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Highwood weddings on display at exhibit

ERIN YARNALL, Editor

Several families who were married at Highwood's St. James Church, along with other churches in Highwood and Fort Sheridan, were able to relive their happy memories Sept. 26-28 at the Highwood Public Library.

Pictures, invitations, decorations and wedding dresses were donated by Highwood residents to be part of "Love is a Many Splendored Thing," an exhibit put together by the Highwood Historical Society documenting weddings that took place in the city.

The idea came to the society to organize an exhibit centering on local weddings after Lake Bluff resident Pat Ugolini Price donated a wedding dress worn by her mother, Italine Prandini, at her wedding to Armnodo Ugolini on Aug. 14, 1940 at St. James Church in Highwood.

"That dress was donated to us and when I saw it, I said 'This means we should really have an exhibit because the dress is so beautiful,'" Highwood Historical Society President Teta Minuzzo said.

In addition to her mother's dress, Price also donated the dress she wore in her wedding, which also took place at St. James Church.

According to Minuzzo, a majority of the donated materials were from weddings that took place in St. James Church, with one donation coming from a chapel in Fort Sheridan.

"My mother was married at St. James, and she had her reception at the labor town hall here in Highwood," Price said. "I was baptized at St. James, I went to St. James school. It's a big part of my life."

Price said that she decided to donate to the Historical Society after her mother passed away in 2012.

"I was so happy because it's



Highwood wedding photos lined tables of the exhibit.



The exhibit also featured wedding invitations.

being preserved and people can see it as an example of the dresses from 1940," Price said.

Minuzzo said people were so enthusiastic about donating items that the society was still accepting items a day before the exhibit opened.

"It's hard to say no when people want to contribute something," Minuzzo said.

She credited part of the success of the exhibit to the support she received from the community, including people who donated or lent items to the exhibit, as well as local businesses.

Froggy's French Cafe donated a fake wedding cake with real icing, that Minuzzo said had to be moved repeatedly as the exhibit went on because the



A cake was donated by Froggy's French Cafe for the exhibit.

icing began to melt. They were also appreciative of the Highwood Public Library for lending



A wedding dress owned by Highwood resident Esther Linari was on display at the Highwood Public Library, Sept. 26, alongside photos of other weddings that have taken place in Highwood as part of an exhibit put on by the Highwood Historical Society. ERIN YARNALL/22ND CENTURY MEDIA



The oldest dress in the exhibit was owned by Elizabeth Curley at her wedding in 1925.

the space to host the exhibit, as well as letting the society store mannequins and dresses in the

library's back room.

"It's just been amazing," Minuzzo said.