



La Voz de Esperanza

November 2025

Vol. 38 Issue 9

Editor: Gloria A. Ramírez

Layout: Elizandro Carrington

Contributors

Antonio Cabral, Mary Cabral, Leila Cothran, Nephthali De León, Geri García, Julio Guerrero, Rachel Delgado, Mildred Hilbrich De Long, Cielo García Ibarra, Rachel Jennings, Jacob Mena, Don Mathis, Mona Lisa Montgomery, Julio Noboa, Rudy Ortiz, Mary Helen Pérez, Carlos Ponce, David Rodgers, Carlos Barceló Ruiz, Carmen Urquijo Ruiz, Eva Urquijo Ruiz, Martina Urquijo Ruiz, Ricardo Sánchez, Jeanie Sanders, Rita E. Urquijo-Ruiz, Kinza Shaikh, Brad Veloz

Esperanza Director

Graciela I. Sánchez

Esperanza Staff

Sherry Campos, Arabella Chávez, Elizandro Carrington, Kayla Miranda, Nonye Okoye, René Saenz, Imane Saliba, Susana Segura, Rosa Vega

Conjunto de Nepantleras

—Esperanza Board of Directors—

Rachel Jennings, Dennise Frausto, Amy Kastely, Sylvia Mendoza, Ana Lucía Ramírez, Gloria A. Ramírez, Rudy Rosales, Lilliana Saldaña, Nadine Saliba, Graciela I. Sánchez

- 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

Esperanza Peace & Justice Center
922 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212
210.228.0201 • www.esperanzacenter.org

Inquiries/Articles can be sent to:

lavoz@esperanzacenter.org

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



This year's issue of *Calaveras*, November 2025, focuses on the loss of our Democracy—occurring daily throughout the U.S. Those of us who are women, LGBTQ+, immigrants, poor, from rural areas, working class, medically compromised, people of color, elderly, small business owners, educators, students, cultural workers, government employees and many more—are all at risk of losing some aspect of our livelihood and all of our freedoms. As our government careens towards being a fascist state, we need to find solidarity in being supportive of each other and continuing our hold on being the best of who we, each, are—exhibiting kindness, joy and love rather than demonizing *the other*. Hold on to and demand your right to be exactly who you are and continue to exercise your right to vote because efforts to thwart our very existence and our democracy are now well under way. Begin by voting in the local elections on November 4th! Do not take your right to vote for granted, because you'll be giving away all your rights, gradually. The situation is dire.

The following Calavera from *La Voz* in 2017 has been slightly modified as written by Enrique Sánchez, *Don Calaveras*, now deceased. It continues to be very relevant.

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

Dedicado a Don Calaveras, Enrique Sánchez, QEPD

Un año más

¿Calaveras? ¿Porque no?
¡Que siga la tradición!
Para los ladrones, los embusteros,
los traicioneros
Que en 2025 parecen multiplicarse
Pienso, a veces, que vale la pena
exponerlos
La mejor manera es escribirles
Calaveras
Quizás algunos se ofendan y
Pueés, yo digo, si les viene el saco
que lo calen
Si no, que sigan las Calaveras
—Enrique Sánchez, 2017

Another year

Calaveras, why not?
Let the tradition continue!
For the thieves, the liars, the traitors
That in 2025 seem to multiply
I think, at times, it's worth it, to expose them
The best way is to write them Calaveras
Maybe some will be offended, to that I say
If the coat fits, let them wear it!
If not, let's continue with the Calaveras.
—Gloria Ramirez,
(loose translation), 2017



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.