

AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT OUR WORK DURING YOUR NEXT SIMCHA

## DO A FAVOR FOR YOUR GUESTS AND A GOOD CAUSE

*At your next simcha, forgo the favors and instead make a donation to your favorite charitable organization. Tell your guests about the donation with stylish tzedakah cards.*

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**Sometime** between Adam and Eve's expulsion from Eden and the rise of Martha Stewart, giving favors to your wedding guests became an expected custom. The wedding industry offers lots of choices including small picture frames and organza-wrapped candies, but finding the right favor can be tricky. You want a gift that adequately expresses your gratitude to your guests without straining your budget.

If you want to honor your guests in a way that you know will make a difference, forgo the favors. Instead, give tzedakah. Make a donation to an organization that is important to you, and do it in honor of your guests. Let your guests know about the donation with inexpensive, easy-to-make tzedakah cards placed on the tables.

### INVITATION STATIONERY CARDS

One way to create a tzedakah card is to order it with your invitation and other wedding stationery so that it is complementary in style.

If you choose this approach, Maryland-based invitation maven Estelle Salen of Discount Invitations by Estelle

recommends using a reception card, which is somewhat smaller than the invitation.

Keep the wording simple. You want the focus to be on honoring your guests and thanking them for joining you for your celebration.

Here is a sample wording:

"Instead of purchasing wedding favors, we have made a donation in honor of our guests to (our favorite charity). Thank you for sharing this day with us." Include your names at the bottom.



### POMEGRANATE CARDS

Popular culture discovered pomegranates a few years ago, but the fruit's Jewish significance goes back centuries.

You can find a free ready-to-print template for a pomegranate card like this one at [www.huppahs.com/wedding-diy](http://www.huppahs.com/wedding-diy).

*Maria Bywater, the author, is president of Huppahs.com. Her blog, Backyard Huppah, celebrates small Jewish weddings.*



### RUSTIC, ECO-FRIENDLY CARDS

You can create tzedakah cards with minimal consumption by printing them on the backs of reclaimed shopping bags.

Just about any type of paper bag, when cut into sheets, will go through a home printer, but do a trial before cutting up all your bags. The bags do not necessarily need to match.

The sample card with the small bouquet of lavender at right is an example. The lavender motif was designed by Washington, DC ketubah artist, Alisa Schreier.

You can find a free ready-to-print template for a lavender motif card like this one at [www.huppahs.com/](http://www.huppahs.com/)



Photos: Jason Weil