



Queens Memory Hosting Festival of Stories and Snacks With Voelker Orth Museum

On Sunday, May 21, Queens Memory and the [Voelker Orth Museum](#) are partnering for a festival of home cooking in Flushing! This inaugural festival will be an immersive celebration of food and cultural memory. Visitors can activate their senses and connect to the diversity of Queens culinary traditions as they explore the Voelker Orth House and its Victorian garden.

Hear from experts on history and cooking, taste samples from local food vendors, and swap family stories and recipes. See how to preserve a record of your family's home cooking traditions, and get creative in hands-on family workshops. Join us to add your stories, heritage and food traditions to the living history of Queens!

- Highlights of the day will include:
- **THE BACKYARD PICNIC** - Try samples from local artisanal producers of kimchi, pickles, kombucha, beer and sourdough bread. Learn how you can preserve your food through live demos by experts in fermentation, pickling and brewing!
 - **MEMOIRS IN ACTION** - We all have stories about our favorite dishes and memorable meals. Stories about the kitchens where we cooked alongside our loved ones. Stories about the recipes we've inherited, invented or adapted. Join George Bodarky of WNYC to share your story and be part of the [Food Memoirs](#) series.
 - **SAVE MY RECIPE!** - Bring your own photos of family cookouts and holiday feasts, handwritten recipe cards, and family food mementos to scan with digital archiving experts from Queens Memory. Learn preservation how-to's in the areas of oral history and digitization. You'll have the option to submit your newly preserved records to the forthcoming Queens Memory cookbook.
 - **STORIES FROM THE SOFA** - Join us in the living room for a lineup of expert talks and storytelling with your neighbors. Share a recipe steeped in family lore, from the tried-and-true classics to that out-of-date recipe you just can't throw away. You'll learn new techniques you can use at home, connect to the multicultural fabric of the city, and jump into guided conversations on celebrations, traditions and humor.
 - **FAMILY WORKSHOPS** - Educators and artists will lead family workshops to connect kids to cultural recipes and family tradition in hands-on activities throughout the day.

This event is free but registration is requested -- [sign up here!](#)



Live Interview Session With Author and Holocaust Survivor

Queens Memory is proud to present a live oral history interview recording session with 92-year-old Teresa Piechocka, whose recently published memoir delves into true stories of her childhood in Poland in the 1940s. Her parents, Maria and Kazimierz Donimirski, were involved in social and educational activities to help keep Polish culture alive. This commitment to Polish sovereignty made them a target and kept the family on the move, hiding from the Nazi invaders. For five years of war, after being expelled from their home by the Nazis, they kept changing their place of residence, hiding with extended family and friends or relying on the kindness of strangers.

After years living as a refugee, the author's struggles continued after the war as she endured a newly installed Communist government and raised a family in conditions that barely rose above subsistence level. She led a life defined by incredible perseverance and self-preservation.

On May 13 at the Seaside Library, Queens Memory's Community

Coordinator, **Meral Agish**, will interview Ms. Piechocka to record her testimony of courage, resourcefulness and unyielding will to survive for the library's oral history collections. Signed copies of Ms. Piechocka's memoir will be available for sale. See details in the Upcoming Events box below.

Say NO to Library Budget Cuts!

LIBRARIES ARE FOR EVERYONE

SIGN A LETTER

TAKE ACTION

Recently, the City proposed an additional round of budget cuts to all of its agencies and to public libraries. Instead of the \$37 million already proposed, libraries now stand to lose \$52.7 million in funding, the largest reductions in recent memory.

Programs, hours, and collections were already on the line at libraries across the city. The new cuts will undoubtedly worsen the impact on our services and on our communities. Too many people are counting on us to let this happen.

During these challenging times, libraries are helping young people recover from the educational and emotional losses of the pandemic, supporting asylum seekers as they adjust to their new home, guiding job seekers to find success in today's economy, and providing all New Yorkers free and safe spaces to connect to one another and the resources they need. We know you are counting on us too.

Library supporters have sent tens of thousands of letters to the Mayor and the City Council urging them to restore funding for libraries in Fiscal Year 2024. If you have not done so already, [please tell our City leaders to say no to these devastating cuts](#).

Thank you for raising your voice to protect public libraries.

With gratitude,

Dennis M. Walcott
President and CEO
Queens Public Library



Queens Memory Cookbook Series Continues

Following last year's very popular [Queens Memory Cookbook](#) program, we are once again collaborating with the [Life Story Club](#) for two new delicious story-sharing series! Each month, we explore different ways that our memories are simmered, baked and pickled into our favorite foods.

The current two series focus on the communities of Ridgewood and St. Albans/Addisleigh Park. Meet your neighbors, learn more about the traditions and recipes important to them, and share stories of your own. At the end of the programs, we will publish community cookbooks that feature recipes, memories and photos from across each neighborhood. Enjoy a digital version of the first Queens Memory Cookbook [here](#).

There are several sessions left in the series! These events are also open to people from outside these neighborhoods who'd like to listen to others' stories and get recommendations for local spots to check out!

- Virtual Series: Queens Memory Cookbook with Life Story Club**
- Join us on Zoom for the Queens Memory Cookbook story-share series with Life Story Club, Thursdays from 3 - 4 pm EDT. Register [here](#) to join the [Ridgewood series](#) that meets every second Thursday (May 11, June 8). Register [here](#) to join the [St. Albans series](#) that meets every fourth Thursday (April 27, May 25, June 22).
- In-Person Series: Queens Memory Cookbook at the St. Albans community library**
- Meral Agish, QM's Community Coordinator, will be at the [St. Albans](#) community library to talk about the Queens Memory Cookbook series, record people's stories, and assist with scanning recipe cards and photos that will be added to the community cookbooks on Monday, April 24, from 11 am - 1 pm EDT and Saturday, May 6, from 2 - 4 pm EDT. Register [here](#) to receive a reminder.

Meet Our New Staff Member!

Queens Memory is happy to welcome **Michael Chul** to our team as a Metadata Librarian! Michael grew up in Jackson Heights and currently lives in Flushing. After obtaining a master's degree in library and information science at Long Island University, Michael worked for the history and archival services consulting firm Winthrop Group.

Michael was part of a team of Winthrop Group archivists that processed the archival records of United Nations peacekeeping missions in Burundi, Bosnia and Croatia. Previously, Michael worked for eight years as a cataloger at the 9/11 Memorial Museum, where he cataloged oral history interviews, oversaw artifact photography and digitization projects (specifically for videos, audio recordings and photographic film), and developed workflows to enhance digital preservation capabilities. In his free time, Michael enjoys improving on his basketball skills and watching classic television shows like The Twilight Zone and M*A*S*H. Michael is excited to join Queens Memory in a role in which he can draw on his past work cataloging oral histories while gaining knowledge in new domains such as community archiving and public libraries.

Upcoming Events

- April 27 - June 22 – Queens Memory Cookbook series;** see article above for details and registration information.
- April 27 –** Getting started with your family history research doesn't have to involve pricey subscriptions or traveling to distant locations. At **How to Do Genealogy Research in Your Library**, you'll learn that many of the resources you need are as close as your local library! In this interactive workshop, Queens Memory Outreach Coordinator **Lori Wallach** will demonstrate how to use research databases and other materials available free at Queens Public Library locations to build your family tree. We'll also take a look at some specialized collections in other area libraries for when you're ready for the next step. Come with questions from your own experiences! Watch this program live at [facebook.com/queensmemory](#) (7 - 8 pm EDT)
- May 2 –** Once you have accessed genealogical-related records about your ancestors, how can you visualize this information? In the **Mapping your Genealogy Records** workshop, you will learn how you can use maps to plot information that you have discovered about your ancestors, to envision where your ancestors once lived, worked and traveled. Join librarian **Jo-Ann Wong** from The Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division of the New York Public Library to learn about the different types of maps and resources that can best help this type of research within NYPL's collections. Watch this program live at [facebook.com/queensmemory](#) (7- 8 pm EDT)
- May 6 –** Join us for **Flushing: Walking Through History**, a 90-minute walking tour of Flushing that will explore the significance of this quintessential Queens neighborhood and celebrate the waves of immigrants who have called it home. The tour, which is part of [Jane's Walk Weekend](#), will include an exploration of historical and contemporary sites that have been significant to local communities over the last century, and will also feature a brief introduction to different ethnic food cultures on Main Street. The tour will be led by **Yuanjing Lin**, a CUNY Cultural Corps Intern with Queens Memory. The tour is free but is limited to 15 participants; [registration](#) is required. It will begin outside of Queens Public Library's Flushing branch at Main Street and Kissena Boulevard, near the Flushing Main Street stop on the 7 train, and will end on Northern Boulevard and Union Street. (3 - 4:30 pm EDT)
- May 13 –** Join Queens Memory Community Coordinator **Meral Agish** at the [Seaside Library](#) for a live interview with the author of **My Memoir: Nazis and Communists Growing up in 1940s War-Torn Poland**. See article above for more details. (11 am - 12:30 pm EDT)
- May 21 –** Come to the [Voelker Orth Museum](#) in Flushing for **Stories and Snacks: A Festival of Home Cooking History!** See article above for more details and register [here](#). (1 - 4 pm EDT)
- May 25 –** As part of its "Black Historic Sites in Conversation" series, the [Lewis Latimer House](#) is sponsoring a panel on the **Olde Towne of Flushing Burial Ground**. **Robbie Garrison** and **Sally Mehreteab** of the Burial Ground Conservancy will give an overview of the site's history, and Queens Memory Outreach Coordinator **Lori Wallach** will discuss QM's role in supporting the research work done on the site by two Queens College graduate Public History classes taught by **Prof. Johnathan Thayer**. Register [here](#) for the virtual event. (6:30 - 8 pm EDT)
- June 6 –** When researching your family's history, you may find that your ancestors traveled far from home or relocated to new neighborhoods or across the world. In the **Mapping Your Ancestors' Travels** workshop, you'll see how you can visualize these historical routes using maps, passenger lists, newspapers and travel guides to recreate their journeys. Join librarian **Jo-Ann Wong** from The Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division of the New York Public Library to learn how to use these types of materials when researching historical travels and how to search for these resources within NYPL's collections. Watch this program live at [facebook.com/queensmemory](#) (7- 8 pm EDT)
- June 10 and 17 –** Join us for the **Elmhurst Name Explorer Walking Tour**, a 90-minute tour that will explore the significance of this quintessential Queens neighborhood and celebrate the notable people who have left their mark there. This includes visits to sites featured on the [Queens Name Explorer Map](#), an interactive archival map and crowdsourcing campaign to uncover the stories behind the borough's named streets, schools, buildings, parks, and monuments. The Elmhurst walking tour will be led by local guide **Linda Fisher**. Each date is limited to 15 participants, [registration](#) is required. The tour will begin outside the First Presbyterian Church at 54th Avenue and Queens Boulevard, near the Grand Avenue stop on the M/R train, and terminate on 74th Street and Roosevelt Avenue near the 7/F/E/R/M train stop. (10:30 am - 12 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 March 30, Queens Memory Director **Natalie Milbrodt**, Community Coordinator **Meral Agish** and Curator **J. Faye Yuan**, along with several members of our podcast team, presented "The Queens Memory Podcast: Reflections on Four Seasons of an Oral History-Inspired Podcast Project" at the [Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region \(OHMAR\) annual conference](#) in Philadelphia. On April 13, Queens Memory Director **Natalie Milbrodt** co-presented "[Choose Your Own Adventure: A Metadata Assessment Tool for Oral History Projects](#)," at the [Midwest Archives Conference](#) in Chicago. **Milbrodt** had also presented a version of this workshop at the [OHMAR conference](#) on March 31. On May 20, **Milbrodt** will discuss QM's Queens Name Explorer project as part of the "Preserving Culture" panel at the [Historic Districts Council 2023 Preservation Conference](#) in New York.