



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 is a publication of

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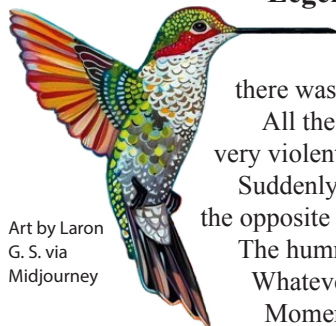
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Articles due by the 8th of each month

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

Legend of the Hummingbird “Do Your Part!”



Art by Laron
G. S. via
Midjourney

According to an old Native American legend, one day there was a big fire in the forest.

All the animals fled in terror in all directions, because it was a very violent fire.

Suddenly, the jaguar saw a hummingbird pass over his head, but in the opposite direction.

The hummingbird flew towards the fire!

Whatever happened, he wouldn't stop.

Moments later, the jaguar saw him pass again, this time in the same direction as the jaguar was walking.

He could observe this coming and going, until he decided to ask the bird about it, because it seemed very bizarre behavior.

“What are you doing, hummingbird?” he asked.

“I am going to the lake,” he answered, “I drink water with my beak and throw it on the fire to extinguish it.”

The jaguar laughed. ‘Are you crazy?

Do you really think that you can put out that big fire on your own with your very small beak?’

‘No,’ said the hummingbird, ‘I know I can’t.

But the forest is my home.

It feeds me, it shelters me and my family.

I am very grateful for that.

And I help the forest grow by pollinating its flowers.

I am part of her and the forest is part of me.

I know I can't put out the fire, but I must do my part.’

At that moment, the forest spirits, who listened to the hummingbird, were moved by the bird and its devotion to the forest, miraculously they sent a torrential downpour, which put an end to the great fire.

The Native American grandmothers would occasionally tell this story to their grandchildren, then conclude with,

“Do you want to attract miracles into your life?

Do your part.

You have no responsibility to save the world or find the solutions to all problems— but to attend to your particular personal corner of the universe.

As each person does that, the world saves itself.” —*Author Unknown*

EDITOR'S NOTE: This issue of *La Voz de Esperanza* urges you to “do your part” this year, a year we can vote in a presidential election in the United States. It only occurs every four years. In many other countries, it is mandatory to vote and the day is declared a holiday. In the U.S., we as individuals make the decision, to vote, or not AND who to vote for. Be as informed as possible visiting different sites, watching or reading a variety of news sources, then *do your part* and, **VOTE!** My recently deceased mother, born in Niederwald, Texas, Tiburcia, was ready to vote, at 98 years of age, but sadly will not vote in this election. Both of my parents took their responsibility to vote very seriously, even into their 90s, and so should we. Send articles, creative and critical writings to lavoz@esperanzacenter.org —Gloria A. Ramirez, editor of *La Voz de Esperanza*

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.