



SEACM's mission is to welcome refugees and immigrants of all nationalities and assist them in becoming healthy, productive members of our community.

2315 Placer Street  
Redding, California 96001  
(530) 241-5802  
A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization



November 30, 2021

### Thank You!

Because of your support, SEACM realized its goal of raising \$5,196 from 35 donors on North State Giving Tuesday 2021! Your giving helps us to continue our mission to welcome refugees and immigrants to the North State and assist them in becoming healthy, productive members of our community. *God Bless you!* ♦ ♦ ♦

### Epiphany: Season of Light

by Editor Bill Rich

During the season of Epiphany, we read Matt: 2:13, "Now after they had left (three kings), an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him." We know what happened to the children who did not flee. Matt 2:16 "Herod...killed all the children around Bethlehem who were two years old or under..."

With this Scripture we see that Jesus and his parents were refugees. The UNHCR defines refugees as "people feeling conflict or persecution." Today they are defined and protected in international law and must not be expelled or returned to situations where their life and freedom are at risk. There are 26 million refugees around the world today. How can we enlighten ourselves during Epiphany to learn more about ways to help them? ♦ ♦ ♦

### From the Desk of Director Alice...

I continue to be amazed at the variety of employment of SEACM's 250+ DACA Work Permit Recipients. Just in our area there are firefighters, registered nurses, marriage therapists, technical workers, teachers, retail store managers and numerous students at community colleges and major universities. Not everyone has such lofty employment but there are moms and people who work in the agriculture community. They must renew their DACA every other year and pay \$495 to do so. Many don't make that much or are helping to support a greatly extended family. I am sure that it must seem to them that they barely get their renewal when it is time to start saving for the next renewal AND living with the fear that the whole program will be disbanded. They came as children and many only know the USA. It remains to be seen what will happen to this program. SEACM renewed 94 applications last year and is already off to helping people renew this year. ♦ ♦ ♦

### Welcome New SEACM Intern Alejandra Beltran

Last Fall the SEACM Board responded to the growing need for more skilled and knowledgeable heads and hands in the work to help immigrants. Alejandra was selected and we are very grateful she has joined the team. In her own words, "I was an immigrant myself and I think I understand the problems on the bumpy road immigrants have to travel here in the US. I came to California in 1995. Since then I have married (to a US citizen) received my green card and have become a US citizen. To fulfill my desire to help others I have spent the last years working with immigrants and immigrant families in various capacities including transporting and translating, especially for pregnant mothers. I volunteered for SEACM for two weeks when DACA was coming into existence. After that I worked with AMPLA HEALTH educating agricultural workers on the medical services that are available to them. Currently I enjoy working with SEACM as well as teaching citizenship classes through Corning Adult Education." ♦ ♦ ♦



### Nobel Prize — by Editor Bill Rich

Last Fall the world learned that Ardem Patapoutian, a scientist at Scripps Research in La Jolla was awarded the Noble Prize in physiology and medicine. When I first read about the life path of Dr. Patapoutian, it felt to me like a living example of Matt 25: 35 "...I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." Young Ardem and his parents, An Armenian family in Lebanon experienced the tragedy of the Lebanese Civil War which began in 1975 and killed over 100,000 people. At one point, Ardem was even captured by armed militants. When he arrived in Los Angeles, he was in many ways a stranger. In his own words, "I came here with very little money and hardly spoke the

— Continued on back page —

## Board of Directors

Director (Staff) - Alice McFadden

Intern (Staff) - Alejandra Beltran

President - Peter Rude

*Member-at-large*

Vice President - Pam Crowe

*Pilgrim Congregational ucc*

Secretary - Wendy Little

*Member-at-large*

Treasurer - Cathy Lefler

*First United Methodist*

Linda Adams - *First Presbyterian*

Janet Hering - *Member-at-large*

Cynde Mercado - *Member-at-large*

Bill Rich - *All Saints Episcopal*

Bob Swartz - *St. James Lutheran*

Jill Villalobos - *Member-at-large*

Email: [seacm@snowcrest.net](mailto:seacm@snowcrest.net)

Website: [seacmredding.org](http://seacmredding.org)

Facebook.com/SEACM1987/

Phone: (530) 241-5802

## Your Giving Makes a Difference

Many, many thanks for your continued support. Your giving helps support the continued operation of SEACM. Immigrants and refugees need our prayers and support, now more than ever.

You may mail your donation to: SEACM, 2315 Placer Street, Redding, CA 96001 or visit our website (above) to give online.



— Nobel Prize Continued—

language.” Opportunities in the US helped him find a career he had never imagined. “I worked in a lab and just fell in love with doing research. Ever since then, this has been my life and joy.” He will share the \$1.4 million in prize money with his collaborator, David Julius at UC San Francisco. This team also won the Kavli Prize in Neuroscience in 2020 for “...discovering how our bodies sense pressure, essential to our sense of touch and the function of cells in the heart and other organs.”

Scientists understood how sight and taste work but not touch. The team put all their efforts into the following research question: “What allows our bodies to sense pressure in all its forms, from the prick of a needle to a full belly after dinner?” In their work, the team uncovered two genes that are required for touch response. These genes are shared across mammals including people and have been associated with a wide range of diseases including cardiomyopathy. This discovery represents the first step in discovering new treatments.

Dr. Patapoutian expressed his feelings candidly saying, “I certainly could not have imagined this day. I could not have imagined living a life of science. I didn’t know that was a career. One of the beautiful things about basic science is that it takes you in directions you never anticipate.”

It feels to me that one of the beautiful things about welcoming the stranger is that he might just win a Nobel Prize and help discover new treatments to genetic diseases! ♦♦♦

*Quotations from San Diego Union Tribune, Robbins & Wosen, 10-5-21.*

## SEACM Facts and Figures for 2021

Each year, SEACM does an end of year assessment of how we are doing... who did we serve, what types of services were provided, how much assistance was given, and what countries did our clients come from? We thought you would like to see the compiled data from 2021, as follows:

1. Scheduled Appointments with Director = 360
2. Applications for Family Unity = 44
3. Citizenship Applications = 49
4. Green Card Renewal Assistance = 40
5. DACA (Deferred Action Childhood Arrival) = 94
6. Citizenship Interview Review = 17
7. Document Translation = 22

**People served by SEACM in 2021 came from the following 25 countries:**

Mexico, Laos, Philippines, Viet Nam, China, El Salvador, Canada, Peru, Niger, Colombia, India, Syria, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, England, Ethiopia, Brazil, Germany, Guatemala, Nepal, Spain, Venezuela, Hmong and Mien