

'A little more blessing for a bowler, please'

There are many Sunday morning bowling leagues in the area in spite of the fact that some people like to just sleep in on that day.

TEN PIN ALLEY
Sundays are also a traditional religious experience, as others will use that time to attend church and some folks even use bowling as a religious outlet as they seem to always pray for a strike.

Among the Jewish bowlers, the usual venue would be Sunday mornings with fresh coffee and fresher bagels as a pre-bowling treat.

The B'Nai Brith leagues in this area were the largest and most active in the USA for many years.

One such B'Nai Brith bowler many years ago was Harry Mendelsohn, now retired and a resident of West Bloomfield.

He was a pretty good bowler in his day, but was having a bad year and dropped down to a 130 average. His league duty was to fetch the bagels and bring them to the bowling alley. Often there were times when Harry would run into a priest who was also getting bagels for his league.

As Harry recalls, "We would talk bowling, wish each other luck and part."

"One Sunday morning as we were about to leave with our bagels, his bag split open and they all fell on the floor. I got on my hands and knees and helped him pick up the bagels."

He then blesses me (a Jewish boy getting blessed by a priest) and I got to the league and opened with four strikes and finished with a 248 game.

The guys all asked Harry what happened to him, and he replied "I got blessed by a priest."

The next two games he bowled 116 and 131.

The following week as he saw the priest, he thanked him and said, "I would appreciate it if your blessing was good for all three games instead of just one."

"A couple of weeks ago, our

story was about bowler Terry Haines of Westland. He rolled 35 of a possible 36 strikes in his three-game series for a Detroit area record tying total of \$79, setting a new all-time high series mark in the Western Wayne Metro Bowling Association. Now, Terry has made the most of his talent by turning it into some good hard cash in the Mid-States Masters 215 division competition.

His 253-217 victory over Brandon Dale of Warren was good for the top prize of \$1,200 in the 2002

Mid-States Masters Rosebowl Classic held at Rosebowl Lanes in Windsor. Haines, a self-taught, 22-year-old roofing contractor won the prize for his wife, Stephanie as a dowry for their future baby.

Other area qualifiers included: Bill Parris and Derrick Jasper, both of Livonia; John Markland, Waterford; Walter Wrona, Jr., Westland; Leon Walski, Jr., Canton; Tim Garrett and Earl Pugh, both of Garden City; Greg Morrow of Troy.

The next 215 scratch tournament is scheduled for Sunday, June 16 at Bowl on Lanes in Troy. For more information, call Al Bielawski at (313) 355-8449.

"Vicki Ingham of Livonia has taken over the General Manager position at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park.

Ingham has made many good bowling friends in the local community over the years, having worked at Mayflower Lanes in Redford and Country Lanes in Farmington. Thunderbowl, featuring 94 lanes, is the largest bowling

center in the greater Detroit area. She also wishes to announce the date of the 65th annual John P. Gavie Tournament, 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 19, at Thunderbowl.

Ingham says: "Mark the date on your calendars and enter early, as last year event was a complete sellout, and it is expected to be just as good this year."

Winners of the 34th annual Livonia Parks and Recreation Youth Bowling League's city roll-off: Junior/Major Division (12 and up) at Cloverlans: Derek Cripic,

Bryan Kozlows, Marcus Allen and Derrell Stubbs; Prep Division (9-11) at Wonderland Lanes: Anthony Douglas, Demetrius Griff, Jamel Blount, Racquel Thomas; Bantam Division (6 and under) at Merri-Bowl Lanes: Christine Steiame, Shawn O'Brien, Erik Macedon, Joe DeCenso.

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