



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.

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

Luci bought this piece (on *Voz* cover) from me last year. She was very happy when she took it home. She said, “*I like it because I want to have those wings when it’s my time.*” Nos reimos y le dije, “*Luci, te falta mucho.*” With a smile she answered, “*You never know.*”

—Liliana Wilson, fighting injustice with her canvas



Luci Orta at *Día de muertos* events sponsored by the Esperanza.

Death stalks each of us and our end time can be prolonged or come in a flash. So, it happened, with *Esperanza Buena Gente*, Luci Orta. De repente, she was gone from one day to the next collapsing at home in her hallway and found there by her sister who went by to check on her when she was not answering her phone. A tribute for Luci follows on the next page of *La Voz*.

Luci, being from Montopolis, was eulogized and given a send off in Austin, Texas—a city nearby. A booklet of Valentines with memories of Luci from family and friends was compiled and filled 21 pages including artwork. The tributes folks wrote for Lucy reminded me that we need to start writing *Literary Ofrendas* for *Día de Muertos* to honor the memory of loved ones who have passed. Our dearly departed *difuntos* can also be remembered with artwork, poems or stories for the November issue of *La Voz de Esperanza*.

We need readers to also try their hand at writing *Calaveras*, satirical poems that make fun of

the LIVING! *Calaveras* give people the opportunity to kill off folks—family and friends (or enemies) in a comical or funny way. *Calaveras*, as well as *literary ofrendas* can be submitted in Spanish (the original language they were written in) or English.

Luci would not mind my using this occasion to urge folks to submit *Literary Ofrendas* (250 word limit) or *Calaveras* to *La Voz de Esperanza* for this 25th anniversary issue celebrating *Día de Muertos*. As you can see she celebrated with us in 2023 and will be with us in 2024, in spirit! Submit your *recuerdos* and your *calaveras* by to lavoz@esperanzacenter.org

—Gloria A. Ramírez, Editor of *La Voz de Esperanza*

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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.