



Changes
Luz Reyes





My neighborhood hasn't been the same since March when the Pandemic started. I miss people walking with their dogs in the afternoon. I miss people barbecuing. I miss people partying throughout the night. Ever since the pandemic started, people don't go out much, which is pretty sad.



With this pandemic people got more political. They are being more racist to one another which is disappointing. In my neighborhood, I have not seen this before. People were so polite and respectful in many ways.







I've noticed many things I had not seen before while walking to distract myself in the neighborhood.



My neighbors don't have the money to pay the rent. This has been happening since April. Many people in my neighborhood are moving out of their houses because they can't afford to stay.





People who have to go to school and work through Zoom on the computer go outside to get fresh air and some sun and take a break from being stuck inside the house all day. I see neighbors doing workouts outside because they are so tired of sitting on their couches.





Usually, my neighborhood goes all out when it comes to Halloween. October is here and no one is putting anything outside their door because of Covid. They are trying to keep everyone safe in my community.



It was my sister's Confirmation. It was fun because family came to my house. At the same time, it was sad because my sister couldn't experience her Confirmation at church with our community.







This is Osmen Sernas. He was a family friend, a sergeant, a brother, a son, and a boyfriend. On April 6, 2020, he passed away in a car accident. Everyone thought it was from the virus but the truth is that he was on his way to see his girlfriend and he was walking. I guess the driver didn't see him.. His family and friends couldn't believe that he had passed away. The day that I found out, many tears came out of my eyes. I couldn't believe it either. Weeks passed, and his mom got more and more depressed. On May 6, 2020 he was going to turn 18 and graduate. About a week or so later, his dad caught the virus. His brothers were all so depressed that they didn't really join class.

Everytime I put the radio on I hear the song "Que Te Vaya Bien". I don't know if that's a sign that he is remembering me, but I get those flashbacks to when we were dancing to that song at my Quinceanera and everyone loved it. When my parents hear the song they cry, because he was one of the most wonderful people that my family has ever met.





YALTGÜAL

It is tradition for all loved ones to visit their family members who left us too soon. The visit is known as "Yaltagüal." It's customary to bring bread, flowers, fruits, nuts, chocolate, a candle, and sometimes a bottle of Mezcal as an act of offering to the deceased.







To kick off the first night of Day of the Dead Matatlan, there is a dance around the pueblo and inside residents' homes. The men and women in masks are known as "güals" who represent the deceased and have come to celebrate the lives of their loved ones who have passed away. Traditionally, once the güals arrived they would speak to the homeowner in the native Zapotec language and ask for permission to enter their home. Next, the homeowner would provide them with Pan de Muerto (a special Day of the Dead bread) and fruits, offerings to the deceased. As time passed, it became a tradition to offer the güals and the rest of the visitors a shot of mezcal and a beer for their presence.

LOS GÜAL

The celebration doesn't end there!

The following week, it has become tradition for the güals to dance in the cemetery for three nights. This symbolizes that all spirits have been released and are ready to celebrate life along with their loved ones. To conclude Day of the Dead, the Pueblo hosts a final dance for all residents and visitors. Here in Los Angeles, about 4-5 bands come and play and everyone dances past midnight. There are two stages, since there are two neighborhoods (Arriba, Abajo). Each neighbor competes for who hosts the best concerts, but at the end of the day it's a big, free concert for all.

Because of Covid, we have been unable to celebrate as we usually do. In Los Angeles and in Oaxaca many people celebrated with their family members only.



Pan de Muerto







Count: 968647
VBMP - File: 194851
Extract: 51

1875
BT: 516
PCT: 9001137A
968647 - Card 0



November 3, 2020 General Election



All registered voters in L.A. County have been mailed a
Vote by Mail ballot to ensure a safe and accessible voting option.

Voting for the 1st time was a big relief for me.
For the past 4 years, there has been so much chaos.
Trump took away the rights from DACA students.
I am not an immigrant, but I have immigrant parents.

Lately, they have been experiencing racism, especially
my dad at his work. It's been so sad. Voting for me
meant that I got to speak out, to have some justice.

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TCF
THE COLORFUL FAMILY

10/11/17

FED
PRAY
LUST

IF YOU DON'T VOTE FOR ME YOU AIN'T BLACK

TSMOKE
TCF

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IF YOU DON'T VOTE FOR ME YOU AIN'T BLACK

IF YOU DON'T VOTE FOR ME YOU AIN'T BLACK

HEARTS

BLACK



It has been hard to see stores all boarded up. My hopes for the next 4 years is that we have less discrimination, protests, looting, and police brutality. We need a change in policy to help create change in our society.

