



# La Voz de Esperanza

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## La Voz Mail Collective

The Collective is sheltering at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic but will be returning when their health and safety can be assured. Extra funds are being raised to pay for folding La Voz each month during this time.

## Esperanza Director

Graciela I. Sánchez

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## Conjunto de Nepantleras

### —Esperanza Board of Directors—

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

## COVID-19 Connections: Local to Global

In this June 2020 issue of La Voz de Esperanza, we continue with staff stories exploring the connections they have to families and friends who live outside of the U.S. This pandemic has affected communities around the world and every strata of society from the poorest to the richest—all races, creeds, colors and ways of being. However, those hardest hit by the pandemic are the black and brown communities, the poor, the working classes, immigrants, the homeless and prison populations. Indigenous populations worldwide are also highly vulnerable to the Coronavirus and in some parts of the world in danger of extinction. It is these sectors of society that we must continue to advocate for during this pandemic and I invite Voz readers to write your stories so we can continue to learn about the local and global connections that COVID-19 has brought together. There are so many issues coming at us, at once, that it would be easy to self-isolate and worry only about oneself. But that is not the answer—even in self isolation and while protecting oneself—we can all share our stories, our thoughts, our fears and our hopes for a better world in the years to come. Send your articles to [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org).

—Gloria A. Ramirez, editor

## Ray McDonald 1941-2020



Our dear Ray passed in spirit in May, 2020 at the Audie Murphy VA Hospital where many visited him in the last months of his life. Even though Esperanza buena gente liked to believe Ray's whole life was about Esperanza, he lived a full life with caring parents and siblings and his own family. Born in 1941, he grew up in Rochester, NY. He was baptised on Pearl Harbor Day and eventually became part of the US Air Force during the Vietnam War where he served in Wiesbaden, Germany. Ray and his family

came to San Antonio in 1972 where he lived alone in his later years filling his days with music, theater and politics. He joined the San Antonio Chamber Music Society as a boardmember and loved the San Antonio Symphony. When he came to the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, he found a place that combined his love for arts, culture, progressive politics and good people whom he loved to talk to and joke with. Neighbors and friends fondly remember Ray as a loving and giving man who checked on his neighbors and pets. At Esperanza, Ray was a fixture at Noche Azul concerts, the annual Peace Market and many other events. He took the lead with the monthly folding of La Voz de Esperanza encouraging table dancing, keeping the pace of folding on track and carrying on with everyone. Condolences from the the Esperanza staff, board and buena gente to his sisters, children, extended family and friends. He has left his mark in our hearts and will be dearly missed. Memorials in his name can be made to the Esperanza ([esperanzacenter.org](http://esperanzacenter.org)) and St. Francis of Assisi church in San Antonio. ¡Ray McDonald, presente! A video chronicle of Ray's life can be found at [bit.ly/Ray-McDonald](http://bit.ly/Ray-McDonald)



**ATTENTION VOZ READERS:** If you have a mailing address correction please send it to [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto: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.