



La Voz de Esperanza

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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

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



Artwork: Mary Agnes Rodriguez

January 6th is a date that will live in infamy in the U.S.A.—the day the U.S. capitol came under attack. January 6th is also *Three Kings' Day* when the three wise men arrive with gifts to honor the birth of Baby Jesus. Throughout Latin America and other countries, this date is celebrated as the principal holiday of the Christmas season with children receiving gifts.

This year, January 20th was the annual celebration of *Martin Luther King Jr. Day* coinciding with the inauguration of Trump's 2.0 presidency. Nothing in the celebratory inauguration nor in the days that immediately followed reflected the values of Martin Luther King, Jr. who believed in, above all else—non-violence, love, equality, peace and service to others. The Trump 2.0 presidency in its first week has reeked of vengeance, hate and retribution, not to mention white supremacist ideology with executive orders being issued daily targeting huge groups of people starting with immigrants who face deportation, loss of birthright citizenship and loss of any right to enter the U.S. regardless of current status. The LGBTQ community face the erasure of transgender rights and gender non-conforming ideals with the president's declaration that the federal government will only recognize two sexes, male and female. People of color in federal jobs holding "DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) positions" are now on paid leave with their jobs in jeopardy and the Spanish language has been wiped from the White House website. The list goes on and on.

However, the worst order from the new 2.0 president has been his pardon of 1500 January 6th perpetrators convicted of storming the Capitol in an effort to stop the certification of Joe Biden's 2020 election. In addition, the sentences of another 14 people were commuted, including leaders of the Capitol attack—who are also leaders of the far-right militant groups, the *Oath Keepers* and the *Proud Boys*. The release of all of these individuals without review of their violations will ultimately lead to more violence.

In this issue of *La Voz de Esperanza*, David Rodgers writes about the *Day of the Kings* and the newly celebrated *Day of the Oxen* that began on January 6, 2021—day of the Capitol insurrection. In Spanish, *Día de los reyes X Día de los bueyes* rhymes and the word *bueyes* has a variety of meanings in slang. Los bueyes are the cronies that align themselves with the newly elected 2.0 presidency, chief among those are the three cyberkings who sat with Trump during the inauguration: Musk, Zuckerberg, and Bezos now part of an oligarchy that will rule this nation. *Los bueyes* are oxen who in Spanish refers to castrated bulls and in slang refer to dumb or stupid individuals and other more crass innuendos. *Día de los bueyes* (according to the poem) now celebrates the Capitol attack along with the recent pardons as part of the celebration. Where that goes from here, we'll see—but, it does not bode well.

This month *La Voz* also includes poems by Maria Sabina, a celebrated shaman of Oaxaca in Mexico. Her poems are a reminder that there is more to life than greed, than A-I, than materialism. As we venture into a year of uncertainty, turmoil and hostility, we need to remain focused on loving kindness and our relationship to the natural world outside and let it speak to us and direct us in these turbulent times. Send your stories, articles and creative works to lavoz@esperanzacenter.org.

—Gloria A. Ramirez, editor of *La Voz de Esperanza*

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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.