



Queens Memory

News from Queens Memory Project

Memory Kaleidoscope Uses Art to Evoke Stories

Queens Memory has been working in cooperation with the [Design Dream Lab](#) to develop a tabletop conversation game called [Memory Kaleidoscope](#).

The card game uses artwork to evoke stories about the big and small moments that shape us all. Whether it's played by families, lifelong friends or total strangers, the game helps foster empathy through personal stories, and is most rewarding to those who listen with an open heart and curious mind!

As part of Queens Public Library's "It's Time for Kind" programming series, we will hold open sessions of Memory Kaleidoscope on November 20, 21 and 23 and December 5 and 7 (see Upcoming Events box below for times and locations). Come meet your neighbors and bring a friend. All are welcome at this fun and engaging program!



Home Movie Day a Hit!



(Left) Community members and volunteers look at VHS tapes. (Right) Volunteer moving image archivists inspect a film before screening. Both images taken at Home Movie Day 2019, Long Island City Library, October 19.

[Home Movie Day](#) this year took place at our very own Long Island City Library! The event, organized in partnership with the [AMIA Student Chapter at NYU](#), brought together close to 150 community members and AV professionals from across the city. We screened a variety of home movies brought in by community members and had a running game of bingo as participants won prizes including free tickets to MoMA. A huge thank-you goes out to Long Island City Library staff, [NYU Moving Image Archiving and Preservation](#) students, the [XFR Collective](#) and [Los Herederos](#) for their support throughout.

QM Volunteers Tour Historic Queens Sites



Queens Memory volunteers and staff were treated to a tour of the [Bayside Historical Society's](#) home at "The Castle" in Fort Totten last month. BHS archivist Harvey Ngai (third from left in photo on right) gave us a look at some fascinating items from the society's collection and explained the colorful history of the building, the former Officer's Mess Hall and Club at the Fort.

Join us for our next Volunteers in the Vaults event on Nov. 6, which will be hosted by the [Queens Historical Society](#) in the landmarked Kingsland Homestead in Flushing (see details in Upcoming Events box below).

Queens College Faculty Oral History Project Gets in Gear

Queens Memory's collaboration with the Queens College [Department of Special Collections and Archives](#) to interview retired and current faculty and staff of the college has gotten off to a great start! After an orientation meeting in September (see photo), our initial group of volunteers began recording interviews, which will be available for public listening on a [dedicated page](#) on the Queens Public Library's Aviary channel. Interviews are continually being added, so check back often!

We are looking for more volunteers to join the project and will hold an oral history training session focused on this effort on Nov. 7 (see Upcoming Events box below). If you have a special connection to Queens College, this is an ideal opportunity to get involved!



Attendees at our kickoff meeting for the Queens College Faculty Oral History Project included (l. to r.) Queens Memory Director Natalie Milbrodt, Dr. Bette Weidman, Prof. Manny Sanudo, volunteer Rebecca Rushfield, QM Outreach Coordinator Lori Wallach, Dr. Claudia Perry and Dr. Dean Savage.

Ridgewood Library Celebrates 90th Anniversary

Queens Memory has been working closely with the [Friends of the Ridgewood Library](#) in preparation for the library's 90th anniversary. Throughout 2019, we've conducted oral histories of local community members and digitized historic images of the neighborhood.

We joined community members in Ridgewood on October 17 as they celebrated and looked back on the history of the library.



Friends of the Ridgewood Library members at the cake-cutting ceremony in the library's auditorium

Meet Our New Staff Members

Samantha Ruggirello is working with Queens Memory this year as a Queens Library/Citi Center for Culture Fellow. She is in her final year of Queens College's Dual Degree in Library Science and History (MLS/MA) program, with a concentration in archives. Samantha is working on our effort to help the [Poppenhusen Institute](#) apply for a Preservation Survey through the [Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York \(DHPSNY\) Planning & Assessment Services](#). Poppenhusen, housed in a landmarked building in College Point, was the site of the first free kindergarten in the United States, and has served as a bank, church, sheriff's office and in many other capacities since its inception in 1868.



Leanne Manna is currently enrolled in the MA in Public History/MS in Library and Information Science program at St. John's University, with a concentration in archival studies. She is also a Queens Library/Citi Center for Culture Fellow for this academic year, and will be joining Queens Memory on the Poppenhusen project in January. The purpose of applying for the Preservation Survey is to have archival experts review the preservation needs of the Institute's collections with regards to environment, housekeeping, pest control, fire protection, security, etc. and provide the organization with clear strategies to ensure its many important artifacts are properly preserved.

Syreeta Gates, who is completing a Master's degree in Moving Image Archiving and Preservation at New York University, is joining our staff as an intern. Syreeta is an art collector and archivist committed to preserving hip-hop culture, and is the founder of [The Gates Preserve](#), a digital archive devoted to this purpose. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Urban Youth Culture from Hunter College and will be helping us process hip-hop cultural materials donated to our collection.



Upcoming Events

November 6 – Our next Volunteers in the Vaults event will be hosted by the [Queens Historical Society](#), located in the historic Kingsland Homestead in Flushing. Built between 1774 and 1785, it is one of the earliest surviving examples of a residential style of construction common throughout Long Island in the 18th and 19th centuries. Captain Joseph King purchased the home in 1801, and his descendants lived there until the 1930s; the building was declared a New York City landmark in 1965.

Attendees will be able to engage with special treasures selected for us by the QHS staff. Afterward, we will have a chance to discuss ideas for Queens-related oral history projects and upcoming Queens Memory events. (6 - 8 pm; please RSVP to digitalarchives@queenslibrary.org)

November 7 – Join us for an oral history training workshop at Queens College's [Rosenthal Library](#). This workshop will have a special focus on our joint project with the college's Department of Special Collections & Archives to capture the experiences of retired and current faculty and staff (see story above). 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. The workshop will take place in classroom 444 of the library; please bring photo ID and sign in at the security desk in the main lobby. (3 - 5 pm; please RSVP to Lori.Wallach@qc.cuny.edu)

November 20, 21, 23 – **It's Time for Kind: Memory Kaleidoscope**
Listening is an act of kindness. Join us for a game of [Memory Kaleidoscope](#), a card game that uses art to evoke stories about the big and small moments that shape us (see story above). Come meet your neighbors and bring a friend. All are welcome at this fun and engaging program! (Nov. 20, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm at [Cambria Heights Library](#); Nov. 21, 5:30 - 6:30 pm at [Central Library](#); Nov. 23, 2:00 - 3:00 pm at [Ridgewood Library](#))

December 3 – We will host an oral history training workshop at [Central Library](#) in Jamaica. Learn how to conduct a great interview to capture the history of your family or neighborhood as a Queens Memory volunteer interviewer. Queens Memory volunteers are working all over the borough to collect residents' stories and photos for safekeeping in the Queens Library digital archives. You will learn how to prepare for an oral history interview, how to ask good questions, how to make a high-quality recording, and how to submit your completed interview to the library. (10 am - 12 pm; please RSVP to digitalarchives@queenslibrary.org)

December 5 and 7 – **It's Time for Kind: Memory Kaleidoscope**
Listening is an act of kindness. Join us for a game of [Memory Kaleidoscope](#), a card game that uses art to evoke stories about the big and small moments that shape us (see story above). Come meet your neighbors and bring a friend. All are welcome at this fun and engaging program! (Dec. 5, 6:00 - 7:00 pm at [Ridgewood Library](#); Dec. 7, 3:00 - 4:30 pm at [Hunters Point Library](#))

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. This month, Queens Memory Director Natalie Milbrodt will speak as part of the Collaborative Projects in Recording Neighborhood History panel at the Museum Association of New York's [Southern Tier Access and Identity Workshop](#) in Ithaca, NY (October 23, 10:00 - 11:30 am).