



La Voz de Esperanza

April 2025

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The April 2025 issue of *La Voz de Esperanza* is inspired by the 10th anniversary of the *Fiesta is Racist* medal designed by Ali Friedrich in 2015 and sponsored by the *Esperanza Peace and Justice Center*. In conjunction with this observance art exhibits and pláticas will be offered in hopes that folks can talk about it. The *QR code* on the cover and on the centerfold poster links to a survey that may start a needed conversation.

Ali Friedrich: *First Impression about Fiesta*

When I first moved to San Antonio almost two decades ago I decided to look up *Fiesta* to see what it was all about. *Wikipedia* told me it was started in the late 1800's to celebrate Texas independence. My first impression was that *Fiesta* was racist. It was started in a time when Mexican-Americans and people of color were openly hunted. It uses Mexican traditions to celebrate independence from Mexico. It props up white elites on floats and as royalty to symbolically raise them up while allowing the people of color a chance to celebrate while looking up to them. But nobody talks about it and people get all mad if you mention it. The willful ignorance of the obvious racism of *Fiesta* is so comical and sad and frustrating. I wish more people would talk about it. I don't want to get rid of it and all the economic and cultural benefits it brings to this city, but can't we all just be honest about the truth?



NOTE: This *La Voz* also celebrates *Poetry Month*, *Earth Day* and continues to inform people about the state of our nation. Rogelio Saenz recently wrote an article, *Donald Trump's Common Sense* (bit.ly/la-voz-march-2025), about the airline crash above the Potomac in D.C. in January when Trump blamed *DEI* programs for the crash saying it was "common sense" that made him say that. A report by the *National Transportation & Safety Board* on March 11 debunked that lie! We must not forget Trump's many lies and crimes, but continue to resist efforts to silence our voices. Write articles and creative works and send to: lavoz@esperanzacenter.org

Is It All Over Now?

(After That Speech to Congress on 3-4-2025 (*Fat Tuesday*), Followed by *Ash Wednesday* 3-5-2025)

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust?

I look at T.V.—Who can we trust?

Promises, lies, ointments with flies.

Charming speech writer, crafty disguise.



The thoughts that changed lives have now become rusted;
Dreamers, Victims, Science truth, busted.
And How does one bust a truth?

As Dylan once said "It's all over now Baby Blue"

But what the Hell are we going to do?

60s, 70s ideals seem rusted; antiquity strong though,
memories trusted.

The sky will stay blue. The birds will still sing.

But don't think sharp weapons won't poison the spring.

AND WHAT in the H are we going to do?

Just WHAT in this WORLD are we going to DO???

—Lynn Maverick D.

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.