

Judith Nathan and Rudolph W. Giuliani

By RUTH LA FERLA

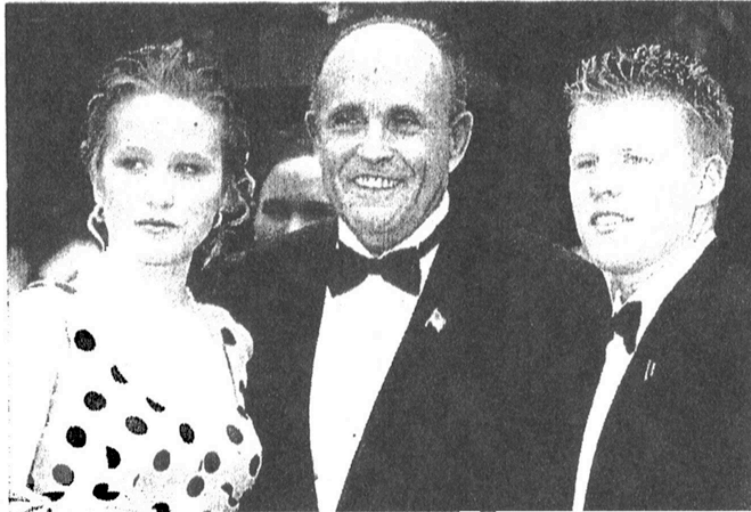
RUDOLPH W. GIULIANI and his betrothed, Judith Nathan, exchanged vows on the lawn of Gracie Mansion last evening to the strains of "Ave Maria," sung by Ronan Tynan, the Irish tenor.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg presided over the wedding, an occasion rife with the theatrical flourishes dear to the couple, both opera lovers. Mr. Bloomberg, arriving with his companion, Diana Taylor, said before the ceremony that he was not nervous. "I don't have to do a lot," he said. "It's sort of reading, and hoping that nobody objects."

Nobody did. Mr. Tynan sang again at the reception and dinner for 400 guests, who included Yogi Berra, Henry A. Kissinger, Beverly Sills, Vera Wang, Donald H. Trump, former Gov. Hugh L. Carey, Barbara Walters and Joseph Volpe, the general manager of the Metropolitan Opera. Several members of the Giuliani administration also attended, including Thomas Von Essen, the fire commissioner; Howard Safir, the police commissioner; and Cris-tyne L. Nicholas, former press secretary.

The best man was Mr. Giuliani's son, Andrew, 17. Donald Stish, Ms. Nathan's father, gave the bride away. Whitney Mayer Nathan, 18, Ms. Nathan's daughter, was the maid of honor. "Deliver Me," was performed by the Bob Hardwick Sound for the first dance.

The evening's fairy tale extravagance was reflected in the wedding décor and the bridal gown. Ms. Nathan wore a made-to-order oyster-colored satin dress with a train accented by Swarovski



GRACIE MANSION, MAY 24 Rudolph W. Giuliani, with his daughter, Caroline, and son, Andrew. At top, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and his companion, Diana Taylor, arrived at the mansion. Mr. Bloomberg officiated at the wedding.

crystals and pearls. Mr. Giuliani wore a custom-tailored suit by Brioni. All that was lacking was the horse-drawn coach. Before the ceremony, Mr. Giuliani said, "I conducted over 200 weddings, so the only thing I'm worried about is that I don't start doing the ceremony myself."

The wedding was a metaphor for a relationship more romantic than either had previously let on. Ms. Nathan, 48, the managing director of a philanthropy that raises money for the Twin Towers Fund, maintains an office in the same Times Square building where Mr. Giuliani operates a consulting business. Though they often work and travel togeth-

er, they have maintained a profile so discreet that even now they refuse to reveal just how and where they met. But in an interview before the big day, they shared some details about their courtship.

Suffice it to say their first encounter was momentous. "It was the thunderbolt," said Mr. Giuliani, 58, a reference to the description the novelist Mario Puzo used in "The Godfather" to characterize the moment when Michael Corleone first spied Apollonia, his Sicilian bride-to-be. "Our attraction was instantaneous. There was almost something mystical about the feeling."

Ms. Nathan interjected: "Rudy truly is a romantic. . ."

"It must be all those operas," Mr. Giuliani chimed in, finishing her thought. He recalled the exact words Ms. Nathan uttered when they met, after he asked her about her political leanings. "Unlike you, I have always been a Republican," Ms. Nathan told the mayor, a Democrat until he switched parties in 1975.

Ms. Nathan was quick to confide that she, too, had been lovestruck from the first. "After our third meeting, I called my mother and told her, 'This is the guy,'" she recalled. "We simply were two people in love — never mind the extracurricular stuff that went on around us," she added, an allusion, perhaps, to the to-do surrounding Mr. Giuliani's separation and divorce from Donna Hanover.

Mr. Giuliani, an ex-federal prosecutor, may cultivate a tough image, but "Rudy believes in marriage," said Bud Konheim, chief executive of Nicole Miller, a Seventh Avenue fashion house, and a longtime friend. "This is a man who wears his heart on his sleeve."