



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.

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

COVID-19 has dominated present time, recently. But, a mere few weeks ago the Esperanza was hosting and involved in significant and memorable events that will be reflected on in this issue of *La Voz*. For now, remember to do your part to stay healthy and keep others safe from the coronavirus by doing the five things listed on the back page of this *Voz*. We value our readers and supporters of the Esperanza and have postponed all events for the month of March and April in order to ensure the collective health and wellbeing of our community members. We shall see you soon, resuming our usual quality programming. Until then, stay safe and healthy.



From left panelists, Denise McVea, Myriam Gurba, Juan Tejeda, David Bowles, Carmen Tafolla and Bárbara Renaud González, moderator of the #DignidadLiteraria plática, *Latinx Authors and the Publishing Industry* at the Esperanza.

Back to the April issue of *La Voz*. The powerful review by Myriam Gurba of the book, *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins stirred up a huge controversy—but garnered a network of support that resulted in the formation of a new campaign, *DignidadLiteraria#*. Founded by Gurba with Roberto Lovato and David Bowles, it set about inciting activism and events around the erasure of Latinx authors and their stories by major book publishers in the U.S. The Esperanza hosted a plática on February 22nd with a distinguished panel of local writers discussing *Latinx Authors and the Publishing Industry* noting the importance of having our own independent presses. One of these small presses, *Cinco Puntos Press* of El Paso writes on their survival

at the Texas/Mexican border for 35 years with the article, *Books as Windows, Books as Mirrors* in this issue of *La Voz*. In the meantime, #DignidadLiteraria has won some major battles in the publishing world and with a major bookstore!

Another recent event that must not be forgotten is the amazing performances at the *Queer Voices* event held at the Esperanza as part of the AWP conference on the evening of Friday, March 6th. Homegirl, Vicki Grise, stole the show with a powerful monologue denouncing police brutality while tossing tiny boxes of fideo into the packed crowd who delighted in catching a box to take home. Kudos to the poets of the *Queer Voices* program and to all poets throughout this nation as we undergo a crisis that will challenge us to rise in creative ways as we strive to care for each other and keep our spirits up.

In this issue of *La Voz* we pay tribute to National Poetry Month with a few poems by our local poets. As we used to say, “See you in the funny papers” which now means via social media. Stay safe and healthy! Continue to send articles, poems and other literary works to: lavoz@esperanzacenter.org

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



Vicki Grise proclaims Fideo Friday as she reads at the *Queer Voices* event at the Esperanza.

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.