



# La Voz de Esperanza

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**Cover Photo:** Courtesy of Bazan/Longoria family archives

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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.

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



## Lucy Domínguez Pérez

November 13, 1938 – December 15, 2020

*Chapopote. No one told us it wasn't healthy.  
Chapopote! We didn't have money to buy gum so when we wanted gum...  
Mother used to see piles of chapopote in the street... tar, right?  
She said go get some and I'll wash it for you. We went and got a handful of it  
and my mother washed it, gave us a piece and we would chew it.  
Homemade gum.  
I'm still here!*

Such was one of the many stories Lucy Pérez would tell of her life as a child growing up in San Antonio dealing with the realities and tragedies of life. She eventually met and married the love of her life, Ray Pérez. Ray and Lucy spent 60-plus-one years together living in a five-room casita on the Westside adorned with CDs, bottles, Tweety-birds and other whimsical muñequitos. They met on a Thanksgiving weekend and were married one week later. They had 3 children together, one still-born and their two sons. For a time, they worked in the fields picking in Wisconsin enduring tornados and life-threatening episodes. Somehow they found ways to get by. But always, there were adventures. Lucy suffered in childhood, having to leave school in the second grade to help the family. Throughout her life, the many illnesses she suffered, she overcame: diabetes, cancer (twice), a heart murmur and more. With Ray playing the guitar or accordion, they had music in their lives and it kept them dancing and winning at life. At 82, Lucy passed away from a fall she suffered at home, donating her body to science. As part of the Voz mail collective, Lucy always arrived with Ray with a hug and a kiss for all—calling each one of us mi'jo or mi'ja, asking how we were. In many ways, Lucy Pérez lived an exemplary life dealing with what came her way, always moving forward with humility. Much loved and respected in the Esperanza community, Lucy will very much be missed. She made a great contribution with her stories in the book, *Still Here, Homenaje al Westside de San Antonio* published by the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. The Esperanza board, Buena Gente and staff extend our condolences to Lucy's family, friends and all those who knew her. Que en paz descanse. Lucy Pérez, presente!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *This issue of La Voz is dedicated to mujeres everywhere who make life work no matter what is thrown their way. In this issue, one of those families of mujeres is highlighted in the story of the Bazán sisters by Norma Longoria Rodríguez. We are now in a period where the challenges to mujeres everywhere are exceptionally hard. I am heartened at the number of wonderful women, especially women of color, that are making a difference in the world and, especially in the U.S. We shall continue to support each other and eventually turn things around.*

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

**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.*