It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the contributions of people who have made the writing and publication of this book possible. This book would not exist if the contributors had not been willing to expend a great deal of time and effort over many years sharing their professional, academic, and personal knowledge. I have learned from each contributor and know that this book will be useful to people in many disciplines who work with older adults and their families in nursing homes and other settings.

I am grateful to the staff at Columbia University Press for understanding that this book is necessary and important, and appreciate the support that I have received from the editorial staff. The feedback provided from the individuals who reviewed this book has been very important.

I am grateful to Lehman College administration, faculty and staff in the Department of Sociology and Social Work, and to colleagues and staff in other departments who make this college a fine professional environment in which to work. Professor Norma Phillips, Director of the Social Work Program, and Professor Madeline Moran, Chairperson of the Sociology and Social Work Department, have been very supportive to me and understand the importance of gerontology in today’s society. I am privileged to deepen my understanding of people and of human diversity daily as I interact with the wonderfully diverse student body at this college.

Finally, I appreciate the contributions of my relatives the Kolbs, Torchios, Jochers, and all the members of their extended families who have helped me to learn and think deeply about culture in relation to myself and others. My understanding of myself and others has been deepened by far too many

Acknowledgments
people to mention here, but especially by Dr. Stanford M. Lyman, Dr. Bernice Berk, Ms. Blanche Polovetz, Ms. Anna Capell, and Ms. Enriqueta Thomas.

I am grateful to my son, Anthony Torchio, for his patience while I was working on this book, his confidence in my ability to accomplish this project, and his understanding of why it is important.