

Another Fantastic Secular Day of the Dead Event!

by Margaret Downey

When a new secular event proves to be a success, of course it must be repeated! So that is what we did on Sunday, November 1, 2015 in San Diego, California. Sure enough, the second annual Secular Day of the Dead event was once again a huge success.

Victoria de la Torre and I created The Secular Day of the Dead concept during a brainstorming mentor/protege weekend in 2013. We hope to see the event become a national outreach effort to appeal to secular Hispanics who want to continue traditions and rituals that embrace cultural connections. Secularizing the Day of the Dead proves that religious traditions and rituals can indeed be godless, family friendly and fun.

We are happy to help individuals and/or organizations that would like to host an event in any given area. For additional organizing information, see:

<http://www.secular-celebrations.com/secular-day-of-the-dead>

We have made it very easy to host a Secular Day of the Dead. At the Secular Celebrations link, event planning resources such as these can be found:

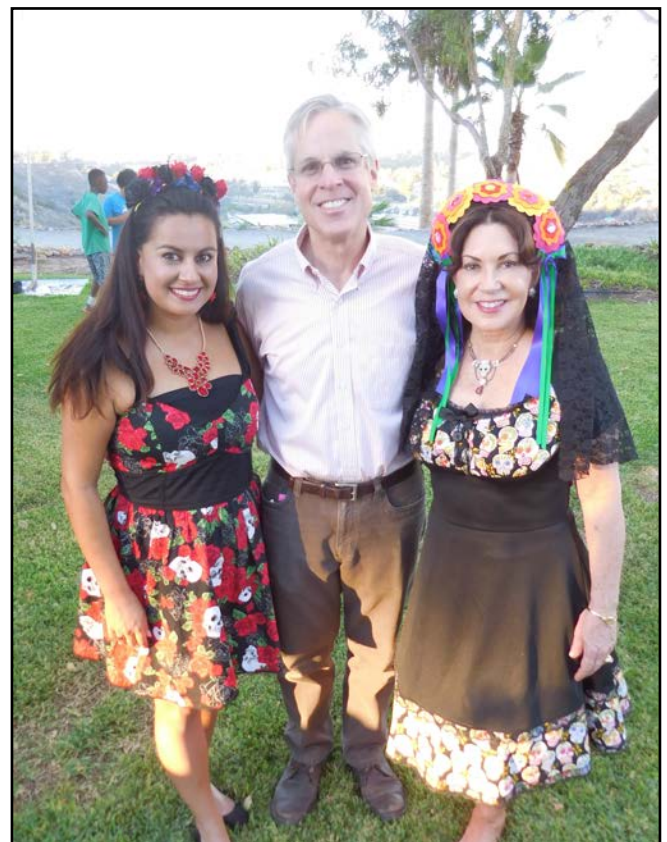
Introduction Script
Talking Points and Sound Bites
Party Agenda
Words to a Sing-Along
Event Direction Signs
Piñata Entry Forms
Press Release Samples
Sample Poster
Menu Suggestions
Ideas for Activities

Please enjoy the photo spread below and on the following page for an overview of the activities of the day. Watch for details in this newsletter about a 2016 event. □



Entertainer extraordinaire **Buck Bowen** is pictured left performing one of his original songs for the audience. Bowen performed two times and rocked the house with songs such as “The Afterlife Party” and “iCan iWill.” Learn more about Bowen at: www.buckbowen.com

The Secular Day of the Dead co-hosts and co-sponsors are pictured below, left to right, **Victoria de la Torre** (representing San Diego Secular Latinos), **Steven Soden** (representing Sunday Assembly San Diego) and **Margaret Downey** (representing the Freethought Society) .



Photos of the 2015 Secular Day of the Dead Event



A fun time was had by all who tried to break open the candy-filled piñata.



Cultural costuming is encouraged at the Secular Day of the Dead event. Pictured above left **Christine Jones** is dressed as her favorite Latina artist, **Frida Kahlo**, and **Margaret Downey** is dressed in a traditional Dia de los Muertos outfit.

The "Honoring Table" is pictured above right. The photos on the table represent the lives being honored that day.



Even the adults at the event got into the coloring activities. The colorful Sugar Skull masks were created and worn by those who did not get their faces painted. Plastic Sugar Skull rings were used to decorate the cupcakes.