



La Voz de Esperanza

November 2015
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- We advocate for a wide variety of social, economic & environmental justice issues.
- Opinions expressed in La Voz are not necessarily those of the Esperanza Center.

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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 letters in La Voz will be considered for publication. Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

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This 17th edition of La Voz de Esperanza with Literary Ofrendas and Calaveras is dedicated to all victims of police brutality—mostly poor and people of color killed or brutalized while being arrested or pursued. Although media has portrayed this as a problem endured by the black community, the Chicano (Latino) community [as well as others] has endured this through the years. I distinctly remember a little boy being shot to death in Austin for stealing a loaf of bread. And, in Dallas on July 24, 1973 twelve year old Santos Rodríguez was killed by a white police officer who tried to scare him and his brother into confessing by putting a gun to his head playing Russian roulette. The first shot was a click, but the second killed Santos who was handcuffed inside the police car.

The officers had accused the boys of stealing \$8 from a vending machine at a gas station. It was later proven that the prints at the robbery did not match either Santos or his brother's prints. Four days after he died, Chicano activists put together a protest march to Dallas' old city hall. Thousands of Mexicanos and African Americans filled the streets, demanding justice. The march began peacefully but turned violent. A police motorcycle was even set on fire. Five officers were injured, and more than 30 people arrested. Officer Darrell Cain was eventually convicted of murder and sentenced to only 5 years and he was released after only two and a half years! So, what else is new?

Ravi Zupa's artwork on the front cover is titled, "Now tell me—'Who protects me from you?'" a refrain from rapper, J Dilla's song, *Fuck the Police* that chastises corrupt policemen. Zupa made the print after Freddie Gray's murder by police and the ensuing riots in Baltimore. The murders by police had left him very sad because he had experienced the loss of two family members to "complicated and troubling violence." At the bottom of the print, Zupa cites, "A couple of very good, old friends": José Guadalupe Posada, artist and originator of Calaveras that satirized political injustices in Mexico in the early 1900s that led to the Mexican Revolution of 1910; and J Dilla, who died from a blood disease. They are discussing "an extremely old problem." At the bottom J Dilla comments, "Believe us" while Posada says, "This isn't new." Ravi gave \$25 from the sale of each print to the Fund for Rebuilding Baltimore. See his website at: ravizupa.com

Once again, la buena gente de San Antonio and beyond have come together to put out another issue of La Voz in observance of El Dia de los Muertos. Muchisimas gracias!

—Gloria A Ramírez, editora



Roger S. Solis passed away recently. A gentle and caring man, he loved the arts and working with plants. I first met Roger at Lisa's Restaurant on W. Commerce where I breakfasted daily before teaching. Years later, I would see him on Guenther St. and at Madhatter's for weekend breakfasts. He always spoke lovingly of his daughter and son. My best memory of him was when we tore up the dance floor at the International Accordion Festival at La Villita. Best dancer ever! Condolences to his familia and friends. QEPD

November 2015 La Voz de Esperanza Contributors

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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.