

# Here comes the bridal show

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Women, their bridesmaids, possibly a fiancé here and there, and a parent or two will be attending the Chicago Bridal Showcase on Sunday at the Highland Park Country Club.

The event features information, food, raffles, entertainment and face-to-face access to people who can make a wedding a very personal experience for the bride.

It is a free showcase of what the modern bride may want for her wedding.

"We're expecting a really good turnout," said Candice C. Kuhnen, organizer of this event. "It's a lovely show."

She said this is a good event to attend for answers to questions, compared to the passive experience of reading a thick wedding magazine.

"There's nothing better than being in front of someone and getting your answers to your questions answered directly," Kuhnen said.

Chicago Bridal Showcase is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Highland Park Country Club, 1201 Park Avenue West. The event features information about all aspects of a wedding, contracts, services available, creating and merging new households, seminars, a resort and bridal clothing fashion show, and exhibitions that feature all the types of services a bride may need for her wedding day. There is no charge to attend. Winners of raffles must be present to win.

"It's a very relaxed atmosphere. We have over \$60,000 in raffle prizes," Kuhnen said.

"We have a lovely fashion show. We have a gourmet caterer who only does organic foods. They will be passing out appetizers and things to taste that will be sensational."

Experts will be present to discuss issues related to marriage and weddings.

- Jane Skarosi will discuss contracts and the wedding timeline;

- Carole Cowperthwaite-O'Hagan will offer brides strategies for maintaining control of their own wedding;

- Loren Reid Seaman will talk about merging his and her households into "our home;"

- Jennifer Prell helps with household moves and the effort to declutter one's life;

- Mike Castronovo will offer tips on home financing; and,

- Lydia Kamerlink talks about prenuptial agreements.

Raffles for the Bridal Showcase offer more than one type of prize. They are:

- A week for two in Barbados, with airfare included on Air Jamaica, is the top raffle prize and is provided by The Crane, a resort hotel dating back to 1887. It is fully restored to modern amenities. It's pink sand beach is protected by a natural coral reef. The raffle occurs after the fashion show.

- Wedding products and services worth \$1,200 will be raffled in baskets to 50 couples. The Bridal Baskets will include gift certificates for services and merchandise of exhibitors at the Showcase itself.

The Chicago Bridal Showcase seminars from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. are repeated to offer more opportunities for interested participants to attend different sessions. The Fashion Show starts at 2 p.m.