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COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING

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 Commissioner 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.

Photos by Morris County



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MARCH 30 AT 3 PM: RE-LIVE THE BEATLES

Step into a time machine and relive the magic of the Fab Four's illustrious career. This isn't just a concert—it's a nostalgic voyage that captures the essence of an era and celebrates the music that changed the world! Experience iconic moments like The Ed Sullivan Show, Shea Stadium, the Sgt. Pepper era, and Abbey Road. Enjoy timeless hits like "I Want to Hold Your Hand," "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds," and "Come Together." This immersive performance features dazzling costume changes, exquisite musicianship, powerful vocals, and a stunning multimedia backdrop, transporting you straight back to the 60s.

APRIL 6 AT 3 PM: MICHAEL PATRICK'S RING OF FIRE BAND: A JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE

Prepare to be captivated by Michael Patrick's heartfelt tribute to the legendary Johnny Cash. Over a decade ago, Michael Patrick fell in love with Johnny Cash's music—the simplicity, sincerity, and deep, expressive voice. Enjoy classics like "Ring of Fire," "Walk the Line," and "Folsom Prison Blues." Jenni Bee performs the songs of June Carter Cash, including "Jackson" and "Wildwood Flower." The Ring of Fire Band has shared the stage with Cash Family members and legends like Randy Travis and Clint Black. With annual tours in the South and sold-out shows from NYC to Boston, the Ring of Fire Band keeps Johnny Cash's legacy burning bright.

Don't miss these spectacular performances by New Jersey's best bands! These talented local

musicians bring their passion, energy, and unique sound to every performance. Experience the vibrant music scene of New Jersey and support your local artists. Whether you're a fan of rock, pop, doo-wop, or tribute bands, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Join us for an unforgettable musical journey and be part of the excitement!

Tickets are \$30-45 Get your tickets before they sell out! Visit GDPresents.simpletix.com or call 917-567-5842. For group rates and phone orders, email us at GDPresentsstix@gmail.com.

<p>Come Together on a Magical Journey</p> <p>Re-Live THE BEATLES</p> <p>A Tribute to the Music that Changed The World</p> <p>March 30 - 3pm</p> <p>gdprents.simpletix.com 917-567-5842 gdprentsstix@gmail.com</p>	<p>Michael Patrick's RING OF FIRE BAND</p> <p>A TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY CASH</p> <p>Special Guest JENNI BEE AS JUNE CARTER</p> <p>April 6 - 3pm</p> <p>DREW UNIVERSITY The Concert Hall Madison, NJ</p>
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(above) Janice M. Tellier will be recognized as 2025's Featured Quilter.

Courtesy photo

ANNUAL SHARING THE QUILTS SHOW – MARCH 22

Harvest Quilters of Central New Jersey

Harvest Quilters of Central NJ will present their 41st annual quilt show on Saturday, March 22, 2025. The 41st Sharing the Quilts will be held at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$3 for children under twelve.

At 10:30 a.m., Elsa Hahn of Edison will show her work and speak on “Surface Design – Making it Personal.” The award-winning quilter and retired Westfield music teacher will share her firsthand knowledge of various art quilting techniques, including the pros and cons of popular methods.

Janice M. Tellier of Mountainside will be recognized as 2025's Featured Quilter. The Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) graduate and lifelong creative spirit will display 20 plus works of original art. Of her 14 vibrant bed-sized quilts Tellier quipped, “I often think my beds are better dressed than I am.”

Tellier's whimsical fiber art will be featured alongside her acrylic paintings, crochet, examples of bobbin lace making and a fascinating diorama of a miniature modern quilting studio. “My hope is to have the quilts speak to the viewer, with a sense of humor or play on words,” Tellier said.

As is tradition, local charities will benefit from drawings for a modern lap-sized quilt, a traditional queen-sized bed quilt, gift cards and craft themed gift baskets.

In addition to viewing a full array of modern, traditional, art and wall-hanging quilts, attendees can participate in viewer's choice awards, kid's crafting table and vendor sales area.

A tearoom offering lunch, snacks, homemade baked goods, and beverages will benefit Willow Grove Church programs.

For additional information, please visit harvestquilters.com, or email: harvestquiltersnj@gmail.com.

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HOURS: Monday-Thursday: 9:00am – 9:00pm, Friday & Saturday: 9:00am-5:00pm, Sunday 1:00-5:00pm

ADULT, TEEN & CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

We hold more events than can fit in these listings. They are both in-person and on Zoom – all are free and open to everyone! You do not need to live in Morristown or Morris Township to attend. Visit our website MMTLibrary.org for info about a wide variety of offerings for kids, teens and adults. No registration is required unless otherwise noted.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALES:

Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., and the first and third Saturday of each month. Cash or checks only please. Donations for the sale happily accepted inside the Library during all open hours. For details about donations or volunteering to help, email the Friends friends@mmt.mainlib.org

EBOOKS, EAUDIOBOOKS, WALL STREET JOURNAL, NEW YORK TIMES, STAR LEDGER ONLINE, DIGITAL MAGAZINES & VIDEO

MMT Library provides eBooks, digital magazines and eAudiobooks through Libby, access to streaming movies through Kanopy, and Spanish language films and games through The Shelf. We also offer free online access to the Star-Ledger Online, WSJ & NYT for MMT cardholders! Please see our Research Databases page on our website or ask a Reference staff member for more info and resources.

NORTH JERSEY HISTORY & GENEALOGY CENTER

The Library has one of the best library local history collections in the state! In person, online or email us njhgc@mmt.mainlib.org to find out more about your family, your historic home or your neighborhood.

NOT JUST BOOKS!

We have an extensive "Library of Things" collection available to borrow including: technology & photography devices; crafting equipment; snowshoes & sporting equipment; and much more. Check out our great collection of beautiful jigsaw puzzles! These collections for MMT cardholders 18+ only, please.

MARCH ADULT PROGRAMS:

Stamp Club

March 6, 10:00 am

Join like-minded folks on the 1st Thursday of every month for stamp collecting fun & information. Members of the JHSC will answer your questions and have selections from their own collections to display. Bring your own stamps along too! Sponsored by The Jockey Hollow Stamp Club of Morristown and The American Philatelic Society.

Empowered Living:

Unlocking the Power of Feng Shui

Monday, March 10 at 7:00 pm

Learn the basics of Feng Shui applicable to any style of interior design and create interiors in harmony with your mind and spirit.

Yoga

Every Monday at 6:00 pm

and Thursdays at 10:00 am

Join us for some much-needed relaxation and gentle exercise! All levels from beginner to advanced are welcome. Monday classes are bilingual Spanish and English. Please bring your own mat and equipment.

Qigong

Every Saturday at 9:30 am

Qigong is a traditional Chinese mindful exercise system for cultivating and strengthening the body's vital energy. Consisting of a series of slow-flowing movements it gently stretches the body. Similar to Tai Chi, these low-impact exercises heighten awareness of the mind-body-breath connection.

It can be practiced by all age groups and is easily adapted for the physically challenged. No previous experience or equipment required.

Mindful Moonlight Meditation

Every Monday in March at 8:30 pm

Join our mindfulness instructor Anita for a Zoom series of guided meditations. Anita will lead the group through different 1-5 minute exercises each week. Open to all meditation experience levels. This is a joint program presented by the Morristown & Township Library and Long Hill Library. Email refdesk@mmt.mainlib.org for the Zoom code.

Travel through the Northwest Passage

March 25 at 7:00 pm

Learn about the Arctic Circle and the effects of climate change on this beautiful wilderness. Presented by experienced world traveler and photographer Mark Rockkind.

Rio Clemente, Master Jazz Pianist

Friday, April 4 at 7:00 pm

Friday evening with a favorite Morristown native musician who has played piano with the best jazz artists in the most famous jazz venues and festivals around the world.

BOOK CLUBS:

Book Lovers Circle

March 6, 7:00 pm on Zoom

Join our Book Lovers Circle on the first Thursday of every month. Not a traditional book club, you will hear about the newest

books at the Library, receive a reading list and have a chance to share your own favorites. Email morristownreaders@mmt.mainlib.org for the Zoom code.

The Seekers Book Club

March 5, 7:00 pm

"The Equanimous Mind" By Manish Chopra Join us on the first Wednesday of every month to discuss all things related to spirituality, self-help, motivation, and inspiration. This author will be appearing on March 29 at 11:00 am.

Morning Book Club

March 13, 10:00 am

"The Fraud" by Zadie Smith

Evening Book Club

March 18, 7:00 pm

"The Fraud" by Zadie Smith

Science Fiction Book Club

March 8, 2:00 pm

"Autonomous" by Annalee Newitz

Silent Book Club

March 2, 2:00-3:00 pm

A unique gathering on the first Sunday of the month for book enthusiasts seeking a quiet communal reading experience. Unlike traditional book clubs, participants choose their own books and come together in a shared space to read silently. It's Happy Hour for introverts!

F.M. KIRBY GALLERY EXHIBIT

Through March 31, all open Library hours Frank Briden Photography Exhibit. Explore the world of landscape photography through the lens of local photographer Frank Briden. His large-scale photos will transport you! All photos are available for purchase through the artist.

CHILDREN'S & TEENS PROGRAMS

Baby Story Times

Now through May 19;

every other Monday at 10:30 am

Ages 6 months – 2 years.

Stories and songs with caregivers

Children's Storytimes

Now through May 21; Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 10:00 am, Saturdays at 11:00 am

Ages 2-8 years. Stories and crafts with caregivers

Second & Third Grade Book Club

March 20, 7:00 pm

by The third Thursday of each month.

Fourth – Sixth Grade Book Club

March 13, 7:00 pm

The second Thursday of each month.

Teen Crochet Camp

Tuesdays in March 6:00-7:00 pm

This month teens in grades 6-12 can join us on Tuesdays to learn to crochet! YA Librarian Ms. Abbi will teach you basic stitches, how to read patterns, where to find resources, and more! Starter supplies will be provided by the library.

Teen Book Club

March 11, 5:00 pm

"Killers of the Flower Moon" by David Grann

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Madison Branch of AAUW

The Madison Area Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is now accepting applications for its Mature Women's Grant. We are proud of our more than eighty years' heritage of supporting women who wish to further their education. Each year the Branch awards several scholarships to local women. Download the application at our website: madisonareaaauw.org/mature-womans-grant

To apply for consideration the eligibility requirements are (Applicant must meet all requirements):

Be a woman

Be age 25 or over

Be a resident of one of the following NJ towns: Chatham, Chatham Township, East Hanover, Florham Park, Harding Township, Madison, Morristown, Morris Township, Morris Plains or Randolph Township.

Use the grant for education-related expenses incurred in pursuit of a degree or certification.

Grant applications must be received by Monday, April 4, 2025. Please direct any questions to our email account: aauwgrant@hotmail.com

AAUW has been transforming women's lives for more than a century. Our Madison area branch continues to support education with grants, programs that expose teen girls to STEM, topical monthly programs, and member special interest groups such as a book club, a mahjong game, book sales and more. Join us to find purpose, community and friendship at madisonareaaauw.org.



(above, l-r) Alissa Pacheco and Yeosun Lee, two of the four 2024 winners of the the Madison Area AAUW Branch Mature Woman

Courtesy photo

NEW SINGLE ACT PLAY READINGS BY PIONEER PRODUCTIONS COMPANY

Pioneer Productions Company is a Morristown theatre group dedicated to illuminating the human experience through compelling storytelling, innovative performances, and inclusive community engagement. Their recent productions of "Godspell", "Lost in Yonkers" and "Dinner with Friends" have brought popular drama to Morris County at the performance space in the Morristown United Methodist Church. In 2024 they began a new tradition of presenting one-act plays by renowned local playwrights read for the first time in public by some of Pioneer's most talented actors. Join us on Thursday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Morristown & Morris Township Library for their latest event featuring the following plays:

"In the Name of the Mother", by Holly Stefanik - Two women stumble into a church when they have reached their lowest point, both discovering an unexpected pregnancy. As their lives are about to change forever, they debate the reality of motherhood, being a woman, and religion. Directed by Miriam Salerno. Featuring performances by Sarah Pharaon, Madeline Tofias, and Tom Olori.

"Quantum Suicide", by Duncan Pflaster - A female inventor brings home a man from a party, but, as she has just invented a time travel machine, future versions of her arrive to advise her to stay with or give up on future plans for the man (who may or may not be her future husband). Directed by Doug McLaughlin. Featuring performances by Jennifer Cooper, Lauren Proda, Luana Cook Scott, and David Murgittroyd.

"Channeling Shakespeare", by David Weil Baker - A frustrated writer and overextended mom receives some unexpected help from a past master. Directed by Tom Olori. Featuring performances by Miriam Salerno and Doug McLaughlin.

The Morristown & Morris Township Library's F. M. Kirby Gallery provides an intimate setting for an open Q&A with the audience following the performances. This event is free and open to the public thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Morris Township Library and a grant from Morris Arts. Light refreshments will be served. For more information about Pioneer Productions and the MMT Library, visit MMTLibrary.org & pioneerproductionscompany.org.

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MILITARY FAMILIES SACRIFICE TOO

Michael D Boll, NJVN President

For the last few years, the New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) has been helping veterans with resources and assistance with their mental health conditions. Over time we came to realize that the veteran's family was being affected by their struggles as well. Our team had to learn how to include their family members in our outreach efforts. We lose 22 veterans each day to suicide, and they leave behind grieving families. Recently, we decided to make sure all veteran family members can use the same resources that our team has available for veterans. Sometimes we forget about the sacrifices our veteran families have to make and this country should appreciate them for this.

One thing our team decided to do was to have Gold Star families meet disabled veterans at our events, so they can work together and form a bond. This effort was extremely affective and immediately brought joy to both the Gold Star families and to the disabled veterans. By adding veteran family members to the team, it allows us to work together on our peer support and recreational therapy programs. We are honored to have veteran family members to work alongside us and know they are just as committed with helping our veterans live a better way of life.

If you need assistance, or would like to join the team as a volunteer, please send us your name, email, and phone number to

NJVN1775@gmail.com.

ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. Help us save Vets! We are always looking for volunteers, with various skills, to join the team. If you are a veteran or family member that is in need of assistance; or are interested in volunteering, would like us to speak at your event, or contribute to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email NJVN1775@gmail.com.



(above) Michael D Boll, NJVN President, with Dina and Tom Duffy who lost their son Tom Duffy, a Marine Corporal and Afghanistan War veteran. Courtesy photos

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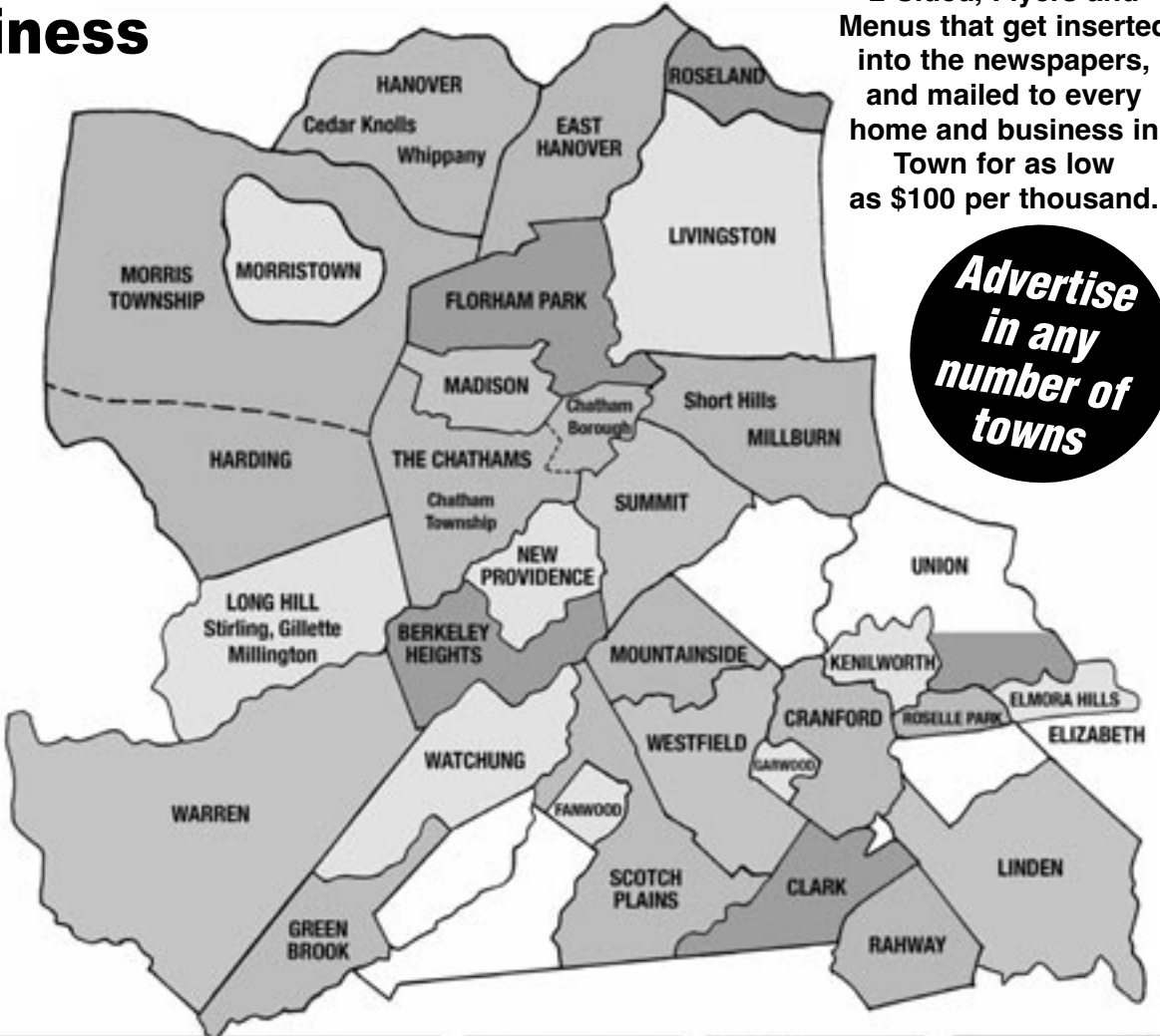
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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
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SINGING AT THE THRESHOLD

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 Choir.

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



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

Courtesy photo

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

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