



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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



Photo Credit: Gloria A. Ramírez

I had the pleasure of attending *Conjunto Under the Stars* presented by the *Conjunto Heritage Taller at The Cove* on August 2nd—two days after the passing of Conjunto legend Flaco Jimenez who died on July 31st at the age of 86. As a testament to his love of community and of conjunto, Flaco's brother Santiago Jimenez, Jr. performed as planned. He was overcome by grief during his performance, and it was beautiful to see him express that grief and receive the love and support of the Taller family. For his last song, Santiago came down from the stage to face a small home-made altar honoring Flaco. He sang directly to the altar, playing his accordion, in a state of deep grief.

It was also moving to watch the *Taller's* students perform alongside *Hall of Famers* like Santiago, Benny Medina, and Oscar Hernández. I wondered what Santiago was thinking while watching the young students, so full of life and love for the music. It appeared to me like there were stars in his eyes as he watched. Later that night, a young girl, Noelani Vásquez, arrived from the *Voz de la Paloma* vocal competition held at *Palo Alto College* where she had placed 3rd in the Middle School division. She sang "*Cucurrucucu Paloma*" accompanied by Bene Medina and I felt touched yet, again, by this bridge between the generations, remembering the voices of *Las Tesoros* who've passed, including the competition's namesake, *Beatriz Llamas*, "*La Paloma del Norte*." I feel truly blessed to have been in the presence of legendary performers who have passed and those who continue to perform. They continue to inspire the generations to come and their spirits will forever live on. —Amanda Haas

The *Esperanza Peace and Justice Center* staff, board and Buena Gente mourn the loss of the legendary Flaco Jiménez. Our deepest condolences to the Jiménez familia.

Thank you, Flaco, for being part of the 2006 *Lydia Mendoza Homenaje* at the *Plaza de Zacate*—an event that will forever live in our memories. Thank you, also, for helping us complete our "*Still Here: Homenaje al Westside*" book and CD. Your accordion sounds were the perfect fit to our stories of familia y cultura. El orgullo de ser del Westside came through the bellows and straight to our souls.

Your musical legacy and mastery will live on in the hearts of all people who have ever sung or danced to the sounds of your accordion. Your dedication helped make Conjunto music known around the world. The Esperanza is dedicated to continue the tradition of the American Folk Music known as Conjunto with the preservation and restoration of the *Lerma's* building and its history, where, Flaco often played and gente danced.

Legends never die! You will always live in our hearts and feet as we dance to your música alegre, a legacy that you've left for us to forever savor. ¡Flaco Jiménez, presente!

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.