

# La VOZ de Esperanza

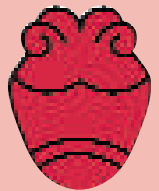
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**Tlasohtla: El Amor Tiene Muchas Caras**  
exhibit opens February 12, 2005

**Chisholm '72 - Unbought & Unbossed**  
screens February 5, 2005

**The ACCD Bond & PGA - Defining Moments**



# 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, instructive, & thoughtful. Submissions must be literate & critical; not sexist, racist, homophobic, violent, or oppressive. Articles 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 Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.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 art:  
La Partera  
By Deborah Vásquez

## Diez y ocho años ....eighteen years and counting on more

-Graciela Sánchez, director of Esperanza Center

In her 18 years de vida, Esperanza has learned the intricate art of community organizing en este pueblo pobre which continues to be colonized by a small, but wealthy group of individuals. The people of San Antonio have suffered hundreds of years of violent repression and cultural genocide. Yet, we survive by active resistance, courageous perseverance, and creative invention. Esperanza learns from and contributes to this tradition by creating language, strategies and techniques that can be found in the day to day struggles of community cultural organizing. So, we continue the work of challenging institutionalized oppression on local and global levels or else, ¿para que vivir?

¿Qué hemos hecho este año? We began 2004 like other years helping to organize the citywide MLK march, putting forth a strong anti-war voice in this militaristic, Homeland Security headquarters, town. Without taking a break, we helped to organize community testimony at the 2<sup>nd</sup> FCC "Town Hall" Hearing on Localism which focused on new FCC regulations allowing even greater consolidation in the ownership of TV and radio stations. The 1<sup>st</sup> Town Hall Hearing, in North Carolina, was dominated by representatives of corporate media. It was important to have strong community input at this hearing in San Antonio. With less than a month to organize, we worked with national media action groups and local groups to hold workshops in different parts of the city, phone calling, e-mailing, leafletting, and assisting in the preparation of testimony. On the day of the event, lots of Buena Gente lined up in the cold pre-dawn hours to sign up to speak, some even brought pup tents and blankets.



City Hall was filled with more than 500 predominantly people of color at the hearing. Speakers challenged the FCC's failure to protect the public's airways, allowing a virtual monopoly by right-wing machines like Clear Channel and Viacom. They related how local media fails to cover concerns that are important, especially to communities of color. Some challenged the FCC's own disregard for other languages, including sign language, an oversight that reveals the low value the FCC places on community input. The FCC hearing set the tone for active involvement in 2004 by Buena Gente concerned about peace and social justice issues.

Actions and events in 2004 often overlapped or were organized over a period of time and included cultural and political offerings. Esperanza worked with long-time ACLU activist and Esperanza supporter Jane Tuck, David Plylar and others for over nine months to discuss, organize and educate ourselves and our community about the PATRIOT Act and its implications for San Antonio. We asked City Council to join 300 U.S. cities in limiting the local use of invasive Patriot Act powers which would permit law enforcement officials unlimited access to homes and public institutions without adhering to proper procedures. Thousands signed petitions, made phone calls, and sent emails. Community members presented more than 3 hours of testimony before City Council on how the Patriot Act would impact the San Antonio community. Council rejected our proposal, one of several important decisions to come in 2004 revealing their unwillingness to defend the rights of people against the interests of money and power. At the same time, cultural programming continued at Esperanza.

For over five months folks like Verónica Prida, Ellen Riojas Clark, Josie Garza, Ron Kolodzie, George Prado, Jose Rubén De Leon, Celso Guzmán, Frances Herrera and Miguel González joined with Sandra Cisneros, Esperanza staff and Buena Gente to organize and present el espectáculo, *El Rebozo de Caramelo*. The performance included

•18 años continued on page 4•

VOZ VISION STATEMENT: *La Voz de Esperanza* speaks for many individual, progressive voices who are gente-based, multi-visioned and *milagrobound*. 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.

## Trasohitla: Citlali

### El Amor Tiene Muchas Caras

Reception / Exhibit at 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 12, 2005

Esperanza Center  
922 San Pedro  
210.228.0201

Admission, free!  
Donations welcome



In *Trasohitla: El Amor Tiene Muchas Caras*, Citlali rejects the sugary concoction that our society has made of love, instead, exploring love's deepest faces. Using the Nahuatl term, *Trasohitla*, which means "to love," Citlali's love is for *la gente* and the social justice they deserve. In the process, she challenges war, cultural tourism, and the Bible as interpreted by White men, finding her divine inspiration in the erotic imagining of her mother's embrace.

Born of indigenous goddesses, Citlali is a ferocious beauty, a woman made sensual because she is fearless and loving. *Trasohitla* for *la gente* is more powerful than violence, as Citlali protects and defends women, her *cultura* and Mother Earth.

Working in a mix of traditional materials, like *huipil* fabric, but revitalizing them in a contemporary context, Debra Kuetzpalin Vásquez brings *Citlali* to the Esperanza Center to show us that love has many faces.

*Trasohitla*, in Citlali's super-defiant eyes, is worth fighting for.



February 12 – May 31, 2005

**Trasohitla: El Amor Tiene Muchas Caras**

a solo exhibition of new chicana artwork by  
**deborah kuetzpalin vasquez**

Esperanza Peace & Justice Center • 210-228-0201

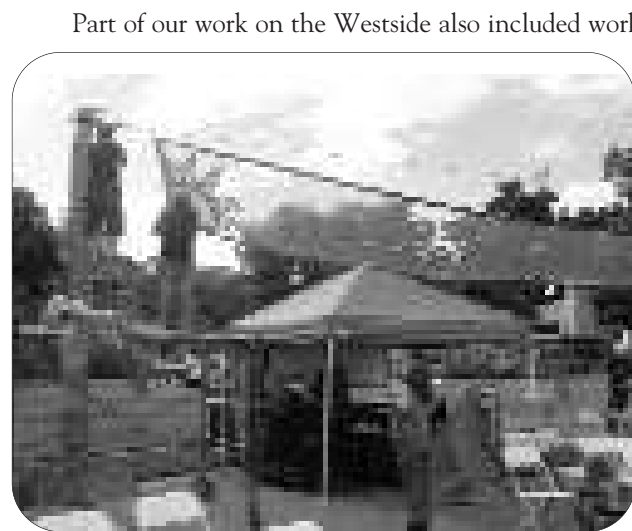
cuentos from Sandra's novel, *Caramelo*, songs from México's past, and actual rebozos worn from the collection of Doña María Luisa Camacho de López who was the guest of honor. Gente wore vestuario Mexicano, elegante o sencillo and ate and danced to the strains of the George Prado Orchestra. It was one of several memorable cultural events in 2004 which would include readings by prominent authors working with Sandra on another evening, Macondo Night.



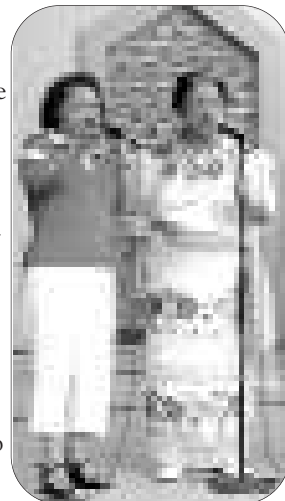
Our work in the Westside community was exemplified by our Arte es Vida project which promotes cultural grounding as a crucial part of individual and community empowerment. People of color, women, queer people, immigrants and the poor have often been taught to devalue our cultures, our histories, and ourselves. These lessons are ingrained in our minds and hearts, creating barriers to positive change. Arte es Vida features pláticas with our elders and cultural programming which allows us to learn and value cultural wisdom and traditions.

Highlights of the Arte es Vida programming include the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday concert and Homenaje to Rita Vidaurri, la cancionera del Westside. Rita sang her heart out at Plaza Guadalupe in May and ended 2004 with the release of a new CD, *La Calandria*, at the Esperanza Center in December. Her voice and professionalism at 80 is amazing. With the recovery of Rita Vidaurri's life history as a singer we have become keenly aware of the need to reclaim the rich cultural history of the Westside of San Antonio by talking to our elders, recovering the stories they have to share. We continue to train community members in conducting oral histories and gathering cultural surveys with help from UTSA faculty and staff, Norma Cantu, Dennis Medina, and Liz de la Portilla.

The premiere cultural coup of the year also took place at Guadalupe Plaza as part of the Arte es Vida project with Rita Vidaurri opening for the *Lila Downs en el Westside Concert*. Over 100 buena gente helped make the Lila concert and reception a success, and Lila herself, an international star, reportedly remarked that it was one of her best concerts ever!



Part of our work on the Westside also included working with Hope, Action, Care, the Diabetes Center, Avenida Guadalupe, San Jacinto Elder Housing and Councilwoman Patti Radle's District 5 office to create community gardens and altars. Bernard and Isabel Sánchez began planting marigolds in August, and Michael Marínez continued planting gardens in the Westside through the fall. At the same time, Esperanza staff and buena gente contributed to the restoration and historical designation of casitas which would have otherwise been destroyed. In addition, a group met to clean graves at the historic San Fernando Cemetery No. 1 on Día de los Muertos.



Other Día de los Muertos activities included co-sponsoring a visit by the Caravan on the Women of Juárez. Working with the Mexico Solidarity Network and the downtown UTSA Women's Studies Institute, representatives from the

Caravan joined Dr. Alicia Gaspar de Alba to speak on the murders of over 300 young Mexican women along the Juárez/El Paso border. After the discussion, folks were invited to the MujerArtes' Casita on El Paso street to eat and share stories on their work in justicia social. The evening ended with a live teatro de la calle performance by Cristal Rojas, Andrea Greimel, Laura Codina, Marisa González and Joaquin Abrego, followed by musicians from the Conjunto Heritage Taller highlighting the women accordionists. An unexpected pilón was Jessica Guerrero's father who stopped by with his trio to sing us a few songs to while away the evening.

This new year, 2005, will be the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MujerArtes. During 2004, MujerArtes ventured out to develop several art exhibits and sales. Beginning with the very successful Día de las Madres exhibit in May, the women then moved forward to create work for Día de los Muertos, the Peace Market, and for Día de la Virgen. MujerArtes has been so successful that the program is filled to capacity with no more room at La Casita for more.

La Voz, edited by Gloria Ramirez, has been Esperanza's gift to the community. The



Photo by Joan Fredrick

newsjournal educates us with the words and thoughts of community writers who send in their contributions by e-mail or drop them off by the Center. A special summer issue of La Voz was dedicated to Gloria E. Anzaldúa and continues to be requested throughout the U.S.

Throughout the year, Esperanza worked with community groups and individuals to continue anti-war and anti-imperialism work presenting films, art shows (The WARRR exhibit), panels, and pláticas; organizing marches and rallies; and writing articles in La Voz. Films in 2004 included the Other, Out and Beyond's 20 y 10 Film festival on the Zapatista movement; The *Fourth World War* film on globalization from Big Noise Films which brought Richard Rowley, filmmaker; *Jane: An Abortion Service* co-sponsored with Planned Parenthood; and *Every Mother's Son* which brought Tami Gold, filmmaker and Iris Baez who began the mother's movement against police brutality in New York City. We ended the year screening *Afghan Massacre, the Convoy of Death*. We also worked with CAIR, Council on American-Islamic Relations hosting a press conference in response to hate-crimes against the Arab-Muslim community in SA.



The Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras cosponsored the plática and book signing of the *Children of NAFTA* with author David Bacon and director of CJM, Marta Ojeda. Other plática/book signings included *Homegirls In the Public Sphere* by Keta Miranda with two of the young women from Los Angeles interviewed in the book. Marches and rallies continued throughout the year including the annual Women's Day March and Rally and the Cesar Chavez March and Rally.

Our work on environmental racism and the protection of San Antonio's invaluable drinking water lasted throughout 2004 and into 2005. Several months of research by an ad hoc committee on the 2002 PGA Village Agreement was presented to community members in a series of meetings at the Esperanza that presented evidence of the Agreement's illegality, disclosing important changes made after City Council's approval; lost pages, including the important Wage Standards Agreement; and other legal



#### Challenges and Changes



In the face of these community challenges, PGA of America withdrew the deal. At the end of 2004, in a move dubbed "PGA 3" the Mayor and Council jammed through a new deal, PGA Tour. Ultimately, city council passed this last PGA deal with great disregard for the public's concern for our water and for the democratic process. (More on this, in issue of La Voz)

The Esperanza has faced serious financial challenges in 2004 requiring difficult changes. Over the past three years, we have seen foundation support for progressive community-based organizations drop substantially. Foundations typically grant only a small percentage of their net income, thus the total amount of foundation funding has decreased with drops in the stock market. More importantly, foundations have responded to political and ideological shifts to the right by restructuring and rethinking their funding strategies. In addition, pressure from the Bush Administration and other right-wing groups has led many foundations to avoid funding organizations that may be viewed as "radical" or "controversial."

Understanding the power of arts in people of color communities, a central strategy of right-wing organizing has been to target arts and cultural education and effectively label people of color cultural groups as divisive and unpatriotic, causing even "liberal" funders to shy away from funding grassroots organizations. People of color organizations in the South have been particularly hard-hit by foundations' shifting priorities. The Open Society Foundation's Southern Initiative, for example, with its plan for multi-year support for progressive organizing in the Southern States (including Texas), was dismantled, and the Gill Foundation's special project focusing on people of color organizing was terminated recently, also.

The "Anti-Terrorism" pledge that the Bush Administration now requires for all organizations receiving federal funds has intensified the move away from progressive organizations, like the Esperanza, that have programming supportive of the struggles of Palestinians and other Arab people. As a progressive, multi-issue, anti-war, activist cultural and educational organization, the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center has been among the



hardest hit. Foundation grants, which have supplied significant project support for the Esperanza budget, have dropped to approximately one-third of what they were even two years ago. We have seen the effects of political pressure in several grant decisions. One national foundation, for example, gave us an initial grant with an explicit assurance of multi-year funding to follow and then abruptly terminated the grant.

Historically, foundation grants have been approximately one-sixth of the Esperanza's total financial support, with another one-sixth coming from local, state, and national governmental grants, and the other two-thirds from individual donations, ticket and merchandise sales. We do not take corporate funding. Following the defunding by the city in 1997, we increased our focus on private foundation funding and it ultimately rose to be more than a third of our annual budget. This increase allowed us to expand our programming and number of paid staff. During the same period, individual donations have remained steady. We know that community members will always be the primary support for the Esperanza, but with less money in our communities due to the economy, we cannot expect to make up for lost foundation grants.



Sadly, in response to these events, we have had to take measures to insure the Esperanza continues to operate in the coming years by, first cutting back on our staff. Esperanza is now operating on a budget significantly smaller than those of the past two years. The Board of Directors has worked for months to address this challenge and concluded there was no other way to insure our survival.

Esperanza has been fortunate to have had talented and committed staff-members. Four staff-members moved on to new endeavors earlier in 2004. Mirasol Riojas and Esperanza Garza are now teaching, Jamila Reyes Gutiérrez, an intern, is now attending college in Chicago and Christina Valero is pursuing other opportunities. Recent cutbacks in staff have led Herminia Maldonado to return to full time studies and Pat Benitez continues with her independent accounting business. Joleen Garcia continues dedicated to her activism with various organizations at this time and Brenda Davis continues as a buena gente volunteer with the Esperanza Arte es Vida project.

The only full time staff who are continuing in their positions at Esperanza are Graciela Sánchez and Rene Saenz who are responsible for daily operations. Part time and consultant staff include Elizandro Carrington, technical and graphics staff, Jessica Fuentes, office management, Cindy Rodríguez, Mujerartes coordinator, Steve Arredondo, La Voz layout and Irma Mayorga who is working on the upcoming art exhibit with Deborah Vásquez. In addition, Fabiola Torralba and Kimberly Castañón are interning from UTSA and Incarnate Word.



There's much to do. Esperanza will now depend even more on the work and contribution of Buena Gente. We need your help. We will be holding meetings in the next several months to plan programming and fundraising. Please feel free to share your thoughts about how the Esperanza can continue to move forward in an age that is increasingly hostile to organizations such as ours and yet is needed to provide sanctuary and stability for those committed to peace and justice. We want your ideas, your passion, your commitment and your financial support to continue the work of hope for a better world in the years to come. Call 210/ 228-0201 to become part of our Buena Gente volunteers or to become involved with the Dale Shine al Westside project collecting and recovering our cultural/historical heritage. Hay esperanza.

### 2004 Cultural Arts Event of the Year?

Editor's note: Even though the *Lila Downs en el Westside* event at Plaza Guadalupe was attended by 3,000 people outdoors after a rainstorm, it made barely a ripple in the mainstream media. When asked, what Sandra considered to be the cultural event of the year, she responded:

*I think it would have to be Lila Downs coming to town and the tremendous and excellent work Esperanza did in bringing her FOR FREE to the public, on the WEST Side, ¿tu crees?. An unbelievable coup. They did a splendid job of bringing all ages to an ALCOHOL-FREE event. ...one of the most historic events of the year.... No, I amend that—in the 20 years I've lived in Texas! and you can quote me on that one!*

 Sandra Cisneros 

Photo by Joan Fredrick



## ACCD Bond - A Defining Moment for San Antonio

By Eleanor A. Bernal

### Nettie Hinton - A Tireless Advocate for the Defeat of the ACCD Bond

When Freedom finally made its way to Texas, Isabella Scott walked away from her slave life in Fredericksburg and kept walking until she reached San Antonio. Her great granddaughter, Nettie Patricia Hinton, a third generation native San Antonian relates her family's history with pride and respect. It is the strength and support of family, her life long membership in the Catholic Church and her educational and work experiences that Ms. Hinton credits with shaping her view of the world and San Antonio's place in it. Her major areas of interest are Community Vitality, Arts and Culture, and the Environment, interrelated elements of a dynamic vision.

Conspicuously absent from Ms. Hinton's autobiographical remarks are mention of her numerous awards and honors. Two recent examples are the Artemia Bowden Award from St. Phillips College and the African American Reflections' Harriet Tubman Award.

Her thirty year career in the U.S. Customs Agency included many years of service in Washington D.C., as well as extensive work-related travel in Africa, Asia and the Pacific Basin.

"Travel in the Third World helped me see what America is supposed to be about; it deepened my understanding of the slavery experience and how it still pervades everything that happens in this country. We are really a country in its infancy and we have not internalized what are on the documents on which this country was founded. We don't 'walk the talk.' and people can see through that, can see the truth.

When I returned to where I grew up, the Eastside of San Antonio, the place had crumbled; where I grew up didn't exist. Young people who were looking for opportunities left because the perception was that opportunities were not there. Areas of San Antonio had come to decay by neglect. Money and projects were going to other parts of town which resulted in a disinvestment in the Eastside. People who stayed were trying to survive within a starved infrastructure. New populations, dislocated from low-income housing that had been demolished did the best they could with what they could find."

She talks about the changing demographics of the Eastside and her concern that community interests will not triumph if Blacks and Hispanics are pitted against each other. One culprit she mentions are what are often called "high-level invisible strings" that are pulled at the expense of the community.

Some of those "invisible strings" have been brought into sharp focus in the contentious ACCD Bond election. The dividing issue is the removal of the Nursing and Allied Health Training Programs now at St. Phillips and San Antonio College to relocate them in a proposed one hundred million dollar facility to be located in the Medical Center. Ms. Hinton was a member of a large Citizens' Committee whose mission it was to determine what the district needed and to translate those needs into bond components. "They never intended to make the site selection public until after the election. They expected the voters to give the District a blank check. Community outrage during the process forced them to deal with the location."

"Community reactions prompted a second ACCD meeting but the decision remained the same - that the Medical Center area would house the new facility. This issue has been portrayed in mainstream media as the Eastside against the world, but that is simply not accurate. The Allied Health Degrees Programs that would be wrenched from their homes if the bond passes, meet the needs of numerous primary care offices and facilities throughout the city. This program has been in place for over thirty years. The B.A. Degrees in Nursing offered by the Health Science Center are an option some graduates of these programs pursue, but many complete terminal ten month and two year degrees and become part of the health care community at that time. "

### "Setting the Record Straight"

Citizens' groups including The Committee for Better Bonds, of which Ms. Hinton is a member, are working to bring accurate information about this Bond to the public arena. Prominent and knowledgeable members of the San Antonio and Bexar County medical communities have presented compelling reasons that the Programs be housed in a central location outside the Medical Center. Ms. Hinton shared a copy of a letter written to Mr. Charlie Connor, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Alamo Community College District, and

•bond issue continued on next page•

### The PGA Tour decision was not made in a historical vacuum.

Editor's note: The historical review of the PGA Tour decision that follows was excerpted and updated from a presentation made January 3, 2005 by former councilwoman María Berriozábal at the City Council hearings. With no public debate from the council, they voted to build over the aquifer knowing--that that will mean our pristine water source will be seriously jeopardized.



Most disturbing (as noted by María), is that between the public hearing on January 3rd and the City Council vote on January 6th, where many citizens presented testimony regarding insufficient information about the project and asked many questions, more negative changes were made. The non-annexation period was increased from 25 to 29 years and where the previous non-annexation agreement prohibited Bexar County from granting public incentives (Tax Increment Finance District) for Lumberman's property, the final agreement removed this prohibition.

For four decades, city growth has been shaped by governmental decisions (that were designed to maximize the profits of a few powerful insiders, rather than serve the needs of the people of San Antonio) without regard to proper planning. (The connections between the PGA Tour decision and the upcoming Bond election are self-evident. Read on!-the editor) PGA continued on Page 8



# High Level Invisible Strings: The Community Standard for Politics in San Antonio Today



•bond issue continued from previous page•

signed by Dr. Robert Jimenez, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Center for Health Care Services. This letter was delivered before the second meeting took place. Dr. Jimenez wrote:

“...We wish to set the record straight that the best educational opportunities for the students that will be trained at this health care campus are located in the downtown vicinity and not on the northside of our city. The location of the health facility in the empowerment zone will assure the following:

- (1) The health campus will be in the heart of the largest concentration of premiere health care facilities that serve the majority of our community, especially the poor, the working poor of the southside, eastside and westside of the county;
- (2) The downtown region has the largest array of healthcare services, far greater than in the northside of our community;
- (3) The downtown area location is easily accessible to all regions of the county, especially the northside;
- (4) The downtown region is the area where all the innovative programs are taking place in the health care delivery in our community...

The facts of the matter are that the downtown region not only has property available but contains the richest, most diverse, and exciting opportunities for students in the health care campus you have in mind. The northside of the city especially the medical center cannot compete with the opportunities that are available in the downtown region. ... The medical, mental health, drug rehabilitation, and surgical programs are growing by leaps and bounds in the downtown region. It is the best example of true cooperation between the academic, public and private sectors in bringing cutting edge health care, research and teaching opportunities to this region of the State, ...”

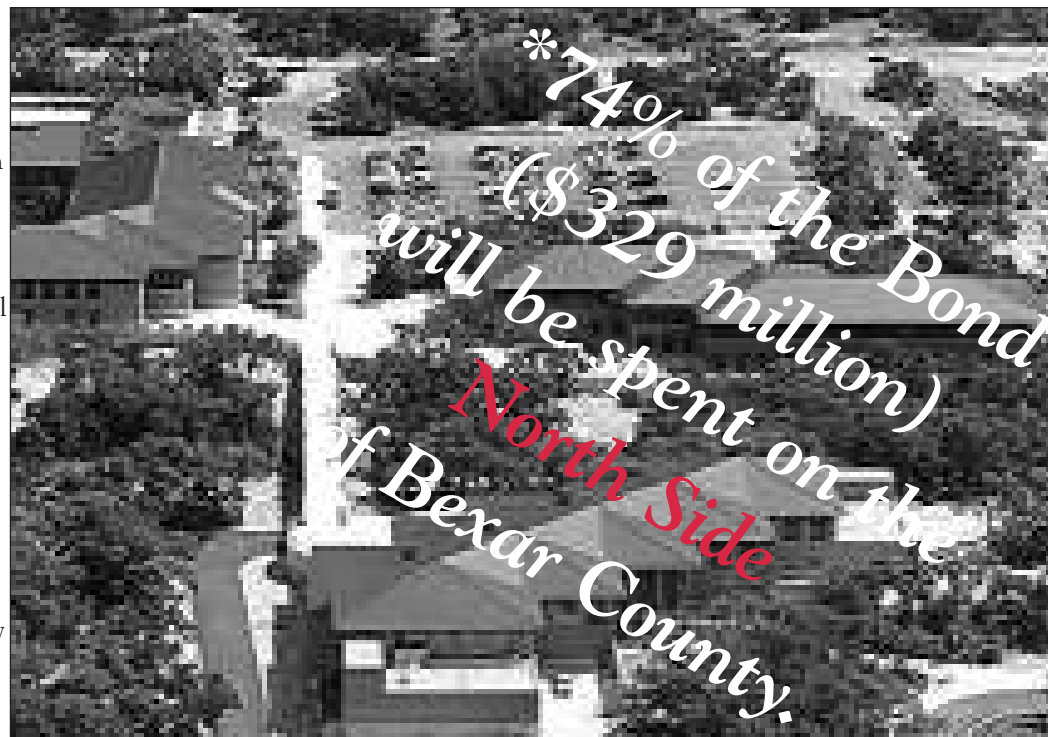
Signed, Robert L. Jimenez, MD . F.A.P.A.  
Chairman, Board of Trustees  
Center for Health Care Services

## “Vote It Down! Send It Back! Do It Right!”

Ms. Hinton reflects on the 2nd meeting, which was called after an overwhelmingly negative community reaction to the Medical Center location. She noted the Board’s total disregard for the people who spoke.

“ At the end of the session, State Senator Van de Putte, State Representative; Robert Puente, County Commissioner; Tommy Adkisson; representatives of the medical community and all of us tax-paying citizens were told, in effect: ‘We, the ACCD Board majority, are wise--you are not. We, the ACCD Board majority, are powerful--you are not. We, the ACCD Board majority, have the machinery and the money to win this bond initiative--you don’t. We, the ACCD Board majority, understand that the people of San Antonio, especially those in under served minority communities do not vote--you are apathetic, don’t pay taxes, don’t care about issues. We, the ACCD Board majority, know intelligent voters with deep pockets live in the Northside--you do not. We, the ACCD Board majority, know that what’s best for the northside is best for San Antonio--you just haven’t figured it out yet.’”

Ms. Hinton added that she knows that people all over town are dismayed by this old-style divide and conquer mentality which the Board has revived, and that it’s hard for some people to



believe that this is the community standard for politics in San Antonio today. She expressed her concern that the Board has presented the issue in a way that is meant to browbeat voters into voting for this Bond. Statements printed in local newspapers by Mr. Connor, Chairman of the ACCD Board, state it would take “two to four years” and “more than a year” to bring another Bond to the public if this one is defeated. (*La Prensa* on January 16, 2005 and in the *Express-News* on January 19, 2005.)

“In fact,” Ms. Hinton explains, “there is NO legal restriction on when another election could be called. We could have another vote in May. If the need is there, and no one doubts that it is, if the Bond is defeated because of one issue--the need for capacity still exists. The Board has the responsibility to come back to the Community.”

The Board insists that voters must irrevocably decide between “all” or “nothing”. People in small community groups are being told that if they vote this Bond down, they will not be able to bring back another. Not only is this incorrect, but is an effort to hide the Board’s decision-making process. The Board structured this Bond with everything bundled together, but that wasn’t its only alternative, particularly in the face of mounting public concern. The Board had the opportunity to

postpone the election; it had the opportunity to remove the Medical Facility from the Bond, but it did not.

The ACCD Board’s action has been fraught with obscured information and misinformation. The reports of the Consultants who selected the Medical Center site were deemed “confidential” until LULAC, under the Freedom of Information Act, consulted legal counsel to gain access to the reports.

Keenly aware of all that has transpired, the Community of Churches for Social Action (CCSA) advocates the following solution “Vote It Down! Send It Back! Do It Right!” Members rightfully call for a transparent process and a place at the table when decisions are made that affect the future of San Antonio for many years to come. The coalition set forth the following information about the Bond:

- \* Only 26% of the Bond will be spent at San Antonio College, St. Phillip’s College and Palo Alto College .
  - \* 74% of the Bond (\$329 million) will be spent on the North Side of Bexar County.
  - \* 81.9 % of ACCD students attend San Antonio College, St. Phillip’s College and Palo Alto College but only receive 26% of the Bond.
  - \* The 17 million that SAC, St. Philip’s and Palo Alto will receive is to **remove** the Nursing and Allied Health Programs.
  - \* The Nursing and Allied Health Programs from San Antonio College and St. Phillip’s College will be removed and placed in the Medical Center.
- “Vote It Down! Send it Back! Do It Right!” reiterates Ms. Hinton. “It’s time for the citizens of San Antonio to take back our city.”

Eleanor A. Bernal is a parent, educator and freelance writer/editor who lives in ACCD District One. She wants nothing less than a united, educated San Antonio, where children who grow up want to stay here because of the myriad opportunities that abound. For more information go to: [ramonassociates.com](http://ramonassociates.com) and check Committee for Better Bonds or call 387-7929.

### In 1966 - An Election was held to create the Bexar County Hospital District.

- The voters said, NO!
- The Bexar County Commissioners Court overruled the vote and created the hospital district.
- The Downtown Robert B. Green Hospital was closed, medical services were relocated to the Northside medical school area, out of reach of poor and elderly people, spurring rapid growth and huge profits for the insiders who had purchased surrounding land.



María notes that although the Medical Center has brought many benefits to the city, the consequence of this move and those that followed--without urban, much less social planning--is that the growth of the city was directed to the North and over our sole source of water, the Edwards Aquifer. (Big money developments come from building on open space. Instead of focusing the city’s resources on renovating and maintaining our downtown neighborhoods, city and county officials have used public resources to generate billions of dollars in private profits and have been willing partners in the social, economic, health and educational deterioration of the city’s downtown, west, east and southsides.) As urban sprawl has pushed northward, major disinvestments in the west, east and southsides of the city have followed. These have contributed to the social, economic, health and educational inequalities we see in our city today.

PGA continued on Page 9

### In 1969 - The UT Board of Regents voted to create UTSA.

- Although local groups recommended inner-city and Southside sites, the campus is now located 17 miles north of downtown – OVER the Edwards Recharge Zone. (Again, resources were taken from existing neighborhoods to spur private profits from new development and city officials concealed or ignored the risk to the city’s sole source of water.)



The City limits moved northward.



### In 1975- Citizens begin to organize to protect the aquifer.

- Henry B. Gonzalez added “sole source” protection to the Edwards Aquifer.
- Development was slowed down but S.A. City Council(s) moved to make zoning changes that would create the opportunity for more intense development.

PGA continued on Page 10

PGA continued...

In 1991 - City Council granted developers of Fiesta Texas a major tax abatement:

- The park was built and development crossed 1604.
- Over the years more development has followed in this area.
- Now there are three major malls proposed for intersection of IH 10 and Loop 1604. (The profit-driven quest for new development continues to push north, despite increasingly obvious risks to the Aquifer and increasingly desperate deterioration in other parts of the city.)

*Development to the north and northwest has intensified.*

Presently, we are experiencing the ill effects of unplanned growth in the northern areas of the city:

Traffic congestion, overcrowded schools, pollution, and ever-increasing flooding, because of increased paving. Most important, great risk to our only source of water. To date, we do not even know the damage that has been done to the aquifer.

In January 2005 – The PGA Tour vote passed with only one council person voting NO.

This is a major public decision that will accelerate development to the Northeast even more and over the recharge zone.

The decision was made without regard to the following points:

- Public incentives were not needed there to promote growth.

María notes that now there is a vision of development of the South Side. With current plans for annexations in the southern sector of San Antonio, and with Toyota coming to that area, incentives could have best been used there to encourage good, balanced and planned growth.

The decision was NOT ...

PGA Tour project vs. “thousands of houses” with no government oversight.

City Council had several other options that were not publicly debated.

1. The use of eminent domain powers, for example, was used to obtain land for the Alamodome.
2. Enforcement of the aquifer protection ordinance.
3. Placing the issue up for a public vote.
4. Extending the comment period.

- Protection of the Edwards Aquifer is a major public need. The land in question has some of the most sensitive recharge features in the entire recharge zone.

María notes that this would be a powerful reason for the city to use its rights of eminent domain.

- Recognition that the PODAP filed in 1995 and the so-called “plat” of 1/8 acre filed in 1996 did not establish grandfathering rights for the 2600 acre Lumberman’s property.

The City could have thereby enforced the aquifer protection ordinance which limits impervious cover to 15% and the city would not have given up taxes for 25 years.

- The extension of the public comment period should have occurred –*this critical vote should not have been rushed, (public scrutiny of our water source is essential).*

- Following the Democratic process

This has been a most flawed process. The Process should not have been rushed on an issue that will impact our city for decades to come. If the Council felt confident in its support of the PGA Tour project it should have provided more time and transparency.

Our Sacred Water

- Each time the people of San Antonio have been given a choice, over and over they have voted to protect their water. The people understand that we have an extraordinary blessing in our Edwards Aquifer. We have a great responsibility to protect it for future generations. What will history say about you (this council)?

Editor’s note: Thank you to Amy Kastely who added comments noted in parenthesis ( ).



# PGA is Coming to Town - Goliath Wins the Re-Match

By Larry Boudreau

In the Old Testament of the Judeo-Christian Bible, there is a story about a virtuous little man, and an evil giant, Goliath. David with one stone-throw fells Goliath and saves the people. The moral is that David won, not because he was bigger and stronger, but because his cause was just, and good should conquer evil.

San Antonio, today, proves that good has a hard time winning against the giant. More often than not, (with notable exceptions like the Applewhite Reservoir), the little Davids of San Antonio are being knocked from pillar to post by the giant that controls our city government. The giant can't be killed with just one stone; because, like a monster in mythology, this giant has many heads. One head appears as a typical banker/financier; one head looks like a land developer; one head appears to be the owners of a construction company; another head looks like an accommodating bureaucrat from the Chamber of Commerce. But, each of these heads is really a separate entity. And though the heads often oppose each other, they unite when the system that serves each of their interests is threatened. And, their faithful mascot is a figure that looks like City Hall. This figure, usually quiet and obedient, is always ready to do the bidding of the giant who pays its election bills.

We find another parallel (in the Christian Bible) in recent activities of our local government. When Jesus of Nazareth, the God-made-human of Christians, became a problem to the system of political economy of his time, by daring to attack the moneylenders (read “bankers”) in the Temple, he too challenged an unjust system. Though traditional enemies, the Romans and Jews who controlled the political, economic and religious life of the nation, found common ground and joined forces to eliminate Jesus. Five days after Jesus attacked the bankers in the Temple, he was condemned to death under the pretext that it was “for the good of the people.” The powers that be, put aside their differences and joined forces to protect their system of political economy.

We have just celebrated the sequel to the murder of Jesus in the person of the great reformer called Martin Luther King. MLK is a clear example of how the system works today. As an integral reformer, MLK was a thorn in the side of our system of political economy. Now that he is dead, the system can celebrate him with impunity. The lesson that we learn from Jesus and MLK is one that has been repeated down the years and is still being repeated here in our own community. In the first PGA assault on the Edward’s Aquifer, the people of San Antonio came together and had seemingly defeated the giant. But like the villain in a B movie, it was only a flesh wound. In fact the giant made a complete recovery. The Spin-Doctors went to work, put a new coat of paint on the old PGA facade, and claimed to offer a new project. Once again the Spin was on.

*["Spin is essentially the trick of basing one's entire case on a small bit of truth. This tactic serves to disguise a large amount of dubious facts or outright lies. This is the same tactic that the Bush Administration used to declare a war on Iraq by spinning invisible Weapons of Mass Destruction into the hands of Saddam Hussein."]*

The irony of this story is that the little people of San Antonio never really opposed PGA's plan to build two more exclusive golf courses except for the problems dealing with overly generous giveaways. Building a rich person's playground might even produce

some little bit of prosperity for the general population. But, what makes this project repulsive to the people of San Antonio is that PGA is proposing to add to the already thousands of structures that have been and are being built over one of the most perfect works of nature, a crystalline pure source of drinking water: the Edwards Aquifer. And, since easy money follows easy money, now that it has been approved, this will probably be the prelude to more construction over the Aquifer.

If the special interests that have controlled this project since the beginning had chosen to locate the PGA playground in any other part of our city, there would have been little or no complaint. The fact that the principle promoter owned land over the Aquifer stifled any alternatives to build elsewhere. In addition, the City Council refused to protect the land over the aquifer by using the power of Eminent Domain or any other legal power. With only one opposing vote, this Council has hastened the day when a future Council will have to build a water purification plant over the aquifer.

Being good spin-doctors, the powers that be managed to channel the discussion into an agenda that favored their own special interests. They now claim that they have devised a system to cut down on the amount of pollution that the first project would have dumped into the Aquifer. What was unspoken in emphasizing this new system is that it will still continue to pollute. The point citizens of San Antonio want to make, is not to simply cut down on the amount of pollution, but rather to eliminate any further pollution of the Aquifer.

Until the City Council listens to the voice of all the people and firmly rejects the argument that a project, which produces less pollution than its predecessor, is good for the community, the spin, will carry the day. Unless the people of San Antonio really begin to recognize the difference between informing through the art of Spin, and conveying accurate information, this giant will continue to deceive people until it is too late to save our precious aquifer.

An honest and honorable solution to the PGA proposal would have been to allow the people to vote on it. The fact that they never even considered putting the issue to a vote indicates that they felt that it would probably lose. Like the Applewhite debate a few years ago, which the people voted down, a vote on PGA would have been a truly democratic solution. That it was never even considered indicates where all but one of our councilpersons owes their loyalty.

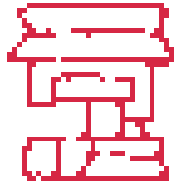
Until effective Campaign Finance Reform is enacted, the City Council will continue to be a dutiful mascot to the special interests and ordinary people will continue to be manipulated. In that scenario, “Big Brother” will always have the last word.

Editor's note: Larry Boudreau is Director of the Latin American Missionary Training Program at the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio. He is also Mission Educator and Promotor for Maryknoll, the Catholic Foreign Missionary Society of America and author of *Social Analysis: "Don't Call Me Out of My Name."*

*Author's note: Special interests have used the Bible to promote economic exploitation, wars, exclusive class structures, and slavery both modern and ancient. It certainly can be used to promote the cause of justice for which it was originally written. I use it in that sense. LB*

# The Forgetting of Alberto R. Gonzales

By Barbara Renaud Gonzalez



Starch, corn tortillas, and a pencil. My first day of school. A *mexicanita* in a blue puffy-sleeved dress blooming with Texas wildflowers made from the twenty pound bags of white flour they used to sell back then, remember? Blue as the Niagara starch my mother used to make my dress shine – poor but clean, you understand. A tablet of Big Chief paper fresh as my crinkling petticoats, and two pencils so thick and fat they felt like a block of butter in my hand.

My story is not so different from many other educated Latinos in Texas – like Alberto Gonzáles, I was fortunate to have parents who cared in their *pobreza* about my education. But, Gonzales (no relation), the first Latino to be nominated for the position of Attorney General of the U.S. - from San Antonio and Houston, friend and legal counsel to President Bush, Harvard Law graduate – has forgotten where he comes from.

According to his biography, Alberto R. Gonzáles had working-class parents, and like me, was a stellar student who attended the best schools in the country. We comprise the generation of Latinos who were admitted and given financial aid to schools like Harvard because of the civil rights movement in this country – a civil earthquake of protests and riots and Vietnam that forced this country to confront its history of racism and injustice.

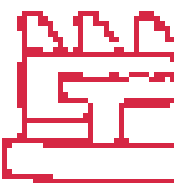


It is a history that many would like to forget.

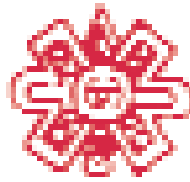
Now Alberto R. Gonzáles has been charged with the responsibility of enforcing those civil rights that took us to the table by a President who has done everything possible to deny them. It's all done with paper and pencil these days instead of rocks and ropes.

My mother sold Chiclets on the streets of San Luis Potosí, and she taught me to never forget what it was like to be poor. Well, for many of us who were able to get a college education because of the civil rights movement, let me tell you - it is very easy to forget. The rewards in this country are for those who put the past behind them. If you work hard and don't remind your bosses too much of where you came from and how much still has to change, you get invited to the mansions. I've been there. And when your brown *carita* is at the table surrounded by the powerful and wealthy and famous, you are so proud knowing that your parents sacrificed all their lives for this. Look at me!

And with all the compliments and invitations, because your presence makes the powerful feel less guilty for what they have done to people like our parents, you begin to imagine that you really are more beautiful and brilliant – not just lucky - to be at that table. *Poco a poco* you begin to forget.



When Alberto Gonzáles was counsel to then-Governor Bush in Texas, he helped Bush conceal a misdemeanor drunk driving conviction from his dark past. By helping Governor Bush lie when he was called for jury duty. You and I could go to jail for this. Some of us could get deported.



But that was nothing compared to the *indecencia* Gonzáles demonstrated in advising Bush who denied clemency in questionable death-row cases. Contributing to a death-row culture that the U.S. Supreme Court has recently rejected as unjust and illegal. A total of 128 executions occurred in Texas during the six-year tenure of Governor Bush; 36 of them happened on Gonzáles' watch as Chief Counsel.

In his role as legal counsel to the President, Gonzáles was central to the White House policy to slow-kill affirmative action, and to fast-freeze the issue of voter disenfranchisement. He was also central to policies blurring religion with government - which sounds devout but takes us on a slippery road back to the Inquisition. And, before the Presidential elections last November, more fingerprints: he disregarded new policies recommending federal enforcement of bilingual documents and translations for all government agencies.

So this is what you have to do to be embraced by the powerful in this country? Has the historic denial of civil rights taken our souls too?

Perhaps this is why Gonzáles played such a key role in the White House's inner circle, shaping anti-terrorism policies--denying the most basic civil rights for prisoners of war. Even if we started the war despite what the rest of the world says, even if we can't speak the enemy's language, understand their history. Even if we come from a people who know what it is like to be so forgotten that your living is one long remembering of what others have done to you.

We are victims of violence unleashing violence in a merciless circus, says the Mexican poet José Emilio Pacheco. With the featured attraction being - Abu Ghraib. Followed by Guantánamo and Afghanistan.



Alberto R. González has forgotten. Or maybe he can't forget? But I have paper and pencil, too. The bluest sky, corn tortillas soft as my mother's kiss on that first day of school. Two fat pencils. So, that I would give one to the other little brown girl who smelled like corn.

*No te olvides, mijita. De donde vienes.*



Editor's note: A version of this article was originally published in Spanish in RUMBO. An edited version of this article was scheduled for publication in the Texas Observer for the January 21, 2005 edition.

Barbara Renaud Gonzalez of San Antonio is a freelance writer for various publications locally and nationally. She has also received awards for her writing on the international level. She is currently completing her first novel.

# WE MARCH FOR A REASON!

By Frank Valdez

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Without a doubt the re-election of George W. Bush was a major political and (for some) emotional set back for many progressives. What is so tragic is the fact that better than 59 million Americans actually supported this war mongering, lying, corporate puppet! The question is: So what do we do now?"

We have three options: we can all pack up and go elsewhere; we can either sell out or become druggies; or we can begin reorganizing and immediately decide on plans of resistance to the Bush regime that promises to be as oppressive, if not more so, than the last one.

Considering that I do not speak French, (nor do I care to learn) Canada is not a viable option for me at this time. As to Cuba, I have ugly fears that Bush may very well invade the island claiming Fidel is hoarding weapons of mass destruction. It's not like it hasn't happened before! The second option is of no help to anyone, so what is there left to do?

Compañeros y compañeras, for those of us who refuse to submit to Bush and his ilk, we have a big challenge. Have no doubt, the new Bush regime has intentions of going where the old one did not! And that is the scary part.

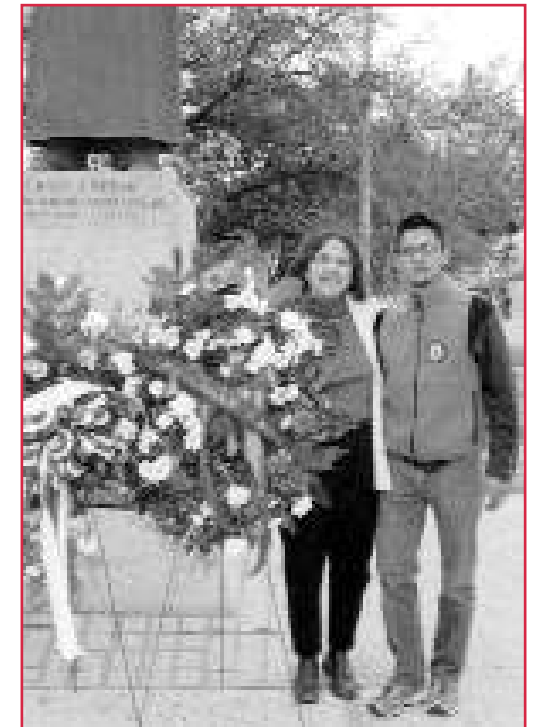
At present, I sit on the Board of Directors for NAMI San Antonio. NAMI stands for the National Alliance For the Mentally Ill. NAMI is a nationwide organization that advocates for better mental health services, research and an end to the stigma associated with having a mental illness.

I am active with NAMI because I, myself, have a diagnosis of Major Depressive Disorder and, as a social worker, I have a passion for people with a mental illness. Secondly, the struggle for quality mental illness goes hand in hand with the struggle for universal health care. The two issues must be inseparable, as the current mindset in the U.S. is that healthcare and mental healthcare are considered to be privileges and commodities, rather than basic human rights.

The injustices that we must all face are increasing by the day. My bet is that Dr. King would be at the lead marching against them, especially the despicable war in Iraq! While politicians and others attempt to water down the militancy of King and his tactics (which included civil disobedience), it is our responsibility to continue his real legacy of organizing, educating and struggling against social injustice caused by our government in our community, our state, across the nation and throughout the globe. For this we march! Dr. King would not have had it any other way!

This year the MLK march symbolized the beginning of our struggle for social justice under the new Bush regime. It symbolized our resistance to his evil policies and laws. It is a reminder that Dr. King was an organizer and active opponent to racism, war and an economic system that exploits people.

Editor's note: A mental health activist with NAMI, Frank is a frequent contributor to La Voz.



Gloria Ramirez and Marcos Márquez, boardmembers, present a wreath from Esperanza on MLK Jr. Day.

**Shirley Chisholm, First Black Woman to Run for President of the U.S. Defied Expectations and Dared to Mount an Insurgent Campaign.**

*Chisholm championed the causes of the poor, youth, minorities, gays, women and other marginalized Americans. She prefigured Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition and saw the race as an opportunity to draw people to politics who traditionally did not participate.*

*Do we need you now!*

*--In Memoriam--*



\* Community Meetings \*

**Amnesty International** #127 meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm at Ashbury United Methodist. Call 829-0397.

**Bexar County Green Party** meets first Sundays at 2 pm at Picante Grill, 3810 Broadway.

**DIGNITY S.A.** holds mass Sundays at 5:15 pm at St. Ann's. Call 735-7191.

**Fuerza Unida** is located at 710 New Laredo Hwy. Call 927-2297 for information.

**Habitat for Humanity** holds Volunteer Orientation on first Tuesdays at First Presbyterian Church, 404 N. Alamo, Rm 302 at 6 pm.

**Parents/Friends of Lesbians/ Gays (PFLAG)** meets the first Thursday of each month at 7pm at the Resource Center, 121 W. Woodlawn. Call 655-2383.

**Proyecto Hospitalidad Liturgy** meets on Thursdays at 7 pm at 325 Courtland. Call 736-3579.

**San Anto MEXA** meets on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm at the Esperanza Center. Contact: [www.sanantomexa.org](http://www.sanantomexa.org) or [mexa@riseup.net](http://mexa@riseup.net)

**San Antonio NOW** meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at La Madeline on Broadway (across from Central Market) at 6:30pm. Call: 210/673-8600 Mail: Box 34551, 78265-4551

**The Shambhala Buddhist Meditation Center** offers meditation instruction on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7pm and Sundays at 11:30 am. Practice is on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7pm and on

Sundays from 9:30 am-12:30 pm at 1114 South St. Mary's. Call 222-9303.

**The Society of Friends** meets on Sundays at 10 am at The Friends Meeting House, 7052 N. Vandiver. Call 945-8456.

**The Society of Latino and Hispanic Writers of San Antonio** meets on the 2nd Monday of the month @ 7:00 pm to discuss craft and publishing concerns specific to Latinos at Barnes and Nobles, San Pedro Crossing (across Loop 410 from North Star Mall). Open to the public.

**Solidarity: Peer Support for Mental Health Consumers**, meets the first and third Saturdays at 10:30 am at the Travis Park United Methodist Church, Rm 210. Call 734-7527.

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

**S.N.A.P. (Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests)** meets the last Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at 1443 S. St. Mary's. Call 725-8329.

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

**Voice for Animals** meets the last Saturday of each month in the meeting room of Whole Foods Market in the Quarry from 3 - 5 p.m. Call 737-3138 or visit [www.voiceforanimals.org](http://www.voiceforanimals.org)

**Do you work for a public school, the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, the State of Texas, or the Federal Government?**

*The Esperanza is part of*  
**Another Way Texas Shares.**  
*Sign-up to donate monthly to the Esperanza directly from your paycheck at work through the State Employee Charitable Campaign*

**Bexar County Government Local Charitable Campaign**  
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Make checks payable to the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center, 501 E. San Pedro, Suite 1000, San Antonio, TX 78212. Donations are tax deductible.

# 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: [lavor@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavor@esperanzacenter.org) or by snail mail to: 922 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212. The deadline is the 12th of each month.

**ATTENTION SHOPPERS! The Esperanza Center** at 922 San Pedro still has many post holiday items for sale: rebosos, artesanía, books, bumper stickers, T-shirts, CDs y mas! Come by between 9 am and 6 pm daily to peruse our merchandise and support the Esperanza Center. Call 228-0201.

**¡OJO!** Willie Perdomo is editing an anthology of haiku by poets of color. Send your submissions ASAP to: [LaPoetaDR@cs.com](mailto:LaPoetaDR@cs.com)

**¡Uuy, Cucuy! Fear of a Brown Nation** edited by Bárbara Renaud González and Rich Martínez is to be published by **University of Texas Press** in 2007. February 1, 2005 is the deadline for submissions for this anthology. Contact Rich at 210.732.4152 or [chicanoselfreliance@yahoo.com](mailto:chicanoselfreliance@yahoo.com) and Bárbara at [barbararenaud@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barbararenaud@sbcglobal.net) or go to [fearofabrownnation@yahoo.com](mailto:fearofabrownnation@yahoo.com)

**Gemini Ink** presents *The Spring Autograph Series*, featuring the Pulitzer Prize-winning African-American poet **Yusef Komunyakaa** for a public reading at the **Charline McCombs Empire Theatre** downtown on February 10, 2005 from 7 to 9 pm. A ticketed luncheon colloquium will be presented at the **Bright Shawl** on February 11, and a master class offered that same evening. Contact 734-WORD or [www.geminiink.org](http://www.geminiink.org)

Sunday, February 20, 2005 will be the fourth **National Day of Solidarity with Muslim, Arab and South Asian Immigrants**. Since September 11, 2001 Arab, Muslim and South Asian Immigrants in the U. S. have suffered government repression, secret detention without charges, deportations, racial

profiling, hate crimes and mounting prejudice. On February 20th 2005 we have the opportunity to make clear to the government and Muslim, Arab and South Asian Immigrants that we aim to stop these outrages. Contact us about your event and how we can broaden this movement. Contact 313-942-7187, or [nationaloffice@bluetriangle.org](mailto:nationaloffice@bluetriangle.org) or check [www.bluetriangle.org](http://www.bluetriangle.org)

**The Rockefeller Program for Race, Rights, and Resources in the Americas** with the U.T. College of Liberal Arts, Center for Mexican American Studies, The Center for African and African American Studies, and the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies is pleased to announce the second annual **Abriendo Brecha/Haciendo Camino** conference for activist/scholars, to be held at the **University of Texas at Austin**, on February 24-26, 2005. Register at: <http://www.utexas.edu/depts/cmas/abriendoBrecha/register.html> or contact Dolores at 512/475-6973 or [doloresg@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:doloresg@mail.utexas.edu). Or check: <http://www.utexas.edu/depts/cmas>. Registration deadline is Thursday, February 10, 2005.

The first annual **Bookfair** for the Southside is scheduled at **South Park Mall** on Saturday, February 26th from Noon - 6:00 p.m. Various authors will be scheduled reading throughout the mall with a special corner for los niños. Contact Chris Guitierrez at [Chris.Gutierrez@am.jll.com](mailto:Chris.Gutierrez@am.jll.com) or call 921-0534 for details or to add to the list of authors reading from their work.

**ALLGO'S Tillery Street Theatre**, 701 Tillery St. in Austin presents a performance workshop with **Marga Gomez** and **Carmelita Tropicana** on

February 26th, from 10 am to 1 pm sponsored by **The Department of Theatre and Dance at University of Texas at Austin**. Contact: sharon bridgforth 512.472-2001 ext. 106 or [sharon@sharonbridgforth.com](mailto:sharon@sharonbridgforth.com) or visit <http://www.allgo.org>

**The Mexico Solidarity Network** has 6 speaking tours with human rights activist from Mexico coming up this spring hitting 19 states! Sign-up now to host a tour in your community. Contact: [msn@mexicosolidarity.org](mailto:msn@mexicosolidarity.org) or visit [http://www.mexicosolidarity.org/tour\\_jua rez.htm](http://www.mexicosolidarity.org/tour_jua rez.htm) for complete information.

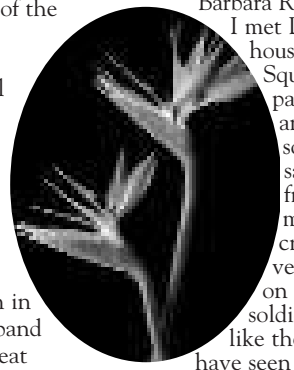
**The Central American Free Trade Agreement** (known as **CAFTA**) is a proposed agreement between the U.S. and six Central American nations (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic). Every country that has signed this agreement must ratify it in their representative bodies, including the US. It is based on the same failed neoliberal **NAFTA** model which prioritizes the profits and interests of large corporations and agribusiness. Raise your Voice to **STOP CAFTA!** Call your Congressman and tell them to VOTE NO when CAFTA is presented to the House of Representatives and the Senate. We can expect this to happen as early as February or March.

The **9th Annual CESAR E. CHAVEZ MARCH** is scheduled for Saturday March 26, 2005. Assemble at 10 am at **Avenida Guadalupe**, 1321 El Paso on the Westside. The March to the Alamo starts at noon. For details call Jaime Martínez at 210/226-2301 or email: [IUEORG@aol.com](mailto:IUEORG@aol.com)

*¡Si Se Puede!*

## Recordando Nuestros Queridos

Abraos de pésame a la Doctora Deena J. González, Chair of the Chicana/o Studies at Loyola Marymont University in Los Angeles on the recent loss of her mother, Vidal Trujillo González. Lala, as she was affectionately know in the small farming community of Garfield, New Mexico was born on June 13, 1923 and died suddenly of a heart attack in her home on January 13, 2005. At her funeral, over 400 people paid tribute to her- sharing memories of her generosity and community-minded spirit. An educator of young children in New Mexico, she was retired but volunteered her time teaching English to immigrants. Sra. González made a difference in her community and lives on in the spirit of her children, grandchildren, students and husband who remember her with great love. Lala was a source of great comfort to many and was laid to rest with a hint of a smile on her lips. The Esperanza community extends condolences to Dr. Deena González, el Sr. Santiago González and her entire familia.



Bárbara Renaud González recuerda: I met David's father a couple years ago - when the little frame house on the westside had more Christmas lights than Times Square. We went there porque tenia some mandado with his parents. David introduced me (he was just back from L.A.) and went to talk to his father in the bedroom to give him some money. I could hear his father saying no, and David saying yes. They both walked out and el señor, small and frail, was crying. David shoved some more money into his mother's bata and she started crying. Then everybody cried, even me. Sr. Casas, 76 years old, must have been a very good man because he died this past December 12, 2004 on *el día de la Virgen de Guadalupe*. At the funeral, the soldiers took a long time to fold the flag at Fort Sam. Almost like they were ironing the Bible with their hands. You should have seen the birds of paradise that David arranged around the casket, like flames, torches of orange lighting his father's way to heaven. The Esperanza community extends our deepest sympathy to David Zamora Casas, la señora Guadalupe Casas and la familia Casas.

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