

Hampton Inn & Suites St. Petersburg

Make the Hampton Inn & Suites our destination for Bar/Bat Mitzvah, group, or leisure travel needs. We will be happy to host your reception or provide you with superior accommodations.



The award winning Hampton Inn & Suites is conveniently located near all downtown St. Petersburg attractions, dining and shopping.



- Hotel Features:**
- New "Cloud Nine Beds"
 - Deluxe Continental Breakfast
 - Heated Pool
 - Fitness Center
 - Free High Speed Internet
 - DVD Player In All Rooms
 - Microwaves & Fridges In All Rooms

80 Beach Drive 727.892.9900
www.stpetehamptonsuites.com

**Moms say successful event easy as A-B-C:
 Advance planning, Budgeting, Consulting your child**

By BOB FRYER
 Jewish Press

When it comes to planning a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, experience counts, say two Tampa Bay area moms who have been through the drill several times.

Though the Bat Mitzvah for Jessica Rachel Krop of Clearwater and the Bar Mitzvah of Stephen Max Goldman of Lutz were quite different, the mothers of both teens had similar advice.

"The big thing is, do what the kids want because the event is for your child. But you can't let them do everything they want. You have to have some control," said Lynne Krop, Jessica's mom.

"The other big thing," she said, "is to have a budget and do your best to stick to it."

Stephen's mom, Deb Goldman, agrees on both points.

The two mothers also said the event was quite important in the religious and social lives of their children and urged plenty of advance planning, especially to take care of the major decisions. Both said they went by the *Jewish Press Bar & Bat Mitzvah Planning Guide's* checklist their first time around and that they continued to use it as each new child in their family had their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

"Keep a list of the appointments you make and also keep separate lists for the party planning and for the ceremonial planning. And stay on top of these things," said Lynne Krop. "Of course, the religious part of the event is the most important. As for the party, aim to please the kids," she added.

Stephen is Deb and Todd Goldman's youngest child, so this was the last of four Bar/Bat Mitzvahs they planned. For Lynne Krop and her husband, Daniel, Jessica is their youngest of three daughters.

Both moms relied on previous experience in making some decisions, but they also said that every child is different, so tailor the event to each child's personality.

Jessica Krop's party was upscale, held at a hotel on Clearwater Beach, while Stephen's was a little less formal, though still quite nice, with a



MADDOCK PHOTOGRAPHERS
 Jessica Krop poses with some band posters that were part of the decorations at her music themed party.

dinner. Lynne Krop said Jessica took an active role in selecting the menus. Jessica also had a lot of input in selecting the hotel for the party.

Both families took pains to make sure that those participating in the ceremonies knew exactly what was expected of them, what they needed to do, and when. Krop said when an uncle could not come at the last minute, they had to adjust the choreography of the service.

Krop also made sure her non-Jewish friends got a program with information telling them what to expect at the service, explaining the service basics and the meanings. "It makes them more comfortable and it means more to them when they understand," she said.

Jessica's party

Since Jessica Krop loves music and is an accomplished pianist, music was the theme of her party, with CDs, band posters and musical notes used as decorations.

Instead of place cards, guests picked up a gold CD with the name of a band or musician that corresponded to their table name. "There was a variety — country, jazz, old time music," said Lynne Krop, explaining that the family made an effort to match the table's guests to the music like a family from Gainesville seated at native son Tom Petty's table. The centerpieces were all similar, but each had a cut out of a different musical instrument.

The 50 some young people had their own buffet and ice cream bar and were entertained with games, a photo center and dancing while the adults finished their meal.

Krop did have one cautionary note, especially for families having a party at a hotel: "The challenge is to keep the kids in the party" and not roaming around the hotel or outside." The solution: a security guard — a small extra cost for the peace of mind that the teens would stay safe.

(Some Bar/Bat Mitzvah alumni parents indicate it is also wise to make sure kids drinks are served separately, well away from the adult bar.)

Jessica's party theme also harmonized with her mitzvah project. For the project, Jessica played piano for the residents at several nursing homes and collected and donated

ABC continued on NEXT PAGE

For the adventurous in palate & spirit.

MISE IS THE MISSING PIECE

MISE EN PLACE

FOR THE FOOD TO THE FUN AND THE PLANNING IN BETWEEN

442 W KENNEDY BLVD • TAMPA, FL 33606
 813-253-MISE X22 • WWW.MISEONLINE.COM

CREATING DELICIOUS BAR/BAT MITZVAHS SINCE 1986

CENTRE CLUB

"THE ONLY THING WE OVERLOOK IS TAMPA BAY"

Your memories begin here

- Unparalleled Service
- Award-winning Culinary Team
- Experienced & Professional Staff to Help You Plan Every Detail
- Select From Our Special Menus or Design Your Own
- Bar and Bat Mitzvahs • Wedding Receptions
- Rehearsal Dinners • Anniversary Parties
- Graduation Parties • Corporate Events

Let US exceed YOUR expectations.

Kelly O'Donoghue, Private Events Director
813/349-2747
 email: kelly.odonoghue@ourclub.com

The Urban Centre – Kennedy & Westshore Boulevards – Tampa

Simcha Photography
 by
CR Photo-Entertainment

Signature Photography *Digital Keepsakes*

www.Simcha.CRphoto-Ent.com
 Calvin & Caroline Roe 813-679-3749