



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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

Dear Voz Readers, I read a couple of entries on FB recently that esteemed elder, María Berriozábal, wrote that I thought worthy of sharing with you (with permission):

On these *times of resistance*, she wrote:

It has been painful, worrisome and plain scary to learn what is being done to our democracy. So many people, particularly the most vulnerable are being hurt badly. We do not have to wait for something really horrible to happen when so many pillars of our democratic society are being destroyed. The terror is already here—These were my thoughts as I was out taking in some sun. I was surprised by all the flowers on our *Mr. Lincoln Rosebush*—one Olga and Al Kauffman planted a couple of years ago. There were 18 roses!

The message I received was: “Look at this miracle and you did so little for it to happen. Just look!” The lovely roses made me think of the good in life: The love, respect and care people have for each other. The tenderness and innocence present in children. The dreams and beauty of youth. The unique cultures and histories we carry—gifts from our ancestors. The personal sacrifice and hard work of men and women who move communities ahead and give us inspiration. The power and beauty of our natural environment and the creatures that live with us. Friendship and love. Art! The marvelous present we have as humans to love and to be loved.

I stood and thought and then what I feel often, cut into the lofty place: ¿Oyes, que tienes, girl? Hey woman! NOT EVERYONE HAS THIS! I went back to the terror and the hate being spewed by so many. I was left realizing that only some people possess some of the treasures I listed: whatever it is that we have, represents our obligation to help those who suffer. The more we have—the greater the obligation. The roses were my reminder that it will be the good that is harvested from each of us that will be the energy needed to confront what is happening in our country. (March 30)

Then right after *Easter Sunday*, the Pope dies and María kindly eulogizes him:

I am grieving the death of a leader of courage, a man who represented and spoke for social, economic and environmental justice. He gave us courage to tackle these issues. The first *Pope from the Americas* from the very start of his pontificate exuded humility in a rare and holy way. I recall on the night he was chosen to be the next pope he went to his window and asked us to pray for him. He came to be among us and not above us. He tackled the most controversial issues in our society and never backed off. As a true servant of everyone, he chose to spend his last hours among the people giving us an *Easter* message of hope which is a great gift in these disturbing days.

Pope Francis: Thank you for the light and hope you brought to our hearts. Our response will be to continue giving voice to the social, environmental and serious economic struggles of our time. I believe that is what he would have wanted to leave behind. *Papa Francisco de Argentina, Presente!* (April 21, 2025)



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.