

## QUEENS MEMORY

NEWS FROM QUEENS MEMORY PROJECT

### ***Panel Examines How COVID Pandemic Affects New Yorkers With Disabilities***

COVID-19 continues to impact all New Yorkers, but rarely do we focus on the effects it has had on those with disabilities. Queens Memory recently organized a [panel discussion](#) focusing on the intersections of the pandemic with health, employment, housing and finance issues specific to this community. Moderated by Nina Luca Bolowsky of Queens Public Library's Health and Safety Department, the panel featured speakers Jessica Dalonzo, President of the Committee for Disabled Students at Queens College; Eli Dvorkin, Editorial and Policy Director of the Center for an Urban Future; Jill Gentile, Senior Vice President of the New York Foundling's Developmental Disabilities Division; and Nancy D. Miller, Executive Director/CEO of VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Watch the recording of the July 13 event on our Facebook page [here](#).



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

Queens Memory and the Caregiver Program of [SNAP](#) (Services Now for Adult Persons) will offer two online story-sharing events aimed at older adults in the upcoming weeks.

Participants in the **Story-Sharing Circle** on August 11 will gather virtually to tell and listen to stories about the histories of their families and neighborhoods. Historic photos from the Queens Public Library's archives will be featured, and attendees are also invited to bring their own photos to share on-screen.

On August 19, the **Recording Family History** workshop will teach participants how to record a conversation with a loved one in person or over the phone or computer, how to ask good questions, and how to share the recording with family and friends. At both sessions, we will discuss how individuals' family histories can become part of the library's permanent local history collections.

Both sessions will be held from 1:00 to 2:30 pm EDT; register by emailing [queensmemory@queenslibrary.org](mailto:queensmemory@queenslibrary.org).

### ***Featured Interview: Dr. Jessica Harris***

Born and raised in Queens, Dr. Jessica B. Harris is an award-winning expert on the food and foodways of the African Diaspora. Her book, *High on the Hog: A Culinary Journey from Africa to America*, served as the inspiration for the Netflix show of the same name. In this interview conducted by Obden Mondesir for Queens Memory and the SEEK Oral History Project at Queens College, Dr. Harris talks about growing up in Jamaica, Queens, and her time as a SEEK professor. Listen to the full interview [here](#).



### **Catching Up With Friends of Queens Memory**

A number of our partners and volunteers around the borough have interesting projects taking place this summer; we encourage you to check them out:

Longtime volunteer and collaborator **Bridget Bartolini** has launched the [34th Avenue Oral History Project](#), with Queens Memory as the archiving partner. Her project is documenting the story of Jackson Heights' 34th Avenue Open Street -- which closes to vehicular traffic each weekday morning and allows local residents to jog, stroll, ride bikes and socialize while maintaining physical distance -- through [profiles](#) of people who are reshaping their lives around the Open Street.

**Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning** (JCAL) will have the [Jamaica Flux](#) gallery exhibition on view at its Miller and Community Galleries through August 7, with public projects on view along Jamaica Avenue through August 21. Over the past year, local artists have conducted research and built collaborative community relationships (virtually and in person) as they created their Jamaica Flux projects. Several, including Linda Ganjian and Heejung Cho, have contributed interviews they collected to Queens Memory, while Sherese Francis and Nadia Misir hosted Queens Memory workshops during their research. See JCAL's [Current Exhibition](#) page for more about the program and the artworks on view. Appointments to visit the galleries can be made via [Eventbrite](#) or by emailing **Naomi Kuo** at [nkuo@jcal.org](mailto:nkuo@jcal.org).

Queens Memory's tech partner **Urban Archive** is running its [Summer in the City](#) project, calling for photos that depict "the magic and madness of a New York summer." Images from all five boroughs are eligible and can be submitted through September 6; see the project site for instructions.

Volunteer interviewer **Oscar Zamora Flores** presented at the 2021 Virtual Archival Education and Research Initiative. Oscar's presentation, "Ayuda Mutua Queer en el marco de COVID," can be viewed [here on YouTube](#).

### **Upcoming Virtual Events**

**August 5** – Join Queens Memory at our upcoming **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. (2 pm EDT)

**August 12** – 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. (6:30 pm EDT)

**August 21** – Join the Climate Stories Project and Queens Memory for **Telling Your Climate Stories: A Hunters Point Environmental Education Center Program**. We will discuss the importance of sharing personal stories about climate and environmentalism in order to ensure a better future and inspire environmental activism. Watch the program on YouTube at [https://youtu.be/Ehlc9RDd9\\_U](https://youtu.be/Ehlc9RDd9_U). (2 pm EDT)

### **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 August 23, Queens Memory Director **Natalie Milbrodt** will co-present a workshop, ["Speaking the Same Language: How Data About Our Interviews Can Help Us at Every Stage of Our Projects and Make it Possible for Users to Discover Around the World."](#) at the International Oral History Association's 2021 virtual conference. (9 pm EDT)