



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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



In August of 1966, a sniper shot and killed 14 people and wounded 32 as he surveyed the University of Texas campus in Austin from high above in the UT tower. Ultimately, 16 people were killed. I was 16 years old, about to enter my junior year at Travis High School and I remember being glued to the TV watching the coverage. It was shocking.

This year will be the 50th anniversary of the UT sniper shooting—the first mass campus shooting in the U.S. For nearly 50 years I believed that I personally knew some of the victims at the time of the shooting. I remembered a Chicana activist on campus and a Chicano

newspaper boy that was shot as he rode his bike. I began my freshman year at UT in 1968—so I could not have had a personal relationship with any of the victims. I must have heard the stories later through my work with the Mexican American Youth Organization (MAYO). Irma García, one of the victims, though, was one of my friends at UT.

The tower shooting became part of my psyche as did the Kent State massacre that happened two years later on my birthday, May 4, 1968—as I was about to graduate from high school. The Ohio National Guard was sent to quell anti-war demonstrations on campus and opened fire on unarmed students killing four and wounding nine others. Again, incomprehensible. This was very personal for me—as my brother was a marine in Vietnam. Ultimately, I joined the anti-war movement on the UT campus in 1968.

This Voz issue touches on the question of the campus carry law in Texas that brings up many questions yet unanswered. The issue of Central American immigration is encapsulated in the story by Virginia Raymond of one refugee, Maribel, and Nadine Saliba reminds us of the Syrian refugee crisis. The underlying issues of xenophobia against the Muslim community and the Black Lives Matter movement are also part of this Voz. Special thanks to all who have made this first issue of the New Year—one that sets the standard for future issues.

Send your articles, poems and art to La Voz de Esperanza at: lavoz@esperanzacenter.org

—Gloria A. Ramírez, editor



Mary Lou Miller, ¡Siempre presente!

October 10, 1913 - January 7, 2016

When Mary Lou Miller turned 102 in 2015, she received the Texas ACLU Molly Ivins Lifetime Achievement award at the ACLU's 70th anniversary in 2008—awarded only once before to Frances “Sissy” Farenthold. The award was given to Mary Lou: “For your lifetime of freedom fighting, for being the fiery defender of Civil

Liberties, that you have always been...” Indeed, Mary Lou marched with the United Farm Workers, at MLK Marches, at IWD Marches and spoke before City Council in San Antonio time and time, again. She even built homes with Habitat for Humanity with Jimmy Carter. She picketed for Civil Liberties, including for LGBT rights, and advocated for workers beginning with the defense of Emma Tenayuca and the pecan shellers. In fact, she began working with Bell Telephone taking care of employees by roller skating from one operator to another to resolve problems—eventually becoming a union representative. At the old Esperanza, 1305 N. Flores, where ACLU was located back then she volunteered as buena gente making calls and later was involved with the Las Calles No Se Callan campaign challenging City Council on the March ordinance and issues of free speech. At 101, she made waves when she tried to get a photo ID to vote, but could not. When she got her ACLU award she simply said, “Thank you, keep on raising hell!”



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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.