



# La Voz de Esperanza

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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.

### La Voz de Esperanza

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

We end the year 2015 in anticipation of a better year. The new year promises to be interesting and scary. More mass shootings? Probably. War? They are itching for it. A presidential election? Definitely. More months of winnowing out the candidates running for president, especially on the Republican side. That, for sure, is scary. They all seem to stand for all that is NOT progressive—anti-woman, anti-LGBT, anti-Mexican, anti-Islam or Muslim, anti-elders, anti-African American, anti-immigrant, anti-poor, anti-environment, anti-voting rights, anti-gun legislation and so on. Worst of all, Republican supporters are vocal and will come out to vote.

One remnant of the November issue of Calaveras shows up in this issue of La Voz—a calavera to candidate Donald Trump, by San Francisco-based writer/poet, Francisco Alarcón. He remains the front runner for the Republican nomination for president with a 20 point bump in the polls at this writing despite his inane comments and antics—36% favorability over his closest opponent, Ted Cruz at 16%. Republicans will come out in force in 2016 to vote while Democrats will struggle with more and more obstacles being put up to make voting harder for people of color communities, the elderly and students. We must get out the vote in 2016!

Finally, we end this year with an avalanche of hatred against immigrants especially those coming from Syria or the Middle East but not excluding Mexican, Latin American, African and other immigrants of color. Talk of more immigrant camps or isolating them in no-man's lands and doubling down on the vetting of Syrians entering the U.S. is rampant. With the recent San Bernadino killings the emphasis is on identifying "radical Islamic terrorists" rather than the banning of weapons that are used for mass killings—regardless of who uses them. All very scary.

On a lighter note, we began this Voz with a story of home where many of us will be fortunate enough to find ourselves during the holidays. Think of those who will not have homes as you count your blessings this season. We wish everyone the warmth of a happy home with love and kindness as we end 2015 and began 2016.



# ¡ Feliz Año Nuevo !

**ATTENTION VOZ READERS:** If you have a mailing address correction please send it to [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org). If you want to be removed from the La Voz mailing list, for whatever reason, please let us know. La Voz is provided as a courtesy to people on the mailing list of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. **The subscription rate is \$35 per year (\$100 for institutions).** The cost of producing and mailing La Voz has substantially increased and we need your help to keep it afloat. To help, send in your subscriptions, sign up as a monthly donor, or send in a donation to the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. Thank you. -GAR

**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.