

QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

QUEENS MEMORY

NEWS FROM QUEENS MEMORY PROJECT

A 15th Anniversary Celebration

Queens Memory turns 15 this month, and [our website](#) is coming back! Please excuse any glitches as we catch up on updates.

Since we celebrated our last big anniversary in 2020, we have more than doubled our interview collection, **from 600 to 1,300!** Thank you to all the colleagues, volunteers, and students who have helped us reach this incredible milestone.

In the last five years, we have made many changes to connect with people online and at our QPL locations and community spaces. We've hosted dozens of public programs, launched the [Queens Name Explorer](#) and three seasons of the [Queens Memory Podcast](#), and helped create new projects with our library colleagues and community partners. Some examples of these projects include the [Queens Street Name Stories](#) audio portrait series, produced in collaboration with Professor Kalil Anderson and graduate students at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY, and ongoing collaborations with the King Manor Museum and Newtown Creek Alliance through our work with the [Melting Metropolis](#) research project that links Queens to London, Paris, and other international cities.

As we wind down our public programs in 2025, we are looking ahead to 2026 with excitement and are planning many more opportunities to connect with our neighbors across Queens. Stay tuned for announcements about our upcoming programs and a Sweet Sixteen celebration that's in the works for November 2026.

As always, please [email us](#) with any suggestions or questions.

 Quinceañera: Dress and Memory in Latine Culture at Queens College



Photos courtesy of Lori Wallach.

On Saturday, November 15, we participated in Fall Family Day at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College, appearing alongside the exhibition [Quinceañera: Dress and Memory in Latine Culture](#). The exhibit is currently on view until December 18.

 New Teens-Led Podcast Episode in the Works for December Launch



Photos by Gracielle Camara.

We just wrapped production on the fourth episode of our climate-focused podcast, [Memories of Water](#). This new episode features teen voices from the Flushing Library Teen Center, as they interview special guest, [Flood Sensor Aunty](#), and discuss artistic responses to the climate crisis. New episode drops on Tuesday, December 16. Stay tuned for more details!

 Picturing Flood Resilience with New York Sea Grant

QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

CENTRAL LIBRARY

PICTURING FLOOD RESILIENCE: HOW TO DOCUMENT AND PREPARE FOR FLOODING IN NYC



Join New York Sea Grant and its partners for an engaging workshop exploring the many forms of flooding that affect New York City—and the power of storytelling through photography. Bring your own historic flood photos to share and discuss, or discover striking examples from Flood Watch, a community-driven project that collects and maps flood images across the city.

Learn how to upload and share your own flood photos through this public platform, use images to tell the story of changing water conditions in your neighborhood, and harness these visuals to advance community goals. Hear inspiring examples from the Community Flood Fellowship Program, where local stories and photographs have driven awareness and action.

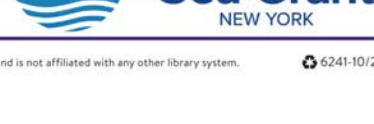
Resources on flood preparedness, mitigation, and recovery will also be available.

ADMISSION IS FREE

Wednesday, December 3

5:30pm

CENTRAL LIBRARY
(CYBER CENTER TRAINING ROOM)
87-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica
(718) 990-0278



QueensLibrary.org

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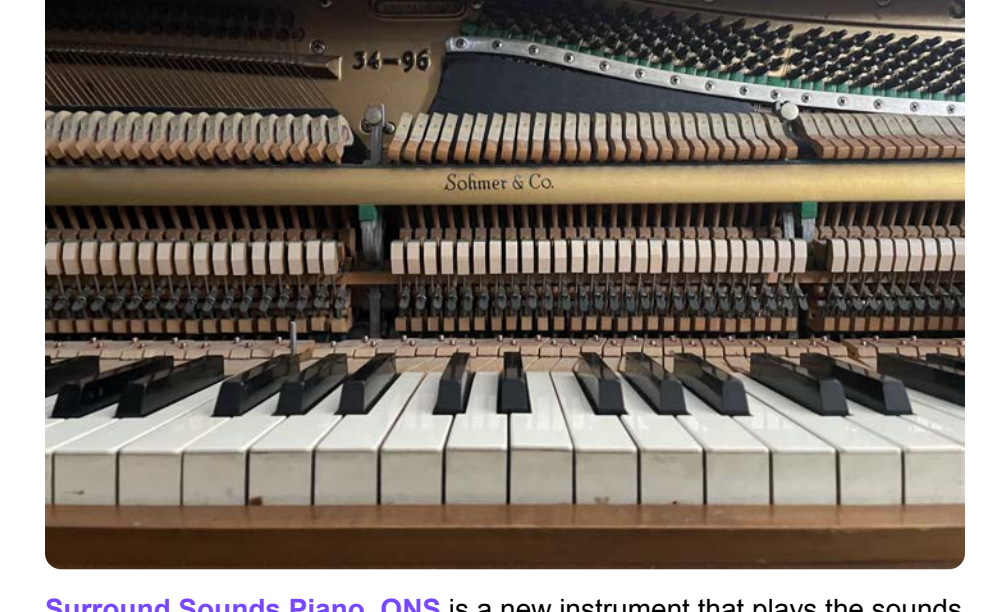
[Join us](#) on Wednesday, December 3, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Central Branch of the Queens Public Library for an engaging workshop exploring the many forms of flooding that affect New York City and how we can document and prepare for the future.

Bring your own photos to share and discuss!

Queens Memory will set up a community scanning station, where participants can scan photos, documents, and/or other archival records to add to their own collection. We will provide a thumb drive for you to take home.

Register [here](#).

 Play the Queens Sound Piano



[Surround Sounds Piano_QNS](#) is a new instrument that plays the sounds of the borough of Queens. A Sohmer piano (manufactured in Queens) was retrofitted and reprogrammed so each of its 88 keys plays a field recording while triggering a projection. The recordings were collected from a wide variety of sources throughout Queens, from the sound of a food truck in Jackson Heights, to the roar of the elevated train in Woodside, to rain on Houdini's grave in Glendale. The results are sometimes beautiful, sometimes chaotic, much like Queens itself.

The piano will be exhibited at the following two venues, where participants can play the piano:

[Stephen Street Gallery](#) (16-79 Stephen St, Ridgewood)
On View: Through November 23, 5 - 8pm (Fri, Sat, and Sun only)

[Queens Public Library at Central](#) (89-11 Merrick Blvd, Jamaica)
On View: November 25 - December 20
Artist Talk: December 18, 6pm

 Featured Oral History Brings Memories from Parkway Village



[Dilys Hoffman](#) speaks with interviewer Dexter Fergie about her experience growing up in Parkway Village during the 1950s and 1960s. Opened in 1947 and located in the Kew Gardens Hills neighborhood of Queens, Parkway Village was built to serve as housing for United Nations employees. Hoffman's parents were originally from London; she describes their move to New York City when her father began working for the United Nations after World War II.

In addition to Parkway Village, Hoffman spent several years growing up in Mexico, where her father also did work for the United Nations. Hoffman explains what it was like for her between the ages of 5 and 13 moving back and forth between Parkway Village and Mexico. Hoffman recalls attending kindergarten, second grade, and third grade at the United Nations International School (UNIS) located in Parkway Village. She also recalls Parkway Village as being a safe, close-knit, and child-friendly community; it offered ample outdoor space where children played together as well as a racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse population that embraced the values of the United Nations.

Hoffman reflects on her teenage years in the mid-to-late 1960s living in Parkway Village but spending much of her time in Manhattan to attend school and hang out with friends. Hoffman speaks about her political sensibilities as a teenager, her participation in Vietnam War protests, and her visits to the United Nations during that time. Hoffman discusses her decision to attend university in England and to remain in England after graduation, ultimately becoming a head teacher at a primary school in London. Additionally, Hoffman discusses her experiences visiting Parkway Village and traveling in the United States as an adult, the fulfilling lives that her parents had in Parkway Village (where they lived until the late 1970s), and the negative impacts of increased politicization of the United Nations since her childhood.

Listen to the interview [here](#).

 Introducing a New Community Survey!

We're circulating a [short survey](#) on personal digital archiving needs and would love your input! Survey responses will help shape future Queens Memory programs around archiving best practices and resources. If you have time to complete eight multiple-choice questions, that would be greatly appreciated!



 Upcoming Events

December 4 and 11 – Teens, ever dreamed of creating your own video game world? Join Queens Public Library for [Level Up Your Story! Design Your Own Video Game with Queens Memory](#) and dive into the world of video game design and interactive digital storytelling. Learn the secrets of professional game design software and build your very own 3D game. Tell your story through exciting game scenes, using your own photos, sketches, and even 3D scans of your favorite places and things. Add your neighbors' and fellow community members' stories by exploring materials from Queens Memory. Your neighborhood, your hangout, your stuff – bring it all to life in your game! Students who complete this series will receive a \$50 gift card! Workshops will be held at Flushing Library; register [here](#). (4 - 6 pm ET)

December 4 – 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. Register [here](#); you will receive an email the day before the event and on the day of the event with information about accessing the program via Zoom. (3 pm ET)

December 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)

December 16 – 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

Most recently, our Queens Memory coordinator, Meral Agish, presented a number of professional talks, including "The Ameral Agish in the World's Borough: Reflections on a National Myth in Queens, New York" during the "Living up to the Promise of America? Stories of Exclusion that Reveal Gaps in the American Dream" panel at the [Oral History Association 2025 Annual Meeting](#) in Atlanta, GA. She also presented about our podcast, "Memories of Water, Queens Memory Project," during the poster session at the [MARAC Fall 2025 Symposium: Sustainability and Archives](#) in Wilmington, DE.