

QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

QUEENS MEMORY

NEWS FROM QUEENS MEMORY PROJECT

The Stories Behind Their Names:
Queens Women in Action



Queens Memory, in partnership with Urban Archive, is proud to present **The Stories Behind Their Names: Queens Women in Action**, a community-centered public history exhibition at [Culture Lab LIC](#) honoring women whose names are woven into our public landscape and whose stories are integral to the making of Queens. Open through March 29 to coincide with Women's History Month, the exhibition invites visitors to consider how history lives in our neighborhoods - on the streets, schools, parks, and buildings we pass every day, often without knowing the stories they hold.

Drawing from the Queens Name Explorer project, this exhibition honors the democratic power of participatory archiving by including photographs shared by families, oral histories recorded with neighbors, and records shared across generations. These materials reflect a collaborative approach to history-making, where community members are not just subjects of history, but active stewards of it. Locations featured in the exhibit can also be found in a special [Name Explorer curated collection](#).

From Long Island City to Jamaica to the northeastern corner of Queens, the exhibition highlights a diverse group of women whose contributions reshaped neighborhoods and paved the way for a more sustainable future. The women featured here are educators, activists, journalists, public servants, artists, and community advocates, many of them breaking barriers in race, gender, class, and language to create systems of change central to thriving communities.

The opening reception for the exhibit will be held on Thursday, Feb. 5, from 6 to 9 pm ET. Register for free tickets [here](#).

Curated by the Queens Memory Project team: Meral Agish, Dacia Metes, Aimai Reporter, and J. Faye Yuan. Thank you to Queens Public Library's Archives and Marketing & Communications Department and John Paul Chirdon.

Heat Stories: Memory, Place, and a Changing Climate



This freezing February, we invite you to ponder summer heat with us. How do we tell stories about extreme heat and climate change in New York City? And who tells these stories?

Join [Queens Memory](#) and community partners from the [Melting Metropolis project](#) in Long Island City on Feb. 26 (6-8 pm ET) to learn more about how communities are documenting local climate impacts related to urban heat. Listen to stories from across the boroughs about how our neighborhoods are changing and adapting to longer and hotter summers, share your own experiences, and reflect on how these everyday stories enter our collective memory.

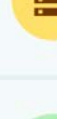
The evening will begin with a tour of the LIC boathouse (weather permitting, we may go outside!), followed by a writing prompt and time to explore pop-up stations focusing on oral histories, archival photographs and snapshots, and art-making hosted by the Melting Metropolis NYC partners, including [Queens College](#), [CUNY](#), [Urban Archive](#), [King Manor Museum](#), [Newtown Creek Alliance](#), and resident partners from the Lower East Side.

Melting Metropolis is a Wellcome-funded project exploring how Londoners, New Yorkers and Parisians have thought and felt about heat and its impact on their health.

This event is part of a year-long public programming series with the Oral History MA Program at Columbia University, exploring the relationships between place, memory, and oral history through a series of site-specific oral history events. From the Lower East Side to Long Island City, from the domino table to the community center meeting room, we will experience how oral histories live in places and communities.

Beverages and light bites will be served. Register [here](#).

Digital Decluttering: Organize It Or Lose It

Storage

98% used - 2.90 GB free

Battery

79% - Until 11:00 PM

→ IDENTIFY WHERE YOUR DIGITAL FILES ARE STORED

→ WHAT TYPES OF CONTENT DO YOU HAVE

→ DECIDE ON AN ORGANIZING SCHEME

→ FINALIZE STORAGE & MAKE A BACKUP PLAN

Complete our 6-month challenge! Who's *decluttering* this month?

During our six-month digital decluttering series, audiovisual archivist **Marie Lascu** will review simple organizing and storage tips to help keep important personal digital files easy to find and use, while offering some carved out time for you to do the work amongst community members with similar goals. Attendees are encouraged to ask lingering questions, try out recommended tips, and create to-do lists to tackle between each session.

Each session will open with a brief workshop followed by dedicated work time to encourage attendees to practice their new skills and learn from each other. The January workshop, "Where, What, How," focused on identifying where your digital files are, what type of content they include, and how you will work on organizing them. Register for the remaining workshops, which are held on Tuesdays from 12 to 2 pm ET, [here](#).

February 17: Sort, Toss, Prioritize

Decide on a first pass organizing scheme to break apart your mass of digital stuff, then test drive it.

March 17: Organize How You Use It

With a better grasp on where your files are, what type of files you have, and what you want to keep, let's finalize storage places, folder names, and a digital backup plan.

April 21: Making Copies, Not More Clutter

Review digital copy and storage best practices and apply them to your reality. Try out new or updated digital storage, from hard drives to cloud services, and compare pros and cons with community members.

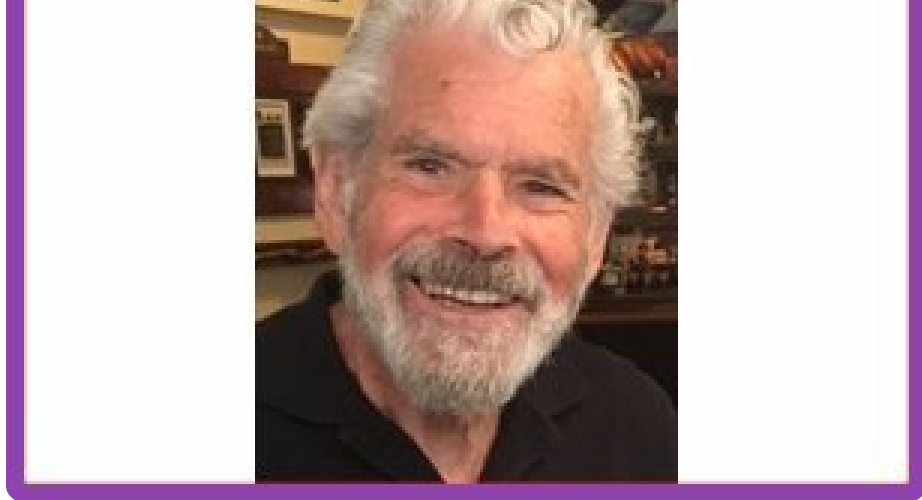
May 19: When, Where, What, Why, and Who

You have the basics in place; let's focus on a collection of files you want to spend more time on. What extra information is important to pass on with your files, and generally make it easier to look through and understand what you have?

June 16: Saving Is Remembering

With long-term file care recommendations in mind, community members will set a personal file organizing schedule for the next six months that includes digital backups.

Don Blauweiss Recalls a Creative Life in This Month's Featured Oral History



In our featured oral history this month, [Don Blauweiss](#), a Queens College alumnus and longtime creative director, reflects on a life shaped by art, education, and Queens. Growing up in Jackson Heights in the 1930s and '40s, Blauweiss traces his early passion for drawing, the teachers who nurtured his talent, and the school that changed his life.

Speaking with interviewer Rebecca Rushfield, he shares stories of working in advertising at agencies like Doyle Dane Bernbach, living abroad, and building a global creative career. At 91, Blauweiss speaks candidly about love, family, race, and memory — from his relationships at Queens College to reconnecting with a son later in life. Listen to the full interview, and see examples of Blauweiss' artwork, [here](#).

JAN 29TH

WINTER SOCIAL

NYC Neighborhood Oral History Projects

We invite anyone doing local history projects in the New York City area to join us for drinks and snacks on January 29, 5-7 pm, at City Lore, 56 E. First Street, on the Lower East Side.

Come meet people from other neighborhoods doing similar work, share strategies, and chat! Feel free to bring literature to share. RSVP [here](#).

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

Other Upcoming Events

February 3 – Join us online for [Community Archiving Happy Hour](#) – a social and resource sharing space organized by a few folk 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)

February 10 – 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)

February 24 – 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. Register [here](#). We will follow up with a confirmation and event link. (12 pm ET)