



"I hope that we remember our resilience."

Katha Cato of [Queens World Film Festival](#) remarks on the ["It's in Queens"](#) podcast, where she appeared as a guest along with our Interim Director, Meral Agish, on Saturday, March 1.

On the same day, we held a community listening event at the Elmhurst Library to reflect on these last five years since the COVID pandemic. We shared excerpts from ["The Borough We Became: Queens Residents on Life During COVID-19"](#) in addition to oral history selections as part of our [COVID-19 Project](#), which collected personal stories about life at the epicenter of the pandemic.

Much gratitude to those who came and listened and responded, as we look back on those early days of survival together.



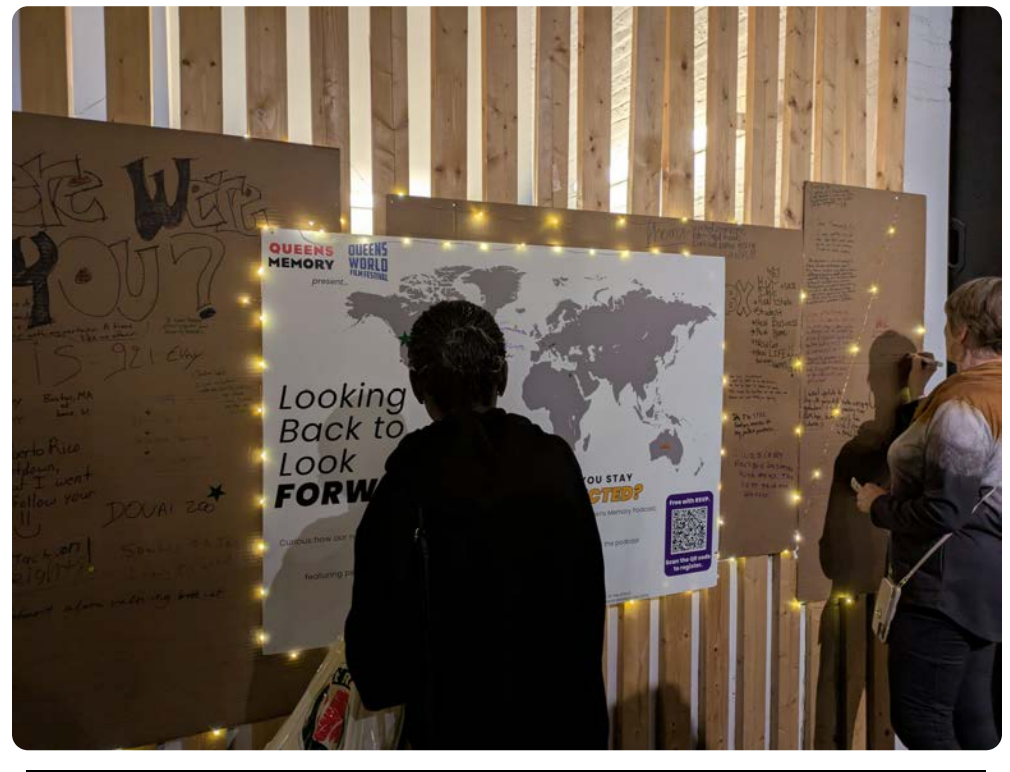
"Where were you, and how did you stay connected?"

These questions are explored in an art wall installation currently on display at The Local in Long Island City. The installation was part of a Queens World / Queens Memory community screening event - ["Looking Back to Look Forward: A Night of Remembrance & Connection"](#) - held in the lobby on March 19. We screened short films, shared podcast excerpts and interviews, and heard stories from our community about where they were and how they stayed connected these last five years.

Many thanks to our co-sponsors MetroPlusHealth and Queens Economic Development Corporation and NYC Council Member Shekar Krishnan for the opening remarks.

If you wish to leave a message on the wall, please drop by The Local LIC, at 13-02 44th Ave, before the installation comes down on April 19.

If you wish to contribute to our [COVID-19 Project](#) - a digital archive that documents and preserves the experiences of Queens residents during and after the pandemic, please use this [online form](#) to submit your story.



🌟 *Meet "Flood Sensor Aunty"* 🌟

THURSDAY APRIL 3 @ Fordham University	WEDNESDAY APRIL 23, 5 pm @ Queens College <i>(with Urban Studies, Asian American Community Studies, and CNIL Social Practice)</i>
SATURDAY APRIL 19, 1:30 pm @ Snug Harbor Earth Day Celebration	SATURDAY APRIL 26, 5 pm @ Domino Square <i>(with the Billion Oyster Project)</i>
SUNDAY APRIL 20, 3 pm @ Travers Park Waterfront Alliance Community Day	SUNDAY APRIL 27, 3 pm @ Orchard Alley Community Garden

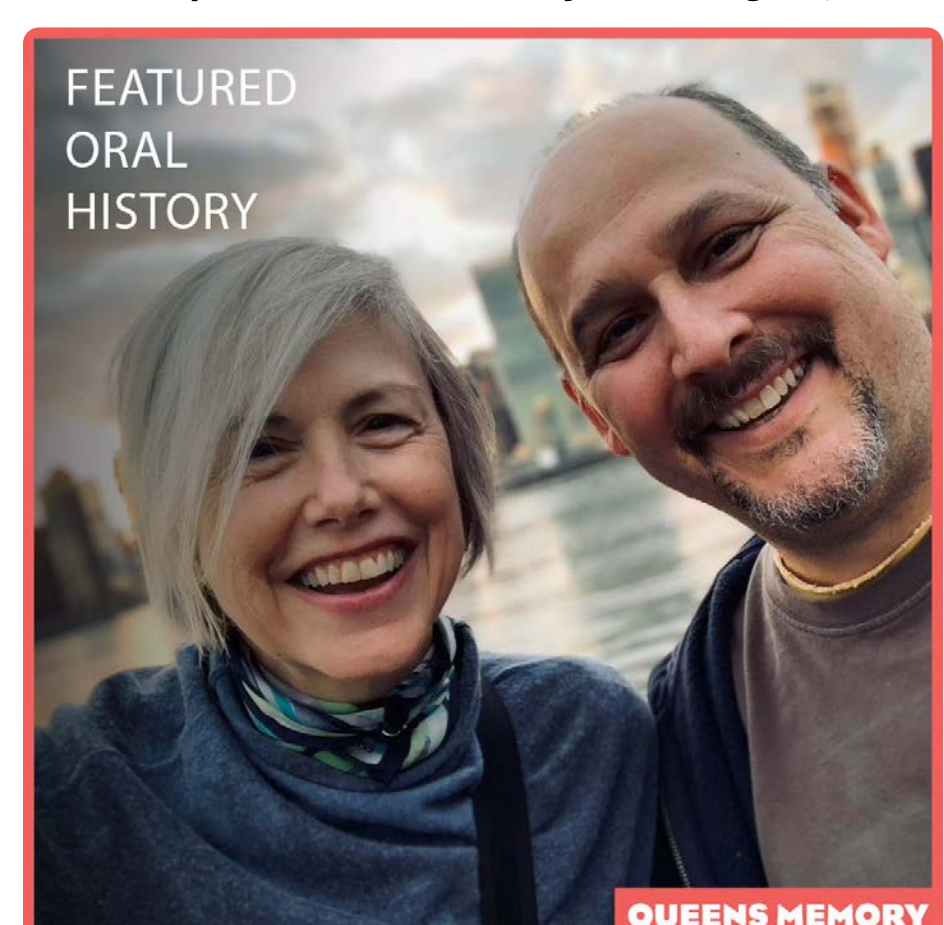
[Flood Sensor Aunty](#) is a funny play about a flood sensor working at her aunt's chai shop who really wants to be a movie star. Halfway between really funny devised theater and culturally competent community disaster prevention for South Asian and Indo-Caribbean communities, this show is about how the best way to protect yourself from flooding, climate change, and despair is through knowing your neighbors.

Thanks to support from the Queens College Urban Studies, CUNY Social Practice, Queens College Asian American Community Studies, NYC Emergency Management, and more, they will be performing between Klapper and Kiely Hall on Wednesday, April 23, at 5:00 pm.

[Reserve your free tickets before they run out!](#)

If you'd like to learn more about the play's origin story and its creative team, Sabina Sethi Unni, the writer and director of Flood Sensor Aunty, will be joining our [monthly lunch and learn](#) on April 10 at 12pm.

♥️ *March Oral History Spotlights a Queens Village Couple and Their Twenty-Year Saga* ♥️



[Queens Village residents](#) Kate O'Connell and her husband Scott Robinson describe their 20-year journey together from the first time they met to their virtual wedding on July 27, 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Kate and Scott each recall how they met one another in an acting class run by theatre director Joseph Chaikin, their first date, and Scott's marriage proposal in Puerto Rico in 2013.

They discuss how their initial plans to get married were derailed when Kate was diagnosed with cancer in 2018; they also discuss Kate's road to recovery through 2020, Kate's experience as an emergency room nurse during the pandemic, and how their wedding ceremony via Zoom became a large livestreamed production with approximately 130 attendees.

This interview was conducted by Anna Williams as part of the [Queens Memory COVID-19 Project](#).

Upcoming Events

March 27 – Our [Name Explorer](#) exhibit at [Culture Lab LIC](#) - "The People Behind the Names: Black History in Queens" - has been extended into April. From outspoken ministers to pioneering musicians to female leaders in public service, this sampling of named places provides a glimpse into the histories of Elmhurst, Corona, Flushing, St. Albans, Jamaica, Hollis, and Kew Gardens Hills. (through April 20)

April 1 – [Community Archiving Happy Hour](#) returns first Tuesdays of the month at 4pm ET. 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. Register for link [here](#). (4 - 5 pm DST)

April 10 – 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. **This program is not recorded.** (12 - 1 pm DST)

April 23 – Our [Teens Podcasting Workshop](#) concludes with an in-person listening party at the Flushing Library. Listen to behind-the-scenes clips with Queens teens, as they discover the art of interviewing and creating their first podcast. (4 - 5:30 pm DST)

April 24 – At our [oral history interviewing workshop](#), you will learn how you can contribute to Queens Memory by helping 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. **This program is not recorded.** (12 - 1 pm DST)

April 26 – Join us at the Climate Arts Festival at [Queens Botanical Garden](#) to explore creative ways to tackle the climate crisis. Find our table next to Queens Public Library's and celebrate Earth Month with the whole family! (12 - 4 pm DST)



Photo courtesy of J. Faye Yuan

Queens Memory in the Professional Community

Queens Memory Interim Director, Meral Agish, will co-lead an Oral History Speed Round activity at the [National Council on Public History's Annual Meeting](#) in Montreal on Friday, March 28, at 2pm.

Our Queens Name Explorer team will lead a workshop on "The People Behind Named Places: Getting Creative with Civic Data" at the [2025 North East Association for Information Science & Technology's Annual Conference - "Voices Through Data: Integrating Information Service, Storytelling, and Digital Literacy"](#) - on Tuesday, April 1, at 12:25pm.