

The Party in the Planning

SIMCHAS RESOURCE GUIDE

BY JACQUELINE BULL

BESA, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Event Services Association, is having its annual expo March 18th at the Hilton Del Mar. Lydia Krasner is the co-president of BESA and the owner of Mitzvah Event Productions.

She has been event planning for more than 20 years and has seen just about everything (although she loves when she can deliver on something really unique for her clients).

"I personally try to make it as individual as possible so each family feels like their party has a reflection of their child," she said.

She is one of the many vendors displaying at the expo and recommends pre bar and bat mitzvah families to bring their kid and check out the vendors (many of whom she uses in the events she plans).

Lydia explained that it's a really fun event ("There is a lot of energy in the room") and that the convenience is a big benefit to parents.

"What kind of opportunity could you have where you could

see them all in one room and get a chance to talk to every one of them on the same day ... There is so much opportunity to bust it all out in one day instead of having to make a whole bunch of phone calls and a whole bunch of appointments," she said.

During our phone conversation, she recalled many mitzvahs she planned with themes ranging from Hollywood to Tiffany's to Fantasy Books to X-Games with all the details very fresh in her mind. A bat mitzvah in particular she recalled, "I did one last year where it was a French Patisserie theme and they were looking for some unique entertainment, so I found a woman who was a Cordon Bleu graduate ... She showed them how to make roses out of frosting, all kinds of cool tricks with a pastry bag. And then she brought in five cakes and the girls broke into groups and each group decorated a cake, the parents got to judge and we brought in prizes for the winners. It was so cool." ✨

VENUES

B Hilton Garden Inn San Diego/Del Mar

3939 Ocean Bluff Ave.
hiltongardeninndelmar.com
(858) 720-9500

Capacity: up to 150

Room cost: food and beverage minimum of \$2,500 gets free room rental

Advance booking recommended: anytime, but book by June 15, and the hotel will offer a complimentary chocolate fountain with two dipping items, enough for 35

Outside catering allowed: Only for ethnic requirements, but per-person fee is applied

Hilton San Diego Bayfront 1 Park Blvd.

hiltonsandiegobayfront.com
(619) 321-4211

Capacity: up to 2,400

Room cost: varies, call for quote
Advance booking recommended: one year

Outside catering allowed: No, Kosher catering available in-house

Hilton San Diego/Del Mar 15575 Jimmy Durante Blvd. *sandiegodelmar.hilton.com* (858) 764-6044

Capacity: up to 400

Room cost: call for quote

Advance booking recommended: 6 months

Outside catering allowed: Only if dietary restrictions are required

Homewood Suites by Hilton San Diego-Del Mar 11025 Vista Sorrento Parkway (858) 523-0500

Capacity: up to 90

Room cost: varies by event date and requirements

Advance booking recommended: book early to save up to 15 percent

Outside catering allowed: No, except for kosher events

Hornblower Cruises 1800 N. Harbor Dr. *hornblower.com* (619) 686-8700

Capacity: 10-1,000

Room cost: price varies with custom options

Advance booking recommended: as soon as possible

Outside catering allowed: No

Hotel Del Coronado 1500 Orange Ave. *hoteldel.com*

(619) 435-6611

Capacity: up to 1,100

Room cost: food and beverage minimums on top of room rental charges.

Advance booking recommended: at least one year

Outside catering allowed: No

B Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine 3777 La Jolla Village Drive *lajolla.hyatt.com* (858) 552-6025

Capacity: up to 650 -

Room cost: \$50-200 per person

Advance booking recommended: one year

Outside catering allowed: Yes

Maderas Golf Club 17750 Old Coach Rd. *maderasgolf.com* (858) 451-8100

Call for quote and details

B Parq Restaurant & Nightclub 615 Broadway, San Diego *parqsd.com*

(619) 727-6789

Capacity: up to 850 reception, 250 dinner

Room cost: venue rental fee depends on group size and day of the week

Advance booking recommended: 3 months

Outside catering allowed: Not usually, but exceptions for kosher catering

Party Pals 10427 Roselle St. *partypals.com* (858) 622-6613

Capacity: up to 1,000 (inside and/or outside space available)

Room cost: call for quote

Advance booking recommended: extremely busy through summer, starting in May. Recommended six months in advance

Outside catering allowed: Yes

San Diego Botanic Garden 230 Quail Gardens Dr. *sdbgarden.org* (760) 436-3036

Capacity: 30-300

Room cost: \$550-1900

Advance booking recommended: 15 months

Outside catering allowed: No, but exceptions can be made for Kosher requirements

B San Diego Marriott Del Mar
11966 El Camino Real
marriott.com/hotels/travel/sandm-san-diego-marriott-del-mar

(858) 523-1700

Capacity: 120-420

Room cost: varies by event date and requirements

Advance booking recommended:

depends on the season desired

Outside catering allowed: Yes

San Diego Marriott – La Jolla

4240 La Jolla Village Drive
marriottlajolla.com

(858) 597-6384

Capacity: groups of 80-700

Room cost: \$25-60 per person

plus tax and service charge

Advance booking recommended:

short term up to a year and a half out

Outside catering allowed: only if full kosher is need

B San Diego Marriott Mission Valley

8757 Rio San Diego Dr.

marriott.com/hotels/travel/sanmv-san-diego-marriott-mission-valley

(619) 692-3800

Capacity: 150-550

Room cost: food and beverage minimums only, depend on day of week

Advance booking recommended:

as soon as possible

Outside catering allowed: Yes

San Diego Zoo

2920 Zoo Drive

sandiegozoo.org/catering

(619) 685-3223

Call for quote and details

B Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa

5480 Grand Pacific Dr.

sheratoncarlsbad.com

(760) 827-2414

Capacity: 300-500

Room cost: no room reservation cost, only charged for food and beverage to be consumed

Advance booking recommended:

6 months to one year, but flexible

Outside catering allowed: No

Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina

1380 Harbor Island Dr.

sheraton.com/sandiegomarina

(619) 692-2702

Capacity: 50-1500

Room cost: consultation required

Advance booking recommended:

at least one month

Outside catering allowed: No

Stoneridge Country Club

17166 Stoneridge Country Club Lane

stoneridgeclub.com

(858) 487-2138

Capacity: up to 300

Room cost: consultation required

Advance booking recommended:

Yes

Outside catering allowed: Call

for info

Tango Del Rey

3567 Del Rey Street

tangodelrey.com

(858) 794-9044

Capacity: 5000 sqft with seating

up to 220

Room cost: varies, call for quote

Advance booking recommended:

as early as one month depending on preferred date.

Outside catering allowed: No.

Kosher-style available

The New Children's Museum

200 West Island Ave.

thinkplaycreate.org

(619) 233-8792

Capacity: 1,000

Room cost: \$2,500-6,500

Advance booking recommended: availability varies

Outside catering allowed: No,

but exceptions can be made for Kosher requirements

B UCSD Faculty Club

9500 Gillman Drive, #0121

facclub.ucsd.edu

(858) 534-5450

Capacity: call for info

Room cost: call for info

Advance booking recommended:

call for info

Outside catering allowed: call

for info

The Westin Gaslamp Quarter

910 Broadway Circle

westingaslamp.com

(619) 239-2200

Capacity: 100-600

Room cost: call for a quote

Advance booking recommended:

as far out as possible but

availability is very flexible

Outside catering allowed: Yes

Advice for Parents Throwing a Bar or Bat Mitzvah

BY JACQUELINE BULL

Additional Entertainment

"You definitely need additional entertainment. I have a lot of people that come to me and say 'Oh I've got my venue and I have a good DJ, I don't need anything else.' And I completely disagree with that because you can't eat for four hours and you can't dance for four hours."

Lydia recommends adding on a photo booth, trivia, candy buffets or even a hypnotist.

Guests First

Lydia suggests making venues close by and convenient to the guests, especially considering out-of-town family that may be unfamiliar with the area.

"Thinking about how the guests are going to look at [the events], is it an easy transition or is it this going to be really difficult?"

Party Advocate

"Have somebody to manage your event. That is the most important thing. And so many people that I've worked with don't even realize the importance of it until it comes to the day of. If you have a kid that gets sick in the bathroom, or somebody's car that gets hit in the parking lot or the food is cold or the air conditioning is broken – you don't know what's going to happen. There are always going to be issues and if you don't have somebody managing it, that

can't deal with whatever the issue is, you are getting up and down all night long putting out fires and not really enjoying all these people that came to enjoy this day with you. Just have somebody there to be you."

Lydia advises that it's already difficult to visit with all the friends and family that are there to celebrate with you. If you are focused on making sure all the details of the event go smoothly, you have less time to be a guest at your own party.

