

# QUEENS MEMORY

NEWS FROM QUEENS MEMORY PROJECT

## Celebrating 125 Years of Queens Public Library!

2021 marks the 125th anniversary of the founding of Queens Public Library. The world has changed in ways that people living in 1896 could scarcely have imagined! From the rise of automation to advances in science, civil rights and public education, through economic crises, world wars, globalization, natural disasters, two pandemics and the advent of the digital revolution, the library has been a steadfast source of reliable information and a forum for public learning. Queens Memory will collaborate once again with Urban Archive to launch a special project looking back at the library's 125 years and gathering stories, photos and other memorabilia from QPL staff and patrons who wish to leave a record of the library's role in their lives. Look for more information about how you can participate in the coming weeks!



Interior of the Central Library, 1913. From the Queens Borough Public Library Photograph Collection. See more historic branch photos on the [Happy Anniversary, Queens Public Library](#) page on Urban Archive.

### Queens Memory COVID-19 Project Featured in New Museum Exhibit



We are honored to have a number of items, including photos and audio-video recordings, collected as part of the Queens Memory COVID-19 Project featured in [New York Responds: The First Six Months](#), a physical and online exhibit recently opened at the Museum of the City of New York (MCNY). The exhibit runs until April 11.

According to the Museum, New York Responds is "part of a Museum-wide project documenting and interpreting New York City during the COVID pandemic and the racial justice uprisings of 2020, and looking toward the future of New York." The exhibit features items selected from among thousands submitted to a panel of judges from individuals and organizations all across the city.

Although the MCNY building is currently closed for repairs, it will reopen in mid-February. The online exhibit remains accessible throughout.

### QM to Partner With Job and Business Academy

Thanks to generous funding from the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Queens Memory and the Queens Public Library's [Job and Business Academy](#) (JBA) are planning a set of "Encore Career and Invigorating Leisure" workshops, aimed at adults age 60 and up.

Two six-week series of virtual workshops will be held between March and July 2021, serving up to 50 people. Participants will be split into two tracks, depending on their objectives: the Creative Aging track will focus on personal finance and volunteering and mentoring opportunities, while the Encore Career track will offer preparation for a next stage of paid employment. Attendees will meet twice a week as a group and also have sessions with a JBA career coach for individualized assistance.

Queens Memory will help participants in both tracks engage in a thoughtful exploration of their professional work history and a vision for their future goals. This will culminate in oral history interviews that will be preserved in our collection and made available to the public. More details about signing up for the workshops will be posted soon!

*On January 19, artists Natali Bravo-Barbee, Jacqueline Herranz Brooks, Rejin Leys and Lisa D. Wade joined Queens Memory Community Coordinator Meral Agish for a conversation on "Emerging from Isolation - Notes on the Pandemic," a new virtual exhibition organized by the Southeast Queens Artist Alliance at the York College Art Gallery. Watch the [event recording](#) on our Facebook page and visit the virtual exhibition at the [York College Art Gallery](#).*

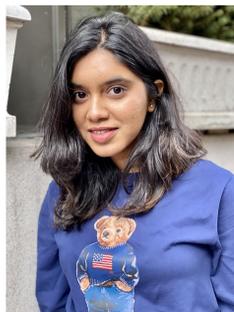
### Meet Our New Staff Members

Since the Fall 2020 semester, two CUNY undergraduate students, Reya Khatun and Tasneem Sultana, have been working with Queens Memory as part of the CUNY Cultural Corps Program. This program supports internships for CUNY students to work in New York City's cultural sector. Reya and Tasneem have been assisting with community outreach, editing interview transcripts and recording oral history interviews with fellow students for the COVID-19 Project. Welcome to the team!



*Reya Khatun has lived in Queens since 2010 and grew up in Jamaica. Currently, she is a student in the SEEK program at Queens College, majoring in human development and family science and minoring in fashion and textile. She plans to graduate by 2023. During her free time, Reya likes to cook, read novels, stream Netflix -- especially horror movies -- and write short stories.*

*Tasneem Sultana grew up in Briarwood, Queens, and is currently a junior at Hunter College. She is double majoring in political science and economics, with a certification in public policy and a minor in English literature. Tasneem intends to graduate in Spring 2022 and attend law school afterwards. During her free time, she likes to read, listen to supernatural podcasts, and sing with her karaoke machine.*



### Upcoming Virtual Events

**February 4** – Join Queens native and Licensed Tour Guide Adrienne Onofri on the first of three **virtual walking tours of Jackson Heights**, as she explores how the pandemic is affecting the community. Outdoor dining, open streets, COVID testing sites and vaccination centers are altering how the neighborhood looks this winter. Onofri will escort us virtually through the neighborhood to show us how the community is adjusting. Watch live on the [Queens Memory Facebook page](#). (4 pm EST)

**February 5 and 18** – Looking for ways to volunteer and connect with others remotely? Join an upcoming **Queens Memory volunteer orientation** to learn how you can contribute to Queens Memory and help us record interviews with fellow Queens residents, transcribe interviews from our collection or submit photographs of your neighborhood to the Queens Memory archive. Register for upcoming dates:

Friday, February 5 at 2 pm EST: <https://bit.ly/39hVgk3>

Thursday, February 18 at 6 pm EST: <https://bit.ly/2KP84Fg>

**February 11** – We will also hold an **oral history interviewing workshop**, in which participants will focus on how to record interviews. Together we will review the key steps for conducting great interviews and using free tools to record them remotely. Register for the Thursday, February 11, workshop: <https://bit.ly/3a4aA2Z> (6:30 pm EST)

We at Queens Memory are pleased to sponsor an ongoing series of facilitated **Expressive Arts Workshops**. Community members will gather in a virtual circle twice a month to tell stories. We will celebrate our stories of resilience and challenges during this historic year by engaging our creativity and drawing from our intuition, for our own self-care and joy. Please bring pencil and paper and, if you can, some art supplies. Facilitated by visual artist and Bardo voyager Noah Phillips and librarian and poet Vijay R. Nathan. Register for upcoming dates (all at 1 pm EST):

Thursday, February 11: <https://bit.ly/ExpArtsFeb11>

Thursday, February 25: <https://bit.ly/ExpArtsFeb25>

Thursday, March 11: <https://bit.ly/ExpArtsMar11>

Thursday, March 25: <https://bit.ly/ExpArtsMar25>

Our colleagues at the Queens College Special Collections and Archives are offering a two-part workshop series called **Preserve Your Memories, Manage Your Personal Archives**. Participants are invited to attend one or both workshops:

**March 23** – In **Memory Mysteries Solved! - Personal Archives Show and Tell**, participants are invited to share a personal detective story. Whether you've discovered family papers in the attic, returned a lost artifact to its owner or constructed your family tree, there are many ways to investigate and preserve human memories. Join in to share a scrapbook, photographs, letter or other artifact from your personal or family archives, and what it means to you. In this guided session, archivists Jeanie Pai and Tomasz Gubernat will share their own stories of discovery, as well as offer tips and tricks for how to preserve your collections at home. Listeners are also welcome! Please [register](#) in advance for this Zoom event (4 pm EST); if you are interested in sharing an archival item or "archives mystery," please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/U7winDjivXJwYof8>

**March 30** – In the **Personal Digital Archiving 101** workshop, join archivist Maggie Schreiner to learn how to care for and preserve your digital memories! Master the basics of digitizing and caring for your collections of documents, photos and audiovisual materials, such as vacation pictures, VHS tapes and floppy disks. Learn about file formats and storage, straightforward tools and techniques, and common risks and dangers (and how to avoid them!). Please [register](#) in advance for this Zoom event. (4 pm EST)

### 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. At the upcoming virtual [SUNYLA Midwinter Conference](#), **Annie Tummino**, Head of Special Collections and Archives at Queens College, and Queens Public Library librarian **Jo-Ann Wong** will present "Advocating for Social Justice and Diverse Voices in the Virtual World." (February 12, 3:10 - 3:40 pm). The session addresses Queens Memory's use of Facebook Live for its virtual programs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In April, Queens Memory Director **Natalie Milbrodt** will present at the [15th Annual Digital Commonweal Conference](#). She will speak as part of the panel, "Managing the Competing Forces of Agency, Equity and Privacy in Archival Practice." (April 13, 9:15 - 10:15 am; virtual)