Taking it one step at a time
Our wedding pro answers your Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Please Help! There is a huge football game the same night as my wedding. I really do not want all of the men at the wedding distracted by the game and leaving the reception to check on the game. Truthfully, we are all huge football fans and even I will be curious about the score. How do I get their attention and keep them at my party and make it a great party? P.L. January 2010 Bride

A: Well, if there is one thing that will get a group of men’s attention, it’s football. However, I might have an idea that will ease your mind on them leaving the reception. If your fiancé and you feel strongly that a large group of guests will want to know the score of the game, use it as a “shot of energy” during the party. Let me explain...

Do not give them a reason to leave. If your DJ is animated then you can use the game to your advantage. Once the real partying begins, have him give 2-3 updates on the score or a big play. He can use your guests’ love for football to get the crowd pumped up. They are sure to “get loud” if he makes a comment about your favorite team and then ends with the score. I had a wedding on the same night as Super Bowl Sunday and boy, were they huge Pittsburgh fans! Throughout the party, our DJ would get the crowd crazy by giving them the score; we waited for BIG plays to make sure it worked in our favor. When they won, we started La Hora Loca. It was one of the most memorable receptions in all of the weddings that I have planned. Go Team!

Q: I want to add unique elements to my wedding, something that my guests will never forget. How do I go about coming up with a personal touch that is creative, unique, and most importantly, memorable? A.R. December 2009 Bride

A: Thinking of a unique personal touch that is creative and sure to be memorable might not be as difficult as it seems. First, write a list of things that define your fiancé and you as a couple. Some examples would be where you met, professions, favorite foods, hobbies, things you both love, etc. Then, in a column next to each item, list ideas that you may have for each. It can get frustrating, but if you start feeling flustered, focus on something else and get back to this a little later.

The following are some examples of unique and creative ideas that will have your guests talking about for years to come: Let’s say you both met in college and/or if you both are fans of your college’s sports, incorporate that into your wedding. Instead of having an ice luge with your monogram, have the artists design a great sculpture using your college team logo or mascot. Perhaps both of you are in the same profession use that as inspiration for the personal touch to your wedding. I have a bride who is a dentist and her fiancé orthodontics. Our theme for their favors was “For Your Sweet Tooth”. As wedding favors, we are placing large cupcakes in an elegant box and tied to the inside of the lid is a travel size toothbrush (with their last name and wedding date printed on them) along with mini toothpaste. Every guest will be sure to get a “kick” out of the little surprises.

If you both love to cook, you can make a mini cookbook filled of your favorite recipes for your guests to take home. You can even add in family favorites and name them after your friends and family. You can even go a step further and have one of your engagement picture themes be cooking together. Blow up your favorite image and turn your place card table into a take home favor table. Place your enlarged image in a gorgeous frame and put it in the center around your cookbooks. Your guests will think of you every time they make one of your favorite treats.

Another one of my bride’s future father-in-law is very much known for his homemade lemon hello. The bride ordered mini mason jars, which will be filled with this secret recipe liquor. We are placing all of these mini
jars on the place card table and adding fresh lemons all over the place card table design to further enhance the theme of the take-home favors.

Take home favor tables are quite the trend. I always recommend that my clients turn their place card tables into a great take home favor table. It’s an amazing way for your guests to leave your wedding with a little something to take home reminding them of the magical evening.

Q: What exactly is “La Hora Loca?” I keep hearing about it and seeing pictures but I am not exactly sure what it entails.

J.P. November 2009 Bride

A: “La Hora Loca” is quite the craze, especially in Miami. The main idea of this crazy hour is to create a greater party atmosphere to hype up the reception. We typically do “La Hora Loca” about one hour before the event is set to end. Usually an hour before the event is over, the party is well on its way and the reception could use an element to kick up the hype and excitement for the last hour of your special day.

There are three main components to “La Hora Loca”: el cotillion, the music, and the entertainment. El cotillion is the items that you purchase that are given out to your guests to further enhance this crazy hour. The items can range from crazy hats, funny glasses, mustaches, costumes, feather boas, noise makers, inflatable guitars, glow sticks, confetti poppers etc. The entertainers are the ones who give all of the items out. If you opt on not getting entertainers, than your wedding planner or hotel staff can give the items to the guests. You can also arrange for the items to be placed in large baskets and put near the DJ or band when “La Hora Loca” begins.

The right music is key. The crazier the music is, the better. The music choices are typically from “carnival” such as Venezuelan carnival music which are great beats to start the crazy hour… Vibrant Cuban/Latin beats could be perfect or you can use American Favorites, Hip Hop or Top 40’s; many song choices will work as long as the music selections are very upbeat and “electric”. If you are hiring a band for the wedding reception, have them play a conga or high-energy song. Although “La Hora Loca” translates into the crazy hour, it can last up to 25 minutes so make sure to choose at least five songs for this portion of your event. The crowd will already be energized and will be ready to party until the end of your reception.

There are companies that specialize in dancers, drummers, stilt walkers, or carnival actors. The entertainers’ job is to get the crowd wild and crazy! If you want to hire dancers, they can perform to the beat of the drums or music for a couple of minutes and then start getting the guests onto the dance floor and help the cotillion to be passed out to the guests. The stilt walkers and/or the carnival actors should assist the guests with the cotillion items and dance along with them, start the conga, and party with you and your guests. Entertainment is not necessary but it sure does add a great enhancement to your Hora Loca. Enjoy and Get Crazy!

Written by: Jackie Farah-Fernandez
For more information and answers to your questions, please visit www.AskJackieOhh.com. I have created this new web site offering useful planning information and live chats with Jackie from Jackie Ohh… Events for no monetary charge. You can also visit Jackie Ohh… Events at www.JackieOhhEvents.com.
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