

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 seeting

up to 220

Room cost: varies, call for quote

Advance booking

recommended: as early as one

nth depending on preferred date. tside catering allowed: No. sher-style available

The Great Hall at UCSD

use.ucsd.edu/ i8) 534-0540

pacity: 175-250 m cost: call for quote

rance booking

ommended: availability is endent on the academic endar. Outside catering

owed: Yes

e New Children's Museum

O West Island Ave. inkplaycreate.org

19) 795-1698 pacity: 1,000

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

vance booking

commended: availability

tside catering allowed: No. t exceptions can be made for sher requirements

The Westin Carlsbad Resort Spa

80 Grand Pacific Drive stincarlsbad.com

0) 827-2419 pacity: 100-500

m cost: no room reservation t, only charged for food and erage to be consumed

ance booking recommended: months recommended

side catering allowed: Yes

The Westin Gaslamp Quarter

**Broadway Circle** stingaslamp.com

9) 239-2200 acity: 100-600

m cost: call for a quote

ance booking

mmended: as far out as sible, but availability is very ole

ide catering allowed: Yes

UCSD Faculty Club

9500 Gilman Drive, #0121 facclub.ucsd.edu

(858) 534-1924

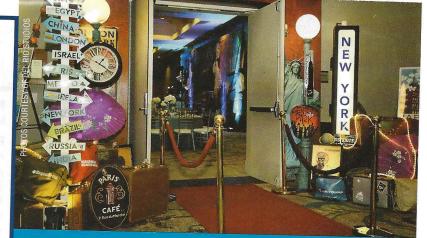
Capacity: 50-300

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.



## 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.