

simchahs

HOW to Make Your Wedding UNIQUE

Gail Naron Chalew

Special to the Jewish Times

To every bride and groom, their wedding is the most special one in the world. And that is how it should be.

But given that every wedding follows the same basic template and includes the same basic ingredients, it takes some effort to make each one unique.

Here are some suggestions from professionals whose job it is to incorporate special touches into each wedding they work on.

Rachel Sher, a vivacious 25-year-old event planner for Innovative Gourmet in Owings Mills, is working with more and more couples who want something more than a traditional wedding. They are breaking the rules

and having fun doing so.

One out-of-the-box wedding that Ms. Sher recently helped coordinate was held over the summer in the Museum of Industry and featured a menu of breakfast for dinner. She recalls, "The bride's parents were appalled with the idea of serving omelettes and french toast for dinner when the bride first suggested it. But it worked out so well.

"The color scheme was out of the ordinary also: bright purple and olive. And the bride's dress was funky, with feathers," adds Ms. Sher. "But this wedding really reflected the personality of the bride and groom, and they were thrilled."

Ms. Sher is now planning a wedding to be held near Halloween in which the favors will be candy apples.



Rachel Sher is an event planner for Innovative Gourmet, located in Owings Mills.

However, more and more couples with whom Ms. Sher works are choosing to forgo favors and instead are giving *tzedekah* (charity) to their favorite organization.

In general, Ms. Sher is seeing more weddings with daring color choices and menus that feature "small" food, such as tapas or even individual

mini-steak-and-cheese subs and mini-turkey club sandwiches.

Untraditional flowers can go a long way toward giving each wedding a unique style. Amy Epstein, the young proprietor of Crimson & Clover Floral Design Inc., located in Canton, acknowledges that her personal style is to break the mold.

She loves working with unusual flowers and arranging them in unusual ways. She also uses local and seasonal flowers whenever possible.

Ms. Epstein recommends that the centerpieces be varied in style and content. "Particularly for a large wedding in which there will be 20 or more tables, it is important to mix and match the centerpieces. Otherwise it looks as if the room is set up for a conference.

"So I will use some high centerpieces and some low ones; and some will have hydrangeas, for example, and others will have roses."

At a recent wedding that she designed, some of the tall cylindrical centerpieces were filled with crystal gels in which halved limes were suspended, with orchids and grasses sprouting from the top.

Bridal bouquets designed by Ms. Epstein are apt to include dried seed pods and unusual greenery nestled amidst the flowers. She notes, "Bouquets do not have to be composed of evenly spaced flowers; it can be very effective to cluster the flowers."

Of great importance to Ms. Epstein and many of her clients is that she

only uses flowers with the Veriflora label, which certifies that they were cultivated using sustainable growing practices. Ms. Epstein explains: "This means that the growers do not use pesticides or only use organic pesticides. Also, they have greatly reduced the wasteful packaging that usually comes with cut flowers."

There are other ways to make your wedding "green" from beginning to end. Invitations can be printed on recycled paper and using vegetable oil-based ink; a more expensive alternative is to use paper made of 100 percent cotton. Send the bride and groom away in a shower of Ecofetti, biodegradable, water-soluble confetti that comes in 13 colors.

After the wedding, rather than having the bridesmaids stow their dresses away in their closets, they should donate them to organizations that give them to underprivileged teens to wear to their proms.

Using these ideas, your wedding can be unique, fun and eco-friendly! □

Free-lance writer Gail Naron Chalew is a Baltimore native now living in New Orleans.

Great Venue. Great Menu. Great Gatherings.

Life-cycle celebrations to corporate events catered at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation



Four distinct rooms to accommodate your gathering, from 2 to 998 guests.

Seven distinguished caterers to choose from:

- Biddle Street Catering
- Charles Levine Caterers
- Simply Elegant Caterers
- Innovative Gourmet
- The Classic Catering People
- Zeffert and Gold Catering
- Linwoods Catering

Call 410-764-1587

Francie Gill, ext. 226

7401 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21208
www.bhcong.org



101008

Photo Favors

Treasured photo souvenirs for your party guests

Photo Favors is a Pikesville, Maryland business owned and operated by Sylvia Gold Weiner. The company provides photo party favors at celebrative events. Candid and portrait style pictures are taken throughout the event and immediately printed and placed in photo frames, key chain frames and telescope viewers for guests. Typical events at which Photo Favors has participated include company events, birthday celebrations, bar and bat mitzvahs, wedding and engagement parties, commemorative events and anniversary parties.

Sylvia started Photo Favors out of her love of photography and the enjoyment she gets out of helping adults and children celebrate special occasions. In addition to Photo Favors, Sylvia has worked for eight years as a teacher's assistant for the Goldsmith Early Childhood Education Center at Chizuk Amuno.

Photo Favors has participated in many local celebrations and events including Beth Israel Congregation's Bar Mitzvah Party celebrating its 13 years on Mitzvah Lane, "Kruisin' to the Krieger" celebration at Chizuk Amuno celebrating its newly renovated Krieger Auditorium, the Baltimore Chapter of Hadassah's 2008 fund raising event to benefit stem cell research, Maryland Public Television's 2008 event at Port Discovery in Baltimore to benefit underprivileged children, holiday and special event celebrations for local business and offices including Russell BMW and ADP, and numerous bar and bat mitzvahs, birthday parties and anniversaries.

When you hire Photo Favors for your event, your guests receive an unlimited number of photo favors of their choice in a variety of frames, key chains and telescope style viewers. You receive a web gallery of all of the pictures and a CD of the pictures as well.

Photo Favors can be reached at 443-870-3917 and by email at photofavors4u@aol.com.

We would love to share in your next joyous event!



101008

Amy Epstein, owner of Crimson and Clover Floral Design in Canton, often uses peacock feathers to add a unique and personal touch to her meticulously designed floral arrangements.



PHOTO RYAN MURRAY

Cohen's has been dressing boys forever. Now that it's his BAR MITZVAH day, dress him in the best American and Italian clothing.

He's your pride & joy. Make sure he looks the part!

COHEN'S
CLOTHIERS
Since 1907

Yorktowne Plaza
64 Cranbrook Road
Cockeysville, MD
410.666.8020

083107