



# La Voz de Esperanza

February 2022

Vol. 35 Issue 1

Editor: Gloria A. Ramirez

Design: Elizandro Carrington

Cover Art: Liliana Wilson

## Contributors

Tarcisio Beal, Maria De la Cruz, Rachel Jennings, David Rodgers, Marilyn Wallner

## 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.

## Esperanza Director

Graciela I. Sanchez

## Esperanza Staff

Elizandro Carrington, Kayla Miranda, Paul Plouf, Natalie Rodriguez, René Saenz, Imane Saliba, Susana Segura, Amelia Valdez, Rosa Vega

## Conjunto de Nepantleras

### —Esperanza Board of Directors—

Richard Aguilar, Norma Cantú, Yasmina Codina, Brent Floyd, Rachel Jennings, Amy Kastely, Angie Merla, Jan Olsen, Ana Lucia Ramirez, Gloria A. Ramirez, Rudy Rosales, Lilliana Saldaña, Nadine Saliba, Graciela I. Sanchez, Lillian Stevens

- 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

Esperanza Peace & Justice Center  
922 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212  
210.228.0201 • www.esperanzacenter.org

Inquiries/Articles can be sent to:  
lavoz@esperanzacenter.org  
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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

2022. And still, we struggle to make sense of our lives under the COVID watch. It's been 2 years of turmoil that we've been held hostage by the COVIDs: the original virus, then deadly Delta and, now, OMICRON—the three most prominent of the variants. What lays ahead, we know not. There will be more variants, and perhaps, we may need to learn to live with it. ¿Quien sabe? This country is in shambles; the world, in worse shape. Every conceivable problem that we've had impact our society before, has multiplied with new challenges ahead. I can't even begin to list all of the problems that we are now facing and will have to face in the near future. Two years ago in 2020, at the Esperanza, we had a wonderful evening with queer writers from the *Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP)* reading on Friday, March 6th. Everyone was giddy with the prospect of seeing and hearing friends read their works. Not fully realizing what was to come, they greeted each other with elbow bumps, laughing awkwardly. The 30th anniversary of the *International Women's Day March* followed that Sunday, March 8th, celebrated with a small march. To go, or not to go?—people were just beginning to weigh their options concerning COVID. Then the inevitable happened: cancellations, shutdowns, quarantines and isolation. For Esperanza, the most significant early cancellation was Monica Palacios' show that was slated for the end of March. After that, it was cancellation after cancellation with our annual in-person events altered or called off: *Paseo por el Westside*, *Día de los Muertos*, and *Peace Market/Mercado de Paz*. *Noche Azul's* monthly concerts led the way back to programming with live-streamed concerts beginning on April 2020 that developed into *In-Casa Sessions* in Azul's home by May of 2020. Suddenly, it seemed, meetings, programming, workshops and exhibits all went virtual with everyone zooming from home. Live audience events came to a halt for everyone—except for those with desktop computers or virtually-ready phones. This fall we gingerly began to explore the possibility of returning to face-to-face events, but that has all changed and we remain in limbo, once again. Still, we must remember that we have learned to cope, we are struggling to be sure—but are not down and out. There is hope, hay esperanza. Let's continue to do what we can to keep our communities moving forward in the best way possible working for social justice issues to make this a better world for all.

—Gloria A. Ramirez, editor



## Vernal Fever

for Philip Simmons

Our winters are not hard.  
No snow, no sleet  
no icy streets  
high tree-toppling winds  
the worst.  
No days we cannot  
leave our caves  
if so desired.  
Yet the between time  
late January, February

brings a longing  
for things green,  
fragrant, warmed by sun  
not layers of cloth  
or logs or thermostat  
as the immutable  
seasonal imperative trembles  
in the sap and marrow  
of every living thing.

—Marilyn Wallner



Credit: Esperanza Winter, Gloria A. Ramirez

**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.