

QUEENS MEMORY

NEWS FROM QUEENS MEMORY PROJECT

Share Your Food Stories With the Queens Memory Cookbook

A family's story can be told through the recipes they pass down from one generation to the next. Queens Memory is excited to partner with the [Life Story Club](#) in a delicious story-sharing series. Each week, we will explore a different way that our memories are simmered, baked, and pickled into our favorite foods. Meet other Queens residents with ancestors from around the world and learn about the traditions and recipes important to them. At the end of our series, we will publish a collection of all the recipes shared by participants!



Queens Memory Cookbook

Thursday, February 3 - March 24 @ 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Join us each week as we answer the following questions:

February 3: What are some recipes you have that were passed down from a loved one?

February 10: What is your version of comfort food or soul food?

February 17: What are some of your go-to recipes for parties or celebrations?

February 24: What is a recipe you have perfected (or made your own) over the years?

March 3: Who are the people who helped you learn particular recipes or techniques?

March 10: Who made your favorite dish when you were a child?

March 17: How does your home cooking reflect parts of your family's legacy?

March 24: (recording session) Participants will share final versions of stories they wish to contribute along with a recipe to our cookbook!

You may join any or all of the weekly sessions; see the Upcoming Events box below for registration information.

Creative Writing Programs Offer Inspiration and Guidance

Queens Memory is pleased to sponsor two creative writing programs in the coming months. [Distance and Displacement](#), co-sponsored by [KathaSatha](#), is a prose and poetry writing workshop inspired by St. John's University's Yeh Art Gallery exhibition, [Moon Over Kathmandu](#). The exhibit showcases the abstract paintings of the late Nepali artist and polymath, Lain Singh Bangdel. Our workshop is designed for writers to take inspiration from a variety of creative genres and mediums to explore their personal experiences of belonging, exclusion, relocation and transformation. The session will start with a brief virtual tour of Bangdel's exhibition. Then, participants will be led through a series of low-stakes generative exercises to land on a piece of their own original writing that may sit in conversation with an artwork in view. There will be space to share written works for feedback. The workshop will be led by [Muna Gurung](#), a writer, educator and translator based in Nepal. The session will be offered twice; see the Upcoming Events box below for dates and registration information.

In the [Re-Memory Poetry Writing Workshop](#) (from Mmiri and Mirrors Collective Writing Workshop Series), poet/editor/interdisciplinary artist [Sherese Francis](#) asks, what do we choose to remember and what chooses us to be remembered? Memory is something we often cannot control; it is usually what happens to bubble up out of the collection of what we have received in our own personal archives of living. As we meet during Women's History Month, workshop participants will read works from Black women poets like Roya Marsh, M. Nourbese Philip, Akilah Oliver, Lucille Clifton, Audre Lorde, T'ai Freedom Ford, Maya Angelou and Elizabeth Alexander to reflect on and discuss the concept of memory, how what is remembered shapes the work of these poets and the personal, cultural and historical connections that are formed through remembering, especially through a woman's body. After the discussion of each poem, participants will write responses to prompts inspired by them.

This workshop will be held in three weekly sessions; see the Upcoming Events box below for dates and registration information:

Part 1: Poetic Archeology - In the first meeting, attendees will read poems from Roya Marsh, M. Nourbese Philip and T'ai Freedom Ford to write pieces in which we look at aspects of our lives as "artifacts" for deeper poetic investigation.

Part 2: Haunting and Home - Home is a place where the familiar and unfamiliar, the seen and unseen, the said and unsaid intersect and live together. Participants will read poems from Akilah Oliver, Lucille Clifton and Audre Lorde to discuss and write about the haunts that take up space in the spaces in which we live.

Part 3: Finding Grace in the Grief - Grace is a form of telling one's story, leaving a legacy, a calling for others to respond. During times of grief, what can we share with others through our words to relieve some of the heaviness, to connect with others in a way to produce and help carry something bigger than oneself? This week, attendees will look at the poetry of Lucille Clifton, Maya Angelou and Elizabeth Alexander and discuss how they saw death not as an ending but as transformation and how their works transformed the grief in their lives.

Explore Family History at Upcoming Genealogy Programs

Are you interested in discovering more about your family history? Queens Memory is presenting two opportunities to help you make the most of your genealogical research. In both workshops, participants will learn how to get started on their family histories, methods of keeping their information organized, and the best ways to access the many online and physical resources available to genealogists, including libraries, cemeteries, archives, and websites such as Ancestry. Come with questions and puzzles from your own experiences! See the Upcoming Events box below for details on times and how to join both programs:



On February 16, Sharon Wilkins, Deputy Borough Historian of Manhattan, will offer [Uncovering African American Family Histories](#).

This program will have a special focus on the problems of and resources available for African American genealogical research. This event is co-sponsored by the Queens College Africana Studies Program.

On March 31, join Queens Memory Outreach Coordinator Lori Wallach for [Women's History in the Archives: Using 1950's Census Records to Learn Family History](#). We will pay special attention to the use of U.S. Census records and how the upcoming release of the 1950 Census -- which reveals interesting trends for women's shifting roles after WWII -- can aid your research. This event is co-sponsored by the Queens College Library and Queens College Office of Alumni Relations.



Share Your Library Story and Win Prizes!

To celebrate its 125th anniversary, Queens Public Library is collecting patrons' memories of the library and the role it has played in their lives. Submit your photos and notes in [English](#), [中文](#), [हिन्दी](#), or [Español](#), and they will be added to an online map of Queens Libraries over the years. Each month, a lucky contributor will win a prize package of QPL swag and signed copies of four Queens-related books. See the [QPL Sweepstakes site](#) for more information and past winning entries. Submit your QPL story today!

Upcoming Virtual Events

February 3 – Join Queens Memory at our next [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 here](#) for the Webex event. (7 pm EST)

February 3 - March 24 – Share your food and cooking memories at any or all of the Queens Memory Cookbook weekly sessions, offered with the [Life Story Club](#). See article above for more detailed information. [Register here](#) for any session; all will be held on Thursdays at 3:30 pm EST.

February 11 – Looking for ways to volunteer and connect with others remotely? Come to our [Queens Memory volunteer orientation](#) to learn how you can contribute to Queens Memory and help us record interviews with fellow Queens residents. Together we will review the key steps for planning oral history interviews and using free tools to record remotely. [Register here](#) for the Webex event. (2:00 pm EST)

February 16 – In [Uncovering African American Family Histories](#), Sharon Wilkins, Deputy Borough Historian of Manhattan, will focus on genealogy research for African American families. See article above for more detailed information. This event is co-sponsored by the Queens College Africana Studies Program. Watch it live on the [Queens Memory Facebook page](#); no registration required. (7 - 8:30 pm EST)

February 25 and 26 – Join Queens Memory and KathaSatha for the [Distance & Displacement: Prose and Poetry Writing Workshop](#), inspired by the work of the late Nepali artist and polymath, Lain Singh Bangdel. See article above for complete description. The same program will be offered on both days; interested participants must fill out the [registration form](#) and indicate which date they prefer. (9 - 11:30 am EST)

March 12, 19 and 26 – In the [Re-Memory Poetry Writing Workshop](#), join poet/editor/interdisciplinary artist Sherese Francis to explore questions of memory and creative expression. This program will be held in three weekly parts; see article above for a fuller description. Register for any or all three sessions [here](#); all will be held on Saturdays from 1 to 3 pm EST.

March 31 – Join Queens Memory Outreach Coordinator Lori Wallach for [Women's History in the Archives: Using 1950's Census Records to Learn Family History](#). See article above for more detailed information. This event is co-sponsored by the Queens College Library and Queens College Office of Alumni Relations. [Register here](#) for the Zoom event. (4 - 5:30 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. On March 9, Queens Memory Community Coordinator [Meral Agish](#) will moderate a conversation hosted by the [Archivists Round Table](#) about oral history and podcasting with Adwoa Adusei and Virginia Marshall of Brooklyn Public Library's Borrowed Podcast and Melody Cao and Jordan Gass-Poore of the Queens Memory podcast. Full details will be posted on the [Queens Memory website](#).