



La Voz de Esperanza

April 2014

vol. 27 issue 3

Editor Gloria A. Ramírez

Design Monica V. Velásquez

Editorial Assistance

Alice Canestaro-García

Cover Art: Liliana Wilson

Contributors

Christian Amador, Edna Leal Hinojosa, Kristie Mayhugh, Kamala Platt, Liz Ramírez, Cassie Rivera, Graciela I. Sánchez, Susana Méndez Segura, Anna Vásquez, J. Williams

La Voz Mail Collective

Mario E. Carbajal, Daisy Cavallero, Patricia De La Garza, Joann Diaz, Juan Diaz, Angela M. García, Gloria T. Hernández, Norma Lilcano, Josie M. Martin, Angie Merla, Lucy & Ray Pérez, Blanca Rivera, Mary Agnes Rodríguez, Argelia Soto, D. L. Stokes, Helen Suarez, Thomas, Rose Turbeville & Inés Valdez

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- Opinions expressed in La Voz are not necessarily those of the Esperanza Center.

La Voz de Esperanza

is a publication of

Esperanza Peace & Justice Center

922 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212

210.228.0201 • fax 1.877.327.5902

www.esperanzacenter.org

Inquiries/Articles can be sent to:

lavoz@esperanzacenter.org

Articles due by the 8th of each month

Policy Statements

* We ask that articles be visionary, progressive, instructive & thoughtful. Submissions must be literate & critical; not sexist, racist, homophobic, violent, or oppressive & may be edited for length.

* All letters in response to Esperanza activities or articles in La Voz will be considered for publication. Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

Esperanza Peace & Justice Center is funded in part by the NEA, TCA, theFund, Coyote Phoenix Fund, AKR Fdn, Peggy Meyerhoff Pearlstone Fdn, Horizons Fdn, New World Foundation, y nuestra buena gente.

IN THE NAME OF MONEY, the cover art by Liliana Wilson introduces this month's La Voz. As part of the upcoming exhibit, *FRACK-ASO! Portraits of Extraction in Eagle Ford and Beyond*, opening on April 18th, it alludes to the inevitable harm that fracking will do to the earth and the generations to come. The exhibit will present a broad picture of what can happen to towns and rural environments when a fracking frenzy proliferates and dominates. Gente, tierra and ambiente are not considered. Only money!

When one examines the negative effects that fracking has on the earth, air and living beings, one comes up with a never-ending list. One effect was illustrated recently in Azle, TX, a small town outside of Ft. Worth. In two months, November to December, 2013, the town experienced more than 30 earthquakes — something not experienced before. When people protested, they were told there was no direct evidence that fracking "caused" the earthquakes. More "data" was needed. Rarely is fault found with the fracking process.

Another effect of fracking is a recent epidemic of giant sinkholes. Sinkholes form when the earth gives way because her entrails have been tampered with. It reminds me of when my elderly mother had a colonoscopy that went awry. After the procedure when I took mom home, her face and throat began to swell up. I returned her to the hospital. Surgery that she had had years before had messed up the structure of her intestines. The doctor, unaware of this, had caused a rupture that was leaking dangerous gases causing her to swell up. Mom's body would have collapsed had I not taken her back. In much in the same way, the earth's body reacts to any rupturing of its entrails. The earthquakes and sinkholes can cause gas leaks and eventually, a collapse. The results have led to whole towns being evacuated — or swallowed up! These types of episodes have been documented time, and again. Yet, proving that these episodes are directly linked to fracking is elusive, at best.

Whether it's the increase of pollution and toxicity in our water or air, pockets of cancer and other health problems, earth damage, habitat or wildlife destruction, or the unusual climate and weather changes — fracking continues unabated. All in the name of money!

In San Antonio, we just experienced a "fuel spill" at the Calumet Refinery near the San Antonio River. The refinery recently expanded operations from 2,000 to 5,000 barrels of fuel per day due to fracking in S. Texas. The spill occurred in a creek that empties into the River. A protest at the company site inspired me to walk along Mission Reach where I observed 2 trucks, a jeep, and a water truck from HWR of Carthage, TX cleaning the area. The men there wore green rubber gloves and placed a boom across the creek. It felt eerie.

The mySA Home Page of the SA Express-News posted a short article on the spill with



a slide show of 80 beautiful photos highlighting the new, improved Mission Reach area — not one picture of the clean-up! Negative press was almost non-existent. Now, there's talk of high-end apartments to be built in that same area — displacing poor folks that have resided in a trailer park there for years. (see p. 15) It's endless, and all in the name of money.

—G. Ramirez, editor

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VOZ VISION STATEMENT: La Voz de Esperanza speaks for many individual, progressive voices who are gente-based, multi-visioned and milagro-bound. We are diverse survivors of materialism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, classism, violence, earth-damage, speciesism and cultural and political oppression. We are recapturing the powers of alliance, activism and healthy conflict in order to achieve interdependent economic/spiritual healing and fuerza. La Voz is a resource for peace, justice, and human rights, providing a forum for criticism, information, education, humor and other creative works. La Voz provokes bold actions in response to local and global problems, with the knowledge that the many risks we take for the earth, our body, and the dignity of all people will result in profound change for the seven generations to come.