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Five questions with Joanie Sams on entertaining

FREE PRESS STAFF

Q:Can you talk a bit about some of the newest trends in entertaining?

A:We are doing color-coordinated candy tables. If **your wedding** is lime green and white, all of the candy would be done in those colors. There will be little bags so that people can take the candy home as a favor. We did one recently that was burgundy and white. There were white M&Ms, white yogurt raisins ... burgundy candy jellies that looked like a half orange. They had M&Ms done in burgundy. It was really pretty.

Q:Are there any big changes in how weddings or formal parties play out?

A: After the cocktail hour and dinner and dancing, like at 12:30, we will take one area and turn it into a lounge. We will do a late-night **snack** of sliders or pizza.

Q:How about lighting?

A:A lot of these young couples are picking monograms and carrying that through from the invitations to the programs to the place cards. That monogram is saved on a disc and it can be projected on the **dance** floor and the wall. It's fun.

Q:What's the most unique thing you have seen?

A:We had an **event** ... for a younger party. It was a bat mitzvah. The florist made poodles out of hydrangeas. It was darling, and they were sitting at an empty chair at each table. It was just one of the coolest things.

Q:What advice would you give couples on how to add creative touches to their event?

A:It really takes a couple of meetings of sitting down with someone and understanding what they want to convey. ... We start picking their brain and throwing back ideas. We have taken the same room and done weddings for three daughters and made each event different. That is what we are all about.

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Mom Dilemma #36:
Your daughter insists on wearing her princess costume to the grocery store. Allow it or not?

YES, at least she's dressed!

NO, I have some rules!

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