

VICTOR J. WISHNA

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EXPERIENCE

Freelance Writer/Editor/Commentator New York, NY/Kansas City, MO Jan. 2000 – present
Articles published in the *Baltimore Sun*, *Miami Herald*, *The Forward*, *Kansas City Star*, *Star Magazine*, and others. **Contributing writer** and **senior editor** for KCMetropolis.com, “Kansas City’s Journal of the Performing Arts.” Real estate **feature**, “Dream Homes,” published weekly in the *New York Post*. Sports **commentary**, “A Fan’s Notes,” broadcast regularly on KCUR-FM. Monthly **column**, “Letter From New York,” syndicated nationally in community newspapers. **Scriptwriter** for AntennaAudio tours for museums internationally.

Sample projects: Profiles of statesman Abba Eban; actor Liev Schreiber; writer Calvin Trillin. Features on exchange program between students in the Midwest and the Mideast; feuding pickle merchants on the Lower East Side; Iraqi immigrants in Queens. Commentary on a journey to father’s old Brooklyn neighborhood; religious responses to genocide in Sudan; the economic crisis in Argentina. Audio tours of 20th-century street photography; abstract expressionist works; retrospective on Amedeo Modigliani.

THE VITAL WORD Leawood, KS July 2011 – present
Chief Editorial Officer. Provide writing and editing services on wide variety of projects, from press materials to speeches to web site copy to custom publications, for array of business, nonprofit, and individual clients. Advise and assist students with application essays from idea stage to final polish.

KANSAS CITY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL Overland Park, KS Nov. 2010 – Nov. 2011
Producer. Under the auspices of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, coordinate and oversee committee of volunteers and ensure implementation of all aspects of production—selection, programming, marketing, fundraising, sales, special events—for nine-day spring festival of films and speakers, as well as ancillary events throughout the year.

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY New York, NY Oct. 2008 – July 2010
Special Assistant to the Chancellor. Served as aide-de-camp to Arnold M. Eisen, seventh chancellor of JTS, an institution with student body of 700 and annual budget of \$36 million. Assisted with research, editing, and writing of Chancellor’s speeches and materials for publication. Executed advance work to ensure that Chancellor was prepared for all meetings, teaching and speaking engagements, and official events. Staffed committees and initiatives, including year-long strategic planning process. Represented Chancellor at outside conferences and seminars. Acted as liaison to other officers and departments at JTS, especially departments of communication and development, as well as to outside organizations.

Author Umbrage Editions, 2006
In Their Company: Portraits of American Playwrights, with photographer Ken Collins. Conducted and edited interviews with 61 prominent stage writers including Edward Albee, August Wilson, Wendy Wasserstein, and many others. Winner of 2007 Independent Publisher Book Awards Silver Medal.

QUEST/Q MAGAZINES New York, NY Nov. 2004 — Sept. 2008
Managing Editor. Oversaw all sections and all aspects of editorial production from story planning to final layout for monthly Manhattan society magazine with circulation of 75,000+, and quarterly fashion publication with distribution of 150,000 (plus online presence). Cultivated and assigned freelance writers, designers, photographers, and copy-editors. Wrote news pieces and longer features.

YOUR WORLD PUBLISHING Baltimore, MD/New York, NY Jan. 2003 — Jan. 2005
Writer/Editor/Client manager. Prepared oral histories and personal narratives, from interviews to final layout, for family, foundation, and corporate clients. Our mission: to “chronicle peoples’ lives to preserve their stories, transmit their values, and transform their wisdom into inspiration for the future.”

AVENUE MAGAZINE New York, NY Jan. 2001 – Aug. 2002
Staff Writer. Developed long features and short pieces for monthly glossy targeting affluent New Yorkers. Covered the arts, society, real estate, philanthropy, financial issues, lifestyle trends. Wrote weekly column for companion newspaper, *On The Avenue*. Edited others’ work. Assisted with layout.

40+ articles, including: Profiles of Robert Kennedy Jr.; real-estate baron Aby Rosen; architect Philip Johnson. Features on symbolism and internal anxiety of the Empire State Building after 9/11; Robert De Niro’s push to revitalize downtown Manhattan; the rise of Long Island wine country. News stories on Woody Allen’s battle to preserve Carnegie Hill; sale of Manhattan’s most expensive apartment.

RESTAURANT BUSINESS New York, NY Dec. 1998 – Dec. 2000
Senior Editor. Wrote in-depth features and news articles about the restaurant industry for magazine with twice-monthly circulation of 135,000. Reported on lifestyle issues, political developments, marketing, financial performance, food trends. Developed story ideas. Cultivated freelancers. Edited special features.

75+ articles, including: Profiles of dining-guide creators Tim and Nina Zagat; Kevin Hall, founder of community service-oriented restaurant; Wolfgang Puck. Features on effects of job stress; marketing to minority customers; violence at restaurants; Clint Eastwood’s battle with the ADA. News stories on staff discontent at NYC five-star restaurants; Francis Ford Coppola’s food ventures; Pope’s visit to U.S.

THE INDEPENDENT Kansas City, MO Feb. – Nov. 1998
Arts Writer. Developed *Art Seen*, a bi-weekly feature focusing on local up-and-coming artists.

CARLSON KORT, L.C. Kansas City, MO Aug. 1997 – Sept. 1998
Paralegal/Research Assistant. Conducted research in labor law and wrote client contingency manuals.

EDUCATION

STANFORD UNIVERSITY Stanford, CA Sept. 1993 – June 1997
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology. Coursework in journalism, history, religious studies, public policy, creative writing, playwriting.

THE NEW SCHOOL New York, NY Sept. 2003 – May 2005
Master of Fine Arts, Non-fiction. Thesis: *From Bagels to Baghdad: Dispatches from Jewish New York*.

OTHER SKILLS / EXPERIENCE

Computers: Fluent in Word, Excel, Quark, InDesign, Photoshop, and HTML.

Arts/Culture: Semi-pro stand-up comedian, appearing throughout New York and the Midwest. Writer and Guide for JWalks, a Jewish heritage walking tour company. Acted in 30+ theater productions.

Language: Knowledge of American Sign Language, written/spoken Hebrew.

Community Leadership/Volunteering: Executive planning committee for 10th Anniversary New York Jewish Environmental Bike Ride over Labor Day 2010 with 500 expected participants and fundraising goal of \$400,000. Team Leader for New York Cares. Four years as after-school reading tutor. Seven summers as camp counselor, U.S. and Israel.