



C.A.R.E. Makes Headlines

Chaldean Americans Reaching and Encouraging (C.A.R.E.) hosted Cultural Awareness Programs in Metro Detroit Area and made headlines.

Lincoln Middle School 3/12/2002
Flynn Middle School 3/12/2002
Nolan Middle School 3/13/2002
Grayling Elementary 3/26/2002
Detroit Public Schools 1/25/2002

Town Hall Forum Presented by the Southfield Community Foundation 3/14/2002

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Chaldean History is Focus of Forum

Area Chaldeans didn't experience the backlash that their Arabic neighbors did following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but increasing rhetoric about Iraq by national politicians causes them worry. "We've been blessed. I don't think there have been many incidents because of 9/11," said Martin Manna, president of Chaldean Americans Reaching & Encouraging.

Manna's comments came during a town hall-style meeting Thursday. The lecture was a part of the Southfield Community Foundation's Celebrating Diversity program.

There are about 120,000 Chaldeans living in Michigan. They are concentrated mainly in Oakland and Macomb counties.

He explained the historical and religious backgrounds of the Chaldean people, as well as some more modern issues facing Chaldeans in America. Manna said talk of a renewed military effort in Iraq affects people here.

"What's going to happen if we start another



bombing campaign in Iraq? And what would happen in our schools?" he said. However he added, Saddam Hussein has got to go.

"If you were to poll (Iraqis in America) they would support the ouster of Saddam Hussein," he said. Many Iraqis came to America after the Persian Gulf War in 1991. "Migration continues today, with people seeking asylum," he said.

His immediate family came to the United States in the 1960s. His aunt had three sons who were drafted into the army and sent off to fight in the Iran-Iraq war and later in the Persian Gulf War. She told Manna, "I'm still waiting for them to come back."

Manna said boys are sent to fight as soon as they are to fight as soon as they are considered men, at the age 12 or 13.

While things haven't changed much in the ancient homeland of the Chaldeans, in America it's different. Manna related another family story. An older sister's marriage was arranged in the early 1980s. By the time his third a sister married in the 1990s, she had a traditional American courtship.

The Chaldeans have an ancient culture and language, but no actual country. "There is no "Chaldea" so it's very important for us to preserve our language and culture," he said.

Manna explained religion and origins of the Chaldean people.

The Chaldeans originated in Mesopotamia, which is the area between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in modern-day Iraq. The famous Babylonians were Chaldean and the

peoples of that area invented things like the wheel, astronomy and a code of law Hammarabi's Code. They had advanced mathematics and the modern system of telling time comes from their base 60 system. That is why there are 60 minutes in an hour, 60 seconds in a minute and 360 degrees in a circle, Manna said.

Chaldeans still speak a form of Aramaic. Hebrew is another form of Aramaic and it also was the language spoken by Christ. Chaldeans are members of the Chaldean Rite of the Catholic Church. They follow Rome, but have their own bishop. They are considered members of the Roman Catholic Church.

They have emigrated all over the world. Many came to the Detroit area in the



1920s to work in the auto factories,

Assimilation was made easier because there was an Arab presence in the area. Another wave came in the 1960s. One of the reasons there are so many Chaldean business owners stems from the 1967 riots, Detroit riots.

After the riots, Manna said, national chain grocery stores sold out and left the city. Chaldeans pooled their money and began buying the stores at reduced prices. They eventually branched out into different types of businesses, he said.

Manna said the Chaldean community is a close-knit and faith-filled.

"Everyone knows everyone else. It's a small-town feel," he said.

Article reprinted from "Voices that Care"

**On Flag Day, Friday June 14,
join the Chaldean-American Ladies of Charity Tribute
to honor all the brave Chaldean Americans
who proudly served in the U.S. Armed Forces.**



Over the course of our history, many brave men and women have, and continue to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces so that we might live in freedom. Hundreds of those who have honorably served and risked their lives to protect the United States are Chaldean Americans. We all are the beneficiaries of their courage, sacrifice and vigilance. Thanks to their extraordinary record of service, America is a stronger Nation.

Please join us in honoring all the brave men and women of our Chaldean American community who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Date: Flag Day, Friday, June 14, 2002
Time: 6:00pm
Location: [Southfield Manor Banquet Hall](#)
Tickets: \$75.00 per person

If you know of any Chaldean who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces, living or deceased, please [contact Rosemary Antone](#), event co-chairperson at 248-478-3234, so their names could be added to the list. Please include their name, phone and/or address.

During the event, and in honor of all Chaldean Americans who served in the U.S. armed forces, the Chaldean American Ladies of Charity will also be selling a "Chaldean American U.S. Armed Forces" T-shirt. The name of every Chaldean American who has served or is serving the U.S. Armed Forces is silk-screened on this white, 100% heavyweight, pre-shrunk cotton T-shirt.