



La Voz de Esperanza

Dec 2019 | Jan 2020
Vol. 32 Issue 10

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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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.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 Esperanza's 30th Annual Peace Market was winding down Sunday, on its 3rd and last day, we got the news. It rippled throughout the crowds at the *Mercado de Paz*. Martha Prentiss had passed. It was December 1st. In many ways it was the perfect time for Martha to pass— just short of the Winter Solstice, and past the Autumn Equinox. Just past Dia de los Muertos and All Saints Day but just before the Christmas holidays. She was ready and everyone around her had prepared for her passing. Her transition into spirit provided for us many lessons: acceptance, preparation, grace, community, legacy. She left for us so much, so many memories and so many ways of being to emulate.



Lilliana Wilsion, artist

In this issue of *La Voz de Esperanza*, we pay tribute to la Martha, a community icon and staunch Esperanza supporter for more than 30 years. The tribute to Martita, in these pages of *La Voz*, are but a small peek at her life here in San Antonio. Hopefully, more will be written and more stories will be shared at an upcoming memorial planned for January 2020. In this issue, we have many folks and groups to thank after the recent flurry of activity that is the *Esperanza* at the end of each year. *Peace Market* quickly follows the *Día de los Muertos* celebration and *La Voz* is left to be finished off in December.

In this Dec. 2019/Jan. 2020 issue we continue with *Part Two* of Sam Stoeltje's *The Banality of Dispossession* talking about the gentrification of San Antonio's Westside. Rachel Jennings has contributed a wonderful poem, *Palestine as a Cancer Patient* and Penny Boyer gives us a preview of a *Solar Mural*, the first of its kind, in the world, that will be unveiled at **J.T. Brackenridge Elementary School** on the Westside of San Antonio early in 2020.

We look forward to the New Year despite the losses we have incurred this year that included Frances Timmons' passing a few weeks before Martha. Frances was the LGBTQ pre-eminent therapist who guided many an individual to healthy living by caring for their mental well being. Unfortunately, as editor of *La Voz*, it is hard to keep up, at times, and I often don't get to write about the many folks that deserve to be written about.

My wish for the New Year is for more Buena gente to get involved in writing insightful, tributes to deserving community members, literary entries, critical reviews of issues at hand and creative stories for *La Voz de Esperanza*. It is you, dear gente, that keep *Voz* going.

May the beginning of the 2020s be the beginning of a decade of conviviality where we care for each other no matter who we are and think of the other before we think of ourselves. Remember that our Presidency was never meant to be a divine right and we must participate in civil and critical discourse in order for change to move forward for the benefit of all. May the coming decade be one of divine peace and not of decadence.

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

Veterans 1
Invisible wounds 2
Need our ears 3
—Tommy Noonan
Haiku contributed by Deb Myers

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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.