

Queens Memory

News from Queens Memory Project

A Service of Queens Library

Take Our 5-Minute Queens Memory Community Survey!

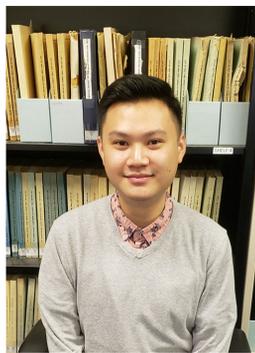
As we enter our 10th year, we'd like to get a better look at our community and cater our content and communications to better fit everyone's needs. We realize that some readers may only wish to enjoy our quarterly newsletters, while others would like more constant updates about interviewing opportunities and upcoming events. The survey will help us understand if you want to get more updates on specific topics; if you want to stop getting our emails; and what your skills and interests are. It will also help us create a path for those volunteers who wish to get more involved. Please help us out by completing the [5-minute survey](#) by Wednesday, March 6; send any questions to josselyn.atahualpa@queenslibrary.org. Thanks!

Meet Our New Staff Members!



Josselyn Atahualpa joined the Queens Memory staff in November 2018 as our program coordinator. Coming from a community organizing background, she hopes to strengthen the bonds within Queens Memory and help expand our work throughout the borough. Josselyn grew up between Peru, Long Island and Queens and holds a BA in Political Science and Latinx Studies from Williams College in Massachusetts. You can reach her at josselyn.atahualpa@queenslibrary.org.

Lewis Tio, currently in the final semester of his MLIS degree at Queens College, is working with Queens Memory this spring as a Queens Library/Citi Center for Culture Fellow. He also works as an assistant in the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's archives. While not focusing on work or class, he enjoys watching horror and comic book movies. Lewis will be assisting in the Maple Grove Cemetery Preservation Survey (see article below).



Story Quilt Update: Crossing Bridges

Our **Common Thread Community Story Quilt**, created during a 12-week series of workshops last summer at [Flushing Library](#), has been traveling beyond the borough! The quilt and its coordinator, textile artist and Queens College MFA candidate [Naomi Kuo](#), were invited to participate in a group show at Manhattan's [Walls-Ortiz Gallery and Center](#) titled, "Conversations with Harriet and Frederick: Stories Told, Journeys Unfold." At the [exhibit opening](#) on Dec. 13, Naomi discussed the project as part of an artists' panel, and several of our quilters attended the festivities. The quilt's interactive buttons, which enable viewers to hear audio clips of the quilters' migration stories, were a big hit with gallery attendees!



On Feb. 9, Naomi co-led a [Community Conversation](#) session at Walls-Ortiz. About 20 attendees shared stories relating to the exhibit's migration theme, and then participated in some hands-on quilting. The exhibit will be up at the gallery through the end of this month, with a [closing celebration](#) planned for Feb. 28 at 6 pm. Come see and hear our quilt in this warm and inviting space!

The Story Quilt will make several other appearances before landing in its permanent home at Flushing Library. Stay tuned!

Naomi Kuo (second from left) leads attendees in a quilting activity during the Feb. 9 Community Conversation at the Walls-Ortiz Gallery and Center. Also pictured are Queens Memory Director **Natalie Milbrodt** (third from left) and QM volunteer **Jacqueline Colson** (top right).



QL/Citi Fellows to Assist in Maple Grove Cemetery Preservation Survey

Congratulations to the [Friends of Maple Grove Cemetery](#), which has just been selected to receive a Preservation Survey through the Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY) Planning & Assessment Services! Our Queens Library/Citi Center for Culture Fellows, **Lewis Tio** (see above) and **Carrie Jedlicka**, who are working with the Kew Gardens cemetery this academic year, were integral in drafting the application for the competitive survey, and will be on hand to help out during the site visit by the DHPSNY team. **Carl Ballenas**, president of the Friends organization, is spearheading the project and supervising the Fellows' work.

The purpose of the Preservation Survey is to review the preservation needs of the cemetery's archival collections with regards to environment (temperature, relative humidity, pollution and light), housekeeping, pest control, fire protection, security, disaster preparedness, storage, handling, exhibition, treatment, and preservation planning. As a result of the survey, the organization will have a clear set of strategies to follow to ensure its many important artifacts are properly preserved.

Upcoming Events

February 21 – We will host an oral history training workshop at the [Sunnyside Library](#), led by QM Director Natalie Milbrodt. Attendees will learn effective interview methods and gain experience performing mock interviews with other attendees. Great for beginners as well as the experienced! (5:30 - 7:30 pm; please RSVP to digitalarchives@queenslibrary.org)

February 28 – Our Common Thread Story Quilt is currently featured in a group show at the [Walls-Ortiz Gallery and Center](#) titled, "Conversations with Harriet and Frederick: Stories Told, Journeys Unfold" (see story above). Join us to tour the exhibit one last time and celebrate its closing! Tickets are free but please RSVP to the Gallery [here](#). (6 - 8 pm)

March 6 – This special Volunteers in the Vaults event will be hosted by the staff of the Queens College Library's [Special Collections and Archives](#). Archives staff members will open the vaults to share some treasures from their collections with current and aspiring Queens Memory volunteers. Volunteers in the Vaults is a public, bi-monthly social gathering for Queens Memory volunteers and the general public. Attendees have the chance to discuss their ideas for Queens-related oral history projects and network with Queens Memory volunteers and staff. Non-Queens College attendees, please bring photo ID and sign in at the library's security desk. RSVP to digitalarchives@queenslibrary.org.

March 12 - April 30 – Teens can join the [South Hollis Branch Library](#) staff and Queens Memory for an eight-week podcast and oral history workshop this spring as part of a year-long Stories from South Hollis program! Participants grades 7 and up will learn the basics of creating a podcast, interview two South Hollis residents, and learn about editing archival material with the goal of creating two new podcast episodes about South Hollis. Registration is recommended; please contact josselyn.atahualpa@queenslibrary.org for more information. (Tuesdays, 4 - 5:30 pm)

May 2 & 4 – Join neighborhood historian Michael Kurucz for a photo "tour" of historic Douglaston and Little Neck, along with views of the same spots as they exist today. Explore a wonderful collection of photos, postcards, ephemera and maps, and bring your own family's stories and photos to share. The Queens Memory team will be on hand to scan and save them to a free flash drive that you can take home. This event is co-sponsored by the Friends of the [Douglaston/Little Neck Community Library](#). For more information, contact us at digitalarchives@queenslibrary.org. (May 2, 5:30 - 7:30 pm; May 4, 11 am - 4 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. Next month, Queens Memory Director Natalie Milbrodt will participate in a panel discussion – "Who Saves Our Stories for the Future?" – at the Metropolitan New York Library Council's [Preserve This Podcast](#) launch party (March 21, 6-9 pm). This event is free and open to the public, but [RSVPs](#) are required as space is limited.

On April 8, Natalie will also present as part of the "Collaborative Projects in Recording Neighborhood History" panel at the [Museum Association of New York Annual Conference](#) (April 7-9) in Cooperstown, NY.