

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 5th 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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

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The 2008 International Woman's Day March

is the 18th march and the 17th consecutive year that mujeres have taken the streets of San Antonio. This year the march actually happens on March 8th observed as International Women's Day throughout the world. Artist, Mary Agnes Rodríguez has designed the poster that graces the front page of the March 2008 issue of La Voz merging some of the strong women of the past with women of the present who are in current struggles for justice.

Emma Tenayuca with her fist in the air led the pecan shellers strike in San Antonio in 1938. At 21 years of age, she was already a seasoned labor rights organizer. This year is the 70th anniversary of the pecan shellers' strike. Read more about her in this issue of La Voz. Lydia Mendoza, (figure with guitar), Tejana singer, who died in December, 2007 connected the struggles of women throughout the U.S. following the migrant streams in her youth singing about the conditions of women and the poor. Ultimately, Lydia connected Latinos throughout the world with her music, opening doors for mujeres in Tejano and other genres of music. These are but two of the unsung women heroes of the past being honored at the International Woman's Day March and Rally.

Present struggles led by women are represented by the women on the left and right of Emma Tenayuca. On the left are women of the International Woman's Day Committee and the Free Speech Coalition who have filed a federal lawsuit against the City of San Antonio challenging the constitutionality of the city's March ordinance that requires some groups to pay thousands to march on the streets while others march for free. Will our rights be sold for a profit? We await a decision.

Eloisa García Tamez, Lipan Apache, holding the banner with Emma has owned land on the border near Brownsville, Texas since before borders existed. She refuses to cooperate with homeland security's efforts to build a border fence and they are threatening to seize her land. Her challenge to the U. S. government is based on her historical and cultural rights as an indigenous land owner. Other landowners along the border including the U.T. at Brownsville are joining the fight. Read more about this fight in this issue of La Voz. At stake is government's right to seize land that is privately owned, historically protected and culturally and ecologically endangered.

The 18th IWD March continues the tradition women have upheld worldwide in fighting for human rights, peace and social justice. Join us Saturday, March 8th at 10 am at Travis Park in downtown San Antonio and march with us to the Plaza de Zacate next to the Mercado. Bring your voices, your banners and your children. ¡Que viva la mujer!

In this March 2008 issue of La Voz we begin a new series on Space, *La Voz del Zocalo*. This series explores how in every sense our space is being appropriated and sold out by cities everywhere for a profit. We offer La Voz as an open space, a zocalo, where people can come together and share their observations about what is happening in spaces worldwide. If you'd like to contribute to the series let us know at lavoz@esperanzacenter.org or call 210/228-0201.

Join us for the performance tribute, *An Altar for Emma*, the exquisite exhibit, *Ofrendas*, by Liliana Wilson and the unveiling of Betita Martínez' publication of *500 Years of Chicana History*, all happening this month! As we go to print, we extend our heartfelt sympathies to the family, friends and artistic community on the passing of our dear compañero, escritor, y muy buen hombre, Raúl Salinas of Austin. - GAR



... un proceso de transformacion mental; see it occurring, feel it surging within, it's at once amazing, extremely difficult to grasp, painful and frightening!!!

--Raul Salinas, *Un Trip Through the Mind Jail y Otras Excursions*, 9

Raul Salinas | March 17, 1934 - February 13, 2008

Que en paz descanse.

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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.