

March
2019
Adar I / Adar II
5779

JOURNAL

SAN DIEGO

ies

month depending on preferred date.
Outside catering allowed: No.
sher-style available

The Great Hall at UCSD

house.ucsd.edu/

(858) 534-0540

Capacity: 175-250

Room cost: call for quote

Advance booking

Recommended: availability is

dependent on the academic

calendar. **Outside catering**

Allowed: Yes

The New Children's Museum

10 West Island Ave.

www.museumofplaycreate.org

(619) 795-1698

Capacity: 1,000

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

Advance booking

Recommended: availability

varies

Outside catering allowed: No,

but exceptions can be made for

special requirements

The Westin Carlsbad Resort

Spa

180 Grand Pacific Drive

[westincarlsbad.com](http://www.westincarlsbad.com)

(760) 827-2419

Capacity: 100-500

Room cost: no room reservation

fee, only charged for food and

beverage to be consumed

Advance booking recommended:

6 months recommended

Outside catering allowed: Yes

The Westin Gaslamp Quarter

10 Broadway Circle

[westingaslamp.com](http://www.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

limited

Outside catering allowed: Yes

UCSD Faculty Club

9500 Gilman Drive, #0121

facclub.ucsd.edu

(858) 534-1924

Capacity: 50-300

Room cost: prices vary for

members or non-members

Advance booking

Recommended: Faculty

Club members and UCSD

organizations receive scheduling

preference. **Outside catering**

Allowed: No.

Advance booking recommended:

at least one month

Outside catering allowed: No

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



A Parent's Perspective

BY JACQUELINE BULL

Susan Pack is a mom that attended a BESA expo and connected with Lydia Krasner, the owner of Mitzvah Event Productions, and never looked back. She had Lydia plan all three of her children's bat and bar mitzvahs.

"Nobody does what Lydia does. She gives it her all. She cares. She wants it to be a success," Susan said.

Lydia is also the co-president of BESA and very familiar with all of the members and what they can offer.

"Once I got Lydia, it was like 'This is what I'm looking for,' and she would be like 'Oh my gosh, I have the best [backdrop vendor],' whatever it was. It wasn't that I didn't look elsewhere, but almost always, I went back to the BESA people," Susan said.

To become a member of BESA, the applicant has to have a minimum of three years experience working in special events, performed at least 50 bar/bat mitzvahs and be sponsored by a current member.

"They could be the best DJ in the world, but if they don't know the hora [laughs], then they've kind of blown it," Susan said. "It's nice to have people who are seasoned enough to know what a bar and bat mitzvah is."

Over three mitzvahs, Lydia and Susan became happy collaborators. Lydia remarked that she wished that Susan had more kids, so that they could keep working together.

"The other thing that Lydia does really well is the tables," she said. "Like each theme she takes and creates centerpieces, it is the little things that she creates. When you walk in, it is already the theme as you walk in. My daughter's theme was around the world ... Every station kind of was a different part of the world and every table was a different part of the world. I would call her from HomeGoods and go like 'I just found this pyramid, what do you have for Egypt?' We started to collaborate more as we got to know each other."

With all the details, they were able to do something crafty and fitting with the theme. Susan said Lydia helps others be more creative in their thinking. She recalled working with a cake pop vendor who created dice shapes and hearts, clubs, spades and diamonds cards for her son's casino theme.

One of Susan's favorite memories was the magician, Magic Mike Stilwell, who is a BESA member.

"He looks like an old Jewish rabbi. People thought he was an invited guest, who was walking around doing magic tricks," she said. "Somebody came up to me and said, 'Whose side of the family is this?' [laughs] It was this really cute funny memory ... An aunt who was in her 80s was going 'He's such a cute man. Who is he?' It was just hilarious. Nobody would have known he was a hired guy, he was just so natural," Susan said.