**Seis Años de CALAVERAS**

We proudly present the 6th annual November issue of La Voz Calaveras written by a collaborative of Esperanza folks, Los Calaveros. We began to write Calaveras in 1999 when Don Mosés Espino De Castillo was the only one keeping this Dia de los Muertos tradition alive in San Antonio. In 1999, in preparation for the 2000 elections, the abastabo (ibadato) was a prime target for the Calaveristas, as were Taco Bell. Blinky Dog, TASS testing, our City Council, our mayor and more. In 2000, Don Mosés re tired after publishing 30 years of Calaveras in San Antonio. Soon after, Don Mosés passed on.

In Mexico, the name of José Guadalupe Posada is synonymous with the tradition of writing Calaveras and the printing of graphics or caricatures to go with them. Don Lope was born in Aguascalientes in 1852 of humble origins and worked in the fields as a child. His work was probably influenced by the rich cultural/artisanic traditions of Aguascalientes, particularly the ceramic art. Towards the end of 1870, Posada mastered the art of lithography and became famous for his illustrations in El Jocete, a small independent Sunday paper. Posada’s short, stout, with a dark rim, round head, marked Indian features and a noble and simple manner; produced more than 22,000 engravings during his 44 year career. Don Lope worked closely much of his career with publisher Antonio Vazquez, a noted poet. Posada also influenced the work of artists like Rivera and Orozco who visited Don Lope’s shop in young students.

For years after his death, Posada’s artistic genius went unrecognized and his artwork was deemed, “popular art.” Don Lope was known to have refused commissions on principle and it was his political stances which helped prepare the way for the 1910 Revolution in Mexico. Dying in obscurity, he was buried in a “sixth class grave” only to have his body exhumed seven years later and tossed in a common grave. He was an artist of the “masses.” As a tribute to Posada’s genius as an artist and true activist we have liberally borrowed from his masterpieces for this issue of La Voz. This issue also includes recollections of loved ones who have recently passed. To begin calaverandinos I offer this Calavera in English.

**Elección Day Calavera**

In the year 2004 The race for president was, indeed, a bore The incumbent, President Bush, Needed cuesta with a great big push. But Kerry a Herman Munster type For the job did not seem re The he was anti-war and yet, pro peace His reasoning at times just didn’t make sense There was no denying Bush was the corporate pick And the puppet master, his running mate, Dick The Munster licensed tall and tried to be charming With Edwards at his side, whose looks were disarming.

Bush promised lower taxes and no stem cell research The economy looked sound from his white house perch Kerry pressed in on education and No Child Left Behind He suddenly seemed self-assured, knowledgeable, and kind The scrum, Bush, naked fear and terror As he wouldn’t admit to a single error Meanwhile, Kerry questioned Homeland Security But vowed to tighten the borders with scary Cobb, Bunndage, Pantalos and Peltier were also on the ballot They were all dismissed and wound up flat on the mat The campaign was at its Nolit And it got later and later.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, a new candidate appeared La pelona, the dead one, whom everyone feared. Greed, poverty, ignorance, terrorism and war! Step forward, Mr. President, with me you’ll go far! -G.A. Ramírez

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**La Casa iba de viaje**

La Casa iba de viaje a encontrar una gran fiesta llevaba su mejor traje y su sonrisa bien puesta.

A San Anto recayó y hasta el West-Side fue a parar donde una celebración estaba por empezar.

La Buena Gente de Esperanza mucho se había esforzado no había lugar a ruedas ya la Raza había llegado.

La Muerte y la gente allí vieron a las contantes una era Rita Vidaurri Y Lila y acompañantes.

Donita Rita comenzó y nos tuvo a caricaturas

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**La Muerte**

A la Margie y la Josie les gusta cocinar Josie un mole exquisito se pone a cocinar y sus pinché, los tamales le ayudan a amasar Margie con su equipo especial de trastero prepara la sopa y hornear el pastelito tres leches nómada, nada de lio

**Día de Muertos**

Donita Toña, la Katrina, cuando llega a la cocina le hace fachito al agua de pepino y pide, por favor, un cristal para su vino

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**R e c e p c i ó n a l a M u e r t e**

Mientras tanto, allá en la cinta, el demonio en su mandíbula servía copias de muerto y buevos en sangriento

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**La sangre del pobre El rico se la come.**

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VOZ VISION STATEMENT: La Voz de Esperanza speaks for many individual, progressive voices who are gentle, broad-minded, and inclusive. We are diverse survivors of materialism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, chauvinism, sexism, earth-hatred, racism and political oppression. We are rejecting the powers of all, activism and healthy conflict in order to achieve democratic/spiritual healing for 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 provides bold actions in response to local and global problems, with the knowledge that the many acts we take for the earth, our bodies, and the dignity of all people will result in profound change for the seven generations to come.