



La Voz de Esperanza

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La Voz Mail Collective

...is sheltering at home due to COVID-19 but will return when it is safe. Extra funds are being raised to pay for the folding of La Voz.

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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

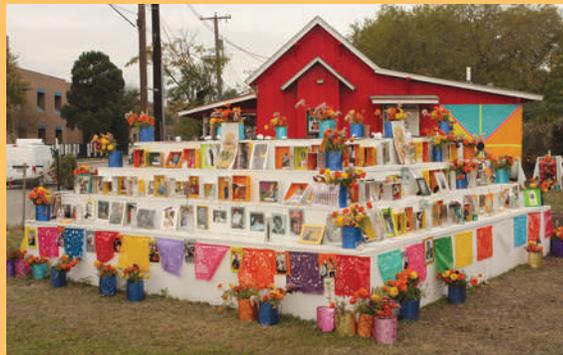
Policy Statements

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

A bleak 2021 ended in a burst of activity for the Esperanza as more and more Buena gente got involved in planting marigolds in anticipation of our annual celebration of Día de los Muertos at the Rinconcito de Esperanza. The Jardines y Viviendas project coordinated by artist, Michael Martinez, started well before October with the timing being just right as the Casa de Cuentos at 816 S. Colorado was suddenly surrounded by marigold beds that extended into Westside venues when the Muertos' celebration began on November 1st. The massive outdoor community altar at the corner of S. Colorado and Guadalupe St. kept growing as gente added photos of deceased family, friends and ancestors. The altar remained open through November 8th as did the smaller ofrendas surrounding the Casa de Cuentos and on the grounds of the Rinconcito. Added to that, was MujerArtes' adobe studio in the back that remained open with Dia de muertos items fashioned in clay for sale. Strolling musicians, El Trio Esperanza, and others, provided música the first two days—altogether outdoors in an effort to remain COVID-safe. After the clean-up of the Muertos' event, the Casa de Cuentos remained beautiful with marigolds in full bloom and dried stalks hanging on the fence providing seed for next year's jardines. Esperanza's Buena gente, staff, board and donors like the Arnosky Farm folks all collaborated to make 2021 a memorable Muertos' celebration. That enthusiasm served as a springboard for the success of the 2021 Mercadito de paz that followed in November. We end the year 2021 feeling blessed and cautiously optimistic as we enter into a New Year with a new strain of COVID to worry about. However, we are immensely grateful for the donations and support from you, the Buena gente of the Esperanza. That is what keeps us going as we continue to work for social, cultural and environmental justice. This full color issue of La Voz de Esperanza honors our dearly departed as literary ofrendas have spilled over from the November issue. And justly so—for the end of a year brings memories of loved ones both living and dead. Many thanks for your submissions to La Voz. Keep them coming in 2022. Send to: lavoz@esperanzacenter.org

Un Año Nuevo Saludable! —Gloria A. Ramírez, editor of La Voz de Esperanza

Many thanks to buena gente, staff, board and volunteers who made the 2021 Día de los Muertos celebration at the Esperanza's Rinconcito so special this year. Aside from the ofrendas on view, the música and the beautiful jardines of cempaxuchitl (marigolds)—the community of visitors were wonderful to host with their beautiful stories of loss and life. Feliz fin de año y mucho amor y esperanza para el año nuevo. **Happy end to 2021 and much love and hope for the New Year—2022!**



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.