



La Voz de Esperanza

February 2024

Vol. 37 Issue 1

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

As I was getting ready to comment about this month's cover artist, Sliman Mansour, I received news stories and video casts from *Democracy Now!* related to the cancelation of artists' exhibits and events in support of Gaza:

In particular, 87-year-old Palestinian American artist, Samia Halaby, whose first U.S. retrospective was canceled by her graduate alma mater, Indiana University [bit.ly/samia-halaby], after she criticized Israel's bombing of Gaza which she described as a genocide. Samia, whose paintings are in permanent collections of the Guggenheim Museum in New York, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and the Art Institute of Chicago, was surprised to hear about the cancelation given that many of the preparations had been finalized including the printing of a thick hard cover catalog and that her artwork had already been picked up by the shippers. She received a brief letter with two sentences saying the show was canceled and the art would be returned. No explanation was given, nor was there any dialogue about canceling beforehand.

Similarly, award-winning Palestinian American artist and filmmaker, Emily Jacir, who was scheduled for a talk in Berlin in October after Israel launched its ongoing assault on Gaza had her event canceled or "postponed for a more peaceful time." [bit.ly/emily-jacir]. To this Jacir replied that **this is the time**, the time when we should be speaking and having discourse, across the board, around the world and she decried a pattern of "harassment, baseless smear campaigns, canceling shows, canceling talks" conducted against Palestinian artists in Germany and around the globe in an effort to silence Palestinians. The list of artists, events and demonstrations canceled or purposely kept under wraps is endless.

Cancelations of media events that support Palestine and decry the Gaza war abound in the U.S. It is ordinary citizens, elders, artists, activists and students, in particular, that keep the spotlight on the atrocities being perpetrated on Gaza. In this issue of *La Voz*, the massacres in Gaza are highlighted in statistics that Bernie Sanders shares with Antonio Cabral (an elder activist) in a letter to his constituents. An email sent to us by Betty Campbell, an elder of Casa Tabor in El Paso, asked us to share an article about a demonstration by elder Jewish women surrounding the White House calling for an end to the genocide in Gaza and demanding a cease fire. The protest was never covered by mainstream media.

I return to the cover artist, Sliman Mansour, who comments that he is working with more immediacy to process the pain of unfolding events. He has many friends in Gaza who have lost everything—but who are at least alive, for now. "All the images that come to my mind are really horrible," he says. "Some I can't get out of my mind – I can only get them out through painting. You know, I always hated abstract expressionism. I didn't like it. But I think now is the time for it."

In 2024, we will continue to depend upon the buena gente of the Esperanza community to send in articles, artwork and poems to keep *La Voz de Esperanza* and its readers nourished. Send to: lavoz@esperanzacenter.org.

—Gloria A. Ramírez, editor



Mansour's artwork first appeared in *La Voz de Esperanza* in March of 2018: *The Camel of Heavy Burdens*, by Sliman Mansour, 1973

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.