

# La Voz de Esperanza

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2002 Amidst protests, *La Gloria* dies



2003 *MujerArtes* travels to the West coast



2003 *Árbol de muerte* honors Juárez victims



2004 Rita Vidaurri logra muchos éxitos!



2004 *Lila Downs* en el Westside of SA



2005 Suzanne Pharr community forums



2006 Elisa Díaz with Salwa Arnous



2006 Lydia Mendoza celebrates 90 years



2006 *Fotohistorias* honors Westside history

## Veinte Años de Esperanza 1987-2007

~20 years of Activism and Hope at the Esperanza Center~

*Echando Ramas/Branching Out, 2002-2007*

*Mujeres: Divinas y Humanas on view until May 31, 2007*



# La Voz de Esperanza

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## La Voz de Esperanza,

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## Policy Statements:

We ask that articles be visionary,  
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Submissions must be literate & critical;  
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nuestra comunidad.

## My great grandmas, Fern and Mama Paulita

Editor's note: The following is an  
excerpt from a speech presented on  
March 3, 2007 at the International  
Women's Day March/Rally by Sofia  
Greimel Garza, 10 years old, a 5<sup>th</sup>  
grader at Esparza Elementary.

My Great-Grandma Fern  
is going to be 100 years old in  
June... If you met her, the first  
thing you would notice is her  
laugh... She throws back her  
head, slaps her knee, and away  
she goes. She laughs long, and  
when her laughter comes to an  
end, she lets out a great long sigh  
of satisfaction. Even if you don't  
quite get what she's laughing at, you can't  
help but join in. Her laughter is like a mini-  
revolution...

Great-Grandma Fern loves a story. She  
makes it so fun to tell stories because of  
how she listens. Her eyes twinkle and her  
wrinkles transform many times. Everything  
I tell seems incredible to her, fantastical and  
amazing. And she's not faking.

Great-Grandma Fern is maybe one of the  
oldest living Democrats. She never misses an  
election. "With George Bush in office," she  
says, "now is no time to quit voting."

I notice that my great-grandma also  
never quits learning. My mom told me that  
Fern graduated from college when she was  
young, even though that was not so ordinary  
for women back then. But she never quit  
taking courses. Once, when my mom was at  
the University of Minnesota, she was in the  
same history class along with my grandma,  
my great-grandpa, and my great-grandma.

Great-Grandma Fern collects books and  
studies French. She was raised in Canada and  
learned it as a girl. She also loves digging  
in her prairie garden and knows a lot about  
plants. She raised six daughters. When she  
still lived at her house...in Minneapolis,  
Minnesota, she loved to invite people from  
many different cultures... Some Ojibway  
friends once gave her and my great-grandpa  
a peace pipe.

Very recently Great-Grandma Fern



Sofia and her great grandma Fern,  
courtesy of Andrea Greimel

started losing her strength...  
She had to move out of her  
apartment. Before she moved,  
my mom and I visited her  
in her apartment, and I took  
photographs of her and Mom  
... In one of these photos,  
both my mom and my great-  
grandma have one hand on  
their teacups and their heads  
are thrown back... Maybe it is  
the laughter that makes her so  
powerful.

On the other side of my  
family my other great-grandma,

Mama Paulita, ran the Garza family until she  
died when she was 102 years old. She raised  
seven children. Mama Paulita had a botanica  
in Kingsville when she was younger. She  
knew all about plants and how they can heal  
you. I use savila everyday. If I have a cough I  
drink te de comino...

I was only five when Mama Paulita died,  
but I remember her. Me and my mom and  
dad were driving to Corpus, trying to get  
there in time to see her again before she died.  
I looked out the window and saw the sun's  
rays streaming out from behind a beautiful  
cloud. Dad said there were three rainbows all  
at once. I told Mom and Dad that it was the  
angels and God shining on us. I think I must  
have seen that right at the moment Mama  
Paulita died. She was in that light. We didn't  
make it in time to see her alive, but I have her  
light inside me...

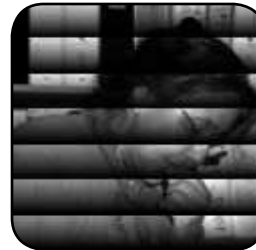
My great-grandmas, Fern and Mama  
Paulita, gave me strength to live long, to  
love plants, to write and read books, to learn  
languages, to dance and sing and tell stories,  
to vote, to always keep learning and, most of  
all, to laugh and be full of light.

Editor's note: Heartfelt sympathy from the Esperanza  
and women's community to Sofia and her mom, Andrea  
Greimel, on the passing of Fern Geneva Thompson who  
died on March 4<sup>th</sup> the morning after Sofia delivered her  
speech. Fern, born in 1907, was two months short of  
100 years old when she passed. She was buried in her  
beloved countryside outside of St. Paul, Minnesota on a  
sunny day, surrounded by piles of snow and tall pines.

**ATTENTION VOZ READERS:** If you have a correction you want to make on your mailing label please send it in to [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org) If you do not wish to continue on the mailing list for whatever reason please notify us as well. La Voz is provided as a courtesy to people on the mailing list of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. **The subscription rate is now \$30 per year.** The cost of producing and mailing La Voz has substantially increased and we need your help to keep it afloat. To help, send in your subscriptions, sign up as a monthly donor, or send in a donation to the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. Thank you. -GAR

**VOZ VISION STATEMENT:** La Voz de Esperanza speaks for many individual, progressive voices who are gente-based, multi-visioned and milagro-bound. We are diverse survivors of materialism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, classism, violence, earth-damage, speciesism and cultural and political oppression. We are recapturing the powers of alliance, activism and healthy conflict in order to achieve interdependent economic/spiritual healing and fuerza. La Voz is a resource for peace, justice, and human rights, providing a forum for criticism, information, education, humor and other creative works. La Voz provokes bold actions in response to local and global problems, with the knowledge that the many risks we take for the earth, our body, and the dignity of all people will result in profound change for the seven generations to come.

## Veinte editorial



As I scoured boxes and notebooks  
of Esperanza history and undid Hector  
Carbajal's work of archiving files and  
files of papers (just joking!), I ran  
across this picture which foretold the  
profile that I would be taking on since  
the Veinte series began in the December

2006/January 2007 issue of La Voz. Indeed, I spent hours with  
volumes of photos, flyers, articles and Vozes in order to list the  
"highlights" of the last twenty years of Esperanza and find some  
writings that could complement the photos. I could recall most  
of the events and a good number of faces and names but know  
that the highlights presented these last 4 months are but a small  
portion of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center's life story.

As I reflect, for instance, on the programming of the  
Uprooted series, I can see the faces that form the committee that  
brought that series into fruition in the last few years. When I  
think of the Cinemujer series, I remember how it began with yet  
another committee. Then, there are events like Lila Downs which  
happened with over a hundred volunteers (buena gente de

Esperanza). And, the process of producing an exhibit like  
Fotohistorias with photobanners in the Westside of San Antonio  
has taken many, many pláticas, events, interviews, photos, flyers  
and buena gente over a period of several years. In essence, I  
cannot do justice in these few issues of La Voz to the history of  
Esperanza, or even to any single event, series or action. I can  
only hope it is a springboard for more.

Forgive the oversight when anything or anyone has been  
left out of these highlights. Surely, that is a consequence of  
so much rich history. And, please help out by letting us know  
what or who is missing. I can assure you it was not done  
purposefully. If you wish to write a recuerdo or reflection, make  
a correction, share a photo or point out something left out in this  
initial stroll through Esperanza's history please write [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org) or drop a note to La Voz at 922 San Pedro  
in San Antonio, Texas 78212. We are looking forward to hearing  
from past and present participants of Veinte Años de Esperanza  
and plan to put together a Veinte publication to celebrate.

-Gloria A. Ramirez, editora

*Shiraz Restaurant*  
Located at McCullough at the circle in Olmos Park  
**4230 McCullough Ave.**  
**San Antonio, TX 78212**  
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Thank you from the Esperanza Center

*WOMAN SPACE*  
**SALIR, The Esperanza Center**  
and *La Voz* extend our heartfelt  
thanks to the *WomanSpace*  
collective for publishing and distributing  
*WomanSpace* for 19 years. The LISA phone line  
(828-LISA (5472)) remains active and you can  
check out their website [www.womanspacesatx.net](http://www.womanspacesatx.net)  
for their continued presence. It will be missed!

## Compañero Ramon Mata por Antonio C. Cabral

La primer vez que vimos a Ramon Mata fué  
aproximadamente en 1972 durante una reunion que  
teniamos todos los domingos de CASA, Hermandad  
General de Trabajadores. Nos reuniamos en un campo  
abierto dentro del Centro Cultural Ruben Salazar, allá  
por Acme Road. En esa junta estaban un centenar de  
miembros, la mayoría siendo inmigrantes mexicanos,  
obreros, trabajadores y ex-campesinos de varios  
estados de Mexico. Habrimos el tema para platicar  
sobre qué hacer para ligar nuestras luchas aquí en San  
Antonio con las luchas sociales en Mexico.

Todos los presenten se quedaron callados. Pasaron  
algunos minutos de silencio. Nosotros esperamos  
pacientemente que alguien hablara. De rato, un joven  
alto, moreno con brazos musculosos como un oso, se  
levanto de su asiento... Hablo por varios minutos y con  
palabras sencillas, con palabras nobles y del corazón, nos dio una  
clase sobre ese tema. Hablo sobre la obligación historica de los  
mexicanos y Chicanos de unirse a la lucha para crear un mundo  
mejor; Hablo sobre la necesidad de concientizar al pueblo Chicano  
sobre su obligación de ser solidario con el pueblo que lucha dentro  
de Mexico;

Al terminar de hablar Ramón, todos se levantaron saludandole  
y aplaudiendole. Así nacen los lideres: Desde abajo y no impuestos  
desde arriba. Así nacen los verdaderos lideres del pueblo. Despues  
de esa asamblea, Ramón se convirtió en uno de los activistas más  
concientes y dedicados de CASA y al pasar los años participo en



Ramon Mata, courtesy  
of his family.

muchas luchas por justicia social aquí en Texas.

Desde esas décadas, Ramon siempre mantuvo  
una vision clara y progresista. Entendia claramente la  
diferencia de lo que es el pueblo en Mexico y lo que  
es el gobierno, los politiqueros, los que jinetean al  
pueblo para su propio beneficio. Igualmente, entendia  
claramente la diferencia entre la clase trabajadora  
estadounidense y lo que es el tipo de gobierno que  
controla este pais.

A Ramon nunca lo impresionaban los titulos de  
los arriba. Nunca se confundio en entender quien son  
los enemigos del pueblo y quien son los verdaderos  
aliados. Siempre luchó calladamente sin desear auto-  
publicidad ni crear imagen de él mismo como lider.  
Siempre fué parte de los que son el motor que mueve la  
organizacion.

A Sylvia Mata, a los hijos de Ramon, a todos ustedes, gracias  
por invitarme a decir estas humildes palabras en memoria de  
Ramon.

Editor's note: Above is an excerpt of a tribute by Antonio C. Cabral to Ramon  
Mata who passed away on February 19, 2007. Sr. Mata was a civil rights activist  
in many struggles for social justice. A member of several community and labor  
organizations including Fuerza Unida, CASA-HGT, Tu Casa, the Texas Farm  
Workers Union and others for over 35 years, one of his proudest accomplishments  
was his march from San Antonio to Washington D.C. in 1977. Mr. Mata was also  
an accomplished composer and singer of corridos and used his music to inform the  
community of injustices. The Esperanza buena gente adds our sincerest pésame to  
Ramon Mata's family and community of activists who worked closely with him.

# ¡TODO EL PODER AL PUEBLO!

Update on Oaxaca by Ramona Vives

Oaxaca has lost its designation as "Patrimonio Cultural de la Humanidad" because of the vandalism of Governor Ulises Ruiz Ortiz. The announcement as you enter the city now says "Ciudad Colonial." In a state where the school, Sor Juana Inéz de la Cruz, in the colonia Las Culturas of the municipio Santa Cruz Xoxocotlan, has dirt floors, tin walls, and no plumbing, URO decided he had to deface the most important monuments of the city of Oaxaca in the name of "renovation" and give the contracts to his brother.

An obscene period of repression has begun in Oaxaca. On November 25, the PFP (Federal Preventive Police) and the state police attacked a peaceful demonstration, arrested hundreds, killed some, and disappeared others. The PFP subsequently, while transferring people to prisons in Nayarit and Matamoros, threw people, alive and dead, from helicopters, and raped and tortured both men and women. These actions are well documented. On November 30, Ana, a young artisan from Argentina staying with several anarchists, left the house to make a call and did not return. Then Oscar Santa María Caro, a young anarchist and animal rights activist, and Carmen Fernández Xicontenatl were grabbed by the police when they left the house to look for Ana in a local internet cafe. Agents of the government then entered the house and took Sacramento Delfino Cano, Julieta Cruz Cruz, and Alfonso Gutierrez Fernando. Alfonso and Ana were expelled from Mexico, and the others were threatened and/or tortured. The government has created clearly trumped up charges of weapons and stolen vehicles against Oscar and Sacramento, a youth of 29 who has degrees from the UNAM in philosophy and psychology. They remain in prison. This is but one example of the repression and attempts to terrorize on the part of the government in Oaxaca.

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, thugs (probably police) in the infamous colonia Santa Lucia del Camino, where Brad Will was shot, assaulted a teacher, Marcelo Jacinto Hernandez, and literally beat his brains out against the sidewalk. On February 24th, in the same neighborhood, they beat and stabbed architect Pedro Crisanto. He is in intensive care and it appears that he will live. The professor Crucita Yolanda Ramírez Ramírez was detained by the police on the afternoon of March 9<sup>th</sup> in the same neighborhood and released the following morning. Marcelo, Pedro, and Crucita are or were known supporters of the APPO, the Asamblea Popular de los Pueblos de Oaxaca. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of February government agents tried and failed to grab Florentino Lopez, one of the voices of the APPO.

The latest count from the APPO is at least 72 people killed for defending their constitutional guarantees and fundamental human rights, although the International Civil Rights Organization (Comisión Civil Internacional de Observación por los Derechos Humanos) in Oaxaca has been able to document only 24, because they require physical evidence in addition to testimony. It is difficult to document many of the deaths; the bodies often cannot be identified, although it appears that the APPO is not exaggerating in its claim. In all this time not one murder has been committed by the movement, and not one murderer or torturer has been brought to justice.

Resistance continues, with marches and cultural activities.



There was an inspiring alternative Noche de los Rabanos (night of the radishes) on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The APPO celebrated this traditional holiday in the Plaza de Carmen Alta with radishes carved to represent Ulises Ruiz as a monster, helicopters, and other representations of recent events in Oaxaca. Of course, as in all public events, there was the chant of "Hombro con hombro, codo con codo, la APPO, la APPO, la APPO somos todos." There was also a collection of toys for the children of families that have suffered in the movement, with members imprisoned, dead, or disappeared, and marches, including an International Woman's Day march

of at least 100,000.

On January 31st, the State Congress of Section 22 of the Teachers Union reaffirmed their support for the APPO and condemned Enrique Rueda Pacheco, the head of the union, for withdrawing the Union from the APPO without consulting the base. There is probably a broader support for the APPO now than on November 25, as subsequent events have continued to expose the government.

In Zaachila, a town of 15,000 still occupied by the APPO, there was a town fiesta against police brutality. Anarchists served homemade strawberry ice cream and invited people to write on huge posters asking them what they thought liberty meant, what they thought peace meant, and what they thought about the PFP. There was no police presence except alternative police. At most of these events, however, there was an attempt to intimidate the people by excessive police presence, at times heavily armed. On March 15th, a march against police brutality was cancelled because of threatening police presence.

Most prisoners have now been transferred to Miahuatlan and Tlacolula, Oaxaca. The families of the imprisoned put up encampments outside the prisons to protest and support family members. They were brutally attacked and displaced by state forces, and some of the demonstrators themselves were imprisoned. Returning from Miahuatlan after the displacement on January 13, eight youth were captured and tortured (burned with cigarettes). Of these eight, four remain in prison.

At this point many of the political prisoners have been released. Yolanda, a member of CIPO-RM, Consejo Indígena Popular de Oaxaca "Ricardo Flores Magon," an organization that works to empower the indigenous people of Oaxaca, who herself spent nine months in prison in 2004-2005 for her support of indigenous rights, commented that the ones who remain are primarily anarchists and students, and of course, anyone who had a position of leadership with the APPO, as in the case of Marcelino Coache and Flavio Sosa.

The group that supports the prisoners and their families, and works for the prisoners release, COFADAPPO, is under great financial pressure, as a huge fine is usually required to secure the prisoners' release, and some of the families' situations are critical as well. The artist Toledo has been particularly supportive of this group; they meet in a building owned by him, and as a consequence of this he suffers constant harassment and observation by the government. If you would like to make a contribution, check the official APPO page, [www.asambleapopulardeoxaca.com](http://www.asambleapopulardeoxaca.com).

Bio: Ramona is a freelance writer/social justice activist.

Esperanza Peace & Justice Center, Veinte Años 1987 - 2007 • 20 Years of Activism and Hope

## Echando Ramas Branching Out, 2002-2007



### 2002: The Esperanza Peace & Justice Center's Quinceañera

#### Desde que naci, han pasado 15 años

Editor's note: The following is an edited version of an editorial that appeared in the October 2002 issue of La Voz in celebration of the Esperanza Center's quinceañera. As we peruse the last five years of the 20 years we are now celebrating, we want to acknowledge the many buena gente that have made the Esperanza Center fuerte for the last 20 years.  
~ Gloria A. Ramírez

Before I was born I lived in the memories of my mothers. Mis primeras madres fueron mujeres. One, a San Anto Westsider, was a dreamer, una soñadora soñando siempre en un mundo de paz y justicia... Another of my first mothers, with children of her own, se fue a vivir en un pais de gente blanca.

At my birth, many madrinan were present, filling me with eloquent ideas and hope for the future. One of my madrinan would eventually find herself in Beijing championing justice and peace. The others spread throughout the world with news of my birth...

At the age of five one of them came to the U.S. on a ship from Holland. She threw all of her toys overboard into the sea when her papa discovered their belongings were over the weight limit. That left her with a great well of sadness that has quelled somewhat since returning to her native land. She was the first lawyer fighting for fuerza unida and for me. Since, I have had other madrinan wielding legal swords... winning battles of hope.

Some of my madrinan were men in physical form with hearts which contained a share of motherness. One suffered in Vietnam but devoted his life to peace, thereafter. He was always a presence in my life. El catrín, un artista, siempre se vestia muy de aquellas and occasionally sported a hooped skirt or priestly garb. El mechudo, an artist... meneaba sus greñas de un lado al otro. As he swayed his head from side to side he would ask, Aren't I pretty? They were/still are my protectors.

Some of my mothers came with the wisdom of working in the fields, trabajando la papa, picking cotton, beets, spinach, strawberries, carrots, los cherries, zanahoria, y todo lo demas. They taught me strength and humility and told many stories; stories of great courage, horrible abuse, endurance, and of hope, always.

Two of my madrinan became fathers to twin girls. El Boricua became a controversial columnist with searing



Fotos, top/down: La Gloria is demolished amidst protests; PGA press conference with Antonio Cabral speaking at the Esperanza; a scene from Jotos del Barrio: Viola Cásarez holds La Virgen at the Women's March and Petra Mata joins Sra. García in the blessing as the IWD March begins at Elemendorf Park.



Top/down: Photo of Mary Jane Delgado from Arte es Vida oral history project; María Berriozábal with members of the ArtEscuela project who organized efforts to protect the aquifer; Agua Pura, Vida Digna demonstration before city hall; La Gloria before demolition.

#### 2002 ESPERANZA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

As 2001 ended and 2002 begin, the preservation of the purity of the San Antonio aquifer was threatened by the proposed construction of a PGA Village. The Esperanza community in coalition with others actively worked against any construction over the aquifer. On January 31, 2002 the Esperanza completed 15 years of existence. The focus on preservation of buildings and the recovery of the history of the Westside began with an effort to save La Gloria, an historic dance patio on the Westside which was demolished in spite of community protests. ArtEscuela youth became an integral part of Esperanza programming and activism.

• **Break The Chains: A Community Movement Against the Criminal (In)Justice System** demonstration against the ACA/Prison Industry at H.B. González Convention Center 1/12-13 • Formation of **Smart Growth Coalition** to fight PGA Village which included the Esperanza 1/13 • Robert "King" Wilkerson speaks on *The Unjust Criminal* 1/12 • **ArtEscuela** begins 1/26 • **Esperanza's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** 1/31 • **PGA Village Update**, February *La Voz* • **Citlali Café**/art installation by Deborah Vásquez continues (Feb.) • **Rayos Chicanos**, a Raza discussion series @ **Café Citlali** 2/15 • Screening, **People & the Land** with filmmaker, Riad Bahhur c/sp with **San Antonio Coalition for Peace and Justice** 2/9 • GCAC's **Cinefestival** 2/19-24 • **Mujeres de Juárez** article by Yolanda Chávez Leyva in March *La Voz* • People's press conference at City Hall against the **PGA Village** project 3/7 • **IWD March, La Dignidad de la Mujer Obrera** 3/9 • Protest against demolition of **La Gloria** 3/18 • **César Chavez Marcha** 3/30 • Demolition of **La Gloria** 4/1 • **Youth Action**, National Gathering for Youth Organizing Conference 4/5-7 • **Arte es Vida** community meetings (ongoing) • **Sol Geography**, CD release with Andrea Greimel & Monarca plus **Recuerdos**, an art exhibit by Terry A. Ibañez de Santiago 4/22 • **ArtEscuela** exhibit, *Mi Gente, Mi Pueblo, Mi Historia* 5/3 • **Jotos del Barrio** performance/baile c/sp with **Mad Media** 5/10 • Petition drive against **PGA Village** produces 79,083 signatures to City which are invalidated 5/13 • A new drive results in 105,000 signatures calling for a vote on the **PGA** • **MujerArtes'** cafecitos (1st Sundays, June--Dec.) • **Quinceañera** planning meetings (June-Ag)



Above: Santa Barraza, Terry Ybañez, Lilitiana Wilson & Barbara Renaud González at exhibit.



2nd photo/down: Vicky Grise, Petra Mata & Gabriela Gutiérrez at Juárez protest; Josie Méndez-Negrete with sister Felicia at *Hijas de Juan* reading; and at the *Quince* celebration- the Umoja drummers, Kalilah Bilial, Jamila & Adar Reyes-Gutiérrez; Coyote Phoenix enjoying the potluck; and Laura Codina & Cristal González blessing the celebration.

words of wisdom cutting into reactionary walls of prejudice. The long-haired hippie in a VW van who travelled by rail all over Mexico stayed home when his blond beauties were born and his wife began her medical practice, helping to heal those around me. Doctors, nurses, midwives, acupuncturists, curanderas, shamans, all took care of me through the years, cleansing my soul and tending to my spirit and sometimes the physical manifestations of my cansancio and traumas.

The teachers were always present guiding me in the direction I wanted to grow. Early childhood teachers, elementary, middle, high school and university level teachers have brought gifts to me throughout my quince años. Gifts that challenged my thinking and sharpened my mind. The writers, my other teachers, were from all walks of life, from all parts of the world. Chucas del Westside and cholitas from East L.A. Hombres bigotudos, con pelo, o sin pelo, pero siempre con palabras de poder. Amas de casa y conserjes. Firme black women with words of fury and might. Divas y dancers who swirled round and round to the accordion sound wrote for me, taunted me, nurtured me.

And, always present, were the elders. My gentle grandmother who always advised me to treat my enemies with honey. My grandmother from Michigan who gently and quietly poured over those piles and piles of files in my memory banks. My grandmother who eloquently waxed poetic on stage with a grand presence her white hair gleaming. Y mi abuela, curandera y indigena whose spirituality infused my soul with vida. And of course, my grandmother, an elderly gentleman, whose love of music, words, poetry and food have been a constant inspiration in my life.

My mothers came from everyplace and went out everyplace, carrying me in their hearts and minds. The circles of influence they have created throughout the world wrap around me in my 15th year of existence and fill me with strength...

Now, more than ever...I need my madrinas, both male and female, to surround me for my [veinte] compartiendo comida, baile, ritos, alegría, y esperanza.



Don Alfonso Castillo Orta & Doña Soledad Marta Hernández Báez & family pose with Esperanza staffmembers after the *Ecos* exhibit.



Top/down: Enrique & Isabel Sánchez with Graciela Sánchez at San Fernando Cemetery #1; Marcos Marquez with Valerie De León at the limpieza on Día de los Muertos; Gloria Anzaldúa with Mililani Trask at the *Bridge* reading; Graciela Sánchez & Susan Guerra with their sisters, Leti and Donna at *Peace Market*; and Gloria Ramírez & Deborah Vásquez at the exhibit, *Erosiones Internas* by Lilitiana Wilson.

### 2002 ESPERANZA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER HIGHLIGHTS continued...

The Esperanza building at 922 San Pedro begins construction for a new elevator. The *Arte es Vida* gente reclaim cultural traditions with *Día de los muertos* rituals and *ArtEscuela* attends workshops in Kingsville with artist Santa Barraza. Esperanza's *Quince* is celebrated in October and the celebrated artisans, the Castillo family of Izúcar de Matamoros, Puebla is honored with a special exhibit, *Ecos desde un vientre de barro*.

- **Save Our Aquifer** files a lawsuit for a temporary restraining order against the City, blocking PGA 6/25
- **Señorita Extraviada** documentary on the femicides in Juárez/El Paso with Lourdes Portillo 6/29
- The *Arte es Vida* project collects oral stories in the Westside at Esperanza's *Casa de Cuentos* with elders/sabias of the neighborhood (ongoing, July-Dec.)
- *Erosiones Internas* exhibit by Lilitiana Wilson 7/20
- Tardeada/plática with Lilitiana Wilson 7/21
- *Tres Oraciones*, Lourdes Pérez concert/plática 7/26 & 27
- Protest against femicides in Juárez/El Paso at the Mexican Consulate 8/14
- Esperanza elevator construction underway (Sept.)
- *When I Dream Dreams* documentary screening/panel on Texas' English Only laws with Joe Bernal, Ernesto Bernal, Arcadia López, Arturo Madrid & Josie Méndez-Negrete 9/6
- *ArtEscuela* fall session begins 9/13
- *La Pluma, El Corazón* writing workshop with Anel Flores & Jesus Alonso 9/17-11/19
- City Council budget hearings result in attacks on Esperanza and other groups regarding "their amoral agenda"
- *MujerArtes* talk at UTSA 9/24
- *Ecos desde un vientre de barro*, exhibit/homenaje to Don Alfonso Castillo Orta & Doña Soledad Marta Hernández Báez of Izúcar de Matamoros, Puebla, Mexico 9/28
- *Arte es Vida* meetings at Casa de Cuentos (ongoing)
- *Las Hijas de Juan/Daughters Betrayed* reading by Dr. Josie Méndez-Negrete 10/12
- Esperanza's *Quince Celebration, Sin Vergüenza* with *Guadalupe Dance Co.*, the *Umoja* drummers, *Eva Ybarra y su conjunto*, Juan Tejeda & special guest, Lourdes Pérez 10/26
- *Arte es Vida Día de los muertos Recuerdo* limpieza/procession to San Fernando Cemetery #1 with música by *Trio Monterrey* 11/2
- *MujerArtes'* cafecito 11/3
- *This Bridge We Call Home* reading with co-editors Gloria Anzaldúa & Analouise Keating and readers, Susan Guerra et al 11/13
- *Caminos de Conocimientos* plática with Gloria Anzaldúa 11/15
- *Sor Juana's Second Dream* reading by Dr. Alicia Gaspar de Alba with preview of *Desert Blood*, a novel on the Juárez femicides 11/20
- **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace Market** 11/29 & 30



## Lamento por las Mujeres de Juárez Elegy for the Women of Juárez

Editor's note: The Lamento exhibit by *MujerArtes* dedicated to the murdered women of Juárez was one of the most memorable events of the Esperanza's history. *MujerArtes* worked with Dr. Alicia Gaspar de Alba to learn more about the femicides and decided to depict the suffering of the victims and their mothers using their skill as ceramicists. The women were invited to participate in the *Maquiladora Murders* conference that Alicia and her students were planning at UCLA. *MujerArtes'* desire to help the mothers of the victims resulted in their donating the proceeds from the sales of pieces to groups supporting the mothers of the victims. The *Lamento* exhibit was featured at the *Esperanza Center* and at the *UCLA Fowler Museum*. The women were also on a panel with mothers of the victims. The *Arbol de Muerte* was bought for the permanent collection of the *Fowler Museum*. Verónica Castillo of *MujerArtes* explains:

Este proyecto... nació cuando escuchamos la historia real de las mujeres asesinadas en Juárez, México que nos presentó la profesora, Alicia Gaspar de Alba en la casita de *MujerArtes*. En su plática, Alicia nos comentó que estaba organizando una conferencia en Los Angeles, California sobre el tema de los crímenes y nos invitó a participar para que esta comunidad de San Antonio pudiera aportar algo a la conferencia a través del Centro Esperanza y la cooperativa de *MujerArtes*. Decidimos hacer un altar en conmemoración de las mujeres de Juárez. La idea era crear un pieza principal estilo "árbol de la vida" que le queríamos llamar "árbol de la muerte," acompañada por varias otras piezas complementando el árbol con escenas hechas por las mujeres de la cooperativa.

...Las lágrimas de las madres es lo que más nos calaba en el corazón, porque todas nosotras de *MujerArtes* somos madres y sabemos el dolor que puede llegar a sentir una madre al perder a su criatura. Yo les pedí que hicieran escenas que fueran directo al grano y al corazón, o sea que sensibilizáramos a esta sociedad a través de la arcilla. Yo les dije a las mujeres que quería que estas escenas sirvieran para abrirle los ojos a la gente y hacer un espacio para enseñar el horror de la relación entre la industria maquiladora y estas mujeres maquiladas que buscan trabajo pero se encuentran con la muerte y el olvido.

-Verónica Castillo, instructor of *MujerArtes*

Top row: *MujerArtes* at La Casita; Verónica Castillo with *Árbol de muerte*; *MujerArtes* visits Benita Monárrez, a Juárez mother on their way to the *Maquiladora Murders* conference; *Lamento* panelists, Cecilia Ballí, Verónica Castillo, Benita Monárrez, and Alicia Gaspar de Alba. Left column: the *Lamento* altar at Esperanza. *MujerArtes* visits artist Pablita Verlarde in Albuquerque; *MujerCanto* performers, H. Esperanza Garza, Yolanda Chávez Leyva, & Marga Gomez; & below, Mango Tribe. Rt column: María Palafox & Sofía at *Peace Market*, Tish Hinojosa sings on *Día de los Niños*, Suzanne Wason at anti-war rally; Domitilia Domínguez addresses crowd; Laura Aguilar with Norma Cantú and Luz Calvo discussing the *motions & center* exhibit; Macondistas participate in the 1st *Noche de Macondito* for comunidad

### 2003 ESPERANZA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

The water issue continues into 2003 with a campaign for *Agua Pura, Vida Digna*. Programming on the Middle East becomes more focused with the screening of *Jenin, Jenin* and continues to expand. *MujerArtes* works on an exhibit focusing on the femicides in Juárez and travels to Los Angeles by van, stopping in El Paso/Juárez and other places to visit artisans. *MujerCanto* returns with a full line-up of women performing.

- *Soñar es Luchar*-Domitilia Domínguez exhibit 1/25
- *National Day of Action, SA Anti-War March & Rally* co/sp with **San Antonio Peace Coalition** 2/15
- Hector Carbajal of UTEP begins inventory of Esperanza papers (March-summer)
- Screening of *Jenin, Jenin* 3/1
- **IWD March/Rally, Mujeres unidas por la paz** from Elmendorf Park to Plaza Guadalupe 3/8
- *Sueños, Juegos, y Liberación - La Historia de los Colores/Story of Colors* reading @ Bazan Library 3/15
- *Fuentes/Sánchez Scholarship Dance* 3/22
- Vijay Prashad, *The Karma of Brown Folk*, reading/plática co/sp with UTSA 3/24
- *Día de los niños* with Tish Hinojosa with *La Historia de los Colores* reading 4/12
- *Taco Poetry Jam* fundraiser @ ARTery Studio 6/6
- Special *La Voz* tribute to mujeres de Juárez (July/Ag)
- **Lourdes Pérez**, *Singing with the Fury of Angels* concert 7/12
- *Lamento Por Las Mujeres de Juárez/Elegy for the Women of Juárez, MujerArtes'* exhibit/plática with Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Cecilia Ballí, & Verónica Castillo 7/26
- First *Noche de Macondo* readings for community 8/8
- *The Panza Monologues* staged reading by Vicki Grise co-sp by MALCS 8/11
- *Other, Out and Beyond: Movement & Struggle* film festival 8/22-24
- Demonstration at Mexican Consulate on Juárez femicides 8/23
- *Environmental Justice Training & Action* by the **Esperanza Environmental Justice Project** (ongoing)
- *Plantas Medicinales* plática with Grupo Xinachtli @ Casa de Cuentos 9/5
- *Danza Azteca Ceremonial* para Nuestra Señora de Mayahuel, La Virgen de los Remedios @ Espada Mission 9/6&7
- *motions & center*, new bodies of photographic work by Laura Aguilar with panelists Luz Calvo & Norma Cantú 9/13
- *mujercanto* with Nathalie Handal, Yolanda Chávez Leyva, Sharon Bridgforth, Marga Gomez, María Limón, Virginia Grise, Anel Flores, mariposa, Ubaka Hill & the ShapeShifters, Barbara Renaud González & Mango Tribe 9/26&27
- *Jolom Mayetik*, Chiapas Weaving Cooperative exhibit/sale 10/4
- Alicia Gaspar de Alba @ *MujerArtes' Peace March* 10/26
- *MujerArtes'* panel at *The Maquiladora Murders or Who is Killing the Women of Juárez International Conference* at UCLA 10/31-11/2 (Nov.)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *La Voz Calaveras* (Nov.)
- *MujerArtes* exhibit/altar to the mujeres de Juárez at **UCLA Fowler Museum** (Nov./Dec.)
- *Voices From Texas* with poetry, plática & documentary by Ray Santisteban benefiting NALIP, co-sp with UTSA 11/8
- **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace Market** 11/28&29
- *Las Posadas* @ San Jacinto Homes (12/17)

# Veinte Años de Esperanza 1987-2007



Rebozo de Caramelo



Rita Vidaurri



returns in 2004



*El Rebozo de Caramelo* benefit, organized by Sandra Cisneros & friends, gives gente the opportunity to vestirse de gala in an atmosphere of México antiguo. María Luisa Camacho, seated with Sandra, is honored at the *Caramelo* benefit; Rita Vidaurri makes a comeback at 80, opening for Lila Downs, serving as honorary marshall for the *Diez y Seis* & cutting a new CD. A final farewell to Gloria Anzaldúa who died in 2004, pictured above at Three Poets in 1998. And, Dr. Keta Miranda with panelists of *Homegirls in the Public Sphere*.

## 2004

Editor's note: Rosa Reyes from Zapata, Texas was an activist, musician and writer who died shortly after we met her. She instantly became one of the many buena gente who naturally become part of the Esperanza, writing and performing a corrido to the Mujeres de Juárez at the Lamento exhibit. Her spirit lives on...

I learned about the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center from Yolanda Broyles González who asked me to go see what the center was doing for the people. On that same day, I met Graciela Sanchez, Amy Kastely, Gloria Ramirez, and a lot of other people whose names I don't remember but wish I did, because they were all very kind to me. I sang a few songs for the guests at Antonia Castañeda and Arturo Madrid's party for Yolanda. At the end of the serenata for Yolanda and her mother, I was told the story behind the goals of Esperanza. I must confess that my first thought/reaction was, "What a bunch of back-to-the-



sixties, gung-ho, do-gooders, bleeding hearts, cry-babies." This coming from a person who told her parents in 1961 that she was going to join the Peace Corps after listening to John F. Kennedy talk about its formation. It was not until thirty-six years later that I joined and served for two years as a Special Education teacher and a Community Service Worker. This coming from a person who helped the workers in the Bracero program write letters to Mexico when she was eight years old, marched in the sixties for civil rights at sixteen years old and who almost got killed for standing up and giving up a seat for an elderly black lady and much more. I decided to give Esperanza a try.

I found out that the Esperanza helps everyone in need of assistance and education for self-empowerment. On the surface it may seem that the work is focused on one issue, but it is not and never has been. Personally, I would go all the way to

## "Pero, ay! Que triste Es amar..."

Every Mother's Son



Lila Downs en el Westside



Top: Iris Baez of *Every Mother's Son* with Esperanza staffers, Joleen García, Christina Valero, René, Graciela Sánchez, Bárbara Renaud González, & Michael Marinez; Lila Downs enjoys a reception at the home of Antonia Castañeda & Arturo Madrid with Graciela Sánchez, Alicia Gaspar de Alba & Gloria Ramirez. Below: Weavers from Teotitlán del Valle, Oaxaca featured at the *PeaceMarket* with shoppers; the *Clean Water-Clean Democracy Campaign* continues to seek protection for the aquifer; Lila Downs and her husband with chefs Margie Rodríguez & Josie Méndez-Negrete at the reception, and at right, Isabel Sánchez at the Lila concert.

## ...sin Esperanza" -Lydia Mendoza

## 2004

San Antonio (from Zapata) just for the literature and music presentations (a love of mine) but that would be unfair to the overall goal of the Esperanza Center. If we attend only when the subject is palatable to us, what happens when it isn't? Do we not go? Do we not support the issues that are near and dear to others just because those issues don't affect us personally? We are all in this together and the Esperanza has always been right there in it with us.

The goal of Esperanza does not specifically target people of color, or the poor, or the old, or the culturally deprived, or homosexuals, or whoever it is you don't approve of. The goal is to assist those in need whoever they may be. Some are helped more today and others more tomorrow because that's the way it has to be. Nobody needs incessant aid. No one is ever forgotten. We do not have to fit any of the categories that the center sponsors to get assistance. For that reason, we must be a part of it. We must support the work that has been so instrumental in changing those things that have kept us from reaching our full potential. If

we don't, who will? It is not enough to attend when we are not tired, when we aren't sleepy, when we need help, or when we have nothing more exciting to do. We must be there when the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center so kindly offers its services whether they are entertaining, empowering, or educating. What if la buena gente of Esperanza just helped us when they weren't tired or sleepy or wanted to give us something or didn't have anything more exciting to do? What then?

Let us support the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center all the time. Let us give donations and support until it hurts, so that the center can continue to help us all in our hour of need and to assist us in becoming the best there is. Let us be there for each other because we are all in this together as a family. Let us work for peace, justice, and for what we and our brothers and sisters believe in. If you tell yourself that it is none of your business what happens to other people, don't kid yourself. It is your business. ¡Viva La Esperanza! ~Rosa Reyes

### 2004 ESPERANZA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

The water wars continue with the *Clean Water-Clean Democracy* campaign calling for Repeal the Deal. *El Rebozo de Caramelo* gives gente an opportunity to celebrate México antiguo as folks dress for the occasion. *Arte es Vida* begins to uncover Westside history with the return of Rita Vidaurri who in her 80th year returns to sing in her Westside neighborhood, cuts a new CD, *La Calandria* and serves as honorary parade marshall at the *Diez y Seis* Parade. She continues with her opening for the Lila Downs concert and appearing in venues throughout San Antonio.

• 20 y 10, *el fuego y la palabra* screenings/pláticas commemorating 20 years of Zapatista history (1/10, 14, 17) • *MLK March* 1/19 • Teach-In on mass media in preparation of FCC hearings at Fuerza Unida • FCC hearings Rally & Testimony at City Council Chambers 1/28 • *Homegirls in the Public Sphere* reading/discussion with Marie "Keta" Miranda and Angelica Quiroga & Beatrice Martinez 1/31 • *IWD March & Rally*, *Mujeres Unidas Protegiendo Nuestras Vidas: No More Profits Over People* 3/6 • 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Cesar Chavez March from Avenida Guadalupe to the Alamo 3/27 • *El Rebozo de Caramelo. una noche de cuento, canto y baile* benefit featuring *George Prado* y *La Orquesta Caramelo* hosted by Sandra Cisneros & friends and honoring Doña María Luisa Camacho de López featuring vocalists, Janis De Lara & José Ruben De León 3/27 • Photo exhibit: *Mexico at the turn of the century* 3/27 • *The Fourth World War* screening/plática with co-director, Richard Rowley 4/17 & 18 • *Anti-Patriot Act* meetings (ongoing) • David Bacon discussing *Children of NAFTA* with panelists: Martha Ojeda, Petra Mata, Sr. Susan Mika, & Carmen Julia Silva c/sp with CJM 5/4 • *Para nuestras madres* exhibit/sale at *La Casita* by *MujerArtes* 5/8 • 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Lesbian Conference in San Antonio 5/21-23 • *Rita Vidaurri, La Calandria* birthday concert at Plaza Guadalupe with Eva Ybarra, *La Paloma del Norte, the Guadalupe Dance Academy & Conjunto Heritage Taller* in collaboration with NALAC 5/29 • Community clean-up of 2113 Guadalupe St. building 6/26 • Special 32 page issue of *La Voz* on Gloria E. Anzaldúa (July/August 2004) • W.A.R.R. a group art exhibit in response to the war 7/10

### 2004 ESPERANZA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER HIGHLIGHTS continued...

The premiere event of 2004 was the *Lila Downs en el Westside* concert at Plaza Guadalupe, which was planned and organized by the buena gente of the Esperanza. The free event, a gift to the community, brought out over 3,000 people in an atmosphere of conviviality and amor. Reportedly, Lila Downs commented that it was one of her best concerts ever. Connections to community on the Westside were made as the video of *La Gloria* was screened and the *Arte es Vida* project was made part of the Lila event.

• *Every Mother's Son* screening on police brutality with filmmaker Tami Gold, Iris Baez, & local organizers 7/30 • Youth Summit screening 7/31 • 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *Noche de Macondo* 8/6 • *Empanada*, a dramatic reading with Anel Flores & Jessica O. Guerrero 8/28 • *Diez y Seis Parade* with Rita Vidaurri as honorary parade marshall (Sept) • *Arte es Vida Project: Reclamando Nuestras Historias del Westside* at Esperanza's Casa de Cuentos (ongoing) • *Lila Downs en el Westside* at Plaza Guadalupe with *La Paloma del Norte*, Rita Vidaurri, and *Conjunto Heritage Taller* 10/2 • *Calavera Writing* workshop at Casa de Cuentos 10/9 • *Reclamando Nuestras Historias del Westside*, talleres y documentatción (October) • *Ofrenda de Jardines*, marigold gardens at Westside sites 10/29-11/2 • *Recordando a las Mujeres de Juárez*: the MSN International Caravan for Justice in Juárez & Chihuahua stop @ the Casita de *MujerArtes* featuring *Teatro Calaveras & Conjunto Heritage Taller* 10/29 • *Gender & Violence on the US Mexico Border* panel with Patricia Castillo, Alicia Gaspar de Alba & representatives of *Fuerza Unida*, *MujerArtes*, & the *Mexico Solidarity Network* c/sp with *MujerArtes & UTSA Women's Studies Institute* 10/29 • 1<sup>st</sup> *Mercado de Muertos* by *MujerArtes* @ La Casita 10/30 • 6<sup>th</sup> Annual *Calaveras* issue of *La Voz* (Nov.) • *Peace Market Quinceañera* featuring New Orleans artists and weavers from Teotitlán del Valle, Oaxaca 11/26 & 27 • *Puentes de Palabras*, First Mondays' Letter Writing • *Rita Vidaurri, La Calandria* CD release concert/dance 12/11 • *La Virgen Morena, MujerArtes* Exhibit & Sale 12/12 • *The Esperanza Peace & Justice Center* is invited to submit historical highlights for *500 Years of Chicana History* by Betita Martinez

# MujerArtes Celebrates 10 Years in 2005



The women of MujerArtes at their 10th anniversary exhibit, *Árboles de MujerArtes*.

*Diez y ocho años: Eighteen years and counting on more...*  
 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 qué vivir?

-Graciela Sánchez, director of Esperanza  
 (Excerpt from longer article in February 2005 La Voz)



Tami Gold videotapes Carmen Medrano.



MujerArtes women work on árboles at La Casita.



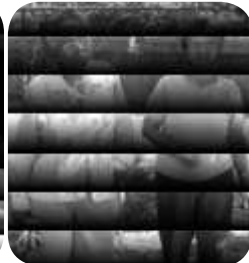
Rita Vidaurri holds image of *La Dama* by Juan Ramos Dan Guerrero as ¡Gaytino!



Palo Alto students at *Cinemujer* view *Tlasohltla*.



Enrique Sánchez & Yvette Presas edit calaveras.



Jessica Guerrero videotapes señoras talking about their herbs in their gardens.



Amy Kastely calls for Democracy Now! on the issue of building over the aquifer.



Ana Castillo poses with a family of fans.



Lourdes Pérez sings at *Café de las Tres*.



Elizandro Carrington videotapes at Peace Market.



Amy Kastely calls for Democracy Now! on the issue of building over the aquifer.

## 2005 ESPERANZA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

MujerArtes celebrates their 10th anniversary by creating their own árboles with permission from the Castillo family of Puebla, from whom they learned the art of making árboles de vida. Increased activity on the Westside at Casa de Cuentos, 816 S. Colorado, with added emphasis on traditional cultural celebrations and recovery of Westside history. Water wars continue. In 2005, a reduced full time staff leads to more reliance on buena gente volunteers, especially in coordinating the Arte es Vida program.

- City Council public hearings on PGA Tour 1/3 • City Council votes to build over the aquifer 1/6 • **MLK March 1/17** • **Fuerza Unida's** 15th anniversary 1/20
- Opening of *Tlasohltla: El Amor Tiene Muchas Caras* by Deborah Kuetzpalin Vasquez 2/12 • *Chisholm '72, Unbought & Unbossed* screening followed by a discussion 2/5 • **14th Annual International Woman's Day March & Rally 3/5** • *Arte es Vida* project recovery of Westside stories interviewing/videotaping elders/sabias @ Casa de Cuentos (ongoing on Saturdays) • **9th Annual César E. Chávez March 3/26** • First *CineMujer* women's film festival offered co-sponsored with **Palo Alto College Women's History Month 3/28-4/2** • *MujerArtes'* annual Mother's Day Sale at La Casita 5/1 • *Café de las Tres* canto y cuentos with Lourdes Pérez & special guests, *Somos Tres* from Puerto Rico 6/5 • *The Lucy & Ray Show* video, a Westside story completed with instructional editing by Tami Gold (June) • *Texas Media Empowerment Project* meets at the Esperanza Center working towards media reform (ongoing) • **3rd Annual Noche de Macondo** featuring writers: Ruth Behar, Tammy Gómez, Elva Treviño Hart, Richard Blanco, John Phillip Santos & Luis J. Rodríguez plus emerging writers 8/12 • Doña Enriqueta Contreras on *Remedios Caseros* at Casa de Cuentos 9/11 • *Árboles de MujerArtes: Recuerdos, tradiciones y vida*, an exhibit/sale celebrating the **10th Anniversary of MujerArtes** 9/17 • *Calaveras* Writing Workshops 9/3, 10/8 • *Creating the Día de muertos Altar* with Verónica Sandoval 9/24 • *History of Día de los muertos* with Ramon Vásquez & Denise Cadena 10/1 • Ana Castillo, author of *Watercolor Women, Opaque Men* and *Psst...I Have Something to Tell You, Mi Amor* reading 10/2 • *Calaveras* Writing Workshop 10/8 • *Plantas Curativas* plática with Doña Enriqueta Contreras of Oaxaca at La Casita 9/11 • *Calaveras issue of La Voz de Esperanza* featuring a traditional broadsheet insert (Nov.) • *La Dama*, Rita Vidaurri sings at *Calle 24 series* of **Our Lady of the Lake University**, Thirty Auditorium 11/4 • Dan Guerrero as *¡Gaytino!* 11/5&6 • *Caminando con los Muertos* procession, altar y ceremonia @ Casa de Cuentos 11/2 • **16th Annual Peace Market** 11/25&26 • *MujerArtes' Día de la Virgen* sale 12/10

# 2006 -They've Uprooted the Palestinians Now they've Uprooted the Olive Trees series



*The Uprooted Series* focusing on the "Middle East" includes a Dardasha/plática with Nadine Saliba, May Qunibi, Nedal Arar, Salwa Arnous, & Marian Haddad moderated by Bárbara Renaud González.



Above: Elizandro with Zurina, the cast of *Empanada*, and Azul & Fox Tech students.



*The ¡Ojo! Mujeres de Conciencia* exhibit artists, Favianna Rodríguez, Jacquenette Arnette, Elizabeth Puentes, Jimena Marín and María Gaspar.



Jane Tuck speaks with a friend Jeff Rooney & Dianne Monroe at the *Uprooted* exhibit.



Patricia Portales at the *Iron Wall* screening.



Mary Agnes Rodríguez & Jane Madrigal, artists of *¡Ojo!*



Rita Vidaurri with the Las Alteñas mariachi.



Rita Vidaurri with the Las Alteñas mariachi.

## The Conjunto de Nepantleras

Editor's note: As 2005 ended and 2006 began, a re-organization of the *Esperanza Center's* governing board took place and the board of directors was renamed the *Conjunto de Nepantleras*. As the conjunto celebrates a year of existence, it continues to develop its role within the Esperanza family. Below is an excerpt of an editorial explaining the terms as written about in the February 2006 issue of *La Voz*.

...The terms conjunto and nepantlera reflect a renewed commitment to the work in community that Esperanza has done for nearly twenty years. Conjunto was suggested as a term that connotes a coming together. It is also a mathematical term used to describe a group that has commonalities. For many "conjunto" sparks visions of gente dancing to the barrio music of San

Antonio. What better way to signify a group coming together to do the joyful work of the Esperanza than conjunto?

Coming up with the concept of nepantleras was a bit trickier. The root word, nepantla, is a nautl word meaning a place that is in between, ni aqui ni alla. The word was brought to use most notably by Gloria Anzaldúa in her book, *Borderlands/La Frontera* in 1987 (the same year Esperanza was born)...

...Nepantlera [is] a term coined by Gloria Anzaldúa to define a unique type of visionary cultural worker. Nepantleras are threshold people; they move within and among multiple worlds, and use this movement to transform them... Again, it's about bridging communities, bringing groups closer together to new understandings, and creating a better world. - G. Ramirez

## 2006 ESPERANZA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

The Esperanza board is reborn as the *Conjunto de Nepantleras* with 22 members, of which four stay on from the previous board. The Conjunto includes the two full-time staff members, director Graciela Sánchez and René Saenz. The *Uprooted* series on the Middle East intensifies with the opening of Salwa Arnous' art exhibit, resulting in attacks on the Esperanza. The exhibit is followed by the Dardasha, films, a workshop, & The Other Jewish Voice roundtable discussion, which prompt articles for the July/August issue of *La Voz*.

- **MLK March 1/16** • Esperanza board transitions into *Conjunto de Nepantleras* with new members (Jan.) • *Nuestras Historias*: An Intergenerational Bookmaking workshop with Carolina Rubio @ Casa de Cuentos (Feb-Mar) • *We Say No!*, literary reading protesting torture @ SA Public Library 2/23 • **15th Annual IWD March 3/5** • *¡Ojo! Mujeres de Conciencia* exhibit curated by Carolina Rubio featuring Jacquenette Arnette, Jane Madrigal, Mary Agnes Rodríguez, Laura Varela, Elizabeth De alva-Puentes, María Gaspar, Favianna Rodríguez, Lahib Jaddo, Jimena Marín 3/11 • *Dos Generaciones* concert with Mariachi Las Alteñas & Rita Vidaurri 3/17 • *Mestiza de la Mente* concert with Azul y Maya 3/19 • *Empanada* dinner fundraiser 3/25 • **10th Annual Cesar E. Chavez March for Justice 3/25** • **2nd Annual Cinemujer** in collaboration with Palo Alto College 3/27-31 • *Esperanza Community Spring Cleaning* 4/22-23 • Scanning of historical Westside family photos for Fotoseptiembre (ongoing) • *Immigration Rights Marches* 4/10 & 5/1 • *MujerArtes' Día de las Madres Sale* at La Casita 5/6-7 • *Granito de Arena* screening/plática with filmmaker, Jill Freidberg 5/7 • *They've Uprooted the Palestinians. Now They've Uprooted the Olive Trees* series with an art exhibit by Salwa Arnous & poetry by Naomi Shihab Nye 5/12 • *Mujeres Writing/Performance* workshop with Anel Flores & María Ibarra 6/3 • *Uprooted series* roundtable *Dardasha/Plática* with Salwa Arnous, Nadine Saliba, Nidal Arar, May Qunibi & Marian Haddad 6/3 • *Empanada* performances 6/9-17 • *Rock for Choice* benefit @ Rutamaya 6/10

**Staffmembers between 2002-2007:** Director: Graciela I. Sánchez; past staff: Elizandro Carrington, Viola Cásarez, Verónica Castillo, dragonfly, Araceli Espin, Vicki Grise, Herminia Maldonado, Petra Mata, Jason Morteo, María Palafox, Cindy Rodríguez, Manuel Solis, Deborah Vásquez, Irma Mayorga María Salazar, Inez Valdez, Marissa Ramírez, Pat Benítez, Christina Valero, Mirasol Riojas, Brenda Davis, Joleen García, Jamila Reyes Gutierrez, Jessica Fuentes, Michael Marinéz (unpaid). **Interns:** Alonzo Avila, Claudia Ahumada, Michelle De León, spiral, Valerie De León, Victoria Echeverri, Kat Vetzler **Current full-time staff (2007):** René Saenz, Jessica Guerrero, Amanda Haas, Mía Kang (intern).

# The Esperanza Peace and Justice Center

## Veinte Años, 1987-2007



*“To all of those who came before us, to all of those who will come after us, to us. To happiness, to freedom, to justice, to Esperanza.”*

—Dennis Poplin, former boardmember

Editor's note: On the occasion of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center's 20th anniversary on January 31, 2007, a toast must be made with the still-pure water of the San Antonio aquifer (unbottled), using the words of Dennis Poplin at the El Grito celebration of the new space on San Pedro. The essence of his article in the *El Grito* publication was a story that led to questions like: "How do you stay true to a vision, keep it pure, and focused but let it live in the real world?" "How do you allow people to share it, embrace it, and make it their own?" And, "What will the Esperanza look like when we are gone?"

Answers we do not have, but con Esperanza, we have

the hope of continuing to do our best, sometimes in spite of ourselves. The *Veinte* was kicked off with a birthday celebration for Conjunto member Ana Ramírez in January, but the full-blown pachanga is still to come this fall. Check *La Voz* for upcoming details this summer and join us in the planning. Remember, your recuerdos of *Veinte Años* will be solicited for a *Veinte* publication in the coming months. Gracias desde el vientre del corazón de Esperanza to all the buena gente, staff, and board members who have brought us to this point in history. (Thanks, from the "womb" of our heart.) Nos vemos pronto para celebrar! We look forward to celebrating in the coming months!



Guadalupe at *Fuerza* Sir! No Sir! screening Peruvians at *Fuerza* Raúl Salinas, *Macondo Night* honoree Amy Goodman & the Velasquezes Eva Garza at *Los Courts* photo  
 Vintage Lydia Lydia Mendoza honored at 90 years Paulita, Tina, & Bernie at Lydia event Eva Ybarra Aguilar niñas at Lydia Amanda Haas, staff Lucy & Ray of "The Show"  
 Leno Diaz & Rita at *Veinte* kickoff Gabe Rosales & T.C. at the kickoff Familiar faces of Esperanza at the kickoff *Veinte* kickoff honoree, Ana Ramirez René, Mía & Azul at the kickoff

### 2006-07 ESPERANZA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

A nationwide call to support immigrant rights is heeded in San Antonio. Coincidentally, stories and photos of immigrants reflect the history of the Westside in *Arte es Vida* pláticas and photos. Focus on community history continues with a celebration of Lydia Mendoza's 90th birthday at Plaza Guadalupe. The publication of *Los Courts* by Leticia Vela in the July/August issue of *La Voz* parallels the *En Aquellos Tiempos...Fotohistoras del Westside* history of international cantante, Eva Garza who lived in *Los Courts* in her youth. Eva Garza is honored in *La Voz* as part of *Día de los muertos* ofrendas and with an altar at *La Casita*. *Noche de Macondo* returns to the *Esperanza* for the 3rd year honoring Raúl Salinas. *MujerArtes* and Rita Vidaurri end with another año de exitos.

• Special *La Voz* with focus on *Los Courts* by Leticia Vela (July/Ag issue) • *Uprooted* series: *Poetry of social Justice & Compassion* workshop with Steve Kowitz 7/15 • *Uprooted* screens *The Iron Wall* by Mohammed Alatar 7/15 • *Uprooted: The Other Jewish Voice* roundtable discussion with Batya Hecker, Steve Kowitz, Dianne Monroe, & Judith Norman • *Sir! No Sir!* Screening with producer Evaneline Griego plus, works in progress by Laura Varela & Mariscela Méndez co/sp with NALIP 7/22 • *Noche de Macondo* honors Raúl Salinas 8/11 • *Serenata a Lydia Mendoza* on her 90th birthday with Joel Guzman, Sarah Fox & *Los Aztex*, Rita Vidaurri & mas @ Plaza Guadalupe 9/23 • *En Aquellos Tiempos: Fotohistoras del Westside* exhibit opens at Casa de Cuentos & throughout Westside 10/7 • 6th National conference of NALAC 10/11-15 • Amy Goodman of *Democracy Now!* 10/20 • *Ladyfest SA* @ Rutamaya & Sam's Burger Joint 10/19-21 • *Uprooted Film Series: Cinemas* films on the "middle east" 10/26-29 • *MujerArtes' Día de los Muertos* sale 10/27 • *Rachel Corrie's parents*, Craig & Cindy speak 9/29-30 • 2006 *La Voz* edition of *Calaveras for Día de los Muertos* with special ofrenda for Eva Garza (Nov) • *Día de los muertos* celebration at *MujerArtes* 11/2 • 17th Annual Peace Market features artisans from Oaxaca & Peru 11/24&25 • *MujerArtes' Día de La Virgen* exhibit/sale 12/8 • *Eve's Eve* New Year's fundraiser 12/30 • *La Voz de Esperanza* series on *Veinte Años* begins with first 5 years (Dec. 06/Jan. 07) • *Veinte Años anniversary* celebrating Ana Garza's birthday 1/31/07

**Boardmembers, 2002-2006:** David Zamora Casas, Anita Cisneros, Amy Kastely, Josie Méndez-Negrete, Michael Marínez, Dolores Zapata Murff, Alejandro Pérez, Kamala Platt, Gloria A. Ramírez & Rudy Rosales, Anel Flores, Marcos Márquez, Dolores Zapata Murff, Kamala Platt  
**Conjunto de Nepantleras, October, 2006 to present:** Deanne Cuellar, Lacey Dalby, Brenda Davis, Anel Flores, Graciela García, Mónica M. García, Jessica O. Guerrero, Araceli Herrera, Rachel Jennings, Amy Kastely, Mariana Ornelas, Kamala Platt, Anna Ramirez, Gloria A. Ramírez, Rudy Rosales, Renee Saenz, Nadine Saliba, Graciela Sánchez, Iman Saliba, Fabiola Torralba, Monica Velásquez, Andrea Vince

# La Marcha Migrante II and Hutto Vigil #6

by Chuck Robinson

The Marcha Migrante II (MMII) border caravan traced its way from California to Brownsville, TX, while few U.S. media took notice: only *La Opinion* and two independent photographers documented the trip. Starting in San Diego on Feb. 2nd and ending there on Feb. 17th, the march followed last year's immigration reform visit to Washington, DC, organized once again by Border Angels (Angeles de la Frontera) founder Enrique Morones.

He and others from California, Texas and Pennsylvania were joined by Villa Del Rio (TX) owner Jay J. Johnson-Castro, an outspoken critic of the T. Don Hutto Residence Center. On Feb. 7th, the group, including a consul, walked from Del Rio to Ciudad Acuña, Mexico to a warm reception from dozens of locals. Like a scene out of a PR handbook, the eager media met marchers on the bridge, filming each of us as we shook hands with Mayor Lenin Pérez on Mexican soil. The crowd listened as Morones outlined the need for comprehensive and humane immigration reform, called out to Castro as he walked around shaking hands, and snapped pictures of the mayor as he led the procession to Crosby's, a local restaurant and cantina.

Talking over fresh tostadas, chile and pico de gallo, I met the Rev. Canon Mary Moreno-Richardson of St. Paul's Cathedral in San Diego, who leads a Hispanic Ministry and does outreach services for children. Often forgotten faces in the matter, U.S.-born/citizen children of undocumented immigrants now stand threatened by new anti-immigration legislation. Often economically disadvantaged, these children are pushed to their limits in the unforgiving and racist U.S. environment, constantly having to worry about members of their family being deported. Rev. Moreno-Richardson noted that the youth often suffer from depression, anxiety, and self-esteem problems.

After a night at Castro's bed and breakfast, MMII made its way to Laredo, TX and briefly met with Mexican media and Laredo city officials on Feb. 8th. Upon arriving in Roma, TX a few hours later, Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) agents circled the block in marked and unmarked vehicles near the historic downtown border overlook. Among them, Border Patrol (BP), National Guard and Army members did their best to look busy at the base of an observation tower with video cameras and floodlights. As the Rio Grande flowed beneath us, a soldier in full camouflage netting hid in the scrub on the hillside. The Mexican side looked peaceful, serene, and stoic, while the

U.S. side seemed like something from a post-apocalyptic movie — the militarization, as seen from Mexico, must look simultaneously intimidating and crude.

As we started to leave for Mission, TX, a guardsman pulled up and said, after the fact, "...don't photograph the soldiers." Seems curious that DHS agents, BP, and soldiers lacked knowledge of policies and procedures before coming to work. Their anxiety in dealing with us, the conspicuous appearance of their post, and the late photo mandate comprise a more fitting portrait of "border security:" a farce, a wedge issue. At sunset in Mission, Father John and others welcomed us at La Lomita Mission (for which the city is named) on the Rio Grande. He led

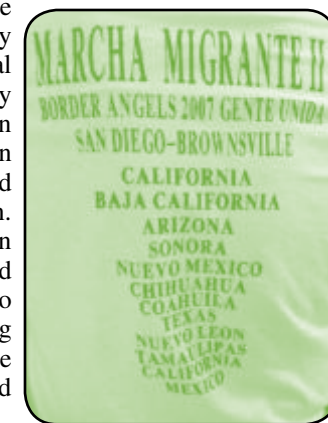
a brief prayer, then marchers spoke by candlelight inside the small, 140-year-old iglesia. After sharing food, we slept in tents on the banks of the river, where black-clad BP agents canvassed the dark shore while their boats patrolled the river.

The next morning, Feb. 9th, MMII arrived at Centro de Inmigración (CI) in McAllen, TX, where Director Benigno Peña had organized the community and media. Members of agencies like ARISE and L.U.P.E. were present, and the media took soundbites from Morones, Castro, local leaders, and readings of CI's client letters. The citizens in the Rio Grande Valley make it apparent that they oppose a border wall plan, which may explain why McAllen covered the march with both print and broadcast news (in addition to the usual Mexican media). After quick stops at Peña's offices in Pharr and Harlingen, the growing convoy drove to Brownsville. There at the exit from the highway stood a mural reading, "No Berlin Wall On Our Border!"

After arriving at Dean Porter Park, letters were read while the crowd and student journalists looked on. Brownsville mayor Eddie Treviño Jr. and members of his cabinet stood united with activists, speaking on behalf of families on both sides of the border. Again, all voices stood in solidarity to oppose more harmful legislation and any effort to construct a wall, providing an encouraging half-way mark to MMII. I caught up with members of the caravan on Feb. 12th in Taylor, TX, where we gathered with Texans United for Families and others for a candlelight vigil opposing the detention of families with children in the Hutto Residence Center.

Outside the for-profit prison run by Corrections Corporation of America, the DHS flag flies at the same height as the US flag, and barbed wire encircles multiple fences around the facility. Train tracks run directly across the street, calling to mind images of internment camps and places like Auschwitz. César Chávez march organizer Ron Rocha spoke to the assembly, calling Hutto a "concentration camp." LULAC's Rosa Rosales implored the crowd to keep fighting on behalf of imprisoned children. Austin sent a TV station to do a brief spot on the evening news, and a documentary crew was also there.

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Border Angels T-shirt



**\*community meetings\***

**Amnesty Int'l** #127 meets 4th Thursdays, 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 at 710 New Laredo Hwy. Call 927-2297.

**Habitat for Humanity** holds Volunteer Meetings on 1st Tuesdays at First Presbyterian Church, 404N. Alamo, Rm 302 at 6 pm.

**Parents/Friends of Lesbians/Gays (PFLAG)** meets the 1st Thursdays at 7pm at the Resource Center, 121 W. Woodlawn. Call 655-2383.

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

**The Rape Crisis Center** is located at 7500 US Hwy 90 W., Building 2 in San Antonio. Hotline number is 210.349-7273. Call 210/521-7273 or Drominishi@rapecrisis.com

**San Antonio NOW** meets on fourth Wednesdays at La Madeline on Broadway at 6:30pm. Call: 210.673-8600 Mail: Box 34551, 78265-4551

**The Shambhala Buddhist Meditation Center** offers meditation classes on Tuesdays/Thursdays at 7pm, Sundays at 11:30 am, 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 SA** meets 2nd Mondays, 7 pm @ Barnes & Noble, San Pedro Crossing.

**Solidarity: Peer Support for Mental Health Consumers**, meets 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 10:30 am @ Travis Park United Methodist Church, Rm 210. Call 734-7527.

**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.

**Voice for Animals** meets the last Saturday at Whole Foods Market in the Quarry 3 - 5 p.m. Call 737-3138 or visit www.voiceforanimals.org

**Texas Media Empowerment Project** meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday @ the Esperanza Center @ 6:30 pm. Contact: deanne@tokyo.or call 320.7561

**The Metropolitan Community Church of San Antonio (MCCSA)**, 611 East Myrtle has non-denominational Christian services and Sunday School every Sunday at 10:30 AM. Call: 599-9289.

**The Solidarity Support Group** meets Monday thru Friday at 5802 S. Presa. For more information call Janet @ 582-8776 or Leo @ 436-8018x307.

**Stonewall Democrats** of SA meets the 3rd Mondays at 7pm at Grady's Barbecue, 6510 San Pedro. Call 494-7442

**World Can't Wait** meets on Wednesdays at 7 pm at the Esperanza Center, contact sanantonio@worldcantwait.org

Submissions, deletions or changes to community meetings may be made through [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org) or mail to: La Voz, 922 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212

The **ESPERANZA PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER** is part of *Community Shares of Texas*

Sign-up to donate monthly to the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center directly from your paycheck at work through these AWTS participants:

*In San Antonio:*

- (San Antonio Area)
- State Employee Charitable Campaign
- San Antonio Combined Federal Campaign
- City of San Antonio Local Charitable Campaign
- Bexar County Employees Local Charitable Campaign
- San Antonio Combined School District Charitable Campaign
- San Antonio Water System Local Charitable Campaign

*Outside of San Antonio:*

- Central Texas Combined Federal Campaign (Austin area)
- City of Austin Combined Charities Campaign
- Travis County Combined Charities Campaign
- City of Houston Combined Municipal Campaign
- Houston ISD Combined Charities Campaign
- City of El Paso Combined Charitable Campaign
- County of El Paso Combined Charitable Campaign

And, all of Community Shares of Texas campaigns in the private sector.

**ESPERANZA PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER**

Call us at 210 • 228 • 0201

to sign up with our electronic direct deposit program or to access employment site codes.

# 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: [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org) or by snail mail to: 922 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212. The deadline is the 10th of each month.

**Artpace** and **Gemini Ink** present a pairing of the verbal and visual arts with a reading by James Michener Fellow in Poetry, Jenny Browne and a presentation of Joey Fauerso's paintings at **Artpace**, 445 N. Main, Thursday, April 5, 6:30 - 8 pm. Contact: 210-734-9673 or [info@geminiink.org](mailto:info@geminiink.org)

Pushcart Prize-winning poet Cyrus Cassells, novelist Rolando Hinojosa-Smith, and **Texas Monthly** contributing writer Cecilia Ballí will read from their work at **Gemini Ink's First Friday Reading Series** at Gemini Ink, 513 S. Presa on Friday, April 6, 6:30 - 8 pm. Contact: 210-734-9673 or [info@geminiink.org](mailto:info@geminiink.org)

The 13th Annual **Border Book Festival** will take place from April 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> in Mesilla, New Mexico. Sandra Cisneros will be reading with Martin Espada on Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> at the gala dinner, reading, and concert with Perla Batalla. Check [www.borderbookfestival.org](http://www.borderbookfestival.org)

Through May 19: **StoneMetalPress** in the Blue Star Arts complex exhibits **Currents From Kyoto: Five Contemporary Printmakers from Japan**, call Le at 210-227-0312 or 210-722-3840.

**Little Red Leaves**, a collectively edited online poetry journal will be released on May Day (May 1st, 2007). A chapbook press, Dos Press, will also be debuting in May. To submit poems or for more information check [www.littleredleavesjournal.blogspot.com](http://www.littleredleavesjournal.blogspot.com).

**Anonymous No More: Stories for and by Women of Color**, a collection of stories and art that speak to an understanding of survival and resistance, is accepting art submission and stories written or dictated in the first person until June 1st, 2007. Email: [anonymousnomore@gmail.com](mailto:anonymousnomore@gmail.com).

**Support the IFCO/Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba this July - End the Blockade! IFCO/Pastors for Peace**

are building for the largest possible **US-Cuba Friendship Caravan** in July of 2007. To join the caravan within the U.S. or in Mexico and on to Cuba, contact [cucaravan@igc.org](mailto:cucaravan@igc.org) Phone 212-926-5757 to make contributions or check [www.pastorsforpeace.org](http://www.pastorsforpeace.org).

**The Socially Responsible Investment Coaliton-SRIC**

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1982-2007)

**Celebration**

April 18<sup>th</sup> @

**Crowne Plaza Hotel**

**San Antonio, Texas**

Call 210-344-6778 ofc/fax

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Two days later, the San Antonio Current published reports on Hutto. Four days later, Texas Public Radio did a story and 10 days later, Hutto appeared in the Washington Post.

These problems are bigger than our borders, affecting families and nations. It seems that in an effort to consolidate control over resources and markets, the Bush and Fox/Calderón administrations have touted tougher immigration reform, crackdowns on drug trafficking, and the need for secure borders, but in reality, they have done little for the people on the ground--people affected by the monitored, militarized, and increasingly dangerous border. Forgotten are the split families struggling to survive while awaiting visas; protected are the trans-national corporations profiting from exploited workers and loose trade barriers. Forgotten are those who died in crossing, buried under cover of darkness in unmarked graves by our government; protected are the corrupt local, state, and national agencies.

"Every time I go there, I cry," said Castro, when referring to the gravesite in Southern California where so many unknown souls have been laid to rest. The media-consuming U.S. public are detached--skilled in forgetting how our farming, production, and service-sector laborers work, yet quick to cry foul over "illegal" immigrants who are supposedly riding the welfare system, filling prisons, and taking scholarships. Dominant US opinion, including the media, has historically marginalized, criminalized,

and under-represented immigrants and people of color, painting over their stories and struggles with broad, stereotypical strokes. All manner of immigrants have encountered this, from the forcefully emigrated Africans lampooned in minstrel shows, to the Irish, German, Italian, Jewish, Chinese, Japanese and Latino, to the Islamo-phobia of today. People of color have no media representation because the pen (or camera) of the oppressor writes history. It is apparent that in the post-9/11 era, the U.S. media is that pen, falling in lockstep with the hard-line rhetoric of our administration.



Keeping vigilance on the U.S./Mexico border

Our government, regardless of background, cares little about our nation's immigrant legacy, and would rather "pull up the ladder" to let people of color suffer. Lest we forget, we are all immigrants whose ancestors dreamed of a better life complete with liberty and justice. Just because Christopher Columbus landed in Hispaniola, claimed the land, and millions of indigenous peoples were murdered to appropriate the "New World" for Europeans doesn't mean that any land belongs to the colonizer. We only occupy it. Building walls won't solve any problems, only reveal our weaknesses. The words of Chief Seattle remind us: "The earth does not belong to us, we belong to the earth." Sadly, those in control of government, economy and religion over the last five centuries fail to see this truth, and their borders have divided our earth. ¡Todos somos inmigrantes!

## Make a tax-deductible donation.

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /month by automatic bank withdrawal. Contact me to sign up.

I pledge to send \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each \_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_ quarter \_\_\_\_\_ six-months through the mail.

Enclosed is a donation of \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 La Voz subscription / \$100 Institutions \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer!

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Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

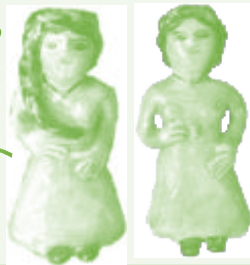
for more info call 210.228.0201  
Make checks payable to the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center. Send to 922 San Pedro, SA TX 78212. Donations to the Esperanza are tax deductible.

# MujerArtes Annual Mother's Day Sale

## Saturday, Cinco de Mayo, 9am - 6pm

*Compre un regalo para su madre  
hecho por manos de madres,  
hecho con cariño.*

La Casita de *MujerArtes* is located at 1412 El Paso St.  
across from the Guadalupe Church on the Westside of San Antonio.



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## Mujeres: Divinas y Humanas

## Women: Human & Divine

An exhibit by the women of the Castillo Family  
of Izucar de Matamoros, Puebla, Mexico

**On view until May 31, 2007 at the  
Esperanza Peace & Justice Center  
922 San Pedro, just south of SAC**



Rigoberta Menchu, Guatemalan indigenous  
activist, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize



La familia Castillo is internationally recognized for their artesanía de cerámica policromada including trees of life and calaveras representing Mexico's indigenous heritage. In celebration of women, the Castillo women have created over 40 works of divine and heroic women from both sides of the border. Artists include: the matriarach Soledad Marta; daughters Verónica, Marta Angelica, Patricia and their sister in-law, Elizabet.

For information call 210-228-0201 or check our website at [www.esperanzacenter.org](http://www.esperanzacenter.org)

Women who died in childbirth were considered victorious warriors by the Aztecs and were honored and made the center of special rituals. They were granted eternal life and became the god, Cihuateotl or Cihuapiltin to ascend into Cihuatlampa or the Paradise of Women. (Pictured at left.)