Peace & Justice Center
ESPERANZA

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

Belén Escobedo, 2026 NEA National Heritage Fellow



Belén and her group often play at Esperanza events including the annual *Paseo Por El Westside, Día de Muertos* and *Peace Market/Mercado de Paz.*

Felicidades a Belén Escobedo, *Pánfilo's Güera*, a frequent performer at *Esperanza Peace & Justice Center*'s annual programs including *Paseo Por El Westside*, *Día de los Muertos*, & the *Peace Market/Mercado de Paz*. Belén specializes in Mexican and Tejano fiddle tunes from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, music deeply rooted in the cultural exchange of the Texas borderlands. She performs on violin accompanied by *bajo sexto*, a 12-string bass instrument. Her group also features the *tololoche*, a Mexican upright bass, played by her husband, Ramón Gutiérrez. Her roots in music reach back to her early childhood and was born of necessity and of her grandfather's love of traditional tunes that he heard on radio. Moving between formal music training and the daily musical life of the Southside in SA, Belén developed a style grounded in technical skill and local tradition. She became popular on the national folk and traditional music circuit appearing at major festivals throughout the U.S. and received the *Master of Texas Fiddling Award* in 2017. ¡Muy merecido, querida Belén!



Belén performs with her husband, Ramón Gutierrez who plays a traditional tololoche, a Mexican upright bass. Photo: Lupito Conjunto

The *Esperanza* invites you to join us for two *Pride Month* events: *Runway Rasquachic* with visionary San Antonio fashion designer/producer. Agosto Cuellar, takes place June 6th at the corner of Guadalupe and S. Brazos in the *Historic Westside*. Read more about this in pages 7-10 in this issue of *Voz*.

And on Sunday, June 14th at 2pm, join us at the *Esperanza* for the *9th Annual Tardeada of Queer Voices 2026* brought to life by curators Anel Flores and Chibbi Orduña. See the anuncio in the back page and information on the *National Book Launch* of T*he Donkey Lady* on June 20th and *GIVE OUT DAY* on June 4th. Remember to send in articles, creative works and poetry to lavoz@esperanzacenter.org



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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.