

Échale Books Pachanga

by Gianna Rendón

Over 2 years ago (April 2017), Échale Books was born. This president had just gotten elected and we were seeing pretty fast negative repercussions of his election. I, like many people at the time, felt myself go into an abyss of hopelessness. Échale Books was created as a solution and as an offering from me to my community as a way to counter the racist, homophobic, xenophobic, sexist government/culture.

Échale Books was created to offer politically progressive books: feminist, Latin@/x and Chican@/x books, LGBTQ+ books and most importantly bilingual books y libros en Español during a time where we are seeing an increase in the criminalization of Spanish speakers in this country. Échale Books continues in the tradition of generations of guerreras/xs who have fought for the education and stories of la gente de San Antonio.

The title “Échale Books” says the mission in its name. We add books to the community with energia in the hopes that the knowledge in the books will inspire people to take action and make change. Because when you know better, you do better.

The Pachanga de Palabras grew out of the mission of Échale Books to offer affordable books to the Westside of San Antonio. The Pachanga will be outdoors in the Plaza Guadalupe. It was important for me and my co-organizer Eliza Pérez to continue the tradition of outdoor storytelling. Our gente have been telling stories outdoors since the beginning whether it was working in the fields, in cocinas, sitting on porches, or in the plazas. The event is a Pachanga to counter the sometimes elitist book and literary events in town that often keep out the working class and poor. We believe books and stories are exciting and deserve to be celebrated. This is not going to be a quiet event. There will be no hushing. You will be invited to dance. You will be invited to gritar. You will be invited to laugh and cry.

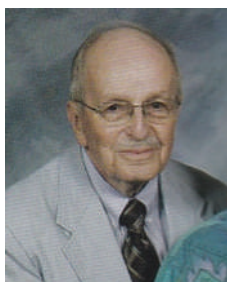
It is also important for us to have the event at the Plaza Guadalupe because of the City of San Antonio and Avenida Guadalupe’s decision to privatize the plaza by putting up a fence around the public space. It’s important for the Westside community and the great San Anto community to feel like the plaza is their space even if a fence tells them to “keep out.”

The Pachanga will have book and zine vendors including Aztlán Libre Press, FlowerSong Books, MestizaAF Bookshop, No Whites Allowed Zine, Red Salmon Arts/ Resistencia Books, Say Something Real Press, St. Sucia & Isabel Ann Castro, Tomboy Toons, Warship Zine, Wildhoneydot, Yes, Ma’am Zine y mas. There will be food vendors and a kids’ activity table hosted by the San Antonio Public Library Latino Collection and Resource Center. There will be live music and performers including a Drag King Story Time by Los MENTirosos. Full lineup TBA.



Help Échale Books Raise \$ for the Pachanga
gofundme
bit.ly/SupportPachangadePalabras

Charles W. Tuck, aka “Woody”



Sincere condolences from the Esperanza board, staff and buena gente to the family of Charles W. Tuck, aka “Woody”, who passed into spirit early this summer joining his wife, Jane who passed in December, 2017. They had been married 67 years when Jane passed. Both were members of the First Unitarian Universalist Church since 1970 and were

well respected activists in the San Antonio peace and justice community. Even as elders, for as long as they could, Jane and Woody were out at demonstrations advocating for peace, justice and environmental issues. Woody, former San Antonio Peace Laureate, and Jane who was honored for her lifetime activism by the Esperanza Center, will be remembered for their spirit and enduring commitment to peace and humanity.

Linda Buzzell Saliba



spouse of Patrick Saliba, entered spirit form on July 14, 2019. Linda was part of the Esperanza family and dedicated herself to social justice, human rights, and LGBTQ rights. Linda believed in the power of voting and was actively involved in politics. She was a loving individual who believed in the basic humanity and kindness

of people. The Esperanza board, staff and buena gente extend our profound sympathy to her spouse, Patrick and their families. She requested that in her memory, donations be made to Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, 922 San Pedro, San Antonio TX 78210. RIP

