



La Voz de Esperanza

March 2023

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



Magda Chellet, Que en paz descanse

As we were finishing the March issue of La Voz de Esperanza, I learned that Magda Chellet had passed. To wait yet another month to acknowledge her passing did not seem right to me. Magda was important in the Esperanza's history because she was the first instructor of the Esperanza's MujerArtes Clay Cooperative when it opened its doors in the mid-90s. Magda was not only skilled in the production of clay art pieces but she also had a wonderfully creative aesthetic. Her influence on that first group of mujeres in MuerArtes stayed with them and they thrived under her tutelage, even though she was there for a short time. Magda remained close to some of those women who, in some cases, went on to follow their own paths as artists. Ultimately, Magda ran her own ceramic business producing eye-catching and exquisite hand-painted platters, cups and other clay pieces. Her Mexican heritage always shone through and even though a güera she proudly revealed her Mexicanidad in all she did. Magda continued being part of the arts community teaching as an art teacher and advocating and consulting with arts organizations such as Centro Cultural Aztlán. She was part of the Chicano Arts community and lived as a feminist with distinctly spiritual leanings exploring all kinds of experiences and beliefs. She lived her life surrounded by art and "convivio" gathering her friends together in her beautiful home. Her many, many friends and family have lost a soul mate, mother, grandmother and lover of life. The Esperanza board, staff and Buena Gente extend our deepest sympathies to all.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This March issue of La Voz de Esperanza begins a focus on education—alternative (authentic) forms of education that speak to the experiences of children who have not been "seen" in traditional schools or charter schools. An example of an alternative school is the Esperanza's new project, Escuelita de paz y justicia that strives to bring students together to examine who they are and where they come from and how they fit together in this world. Currently censorship of books and curriculums and attacks on efforts to be inclusive demonstrate that the battleground for democracy is, indeed, in how schools are making an effort to validate the lives of all students. Send your articles in to lavoz@esperanzacenter.org Together we can speak out and be seen!* — Gloria A. Ramirez

Jose Luis "Bat" Ramirez

February 14, 1968 — February 9, 2023



Landscape artist, gardener, outdoor cook, animal lover, environmental and cultural arts advocate. Remembered as Buena Gente of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center advocating for multiple causes and preservation of culture, art and barrio aesthetics. Donations "in memory of Joe "Bat" Ramirez can be made to the homeless street outreach Bread and Blankets Mutual Aid: www.BreadandBlankets.org They will be used for Transitional Housing.

Esperanza staff board and Buena gente extend our condolences to his family and friends. QEPD-Rest in Power

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.