

Jewish Press of Pinellas County **20th Annual Bar & Bat Mitzvah Planning Guide** & Jewish Press of Tampa



Talia Sager leads a Havdallah service at her Bat Mitzvah party with the assistance of mom Diana, left, and sister Monica, right.

BASH

• CONTINUED from PREVIOUS PAGE
antipathy toward Bar Mitzvah parties, Mentkowitz said the home party proved a good alternative.

“It was just perfect for Jordan; very low key but getting all the aspects of a Bar Mitzvah party,” she said.

Low key by no means translated into low budget. Mentkowitz used a professional planner for the event for about 100 guests, which included a catered dinner and DJ. The family set up a tent and used the backyard, lanai and the inside for entertaining.

‘Camping’ at the Prietos

Jose and Linda Prieto of Clearwater also hosted their daughter Elena’s Bat Mitzvah party at home. The “camp” themed event occurred on March 21, after Elena’s Bat Mitzvah service at Congregation Beth Shalom in Clearwater.

The Prietos were originally going to host the Bat Mitzvah as part of a Shabbaton weekend in Brooksville. But when cost became an issue, the Prietos’ event planner suggested they opt for the party at home.

The home-based Bat Mitzvah party kept its outdoorsy theme with a climbing wall and fire pit, where the party’s younger guests roasted s’mores —features which likely would not have been allowed at another venue.

Prieto said having the party at home also offered the flexibility of starting the party earlier on Saturday than at the synagogue where there are restrictions on activity prior to the end of Shabbat.

The family rented tables and chairs for the event, and hired a DJ and caterer, which Prieto said was the most expensive feature of the Bat Mitzvah party.

Bar mitzvah donates gifts for Israel park

NEW YORK (JTA) — A 13-year-old from New York donated \$40,000 he received in Bar Mitzvah gifts to build a park in southern Israel.

Benjamin Sternklar Davis decided to give the money to the town of Sderot, which has endured years of bombardment by Kassam rockets launched from Gaza, in order to create a recreational facility for local residents, the Israeli daily *Ha’aretz* reported.

“I felt bad during the war for the children of Sderot who had to go to school and come back with the constant thought they could be hit by a Kassam rocket at any given second,” Benjamin said.

Sderot residents and officials participated at a reception in early August in the area honoring the young philanthropist’s Bar Mitzvah.

David Buskila, the mayor of Sderot, thanked Benjamin and gave him a decorated tallit as a token of appreciation for his donation.



Photos by JENIFER RIES

Talia Sager and friends dance in the rain that drenched her outdoor-home party.

Simcha in the rain

Another Beth Shalom Bat Mitzvah, Talia Sager, hosted an “Alice in Wonderland” party at home May 16 for 140 guests.

“We are Disney fanatics and I think this film just speaks to the whimsical nature of Talia,” said mom Diana Sager.

Staying true to her theme, centerpieces for the guests’ tables were created out of various teapots collected from antique shops, second-hand stores, garage sales, among other places. An artistic friend lent a hand with the décor by painting various characters from the movie.

As the guests arrived, it was a picture-perfect scene — a Renaissance fair style sign welcomed guests to “Talia’s Wonderland” with colorful tables under a yellow-striped tent set up on the Sagers’ tennis court.

That was until about 20 minutes later when it started to rain...

But if there was any disappointment, it was gone in moments as the guests, especially Talia and her friends, turned the downpour into just another fun part of the festivities.

“The rain dampened the yard and decorations, but nothing dampened our spirits,” said Sager, noting that the party went on with only minor modifications. The kids and even some of the adults actually danced in the rain.

“No one — that I know of anyway — left early because of the rain,” she said. “In fact, on some level, it even made it more special to celebrate that evening.”

WEDDINGS • BAR/BAT MITZVAH
CORPORATE EVENTS

• Live Musicians: Solo acts to large bands
• DJ’s & VJ’s: Music and Videos
• Band/DJ Packages
• Dancers • Comedians • Balloon artists
• Caricature artists • Emcees
• Impersonators & Lookalikes
• DJ for Israeli and Chabad parties.

Exclusive Agent For
The Mike Eisenstadt Band

Simcha specialists since 1988
Kevin Frye, Owner

FL license TA883

(813) 661-6600 Office • (813) 789-5058 Cell
info@BaysideAgency.com • www.BaysideAgency.com

Celebrate on the Beach.

Located on 13 tropical acres along white sandy beaches, your Bar/Bat Mitzvah party or other Simcha at the Sirata will be a memorable event.

The Sirata Beach Resort can flawlessly execute your event from 20 to 350, providing great food, a superb location and exceptional service for your special occasion.

So just sayMazel Tov.

Special Rates Available on Sundays

Call the Catering Office at
(727) 363-5138

5300 Gulf Blvd. * St. Pete Beach, FL

GetFlipped!

Say Hello To Cool Party Favors!

GetFlipped® is a totally unique and interactive photo party favor that your guests will love!

Call today for a free sample flip!

813-868-1150
www.getflipped.com

- Produced on site in a matter of minutes
- We customize the theme of your flip to your party
- ‘Green Screen’ technology lets you have any background you can imagine!
- Props / Hats / Wigs maximize the fun!
- Multiple sizes available including magnets & bag tags

Catch our video on YouTube to see GetFlipped® in action!
“Two photos in one, twice the fun!”