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and CEO Dennis Walcott

50th Anniversary of  
Central Library!

Keep Investing in Libraries:  
Take Action Now!

Welcome the New Director  
at Langston Hughes

# A Message from the President and CEO



It is an honor to lead Queens Library in the important work of empowering and serving the people of this borough. I have lived in Queens most of my life and got my first library card from the St. Albans branch when I was in elementary school. My wife, Denise, was an active Friend of the Cambria Heights Library. I know firsthand what Queens Library means to the life of our community and our city.

Since my appointment, I have visited every Queens Library location and met hundreds of outstanding staff members and enthusiastic customers. Residents of all ages, from every walk of life and every corner of the world, count on our services every day. We provide—free to everyone, with

just a library card—incredible opportunities for lifelong learning, intellectual growth, and civic and cultural engagement.

I have already visited City Hall and testified before our elected officials about the importance of our library services and the need to preserve the funding we secured last year. I've been joined there by many of our customers, and I appreciate their help and the stories they have told about what libraries mean to them and their neighborhoods.

In the months to come, I look forward to hearing your input, ideas, and perspectives. I also look forward to working with Mayor Bill de Blasio, Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Finance Committee Chair Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, Cultural Affairs and Libraries Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, Subcommittee on Libraries Chair Andy King, and the New York City Council to secure the funding that New York City libraries require. You can read about the ways that our city government helps support libraries in this issue of *Queens Library Magazine*, and even use a detachable mailer in this issue to speak directly to the Mayor's office.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the Queens community, Queens Library's hardworking and dedicated staff, the Board of Trustees, and our elected officials to advance one of the greatest and most dynamic institutions in our city.

Dennis Walcott



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**Admission is free to all programs.** Some programs require preregistration. Please preregister with the library where the event is taking place, or sign up at [queenslibrary.org/events](http://queenslibrary.org/events) if online registration is offered.

**Programs are subject to change without notice, and some may not appear in this magazine.** For the most up-to-date listings, call the library where an event is taking place, or go to [queenslibrary.org/events](http://queenslibrary.org/events).

Get our **Biweekly Newsletter**, with highlights of upcoming programs and events, and links to full listings, in your email inbox. Go to [queenslibrary.org](http://queenslibrary.org) and click on **Signup for Updates** at the top right side of the page.

**Sign-language interpretation is available by request for most library programs.** Call Special Services at least two weeks in advance at **718-990-0853**; TTY **718-990-0809**. Please note that Queens Library will try to accommodate your sign-language interpretation needs; however, this service may not be available for all programs.

All Queens Library locations, with the exception of Astoria, Glendale, and Queens Village, are fully or partially accessible to the handicapped. For more details on handicapped accessibility, visit [queenslibrary.org](http://queenslibrary.org) or inquire at your local library.

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-  [queenslibrary.tumblr.com](http://queenslibrary.tumblr.com)
-  [pinterest.com/queenslibrary](https://pinterest.com/queenslibrary)

## Back cover - South Hollis Staff

**Left to Right:**  
Kane Noel, *Customer Service Specialist*  
Kacper Jarecki, *Manager*  
Marie Cesar, *Children's Librarian*  
Jermaine Dennie, *Customer Service Representative*  
Charlene Vicks, *Customer Service Supervisor*

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# What's Happening Now at Queens Library?

## ■ Join the Summer of Service at Queens Library!

On Friday, May 13, from 12-3 p.m., you can visit the Volunteer Services table at Central Library to hear about summer volunteer opportunities at our community libraries; speak with staff about requirements; and sign up for a personal interview. And on Saturday, May 14, from 11 a.m.-1:00 p.m., we're hosting a mini-Summer Volunteer Fair at Central Library, where you can speak with staff members from several library locations and sign up for projects for teens and adults, including Summer Reading Assistants, Summer Lunch Helpers, Adult Literacy Tutors, and more. You must be 14 years or older to volunteer at Queens Library. For more information, visit [queenslibrary.force.com](http://queenslibrary.force.com).



## ■ Compost...At the Library?

That's right—you can bring your food scraps to the Briarwood, Broadway, Flushing, and Steinway community libraries, as part of the NYC Compost Project hosted by Big Reuse and the Queens Botanical Garden. Your food refuse will be turned into useful compost that will help make the city's parks and gardens green this spring and summer! Please do not bring meat or fish scraps; cheese or dairy products; or fats, grease, oil, or oily foods. For a list of what types of food scraps will be accepted, as well as the days and times to bring them to our four library locations, please visit [qnslib.org/1020CI](http://qnslib.org/1020CI).

## ■ Celebrate the Heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders!

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, a celebration of the culture, traditions, history, and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Several upcoming Queens Library events will honor Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our borough, our city, and beyond, including our ongoing program series "Living Memory: The Culture and Heritage of Chinese New Yorkers." For more information, visit [queenslibrary.org/events](http://queenslibrary.org/events).

## ■ Build Your Small Business Strength

Representatives from the New York State Small Business Development Center provide consulting and training at the Flushing Community Library, 41-17 Main Street, on Mondays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; to make an appointment, **call 718-661-1205**. Small business owners should also check out "Signing a Commercial Lease: What You Need to Know," an NYC Small Business Services workshop at Flushing on Tuesday, May 3, at 5:30 p.m. And at our "Building Relationships in Business" class on May 27 and June 24 at Flushing, attendees will hear from special guest speakers from Ridgewood Savings Bank on how to network, develop partnerships, and get "buy in" from business acquaintances. To learn more and register, **call 718-990-8625** or visit [jobmap.queenslibrary.org](http://jobmap.queenslibrary.org).

## ■ "Joy's Soul Lies in the Doing": Shakespeare in Queens Continues

Our Shakespeare in Queens series of staged performances presented by TITAN Theatre Company continues with *Troilus & Cressida* on Monday, May 2, at 5:30 p.m. at Queens Library at Peninsula, 92-25 Rockaway Beach Boulevard; and *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* on Monday, June 6 at 5:30 p.m. at Queens Library at Cambria Heights, 218-13 Linden Boulevard. For more details, visit [queenslibrary.org/shakespeare](http://queenslibrary.org/shakespeare).



# A Summer of Fun at Queens Library!

School's out, the weather's great—summer is a wonderful time of the year! We hope you will spend a lot of your time with us this summer at Queens Library!

This year, Queens Library is delivering a bunch of fun programs, essential services, and great times for kids of all

ages during the summer months! Here are some of the great events that we hope you'll join us for this summer.

## Summer Reading: Get in The Game!

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Summer is one of the best times of the year for discovering new books and the joy of reading.

Summer Reading also helps kids stay sharp while they're out of school. Studies show that kids who read regularly during summer vacation keep up or even move ahead in school, while ones who don't often slide backward.

All three New York City library systems are partnering with the New York City Department of Education to provide great summer reading opportunities for library customers of all ages!

With the support of TD Bank, Astoria Bank, and the New York Mets, as well as the New York State Library and the

New York State Education Department, Queens Library is sharing book lists, reading logs, and lots of other great reading resources with you!

When you enroll in the Summer Reading program, you can read any books you want, including those on the Summer Reading lists available at your local library and recommended by your librarian.

You can also visit <https://summerreading.queenslibrary.org> to create an account and see reading sections dedicated to books for adults, teens, infants, and children. (Yes, children too young to read by themselves are welcome to participate by having a parent or caretaker sign



them up and read to them!)

Anyone who creates an account online can add books and other media to their virtual shelves. And if you're 13 or over and using the teen or adult sections, you can enter your own reviews, screen names and avatars, and lists to share with other readers all across New York and beyond!



## Summer Reading: Get in The Game!

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You can also measure the time you spend reading this summer; earn badges for everything you do on [summerreading.queenslibrary.org](http://summerreading.queenslibrary.org); and lots more.

If you go to camp or summer school, be sure to tell your counselor or teacher about the program. Your whole group can join the fun!

Summer Reading kicks off on **Thursday, June 9**, with our celebration at the Children's Library Discovery Center at Central Library. There will also be other kick-off events at nearly 20 library locations across Queens. In addition, we're holding special summer reading programs, including writing and photography workshops, all summer long. Check at your library or go to [queenslibrary.org](http://queenslibrary.org) for the full schedule.

And remember—all the resources and events at Queens Library and [summerreading.queenslibrary.org](http://summerreading.queenslibrary.org) are absolutely free!

If you have any questions, you can talk to your local librarians or call the Queens Library Programs and Services department at **718-990-0716/0793**, and visit [summerreading.queenslibrary.org](http://summerreading.queenslibrary.org) for more information.

## Be A Summer Poet!

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In honor of Summer Reading 2016, we're holding our first annual Queens Library Summer Poetry Contest!

We welcome poets of all ages from all over New York State to submit one original poem that reflects the 2016 Summer Reading theme of "Get in the Game." Submitted poems must be in English and cannot be longer than 250 words, not including the title. Poems can

be submitted on our website or by mail, accompanied by a completed official entry form available online and at any Queens Library location.

Entries will be grouped by the age of the author (Grades 4-5; Grades 6-8; Grades 9-12; and Post High School/Adult or 19 and over), and our judges will choose one winner and three honorable mentions in each of those categories.

The winning poems will be published in an issue of *Queens Library Magazine*, and our chosen poets will join us this fall at a special awards ceremony!

Entries will be accepted **between June 2 and July 31, 2016**. For more information, including the official rules of the 2016 Queens Library Summer Poetry Contest, visit [queenslibrary.org](http://queenslibrary.org).

## Enjoy Healthy Meals This Summer

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Queens Library will partner with the NYC Department of Education to provide another essential summer service to the people of Queens—free lunches for kids all summer long.

The DOE's Office of School Food serves free, healthy summer meals to children 18 and younger at nearly 1,000 locations across the five boroughs.

Queens Library has acted as a community-based lunch location since the summer of 2007, and served over 32,000 meals to children in Summer 2015.

Summer lunches will be available at about 20 participating Queens Library locations five days a week from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. The program runs from **June 29 to September 2**. Enrollment is not required. For more information, call **311** or visit [queenslibrary.org](http://queenslibrary.org).





**BECAUSE MORE  
THAN A  
QUARTER OF U.S.  
HOUSEHOLDS  
DON'T HAVE A  
COMPUTER WITH  
AN INTERNET  
CONNECTION.**

**LIBRARIES  
TRANSFORM**

 Queens Library

**ALA**  
American  
Library  
Association

LIBRARIETRANSFORM.ORG

# 7.14.16

# THE 2ND ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE BANDS



Many bands will enter, but only one will be chosen as the winner. This year, competition is fierce and bands will have to rock out at the 2,100 seat Colden Auditorium at the Kupferberg Center for the Arts.

## BANDS WANTED

Does your band have what it takes to win this year's title? Enter to win the 2016 Battle and Cash Prize Awards!

Ages 13-22 / Registration Deadline is  
June 3, 2016

## SAVE THE DATE

Watch the performances of the next  
future musical stars!

**Thursday, July 14, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Queens College, Colden Auditorium  
at Kupferberg Center for the Arts  
65-30 Kissena Boulevard  
Flushing, NY 11367-1597

PREMIER PARTNER

**KUPFERBERG** | QUEENS  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS | COLLEGE



To enter the competition or get tickets for this event, visit  
**[queenslib.org/battleofthebands2](http://queenslib.org/battleofthebands2)**



## Are You the Best Young Band in NYC?

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Queens has produced many famous and successful musical artists, from Louis Armstrong to Cyndi Lauper to Nicki Minaj. And we want to promote the talents of the best young bands in Queens and New York City.

You can get your start as one of the potential musical stars of the future this summer at our **second annual Battle of the Bands** contest. If you have the skills, we encourage **musicians age 13-22 across the five boroughs** to send a video or MP3 to us for consideration.

The bands we pick will play their songs at **Queens College's Golden Auditorium on Thursday, July 14**, where one winner will reign supreme and receive a great cash prize—and the title of Best Band!

Visit [queenslib.org/battleofthebands16](http://queenslib.org/battleofthebands16) to fill out our online application for the Battle of the Bands contest. Many bands will enter, but only one will be the Best!



## Build Your Computer Science Skills For Free This Summer!

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Queens Library is offering a unique opportunity for kids to build their knowledge of computer science and coding this summer.

**CS First** is a free program offered by Google that increases student access and exposure to computer science (CS) education through after-school, in-school, and summer programs. Queens Library CS teachers trained by Google will lead children in Grades 4-8 (ages 9-14) through eight CS-based sessions from June to August.

Students will work on CS projects throughout the summer in areas like art, storytelling, fashion, music, social media, game design, and more.

Nearly 20 community libraries will offer these classes, free of charge and with no experience necessary. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis, and we're expecting a lot of interest, so sign up as soon as possible!

You can visit our website to learn more

information about our CS First program at Queens Library, including library locations, dates and times, and how to register.

Give your child a free entry into the world of computer science and coding, and this summer they can learn the skills that will prepare them for the jobs of the future!



# Meet Our New President and CEO!

**Dennis M. Walcott** is a lifelong resident of Queens and has spent his entire career in public service and education.

“I look forward to working with all the fantastic, creative, dynamic staff and Friends and visiting every community library, meeting and listening to their ideas and participating in initiatives that make life better and richer for their neighborhoods,” says Mr. Walcott. “I have been a lifelong patron of the Queens Library and wholeheartedly believe in the mission of this great institution.”

In 2014, he was named Honorary Distinguished Fellow at the University of the West Indies and has been an adjunct professor at Fordham University’s graduate program, The Fordham Center for Nonprofit Leaders. From 2011 through 2013, he served as Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, where he led transformational change across the nation’s largest school system, which

serves more than 1.1 million students in 1,800 schools across the five boroughs.

Prior to his appointment as Chancellor, Mr. Walcott served as Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development during the Bloomberg Administration, overseeing and coordinating the operations of the Department of Education, the New York City Housing Authority, the Department of Youth and Community Development, and the Mayor’s Office of Adult Education. He served on the board of the Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation, was the Board Chair of NYC’s Fund for Public Education, and previously served as Co-Chair of the Mayor’s Commission for Construction Opportunity. Mr. Walcott served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the New York Urban League for more than 12 years, where he expanded educational and youth service programs, including Jeter’s Leaders, Bridge to Brotherhood, Healthy Start, Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership, and the 140th Street Building Block Program. He began his career as a kindergarten teacher.

Mr. Walcott graduated from New York City public schools, including P.S.



36, I.S. 192, and Francis Lewis High School, all in Queens. He graduated from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut with a bachelor’s degree and a master’s in Education in 1973 and 1974, respectively. In 1980, he received his master’s in Social Work from Fordham University. He has served on numerous boards, including those of the Carver Bank Corporation, Primary Care Development Corporation, and the former New York City Board of Education. He has also served as an adjunct professor of social work at York College and as a talk show radio host.

Mr. Walcott and his wife Denise have four children—Dejeanne, Dana, Shatisha, and Timmy—and five grandsons.

## What’s Dennis Walcott Reading?

“I just finished a biography about FDR—*Roosevelt: The Soldier of Freedom* by James MacGregor Burns—and *The Bully Pulpit* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. I’m currently reading *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond. More importantly, I stroll the floor of Central Library and will often pick up a book and read several pages.”

**“I have been a lifelong patron of the Queens Library and wholeheartedly believe in the mission of this great institution.”**



Dennis Walcott with the staff of Jackson Heights Community Library.



# A Primer on Library Funding

Our customers and supporters often have a common question: where does Queens Library receive its funding, and how is that funding distributed in the library's budget?

Here's a brief look at the primary sources of our funding, and how that funding is spent on our services, programs, collections, and more. If there's a particular aspect of the library that you feel passionate about, knowing who has the biggest hand in supporting it will help you—and us—with your advocacy.

## New York City

Over 85 percent of Queens Library's funding comes from New York City—appropriated by the Mayor and the New York City Council. This funding is used primarily for Queens Library's **operating expenses**—our staff, building maintenance, and utilities, with a smaller part going towards supporting

**Take Action!**  
**Mail the postcard**  
**to Mayor de Blasio.**

our technology and maintaining our collections. New York City also provides most of the capital funding that is used to **build, renovate, and maintain library buildings**.

## New York State

Nearly 10 percent of our funding comes from New York State, and these funds are used almost exclusively for **new and existing construction projects and special programs** like adult literacy and homework help.

## U.S. Government

Federal funding for Queens Library (almost three percent of our budget) comes from the Universal Service Program for Schools and Libraries, also known as the E-rate program, which makes our **telecommunications services** more affordable. Federal funds also help support **workforce development programs and immigrant/New American services** at the library.

## Fundraising/Queens Library Foundation

Philanthropic support—including foundation and corporate grants, private donations, and fundraising events—accounts for roughly one percent of Queens Library's funding. Special fundraising initiatives like the Mail-A-Book campaign directly address specific library needs, and donations and grants usually provide direct support to special services at the library, including our STACKS afterschool program, Family Place and Kickoff to Kindergarten, older adult services, ESOL classes, and international programming (like our Living Memory series).



# What We Accomplished This Year —With Your Help!



Last year, thousands of Queens Library customers attended our rallies, joined us at City Hall, wrote to their elected officials, and made their voices heard.



## Advocacy 2016—How Do I Contact My Elected Official?

Here are the key city officials who will decide the amount of funding that New York City's libraries will receive in the upcoming fiscal year.

We encourage you to contact city leadership and your local Council Member, tell them how your neighborhood library benefits your community, and remind them that they need to Keep Investing in Libraries!

### Mayor Bill de Blasio

City Hall  
New York, NY 10007  
311  
[www.nyc.gov/html/static/pages/officeofthemayor/contact.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/static/pages/officeofthemayor/contact.shtml)  
<https://twitter.com/BilldeBlasio>  
<https://www.facebook.com/mayordeblasio>

### New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito

105 East 116th Street  
New York, NY 10029  
212-828-9800  
[mviverito@council.nyc.gov](mailto:mviverito@council.nyc.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/MMViverito>  
<https://www.facebook.com/mmviverito>

### New York City Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer

47-01 Queens Boulevard, Suite 205  
Sunnyside, NY 11104  
718-383-9566  
[JVanBramer@council.nyc.gov](mailto:JVanBramer@council.nyc.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/JimmyVanBramer>  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jimmy-Van-Bramer/125696285699>  
*Represents the Broadway, Court Square, Hunters Point, Long Island City, Sunnyside, and Woodside libraries*

### New York City Council Finance Committee Chair Julissa Ferreras- Copeland

32-33A Junction Boulevard  
East Elmhurst, NY 11369  
718-651-1917  
[CD21invites@council.nyc.gov](mailto:CD21invites@council.nyc.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/julissaferreras>  
<https://www.facebook.com/Julissa.Ferreras>  
*Represents the Corona, East Elmhurst, Langston Hughes, and Lefrak City libraries*

### New York City Council Subcommittee on Libraries Chair Andy King

940 East Gun Hill Road  
Bronx, NY 10467  
718-684-5509  
[Andy.King@council.nyc.gov](mailto:Andy.King@council.nyc.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/AndyKingNYC>  
<https://www.facebook.com/New-York-City-Council-Member-Andy-L-King-116867358490208>

### New York City Council Members Representing Queens

#### Council Member Costa Constantinides

31-09 Newtown Avenue, Suite 209  
Astoria, NY 11102  
718-274-4500  
[costa@council.nyc.gov](mailto:costa@council.nyc.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/Costa4NY>  
<https://www.facebook.com/costaforastoria>  
*Represents the Astoria, Broadway, and Steinway libraries*

#### Council Member Elizabeth Crowley

Atlas Park Mall  
71-19 80th Street, Suite 8-303  
Glendale, NY 11385  
718-366-3900  
[ecrowley@council.nyc.gov](mailto:ecrowley@council.nyc.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/ElizCrowleyNYC>  
<https://www.facebook.com/elizcrowleynyc>  
*Represents the Glendale, Maspeth, Middle Village, and Ridgewood libraries*

#### Council Member Daniel Dromm

37-32 75th Street  
Jackson Heights, NY 11372  
718-803-6373  
[DDromm@council.nyc.gov](mailto:DDromm@council.nyc.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/dromm25>  
<https://www.facebook.com/Daniel-Dromm-18241697139>  
*Represents the Elmhurst and Jackson Heights libraries*



Thanks to you, and the \$43 million investment in libraries citywide from Mayor Bill de Blasio, Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Finance Committee Chair Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, Cultural Affairs and Libraries Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, Subcommittee on Libraries Chair Andy King, and the New York City Council, Queens Library:

- Restored six days of service at every community library
- Hired over 100 new staff members, including librarians, custodians, and maintenance and clerical staff
- Added \$2.6 million in library materials to our collections
- Expanded services like ESOL, older adult programs, early childhood learning programs, and more

In order to lock in these gains, we need to make sure that the funding we received last year is maintained in this year's city budget.

And in order to deliver the increased levels of programming, materials, hours, and services that New Yorkers need from their libraries, we need to restore funding for New York City's three library systems to FY 2008 levels by increasing operating funds an additional \$22 million. Additionally, citywide, our libraries need \$100 million in capital funding to address critical maintenance needs.

This advocacy season, help us remind the Mayor and the City Council to invest in the people of New York City! You can take action now by:

- Visiting [investinlibraries.org](http://investinlibraries.org) for information and updates
- Going to [speakup.queenslibrary.org](http://speakup.queenslibrary.org) and signing the electronic petition
- Sharing your support on social media using #InvestInLibraries

You have the power to make it happen. Tell your elected officials to Keep Investing in Libraries!



### Council Member Barry Grodenchik

73-03 Bell Boulevard  
Oakland Gardens, NY 11364  
718-468-0137  
[m23@council.nyc.gov](mailto:m23@council.nyc.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/barrygrodenchik>  
<https://www.facebook.com/bgrodenchik>  
*Represents the Bellerose, Fresh Meadows, Glen Oaks, Hollis, North Hills, Queens Village, and Windsor Park libraries*

### Council Member Peter Koo

135-27 38th Avenue, Suite 388  
Flushing, NY 11354  
718-888-8747  
[pkoo@council.nyc.gov](mailto:pkoo@council.nyc.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/cmpeterkoo>  
<https://www.facebook.com/CMPeterKoo>  
*Represents the Flushing, Mitchell-Linden, McGoldrick, and Queensboro Hill libraries*

### Council Member Karen Koslowitz

118-35 Queens Boulevard, 17th Floor  
Forest Hills, NY 11375  
718-544-8800  
[Koslowitz@council.nyc.gov](mailto:Koslowitz@council.nyc.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/CMKoslowitz>  
<https://www.facebook.com/cmKarenKoslowitz>  
*Represents the Forest Hills, North Forest Park, Rego Park, and Richmond Hill libraries*

### Council Member Rory Lancman

78-40 164th Street, Hillcrest, NY 11366  
718-217-4969  
[RLancman@council.nyc.gov](mailto:RLancman@council.nyc.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/RoryLancman>  
<https://www.facebook.com/RoryLancman>  
*Represents the Briarwood, Hillcrest, Kew Gardens Hills, and Pomonok libraries*

### Council Member I. Daneek Miller

172-12 Linden Boulevard, St. Albans, NY 11434  
718-776-3700  
[District27@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District27@council.nyc.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/idaneekmiller>  
<https://www.facebook.com/daneek.miller>  
*Represents the Cambria Heights, Central, South Hollis, South Jamaica, and St. Albans libraries*

### Council Member Antonio Reynoso

244 Union Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211  
718-963-3141  
[areynoso@council.nyc.gov](mailto:areynoso@council.nyc.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/CMReynoso34>  
<https://www.facebook.com/Antonio4Council>  
*Represents part of the Ridgewood community and library*

### Council Member Donovan Richards

1931 Mott Avenue, Suite 410, Far Rockaway, NY 11691  
718-471-7014  
[drichards@council.nyc.gov](mailto:drichards@council.nyc.gov)  
<https://twitter.com/DRichards13>  
<https://www.facebook.com/drichardsnycouncil>  
*Represents the Arverne, Far Rockaway, Laurelton, and Rosedale libraries, and Queens Library for Teens*

### Council Member Eric Ulrich

93-06 101st Avenue  
Ozone Park, NY 11416  
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# Learn How to Take Control of Your **FINANCES!**

Are financial problems causing you stress? We're partnering with Community Service Society to provide **free access to a financial coach** who can help you get the skills you need to manage money and gain stability.

On **Wednesdays through June 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Central Library Job Information Center, our Financial Coach will help customers develop positive financial skills in one-on-one appointments, including:

- Learning how to access, review, understand, and repair your credit report
- Addressing debt-related legal problems
- Dealing with debt collectors
- Setting financial goals
- Budgeting and saving
- Opening a bank account and avoiding high-risk, high-cost services
- Exploring your eligibility for public benefits or tax credits

**Preregistration is required.**  
Call 718-990-8625 to make an appointment to speak with a counselor and build your financial confidence!



# An Interview with New Langston Hughes Executive Director Mikisha Morris

We're very pleased to welcome **Dr. Mikisha Morris** to Queens Library as the new Executive Director of the Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center. She succeeds **Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako)**, who will be retiring in July 2016 after more than 35 years of service to the Queens community.

*Dr. Morris, who recently earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership, has an extensive nonprofit and public education administration background, having spent the majority of her career serving children and communities in Philadelphia. She brings a strong understanding of and value for culture and cultural arts in the community and in a library setting.*

*Dr. Morris was gracious enough to speak with us about some of her plans for her new role, her first message for the customers of Langston Hughes, and more.*

## **What role did libraries play in your life growing up?**

The library played a very significant role in my life. My parents strongly encouraged reading and writing in our household. So, as a little girl with a big vocabulary and an even bigger imagination, the library was the perfect escape for me. I would lose myself in a stack of books for hours.

## **What attracted you to the Executive Director position at Langston Hughes Community Library?**

My background is in public education and nonprofits, specifically program development and operations management in educational environments. The foundation of my previous work was serving students and communities. When I researched Langston Hughes Community Library, I knew that I had found something

very special. The ED position at Langston Hughes fulfills everything that I was looking for professionally—the opportunity to serve urban communities; promote education and literacy; provide amazing cultural arts experiences for diverse audiences; encourage the study of Black cultures and heritage; and hopefully inspire children and adults alike to make reading a strong part of their lives.

## **We know you just arrived, but what are some of your early plans for your new role at Langston Hughes? Are there any programs or events that you'd like to develop?**

My early plans are to glean as much knowledge as possible from Director Emeritus Andrew Jackson so that I may continue the great legacy that he has created over the past 35 years. I want to develop resources and programming that will be relevant to a community that was once predominantly Black and is now home to various Hispanic immigrants; but also sustain the original founders' vision for the institution, which is to provide a means for the community, students, teachers, and scholars throughout the borough to have direct access to and study Black culture. Finally, I would like to extend the reach of Langston Hughes. This is an amazing institution, with a powerful legacy; it offers so much, academically and culturally—and I wish for even more people to walk through the doors and experience it.



## **Do you have a message for the customers of Langston Hughes and the communities of Corona and East Elmhurst?**

This is the Langston Hughes COMMUNITY Library and Cultural Center, meaning: it belongs to you. I invite you to come in and explore all that we have to offer. We welcome you, we appreciate you, and we are here to serve.

## **Perhaps the most important question: even though you've come to us from Philadelphia, are you ready to start rooting for the Mets?**

Every time the Phillies have a bad season, I swear out of frustration to “cheer for a new team next year.” Philly has my heart; so I have to root for my home team. BUT, if I continue to have my heart broken every season...I may have to reconsider. And I do have a few friends and family members who are Mets fans, so they would be more than willing to help me with the transition!

*A longer version of this interview can be found on the Queens Library blog.*



# Who are Literature's Most Memorable Mothers?

"I have two picks for memorable mothers: Margaret 'Marmee' March from ***Little Women*** by **Louisa May Alcott** and Caroline Ingalls from the **Little House books by Laura Ingalls Wilder**. Marmee always had the best advice, particularly when things went wrong. Whether dealing with a breaking heart, or ministering to a sick child, she always stood stalwart and quietly strong. Yet she was not above ministering a little bit of tough love when needed.

"Caroline Ingalls saw it all—floods, fires, blizzards, tornadoes, and sickness. Yet she refused to lower her standards of behavior, even in the midst of physical suffering. For example, she insisted on her girls getting an education, home-schooling them when there was no physical school for them to attend."  
— *Mari Miller-Lamb, Children's Librarian, Queens Library at North Hills*

"My pick is the mother bunny from ***The Runaway Bunny*** by **Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd**. When the little bunny tells his mother that he is going to run away from her, she replies with true motherly love that she will run after him. No matter how or where he decides to run away, his mother will always be there, for he is her little bunny. Very cute!"  
— *Vesna Simon, Community Library Manager, Queens Library at Ridgewood*

"**Vera B. Williams's *A Chair for My Mother*** is a timeless classic and has been one of my favorite picture books since I was a child. It's a brilliant story of a devoted child saving money to buy a chair for her mom. It demonstrates strength in hardship

and the enduring power of mother-daughter love."  
— *Susan Paredes, Assistant Community Library Manager, Queens Library at Long Island City*

"The first book that came to mind is ***Not Without My Daughter*** by **Betty Mahmoody**. This is a sorrowful, yet inspiring true story of a mother who loves her daughter to the very ends of the earth, who risked her life to protect her and escape her husband's abuse by fleeing Iran. Betty took action because nothing was more important to her than her daughter's safety and freedom."  
— *Olga L. Gordon-Murray, Assistant Community Library Manager, Queens Library at Rosedale*

# Celebrate LGBTQ Pride With These Great Books!

"My pick is ***Female Masculinity*** by **Jack (then known as Judith) Halberstam**. A rebellion against the notion that gender only exists as 'male' or 'female' (known as the 'gender binary'), as well as a detailed anthropological catalogue of masculinity as presented by female-bodied people in cultural history, this book asserts that masculinity is not owned by any one sex, while commenting on the problems (and dangers) that emerge when we police the way other people present their true selves."  
— *Danielle Thillet, Queens Library Social Media Manager*

"As a new librarian to Queens who is also gay, I'm trying to make sure my collection has many LGBTQ selections. While the classic LGBTQ books are excellent and I have read many of those, they really don't pertain to today's LGBTQ teens. So here are some of my new favorites.

"***Symptoms of Being Human*** by **Jeff Garvin**  
There aren't a lot of teen books about gender fluidity, so I grabbed this one as soon as I heard about it. I know a couple of gender-queer teens and it's a book I would

recommend to them. In the book, Riley has dealt with a lot so far in life and now is going to be the new kid at a new high school. You see life through their eyes and get an understanding of what it's like to be gender queer.

"***George*** by **Alex Gino**  
George is about a 4th grader who was born biologically a boy but knows she is a girl. She hasn't told her family about it yet, but she does talk about it with a friend, who loves and accepts her. When her class has play auditions for *Charlotte's Web*, George wants to play Charlotte but only 'girls' are trying out for that part. Read this book to see how George handles it! It's one of the first books written about a transgender protagonist for children. Such an awesome book not only for kids, but also for teens!

"***Lies We Tell Ourselves*** by **Robin Talley**  
When I first picked up this book, I thought I was just going to be reading a story about the Civil Rights

era (which I love!) and then I was surprised! This book takes place in 1959 and Sarah Dunbar is one of the first students to be integrated into the local high school that used to be whites-only. She deals with a lot of obstacles and hatred and is forced to work with Linda, a student who was raised to believe that the races must be kept separate. The two girls learn a lot about each other and then develop feelings for each other.

"***One Man Guy*** by **Michael Barakiva**  
Once I read about this book and found out the main character was Armenian and gay I was sold!!! I'm half-Armenian myself and never find books like this! Alek is forced to go to summer school, where he meets Ethan. Through Ethan, Alek's world opens up and his life changes. He soon realizes Ethan is starting to have feelings for him and starts to think about having a boyfriend."  
— *Jody Ruggiero, YA Librarian, Queens Library at Peninsula*



# CALLING ALL POETS!

Sharpen your pencils and submit to our 2016 Summer Poetry Contest. Categories are open from Grade 4 to post high-school/adult. This year, the theme is *Get In The Game*. There's no limit to your creativity, but please keep it under 250 words.

All entries must be submitted between June 2, 2016 and July 31, 2016. To find out how to submit, visit [queenslib.org/poetrycontest2016](http://queenslib.org/poetrycontest2016).

QUEENS LIBRARY

SUMMER POETRY CONTEST 2016  
[queenslib.org/poetrycontest2016](http://queenslib.org/poetrycontest2016)



# Queens Library Presents: Jane Jacobs @ 100

May 4 is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jane Jacobs, the influential author and activist known for her groundbreaking ideas about urban planning and her grassroots efforts that challenged conventional plans to redevelop Greenwich Village and other parts of New York City.

Western Queens, especially Long Island City, has seen significant changes in recent years. Once filled with industrial buildings, LIC is now home to high-rise luxury buildings and popular restaurants. We wonder: what would Jane Jacobs say about the current development boom?

Join us on **Wednesday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m.** for a special birthday event celebrating Jacobs, where you will hear unique perspectives on the forces that have made Western Queens what it is today and have a look ahead at what Jane Jacobs might envision for its future.

This event will be at **Manducatis Rustica, 46-35 Vernon Boulevard in Long Island City**. Guests are welcome to simply attend the event or arrive early and/or stay late for cocktails, food, and conversation.

Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. for those who want their photos of Western



Jane Jacobs

Queens digitized for free by the Queens Memory team. As part of the main program, Queens Memory Director **Natalie Milbrodt** will interview lifelong LIC resident **Gianna Cerbone**, owner and chef of Manducatis Rustica, who will

This event will be at Manducatis Rustica, 46-35 Vernon Boulevard in Long Island City.

share her first-hand perspective on the changes in Long Island City. That talk will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by urban design and architecture expert **Adam Lubinsky** on the legacy of Jane Jacobs in Queens.

This event has been supported by Plaxall, Inc. To reserve your seats, visit [janejacobsqueens.eventbrite.com](http://janejacobsqueens.eventbrite.com).

