

The Pitch

NEWSLETTER OF THE PRPL



The Philip Roth Lecture: Come Out and Join Us

We think Philip Roth would be especially pleased with the upcoming 2023 Philip Roth Lecture and hope you'll join us to hear Dr. John Wesley Johnson, Jr. speak on *History, Memory, and the Weequahic Section of Newark*, Thursday, November 2nd, 2023, 6:00-8:00 PM at the Newark Public Library in the James Brown African American Room, 2nd Floor. Doors open at 5:00 PM. Register [here](#).

Johnson, an assistant professor of history at Saint Peter's University, has centered his research on race, class, culture and urban geography in the 20th Century United States. His study of Weequahic charts its transition from a predominantly Jewish to a majority African American neighborhood in the 1960s. His work looks at the impact of federally funded urban renewal on Newark and how highway construction and downtown development impacted the lives of Newark residents.

Image: Dr. John W. Johnson, Jr. at the Weequahic Branch of the NPL in May of 2023. Photographed by Nancy Shields.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

November 2, 6pm

Philip Roth Lecture
History, Memory, and the Weequahic
Section of Newark | A lecture by Dr. John
Wesley Johnson, Jr.

November 14, 6pm



Poetry workshop with host Mia X

December 2, 1pm EST

A virtual book club discussion of "Juice or Gravy," the afterword to *Portnoy's Complaint* (published in the 25th anniversary edition) with host James Duban

December 12, 6pm

Poetry workshop with host Dimitri Reyes

January 13, 10am EST

A virtual discussion with the editors of *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Philip Roth* (soon to be published)

February 10, 1pm EST

A virtual book club discussion of *The Prague Orgy* with host Martyna Bryla

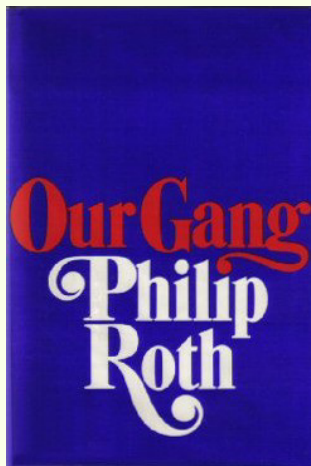
This fall, Philip Roth's novel, *Sabbath's Theater*, takes the stage with John Turturro, Elizabeth Marvel and Jason Kravits at The Pershing Square Signature Center [The Romulus Linney Courtyard Theatre] in New York City. For more information, click [here](#). The New Group has created a discount code just for us, please use **NPL10** to receive \$10 off regular and premium seats through November 2.



Visit shop.npl.org for PRPL and NPL merchandise, including notebooks, caps, and more. Some products will also be available for sale on the day of the Philip Roth Lecture (November 2)

Congratulations to the winners of our Newark-themed poetry/storySLAM, held on 9/26/23. Pictured are Library Director Christian Zabriskie with storyteller Elijah Whitaker and poet LJ Eaddy (Poetry Picasso).

Poor Richard



Philip Roth was acquainted with several artists, including Philip Guston, Tomi Ungerer, and R.B. Kitaj. Roth and Guston met in 1969 in Woodstock, NY. Both moved to the quiet of upstate New York after leaving Manhattan. Guston, who was 20 years older than Roth, turned to isolation after receiving criticism because he shifted from abstraction to more figurative work.

In *Shop Talk* (2001), Roth explains: "What caused our friendship to flourish was, to begin with, a similar intellectual outlook, a love for many of the same books as well as a shared delight in what Guston called "crapola," starting with billboards, garages, diners, burger joints, junk shops, auto body shops...What sealed the camaraderie was that we liked each other's new work" (p. 135).

After reading draft pages of *Our Gang* (1971), Guston was inspired to produce a series of caricatures of Nixon and other characters titled *Poor Richard*. The drawings depicted Nixon with a large, phallic nose and the sketches emphasized hypocrisy and dishonesty.

Twenty years after Guston's death, his daughter, Musa Mayer, permitted the collection of political satire to be exhibited and 73 images were

published in 2001. Philip Roth owned a copy of *Poor Richard* and kept it in his "library room" in his home in Connecticut.

-Nadine Giron and Nancy Shields

Newsletter Issue #8 contributors: Nadine Giron and Nancy Shields

Philip Roth Personal Library @ The Newark Public Library
5 Washington St., Newark NJ 07102
prpl@npl.org | 973.733.3614
<https://prpl.npl.org>

Keep in Touch!



Newark Public Library | 5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102

[Unsubscribe kgiardi@npl.org](mailto:kgiardi@npl.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by prpl@npl.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!