

\* Monthly Donors who also made individual contributions

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**GRACIAS FOR DONATIONS MADE  
IN MEMORY OF RAY Mc DONALD  
AND JESSE BENAVIDEZ—MAY  
THEY REST IN PEACE.**

**ALSO, ADDITIONAL THANKS  
TO GRACIELA SÁNCHEZ,  
GLORIA RAMÍREZ, SUSAN  
GUERRA, SUSANA SEGURA  
AND OTHERS WHO REQUESTED  
THAT DONATIONS GO TO THE  
ESPERANZA IN HONOR OF THEIR  
BIRTHDAYS.**

**AND, MIL GRACIAS TO THE FINANCE  
COMMITTEE WHO WORKS  
DILIGENTLY TO CONTINUE RAISING  
FUNDS FOR THE ESPERANZA PEACE  
AND JUSTICE CENTER**

# Notas Y Más

July/August 2020

**Community meetings and art events are currently on hold  
due to COVID-19. Check websites, FB or call for virtual  
meetings and arts programming in July/August, 2020.  
[www.esperanzacenter.org](http://www.esperanzacenter.org)**

## What could have been

*For Officer Brian Encina,  
Citizen Sandra Bland and our system*

If this anger at her  
and all she images,  
if fear for my ego-invested badge,  
this uniform, my being what I am,  
had just let her go with a ticket,  
respectfully given,  
case closed.  
If this death was by me  
and not another...  
having given in to despair  
letting go the fragile threads of hope  
for another sunrise, another day  
and said yes to life, yes to myself.  
If our system, this culture,  
immersing us in arrogance and despair  
could just stop it.

—Tom Keene August 14, 2015

## when history repeats itself, -in honor of BLM

we are here again, which means we  
never left.  
we tried to move on, but the chain only  
let us go so far.  
we did feel some relaxation,  
some approximation  
of what we imagined freedom to be.  
we did rest at times and bask in the sun.  
we are here again, which means  
we never left.  
i am telling myself the same  
bedtime stories.  
i am rubbing the same worries from my  
eyes  
and the wounds around my ankle  
have calloused.  
each day feels like the day before  
or the day after

and i am losing track of the years.  
what happens to a dream deferred,  
to a raisin in the sun?  
what is dried and withered hardens to  
stone  
and whether it bleeds tears or  
blood is unknown.  
what is dried and browned to seed  
germinates new life and sprouts new  
creeds.

—Yon Hui Bell

