

Once a flower girl, the tradition goes on

By Margaret Miller
staff writer

The Baranyai family of Farmington and the Sanchez family of Livonia have been doing some role-switching for 28 years now.

The roles involved are those of bride and flower girl.

It started in 1955 when Nancy Fogel, living with relatives in the Detroit area, was preparing to marry Stephen Baranyai. She asked Eve Perlaki, at 8 the oldest daughter of her fiancé's first cousin, to be her flower girl.

And when Nancy walked down the aisle of Holy Cross Catholic Church in the Delray area June 25, she was pre-

ceded by young Eve in a long pink dress.

In the years that followed the Baranyais started their family and moved to Farmington. Flower girl Eve grew up, as flower girls tend to do.

It was 1967, and Eve was planning her own wedding. She was to be married to Richard Sanchez on Aug. 19. And Nancy and Steve Baranyai's oldest daughter was an 8-year-old named Denise.

It seemed a natural for Denise to walk down the aisle of St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church in Melvindale ahead of the bride. This time the flower girl's dress was turquoise blue. And the story went on this summer.

Denise Baranyai was to marry Derek Gabb, the boy next door.

"Well," she explained, "I really met him when we both worked at Kmart, before his family moved next door two years ago."

Eve and Richard Sanchez, by now living in Livonia, have a 5-year-old daughter Lisa.

Of course she was the flower girl who wore the pink dress when Denise and Derek were wed in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church Aug. 28.

"We're really cousins, so this is a family tradition," noted Eva Sanchez.

What's the next chapter? That's up to Lisa. And she's not telling, yet.



In 1955, Flower girl Eve looked on as bride Nancy Baranyai and flower girl Lisa Sanchez get ready for Denise's wedding.



Eve was the bride and Denise the flower girl in the photo from the wedding in 1967.



ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

Nancy Baranyai (left) and Eve Sanchez look on as bride Denise Baranyai and flower girl Lisa Sanchez get ready for Denise's wedding.

Community activist wins Israel Bond award

The state of Israel's Jerusalem-City of Peace Award will be presented to Jack Shenkman at a Sept. 25 bond tribute dinner at Tam-O-Shanter Country Club.

A member of the club for 32 years, Shenkman is a longtime supporter of communal and Zionist causes. He is a past president of Beth Aaron Syna-

gogue, which merged with Ahavas Achim to form Congregation Beth Achim in Southfield a number of years ago.

Shenkman is a member of the Prime Minister's Club of Israel Bonds and his wife, Miriam, is an Israel Bond Canal Founder.

The honoree served for 20 years as a

board member, officer and president of the United Hebrew Schools, also now located in Southfield. During his tenure the 12 Mile campus was conceived and completed.

Shenkman has also supported Hillel Day School, B'nai B'rith, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the Zionist Organization of America.

He has previously been honored by the Synagogue Council of America and the Jewish Welfare Federation.

Shenkman and his wife contributed a cardiac wing to Grace Hospital in Detroit and funded the Jack and Miriam Shenkman Library and Audio Visual Room at Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem.

They endowed the synagogue in the Chabad House in Ann Arbor and planted a forest of 10,000 trees in the Bicentennial National Park near Jerusalem. Other philanthropies include a school building for the Detroit Lubovitch in Farmington Hills and an academic chair at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

A native Detroit, Shenkman and his wife were married in 1940. They have four children and five grandchildren. He has been active in business and real estate development in the metropolitan area.

For dinner reservations and information call the Israel Bond office at 557-2900.

Constitution week declared

The week of Sept. 17-23 will be celebrated as Constitution Week by proclamation of the president. The purpose of the observance is to renew appreciation of the U.S. Constitution and American.

The Daughters of the American Rev-

olution urge that citizens study the Constitution during this week in order that they may more fully understand its meaning and why this document has endured as the great charter of human liberties.

Nursery takes enrollments

Farmington Presbyterian Nursery School, 26165 Farmington Road, is taking enrollments for the 1982-83 school year. Sessions are offered for 3- and 4-

year-olds.

Inquiries are taken by Cathy Johnson, 553-3658.

Photos shown in center

Farmington Community Center will host a photo exhibit from Sept. 17-24, sponsored by Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission. The exhibit will include contest winners taken by residents in nine county parks.

The center, at 24705 Farmington Road, is open from 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays.

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