



HARLEMLANES

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King Pin

Got game? Striking out? Just a benchwarmer? (Hate sports analogies?)

Take it easy, champ. Slip on your Pro Grip and schlep your eight-pounder over to Harlem Lanes — the bi-level bowling alley and party space opens tomorrow in the (rapidly rejuvenating) Upper Upper West Side.

Show off your arm-swing at one of the 24 lanes during a game of glow-in-the-dark Extreme Bowling. Impress your date by chugging pitchers of beer. Or roll some gutter balls and dig into platters of BBQ shrimp, spring rolls, sliders, and chicken wings. (The menu is extensive.)

When you're sick of spares, take a break with your Big Lebowski on the leather couches or rock out with the Saturday night DJ until the wee hours.

Ladies will love the super-cute, high-heeled bowling shoes (technically not for bowling). Guys will dig the flat-screen TVs and football nights. Private parties can appreciate the specialized balls.

And, in this case, keep your mind in the gutter.

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HARLEM LANES opens with an assist on the scissors from former U.S. President Bill Clinton, Sharon Joseph cut the ribbon last month in a ceremonial opening of the 24-lane center in Harlem she built in partnership with her aunt, Gail Richards. The two women and their four year saga to build Harlem's first bowling house in 40 years were the cover story in March IBL.

The project was assisted by the William J. Clinton Foundation's Urban Enterprise Initiative, which provides small business owners and entrepreneurs with technical assistance and strategic advice.

"Harlem Lanes is a stellar example of what the Foundation hopes to achieve with our Urban Enterprise Initiative," Clinton said. "We are so proud to have played a part in helping Sharon and Gail achieve their vision of participating in Harlem's new renaissance. These two women have done their homework, put in a tremendous amount of hard work and will serve as a model for small businesses that want to have a role in reshaping their communities."

Also on hand for the ribbon-cutting were Congressman Charles Rangel, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and Councilwoman Inez Dickens.

Harlem Lanes opened officially April 1.

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