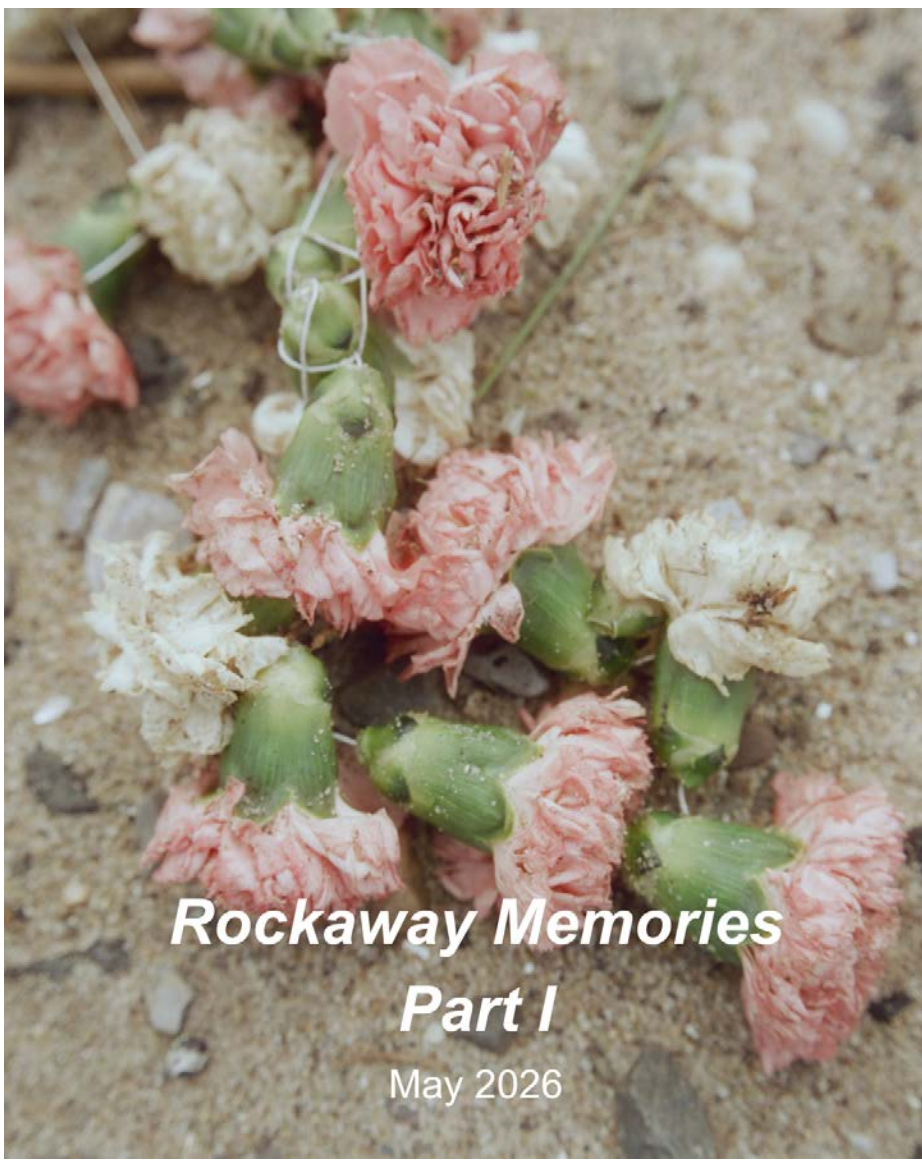




"Rockaway Memories" Premieres with Listening Party on Thursday



In this [fifth episode](#) of our "Memories of Water" podcast, Queens residents share personal stories of summers by the water, from moments of joy and belonging to memories of finding relief from the heat.

Listen on [YouTube](#), [Spotify](#), [Apple](#), or wherever you get your podcasts.

This episode was recorded in the Far Rockaway and Broad Channel neighborhoods and produced by Queens-based audio producer, Rebecca Seidel, in collaboration with Queens College and [Melting Metropolis](#).

Special thanks to the New York Dippers Club, Edgemere Alliance, The Garden by the Bay, Nadia Misir, and New York Sea Grant for their contributions to this episode.

We're celebrating its premiere with a Rockaway listening party on **Thursday, May 28, at 5:30pm** at the Far Rockaway branch of the Queens Public Library.

Pizza and beverages will be provided. Please [RSVP](#) so we can get a headcount.

Save the Date for Jackson Heights Public Art Launch Party



Join us for the launch of "Dome Cartographies" by artist Natalia Nakazawa at the World's Borough Bookshop in Jackson Heights, featuring a new augmented reality monument paired with sites from the Queens Name Explorer and photographs from the Queens Public Library.

This activation aims to build community memory through artist-storyteller pairings, walking tours, limited edition zines, and commissioned AR monuments that offer new possibilities for memorialization.

Join us from 5 to 7pm on Friday, May 29, at the World's Borough Bookshop to celebrate the launch with live music, aguas frescas, walking tours, zines, and more!

Free with [RSVP](#).

Celebrate Historic Jackson Heights Weekend with World Cup Memory

To celebrate Historic Jackson Heights Weekend, we'll be showcasing highlights from the Queens Public Library Archives, including historic photographs, maps, and other ephemera as well as oral history excerpts. Bring a photo of your own to digitize or record a memory about the neighborhood with the Queens Memory team.

We'll also be joined by Annabel Short, creator of [World Cup Memory](#). As 48 national teams compete on the global stage for the 2026 World Cup, we invite you to record your personal World Cup memories at our pop-up recording station. From living rooms and parks to cafés, streets, and schools, these moments tell the story of the tournament beyond the matches. Bring your voice and contribute to a growing [community archive](#) of World Cup memories rooted in Queens.

Stop by our pop-up at the **Jackson Heights Library** on **Saturday, June 13, from 1 to 3pm**.

May Oral History Highlights DJ and Host of Video Music Box



Ralph McDaniels is a DJ and co-creator and host of Video Music Box, the longest-running music video show in the world. McDaniels was born in Brooklyn and moved to Queens when he was eleven. He attended LaGuardia Community College, simultaneously working as a DJ for the club Encore in Jamaica. After leaving Encore in 1983, he began working in radio and created Studio 31 Dance Party, a television show that would eventually become Video Music Box. Through his work with Video Music Box, McDaniels has directed over 400 music videos, co-produced feature films and documentaries, and documented and preserved the history and evolution of hip hop. He now works in outreach at Queens Public Library as Hip Hop Coordinator.

In this interview with Natalie Milbrodt, McDaniels reflects on the founding and evolution of the Encore club, which opened in 1979 on 89th Avenue and Merrick Boulevard. McDaniels was a DJ at the club and was heavily involved in its operations from its inception, watching it grow from an abandoned building to one of the largest clubs in Queens catering primarily to Black visitors. He describes the inspiration the club took from clubs in Manhattan, the experience of seeing a club be built from the ground up, and his observations of the surrounding area, including the Central Library.

Listen to Ralph's interview [here](#).

Other Upcoming Events

June 1 – Join [Las Reinas de Queens Listening Club](#) to kick off Pride Month! Come to the Jackson Heights Library to listen to an episode of Las Reinas de Queens. (5 pm ET)

June 9 – 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)

June 16 – Our digital declutter series continues with Audiovisual Archivist Marie Lascu. This month's topic is "**Saving Is Remembering.**" With long-term file care recommendations in mind, community members will set a personal file organizing schedule for the next 6 months that includes digital backups. This will be the last session of the series. Sign up [here](#). (12 pm ET)

June 23 – 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 June will be **Summertime Program Updates**. Register [here](#). We will follow up with a confirmation and event link. (12 pm ET)



Queens Memory in the Professional Community

Our team won an award for [Excellence in Audio Storytelling, Short-Form](#), from the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) for the third episode from "Memories of Water," [After Ida: Left in the Dark / 艾達過後 — 遺留在黑暗之中](#). Many congrats to the team! Our curator and podcast host J. Faye Yuan will be attending the awards gala on June 27 in Minneapolis, MN.