



La Voz de Esperanza

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Photos by Gloria A. Ramirez

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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 is a publication of

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

As we enter into the season of fall time with Día de los Muertos upon us and the 30th anniversary of the Peace Market, I invite Voz readers to reflect upon the many tragic events that have occurred during the year including the massacres that have taken place, the hate that has been displayed, the natural disasters that have occurred—most recently Hurricane Dorian—and the constant inhumane treatment of immigrants fleeing from life-threatening circumstances. Without getting into specifics, it has been a heartbreaking year—and it does not appear to be abating.

The November issue of La Voz de Esperanza gives us the opportunity to write literary ofrendas in the form of poetry, stories or artwork to remember those that have passed whether by personal circumstances or public tragedies. Personally, I have kept the image of the young immigrant man from El Salvador who drowned with his daughter in the Río Grande in my memory, wanting to find a time and place to remember them. The father had safely crossed the Río Grande leaving his daughter on the riverbank while returning to the other side to guide his wife across. When he noticed his young daughter moving into the water going after her Dad, he returned to save her, tucking her into his shirt while trying to swim back to the riverbank. Unfortunately, the current swept them away while the mother watched helplessly from the other side. During the same time period, a mother and three young children were found, also drowned in the Río Grande. All of them, ought not to have died. There was no reason for those deaths.

But, then, again, there has been no reason for any of the deaths that occurred in the mass shootings of this year, most recently in Texas—in El Paso and the Midland-Odessa area. As it stands now, the number of mass shootings in the U.S. reportedly amounts to more than one per day. None of these deaths make sense. But, it is the world that we now live in and we must not forget such tragedies.

Let us remember these deaths and tragedies as we pay tribute to those who have passed with literary ofrendas in the pages of the November issue of La Voz. We will also be accepting calaveras, satirical poems that kill off the living by calling on the Catrina to cart them off either in comic circumstances, or more gruesome endings. Send your contributions to lavoz@esperanzacenter.org before October 8th.

Gracias, *Gloria A. Ramirez, editor of La Voz de Esperanza*



The bodies of Óscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez and his 23-month-old daughter, Valeria, were found in the Río Grande in June, 2019. Credit: Julia Le Duc/Associated Press

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-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.