

It Takes a 2 nations, 3 generations, 24 cousins, 40 ve

By Carissa Katz

Since Nicholas Colt was a kid, his uncle Joe Colt's compound on Bridge Lane and Ocean Road in Bridgehampton has been a gathering place for the extended Colt clan.

"I come from a large family," Nick explained. "My grandparents had seven kids, and six of them had kids." He is the youngest of 24 first cousins, and a lot of them found a way to meet over the years in Bridgehampton. As a bonus, longtime family friends owned the property next door, once part of the same big farm.

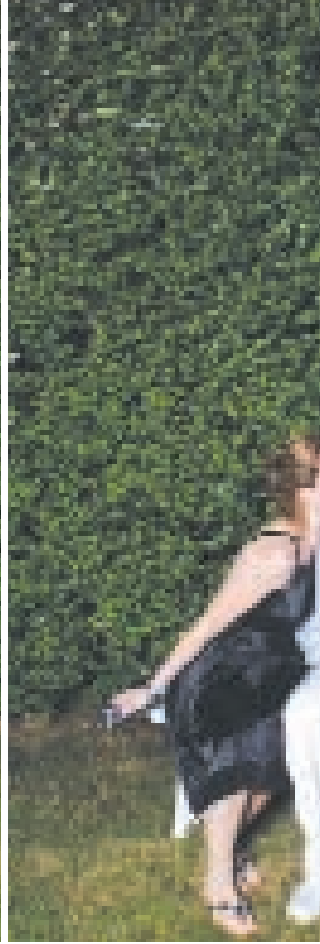
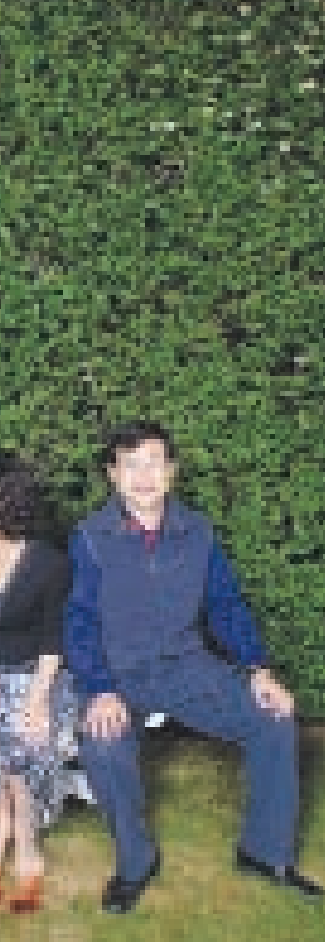
With its great old farmhouse and collection of former farm buildings, Uncle Joe's had been the backdrop for a host of happy times. In more recent years, Nick and his girlfriend, Nakyung Han, began spending a lot of summer weekends there, "swimming and barbecuing," she said. They liked it so much, that they rented the house with friends for the winter months when Joe was in California.

But when the couple got engaged and began searching for a place to get married, they were determined at first to do it in Brooklyn, where they live and

work. (Nakyung is a photography editor at The New York Times; Nick is a musician and writer.) "It was not only expensive, but nothing really felt special," Nakyung said. "Ultimately, we asked ourselves why are we overlooking the most obvious location?" The best spot, of course, was Joe's property in Bridgehampton. Nick has two brothers and a sister, but his parents died some years back. Nakyung said she thinks of Joe as "the sort of patriarch of the family." When they asked if they could get married on his property, he was, as always, generous. So, too, were the family friends next door, who offered up the various cottages on their property for the couple's extended family. That meant almost all of their close relatives, including a sizable contingent of Nakyung's family from Korea, could stay together for the wedding weekend.

Though she was born in Korea, Nakyung followed her mother, Haja Lee, to the United States when she was 10 and has lived here ever since. Only her mother, uncle, and a handful of cousins live in this country.

THE PICTURES: A photobooth of sorts was set up in front of a hedge on the grounds of a farmhouse on Bridge Lane and Ocean Road in Bridgehampton, belonging to the groom's Uncle Joe. Over the course of the evening, guests and members of the wedding party posed (in various states of merriment) on a small bench, snapping their own portraits with a hand-held clicker.



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"I have a ton of relatives in Korea," she said. For her wedding, on June 23 last year, she wanted to have as many of them join her as possible. It marked the first journey to the U.S. for some, and many of them spoke only limited English.

"I had been to Korea two years ago to meet her family after we got engaged," Nick said.

Having both families staying at adjoining compounds helped set the tone for the weekend and allowed opportunities for the families to get to know each other.

Readying the place for the celebrations was a collaborative affair, with everyone lending a hand. "It was fun working together to make the place beautiful," Nakyung said. "Elbow grease and a lot of sweat went into it."

The rehearsal dinner, for 40 or so people, was held next door at the family friends'. One of Nick's brothers took on the herculean task of cooking for the crowd, and his nieces and nephews did all the serving. A highlight of the evening, Nakyung said, was when Nick's brothers, who had each written a song for him,

performed it with their children.

That inspired Nakyung's aunts and cousins to get together later that night and compose something of their own.

Although Nakyung's Korean heritage was not a big focus of the celebrations, "it added another cultural element" to the day, said Simon Sheridan of Exquisite Foods, the wedding planner and caterer. "It was very important to her to make her Korean relatives feel comfortable."

One way Mr. Sheridan endeavored to do this was, of course, through the food. The traditional spicy fermented cabbage dish, kimchi, was a critical element. Along with a few passed hors d'oeuvres with a pan-Asian flair, the wedding day entrees included bulgogi, or thinly sliced, marinated beef, with kimchi. Nakyung's mother "was very much involved in making sure Korea was represented gastronomically," Mr. Sheridan said. He was honored when one of the guests from Korea sent someone to compliment him on the kimchi.

Nick and Nakyung had been insistent that one of their favorite





come together

dishes — paella — be on the menu, and Mr. Sheridan had to accommodate 40 or so vegans as well, which he did with a dish of vegetarian noodles with shiitake mushrooms and marinated tofu. With a nod to the month of June and the bucolic setting, strawberry shortcake was the dessert.

For the wedding day, Nakyung’s mother asked that the

growing family tree everywhere. A magician entertained the children throughout the festivities, but the property, which had a rope swing and plenty of space for them to run and play, kept them entertained, too.

“It was a beautiful setting, and we lucked out with the weather,” Nakyung said.

A D.J. took over from the jazz band during the reception, and

The D.J. surprised everyone when he put on an old recording of Korean folk songs. “The Korean contingent kind of went crazy,” Nakyung said.

aunts and uncles and cousins wear traditional Korean dress, called hanbok. They complied.

Nakyung, with her photographic expertise, was in charge of finding the photographers, and Nick handled the music. A jazz band recommended by friends played before the ceremony, for the processional, and during a cocktail hour. Family members walked down the aisle to the sounds of “Paper Moon,” which had been Nick’s parents’ wedding song.

The couple also honored those who had died by observing a moment of silence. “For me, I think any time there is a moment to reflect makes it special,” Nick said.

They were married under the arching branches of “an awesome tree. I liked the symbolism of that. The tree of life,” Nakyung said.

And with a guest list that included a lot of children, there were reminders of the ever-

at one point surprised everyone when he put on an old recording of Korean folk songs. “The Korean contingent kind of went crazy,” Nakyung said.

Under the reception tent, with all the guests sitting together at long row tables, Nakyung’s aunts and cousins offered up the song — in Korean — that Nick’s family had inspired them to write, coupled with a dance they had choreographed the night before. A striking ensemble, in multicolored silk dresses, they performed a uniquely Korean tribute to the newlyweds, which Nakung described as “wonderfully innocent.”

For Nick, “it brought a kind of genuineness,” a reminder that in wedding their two lives, the couple were also wedding their families and their histories.

“I’ve never seen anything like it,” Mr. Sheridan said. “It was really moving.” 1