



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

Save the Date! Online  
Fund Raiser!

North State  
Giving Tuesday  
2021

November 30th

[northstategives.org/seacm](http://northstategives.org/seacm)

Many supporters of SEACM have donated in the past to this once a year, online fund raiser for local nonprofits sponsored by the *Community Foundation of the North State*. These past two years of COVID-19 have severely impacted fund raising efforts of nonprofits. We sincerely ask for your financial support this year by generously giving to SEACM on **North State Giving Tuesday, November 30th**. This is our one and only fund raiser this year! Thank you all for your prayers and support!



## From the Desk of Director Alice...

### "Facets of Service"

Serving many people brings a variety of facets to each of my days. Much of my time is spent renewing the 250 DACA applications that SEACM has active. They need to be renewed every two years to the tune of \$495 and two passport photos. There is a great diversity of renewals—teachers, engineers, restaurant and food service workers, agricultural workers, college students, and the list could go on and on. They all came to the USA as young children and have grown up here. They don't even remember their home county. SEACM should be justly proud of the help it had given to these young adults. They are a credit to their adopted country.

We have also had many citizenship applications. These are quite a bit more pricey - \$725 to the USCIS, a fingerprint appointment in West Sacramento, in a year or more the actual interview in the Federal Building in Sacramento, and then another trip down for the actual ceremony. Some come to the office proudly displaying their naturalization certificate and others send appreciative texts and photos. You need to know how proud these people are of a gift of citizenship that we take for granted. It is such a special pleasure to receive these acknowledgments of the presence of SEACM in their immigration process. ◇ ◇ ◇

### Olympic Gold by SEACM Editor Bill Rich

In an incredible performance at the Tokyo Olympics, Suni Lee, an eighteen year-old, Hmong-American girl brought home Gold, Silver and Bronze medals to the USA in gymnastics. In her Gold medal performance on the uneven bars, she was unbelievable. Quoting Nancy Armour in the Record Searchlight (7-30-21), *She went for the crazy difficult one, and it was flawless. Biles and the rest of the US team could be heard yelling, 'C'mon, C'mon' as she flitted between the bars like a hummingbird. When she dismounted, her landing so solid her legs didn't even wiggle, the Americans screamed.* Born in Minnesota to Hmong refugees from the Vietnam War, Suni expressed a version of the American Dream that few experience. *When I saw that my score come on top, it was just so emotional. I didn't think I would ever be here.* >>

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## 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.



*(Olympic Gold — Continued from front page)*

*There was one point where I wanted to quit. So that to even say that I'm an Olympic Gold medalist, it's just so crazy.*

As many know, the Hmong are a mountain tribe in Southeast Asia. They were recruited by the CIA and fought in support of American forces during the Vietnam War. When the US left Vietnam many of the Hmong remained under threat from the communists. Her parents, John Lee and Yeev Toj, crossed the Mekong River as children and escaped from Laos to Thailand where they lived in refugee camps. From there they immigrated to St. Paul, Minnesota.

Thinking about the work of SEACM and Suni's success representing the USA, brings up the question of what kinds of people should be accepted into the US as immigrants. Some advocate for accepting only people from developed countries who are English-speaking, well-educated, and can contribute immediately to the American economy. Qualification for becoming an American in this scenario rests mainly on valuing individuals as commodities. But the question of successful integration of immigrants might not rely on prior skills and education. It might have much to do with the attitude of the immigrant and the acceptance of people helping the resettlement of the immigrant. As Suni's dad told Juliet Macur of the New York Times (7-30-21), *People say the United States is the land of opportunity and I'm living proof of that. For my kid, a Hmong girl, to be on the world stage, winning a gold medal, it's just the best feeling ever.* Looking into the Bible we don't see a knowledge or skills qualification for acceptance. We read in Hebrews 13:2 to welcome the stranger, *for by doing that, some have entertained angels without knowing it.* It certainly appears that in only one generation the US ended up with an angel in Suni Lee when it welcomed her parents from a refugee camp many years ago. ♦ ♦ ♦

## Book Review

***The Book of Rosy: A Mother's Story of Separation at the Border*** by Rosayra Pablo Cruz and Julie S. Collazo

When gangs in Guatemala threaten to kidnap her teen son Yordy, Rosy realizes her only option to save her family is to flee to the US border with two of her children. A harrowing 8-day journey in April, 2018, ends in separation at an Arizona detention center, a facility with appalling conditions. Rosy's sons are sent to a Spanish-speaking foster mother in the Bronx, and Rosy is later saved through the goodness of American mothers who step forward to meet her every need: pay her bond; arrange transportation to New York; provide food, shelter, and legal aid; and reunite her with her sons. The book is both hopeful and heartwarming: that a group of women saw the devastation caused by harmful government policies and set up a GoFundMe to right a horrible wrong. In 3 years, Immigrant Families Together has raised almost \$2,000,000 and paid 119 bonds.

*-By Board Member Cathy Lefler-*