



La Voz de Esperanza

June 2024

Vol. 37 Issue 5

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

June is Pride Month—celebrating the LGBTQ+ community. The Esperanza Peace & Justice Center will host the *Queer Voices Pachanga* on June 1st with writer/artist/activist, Anel Flores, as one of the main organizers. Anel is also being feted this month with a retrospective exhibit of their art at the Mexican Cultural Institute at Hemisfair Plaza. Growing up in San Antonio, Anel faced many challenges but they turned to their cultura and the arts to deal with life. They did not stop there. Instead, Anel accumulated wisdom and skills that she shared with students Anel taught several years before finishing out at Fox Tech High School. There Anel involved students in marches, major arts projects and in connecting with their families and communities. This May, Fox Tech students walked out of their classrooms in a pro-Palestinian protest etching the names of Palestinians killed in the Israel-Hamas war on campus sidewalks That reminded me of Anel and the impact they had made as a teacher. Anel continues to be a Joni Appleseed planting seeds of activism and conciencia as she goes on in life. We laud Anel for still being here in San Antonio and for making a difference. To learn more about Anel see: <https://anelflores.com/>

— Gloria A. Ramírez, editor of *La Voz*

What I Want To Say In Therapy But Instead I Make Art

If you could be described as something in nature what would you be?

The therapist in purple asks me

I judge her by the way she crosses her feet

I think behind the glacier of diaphanous jellyfish around me like pillows marshmallows clouds

little wads of paper

with words wept

down the page

phantoms of stories

pristine as the moon shedding blood like lipstick of kisses down my legs creatrix geyser of joy

embers of fire that never touch my skin a pleasure boat of last night

I don't tell you how her back bent like an arc above a city above the same river she swam across

how stampedes of phantoms followed us into the room stamps of cryptic maritime messages

flying in mid air all the way from fourteen ninety two like daggers

like commands

like encampments

like wetsuits over mouths in the desert

I feel like the ocean

seduced by the moon

turn my back on the sun

I invited the seven sisters over the other night pleiades at the edge of a cocktail

I was on my knees

murmuring please little heart

float

keep your head above water

love the ticklish bioluminescence of

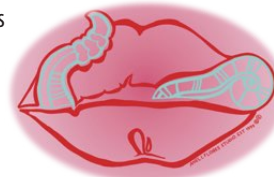
you saltwater jellyfish

caesura of breath memory divination

Huh?

She leans in and opens her feet.

If you could be described as something in nature what would you be? Underwater. — Anel I. Flores



Anel Flores
at the 2009
Fox Tech High
School mural
dedication.

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.