



La Voz de Esperanza

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Editor Gloria A. Ramírez

Design Elizandro Carrington

Cover Art Mary Agnes Rodríguez

Calaveras y Ofrendas

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- Opinions expressed in La Voz are not necessarily those of the Esperanza Center.

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922 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212

210.228.0201 • fax 1.877.327.5902

www.esperanzacenter.org

Inquiries/Articles can be sent to:

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



Art: Erik De Luna

Welcome to the 18th edition of Literary Calaveras and Ofrendas in the November issue of La Voz de Esperanza made possible by folks like you who have learned with us how to honor the dead through the written word of literary ofrendas—be it prose, poetry, epitaphs or cuentos. And, with the Calavera poems we take life seriously or not so seriously by targeting politicians, personalities or problems of the day with a tragic or comical demise giving vent to our frustrations. We also delight in sending friends, family or foes off with La Katrina in any one of her many forms (in Spanish)—my favorite being “La Igualadora” [“the great equalizer”]. Indeed, no matter how much any presidential candidate says they represent everyone, only La Katrina truly treats us all equitably—taking us, one and all, when SHE chooses!

The Days of the Dead have endured a lot of commercialism but I believe that we still honor the memory of José Guadalupe Posada who immortalized Calaveras, calacas and La Catrina through publications like ours. This is especially true of the artists and collectives like La Calaca Press who continue to press on with new iterations. Gracias to all who have knowingly or unknowingly contributed to continuing this literary and artful tradition in La Voz.

Bienvenidos a la edición decimotercero de Calaveras y Ofrendas Literarias en La Voz de Esperanza de Noviembre, 2016. Hemos seguido con esta tradición porque ustedes nos apoyan cada año con poesía, cuentos, epitafios, o otros escritos para los Días de los muertos. Con las Calaveras Literarias nos disquitamos de lo que pasa en el mundo o gozamos la muerte cómica de un querido o enemigo sin hacer daño a ninguno. La Katrina toma muchas formas en la cultura Mexicana—mi favorita es “La Igualadora.” Mas que cualquier candidato para la presidencia ella sabe tratar a todos igual—arrastrando a todos al pozo cuando ELLA le da la gana. Las tradiciones artísticas y literarias que empezaron con Don José Guadalupe Posada continúan en paginas como estas y ustedes, los escritores y artistas, han hecho un trabajo de aquellas otro año mas. Mil gracias y. ¡Felicidades! —Gloria A. Ramírez



Art: Stella Marroquin

Flying With Wet Wings

For Martin Wallner 1955-2001

If we could calibrate the weight
of our sorrow, our grief
we could shrug it, shuck it, shake it
like dogs swirl rain off coats
soggy from a wet walk.

We would then be light, downright giddy
from the sense of loss
of the sense of loss.

I watched a chevron of geese
Fly through heavy rain

their inner gyros set for south.
How hard, I thought
to fly with water-weighted wings.
They’ve no alternative to nature’s flight plan.
And so they fly.

The chevron wavered,
the leader dropped back
for respite.
Another took
Its place
And they were gone.

—Marilyn Wallner



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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.