

Dear Brent and Friday night bowling league,

For many years, both my mom and dad would meet me on bowling night to cheer me and my team on. My mom would bring the candy, and my dad would coach anyone and everyone who was willing to be coached ;).

Sadly, my father passed away four years ago, and, as you know, my mom passed in April. They both lived long, very happy lives.

After my dad passed, my mom continued to come to the bowling alley - and based on her Vegas video poker prowess, people playing bowling poker came to her, from up and down the lanes, for her poker expertise and guidance.

Each week my mom looked forward to Friday nights. She spoke of it often. When we were off for the summer she would say how she looked forward to bowling starting again.

The league treated my parents so specially, even awarding them with an honor at one of the banquets, as 'league mascots'.

I am so fortunate that the space you provided was a loving and welcoming one. I am also so blessed that there are so many people who will carry forward the memory of my parents.

My mom was at Friday night bowling the last three Fridays of her life.

When my mom passed, and our being Jewish, the family observes a period called Shiva . . . or "sitting Shiva". Shiva is a time when friends and families come together to support the family with love, prayer, and food.

Sometimes during Shiva there may be family friends who coordinate the food aspect - either planning the meals or receiving and using donations, to purchase food.

People were so generous that we ended up with money left over from that effort. The monies were split between my two sisters and I.

We each decided to donate the left over money to something meaningful to our mom. For me, I couldn't think of a place more meaningful than to the friends here in our league, who gave my mom, and I, such joy.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for providing this space, and for the friendship and love you gave to my parents.

Gary Liss