



# A MODERN JEWISH WEDDING

JESSICA RISSMAN AND RONI COHEN, THE RITZ-CARLTON CHICAGO

Jessica Rissman and Roni Cohen met the summer after they graduated college, right after Jessica started law school. Introduced by mutual friends, they had their first date at Luxbar and started dating soon after. A Chicago restaurant also played a part in their proposal. Roni had planned a dinner at Aja in the Dana Hotel, but instead a hotel employee took Jessica up to the 28th floor, where "Roni was waiting on one knee, surrounded by rose petals," Jessica said. "He sweetly and humbly asked me to marry him," and she said, "yes."

WRITTEN BY RUTHIE KOTT | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAI GIRARD PHOTOGRAPHY



## VENDORS

CEREMONY & RECEPTION SITE  
**The Ritz-Carlton Chicago**

PHOTOGRAPHY  
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**The Ritz-Carlton Chicago**

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WEDDING CAKE  
**Sarah's Pastries & Candies**

GUEST & WEDDING NIGHT  
ACCOMMODATIONS  
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LIGHTING  
**FROST Chicago**

THE TRADITIONAL JEWISH CEREMONY included some personal family touches: the Kiddush cup—or the wine goblet Jessica and Roni each sipped from to represent their shared future—belonged to Jessica's grandfather, and Jessica's wedding ring belonged to her great-grandmother, who married her great-grandfather on the same day 81 years before.

Jewish tradition carried through to the reception, where the hotel's Grand Ball-

room was transformed into a "luxe garden," Jessica says, with colors including eggplant, shades of green, and gold. At the reception, the guests honored the groom's parents by dancing the *mezinka*, a dance that honors the parents who have just married off their last child. "It consists of a circle dance where the parents are seated on chairs in the middle of the dance floor, wearing flower wreaths on their heads," Jessica explained.

"The guests dance around them after coming up to them, kissing them, and wishing them mazel tov (congratulations)." The guests honored the couple by dancing the hora, a circle dance in which the bride and groom are lifted on chairs.

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