

La Voz de Esperanza

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Editor

Gloria A. Ramírez

Layout • Design

Estevan H. Arredondo

Contributors

Antonio Cabral, Anel Flores
Graciela García, Joleen García,
Alicia Gaspar De Alba, Marcos
Marquez, Pablo Martinez, Jr., Keta
Miranda Josie Méndez Negrete, Rosa
Reyes, Cindy Rodríguez, Irma
Rosas, Rita Urquijo Ruiz, Enrique
Sánchez, Arturo Vásquez

La Voz Volunteer Collective

Fuerza Unida, MujerARTES, y toda
la buena gente who help mail out La
Voz

Esperanza Director

Graciela I. Sánchez

Esperanza Staff

Pat Benítez,

Elizandro Carrington,

Brenda Davis, Jessica Fuentes,
Joleen García, Herminia Maldonado,
Irma Mayorga, Cindy Rodríguez,
René Saenz, Christina Valero

Esperanza Board

David Zamora Casas,

Anel Flores, Amy Kastely,
Michael Martínez, Marcos Márquez,
Kamala Platt, Gloria A. Ramírez
& Rudy Rosales

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:

La Voz de Esperanza,
922 San Pedro,
San Antonio, TX 78212
lavoz@esperanzacenter.org

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groups will not be published.

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cover art:
broadside (modified)
by José Guadalupe Posada

Seis Años de CALAVERAS

We proudly present the 6th 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 arbustito (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 siriqui-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!