



# La Voz de Esperanza

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



Blanca Rodríguez, aka Blanca Rosa of Las Tesoros de San Antonio, sang at the 2022 Paseo Por El Westside.

coming up on May 6th presented itself when Lilliana Saldaña, professor at UTSA and **Esperanza** boardmember, wrote to connect me with her brother José Centeno who was doing archival research on the history of **Centeno Supermarkets** in the Westside of San Antonio. The story of the **Centeno Supermarkets** with is offered to our readers as springboard into the celebration of **National Historic Preservation Month** in May. In addition, a wonderful illustration that Linda Monsivais drew for the story turned out to be perfect for the La Voz front cover. A full schedule of events for the *Paseo Por El Westside* on May 6<sup>th</sup> will be included in the next issue of La Voz de Esperanza. Meanwhile, send in your stories and articles to [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org).

— Gloria A. Ramírez, Editor of La Voz de Esperanza

**National Historic Preservation Month** is next month in May. The Esperanza Peace and Justice Center celebrates by having an annual festival: *Paseo Por El Westside*. Originally intended to promote advocacy of historic places and sites in order to promote tourism on a national and state level, **National Historic Preservation Month** has now become much more community-based and includes the preservation of cultural practices as well—at least, in San Antonio. The opportunity to remind folks that the *Paseo* is

## Jo Ann Murillo

March 16, 1940 – February 7, 2023

Jo Ann and Gilbert Murillo died within a month of each other to continue their lives together beyond this world. On this earth they celebrated 62 years of marriage. A power couple in their church community of St. Patrick, they were also both social justice advocates working individually and together on issues of civil rights, political campaigns and neighborhood development, more recently in their home environs of Government Hill. Avid travelers, they joined religious tours to Fatima and Lourdes and witnessed the canonization of Pope John Paul II in Rome. Jo Ann spent her professional capital as a nurse organizing events and serving community through her work at the church, public schools and



Photo Credit: Marisol Cortez

## Gilbert Murillo

August 30, 1930 – March 3, 2023

at San Antonio College. Gil, a social worker, was involved in urban planning and community organizing. Both were esteemed supporters of the Esperanza and would often come by the office to chat or comment on the latest ventures of Esperanza's work. Gilbert even wrote several articles for La Voz de Esperanza including *Esperanza as a Mother Ship to El Barrio: a White Paper*. It came as a shock to hear of Gilbert's passing and a surprise to know Jo Ann, too, had passed. Both Jo Ann and Gilbert will be warmly remembered and held up as models of civic involvement—they cared enough to be involved even as they aged—until they could, no longer. Our deepest sympathies to their families, friends and colleagues. May they rest in peace and power!

ATTENTION VOZ READERS: If you have a mailing address correction please send it to [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto: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.