

BC The Mag

Occasions

Life. Style. Where you live.

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

CELEBRATIONS

*Stories and scenes from the latest
Bergen County parties*

FOR THE LOVE OF WINE

It's time to start thinking outside the bottle

THE TO DO'S BEFORE THE I DO'S

Tips to prepare you for your big day

planning the perfect party

A child's big day must make for a perfect celebration.

By Tessa Viole



In the Jewish community, Mitzvahs are a big deal not just in the religious sense, but socially as well. Of course, these days, such an important step towards religious "adulthood" requires an amazing party afterwards. Many Mitzvahs are extremely over the top, rivaling some weddings, but some can be a bit more laid back. Throwing a great Mitzvah, much like a wedding, takes months of stressful planning. I spoke to Lisa Plant of Norwood, NJ to find out what it takes to throw the perfect Bergen County party.

For her daughter Jordan's Bat Mitzvah this past February, Lisa went above and beyond to ensure all guests, young and old, had the time of their lives. Lisa, who custom makes home décor and clothing professionally, even chose to custom design both dresses Jordan would go on to wear on her special day. The clothing design didn't just stop at Jordan's dresses though. Lisa designed her own, as well as several of the guests' dresses, too.

When planning any party, there are two types of people: The DIY'ers and the outsourcers. Needless to say, Lisa Plant was the former. With an eye for detail, Lisa wasn't going to let just anyone plan her daughter's Mitzvah, so besides a few trusted vendors, Lisa took matters into her own hands, designing most of the décor herself, though she admits, it did take a "creative toll."

"Planning a Mitzvah is a lot of work. I think everyone



agrees on that, but how many chances do you get to really plan a big bash like this," Lisa says. "My husband created the scenery. I even created the pillows for the lounge areas and such. We make a great team. The experience of creating my daughter's party has opened some doors for me to work on future parties as well." Lisa says. "After my daughter's party, the owners of The Rockleigh asked me to help them with their daughter's Sweet 16!"

Although it was the first Mitzvah Lisa ever worked on, she loved the experience. After years of making camp clothing and various home décor pieces for private clients, she has definitely taken the experience of planning Jordan's Bat Mitzvah as a potentially life altering event.

As with most parties, you have to start the planning somewhere. Typically, that's the theme, which will determine décor, table settings, food, flowers, and sometimes, even entertainment.

For Jordan and Lisa, the theme was Broadway. "We tried to keep it really simple. There were plain white elegant flowers, and the place cards were tickets to various Broadway shows, with table centerpieces being the logo from that Broadway show," Lisa explains. "The dance floor and lounge were divided by a city skyline set created by my husband, and Magic Moments helped us every step of the way to ensure the room looked incredible, and it did."

But Lisa was nowhere done executing on her daughter's



Broadway themed party. "A friend of mine prints all the billboards and pictures for Broadway shows," Lisa explained. "We asked if we could use a few and he gave us a huge Wicked picture as well as lending us about 15 more. Sal, the owner of Magic Moments, gave us more and more trusses to hang these posters up. Between Magic Moments, friends, family, and The Rockleigh, we had so much help with everything. I think sometimes people are afraid to ask for help or want to do it all on their own, but it's great to know that these companies are really invested in our party, in us having a great experience with memorable moments."

As Lisa will point out, throwing a party can be very overwhelming. Her advice: "Figure out what's most important to you. Everything costs money, and people will start throwing different things at you trying to get you to buy them because 'No party is great without it,' like T-shirts or hats and other nonsense. It all can add up very quick and be very expensive. In the moment you might feel the pressure to splurge on everything. Figure out what's most important to you and your family, and the small silly things will go by the wayside."

In the party world of Bergen County though, things can

get a bit competitive. With everyone trying to outdo each other, Lisa focused on small details that would go a long way in differentiating her party from the rest.

"We gave out sweatshirts to every boy and girl as favors. Of course, the boys got a different one than the girls, which, we now know was a small detail that went a long way. We also left a deck of cards and bottles of water in a gift bag in every guest's car. It was just a small gesture that shows we were truly honored they attended."

As much as the day is about the Bat Mitzvah girl, the party is really about the guests, too. Although it was a beautiful night, Lisa ensured that there were blankets and heat lamps at their outdoor Nutella waffle bar to make sure guests were always comfortable. Once again, small details that go a long way.

As a lasting note, I asked Lisa what every Bar Mitzvah included. We first began speaking about budget, how budget shouldn't ever determine the greatness of a party. Yes, some parties will have more than others, but that won't always make it a better affair. After jokingly saying any Mitzvah definitely needs a candy buffet, Lisa looked at me and muttered the simple truth: "Every party just needs love."

Continued on page 34

Continued from page 32



THE DETAILS:

Invites: Black Swift Creative

Photography & Cinematography: Magic Moments

Entertainment: Magic Moments, Shuman Roy and Ronnie Shingelo

Flowers: Broderick Flowers

Cake: A Little Cake

Hair Salon & Stylist: Salon Niki, Laura Chan

Makeup: Salon Niki, April Licious

Additional Vendors: King Displays, MT Embroidery and Promotions, Mercury Sports, JB Lighting Productions

Favors: Sweatshirts

