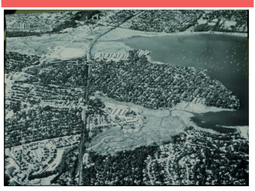
QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

QUEENS MEMORY

NEWS FROM QUEENS MEMORY PROJECT



Aerial view looking west at Little Neck and Douglaston, 1979

What Makes This a Good Neighborhood?

Sharing stories about borders, belonging, and being changed

Calling Douglaston-area residents: Join our upcoming series of community story-sharing events, where diverse neighbors in Northeast Queens can listen and reflect on what they cherish about their neighborhood — and on what makes a "good" neighborhood.

These stories will invite reflection on where people feel they belong, on the borders inside and around this neighborhood, and how, as the neighborhood continues to change, we might discover new ways to be a "good" neighborhood.

QPL's Douglaston / Little Neck branch has partnered with the Zion Episcopal Church, the Queens Memory Project, and Carly McCollow of Holding Space, Inc. to present this story sharing and discussion series.

Dates: February 8, 15, 22, 29
Time: 6 - 7:30pm EST
Location: Queens Public Library at Douglaston/Little Neck

🍸 *Winter Oral History Social* 🍸

We invite anyone doing local history projects in the New York City area to join us for drinks and snacks at the **Culture Lab LIC**, on Tuesday, February 6, from 5-7 PM. **RSVP here.**

Come meet people from other neighborhoods doing similar work, share strategies, and chat!

Co-hosted by the **Oral History Association**, **Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region**, the **Queens Memory Project**, and Columbia's **Oral History MA Program**.

Date: February 6, 2024
Time: 5 - 7pm EST
Location: Culture Lab LIC

🔎 *Queens Name Explorer Spotlight On* 🔎

Our January Name Explorer spotlights Ann Buehler of **Ann Buehler Way**, located at 30th Road at the intersection of 21st Street in Astoria.

Ann Buehler (1916 – 2010) began as a volunteer fundraiser in 1952 at the Boys Club, later known as the Variety Boys & Girls Club. Eventually, it became her career, and she became its **first female Executive Director,** where she served for 30 years and was affiliated with for more than 50 years. Learn more about the life and work of Ann Buehler on the **Name Explorer map**.

Photos courtesy of Variety Boys and Girls Club 🙏

📽️ *From the Archives* 📽️

Each day, millions of people "take" the Major Deegan Expressway, the Van Wyck Expressway, the Kosciuszko Bridge, and the Holland Tunnel. Few travelers remember that, before these names became urban shorthand for congestion, they were actual people.

Watch this November 2023 **Queens Name Explorer** program with CUNY Law Professor Rebecca Bratspies, the author of "Naming Gotham: The Villains, Rogues, and Heroes Behind New York Place Names."

The Name Explorer project seeks to enrich local history by increasing knowledge of individuals honored with named places in Queens – its streets, monuments, schools, parks, and buildings. This ongoing project creates a dynamic living archive, while enhancing awareness of communities not represented or underrepresented in our borough. To date, 1,300+ named places have been identified, and 1040+ of them are live on the **Name Explorer map**.

📍*January Oral History Spotlights a Retired Long Island Rail Road Worker*📍

Arthur Moody is a 75-year old resident of St. Albans, a retired Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) employee, and an adult learner at the Queens Public Library's Rochdale Village Adult Learning Center. Moody recalls early indications that he had a learning disability, particularly his difficulties reading, writing, and memorizing words as a student, which led him dropping out of high school. Moody explains how he was able to secure a job at LIRR, which required filling out an application form that he couldn't read, and how he had to continue confronting his dyslexia to further advance in his career and in life.

Moody was interviewed by Josselyn Atahualpa.

Listen to his interview here.

📅 *Upcoming Events* 📅

February 13 – Join us online for **Learn More about the Queens Memory Project**, an opportunity to hear about the work we do with volunteers and community partners across the borough. The Queens Memory team will provide an overview of our programs and cover the many ways you can help as a volunteer and contribute to the Queens Public Library's archival collections. Hear about opportunities to record interviews with Queens residents, contribute photos and other materials, assist with transcription and audio editing, and help with our outreach and programming. Register **here**. We will follow up with a confirmation and event link. (12 - 1pm EST)

February 20 – **Black History Month JaZZ: Jam…Zpace Ztation – A Creative Writing Workshop** – In this Black History Month virtual workshop, we will discuss the history of the DJ from radio to turntabling, and the history of sound and music, like hip-hop and jazz, in the Southeast Queens neighborhoods. During the workshop, we will listen to music from different local artists and participants will create their own DJ responses to the historical information, music and prompts. Register **here**. (7 - 8:30pm EST)

February 27 – At our monthly **oral history interviewing workshop**, you will learn how you can contribute to Queens Memory 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**. We will follow up with a confirmation and event link. (12 - 1pm EST)