

Threshold Choir Annual Report 2010

History

From an avocation of community singing for 20 years, I stumbled on the concept of singing at bedsides in 1990. Since that time, the path has opened relentlessly and beautifully as this work has grown and expanded. The first two choirs started in March 2000 in the SF Bay Area. Today, 11 years later, we have 100 choirs in the US and more starting all the time. It thrills me that this work is so immediately satisfying and so indicative that kindness is still relevant. As we flow into our second decade, one of my hopes is that the intimate, friendly, personal quality can be sustained as we grow to serve more communities. Making our mission meaningful in the 21st century also involves using the internet and various other technologies to support and enhance our work.

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.

A Note from the Board Chair

Joy Carlson

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](mailto: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.



Threshold Choir Board of Directors



*Kelsey Ramage
Acting Treasurer*



*Pat Friday, Board Vice-
Chair*



*Kay Caldwell
Secretary*



Barb Adams



Marilyn Meikle



Barbara Molloy



*Kate Munger
Creative Director*



*Maria Culbertson
Managing Director*

Our Supple Web Of Singers

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



Penelope Salinger, Tessa Flanagan, Marilyn Power Scott, Hathor Hammett, Luciana Cramer, and Carol Sharpe share a song with a Sarah House resident.



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 3 - 7

4th National Gathering, 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

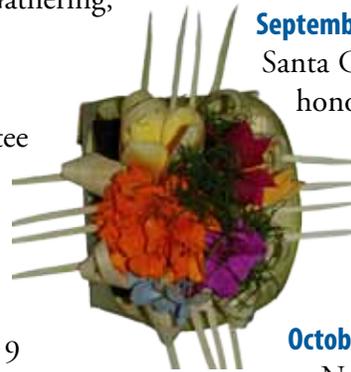
5th Midwest Regional Gathering, Yellow Springs OH

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



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



*Napa Valley Threshold Choir
Back row: Anne, Kathy, Marcy, Pat
Front row: Lyn, Sudie, Suze*

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

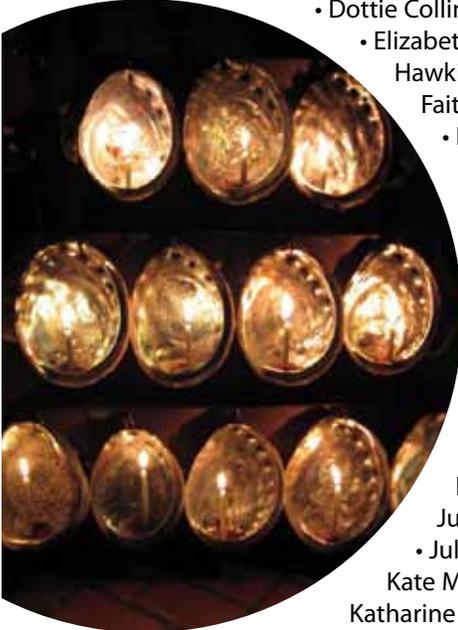
Box 173, Inverness CA 94937

Threshold Choir is a tax-exempt organization under IRS 501c(3), EIN 26-1852507

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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	

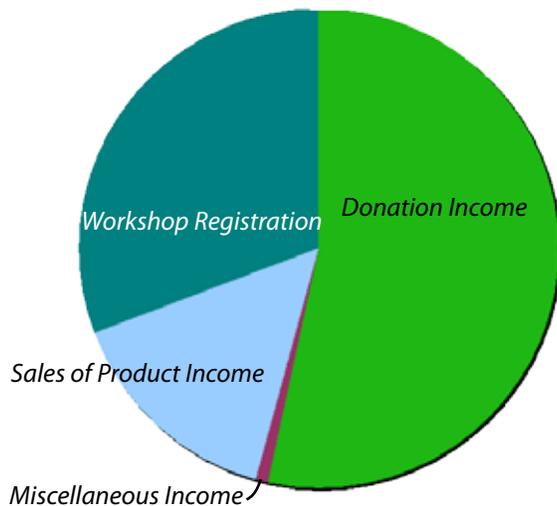
Expenses

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	

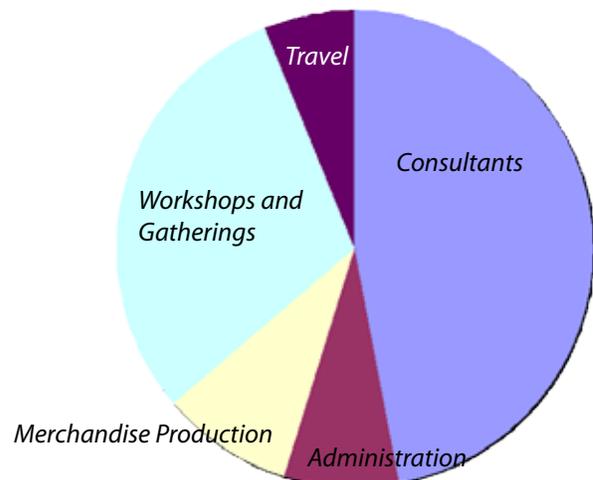
* In 2010 consultants included Kate Munger, Maria Culberson, Rhea Schnurman, IT, legal, CPA

** Includes office expense, insurance, supplies, etc

2010 Income/Revenue



2010 Expenses



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