Christmas carols
always brought tears to my eyes.
I also cry at weddings.
I should have cried
at a couple of my own.

— Ethel Merman

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Happy Holidays

to all of our readers,
friends and neighbors

Jan Burghardt,
Lincoln Park HS, Grade 11

1st Place Winner
2015 Inside Publications Holiday Art Contest

So you want a bar… now what?

Chicago Bar Shop opens commercial and residential bar design showroom in Lincoln Park

BY RONALD ROENIGK

Looking for that perfect Christmas gift? How about a $50,000 custom-made bar for your man's man cave? Cash and carry, only fair warning, it's a bit too large to take home in the family minivan.

Those with tighter holiday budgets can still find a wide variety of one of a kind and collector items including glassware, umbrellas, mugs, tap handles, artwork, bar furnishings and home brew kits sure to please the budding home bartender.

Whether as a commercial venture or just for your own home use, if you have dreams of buying or building yourself a bar then your first stop should be at the Chicago Bar Shop, 921 W. Armitage.

And when you stop in you're likely to find Candace Zynda greeting you. She is the Vice President of Operations and has more than 15 years experience providing management in the fields of hospitality, sales, and marketing. Here she has found a place to focus her experience and knowledge listing all the products and services they offer and seamlessly moving into their plans for expansion and future growth. "We have financing lined up to build 12 more stores across the country once we get this one settled."

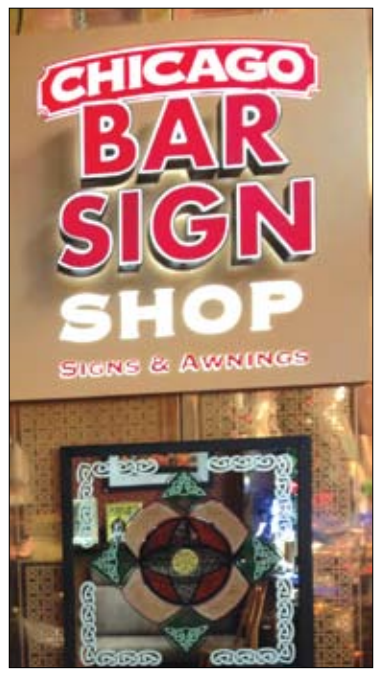
Zynda acquired her first restaurant at the age of 23 and has been actively involved in the hospitality industry for nearly 20 years as a mixologist, food and beverage director, marketing specialist, and consultant for restaurants, bars, and private clubs.

Open for a little over a month now, the Chicago Bar Shop is a totally new retail concept and seems to be in the perfect location for what they're doing… building bars, man caves, wine coolers and wine rooms.

"The build out for this space was a challenge, it used to be a PNC Bank branch so it was hard to turn it into a showroom," said Zynda. "But we've now turned it into a one-stop shop for the hospitality industry."

The store is there not only for bar industry professionals but also individual homeowners with big dreams of dark woods, custom millwork, comfy bar stools and a long row of tap handles. "People are really excited when they find out we can do a bar that matches the designs they've already introduced in their homes," says Zynda.

The new store is the brainchild of builders Declan Morgan and John Wray -- and boy, do they know bars. They've built many of



The Chicago Bar Shop has everything one needs for any manner of bar, they are working with some of Chicago's most respected vendors.

Small, basement-sized bars are available for sale including some made out of reclaimed materials.

Chicago's favorite watering holes including City Winery, Little Goat, Ditka's, Bin 36, Act 1, Goose Island Brew Pub, Declan's Irish Pub, Pint Bar and Grill, Glascott's, Cullen's, Grumpy Goat, Pops For Champagne, Marquee Lounge, Temple Bar, The Trace, The Irish Nobleman and Benchmark just to name a few.

Wray specializes in authentically styled and expertly crafted bars such as those right out of the 1910 Brunswick Bar catalog. With his own 7,500 square-foot Chicago design and manufacturing facility, he can build custom bars and do custom millwork to match any architectural style or taste preference.

"We stop people from making mistakes," said Morgan. "We're more than a design center; we do everything bar related start to finish."

Built on a strong foundation of over 100 years of hospitality experience, The Chicago Bar Shop is the perfect place to receive expert design consultations for any project from building a home bar to creating a restaurant or hotel bar room.

Big spaces or small, public or private, Wray and Morgan will build all new or rehab old bars. They also re-purpose unique materials into bars.

A recent visit to the store found a small, basement-sized bar made out of reclaimed stainless steel from elevator doors salvaged from the Board of Trade building. Another bar was made from old wooden doors and then there are the walls panels made from salvaged copper sheeting, also from the Board of Trade. There is also a giant bar in the center of the 2,500 square foot showroom that was salvaged out of a well-know bar that recently shut down. That is the bar that can be under the Christmas Tree nine days from now for only $50,000 - cash and carry.

"We plan to bring in bigger and better bars every time we sell one of these," said Morgan, who has his sights set on a $250,000 bar in Holland. "It has some really cool mermaid pillars carved into it."

Declan Morgan

The Chicago Bar Shop has everything one needs for any manner of bar and they are working with some of Chicago's most respected vendors for speciality and technical items. From glassware to mirrors and stained glass windows; video games, pinball machines and jukeboxes, bar-themed collectibles, draft beer systems, exquisitely finished tin ceilings, Point Of Sale systems and giant entertainment systems. They will walk customers through the process of budgeting, design, building and manning a bar with the help of industry-leading vendors like Stuver & Sons, Micro Matic, IKeg, Peerless, upShow, Control 4, Screenplay, Intel, HP and NEC.

But what makes the Chicago Bar Shop a unique experience for all is their helpful, friendly, and knowledgeable staff. Morgan, the CEO, is a professional bar designer and builder who has an expert understanding of the hospitality industry having worked for both family businesses, such as his parent's pub, and international hospitality organizations such as Ramada and Hilton.

"I was frustrated as a bar builder and bar owner, not having a one-stop-shop for front of house bar furniture, bars, decor, signage, and POS systems," he said. "Having to shop all over the city, state and country for individual items, used to be the only way"… which is why and how he came up with this concept.

He has partnered with master bar builder Wray who has built hundreds of bars for homes, private clubs, and upscale restaurants over the last 40 years in Chicago. Between the two, they have expert experience with an extremely wide variety of types of bars and hospitality environments which makes Chicago Bar Shop the best choice when asking for bar related advice, no appointment needed. Just stop in the store. And with all the giant mansions going up in the vicinity they seem to have found the right location for those with big dreams for home bars to just stroll in.

Next year they plan to get into staff training and 40-hour bartender and mixology classes too. "We will bring in some of the top industry experts and train staff on all the latest trends, products and technology," said Morgan. "We will show people what they need to do to run a fun, efficient and profitable bar."

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