Lane Change

Bowling is a nearly universal game, with LGBTQ+ friendly options at the social and sport levels available across the state

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• Events Around the State
• Scenes from Chez Est
• Trans Rally in New Haven
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Centerline Magazine
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Chez Est, Lucy Gellman, Nick Olson-Navarro, RahVisions, Sweetheart Invitational
Cover photo by Matthias Zomer
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You're holding in your hands the final issue of Centerline of the year, another sign that time has passed quite quickly this year, as the turbulent recent history continues.

The trans members of our community have continued to feel that chaos quite acutely, and a rally in October in New Haven aimed to bring focus to the latest proposed changes at the federal level that would discriminate against trans individuals. Lucy Gellman reported on the event for Arts Paper; her photos can be found on page 24, but we also encourage readers of this magazine to visit their website and read the article she wrote. Connecticut may have stronger laws in place than in other states, but we cannot be complacent and we must continue to make our voices heard both at the state and local levels. See photos from the rally on page 24.

On a more positive note, Trans Awareness Week recently took place in Connecticut, with a variety of events designed to support and highlight our transgender friends, while also raising awareness to the problems that still exist, leading up to the Transgender Day of Remembrance, ensuring those whose lives were lost too soon are not forgotten. As part of this week, an open mic highlighted the creativity and talent that exists within the community. Lucy was also there, and her story and photos begin on page 5.

Our main focus in this issue, as seen on our cover, is around bowling. It’s such a universal activity - virtually all of us have stepped into an alley at some point in our lives, whether good at it or not, and bowled a few games with family or friends. Bowling is among the more accessible sports, and there's a variety of LGBTQ+-friendly bowling options for those who would like to bowl with members of our community.

For a no-commitment option, there's So You Think You Can Bowl, which this year expanded from its original Norwalk roots to Milford. The social bowling weekly gathering takes advantage of inexpensive bowling and happy hour offers on Tuesday nights to offer an affordable night out with other members of our community. See photos on page 8 and the article on page 11.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, for the more dedicated bowlers among us, there's the Sweetheart Invitational, a large LGBTQ+-supporting event that has been taking place in Connecticut for more than 30 years now. The tournament has raised money for a variety of causes, and their next tournament is coming up in February. Learn more about the tournament on page 18.

Finally, there's league bowling, which falls a bit in between the two, and offers a steady, but generally low-stakes way to bowl with friends on a weekly basis. Members of the tournament are among those who have established LGBTQ+-friendly leagues in our state. Learn about their league on page 27.

To close out our issue, we have a round-up of events happening across the state over the next few weeks. Check out what's happening near you on page 30.

Those of you who have been reading since the beginning may notice this issue's a bit thicker and have a bit more color than when we started; thanks to the support of our community, we're starting to be able to expand our page count, which we'll aim to maintain and grow further in 2019. To do so we'll need the help of talented writers and photographers; if you're one, and are interested in being a part, please email us at nhglcc@gmail.com.

That same email is where we'd love you to send your feedback about the magazine, whether good or bad. We'll continue to evolve in part based on your feedback. Thanks for reading!
Maia Leonardo was performing alchemy. She turned a series of knobs back and forth, methodical with every lengthening finger, twist in her wrist. The sound of a spaceship loosed itself from her keyboard. A beat dropped, synthy notes sailing over it. Next to her, Natalie Mazzone began to sing, smoke curling like ribbon at the edges of her voice.

New Haven’s second annual “Trans and Talented” open mic night took place on November 15 at 168 York Street Bar, a still-nascent tradition that made its debut during Transgender Awareness Week last year. Organized this year by the New Haven Pride Center with support from 168 York and the Connecticut Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL), the event drew close to 20 LGBTQ+ advocates, allies

SHOWCASE

“Trans And Talented” Rocks the Open Mic

by Lucy Gellman

Maia Leonardo performs during 'Trans and Talented' open mic at 168 York Street Cafe during Trans Awareness Week.

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and artists for two hours of poetry, original compositions, and a few rousing covers.

It was part of a full schedule of events celebrating Trans Awareness Week across New Haven, which culminated in a Trans Day of Remembrance (TDOR) rally and gathering Tuesday, Nov. 20. At the event, New Haven Pride Center Director Patrick Dunn said that 168 York will be hosting more frequent trans and queer open mic nights in the new year.

Despite—or perhaps because of—this year’s political climate, the open mic focused not just on telling trans stories in New Haven and Connecticut, but the importance of centering joy and activism within those stories. Taking the mic in a hydrant-red sweater that was open at the shoulders, local activist, PSL member and journalist Chardonnay Merlot urged her fellow comrades to fight the current administration with all their might—and their art.

"It’s not just about remembrance, it’s also about resistance," she said of next Tuesday’s rally, drawing a smattering of whoops and "yes yes" around the room. "We need resistance now more than ever. And we need a fighting spirit to come through for all of us, for all of our family. Because there are certain assholes who want to seek to eradicate us. Who want to seek to push us back in closets that we all fought like hell to get out of."

She launched into her own poetry, flecked with music and rhythm for which she raised her voice to the rafters. Dedicating her first piece to her late father, she read as lines wrapped the audience in her words, painting a portrait of a parent who loved her for exactly who she was.

He taught me how to get off blocks, to get out of the blocks
To sit and stand tall in any land

Agape love was the thesis of this man
Who accepted me holding a handful of Silky Vicky’s contraband

Others brought a mix of old and new work, pitching it to an audience that cheered, whooped, and clapped wildly in return. Returning for the second year in a row, Lacy Joy Whitefeather serenaded the audience with two long sets, dipping back into standards like "MacTriff’s" and trotting out easy, rock-flecked ballads that required audience participation.

A longtime New Havener named Charlotte brought up three new poems, rocking a sort of Audrey Hepburn look as she read. When she apologized for the quality a new piece, the audience clamored over her in support. “You got this, Charlotte!” yelled NHPC Director Patrick Dunn from the other side of the room.

Before one piece titled "How Do I Tell You," she delivered some bittersweet news. After years in New Haven, she is moving to Pennsylvania. She waited a beat, watching as audience members’ faces fell, and a few begged her to stay. Then she added a crucial detail—she’s moving to Pennsylvania to be with her girlfriend.

“Yay love!” somebody shouted out at the front of the room, a chorus of awwwws bubbling up where there had been silence just moments before.

I can tell you I love you—that’s the easy part
But there’s so much more to tell you and I don’t know how

How do I tell you that you were the first one to see the real me?
Hold my hands and show the world the real me?
To finally allow myself be free one summer night

Up early in the evening, Mazzone entered uncharted territory, premiering a song about her own struggles with addiction and recovery (video at the bottom of the article). As verses swooped over Leonardo’s small keyboard and into the audience—she said this was their first collaboration as a duo but would not be their last—a few audience members nodded knowingly, letting out soft mmmmm sounds at the refrain “I am enough.”

For 22-year-old Mazzone, the performance marked an intimate space to tell some of her own story, while using voice skills she’s been honing for years. Born and raised in New Haven, she is moving to Pennsylvania. She waited a beat, watching as audience members’ faces fell, and a few begged her to stay. Then she added a crucial detail—she’s moving to Pennsylvania to be with her girlfriend.

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West Hartford, she first came out as gay to her parents 10 years ago, when she was 12. She came out as trans more recently, when she was 18. Her mom was okay with it, she recalled. But her dad—not so much. In recent years, she has struggled with addiction and recovery, breaking the cycle to realize that, like the song, “I am enough.” She has now lived in New Haven for three years and praised the support of its activist community.

“It’s really important to have a space like this, because it assembles community,” she said after her performance. “The world isn’t a very warm place right now, except for global warming, and it’s just really important.”

As the evening wound down, Dunn echoed her message, noting the importance of safe and inclusive performance spaces for those who identify as LGBTQI2SPAA [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, queer, intersex, pansexual, two-spirit, androgynous, and asexual].

As a cisgender man, he explained, he has long looked to historical and current trans figures—and the history of the trans rights—for his own understanding of LGBTQ+ advocacy. He urged those in the room to keep making and performing art, calling it vital within a nexus of rallies, speakouts, support groups and resource trainings that the pride center provides.

“Art and culture is what changes minds,” he said. “Art and culture is what gives voice to the reality that we live in, and art and culture is the only thing that actually survives time. In 500 years, no one will remember the asshole politicians. No one will remember the stupid laws. But they will remember the art and culture from our time. And it is so important to give platforms to our trans, our intersex, and our non-binary community. Because they have to be a part of history.”

“That’s the only thing that will actually survive,” he added. “When we are all long gone and forgotten, that will be our piece that we leave behind, the art and culture of our community. And the trans voice has to be there.”
Social Bowling

Every Tuesday in Norwalk and Milford, "So You Think You Can Bowl" brings together fans of social activities like bowling, leveraging the inexpensive $2 per game Tuesday nights both alleys offer. For more information, turn to page 11.

Photos courtesy Nick Olson-Navarro
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Bowling: Right Up Our Alley

Bowling is in many ways the great equalizer of sports - just about everyone can get into it, with simpler rules and 10 frames to get strikes and spares. But one of the largest LGBTQ+ sporting events in New England is based around bowling too. For our main feature this issue, we look at a number of bowling options taking place around the state.
Shoreline Social Bowling Brings People Together

by Joshua O’Connell

Bowling, with its relatively inexpensive cost and easy-to-learn rules, make it a low barrier activity for friends, family, co-workers and more. For nearly two years, a shoreline social called "So You Think You Can Bowl" (SYTYCB) has offered the LGBTQ+ community a social activity leveraging inexpensive bowling specials on Tuesday nights at Bowlmor in Norwalk, and more recently Bowlero in Milford. Lanes are announced on their social media accounts (such as Facebook and Instagram) around 8 p.m., with an average session running until about 10.

There's no commitment or membership fee, as you would find in league bowling, so you can attend when life and time allows. With games at approximately $2 each, and shoe rentals around $6, and drink and food specials offered at equally generous prices, it makes for a fun and easy night out. I attended one recently and I've been going back, finding my fondness of bowling rekindled.

I interviewed SYTYCB co-founder Nick Olson-Navarro about the social, its goals and what newcomers can expect.

If You Go...

So You Think You Can Bowl takes place each Tuesday from 8 to 10 p.m. Lanes are announced on their social media accounts, such as Facebook and Instagram. When you arrive at the alley, let them know the lanes you're joining and request shoes to bowl (or come straight to the lanes if you have your own). Bowling takes place at:

- Bowlmor at 701 Connecticut Ave, Norwalk
- Bowlero at 1717 Boston Post Rd, Milford

"So You Think You Can Bowl" takes place weekly at Bowlmor in Norwalk and Bowlero in Milford.

photos courtesy Nick Olson-Navarro
JOSH: In a nutshell, how would you describe So You Think You Can Bowl?

NICK: Founded in January 2017 by Louie McDowell, Fermin Vidal, Joey Palmer and myself, SYTYCB is CT’s Premier LGBTQ+ bowling social night. Anyone is free to attend and bring with them as many friends and guests as they’d like.

Our mission is to provide CT’s LGBTQ+ community with a safe, non-competitive, fun sporting social event, while also bringing attention to both local and national charities/causes through educational information, fundraising events, and volunteering work.

SYTYCB is open to people of all skill, interest, and levels of experience, whether you’re a beginner, hobbyist, or professional. We strive to help newcomers and current members alike develop and foster friendships through a loving support system and genuine camaraderie.

What led you to launching the weekly social?

Back in early 2017, a small group of us thought it would be a nice idea to start the new year with a fun night out that did not involve a bar or the club scene. (Granted there is a bar on premise at the bowling alley!) We wanted a change of scenery; somewhere where we could hang out and enjoy each other’s company, do something out of the norm.

We had so much fun that night that we decided it would be great to go back the following week and invite more people. We realized the community needed a safe and fun place to let loose, and we wanted to be able to provide that, as well as help bring people together.

What have been your goals with it?

Our goal is to keep expanding the bowling social night, through more “chapters” if you will, in different cities and towns of CT. We want to help bring more people together, help them develop loving healthy friendships, have an outlet for socializing in a safe fun space and environment, and rally together behind causes and organizations that matter to us all.

SYTYCB began in Norwalk. What encouraged you to expand to Milford?

Our goal is to keep expanding the bowling social night, through more “chapters” if you will, in different cities and towns of CT. We want to help bring more people together, help them develop loving healthy friendships, have an outlet for socializing in a safe fun space and environment, and rally together behind causes and organizations that matter to us all.

Are there any sort of differences between the Norwalk and Milford groups?

Aside from the obvious “who” is there, no, there is no difference. Both locations to provide the LGBTQ+ community in our neighboring lower New Haven County area with the same fun social night and experience as Fairfield County. We want to share the amazing feeling that comes from genuine camaraderie and the bond of brotherhood/sisterhood.

We also realized trying to get down to Norwalk for some could be a little far and difficult, especially on a Tuesday night. We want to be inclusive of everyone and of as many members of our community as we possibly can, and hopefully, with their help, we won’t stop at just Norwalk and Milford!

Bowlers pose during "So You Think You Can Bowl."
are hosted the same way, with the same opportunities, including cost, prize/giveaway contests, and fundraising/volunteering opportunities.

If someone hasn’t attended before, what would they expect?

In a nutshell, you can expect to have a fun time bowling, whether it’s your first time, or you’re a professional. But the biggest takeaway from attending is you’ll develop new friendships, a support system, and, who knows, you may meet your next best friend. :

Sometimes it can be difficult, lonely, and/or intimidating walking into a bar, a club, a party, or any event all by yourself where you don’t know anyone and strike up (no pun intended) a conversation with someone. At SYTYCB you never have to worry about that. The host(s), and everyone that attends, are extremely friendly, welcoming, caring, and warm people. From the moment you come to our lanes, someone will greet you with a smile, a hug, a friendly handshake, introduce you to people, and make you feel comfortable. There’s enough hate and negativity in the world, and so we strongly believe we need to be there for one another.

Some bowlers took part in a beach clean-up day in September as a way to expand the activities that the group participates and to give back.

Advertising Opportunities

The New Haven Pride Center’s Centerline Magazine is a bi-monthly publication that is distributed throughout the State of Connecticut.

Centerline Magazine is also the only LGBTQ+ print publication in the State, positioning you a unique opportunity to reach Connecticut’s vastly diverse LGBTQ+ community.

Advertising opportunities include business card, quarter page, half page and full page ads. Special discounts are also available for multi ad buys.

More information at:
newhavenpridecenter.org/centerline-magazine/

Pitch-in!

Pitch a Story

Help us build our content. Suggest a story to be included in Centerline Magazine – the Center expects both story referrals and content trade on a variety of LGBTQ+ topics and activities around Connecticut!

Centerline Magazine is also occasionally looking for writers to help to contribute to the diversity of voices and perspectives being presented.

Email our Editor at:
nglcc@gmail.com

Centerline Magazine is published six times a year on odd months (Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept and Nov) by the New Haven Pride Center and is released both digitally as well in print. All content is due by the 15th of the month before issue publication.

Want to be on our distribution list? Email our Editor at nglcc@gmail.com.
and start change from within our own community. We cannot be divided and torn apart, if we stand strong together.

Aside from the bowling aspect, what other sorts of fun elements have taken place as part of SYTYCB?

This past summer, July 21st, 2018, we launched our BBQ Fundraising Social, where we had a bunch of delicious food, games, raffle prizes, and a little over 30 people in attendance; including Robin P. McHaelen, Executive Director at True Colors, Inc. and Alberto Cifuentes Jr., Co-chair at GLSEN Connecticut. Thanks to the generous donations of everyone in attendance, we raised $360, which was equally divided and donated to both organizations.

SYTYCB is passionate about supporting our local LGBTQ+ youth; as well as our environment. On September 15th, 2018 we launched our “Community Beyond the Lanes” volunteering group and participated in the International Coastal Cleanup Day by helping clean up South Pine Creek Beach in Fairfield, CT with the amazing Save the Sound organization. We have more fundraising events, volunteering opportunities, and social meet-ups planned for the future, and would love for anyone, whether you are a fellow SYTYCB bowler or not, to join us. You can follow us on social media or check out our site for future updates.

What’s the after event at Trevi Lounge like?

Trevi Lounge is and has been since SYTYCB’s inception our biggest sponsor and supporter. Tuesday nights at Trevi is karaoke night, and let me tell you, there is incredible talent, among them, some of our own bowlers, Sean Rusnack, Rob Rosado, and Marc Jacobi. As our sponsor, Trevi offers drink specials tailored just for SYTYCB bowlers. After 10 p.m., every Tuesday night, SYTYCB attendees can enjoy BOGO drink specials on house liquor and domestic beers all night with their bowling wristband on from the amazing Jamie Wadleton behind the bar.

Trevi Lounge is also where we hosted our BBQ Fundraising after party, and where we had our Coastal Cleanup breakfast meet-up before volunteering.
Where do you see the social going over the next couple of years?
Over the next couple of months and years we would love to bring and host more sporting social events other than bowling for both the Fairfield and New Haven County areas, with the hope of expanding further to other parts of CT through local chapters. We would also love to create a Scholarship Foundation for the LGBTQ+ youth of CT, as well as host more social meet-ups and volunteering opportunities outside of the lanes and fields. We also welcome anyone and everyone’s inputs, thoughts, ideas, and suggestions. Please feel free to reach out to us and get in touch!

Where should someone go to learn more information about SYTYCB?
You can follow us on social media, both on Facebook and Instagram, at @SYTYCBCT, and you can also check out our website at SYTYCB.info. If you have any questions, we can also be reached via e-mail at SYTYCBCT@gmail.com, or you can message us on Facebook Messenger.

Bowlers pose during "So You Think You Can Bowl."
COMMUNITY

Something for All

We reported on the changing of ownership at the Chez, where they have aggressively expanded their calendar in 2018 to offer something for everyone. Here are photos from their Wuf and Latin Nights, along with their recent event with Miss Vanjie of RuPaul's Drag Race.

Photos by RahVisions
Yale New Haven Health believes the sum is greater than all of its parts. When individual organizations work well together with a common mission, great things happen. This collaboration is what makes our community strong.
Each year, the Sweetheart Invitational takes over an entire bowling alley in Wallingford for a weekend of exciting bowling activities.
Sweetheart Invitational in a League of its Own

by Joshua O’Connell

The Sweetheart Invitational is a special tournament that happens right in our backyard. Now 30 years old and at one point the largest LGBTQ+ sporting event in New England, it still ranks as one of the largest and draws participants from a large geographic area for a fun weekend of league bowling.

The annual tournament takes place in February each year, and as we approach their latest iteration, I spoke with tournament Co-Director Brian Thomas about the league, it's history, and what's ahead.

JOSH: When was the Sweetheart Invitational founded and when does it take place?
BRIAN: It was founded in 1988 and is held the weekend after Valentine’s Day each year.

What is the purpose of the Sweetheart Invitational?
The Sweetheart Invitational’s mission is simple: to bring together gay and straight bowlers alike in the spirit of competition and giving. Our beneficiaries over the years have included Our Companions Animal Rescue, The New Haven Pride Center, GLSEN Connecticut, the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective, True Colors, AIDS Project New Haven and Leeway House.

How long have you been involved in running the tournament?
Several core members of our committee have been involved since 2008 and we attract new people each year. Very often, people start off bowling in the tournament, have a great time at the tournament and transition into committee members. Steve Shura joined the committee in 2008, became treasurer and eventually co-director. Brian Thomas bowled his first Sweetheart in 2011 and joined the committee a few months later, before becoming co-director as of the 2018 tournament. Tony Navarro, the tournament's statistician, bowled for nine years in the Sweetheart before joining the committee nine years ago.

What keeps you driven to continue your support of the tournament?
Certainly it’s our love of the tournament itself and the bowlers who come back year after year, but knowing that what we do positively impacts our beneficiaries brings it to a higher level. For us, the Sweetheart Invitational isn’t just about the bowling -- it’s about the friends we've made in the bowling community and the difference we’ve made for the organizations we support.

Where do participants of the tournament come from?

If You Go...
The deadline for registration is February 9, 2019. Participating bowlers need to have an average through a sanctioned bowling league and be members of both the USBC (United States Bowling Congress) and IGBO (International Gay Bowling Organization). If bowlers aren’t USBC or IGBO members, they can join both for an additional fee when they register for the Sweetheart.
Registration information is available at www.sweetheartinvitational.com.
Typically, we attract bowlers from the Northeast, with a fair amount from the Mid-Atlantic area. We’ve occasionally had bowlers from California, Florida, Michigan, Washington and even Canada.

**How has the tournament evolved over time?**

It’s gotten bigger! We sold out the tournament in 2018 and we’re hoping to do it again in 2019. Our beneficiaries have changed from time-to-time, though our current ones have been in place for several years. Since 2009, we’ve raised an average of nearly $10,000 a year that gets divided between our beneficiaries and we try to increase that each year. While our charities were initially LGBTQ+ groups for a long time, we’ve since expanded that to include a mix of LGBTQ+ organizations and community charities.

**What volunteer opportunities exist for those in the community who may wish to help?**

We welcome volunteers year-round! We can use help at our fundraising events, as well as the weekend of the tournament itself, when we need help setting up and selling raffle tickets. For those who’d like to get involved a little deeper, they can join our committee and help plan the tournament!

The prizes that are raffled off each year at the Sweetheart Invitational tend to be massive both in size and number, as seen by this table. To the right are shirts that cover the various themes of recent years' tournaments.

![Photo courtesy Sweetheart Invitational](image)
The mission of Anchor Health Initiative is to embrace and promote the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and transgender individuals and others living in our communities by offering compassionate, comprehensive, and evidence-based medical care in a safe, welcoming and non-judgmental environment.
What does it mean to you as organizers to be the only internationally-recognized LGBTQ+ sporting event in Connecticut?

To us, while we describe ourselves as an LGBTQ+ sporting event, we don’t limit ourselves to that. We welcome a contingent of straight bowlers who join us each year. Equality isn’t an achievement our community can make on our own. It’s something that requires being inclusive and standing alongside our straight brothers and sisters without losing what makes our community unique. Our bowlers are dedicated -- Connecticut’s weather in February can be problematic, but even winter storms and Nor’easters don’t keep them away! We’re honored that our tournament means that much to them.

Diversity and inclusion are reflected in our workforce, workplace, and marketplace. It’s a commitment that’s part of everything we do, and we’re proud of our record and of the recognition we’ve received. Key knows that a diverse, inclusive culture strengthens the communities we serve.
HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA
Saturday, December 15, 2018 / 2:30pm
Hamden Middle School
Sunday, December 16, 2018 / 3:00pm
Shelton High School

Connecticut’s Holiday tradition is back... and this year Conductor Chelsea Tipton is pulling out all the stops in honor of the NHSO’s 125th Anniversary. From Sleigh Ride to a sing-along, the NHSO’s take on classic and new Holiday carols will delight and enchant.

HANDEL’S MESSIAH
Thursday, December 20, 2018 / 7:30pm
Woolsey Hall
Saturday, December 22, 2018 / 7:30pm
First Congregational Church of Madison

Hallelujah! The NHSO and Christ Church Choir celebrate the holiday season with Handel’s beloved vocal masterpiece, Messiah.
Squad Up for Trans Rights

The Connecticut Party for Socialism and Liberation, in partnership with more than 25 other organizations, hosted a rally after word that the federal government planned to make changes to Title IX regulations seeing a definition of gender based on biological sex.

Photos by Lucy Gellman
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Besides Sweetheart Invitational, league bowling remains popular in Connecticut, and over the years a number of LGBTQ+-friendly leagues have been established. Many participants of the invitational bowl in a recently-formed league called CT Pride Bowlers, one of at least three LGBTQ-friendly leagues in Connecticut. We spoke to tournament head Tony Navarro about the league and how people can join.

JOSH: When was the league founded?
TONY: CT PRIDE BOWLERS was founded in 2017 by Steve Shura, Mike Gambino, Brian Thomas and myself. We were originally part of another league that bowled in Wallingford, but when that league chose to move to a new bowling alley, we realized that Wallingford was our home and we opted to create a new league and remain there.

JOSH: How many participants do you have in the league?
TONY: Our league is still new and growing and we currently have 18 people (six teams made up of three people each).

JOSH: What sort of commitment is required for a league?
TONY: The only commitment is that you come and enjoy yourself for less than $20 per week!

What is the normal timing for the league (length, time of year, etc.)
Our league is unique in the sense that we run a 26-week season with a four-week break between the two halves, so we bowl for 13 weeks, take four weeks off for the holidays and then finish up with 13 weeks. The first half this year runs from September 13 through December 13 (taking off the week of Thanksgiving) and the second half runs from January 17 through April 11.
How does a league differ from a tournament?
League bowling is all about bowling with a team and each week you bowl as a team against a rotating roster of opposing teams. Wins are tallied based on team versus team performance and teams rise or fall in the standings each week. In tournament bowling, you bowl three different events (Singles, Doubles and Team) over the course of a weekend with scores being tallied against all other participants, regardless of who’s bowling in the lane next to yours.

Do you have to be a good bowler to be in a league?
Our league is a social league and we welcome all level of bowlers. It’s all about having fun, spending time with new and existing friends with a little friendly competition.

How long have you been participating in league bowling?
I have been bowling in leagues for 25 years (18 of those in Connecticut), Steve Shura has been a league bowler for 26 years, Mike Gambino has been a league bowler for six years and Brian Thomas has been a league bowler for nine years.

For those uncertain or new to league bowling, what would you recommend to them if they're interested in learning more?
CT PRIDE BOWLERS will be accepting new bowlers for our second half, which starts January 17. We would encourage anyone interesting in joining to come check us out before our first half ends on December 13 or just come on January 17 and we will put you on a team. We can also be contacted through our Facebook group (https://www.facebook.com/groups/1199294243549354/) or our Meetup page (https://www.meetup.com/Wallingford-Bowling-Meetup).

Other Options
Other LGBTQ+-friendly leagues include:

- Friendship Mixed League, which meets at Callaghan's Bowl-o-Rama in Newington
- New Haven LGBTQ Bowlers, which meets at AMF Circle Lanes in East Haven

IF YOU WANT TO SPEND THE NIGHT LAUGHING THEN COME SPEND THE NIGHT WITH

THE
Queer COMEDY
QUEENS
Sunday Dec 9th
ALL HAIL THE QUEENS

Tara Devlin  Jess Miller  Poppy Champlin

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860-432-8600
www.Hartford.Funnybone.com

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Alida Engel can help you find the voice that best suits your identity.

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New Haven, CT 06515
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*Sliding fee scale provided.

SAVE THE DATE...

The Dorothy Awards
MARCH 2, 2019
FANTASIA, NORTH HAVEN
HONOREE AND TICKET DETAILS COMING SOON
Keep Busy Heading into Winter

by Patrick J Dunn

There is always something interesting and fun going on somewhere in Connecticut! We are looking forward to including this column of different LGBTQ+ things to do around Connecticut. Know of an event you think should be featured? Email us at nhglcc@gmail.com

December 7-9: And to All a Good Night by the Hartford Gay Men’s Chorus (Hartford)
‘Twas the night before Christmas and Santa has a secret. Join the Hartford Gay Men’s Chorus at the Aetna Theatre in Hartford for their annual holiday concert and find out what Santa is hiding.
More info at hgmc.org

December 9: Loosey’s Great Big Drag Sale (Norwalk)
At this event all queens/kings/showgirls/etc. are invited to bring items to sell, trade, or just plain give away. It will be a wonderful opportunity to clean out your closet, add new items to it, and meet fellow performers!
More info at facebook.com/events/886967831507889/

December 9: Queer Queens of Qomedy by Poppy Champlin (Manchester, CT)
Poppy Champlin, Tara Devlin, and Jess Miller take over the Hartford FunnyBone in Manchester, Connecticut for an afternoon of hilarity. Queer Queens of Qomedy is an all-female traveling comedy show that performs all over New England.
More info at facebook.com/QueerQueens

December 9: Jingle Bell Divas (Central Village)
Following a successful first event earlier this year, the imperial courts of Rhode Island and Connecticut are partnering for a second fundraiser at the Music Lady Cafe from 6-10 p.m. Funds raised will benefit the Matthew Shepherd Foundation. The show will be holiday themed.
More info at facebook.com/CTImperialCourt

December 13: Chez Queen Finale (Hartford)
Chez Queen is a drag competition highlighting and showcasing the many types of drag and drag expression in Connecticut – Drag Queens, Drag Kings, Bio Queens, Gender Expressionists, and more!
More info at facebook.com/TheChezEst

December 14-15: Equators Live (Hartford)
"Equators" is a solo performance piece developed and performed by Hartford Connecticut choreographer, dancer, film maker, director, producer, installation artist Arien Wilkerson. Audience members who attend this work will be asked to interrogate their expectations of and relationship to climate,
bodies, anthropomorphism, police, and environment.

More info at facebook.com/events/697093637351738

December 15: Pole to Pole by the Connecticut Gay Men's Chorus (New Haven)

Come with us as we explore the ways people all around the globe celebrate their holidays. We'll visit many exotic destinations before taking a few slight detours along the way, with some surprising “forgotten” carols from other lands that should probably STAY forgotten!

More info at ctgmc.org

January 8: So You Think You Can Bowl Two Year Anniversary Event (Norwalk)

So You Think You Can Bowl celebrates 2 years of providing a fun and safe environment for LGBTQ+ bowlers with a fun night of games, drinks, giveaways, and prizes!

More info at facebook.com/events/777049862636385

16th Annual Wine Tasting

Thursday, December 6
6:00 - 8:00p

Taste a variety of wines, including ones that will make great gifts for the holidays! From moderately priced bottles to specialty blends, dessert wines, and more! Local distributors will educate you on selections personally chosen from their inventories, and help you understand some of the unique flavors and varieties behind these great wines. Light hors d’oeuvres will be provided.

$25 Advanced Tickets
$20 Members Tickets

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newhavenpridecenter.org
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New name, New Mission, New Services

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