



SEACM's *mission...*

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

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A 501(c)(3) corporation

Southeast Asian Christian Ministry

Quarterly Newsletter

Fall, 2022

From the Desk of Director Alice: *Saturday Morning*

Bright and early Saturday morning I got a call from a very timid Filipino woman. She had submitted her application for US citizenship last December and had her oral interview last Friday. Much to her astonishment... but not mine... she passed! Her call was to thank SEACM for their help in filling out the application and preparing for the test. Sometimes it is just having the confidence to believe in yourself. Next, about an hour later, a young woman from McArthur called wondering about an elderly uncle who had misplaced his green card years ago. I was able to take the little bit of information he had to find his A# (or alien number) and put his in the right place to request a new one. It takes about a year, so he should receive the card by next September. The morning went on...a call from a young woman in Red Bluff who needed to renew her 2-year DACA status. We completed most of the renewal information over the phone and she has an appointment this Monday afternoon to come in and sign. And to pay the \$495 USCIS fee of course – and receive a renewal card in the mail. Not bad for a lazy Saturday morning before noon!

Accreditation For Director Alice



Congratulations to Alice on the renewal of her accreditation with the Board of Immigration Appeals! She submitted her documentation with her application for renewal over a year ago and she is now accredited for 3 more years. Alice is one of only two people accredited north of Sacramento.

Riverfront Playhouse Buy Out

This is your opportunity to support the ministry of SEACM and have a great time as well. Our annual Riverfront Playhouse buyout returns with tickets for ***The Fall of the House of Usher on November 2, 2022***. Tickets at \$25.00 are available from your parish SEACM board members (see reverse page). Don't miss this fun event!



Giving Tuesday Returns November 29, 2022

Bring more meaning to your Thanksgiving by taking advantage of this convenient way to donate to SEACM. Early giving starts November 15, 2022. **Thanksgiving Tuesday** is November 29, 2022.

To give, go to: <https://www.northstategives.org> starting November 15th.

Build Your Knowledge



Recently published is the marvelous book, ***Streets of Gold, the Untold Story of Immigrant Success***, 2022, by Ran Abramitzky & Leah Boustan. Often people rely on family legends or dramatic news stories to form opinions about both immigrants and immigration. As we know, however, family legends and news stories are not always accurate. The goal of these authors, Economic History Professors from Stanford, is to reconstruct the story of immigration to America using "big data." This means they use information that can be expressed digitally and subjected to sophisticated analysis. For example, they developed methods to automate Ancestry.com searches so they could follow the history of millions of immigrants and their children as they progressed up the economic ladder and integrated into American society. The data

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Your Giving Makes a Difference!

Every donation supports the continued operation of SEACM helping immigrants and refugees become productive members of our communities. You may mail your donations to: SEACM, 2315 Placer St., Redding, CA 96001 or visit our website: SEACMredding.org.



(Build Your Knowledge - continued from front page)

include all kinds of immigrants from the hugely successful to those barely making it. As the authors explain, it is like following everyone in the phone book rather than heroes or villains in the news. Supplemental data also came from birth certificates, the census, tax information, and the Ellis Island Oral History Project to name a few. This is a sample size most researchers only dream about.

The authors' analysis resulted in three major immigration myth revisions. **First, the nostalgic view of rags to riches quickly does not fit the data. Second, newcomers today are just as quick to move up the economic ladder as in the past. And third, immigrant success does not come at the expense of U.S. born workers.** The authors hope that the power of data to discover truth about immigration will undermine the ideologically based ideas that have directed American public opinion about immigration and immigrants. The real story can help our politicians and voters build immigration policy on a stronger foundation than is currently the case.

In addition, **the facts on refugees are very encouraging.** This group is the most likely to settle successfully in the US, they are the most likely to become English fluent, they have better economic outcomes, they often arrive with more education than others, and they make a stronger effort to succeed and integrate based on what it took for them to get here. Far from becoming burdens, refugees who resettle in the USA strengthen the economy.

More Knowledge

The Fishermen and the Dragon: Fear, Greed and a Fight for Justice on the Gulf Coast, (2022) by Kirk Wallace Johnson.

In this stunning story, learn the history of the resettlement of SE Asian refugee fishermen, their families and priest on the shores of Galveston Bay during the early 1970's. Immediately resented by the highly individualistic and independent white fishermen, the SE Asians worked cooperatively in many ways including by pooling their money in family banks to buy boats. As the fishing declined for everyone, the white fishermen blamed the SE Asians instead of the chemical companies, the true culprits who poisoned the bay. The Klan arrived, boats were burned, shots fired and one white fisherman was killed. This story reads like an Old Testament fable of misunderstanding and conflict but is ultimately filled with hope for the justice that can be found in the US. The book is a must read for anyone interested in studying problems and solutions in resettlement.