

FROM THE WINGS



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SILVER WINGS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Fall 2023



From Our President

Silver Wings International held their first convention for just two days on September 29 and 30, 1989 in Scottsdale, Arizona. The first location was the Days Inn, a motel located outside the parking lot of the Goldwater's department store. The room rate was a whopping \$35. The main attraction was the Fashion Square shopping mall. We've come a long way!

I have completed two terms as President of Silver Wings. As the New York convention attendees learned, I am stepping down and Brenda Wyatt will assume the position of President of Silver Wings in 2024. I took office in January of 2020, the beginning of the Covid year. It was quite a learning curve, dealing with issues that no one had yet experienced. People stayed home and learned to telecommute. Our house had a drive-by Mother's Day, the kids left flowers on the porch, but no hugs. Previously, the board met twice a year in person. Thanks to Covid, we started having board meetings once a month by Zooming. That was a gift. Issues got communicated and settled quickly. We got to know each other on a personal level not possible before. Zooming has been a wonderful tool. With an experienced board in place, our organization continued to thrive.

I am thrilled that Brenda will be your next President. As the founding Vice President, Brenda has been with Silver Wings since 1988. It is fitting that after 35 years she takes the reins once more to guide our membership that has grown to 1000 plus. With Brenda at the helm, the leadership role comes full circle. She will do a great job!

On a personal note, I will miss being in the mix very much. Being President has forced me to keep up with technology, learn more about negotiating contracts and experience dealing with diverse chapter issues. Most especially, I have made many new friends and reconnected with old friends. We have a unique and special organization in Silver Wings International. I encourage you to continue to stay involved and support this amazing fellowship of TWA flight attendants in any way you can. Thank you as a group for being who you are, and thank you for the love and support you have given to me these past four years.

Ronnie Bohlander

Save the Date



2024

SWI ANNUAL CONVENTION

September 28 - October 5, 2024

Cruise on the St. Lawrence Seaway
from Boston, MA to Montreal, Canada



The SFO chapter's monthly book club has been meeting once a month for 25 years!

In Front: Marsha Johns, Marilyn Ugalde Back Row: Kaye Juhl, Kathy Higgins, Susan Marshall, Joanne Westfall, Diane Putterman, Emily Murphy, Teri Friedlander, Judi Provance, Penny Wright



St Louis - Celebrating Birthdays!

Seated: Sheila McCann, Kathy Kyte, guest Standing: Nancy Nichols, Gary Park, Kim Sullivan, Yvonne Greenwood, Wade Padgett, Linda Ballow, guest



LAX chapter members got together for Hawaiian-themed lunch



Gerri Salkeld, Pamela Blithe, Linda Duffy, Mary Scavarda, Judy Thompson, Suzi Noden



CHAPTER CHATTER

Don't miss out on the fun at your next chapter gathering!



ARIZONA ~ *Standing:* Ann Bruce, Marlene Howard, Pat Church, Patty Martin, Mary Roberts, Alice Batsche, Kay Garrett Thompson
Sitting: Cheryl Dennis, Kathy Ince, Sheila Prince, Karen Benedict-McGuire, Georgia deCordoba



NEW YORK ~ *Back Row:* Inge Baecker, Chris Malley, Stephen Granfield, Marielsa Ruiz, Jan Kappel, Lona Asher, Margaret Albert, Nancee Meyer, Valerie Roffe, Karen Kobus, Stephanie Byrne, Anne Alfano, Jamie Boyd, Sherry Murcott, Nancy Lusk, Carla Manzuk, Marie-Helene Lecour, Irmgard Lohren, Kathy Shear *Middle Row:* Frances Rowley, Tung Lei Wong, Pat Holmes, Patricia Whitelock, Anita Pabst, Marie Saunders, Iris Perez *Front Row:* Liz Vigil and Mary Ann Zovko



SAN FRANCISCO ~ *Back Table:* Ursula Smith, Candy Fontana, Yoli Rodrigues-Gross, Cathy Ray, Sandra Fung, Beka Dugan, Sharon Fenzel, Candace Cameron, Sharon Sequeria, Kary Tritt, Mary Rector
Front Table: Sheri Albert, Mary Bimba, Berta Reynolds-Clift, Jackie Fullerton, Martha Schier, Diane Hawkins, JoAnne Barter, Janet VanPelt, Judy Smith-Kennedy, Anna Singlar
Standing: Carolynn Erickson, Millie Barrett, Jo Austin, Jan Ellis, Jeannie Thomas, Teri Friedlander, Emily Murphy, Tish Thinesen



PHILADELPHIA ~ *Front Row:* Helen Raasch, Becky Sisca, Olga Chyzowych, Laurie Lees, Kathy Hitchiner
Top Row: Karin Verri, Judi Trace, Diana Evens



ORLANDO-SPACE COAST, FLORIDA ~ Susan Juister, Kim Clarke, Patti Pawling, Kristina (a friend of Gun's who drove her to this surprise birthday party), "Birthday Girl" Gun Godbeer, Diane Dobish, Karen Sylvester, Pat Fusco, Suzanne Cagwin



LOS ANGELES ~ Judy Whitney, Nancy Young, Adina Wineland, Ludie McIntosh



LOS ANGELES ~ Seated: Linda Fjoslien Barry, Pam Davison Koch, Donna Shockley, Brenda Brownrigg Faries
Standing: Carole Larkins, Brenda Wong



LOS ANGELES ~ Lee Ann Weise, Betty Ford



LOS ANGELES ~ Karin Hansen, Shelley Stockwell, Nadine Lester



LOS ANGELES ~ Mary Lou Metts-Phipps, Mary Ann Ayres, Linda Fjoslien Barry, Mike Phipps, Carole Pateman



LOS ANGELES ~ Leslie Shariay, Mary Scavarda



ST LOUIS ~ Front Row: Eileen Postle, Carolyn Beck, a guest, Yvonne Greenwood, Terrie McKee, Kathy Kyte, Linda Ballow Back Row: MaryJo Capelli, MaryLynn Schneider, Kim Sullivan, Wade Padgett, Gary Park, a guest, Ken Murray, Nancy Nichols



ST LOUIS ~ Janice Hobson with STL chapter chairs Yvonne Greenwood and Terrie McKee



ORLANDO-SPACE COAST, FLORIDA ~
Celebrating Gun Godbeer's 84th birthday!



PHOTOS WANTED



For those of you who have still not sent your "Before & After" photos to Julia Falk for the Silver Wings albums, NOW is the time to do it! As of May 31, 2024, Julia will no longer be accepting pictures for the photo albums as she is completing the project and the albums are being donated to the TWA museum in Kansas City.

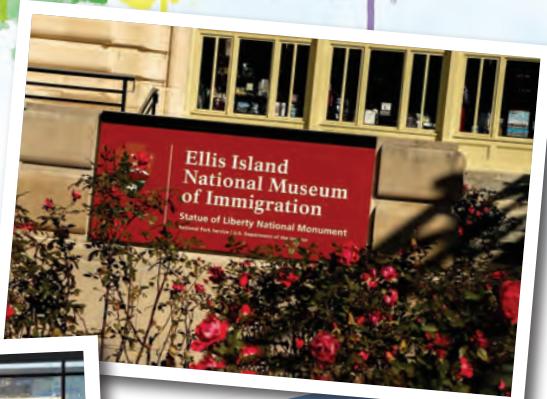
JUST A REMINDER: You should send your TWA graduation picture plus a retirement (in uniform) or post-retirement photo. Mark the dates of the photos on the back. Please send by post office mail (NOT email) to:

Julia Falk, 3333 Noyo St, Oakland, CA 94602

Silver Wings

2023 Convention

New York



Tyler Morse, MCR Chairman and CEO

RAFFLE WINNERS



ARIZONA
Barbara Kird



GEORGIA
Kathleen Heenan



LAS VEGAS
Adrienne Montgomery



MICHIGAN-OHIO
Carolyn Elliot (Rose McIntosh
accepting for Carolyn)



NEW YORK
Yoli Rodriguez-Gross



SACRAMENTO
Karen Slyvester



SAN FRANCISCO
Zee Thompson



SARASOTA-FT. MYERS
Lynn Hall



SOUTH EAST FLORIDA
Faith Grill



TEXAS
Kathy Kyte



Standing: Chris and Ed Malley Seated: Nancy Ellison Lane,
Jamie Boyd, Pat Monteferrante



The back of Tyler Morse's
jacket (a gift from SWI)



SWI Board of Directors 2023 - Valerie Roffe, Anita Ridpath, Ronnie Bohlander,
Katie Novell and Frances Rowley



Tish Tucker and Mary Davis in replica of Howard Hughes office



Tish Tucker, Frances Rowley, Mary Davis



Stephanie Byrne, Lindsay Starr, and Valerie Roffe
on the TWA Hotel rooftop



Eileen Fisk, MaryAnn Donahue, Marcey Marold



Andrea Parker, Lena Bortolin-Sternberg



Anna Singlar, Patricia Stevens



Behind Anita Ridpath is Terrie McKee, Yvonne Greenwood, Alan Rhinehart, Pam Wood, Kathy Kyte



Brenda and Bob Wyatt with Marie Rector



Brenda Salyer, Jo Ayers Burge, Judy Johnson, Carol Kershner Pighin in New York taxis



Brenda Wyatt, Ronnie Bohlander



Candy Fontana, Annalee Chandler



Carolyn Elliott



Charlotte Pederson, Pat Monteferrante

Carol Kershner Pighin, Jo Ayers Burge, Brenda Salyer below Statue of Liberty



Alice Batsche, Shirley Esulto, Terry Rogers



Dee Dee Caine, Marielsa Ruiz, Brenda Wong,
Suzanne Marchisello, Emily Rutili, Linda Fjoslien Barry,
Shirley Esulto



Dee Patrick, Karen Lantz, Vicki Gray, Lynne Adelman



Edward and Lynn Saxe



Cindy Burrows, Frances Rowley, Diane Sattenstein,
Marie Saunders



Enjoying Julia Falk's TWA Flight Attendants photo albums



George Bohlander, Robert Wyatt



GRAND CENTRAL STATION
Jo Burge,
Carol Kershner Pighin,
Candy Fontana



Jo Austin, Jo Ann Barter, Janet Van Pelt, Norma Westall



Jan Kappel, Nancy Lusk, Mary Kron





Jane Tobias-Hilton, Linda Fjoslien, Alice Batsche



Joy Gunter, Louise Lloyd Franz



Judy Johnson and Jo Burge check out the menu at the Paris Cafe in the TWA Hotel



June O'Mahoney, Lesley Shahriary, Lynne Adelman



Karen Lantz, Vicki Gray



Marie Rector in the TWA Hotel pool



Kay Hopkins visits Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island



Kay Hopkins, Larry Fitzgerald, Jane Tobias-Hilton



Lindsay Starr, Anita Ridpath, Beth Holcombe



Lora Stewart, Steve Grandfield



Brenda Wong, Stephen Granfield, Paul Humphrey, Geri Newberry



Katie Norvell, Tyler Morse, Brenda Wyatt, and Ronnie Bohlander



Linda Simpson, DeeDee Caine, Shirley Esulso, Alice Batsche



Mary Roberts, Brenda Wong, Pat Fusco, Kris Okimoto, Julia Falk, Delia Wilmont King



Lynne Adelman, Jane Durand



Lynne Adelman and Vicki Gray inside the Connie Bar



Marie Rector with TWA travel posters



Marielsa Ruiz, Mary Ann Zovko



Mary Penniman, Allan Rhinehart, Kathy Shear



Oksana Faller, Maureen Wong. Seated Debbie Gabay, Patty Rogers, Karen Bytnar, Rich Maggio



Kris Okimoto (seated), Sharon Sequeira and Sheri Albert



Pat Fusco, Delia King, Tyler Morse, Norma Byers, Pam Harris



Oksana Foster, Sally Draffen, Chris Warden Malley



Pat Monteferante, Nancy Ellison Lane, Jamie Boyd



Shirley Esulto



TWA Hotel retro beauty shop - Brenda Wong, Steve Harris, Sherry Murcott, Pat Monterferante, Sally Draffen



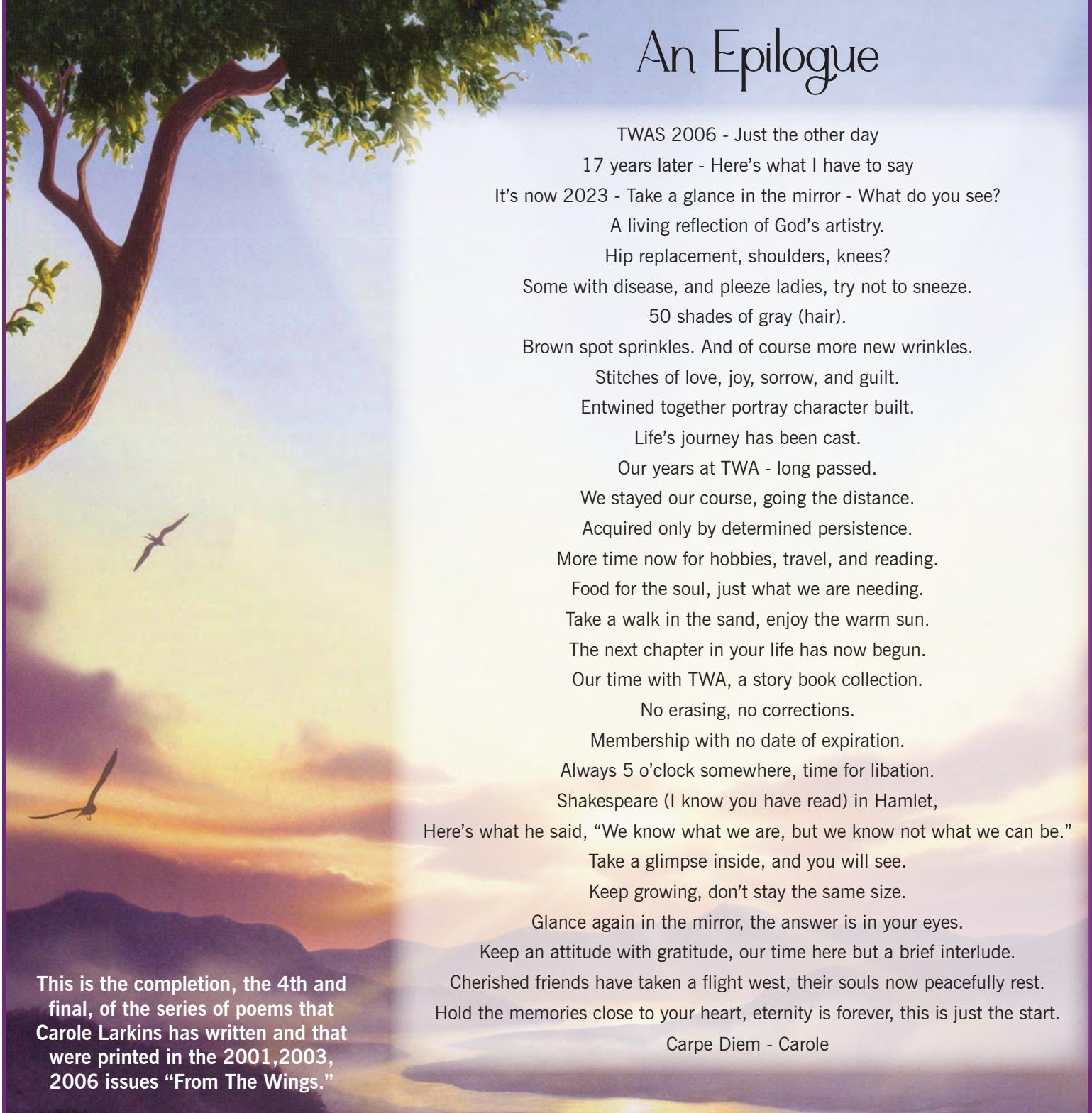
Vickie DiGiovanni, Marie Rector, Brenda Wyatt



Phyllis Anasti Colucci, Iris Perez



Yvonne Greenwood, Kathy Kyte, Terrie McKee, Pam Wood



An Epilogue

TWAS 2006 - Just the other day

17 years later - Here's what I have to say

It's now 2023 - Take a glance in the mirror - What do you see?

A living reflection of God's artistry.

Hip replacement, shoulders, knees?

Some with disease, and please ladies, try not to sneeze.

50 shades of gray (hair).

Brown spot sprinkles. And of course more new wrinkles.

Stitches of love, joy, sorrow, and guilt.

Entwined together portray character built.

Life's journey has been cast.

Our years at TWA - long passed.

We stayed our course, going the distance.

Acquired only by determined persistence.

More time now for hobbies, travel, and reading.

Food for the soul, just what we are needing.

Take a walk in the sand, enjoy the warm sun.

The next chapter in your life has now begun.

Our time with TWA, a story book collection.

No erasing, no corrections.

Membership with no date of expiration.

Always 5 o'clock somewhere, time for libation.

Shakespeare (I know you have read) in Hamlet,

Here's what he said, "We know what we are, but we know not what we can be."

Take a glimpse inside, and you will see.

Keep growing, don't stay the same size.

Glance again in the mirror, the answer is in your eyes.

Keep an attitude with gratitude, our time here but a brief interlude.

Cherished friends have taken a flight west, their souls now peacefully rest.

Hold the memories close to your heart, eternity is forever, this is just the start.

Carpe Diem - Carole

This is the completion, the 4th and final, of the series of poems that Carole Larkins has written and that were printed in the 2001, 2003, 2006 issues "From The Wings."



Sharon Lager
August 2023



Rareen Cora Huey Calahan
August 2023



Victoria Richison
September 2023



Linda Fontana
October 2023

NO PHOTO
Carol Corly
November 2023

Flown West



Interview with Gail Bickett

By Kaye Juhl

At 25 years old, Gail Barthwick found herself back in New Jersey living with her dysfunctional mother and wondering what to do with her life. It was 1965, and she had left a modeling career in Los Angeles at the same time she left her husband. As with many of us, she noticed an ad in the local paper looking for prospective TWA "hostesses." The cut off age limit was 26 years old so she had to apply immediately. With the required copy of divorce papers in her hand, she went to her first interview in New York. This interview followed with another in LaGuardia. Here she met a tall lean applicant named Karen Thoma. Karen was in a restroom trying to calm her nerves and dry her sweat stained clothing. Only 10 young women would be chosen out of every 40 who applied. Those 10 were given tickets to fly to Kansas City. Karen turned out to be her roommate in training...and her lifelong best friend. For the first time in years, Gail's hair was no longer blonde as it had been as a hair model but had immediately been dyed a medium brown as required for her new job. The first months took them from New York to Indianapolis many times. Not having the required language for International trips, domestic flying was the only choice. Years of immersion heaters with soup and crackers were ahead.

They had a great time as roommates. Gail laughs when remembering Karen meeting her date, football star Frank Gifford. Frank showed up for their date at the shared apartment and was introduced to an unsuspecting Karen. She was watching TV with her beehive hairdo well sprayed and wrapped in toilet paper! On days off, they could usually be found with a drink in one hand and a cigarette in the other. Gail had always wanted to be a party girl in those early years. The two went separate ways with Karen becoming a Service Manager and Gail marrying Doug, a famous voice-over actor. Doug spoke fluent German and would help her learn the language as they took car rides. While this marriage did not last, learning the



Because of flooding in Baveno, Betsy Fisher, Gail Bickett and Karen Thoma went on a boat to get to their crew bus in Milan.



Karen Thoma, Momduha, Gail Bickett and Said at a gold shop in Cairo.

German language was a success, and she was finally able to fly International routes.

International travels often took her to Paris. She loved meeting the new man in her life, TWA pilot Joe Bickett, for dinner there. Joe soon became her third husband. Joe and Gail would fly to Florida to stay in a small condo they owned. They would visit Gail's sister then drive south to visit Karen two hours away. Karen was divorced from TWA pilot Daryl Roark and had met a very compatible boat captain who she would be with the rest of her life. Joe and Gail had a home on a remote hillside in Pope Valley, California where they lived until Gail sold the property after Joe's death. Joe had suggested that Gail move to Florida when he died and be closer to Karen, but Gail had always loved California so she stayed. At our first Silver Wings convention at the New York TWA Hotel in 2019, Gail and Karen had a great time in spite of Karen being very weak due to various cancer drugs. Lung cancer took her life in October 2021.

Gail and I talked about the importance of giving meaningful things away while you are alive. Jewelry, a book, a memento of any size means so much to people you leave behind. Gail does not have Karen's cartouche to wear, but she does have 55 years of memories with her best friend.

Gail had a serious fall recently resulting in 4 trips for emergency treatments. Not only a spiral fracture of her elbow but a disintegrating disk and exposed nerve in her back as well as a head injury causing some cognitive problems. She told me: "Never get old!" I told her that the advice has come too late!

Gail Bickett still lives in the Pope Valley area. She finds peace and relaxation on the deck with her partner Robert or in the garden with their dogs and chickens. ■



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WWW.twasilverwings.com

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MARCH 15, 2024 will be the cutoff date for receipt of pictures & articles for the next newsletter. *Please email photos to laweise93@yahoo.com in Large/"Actual" size with a HIGH resolution and include names when possible.