



# La Voz de Esperanza

July/Aug/Sept 2022

Vol. 35 Issue 5

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

**This Texas summer of 2022** has been full of tragedies. On May 24, 2022, a mass shooting took place at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Nineteen students and two teachers were killed and 17 others wounded by a teenage gunman wielding an automatic rifle. Despite immediate calls for Governor Abbott to call an emergency legislative session to review gun laws, the plea fell on deaf ears—unlike the actions taken in New York state after a mass shooting directed at African Americans killed 10 people in Buffalo on May 14<sup>th</sup>. By June 7<sup>th</sup> New York had passed new gun and hate crime legislation that included raising the age to purchase semiautomatic rifles. A package of 10 bills addressing gun-related issues from red flag statutes to the ability to buy body armor were all signed into law by Gov. Kathy Hochul. Not so in Texas. If nothing else, our Governor enables mass shootings. Rudy Rosales and Tarcisio Beal address the Uvalde massacre & violence in the U.S. in this issue of La Voz.

In San Antonio, 53 migrants in a tractor trailer were found dead on June 27<sup>th</sup> as they were being transported through Texas. The migrants from Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras suffocated in the trailer whose air conditioner was not functioning. Antonio Cabral writes about these horrific deaths, the worst in migrant history.

On June 24<sup>th</sup> the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade returning the issue of abortion access to the states giving Texas the right to enact a “trigger law” that will ban all abortions from the moment of fertilization. Forget a woman’s right to make decisions regarding their own bodies. Now each state is in charge of a woman’s right to abortion no matter the circumstance—whether endangering the mother’s life, whether the pregnancy is a result of rape, whether health concerns affect the fetus or mother or whether it is a child who has been impregnated as a result of incest or rape. Reproductive freedom is no longer a woman’s right. Throughout the U.S. there was immediate response with protest marches, rallies and actions. In San Antonio, District 5 Councilwoman Teri Castillo led an effort to pass a resolution recognizing abortion services as a health care right for people. San Antonio’s District Attorney Joe González indicated that his office would not investigate and prosecute persons seeking abortions. How harsh the implementation of new abortion laws will be, remains to be seen. It could mean the prosecution of women seeking abortions as well as health officials and others who might be seen as assisting someone to get an abortion. At stake are many more personal practices that involve sexual relationships, reproductive health, & gender affirming care. As Justice Clarence Thomas strongly hinted “In future cases, we should reconsider all of this Court’s substantive due process precedents, including Griswold, Lawrence, and Obergefell.” These rulings refer to the right to contraception, same-sex relationships and same-sex marriage. Early indications show that the ruling eradicating Roe may affect Republicans efforts to retain control of Congress but only if people take to the streets and to the polls in mid-term elections.

This summer issue of La Voz covering July/August/September is a result of staffing problems that the Esperanza has experienced recently. We hope to be back on track. We’ve lost many artists, activists and allies this summer that we shall honor in our November issue with Literary Ofrendas.

—Gracias, Gloria A. Ramirez, editor of La Voz



District 5 Councilwoman Teri Castillo addresses a crowd protesting the decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* as protestors who hold signs listen.



Photos by Michael Martinez

**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-voiced 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.