

# Queens Memory

News from Queens Memory Project

## Queens Memory Podcast Debuts First Season

Queens Memory is proud to announce the launch of the first season of our podcast, "Memories of Migration"! Each episode of the podcast is centered on a theme related to stories of migration and draws from the many oral history interviews we have conducted with Queens residents. A new episode is published each Monday on the [Queens Public Library channel](#) and available for download wherever you get your podcasts. Full transcripts and show notes are available on the [Queens Memory](#) website.

The first three episodes, which focus on the topics of "Origins," "Paperwork" and "Travel," respectively, were premiered at public listening parties featuring talk-back sessions with editors and storytellers from the episodes. New episodes have been posted each week since early June, with two more yet to come to round out the 10-episode season.

Enjoy listening to our interviewees, and let us know what you think!



(Left) Attendees gathered at the Jackson Heights Library on June 17 to hear and discuss episode 2 of the podcast.  
(Right) Mary Twomey (on left), whose interview was featured in episode 3, speaks at the listening party on June 20 at Middle Village Library; also in attendance was her daughter, Elizabeth Lenihan (on right).

## Story Quilt Exhibit Attracts Crowds at Queens Museum

Our Common Thread Community Story Quilt just ended a successful three-week [exhibition](#) at the Queens Museum's Community Partnership Gallery.

The quilt, created during a 12-week series of workshops last summer coordinated by textile artist [Naomi Kuo](#), contains embedded electronic devices that play audio clips recorded by the quilt-makers themselves. The exhibit also featured several smaller quilts created during our "Memories of Migration" Family Story Quilt workshops in 2017.

Another featured item -- our embroidery map of Queens -- proved very popular among attendees, who enthusiastically marked their significant spots in Queens with colorful stitches.

The Community Story Quilt will soon move to its permanent home at the Flushing Library; watch for details on an installation event!

*Attendees at the exhibit's opening reception on July 7 enjoyed examining the quilts' visual beauty as well as listening to their embedded audio clips. An accompanying slideshow provided a look into the creation of the quilts and the many people who contributed to them.*



*Many visitors stitched their own additions to our fabric map of Queens at special sessions each weekend. A 1924 map of the borough provided the canvas for creative expression from simple cross stitches to elaborate animals and lettering! Each contributor posed for a photo with his or her work and wrote a brief explanation of its meaning.*

## Ridgewood Story-Sharing Day Offers Nostalgic Look at Neighborhood

*At the "Ridgewood Through the Years" gathering on June 8, neighborhood residents examined historic photos and shared their own stories and artifacts with each other and the Queens Memory team.*



## New Oral History Project Celebrates QC Faculty

Queens Memory and the Department of Special Collections and Archives at Queens College have launched a new initiative to interview retired faculty from the college. Interviews have begun, and we are actively recruiting new volunteers interested in helping us capture interviews with dozens of retired faculty members whose contributions and life stories tell the history of their disciplines and the history of Queens College. If you want to join our team, please contact Outreach Coordinator [Lori Wallach](#) for more information.

## Upcoming Events

**August 28** – We will host an oral history training workshop at the [LeFrak City Library](#). Learn how to conduct a great interview to capture the history of your family or neighborhood as a Queens Memory volunteer interviewer. You will learn how to prepare for an interview, ask good questions, make a high-quality recording, and submit your completed interview to the library. (3 - 5 pm; please RSVP to [Josselyn.Atahualpa@queenslibrary.org](mailto:Josselyn.Atahualpa@queenslibrary.org))

**September 5** – This special Volunteers in the Vaults event will be hosted by the staff of the [Bayside Historical Society](#), located in "The Castle" at Fort Totten! The Castle, built in 1887, was originally used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the Officers' Mess Hall and Club. The Gothic Revival-style building is a NYC designated landmark, and is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Attendees will be treated to a tour of The Castle and will view interesting items selected for us by the BHS staff. Afterward, we will have light refreshments and a chance to discuss ideas for Queens-related oral history projects and upcoming Queens Memory events. (6 - 8 pm; please RSVP to [digitalarchives@queenslibrary.org](mailto:digitalarchives@queenslibrary.org))

**October 19** – Do you have a canister of 8mm film or a VHS tape in your closet that you've always wanted to watch, but don't have the equipment? Do you have family home movies you're trying to keep safe for future generations? Join us at the [Long Island City Library](#) for **Home Movie Day 2019** to screen your movie and get help from preservation experts! This free event will include Home Movie Bingo (with prizes!) and other fun interactions with these rare and entertaining treasures. Film, CDs, DVDs, hard drives and videotape welcome! (12:30 - 4:30 pm)

## Queens Memory in the Professional Community

QM staff are frequently invited to discuss our innovative programs with our colleagues in the library and archives communities. This month, Queens Memory Director Natalie Milbrodt will co-present at the Society of American Archivists' annual conference in Austin, Texas, as part of the panel session, "[That Sounds Just Like Me! Leveraging User-Centered Design Personas to Inform Your Metadata Practices for Oral History Collections](#)" (August 4, 10:30 - 11:45 am).