



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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



Funny how Voz articles seem to be interconnected. When I saw that the April issue would highlight poetry month, it never occurred to me that it would lead us to the Green New Deal. It turned out that the poem Gianna Réndon sent was on the egrets of Lake Elmendorf. Although I was not involved in efforts to save the birds at the Lake, I knew about it. My plan was to feature the egrets and poems.

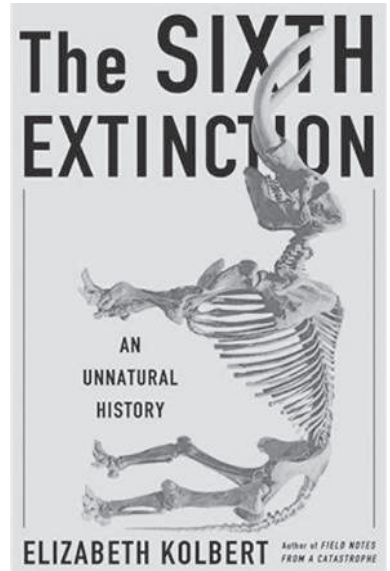
Then, I walked Jere Locke to the Esperanza with whom I had worked with years back on an education group board. He now worked for the Texas Drought Project. Part of his job was working on the Green New Deal. So, I asked him for an article.

Meanwhile, Ed Codina, whom I had know for years since I was a student at UT-Austin in the 70s died suddenly. At his memorial old friends turned up including Julio Noboa Polanco, another ex board member of the Esperanza who now lives in Costa Rica. He told me had written about the situation in Venezuela for the Houston Chronicle but they had edited out some language. I asked him for the article. I had hoped to get an article from Antonio Cabral on the topic last month but due to eye surgery, he was not able to write it. That done, I went back to the egrets' poem and planned to dedicate a full two pages to the poem. I asked Kamala Platt to send in photos. Julio, however, contacted me with another article on the anti-hate resolution passed in Congress in response to Rep. Ilhan Omar's comments on the state of Israel that were deemed anti-Semitic by some. The resolution that covered hate based on race and religion did not mention Latinos at all. So, I had to make room for that article.

Gianna's poem and the egrets were reduced to one page. I also had an article by Norma Cantú—an address that she delivered at the NACCS Tejas Foco Conference in Houston in February. The article mentions the first indigenous poet of the New World—no, not Sor Juana Inez de la Cruz—she was the second. Two pages at the end of the issue, a nice ending to poetry month. Read it and find out!

This brings me to the editorial. In reading Jere's article on the Green New Deal and the heartening efforts of young people—children, really—to combat climate change I found out about *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, a Pulitzer Prize winning book written by Elizabeth Kolbert in 2015 that argues that the Earth is in the middle of a man-made sixth extinction. She gives examples of how humans have been responsible for the extinction of certain species of animals and compares other periods of extinction previously due to natural causes. The current rate of extinction of species is estimated at 100 to 1,000 times higher now than natural background rates. It is due to humans having a direct impact on ecosystems that causes stress that extinguishes species through activities such as transformation of the landscape. She estimates flora and fauna loss by the end of the 21st century to be between 20 to 50 percent of all living species. And here we are trying to rid ourselves of egrets on Elmendorf Lake. ¿Qué cosas? When will we learn to trust Nature and care for our environment and all beings.

—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.