



# Assembly Connection

## PROMOTING DIVERSITY: ASSEMBLERS TO ATTEND TRAINING

Sunday Assembly strives to be as radically inclusive as possible; it's in the mission statement, and it is embodied in our service outreach. Recently organizers from Sunday Assembly Los Angeles and Sunday Assembly San Diego began to work together to put together a diversity training for two Assemblies as well as other secular organizations.

On April 4, organizers, volunteers, and assemblers from San Diego, Los Angeles, and other regional assemblies will gather at the Santa Monica Unitarian Church for a half day workshop. It will be held from 9 AM to 1 PM and co-facilitated by Dr. Sikivu Hutchinson, a prominent African American atheist educator, and Linda Hunt. The curriculum will encourage honest self-evaluation of our blind spots and unconscious privilege and include discussion about stereotypes, journaling, and best practices.

The fee for the workshop is \$30 and volunteers and assemblers from San Diego are welcome to attend. This will be a great opportunity to get to know local and regional assemblers as well as learn and grow personally. There will be carpools going to the training. If you are interested please email [HR@sundayassemblysandiego.org](mailto:HR@sundayassemblysandiego.org).

## A CONFERENCE CALLED WONDER

Last year, Sunday Assembly International hosted it's first ever conference in London, England where dozen's of organizers from all around the world gathered for fellowship and to learn how to be more effective in their local chapter's. This year, the conference will be held in Atlanta, GA from May 29– May 31. This year's conference has an impressive lineup of speakers, workshops, and activities for everyone.

This year's featured speakers include Hemant Mehta, Casper Kelly, Maya Hutchinson, Sanderson Jones, Mike Aus, Mandisa Thomas, Pippa Evans, Mark McKergow, Amy Boyle, Bob Faw, Brett Wheeler, Bart Campolo and Dale McGowan.

Some of the activities participants can look forward to include Yummy Yoga, a Cabaret Evening, an Early Morning Rave, a Sunday Assembly of all the talents, and The Organic Orchestra.

The conference is not limited to organizers or volunteers; anyone who is interested in building secular community is welcome to attend. Accommodations can be found in nearby hotels as well as with assemblers who live in Atlanta who are offering up their homes to traveling assemblers.

For more information on the conference visit the website:  
[www.aconferencecalledwonder.com](http://www.aconferencecalledwonder.com)



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 4: Diversity Training
- April 5: Easter/Spring Potluck and Egg Hunt
- April 19: Earth Faire
- April 26: April Assembly



## SEXUALITY DISCUSSION GROUP

Last month's assembly featured Chloe Reitherman, who spoke about sexual health education in the San Diego area. A few days later, she hosted a SMOUP discussion group on the basics of sexual health. That discussion series will continue, exploring the ethics and philosophy of sexuality. While many people have figured out the basics of sex and sexuality on their own many people were never given the opportunity to ask questions about their own sexual experiences and feelings. Many people don't know what options are available to them. The next meeting of this group will focus on the topic "Knowing

what you want: Exploring your sexual desires". Future topics will include "Communicating Your Sexual Desires: Turning Awkward Conversations Into Routine"; "Fetishes and Kink: Whips and Chains: Everything They're Cracked Up To Be?" and "Monogamy, Polyamory and Swinging, Oh My!" These discussion groups will be a safe space to share your thoughts and ask questions you may have been reluctant to in the past. For more information email Chloe Reitherman, [chloereitherman@sundayassembliesandiego.org](mailto:chloereitherman@sundayassembliesandiego.org), or find this event on Meetup.com. Location

*"One of the main goals of the of the organizing team at Sunday Assembly San Diego is transparency."*

### UPCOMING SMOUPS

- ◆ March 22: Cross Stitch/Do Craftsy Stuff
- ◆ March 22: The Walking Dead
- ◆ March 25: Philosophy and Ethics of Sexuality
- ◆ March 28: Earth Hour
- ◆ March 29: The Walking Dead—Season 5 Finale
- ◆ April 2: Pack Food Boxes
- ◆ April 3: Friday Night Liberty
- ◆ April 8: Sunday Assembly visits the Humanist Group at Palomar UU in Vista
- ◆ April 21: Cheap Beer night at Mission Brewery Downtown
- ◆ April 25: Family Dinner

For more information on all events, including addresses and times visit our website or [meetup.com/Sunday-assembly-san-diego](http://meetup.com/Sunday-assembly-san-diego)

### WEBSITE GETS A MAKEOVER

Anyone who has visited the Sunday Assembly San Diego website in the past few days will have noticed that some big changes have occurred. The new version of the website aims at being more user friendly and communicating more about the many programs and events that are happening.

The Sunday Assembly motto, live better, help often, wonder more. A visitor to the website will notice that the motto is displayed in the navigation bar.

Under the Live Better tab is information on Upcoming and Past Assemblies. Did you know that you can watch past Assemblies online? It's a great way to see a speaker you really liked again. The Programming Committee is always looking for speakers and readers. If you would like to speak or read at the Assembly you can sign up to do that there. There is also a link to sign up to be a "Best Moment" speaker. Everyone has a story and this is a great way to share your story and the wisdom you have with others.

Help Often features the work of our Service Outreach Team and Pastoral Care teams. You will find current and past projects and ways that you can get involved.

Wonder More tells you how you can connect with other assemblers and have a good time. All upcoming Small Groups (SMOUPS) and special events are listed there, as is a Citizen Scientist tab where you can learn how you can help the scientific community with data collection. The national Bird Feeder Watch and the Great Star Count are just a couple of the projects that you can get involved with.

One of the main goals of the of the organizing team at Sunday Assembly San Diego is transparency. The website now features a section to keep the assemblers up to date on everything that your Board of Directors and administration are doing. There is now a tab where you can now view the minutes from the board meetings, get information on when the next meeting will be, and read the bylaws and basic structure documents.

You will also find a whole section dedicated to our children's program. The staff of the kids' program want families to feel right at home when coming to Assemblies and have started a blog to keep parents informed of what their children are doing during Assemblies as well as what family friendly event's are going on in San Diego.



*Portrait of Debbie Allen.*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

San Diego's secular community has many wonderful people who give their time and money to see the world become a better place. Debbie Allen was a perfect choice to feature in the first "Volunteer Spotlight" segment because of her countless hours promoting humanism, and her relentless dedication to our inclusive and vibrant secular community.

Debbie Allen has been a supporter of Sunday Assembly since the beginning. In 2013, Debbie was essential to bringing Sunday Assembly to San Diego for the first time, and she supported the growth of the local chapter through consultation and active support. It was through her support and the support of the San Diego Coalition of Reason that Sunday Assembly has been able to thrive. Debbie was integral in planning the Secular Winter Solstice event that took place in 2014.

Besides her work with the Assembly, Debbie is the founder and director of the San Diego Coalition of Reason. Since 2009, SD CoR has grown from 10 to 17 cooperative atheist, humanist, and freethought groups, and is recognized as a leading secular organization in Southern California. Debbie was elected to the board of directors of the American Humanist Association in 2012, to the board of the Humanist Society in 2014 and was elected to the Reason Rally Organizing Committee in January 2015. In 2013 Debbie brought Sunday Assembly to San Diego for the first time and supported the growth of the local chapter through consultation and active support.

Debbie is the immediate past president of the Humanist Fellowship of San Diego, president of the San Diego Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, co-founder of the San Diego Recovering from Religion Meetup group, and founder of the San Diego Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers Meetup group. In 2011 Debbie became certified as a Humanist Chaplain in order to better serve and advocate for non-theists in the military. She also volunteered as a counselor for two summers with Camp Quest West.

Always focused on engaging nonbelievers and growing the secular community, Debbie has organized numerous lectures, rallies, and social events, and she has worked in coordination with several national organizations and movement leaders.

Prior to becoming a full time community organizer and secular activist, Debbie was a psychotherapist in private practice, and research associate in neuropsychology at UCSD School of Medicine. We are honored and pleased to recognize Debbie as a cornerstone of the San Diego secular community.

Do you have someone that you feel should be honored for their volunteer service? Send an email to: [Outreach@sundayassemblysandiego.org](mailto:Outreach@sundayassemblysandiego.org)

## KIDS PROGRAM NEWS

The Kids Program has several exciting projects and family friendly events coming up.

Currently, we are hoping for donations of new items to make the kids area at the assemblies look nice. The current wish list includes:

1. Mini table and chairs
2. Portable library shelf and books kids can check out for home
3. Foam puzzle pieces for the floor (since they are outside)
4. Bean bag chairs
5. Baby toys
6. Science kits

As the program grows the staff hope to offer more events geared towards older kids and parent's. Please take some time to fill out a survey to help us improve the program. You can find a link in the Kids Blog section of the website.

The kids staff will be hosting the craft at Earth Day so come by with your family to do a craft that benefits the earth and gives kids an opportunity to be citizen scientists!

## UPCOMING SERVICE PROJECTS

- March 31: Stand Up For Kids Meal Preparation
- April 2: Pack Food Boxes
- April 10: Stand Up For Kids Meal Preparation
- April 18: 47th Street Canyon Clean-up
- April 26: Survivors of Torture International Hygiene Product Drive
- May 7: Pack Food Boxes
- May 16: Sunburst Youth Housing Painting Day

## OUTREACH: REACHING OTHERS AND CREAT-

In many ways since the San Diego chapter of Sunday Assembly began assemblers have served their community. It started with collecting underwear for the homeless as part of a clothing drive and breakfast outreach in downtown San Diego. In February 2014 there was a clothing drive for Stand Up For Kids which turned into an ongoing partnership serving meals at their facility downtown. Other partners have included the San Diego Food Bank, Border Angels and the YWCA.

In 2015 the Outreach team met to discuss the vision and projects for 2015. It was decided to focus on as wide an area as possible to reach many different communities, and plan service projects that appeal to a wide variety of assemblers. The Outreach team has begun partnerships with several community groups to achieve this goal, including working with Survivors of Torture International, Habitat for Humanity, The Humane Society of San Diego, The Park Department of San Diego, The Tijuana Estuary, The Center and Harvest Crops.

Sunday Assembly has two service programs, Outreach and Pastoral Care which are temporarily combined. Pastoral Care will help us build community as an assembly, and attend to the needs that need to met within our own walls.

If you would like to volunteer or if there is something Pastoral Care can help you with please contact [Outreach@SundayassemblySanDiego.org](mailto:Outreach@SundayassemblySanDiego.org)

Sunday Assembly San Diego is a radically inclusive deity-free community that meets monthly to hear inspirational talks, connect for service projects, sing songs, and generally celebrate life. Assemblies are free to attend, and everyone is welcome. Together we strive to Live Better, Help Often and Wonder More.

[www.sundayassemblysandiego.org](http://www.sundayassemblysandiego.org)



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE