Arab Americans, Chaldeans, and Muslims

Southeastern Michigan is known as a center of Arab American culture in the United States. The strong concentration of Arab Americans in Michigan can be partly attributed to the Syrian, Lebanese, and Yemeni workers recruited to work in Henry Ford's Rouge Plant in the early 1900s. Since then, many different populations and groups from Arab countries have migrated and flourished in Michigan. While the highest concentration of Arab Americans in Michigan can be found in the southeast (especially Detroit and Dearborn), other Arab American communities have developed around the state, particularly in Flint.

The Bentley Historical Library has actively collected documentation on the Arab American, Chaldean, and Islamic communities in Michigan, through the great help of community members. This guide lists all collections currently held at the Bentley Library. Any interested person may use these collections for research at the library (unless specific restrictions are noted in the collection descriptions).

Researchers interested in these groups, may also want to consult the holdings found in other repositories in Michigan. The Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, which opened in May 2005, features collections and exhibits on the Arab American community in the United States and Michigan. The Genesee Historical Collections at the University of Michigan-Flint has many collections on the history of the Arab American community in Flint, including the Hani Bawardi collection, which includes interviews and papers on Arab American individuals and organizations in the Flint area.

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Collection

Abraham, Essie
- Essie Abraham papers, 1942-1999 (scattered)
- 0.3 linear ft.
  Arab American woman from Dearborn, Michigan, a founder of the American Moslem Society and of the American Moslem Bekaa Center
  Papers relating to the American Moslem Society, to the American Moslem Women's Society, and to other related groups; also information, some designed for school age children, on the practices and beliefs of Islam.

Ahwal, Terry.
- Terry Ahwal personal memoir, 2009
- 1 item (115 pages)
  A native of Ramallah, Palestine, Terry Ahwal immigrated to Detroit, Mich., in 1972. She has worked as Executive Director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Assistant Wayne County Executive, and Director of Development at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan.
  Memoir describing her childhood in Palestine, life and work in Detroit, and numerous visits to Palestine.

Akrawi, Adil J.
- Adil J. Akrawi collection, ca. 1978-1995
- 0.5 linear ft.
  Leader in Detroit's Chaldean and Arabic communities.
  Biographical materials; copies of Al-Muntada, a periodical that Akrawi founded; photographs and videotapes.

Alawan, Charles Khalil
- 0.5 linear feet and 1 outsize folder.
  Charles Khalil Alawan is a leader of the Arab American and American Muslim community of Southeastern Michigan as well as a leader of the Michigan Republican Party. He is a founder of the Islamic Center of America, Dearborn, Mich.
  The collection documents the development of the Islamic Center of America, Dearborn, Mich., as well as other community activities.

Alawan, Raad.
- 19 DVDs.
  Dearborn, Michigan writer and television producer.
DVDs of the interviews and film footage used in the production of his documentary, "New beginnings: the story of the Islamic Center of America."

**Finding Aid**

**American Friends Service Committee. Michigan Area Office.**
- 23 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder
  Michigan office of national organization concerned with peace, poverty, and other matters of social justice.
  Administrative files, topical files, and regional and national office materials; contain files relating to their interest in pacifism, draft counseling, community service, prison reform and other issues relating to the criminal justice system, and peace education (especially relating to the Middle East and the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians); and photographs.

**Finding Aid**

**Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services**
- Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Service records, 1982-[ongoing]
- 0.3 linear ft.
  The Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) was founded in 1971 in Dearborn, Mich., by a group of people of Arab origin. A major goal was to provide services and assistance to new immigrants, including English instruction and interpreters. A wider goal is to help establish a sense of community among Arabs and to provide a place to express traditions and pursue cultural activities.
  The collection includes a history of the organization and a history of the Arab-American community in Detroit; also newsletters, annual reports, and information about many of the organization's activities.

**Mirlyn Catalog Record**

**Aswad, Barbara C.**
- 2 linear ft.
  Professor of anthropology at Wayne State University, active in issues and organizations specific to the Arab-American population of southeastern Michigan, particularly Dearborn, Michigan.
  Topical files document Arab and Arab-American culture and life. Organizational files document Aswad's involvement in such organizations as the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

**Finding Aid**

**Atwell, Helen M.**
- 2 linear ft.
Dearborn, Michigan community volunteer and activist with various Arab-American organizations, including the Southeast Dearborn Community Council and the Arab Community Center for Economics and Social Services. The collection includes files relating to her involvement with Arab-American organizations; also collected materials related to the Arab-American community of southeastern Michigan.

**Finding Aid**

**Bazzy family.**
- Bazzy family collection, 1926-1942.
- 2 items.
  - The family of Kalil Bazzy, early leader of Detroit’s Shia community, who immigrated to Detroit in 1913.
  - Banquet program of the Progressive Arabian Hashmie Society (1942) and newspaper clipping with pictures of Kalil Bazzy leading Eid al-Fitr prayers of the United Islamic Society of Detroit (1926).

**Finding Aid**

**Begg, Victor.**
- 1.6 linear feet including oversize (in 3 boxes).
  - Victor (Ghalib) Begg is a retired businessman, Senior Advisor, Chairman Emeritus, and co-founder of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Michigan. He is also co-founder of the Muslim Unity Center Mosque in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Board member and co-founder of the Interfaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit, Board member of the Michigan Round Table for Diversity and Inclusion, member of the Midwest Muslim-Catholic dialogue, and a frequent op-ed writer in the Detroit newspapers on Muslim issues. Begg has made numerous radio and TV appearances talking about the religion of Islam and issues faced by the Muslim community. In 2001 Begg was elected to the Bloomfield Hills Board of Education and served a 4 year term.
  - Collection of records, correspondence, memoranda, issued official statements, and architectural drawings of The Muslim Unity Center of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, the Council of Islamic Organizations of Michigan and other Islamic organizations in Michigan and the U.S.; correspondence and memoranda, statements and articles written by and about interfaith organizations and projects in Michigan; also correspondence, conference presentations, speeches, and newspaper articles written by and about Victor Begg; reports and articles about Muslim communities in Michigan and in the U.S., politics in the Middle East, interfaith dialogue, and terrorism. The Islamic Society of North America folder contains a CD-ROM with materials (mp3) from the 40th annual ISNA convention (2005).

**Finding Aid**

**Caurdy, Mary A.**
- Mary A. Caurdy photograph, 1957 August.
- 1 item.
  - Co-chair of the Detroit Islamic Council.
Panoramic photograph of the attendees at the banquet of the Sixth Annual Convention of the Federation of Islamic Associations in the United States and Canada, August 2, 3 and 4, 1957 held in Detroit, Michigan.

Mirlyn Catalog Record

Chaldean Federation of America
- Chaldean Federation of America papers, 1993-2000
- 1 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder
  Metropolitan Detroit area-based organization of Chaldean Catholics.
  Programs, newsletters, and other publications accumulated by the organization; also videotapes and artifactual miscellanea.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Chirri, Mohamad Jawad.
- 7 linear feet.
  Director of the Islamic Center of America, Dearborn, Michigan; author of books and other writings on Islam.
  Papers of Imam Chirri and records of the Islamic Center; include drafts of writings, notes and notebooks on Islamic topics; organizational records of the Islamic Center relate to its administration and activities. The collection also includes files relating to Zehia Kahl, Muslim woman active in Arab World Festival and the Federation of Islamic Associations; and publications.
  Finding Aid

Cross, Arthur Lyon, 1873-1940
- Arthur Lyon Cross papers, 1897-1940
- 16 linear ft.
  Professor of English history at University of Michigan.
  [Arab Students Union?]
  Finding Aid

Engler, John, 1948-
- John Engler papers, 1968-2003
- 435 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder
  Republican member of the Michigan state legislature (House and Senate, 1971-1990); governor of Michigan (1991-2003); active member of the Republican Governors' Association and the National Governors' Association.
  Includes files relating to appearances in the Arab American and Chaldean community and relating to issues concerning the community
  Finding Aid

Farrah, Barbara A.
- 0.5 linear feet and 1 oversize folder.
Member of the Southgate City Council (1991-2002), Democratic member of the Michigan House of Representatives (2003-2008). Articles, campaign literature, published material, and clippings mainly relating to her primary campaign in 2002; also letters, photographs, and memorabilia detailing her association with Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Mirlyn Catalog Record

Fayz, Allie.
- 1.5 linear feet and 1 drawer.
  Board member of the Islamic Center of America, Dearborn, Michigan.
  Correspondence, by-laws and amendments, board minutes, committee notes, donation pledges, membership lists, photographs, newspaper clippings, and financial statements and reports relating to the administration of the Islamic Center of America; also files concerning the purchase and sale of land located in Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan. The collection also contains photographs and event material related to the life and service of Imam Mohamad Jawad Chirri.
  Finding Aid

Gajec, Edward, 1918-
- Edward Gajec papers, 1935-1995
- 2.5 linear ft.
  Detroit musician and music educator, also a promoter of ethnic festivals.
  The collection consists of correspondence, brochures, programs, newspaper clippings, and photographs documenting the ethnic communities of Detroit especially focusing on established ethnic organizations and festivals. One file relates to the Arab World Festival, 1972-1992.
  Finding Aid

Gepford, William
- 1 linear feet
  Presbyterian minister involved in bridging Christian and Islamic faiths in Dearborn, Michigan.
  Correspondence, files detailing interfaith initiatives, various writings, clippings, and church materials; also videocassettes and DVDs of church programs.
  Finding Aid

Greater Lansing Arab-American Social Services.
- 0.4 linear feet.
  Organization established in 2004 to provide social services to the Arab and Arab-American community of the Greater Lansing, Mich., area. The organization was involved in all aspects of the economic, social, and cultural life of the Arab-American community. Grant proposals, budget material, minutes of board meetings, bylaws, needs assessment, and other materials relating to the goals and activities of the organization; also CD-ROM
containing minutes, agenda, budgets, financial reports, various memoranda and policy documents.

Mirlyn Catalog Record

Gregg, William C.
- William C. Gregg papers, undated
- 2 v.
  Resident of Cass County, Michigan.
  "Reminiscences of Calvin Township, Cass County, Michigan," a semifictional account of the Saunders colony of freed slaves, and "Abdallah, the Yankee Arab," a semifictional account of Abdallah, an Algerian Arab, and his life in Algeria, France, and French and British Guiana before immigrating to Youngstown, Ohio, some time in the nineteenth century.

Mirlyn Catalog Record

Hamady, Robert M.
- 1 linear ft.
  Flint, Michigan, businessman.
  Business and correspondence of Hamady Brothers, Inc., a Flint supermarket chain, also material on various Michigan Week campaigns and Hamady’s activities as President of the Flint Chamber of Commerce.

Mirlyn Catalog Record

Haragely, Julia F.
- Julia F. Haragely papers, 1915-2003 (scattered)
- 0.1 linear feet.
  Resident of Michigan City, Ind., and Dearborn, Mich.; daughter of Joseph and Sarah Saide.
  Papers relating chiefly to the military service of her brother Allie Said, who served in the U.S. Army during World War II; also papers relating to the Islamic Center of America and photographs of Allie Said and a Michigan City Muslim group.

Mirlyn Catalog Record

Hassen, Aliya
- Aliya Hassen papers, 1910-1991
- 1.5 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
  Arab-American community leader in the Dearborn-Detroit area of Michigan.
  Articles, manuscripts and poems on Islamic topics; topical files, 1948-1991, relating to Arab community affairs, including files concerning the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, 1986-1991 and the Federation of Islamic Associations of the U.S. and Canada; also correspondence and articles of Malcolm X; and photographs.

Finding Aid

Jabara, Abdeen, 1940-
9 linear ft.
New York attorney originally based in Detroit. Jabara was concerned with issues of civil rights of Arab Americans and the rights of Arabs living or traveling in the United States. He challenged practice of law enforcement agencies to collect information and maintain surveillance of Arabs and Arab Americans. Jabara was involved in the murder trial of Sirhan Sirhan and the extradition case of Ziad Abu Eain.

Litigation and case files; subject files regarding his Arab American activism, organizational involvements, and participation in the Middle East delegation of the National Lawyers Guild.

Finding Aid

Karoub family
- Karoub family papers, 1958-ca. 2005
- 0.1 linear ft.
  Family of Hussein Karoub, imam of the first mosque in North America, in Highland Park, Mich.
  Family history and publications by and about family members.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Karoub, James
- James Karoub papers, 1962-1994
- 1.5 linear ft.
  James Karoub was an Arab American lobbyist and legislator in Michigan. Most notably, he served in the Michigan House of Representatives and founded the successful Michigan lobbying firm, Karoub Associates.
  Papers include newspaper clippings and articles, correspondence, campaign material, a few notes and speeches, photographs, a scrapbook, and a sound recording.
  Finding Aid

Karoub, Muhammad, 1924-1998.
- 0.2 linear feet (12 sound cassettes and 1 compact disc)
  Muhammad Adib Hussein Karoub was imam of the American Moslem Mosque, Dearborn, Mich., and a founding member of the American Moslem Bekaa Center in Dearborn. He published a monthly newspaper, the "American Arab Message," and hosted the "American Moslem Mosque of the Air" radio show, broadcast weekly during the 1980s and early 1990s on radio stations WPON and WCAR.
  Radio messages about Muhammad and aspects of the Islamic faith.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Khoury, Sari
- 1 linear ft.
  Palestinian-American artist, professor of art at Central Michigan University.

Return to Table of Contents
Biographical information; catalogues, flyers, and other materials relating to exhibitions of his art; subject files relating to his university activities and to his involvement with Arab/Middle East issues; and photographs.
Finding Aid

Lacy, Arthur J.
- Arthur J. Lacy papers, 1891-1975
- 10 linear ft., 2 oversize folders, and 1 oversize vol.
  Detroit, Michigan, attorney and judge, Democratic candidate for governor in 1934.
  [Jewish-Arab relations]
Finding Aid

Maassab, Hunein Fadlo
- Hunein F. Maassab papers, 1951-2002
- 29.5 linear feet
  Epidemiologist and professor at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. His research focused on cold adapted live virus vaccines for influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). Inventor of "Flu Mist' nasal spray influenza vaccine. Maassab was born in Syria in 1928 and emigrated to the United States in 1947.
  Papers include correspondence, publications, teaching material, research notebooks and laboratory documents pertaining to his epidemiological study and testing of cold adapted viruses and related areas.
Finding Aid

Makarem, Julia
- 3 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
  American born Druze, active in the American Druze Society and concerned with the history of the Druze in the United States.
  Papers relate to American Druze Society activities and to history of Druze in America.
Finding Aid

Makled, Hussein
- Hussein Makled papers, 1956-1999
- 0.4 linear feet.
  Hussein Makled is a leader of the Arab American community of Southeastern Michigan, one of the founding members of the Islamic Center of America.
  The collection documents Makled's work as a leader of the Islamic Center of America and its predecessors, especially the Islamic Center Foundation Society, as well as the career of Imam Mohamad Jawad Chirri. Included are a letter accompanying Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser's donation to the Center, writings about Chirri by Makled and by Nabih Berry, writings of Chirri, and a letter of Imam Mohammad Ali Elahi.
Finding Aid

Mardini, Mohammad.
- Mohammad Mardini collection , [19--]
- 1 folder.
  Imam of the American Muslim Center, Dearborn, Mich.
  Booklet of praise poems (not written by Mardini). In Arabic.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Mazrui, Ali Al'Amin.
- 12 linear feet.
  A Kenyan born scholar who came to the United States in 1974, Mazrui began his academic career at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda before he was forced to leave by Ugandan President Idi Amin. Mazrui joined the University of Michigan faculty and was affiliated with the Center for Afro-American and African Studies. Papers include writings by and about Mazrui professional and personal correspondence, and scholarly and teaching materials. The material covers the mid-1960s until Mazrui's departure from Michigan in 1989. Also material on television series "The Africans."
  Finding aid available in library
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Palestine Solidarity Committee
- Palestine Solidarity Committee, Ann Arbor, Michigan Chapter records, 1986-1988
- 1 folder
  Formerly the November 29th Committee for Palestine.
  Activity reports, flyers, and miscellanea.
  Mirlyn Catalog Record

Steeh, George C.
- George Steeh papers, 1971-1973.,
- .3 linear ft.
  Legislative log recounting debate over Congressional reapportionment in the Michigan Legislature; case study entitled, "Congressional Redistricting in Michigan After the 1970 Decennial Census"; and letter received by John Bowman on the subject of cross-district busing.
  Finding Aid

Steeh, George C., 1919-
- 1.75 linear ft.
  George C. Steeh (1919- ) served one term in the Michigan House of Representatives from Macomb County as the first Democrat ever to be elected from that district. He was then elected to the State Senate in 1956, 1958 and 1960 from the Eleventh Senatorial District. Beginning in 1980 Steeh served as Macomb County District Court judge.
The papers contain biographical information, legislative files of correspondence and reference materials, campaign files, constituent correspondence, and miscellaneous court opinions and orders.

**Finding Aid**

**Terry, Janice J.**
- 1.5 linear feet
  Eastern Michigan University history professor, Middle East scholar with interest in Palestine and the work of Arab American organizations and individuals.
  Transcripts of interviews conducted with Arab Americans, 1994 and 1996; miscellaneous files relating to Arab American organizations; and collected Arab American publications.

**Finding Aid**

**Unis, Donald A.**
- Donald A. Unis papers, 1973-1985
- 0.1 linear ft.
  Arab-American activist from Dearborn, Michigan; founder of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS).
  Scrapbook largely of clippings with some published materials; and biographical information.

**Mirlyn Catalog Record**

**University of Michigan. Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies**
- Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies (University of Michigan) records, 1949-1997
- 8 linear ft.
  Established in 1961 as the Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies, the center received federal funding in 1963 and was renamed as Center for Near Eastern and North African Studies. The center coordinated research, awarded fellowships, and offered conferences and workshops focusing on history, politics, economy, literature, art and related topics. In 1991 it was redesignated as the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.
  Records include material from the Department of Near Eastern Studies predating the founding of the center as well as files on center directors, conferences, seminars, and lectures. Administrative files include executive committee minutes beginning in 1971, center reviews and evaluations, and records on funding and funding agencies. Includes files relating to Arab American conferences and the Arab Student Organization.

**Finding Aid**

**Woody, Woodrow W.**
- 0.6 linear feet and 1 oversize folder.
  Arab American automobile dealer in Hamtramck, Mich., active in the Republican Party and Arab American organizations.
Letters between Woody and various public figures (presidents, senators, etc.), primarily thank yous and form and courtesy responses; also a speech, scrapbooks containing clippings, photographs, and other materials relating to the Hillcrest Wolverine Open golf tournament, newspaper clippings and photographs.

Finding Aid
Publications

ACCESS ... anniversary dinner.
- Bentley owns: 38th (2009)
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

AFMI annual convention.
- Bentley owns: 2003, 2010
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

AFMI news brief / American Federation of Muslims of Indian Origin.
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

al-Hadath : akhbariyah, fanniyah, ilmiyah, thawafiya
- Bentley owns: v.[4]:no.71 (2004:Sept.1)-ongoing
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

al-Muntada wa-al-wasit = The forum & link
- Bentley owns: v.3:no.24 (2007:May 3)-ongoing
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

al-Najdah.
- Bentley owns:
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

al-Sabil = The best way
- Bentley owns: v.5 (1997)-[ongoing]
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

American Arab business directory
- Bentley owns: 1997
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

American-Arab message
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

Annual Arab American Scholarship Foundation dinner of the Lebanese American Heritage Club.
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

Annual convention / Federation of Islamic Associations in the U.S.A. & Canada.
- Bentley owns: 1955; 1957; 1958; 1962
- Mirlyn Catalog Record
Annual report / Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services.
- Bentley owns: 2009
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

Arab American and Chaldean Council [Miscellaneous publications]
- Bentley owns: 2001-
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

Arab American journal, The
- Bentley owns: 1997-2001
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

Arabica : business, family, culture
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

Arabica business
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

CAIR Michigan ... annual banquet.
- Bentley owns: 9th (2009)
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

Chaldean Detroit times
- Bentley owns: 1999-2003
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

Chaldean news, The
- Bentley owns: v.3:no.2 (2006:Mar.)-[ongoing]
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

Community bridges
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

Community newsletter
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

Final call to Islam, The
- Bentley owns: v.1:no.1 (1934:Aug.11)-v.1:no.4 (1934:Sept.1)
- Mirlyn Catalog Record
**Fundamentals of Islam.**
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

**Graduate : quarterly educational magazine**
- Bentley owns: no.6 (1987:June)
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

**ICCA newsletter.**
- Bentley owns:
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

**Islamic Center of America.**
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

**Koran, the, commonly called The Alcoran of Mahomet / translated from the original Arabick [sic] into French by the Sieur de Ryer ; the whole now faithfully translated into English**
- Bentley owns: 1st American ed. (Springfield [Mass.]: Printed by Henry Brewer for Isaiah Thomas, Jun.,1806). From the library of John Monteith, one of the founders of the University of Michigan.
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

**M. A. L. I.**
- Bentley owns: 2006-2007
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

**Morning tribune.**
- Bentley owns: <1947:5:15>
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

**Moslem sunrise [microform]**
- Bentley owns: v.1:no.1 (1921:July)-v.21:no.4 (1949:4th quarter)
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

**Muslim commentary**
- Bentley owns: Sept. 1994-v. 6, no. 10 (fall/winter 2005) [not complete]
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

**Muslim observer, The**
- Bentley owns: v.5 (2003)-[ongoing]
- Mirlyn Catalog Record

**Muslim star : voice of American Canadian Muslims**
- Bentley owns: Library has scattered issues only
• Mirlyn Catalog Record

Muslim sunrise [microform]
• Bentley owns: v.22:no.1 (1950:1st quarter)-v.25 [i.e. 30]:no.4 (1958:4th quarter)
• Mirlyn Catalog Record

Sada al-watan = The Arab American news
• Bentley owns: v.21 (2004)-[ongoing]
• Mirlyn Catalog Record

Straight path = al-Siraat.
• Bentley owns: Vol. 1, no. 2 (June 2001)
• Mirlyn Catalog Record

Tawhid faith, The / prepared and edited by Committee on Religious Affairs, American Druze Society
• Bentley owns: 1983-<1996>
• Mirlyn Catalog Record

Yemen American Benevolent Association ... anniversary annual dinner.
• Bentley owns: 40th (2009)
• Mirlyn Catalog Record

Yemeni American news
• Bentley owns: v.1:no.2 (2008:July)-ongoing
• Mirlyn Catalog Record