



# 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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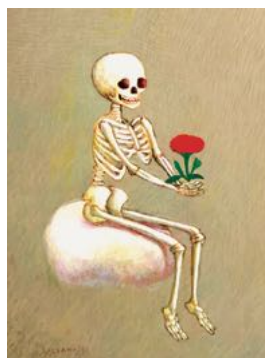
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Articles due by the 8th of each month

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



Artwork: Lilliana Wilson

The 2023 November issue of *La Voz de Esperanza* is the 24<sup>th</sup> issue featuring *Calaveras*. It has arrived amidst the many *Día de Muertos* events that engulf the City of San Antonio who many claim is now the epicenter of this celebration in the U.S. that began with the ancient indigenous culturas of Mexico centuries ago. The writing of *Calaveras* originated in Mexico as part of *Day of the Dead* and has a long illustrious history of politics, art and literary forms. The Calavera poems and illustrations are synonymous with the name of José Guadalupe Posada and his collaborators who later formed the artist print collective of *Taller de Grafica Popular* in 1937. When *La Voz* first began publishing *Calaveras* in 1999, there were scant celebrations of the *Day of the Dead*, but *Calavera* poems had been published annually in San Antonio by Moises Espino del Castillo since the early 70s. Moises continued writing *Calaveras* for thirty years before his death in 2002. Centro Cultural Aztlán began its celebration of *Día de Muertos* in the mid 70s with annual altares exhibits with the Guadalupe following thereafter. In 1998 Yolanda Leyva wrote about *Honoring our Dead* and written tributes to honor the dead began with an *Ofrenda for Eva Garza* by Deb Vargas in 2006 followed by a *Tribute to Frida Kahlo on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday* in 2007 by Josie Méndez Negrete. In 2008, *La Voz* published a tribute to Don Moises by Ellen Riojas Clark. In 2009, the *Calaveras* issue transformed to become the *Calaveras y Literary Ofrendas* issue appearing with a beautiful angel holding a calavera drawn by Lilliana Wilson. The literary ofrendas have in recent years become more and more popular and we shall have to work hard to recover more Literary Calaveras for next year to balance the issue out.

Enrique Sánchez, who I dubbed *Don Calaveras* has written calaveras in all 24 November issues of *La Voz*. La profesora, Rita E. Urquijo-Ruiz celebrates 20 years of writing calaveras with this issue of *La Voz* (see page 7). And, she is also responsible for inspiring others to write calaveras including her sisters in Hermosillo, Sonora! Rachel Jennings, another calaverista, celebrates 10 years of writing calaveras in English with her own special Appalachian spin on killing off many a political personality. Other calaveristas, like Antonio Cabral, have appeared sporadically on and off throughout and others send in calaveras from throughout the U.S. and sometimes, Mexico. With this issue, I wish to thank everyone who has collaborated with us and made these 24 issues possible—artistas, calaveristas, gente paying tribute to loved ones and the many folks that have inspired us to continue these traditions. Do come by and celebrate with us at Casa de Cuentos on November 1<sup>st</sup> as we remember our dearly departed.

—Gloria A. Ramirez, editor of *La Voz de Esperanza*



Rachel Jennings



Enrique Sánchez, Don Calaveras

## “¡Auxilio!”

Se me están acabando todos mis inmigrantes y se están llenando donde hay mas feria, más futuro, más chambas, etc., etc., etc. ¿Qué hacer? No se. Pa'l norte está frío, pa'l este, mucha gente, pa'l oeste? Quizá, ¿Quién sabe? El diablito me pisa los talones. ¿Qué hare? Aguanta la palanca o me salen cuernos. A lo mejor me vuelvo artista. ¡Imagine!



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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.