

Detail *therapy*

BY RONIT HOGI

As you finish arranging the main features of your event, it is time to be creative and think about the quirky little details. As the proverb says, God is in the details. Special little embellishments make the difference between a conventional celebration and an unforgettable party.

Chupah

- A cantor or a troupe of talented children can greet the bride and groom at the chupah by chanting hymns and blessings.

- Invite a musical rabbi who sings all the verses of the ceremony, entertains the guests and even welcomes the couple with a song of their choice.

- If you hire a live wedding band for the reception, you could ask its singers and musicians to perform at the chupah, too, as you make your spectacular entrance and also during the ceremony.

Photos

A customised picture frame with the names of the bride and groom and date of their wedding can be passed around for the guests to sign.

A professional instant magnet photographer can take pictures of your guests during the celebration, turning the images into personalised keepsakes for guests to take home and stick on their fridge.

- A customised vintage car can be used as a photo booth beside the dance floor. The cars can be hired in many colours, sizes and models, with accessories, so you can choose one to fit your event concept.

Think about the quirky little things you can add to the party. As the proverb says, God is in the details



● Event photographers offer a professional photo studio with the right backgrounds, design and colours for your celebration, as well as props and accessories. You may add names, logos, dates or any detail. Studios are also available in a classic set-up for colour or black-and-white photos without gimmicks.

● A decorative flower tapestry with the event logo can be set up near the entrance and used as a background for photos.

Displays

● Often the dessert table steals the show. Arrange an appetising spread around your wedding cake.

● A flower stall can be created near the entrance. During the reception, guests can choose garlands, tiaras, hair bows, pins and more to adorn themselves for this romantic occasion. Flower displays are versatile and add colour. Personalise your celebration with your favourite colour and type of blooms.

Dance floor

An accomplished DJ can usually handle your celebration and entertain your guests alone but you can always add a twist:

● Saxophonists/violinists can play along with DJ music and even perform alongside the bride and groom on the dance floor for special moments.

● Duelling DJs – two DJs can be set up on either side of the dance floor to play tracks alternately, with a changing light show that shines on them in turn as they battle against each other.

If you think your guests may be too shy to dance, hire a troupe of under-cover dancers who pose as ordinary guests and hit the dance floor as soon as the music starts, never leaving it.

The guests might never suspect these keen dancers are professionals but they will pump up the party and make it livelier all night long.

After party

Around midnight, when most of the older guests have left, you can switch the mood for young friends and relatives, with a different style of music, special guest artists and fast-food-inspired dishes such as shakshuka, shwarma, burgers, sandwiches, ice-cream and pancakes.

Hand out comfortable flip-flops and your own branded t-shirts and encourage your guests to change, then party on into the small hours.

Keepsakes

A huge variety of souvenir gifts is available for guests, so go for something really surprising. If you decide to celebrate on Thursday evening or Friday afternoon, I warmly recommend giving freshly baked challot for Shabbat, wrapped with your logo and branding.

This is a mere drop in the ocean of ideas to make your celebration special. Whatever you choose, remember small enhancements make a big difference.

Give your guests elegant, tasteful treats; surprise them and be creative, exciting and memorable. **IB**



The dessert table often steals the show. Centre it on your cake

Above: The bride's and groom's names are attractively displayed behind the mirrored dessert buffet, which itself is decorated with flowers and candelabra, creating a focal point for the room. Below: talented children bearing roses welcome guests to the celebration, for that irresistible ah! factor





Top and right: Guests can pick a scented adornment from the flower stall. Above: challoth are tasty and useful take-home gifts at a Thursday-evening wedding. Below: serenading the bride and groom. Below right: photobooth fun with flowery accessories

