

**What are the “cues” a fabulous fete has ended? How does a host or hostess elegantly end a party?**

When there is that one guest still there yapping away, I delicately announce that I have to be up at 7 a.m. for yoga and give a subtle yawn. If they don't get the hint, then they may not be invited back.

**What is the best advice someone gave you on party planning?**

Be very organized and plan way ahead.

## **STACY STERN:**

*Owner of The Special Events Group, an award-winning Boca Raton party and large-event planning firm.*

**Do you have to invest a lot of money to throw an incredible party at home?**

It depends on your definition of a lot of money. I feel the most important part of the event is entertainment. If you have good entertainment, then your guests will have fun and to me that's a great party. There are so many creative ways to make everything you do be a little bit different to make it great.

**What's the best way to organize an amiable seating chart?**

In my opinion, you are the host and should be in a central location in the room as well as at the table.

**How do you communicate dress code? Especially when everyone has their own interpretation of “business casual” and “black tie only”?**

Today it seems like anything goes, especially living in South Florida. There are even galas that ask you to dress in denim and diamonds.

**What's the most interesting (and/or strangest) request a client has ever asked you?**

I once did a 60th birthday party, and the husband and wife had a fight. Even though his entire family was in town, he had me call his wife to make sure that she was going to show for the party.

**What are some of your favorite party themes?**

One of my favorite events was themed around the Roaring 20s. We started out at a speakeasy, which got “raided” by keystone cops, who escorted guests through the kitchen. The entire kitchen and wait staff all wore blue denim shirts



Stacy Stern surrounded by perfection.

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*- Stacy Stern*

with “Sandquentin Penitentiary” printed on the back and banged pots and pans as the guests made their way to “jail,” where we projected brick patterns and cell block numbers onto the walls. Food was served on silver trays, just like in a prison mess hall. Dinner featured Caesar salads, Salisbury steak wrapped in bacon (we also

had salmon) and three-cheese macaroni. Dessert was a mini Jell-O mold with fruit. Afterward, the speakeasy turned into a nightclub and featured Latin Grammy winner Nestor Torres. As parting gifts, guests received pictures of themselves, complete with their “prison number” on the front.