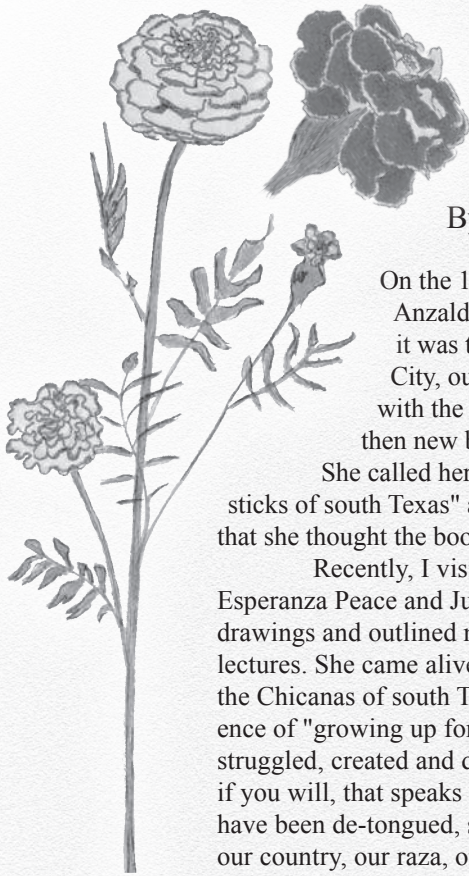


El Último Adiós

Hace 15 años falleció Gloria Evangelina Anzaldúa

By Elva Treviño



On the 15th anniversary of Gloria Anzaldúa's death, I recall her alive. I recall it was the first time I met her in New York City, outside her Brooklyn apartment alive with the positive reviews concerning her then new book, *This Bridge Called My Back*.

She called herself just a "little chicanita from the sticks of south Texas" as she excitedly shared her thoughts that she thought the book would be well received. It was.

Recently, I visited the Anzaldúa exhibit at Esperanza Peace and Justice Center set up to exhibit her drawings and outlined note charts of her writing workshop lectures. She came alive! She is a tremendous voice for us, the Chicanas of south Texas, that have the unique experience of "growing up foreign" in our own country. She struggled, created and developed a language, a vocabulary if you will, that speaks of our political reality, we who have been de-tongued, silenced, rendered speechless by our country, our raza, our families.

She speaks for us, her voice, her sound of flesh against teeth, of breath escaping, of poems and songs that have never been heard before because Chicanas are invisible in our society. She is our tongue, our voice, our lives made whole, real. Gloria Anzaldúa, mentor and friend, when we met, you could never imagine what the world has made of you now. ¡Gloria Anzaldúa presente!



Artist: Anel Flores



Rita Vidaurri, La Calandria

We lost our beloved Calandria this year (2019) in January. But, for having died early in the year, she, too, would have been honored by the National Endowment for the Arts with a Heritage award and with an award by her beloved City, San Antonio. When Rita died, she received many tributes and

accolades but Graciela I. Sánchez summed it up best talking about her "adventures" with Rita and ending with a poignant remembrance:

Walking the streets of the Westside or downtown suddenly is different to me because those buildings are no longer empty. I now imagine Rita walking downtown with her guitar by her side, climbing the stairs to the second floor to get to one of the many clubs where she sang. I see the Alameda and know that Rita sang there

as well. And I imagine the Nacional, Zaragoza and the many other theaters she graced in San Antonio, Mexico, Columbia and Cuba.

Thank you Rita for a wonderful time together. Initially, it was just the two of us figuring out how we were going to bring you back to your adoring fans. Now, thousands throughout the world love and respect you and miss you so very, very much. Keep singing your heart out and telling your jokes con todo los santitos y angelitos and everyone else you meet along the way. You never did discriminate. You loved us all.

¡Rita Vidaurri, presente!



Vernon "Spot" Barnett

San Antonio music legend and saxophone player, Vernon "Spot" Barnett, died in his East Side home on Sunday, October 6, 2019. The height of his fame was in the '50s and '60s, when he led the 20th Century Orchestra, the house band at the Ebony Lounge, and played in the famed Eastwood Country Club's house band. He performed with artists such as Ike and Tina Turner and locally is noted for helping pioneer the musical form known as Chicano Soul or the Westside Sound defined by artists such as Sunny and the Sunliners, the Royal Jesters and the Dell-Kings. Last year (2018) at this time of year, he played at the Esperanza's annual Peace Market. We were honored to have had him on our stage. QEPD, Spot. ¡Presente!

