



## 2019 Annual Report

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### Our Vision

A world where all at life's thresholds may be honored with compassion shared through song.

### Our Mission

Singing for those at the thresholds of life.

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## Faith



A few months ago, San Francisco Threshold Choir received a call to the bedside of one of our former singers. Faith, a professional cabaret singer, was also a member in the SF chapter when I joined 9 years ago. After some coordinating with member Karen Mooney, we decided we would meet at local hospital CPMC at 4 pm that day.

We arrived at the new CPMC hospital just before 4, checked in with security and then headed up to see Faith. When we got to the designated floor and crossed the threshold into the ICU room, it was 4:02. Faith had passed away while we were riding the elevator at 4 pm.

We saw a room filled with friends and family around the bed. Slowly, the weight of grief and loss eased into the hearts of those gathered. Karen and I had not been this close to a passing of someone we both knew. We had just missed her, yet she was still there.

Karen and I moved away from the bed to blend in and become a part of the room with its tubes, and meters and cupboards. We saw Faith's circle of friends and family surround her, reaching toward her with words of love and gratitude. We stood there, a little stunned and tearing up; holding and breathing in the trust of each other in this sacred moment we were sharing. No words.

At some later point, Faith's daughter looked up from the bed, and saw 2 strangers (Karen and I) in the room. We moved toward the bedside and introduced ourselves as friends from the Threshold Choir. Her daughter motioned us to her and asked that people make way for us to come to the bedside.

Make way. We came to the bed and began to sing together as we have done hundreds of times before. It was different for me this time, knowing Faith, a singer, a Threshold sister. Karen moved us through the repertoire of two-part songs, we sang alone, and together with family. We sang for this sweet and newly departed soul. It was surreal. Then, in our collective grief, we all joined in - 15 voices - for a resounding version of "I'll Fly Away." It was boisterous, powerful and joyful- so fitting for our beloved songbird.

Later, Karen and I sat quietly in the car, tender and infused with a heartfelt respect for what has become the deeply personal and spiritual work of "Singing for those at the Thresholds Of Life."

Katharine Rose Kirner  
San Francisco Threshold Choir

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## A Message from the Board Chair

### **Lana Noel, Chair, Board of Directors, Threshold Choir**

One of the more significant years in Threshold Choir history, 2019 was filled with major change, growing pains and new beginnings. The organization clarified its relationship with member chapters by implementing legally binding chapter agreements. Two years in the making, this new infrastructure not only more clearly defines who Threshold Choir is but will support its growth as we add more chapters all around the globe.

This year also marked the unveiling of our new online Bedside Singer Curriculum, a product created for our members by a very passionate and dedicated team of Threshold Choir volunteers. We are very proud of this training material as it serves to streamline how our members bring song to those at the thresholds of life.

As Threshold Choir member numbers rise, we've realized the need for a well lit path to guide our members, our chapters and the organization as a whole. The new curriculum and a clear chapter structure are two important stepping stones along the pathway, yet there is more to envision and create.

Our members serve their communities beautifully as they sing for those in their most vulnerable moments. On behalf of our dedicated members, the Board of Directors is taking on new challenges in the year ahead, such as pursuing broader fundraising initiatives and developing a choir member advisory

council. Our ongoing focus is to build and strengthen both the foundation and culture necessary to enable our members to continue offering loving song at the bedside for years to come.

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## A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of the Threshold Choir,

2019 was an amazing growth year for the Threshold Choir. As of the end of the year, we had 201 chapters and 2828 members, with 34 new chapters being prepared and coached for future launch. Creating and signing chapter agreements was a major change for our members. While defining the boundaries of our relationships, it was also an empowering experience as chapters chose their path forward. We are looking forward to the future.

We were reminded of the power of Zoom to bring us together across state lines and continents. Zoom has added a remarkable quality to our communication. Nothing can replace face to face gatherings, but Zoom chats give us the ability to learn from each other while visually experiencing each other in real time. We are grateful for this technology.

One of our board members moved on to new challenges at the end of 2019. Katharine Rose Kirner served the board with passion, commitment and leadership strength for nearly five years, primarily as board chair. Her leadership allowed us to move forward in many areas and we are appreciative of all she brought to our board.

We also were blessed with the addition of two new board members at the end of 2019. Jan Booth, in Colorado, is a hospice nurse and educator. Donna Inglis, in Washington, is our first board member representing our 501c3 chapters. Both have blended beautifully with the more seasoned members: Lana Noel, Philadelphia; Nancy Roberts-Brown, Seattle; Cherry Tinker, Seattle. Our search for additional board members is ongoing.

The sustainability of the Threshold Choir mission continues to guide us. It is the first consideration when advocating change and, at the end of the day, the only real criteria for what we do in leading this incredible and diverse organization.

As we continue to learn from each other and build a strong foundation, the future holds endless possibilities for the Threshold Choir mission. We welcome your participation and support and are deeply grateful.

Heidi Dressler  
Executive Director

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## The Financial Picture

[Balance Sheet](#)

[Profit and Loss](#)

## Board of Directors and Staff

Board Chair - Lana Noel, Philadelphia Threshold Singers  
Board Secretary - Cherry Tinker, Evergreen Threshold Singers  
Board Interim Treasurer - Jan Booth  
Board Member - Nancy Roberts-Brown, Seattle Threshold Singers  
Board Member - Donna Inglis, Bellingham Threshold Singers

Heidi Dressler, Executive Director  
Jill Schnipke, Member Services Manager  
Priscilla Green, Administrative Assistant

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## Important Links

**Website:** [thresholdchoir.org](http://thresholdchoir.org)

Click [here](#) for member login. Follow directions on the web page if you've forgotten your password.

**You must be logged in for the following:**

[Member homepage](#)  
[Official Threshold Choir Repertoire](#)  
[Newsletter archive](#)  
[Members Songbook](#)

**Got Questions? Need help?**

VoiceMail: 707.596.8531  
Email: [help@thresholdchoir.org](mailto:help@thresholdchoir.org)  
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