

Bringing Two Cultures Together





HELEN CHRISTINE BARRY AND DR. AMIR ALEX JAHANGIR

MAY 17, 2008

Amir and Helen come from different backgrounds. Amir's family moved from Iran to Nashville and Helen's from Britain to Little Rock. As they planned their wedding, it was important for them to bring the two cultures together and represent all of their rich traditions. In order to do so, they had two ceremonies. The first ceremony was a traditional Persian ceremony held at Amir's parents home and the second was a traditional western ceremony and reception held at the Hermitage Hotel.

Preparation for the Persian wedding ceremony began several days before the wedding date. The wedding spread, "sofreh", was decorated by many of Amir's female family members. A beautiful silk cloth was brought by his Aunt and cousin from Iran to decorate the table. The spread included many items that symbolize many things that they wanted to come into their lives. These included one large mirror to bring light and brightness to the future, two candelabras to symbolize fire and energy, sugar to sweetness in life, eggs and nuts for fertility, and gold coins for wealth and prosperity.

The wedding day started out stressful for Helen when she locked herself out of her hotel room in a robe. The hotel staff had to take the door off the hinges in order to get Helen into her room. After that little bump, the rest of the day was perfect. Helen arrived at Amir's parents home in a vintage White Rolls Royce. Amir met her at the door of the Rolls and escorted her into his parent's home. They sat at the Persian wedding spread surrounded by many close family and friends. Once the ceremony had concluded, the couple was showered by gifts of jewelry from close family.

Then the couple headed to the Hermitage Hotel. The American ceremony was held in the Veranda of the hotel. After the wedding ceremony, the cocktail hour was held in the lobby of the hotel. During this time, Amir and Helen had dinner in a private setting. After dinner, Helen and Amir danced their first dance as husband and wife. Then the DJ played very upbeat and lively music from both the west and the east. In fact, so many people were dancing from the moment that the first song began, that the first row of tables had been disassembled to make more room for the dance floor. The dance floor remained full all night and the party lasted till 1:00 AM.

Photographer: Lesli & Bill Emmetts of Divine Images

Wedding Planner: Angela Proffitt Elegant Weddings by Angela

Persian Ceremony Site: Amir's Parents Home

American Ceremony & Reception Site: The Hermitage Hotel

Cake Designer: Maples Wedding Cakes; Floral Designer: Eye Design Florals;

Transportation: Matchless Limousines; Ceremony Music: Nashville Chamber Players

Music: Dj Dariush (Washington, DC) Pianist: James Weinburg; Linens: Julie Murphy

Special Events; Videographer: Nashville Wedding videos

