



La Voz de Esperanza

March 2019
Vol. 32 Issue 2

Editor: Gloria A. Ramirez
Design: Elizandro Carrington

Contributors

Pilar DeCamp, Susan Guerra, María Velásquez Miller, Gloria A. Ramirez, Nadine Saliba, Graciela I. Sánchez, Margarita Vásquez

La Voz Mail Collective

Alicia Arredondo, Valentine Gonzaba, Ray & Lucy Pérez, Ray Pérez, Jr., Mary Agnes Rodríguez, Helen Suárez, Gloria Castillo, Juan Díaz, Jack Elder, Ray Garza, Araceli Herrera, Patria Huitfeldt, Paul Bain Martin, Olivia Martínez, Angie Merla, Molly, Ceci Pérez, Lucy Andrew Perreta, Guadalupe Segura, Helen Villarreal

Esperanza Director
Graciela I. Sánchez

Esperanza Staff

Elizandro Carrington, Yaneth Flores, Sarah Gould, Eliza Pérez, Paul Plouf, Kristel Orta-Puente, Natalie Rodríguez, Ingard Akinyi Rop, 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. Ramirez, Rudy Rosales, 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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



Rita Vidaurri passed away in January leaving a gaping hole in the heart of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. She was a constant presence at Esperanza inspiring us with her stories as an international singer in the 40s to the 60s and of her life in San Antonio before and after her career. The house she grew up in on el Callejón Montezuma still stands and her home on Texas Ave. has been left full of memories. At the rosary for Rita, an array of photos and newspaper articles left us wistful—but the most poignant display was that of a pink and black cape hanging next to her casket. The cape (pictured at left) was one she'd worn on an album cover. It was striking and left us in awe.

In this issue, dedicated to her life and times, a few more pieces of her life emerge. One thing for sure is that she was firmly rooted in her sense of self, her family and her community. She inspired elders in San Antonio and wherever she went in Texas and beyond. She was the catalyst for the formation of the elder group of singers, Las Tesoros de San Antonio and she found a place for herself at the Esperanza advocating for issues of social justice and telling stories at Casa de Cuentos on many a Second Saturday.

Rita was honored in San Antonio in recent years with



Rita often spoke or sang at City Council chambers.

her own loteria card by Juan Ramos, as a parade marshal at the annual Diez y Seis celebration and as Queen Huevo for San Anto Cultural Arts' 2017 annual fandango. She ranks among other San Antonio stars like Eva Garza, Rosita Fernández, Lydia Mendoza, Perla Tapatia and the remaining Tesoros, Beatriz "La Paloma del Norte" Llamas and Blanca "Blanca Rosa" Rodríguez.

As Esperanza reads our Museo del Westside, I hope that we can fully honor Rita's memory not only as a star but as part of La Gente del Westside. The stories in this tribute issue clearly show that Rita was not one to put on airs but that she was truly part of "el pueblo de San Antonio." There is still so much we don't know about Rita and we'll keep on collecting stories and photos about her life.

Send your stories to: lavoz@esperanzacenter.org or come by



Rita (left) with the remaining Las Tesoros de San Antonio, Beatriz Llamas and Blanca Rodríguez

922 San Pedro with your recuerdos. Mil gracias to all who contributed to this very special issue.

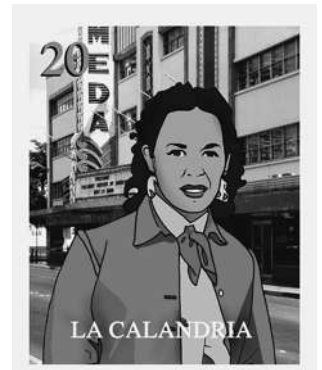
Estarás siempre en nuestra mente, Querida Rita, La Calandria.

Gloria A. Ramirez,

Editor of La Voz



Rita's childhood home on the Westside.



Rita's loteria card by Juan Ramos

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-voiced 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.