

La Voz de Esperanza

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Friday & Saturday, September 26 ~ 27 at 7:30pm
at the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, San Antonio, Texas

La VOZ de Esperanza

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Opinions expressed in La Voz are not necessarily
those of the Esperanza. We advocate for a variety of
social, economic & environmental justice issues.

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Policy Statements:

We ask that articles be visionary, progressive,
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La Voz will be considered for publication.
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Arts, and la buena gente de nuestra comunidad.

Summer Sojourn

The July/August, 2003 issue of La Voz shows a circle of MujerArtes women's hands interspersed among cempaxuchitl flowers surrounding a plaque of Coyolxauhqui, la diosa de la luna. Coyolxauhqui, dismembered goddess, daughter of Coatlicue and sister of Huiztlipochtli, god of war, evokes visions of violence but as her body parts are contained within the circle of life (la luna) we are reminded that eventually things come together once again and we become whole. The cycle of life continues: birth, death, rebirth.

This summer at the Esperanza we seemed to be completing a cycle of death and rebirth as people and events we have been familiar with have left us or returned to us. On Saturday, July 12th, Lourdes Pérez returned to the Esperanza bringing with her a different style of joyful canto that speaks to her new life in the mountains of Guanajuato, México. She brought with her special guest, Eva Ybarra, who last played her accordion at the memorable quinceañera dance of October 2002. Lourdes and Eva were a hint of what's to come this fall at the Esperanza: the return of Mujercanto on September 26th and 27th. The last Mujercanto event with Azúcar y Crema, jazz/salseras from LA on September 12, 1997 shook the upstairs performance space following a rousing and angry but funny opening by María Elena Gaitán, la Chola con Cello. That was the exact day the San Antonio City Council cancelled the Esperanza center's recommended arts funding. We turned our defeat into a celebration of spirit that led to a win against the city in court.

In September of the same year (1997) we screened the Out At the Movies film festival, which made another appearance in 1998 but disappeared from the scene as we struggled with the workload the lawsuit required. It reappeared in 2001. The Other America film series again until this summer when both film festivals were resurrected in a combined program- Other, Out and Beyond: Movement and Struggle. Spearheading this effort was new staff member, Mirasol Rojas who wrote of her experience:

My love of film and the power it has to move people has taken me from coast to coast to study cinema in California and New York City. After finishing my Master's degree in December, I came home to find a way to connect my passion for film to my community. I cannot express how lucky I feel to have found the Esperanza. All those people who were laughing, crying, speaking out and sitting in silence, awe-struck by the films at the opening event for *Other, Out and Beyond*, reminded me of the incredible hunger for independent film and video in this town. The community now has a place where they can tell us what they want to see. Remember, these are your programs and we need to hear from you! When I came in as a new staff member, I didn't have a complete picture of how the Esperanza worked. This summer has been both chaotic and beautiful. I have seen a reciprocal relationship between the Esperanza and the community. As we serve the community, the community also serves us. Somewhere in the chaos, we have shared our lives, created, and grown together.

The summer also saw the return of many writers to the Esperanza by way of various conferences, writers' workshops, and seminars. Noche de Macondo featured writers, famosos y mocosos, on August 8th who were in town taking Sandra Cisneros' writing workshop. Sandra returned to the Esperanza scene after several years of quietly supporting us. Look for Sandra to return to the Esperanza in the spring of 2004 for a special event, Textos y Textiles.

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.

On September 13th internationally recognized photographer Laura Aguilar returns to the Esperanza with the exhibit, *Motions and Center*. Laura was last with us in 1999 working with ArtEscuela and in a joint exhibit in 1996. She continues to challenge narrow thinkers with her beautiful photography.

The summer did not end without loss or violence invading efforts to promote peace. Central to the summer's offerings was the tribute to the murdered women of Juarez in the MujerArtes exhibit, *Lamento por las mujeres de Juárez /Elegy for the Women of Juárez*. Efforts to bring attention to this femicide will culminate in a conference at UCLA at the end of October. The women of MujerArtes will be featured with their altar exhibit opening at the UCLA Fowler Museum. The Esperanza Center is currently seeking funds to send as many of the women as possible to Los Angeles for the conference and exhibit.

Underlying the constant activity at the Esperanza this summer was continued efforts against the war in Iraq. Ruth Lofgren, Esperanza elder, who joined the anti-war group throughout the

summer shares with us some reflections in this issue of *Voz* with *My Myth of America, Revised*. Spearheading anti-war efforts was another new Esperanza staff member, Christina Valero. Of her work this summer Christina observed:

Coming in as new staff has been a remarkable experience. Summer has been a journey. Not the easiest one, but by far the most profound and prolific. In this time, I've watched ideas come into fruition through the dreams of a community and the perseverance of individuals devoted to the process. I've witnessed a reciprocal relationship where both the community and the Esperanza serve each other. It has been a privilege to meet and work alongside the best minds, spirits, and energies here. Thank you all for working, learning, and growing with me.

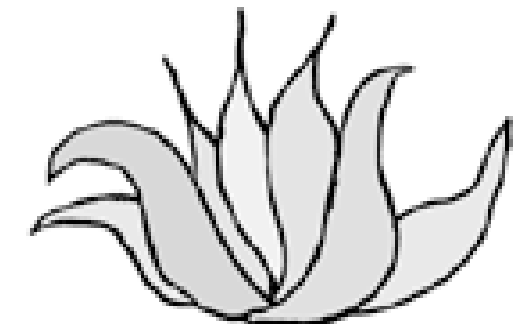
As Christina states this summer has been quite a journey, not the easiest one, but once again Esperanza regenerates and pulls itself together. Our organizational body parts, both people and events, are contained within the circle of life and we are reminded that eventually things come together once again and we become whole. The cycles of life continues; birth, death, rebirth. Siempre adelante con Esperanza.



*Help the Women of
MujerArtes attend the
Maquiladora Murders
Conference in Los Angeles
October 31- November 2
Send Contributions to Esperanza
at 922 San Pedro
San Antonio, 78212 or come
by to dropoff your contribution*

¡Felicidades y abrazos!

The Esperanza staff, board & community
congratulate the 2003 recipients of the
Alfredo Cisneros Del Moral Foundation.
We commend Sandra Cisneros' generosity
& commitment to our community writers.



in the established writer category	in the emerging writer category	and honorable mention to
Gregg Barrios playwright & poet	Pablo Miguel Martínez poet	Sterling Houston playwright

Lamento por las Mujeres

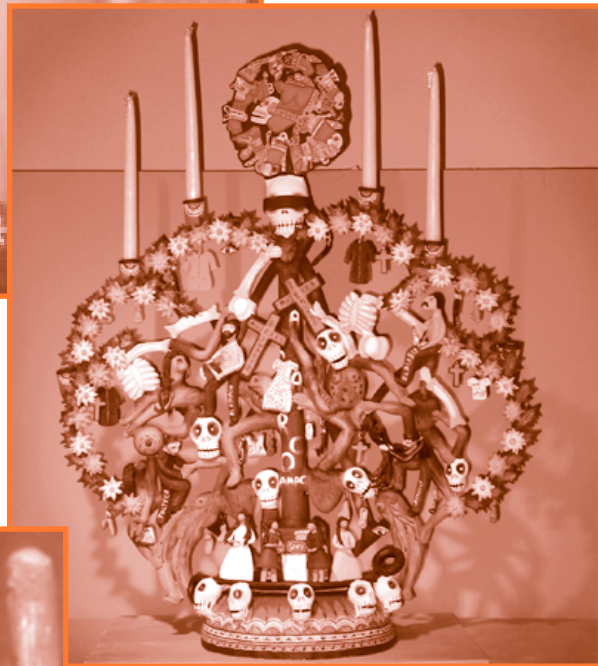
Observers of the altar exhibit, Lamento por las mujeres/Elegy for the women of Juárez, wrote many heartfelt comments which La Voz shares with our readers in this issue.



Thank you Esperanza and MujerArtes and panel of speakers! Many of us are feeling very upset, angry at the injustice of the Juárez murders. There is a dark shroud of complicity that contrasts with the brutal murders of young girls! We must continue to search for the end to this. I will do what I can to help!
Mario G.

It is so graphic, so stark! It depicts the horrible crime that is inflicted on women. Let's

hope that this display that will travel will arouse the government of Mexico to do something to



stop these slayings. I congratulate the Esperanza for this display. But most importantly I salute the women (las mujeres) who produced the ceramic pieces and the many scenes.
Leno & Elisa Diaz

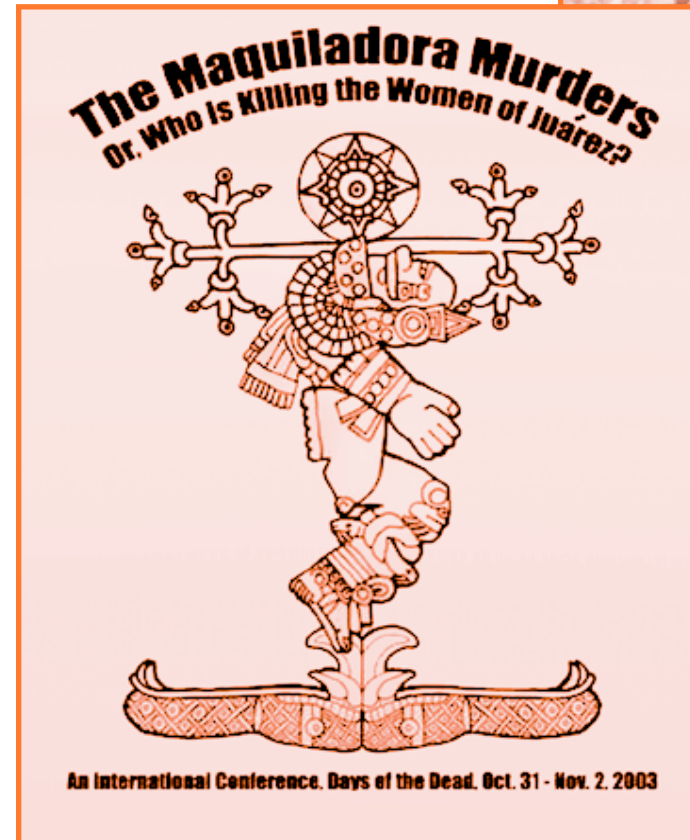
Con amor y lagrimas les acompaño sus sentimientos. Yo sugeriría que para encontrar a los asesinos de mujeres en Juárez- se empezara por investigar dentro del cuerpo de policia de la ciudad....¿Cómo es que no se ha encontrado a los asesinos? No será porque están muy bien protegidos detrás de sus placas de policia? ¿Quien hace las investigaciones? ¿Quien investiga a los investigadores? No sólo mis oraciones sino todo mi coraje de mujer lo ofrezco a la solución de éste horrendo hecho. Martha Cotera

Let's unite and do something about this horrible crime. As human beings we have an obligation to



stop these killers.
Janet C.

With all the coverage in the media for this Lamento and especially the exhibit, I've been thinking and wondering who these girls/women are. What did they like and like to do? Raquel Bello, por ejemplo, loves Shakira and to salsa and her grandmother's stories. Imagine the 300 stories, 800 stories. Are their stories being written down, recorded? Very powerful to make me want to take action and to feel in the gut of my stomach.



Georgine Bello 7/26/03

To all who have felt the pain of losing their loved ones, I feel your pain and pray for justice to be found. No one should hurt in the manner you with your daughters have felt:
Para todos que sienten éste dolor tan grande que han perdido sus queridas hijas. Nadie ha de sufrir en esta manera que ustedes y sus hijos han sufrido. Que justicia se encuentre y los culpables pagen.
Dios bendiga, God bless you. 7/26/03 C. Garza



Yo no se como escribir muy bien el español, pero lo siento mucho por las mamás y tambien las familias que han sufrido por ésto. Yo soy una mamá tambien. Mi hija tiene 7 años. Y si algo le pasaría a ella, yo pienso que me volveria loca. Yo tambien quisiera encontrar las

gentes que le hicieron daño (a éstas mujeres) y matarlos. Pero, siento tristeza por o en mi corazón por las cosas que oí hoy, por la mama que dejo la historia de la muerte de su hija. Que dios los bendiga.
Rita Sotelo 7/26/03

It's important for people to know about the cruelties these women are suffering. The work presented here is just a glimpse as to what's happening. I pray for the lost women and their families. May La Virgen watch over them.
Catherine Aleman 8/04/03

What has the U.S. government done about these murders? How have they responded. Could it be that they are the profiteers. Can we accept this environmental injustice and human disgrace toward our people!? No we can't!
AG 7/26/03

JUSTICE FOR ALL! ¡JUSTICIA PAR TODOS!

Victims & Scapegoats - Victimas y Chivos

August 23, 2003

President Vicente Fox and Chihuahua Governor Patricio Martínez:

This letter is being delivered to you in cities across the United States to express our concern about the serial killings of over 100 young women in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua



City plus the disappearance of hundreds of others since 1993. We are equally concerned about the alleged torture and forced confessions of all or nearly all the suspects in these cases. Although many individuals have been presented as the murderers, victims' families and Mexican society reject these people as the true killers.

After a decade, Americans are conscious of the inept and corrupt investigations of these crimes including the fabrication of evidence, questionable DNA testing, and the failure to follow up on concrete leads. We are aware that one suspect died in prison under suspicious circumstances. A lawyer representing one of the alleged murderers was shot to death by police who were later absolved of any wrongdoing. We also know that in May 2003, US-Minnesota citizen Cynthia Kiecker and her

Mexican husband Ulises Perzabal were tortured into confessing to the murder of Viviana Rayas in Chihuahua City.



Rather than going after the rapist murderers, Mexican officials have lied to, threatened, harassed, and ridiculed the victims' families and support groups. In the last few months, actions against victims' families have reached such an obscene level that family members are being investigated, tortured, and forced to claim guilt for these crimes. The lack of integrity in these investigations has compromised the apprehension of those responsible for these murders.



For all these reasons, shame on both you, President Fox and Governor Martínez, for allowing these atrocities to continue unresolved for over a decade. The families and people of Chihuahua deserve their human rights and the return of their dignity. Your lack of regard for these murders and the negative implications for your citizenry is

incredulous and monumentally insensitive. It is within your power to rectify this situation and bring the guilty to justice.

Do so now!



Editor's note: The above statement was read in front of the Mexican consulate in San Antonio on Saturday, August 23, 2003 as part of an action protesting the killings of the women in Juarez. At the same time other actions, readings, performances, drumming and protests in solidarity took place throughout the U.S. and México asking for the Mexican and U.S. governments to take responsibility for these deaths and put an end to them. The San Antonio contingency included folks from Esperanza Center, the PeaceCenter, Fuerza Unida and other organizations.

Curandero Secrets

How to Prepare & Grow
Your Own Herbal Remedies
September 27, 2003



Don Jacinto Madrigal first learned about the healing power of herbs from his grandmother, Senaída Urrutia, a curandera in Piedras Negras, Mexico. As a boy, Jacinto would sell the herbs his grandmother grew or harvested from the wild. Today, the 65-year-old yerbero (herbalist) has his own curandero garden from which he prepares many of the remedies his grandmother taught him.

Not long ago, the healing properties of herbs were common knowledge. Everyone had some yerba buena growing in their backyard to help with indigestion; everyone knew what herb was good for what use. That type of cultural knowledge is fading fast. That is why people like Don Jacinto Madrigal are so important. They are a link to San Antonio's rapidly disappearing heritage.

Because of his vast knowledge, Don Jacinto has been invited to present to doctors and students at the University of Texas Health Science Center as well as other institutions, a task he happily accepts. "What is important is that this knowledge be passed on," says Don Jacinto.

On Saturday, September 27, Don Jacinto will for the first time share his wisdom with the general public at a workshop coordinated by Colectivo Cultural.

The workshop, titled, "Curandero Secrets: How to Prepare and Grow Your Own Herbal Remedies," is scheduled for from 10 to noon and will be held at the Centro Cultural Aztlan located in the Las Palmas Shopping Center at 803

Castroville Road #402. The two-hour workshop costs \$15 and will teach participants how to:

- ❖ Prepare 5 important herbal remedies* (recipes included)
- ❖ Identify common herbs and understand their traditional uses
- ❖ Select health-promoting herbs that can be grown in one's own garden
- ❖ Dry herbs for storage and future use

Seating is limited, so please call ahead to reserve your space.

*No medical claims are made or implied. The material presented in this workshop is informational only.

Colectivo Cultural

Colectivo Cultural is proud to add "Curandero Secrets" to its list of hands-on workshops. Last year, the group launched its inaugural workshop, "La Gran Tamalada," a tamal-making session held in San Antonio's Deco District. La Gran

Tamalada was a huge success; over 100 participants rolled-up their sleeves to learn first hand about this tradition.

Colectivo Cultural takes its name from two guiding principles. Colectivo is for its collective nature, teaming-up with businesses, organizations, and individuals. Cultural because its focus is to preserve Latino traditions. Our mission is to take Latino culture out of museums and textbooks and place it back in the hands of its people. For information contact Jesus at Colectivo Cultural, 733-7327 or jardin@swbell.net



Jolom Mayaetik Chiapas Weaving Cooperative

at the Esperanza
October 4, 2003, 6 pm

On Saturday, October 4, 2003, the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center will host Jolom Mayaetik, a women's collective from Chiapas, México. This cooperative of several hundred women weavers is collectively run and serves as an important vehicle for leadership development for indigenous women in the autonomous Zapatista regions. Their objectives are to weave and market their artesanía (craftwork), to educate women about their rights as women and as indigenous, and to realize their own potential as indigenous women to build a just economy. Jolom is a key organization in the local San Cristobal activist scene, often collaborating with Zapatistas and other groups on march and mobilization organizing, including the unforgettable 1999 International Women's Day March.

Women artisans of Chiapas constitute one of the main sources of income for indigenous families. In many cases, artisan work is the only way women earn hard currency, especially when crops fail to produce enough to sustain a family. This work is especially important for households headed by single women.



women have a stronger voice in developing a sustainable model of trade based on economic justice. Fair Trade allows community cooperatives to raise money to improve the living conditions for their communities, control the production and marketing of products, construct a just economy on a local level in which women can be central participants in the management of their own products, maintain ancestral knowledge, support sustainable agriculture, and provide much needed funds for community development projects.

The Mexico Solidarity Network and K'inál Antzetik will offer public presentations that will:

- Promote a sustainable model of international trade based on economic justice
- Discuss the impact that fair trade has on Mexican indigenous communities
- Discuss the leadership of women in the fair trade cooperatives
- Offer cooperative-made crafts for sale in order to raise money to improve the living conditions in communities.

The tours will feature representatives from the Mexico Solidarity Network and La Coordinadora Regional de Los Altos de Chiapas.

Celerina Ruiz Núñez, is a Tzotzil indigenous woman from Oventik Chico, San Andrés Larrainzar Chiapas, México. She is

President of the Jolom Mayaetik weaving collective. Celerina's god-mother taught her to weave at the age of 13. In 1996, Celerina joined a group of women artisans in her community and they joined the "Jolom Mayaetik" Artesans Cooperative. Jolom Mayaetik means "Mayan Women Weavers" in Tzotzil. In 1999 the cooperative formed a group of young women to participate in a pedal loom training course. Celerina moved to San Cristóbal de las Casas and studied how to use the sewing machine for several months at the Center for Indigenous Training. During the days she would participate in weaving trainings and took classes in the evenings. Eventually, she finished secondary school. She now travels to other communities to offer trainings to young indigenous women in the cooperative.



This is Celerina's second trip to the US as a representative of her cooperative. After the first tour Celerina said, "For us, young indigenous women, it is important to move ahead, learn new things, and learn about our rights as women because there are a lot of problems and a lot of injustice in our communities. We want the future to be determined by us. This is not always easy, city life is also hard on us too, but it is a way for us to move ahead as indigenous women."



Marla Gutierrez Gutierrez is on the Communications team of the Regional Coordinator of the Highlands of Chiapas, a network of civil society groups that monitor human rights in remote highland villages. She regularly runs workshops for village groups on current affairs and gives background briefings to international human rights observers about the situation in Chiapas. Marla has traveled extensively within the Central American region to participate in gatherings on democracy, human rights and indigenous autonomy. Much of her current work is dedicated to analysis and education about the Plan Puebla Panama and other current threats to the human rights of indigenous people in southern Mexico.

Jason Wallach is a Grassroots Coordinator for the Mexico Solidarity Network. Jason has edited two books on economic literacy and popular education methodology for the Highlander Research and Education Center and Atlanta-based Project South. He is also published in "Global Uprising: Confronting the Tyrannies of the 21st Century" and is featured in the recently published "White Men Challenging Racism: 35 Personal Stories," by Duke University Press.

Thaddeus "Spike" Zywicki

Whether it was protesting, marching, picketing or demonstrating against wars, against civil injustice, against U.S. intervention in Central America or against unfair labor practices, Spike was there. Active locally in San Antonio with Refugee Aide Project, the Central America Information Center, and Tabor House in the mid-eighties and early 90s and a host of other organizations throughout his life, Thaddeus "Spike" Zywicki, 91, died on July 14 in McAllen, Texas. Spike was accompanied in his dying days by many friends, but most especially by San Antonians Don Marengo and De Sanchez Galvan who along with their

daughters spent time with him in his Valley home.

He is remembered in the Esperanza activist community as the tenacious, white bearded old guy who swayed from side to side as he walked the picket lines in front of the federal building, in front of the San Fernando Cathedral or wherever a protest happened to be staged. Wearing his trademark cap that he wore backwards before it became the rage to wear it in that way, Spike was an inspirational activist who withstood the test of time in spite of physical ailments and economic hardships. His funeral mass was celebrated on Thursday, July 17th at 7:00pm at the Holy Spirit Church, 2201 Martin Ave., in McAllen,

Texas. His body was transported to San Antonio where the Holy Spirit sisters generously offered Spike a place in their cemetery. Condolences and contributions for his funeral expenses or for a scholarship fund, the Tadeo "Spike" Zywicki fellowship established some years ago in public interest law by benefactor friends at St. Mary's School of Law in San Antonio should be sent to:

Don Marengo/De Sanchez Galvan,
213 Avant Ave.
San Antonio, Texas 78210

Or contact De at desanchezg@stic.net for an update on donations for Spike.

Recordando

Carlota Martínez Yerena

1922 - 2003



Environmental Justice Trainings & Action

-the pursuit of equal justice and equal protection under the law without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and/or socioeconomic status.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The Esperanza Environmental Justice Project is conducting a Community Health Survey in neighborhoods surrounding the Garbage Dump in Eastside San Antonio.

We need activist volunteers who can administer the survey.

Please lend YOUR talents working for Environmental Justice in San Antonio.

Meeting every Thursday & Saturday

Thursday

4:30 - 5pm, Training
5 - 7pm, Surveys
Meet at the Esperanza
922 San Pedro @ 4:30pm

Saturday

9:30 - 10am, Training
10 - 12pm, Surveys
Meet at the Claude Black Center
2805 E. Commerce @ 9:30am

For more information contact Joleen Garcia 228-0201 or jolo@texas.net

Revised!

by Ruth Lofgren

It wasn't that, over the years, I hadn't accumulated facts inconsistent with my Myth of America. I had filed unpleasant facts in a separate mental folder until the Whitehouse plan for a preemptive strike against Iraq wouldn't stay filed. How could the U.S.A. be such a bully? Big, tough kids on school playgrounds may be bullies, but they get sent to the Principal's office! In the community of nations, there is no "principal's office." The United Nations is the best the world has, and we need to contribute to its strength; not to "go it alone" when faced with international problems.

On Saturday, July 19th, I attended the third Anti-war Community Meeting at the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. After introductions all around, Christina Valero distributed handouts with organized ideas from the past meetings: What more information do we need? What resources does each of us bring? What languages do we know? What skills and experience do we bring? Anti-war strategies and actions we might take were summarized briefly. Then the large, diverse group of serious, well-informed people began to discuss the war in Iraq and American foreign policy in general. I wasn't the angriest person present!

It was clear from the discussion that many of us had a woefully inadequate knowledge of the history of the governmental actions of the U.S.A. After hearing about the U. S. military aggressions that have been going on from its earliest days, I realized that our preemptive strike on Iraq was not a change in policy, merely an escalation of it. This was not just another CIA "adventure;" it was the official U.S.A. invading without immediate provocation and with flags flying! I realized how much I need to learn about American history if I am to defend effectively the way of life - the human rights I believe in!

I consider having been born in the U.S.A. to intelligent, loving parents a great blessing! The American people can be so generous and helpful to one another. The Constitution and Bill of Rights provide stability and safeguards for our human rights. Our democratic representative form of

government gives each of us the opportunity and responsibility to participate in creating the laws we live by. Our justice system provides for a jury of our peers. Public education gives each of us the opportunity to develop in a democratic society. It is no wonder that people from other nations risk life and limb to come to the U.S.A. My Myth of America took form in junior high school in Salt Lake City, Utah, and has changed very little since then.

I know the reality of many people being caring, generous, sincere and hard-working citizens. This part of my myth is verified. Now I need to add what I know of the criminal justice system, the subtle and not-so-subtle discriminations within the "human family." Class, race, sex, age, genealogy, affluence, etc. all serve to let us differentiate the "we" from the "they." Since our individual actions toward one another often fall so far short of what they might be, is it any wonder that the actions of our political institutions are anything but America, the Beautiful?

On my way home, I was recalling the facts I had heard at the meeting and drawing from those I had filed away, such as: the land that is now Utah had been liberated from Mexico in the 19th Century, a doctor from Chile whom I knew at the University of Michigan had explained how a duly elected president of her country had been replaced by a dictator with help from the CIA, etc. In the Anti-war meeting, Amy Kastely and others had described a series of events in which the U.S.A. had participated, either openly or clandestinely. Like so many Americans, I thrill to patriotic parades, marching bands and flag waving. They camouflage militarism! And yet it is genuine allegiance, not lip service that I give to peace and justice!

The evening after the meeting, I picked up the latest copy of Harper's Magazine (August 2003) and turned to Notebook: "Yankee Doodle Dandy" by Lewis H. Lapham, Editor. It turned out to be a continuation of the Anti-war Meeting at the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center!

My Myth of America

Mr. Lapham gives a scathing account of the invasion of Iraq, "the government's fairy tale about its reasons for sending the tanks eastward into Eden." ... "Three months after the capture of Baghdad the fabulous weapons were still nowhere to be found," ... "they classified impertinent questions as proofs of disloyalty or ingratitude — not fair to the troops (brave Americans one and all), insensitive to the plight of the Iraqi people (formerly enslaved, now free to elect an imam who promised not to slit their throats)." Mr. Lapham recognizes that the few Democrats demanding public hearings on the soundness of reasons for invading Iraq have no power in Congress. He notes that Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the House, "found comfort in an opinion poll showing 60 percent of the American electorate accepting the lie about Iraq's alliance with Al Qaida, and therefore an accessory to the crime of 9/11."

In the New York Times Mr. Paul Kurgan is quoted as "Taking note of our government's gift for 'systematically and brazenly' distorting the facts 'to an extent never before seen in U.S. history.'" Mr. Lapham says Mr. Kurgan's "suspicions are well placed but a hundred years behind the news." The book recommended to fill in the history is the late Walter Karp's Politics of War, published in 1979. "The book describes the emergence of the United States as a world power between the years 1890 and 1920— our contrivance of the Spanish-American War and our gratuitous entrance into World War I — and by filling in

the back story of an era in which 'mendacious oligarchy' organized the country's politics in a manner convenient to its own indolence and greed."

Mr. Karp "believed that in America it is the people who have rights, not the government, and he made clear the distinction between the American republic and the American nation— 'deadly rivals for the love and loyalty of the American people.' Always mistrustful of what he called the 'official version' of things, Karp professed his allegiance to the republic, which he understood as a body of law fitted for the common interest and a human scale, shaped by the spirit of liberty in which the country was conceived. The nation he regarded as a poor, dim thing, assembled as a corporate entity, sustained by an 'artificial patriotism.' and given the semblance of meaning only when puffed up with the parade music of a foreign war."

Mr. Lapham uses The Politics of War to provide the hindsight to examine "the chicanery of the present, and by so doing answers questions never asked by the Wall Street Journal or dreamed of in the philosophy of CNN." In the past there have been times when people have been as opposed to governmental policies as we are today. "If by 1890 the Industrial Revolution had made America rich, so also it had alerted the electorate to the unequal division of the spoils. People had begun to notice the loaded dice in the hand of the railroad and banking monopolies, the tax

burden shifted from capital to labor. ...The demand for social and political reform prompted the angry stirring of a Populist movement...—the McKinley Administration came up with a war in Cuba, the conquest of the Philippines, the annexation of Puerto Rico, and an imperialist foreign policy...Only by infecting the republic with the delusion of imperial grandeur could the nation (which exists only in relation to other nations) smother the republican spirit and replace the love of liberty with the love of the flag— every true American a patriot, all political quarrels to be suspended in the interest of 'the national security.'" DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR?

I was unable to get a copy of The Politics of War to read all that Mr. Lapham had left out. But I found two copies of Walter Karp's last book, Liberty Under Siege: American Politics: 1976 - 1988, in the San Antonio Public Library. They were received December 14, 1988. The book I checked out had been taken out once, October 26, 1997, before me. I know that it's hard to be an informed electorate, but in an area of over a million people, only one other person has read this book.

(After I read the accounts of how Congress and both political parties made it impossible for Jimmy Carter to accomplish anything, and how he chose not to expose their vicious tactics, I am amazed that he has recovered to become our finest, most productive ex-president.)

The "let's reduce government (except for the military)" program of the Reagan Administration sounds like today's news. Tax cuts force cuts in programs that help the children, ill and handicapped, aged, poor and unemployed. Then a tremendous build-up in military (and now homeland security) spending that build huge deficits. The aim is to reduce government services to the many, while protecting corporations and the power and wealth of the few.

I miss the American Myth of my youth. People the world over have been charmed by the dream of a government of the people, by the people and for the people! Actually, it has always been "some of the people" with a mission who has worked tenaciously toward their goals, whether it was the Founding Fathers or the present Whitehouse.

Popular demand for social and political reform has happened before. This time we must not be distracted by the war in Iraq from protesting the government's disdain for the common good. Budget cuts have decimated badly needed services not only at the federal level, but also at the state and local levels as well. I look forward to the next Anti-war Community Meeting.

Many thanks go out to the Esperanza community for supporting independent film & video over the years and sharing our excitement for *Other, Out and Beyond: Movement and Struggle*. In particular, we would like to thank the people who contributed to our opening weekend August 22-24.

It wouldn't have happened without you!

- Angel Abrego • Ann E. Atwell
- Carlos Ayala • Pat Benitez
- Carol Bertsch • Elizandro Carrington
- Xochitl Codina • Lacey Dalby
- Brenda Davis • El Milagrito • Espuma
- Anel Flores • Thomas Flower
- Angela Garcia • Joleen Garcia
- Giovanni's • Miguel Gonzalez
- Kristen Gorsline • Leti Guerra
- Paul Harford & Sandy Dunn
- Yvette Huerta & Phil Hall
- Rosalinda Huerta • Amy Kastely
- Lan's Indochine Restaurant
- Liberto of San Antonio
- Ruth Loigren
- Rowena López • Sylvia Lozano
- Madhatter's Tea Emporium
- Arturo Madrid & Antonia Castañeda
- Main Street Pizza & Pasta
- Michael Martinez • Marcos Márquez
- Judy Martinez • Pablo Martinez
- John Mernin • Patrick Morgan
- Dee Murff • Jan Olsen • Emma Pérez
- CoYoTe Phoenix • Martha Prentiss
- Unity Puente & Cristela Treviño
- Robehr Quiñones • Gloria Ramirez
- Sarah Ramos • Delia & Anita Revilla
- Rebecca Rico-Hesse • Arturo Riojas
- Mirasol Riojas • Grace Rosales
- Rosario's Cantina & Restaurant • René Saenz
- Beva Sánchez-Padilla • Graciela Sánchez
- Julian Sapien • Marianna Scuros
- Simi's Indian Cuisine • William Stichnot
- Subway • Eric Tagle • Stan Thomas
- Christina Valero • W.D. Deli



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With the Lourdes Perea concert, the altar para las mujeres de Juarez, the Macondo night, the Pansa Monologues, and the Other, Out, and Beyond this summer has been a whirlwind experience. The work done has been intense. With the dedication of all the volunteers, these events came together beautifully. You are part of the magic that is the Esperanza! Thank you so much for sharing these moments with us.

Con Carino,
Christina Valero

- Angel Abrego • Robbie Botello
- Xochitl Codina • Lacy Dalby • Maria Daw
- Thomas Flower • Angie Garcia
- Joleen Garcia • Christina Garza • Leti Guerra
- Jamila Gutierrez Reyes • Mario Gutierrez
- Maggie Larriva • Rowena Lopez
- Marcos Marquez • Pablo Martinez
- Patrick Morgan • Richie Polando
- Ronnie & Kathy Rangel • Wrono
- Eric Tagle • Stan Thomas • Rosie Torres
- The Women of Mujerartes

Gracias por su trabajo con Esperanza

Buena Suerte to Virginia Grise (Vicki), former staff member, as she returns to teaching for the 2003-2004 school year.



¡Exito! to Marissa Ramirez, former staff member, who is beginning graduate school in the English Department at UTSA.

Community Meetings

Society of Friends Sundays at 10 am at Friends Meeting House, 7052 N. Vandiver, call 945-8456.

Parents/Friends of Lesbians/Gays (PFLAG) First Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Resource Ctr, 121 W. Woodlawn, call 655-2383.

Habitat for Humanity holds Volunteer Orientation on first Tuesdays of each month at 1st Presbyterian Church, 404 N. Alamo, rm 302 at 6 pm.

Amnesty International #127 Fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm at Ashbury United Methodist, call 829-0397.

Circle of the Re-Formed Congregation of the Goddess Third Thursday of each month, 7 pm at the Esperanza, 922 San Pedro. Call 822-9105.

Xicana Xicano Education Project Wednesdays at 6 pm at the Bazan Public Library, 2200 W. Commerce St. Call 437-5196.

San Antonio NOW First Monday of each month at the Resource Ctr, 121 W. Woodlawn. Call Maggie Cronan, 673-8600.

A Multicultural Worship Service is held Sundays at 11 am at **Spirit of Life Lutheran Church**, call Rev. Kay Johnson at 691-5937 in sanctuary of Los Angeles Heights Methodist.

DIGNITY S.A. holds mass every Sunday at 5:15 pm at St. Ann's Convent, call 735-7191.

Fuerza Unida at 710 New Laredo Hwy., Call for information and meeting times, 927-2297.

Proyecto Hospitalidad Liturgy Thursdays at 7 pm at 325 Courtland, call 736-3579.

Bexar County Green Party First Sunday of each month at 2 pm at the VIA Transit Center, 1021 San Pedro, across from Esperanza Center.



Notas Y Más

Brief notes to inform *La Voz* readers about events, issues and happenings in the community. Send announcements for *Notas y Más* to: lavozyesperanzacenter.org or by snail mail to: 922 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212. The deadline is the 12th of each month.

Un taller sobre la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC) se llevará a cabo en el Centro de Esperanza el 8 de septiembre a las 7 pm. Di nó a la Organización Mundial del Comercio. Otro mundo es posible. Para información: 927-2294 o 228-0201.

Gemini Ink's University Without Walls program is pleased to announce Santiago Daydi-Tolson's six week class entitled "El Ensayo Personal en Español." This will be Gemini Ink's first Spanish language writing workshop. The class meets for six Mondays, September 8 – October 13, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at 513 S. Presa. Enrollment is limited to 20 students. Registration deadline is Wednesday, September 3rd. Fee is \$80 member/\$90 non-member. For teachers, this class is accredited for 15 Spanish/Language Arts CPE credits (all levels). Register online at www.geminiink.org or call 734-9673.

Robyn Lundy will speak on "Peace and Healing in the Middle East" Wednesday, September 10 at 7 pm at University Presbyterian Church, 300 Bushnell at Shook. The free talk is sponsored by the San Antonio Tikkun Community. Lundy is national organizer for the Tikkun Community, an interfaith organization dedicated to peace through deeper understanding of political and social issues in the U.S. and Israel/ Palestine. Contact: Jane Tuck, 828-4267

The 7th annual Gemini Ink INKstravaganza gala fundraiser will honor the achievements of author Robert Flynn, this year's recipient of Gemini Ink's Award of Literary Excellence on Sunday, September 14 at the Witte Museum, 3801 Broadway. Festivities commence at 6 p.m. The Award of Literary Excellence honors San Antonio writers who exhibit exceptional quality in their work and have shown a strong commitment to serving the community. Formerly novelist-in-residence at Trinity University, Robert Flynn is the author of seven novels. Tickets for INKstravaganza are \$75 per person and may be purchased by calling the Gemini Ink office at 210.734.9673.

Grupo Animo, the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center's teen theater company, is issuing a call for new 10-minute scripts by students aged 13 – 18. The plays must deal with some aspect of Día de los muertos. Three winning plays will be staged by Grupo Animo on November 1 & 2, 2003. A prize of \$100.00 will be offered to each winner. Winners will be notified on October 3, 2003. Call (210) 271-3151 ext. 26 or contact: marisela_b@guadalupeculturalarts.org Deadline: September 19, 2003.

Gemini Ink is pleased to announce internationally acclaimed author Margaret Atwood as its Fall 2003 Autograph Series reader. Ms. Atwood will give a public reading on Thursday, October 16, 2003 at 7 p.m. at the Charline McCombs Empire Theatre, 226 N. St. Mary's Street. The event is free and open to the public. A noon benefit luncheon honoring Margaret Atwood will follow on Friday, October 17; the event will be held at the Bright Shawl, 819 Augusta Street. Tickets for the luncheon are \$50. Ms. Atwood will complete her stay in San Antonio by teaching a class in fiction, Friday evening from 6 – 9 p.m. Call Gemini Ink at 210.734.9673.

Join Teatro Guadalupe's Discover Animo teen theatre troupe as they explore circus techniques, puppetry and learn about the Día de los muertos tradition. Class will culminate in two public performances. Classes meet on Saturdays, September 20 - November 1, 2003 from 10 am to noon and are limited to twenty students. Class fee is \$65 and includes a \$25 yearly GCAC membership fee. CALL 271-3151 ext. 26.

Inspired by the Freedom riders of the Civil Rights Movement, immigrant workers and their allies will set out in buses from nine major U.S. cities and cross the country, stopping in dozens of cities, in late September, 2003. They will converge on Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Congress and then travel on to Flushing Meadows Park, Queens, New York for a mass rally on October 4, 2003. To get involved in the Immigrant Worker Freedom Ride contact your local coalition or visit

www.Iwfr.org.

The Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) invites all science researchers, students and educators to attend the 2003 SACNAS National Conference and K-12 Teacher Workshops in Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 2-5th. Join us in celebrating thirty years of encouraging excellence in science and promoting graduate education! Visit www.sacnas.org or <http://www.sacnas.net/confNew/confClient/> for details.

On the heels of a major Supreme court victory for gay and lesbian civil rights, Lavender Law 2003, the annual conference on LGBT legal issues of the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association and Foundation (NLGLA/ NLGLF) will take place at Fordham University School of Law in New York City from Friday, October 17 through Sunday, October 19, 2003. The Lesbian and Gay Law Association of Greater New York (LeGaL) is co-sponsoring the event. Visit the conference website at www.lavenderlaw.org

The first SisterSong: Women of Color Reproductive Health and Sexual Rights National Conference will take place November 13-16, 2003 at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference will bring together women of color activists, direct service providers, policymakers, and allies to discuss and develop strategies to improve the reproductive health of women of color in the U.S. Women of color have not come together in a national conference to discuss these issues since 1989. Contact: www.sistersong.net

The Southwest Workers Union founded in 1988 celebrates its 15th Anniversary -quince años de lucha on December 13th, 2003 in San Antonio, Texas. Save the date and look for this upcoming pachanga! Contact: Co-Directors: Che López or Genaro Rendón López at (210) 299-2666 or swu@igc.org



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Make checks payable to the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center. Send to 927 San Pedro, SA TX 78212. Donations to the Esperanza are tax deductible.

The San Antonio Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union presents the

Maury Maverick, Sr Awards Dinner

Wednesday, October 15th at the Menger Hotel
cocktail reception from 6pm to 7pm

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Morris Dee
of the Southern Poverty Law Center & winner of the
2003 Maury Maverick Sr. Award

Honorees of the *Awards for Special Service* include
Mary Lou Miller of the San Antonio Chapter of the ACLU,
Mary Nell Maloney & Dan Ramos

for information call 226-6121 or 732-8551

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2003

new bodies of work from Laura Aguilar

Laura Aguilar's "Motions" & "Center," black and white photography exhibit, is part of a series of exhibitions featuring Chicana/Latina/Indigena artists funded in part by The Andy Warhol Foundation.