



La Voz de Esperanza

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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.

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



With the recent passing of Beatriz Llamas, *La Paloma del Norte*, I read about folks like Matéo Camargo and his wife, Velia Camargo who brought a young Beatriz to perform for radio. I was fortunate enough to have lived in San Antonio to hear KCOR programming and knew how popular talk show host, Mateo Camargo, and his wife were in the Spanish speaking community of San Antonio. Beatriz's biographies also mentioned the many record labels she sang for like DLB Records with Salome Gutiérrez in San Antonio, BEGO Records in McAllen, Tear Drop and more. I read about the various performers that Beatriz's life

intersected with and influenced her. Personalities like Cornelio Reyna who persuaded her to resume singing after the tragic death of her husband and his brothers in a hotel fire in Chicago. I was fortunate enough to hear Cornelio Reyna sing at one of the early conjunto festivals of the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center. All of these names and lives are important and have a story to tell. No obituary or tribute can uncover the many stories contained within one life.

It was so important for the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center to have brought the cuartet of elder women: Rita Vidaurri [*La Calandria*], Janet Cortez [*La Perla Tapatia*], Beatriz Llamas [*La Paloma del Norte*] and Blanca Rodríguez [*Blanca Rosa*] together to sing. Each of the Tesoros were legendary singers in their time during the 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s and they did much to preserve the rich cultural history of San Antonio, the state of Texas and beyond.

Beatriz secured her place in history as the first Latina to sing at Madison Square Garden. Among the stories she told was one of stopping in Lubbock with a touring group that could not find a hotel to stay in and, so, spent the night in a park. In the morning, to add insult to injury, they were not allowed to have breakfast in any restaurant. Why? **No Mexicans Allowed!** Beatriz recounted: *"En esos tiempos había mucha discriminación, igual que ahora pero me parece en esos tiempos era peor. Pues la sorpresa fue que no nos dejaron quedar en ningún hotel a pesar de que el señor que nos llevaba—el trai dinero—pero no nos dejaron quedar en ningún hotel porque éramos mexicanos. Entonces tuvimos que dormir en el parque de allí de Lubbock. Entonces ahí no termina la historia. Fuimos almorzar otro día al restaurant y decía que no servía a mexicanos. We don't serve for Mexicans. Fue otra decepción y otra cachetada que nos dieron porque no íbamos a pedir dado."*

With the passing of each artist, performer or singer in San Antonio—another bit of our cultural history disappears, or not. It is up to us to keep the memories of our cultural workers and Buena gente alive because their life stories are part of our history. In November, La Voz de Esperanza offers readers an opportunity to remember those that have passed with Literary Ofrendas in the form

of stories, poems, memories or visual tributes. I urge you to write your stories and send them in to lavoz@esperanzacenter.org and add to our wealth of cultural treasures.

—Gloria A. Ramirez,
editor La Voz de Esperanza



Las Tesoros de San Antonio: (left to right) Blanca Rodríguez [*Blanca Rosa*], Beatriz Llamas [*La Paloma del Norte*], Janet Cortez [*La Perla Tapatia*] & Rita Vidaurri [*La Calandria*].

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.