

Queens Memory

News from Queens Memory Project

Introducing Aviary!

Queens Memory is now using a new cloud-based platform, called [Aviary](#), to host our oral history interviews and related content. As part of Queens Public Library's channel, we've arranged our interviews into themed collections, including our most recent oral history projects documenting [Long Island City Artists](#) (see photo below) and [Queens College Faculty & Staff](#). All interviews feature several highlighted audio clips, and many include full-text, searchable transcripts. To listen to a full interview, you can create a free Aviary account and request access. Check them out and let us know what you think!



Oral history listening party with LIC Artists at the Plaxall Gallery in Long Island City, January 2019. The group, many of whose members have been interviewed by Queens Memory, is currently hosting a photo exhibit, "[Life Interrupted](#)," at Plaxall through February 16.

Queens Memory Wins State Archives Award

Queens Memory is honored to report that we have been awarded the 2019 Debra E. Bernhardt Annual Archives Award for Excellence in Documenting New York's History by the [New York State Archives](#) and the [Archives Partnership Trust](#).

The annual Archives Awards program, which takes place every October during American Archives Month, recognizes outstanding efforts in archives and record management work in New York State. Thanks to Queens Memory and other projects awarded this year, "New York's documentary resources will be well managed, appropriately preserved and effectively used for generations to come," State Archivist Thomas Ruller said in a [statement](#).

"This award is truly an honor. It brings attention to the extraordinary lives of everyday New Yorkers whose personal histories have become part of the historical record we keep for future generations of Queens residents," said Natalie Milbrodt, founding Director of Queens Memory. "It is also a tribute to the hard work of our staff at QPL and Queens College, our dedicated volunteers, and our generous community partners," she continued. "Without this large and diverse team, Queens Memory would never be possible."



New York State Archivist Thomas Ruller poses with Queens Memory Director Natalie Milbrodt at the October award ceremony in Albany.

QM Volunteers Gather at Queens Historical Society

On November 6, the staff of the [Queens Historical Society](#) hosted our Volunteers in the Vaults gathering at its headquarters, the 18th-century Kingsland Homestead in Flushing. QHS is the largest and most active historical society in the borough and the only one with a borough-wide scope and impact. Our group was treated to a tour of special treasures prepared for us by the QHS staff, and afterward had a chance to network with each other and learn more about QHS and its activities.



Queens Historical Society Executive Director Branka Duknic greets our volunteers at Kingsland Homestead

Meet Our New Community Coordinator

Meral Agish has joined Queens Memory in the newly created position of Community Coordinator. She will be training staff and volunteers to host Queens Memory events at selected branch libraries as part of our upcoming Ambassadors Program. Meral has worked with cultural and media nonprofit organizations for more than a decade, and has contributed to numerous oral history projects, including the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress and the Oral History Archive of the Hudson Area. Most recently, she worked as a producer at *Retro Report*, a documentary news company that specializes in archival material. Born and raised in Flushing, Meral spent much of her childhood at the Queens Public Library's Auburndale branch. She now lives in Kew Gardens with her husband and young daughter, who loves the library too – particularly the toys at the Richmond Hill branch!



Upcoming Events

January 23 – Is there a song that always reminds you of a particular time in your life? Take the mic to tell your story, and then sing or play a recording of your song for a live audience. Original songs, dance and poetry welcome too! Queens artist EunWoo Nam will lead the event and help you give your memories a soundtrack! ([Langston Hughes Library](#), 5:30 - 7:30 pm)

January 26 – Join us at the [Kew Gardens Hills Library](#) to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp with a conversation about Auschwitz's traumatic legacy as a camp, community and memorial. The discussion will feature a talk by Jody Russell Manning, Program Director for Rowan University's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Between 2005 and 2011, Manning served as the first American intern in the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. The event will also feature selections from a photography exhibition by Viktor Koen. (2 - 3:30 pm)

March 9 – The [Kew Gardens: Then and Now](#) project is looking for compelling stories of life in Kew Gardens to add to its forthcoming publication. Come to [The Potter's Wheel](#) (120-33 83rd Ave., Kew Gardens, NY) to hear from neighborhood storytellers about how Kew Gardens has touched their lives and affected their experiences within and beyond the community. In the second half of the program, the floor will be open to anyone who wishes to share their own family's history in the area. All are welcome; new arrivals and longtime residents. The Queens Memory team will be on hand to help you learn more about preserving your history in the Queens Public Library's local history archives. (7 - 9 pm)

Queens Memory is celebrating our 10th anniversary this year – watch this space for related upcoming events!

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. Earlier this month, Queens Memory Director Natalie Milbrodt delivered a paper titled, "Getting Beyond the Buzzwords: A Diverse Borough As It Really Is," at the American Historical Association's [Annual Meeting](#) (New York, Jan. 4). Natalie will also co-facilitate the webinar, "[What belongs in a web archive? Collection](#)

