

10-24-09

As featured in Contemporary Bride Magazine



Jennifer and Gene

The Rosewood Edison, New Jersey

- Ceremony Location: St. James Church
- Officiant: Father Bill Morris
- Reception Location: The Rosewood
- Photographer: The Studio Photographers
- Entertainment: Elite Entertainment
- Florist: Floral Expressions
- Bridal Salon: David's Bridal
- Head piece/veil: David's Bridal
- Formal Attire: Russell's Bridal & Tuxedo
- Cake Designer: The Rosewood
- Limousine: Ross Limousine
- Invitations: Presto Printing
- Favors: Presto Printing
- Hair Salon: Salon 365

Gene had a crush on Jennifer throughout high school, but his shyness almost kept them from getting together until he finally asked her out senior year. Their relationship grew strong throughout college, and on December 25, 2008, Gene surprised Jennifer with an unforgettable proposal. He presented her with a signed letter written to Jennifer's father and grandfather – "Poppy" – asking permission to marry her. "I knew how close Jennifer is to her father and grandfather, so I wanted proof that I got their permission, and I wanted her to have a keepsake to always remind her of the proposal," commented Gene.

Once all plans were finalized, it was time for the couple's October 24, 2009, wedding. The bride stayed at her parent's house the night before, woke up early, and got pampered to perfection at Salon 365 with her bridal party. Paula Figueiredo styled Jennifer's hair partially up with loose curls.

The bride walked down the aisle at St. James Church in a halter-style ball gown with a pick-up skirt. It was pure white satin and adorned with a brooch. "She looked so beautiful," reminisced Gene. Jennifer's maid of honor, matron of honor, and three bridesmaids wore floor-length gowns in champagne, with a black cuff along the top bodice. The three flower girls wore dresses to match the bride. Gene sported a classic black tuxedo with a white shirt, vest, and tie, while his best man and four groomsmen wore black tuxedos, shirts, champagne vests and ties.

Following the ceremony, the newlyweds and their guests made their way to The Rosewood for an amazing reception. They originally chose this facility for its natural colors, long staircase, dim lighting, large dance floor, and stunning ballrooms that the bride described as "something out of a fairy tale." The staff



was friendly, accommodating, and took great care of them from beginning to end. Lisa and Pattie set up the room perfectly, all while keeping the color scheme and style in mind.

Cocktail hour provided guests with a multitude of food, including passed hors d'oeuvres of boneless buffalo wings with blue cheese and a celery stick in shot glasses, vegetable spring rolls, along with a mashed potato station, Italian station, and a turkey carving station, among much more. For dinner chicken française or chateaubriand complimented with seasonal vegetables and roasted red bliss potatoes was available. For dessert miniature ice-cream cones were served, as well as a chocolate fondue cart and assorted after-dinner cordials. The wedding cake was a five-tier round vanilla cake, with cannoli filling. It had a traditional dot-and-swirl design. "The food was spectacular and was beyond our expectations," noted Gene.

The Studio Photographers captured the day's events perfectly. Regardless of the rain, they took photographs at the waterfront in Sewaren, where they got many beautiful shots with black umbrellas. Photographs were also taken at the church and at The Rosewood. "The ambiance that Frank and PJ created for us at The Rosewood was breathtaking – from the lighting to the reflections in the mirrors, to the modern shots that showed raw emotion, we couldn't have asked for anything more," commented Jennifer.

Jay Thompson of Elite Entertainment played a variety of music that had guests dancing the whole night. For the first dance as newlyweds, Jennifer and Gene danced to "Can't Help Falling in Love" by Elvis Presley. They also took part in the traditional father/daughter and mother/son dances, and the bride shared a special dance with her Poppy to Louie Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World."

Everything about the wedding incorporated family and friends who play an important role in the couple's life. From the modern pocket-fold invitations Jennifer's father created at his printing company, Presto Printing, to the unique picture display, to the traditional dances, every guest felt a part of their special day.

At the end of the night, guests received a frame from the picture display and a bottle of Merlot wine. In addition, a good-bye station was set up where guests were able to take tea, coffee, or water and a heart-shaped freshly baked cookie for the ride home. After a perfect night Jennifer and Gene spent eight days in Aruba for their honeymoon. The newlyweds continue to thank the staff at The Rosewood for all of their hard work and their family and friends for celebrating their day with them. Jennifer and Gene agree: "It would be impossible to picture our lives without them."