



 Listen to "Memories of Water" -
a Queens Climate Podcast



The new season of the Queens Memory Podcast - "Memories of Water" - is here! You can now listen to the [trailer](#) and [first episode](#) on [YouTube](#), [Spotify](#), [Apple](#), or wherever you get your podcasts.

The first episode, titled "A Forgotten Place," follows journalist and longtime Rosedale resident, [Roxanne Scott](#), as she takes us to Southeast Queens - to some of the most flooded blocks in New York City.

Stay tuned for the next episode, featuring teen voices in Flushing as well as special guests from the Queens Botanical Garden.

 Queens Name Explorer Spotlights
the Manford Family for Pride Month



Photo courtesy of and copyright: LaGuardia and Wagner Archives

Did you know PFLAG — originally known as Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays — began in Flushing, Queens?

The Manford family — Jeanne, Morty, and Jules — helped spark a nationwide movement for LGBTQ+ rights and family support, right here in our borough. On the corner of 35th Avenue and 171st Street in Flushing, a street - Jeanne, Jules, Morty Manford PFLAG Way - is co-named in their honor.

🌟 Jeanne Manford (1920–2013), a Queens College graduate and longtime teacher at PS 32, became an outspoken advocate after her son, Morty Manford, was beaten for protesting anti-gay media coverage in 1972. She wrote to the New York Post demanding justice and then walked beside Morty in the NYC Pride March carrying a now-famous sign: “Parents of Gays: Unite in Support for Our Children.” That moment helped launch PFLAG — now a national network of LGBTQ+ family allies.

🌟 Morty Manford (1950–1992), a pioneering gay rights activist and attorney, was born and raised in Flushing. He helped found one of the nation's first LGBTQ+ college groups at Columbia, participated in the Stonewall uprising, led the Gay Activists Alliance, and helped organize the first Pride March. His work shaped the legal and cultural landscape for LGBTQ+ rights in New York and beyond.

🏠 Dr. Jules Manford (1919–1982), a dentist and devoted father, supported both Jeanne and Morty in building a movement rooted in love, visibility, and justice.

This Pride Month, we honor the Manfords of Flushing, Queens! 🌈

 June Oral History Interview Features
Lawyer and Community Organizer



Aminta Kilawan-Narine is a lawyer, community organizer, and social justice advocate who has lived in southern Queens for most of her life. Kilawan-Narine speaks about how her father and mother migrated from Guyana to New York City, where they eventually settled in south Queens. She recalls fond memories of growing up in Ozone Park and South Ozone Park from the 1990s to the mid-2000s.

In this [interview](#) conducted by Fran Kipnis, Kilawan-Narine recalls co-founding the non-profit organization, Sadhana, in 2011, explaining that Sadhana offers a progressive Hindu space that addresses social justice issues (e.g. women's rights and environmental justice) from a Hindu perspective. She also discusses Sadhana's monthly beach cleanups at Jamaica Bay to promote eco-friendly worship practices by Indo-Caribbean Hindus who leave behind offerings at sites around the bay as part of the puja worship ritual.

Kilawan-Narine also details her gender justice work specific to the population of southern Queens, which includes organizing healthy relationship workshops at local libraries, writing about gender-based violence as a columnist in the local newspaper The West Indian, raising awareness of available services in New York City for domestic violence victims, and founding the non-profit organization South Queens Women's March.

Listen to the interview [here](#).

☀️ **How Do You Cool Down in the Heat?** ☀️



Photo courtesy of: Queens Public Library Digital Archives

[Urban Archive](#) and [Melting Metropolis](#) have launched an **open call** for old photographs and personal histories that illustrate how New Yorkers experience the heat of summer.

This year, we are looking for photographs of people cooling off on hot days. How did you cool off? At the beach? With an ice cream? **Dig into your archives and find the images that best capture a New York summer!**

We are most interested in photographs taken in NYC within the five boroughs. Each photo must include at least one human subject and a brief description.

[Submission](#) is open all summer.

 Feedback on NYC Oral History Socials

If you have joined us for any of the five NYC Neighborhood Oral History Summer / Winter Socials:

- June 2023 - MoRUS, Manhattan
- February 2024 - Culture Lab LIC, Queens
- June 2024 - Center for Brooklyn History, Brooklyn
- February 2025 - Prime Produce, Manhattan
- June 2025 - Museum of Bronx History, The Bronx

We want to hear from you!

These events are for New York City's oral history community, and we want to learn how they may have benefitted you and how they can improve.

Please take a few minutes to [share your thoughts](#).

The organizers may share your feedback at the October Oral History Association Annual Meeting in Atlanta. They will certainly take your feedback into consideration when planning future oral history socials around the city.

✨ **Upcoming Events** ✨

July 1 – [Community Archiving Happy Hour](#) is back in July at a new time. Welcome to 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. (12 - 1 pm EDT)

July 8 – 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 EDT)

July 24 – Join us outside the Hunters Point Library for a pop-up [scanning event!](#) Bring a personal memento, like a family snapshot, a handwritten postcard, or your child's favorite drawing, and have it scanned on the spot. Browse highlights from the QPL Archives, listen to oral history excerpts about the neighborhood, or just take in the view. Participants will take home a free flash drive with their digitized files and have the option to contribute to the Queens Memory Collection. Register [here](#). (4 - 7:30 pm EDT)