

Arab American National Museum Archives  
13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, MI 48126



Title: Selwa Roosevelt Collection  
Creator: Roosevelt, Selwa  
Inclusive dates: 1911-2009  
Bulk dates: 1940-2000  
Extent: .5 linear foot; 1 document box  
Accession number: 2011.24.01

**Abstract:**

A collection of materials compiled by Selwa "Lucky" Roosevelt that document the life and work of Najla Showker, Khalida "Kay" Showker, Archie Roosevelt, and Adeline Homra Hamra. The collection also included a very small collection of articles written by Selwa Roosevelt.

Language: Material is in English  
Acquisition: Donation from Selwa Roosevelt, 2011-2012  
Accruals: Additions to the collection are not expected.  
Access: No restricted materials  
Photographs: Box 1, Folders 4, 5, 6  
A-V Material: None  
Digital Materials: None  
Copyright: Copyright has been transferred to the Arab American National Museum.  
Processed: April 2013 by Elizabeth Skene  
Arrangement: Original order  
Preferred citation: [item], Folder [#], Box [#], Selwa Roosevelt Collection, Arab American National Museum

**Biographical Information**

Selwa Roosevelt served as Chief of Protocol for the United States from 1982 to 1989 and was nominated to the rank of ambassador. Before working at the White House, she wrote freelance for The Washington Post and various magazines. The wife of Archibald B. Roosevelt, President Theodore Roosevelt's grandson, Selwa was awarded the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal by the Department of the Army, and given the Ripon Society's Salute to Republican Women award. In 1990, Selwa Roosevelt published her autobiography, *Keeper of the Gate*.

**Scope and Content Note**

The majority of this collection comes from scrapbooks put together by Selwa "Lucky" Roosevelt and documents her mother, Najla Showker, and sister, Khalida "Kay" Showker (Folders 2-6). Folder 1 has articles written by Selwa Roosevelt, mostly from the 1960s. The last two folders contain book reviews for Archibald Roosevelt's book *For Lust of Knowing* and a biography of Adeline Homra Hamra.

**Subjects**

- Arab Americans--United States
- Biographical sources
- Book reviews
- Photographs

**Genre terms**

- Newspaper clippings
- Letters
- Photographs
- Articles and reviews

**Persons**

- Roosevelt, Archibald "Archie"
- Roosevelt, Selwa "Lucky"
- Showker, Khalida "Kay"
- Showker, Najla

## Contents

### **Box 1**

Folder 1: Articles written by Selwa Roosevelt, 1960s

Folder 2: Najla Showker early years

*Removed from 3-ring binder, original order retained. Notes from Selwa Roosevelt: "I found this account of mother's early years and how she (Najla Showker) happened to marry my father and come to America. Also other random writings and thoughts by Najla Showker."*

Folder 3: Najla Showker memorial and condolences, 2009

*Removed from 3-ring binder, original order retained. Notes from Selwa Roosevelt: "Najla Showker's memorial services and some of the letters of condolences, some from famous Americans such as Gen. Colin Powell and Secretary of State George Schultz."*

Folder 4: Life of Najla Showker (1 of 2)

*Removed from 3-ring binder, original order retained. Notes from Selwa Roosevelt: "This album covers the high points of the life of Najla Showker, 1911-2009. Compiled by her daughter Selwa Showker Roosevelt with loving memory of a truly remarkable women. Submitted to the Arab American National Museum in August, 2012."*

Folder 5: Life of Najla Showker (1 of 2)

Folder 6: Khalida Showker

*Removed from 3-ring binder, original order retained. Notes from Selwa Roosevelt: "This book is mostly about Khalida Showker aka Kay Showker, younger daughter of Najla Showker, author of dozens of travel books (some of which I Have given to the Arab American Museum."*

Folder 7: Archibald Roosevelt book reviews

*Folder prepared by Selwa Roosevelt, original order retained. Notes from Selwa Roosevelt: "These are book reviews of Archie Roosevelt's book For Lust of Knowing. Mr. Roosevelt was the husband of Selwa Showker Roosevelt."*

Folder 8: Biography of Adeline Homra Hamra