



La Voz de Esperanza

September 2023

Vol. 36 Issue 7

Editor: Gloria A. Ramírez

Design: Elizandro Carrington

MujerArtes Photos

Top: Teri Borrego, Adriana Netro, Hilda Ruiz

Middle: Rosa Vega de Cruz, Mary Agnes

Rodríguez, Bottom: Elizabeth Gerónimo,

Ana Uviedo, Graciela S. Sánchez

Contributors

Tarcisio Beal, Rachel Delgado,

siri gurudev hernández, Jesse Johnson,

Don Mathis, Kayla Miranda, Carmen Tafolla

Frank (Pancho) Valdez, Kai Velásquez

Esperanza Director

Graciela I. Sánchez

Esperanza Staff

Sherry Campos, Elizandro Carrington,

Kayla Miranda, René Saenz,

Imane Saliba, Susana Segura, Rosa Vega

Conjunto de Nepantleras

—Esperanza Board of Directors—

Richard Aguilar, Norma Cantú, Brent Floyd,

Rachel Jennings, Amy Kastely,

Ana Lucía Ramírez, Gloria A. Ramírez,

Rudy Rosales, Lilliana Saldaña, Nadine Saliba,

Graciela I. Sánchez

- 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

Esperanza Peace & Justice Center

922 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212

210.228.0201 • www.esperanzacenter.org

Inquiries/Articles can be sent to:

lavoz@esperanzacenter.org

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



Esperanza's summer of 2023 was full of activities despite the horrid hot weather. In June, our first year of *Escuelita* students graduated from a program of cultural empowerment that would have blown Governor of Florida, Ron De Santis' head off from indignation that such a program exists. Continuing that thread the Esperanza celebrated *A Queer & Trans Joy Pachanga* with poetry and performance followed by a *Kingceañera* later in June featuring *Los Mentirosos* and the great dancers of *Zombie Bazaar*. In July, we celebrated the Grand Opening of *Lerma's Nite Club* and the return of the *Macondistas* to Esperanza for a final reading and closing party to their weeklong Macondo writing workshops at Trinity. In August, an *Homage to Beatriz Llamas, Paloma del Norte*, took the form of a vocal competition for girls and women in the tradition of the singing contests held at the old teatros like the Alameda and Nacional where La Paloma launched her career. The impressive array of singers, costumes and música were worthy of a nod from *Belle Ortiz, la madrina del Mariachi* who sadly passed away that month.

As we get ready for the fall, remember to send in your tributes (*literary ofrendas*) to our dearly departed with poems, stories, photos or artwork for the November issue of La Voz (*send to: lavoz@esperanzacenter.org*). The issue also includes Calaveras poking fun at death in satirical poems that kill off our friends and enemies, alike—because DEATH is the great equalizer treating everyone the same in the end! If you wish to remember your dearly departed with an *altar* call Sherry at 210.228.0201 and reserve a space for the exhibit of *Ofrendas* that takes place annually on November 1st at the *Casa de Cuentos*. And... don't forget that *Peace Market/El Mercado de Paz* is in November on the 24th and 25th. Applications are now available and will soon be online! As we finish off this issue of La Voz, we are blessed with rain! Hopefully, that's good sign of better days ahead. Mil gracias a todos y todas that made this summer única at the *Esperanza Peace and Justice Center*!

—Glori A. Ramírez, editora La Voz de Esperanza



Esther Guajardo

March 8, 1947- June 23, 2023



Beloved daughter, mother, grandmother, sister and friend, Esther Guajardo passed away this summer leaving behind many a broken heart. A creative, supportive and kind person who deeply loved her friends and family, she took great pride in her children and grandchildren. An enthusiast of art and culture, Esther was a talented DIY artist embroidering beautiful pieces that she sold in San Antonio holiday markets like the Peace Market and Zonarte annually. Esther was an ardent supporter of Centro Cultural Aztlán and dedicated much time to the center. Throughout her life, she was also involved with other cultural arts organizations

like the Esperanza and the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center. A warm and generous person, Esther will be missed by many including her beautiful family, friends and fellow cultural arts enthusiasts. The Esperanza board, staff and Buena Gente extend our heartfelt condolences to all who loved and knew Esther. May she rest in beauty and peace.



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.