Residents of the Detroit Metropolitan Area have become used to the fact that the area is home to a large community of Chaldeans, which was founded by immigrants from the nation of Iraq. However, most are less aware of the fact that there are other groups of Iraqi descendants who have moved to the United States. Several of these groups also have sizeable groups of residents in the Detroit area. This presentation will focus on the various groups of Iraqi descendants who make Detroit their home. Some, like the Chaldeans, are Christian. Other are Muslim, like the majority of Iraqis, are Muslim. There is even a small community of Iraqi Jews in the United States. The presentation will discuss the differences and similarities among these groups, the conditions in their homeland which lead to their immigrating, and the ways in which they are adapting to the U.S.

Dr. Mary Cay Sengstock is a Professor in the Sociology Department. She has been on the Wayne State University faculty since 1966. Professor Sengstock has been studying ethnic and racial groups for over 50 years. She holds a PhD in Sociology from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Sengstock has written three books on the Chaldean community of Metropolitan Detroit, and has also expanded her research to include other Iraqis in the Detroit area. She also does research on family violence, particularly abuse of the elderly.