



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.

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



Pictured at left are Tom Keene, recently deceased, who holds the 82 MURDERED TORILES cross—next to Graciela Sánchez who holds the 113 MURDERED CERRO PANDO cross—and an unidentified woman who holds the 393 MURDERED MOZOTE cross. What these crosses refer to are the massacres that occurred on December, 1981 in three of several villages of El Salvador during the brutal Salvadoran Civil War. Soldiers were ordered to torture and murder men, women and children that were merely poor villagers living in the area and who were not involved in the war. This was one of many tragic events that occurred at the time. One of the most famous crimes of the time that began to turn the tide was the March 24, 1980 assassination of Bishop Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador as he conducted mass. Known as the “bishop of the poor” for his work defending the Salvadoran people, he had called for international intervention to protect those being killed by governmental forces. In the 80s and into the 90s, San Antonio was known for its solidarity work in Central America, specifically in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua. When the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center opened its doors in 1987 at 1305 N. Flores, the building we were housed in had offices or offered meeting space to groups working on issues of solidarity with Latin American countries: Latin American Assistance (LAA), Nicaragua Network, Chicanos Against the Military in Latin America (CAMILA) and CRISPAZ (Christians for Peace in El Salvador) among others. Groups who worked with immigrants and refugees like the Refugee Aid Project were also housed or met there. Those years were filled with protests and demonstrations demanding investigation into the role the U.S. played in Latin American countries. Forty years later, in 2022, we must revisit that time period before all of our elder statesmen and activists, like Tom Keene, pass from this earth. Antonio Cabral, who was part of CAMILA remembered Tom saying, “It hurts me deeply that Tom is gone. He and I went back many years. Mainly the Peace actions dating back years. Another loss of a good human. Losing too many warriors lately. Most people didn’t know about their sacrifices for a better world. That’s the way they wanted it.” Let us remember Tom and those that have passed on as peace warriors. Write their stories and send them to lavoz@esperanzacenter.org

—Gloria A. Ramirez, editor

Correction!

The February 2022 issue of La Voz featured an article by Maria A. De la Cruz, *Mi Nina: The woman who shaped my life, Dolores Solis*. Page (7) of the article includes a photo that incorrectly identified the pictured individuals as Maria and her nina. At right is an actual photo of Maria A. De la Cruz as a child at her first communion with her mother, Maria Angélica De la Cruz (left) and her nina, Dolores Solis.



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.