



Recently I was in Newark, NJ, to attend the Roth@80 Conference and also to participate in Philip Roth's eightieth birthday (19 March). Newark is to Roth's fiction what Dublin is to James Joyce's or Chicago is to Saul Bellow's. It was a heart-warming experience to meet Roth, often considered the greatest living American author, and exchange a few words on the occasion of his birthday. A galaxy of literary artists and intellectuals were in attendance for celebrating Roth's birthday in the Billy Johnson Auditorium of the Newark Museum including Louise Erdrich, Don DeLillo, Edna O'Brien, Nathan Englander, John Lethem, Hermione Lee, Alain Finkielkraut, Claudia Roth Pierpont, David Remnick, and Charles McGrath.