



La Voz de Esperanza

April 2017
vol. 30 Issue 3

Editor Gloria A. Ramírez
Design Elizandro Carrington

Contributors

Elliot Benjamin, Barbara Renaud González,
Rachel Jennings, Tom Keene, Kathy
Marston, Don Mathis, Darby Riley, M.E.
Sánchez, Marilyn Wallner

Photos

Courtesy of Don Mathis

La Voz Mail Collective

Alicia Arredondo, Tomeka S. Brandon,
Olga Crespin, Elisa Díaz, Juan Díaz, Gloria
Hernández, Mildred Hilbrich, Gloria
Lozano, Don Mathis, Ray McDonald,
Angelita Merla, Sylvia Mireles, Elva Pérez
Treviño, Mary Agnes Rodríguez, D. L.
Stokes, Helen Villarreal

Esperanza Director

Graciela I. Sánchez

Esperanza Staff

Imelda Arismendez, Elizandro Carrington,
Patty de la Garza, Jessica González,
Eliza Pérez, Natalie Rodríguez, Gianna
Rendón, Natalie Rodríguez, René Saenz,
Susana Segura, Amelia Valdez

Conjunto de Nepantleras

—Esperanza Board of Directors—

Rachel Jennings, Amy Kastely, Jan Olsen,
Ana Lucía Ramírez, Gloria A. Ramírez,
Rudy Rosales, Tiffany Ross, Lillian
Saldaña, Nadine Saliba, Graciela I.
Sánchez, Lillian Stevens

- 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

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



Ana Sisnett, poet, was part of *mujercanto* and read at IWD rallies in San Antonio, RIP.

In this issue of *La Voz de Esperanza*, we look back at Esperanza's programming of *Mujercanto*—a festival of women artists highlighted over a weekend or two beginning in 1991. The idea was that women, who are the transmitters of culture in a family, usually do not get highlighted in the mainstream media as artists—less so, women of color and LGBT women. As such, the focus on women's programming was and is the hallmark of Esperanza's existence. As we celebrate our 30th anniversary in 2017, *La Voz* will be sharing parts of our history with readers. We also pay tribute in this issue to poets for National Poetry Month.

Reflections and photographs about Esperanza's 30th, guest editorials, articles and letters to the editor can be sent to lavoz@esperanzacenter.org. It has been some time since we've gotten a letter to the editor, but such letters stimulate healthy exchanges in a time when we need to be talking to each other about how to move forward.

—Gracias, Gloria A. Ramirez, *editor*

Letter to the Editor:

Note: The following is in response to *No Plans to Abandon Our Freedom Dreams* by activist/writer, Linda Burnham that appeared in last month's *La Voz de Esperanza*, March 2017.

I was glad you printed and distributed the article by Ms. Burnham—not because it helped me to understand anything, quite the contrary, she states we are in three simultaneous crises. What we are finally talking about is a crisis which has been developing for over 40 years. Capitalism is in a worldwide crisis. The post WWII economic boom was over by the end of the 1960s. We and the rest of the world have been on a downhill grind ever since. All other crises stem from this.

Ms. Burnham is concerned with the Democratic Party. They never have nor ever will represent me, you, or any of our friends. She talks about ridiculing identity politics... Divide and conquer is a tactic. The democrats cannot defend themselves, how can they defend us?

She warns of a trap and talks of the "master's house" and the "master's tools." I learned a long time ago that political parties represent classes. The Democrats represent the billionaires and millionaires. They don't represent working class people, never have, never will. To concern herself with the capitalist parties is well beyond just plain wrong. The death agony spiral of the democrats is none of our concern—true, it opens political space for us—but, to try to salvage the democrats is like returning to a burning barn. Forget about them.

I have not heard anyone in the news or in the press offer a solution. The only solution would be an immediate end to capitalism and private property. As a society we have advanced too far for private property relations. Our science and technology is not in step with an economic model from the middle ages. The development of private property overthrew matriarchal societies. The time has come for a working class political party which can lead us back to the future.

—M. E. Sánchez



ATTENTION VOZ READERS: If you have a mailing address correction please send it to 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.