

## WONDER YEARS

Two mothers are suing the Adventure Learning Center day care in St. Louis over an incident in December 2016 when teachers organized a “fight club” among preschoolers. According to Fox 2 in St. Louis, the idea was conceived as a way to entertain the kids while the heater was broken. The 10-year-old sibling of one of the preschoolers was in the room next door and captured video of the fights with an iPad, then texted the video to his mom, Nicole Merseal, who believes the fight was broken up only because she called the director of the center. The video shows one teacher jumping up and down in excitement as another one puts “Incredible Hulk” fists on the kids, and cameras at the center recorded more than 30 minutes of fighting. While the St. Louis Circuit Attorney’s Office declined to prosecute, the teachers were fired and the center has been subject to increased inspections, resulting in 26 violations. On Feb. 19, the Missouri Attorney General’s Office served a civil investigative demand to Adventure Learning Center for information relating to the accusations at their facility.

## BUGGING OUT

Doctors at the Hai Duong Hospital in Hai Duong Province, Vietnam, treated a man who arrived complaining of pain in his ear. Using an endoscope to look inside his ear canal, they found the cause: a live cricket digging around in the duct. United Press International reported on Oct. 26 that the doctors were able to successfully remove the cricket.

## SMOOTH REACTION

On Oct. 12, an Air India Express pilot tried to guide a Boeing 737 up and away from Tiruchirappalli International Airport in Tamil Nadu, India. As the plane took off shortly after midnight, however, it hit the top of a 5-foot-tall perimeter wall and destroyed a small landing guide tower. *The Washington Post* reported that, despite the audible collision, the pilot told the airport director the plane’s systems were functioning normally and he was continuing toward Dubai, across the Indian Ocean. “But we found some parts of the plane, like an antenna, on the ground,” the director said. Finally, about two hours into the flight, ground control convinced

the pilot to return to India, where the plane landed in Mumbai. Indeed, there was a huge gash in the plane’s underbelly, and mesh fencing was wrapped around the landing gear. All 130 passengers arrived unharmed and were booked on other flights, and the pilot and co-pilot have been grounded pending a review.

## BRIGHT IDEA

Two unnamed Marine Corps flyers were grounded pending an investigation after they flew a penis-shaped flight pattern over the Salton Sea on Oct. 23, the *Los Angeles Times* reported. The pilots were outed by a Twitter account called Aircraft Spots, which tracks flight patterns. Josef Patterson, a Marine Corps spokesman, said the jokesters are assisting with other duties in their squadron at Air Station Miramar in San Diego. They can’t take credit for the idea, though: In November 2017, a Navy jet crew flew in a similar pattern over Washington, D.C.

## FLIGHT RISK

Hatam Hamad, 56, a Palestinian and American dual citizen, made a name for himself on Oct. 10 as he flew from New Orleans to Heathrow Airport in London, reported Fox News. Six hours into the flight, after swigging five servings of wine, Hamad approached New Orleans TV executive Joel Vilmenay, who was sitting with his wife and two children. “This man had his penis out and exposed within 3 inches of my face,” Vilmenay said in his statement to the Uxbridge Magistrates Court prosecutor, Wendy Barrett. Vilmenay said he stood up and asked Hamad what he was doing, whereupon Hamad “responded by grunting” and exposed himself to another passenger. At that moment, Hamad “slapped (Vilmenay) in the chest with some force.” The cabin crew was alerted, and Hamad was removed to the back of the plane, where he was guarded for the remainder of the flight. Hamad, who has no previous convictions, at first denied having assaulted anyone, but later admitted his guilt, saying he had not drunk alcohol for three months but was a nervous flyer. His prison sentence was suspended, but he was ordered to pay Vilmenay \$789.

## CONTINUING CRISIS

In an apparent attempt to destroy what

little brainpower he had left, 26-year-old Brandon McVay of Council Bluffs, Iowa, ate a Tide Pod, prompting a trip to the hospital. But while he was being treated in the critical care unit, McVay went on a rampage early on Oct. 4, causing thousands of dollars of damage to medical equipment, according to *The Omaha World-Herald*. A nurse told the responding police officer that McVay “was yelling loudly” as he broke objects in his room before proceeding to the hallway. Keyboards, computer monitors and glass valued at more than \$7,500 were found littering the hallway, where McVay was subdued by security before police arrived. McVay was arrested and held at the hospital on charges of second-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct in a place of business.

## STRANGE BEHAVIOR

West Virginia MetroNews reported that, for Jackie Fullmer, 37, of Fairmont, West Virginia, Oct. 9 started with trying to steal car keys from a woman at knife point. When police caught up to her, she ran toward their car with a hatchet and knife, prompting a deputy to shoot her with a stun gun. Fullmer turned to verbal attacks while being transported to the Fairmont Police Department, warning officers she was going to stab them in the neck and watch their “blood drain as she drank it” — which, as it turns out, she could have done, because she had a knife hidden between her buttocks. That weapon was found during booking, and Fullmer admitted she had slashed the seat belt in the police cruiser with it before threatening to slit the officers’ throats. She was charged with threats of terrorist acts and attempted robbery.

## MOTHER’S DAY

As Hermes Callijas-Gasperin’s mother cooked his dinner on Oct. 8 in Bradenton, Florida, she accidentally bumped into her 22-year-old son. That’s when he lost it, *The New York Post* reported, pelting her with the sausages she was frying and putting his hands on her neck. The Manatee County Sheriff’s Office said Callijas-Gasperin told officers he just wanted his mom to apologize, but he was arrested and charged with misdemeanor domestic battery.

## GOVERNMENT IN ACTION

The District of Columbia’s Department of General Services fell victim to a scam in July when officials there wired almost \$700,000 to a hacker posing as a city vendor. The fraudsters gained information from a vendor’s computer system, reported *The Washington Post*, then created a fake email address by changing just one letter, from which they requested electronic transfers from the D.C. government. David Umansky, a spokesman for the district’s chief financial officer, told the *Post* that since then the city’s protocols for making vendor payments have “been modified to require additional confirmation before changing bank information.” None of D.C.’s money has been recovered.

## WHY IT’S CALLED DOPE

It happens all the time: A vehicle crashes into a building, causing damage and sometimes injury, because brakes don’t function or a driver steps on the wrong pedal. In the case of Keith Rio Cavalier, 28, however, there was more to the story. WLOX reported that Cavalier drove his 1997 Toyota Tacoma into a glass wall at the Harrison County courthouse in Gulfport, Mississippi, on Nov. 10 at around 6 a.m. The building was empty, so there were no injuries, and Cavalier can be clearly seen on surveillance video climbing out of the truck and leaving the scene. When police caught up to him, Cavalier told them he intentionally struck the building in order to report drug paraphernalia had been stolen from him. It will come as no surprise that Cavalier was found to have been driving under the influence and arrested; he was held at the county jail on \$25,000 bond.

## IRONY DEFINED

Kids at Pierre Part Primary school in Pierre Part, Louisiana, thought they knew what to expect during Red Ribbon Week, an annual alcohol awareness program, but a school administrator threw them a curveball, reported WBRZ-TV. Rachel Turley, 49, assistant principal at the school, was on her way to work on Oct. 29 when other motorists reported that she was driving dangerously on Highway 70. Officers caught up with her at the school

and took her to a police substation, where they determined her blood alcohol content was .224, nearly three times the legal limit of .08. She was charged with DWI and careless operation. "The fact that she chose to do this on the Monday of Red Ribbon Week is a slap in the face," commented Niki Lacoste, grandparent of a Pierre Part student.

## THE JOKER IS WILD

A "killer clown" in Nottinghamshire, England, has been apprehended and sentenced to 11 weeks behind bars, plus 18 weeks that had previously been suspended, according to the BBC. Damien Hammond, 29, is a homeless and jobless man who has taken on the persona of Heath Ledger's The Joker from *The Dark Knight Rises*. He admitted to what police called a "crime wave" of offenses, including terrorizing staff in retail stores, waving a gun-shaped cigarette lighter while standing in traffic and striking a police officer. He arrived at Nottingham Magistrates' Court on Oct. 10 with bright green hair, and as he was led to jail, he shouted: "See what you have done. I will kill today!" adding that he would stab police officers and fellow inmates. He has also been banned from central Nottingham for three years.

## HAPPY ENDING

The University of Kansas Cancer Center just wants its colon back. The \$4,000 giant inflatable colon, used to educate the public about colon health, was taken from the bed of a pickup truck on Oct. 19. *The Kansas City Star* reported the 150-pound, 10-foot-long colon was scheduled to appear at a run/walk event at a local park the next day. Ten days later, a tip led Kansas City Police to locate the stolen colon in a vacant house.

## TRIGGER HAPPY

Helen Washington, 75, of Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, faces charges of second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon after she ran out of patience on Oct. 12 with her grandson, who continued to put his teacup on her furniture even after she repeatedly asked him not to. After dumping his tea out, the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* reported, Washington left the room, apparently to get a gun. Meanwhile, the grandson had made a

new cup of tea and put it on the furniture. The argument resumed, and Washington pulled out the .38 Special, shooting her grandson in the leg. She told officers at the scene she didn't think she should go to jail; a judge ordered an evaluation to see if she's competent to stand trial.

## GOOD BOY!

Beagle Brigade K-9 officer Hardy probably thought he'd hit the jackpot when U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents discovered an unusual item in a passenger's luggage at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson airport on Oct. 11. Fox5 reported that something smelled suspicious (and delicious) to Hardy, so agents opened the bag of a traveler from Ecuador to find a cooked pig's head. "This seizure at ATL illustrates the tremendous expertise of our four-legged K-9 partners in protecting the United States," gushed Carey Davis, CBP area port director of the Port of Atlanta. No doubt to Hardy's distress, however, the pig's head was removed and destroyed.

## QUARTERBACK SNEAK

When Denver Broncos backup quarterback Chad Kelly wandered into a suburban house in Englewood, Colorado, early on the morning of Oct. 23, he didn't appear to pose much of a threat, according to ESPN News. He sat down on the couch next to the female resident, who was holding her young child, and began "mumbling incoherently," police records showed. But the man of the house, thinking quickly, shooed the 24-year-old Kelly out with nothing more than a vacuum hose. Kelly, who had been at a Halloween party with teammates, was later found sitting in his car about a block away. He was arrested on suspicion of criminal trespass, but the real shame is how Kelly hoses his own career: On Oct. 24, the Broncos released him.

## FINAL DESTINATION

For some folks, Disneyland and Walt Disney World are more than amusement parks. Take Jodie Jackson Wells of Boca Raton, Florida. In 2009, after her mother died, Wells smuggled in some of her ashes to Disney World and spread them on a favorite spot of her mom's along the It's a Small World ride. Later, she leapt over a barricade at Cinderella's

Castle and flung ashes from both hands as she cavorted on the lawn. "Anyone who knew my mom knew Disney was her happy place," Wells told *The Wall Street Journal*. However, for the theme parks, the spreading of ashes presents a constant cleanup challenge, referred to by the code "HEPA cleanup" among custodians. (Other secret signals are Code V for vomit and Code U for urine.) Alex Parone of Saratoga Springs, New York, sprinkled his mother's ashes in a flowerbed, then boarded It's a Small World. "I was still crying. That song is playing over and over again, and there are those happy little animatronic things. I remember thinking, 'This is weird.'" But a Disney spokesperson said: "This type of behavior is strictly prohibited and unlawful," and the Anaheim Police Department confirmed that spreading ashes without permission is a misdemeanor. To add insult to injury, when cremation

residue is found on rides, they have to be shut down (riders are told there are "technical difficulties") for cleaning.

## THE XXX FILES

An unnamed employee of the U.S. Geological Survey invited malware into the government agency's computer system by visiting more than 9,000 porn websites on his work computer, according to an inspector general's report. *The Washington Post* reported on Oct. 30 that many of the websites were Russian, and the malware spread to the entire network at the USGS. The employee also saved images from the sites on a USB drive and personal cellphone, which also contained malware. The Office of the Inspector General made recommendations to the USGS about preventing future malware infections, and a spokesperson for the IG's office said the employee no longer works at USGS.



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# BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO

## Upstate politicians like the idea of making New York City the 51st state

BY LUKE PARSNOW

In the days after last fall's midterm elections, when Democrats won a majority in the New York state Senate and would completely control the state government come January, a movement re-emerged from social media comments and Facebook groups that echoed a longtime sentiment of some of the state's frustrated voters.

It's time to split New York into two states, they say, and liberate upstate from the enormous power grasp that New York City and the downstate region have on state policy and identity. In the last few weeks, the idea to declare upstate's independence has moved from online conversations to conversations in the state Legislature.

On the first day of the 2019 legislative session, a bill was introduced by Rochester-area Republican Sen. Joseph Robach that would put a referendum on the ballot that asks voters if they would support dividing the state. This bill has been introduced multiple times and gone nowhere.

Then a few weeks ago, Republican Sen. Daphne Jordan, from Saratoga County, also jumped in the conversation. Her bill would create a 15-member working group to study what a separate upstate could look like and what sort of ramifications could come with it.

This is hardly the first time this idea has been floated from actual government officials and not just New York secessionist groups. Robach first introduced his referendum legislation in December 2009 — the last time Democrats held all three branches of government.

In 2015, several groups angered by gun

laws and a ban on hydrofracking staged protests in the Southern Tier and even proposed that upstate break off and become part of Pennsylvania.

There's no question that the state's fault lines run deep. Far from just a typical divide between urban and rural lifestyle, upstate and downstate are divided politically, economically, culturally and demographically. They're even divided on where upstate begins.

For too long, upstate residents have felt ignored by their downstate-dominated government. While New York City and the surrounding area have largely recovered from the recent recession, upstate has lagged behind considerably. Its unemployment rate is often higher than the national average. Report after report shows statewide job creation has been disproportionately downstate-concentrated, sometimes by a 4-1 ratio. And high taxes coupled with a hostile business environment have forced hundreds of thousands of people to move out of New York over the last 10 years.

So is splitting the state in two the ideal fix? While it may sound reasonable to some, it is a simple solution to a complex problem.

While upstate loves to blame downstate for high taxes, the truth is we get to reap the rewards of the significant tax revenue that a populous downstate shovels out. According to a 2011 study by the Rockefeller Institute, New York City contributed more than 45 percent of the state's taxes and other revenues, but only received 40 percent of the money the state budgeted out. In turn, upstate

counties contributed 24 percent of the state's taxes and revenues but received 35 percent of the state money. That funds our schools and hospitals and helps our farms and communities.

If upstate — everything north of Westchester County — were to separate, that money would suddenly shut off and the new state would be in a much worse position. According to a 2016 Politifact analysis, upstate as an independent state would fall to one of the worst state economies in the country. It would rank 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation for household income where it now ranks fifth. It would rank 44<sup>th</sup> in average wages; currently it ranks second.

It would take decades to string together a new economic system to make up for that revenue shortfall, including the loss of tax dollars from those who would continue to move out.

We know about Albany's slow pace. Lawmakers debating a hard economic reset while trying to decide how to structure an entire new government would take forever. Meanwhile, they would have to deal with more time-sensitive issues such as funding our crumbling infrastructure, an incredibly expensive task that we would suddenly have to carry the entire financial burden for.

So going it alone is simply not a feasible option. But our divisions still persist, because New York is already two different states. And that's where we find the alternative. We must legislate it as two different states. We must draw the borders by the books.

The best example of this was the complex and controversial 2016 agreement

to steadily raise New York's minimum wage. Gov. Andrew Cuomo and downstate lawmakers initially seemed dead set on raising the wage to \$15 an hour statewide in a relatively short period of time. Senate Republicans and some Democrats from upstate quickly jumped on that proposal, aware of downstate's cost of living, but concerned such a hike in the cheaper upstate region would crush business creation, layoff low-wage workers and cut hours.

After years of fighting, upstate lawmakers were able to convince their downstate counterparts that a two-tier compromise to raise the wage at different rates for the two regions was the best route. They agreed to steadily raise the wage to \$15 in New York City, which it reached at the end of last year, and to \$12.50 upstate by the end of 2020, with a chance to examine a continued path to \$15 at that time.

It was a real breakthrough moment, where such landmark legislation was tailored to better fit each region's individual needs. It also appears to have done well. New York City has the wages it asked for and the upstate economy is still intact. The wage compromise should be a model for the state's path forward on some of its most divisive issues.

No matter who controls Albany, it is imperative that downstate officials remember that the other half of the state needs their priorities taken into account. Upstate and downstate are stuck with each other: We can't afford to be apart, so we must find a way to live together. **SNT**

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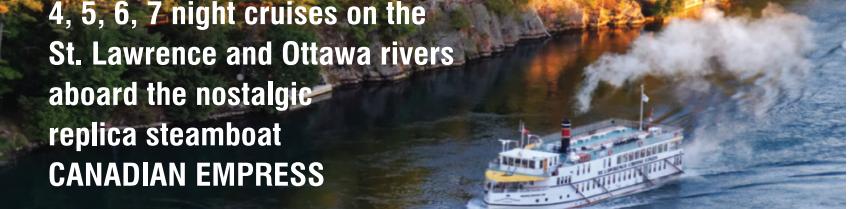
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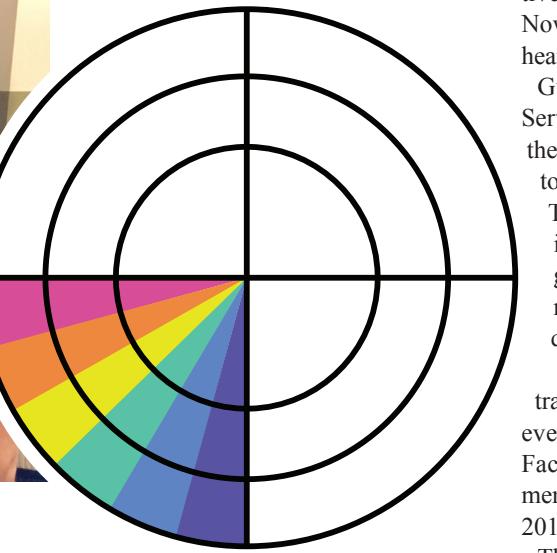
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From left, co-producer Ariel Servadio stands with co-founders Kevin Bailey and Tanner Efinger at the October 2018 Guerilla Gay Bar in Melo Vello. **Geena Matuson photo**



## NEWS

# UNDER THE GAYDAR

## The Syracuse Guerrilla Gay Bar meet-up group offers a new form of social networking

BY GEENA MATUSON

**D**uring a cold night at the Melo Velo bicycle shop and café on Canal Street, a young woman carries a bunch of rainbow metallic “Happy Birthday” balloons across the patio and into the bar, where she sets them on a table alongside cookies and cupcakes. The bar is buzzing with noise and energy, and it’s hard to move through the throng of 100 or more people.

Standing by the balloons is Tanner Efinger. Tall with light brown hair, he wears suspenders to complete his look. With a wide smile, he announces, “It’s the one-year anniversary of Syracuse Guerrilla Gay Bar!”

It’s not a physical venue, however. Syracuse Guerrilla Gay Bar is a meet-up group that converges at a monthly pop-up event connecting the queer community for social networking and visibility. The chosen venue may be a dance club, bar or restaurant, but remains a secret — even to the venue — until noon that day.

The concept of LGBT meet-ups has become a growing trend over the last decade. These groups typically start in an online forum or app and move to a physical venue. Websites like meetup.com host thousands of LGBT groups around the world to connect like-minded

people for various activities. While real-world social networking remains the goal, the intermediary has changed from a brick-and-mortar gay bar to an app on your phone.

Miguel Jose Ruiz, a 21-year-old Syracusean who identifies as part of the LGBT community, can attest to this shift. “I grew up in the generation of the Internet. There’s always a community if you take the time to look for it online.”

Many blame the decline in gay bars on the rise of social media. Through the end of the 1970s, however, these bars were thriving; in Central New York, they acted as way stations for groups traveling to New York City for the weekend. Over the years, Syracuse has been home to as many as 10 gay bars.

Bob Forbes, president of the CNY Pride Festival, moved to Syracuse in 1987. He noted that several gay bars shut their doors during his first year in the city, with more closures that followed. Only a handful currently remains in Syracuse, including Trexx, 323 N. Clinton St.; Rain Lounge, 105 N. Geddes St.; and the Wolf’s Den, 617 Wolf St.

“I’m 56,” Forbes explained, “I saw the need (for gay bars) when I first came out. That was the only way I could meet people because there weren’t even com-

puters, there weren’t apps, there wasn’t anything.”

Now people largely venture to gay bars only for specific shows, departing at the end of a performance. Additionally, the increased acceptance of the queer community over the last decade has caused many gay bars to close their doors due to competition with “straight” bars. When the entire city feels safe, these places no longer act as social sanctuaries.

“(My husband and I) walk around downtown Syracuse and go to restaurants and everything,” says 33-year-old Michael Battles. “Everywhere you go, you see stickers in the windows that say ‘All welcome, genders, sexual orientations; we support you.’ You’ll see rainbow stickers in businesses across Syracuse.”

Battles can attest to the change in treatment and acceptance of the queer community over the last decade through the lens of the U.S. military. “I’ve been in a military where I’ve been allowed to be gay for five years now, legally. I served before ‘Don’t Ask Don’t Tell’ (was repealed),” says Battles, referencing the policy that allowed gay Americans to serve in the military as long as they remained closeted.

“I never felt comfortable going to any place other than a gay bar,” Battles continues. “But the college kids that are coming up these days, they don’t know any of that life. They know that ‘I can go anywhere and I’ll be fine.’ I think the whole issue (for the business of gay bars) is that people are going to any bar now; they don’t go to a bar because it’s a gay bar.”

The secrecy of Syracuse Guerrilla Gay Bar is precisely how the group gained traction. Just 10 years ago, the country’s

social and political climate was different, and gay bars were a space where people in the LGBT community could feel safe. At the time, these bars were more secretive; some didn’t even have windows. Now the community can be seen and heard without fear of persecution.

Guerrilla Gay Bar co-producer Ariel Servadio explains, “We wanted to be in the visible, public space. The goal isn’t to have a private party for gay people. The goal is to be in front of everyone in this restaurant, interacting with the general public, and letting the community of Syracuse see how many queer people are here.”

Using social media as a way to attract the LGBT community to physical events, Syracuse Guerrilla Gay Bar’s Facebook group has grown to 1,000 members since its inception in October 2017.

The first pop-up event attracted 50 people, largely friends of founder Tanner Efinger and co-founder Kevin Bailey. In Spring 2018, Servadio started to attend the monthly events and brought female friends. Now, roughly 100 to 150 people attend these monthly events, with a 75:25 male: female ratio.

“Diversity is never an endpoint, it’s always a conversation,” Efinger notes. “We’re really launching a movement, not only inspiring our community to get together but inspiring others to put intention behind the diversity.”

As a result of events produced by Syracuse Guerrilla Gay Bar, additional groups have started in Watertown, New York, and Burlington, Vermont, as attendees from these areas were inspired to carry this movement to their hometowns.

Meanwhile, Efinger is harnessing the growing power of Syracuse Guerrilla Gay Bar to launch a new venue: Wunderbar. The German word for “wonderful,” Wunderbar (pronounced “voon'-da-ba”) will move into the space of the former Redhouse Arts Center at 201 S. West St.

This “queer bar,” which will be open to people of all orientations, will act as a casual bar serving light fare during the day, with stage performances at night. Wunderbar plans to open its doors soon, with Efinger ensuring there’s room at the table for everyone.

“Traditionally, the word ‘queer’ is far more inclusive,” Efinger explains. “Not only within the LGBTQ rainbow, but also for people who don’t necessarily identify as queer but who are (supportive of) queer visibility. We’re exploring how we send that message of positivity and energy to everyone — because the theater itself isn’t a queer theater, right?” **SNT**



## MUSIC

# A QUIET PLACE

## Julie Briggs opens the Listening Room Cafe for acoustic shows

BY JESSICA NOVAK

**T**here's nothing quite like going to a musical performance where the listener can hear every breath, every pause, every inflection of the artist, both in song and storytelling. When an entire room is attentive enough to take the journey through the music and the tales behind it, the result can be pure magic.

Julie Briggs fell in love with that idea after seeing Mike Powell, Dusty Pas'cal and Tim Herron perform in such a setting in 2012 at the Borodino Grange Hall. "The acoustics were wonderful and the stories were great," she remembers. "People were there to listen to the songs and the stories. I thought, 'We should have something like this open all the time.'"

Briggs had a solid background in hospitality, event planning and bar management, so the feat seemed reasonable. She had worked with, and learned from, music producer Stacey Waterman on several concerts. "Being in that environment and seeing how a successful event comes together influenced me to begin producing my own shows," she says.

So Briggs started with "The Listening Room" music series in 2014 at the former Small Plates venue in Armory Square. A back room that the restaurant rented out for private events proved to be an ideal spot. "Two walls were exposed brick and it was a long space," she explains, which was roomy enough for a portable bar, a few tables and a musical act.

Briggs hosted about a half-dozen shows with her business partner, Joanna Jewett, and their production company, Red Shoes Black Bag Productions. While the concerts were impressive, the results were not profitable.

"That series led to a decision to open my own space," she says. "The shows were magical and I thought we should do more of them, but we needed to make them viable. I thought, 'Maybe we should make a room where we can do this.'"

Briggs and Jewett had already found success in shows like Ladies Night at Eastwood's Palace Theatre, but starting a space from scratch proved to be a major undertaking. In 2016 they found the

perfect location: 443 Burnet Ave., former home of The Barge, Mrs. O'Leary's and the Old Parochial League bars. However, it was a long road from picking the place to making it functional.

"We originally thought we'd be open once or twice a week for events," Briggs says. "Joanna had a full-time job and I did, too. But once I ran the numbers, I knew it wouldn't support itself."

The team realized the place would have to be open every day to make back what they needed. Jewett had to back out because of the overwhelming commitment, but that void was quickly filled by Briggs' now-husband, James (Jimmy) Leone. Then Briggs quit her full-time job as event manager at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Spring 2018 to work full time at the new venue.

With the help of Leone's brother, Mike, who owns the building, the team figured on a September 2018 opening. "It seemed super-reasonable," Briggs recalls. But the hoops to jump through kept coming. Although the space was