



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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

25th Anniversary Issue:

Calaveras y Ofrendas de La Voz de Esperanza, November 2024

Finishing this issue of *Calaveras* and *Ofrendas* was a hair-raising experience. At every turn, I was confronted by *calacas* and *calaveras*. Even in my peaceful walks along the San Antonio river, I ran into obstacles. One morning while trying to take a short walk, I was stopped at the beginning of the pathway that led to the San Antonio river crossing up to the Blue Star side. A worker there told me that they were removing a bee hive from a tree along the path and that I would have to take the long way around through the neighborhood and across the bridge from *Brackenridge High*. I sighed and resigned myself to the longer walk. But, after I crossed the bridge and continued along the apartment buildings high above the river, I began to feel a presence behind me. I thought that maybe, just maybe, I might catch that being if I quickly took a selfie. My hair stood on end as I saw that it was a very tense looking giant *Calaca* following me. Must have been a manifestation of my own stress, I thought.



For 25 years on Day of the Dead, we have dedicated the November Voz issue to the writing of *calaveras*—friendly *calaveras* that poke fun at our friends' quirks or satirical *calaveras* that do away with politicians or those in power that have frustrated us all year long. Chief among the *Calaveristas* was Enrique Sánchez, who I dubbed Don Calaveras. Another prominent *calaverista* Rita Urquijo-Ruiz began writing in 2004 after being inspired by Esperanza's Lila Downs concert at the Guadalupe Plaza on the Westside. In 2009, the *Calaveras* issue began to include literary *ofrendas* to honor those who have passed. Writing literary *ofrendas* has become so popular that they spill over to the end of the year issue in December.

While our first issue featured only Posada drawings for the Literary *Calaveras*—now, we have a supply of artists both local and national contributing art. Chief among the local artists is Mary Agnes Rodríguez. This year those artists (recycled) whose works are in this issue will be listed on the masthead rather than on the individual art work.

Many folks have made this Voz tradition possible and the Esperanza is deeply grateful for their contributions.

In the meantime, be sure to join us at the annual Día de los Muertos celebration on November 1st at the Rinconcito and the annual Peace Market on November 29, 30 and Dec



Para Isabel y Enrique Sánchez

Él, conocido como Don Calaveras
Ella, Chabelita
Eran un "power couple" de deveras



En todas ocasiones sobresalían
Hacían de todo para vender
Para ayudarlo a la Esperanza, también.
Menudo, chocolate y champurrado, calientitos
Chalupas, guisados y tamales exquisitos
Limonada y buñuelos de corbatita
Quisiera que estuvieran aquí ahorita
Pero ahora se la pasan bailando en el cielo
Y nosotros, miserables, aquí en el suelo

—Gloria A. Ramirez



1. Hopefully, the obstacles that have presented themselves in making this issue possible will subside and everyone will receive this issue in a timely fashion, but with the upcoming elections, ¿Quién sabe? ¡No dejen de votar! Remember to exercise your right to vote!

—Gloria A. Ramirez,
Editor of La Voz

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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.