A Message from our Founder

Kate Munger

What a miracle! Folks all over the country are becoming familiar with a form of Kindness called Singing at Bedside. People who are grieving are asking for and receiving something that eleven years ago didn’t exist in any systematic way.

I am so very proud of this work we do and I have the joy of adoring those of you who do this work with me over and over again. I thank you so much.

As I settle into “mid-life” I feel so grateful for what my friend Edward learned from a wise Pizza-maker 40 years ago... “To Make a Happy Life you need 3 things: Work to do, Someone to Love and Something to Hope for.” Each of you has made the “Work to Do” category a pure joy. My life is filled with “Someones” to love... (to treasure) and we have so much future of the Threshold Choir to hope for.

We are preparing ourselves as an “Army of Grey Haired Women,” (women our society all too easily dismisses) to insure that this graceful human tradition lasts beyond our individual lifetimes. Younger women are joining the choirs, new choirs start every week; we are really responding to Life and to Change. I am deeply proud of the number of us who have discovered our “inner geek;” we watch how the internet and technology has become bound with our hearts, allowing this work to thrive on a much larger scale than we could have imagined. Thank you all so much.

Threshold Choir is a network of acappella choirs of women’s voices: a community whose mission is to sing for and with those at the thresholds of life.
Dear Singing Sisters and Friends of the Threshold Choir,

What an amazing organization Threshold Choir is!! In 11 years going from one choir to over 100, with hundreds of women singing at bedsides and thousands singing together at rehearsals—such an impact for all of us.

This last year has also seen the Threshold Choir take additional steps in moving from a sole proprietorship under Kate’s guidance to a free standing viable non-profit organization with a 501(c)3 status. Huge progress and commensurate changes. The current Board for the National Threshold Choir was formed in October 2010. In our few months of existence, we have addressed the often not so glamorous aspects of developing an organization: ensuring the development of transparent and accurate financial systems, developing personnel policies, hiring Kate and Maria as official Threshold Choir staff, and developing realistic budgets.

As you know we are introducing Membership in March 2011, the 11th Anniversary of Threshold Choir! It is an exciting new phase that will let us form a wider and more connected community, update and expand the website, and continue to provide programs and materials that will support your work and your community.

We are a new Board, one that is growing and learning on this new path, and I salute all of my hard working sisters who are currently serving. We very much want to create communication channels in all directions and engage the wisdom, smarts and skills of choir members all over the country.

The goal is building a strong foundation to sustain this work, to support you, the women who share the sacred gifts of your voices at life’s thresholds. We invite your input. You can reach us at: board@thresholdchoir.org

On behalf of the Threshold Choir National Board and with gratitude for all that you do,

Joy Carlson
Board Chair, Threshold Choir

Note: We will be having an open Board meeting at the Annual Gathering on April 26th. Please join us if you can.
Letter from a choir sister

Dear Ones,

I send love from 600 miles away, where I’ve been since last Wednesday, tending to my dying Aunt. She made her peaceful transition Friday, auspicious, as it was also my birthday. Twin sister Jen was right there with me as Aunt Anne drew her last deep inhalation...and then silence. After a long, long time of stillness, the local Threshold singers began to arrive and we circled in the lobby of the Hospice House and began harmonizing together, finding voice parts (beautifully balanced!) and the songs we knew in common (of which there were many!) Threshold singing rang resonant and strong, into all the spaces where dying was happening, into every room down the long hallway, all the way to my Aunt’s room where her inert body lay like stone, its spirit having just flown. We circled around the bed and sang and sang. Eternal Light, Grateful Heart, Sister My Sister, Sim Shalom, Bismilah and Navajo Prayer echoed above the tears in warm, clear harmonies. This has been a gift beyond any expectation.

—Susan from California

Three members of Threshold Choir sing to 85-year old Ruth at a Littleton, Mass. nursing home.

Four of us sang at a home yesterday for a man with severe dementia and on hospice care...he sang Amazing Grace with us...utterly touching, sacred.

—Dorothy from Connecticut
Activities and Accomplishments 2010

Monthly Rehearsals Led by Kate
Each month through April 2010, Kate Munger personally led fifteen choir rehearsals, plus weekly jail choir meetings.
After April she led eight choir rehearsals each month, plus weekly jail choir meetings.

January 29 - 31
Southern California Regional Gathering, Santa Barbara CA

February 13
Moira Smiley workshop, Glen Ellen CA

February 19 - 21
2nd Southwest Regional Gathering, Albuquerque NM

February 26
Kate makes presentation to Touro University, Benicia CA

March 21
10th Anniversary of Threshold Choir Concert, Oakland CA

April 16
Sisters Singing Launch Party, Capitola CA (choir sings)

April 18
Compline Concert at Stanford University CA

April 23 - 25
5th Introductory Workshop, St. Columba’s Retreat Center, Inverness CA

May 2
Threshold Choir National Directors Meeting, Bishop’s Ranch, Healdsburg CA

May 15
Threshold Choir Picnic at National Harmony Sweepstakes Concert, San Rafael CA

May 22
20th Anniversary of Mothersong, Santa Cruz CA (choir sings)

June 17 - 19
First Great Lakes Gathering, Madison WI

July 9 - 11
Executive Committee Retreat, Inverness CA

July 14
3 week trip to Bali/Thailand with 9 choir members

August 11 - 15
Singing in Circle Workshop at Lama Foundation, Cuesta NM

August 20
Threshold Choir Presentation at Chaplaincy Institute for Interfaith and the Arts, Berkeley CA

September 4 - 20
Pacific Northwest Tour.... Ashland, Eugene, Seattle, Kirkland, Anacortes and Bellingham evening rehearsals, Weekend retreat on the Sunshine Coast, BC Canada

September 10 - 12
3rd Pacific Northwest Regional Gathering, Vashon Island WA

September 23
Presentation to Mission Hospice, San Mateo CA

September 27
New Choir started in Kensington CA

September 26
Santa Cruz Threshold Choir honors Sr. Janet, Dominican Oaks, Santa Cruz CA

October 3
New Choir starting in San Jose CA

October 12 - 19
New York and New England Regional Gathering, NYC and Littleton MA

October 21 - 24
6th Introductory Workshop, St. Columba’s Retreat Center, Inverness CA

October 29 - 31
5th Midwest Regional Gathering, Yellow Springs OH

November 20
Mini Lama (Day of Singing with Melanie, Becky and Terry)

December 11 & 12
Holiday Community Singing with Melanie in Oakland and Pt. Reyes Station CA

Balinese offering made by a choir member
Some Threshold Choirs around the country

**Choir Profiles**

**The Napa Valley Threshold Choir**
has been in existence for 3 years. We trained for several months before our voices were ready to create that precious space we know so well. Rehearsals are twice a month for 2 hours. During that time, we learn melodies, create harmonies, and use the chair, practicing anchoring, blending, listening and always being present. Currently, there are 15 women on the email list. A core group of 10 women provides most singing services with other members slipping in when they are able. Our schedule varies from one to 5 clients each week, some at home, some in hospitals, some in nursing homes, and occasionally at memorials for our dear Travelers. Several months ago, we were invited to sing at the quarterly Memorial event sponsored by our local Hospice and they have asked us to return each quarter.

Sudie Pollock is the contact for the Napa Choir - msscp9947@mac.com

**Santa Fe Choir**
Our choir presently has 30 members. We are called “Your Song” because we emphasize the importance of singing songs that have cultural and spiritual relevance to the individuals for whom we sing. We have been in existence since 2006 and have gone out to sing over 200 times at this writing. We sing regularly at Santa Fe Care Nursing Home where we are assigned patients who are in need of special comfort or are on hospice. We have sung in people’s homes on a few occasions and regularly sing for hospice patients in Rosemont Assisted Living Center. Recently some of us are becoming registered volunteers at Ambercare Hospice where we will be invited to sing in patients’ homes on a regular basis. We have a contact with the palliative care person at the local hospital and sing there weekly. Presently our contact person is Terese Sanchez: teresesanchez@earthlink.net or by phone 505-988-4331.

**The Pittsburgh Threshold Choir**
had its initial rehearsal in October, 2007. We sang out for the first time (as a group of four) in March, 2008 in the living room of a friend who was dying of cancer. Shortly after that, one member moved to Alaska and another got too busy to sing regularly, so we took a break for the summer and re-started in September, 2008. Most of the fifteen women who sang with us for the first time that September afternoon have become bedside singers and leaders. We currently have nine active singers plus several singers on leave and several who have joined too recently to be ready to sing at bedsides. We have relationships with Forbes Hospice where we sing at bedsides in their facility once a month, and with Family House where we sing to patients and their families in their “living room” once a month. We also sing at private bedsides on a much more ad hoc basis, probably between 2 and 5 times per month. And we’re in the process of creating a “Joyful Singing Circle” at Gilda’s Club Pittsburgh, where Club members affected by cancer and their families are learning to be sung to, to sing to others in the “Threshold Choir way,” and to simply enjoy singing with others.

The contact for this choir is Cindy Harris cah329a@gmail.com

www.thresholdchoir.org
415-669-1413
418-608-8624
Box 173, Inverness CA 94937
Threshold Choir is a tax-exempt organization under IRS 501c(3), EIN 26-1852507

Graphic Design by Kay Caldwell, kaycaldwell.com
Our Generous Donors

Alexandra Putnam • Alice Duffy • Alicia Kosman • Aline Berl • Allegra Silberstein • Alyson Jacks • Amanda Newsom • Amyra Braha • Ana Stayton • Ann Barden • Ann Daless • Anne Casperson • Anne Jungerman • Anne Whitaker • Antonina Hines • April Boyden • April Werner • Athena Kyle • B. Shapiro • B.J. McAllister Martin • Barb Adams • Barbara Benson • Barbara Carlitz • Barbara Cone • Barbara Hansen • Barbara Luboff • Barbara Molloy • Barbara Sapienza • Barbara White • Barbara Wills • Betsy Bannerman • Betty Barry • Betty Kareen • Brenda Bernstein • Canyon Spirit Yoga • Carol Ellis • Carol Engberg • Carol Knight • Carol Lynn • Carole Romp • Caroline Hansen • Caroline Warner • Carolyn Gwyn Bell • Carolyn Knapp • Cassandra Reeves • Cat Heron Steele • Catherine Baird • Catherine Keleher • Charlotte Russell • Christine Moss • Christopher Visher • Cindy Harris • Cindy Smith • Claire Heinzelman • Colleen Donovan • Corinne Hetzel • Cornelia Eschborn • Cynthia Anders • Cynthia Gregory • Cynthia Hall • Cynthia Mapes • Cynthia Schultz • David Damm • David Gregory • Deborah Baumsch • Deborah Hamilton • Deborah Marks • Deborah McCabe • Debra Lane • Denise Eagleson • Diana Shapiro • Diane Hill • Diane Reardon • Dianne Faw • Dona Luedde • Donald W. Davis • Donna Gianoulis • Doreen Conte • Doreen Giles • Doreen Goodlin • Doris Beresford • Doris Mogen • Dorothy Mason • Dottie Collins • East Bay Community Foundation • Efrat Livny • Eileen Goldman • Eileen Gribble • Elizabeth Fisher • Elizabeth online • Ellen Fietz Hall • Ellen Grybeck • Ellen Rose • Ellie Sernet-Hawkins • Emily Moore • Emily Teller • Eugene McCabe • Eugenia Perez • Eugenie Halland • Faith Morgan • First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco • Florence Nacumulli • Frances Dibble • Frances Morse • Frank Cady • Gail Spirit Sky • Gayle McNeill • George Dallas • Gesundheit Publishing • Gina Rose Halpern • Glenda Moore • Grace Fill • Harriet Denison • Hazel Grehnam • Heidi Eastman • Heidi Irgens • Helen Cantler • Helen Lauritzen • Helen Rubardt • Idelle Mitchell • Ina Whitlock • Irene Favreau • Isaac & Leah M. Potts Foundation • Isabelle Greene • J. Wynn-Bell • Jacquelyn Marie • Jan Alexander • Jan Neufeld • Jane Hetherington • Jane Kriss • Jane Rockwood Chaudhuri • Jane Ryan • Jane Baker • Jane Fisher • Jannice Powell • Jean Salisbury • Jean Patrice Haghiri • Jeane Samuelsen • Jeanne Bowman • Jeanne M. Lavin • Jeannette Scott • Jennifer Mjenzi • Jeraldine Bloom • Jerrigrace Lyons • Jett & Mildred Thomas • Jill Storey • Jo Mestelle • Jo Cummins & Barry Milgrom • Joan Braune • Joan Engberg • Joan Hollister • Joan Owen • Joan Stockbridge • Joanne Clapp Fullagar • John Alexander • John Fitzsimmons • John Winther • Joy Carlson • Judith Hettig • Judith Jessop • Judith Mieger • Judy Hahn • Judy Nicholls • Judy Tarbet • Julia Eriksen • Julia Norrie-Hawley • Julie Songt • Juliet Guroff • Karen DeFore • Karen Friis • Karen Katz • Karen Noyes • Karlette Warner • Kate Munger • Kate Rowland • Katharine Dreyfuss • Katharine Green • Katharine Mechem • Katharine Osburn • Katherine Powell • Kathleen Jacobs • Kathleen Kirkpatrick • Kathleen Maheoney • Kathleen Quenneville • Kathryn Ericson • Kathy Robinson • Kay Caldwell • Kay Carlson • Kelsey Ramage • Kendely Beck • Khalila Allid • Kilian Metcalf • Kimberly Satterfield • Kristin Masters • Kristin Thurman-Fein • Kristina Baker • Laura Cowan • Laura Dreamsipner • Laura Fannon • Laura Hanks • Laura MacEachen • Laurel Corelle • Laurie Sherman • Leah Anderson • Leah Potts Fisher • LeeAnn Enright • Leonard Delmas • Linda Cox Myers • Linda Flanagan • Linda Gray • Linda Griffith • Linda Petrosky • Linda Philpott • Linda Tylko • Linda Maril • Linnea Carswell • Lisa Bailey • Lisa Kreeger • Lisa Pearl Chow • Lissa Calliehoe • Lois Baker Wright • Lora Graham • Lori J. Douglass • Lorilyn Parmer • Lorraine (Eileen) Petra • Lucille Rhodes • Madolin Wells • Maralee Wisewomyrn • Margaret Kass • Margaret Lorenz • Margaret Mahon • Margaret Sturges • Margaret Wallace • Margo Leslie • Maria Barron • Maria Calabrese • Maria Culberson • Marilyn Meikle • Marilyn Power Scott • Martha Munger • Martha Quenon • Marti Mariette • Mary Donahoe • Mary Knox • Mary McKane • Mary Nivison • Mary Quinlan • Mary Rothschild • Mary Seibert • Mary Sprifke • Mary & Carl Culberson • Mary Ellen Amuso • Mary Frances Tapscott • Mary Frances Wright • Mary Lynn Waterhouse • MaryEllen Rodda • Mathilda Wheeler • Maxine Heillger • Maylin Fisher • Meg Pierce • Melissa Ward • Michal Lauren • Michelle Jerome Riggs • Myra Kelly • Nan Rowan • Nancy Costea • Nancy Sheahan • Nancy Swenson • Naomi Olson • Nina Reimer • Nora Jamieson • Open Circle Healing Arts • Pamela Bram • Pat Friday • Patricia Berry Conklin • Patricia Fraser • Patricia Lund • Patricia McCormick • Patricia Payas • Patricia Brum • Patricia Henson • Paula Fisher • Paula Henson • Paula Hills • Paula Peach • Paula Saffire • Peggy Rogers • Peter Sapienza • Phil Samper • Philip Allen • Phyllis D. Boyson • Priscilla P. Davis • Rachel Lanzerotti • Ray Riess • Rebecca Graber • Rebecca Graves • Rebecca Lee • Richard Spight • Richard & Constance Rider • Robert Friday • Robert Jardine • Robin Cottrell • Roger Samuleson • Rose Ann James • Rosemary Gerber • Roxie Ball • Ruth Baldwin • Ruth Kohake • Ruth Rosauer • Ryckje Wagner • Sally Harper • Sally Von Conta • Sarah MacDougall • Mr. Schneider-Snowe • Sharon Barbour • Sharon Carl • Sharon Enefer • Sharon Hamilton • Sharon Reinbott • Sherry Fitzmaurice • Sigrid Brooks • Stephen Lienman • Steven Whitman • Su Sikora • Sudie Pollock • Sue Ribaud • Sue Way • Susan Angst • Susan Bassett • Susan Cornell • Susan DeLude • Susan Kiel • Susan Lotz • Susan Miller • Susan Schulman • Susan Sharpman • Susan Verkamp • Susan Whitaker • Susanne Joyce • Suzanne Riley • Tama Cathers • Tammy Corwin-Renner • Tess Meuer • Theresa Sapunar • Therese Fisher • Thomas Jones • Toby O’Leary • Tracy Clark • Trudy Foote • Ursula Kristoffy • Venus Maher • Vicki Westrich • Vida Groman • Virginia Edwards • Virginia Mamere • Winnie Lee • Yolanda Sanchez-Peterson • Yukari Vincent •
2010 Financial Information

**Income**
- Donation Income: $70,201 (53%)
- Miscellaneous Income: $1,139 (01%)
- Sales of Product Income: $19,876 (15%)
- Workshop Registration: $40,658 (31%)

**Total Income**: $131,874

**Expenses**
- Consultants*: $56,718 (47%)
- Office and Administrative**: $9,455 (8%)
- Merchandise Production: $10,822 (9%)
- Workshops and Gatherings: $36,463 (30%)
- Travel: $7,495 (6%)

**Total Expenses**: $120,953

*In 2010 consultants included Kate Munger, Maria Culberson, Rhea Schnurman, IT, legal, CPA

**Includes office expense, insurance, supplies, etc

---

**Projected 2011 Budget**

The 2010 financial information above represents a bare-bones budget for the Threshold Choir. In 2011 we are seeking to upgrade and significantly expand the Threshold Choir Website, develop a relational database, expand staff time from 20 hours per week to 30 hours per week, transcribe more of the repertoire and new songs, develop a Threshold Choir handbook, hold more trainings and workshops, and more.

In order to accomplish these goals we will be increasing our efforts in fundraising including outreach to the Threshold Choir community, starting a major donor campaign, and exploring grants and foundations. Your support is greatly appreciated.
Threshold Choir Locations

Arizona
Flagstaff
Scottsdale
Tempe
Tucson

California
Arcata/Eureka
Aromas
Auburn
Carlsbad
Chico
Costa Mesa
Davis
Glen Ellen
Los Angeles
Marin
Montara
Napa
Nevada County/Grass Valley
Oakland
Ojai
Pacific Grove
Paradise
Portola Valley
San Diego
San Francisco
San Jose
Santa Barbara
Santa Cruz
Sebastopol
Ukiah
Woodland

Colorado
Boulder
Colorado Springs
Denver
Glenwood Springs
Littleton

Connecticut
Greater Hartford

Georgia
Atlanta

Hawaii
Waimaia

Idaho
Coeur d’Alene

Illinois
Chicago
Champaign/Urbana
Wheaton

Indiana
Anderson
Indianapolis

Kansas
Wichita

Massachusetts
Boston
Concord
Littleton
Martha’s Vineyard
Merrimac Valley
Swampscott

Michigan
Ann Arbor
Detroit

St. Joseph
Missouri
Kansas City

North Carolina
Asheville
Raleigh/Durham

New Mexico
Albuquerque
Santa Fe
Silver City
Taos

New York
New York City
Rochester

Ohio
Cincinnati
Columbus
Sandusky
Toledo
Yellow Springs

Oregon
Ashland/Medford
Eugene
Florence
Portland

Pennsylvania
Pittsburgh

Texas
Austin

Virginia
Charlottesville

Vermont
White River Junction

Washington
Bellingham
Coupeville
Friday Harbor
Kirkland
Olympia
Port Townsend
Seattle
Stanwood
Vashon Island

Wisconsin
Eau Claire
Madison
Milwaukee
Sturgeon Bay

International Affiliates

British Columbia, Canada
Duncans
Sunshine Coast
Vancouver
Vancouver Island

Other International
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Edmonton, Alberta
Toronto, Ontario
North Sydney, Australia
Sydney, Australia
Barcelona, Spain
Sussex, England

Kate Munger conducting the Tenth Anniversary Concert on March 20, 2010