



# La Voz de Esperanza

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

**Jovita Idar** is one of the many mujeres who lived or worked in the Westside and made a mark in her community and beyond. Her story is being celebrated this *National Hispanic Heritage Month* in a variety of ways including with the issuing of a commemorative quarter. Her story is, indeed, a powerful story of one woman who literally stood her ground. Like Emma Tenayuca, Jovita Idar's story is now part of American history and Feminist history. The stories in the *Museo del Westside's* online exhibit include the stories of women as *Healers*—parteras, curanderas and health workers, *women who worked for social justice* in the realm of politics, education, religious service or social service; *women working with transnational issues* and immigrant populations; *women organizing for justice in labor*, *women organizing in mutual aide societies* assisting families and neighborhoods and *women in the cultural arts* who maintained the Spanish language and Latinx culture through music, performance and art. Interestingly, Jovita's life intersected each one of these themes at different points of her life (read adjoining article).

As I look over the stories of the 31 women (thus far) featured in the *Women and Activism in the Westside* online exhibit, I see that there is a natural flow of interconnectedness among all the women's stories. Indeed, many of them were friends and comadres working towards the same goals: the betterment of family and barrios, equity and fairness in the work place and schools, reclaiming and preserving cultural pride and practices and working towards social justice on the local, state, national and yes, even, international levels.

One example of this interconnectedness among the mujeres is in the story of *Las Tesoros de San Antonio*, four elder cantantes who had graced stages locally, nationally and internationally with ties to the Westside. Each one of these mujeres' stories is told in the *Women & Activism in the Westside* website: Anita Janet Cortez (*La Perla Tapatia*), Beatriz Llamas (*La Paloma del Norte*), Rita Vidaurri (*La Calandria*) and Blanquita Rodríguez (*Blanca Rosa*) who is now the only living *Tesoro*. Each *Tesoro* was influenced by both Lydia Mendoza and Eva Garza whose stories are also told in this website, both cultural icons that are internationally known. They were in each others lives and supported one another.

This comadrisimo continues throughout the stories of the Mujeres del Westside with known figures like our poet laureate, Carmen Tafolla and local political advocate, María Berriozábal both of whom continue to fight for and advocate for la gente and who continue to work together on many fronts.

Finally, we must never forget las mujeres who've worked through the churches and schools for the advancement of their neighborhoods and communities like Isabel Sánchez, Josephine Mancha, Nickie Valdez, Emilia Sánchez and more. Their stories deserve to be read and told over and over until they become our stories, too! Celebrate *National Hispanic Heritage Month* this year and visit www.museodelwestside.org/women-activism.

—Gloria A. Ramirez, editor of La Voz



Beatriz Llamas  
Pioneer of Mexicana women in music



Rita Vidaurri  
Pioneer of Mexicana women in music



Anita Janet Cortez  
Pioneer of Mexicana women in music



Blanquita Rodríguez  
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**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.