

Esperanza February 2023

Vol. 36 Issue 1 Editor: Gloria A. Ramírez

Design: Elizandro Carrington

Contributors

Tarcisio Beal [*ABC Noticias*], Richard Eskow [*Common Dreams*], Julio Guerrero, Victor Hugo poem submitted by Antonio Cabral, Sheri Linden [*The Hollywood Reporter*], Don Mathis, Nic Yeager [*Texas Observer*]

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. Sánchez

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



Amelia at Día de los muertos event.

As one year ends and another begins, we all deal with different types of transitions. The December 2022 freeze killed off many of my plants: my beautiful cactus patches including the tall ones lining my driveway, my hoja santa with nice full leaves surrounding my Chinese tallow tree, my tall rose bush, and my remaining agave and maguey plants—all were devasted—even though I diligently tied large bags around them to protect them from the cold. As a baby boomer, I find myself caring for my 96-year-old mother knowing that she is slowly coming to realize that she does not want to stick around much longer. A painful realization for me, no doubt for her. Sometimes, a transition can be the result of a natural evolution into a more peaceful and happy state in life. Such is the transition that I wish for Amelia Valdez who recently retired as a staffmember of the Esperanza having joined us in 2015. Amelia, a graduate of the

University of Michigan, was raised in and continues to live in the Westside of San Antonio. A great asset, with her intimate knowledge of the Westside, she elevated Esperanza's use of Buena gente volunteers to a new level with many elders participating in and volunteering at Esperanza events. Amelia also took on the role of agent for *Las Tesoros*: **Rita Vidaurri**, **Perla Tapatia** (Janet Cortez), **Beatriz Llamas** and **Blanca Rodríguez** setting up their "gigs" at Esperanza events, senior homes, and in schools and cultural centers as far away as Denver, Colorado. Amelia also came to care for them as if they were her own familia, being there for them when they needed her. Inevitably, Amelia, along with the rest of us suffered the passing of two of her dear friends from Las Tesoros, Perla and Rita. Amelia will now

focus on her family, her beloved dogs and relax outside her home facing Cassiano Park. She may even start bike riding again! With much love, we wish you the best, Amelia! Rest, travel and relax! ¡Muy merecido! Well deserved!

—Gloria A. Ramirez, editor



Amelia with two of the *Tesoros*: Beatriz Llamas and Blanquita Rodríguez.





Amelia with her sisters at the Paseo por el Westside.

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.