



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Phyllis R. Sutker Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 896



Collection Summary

Title	Phyllis R. Sutker Papers
Dates	1956-2006
Collection Number	MS-896
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Sutker, Phyllis, 1923-2006
Extent	4.8 linear feet (12 Hollinger boxes)
Abstract	The Phyllis R. Sutker Papers hold correspondence, speeches, writings, and other papers related to NA'AMAT USA (formerly Pioneer Women), American Zionism and Labor Zionism, as well as newspaper clippings related to her activities.
Language of the Material	English and Hebrew

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Phyllis Sutker was born in 1923 and lived her entire life in the Chicago area. After receiving a master's degree in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago, she worked at the Jewish Children's Bureau from 1945 to 1950. After staying home with her children for a few years, she devoted her time as a volunteer lay leader in the Jewish communal world, primarily working with Zionist organizations and groups that worked to aid Jewish women and children.

The bulk of Sutker's efforts were spent working with the Labor Zionist organization Pioneer Women, which was later renamed NA'AMAT USA. (NA'AMAT is a Hebrew acronym for "Movement of Working Women and Volunteers.") In her almost fifty-year association with NA'AMAT, she was involved everywhere from the local up to the global level. She served as national president from 1981 to 1985 and was Program Chairwoman of the 75th Anniversary Convention. She acted as delegate of NA'AMAT USA to the World Movement of NA'AMAT, the World Labor Zionist Movement, and the Zionist General Council.

In addition to NA'AMAT, Sutker was a member of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, was an elected member of the American Section of the World Zionist Executive, and a six-time delegate to the World Zionist Congress. She was Vice President and National board member of the American Zionist Movement, as well as on the board of the Chicago Region American Zionist Movement. Sutker also served as chairman of the Board for the Chicago Zionist Federation.

Other appointments she received included serving on the board of governors of the Jewish Agency and the boards of the United Jewish Appeal and United Israel Appeal. Sutker also spent time on the board of directors of the National Committee for Labor Israel, the Jewish Telegraphic Association, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the State of Israel Bonds Campaign - Chicago, and the Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations - Chicago.

In 1988, Sutker was honored as a Woman of Achievement by Israel Bonds. The World Zionist Organization named her an honorary fellow in 1996, and a year later she was an honoree of the Labor Zionist Alliance of Chicago.

She was married to Calvin Sutker, a lawyer and prominent Chicago-area politician. In addition to her own volunteer activities, she devoted a great deal of time to supporting her husband's political career, aiding in his campaigns. Phyllis Sutker died of cancer at the age of 83 in 2006.

Scope and Content This collection consists of correspondence, speeches, writings, and other papers concerning Sutker's career volunteering in Jewish organizations. The bulk of this collection concerns Sutker's involvement with NA'AMAT USA (formerly Pioneer Women), but it also includes items pertaining to American and Labor Zionist organizations as well as a few items concerning her husband, Calvin Sutker. The collection spans the dates 1956-2006, with the bulk of the material covering the years 1959-2004.

Arrangement This collection is arranged in five (5) series: A. Correspondence, Speeches, and Writings; B. General; C. Pioneer Women/NA'AMAT; D. News Clippings and Scrapbook; E. Memorabilia.

Terms of Access The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Phyllis R. Sutker Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

Box #, Folder #. MS-896. Phyllis R. Sutker Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Index Terms

Subjects Jews -- Illinois -- Chicago / Jews -- Illinois -- Skokie / Labor Zionism
Personal Names Sutker, Calvin R. / Sutker, Phyllis
Corporate Names American Zionist Federation / NA'AMAT USA (Organization) / World Zionist Organization
Media Ephemera / Photographs / Scrapbooks / Slides (Photography)

Series A. Correspondence, Speeches, and Writings, 1958-2005

Extent 1 linear foot (2.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note This series consists of speeches given by Phyllis Sutker at conventions, rallies, and other special events in which she was an invited guest. Mixed in with the speeches are essays and articles she wrote throughout her career. This series also contains both personal and professional correspondence. There are several letters that are related to NA'AMAT, but were left with the other correspondence as Sutker had it filed to maintain provenance.

Arrangement Folders in this series are arranged alphabetically. Items within the folders are ordered chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder General correspondence, 1967-1975 (1)
Box 1. Folder General correspondence, 1980-1989 (2)
Box 1. Folder General correspondence, 1991-1998 (3)
Box 1. Folder General correspondence, 2001-2003, undated (4)
Box 1. Folder Notes and annotations, 1970-2002, undated (5)
Box 1. Folder Notes and annotations, undated (6)
Box 1. Folder Speeches and writings, 1958-1969 (7)
Box 1. Folder Speeches and writings, 1970-1979 (8)
Box 2. Folder Speeches and writings, 1980-1984 (1)
Box 2. Folder Speeches and writings, 1985-1989 (2)
Box 2. Folder Speeches and writings, 1990-1999 (3)
Box 2. Folder Speeches and writings, 2000-2005 (4)
Box 3. Folder Speeches and writings, undated (1)
Box 3. Folder Speeches and writings, undated (2)

Series B. General, 1970-2004

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note This series consists primarily of material detailing Sutker's involvement in various Zionist organizations throughout her career. There is also one folder included that contains the resumes of both her and her husband, Calvin Sutker.

Arrangement Folders in this series are arranged alphabetically. Items within the folders are ordered chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 3. Folder American and Labor Zionism papers, 1971-1989 (3)
- Box 3. Folder American and Labor Zionism papers, 1992-1995 (4)
- Box 3. Folder American and Labor Zionism papers, 1996-2004, undated (5)
- Box 4. Folder Founding Convention of the American Zionist Federation, 1970 (1)
- Box 4. Folder Miscellaneous papers, 1972-1998, undated (2)
- Box 4. Folder Phyllis and Calvin Sutker resumes, undated (3)
- Box 4. Folder United Israel Appeal, 1989-1998 (4)

Series C. Pioneer Women/NA'AMAT, 1956-2006

Extent 2.2 linear feet (5.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note This series is the largest in the collection and contains papers concerning NA'AMAT USA (previously Pioneer Women), its regional chapters, and its associated organizations around the world. The series contains correspondence and writings by Sutker as well as by others within NA'AMAT. There are several folders that detail the conventions of Pioneer Women and NA'AMAT.

Arrangement Folders in this series are arranged alphabetically. Items within the folders are ordered chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 4. Folder Chicago Area NA'AMAT, 1991-1999, undated (5)
- Box 4. Folder Chicago Pioneer Women, 1967-1982 (6)
- Box 4. Folder Eilat [of Pioneer Women/NA'AMAT], 1968-2004 (7)
- Box 5. Folder Givat Ada, 1983-1985 (1)
- Box 5. Folder Jewish Agency-Moetzet Hopolot Seminar, 1963 (2)
- Box 5. Folder Kadima [of Pioneer Women], 1956-1969 (3)
- Box 5. Folder Membership and Organization, 1976-1985 (4)
- Box 5. Folder Membership and Organization, 1990-2003, undated (5)
- Box 5. Folder Mifkad campaigns, 1971-1982 (6)
- Box 5. Folder Mifkad campaigns, 1986-1987 (7)
- Box 6. Folder Miscellaneous papers, 1959-1989 (1)
- Box 6. Folder Miscellaneous papers, 1990-2006 (2)
- Box 6. Folder Miscellaneous papers, undated (3)
- Box 6. Folder NA'AMAT Eastern Area newsletters, 2003-2006 (4)
- Box 6. Folder NA'AMAT USA convention, 1987 (5)
- Box 6. Folder NA'AMAT USA convention, 1989 (6)
- Box 7. Folder NA'AMAT USA convention, 1991 (1)
- Box 7. Folder NA'AMAT USA convention, 1993 (2)
- Box 7. Folder NA'AMAT USA conventions, 1995-1997 (3)

- Box 7. Folder NA'AMAT USA convention, 1999 (4)
- Box 7. Folder NA'AMAT USA convention, 2001 (5)
- Box 7. Folder NA'AMAT USA convention, 2004 (6)
- Box 7. Folder NA'AMAT newsletters and press releases, 1993-2005 (7)
- Box 7. Folder National Board activities, 1983-1993 (8)
- Box 8. Folder National Board activities, 1995-2004 (1)
- Box 8. Folder Pioneer Women conventions, 1959-1969 (2)
- Box 8. Folder Pioneer Women conventions, 1971-1973 (3)
- Box 8. Folder Pioneer Women convention, 1975 (4)
- Box 8. Folder Pioneer Women conventions, 1977-1981 (5)
- Box 8. Folder Pioneer Women/NA'AMAT USA convention, 1983 (6)
- Box 8. Folder Pioneer Women/NA'AMAT USA convention, 1985 (7)
- Box 8. Folder Pioneer Women/NA'AMAT Midwestern Area newsletters, 1972-2006 (8)
- Box 9. Folder Pioneer Women/NA'AMAT newsletters and press releases, 1975-1992 (1)
- Box 9. Folder Pioneer Women/NA'AMAT World Movement, 1978-2001 (2)
- Box 9. Folder "President to President" letters, 1978-1981 (3)
- Box 9. Folder "President to President" letters, 1981-2005 (4)
- Box 9. Folder Program planning, 1979-1993 (5)
- Box 9. Folder Program planning, 1994-2006 (6)
- Box 10. Folder Scripts, 1976, undated (1)
- Box 10. Folder Small Business Loan Fund, 2003-2005 (2)

Series D. News Clippings and Scrapbook, 1963-2005

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note This series contains clippings from newspapers and journals that concern Phyllis Sutker, her husband Calvin, and NA'AMAT USA.

Arrangement Clippings are arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 10. Folder News clippings, 1963-1979 (3)
- Box 10. Folder News clippings, 1980-1989 (4)
- Box 10. Folder News clippings, 1991-2005, undated (5)
- Box 10. Folder NA'AMAT scrapbook, 1982 (6)

Series E. Memorabilia, undated

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note This series consists primarily of NA'AMAT pins, slides related to NA'AMAT activities, and unidentified slides.

Arrangement

The memorabilia items are undated and are primarily loose in the box. The slides are in original order.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 11. Folder Pins, Life Member card, undated (1)

Box 12. Folder Moetzet Hapoalot - Israel slides, 1950s (1)

Box 12. Folder NA'AMAT USA slides, undated (2)