

QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

QUEENS MEMORY

NEWS FROM QUEENS MEMORY PROJECT

Queens Memory in the Field

Queens Memory team members have been out and about the borough with a busy fall season! Have you spotted us in your neighborhood? If not, we may be there soon! Check out these photos from some of our recent events, and see our upcoming schedule below. We'd love to meet you in person!



Photos courtesy of J. Faye Yuan.

On October 4, we joined [NYU's AMIA Student Chapter](#) and [XFR Collective](#) at the Ridgewood Library for Home Movie Day. Attendees were able to get preservation advice from experts on their home movies in various formats, and some were even shown on the big screen. And everyone left with some cool swag!



Photos courtesy of J. Faye Yuan.

We headed down to Far Rockaway's [Edgemere Farm](#) on September 14 to help record a performance of [Flood Sensor Auntie](#). Audience members were treated to chai and empanadas as they learned valuable information about climate disaster preparedness.



On October 2, Queens Memory Coordinator Meral Agish recorded an interview with [Queens World Film Festival](#) co-founders Katha and Preston Cato at the Elmhurst Library. The festival is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year – click [here](#) for the schedule, and use code "QueensWorldFF" for a 25% discount on tickets!

Queens Memory Curator J. Faye Yuan (left), along with Rebecca Seidel and John Jenkins, presented "From Lesson Plan to Listen Now: Co-Creating a Podcast with Queens Teens" at the recent [Urban Librarians Conference](#) held at Central Library in Jamaica.

Photo courtesy of J. Faye Yuan.

Extreme Heat: Panel Discusses NYC at the Boiling Point

Heat kills more people in the U.S. than any other type of extreme weather. In New York City, four out of five people who die from extreme weather do so because they don't have an A/C or can't afford to keep it on. On November 8, join journalists [Jordan Gass-Pooré](#) and [Helina Selemón](#) for [NYC's Boiling Point: What Extreme Heat Means for Our Health and Neighborhoods](#), a conversation about the year-round threat of rising temperatures and extreme heat that is affecting our communities in major and surprising ways. The number of dangerously hot days in New York City is on the rise, a reality that is widening health disparities and straining local infrastructure. At this public event held at Central Library, you'll hear from local journalists, experts and neighbors about why heat is a year-round issue, who's most at risk, what's being done about it, and how you can help make your community safer and more prepared. The program starts at 3 pm ET.

Personal Archiving Program Highlights Multimedia Items



Photo courtesy of Nick Capezzera.

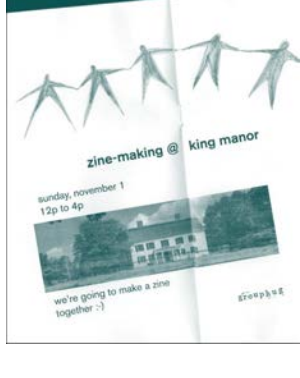
On November 13, [Personal Archiving in the Digital Age: A Multimedia Presentation and Story Share](#) will take place at the Ridgewood Library, featuring the dozens of photographs documentary filmmaker and photographer Nick Capezzera will be donating to the Queens Memory collection. Photographs will be paired with clips from a work-in-progress personal documentary (to be released in 2026). Each photo is shot on 35mm film with 4K video documentation corresponding to various locations in Queens, from Ridgewood to Astoria to Flushing.

A conversation follows between the filmmaker and moderator diving into personal and digital archiving best practices, while reflecting on the behind-the-scenes making of a decade-long personal project. The discussion will be moderated by Natalie Milbrodt, founding director of the Queens Memory Project. Register [here](#). The program begins at 6 pm ET.

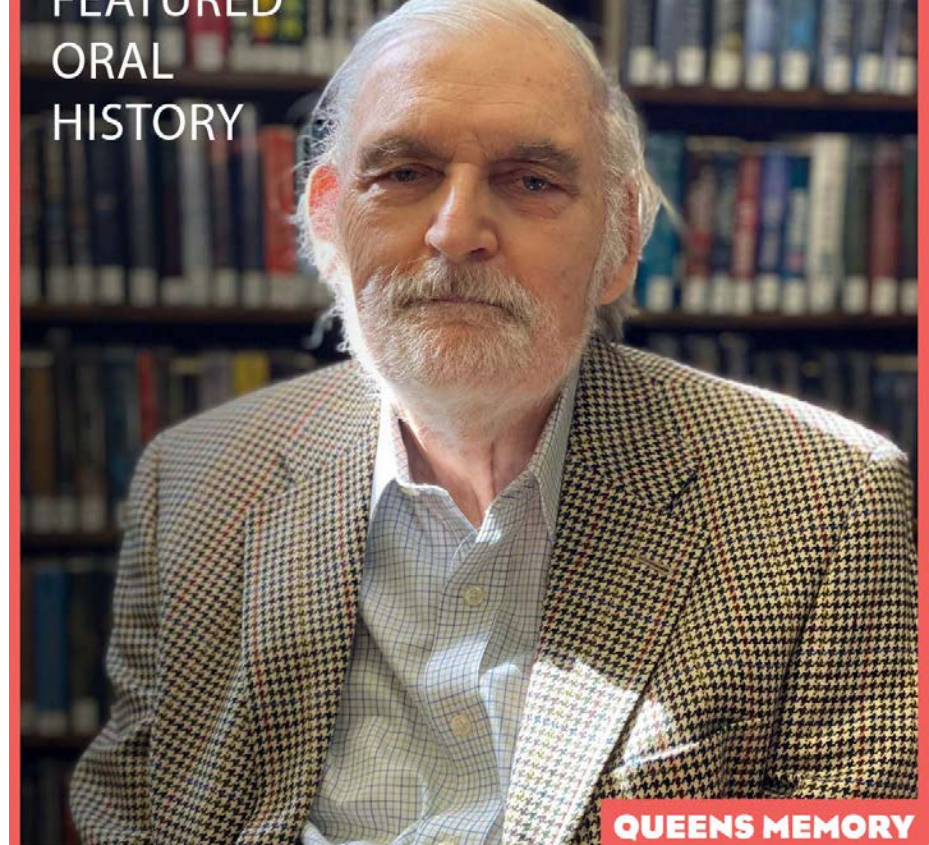
Let's Make a Zine!

Join Queens Memory and artists from group hug magazine at [King Manor Museum](#) on Saturday, November 1, for a hands-on zine workshop! The drop-in workshop, which runs from 12 to 4 pm, is free and no experience is required – find more info and sign up [here](#).

Queens Memory is also featured in the upcoming [second issue](#) of group hug, which launches October 24!



Featured Oral History Pays Tribute to Late Woodhaven Advocate



Our featured oral history this month is [Allan Boecherer Smith](#), a longtime Woodhaven resident and co-author of the book [Cypress Hills Cemetery](#) (2010, Arcadia Publishing), who passed away on September 24 at the age of 86.

In this 2021 interview, Smith, who was a retired architect and historian, shares memories of growing up in Woodhaven from the late 1930s to the mid-1950s, including attending P.S. 97, visiting the Queens Public Library's Woodhaven branch, and commuting as a student at Brooklyn Technical High School. Smith, who studied architecture at Syracuse University and the Pratt Institute, lived in Manhattan as an adult but moved back to Woodhaven later in life to take care of his elderly mother.

Smith recalls his work as a project architect restoring a townhouse in Manhattan that had been built in 1886; he identifies it as his most memorable project which also sparked his interest in historic preservation. Smith discusses his involvement in restoring the Wyckoff-Snediker Family Cemetery in Woodhaven, and also speaks about preservation-related activities regarding Cypress Hills Cemetery, Green-Wood Cemetery, the Forest Park Carousel, and Neir's Tavern. Additionally, he discusses his involvement in local history organizations such as the Queens Preservation Council, which advocates for and organizes efforts to preserve the borough's historic places.

This interview was conducted by Kendra Kuszai and Ken Gordon; listen to the full interview [here](#).

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage in Queens

In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month (observed annually from September 15 to October 15), we created a [Name Explorer collection](#) that highlights places named for 13 important Hispanic individuals from Queens. It's a time to honor the history, traditions and diverse contributions of Hispanic Americans whose heritage is rooted in Spain and Spanish-speaking countries and territories. We recognize the power of this collective heritage to shape a vibrant, inclusive future for all through music, art, literature, activism and shared stories.



Meet Our New Citi + QPL Fellow

Kit Moszynski is excited to join the Queens Memory team for the fall semester as our Citi + QPL Fellow. A lifelong New Yorker, she is grateful for the opportunity to learn more about researching and sharing local history. Kit is a graduate student at Queens College, where she is pursuing an MLS with an Advanced Certificate in Archives. Outside QPL, she works at the Ukrainian Museum and enjoys opera, science fiction, and attempting to learn Polish.



Other Upcoming Events

November 3 – Join us for [Monday Memories: Queens College Story-Sharing](#) as Lori DiBella Wallach, Queens Memory Outreach Coordinator, shares a brief presentation on Queens College history. Then it's your turn to share your favorite QC stories of the clubs, social events, campus hangout spots – and friendships made – that still resonate today! Register for Zoom link [here](#). If you would like to share your memorabilia and photos, please scan them and forward the scans to the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumnievnts@qc.cuny.edu](#). (4 pm ET)

November 4 – 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 November will be Queens Memory's 15th anniversary! Register [here](#). We will follow up with a confirmation and event link. (12 pm ET)

November 5 and 12 – 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 Central Library; register [here](#). (4-6 pm ET)

November 11 – Join us online for [Community Archiving Happy Hour](#) – a social and resource sharing space organized by a few folks 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. (4 pm ET)

November 15 – Come meet Queens Memory staff in person at a special Family Day event celebrating the [Quinceañera: Dress and Memory in Latine Culture](#) exhibition at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum on the Queens College campus. We will be there from 11 am to 2 pm ET helping visitors share their stories relating to the quinceañera tradition.

November 18 – 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)