwork. Thank you, Ray!



OUTGOING

Thank you to Outgoing Board Emeritus Member, Ruth Selig, twin to Rollie

TTSGI would also like to thank Ruth Selig, twin to Rollie, for her over 20 years of TTSGI Board service and emeritus board service. Ruth has been a member for many years and lost her twin Rollie to Breast Cancer 40 years ago. Ruth was the chief architect of the organization's updated strategic plan. Ruth was a member of the Finance & Audit Committee and was absolutely critical to the formation of the TTSGI Founders' Memorial Endowment Fund. Ruth finished her first term as Board Emeritus member and has retired from the organization. Thank you, Ruth!



FAREWELL FROM THE OUTGOING TTSGI PRESIDENT

By Lea Eriksen Talamantes, twin to Eve and Past President

As was announced at the TTSGI Annual Conference, I have completed my 9th year on the board and my 3rd year as President. I was able to serve on the board this long due to filling an unexpired term and due to the extending of terms for one year early in COVID. With that record of service, I am now at the end of my term limits and am ready to turn over the responsibility and the privilege to lead this organization and refocus my time on my family.

I am so proud of the work that TTSGI has done over the years and specifically, during my time as President, we have accomplished the following:

- TTSGI Paid Membership has increased to 600 from 400 since 2019, which is a 50% increase over three years.
- We created an Endowment Fund which has over \$250,000 in pledges in order to establish a permanent sustaining source of financial support for TTSGI.
- We successfully achieved and maintained our goal of two years of reserves of operating budget.
- We approved a fifth Guiding Principle "Uniting our Diverse Community" to ensure that TTSGI is a safe and welcoming community for all identical and fraternal twinless twins, regardless of when loss occurred, race, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, political affiliation or religion.
- We formed committees that are functioning and producing work products like brand guidelines, codes of conduct, fundraising plans, and conferences (both virtual and in person).
- Our Regional Coordinators work expanded beyond boundaries with virtual regional gatherings and affinity virtual gatherings based on type of loss and length of time of loss and other factors.
- We under hauled the website and it is now on a sustainable maintenance plan.
- We grew the Facebook membership to 5,300 FB members and continue to have dedicated members moderating the group.



- We revised and adopted the Strategic plan, written about in Twinless Times and placed on Member's Corner.
- We held a ten-year visioning exercise at the 2019 Conference, which was written about in Twinless Times and is in the process of being incorporated into committee work and the new Strategic Plan.

This is just a partial list of accomplishments, but it is impressive, especially since we did all this while facing the greatest pandemic in our lifetimes, which challenged us as an organization and individually. I believe that we came out stronger, more technically enabled and ready for the future.

I am so happy that the Board elected Matt Vierling, twin to Mark as the new President. Matt has already contributed so much to TTSGI in the past and has the leadership and dedication needed to take on the President role. I am happy to stay on for one year as Past President for continuity and to provide guidance and support to Matt as he needs it. I want to assure you all that I remain committed to TTSGI, and I would like to stay involved long into the future, just in a different capacity. I have found my board service and especially my time as President to be incredibly rewarding.

IN RECOGNITION OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS SINCE SPRING 2022

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

Richard Bayer

Bonfire.com

Kurt Boma – in memory of his twin, Karl

BNY Mellon Trust of Delaware National Financial Services, LLC –

Retirement distribution check

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

Tracey DeRosa – twin to Tim

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

First Giving - GoFund Me

Goodsearch – website search engine

Donna Hague

Virginia Holleman – in memory of her twin, Betsy Katz

Lorraine Horstman – to assist with the needs of the organization, in memory of Elaine Flemming

Elizabeth & Joe Ivers – in honor of Margaret & Paul Daffin

IGive.com – money earned from online searches

Shayna Medley

Laurie Meier – conference assistance

Network for Good – anonymous donors through Facebook

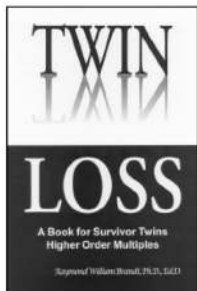
Carolyn Shane – monthly pledge in memory of her twin, Cary and a donation as a tribute to Lea's marriage to one lucky fellow!

Judy Harding Valdez – in memory of her cousin, John Harding, who is a twin, and who recently died

Patricia Wilbee-Matesic – donation for a conference banquet dinner

We apologize if we have missed your name in this listing. Please let us know and we will recognize you in our Spring 2023 newsletter. Contact Margaret Daffin at medaffin@aol.com

RECOMMENDED TWIN BOOKS



“TWIN LOSS”

By Raymond W. Brandt, PhD

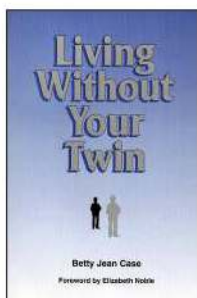
Dr. Brandt was the founder of Twinless Twins Support Group International and was considered by many an authority on twin loss. The 400-page book discusses all aspects of the loss and also speaks to the family members on how to help the survivor twin.



“WHEN GRIEF CALLS FORTH THE HEALING”

By Mary Rockefeller Morgan

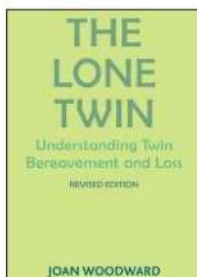
In this startlingly frank and moving memoir, Mary R. Morgan struggles to claim an individual identity, enabling her to face her twin brother Michael's death and the huge loss it engendered. With remarkable candor, she shares her spiritually evocative healing journey, which moves her forward into a life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



“LIVING WITHOUT YOUR TWIN”

By Betty Jean Case

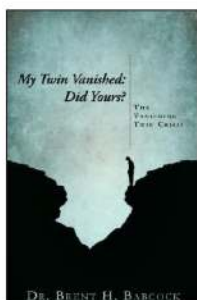
TTSGI receives a donation each time one of author Betty Jean Case's books is purchased through us. Betty was a twin, who grew up with twin siblings and had a set of twin grandsons. This 150-page book discusses how to keep living without your twin and best friend by your side. It also explores the uniqueness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

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Eduardo Echeverria – Director (2024)
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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@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:
Brecky Peabody & Emily Heekin**

LIST OF REGIONAL COORDINATORS – 2022

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

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AUSTRALIA
• OPEN •
AFFILIATE MEMBER

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- Newfoundland
- Nova Scotia
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- New York

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- Wisconsin

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- Idaho
- Oregon
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