Panel Examines How COVID Pandemic Affects New Yorkers With Disabilities

COVID-19 continues to impact all New Yorkers, but rarely do we focus on how it affects individuals with disabilities. Queens Memory and the Center for an Urban Archive is organizing a panel discussion focusing on the intersections of the pandemic and disability-related issues. The panel discussion will be moderated by Obden Mondesir for Queens Library, with Queens Memory as the archiving partner. The panel will feature four New York City residents who have a variety of developmental disabilities: Bridget Bartolini has launched the 34th Avenue Oral History Project, in which participants will focus on how to record interviews. Her project is documenting the story of Jackson Heights' 34th Avenue Open Street -- which closed on weekdays to vehicular traffic. The photo essay for the Oral History Project at Queens College, titled "Speaking Our World," is the inspiration for the Oral History Association's 2021 virtual conference. (9 pm EDT)

Queens Memory, SNAP Partner to Host Story-Sharing Events for Older Adults

Queens Memory and SNAP (Services Now for the Elderly) will host two online story-sharing events aimed at older adults in the upcoming weeks. Participants in the Story-Sharing Circle on August 21 will gather virtually to tell and listen to stories about incidents of bias and discrimination. History photos from the Queens Public Library's archives will be featured, and participants are also encouraged to bring their own photos to share. The program is free and open to the public. (6:30 pm EDT)

Featured Interview: Dr. Jessicas Harris

Born and raised in Queens, Dr. Jessica Harris is an award-winning author, editor, and historian. Her book, "Pineapple Empire: The Rise of African Diaspora Trade in the Eighteenth Century," illustrates the economic and cultural impact of the African diaspora on the New World. In her role as the Digital Director of the Center for an Urban Archive, she has been instrumental in digitizing Queen's historical treasures, including sedan chairs, madras cloth, and more. In this interview conducted by Obden Mondesir for Queens Memory and the Center for an Urban Archive, she talks about her love of books, her time as a social worker, and the importance of recording family history. (9 pm EDT)

Upcoming Virtual Events

August 5 – Join Queens Memory at our upcoming 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 a recording session and make sure you know about Queens Memory’s tech partner. “Record it, We’ll digitize it!” is for the Webex event. (9:30 am EDT)

August 8 – Join Queens Memory’s oral history interviewing workshop, where participants will learn the key ideas for conducting great interviews. Together we will cover key ideas for conducting great interviews and share best practices for recording interviews. "Record it, We’ll digitize it!” is for the Webex event. (2 pm EDT)

August 8 – Join Queens Memory and Oral History Project at Queens College; Eli Dvorkin, Editorial and Policy Director of the Center for an Urban Archive, and Dr. Jessica Harris at this free online story-sharing event in honor of the Oral History Association's 2021 virtual conference. The program will cover how COVID pandemic has impacted all New Yorkers, but rarely do we focus on how it affects individuals with disabilities. Queens Memory and the Center for an Urban Archive is organizing a panel discussion focusing on the intersections of the pandemic and disability-related issues. The panel discussion will be moderated by Obden Mondesir for Queens Library, with Queens Memory as the archiving partner. The panel will feature four New York City residents who have a variety of developmental disabilities: Bridget Bartolini has launched the 34th Avenue Oral History Project, in which participants will focus on how to record interviews. Her project is documenting the story of Jackson Heights' 34th Avenue Open Street -- which closed on weekdays to vehicular traffic. The photo essay for the Oral History Project at Queens College, titled "Speaking Our World," is the inspiration for the Oral History Association's 2021 virtual conference. (9 pm EDT)