

La VOZ de Esperanza

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Policy Statements:

We ask that articles be visionary, progressive,
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activities or articles in La Voz will be considered
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in gente-based actions

by Joleen García

Faith takes many different forms for each of us. For many people it is the driving force that maintains the spirit. I have great faith in the movimiento, the force that drives positive change, that reconnects us to our ancestral unity, and that will create a new world and a new San Antonio from the roots to the sun. Many of us are paving the way, doing the necessary work to make a new world possible. For each of you, I share this story that was recently spoken by a friend.

El Cuento*

A mother looked over her sick child with the doctor who served the family. The boy was ill with a dangerously high fever, and the doctor requested that the mother collect ice in order to cool down her son's body. The mother set a bucket out on the porch, and she began to pray. She thanked God for the many times help was needed and help arrived. She prayed faithfully for God to send the ice needed to save her son.

The mother then went to the kitchen to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The doctor was surprised upon seeing the woman in the kitchen. Why was she was making a sandwich instead of collecting ice?

The faithful woman said, "When my son wakes up, he's going to be hungry and he will want a peanut butter and jelly sandwich."

God called the North wind to meet the South wind over the home of the faithful. It began to hail and ice soon filled the bucket on her porch. The mother was thankful.



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, specisism 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.

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Over the past few years, I have had the great privilege of working with many people who have been an inspiration to me. I have witnessed the breaking down of barriers and the creation of strong



community. I have faith in the work each one of you is doing and I know we each are playing a role in reaching our goal.

This story challenges us to have faith in our own work, even in times of great trouble. It also asks us to prepare the way for justice, focusing on nourishing relationships and creating community as we move towards justice.

Let's take the recent elections as an example. The Texas 2002 statewide election was dirty and smelly, with many politicos vendidos who are wolves in sheep's clothing. I hope that we take the basura out, compost the organic materials and use the rich soil to plant some seeds (how about sunflowers?).

Locally, we have organized around many issues: fighting to save our water from greed and pollution, exposing deep corruption in city politics, exposing clean air violations and contamination sites like Kelly AFB, struggling to preserve our historical legacies, as in the Remember La Gloria campaign, and battling in

the courts against the defunding of the Esperanza. Community-based actions like these are all good composting materials, once you allow the greasy slime to ooze out.

These actions have brought people together in a very personal way. Through struggle, we continue to learn, and plant the seeds of community. We regenerate and invest in the future by planting these seeds. We are standing up to be heard as in the gathering of over 107,000 people against the PGA village. And... we will continue to act and be heard.

In May of 2003 city council elections will once again be held. Who is going to step up and nurture these seeds with their candidacy? Who will make sure candidates are

accountable to community? And when the dust settles after the elections, who will continue to advocate for community? It takes great strength to continue the struggle on behalf of gente. For many of us it takes the strength of faith. Join us in 2003 in however you can to continue planting the seeds of community and keep the faith. La lucha continua.



Joleen García volunteers in the Save Our Aquifer campaign, the Green Party, and Centro Esperanza.

* The story mentioned above was told by Reverend Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou.

Todos somos esperanza...

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