

Queens Memory

News from Queens Memory Project A Service of Queens Public Library

Queens Memory Work Featured in Two Queens Museum Exhibits

Queens Memory is proud that work from several of our projects has become part of not one but two exhibits at the [Queens Museum!](#) Last month, we attended the opening reception of "[Monuments to an Effigy](#)," a collage, sculpture and sound installation by artist Alexandria Smith, inspired by the history of the Olde Towne of Flushing Burial Ground and Flushing's Macedonia A.M.E. Church. We provided the artist with research materials that were collected through a collaboration with students in the Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. As part of the installation, audio clips from interviews conducted for Queens Memory as well as historical research done by the students are available for museum visitors. The exhibit will run through August 18.



(Left) Artist Alexandria Smith (far right) performs at the opening of her "Monuments to an Effigy" exhibit at Queens Museum.
(Right) Interview clips and research conducted for Queens Memory are available for public perusal at the exhibit.

In July, our [Common Thread Community Story Quilt](#), created during a 12-week series of workshops last summer coordinated by textile artist [Naomi Kuo](#), will be featured as the Museum's [Community Partnership Exhibition](#). In addition to the Story Quilt, a set of smaller quilts created during our "Memories of Migration" Family Story Quilt workshops will be on display. The quilts feature embedded electronic devices that play audio clips recorded by the quilt-makers themselves. Several other interactive displays are in the works as well!

Join us for the exhibit opening on July 7, a [story-sharing circle](#) on July 20 and several other events. Follow our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for more details as they're announced! This exhibit will run from July 7 through 28.

LGBTQ+ Exhibit at York Includes Queens Memory Interviews

Last month, Queens Memory participated in the closing celebration of "The Future American Retrospective: LGBTQ + QUEENS" at the York College Art Gallery. The event featured a keynote address by activist Brendan Fay, and was also attended by NYC Council Member Daniel Dromm. Interviews from the Queens Memory collections were incorporated into the video exhibit, and "My Pride Story" contributions written by exhibit visitors will become part of Queens Public Library's permanent collections.

Queens Memory Director Natalie Milbrodt (second from left) was on hand for the closing of the Future American Retrospective exhibit, along with (l. to r.) Brendan Fay, Vincent Banrey, Larry Tung, Daniel Dromm and Daniel Phelps.



"Bring Your Story" During Immigrant Heritage Month!

In honor of Immigrant Heritage Month, Queens Memory has two series of "Bring Your Story" events planned at Queens Public Library branches around the borough in June.

Come join us at one or all three of our listening parties to celebrate the launch of the first season of the [Queens Memory Podcast](#), "Memories of Migration"! The podcast draws from oral history recordings with Queens residents. At each event, we will listen to a full episode from the season, followed by a talk-back session with a featured storyteller from the episode. Listening parties will be held on June 6, 17 and 20.

The second Bring Your Story series will offer hands-on family history workshops. Come prepared for a fun exploration of how to get started on your family research, methods of keeping your information organized, and the best ways to make use of the many local resources available to genealogists. The first workshop (June 15) will provide a general overview for all family researchers, while the second two (June 17 and 24) will focus on issues specific to African-American and Chinese-American families, respectively.

See the Upcoming Events box below for times and locations of all six events!

Congratulations to Two Queens Memory Partners!

Queens Memory is happy to share that our colleague [Prof. Nick Hirshon](#) of William Paterson University has won the Transformative Teaching of Media and Journalism History Award from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication! The award recognizes the collaborative oral history assignment Dr. Hirshon's class conducted with Queens Memory and [Long Island City Artists](#) last semester. See the [official announcement](#) for more information. Congratulations, Nick!

We also extend our congratulations to Naomi Kuo, coordinator of our Common Thread Community Story Quilt (see article above), for her recent Thesis Exhibit, "[Partitioned Dreams](#)," at Queens College. Naomi will graduate later this month with her MFA in Studio Art/Social Practice.

Help Us Create A Memory Kaleidoscope

Queens Memory is part of a team designing a new storytelling game called Memory Kaleidoscope. We're looking for volunteers to play the game with us and offer feedback. Please help us spread the word! Visit [MemoryKaleidoscope.com](#) for details.

Upcoming Events

May 11 – Do you have stories to share about the history of Rosedale? What changes have you seen? Join the Friends of Rosedale Library in partnership with the Queens Memory team at the [Rosedale Library](#) for an afternoon of story-sharing with neighbors. Bring photos from home and see historic photos and maps from the library's archives. Learn more from the Queens Memory team about how your family's history can be part of the library's permanent local history collections. (2 - 4 pm; please RSVP to Josselyn.Atahualpa@queenslibrary.org)

May 14 – The work of our 2018-19 Citi Center for Culture + Queens Public Library Fellows will be celebrated at a special evening co-sponsored by the [Friends of Maple Grove Cemetery](#). The Fellows will give a short presentation, including a display of selected items from the cemetery's extensive archival collection; light refreshments will be served. (5 - 7 pm; please RSVP to info@friendsofmaplegrove.org or call 347-878-6614)

May 18, June 29, July 27 – Do you have historic or recent photos of life in Ridgewood? Maybe you have a few photos or mementos of Ridgewood Library? The [Friends of the Ridgewood Library](#) and the Queens Memory Project are working together to gather rare images of Ridgewood to add to the library's digital archives. In celebration of the [Ridgewood Community Library's](#) 90th anniversary, please bring your photos from home on one of the drop-in dates and volunteers will help you record all the information about them. Photos will be sent off to the digitization lab to be scanned and saved to a flash drive for you to keep! You will be notified once your images are back at the Ridgewood Library for pickup. (10 am - 4 pm)

June 6 – Celebrate the premiere of the Queens Memory Podcast with us at the [Long Island City Library!](#) At this event, we will listen to Episode 1, followed by a talk-back session with a storyteller from the episode. (6 - 7:30 pm; see article above for more details)

June 13 – We will host an oral history training workshop at the [Ridgewood Library](#). Learn how to conduct a great interview to capture the history of your family or neighborhood as a Queens Memory volunteer interviewer. You will learn how to prepare for an interview, ask good questions, make a high-quality recording, and submit your completed interview to the library. (6 - 8 pm; please RSVP to Josselyn.Atahualpa@queenslibrary.org)

June 15 – Join us for a three-part exploration of how to get started on your family history research! This hands-on workshop at the [Glen Oaks Library](#) with Queens Memory Outreach Coordinator Lori DiBella Wallach will focus on general genealogy research and methods for preserving your family keepsakes. (3 - 4:30 pm; see article above for more details)

June 17 – Celebrate the premiere of the Queens Memory Podcast with us at the [Jackson Heights Community Library!](#) At this event, we will listen to Episode 2, followed by a talk-back session with a storyteller from the episode. (6 - 7:30 pm; see article above for more details)

June 17 – Join us for a three-part exploration of how to get started on your family history research! This hands-on workshop at the [Langston Hughes Community Library & Cultural Center](#) with Sharon Wilkins, Deputy Borough Historian of Manhattan, will focus on genealogy research for African-American families. (6 - 7:30 pm; see article above for more details)

June 20 – Celebrate the premiere of the Queens Memory Podcast with us at the [Middle Village Community Library!](#) At this event, we will listen to Episode 3, followed by a talk-back session with a storyteller from the episode. (6 - 7:30 pm; see article above for more details)

June 24 – Join us for a three-part exploration of how to get started on your family history research! This hands-on workshop at the [Flushing Library](#) with researcher Amy Chin will focus on genealogy research for Chinese-American families. (6:30 - 8 pm; see article above for more details)

July 18 – This special Volunteers in the Vaults event will be hosted by the staff of the [Lewis H. Latimer House](#) in Flushing. The house served as the home of African-American inventor Lewis Howard Latimer from 1903 to 1928 and is now operated as a museum dedicated to his work. Latimer played a critical role in the development of the telephone and, as Thomas Edison's chief draftsman, he invented and patented the carbon filament, a significant improvement in the production of the incandescent light bulb. Attendees will be able to engage with special treasures prepared for us by the Latimer House staff, and will have the chance to discuss their ideas for Queens-related oral history projects and network with Queens Memory volunteers and staff. (6 - 8 pm; please RSVP to digitalarchives@queenslibrary.org)

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. Next month, Queens Memory Director Natalie Milbrodt will speak at the Metropolitan New York Library Council's "[If We Build It...: Sustainable Funding in Libraries and Archives](#)" symposium (June 14, 10 am - 5 pm). Tickets are required.