

## **ACEH to hear stories of refugees**

Wednesday, July 2, 2008

Holland, MI - Two West Michigan families who fled their home countries because of war will speak about their experiences at the Friday, July 11, meeting of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH). The meeting, which is open to the public, begins at 7 p.m. at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut Drive. The children's group, UNITY, for ages 4 to 14, also will meet.

Elsa Hyde of Park Township was born in a German D.P. (displaced persons) camp in World War II and spent most of her childhood in postwar Austrian D.P. camps. With her mother, sister, and two brothers she later immigrated to New Jersey. Hyde will share her story, including travels back to Europe to find out more about her family's life, and will discuss the impact that immigrating to the States had on the family.

The Habib family of Iraq was recently resettled in Grand Rapids through the auspices of Bethany Christian Services and Plymouth Congregational UCC Church. The parents, both working professionals, and their three children left Iraq for their personal safety and lived for two years as refugees in Syria before being granted asylum in the United States.

[http://www.hollandsentinel.com/news\\_community/x415952222/ACEH-to-hear-stories-of-refugees](http://www.hollandsentinel.com/news_community/x415952222/ACEH-to-hear-stories-of-refugees)