



# right side glows

the newsletter for **Nuçi's Space**, a nonprofit musicians' support/resource center

## "If You Don't Do It, Then Who Will?" BY BOB SLEPPY

I was driving down Broad Street in Athens, on my way back to the office from a meeting, when I heard the news on the radio. "To our Fans and Friends: As R.E.M., and as lifelong friends and co-conspirators, we have decided to call it a day as a band. We walk away with a great sense of gratitude, of finality, and of astonishment at all we have accomplished. To anyone who ever felt touched by our music, our deepest thanks for listening." This was the press release from R.E.M., as read by the disc jockey to listeners on September 21<sup>st</sup>. At first my heart sank. Not only was R.E.M. one of my favorite bands, they were directly responsible for my introduction to the Athens Music Scene. Beyond their musical influence, R.E.M. and their team have had a profound impact on our entire community.

Rather than follow in the footsteps of fellow Athenians, the B-52s, and move to New York City to continue their music career, R.E.M. took a less expected route to success. Early on, using Athens as their home base, the band focused on performing in just Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia. They adopted a "play anywhere" attitude and toured relentlessly, building a strong, grass-roots fan base. This approach was unconventional at the time. The music industry was centered primarily in New York and Los Angeles. If you wanted access to record labels, music writers and agents these were the cities you HAD to be in. In the early 1980s our world was not as "connected" as it is today. There were no fax machines, emails, iPhones, Skype or Facebook. When placed into the context of the times, the decision to stay in Athens was very unusual. Jokingly, I imagine that if Berry, Buck, Mills and Stipe had been aspiring surfers they would have chosen Lawrence, KS as their home.

As the band's popularity grew so did their geographic focus. They may have cited "Athens, GA" as their hometown but they spent most of their time living out of a 1975 Dodge Tradesman while touring around the country. The B-52s may have put "Athens, GA" on the map, but R.E.M. were the ones who circled it and distributed copies to every po-dunk town in the United States. One advantage of staying in Athens, possibly intentional, was that it allowed the band to insulate themselves from the influence of the music industry establishment found in New York. With the benefit of autonomy, they were able to establish a clear identity and hone the do-it-yourself ethos that the Athens community has adopted and continues to build upon.

As one drives northbound on Oconee Street, towards downtown, the first building you see after crossing the

bridge over the North Oconee River is Nuçi's Space. Your eye then quickly focuses on the dilapidated steeple that looms over our little building. However, after closer examination, it's discovered that the steeple sits alone, without the church that once accompanied it. To the average visitor, not versed in local music history, the lonely, rundown steeple is quite a peculiar site. The former church was the site of R.E.M.'s first show on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1980. Although the church was demolished in 1990 to make way for condominiums, the steeple was left as a nod to the site's history. When Nuçi's Space founder, Linda Phillips, chose the site for our organization she had no knowledge of the historical significance of the steeple or its ties to the music scene. As she recalls, "the space just felt right."

During the early planning stages for Nuçi's Space, Linda Phillips had a rare occurrence of self-doubt in regards to her ability to "pull off" such an ambitious idea. She questioned whether or not *she* could do this. Fortunately, a close friend posed a few important questions to her. Her friend asked, "You've already established there is a need for such an organization, right? And this is something you are committed to and passionate about?" When Linda responded in the affirmative to these probing questions, her friend finished by asking "Well, if you don't do it, then who will?" From that moment on, Linda didn't look back and persevered with an unyielding determination. As the planning for Nuçi's Space progressed, she encountered several skeptics that questioned the feasibility of such a grand idea. I'm embarrassed to say I too had a moment or two of doubt. To her credit, Linda never let any of these concerns weaken her resolve. She knew that if she waited for someone else to fulfill this need in the community, many of Nuçi's friends and fellow musicians would continue to suffer and go without help. For Linda, this was not an option.

I feel very blessed to arrive to work every day and be surrounded by symbols of people that didn't wait for others to dictate a desired outcome. As my friend Ben Mize once said of such pioneers, "those people who didn't say *I wish* but said *I will*."

In 2010, Nuçi's Space assisted 205 clients with direct financial assistance for professional counseling, subsidizing over 2,000 appointments at a cost of \$110,000. Over 70% of our revenue is contributed by donors just like you. Armed with these statistics, I humbly ask for your continued support...

*"If you don't do it, then who will?"*

### nuçi's space

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# Nuçi's Space focus of AIA Legacy Charette

Athens, GA was the site for the AIA (American Institute for Architects) Georgia Annual Design conference on October 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. This year's conference theme focuses on the architect as leader, and what he or she can do to make this world a better place. AIA Georgia works with its host chapters to identify community needs, in order to leave a gift from the architects and a marker of our conference. This year's charity was Nuçi's Space.

Charette participants included architecture students and professors from the Savannah College of Art and Design, Georgia Tech and Southern Polytechnic State University. Participants attended a learning session and a visit to the site on Friday afternoon. Students were divided into teams and given access to a diverse group of experts. The day-long process culminated in 5 distinct site and program

expansion designs. At the conclusion of the day, a panel of judges, which included Nuçi's Space's original architect Jim Winer, selected a winning team. Nuçi's Space Executive Director, Bob



(left to right) Ed Adkins, Bob Sleppy, Jim Winer, and Kevan Williams

Sleppy and Legacy Charette organizer, Ed Adkins presented an award to the winning team at the evening's design awards gala.

# More Than Just Counseling Services

 BY WILL KISER

Eleven years in, I hope people in our community are aware that Nuçi's Space provides professional counseling and psychiatry for local musicians and artists. Something a lot of people might not know is that each year we consult with and counsel hundreds of musicians and non-musicians on how to navigate the world of mental health and community health in general.

Sometimes when clients come to us for help we don't even set them up with a therapist. Certain people need the open-armed support they get from a group meeting or the soothing effects of guided meditation and yoga. In some cases Nuçi's Space helps out when people just don't know where to start.

A few weeks ago I got a call from a musician who is a client of ours—she

was in need of medication that she was unable to afford. The medication wasn't an anti-depressant or a mood stabilizer. She needed it for a condition that, un-medicated, could result in a

Over four hundred advocates attended the **10th Annual Suicide Prevention Coalition of Georgia Stakeholders Conference** in Macon back in September, including a representative from Nuçi's Space. The conference brought together therapists, grief counselors, advocates and support group facilitators to exchange information and work on updating the Georgia Suicide Prevention Plan of 2001.

grand mal seizure. She was in-between jobs and the medication cost her \$140 per month. On a whim she called us to see if we had any ideas. Luckily, I had just been introduced to the fantastic people at Health Solutions of Georgia

here in Athens, a group whose mission is to help people find prescription assistance for medication and to act as an advocate with the pharmaceutical companies on behalf of the patient.

With the help of Health Solutions, our musician got a three-month supply of her medication for \$14.99. That connection will help her save more than \$1,600 over the course of the next year.

Finding prescription assistance was an essential service for this specific musician, and it was facilitated by Nuçi's Space. We didn't pay for the medica-

tion or even advocate on behalf of this particular musician, but we did connect the dots for them. It's another way that Nuçi's Space functions as a resource center for musicians outside of the realm of mental health.

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# Legacies and Songs

 BY MATT HUDGINS

A few years ago, a series of deaths and other tragedies seemed to come out of nowhere and affect many of those closest to me; in the midst of all the pain surrounding those events, I noticed that my friends and I learned to hug each other more, and hesitate less to say things like "I love you." In some way, I like to think that many of the friends who are no longer here left us not just with memories, but with their music and those hugs. I've also come to see Nuçi's Space as a hug the Phillips family has been giving the Athens music scene for over 11 years now, a hug I've been happy to accept in a number of ways since I first came to town.

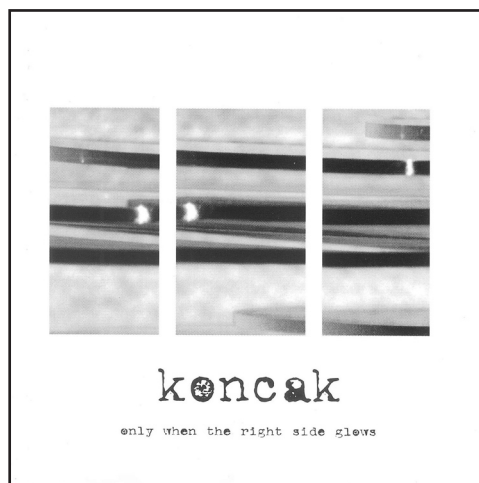
I've also been fortunate lately to become more familiar with something else Nuçi and his family have given to the community, the album *Only When The Right Side Glows*, one of the last musical projects Nuçi worked on in the months leading up to his suicide in 1996. Released on CD

in 1998 and again in 2003, it offers an impressive glimpse at the talent and musical vision of a young man who had a lot to offer the world. On a personal level, the music is

only made more meaningful by the appearance of Jerry Fuchs on several songs, someone I was just getting to know when his life was cut short in 2009. We are proud to now make that album available online through our website and the popular music site Bandcamp, which we hope will help spread both the music and the hugs by allowing listeners to hear the album for free, or download it for a small donation to Nuçi's Space.

In the future, we hope to expand our online musical catalog to include donated songs from Artists and musicians who support our mission and

want to add their voice to two of Nuçi's legacies that have impacted thousands of people who never knew him personally: the music and the hugs.



# Nuçi's Kicks Off the 2nd Annual ATHENS BUSINESS ROCKS

Following the success of our inaugural fundraising event this past February, Nuçi's Space is currently planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Athens Business Rocks. The idea for the fundraiser was conceived after we started to ask ourselves, "What makes the Athens music scene unique?" We soon realized that just because you don't play in a band at a downtown venue every week or make the coveted music column in *Flagpole* on a regular basis doesn't mean you're not a part of what makes Athens' music scene so special.

It's been said "You can't swing a guitar around your neck in Athens without hitting a musician." Not only was this statement referring to the performing musicians that most people associate with the world-famous downtown music scene, but to the plethora of musicians that masquerade as "upstanding, straight-laced" business people during the day as well. You may find them behind the counter at the bank, developing websites, managing an office, owning a local retail shop or selling a house to a first-time home buyer. Because of the confines of their day-time jobs, many of these hidden rock stars don't get the opportunity to let their hair down (if they have any to let down) and perform on stage for a throng of adoring fans. Athens Business Rocks hopes to create an opportunity for these hidden rock stars to reveal themselves—even if it's for just a night or two.

The fundamentals for the event are quite simple: employees of local businesses will form a band that competes against other businesses onstage at the world-famous 40 Watt Club. The ultimate goal was to raise money for Nuçi's Space, while making it as much fun as possible. We were pleasantly

surprised during our inaugural event when 26 bands signed up, confirming our assumption that our community's musical talent was more than skin deep. Performances were broken up into 4 nights—3 semi-final rounds during the first week of February and one Grand Finale just two weeks later.

During each semi-final round, bands were asked to prepare 15 minutes (3 cover songs) of music. The

cated in front of the judges. One band from each round was selected as the "Semi-Final Round Winner" and asked to return two weeks later to compete against the other two semi-finalists.

The 2011 finalists were "The McCommunists" (*Flagpole Magazine*), "80 Pound Cougar" (*Bel-Jean Copy/Print*) and "The One-Hitters" (*Volo Trading*), with *Flagpole Magazine* taking the top prize.



bands were evaluated in three areas; scores from "celebrity" judges, audience favorite and fundraising. The judges scores were based in three categories; **Showmanship**, **Creativity** and **Badassness**. The audience favorite was selected by how many fans they brought to the show and a (not-so-scientific) reading of the "applause-o-meter." Lastly, fundraising was scored by giving 1 point for every dollar raised by each business/band. They were encouraged to ask friends, customers and fellow employees to donate online at [athensbusinessrocks.com](http://athensbusinessrocks.com) or make contributions the night of the event by adding to the "bribe jars," lo-

The dates for 2012 Athens Business Rocks are confirmed, with semi-final rounds on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and the Grand Finale on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. All shows will be hosted at the Fabulous 40 Watt Club. We are currently updating the [athensbusinessrocks.com](http://athensbusinessrocks.com) website with details and plan to open registration on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at noon.

Start forming your bands, choose an unforgettable band name, ask for support from your work place and most of all... start practicing! If you need help finding a clean, comfortable rehearsal space we may be to recommend one to you. (wink, wink, nudge, nudge)

# Turn it up to 11



**nuçi's space**

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Special thanks to  
Connor and Mike

We celebrated 11 years of Nuçi's Space alongside family and friends, board members and supporters on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. There was live music from **Ruby Kendrick, Thayer Sarrano, Shauna Greeson, Coy Campbell King & Karolyn Troupe** and **Ryan Monahan**. Party-goers ate cake and *hors d'oeuvres*, listened to music and bid on items in the silent auction (all donated by local businesses). Food was donated by **Amici's Italian Café, The Last Resort** and **East-West Bistro**.

Special thanks to Graham Shirley ([www.grahamshirley.com](http://www.grahamshirley.com)) for the invitation design.

Thank you to all the volunteers, musicians, donors and restaurants that helped put the party together. Here's to another great year of supporting the Athens music scene!



## 1st TUESDAY

If you're considering volunteering, we make the 1st Tuesday of every month available to anyone who would like learn a little more about the Space and what it has to offer. Come by, have a look around and discuss how you can fit into Nuçi's strong and effective volunteer team. Already a supporter? Bring your friends and show Nuçi's off. You can also check out our volunteer section at [www.nuci.org](http://www.nuci.org). Adding your details to our database will ensure you will be updated with current volunteer opportunities.

# GOOD SHOP

Did you know that you can donate to Nuçi's Space without spending any extra money yourself? Next time you're going to buy something online, go to Goodshop.com first and select Nuçi's Space as your cause and then click on Amazon, Overstock or the website of your choice. When you do this, Nuçi's Space gets a small percentage of the money you spend. There's no extra cost for you and all you have to do is click on a few links!

Participating websites include: Amazon, QVC, Land's End, Staples, Dell, Priceline, Overstock, iTunes, iTunes Apps and Apple.com.



## Space Jam II: The Rise of the MBUS

For the second year in a row, Nuçi's Space was happy to host the Space Jam series of concerts booked and promoted by the students of UGA's Music Business Program. In September and October the students organized five concerts at the Space, beginning by partnering with 90.5FM WUOG and their fall carnival, and continuing through the final, Halloween-themed show featuring four bands on two stages October 21. Contending with fickle weather, home football games and a string of major shows in both Athens and Atlanta, the students were still able to put a lot of talent on our stage, send everyone away smiling and raise somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1,000 to help our mission of supporting musicians in the Athens area. Special thanks go out to Program Director David Barbe and everyone involved with the UGA Music Business Program, and we look forward to working with them again in the future.

**GoodSearch**  
You Search, We Give!

## Upcoming Events at Nuçi's Space

### 2011

- Nov 20<sup>th</sup>: CAAS Grand Finale @ Hendershot's
- Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>: ReWired Gear Sale @ Wuxtry Records
- Dec 10<sup>th</sup>: House Show @ Nuçi's Space
- Dec 17<sup>th</sup>: 4<sup>th</sup> of July in December Show @ Nuçi's Space

### 2012

- Jan 14<sup>th</sup>: DBT Pre-party/Auction @ Nuçi's Space
- Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>: Athens Business Rocks Semi-Finals @ The 40 Watt Club
- Feb 18<sup>th</sup>: Athens Business Rocks Grand Finale @ The 40 Watt Club



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