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SINGING AT THE THRESHOLD

Garden State Threshold Choir

A choir that rehearses but does not perform. A choir that goes in a very small group to sing to one person at a time. A choir whose mission is to provide, not entertainment, but kindness and comfort, to someone who is dying. That is a Threshold Choir.

Threshold Choir is a nonprofit network of about 200 chapters across the country and abroad. And there is one right here in Whippany, NJ, called the Garden State Threshold

Founded 25 years ago, Threshold Choir singers go, by invitation, to sing at the bedside of those crossing life's challenging thresholds, especially the final threshold between living and dying.

The Garden State Threshold Choir began in 2017 when Whippany resident Judy Hahn retired, looked for a chapter to join, and, finding none nearby, started recruiting to form a new chapter. "It takes time and patience to establish a new chapter," says Hahn. "And it takes time and patience for each singer to be ready to do this work. What we have is an incredibly dedicated and compassionate group of women."

Arriving in a group of two to four singers at a hospital, nursing facility or home, they carry folding stools and sit by the bed. "Even if the hospice patient is nonresponsive, we believe they can hear us and feel the vibrations of our harmonies," says Hahn. "For those close to the end, it is said that we are 'singing them home.'"

Threshold Choir has its own unique repertoire of songs, written mostly by members. The songs are simple and short, sung softly a capella, first in unison, then repeated and layered with harmonies. The lyrics speak of rest, comfort, letting go, or about peacefulness and love.

"People wonder how we can sing to a dying person," noted Cedar Knolls resident Bonnie Adams. "But to us it's an honor to be present in that sacred, intimate space. We see the breathing relax; and when the patient is surrounded by family, the songs give voice to their feelings and help them grieve."

The Garden State chapter is accepting inquiries for membership. A singer has to be able to carry a tune, hold her own part in harmony, blend with other voices, be willing to self-monitor and accept gentle feedback, and, above all, communicate kindness with their voice. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings, alternating between Zoom sessions and in-person at the First Presbyterian Church of Whippany.

Threshold Choir is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that honors all spiritual paths and has no religious affiliation. All of the chapter's services are free of charge. Much more information about Threshold Choir is available on thresholdchoir.org, and about the Garden State Threshold Choir at thresholdchoir.org/Garden State



(above) GSTC members Judy Hahn, Rockie French and Delia Cashin sing at a hospice facility.

Courtesy photo



HANOVER TOWNSHIP PRESS

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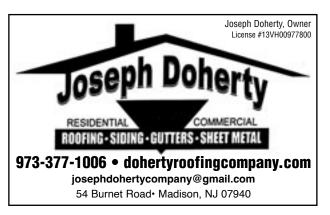
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COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSTS STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

Morris County Commissioner Director Tayfun Selen gave a "State of the County" address at the Morris County Chamber of Commerce's 104th Annual Meeting, which drew about 500 attendees at the Hanover Marriot Hotel in Whippany on February 13, 2025.

Meghan Hunscher, president and CEO of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce delivered a "State of the Chamber" address, thanking all the sponsors, local businesses and community leaders who make an impact in Morris County.

"I am proud of the community we have cultivated here at the Morris Chamber. As we enter our 104th year, it is imperative that we continue to innovate and introduce new initiatives that build on our success. I look forward to developing new ways to connect our members to valuable resources, opportunities for business growth and rewarding relationships with members across the region," said Hunscher.

Hunscher also announced changes to the chamber's Board of Directors for 2025-2026, with Dr. Anthony Iacono, president of County College of Morris, succeeding outgoing chair Deirdre Wheatley-Liss, Esq., of Porzio, Bromberg & Newman. Wheatley-Liss reflected on her two-year tenure and the chamber's achievements before passing the role to Dr. Iacono, who emphasized his commitment to education, workforce development and economic growth in Morris County.

The Chamber luncheon also celebrated the success of individuals and businesses from throughout the county.

The keynote speaker, Sudeep Kesh, chief innovation officer at S&P Global Ratings, shared practical insights on mitigating risk while fostering creativity, strategies for navigating an increasingly connected economy, the future of human-AI collaboration and the critical "innovation imperative" for succeeding in a rapidly changing world.

Christine Cox-West, founding partner of The Fortis Agency, a financial services agency, was honored with the Saint Clare's Health William P. Huber Award for Outstanding Community Leadership. The award recognizes a person who displayed outstanding leadership to benefit the





(above, l-r) Morris County Commmissioner Director Tayfun Selen delivers the State of the County. Keynote speaker, Sudeep Kesh, chief innovation officer at S&P Global Ratings.



community during the previous year.

In his remarks, Director Selen emphasized that Morris County's success is about synergy.

"It's about businesses investing here and schools educating our students. It's about leaders who drive innovation and economic growth. It's about the people who built our county and those who continue to build our communities by choosing to live and raise their families here," said Director Selen, who also thanked past and current county officials for ensuring that the county is prepared for a bright future.

Selen said 2026 will offer tremendous opportunities to boost tourism and support local businesses with the 250th anniversary of American Independence and the FIFA World Cup. Currently, the county has more than 120 restored historic sites, including the first National Historic Park, and is anticipating thousands of visitors for these two major events.

For more information on how you can participate in Morris County's 250th Anniversary, email 250@morriscountyalliance.org.



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WHIPPANONG LIBRARY **MARCH EVENTS**

To register for events, go to the Whippanong Library event page at www.whippanong.org/events-calendar

Chicken Scratch Embroidery Class (Adults)

Thursday, March 6, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Chicken scratch embroidery, also known as cross-stitch on gingham and depression lace, involves stitching geometric patterns into gingham fabric using simple stitches. Must pre-register.

Feeling Lucky?

(Grades 6 - 12)

Tuesday, March 11, 6:30 p.m. Join us for fun, fast paced games and win prizes! Must pre-register.

Gemstone Stretchy Bracelet (Adult)

Thursday, March 27, 6:00 p.m. Join Susan Niedt as she teaches you how to make a power cord bracelet with gemstones and charms. Must pre-register.

To register, go to the Whippanong Library event page at whippanong.org/events-calendar



(above) In February Library patrons created snowpeople out of materials found in the Dollar Store.

ST. PATRICK'SPARTY **SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH**

Time: 7:00 - 11:00 pm

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YOUR BELOVED BUT BROKEN ITEMS REPAIRED FOR FREE

Summit's Repair Cafe event, hosted by Repair Cafe Garden State, will offer free repairs on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at Barnwell Hall in Christ Church from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., final repairs accepted at 2:30 p.m. Christ Church is located at 561 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ.

Repair services for this event will include electronics, lamps, woodworking, bicycles, sewing/textiles, and knife sharpening. Each person is permitted to bring a maximum of 2 items for repair.

Replacement lamps parts will be available at a nominal at-cost fee. Please ensure you can carry your items unassisted when bringing them to the event. No appointments are necessary; wait times may vary, as this event is not a drop-off service.

This event is co-sponsored by the Summit Area Green Faith Circle and Repair Cafe Garden State. For more information about Repair Cafe Garden State and other free Repair Cafe events throughout New Jersey, visit repaircafegs.org.

Repair volunteers are always welcome at this event, as well as all future repair events. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us on our website.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT NJ BLOOD SERVICES

of New York Blood Center, which provides blood for local patients, is looking for a few good volunteers. The blood drive volunteer is an integral member of our team whose tasks include assisting donors with registration and/or at the refreshment area. No medical background necessary. Volunteers should be outgoing to provide friendly customer service, be able to perform tasks as needed, must provide proof of

New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS), a division COVID Vaccination prior to volunteering and must have transportation. All training is provided including additional precautions for the safety of our team and blood donors. For additional information call or text Sharon Zetts, Manager, NJBS Volunteer Services at 732-850-8906, Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To apply online as a blood drive volunteer, please go to:

volgistics.com/appform/2127944197













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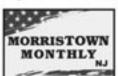




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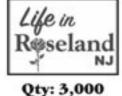
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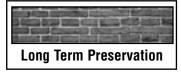
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