

# La Voz de Esperanza

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Fuerza Unida, MujerARTES, y toda  
la buena gente who help mail out La  
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Opinions expressed in La Voz are not necessarily  
those of the Esperanza. We advocate for a variety of  
social, economic & environmental justice issues.

Inquiries, articles, and letters  
should be addressed to:

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## Policy Statements:

We ask that articles be visionary, progressive,  
instructive, & thoughtful. Submissions must be  
literate & critical; not sexist, racist,  
homophobic, violent, or oppressive. Articles  
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groups will not be published.

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broadside (modified)  
by José Guadalupe Posada

## Seis Años de CALAVERAS

We proudly present the 6<sup>th</sup> annual November issue of La Voz Calaveras written by a collaborative of Esperanza folks, Los Calaveristas. We began to write Calaveras in 1999 when Don Moises Espino Del Castillo was the only one keeping this Día de los Muertos tradition alive in San Antonio. In 1999, in preparation for the 2000 elections, el arbusito (Bushito) was a prime target for the Calaveristas, as were Taco Bell's Dinky Dog, TAAS testing, our City Council, our mayor and more. In 2000, Don Moises retired after publishing 30 years of Calaveras in San Antonio. Soon after, Don Moises passed on.

In Mexico, the name of José Guadalupe Posada is synonymous with the tradition of writing Calaveras and the printing of graphics or caricatures to go with them. Don Lupe was born in Aguascalientes in 1852 of humble origins and worked in the fields as a child. His artwork was probably influenced by the rich cultural/artistic traditions of Aguascalientes, particularly the ceramic art. Towards the end of 1870, Posada mastered the art of lithography and became famous for his illustrations in El Jicote, a small independent Sunday paper. Posada- short, stout, dark-skinned, with a strong, round head, marked Indian features and a noble and simple manner- produced more than 20,000 engravings during his 44 year career. Don Lupe worked closely much of his career with publisher Antonio Vanegas, a noted poet. Posada also influenced the work of artists like Rivera and Orozco who visited Don Lupe's shop as young students.

For years after his death, Posada's artistic genius went unrecognized and his artwork was deemed, "popular art." Don Lupe was known to have refused commissions on principle and it was his political stances which helped prepare the way for the 1910 Revolution in Mexico. Dying in obscurity, he was buried in a "sixth class grave" only to have his body exhumed seven years later and tossed in a common grave. He was an artist of the "masses." As a tribute to Posada's genius as an artist and true activist we have liberally borrowed from his masterpieces for this issue of La Voz. This issue also includes recuerdos of loved ones who have recently passed on. To begin calavereando I offer this Calavera in English :

## Election Day Calavera

In the year 2004

The race for president was, indeed, a bore  
The incumbunt, President Bush,  
Needed ousting with a great big push.

But Kerry a Herman Munster type  
For the job did not seem ripe  
He was anti-war and yet, pro defense  
His reasoning at times just didn't make sense

There was no denying Bush was the corporate pick  
And the puppet master, his running mate, Dick  
The Munster loomed tall and tried to be charming  
With Edwards at his side, whose looks were disarming.

Bush promised lower taxes and no stem cell research  
The economy looked sound from his white house perch  
Kerry zeroed in on education and No Child Left Behind  
He suddenly seemed self-assured, knowledgeable, and kind

The scrub, Bush, nurtured fear and terror  
And he wouldn't admit to a single error  
Meanwhile, Kerry questioned Homeland Security  
But vowed to tighten the borders with surety

Cobb, Badnardik, Peroutka and Peltier were also on the ballot  
They were all dismissed and wound up flat on the pallet  
The campaign was at its Nadir  
And it got later and later.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, a new candidate appeared  
La pelona, the dead one, whom everyone feared,  
Greed, poverty, ignorance, terrorism and war!  
Step forward, Mr. President, with me you'll go far!  
-G.A. Ramírez

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.



# CALAVERAS 2004

## Dándole Shine al West-Side

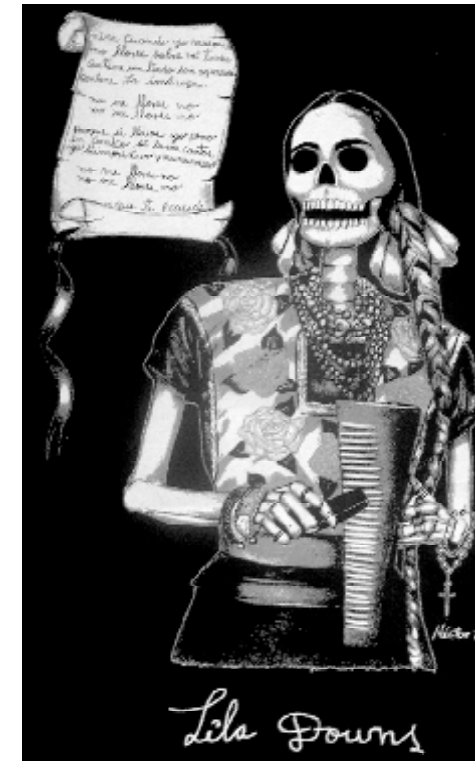
La Catrina iba de viaje  
a encontrarse una gran fiesta  
llevaba su mejor traje  
y su sonrisa bien puesta.

A San Anto recaló  
y hasta el West-Side fue a parar  
donde una celebración  
estaba por empezar.

La Buena Gente de Esperanza  
mucho se había esforzado  
no había lugar a tardanzas  
ya la Raza había llegado.

La Muerte y la gente allí  
vieron a las cantantes  
una era Rita Vidaurri  
Y Lila y acompañantes.

Doña Rita comenzó  
y nos tuvo a carcajadas



disfrutando de sus chistes  
y de su buena cantada.

Lila cantó a grandes voces  
y hasta bailó como iguana  
¿cómo traería los huesos  
otro día en la mañana?

“Gracias a toda la gente  
que pudo contribuir  
ahora siento decirles  
que todos van a morir.”

La Calaca había llegado  
a llevarse al gran gentío  
que tuvo algo que ver  
con el West-Side y su lío

“-Vámonos a la carrera”  
dijo la Muerte Tilica  
“que sigan cantando rancheras  
doña Lila y doña Rita.”  
- Rita Urquijo Ruiz



## Recepción a la Muerte

A la Margie y la Josie les gusta cocinar  
Josie un mole exquisito se pone a guisar  
y sus pinches, los tamales le ayudan a amasar

Margie con su equipo especial de trasterio  
prepara la sangría y hornea el pastelillo  
tres leches nomás, nada de lío

Doña Toña, la Katrina, cuándo llega a la cocina  
le hace fuchi al agua de pepino  
y pide, por favor, un cristal para su vino

“Lo que no mata, engorda.  
Lo que engorda, mata.”

## Calaverita de Esperanza

La muerte siriqwi-siaca  
llego a la Esperanza un día  
Y como vio tanto amor y alegría  
Se fue musitando,  
“Aquí no hay nadie para mi, todavía.”

“La sangre del pobre  
El rico se la come.”

Editor's note: This page is dedicated with mucho cariño to all the buena gente who made Lila Downs en el West-Side the best regalo ever. It was attended by 3,000 plus folks and people are still talking about it. Special thanks to the cocineras Josie and Margie who along with the reception committe and hosts, Antonia and Arturo, made the underwriting of this gift possible. We continue to collect donations. Call 228-0201 or send in your contributions to Esperanza Center, 922 San Pedro in San Antonio, 78210. ¡ Mil gracias!