

La Voz de Esperanza

JULY/AUG 2019 VOL. 32 ISSUE 6

SAN ANTONIO, TEJAS



WHERE IS THE EMERGENCY?

THE ONLY NATIONAL EMERGENCY IS LIVING IN THE WHITE HOUSE.
IMTEACH THE CLOWN PRESIDENT!

The TRUMP Presidency IS THE real EMERGENCY!!

#wherestheemergency

NO walls

More miLX ration

AN ORANGE JUMPSUIT GOES WELL WITH STEEL SLATS
TRUMP is the EMERGENCY

NATION Emergency
TRAITOR
IN THE OVAL OFFICE

THE REAL EMERGENCY IS TRUMP

TRUMP IS THE EMERGENCY AT THE BORDER



La Voz de Esperanza

July/Aug 2019
Vol. 32 Issue 6

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- Opinions expressed in La Voz are not necessarily those of the Esperanza Center.

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Articles due by the 8th of each month

Policy Statements

* We ask that articles be visionary, progressive, instructive & thoughtful. Submissions must be literate & critical; not sexist, racist, homophobic, violent, or oppressive & may be edited for length.

* All letters in response to Esperanza activities or articles in La Voz will be considered for publication. Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

Happy Summer!

The July/August 2019 La Voz de Esperanza is an expanded 24 page issue with contributions from San Antonio and beyond! Many thanks to all who made this special issue possible.

—Gloria A. Ramirez, editor

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Eleanor H. Hilsman

August 30, 1923 - June 11, 2019



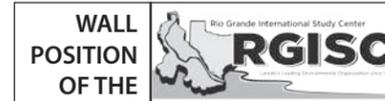
The Esperanza staff and buena gente express heartfelt condolences to Amy Kastely, Esperanza board member and legal adviser, on the recent passing of her dear mother at 95 years of age. Much of Esperanza's success is due to the involvement of persons such as Amy who have dedicated much time and love to the organization and its gente. No doubt Amy, who is so committed to social justice, learned to be who she is from her mother. And for that we thank her mother. Our hearts and spirits join Amy and her family in sorrow wishing them solace and comfort in the memories of happy times spent with their mother. May she rest in peace.

ATTENTION VOZ READERS: If you have a mailing address correction please send it to lavoz@esperanzacenter.org. If you want to be removed from the La Voz mailing list, for whatever reason, please let us know. La Voz is provided as a courtesy to people on the mailing list of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. **The subscription rate is \$35 per year (\$100 for institutions).** 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.

A National Emergency: To Protect & Preserve the Rio Grande

By Melissa R. Cigarroa, *Board President of the RGISC*
Tricia Cortez, *Executive Director of the RGISC*



NOTE:

In February the President declared a National Emergency at the southern Border. Since then what began as a brazen attempt to subvert federal dollars to execute an empty campaign promise has turned into a true humanitarian crisis. The President and his supporters are hell-bent on building a boondoggle along the border that will address none of the security issues used to justify its construction while ignoring the humanitarian imbroglio the Administration's policies have created.

This national emergency declaration is no more than a vehicle to circumvent the will of Congress which has refused to provide

border wall funding, and Laredo is the next target. This political maneuver is nothing more than a radical land grab by the federal government, and will profoundly change the landscape and skyline of our historic borderlands paving the way for an ecological crisis to occur.

At present, 700 miles of barrier already exist along the southern border. Building a wall in the Laredo Sector is a "top priority requirement" for Customs and Border Protection (CBP), according to legal documents filed June 1 by the CBP in response to a lawsuit filed by Earthjustice on behalf of RGISC and several other individuals and entities.

Wall construction amounts to the confiscation of land and property, the destruction of natural resources and wildlife habitat, exacerbates the extinction of endangered species, threatens the only water supply of millions of people, exposes the community to more flooding and soil erosion, and defaces the cultural, trade and economic fabric of our border region.

Plans for Laredo

Customs and Border Protection is the agency created to control the flux of persons and goods through U.S. borders. CBP's plans for Laredo include a 127-mile bollard-style barrier system along the Rio Grande, a 150-foot enforcement zone that clears all vegetation between the wall and river, and the use of high intensity floodlights and cameras, and an all-weather road. Gates will be built for ranchers and property owners to access their land on the river side of the wall.

This will cut through the heart of Laredo which includes downtown, the Laredo College campus, densely populated middle-and-low income residential neighborhoods, and prime parks, trails and habitat for recreation, kayaking, and birding, which have made Laredo and the lower Rio Grande Valley a destination for eco-tourists. Our region will soon become a vast wasteland of environmental degradation.

Laredo is a historic community in the South Texas borderlands. Its lifeblood, the Rio Grande, has always been its No. 1 asset since our community's founding 264 years ago in 1755. The consequences of constructing a wall in Laredo's urban center would devastate our landscape, ecology, cultural heritage, and quality of life.

It is clear to us that the historic Latino and frontline border communities in South Texas, singled out by the

Trump administration, would be disproportionately impacted by the construction of a wall.

As was true before, security is not the issue. A Wall will not address the surge of Central American migrants fleeing violence, poverty and climate factors. A Wall will not prevent the vast majority of migrants from reaching US soil on the river side of the Wall and legally seeking asylum. A Wall will not stop the migrant caravans from coming. Nor will it curb the labor force demands in agriculture and construction that still rely on migrant labor.

A wall will not prevent drugs from entering the United States, of which more than 90% enter through legal ports of entry. It will, instead, divert billions that should be strategically invested in our ports to intercept the drugs that supply America's insatiable demand, and to stop the southbound flow of guns and cash into Mexico that embolden the cartels with greater resources.

A Wall will do nothing to relieve the overburdened US immigration court system that reviews asylum claims — the backlog of 800,000 cases is only growing. (source: bit.ly/plan-fails). A Wall would not have prevented the 700,000 who overstayed their legal visas in 2017 and remain illegally in the U.S. nor those overstaying before then nor today. A Wall is not an immigration policy. (source: bit.ly/immigration-crisis)



The Las Palmas Nature Trail of the Loving Laredo Hike would disappear if a wall is built and many other activities like birding would be restricted or forbidden.

The Rio Grande

The Rio Grande river exists in an over-stressed basin and is the only source of drinking water for Laredo and many other cities. It is the primary source of water for drinking and irrigation for more than 6 million people and 2 million acres of land and countless species of animals that depend on it for their survival.

It continues to rank as one of the 10 most endan-



gered rivers in the world. It supports 121 different fish species, half of which are found nowhere else on the planet, more than 500 species of birds, and 300 species of butterflies.

This fragile yet biologically rich and diverse landscape contributes more than \$500 mil-

Monthly river monitoring by RGISC, part of the Texas Clean Rivers Program, would be strictly limited by security gates and the wall.

lion to eco-tourism in the south Texas region. Every effort must be made by our federal government to protect and preserve it; not to destroy it and the wildlife, drinking water, and dynamic communities that it sustains.

Yet, our government has suspended civil and environmental protections on our borderlands that apply everywhere else in the country.

The Trump administration has already waived 48 laws that protect people and wildlife to rush construction on our biodiverse vega (river floodplain).

These waivers include the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA (the holy grail of environmental protection), Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, among many others.

“Where’s the National Emergency?” Campaign

This past spring, we joined a powerful and diverse coalition of voices in Laredo in a new campaign called “Where’s the National Emergency?” that seeks to show our own reality on the border.

FBI Uniform Crime Report data shows that we live in some of the safest cities in Texas and the country. Trade is flourishing. In 2018, Laredo processed nearly 40 percent, or \$234.7 billion¹, of the total value of U.S.-Mexico trade, making us the largest inland port in the nation. In March, we pulled ahead of Long Beach to become the No. 1 port in the United States.

Despite this economic and security success, the Trump administration continues to lie about the security threat. The Texas Legislature’s attempt this session to create a slush fund of nearly two hundred million state dollars

to improvise physical barriers along Webb and Starr counties was a naked partisan move. And even the City of Laredo’s proposal to accept federal funding for a bulkhead in the downtown area as down payment for the Wall feeds this false narrative.

Some city officials are providing the impression that the Laredo bulkhead project would present minimal harm, referencing photos of the Seine River in Paris. However, the bulkhead entails the construction of a 12-mile concrete barrier, driven through the riverbed that would rise 18 to 30 feet with additional fencing on top. There have been no City Council votes, referendums, town hall meetings, or other public forums to engage the people of Laredo to ask if this is what we want. They haven’t asked us if we want this bulkhead so badly that we’re willing to greenlight 115 other miles of wall throughout the rest of our city and county.

With no impact studies and no hard data to support any wall, our leaders are committing one of the grossest acts of injustice on the lands and people of South Texas. They will be complicit in writing one of the most lamentable chapters of border history.

Migrants and Apprehensions at the Border

Despite current headlines of migrant crossings that can seem frightening for anyone who doesn’t know or live on the border, we must clarify that there is no national emergency.

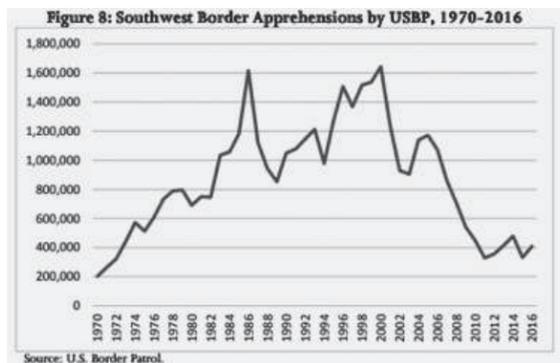
Without a doubt, the problem is acute: some ports of entry are seeing the arrival of family units and many of our border personnel have not handled these numbers of family units in the past. For decades, the typical migrant profile was a single man from Mexico looking for work. Today, it’s a Central American family or unaccompanied minor seeking asylum.

This change in migrant profile requires a different type of leadership and action - we need more personnel to: process migrants, conduct credible fear screenings, and provide the right services and treatment for asylum seekers.

And despite current numbers, these aren’t record numbers. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reports that 132,877 apprehensions took place in May 2019. But prior to 2008, monthly crossings were consistently over 100,000 and were higher than 200,000 per month in 2000.² Clearly, our country has faced this situation before.



On March 14th, Laredoans launched the Where’s the National Emergency Campaign (WTNE), a diverse coalition in response to Trump’s



Above is a chart produced by the Office of Immigration Statistics for a 2017 DHS report titled “Efforts by DHS to Estimate Southwest Border Security Between Ports of Entry.” Figure 8 shows Southwest Border Apprehensions by U.S. Border Patrol from 1970-2016.³

According to a report by the Council on Foreign Relations, “violence and rampant crime have driven asylum seekers from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to the United States.” Migrants from all three countries cite violence, forced gang recruitment, and extortion, as well as poverty and lack of opportunity, as their reasons for leaving.⁴ Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras have the highest homicide rates in Central America.

Despite these significant issues in the region, the U.S. has not confirmed an Ambassador for the countries of Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador, among other countries.⁵ Latin America in general, has been largely ignored.

Ugly Racial Undertones

Meanwhile, why is it that our state’s most powerful politicians will go to bat for private property owners along the Red River who faced federal land grabs and yet remain not just silent but a potentially active player in one of the greatest federal land grabs along the Rio Grande?

When the federal Bureau of Land Management under the Obama administration began surveying land along the Red River in 2009, claiming a nearly century-old Supreme Court decision allowed the federal government control of the land, (Gov. Greg) Abbott, (Attorney General Ken) Pax-



Declaration of a National Emergency on February 15th of 2019.

ton, (Senator Ted) Cruz, and (Senator John) Cornyn sprung into action to fight on behalf of the families that had lived on that land for generations. They became deeply involved in a long and drawn-out legal battle.

In 2015, Abbott sent a letter to the Bureau of Land Management, calling on the agency to “end this unconscionable land grab.” Paxton applauded landowners for fighting the federal government, and he quickly filed an amicus brief on their behalf, saying that “the borders of any state are a fundamental expression of its sovereignty, and are established through extensive surveys and legal precedent. We will not allow the federal government to arbitrarily infringe upon Texas land and undermine the private property rights of our citizens.”⁶



Access to the river for activities such as paddling would be restricted by the wall.

More than a Wall & More Lawsuits

The Wall is a radical assault on the ecology of an already threatened river. A Wall will not solve the current migrant situation on the border. Only comprehensive immigration reform will resolve the current situation.

This is about more than a Wall. It’s about a process that is leaving border residents with no legal recourse to have a say in what happens in our communi-

ties. If we lived 100 miles north, or perhaps along the Red River, the environmental protection waivers would not apply.

This is about how we are going to allow the government to treat us. The laws should be applied equally. We should have the same protections as other people in the rest of the country.

The good thing is that we are not alone. In addition to our lawsuit, there are numerous cases against Trump’s emergency declaration and the misallocation of funds to build a border wall. These cases are related, but in different courts and moving along slightly different tracks.

There are two cases in federal court in California – one filed by the ACLU on behalf of Sierra Club and one filed by the State of California on behalf of 20 states. In DC, where our case is also filed, the U.S. House of Representatives filed its own lawsuit challenging Trump’s misallocation of funds for the border wall. The judge recently denied the motion holding that the court doesn’t have jurisdiction to resolve a political dispute between the Executive and the Legislature. This was quite a surprise and the House is likely to appeal.

Things have also progressed with our case. On June 1, the government filed a motion to dismiss as we expected they would, so the legal fight has only begun

Where is the National Emergency? It is not on the southern Border. Here we deal with a humanitarian crisis that has been pervasively exacerbated by this administration’s own policies. Rather, the emergency is in the White House, whose 10,000 lies include the one that says a Border Wall is a solution to anything.

The Rio Grande International Study Center (RGISC) is an environmental advocacy group in Laredo, TX, founded in 1994. For footnotes contact: lavoz@esperanzacenter.org.

TRADUIRE LES FRONTIÈRES/ TRANSLATING BORDERS

By Norma Cantú

On May 16-18, 2019 over 200 scholars, activists, artists, and writers gathered for an intense conference titled “*Gloria Anzaldúa: Traduire les Frontières/Translating Borders.*” The international conference on the Chicana queer writer’s work sponsored by over a dozen academic centers and departments including Laboratoire Etudes de Genre et de Sexualité (LEGS), was held at three different Université Sorbonne campuses in Paris, France. Because I had attended conferences on Chicana Literature at the Sorbonne before, I had an idea of what to expect in terms of the culture of conferences in Europe—more like the *Congresos* in Spain or in Mexico—where you don’t pay a registration fee and things are less structured, rarely starting on time. Had I not had these experiences before, I would’ve panicked when the first cab refused to take us to the Paris 8 campus because it was so far.

The idea to host such a conference on Anzaldúa had been percolating for a while with Professors Nadia Setti, Jules Falquet, and others who teach at the Sorbonne. They had great interest in *El Mundo Zurdo (EMZ)*, and in May 2018 doctoral student, Camille Back, attended the *EMZ* conference in San Antonio. That summer, Prof. Paola Bacchetta from the Dept. of Gender & Women’s Studies at UC-Berkeley approached the *Society for the Study of Gloria Anzaldúa (SSGA)* with the idea of a gathering in Paris. She and French faculty members began the arduous task of shaping the conference. After several conference calls requiring that we negotiate time differences and expectations for the gathering, we ironed out a theme and a general view of the content. Because several of the interested parties belong to feminist groups in Paris, the French members of the Scientific Committee—aka Program Committee—form a network of like-minded feminists, queer, and lesbian activists in Paris; Paola, who spends time in Paris and has taught at the Sorbonne, served as liaison between the French scholars and *SSGA*. They finalized the theme for the conference and keynote speakers over the next few months. At the same time, the Organizing Committee took on the monumental task of securing the facilities at the three

campuses and insuring that the program took shape. Nadia Setti and Akila Kissi coordinated an exhibit of Anzaldúa’s drawings that was set up at the library of Université de Paris 8 with permission from the Nettie Lee Benson at UT-Austin. I was asked to contribute the images of flyers from *El Mundo Zurdo*.

Members of the Program Committee culled through an assigned number of submissions and ranked proposals. The result was a robust and exciting program that included six Plenary Sessions and concurrent breakout sessions with scholarly presentations, round tables, workshops, and performances—mostly literary readings along with film screenings and a dance performance. Each day began and ended with a Plenary Session around a particular theme. In this reflection, I’ll try to summarize the content of the Plenaries and offer my impressions of the conference in general. While I realized it would be a historic and memorable gathering, I didn’t understand the deep implications for knowledge and for the sharing of ideas that occurred.

Day 1: After an iffy start, we arrived at Université Paris 8, Saint Denis Cedex. Chicana scholar and spiritual maestra, Sandra Pacheco had set up a small ofrenda and was about to begin the blessing. After a welcome by Maria Segarra and Nadia Setti, Sandra delivered a moving and eloquent blessing, calling on all our spiritual guides and acknowledging our indigenous ancestors.

The first Plenary, titled “*Gloria Anzaldúa, Feministe Decoloniale, Théoricienne Queer of Color*” (*Gloria Anzaldúa: Decolonial Feminist Queer of Color Theorist*), was to set the stage for the next three days with an assessment of current Anzaldúan scholarship. Paola Bacchetta and I delivered our talks. Providing a context for the historical material conditions that Anzaldúa so aptly captured in her work, I read a braided essay that included poetry, history, and an assessment of contemporary border realities; time, and again, I reminded the audience that Anzaldúa’s knowledge base was not Eurocentric, that it reached back to our indigenous roots for sustenance and for wisdom, that she used the figures of Aztec deities as metaphors for her ideas, and that the essence of her thinking was itself a decolonial maneuver that upended the



Official poster of the Paris Conference.

NOTE: This conference honored both the thirty year anniversary of *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* and its translation into French. The main unifying thematic was the question of B/borders as conceptualized by Anzaldúa, and its multiple situated potential interpretations and elaborations. For Anzaldúa, borderlands with a small “b” signaled the geographical space of national division, such as the space of her birth at the U.S./Mexico border. When she wrote *Borderlands* with a capital “B” the concept-term signified many other dimensions including psychic, sexual, spiritual, and energetic divided spatialities, as well. In sum, together the notions of borderlands and *Borderlands* up a world of possibilities for feminist and queer theory, literatures, historiographies, arts, which were invited to converge in this conference.

deities as metaphors for her ideas, and that the essence of her thinking was itself a decolonial maneuver that upended the

Continued on Page 18



Editor’s note: Thank you to the students from *Our Lady of the Lake’s* program in English/Creative Writing/ Social Justice with Dr. Kevin Scott Jobe who chose to share their writings with readers of *La Voz*.

Prayer in the Shape of a Gun

Author’s note: This Poem/Performance Piece/Meditation about gun violence in America is also the final component of the service learning project for my MAMFA in creative writing and social justice through OLLU this semester.

insert today’s shooting

The thing that feels most holy in this country
Is shaped like a gun.

The thing and the theory and the theology
that most distinguishes Americans for me
revolves around the gun.

The Second Amendment is an immutable sacrament
All other laws and philosophies and sciences
Demanding constant examination, re-drawing, and
the most minute of shifts

Not for me the platitude of “thoughts and prayers”.

Worshipful words, attached as they are to organized religion,
are no convincing substitute for action or a soothing salve
for sheer tragedy.

But I have watched America, over the decades, inure itself
to any forward action

No matter the scope and daily horror, seeming to
prefer platitudes to the hard work
of shifting the faulty frame on the church of firearms
that has taken root here.

Each mass shooting now runs one into the other, on a daily basis.

I lose track

On the same day of reports on the casualty rate of one event
another killer is cocking his gun
Beginning his unholy mission to mow down innocent people.

Each cry of “Enough! We must do something!” is drowned out by
exhortations to pray because anything else is tasteless

and unseemly and too soon.

The Sikh temple in 2012

Sutherland Springs in 2017

Emanuel A.M.E. in 2015

Tree of Life Synagogue in 2019

insert today’s shooting

Actual places of worship where people should feel safe
where their very prayers did nothing at all.

There is no more sanctified space in queer culture than a dance club.

Between the lights and the shadows,
we hide, we seduce, we celebrate out loud, we fight back
against the silence

We felt our Pulse drain in 2016
Blood on the dance-floor? That’s just a clever line from a song.

It wasn’t meant to be real.
To dance is worship, to move is prayer, to love out loud is religion.
And for someone to take it all away, from behind the barrel of a gun?

Feels like blasphemy.
A school may not feel like church to many (and perhaps,
it well should not)

Yet. It should be a safe space for those who study and work there.
Columbine 1999. Sandy Hook 2012. Parkland 2018.

insert today’s shooting
“Surely Americans will do something now?”
my countrymen ask me

As footage of young, covered bodies flash across the news.
But it’s clear that Americans will not
Children march for their lives and are mocked as crisis actors

Politicians respond with suggestions of buckets filled
with stones, removal of doors and arming of teachers
You lost your minds. You have lost. You have been lost.
New Zealand just banned assault weapons days after their tragedy.

But here, guns are the untopple-able idol.
This country technically not at war prefers to train
its youngest citizens to accept
the increasing possibility

that they might actually die in their classroom
We want them to accept their nightmares
And yet.

We protest, we march, we push back.
I don’t pray.

I keep waiting for this country to decide it’s time to lose its religion
the one built around cold steel, cocked triggers and deadly ricochet.

And I wonder if it ever will.

—s.t.shimi



The Noise of Highway 90

By Larissa Hernández

Author's Note: This creative nonfiction essay centers around my experience as a homeowner and married woman. It weaves in and out between themes of home ownership and the inherent struggles of maintaining a property and a struggling marriage plagued with its own need for constant maintenance.

We overlooked the mulch-covered front yard and what must have been millions of tiny rocks that covered the backyard. Two years earlier we had looked at multiple houses. Houses with back-splashed kitchen counters, houses with covered carports, houses with grass. We had asked for an appraisal or two the first time around. But the second time we chose the first house that met some of our needs—three bedrooms, fenced, near my grandmother, built before 2001. The house was on a remodeled property that used to hold tiny shacks that hid prostitution and drug abuse. The ghosts of these vices are now buried beneath the tons of rocks, landscaped into the background of our new neighborhood.

We overlooked the glass that was intentionally hidden beneath the tarp that held the mulch. “A crazy ex-girlfriend,” a neighbor told us, who was strung out and angry with a baseball bat in her hand. “And that huge tree in the back got struck by lightning before they finally cut it down.” Our previous landlord warned us before buying a house that it typically took about a year before all the defects came out in a house. I think on the surface we may have seen some, but the convenience was too easy.

We overlooked the cyclone fence that could barely hold itself together and the noise of highway 90 that swept through the open aluminum diamonds of the back fence, a persistent buzz like a nearby bumblebee or a hornet wasp. The yard took several hours over the course of a few days to prepare for the sod we had loaded into the back of the car. Throughout the ordeal of tilling the clay-like soil, the September sun burned into our skin. It cooked us until our hearts

must have sizzled and popped like fat on a hot pan. And the pain in our backs forced us to lie dormant for several days, allowing the new grass to settle beneath the water and the oppressive heat. The complacency of a half-finished yard cooled us.



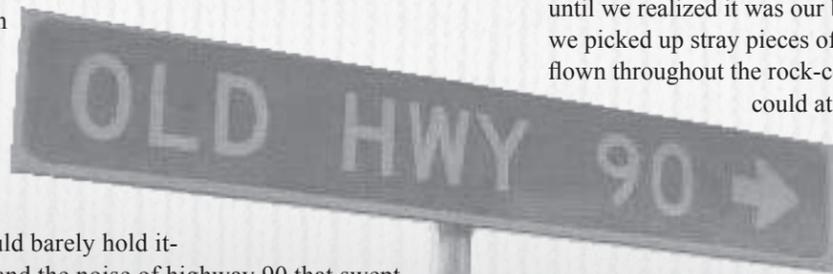
We overlooked and underheard the sounds that came from the attic and beneath the house. A pier and beam home surrounded top to bottom by vermin and roaches. The mice cried from their sticky mousetraps, throwing their bodies to freedom that only came from their skulls being smashed in, at last. They say it takes two years to truly know someone. I was horrified to learn that my husband wound the mice up in plastic bags and bashed them against the concrete until the squealing of pain stopped. For me, it was easier to sit on the couch and ignore them until it was necessary to peek at the screaming bodies from around the corner. Well,

what was worse? Allowing them to starve or to strain themselves to death? Or was it kinder to end it quickly?

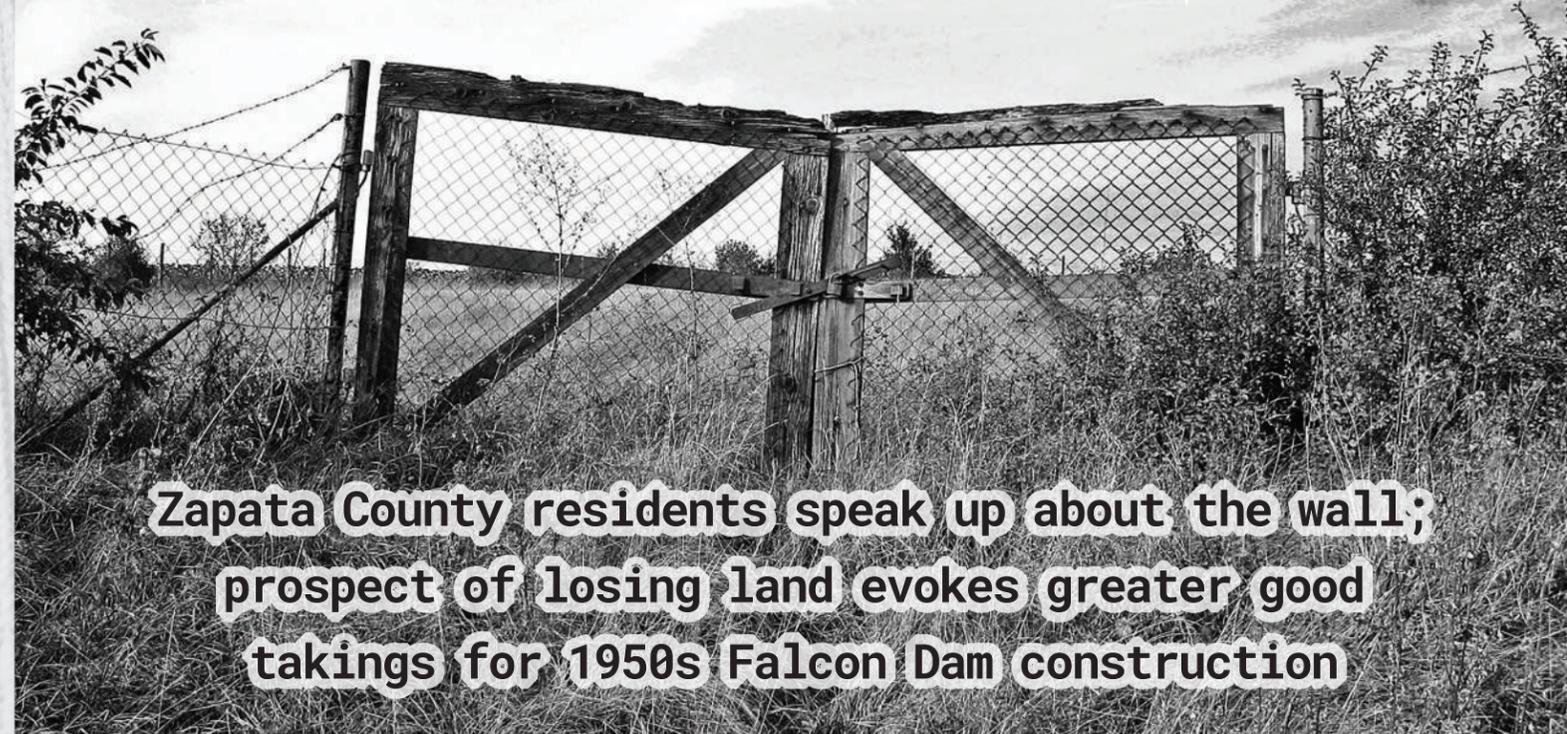
We overlooked the drivers who took the curve too fast near our house. On the night a grocery store worker crashed his car into our fence, we glanced out from our laundry room window until we realized it was our backyard he had sped into. For days we picked up stray pieces of iron from the good fence that had flown throughout the rock-covered backyard. This mess we

could at least see. Beneath us, as we walked around picking up the mess of car parts and metal, were the remains of past homes broken in their own ways, demolished by time and by wrecking crews. And, when our home was broken into, we over-

looked again the disease of poor lighting and bad timing in a neighborhood plagued with crime. Here was an American dream mowed down to the greenest blade of grass, boarded up until the dogs could no longer escape, overlooked until happiness could be found again beneath the tarps and the glass fragments.



WRITING ON THE WALL:



Zapata County residents speak up about the wall; prospect of losing land evokes greater good takings for 1950s Falcon Dam construction

By Maria Eugenia Guerra March 21, 2019

María Eugenia (Meg) Guerra has chronicled the news of South Texas and her native Laredo and its residents for more than two decades. María Eugenia (MEG) Guerra is the publisher of Laredos, A Journal of the Borderlands at laredosnews.com. She is a rancher in Zapata County. She can be reached at meg@laredosnews.com.



Zapata County residents, Tent City, 1953

ZAPATA – News of border wall construction and the accompanying void of information for where it will be built, continues to foment an atmosphere of uncertainty all along the *frontera* and no less so in Zapata County, which is still in economic recovery from the plummet in natural gas tax revenues from \$300 million a year in 2007 to the present \$20 million a year.

For some Zapata ranchers and hay farmers, the taking of land for the wall for the *greater good* of increased border security resonates with condemnation proceedings and the taking of 87,000 acres of land grant ranches and farms in the early 1950s to build

the shallow pan of the Falcon Reservoir. Many Zapata County residents lost their ancestral lands that fronted the river as well as their homes in the condemned and inundated historic Spanish Colonial towns of Old Zapata, Uribeño, Ramireño, Falcón, Lopeño, El Clareño, and El Capitaneño.

The taking of those productive, privately-owned river vega lands took with it, too, massive swaths of history, culture, architecture, a local economy dependent on agri-

culture, and Zapata’s international bridge. Many county residents who were displaced back then by flooding caused by the sudden filling of the reservoir lived in a city of military-issue tents for 18 months — suffering the inconvenience, sorrow, and indignity of their losses while the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) dawdled over just compensation.

Though the unarticulated object of the Falcon Dam project was to impound water for the Río Grande Valley’s citrus and

vegetable growers at the expense of Zapata County — excluding San Ygnacio — the *greater good* virtues of hydroelectric power generation, conservation, and flood control were the justifications extolled for a bi-national project that bore so vast a devastation of a way of life.

The *greater good* of President Trump's declaration of a national emergency to fund a border wall does not align with Zapata County residents who are calculating what the wall will wreak on personal property, agriculture, a way of life, the ceding of land and water, and wildlife habitat. Nor will it, they say, stop the flow of immigrants or drugs.

"This is nothing less than the fulfillment of a racist campaign promise that will change the lives of millions of Texans who depend on the life-giving Río Grande for water, agriculture, and commerce," said hay farmer Romeo Uribe.

"So huge and determined is this effort that 48 federal laws that protect us, water, land, and wildlife have been waived, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act. The government has a green light to destroy this river," Uribe said.

These are the voices of several Zapata County residents opposed to the declaration of a national emergency and to the construction of a border wall.



Zapata County residents, Tent City, 1953

Javier Zapata, 60 Rancher, Feed Store Owner

"Cuales asesinos, cuales matones? Es fantasia, y son mentiras." Zapata Feed Store owner Javier Zapata is unequivocal about the Trump administration's justifications for the border wall. "And even if it was true that assassins and murderers were crossing the border to kill us, a wall would not stop them," he said.

He is quick to point out that illegal immigration is not endemic to the border with Mexico. "They come from Canada, they enter at Florida. The whole Gulf Coast is open to undocumented immigrants who enter this country illegally. Are we going to pay for walls everywhere? Why here where the numbers for illegal entry and apprehension have dropped drastically?" he asked.

Zapata farms 230 acres on the river near San Ygnacio.

"I bought this property 13 years ago. I have a \$160,000 investment in tractors and baling equipment so that I can grow and bale about 1,000 round bales a year, some which I feed to my own cattle and the rest to sell at my feed store in Zapata. Part of my land is a peninsula in the river. When the government builds the wall, they won't follow the shape of my land. They will follow a straight line and cut me off from half of my property. Is that just? I have worked hard to pay for it and to keep it productive. I own 800-acre feet of water rights," he said, adding, "The hay sales are very important in times of drought, which is often."

Zapata said that ranchers who are not on the river may say they are for the construction of the wall. "But many of us who have land on the river are not. We use the river to raise crops and to water our cattle. We understand the value of having access to the river. No one wants less security on the border, but do it another way. Use technology, not a wall that will change our lives, take our land, drop our land values, and affect wildlife," he said.

"The way our land looks and feels to us, the vista from our land to the river will be destroyed. That will have an impact you cannot measure," Zapata continued.

"The wall will not stop immigrants or contraband. What it will do is make concrete and steel suppliers and contractors

wealthy for life. A wall that costs billions of dollars is a round circle, a business for profit for those chosen for the work. A tunnel under the wall costs a million dollars. By the time that tunnel is discovered, many millions will be recovered in traffic or contraband by the ones who built it. If the wall is made of steel, torches will cut it. If it's too high, ladders, ramps, and tunnels will circumvent it," he said, adding that money for the wall construction could be put to more beneficial use, for education and to feed school children who live in poverty two nutritious meals a day.

"Why is this wall aimed at cattle ranchers and those who raise hay for cattle? We small ranchers feed the nation, and we carry the financial burden of doing it. We buy our own feed and veterinary medicines. We pay for fences on our ranches and make improvements to make our operations more efficient. I work hard to send 80 or 90 calves to the market every year," Zapata said.

"The president says the wall is a response to an invasion. The Alamo was an invasion. This is not. When Falcon Lake was built, the federal government condemned our farms and ranches on land that had been given to us by the Spanish crown. Now they want more land and to remove us from the water. No es justo."



Javier Zapata

"Agriculture is now the primary business of Zapata County, as it once was. The economic impact of the proposed border wall on ranching would be a hard blow," said Judge Joe Rathmell.

"No one disputes the need for a secure border. Most, if not all ranchers welcome Border Patrol onto their property. Most of those ranchers will tell you the wall is not the answer to increased security," he said, adding, "They will tell you more Border Patrol agents and more technology are a better answer."

Rathmell, a rancher himself — as was his father Jake, who also served as Zapata County judge in the 1970s — runs a commercial cattle operation on family land adjacent to a tract of river vega that he leases from the IBWC.

"Those acres on the river provide water we depend on and grass for the cattle. The loss of access to water and grazing rights would put me out of business," he said, adding, "The economic impact of the wall to ranching would decimate local businesses that provide the goods and services ranchers need."

He said that there may be a change afoot in IBWC's grazing leases, which are billed to the lessee and are renewed by rote by mailing in a check. "I've heard of checks not being cashed and the IBWC not returning phone calls. If there is a policy change, no one has been advised," he said, adding that he has recently asked U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar for clarification.

Rathmell said the lack of specifics and reliable information about the wall has set many on edge. "Where will the wall be? What is the design? What impact will it have on us and on wildlife?"



Zapata County Judge Joe Rathmell

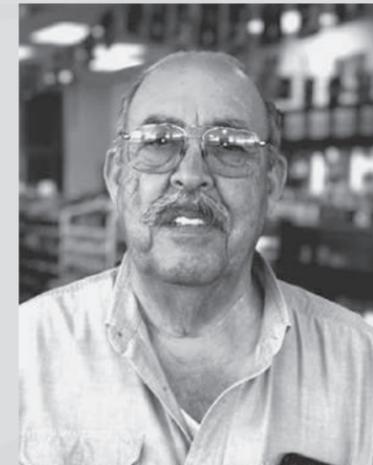
Joe Rathmell, 58 Zapata County Judge, Rancher

Luis Lozano Rancher, Store Owner

"I don't think they will be on my property to build a wall," said Lozano, one of the owners of El Campo farm.

"We don't need a wall. We need more boots on the ground and surveillance equipment. Clear a line of sight on the river vega, but maintain it so it doesn't wash into the river," he said.

"The cultivation of El Campo farm goes back six or seven generations in our family. The government took 130 acres from us when the dam was being built. They want more?"



Luis Lozano

The greater good of President Trump's declaration of a national emergency to fund a border wall does not align with Zapata County residents who are calculating what the wall will wreak on personal property, agriculture, a way of life, the ceding of land and water, and wildlife habitat. Nor will it, they say, stop the flow of immigrants or drugs.

Renato Ramirez, 79 Banker, Rancher

As a banker, and a pivot upon which commerce in Zapata turns, Ramirez is all about numbers, but today the number that's on his mind is the one that has been part of the history and the lexicon of Zapatans since the construction of the Falcon Dam, "the 307" — the IBWC's engineering demarcation for the flood stage of the Río Grande in language that stipulates that the government owns river land below the 307-foot traverse; and that land above the 307, excepting park land, can be privately owned.

Ramirez said that if the wall builders follow the 307 traverse, the wall would encroach upon or cross U.S. Hwy. 83 at Tigre Chico and Tigre Grande creeks, as well as the Veleño, Arroyo el Burro at Ramireño, El Grullo and San Francisco at San Ygnacio, and Dolores near the Zapata-Webb county line.

He said the 314 line is four feet below the top of the dam. "In a flood, the proposed wall would sometimes be under water."

Like many other county ranchers, Ramirez leases land below the 307 from the IBWC for grazing. He has a lease for a 900-acre tract that abuts his property on Veleño Creek, one of the largest water-moving tributaries to the river.

Ramirez ranches on both sides of the Veleño and has built a bridge to reach the leased land below the 307.

He recalled that when the river rose to 305-feet in heavy rains in 2010, it crested just two-feet below the flood level. "Livestock and white tail deer and other wildlife ran to the infertile land of the surrounding hills. We found the 50-pound carcasses of whitetail does that had starved to death. The physical barrier of the wall with its massive

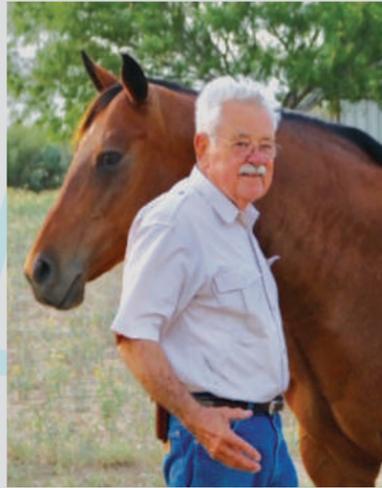
concrete base and the destruction of habitat as it is being built, will affect wildlife populations in unimaginable ways," Ramirez said. "What will it do to hunting, a revenue stream that many ranchers depend on?"

He called the wall "nonsense, a bad message to our largest trading partner with whom we have such an important and longstanding relationship." Ramirez continued, "Mexico is our friend, and beyond that, for many of us Mexico is the country of our origin, and we take pride in that," he said, adding, "The wall will not work to deter drugs that we now know enter the country largely through our ports."

Ramirez said the wall "poses a sad situation for immigrants who come here to work." He continued, "We are not the solution for poverty-stricken populations of the world. We ought to be talking to the governments of those countries to create job opportunities for their citizens. The wall builders will make generous donations to the politicians who gave them the work. This is called graft," he said,

The conversation turned to numbers once more.

"I cleared 600 acres at a cost of \$60,000. Why will it cost the federal government \$43,560 per acre?"



Renato Ramirez

Romeo Uribe, 59 Farmer San Ygnacio

"The Great Wall of China bankrupted the Ming Dynasty. The Maginot Line between France and Germany, though conscripts lived in it, was still permeable, as this proposed wall will certainly be," said Laredo business owner Romeo Uribe who grows and bales Coastal Bermuda hay on 100 acres of the old El Campo farm in San Ygnacio. Proximate landmarks to the site he cultivates are an old white dairy barn, la lecheria, and the San Ygnacio camposanto.

Uribe's ties to a love of cultivation go back to his childhood in San Ygnacio and the large vegetable gardens he would undertake. "My mother would drive me and my surplus melons, corn, and squash into Laredo to sell to Cervera's market and to the Colonia Guadalupe for door-to-door sales," he recalled.

He has cultivated watermelon, cantaloupe, and cabbage on a large scale since the mid 1980s in San Ygnacio and on leased land off the Mines Road.

"Hay is an integral part of the cattle business. The 2,000 bales I produce here in two cuts, and the hay my neighbor grows are an

undeniably important food source," he said.

"The wall will deny ranchers riparian rights to water cattle and to irrigate their fields," Uribe said, adding, "And as to needing the wall to stop the flow of illicit drugs, the government's own statistics tell us most of that traffic comes across the international bridges."

The land Uribe leases stretches from U.S. Hwy. 83 and drops to the bank of the Río Grande where his pump sits on a concrete pad.

He said the soil of El Campo is "the richest soil on the face of the earth. Much of the river's alluvial soil will be disturbed during construction of the wall and will erode into the river. "What doesn't wash away will be capped with the concrete of the wall. It will be the undoing of millions of years of geology."

Uribe said that Trump's racism is eclipsed "by his sin verguenza New York contractor overdrive" and his history of using other people's money to make his own.

"Make no mistake," Uribe said, "This wall is about money and little else — yours and mine. A billion dollars is a thousand million dollars. He's asking for \$5.8 billion and another \$6 billion. His track record as a businessman is not good. He has no bounds, and rational judgment is missing from his character," he said.



Romeo and Rolando Uribe



Elsa Hull

Elsa Hull, 50 Environmental Investigator San Ygnacio Viejo Road

Elsa Hull, an environmental investigator with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, believes the hidden beauty of the river lies just outside the windows and doors of her home at land's end on San Ygnacio Viejo Road. "It's right here," she said, "Everything that depends on the river — birds, wildlife."

Hull said there is a measure of disbelief that the wall is an inevitability. "Will they really build it and destroy the riverbanks, the wildlife habitat, and the way of life of so many?"

On a cool morning laced with birdcalls and livestock lowing in the

distance, she provides details of the 20-year relationship she has had with the river, initially further upstream in San Ygnacio for five years and more recently over the last 15 years on the acreage on which she now makes her home about two miles south of San Ygnacio.

On this particular Saturday Hull's daughters, Lena and Iliana, are visiting from Laredo. Over the years, the three have enjoyed kayaking on the river, putting in at the nearby upper fork, which forms a lake that opens into the main channel.

"Being observers of nature in this beautiful place has been good for us," she said, calling the proposed concrete and steel wall "an eyesore that will remove us from the river."

Hull said that trespassers on her property are not people. "They are my neighbors' cattle and sheep, and that is no national emergency."

She advocates for a virtual wall of cameras, sensors, and drones for border security. Hull has firsthand knowledge of the efficacy of electronic sensors. "As an environmental investigator, I cover a 10-county area, much of it on the river. We routinely trip Border Patrol sensors, and they respond immediately," she noted.

She said that the wall is a violation of the rights of those who drink from the river, live on it, and use it recreationally.

"This is a blatant affront, the opposite of taking care of your citizens. This isn't just a bad idea. It is dividing the American people. We should be working together to solve our problems," she said.

Hull has not been contacted by surveyors for access to her property. "They won't get onto it. They'll need a court order," she said.

Hull's voice is tinged with adamancy and conviction, but there's also a timbre of passion to her words. "I am speaking up because I believe in a just environment and human health. If you told me 20 years ago I would still be living on this river I would have told you otherwise. How can you live here and not be against the wall?"

Joel Ruiz, 82 San Ygnacio Rv Park Owner

Joel Ruiz bought the land for an RV park in San Ygnacio while he was in service to the U.S. government as a navigator in the Air Force. After a distinguished career in the Vietnam War, he retired with the rank of Major in 1974, decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross. He said he once flew over San Ygnacio as a civilian pilot, liked the old buildings, and decided to make his home there.

"The wall, if it comes here, will be a hard inconvenience. Those of us with pumps on the river have been assured by Border Patrol that we will still have access through gates, but they won't be handing out keys — that's for sure," he said.

He noted that some San Ygnacio property owners will likely become familiar with the dreaded words "eminent domain."

The native Laredoan said that if the wall traversed the historic part of San Ygnacio, it would spell disaster for the town's historic district of sandstone block structures that date back 200 years. "Especially the Treviño-Uribe Fort, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is just above the drop to the 307," he said.

As Ruiz drives along the river vega below the RV park in an F-150 that is part tackle box and part tool box, he cites chapter and verse the history of the river at San Ygnacio — how a handful of ranchers and veterans saved the town from condemnation and inundation when the

Falcon Dam was being built in the early 1950s, the historic crests of the river, and the relationship of landowners with the bureaucrats of the International Boundary and Water Commission.

He points out the IBWC's 307 line, after which land drops to the verdant riverbank. "The 307 follows the contours of the land and the arroyos. At times the 307 and the 314 meet on maps as the same line. It will be a feat for the wall builders to follow the 307. In a major rain event, water at the 307 covers Hwy. 83 at Arroyo Grullo.

Wherever it is built, they will hit membrillo, the super-hard stone. The disturbance of soil on the vega and above will send a lot of silt into the river," Ruiz said.

"As of now, very little information is known about the wall. Border Patrol consoles us and tells us it may bypass us. Even so, we know this wall is about politics and money — a waste of money, our money. I'd like to see a balanced budget before I see a wall that will enrich a chosen few," Ruiz said.



Joel Ruiz



Rice

by Emily Yglesias

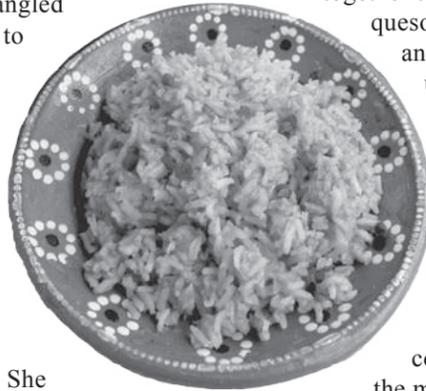
My mom has always struggled with making Spanish rice. She could never quite get the rice to be this flavorful, crisp, yet soft dish. She took her time with the process. She boiled the rice as she grabbed a couple of huge towering cans of whole tomatoes and tomato paste. She wrangled her hands around the can, twisting it open to pour it over her second pan. The chopped garlic pieces are tossed like yesterday's leftovers into the same pan popping as they hit the oil. The rice finally becomes the way she likes it and then she mixes everything together.

The covered pot irritates my mom. Her constant lifting of the cover to see her baby begins to annoy me. —*Mom just leave it alone. Let it cook, it will be ready soon.*— She does anything, but that. She lifts the top gingerly and begins to add water. She didn't stop adding water, so the dish became mush.

In a couple of weeks, she will try again. This time she pays more attention to the rice and instead uses chicken broth. She does the same routine, grabbing the cans off the pantry shelf, chopping the garlic real fine, and mixes it all together. She steps out of the kitchen for a few seconds and comes back to find that her rice has burnt on the bottom.

This time she's given up.

She will have to come back to making rice, it is the essential side dish. Anytime my family and I are out whether that's at a restaurant, or a barbecue we always ask if there is rice, and if the rice is good. Rice is the best part of Mexican dishes. It ties it all together. You can make a rice and bean



taco from your enchilada plate. If the enchilada isn't good enough, then you can just eat the rice and beans.

I think of the rice as French fries. The French fries don't just compliment the burger or sandwich, they are their own dish. They need to be able to stand on their own. Sometimes rice can fail you.

In December, my work place had a luncheon for the teachers. The PTA had gotten food from a local Mexican restaurant to serve us. They had an array of chicken flautas, stuck-together tortillas, crunchy chips that were waiting for queso to be drenched on them, clumps of beans, and brightly colored orange rice. They scooped up the rice and plopped it on my plate. What was this stuff?

I sat at the table and moved my fork around the rice. It danced around the plate mingling with the queso and guacamole, but I couldn't bring myself to eat it. All of my co-workers around me flung it around their plate as well.

"Why is this so brightly orange?" My co-worker whispered to me afraid that one of the moms of the PTA would hear her comment.

I was unsure. It didn't even carry the texture of Spanish rice. It looked like someone spilt Orange Fanta on white sticky rice.

I looked at my co-workers pushing the rice around on their plates. They weren't going to touch it, but I had to know if this was edible. I picked my fork up and poked at the rice, but I couldn't do it. I wanted to see what the others had thought of it. My co-worker, Chelsea, dug her fork into the mysterious rice and began to eat it. I tilted my head like a dog wondering what its master had just said. She thought it the rice tasted good. Since she dared to taste it, I had to taste it, too! So, I picked up my fork and slid a small amount onto my fork and forced it into my mouth. This was not rice.

This was not even close!



Nuestro Westside

Nuestro Westside
Es nuestro. We built it
With the flesh of our hands.
Blessed our homes with our names
for generations.

Nuestro Westside
We walk down your streets
Hearing your heartbeat.
Listening to your stories—
Told from the mouths of those
Who honor your legacy

—Samantha Ceballos

Nuestro Westside
Home of our ancestors
Who remember those days when
La Gloria stood proud.

Nuestro Westside
With people who remember
Their childhood homes—
Even if the home isn't there anymore.
La tierra guarda memorias.



"La Gloria" by Mary Agnes Rodríguez



The Dungeons

By Josefina Beatriz Longoria

You are being expelled from the productive world and relegated to the sub world of motherhood, where moms convince each other that what they do matters. Your nest gets prettier, twigs and leaves turn into shiny golden bars, which in turn become a golden cage. The bait that lured you in were the four hundred thread Egyptian cotton sheets, rugs, and pillows but ultimately the promise of a happy marriage. The professional terrain does not coexist with diapers, strollers, and high chairs. Family-friendly places are in the periphery of society. Children are set aside like cute domestic animals. You lose your passport to adulthood and get deported into the land of the small people, where the conversation revolves around green tables and red chairs. Your brain goes into hibernation mode and is frozen into a long winter that will last a decade. When you want to address this issue, it is treated as irrelevant. You feel resentment towards the women at your bridal showers for not fully explaining what was about to happen. You have joked about fairy tales and the happy ending as an ellipsis. **Why doesn't anybody explain how mothers are thrown into the dungeons of society by taking care of the little people?** Your voice fades into the choir of pedagogical techniques and decoration advice. In all those years of being single, you did not even smell dissatisfaction. Women, like other powerless factions of civilization, are Oscar-deserving actresses, pretending to each other that this is all they ever wanted. You did want to have children, but at the entrance of this jail, you left your civilian clothes. Men pretend mothers are behind the scenes, but mothers are the hidden iron rod inside the pillars of society. When you hear other mothers, you witness how they all support their families. They manage the emotional patrimony of the world. They create Christmas from scratch. From stuff found on sale in stores, they make homes. They do not build equity, there is no return on investment or profit. Their allowances are hugs and kisses, smiles and cuddles, lullabies, and bedtime stories. The male conspiracy claims all of this is priceless, but there is no dollar value set on a woman's work and dedication. Mothers become like children themselves, taken care of by male adults who run the world.



"Don't Tell Me"

Don't tell me to be Rita Hayworth
For I would rather be Margarita Cansino
Keep your bleach, skin cream, hair dye
And your cruel vision of beauty
You want us to be vain,
Concerned only with
appearances
Like soldiers in red
uniforms
The blood is still there,
indelible

Don't tell me what language to speak
For I would rather choose for myself
Keep your disgusting hate speech
And your narrow definition of American
You want us to be ignorant
Something to be displayed, not
understood



Like pristine leather bound books
Our knowledge is still there,
beckoning

—Monica Arredondo, OLLU



Asylum

Desperation suffers
No retreat
While whispers
Above dawn
Present themselves
As pleas for humanity
Gathered in line
To wait their turn
At freedom.
Hardened hearts
Harbor indifference
When muted mouths
Speak no truth,
And are silent
To oppression.
Turned up palms
Desire walls between
Themselves and fear
Finding none
Are separated from children
Without number
Who neglected
In systems of hate
Seek recourse.
Finding none
They retire promise
But not hope
For emptiness is measured
In pain's single refrain of loss
A running narrative
Told in brown bodies.

—Arrie B. Porter



Re-Rethinking Impeachment After the Mueller Report

By Elliot Benjamin, Ph.D.

Author's Note: *The present article is a modified and updated version of my previous article under the same title, which is available at www.integralworld.net/benjamin99.html References and notes for the present article are available from lavoz@esperanzcenter.org (or at the above website).*

Well, I read the full (redacted) Mueller report—all 448 pages of it^[1]. In my opinion, even the redacted version is incredibly flagrant in regard to a number of obstruction of justice violations of the United States constitution by President Donald Trump. But I always believed that President Trump committed impeachable offenses, and my change of perspective that I have previously described, in regard to no longer favoring impeachment, was for totally pragmatic reasons^[2]. In regard to defeating Trump in 2020, I went along with Democratic House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi's perspective of promoting the House investigations of Trump as the least dangerous way of ending Trump's presidency, via the 2020 national election^[2].



Robert Mueller, photo by: Pete Souza



Trump, photo by: Gage Skidmore

Congress has a duty to provide a beacon of principle and democratic values to the American people. It must pick up the baton that Mueller has offered and come to a judgment of its own, with the understanding that conduct that falls short of criminal conspiracy may nonetheless be impeachable. . . . The report is unequivocal in concluding that even if Trump is criminally innocent of obstruction, it is not for lack of trying. The main reason the investigation wasn't completely thwarted was not that the president didn't "endeavor" to thwart it—the definition of criminal obstruction—but rather that Trump's subordinates refused to comply.

A number of presidential candidates have now joined Elizabeth Warren in favoring the initiation of impeachment proceedings, and even the current Democratic presidential candidate front-runner, moderate Joe Biden, is open to impeachment^[7]. Furthermore, a number of impactful grassroots progressive organizations, including

Indivisible and *Stand Up America*, have changed their tunes and now favor initiating impeachment proceedings, and on Saturday, June 15, there will be a national demonstration day of impeachment^[8]. And, even Nancy Pelosi has demonstrated a somewhat more open perspective on undertaking impeachment proceedings^[9].

But, what is it that I myself now think about impeachment, all things considered? Do I still think that the dangers of impeachment outweigh its benefits, in regard to defeating Trump in 2020? The truth is that I don't know, but I don't think anyone else knows, either. However, what I do know is that the Democratic House investigations are in danger of not going where myself and virtually all progressives had hoped they would go, with the effect of weakening Trump and making him "unelectable" in 2020 (though see Note 3). I have been concerned that the Mueller report may get buried, unless a forceful assertive approach is taken to make it publicly revealing, such as prominent display through the testimonies of key witnesses on public television. However, now that Robert Mueller has made his public statement that reinforces his report in regard to Trump not being "exonerated" for obstruction of justice, I am more confident that the Mueller report will not get buried^[10].

My biggest concern about impeachment, as I have described

previously (cf.^[2]), is that perhaps as moderate Democrats fear, undertaking impeachment proceedings would end up in Trump's hand, motivating his base and alienating enough middle-of-the-roaders to ensure his being elected for four more years in 2020^[11]. But then again, perhaps "not" undertaking impeachment proceedings would alienate enough millennial and minority voters to insure that Trump is elected for four more years in 2020^[12]. Perhaps Mueller will publicly testify and reinforce his public statement about his report, and the aftermath will be that more middle-of-the-roaders will favor impeachment^[13]. But, then again, perhaps Mueller will publicly testify and there will be no effect whatsoever in what people think about impeachment. And, perhaps, Mueller will not publicly testify, and there will be no significant effect on impeachment from his public statement.

No easy answers here. It seems to me that the momentum can go in either direction, and therefore there are persuasive arguments in both directions^[11],^[12]. But if I were to go with my gut, my gut says: **IT IS TIME TO IMPEACH.** And as long as Trump continues to stonewall the House investigations then my intellect is able to join my gut, essentially as Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential candidate, whom I still think has the best chance of defeating Trump in 2020^[14] has said: **"If in fact they block the investigation, they have no alternative but to go to the only other constitutional resort they have, [which] is impeachment."** (cf.^[17]).

Of course impeachment proceedings can only begin if Democratic House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi agrees to them, and at this point she is still not there, even after Mueller's public statement, though there are indications that she may be moving in that direction^[9]. But, perhaps, instead of going down the impeachment path, at least initially, instituting fines as part of "Imminent Contempt" for witnesses who ignore House subpoenas would be a reasonable approach to obtain cooperation of testimonies from these witnesses (cf.^[3],^[15]). And, then again, perhaps Alan Lichtman, a professor at American University in Washington, D.C. who predicted Trump's victory in 2016 and reportedly has correctly predicted the Electoral College winner in nine straight presidential elections, all the way back to 1984, is correct that Democrats "need" to impeach Trump in order to have a chance in 2020^[15]:

Nancy Pelosi seems to think that some history would celebrate not Catherine the Great, but Catherine the Faint-hearted. She is leading the Democrats down the primrose path of playing not to lose, of being timid, of being afraid, the path that has always caused the Democrats to lose. This is a truly turning-point historic moment in the history of the United States. We now have a rogue president. Absolutely right about that, but we have a rogue president who cannot be checked by what Nancy Pelosi is proposing. The only way to check this president is to hold him accountable, to strike at his power and his brand, and that can only be done by beginning an impeachment investigation. The argument that the House should not impeach because the Senate might not convict is constitutionally unsound, politically unsound and morally bankrupt. . . . If the House votes on articles of impeachment, that automatically triggers a trial in the Senate. . . . the prosecutors from the House can point the finger at Donald Trump, accuse him of impeachable offenses, and force his lawyers to defend him with credible arguments and real evidence, not spin. That's the only way to check

Donald Trump. . . . You're not going to beat him by walking down the center path, that's never worked in the history of the country. In fact, if you were to impeach him, and try him in the Senate, that would turn one of my keys to the White House. It would put a blot on his record, and make it much more difficult for him to achieve re-election. . . . So while I think Pelosi is absolutely correct that Donald Trump will do everything to maintain his power, and doesn't care about the law and the Constitution, or American traditions, I think she's taking the Democrats in exactly the wrong direction. So what is it that I now think about impeachment? Well I must admit that it is still scary for me to think of the Trump four more years consequence of impeachment backfiring. But as Lichtman powerfully conveyed, it may very well be the case that there is no viable alternative other than impeachment to publicly expose Trump's flagrant violations of the Constitution to enough middle-of-the-roaders to defeat him in 2020. I strongly believe that whatever it takes to secure the testimonies of witnesses such as Trump's former personal attorney Don McGahn should be undertaken, even if it means putting him in jail (cf.^[3],^[15]). I also think that as much as he does not want to do so, Mueller should be called upon to publicly testify before Congress, hopefully voluntarily, but if necessary then by subpoena, as I think this will significantly extend the public favorable response to impeachment (cf.^[13]). And I agree with Lichtman that the fact that there is virtually no chance that Trump will be convicted and removed from office in the Senate is not in itself a reason to forgo impeachment in the House.

... the fact that there is virtually no chance that Trump will be convicted and removed from office in the Senate is not in itself a reason to forgo impeachment in the House.

However, it is also the case that there have been some recent indications of progress in the direction of exposing Trump's violations of the Constitution, in particular in obtaining some of his financial records, as well as the probability that Mueller will publicly testify and reinforce his public statement that Trump has not been "exonerated" for obstruction of justice^[3],^[13]. Furthermore, a "compromise" has been reached where now at least some members of Congress are able to view a "less redacted" Mueller report (cf.^[3]).

The bottom line for me is that **YES** I do think impeachment is now called for, but I think we should wait "a little longer" before initiating the proceedings. Not much longer, and I'll be very specific here. I think that first Mueller should publicly testify before Congress, and in addition that the Democrats should do everything in their power to get Don McGahn to testify, so that the public can hear him say loudly and clearly that Trump urged him to fire Mueller. If it takes Inherent Contempt along with fines, and even imprisonment, to induce McGahn to testify, so be it. But if Trump and the Republicans succeed in tying this up in court past let's say the end of the summer of 2019, then I say **WAIT NO LONGER AND BEGIN IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS.** And this is what I now think about impeachment.

BIO: Elliot Benjamin is a philosopher, mathematician, musician, counselor, writer, with Ph.Ds in mathematics and psychology and the author of over 150 published articles.

**IMPEACH
TRUMP
MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!**

Traduire les Frontières/Translating Borders
Continued from Page 6

hierarchical and established power relations in the U.S., especially in South Texas. Prof. Bacchetta spoke of the Anzaldúan theories as they impacted the queers of color in the U.S. during her life drawing parallels with the French situation today where queers of color remain in the periphery. The concurrent sessions followed with familiar names, who are frequent presenters at EMZ conferences like Anita Revilla, Amelia Montes and various European scholars. Jules Flaquet, Jao Gabriell, and Nawo Crawford closed the day with an inspiring plenary that further presented contemporary French issues from an Anzaldúan perspective. The day ended with two performances: María Helena Fernández presented her one-woman show, “The Latinx Survival Guide in the Age of Trump” and Andrea Guajardo and her dance troupe, *Ballet Nepantla*, based in New York City, presented *Valentina*, an extraordinary fusion of traditional folkloric dance with modern dance technique. The choreography, the costumes, and the professional quality of the performers made for an enjoyable and educational experience that wove together Anzaldúan concepts and the artistry of dance.

Day 2: The second venue, Université Paris 3 Centre Censier was easier to get to, but nevertheless, the Plenary “Wild Tongues: Translating Anzaldúa” started very late. The participants included Romana Radlwimmer from Germany, Alejandra Soto Chacón and Suzanne Dufour. Two others were not able to attend so I was asked to talk about my translation of *Borderlands* into Spanish. Prof. Radlwimmer’s insights on the process of translation set the stage for my talk. Nino Dufour and Alejandra Soto Chacón are in the process of translating—and gave an overview of their work.

The concurrent sessions brought familiar names and new scholars together. Among the first to speak were Marilyn M. White, a folklorist who attended EMZ-2018 and Lilliana Patricia Saldaña—our *Esperanza* Conjunto Co-chair. Emmy Pérez, Francisco Guajardo, and Stephanie Álvarez spoke about decolonizing the university. An exciting panel on philosophy included Maria Alessandrini who had presented her work at EMZ. A panel on *Latinx Spiritual Expressions* featured Lara Medina, María Helena Fernández and Aida Salazar. Other familiar names included Inmaculada Lara Bonilla

and María del Socorro Gutiérrez-Magallanes; both of whom spoke about the archives. The afternoon included a Poetry Reading with Jessica Helen López from New Mexico and Estefanía Paola Tizón Fonseca from UTSA. The closing Plenary included AnaLouise Keating, Amina Mama, Elsa Dorlin, and Miriam Grossi focusing on feminist and queer decolonial archives. The evening closed with three films: Tarek Lakshrissi’s *Out of the Blue*, Celine Drouim Laroche & Camille Back’s *Something to do with the Dark: A Tribute to Gloria E. Anzaldúa*, and Dolissa Medina’s *Texas Trilogy*.

Day 3: We began day 3 with a slight delay although Diderot University was the most accessible. After a welcome by Cécile Roudeau from LARCA—Anel Flores, Paola Zaccaria, and Santa Barraza participated in the day’s opening plenary titled “Artivismes.” Santa spoke about working with Gloria in the 90s at a Nepantla workshop that produced outstanding work; Anel offered an overview of her own trajectory as an artist and writer; both showed stunning artwork that truly showed their activist’s passion. Paola spoke about her work with Anzaldúa at the University of Bari in Italy. During the concurrent sessions, Wanda Alarcón presented “Towards a Decolonial Feminist Poetics” and Magda García, an undergraduate intern during the first SSGA gathering, presented her research on the *b/Borderlands*. She is now finishing her dissertation at University of California-Santa Barbara and remains a member of the Program Committee for EMZ.

The closing Plenary for Day 3, “Decolonize the Present,” included a video of Norma Alarcón, a long-time member of our EMZ organizing and program committees. The two French scholars Seloua Luste Boulbina and Nadcira Guénif presented on their work and spoke of decolonizing the academy. One from a sociological perspective did refer to the work of *This Bridge Called My Back* as groundbreaking. I am sorry that I cannot summarize their presentations fully for they were in French. How, indeed, do we decolonize the present?

I offer that one way is to have gatherings such as the one in Paris where we came together to share ideas and engage with each other over the ideas rooted in Anzaldúan thought. As we bid farewell to new friends and old, the question was where will the next gathering be held? Guadaluajara, Cristina Castellano piped up. She and I had already discussed the possibility over a break. Why not? It is time

that we have a presence in Mexico and engage with scholars from all over the Americas as well as Europe who want to continue working with Anzaldúan thought. It would be doing something that Anzaldúa herself urged that we do, *work that matters*. Vale la pena, ¿qué no?

Bio: Norma Cantú is the Murchison Professor in the Humanities, Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas.



Professor Nadia Setti, one of the organizers and Anel Flores, Artist with Lilliana P. Saldaña behind them.



Moderator, Nadia Yala Kusikidi, Paola Bacchetta and Norma Cantú in the opening plenary. Photo by: Inmaculada Lara Bonilla.



Profesora María Herrera Sobek & Santa Barraza, artist

“THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN SAN ANTONIO” AN OVERVIEW OF THE REPORT

Rogelio Sáenz and Lily Casura

The United Nations has defined gender equality as goal 5 among its 17 sustainable development objectives. In order to sustain a better and more sustainable future, it is essential that girls and women have the opportunity to achieve their full potential as active participants in their lives, those of their families, and their communities. Societies lose when young girls and women are shackled to traditional lives that keep them from developing their full social, economic, and political potential.

According to the latest World Economic Forum’s ranking of countries around the world with respect to the goal of gender equality, the United States was ranked 51st on the composite index of gender equality.

Obviously, there is a lot that still needs to be done in our country to increase gender equality.

Despite policy changes extending back over a half century, women in the U.S. continue to lag significantly behind men on a broad variety of measures. While women have experienced important gains in educational attainment, there continues to be a wide gender gap in earnings. For example, according to the 2017 American Community Survey, women working full-time, year-round in the U.S. earned approximately 81 cents for every \$1 dollar earned by men. At the rate at which the gender gap in pay is changing, the Institute for Women’s Policy Research estimates that the gap will disappear in 2059, four decades from today, while parity for African American women would come in 2119 and for Latinas in 2224. The glass ceiling has also kept women from rising to the highest echelons of the corporate world.

The City of San Antonio commissioned this report to examine the status of women in San Antonio today. We use a variety of data sources to analyze the standing of women in San Antonio on the following dimensions:

- Health and well-being
- Education
- Work
- Economics
- Housing
- Digital access
- Business entrepreneurship
- Civic engagement
- Elected political representation
- Crime and violence
- Deaths of despair

For each of these 13 dimensions, we examine how women in San Antonio compare to women in Austin, Dallas, and Houston. We also compare White, Latina, Black, and Asian women in San Antonio along the different dimensions that we analyze.

The report is intended to provide a wide overview of the status of women on the 13 dimensions. In doing so, the report is meant to offer city officials a reconnaissance of major issues that limit the full potential of women to lead rich and successful lives in our community. As such, the report will provide a touchstone for community leaders as they seek to establish programs and policies to better the lives of women and, ultimately, to eliminate gender disparities.

Data and Methodology

Data from a variety of sources are used to obtain a series of indicators for each of the 13 dimensions outlined above. Much of the information used in the analysis is based on data from the American

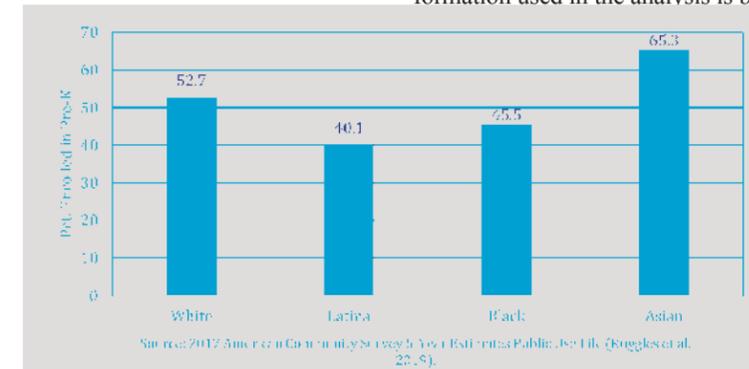


Figure 8 of the report: Percentage of Three- and Four-Year-Old Girls Enrolled in a Pre-K Program in San Antonio-New Braunfels Metropolitan Area by Race/Ethnic Group, 2013-2017

Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for the 2013-2017 period. However, numerous other data sources — including the Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, City of San Antonio, and the Texas Council on Family Violence — are also used in the analysis. The data sources will be introduced in the different sections of the report in which they are used.

While the focus of the report is on the city of San Antonio, particular data sources do not contain information specifically for San Antonio. In such instances, we use available data for Bexar County and for the San Antonio-New Braunfels Metropolitan Area (MA).

Key Findings

The data analysis reveals a broad portrait of the status of women in San Antonio relative to men, relative to women in the other three major cities in the state, and across racial and ethnic groups of women in San Antonio. Unfortunately, the results point to few positive spots and many areas of concern.

There are a few bright areas. First, women in San Antonio have closed the gender gap with respect to the attainment of a bachelor’s degree or higher and now slightly surpass men in holding a university diploma. Second, women in Bexar County hold a noticeable edge over men in voter registration and in voter turnout. Third, women in the San Antonio-New Braunfels Metropolitan Area fare well in homeownership compared to women in the Austin, Dallas, and Houston metropolitan areas.

Some of the most alarming findings are the following.

- Only slightly more than one in four women 25 and older in San Antonio have a bachelor's degree or higher compared to about one in three in Dallas and Houston and one in two in Austin (p.17 graph)
- Women workers in San Antonio earn about 82 cents for every \$1 that men workers make
- San Antonio has the highest rape rate at 75.4 per 100,000 population compared to Austin (63.2), Dallas (61.1), and Houston (36.6), as well as the highest homicide rate of women compared to the other 3 cities
- The number of women in San Antonio murdered by male intimate partners more than tripled from 2012 to 2017 (p. 55 top graph), [see graph below]
- Of the 81 City of San Antonio boards and commissions, women represent only 44 percent of committee members, with six of the boards and commissions not containing a single woman
- Only 40 percent of Latina 3- and 4-year-old girls are enrolled in preschool (p. 15 graph), [see previous page]
- Forty percent of households with a single woman living with their children are in poverty
- There are many more areas where women lag behind men in San Antonio as well as women in Austin, Dallas, and Houston. Below are overall major challenges that women in San Antonio face.
- Lowest levels of completion of a bachelor's degree compared to women in the other 3 cities
- Widest earnings gaps between women and men compared to the other 3 cities (p.26 graph)
- Lowest earning levels compared to women in the other 3 cities, especially at higher levels of educational attainment
- A motherhood wage penalty for mothers 35 to 44 years of age who completed only a high school degree
- Higher levels of women being working poor compared to women in the other 3 cities
- Largest disadvantage of elderly women relative to elderly men in receipt of retirement pension income compared to the other 3 cities
- Great degree of lack of access to a computer, the Internet, and broadband service, across all types of households, compared to the other 3 cities
- Greater absence of a vehicle compared to the other 3 cities
- Higher risks associated with rape, homicide, and murder by male intimate partner compared to women in the other 3 cities
- High levels of maternal mortality

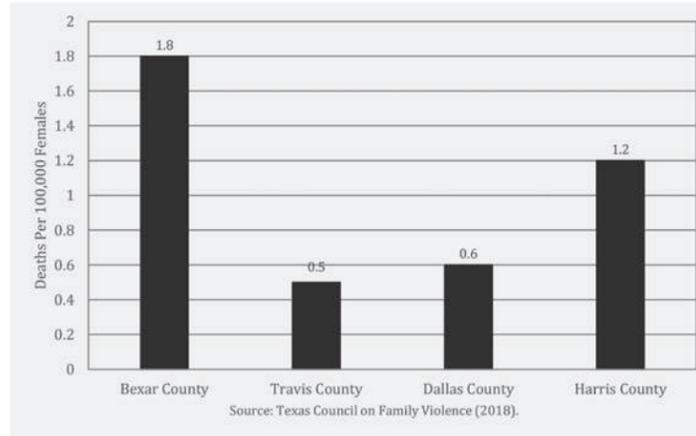


Figure 40 of the report: Number of Women Killed by Male Intimate Partners per 100,000 Female Population in Texas Selected Counties, 2017

- Higher rates of death from liver disease and cirrhosis compared to women in the other 3 cities
- Higher levels of low-birth weights and infant mortality than in the other 3 cities
- Lower standing in business activity than women in the other 3 cities
- Under representation on City of San Antonio boards and commissions
- Historic and continual lack of representation in the positions of mayor and City Council membership
- Higher prevalence of disability than women in the other 3 cities
- In addition, Latina and African American women fare much worse than White and Asian women across the 13 dimensions. Some of the major areas where Latina and Black women have significant needs include the following.

- Low levels of education (especially Latinas)
- Low levels of pre-K enrollment (especially Latinas)
- Low earnings
- High poverty (especially children)
- Low levels of access to digital technology (particularly Latinas)
- Low levels of insurance coverage (in the case of Latinas)
- High rates of women being classified as working poor
- High prevalence of disability
- Low levels of retirement pension income among elderly women (in the case of Latinas)
- Low levels of home ownership (in the case of Blacks)
- Low levels of prenatal care in first trimester of pregnancies
- High levels of low-weight births and infant mortality (in the case of Blacks)
- High deaths rates associated with liver disease and cirrhosis (in the case of Latinas)
- High rates of drug-related deaths (in the case of Blacks)
- High levels of homicide of women (in the case of Blacks)

The successful San Antonio of the future that many of us envision can only come to fruition when barriers that hamper women from reaching their full potential are eliminated. When women achieve parity with men, not only will their own lives be enriched, but also those of their families and the sustainability of their communities. Simply put, everyone wins when we achieve gender equality and eliminate patriarchy.

BIO: Rogelio Sáenz and Lily Casura wrote the report of "The Status of Women in San Antonio" report. Sáenz is professor in the Department of Demography at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Lily Casura, MSW is a graduate of the University of Texas at San Antonio and Harvard University. The full report can be accessed at <https://www.sanantonio.gov/Portals/0/Files/health/News/Reports/StatusOfWomen/StatusOfWomen-Full.pdf>.

Low Income Tenants Organizing For Justice



By Pancho Valdez & James Hamilton, organizers and tenants of SAHA.

On March 19th San Antonio Police were summoned to 1215 Fair Avenue where the Fair Avenue Apartments of the San Antonio Housing Authority are located. On the 11th floor police discovered the decomposing body of 43-year-old Thomas Lyons who had been shot several times and stuffed into a closet. Lyons a plumber by trade with drug addiction issues was not a resident there. Despite tenant complaints of an odor that existed for weeks—complaints were not taken seriously until maggots crawled under the door onto the hallway. The manager, Antonia López, who has a history of mistreating tenants had ignored complaints, as usual.

Berta Cáceres, a resident, stated that drug dealing and prostitution is common there due to a lack of security. The Express-News reported on June 2 that SAHA had cut security funding by 42%.

On April 4th, a group of tenants from three different buildings organized by the **Tenants Union of San Antonio** picketed the SAHA Administration building at 818 S. Flores. Much to their dismay many tenants were interviewed by media sources exposing the injustices at SAHA buildings.

On April 17th, a group of SAHA tenants met with SAHA Board of Commissioners: Chairman Dr. Morris Stribling, Commissioner/Resident Charles Clack and newly appointed Commissioner Sofia López. They appeared astounded after listening to the testimony of tenants from Fair Avenue Apts., Lewis Chatham Apts. and the Marie McGuire Apts. They heard about the corrupt manager at Chatham Apts. who tolerates racism and practices favoritism for tenants willing to be snitches. They viewed color photos of an elderly tenant beaten by a younger, bigger tenant. The victim was evicted but the assailant continues living at the Chatham Apts. and is building manager Marie Flores' snitch.

An older male resident from Fair Avenue Apts. testified about the drug dealing and prostitution tolerated by SAHA management. There have been more than two murders at this building in the past.



Local tenants protest San Antonio Housing Authority management practices | WOAI

At the end, Marie McGuire Apts. tenant, Pancho Valdez, testified how management has allowed a self-admitted member of the **Ku Klux Klan** to grope women in the elevator, refer to Black tenants as n***rs, committed a terroristic threat with a knife, and more recently, assaulted his girlfriend in the building and, yet, remains there—as he, too, is a SAHA management snitch. This snitch apparently has close ties to SAHA upper management. I have seen people of color evicted for lesser violations. SAHA CEO David Nisivoccia's response when I complained was: "Isn't he entitled to due process?" Due process after three years of terror?

On June 6th, five tenants from three buildings and the ex-wife of Thomas Lyons all testified at the SAHA Board of Commissioners meeting. While we were small in number our message was strong. Unfortunately, the Board along with upper management heard us but didn't respond or act to correct situations brought before them.

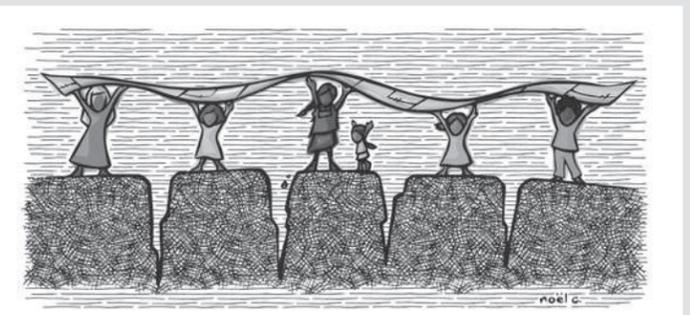
We feel that the San Antonio community should know how SAHA bosses are denying low income tenants their rights. The community should also know that HUD, a federal agency that is mandated to oversee SAHA, told three of us that they are NOT authorized to enforce the agency's own regulations!

Thus, we organized with the **Tenants Union of San Antonio** aka TUSA to demand and secure justice. We ask for supporters to email David Nisivoccia the CEO: david_nisivoccia@saha.org. Demand that he end the favoritism, the violence, the racism and beef up security.

ACTION ALERT: The Patchwork Healing Blanket: Piece by Piece and Country by Country.

Women from around the globe are invited to send in individual cloth squares [27 1/2 x 27 1/2 inches | 70 cm x 70 cm] of cotton, hemp or bamboo material in natural color that are hand-embroidered, painted, written or printed on that express women's rage against violence.

The squares will be connected to form a giant healing blanket that will be carried into the Zocalo in Mexico City as a massive public art project and peace demonstration on September 21, 2019. It will then be sent to the US border, where mujeres will throw it over the wall to sisters on the other side as a symbol of support and solidarity among women of the world.



For details on how to participate or host the blanket where you live contact Marietta or Alex, Mamaz Collective /Mujer Arte de Oaxaca by email at: patchworkhealingblanket@gmail.com

Amnesty International #127 Call Arthur @ 210.213.5919.

Bexar Co. Green Party Call 210.471.1791 | bcgp@bexargreens.org

Celebration Circle meets Sundays 11am @ Say Si, 1518 S. Alamo. Meditation: Wednesdays, 7:30pm, Friends Meeting House, 7052 Vandiver | 210.533.6767.

DIGNITY SA Mass, 5:30pm, Sundays @ St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1018 E. Grayson St. | 210.340.2230

Adult Wellness Support Group of PRIDE Center meets 4th Mondays, 7-9pm @ Lions Field, 2809 Broadway | 210.213.5919.

Energía Mía Call 512.838-3351.

Fuerza Unida, 710 New Laredo Hwy. www.lafuerzaunida.org | 210.927.2294

Habitat for Humanity meets 1st Tuesdays for volunteers, 6pm, HFHSA Office @ 311 Probandt.

LULAC Orgullo meets @ Pride Ctr. 1303 McCullough #160, Metropolitan Prof. Bldg @ 6:45pm, 3rd Thursdays | info@lulac22198.org

NOW SA meets 3rd Wednesdays. See FB | satx.now for info | 210.802.9068 | nowsaareachapter@gmail.com

Pax Christi, SA meets monthly on Saturdays | 210.460.8448

Proyecto Hospitalidad Liturgy meets Thursdays, 7pm, 325 Courtland.

Metropolitan Community Church services & Sunday school 10:30am, 611 East Myrtle | 210.472.3597

Overeaters Anonymous meets MWF in Spanish & daily in English.

www.oasanantonio.org | 210.492.5400.

PFLAG, meets 1st Thursdays @ 7pm, University Presbyterian Church 300 Bushnell Ave. | 210.848.7407.

Parents of Murdered Children meets 2nd Mondays @ Balcones Heights Community Center, 107 Glenarm | www.pomcsanantonio.org.

Rape Crisis Center, 4606 Centerview Suite 200, Hotline: 210.349.7273 | 210.521.7273 Email:sschwab@rapecrisis.com

The Religious Society of Friends meets Sundays, 10am @ The Friends Meeting House, 7052 N. Vandiver. | 210.945.8456.

S.A. Gender Association meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 6-9pm @ 611 E. Myrtle, Metropolitan Com. Church.

SA AIDS Fdn, 818 E. Grayson St., offers free Syphilis & HIV testing | 210.225.4715 | www.txsaaf.org.

SA Women Will March: www.sawomenwillmarch.org | 830.488.7493

SGL-USA LGBT Buddhists meet 2nd Saturdays at 10am @ 7142 San Pedro Ave., Ste 117 | 210.653.7755

Shambhala Buddhist Meditation meets Tuesdays @ 7pm & Sundays @ 9:30am 257 E. Hildebrand Ave. | 210.222.9303.

S.N.A.P. (Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests). Contact Barbara at 210.725.8329.

Voice for Animals: Call 210.737.3138 or www.voiceforanimals.org

SA's LGBTQA Youth meets Tuesdays 6:30pm at Univ. Presby. Church, 300 Bushnell Ave. | www.fiesta-youth.org



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Esperanza works to bring awareness and action on issues relevant to our communities. With our vision for social, environmental, economic and gender justice, Esperanza centers the voices and experiences of the poor & working class, women, queer people and people of color.

We hold pláticas and workshops; organize political actions; present exhibits and performances and document and preserve our cultural histories. We consistently challenge City Council and the corporate powers of the city on issues of development, low-wage jobs, gentrification, clean energy and more.

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

Notas Y Más
July/August 2019

Brief news items on upcoming community events. Send items for Notas y Más to: lavoz@esperanzacenter.org or mail to: 922 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78212. **The deadline is the 8th of each month.**

The **Julian Samora Research Institute (JSRI)** is calling for papers and panels for a conference celebrating its 30th anniversary as a Latino-focused research institute. The conference theme is *“Latina/os and the Renewal of U.S. Democracy.”* The **JSRI Conference** will be held **October 31 to November 2** in Marriott East Lansing, MI. Call 517.432.1317 or check jsri.msu.edu. **Submission deadline: July 1, 2019.**

The **Mission Marquee Plaza Farmer & Artisan Market** is brought to you every 3rd Saturday by the **City of San Antonio World Heritage Office** and the **Mission Marquee Plaza** at 3100 Roosevelt Ave. Next dates are **July 20th & August 17** from **10am-2pm**. See: www.missionmarquee.com/

Gemini Ink hosts its **4th Annual Writers Conference** from **July 19-21** at the historic **El Tropicano**

Riverwalk Hotel. This year’s theme is *“Negotiating Place,”* designed for those who want to explore who they are as writers and literary citizens in the context of language, community, and culture. Keynote speaker will be poet/vocalist **Andrea “Vocab” Sanderson**. Workshops will be led by 5 award-winning featured writers. See geminiink.org/conference-workshops.



Aztlán Libre Press is publishing its 12th book, *“The Canción Cannibal Cabaret & Other Songs”* by award-winning author and performance-poet **Amalia Leticia Ortiz**. The book launch will take place on **Saturday, July 27, 6-9pm**, at the **Guadalupe Theater**, 1301 Guadalupe St. and will feature a complete performance of Amalia’s *XicanX* punk rock musical, *“The*

Canción Cannibal Cabaret.” Call 210.710.8537.

The Texas Open Call applications for artists interested in and eligible for participation in **Artpace’s 2021 International Artist-in-Residence Program** can be found at artpace.org. Deadline for submission is **August 2, 2019 at 5pm**. See: [Artpace.org](http://artpace.org)

Southwest School of Art (SSA) features artwork by renowned artists **Cory Imig** and **Abinadi Meza** on display at the **Russell Hill Rogers Galleries** at SSA, 1201 Navarro thru **August 11th**. www.swschool.org/

echale books echale books’ *Pachanga de Palabras: A Westside Book Festival* is set for **September 28** from **6-10pm** at **Plaza Guadalupe**, 1312 El Paso. Contact **Gianna** at: echalebooks@gmail.com.

New Exhibit on Women and Activism in San Antonio’s Westside

Call for Stories and Photos



Emma Tenayuca leads the Worker’s Alliance of America rally at San Antonio’s City Hall in 1937.

A hundred years ago, on June 4, 1919, Congress passed the 19th Amendment, prohibiting the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the U.S. on the basis of sex. It was ratified on August 18, 1920 and became official law on August 26, 1920. Voting rights continued to be denied on the basis of racial and ethnic origin for years, making this a bittersweet victory for the women of color who fought for women’s suffrage.

Next year, to mark the centennial of the 19th Amendment, the Museo del Westside will present a new exhibit on Women and Activism in the Westside of San Antonio—our way of telling the fuller story of women’s political engagement despite the obstacles. If you have a story of a Westside women activist you’d like to share please contact museo@esperanzacenter.org or 210-228-0201.

This program was made possible in part with a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as the City of San Antonio Department of Arts and Culture, National Endowment for the Arts, Texas Commission on the Arts, John L. Santikos Charitable Foundation of the San Antonio Area Foundation, AKR Foundation, CoYoTe Phoenix Fund, y la buena gente de Esperanza.



FOR MORE INFORMATION: 210-228-0201 or museo@esperanzacenter.org

Westside Community Oral History Training WORKSHOPS

Learn how to collect oral histories by attending one of our **free** summer oral history workshops led by the Museo del Westside Director, Sarah Zenaida Gould. Upon completion of the training program, participants will be eligible to check out a portable oral history kit to collect oral histories in the community that will become part of the Esperanza’s digital history collection and help us preserve Westside San Antonio history!

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Esperanza Center
922 San Pedro Ave
Wednesday, July 10, 2019
6 to 8 pm | Casa De Cuentos
816 S. Colorado
Saturday, July 13, 2019
10 am to noon | Alazán Community Room
1011 S. Brazos St.
Date and Time TBA |
|--|--|--|

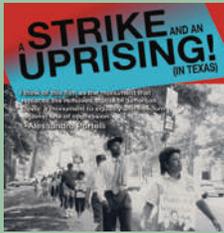


**Esperanza-Cinefestival
FILM SCREENINGS
Friday July 12, 2019**

**10am - Senior Cinema | FREE
Las Tesoros de San Antonio/
A Westside Story**



**4pm - Cine en el Barrio | FREE
A Strike and an Uprising! (in Texas)**



**7pm - Fronteras in Focus | \$8
Femme Frontera Filmmaker Showcase**
Six short films that center on female empowerment.



**9pm - Out at the Movies | \$10
The Garden Left Behind**
Tina, a young Trans woman & Eliana, her grandmother.



**Guadalupe Theater
1301 Guadalupe St. SA, TX**
Call 210.271.3151 or visit
guadalupeculturalarts.org
to purchase tickets and get more info

Noche Azul de Esperanza

Saturday July 20

Saturday August 17

**Huellas
Gitanas**



**Africa
Latina**



Performances @ 8pm • Tickets \$7 más o menos at the door
Esperanza Peace & Justice Center • 922 San Pedro Avenue, SATX



ESPERANZA PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER
922 San Pedro San Antonio TX 78212
210.228.0201 • www.esperanzacenter.org

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**New Exhibit on
Women and Activism in San Antonio's Westside
Call for Stories and Photos**

More information inside on p. 15!

4TH ANNUAL FREE EVENT!
**SON TUS NIÑOS TAMBIÉN:
TRANS KIDS BACK TO SCHOOL**

**BACKPACK & SCHOOL SUPPLIES
GIVE AWAYS!**

**COME LEARN HOW SCHOOLS
CAN CREATE INCLUSIVE
SPACES FOR ALL CHILDREN**

**5pm: Resource Fair
6-8pm: Workshop & Panel**

**August 10, 2019, 5-8pm,
Esperanza, 922 San Pedro Ave. 78212**

**TRANS POWER
SA
PRIDE SUMMIT**

Partnered With

Esperanza
Peace & Justice
Center

922 San Pedro Ave.
San Antonio, TX
78212

Community
Event:

- Bamby Salcedo & Many More Guest Speakers
- Trans Panel
- Trans Youth Testimonies
- Music
- Food

FLUX

Avita

AMPHARMACY

LUSH

July 27, 2019
3:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

For more information contact: transpowersa210@gmail.com
or call 210-269-9663