

THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
5 WASHINGTON STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Photos to accompany this release are available at <http://bit.ly/YCkOJC>

***Philip Roth: An Exhibit of Photos from a Lifetime* Opens at the Newark Public Library**

Philip Roth was born at Beth Israel Hospital in the Weequahic section of Newark on March 19, 1933. Now 80 years later, the Newark Public Library is celebrating the critically acclaimed author's life with an exhibition of his personal photographs.

Philip Roth: An Exhibit of Photos from a Lifetime will be on view through August 31, 2013 on the Second Floor Gallery of the Main Library at 5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102.

This exhibit is comprised of photographs from Roth's own collections, most never before seen by the public, along with images from the Library's Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, curated by James Lewis with guest curator, Rosemary Steinbaum. With many captions by Roth himself, the photographs tell the story of his life from his youth in Newark to contemporary times, with images of his family, his friends from the Weequahic community, and his writer colleagues.

Rosemary Steinbaum carefully selected passages from Roth's books that complement the photographs and captions. At Tuesday morning's preview for members of the Philip Roth Society, Steinbaum observed, "*From Goodbye, Columbus to Nemesis*, from the Newark Public Library to the Chancellor Avenue playground, Newark has been to Roth's writing what whaling was to Melville's: setting, theme, metaphor, and moral compass."

The Newark Public Library has enjoyed a long and close relationship with Roth. As a student, he used the Weequahic Branch Library on Osborne Terrace. *Goodbye, Columbus*, his first published book, featured the Library prominently. In 1991, John Cunningham, as President of the Friends of the Newark Public Library, invited Mr. Roth to give the first John Cotton Dana Lecture here. When the late Charles Cummings, former Newark City Historian, supervised the New Jersey Information Center in the

Main Library, he became friends with Roth and often supplied him with information about Newark's history.

"Now we are proud to continue this relationship as the Library has been entrusted with Roth's private photographs for this exhibition," said James Lewis.

Library Director Wilma J. Grey said, "We are so pleased to be celebrating Philip Roth's life with him as he turns 80. He has been as much a part of this Library's life as we have been of his."

A 24-page catalogue based on the exhibit will be published in May and can be ordered for \$15 at the Library or from the Library website at www.npl.org. Proceeds from the sale of the booklet will be used to support the fiction collections at The Newark Public Library.

Philip Roth: An Exhibit of Photos from a Lifetime is open free of charge during regular library hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday: 9:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m.; Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.—8:30 p.m.

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