

QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

# QUEENS MEMORY

NEWS FROM QUEENS MEMORY PROJECT

## Spotlight on: Pride in Queens!

June is Pride Month! 🏳️‍🌈 We are spotlighting LGBTQ+ activists and organizers honored in the borough of Queens with place names. 🇺🇸

Take a virtual walking tour on the [Name Explorer map](#) to learn more about the community leaders and activists whose names dot our streets, buildings, and schools.



## Melting Metropolis Presents: "Handling the Heat: How We Do Summer in Queens"



Summer in New York City is hot and often steamy. Daily summer temperatures average around 80°F in July and August. Since the mid-1800s, local reporters have enthusiastically covered each heat wave that hits the city. Newspapers announce sweltering temperatures in splashy headlines. In response, New Yorkers flee to city parks and beaches and have even slept on fire escapes and rooftops to beat the heat.

This exhibit highlights summer scenes from the Queens Public Library's historic photograph collection. These photographs, drawings, and postcards highlight how city dwellers responded to high summer temperatures in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Then, as now, summer heat ushered in a season of outdoor fun. It is a season of open fire hydrants, ice cream cones, and days spent at Coney Island and Rockaway beaches or Astoria Pool.

This exhibit has been curated by historians working on a new project called [Melting Metropolis](#). Over the next five years historians will be working in Queens, New York, as well as London and Paris to understand how urbanites experience summer heat.

The exhibit opens this week at Central Library in Jamaica, Queens.

Photo: [Lefrak City Pool, ca. 1975](#).

## Our Summer Team is Growing!



Two students from Wellesley College are joining us this summer to collaborate on the [Name Explorer project](#)!

**Clara Ontal** (pictured above) is a rising sophomore at Wellesley College. She became interested in the Queens Memory Project because her childhood in New York was greatly influenced by the neighborhood community she grew up with. She is inspired by the way Queens Memory Project preserves communities' histories and highlights residents' lives.

**Megan Rodríguez-Hawkins** (pictured below) is an Anthropology major at Wellesley College and has experience in archival collections. She was drawn to this position because she has a deep passion for local history and education. Additionally, she is from the tristate area, so she has a connection to the Northeast community and history. She realized that many places that she visited are named after people that she knows very little about. She thinks the Name Explorer is a wonderful opportunity to become more knowledgeable about the history and values of the community.

Interested in volunteering? Attend one of our upcoming [virtual workshops](#) to find out how.



QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

### QUEENS MEMORY SHARE YOUR METS MEMORIES WITH US!

Queens Public Library and the New York Mets are teaming up this season for some books and baseball! Do you have a favorite Mets memory? The Library's Queens Memory Project is collecting your favorite baseball stories and photos for the library's archives.

Visit [queenslib.org/metsmemories](https://queenslib.org/metsmemories) or scan the QR code to participate!

Queens Public Library is an independent, not-for-profit corporation and is not affiliated with any other library system. #4452-04/23

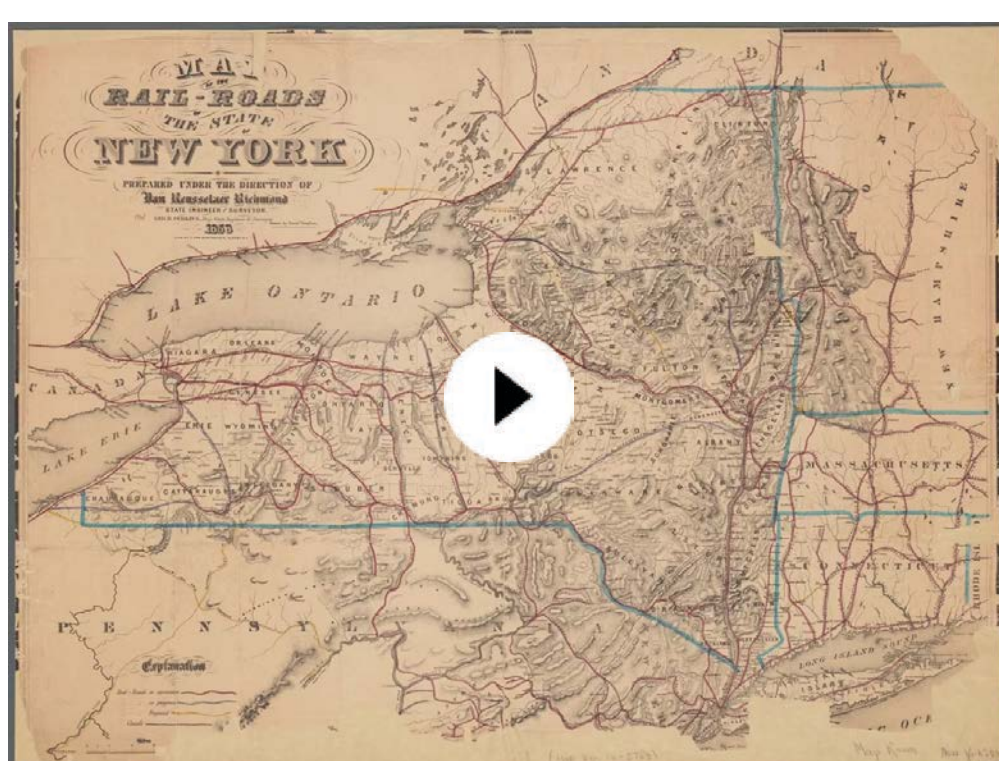
*"My family went to a Mets game in the 1990s at Shea Stadium. We went early to get baseballs signed. Down by the dugout, Bobby Valentine, the team's coach, said hello and asked our names."*

*"One of the most memorable game was not in NYC or even the USA. I flew with (Cubs fan friends) to Tokyo in 2000. We watched the Cubs-Mets opener at the Tokyo Dome. Although the Mets were not victorious, we had an incredible experience. I still have the ticket and memorabilia purchased at the stadium."*

*"Seeing them lose 17-4 at the Polo Grounds. Sitting next to Mrs. Babe Ruth with tickets from Rheingold beer."*

Have a Mets Story? Share with us [here](#).

## #CYMI: Mapping Your Ancestors' Travels is now available online!



When researching your family's history, you may find your ancestors traveled far from home or relocated to new neighborhoods or across the world. To visualize these historical routes, you can use 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 you can use these types of materials when researching historical travels and how to search for these materials within NYPL's collections.

The photo credit for the NY State map is: Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library. (1858). Map of the rail-roads of the State of New York. Retrieved from [here](#).

## Upcoming Events in June

**June 15 and 20 – Juneteenth Food Traditions with Hue Williams** in Pomonok and Queens Village library branches, respectively. Visit our [events calendar](#) to learn more.

**June 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**. The tour is limited to 15 participants, and [registration](#) is required. (10:30am - 12pm EDT)



**June 20** – The Queens Memory Project is a community-driven archiving program administered by QPL and Queens College, CUNY. In this **Oral History Interviewing Workshop**, learn how you can contribute and help us record interviews with fellow Queens residents. Together we will review tips for oral history interviews, from initial outreach to recording to transcription. Register [here](#). (12 - 1pm EDT)