



## Couple embrace each other and their different cultures

**F**rom a chance meeting at M's Pub in Omaha, to a proposal at an opera house in Zurich, Nancy Falk and Dr. Joseph Ayoub would appear to be the king and queen of romantic endeavors.

The crowning moment of their courtship came April 26, when they exchanged marriage vows at Our Lady of Mount Lebanon-St. Peter Cathedral in Los Angeles and then headed for the Beverly Hills Hotel for dinner and dancing with nearly 200 guests.

The festivities included plenty of symbolism in the blending of her Swedish background and his Lebanese heritage.

"It was important for both of us to bring our cultures together," the bride said. A newly created family emblem featuring the Tre Kronor of Sweden and the cedar tree, for the Cedars of Lebanon, appeared on everything, from the seal on their wedding invitations to the aisle runner at the church.

For their rehearsal dinner, the couple treated guests to a lavish Middle Eastern feast with belly dancers.

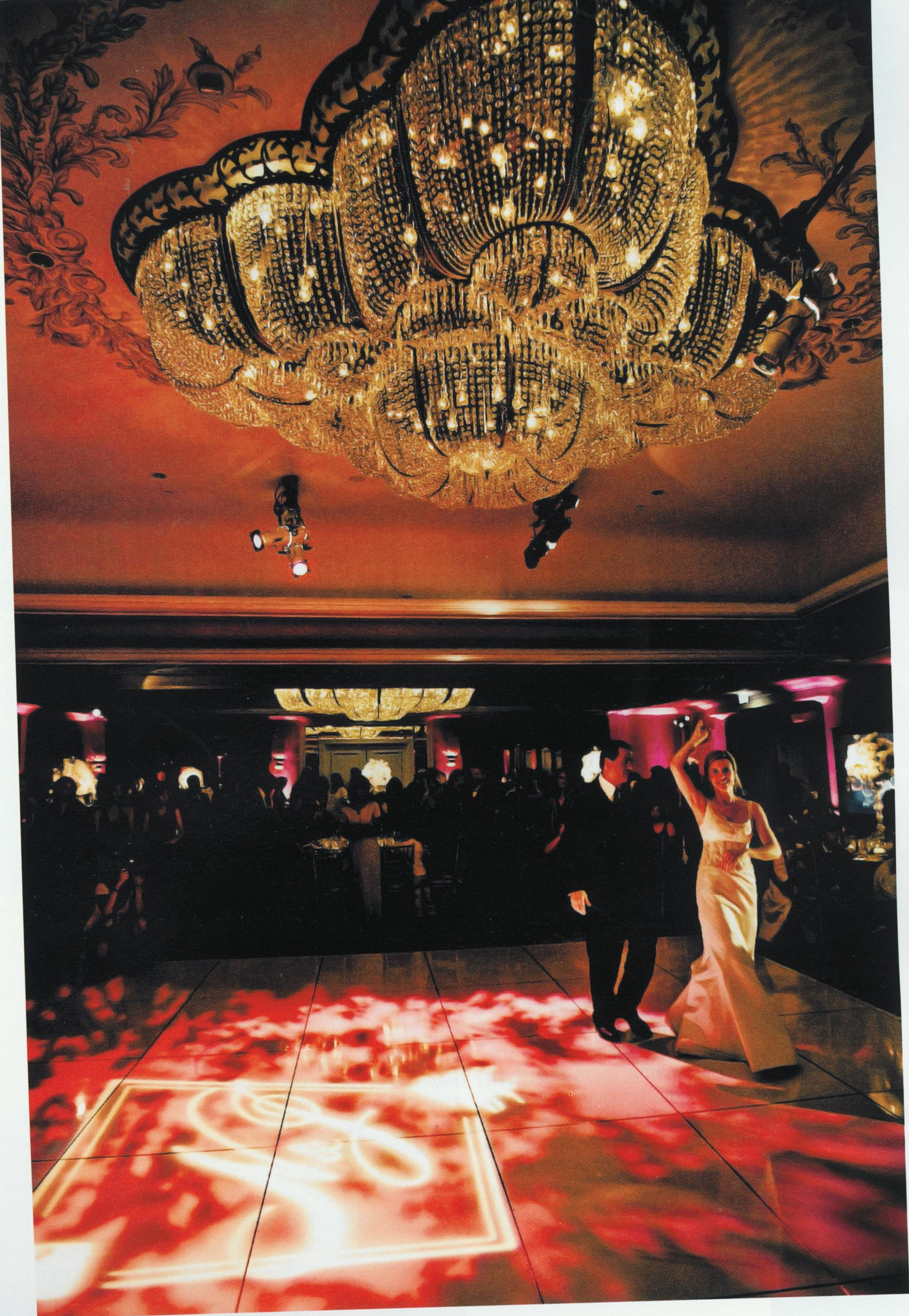
The newlyweds arrived at the posh Beverly Hills Hotel in a Rolls Royce Phantom V. Inside the ballroom, peonies and cymbidium orchids spilled from tall vases while tulips, hydrangeas and roses

graced crystal candelabra. The appetizer menu included smoked Atlantic salmon and American caviar. For dinner, there was roasted butternut squash soup and an entrée choice of black truffle glazed filet mignon or lemon-thyme roasted striped bass. The dessert table featured cheesecake, white cake topped with Bavarian cream and fresh raspberries, and coconut cake with lemon and passionfruit filling.

Nancy and Joe waltzed to "Moon River" while images of their engagement, and special times in Omaha, were projected on a screen. Music throughout the evening was provided by

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the Leonard Neil Orchestra and Naser Musa, a Lebanese band.

Speeches in Arabic and Swedish brought tears to the couple's eyes as family and friends shared cherished memories and good luck wishes. Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority sisters serenaded the bride with a traditional wedding song about finding her "Kappa" man. And just about everyone participated in the traditional chair dance.

The newlyweds, who live in Omaha, sent guests home with Swedish Orrefors crystal votives and Lebanese chocolates.

The couple spent their wedding night in a bungalow at the Beverly Hills Hotel. The next day, they departed for a honeymoon at Pebble Beach and Carmel, Calif.

"It was truly magical," the bride said. "Words cannot describe how wonderful it was." ■

CEREMONY: Our Lady of Mount Lebanon-St. Peter Cathedral in Los Angeles

RECEPTION: Beverly Hills Hotel

BRIDAL GOWN: Monique Lhuillier of Beverly Hills

GROOM'S ATTIRE: Parsow's Fashions for Men & Women, Omaha

HAIR/MAKE-UP: Cut and color by "J" at Garbo's Salons, Omaha. Hair and makeup in California by Joyce Luck Style

RINGS: Borsheims Fine Jewelry & Gifts, Omaha

FLOWERS: Nisie's Enchanted Florist, Los Alamitos, Calif.

CATERER: Beverly Hills Hotel

CAKE: The Cake Studio, Fountain Valley, Calif.

MUSIC: String quartet, trumpet player and vocalist for the ceremony. Four-piece combo from the Leonard Neil Orchestra for the cocktail hour. Eight-piece Leonard Neil Orchestra and Naser Musa for the reception.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Victor Sizemore Photography

VIDEOGRAPHY: Elysium Productions

TRANSPORTATION: Classic Limos, Laguna Niguel, Calif., for the Rolls Royce and Carey International Limos for the other limousines and shuttle buses.

PRIVATE DANCE INSTRUCTOR: Rob Rabe, Omaha

INVITATIONS/PROGRAMS: Save-the-date card and wedding invitation by Diane Ames of Minuteman Printing & Copying in Omaha. Rehearsal invitation, menu card, program and table card by Paper Girl, Fullerton, Calif.

WEDDING PLANNER: Carolyn Chen, special day inc. Los Angeles