

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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

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Cover photo: Alan Pogue

1968

, the year I graduated from high school in Austin, Texas began a journey that brought me to the Esperanza Center as editor of La Voz for these last twenty years. That year, I visited San Antonio's Hemisfair as part of a senior trip without any inkling that I would be living in the shadow of the Tower of the Americas twenty five years later. That year, I experienced the double assassinations of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy that convinced me to become involved in the civil rights movement. My brother went off to Vietnam as the My Lai massacre was taking place and I questioned my support of the war. The Summer Olympics in Mexico City were being boycotted by African nations in protest of South Africa's presence. At the Plaza de las Tres Culturas, the Tlatelolco massacre occurred with more than 300 students killed by army and police. As I went off to college, I found that I had to involve myself in reclaiming my culture and language as a Chicana and claim my activism as an anti-war/civil rights activist.

I informed my friends, now at the University of Texas, of my interest in fighting for civil rights and in pursuing a career as a bilingual/bicultural educator. As a result, I had to drop one friend who believed blacks were inferior and I received wholehearted support from another who came out to me as a gay man. By the 70s, I had a whole set of new friends from the Mexican American Youth Organization (MAYO). My parent's farmworker roots came into play as I met Cesar Chávez and supported the farmworkers' strikes. My final awakening as students were killed while protesting the invasion of Cambodia at Kent State on my birthday, May 4th of 1970.

As I muse about the 40 years since '68, I recall my last year in high school as one with an intense desire to have the education that was due us, a group of outcasts, that were not high academic achievers, but definitely thinkers. We managed to get courses in Advanced Civics and Economics by requesting them from a cantankerous, albeit supportive history teacher. The high school took care of us and avoided any activism on campus. As a college student and MAYO member, I wound up going to Crystal City to assist in the student walkouts there.

By 1972, I began my quest as a bilingual/bicultural educator in early childhood, ironically, in the Edgewood I.S.D. The Edgewood high school students demanding basic necessities had staged a walkout in 1968, probably while I was on my senior trip. I hadn't realized then that Hemisfair was a ploy to promote tourism and that neighborhoods had been demolished in the process.

The students killed at Tlatelolco had demanded the repeal of Articles 145 and 145b of the Penal Code in Mexico City (which sanctioned imprisonment of anyone attending meetings of three or more people, deemed to threaten public order). The effort to suppress dissent was an effort to sanitize the '68 Olympics. That, ended in tragedy. The anti-war demonstrations at UT ultimately led to a reorganizations of the open spaces of the central mall area to discourage mass rallies. Kent State led to more sophisticated suppression of dissent on campuses. Eminent domain continued to displace gente worldwide and is now is being used to put up a border fence endangering ambiente as well as human relations. In San Antonio, we are being denied access to the streets with a parade ordinance that requires payment for free speech. The list goes on.

All of these issues are an infringement on our space as loving beings in this world who deserve to exist, be heard and live lives that are enriched by a loving government. Pero, no es así. So, we must expose and educate our gente to the truths of what is really going on in this world and who the people are that really make a difference. Join us and write your stories for the new effort in La Voz, **La Voz del Zocalo**, that seeks to expose the insidious ways in which our space is being sold out for a profit! This is your forum for open dialogue and for making visible that which has previously been suppressed. This issue is a great example of the types of articles being sent in for this forum. Send your stories or articles to us at: lavoz@esperanzacenter.org or write and give us your feedback.

Visit www.esperanzacenter.org for more. ¡Adelante! - la editora, GAR

ATTENTION VOZ READERS: If you have a correction you want to make on your mailing label please send it in to lavoz@esperanzacenter.org. If you do not wish to continue on the mailing list for whatever reason please notify us as well. La Voz is provided as a courtesy to people on the mailing list of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. **The subscription rate is now \$30 per year.** 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.

