

Highwood Historical Society

MAKING HISTORY EVERYDAY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>At the Museum</i>	2
<i>Recent Acquisitions</i>	2
<i>WANTED!</i>	2
<i>It Started with a Cake</i>	3

P.O. Box 132
Highwood, IL 60040
tel: 847-682-9039
highwoodhistory@gmail.com

Board Members

Tom Scopelliti, President
Shirley Fitzgerald, Vice President
Jack Johnson, Treasurer
Adrienne Inman, Secretary

Teta Minuzzo, Past President

Josephine Campagni
Leonora Cervac
Lisa Cervac
Aldo Crovetti
Angela Crovetti
Sheila Dean
Michael Koenitz-Hudac
Cynthia Krol
Diane LoPresti
Barbara Sherony Marianetti
Rick Sachen
John Sirotti
Carol Ugolini

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year everyone!

First of all, I'd like to thank all of you who attended our Holiday Dinner at Froggy's in December. It was a fun time, where many received door prizes and our raffle winners were chosen. This year, 2019 will be another active year for our society with special events with a wide range of topics such as Highwood weddings, "Highwood in the 1960's" displays in our museum, a talk by Bruce Bertucci concerning Highwood restaurants, a special presentation at our annual meeting by the Viti family commemorating their 80th anniversary in Highwood, and also a special and fun fundraising event at Santi's in Highwood. Pay attention to this newsletter and future newsletters and e-mails for details.

Did you know that some homes dating back to Highwood's founding, although modified, are still standing? Let's see if you can identify where this house is located and who owned and first lived in it.

- A street, named after the owner's family, leads to the property where the house was constructed (pre-future subdivisions) but the house is situated on a street named after the owner's wife's family.
- Charles H. Summers, who worked for the Western Union and was a friend of Elijah Grey lived to the east of this residence.
- The individual who built the home later sold it to Dr. Gatchell, a "physician" who was well known in the area for giving sickly patients water from a spring located on the property which had "curative effects."

Look for the answer in our next newsletter.

Tom Scopelliti, President

Congratulations to our Founder's Day Raffle Winners:

1st Prize—Rosemary Espinoza

2nd Prize—Hank Zanarini

3rd Prize—Ron Kovarsky

We appreciate all who supported our fundraising efforts!

VISIT THE HHS MUSEUM

The Highwood Historical Society invites you to stop in and see the wonderful exhibits and information that is on display. We are located at 122 North Avenue, Highwood, IL. Winter hours are now:

Sundays 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A special time to visit or do research is also possible by calling 847-682-9039.

HHS thanks all who have made prior donations and shared so many historical archives with us. It is exciting to finally have a building to showcase the history of this small but amazing community. Our displays change frequently. Come in and visit and share your stories with us. HHS is especially grateful to an anonymous and very kind donor who recently contributed \$250 to support the one month rental and expenses of our building.

We are currently collecting items about Highwood and Fort Sheridan in the 60's. If you have any materials representing the people, sports, businesses or activities of that era, we would be happy to receive them. Thank you for all the support.

Teta Minuzzo. Past President/Archivist

WANTED! *Wedding Photos and Other Wedding Items from Anyone Married in Highwood.*

The Highwood Historical Society is planning a special display of Highwood brides and grooms. Please help us by searching your albums, drawers, closets etc. Items may be loaned or donated for this exhibit. Please call HHS: 847-682-9039 if you have wedding memorabilia that we may use. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

HHS received a beautiful wedding dress from Pat Ugolini Price which was worn by her mother, Italine Prandini, at her wedding to Armondo Ugolini on August 10, 1940 at St. James Church in Highwood.

The dress, wedding photo, and marriage certificate inspired our event and will be the focal point of this display. We would be so happy to display your special items, as everyone loves weddings!

WANTED! This year our Memorial Day exhibit will feature Highwood Veterans from the Korean and Vietnam Wars. We are looking for names, photos, and stories of our Highwood servicemen and women. Please help us honor our veterans.

WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR THESE RECENT DONATIONS

Pat Ugolini Price – Mother's 1940 wedding dress, marriage certificate and photo plus many other photos, news clippings and other Highwood items

Ellie Soldano – Many news clippings highlighting her son, Joe Soldano, and other Highwood events and activities including the end of the Chicago NS Railroad in 1963 and information on several early Highwood settlers

Shirley Fitzgerald – Girl Scout cap and an original painting by Donald Ugolini

Lucy Pasquesi Konsler – School reunion photos, photos of Pasquesi trucks, and several news clippings

Judy Bosse- Original photo of Highwood School

Richard Giangiorgi – Copy of Highwood Baseball team with member signatures

Debra Santi Byrne – Signed Deed of Gift to donate the large original painting of Caspar, Ernest and Caspar, Jr. ("Gop") Santi that is a major feature in our museum. Also gave many photos and news articles reflecting family's involvement in Highwood activities

Maggie Amidei – photos of Carlo Amidei and members viewing the building of the Highwood Bocce Court

Roxanne Caringello – Original painting by Beverly Fabbri and reframing of Highwood's first Board of Trustees picture

Ken Lelli – newspaper copies of his service as a Highwood postal worker and of his father as co-owner of the Nite 'N Gale Restaurant

IT STARTED WITH A CAKE

My story begins with my great-grandmother, Linda Biagetti, and her orange cake. She was the matriarch of our family, the first woman to immigrate, the first to come to Highwood, and the first to open the Del Rio Restaurant. Unfortunately, my only memories of her are from visiting her in a nursing home after a stroke when I was a young girl in the 1970's. Her personal accomplishments, her business savvy, her virtuous personality and her skilled cooking are still discussed among our relatives. However the fact that many of her recipes died with her in 1978 has haunted my mother for 50 years. My mother has searched and admittedly failed at many attempts to replicate her orange cake ever since. That is, until she recently received a cookbook from the estate of her longtime neighbor, Rena Baldwin.

Rena's daughters attended Carmel High School in Mundelein and the Carmel Mother's Club published a cookbook as a fundraiser. This little paperback, *The Cream of Carmel - Dessert Favourites*, now joins our cookbook archives alongside the *St. James Parents and Friends (1987-88)*, *Nursing Measures . . . a Collection of Recipes from the Nursing Staff at Highland Park Hospital (1977)*, *The Italian Women's Prosperity Club (1998)*, and the *Cuore Arte Club's Homemade Kitchen Magic (1972)* & their second edition *Mescolando in Gusto Italiano (1983)*. Any culinary question is answered with "check the book," a collective term for these family treasures. With their torn pages, burnt edges, sauce splatters and uneven duct-taped binding, I



think that if her home were on fire, my mother might grab them before the family photos.

My grandmother, Stella Pigati, loved to support local cookbooks and she read them fervently. A phenomenal cook in her own right, she understood exactly what these books were – a collection of most prized family recipes, as she said, ". . . if your name's next to it, it better be good." My grandmother would always have a story about the cook, where they lived and what they did. Even today, I'll flip through a cookbook and as I try a new recipe I'm actually more interested in the cook behind it. Why did they choose this or that one to submit? Did the recipe come from Europe or did they pick it up here in America? I imagine their kitchens in Highwood and what they would think about today's immersion blenders and Kitchen-Aid mixers.

I teach 6th grade Social Studies in North Chicago. My students are currently studying what we can learn from the ancient artifacts of the lost city of Mohenjodaro, India. What will people think about our Highwood artifacts in the years to come?

My mother is still working on the cake, as she says it's not exactly what she remembers, however we're almost there. I'd like to thank Mrs. Val Ori, of Highland Park, who submitted her Orange Cake recipe for Carmel High School many years ago.
- Cynthia Krol



ORANGE CAKE

Mrs. Val Ori
Highland Park

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 c. sugar | 1 c. raisins |
| ½ c. shortening | 1 c. sour cream |
| 2 eggs | 2 c. flour |
| 1 orange | 1 tsp. baking soda |

Cream sugar and shortening. Add two eggs. Squeeze orange and save juice for later. Grind orange peel and raisins, add to mixture. Sift flour and soda together, add to mixture with sour cream. Put in sq. 10 in of the oven, pour the orange juice over cake. *10 in pan*

HIGHWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 132
HIGHWOOD, IL 60040-0132



Wedding of Italine Prandini and Armondo Ugolini, St. James Church, August 10, 1940. Dress to be on display at our event, "Memories of that Special Day"