

34 Soundview Street
New Rochelle, NY 10805-3914
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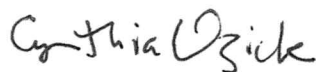
Mr. Alan Rosen
Ms. Jillian Davidson

Dear Mr. Rosen and Ms. Davidson,

Please accept my profoundly abashed apologies for this inordinately belated response both to your original email and your follow-up letter of September 10th. Perhaps the long hiatus will speak for itself in explaining why I am compelled to decline your invitation to contribute to a Festschrift in honor of Professor David Roskies. Though I may not be able here to fully clarify the difficulties that prevent my participation, I hope you will know the depth of my thanks for having me in mind for what promises to be a brilliant project.

I had the privilege of reading, while it was still in manuscript, parts of *Yesterlands*, David's witty and illuminating and always moving memoir; and once he asked me whether it was true that I kept a photograph of Kafka looming over my desk. I had the feeling then that David had the knack of seeing all the world as yet another instance of *Yesterlands*! David's voice and gifts are invaluable, and he and his extraordinary sister Ruth Wisse are irreplaceable and indispensable. They are among the chiefest blessings of our time.

With all good wishes,


Cynthia Ozick