



La Voz de Esperanza

October 2016
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Cover Art Jessica Sabogal,
Akonadi Foundation, 2015 Racial
Justice Poster | jessicasabogal.com

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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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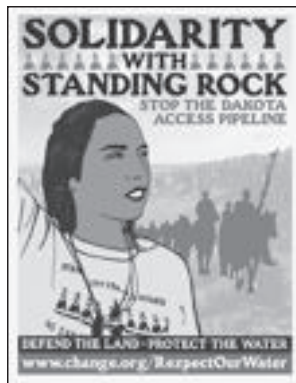
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Articles due by the 8th of each month

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



Art: Jesús Barraza, justseeds.org

As the October issue of La Voz goes to print, the protests and encampment at Standing Rock, North Dakota continue blocking construction of a four-state 1,200 mile long pipeline worth \$3.8 billion. Hundreds of indigenous tribes from the U.S. and beyond have stood in solidarity to protect the sacred lands and water of the Sioux. Hundreds of thousands of supporters worldwide are holding on to the hope that the protectors will be able to decisively halt the poisoning of water and the destruction of land at this sacred site. Rallying behind cries of “Water is Life/Agua es Vida”, the encampment has grown to about 4,000 people from around the world determined to stay into the winter months, if needed. At recent White House protests in support of Standing Rock, chants of “We are the people. You can’t ignore us. We will not let you build this pipeline” remind us that we, too, must resist

all efforts to erase and devalue our existence and our vital connection to mother earth.

The 2016 presidential election has revealed that the violence of colonization is alive and well in the U.S. not only perpetrated by white people but also by people of color that have internalized colonialism so severely that they are publicly revealing a deep sense of self-hate. This presidential election has demonstrated to us that we still have a long way to go in having our lives fully validated as people of color, women, queers, otherly abled individuals, or people with our own religious, spiritual and cultural mores and folkways.

On Tuesday, September 13th, the Texas State Board of Education held a hearing in Austin listening to testimonies regarding the book, “Mexican American Heritage” being considered for use in Texas Public Schools. Problem is the text was not written by Mexican Americans and espouses stereotypical views of Mexican Americans and our history. Fortunately, scholars of Mexican American studies joined forces and refused to allow our gente to be smeared by such racist slurs. The adoption of this book into Texas schools still remains in the balance. This attempt at erasure is not new, as Roberto Rodríguez article on the 2010 census shows.

Jessica Sabogal, the artist whose work graces this issue’s front page, states: *Over the years in my art practice, I have been realizing the importance of documenting my experience as a first generation Colombian lesbian. If I’m not writing or painting about it, someone else will do it for me, and more often than not, I will get written out.—So, this poster is about that. It urges us, as artists and thinkers and students, to speak out, to make a place for ourselves in history, to demand it. To show up. To not get written out.*

— Gloria A. Ramírez

Indigenous Dignity Day Human Rights March

October 15, 2016

Assemble at 1:30pm

Columbus Park, W. Martin & San Saba

March begins at 3:30pm to Main Plaza

Rally at Main Plaza 5:30-7:30pm



**Respect Indigenous Human Rights • Stop Deportations & Removals •
Humane Immigration Reform • No private prisons**

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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.