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Editor: Gloria A. Ramírez Design: Elizandro Carrington Photo: donated by Isabel Sánchez

Contributors

María Antonietta Berriozábal, Penelope Boyer, Bárbara Renaud González, Greg Harmon, Randi Romo, Michelle Rumbaut

La Voz Mail Collective

Alicia Arredondo, Paxton Batchelder, Pauline Enriquez, Charlie Esperiqueta, Mary Esperiqueta, Paco García, Gloria Hernández, Sa Huynh, Juan Martínez, Lucy D. Martínez, Angie Merla, Edie Oetign, Tony Pérez, Mary Agnes Rodríguez, Yolanda Salazar, Guadalupe Segura, Roger Singler, Justice Society, Tomasa Torres, Alma Van Nest, Ileana Viramontes,

Esperanza Director

Graciela I. Sánchez

Esperanza Staff Elizandro Carrington, Yaneth Flores,

Sarah Gould, Eliza Pérez, Paul Plouf, Kristel Orta-Puente, Natalie Rodríguez, René Saenz, Susana Segura, Amelia Valdez

Conjunto de Nepantleras —Esperanza Board of Directors— Norma Cantú, Rachel Jennings, Amy Kastely, Jan Olsen, Ana Lucía Ramírez, Gloria A. Ramírez, Rudy Rosales, Tiffany Ross, Lilliana 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

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



On September 13th, the Hays Street Bridge Restoration Group went before the Texas State Supreme Court challenging the City of San Antonio's right to "governmental immunity" that allowed the City to sell land that the Group had arranged for as a donation when they were in the process of raising funds to preserve the historic bridge. The Group's belief was that the city would hold the land for a park that would enhance the bridge's value as an historic public space. The City, ignoring a community contract, saw the donation as their property to do with as they wished, ultimately selling it to developers. The land at 803 N. Cherry is now slated for development with a 5-story apartment complex. Whether the City breached a contract or is covered by governmental immunity, as they claim, will be decided by the higher court in 3-4 months. The judges seemed to understand well the issue at hand and listened intently to the arguments the Group's

lawyer, Amy Kastely, presented—but, we'll see. ¡Ya veremos! If community wins, all are invited to dance with us on the bridge!

As we enter the fall season, we remind folks that next month, November, is the celebration that honors our dearly departed, Día de los muertos. The Esperanza celebrates the event on November 1st in the Westside venue of El Rinconcito de Esperanza, 816 S. Colorado. Expect to see La Casa de Cuentos, La Casita and the MujerArtes adobe building full of ofrendas and exhibits for Día de los muertos. **If you would like to build an ofrenda or altar in memory of your departed soul or family members, please call the Esperanza at 210.228.0201 to reserve a space.** On November 1st from 3-9pm we will be celebrating with music, pan de muerto, tamales, face painting, an exhibit of altares and a procession through the Alazán Apache Courts. Be sure to join us!



La Voz de Esperanza has celebrated Día de los muertos every November since 1999 by publishing CALAVERAS and LITERARY OFRENDAS. Calaveras gives everyone a chance to poke fun at family and friends in verse or to use satire and wicked lyrics to kill off live personalities that are not worthy of our reverence and respect. Literary ofrendas, on the other hand, are a way of remembering those that we do cherish with stories, poems or written

memories. Calaveras and literary ofrendas can be sent to: lavoz@esperanzacenter.org or dropped off at 922 San Pedro Ave. in San Antonio. I have been known to pick them up—if you call 210.228.0201. Calavera artwork is also needed! Join in the fun!

In this issue of La Voz, María Berriozábal reports on the Mayor's Housing Policy Task Force and Greg Harmon asks Who Owns CPS Energy? They, with the writers of Stories of the Bus Station Ministries, remind us to stay involved and make a difference! —*Gloria A. Ramírez*, editor



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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.