

Chapter History for Threshold Singers of East Bay

2025

Formation and Early History

The Threshold Singers of East Bay chapter was formed in 2000. It began when Kate Munger gathered a small group of singers at Katharine Osborne's house. Kate used her personal contacts to connect interested people with Threshold communities, and several of those original founders remain involved in the chapter today. Kate Munger played an instrumental role in the chapter's founding and early organization.

Membership Overview

The chapter currently counts 50 singers. On average 16 members regularly sing at bedsides or lead song baths. Four original members are still active. Two members are related to one another. Eight members have written songs that the chapter continues to perform. No members currently sing in more than one Threshold chapter, and two members moved into the chapter after coming from other Threshold chapters.

Rehearsals, Sings, and Recordings

The chapter records an average of 58 bedside sings per month and does not conduct any song baths. The choir meets for rehearsals four times a month. The chapter has produced two CDs: Listening at the Threshold (2004) and Tenderly Rain (2006).

Clients and Referrals

Clients come primarily from professional referrals: 81% of requests originate from hospice professionals or facility staff, while 19% come from individuals not associated with institutions.

Leadership, Structure, and Growth

The chapter accepts new members at any time and maintains an ongoing intake process. Membership initially grew through Kate Munger's contacts, hospice chaplains, and word of mouth. The chapter's leadership model supports its 501(c)(3) status with a Board of Directors responsible for organizational oversight. Musical and program leadership is distributed: five rehearsal leaders rotate responsibility for leading rehearsals, and a Bedside Coordinator organizes singing at bedsides. Committees include Workshop, Rehearsal, and Newcomer Welcome/Onboarding. Anchors meet periodically as needed to address specific chapter responsibilities.

Impact of COVID

COVID produced a noticeable decline in referrals for bedside singing. Although overall membership has grown since the pandemic, the chapter has not yet returned to its pre-COVID level of bedside singing activity.

Publications and Remembrance

In 2020 the chapter published a book titled Threshold Singers of the East Bay Bedsides Book, collecting stories and photographs from bedside sings; a PDF of the book is available online. The chapter also maintains a memory book that preserves photos of all Threshold singers from the chapter who have passed away.

Rehearsal on 03/10/2019. Nur Katz, Susan Sharfman, Lisa Nelbach, Hillary Russak, Ellie Shapiro, Jonne Holland, Margo Leslie, Mallory Loomis, Polly Peterson, Rebecca Esterson, Margit Birge, Rachel Linzer, Nisha Ahuya, Monica Alexandra, Sonia Atalla, Sherrin Loyd, Shoshana Finacom, Amma Thanasati, Joan Lohman, Rosemary Gerber, Jacquelyn Marie, Joanne Clapp Fullagar, Caryatis Cardea



Gathering on 6/25/25. Maxine Heiliger, Jacquelyn Marie, Yolanda Sanchez Peterson, Joanne Holland, Helen Greenspan, Kim Fowler, Margo Leslie, Diana Shapiro

