

# Refugee Educators' Network, Inc.

(a 501(c)(3) corporation to serve as a clearinghouse for information and resources and to promote the education of both refugee and receiving communities. Employer ID 68-0389552.

## Board Members

### Carol Dunstan

1819 White Sands Lane, Davis, CA 95616  
(530)756-8556, 457-4496, Fax (530)756-8556  
[cduns@cwnet.com](mailto:cduns@cwnet.com)

### Anita Freitas

8409 Purdue Ct, Sacramento CA 95826  
(916) 383-5292 (home)  
[freitaselio@hotmail.com](mailto:freitaselio@hotmail.com)

**Linda Cook**, Categorical Programs, North Sacramento USD,  
670 Dixieanne Ave. Sacramento CA 95815  
[LCook@nssd.k12.ca.us](mailto:LCook@nssd.k12.ca.us)  
(916) 263-8257 Fax 263-8261

**Judy Lewis**, Folsom Cordova USD,  
10836 Gadsten Way, Rancho Cordova CA 95670  
(916) 635-6815. Fax (916) 635-0174.  
[jlewis@seaccr.org](mailto:jlewis@seaccr.org),  
[jlewis@fcusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:jlewis@fcusd.k12.ca.us)

### Lue Vang

Sacramento City USD Multilingual Programs,  
5735 47th Avenue, Sacramento CA 95824,  
643-9089, fax (916)643-9473  
[dloveang@cwnet.com](mailto:dloveang@cwnet.com)

### Chiem-Seng Yaangh, Jimmy Phan

State and Federal Programs  
5735 47th Avenue, Sacramento CA 95824  
643-9076, fax 643-9473,  
[chiemya@sac-city.k12.ca.us](mailto:chiemya@sac-city.k12.ca.us)

### Amy Lin Tan

Child Dev. & Early Childhood  
5735 47th Avenue, Sacramento CA 95824,  
(916) 643-7806 Fax (916)643-9486  
[tana@sac-city.k12.ca.us](mailto:tana@sac-city.k12.ca.us),  
[phahj@sac-city.k12.ca.us](mailto:phahj@sac-city.k12.ca.us)

### Rosemary Rankin, Azar Sadrian,

ELL Programs, SanJuan USD, ELLOffice,  
6939 Sunrise Blvd. #106, Citrus Heights CA 95610  
(916) 971-5387, Fax 971-5375  
[asadrian@sanjuan.edu](mailto:asadrian@sanjuan.edu)

### Julie Hoskins, Leticia Martinez

Bilingual Programs, Refugee Program Spclst  
Washington USD,  
930 West Acres Rd., West Sacramento, CA 95691  
(916) 375-7604 x2271, x 300 Fax 375-7639  
[jhoskins@wusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:jhoskins@wusd.k12.ca.us),  
[Lmartinez@wusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Lmartinez@wusd.k12.ca.us)

### Nguyen Saari

State & Federal Programs, Elk Grove USD,  
9510 Elk Grove-Florin Road, Elk Grove, CA 95624  
(916) 686-7712 x7298, Fax 686-5095  
[nsaari@edcenter.egusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:nsaari@edcenter.egusd.k12.ca.us)

### Peter Whittlesey

Librarian, Grant Joint Union HSD  
1313 Grand Ave., Sacto CA 95838  
[peterwhittlesey@grant.k12.ca.us](mailto:peterwhittlesey@grant.k12.ca.us)

### Socorro Shields,

Grant Joint Union HSD, 1313 Grand Ave., Sacto CA  
95838,  
(916)286-4996, [socorroshields@grant.k12.ca.us](mailto:socorroshields@grant.k12.ca.us)

**Mike Pollard**, Thermalito Union S.D. 400 Grand  
Avenue,  
Oroville CA 95965, (530) 538-2910, Mike Pollard  
[mpollard@Whitney.BCOE.Butte.K12.CA.US](mailto:mpollard@Whitney.BCOE.Butte.K12.CA.US)

**Lorie Hammond**, Asst Professor CSUS Dept of  
Tchr Ed,  
1247 Alice Street, Davis, CA 95616  
(530)753-5690, fax (530)753-5073  
[lhammond@csus.edu](mailto:lhammond@csus.edu)

The Refugee Educators' Network, Inc., established in 1992, owns and manages the collection of the Southeast Asia Community Resource Center (SEACRC), begun in 1984. Folsom Cordova Unified School District provides space and overhead. Outside grant and earned income supports the single employee, a part-time library clerk.

In 2001, the Refugee Educators' Network began the process of dissociation from the Folsom Cordova Unified School District in search of funding that would support its goals and expand its past accomplishments. The goal is to provide easily accessible and accurate information on the languages, backgrounds, cultures, and acculturation of the peoples who have come to this country as refugees, with a primary focus on those from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

In addition to a collection of 7,000 items for checkout, the Refugee Educators' Network has published several handbooks for teachers and others interested in these newcomers to our country and state. The primary vehicle for communication of information has been *Context: Newcomers in California's Classrooms*, published and distributed for 22 years. The REN is now focusing on building internet access to the information and materials of the collection and creating connections between refugee communities and educators.

The Refugee Educators' Network has participated in other projects as well, carrying out and documenting funders' objectives. The Center was one of five sites funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, through the Chippewa Valley Museum, to provide a lecture series, community-built Hmong exhibit at the local university, and exhibition of twenty quality panels illustrating the Hmong journey from China, through Laos, to the United States.

The Refugee Educators' Network has sponsored 14 annual conferences, from 1983 to 2002, with attendance from 250 to 1,200. The proceeds from the conference funded the purchase of materials for the collection, and along with proceeds from subscriptions to *Context* funded a library clerk, website development, and mailing.

The Network has also, with foundation funding, developed and printed a Hmong Literacy Development Kit for groups or individuals to use in teaching children and adults to read and understand written Hmong. This "kit" contains a primer, twenty-five desktop-printed "little readers" for practicing reading (based on Aesop's fable equivalents, illustrated by a young Hmong artist), and a glossary of the 400 high frequency words in Hmong.

Future plans include development and posting online lesson plans associated with kits of materials from the REN collection.

The Refugee Educators' Network provides the vehicle for parent support

**Contacts:**

*Judy Lewis, Chair*

*Lue Vang, Ed.D., Co-Chair*

*Carol Dunstan, Secretary*

of the very successful Community Heritage Language Schools for Ukrainian, Armenian, Russian, and Spanish. These Saturday School programs are organized by the community and district-funded bilingual aides and held in the schools. An example of the outcome is passing an exam in Ukrainian to earn 12 university credits from New York University extension after completion of 8 levels (each level is 32 Saturdays, or about 1,000 hours).

The Refugee Educators' Network is especially interested obtaining funding for the following:

- Expand the website and information access.
- Develop and distribute literacy development materials for Hmong, Mienh, Khmu, and other less commonly known languages with low levels of prior literacy.
- Create bridges between parents and school staffs, and provide children of those who came to this country with the means to understand and appreciate their parents' world.

Our goal is to establish the Refugee Educators' Network, Inc., as an independent and thriving non-profit agency linking the linguistic and cultural worlds of newcomers with schools. Our current annual budget is \$50,000, and our goal is to increase that to \$250,000 within two years. With that level of support we will be able to support staff to carry out activities and attract new sources of support.



Hmong New Year, Rancho Cordova '85



Halinka's drawing.



Julie Hoskins, REN member, at recent meeting in the Southeast Asia Community Resource Center.



Conference, 1983.



Hmong grandfather and granddaughter building bamboo house in CSU Museum.

**Publications of the Southeast Asia Community Resource Center**

*Hmong Literacy Development Kit*, Lewis & Vang, 1999.

*Tawm Lostsuas Mus (Out of Laos: A Story of War and Exodus, Told in Photographs)*.

Roger Warner. English/Hmong, 1996.

*Introduction to Vietnamese Culture*, Te, 1996.

*Handbook for Teaching Armenian Speaking Students*, Avakian, Ghazarian, 1995.

*Amerasians from Vietnam: A California Study*, Chung & Le, 1994.

*Proceedings on the Conference on Champa*, Translated from French by Huynh Dinh Te, 1994.

*Minority Cultures of Laos: Kammu, Lua', Lahu, Hmong, and Mien*. Lewis; Kam Raw, Vang, Elliott,

Matisoff, Yang, Crystal, Saepharn, 1992.

*Handbook for Teaching Hmong-Speaking Students*. Bliatout, Downing, Lewis, Yang, 1988.

*Handbook for Teaching Khmer-Speaking Students*. Ouk, Huffman, Lewis, 1988.

*Handbook for Teaching Lao-Speaking Students*. Luangpraseut, Lewis 1989.

*Introduction to the Indochinese and their Cultures*. Chhim, Luangpraseut, Te, 1989, 1994.

*English-Hmong Bilingual Dictionary of School Terminology*, *Cov Lus Mis Kuj Txhais ua Lus Hmoob*.

Huynh D Te, translated by Lue Vang, 1988.

*Context: Newcomers in California's Classrooms*, Lewis, editor (vol. 21 currently)



Illustration from *Hmong Literacy Development series*.