



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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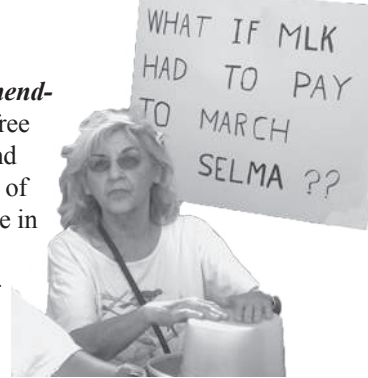
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Articles due by the 8th of each month

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

The San Antonio City Council on March 1, 2018 passed the **First Amendment Processions and Assemblies Ordinance** that strengthened the free speech rights of all San Antonio residents after years of organizing and coalition building by local activists. Joleen García, who has been one of the stalwarts from the beginning writes about the decade long struggle in this issue of *La Voz*. The Free Speech Coalition that came together in 2007 in response to the City's repressive Ordinance that charged thousands of dollars for a permit to march on city streets went through a 10 year process challenging the city on several levels. More than 30 organizations including the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center and hundreds of civic-minded San Antonio residents were involved from all sectors of the city. Those involved included activist organizations, cultural arts groups, religious groups, labor advocates, and many other community-based groups that feared their right to free speech and assembly was being suppressed. The *International Woman's Day March Committee* and *San Antonio Free Speech Coalition* went to court against the City of San Antonio in an effort to counteract measures to limit free speech and persisted long after the court case reached district court hearings. Finally, the 2018 city council heard the pleas of its residents. Along the way, groups and individuals continued to join the effort. Some stayed, and persisted—slogging through the 10 year struggle. Along the way some of our staunch supporters died. We dedicate this *La Voz* issue to those that were part of this effort and lost their lives along the way: pictured are Jane Tuck, Adam Castillo, Mariana Scuros, Nick Calzoncit, Michelle Myers, Imelda Arismendez, Hilda Arevalos, and John Stanford among others in various coalition actions—they were there at the beginning of the fight and stayed as long as they could. —Gloria A. Ramírez, editor



Hilda Arevalos (RIP) drumming in front of the City Council building.



Mariana Ornelas (RIP) next to Viola Casarez of Fuerza Unida.

Imelda Arisméndez (RIP) of MujerArtes.

Adam Castillo (RIP), photographer.

Nick Calzoncit (RIP) of Public Access TV.



At a press conference in April of 2008 announcing the injunction against the City of San Antonio were Jane Tuck (3rd), Michelle Myers (5th), and John Stanford (last) now deceased, along with other SA Free Speech Coalition members.

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.