

Department Profile

Outreach Services

Central Library
10 Grand Army
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Established in 1974, Services for Older Adults offers various programs and services to Brooklyn's multi-lingual/multi-cultural older adult communities. SOA works collaboratively to strengthen a sense of community among older adults therefore bringing library services out to the streets of Brooklyn and touching the lives of those that may otherwise have been forgotten.

Services

Brooklyn Public Library's Services for Older Adults Department identifies current and emerging needs of older adults in the borough, and makes system-wide books, audio/music files, DVDs, databases, and other material recommendations for purchase.

Books-To-Go (Established in 1974, re-established 1985) **Call: 718.236.1760**

A depository rotating collection serving nursing homes, senior centers, and adult day-care centers that supply seniors with reading and viewing materials. Included are books in English and other languages (some in large print); Materials are packed and scheduled for delivery by Services for Older Adult staff members. Pickup and delivery is provided via BookOps every three to four weeks.

Books By Mail - Call: 718.236.1760

This is a fast, convenient service that supplies books, books on tape, DVD/videos, and mobile devices to Brooklyn residents of all ages, who are homebound and have a visual impairment or a physical disability, which limits their ability to handle standard printed materials. Materials are sent free of charge via postal mail.

Programs

Brooklyn Public Library's Services for Older Adults Department offers many special programs and events especially tailored for the 50+ audience. We are committed in providing lifelong learning to Brooklyn's ethnically diverse older adults at public libraries, senior centers, nursing homes, adult day care facilities, and assisted living facilities that reflect the wide interests of today's older adults.

Free Events for Older Adults

The department created uniquely branded suite of innovative and sustainable programs for older adults throughout the BPL branch system. Included are

- Technology classes (OATS-Never Too Late to Learn)
- Exercises classes
- Wednesdays of Wisdom – Presentations from different non-profit organizations.
- Information Tables
- Musical performances
- Senior Debate/Intergenerational Debate

Creative Aging Programs - Call: 718.230.2442

These programs are sequential, art-based programs geared for the mature adult 50 plus, reflecting in a wide range of artistic disciplines (e.g., painting, collage, poetry, and writing) that are selected by each participating library branch based on community input. Each workshop series typically runs for eight to ten weeks with weekly two-hour sessions and serve 15-25 students per session. A culminating event is held at each participating branch where the students' work is exhibited or performed and celebrated with the local community.

In each series, students learn the basic elements of the selected art form, complete short artistic exercises, and work on longer-term projects. Classes are designed for students with little or no experience but are equally relevant to students at the intermediate or advanced levels.

Wednesdays Of Wisdom {WOW} – Information sessions in which different non-profit organizations present the programs available for NY residents.

Sharing Reflections {Words & Memories} – Call: 718.230.2442

Hosted by part time Senior Assistants at Libraries, Nursing Homes, Senior Centers, and Rehabilitation Facilities. The idea is to provide opportunities for all in a program relevant to reminiscing some of the many things in life that have influenced who they have become today. It's a great opportunity to travel back in time, talk about journey and destination, meet new people, hear about their experiences, and connect with community members. Laughter and fun are integral ingredients of our program. This program is offered in English, Spanish, Russian, and Chinese.

Senior Assistant Leading Lights – Call: 7178.230.2442

Senior Assistants Leading Lights (S.A.L.L.) is a new program designed to engage, inspire, and uplift older adults in a variety of art programs led by part time Senior Assistants who are passionate about their knowledge and talents with library communities across Brooklyn. Programs may include simple collage, adult coloring, making greeting cards, scratch board and more. Hosted at certain libraries.

Technology for All – Call: 718.938.2525

Our Digital Literacy Associate will assist you in all your tech demands. Including screen readers {NVDA, JAWS, Voiceover}; iPhone & Android smartphones; Computer Support {Google Suite, Microsoft365, Outlook, Gmail}; Virtual Programs {Zoom, Microsoft Teams}; Social Media {YouTube, Instagram, Facebook}; Microsoft & Mac iOS Software.

Programs, such as creativity through the arts; health and wellness; and technology training, are in high demand among adults and older adults residing throughout Brooklyn communities. These programs allow adults of all ages to stretch and flex their minds and bodies in ways that are life enhancing and even life extending.

Through various programing options, we can collaboratively work towards improving the quality of life to Brooklyn's culturally diverse older adult population by:

- providing a sense of community to many people who live alone or spend a great amount of time by themselves.
- encouraging participation and building communities within library and community settings
- offering opportunities to learn and practice new skills, experience personal growth, and share experiences through social interaction.

For more information go to: <http://www.bklynlibrary.org/seniors>

Services for Older Adult Staff Directory:

Lyman Clayborn (Coordinator, Older Adult Services)

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Books by Mail/Books to Go

Judith Blaise (PAA I)

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Programs

Judith Vigo (Program Outreach Associate)

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For programs information and registration go to: <https://bklynlib.org/olderadults>

Senior Debate/Intergenerational Debate:

Berena Hughes, Outreach Program Assistant

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Services for Older Adults Department located at the New Utrecht Library Basement
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Other Contacts in Outreach Services:

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- Community Outreach: Brenda Bantt-Peters – bbantt-peters@bklynlibrary.org
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