



🎉 Reflecting on 2025 🎉

Happy December and almost end of the year!

Looking back on this tumultuous year, I want to thank all of our local partners and community members who have been with us through thick and thin. You make our work possible and fun! Looking ahead, as we gear up to celebrate our Sweet 16 in November 2026, I hope to share more opportunities for continued collaboration.

Last month, we began circulating a [short survey](#) to take the pulse on personal digital archiving needs in our community. Many of you have responded already, and we are already taking your feedback into consideration in what will be a series of archiving workshops around media management and preservation best practices.

I know between hosting our last round of public programs and wrapping up the year's projects, I've barely had a chance to catch my breath. If you're feeling the same crunch and haven't responded yet, our [survey](#) is still open, and we invite you to share your thoughts about Queens Memory programs on the topic of personal archiving.

A final note about our website. Though it's back online, we're still in the midst of trying to get everything up and running. That may mean parts of the site remain inaccessible until then. We apologize for any inconvenience.

In the meantime, please [email us](#) with any questions or message us on social media. We will do our best to respond in a timely fashion!

With warm regards,

Meral Agish
Queens Memory Coordinator

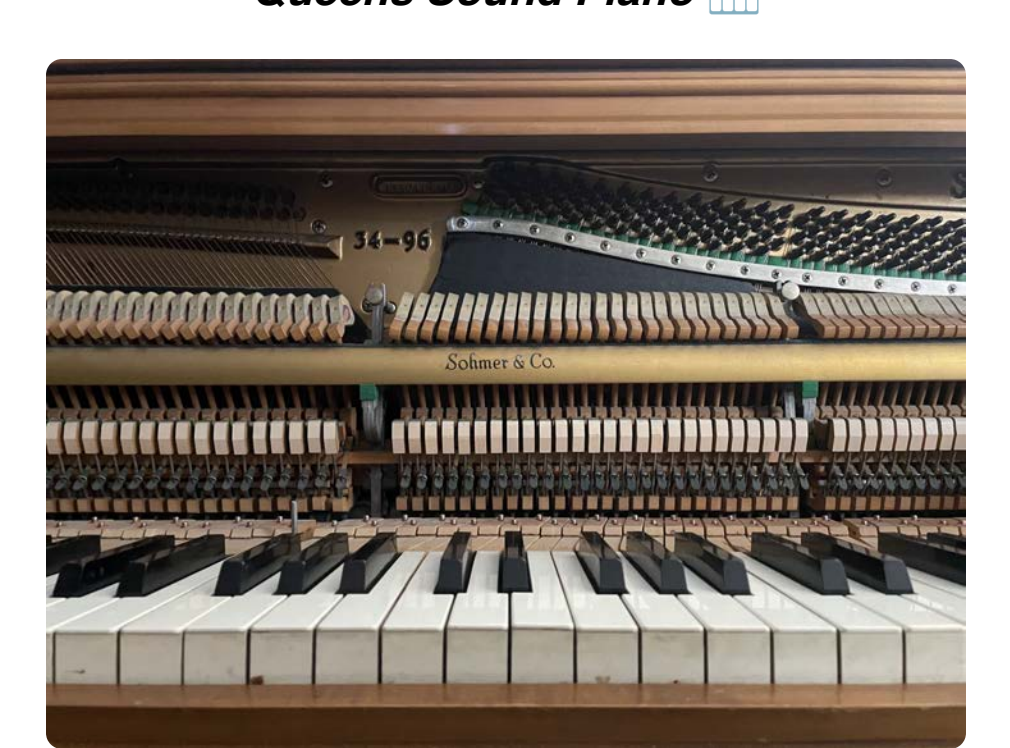
🔊 Episode 4 - Live from Flushing: Flood Sensor Aunty 🔊

This week we launched the fourth episode of our climate-focused podcast, [Memories of Water: Live from Flushing: Flood Sensor Aunty](#) features teen voices from the Flushing Library Teen Center, as they interview special guest Sabina Sethi Unni about her musical journey of bringing [Flood Sensor Aunty](#) to communities affected by climate change.

This episode was the product of a six-week-long teen podcast workshop held weekly at the Flushing Library. The audio was recorded at Edgemere Farm and the Flushing Library. Many thanks to our talented instructor, sound mixer, and editor, [Rebecca Seidel](#), and the Queens Public Library's Teen Services team for their staff support!



🎹 Artist Talk: Queens Sound Piano 🎹



Visit Central Library for an exhibition of the [Surround Sounds Piano_QNS](#), a piece by artist collective Mortal Hearts. They combine sound and visual to create conceptual and immersive art. The piano, with different sound samples collected from around Queens for each of its 88 keys, will be on display at Central Library between November 25 and December 20.

Join Mortal Hearts for a [gallery talk](#) on Thursday, December 18, at 6pm, discussing the creation of the Surround Sounds Piano_QNS and a performance utilizing the piece. Speakers will include Arthur Fleischmann and Daniel Giachetti, core members of Mortal Hearts.

Featured Oral History Spotlights a Documentary Photographer



[Audrey Gottlieb](#) is a documentary photographer best known for her work on American immigration in the borough of Queens. Gottlieb worked for the United Nations in various roles over the course of three decades starting in 1973. She also lived in Queens from 1981 to 2018, joined various local historical societies, and worked as a freelance photographer for the Western Queens Gazette.

In an interview conducted by Tiffany Lim, in collaboration with LIC Artists Inc., Gottlieb describes her experiences photographing annual local events commemorating Feast of the Giglio, Gudi Padwa, Ashura, and Lunar New Year. Gottlieb also highlights her photography of mom and pop stores in Queens named after foreign geographic locations, Diwali festivities in Flushing, tai chi practitioners at Queens Botanical Garden, and her other photography initiatives documenting Queens' vibrant immigrant communities. Additionally, Gottlieb reflects on her experiences living in Astoria, Long Island City, and Flushing. Regarding Long Island City, Gottlieb speaks about the community of artists that she lived and worked among circa 1990 and how extensive real estate development has changed the neighborhood since then.

Listen to the interview [here](#).



Working on a local history project in New York City? Come meet people from other neighborhoods doing similar work, share strategies, and chat at our January 29th Winter Social on the Lower East Side.

Snacks and drinks provided.

Where: City Lore, 56 E. 1st St.

When: Tuesday, January 29, 5 to 7pm

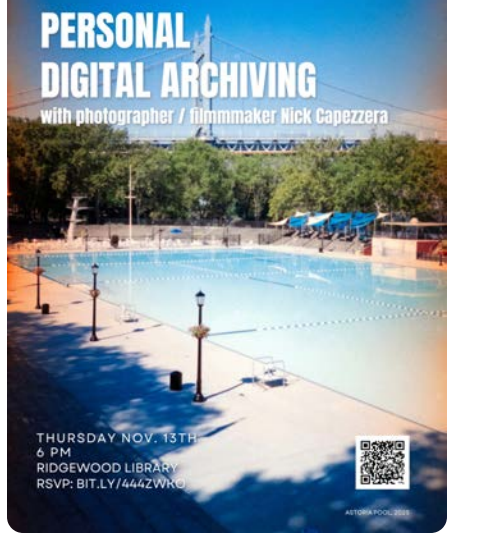
RSVP [here](#)

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

Fill out our Survey!

Thank you to those who filled out our survey! Over half expressed interest in preserving family photos and videos as well as audio recordings. There's also a strong interest in learning more about file organizing, long-term preservation, and sharing / donating archives.

If you have not completed the [survey](#) yet, we're keeping the form open until the end of the year. As we shore up our public programming for 2026, your feedback and input are greatly appreciated!



📅 Upcoming Events 📅

January 9 – Join us online for [Community Archiving Happy Hour](#) – a social and resource sharing space organized by a few folx who work on inclusive archiving projects. This get-together is for people who work on behalf of their own communities, or in partnership as community allies. So, whether you're "community-based," "community-driven," or just "community-curious," we hope you'll show up to share who you are, what you're working on, and what you're trying to figure out right now. There's weirdly not a lot of community amongst people working in these spaces so we hope to start some conversations and mutual support. To receive updates and to attend the virtual event, [join the Google group](#) for monthly updates. (3 pm ET)

January 13 – Join us online for an [Introduction to Oral History Interviewing](#) workshop and learn how to record an interview. The Queens Memory team will share tips on getting started, including how to prepare for an interview, how to ask questions that encourage people to share, and how to record in person and remotely. Register [here](#). We will follow up with a confirmation and event link. **This program is not recorded.** (12 - 1 pm ET)

January 20 – Come to our [Queens Memory Lunch and Learn](#) for a quick lunchtime presentation. Hear about new projects and ongoing collaborations with our community partners. Learn how you can contribute to Queens Public Library's Archives and help out at upcoming programs. Each month we'll present new material and feature special guests; the topic for December will be **recording and sharing family stories!** Register [here](#). We will follow up with a confirmation and event link. (12 pm ET)

Queens Memory in the Professional Community

Johnathan Thayer (Associate Professor at Queens College's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies) and Lori Wallach (Queens Memory Outreach Coordinator) have co-authored a paper, "Reclaiming the Olde Towne of Flushing Burial Ground Through Intergenerational Public History," published in Public Historian, the journal of the National Council on Public History. See article details [here](#).

The article details a decade of collaborative community history work involving Dr. Thayer's Public History classes, Queens Memory Project, and the Olde Towne of Flushing Burial Ground Conservancy.