January 23, 2002

Dear Professor Roskies:

I only just found out that you are still in town. I don't know why, but I thought you had already left for Israel.

Again, thank you for your comments on my paper. No need to tell you how encouraging your words were. I made the changes you suggested (I still can't figure out what to do with "voyeuristic rite/right"), and am giving you the corrected copy.

I spent January reading Roth and writing my autobiography – and it shows. It is written in the third person (if you remember, "Hinda Malcha of Far Rockaway") – with a Zuckermanian type narrator—well, after he has had a few too many. I feel that it cuts right to the chase on many issues – a lot less explaining to do when it comes to male/female social relations. When either everyone in it dies (God forbid) or moves to another country - or I do - I will be able to show it to the world. Until then, I'll just keep writing.

Enjoy your sabbatical. I won't be able to take an intensive Yiddish course this summer as I had hoped (although I will be doing one in Hebrew), so unfortunately I won't be able to enroll in your Yiddish literature seminar – but I'm sure you will be offering something else for me.

All the best,

Kim Bistrong