



# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the United States of America

A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION



## Sacramento

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## N E W S L E T T E R

June 2016

### UNA USA Leadership Conference

Sacramento and Davis meet with legislators in Washington D.C.

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### Aggies for Humanity

Gala fundraiser a great success.

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### Elk Grove welcomes UDHR

A reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Elk Grove.

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### CCL and Sierra Club

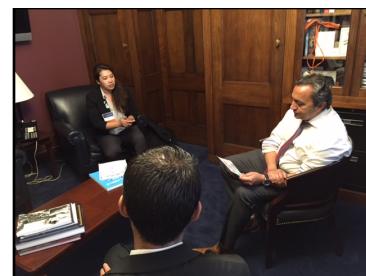
Informative events on climate action.

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## UNA Sacramento and Davis Chapters go to Washington



The annual 4 day UNA-USA conference connected the Global Goals with local action. The largest contingent of GenUN students ever assembled gathered in Washington D.C. from June 11-14 for forums on advocacy, updates on the refugee crisis, and an evening at the United States Institute of Peace. The more seasoned members welcomed the energy and enthusiasm of the next generation to support the United Nations.



We are a volunteer organization that depends on membership dues to bring quality programs to Sacramento. Please join or renew your membership today! [www.unausasacramento.com](http://www.unausasacramento.com)



## **Aggies for Humanity's First Year Culminates in June 3 Gala Fundraiser for Syrian Refugees**

Greetings! I'm Kiana Okhovat, and I'm the founder and president of the University of California, Davis' premier humanitarian student organization, Aggies for Humanity.

I founded Aggies for Humanity last September in direct response to the Syrian refugee crisis, specifically, when the photo of that little boy washed up on the Turkish shore made international news. That photo deeply moved me. I desperately wanted to do something to help in his memory, so I went online to the UN Refugee Agency website to donate money. I then realized that if I could get a group of people to donate money, that would make even more of a difference.

Using the resources available, I knew the most efficient way to do this would be to create a student organization at my university, UC Davis. To start a club, you need at least 5 board members, so I reached out to my closest friends to meet that requirement.

We were first called the UN Refugee Agency at UC Davis, since our mission was mostly fundraising. But then as we were brainstorming and establishing our presence, we realized that there was a huge lack of empathy and understanding in student campus life for world affairs, everyone was so busy and consumed with their own agendas. So we decided to broaden our goals and renamed ourselves Aggies for Humanity. We decided to be a humanitarian club, with the mission of instilling in our members a sense of world citizenship, understanding of human rights, and giving back to the community, and our current project would be to raise money for the Syrian refugees. We would have informational movie nights, guest speakers, attend conferences, talks, have volunteer opportunities, networking opportunities, and fundraisers. We were really driving home our university motto 'One world, one UC Davis.'

As a new club, we started from rock bottom. We were competing with over 700 campus clubs, and we poured our hearts and all our passions into this organization. I networked aggressively both on campus and within the community, leading me to meet Verena Borton, president of Davis UNA-USA, at the International Festival in Davis in early October. Verena was such a great source of support during the creation of the club, she was there for us when we were just 5 students trying to make a difference to when we became one of the top clubs on campus. [Note: many of the students are GenUN members as well.] Through hard work and persistence, Aggies for Humanity slowly began to build momentum and success. The UCD Center for Student Involvement named us the March Student Organization of the Month, and the Office of Campus Community relations awarded us the \$500 Principles of Community Grand Award for helping promote the UCD Principles of Community.

Our Facebook page (Aggies for Humanity) describes all our activities: we have a photo album for every event we do, from our Launch Day to the final activity of the year, our first annual Grand Benefit Gala. The latter took place at the International House Davis on June 3, 2016. It was our biggest fundraising effort, making our total amount of funds raised this past school year over \$2,000, which will all be donated to the UN Refugee Agency.

The Grand Benefit Gala was an accumulation of everything that Aggies for Humanity stands for and hopes to achieve. The Gala was co-sponsored by Davis UNA-USA, the International House Davis, and the UCD Cross Cultural Center. Their support was invaluable, without them we couldn't have made the Gala happen. The Gala was a night of cultural diversity appreciation and love. We had catering, a raffle, a photo booth, a Snapchat geofilter to help commemorate the evening, and California State Senate Candidate Gabe Griess and his wife, epilepsy and rare disease advocate Kristie Griess as guest speakers. We also had Nina Grae, an incredible singer/songwriter from San Francisco, perform at the event, in addition to many student groups and performers. A team of 18 people planned this Gala, it was truly a labor of love and a wonderful journey.

The night was a great success – for me personally it was the best night of my life. Seeing the 70+ guests we had show up for this event all united together in the hall for one common cause was moving, and the energy was electric. This, I thought, is what life is all about. Coming together and spreading love, for an invaluable cause.

If there is any advice I can give to someone reading this, it is to get involved. You don't have to be involved in a big way, often it's the little things that count the most. Just push yourself a little and get involved even a little bit. This could be saying yes when asked to donate that \$1 for that charity at the movie theater, or attending that one fundraiser you see in your Facebook feed, or even pushing yourself to read a little more about world affairs. The more you know, the more you can do. We all live in one world and we should take care of it and each other. And the best part is, it's never too late to start.

The Elk Grove Multicultural Committee, the Franklin Library and the United Nations Association Sacramento Chapter invite you to an observation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**When: Thursday, August 18, 2016 6:00pm - 8:00pm**

**Where: Franklin High School Library, 10055 Franklin High Rd. Elk Grove, CA**

On December 10, 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations. The Elk Grove Multicultural Committee, in partnership with the Franklin High School Library invites the public to a celebration of this document- as part of the City of Elk Grove's 2016 Diversity Week.

The 30 Articles of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be read in 30 different languages by native speakers (followed by an English translation). It is our hope that hearing so many voices from various cultures representing so many regions of the world will be a memorable experience – one that reflects the diversity of our community and the universality of this important document.

We hope that participating in the ceremony as readers, listeners or observers will be a meaningful experience for those who will be present for the communal reading of the complete document. Although not legally binding, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been guiding the world since the document was created in 1948 under the strong and inspired leadership of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Everyone is cordially invited to come and be a link in our circles when we read, hear, and reflect upon the meaning of such basic truths as “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.” (Article 19)

A limited number of copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be available as gifts from the Elk Grove Multicultural Committee, the Franklin Library and the UNA chapter for all who attend the event. Light refreshments will precede the ceremony. There is no charge – come with an open mind and an open heart.

To volunteer as a reader for an article in the UDHR, please contact Jana Shober, [shober@csus.edu](mailto:shober@csus.edu) as soon as possible.



## FIRE AND WATER: JOIN THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT

Latest Presentation by Dana Nuccitelli  
 Sunday, June 26, 11:30am to 12:30 pm  
 Parkside Community Church  
 5700 S Land Park Dr, Sacramento

Dana will give his "Fire" talk at Parkside Community Church. If you haven't heard his latest presentation, this is a great chance. The pastor, Elizabeth Griswold, is an activist and very supportive of climate change efforts.

Dana Nuccitelli, Environmental Scientist, blogger at the Guardian U.K., and author, will discuss the impacts of human-caused global warming on the California climate as well as ideas for national climate action. Q and A after.

You are invited to the Environmental Film Series 2016, hosted by the Sierra Club Sacramento Group, the Sacramento Community Grange and the Citizens Climate Lobby Sacramento Group.

June's film is: **Just Eat It - A Food Waste Story**

About the film: "Dining out" takes on a whole new meaning in Just Eat It. After seeing how much of our food is wasted, Grant Baldwin and Jen Rustemeyer, whose previous film The Clean Bin Project followed their efforts to live a zero-waste lifestyle, decide to take on a new challenge: to eat only rescued food for six months. Just Eat It follows the Vancouver couple as they forgo restaurant meals and quit grocery shopping cold turkey. They troll supermarket cull carts and rejected produce at the local farmer's market, and set aside the "ick" factor as they dive into industry dumpsters. What they find is shocking: truckloads of perfectly edible food destined for the landfill.



**When: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 6:30pm - 8:00pm**

**Where: 3830 U St. Sacramento**



June 5: UNA Board of Directors meeting. 9-10am. UUSS 2425 Sierra Blvd. Sacramento  
June 5: World Environment Day  
June 8: World Oceans Day  
June 17: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought  
June 20: World Refugee Day  
June 21: International Day of Yoga  
June 22: Film: Just Eat It - A Food Waste Story. 3830 U St. Sacramento  
June 26: Citizens' Climate Lobby: Fire and Water talk with Dana Nuccitelli 5700 S. Land Park Dr. Sacramento  
July 3: UNA Board of Directors meeting. 9-10am UUSS 2425 Sierra Blvd. Sacramento  
July 11: World Population Day

United Nations International Year Observances for 2016:  
International Year of Pulses

**Dues and donations: Please remember to pay your yearly membership dues. We are an all-volunteer organization and depend on our members' support in order to bring quality programs to you and our community.**

UNA board meetings are the first Sunday of every month. If you have an idea for a program or would like the UNA board to address an issue, email Sharon Alexander (alexanders@csus.edu) to be considered for an upcoming agenda item.

**Remember to check out our website, Facebook and Twitter.**

**[www.unausasacramento.com](http://www.unausasacramento.com)**

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Sacramento and Davis Chapters

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UNA-USA Sacramento Chapter

P.O. Box 163381

Sacramento, CA 95816

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- Free Student Membership
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The United Nations Association of the United States of America is a national organization dedicated to strengthening the three pillars of the U.N: sustainable development, human rights, and peace and security. UNA-USA carries out its action agenda through a unique public outreach, policy analysis, and international dialogue.

Make checks payable to: **UNA-USA**

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You can also apply online: **[www.unausasacramento.com](http://www.unausasacramento.com)**

Choose Sacramento or Davis as your local chapter.

*Thank you!*

United Nations Association of the United States of America  
Sacramento Chapter  
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