



Fox Point files

by Douglas H. Frazer

Fox Point Houses of Worship

Part III

Fox Point's congregations are spiritual and social cornerstones of Village life. This month features the conclusion of the Fox Point Houses of Worship series with a more in-depth view of Congregation Sinai, Congregation Shalom and St. Eugene Catholic Church.

CONGREGATION SINAI

8223 N. Port Washington Road.



In the early 1950s, Milwaukee's preeminent reform synagogue, Emanu-El B'ne Yeshurun, took a ritualistic turn to the right. This occasioned 27 families to form a new synagogue, Congregation Sinai. The congregation hired Jay Brickman in 1955 as its first rabbi.

Brickman also served in the early 1960's on the Fox Point Village Board.

The congregation met for nearly eight years at the North Shore Congregational Church until it broke ground for its present sanctuary in 1962.

Besides growing a vibrant congregation, Brickman points to two specific achievements: a Saturday morning Torah study class and a mid-week Bible class that have both met continuously since 1955. He believes that these classes may be among the longest continually running Bible study courses in the country.

Rabbi David Cohen has led the congregation since 1995. Sinai today has 400 families filled with respect and love for their Jewish tradition, offering a full range of services for its community. "Congregation Sinai is a community composed of an eclectic mix – teachers, artists, professionals, businessmen and women, professors, and crafts people, of every age and background. Sinai's members have in common a desire to be part of a warm, intimate, inclusive community that provides significant and meaningful opportunities to study, pray, and participate in community service, thereby engaging the mind, the spirit, the heart and the hands in holy work."

CONGREGATION SHALOM

7630 N. Santa Monica Boulevard.



Congregation Shalom also grew out of Temple Emanu-El B'ne Yeshurun. First known as the North Shore Temple, the congregation formed in 1951 largely in honor of Rabbi Harry Pastor's spiritual leadership. Renamed Temple Shalom in 1954 and with a membership of 435

families, the congregation broke ground in Fox Point. In 1978, Rabbi Ronald Shapiro was initially hired as the associate rabbi. He assumed the senior position two years later and continues to serve to this day. The congregation hired Wisconsin's first female rabbi, Dena Feingold, as an assistant in 1982. Karen Berman has been cantor since 1993. The congregation now stands at 1,046 families and is the largest reform congregation in the state.

"The continuity of its leadership has produced a strong "family-type" environment enabling much social action and dynamic programs to flourish," says executive director Linda Holifield. "We have been very fortunate to have an excellent working relationship with the Village Trustees over the years as we have requested permits to expand our building and, more recently, requested permission to install the Pillar of Cloud and Pillar of Fire. We have found the trustees to be very sensitive, fair and caring as they have balanced the needs of the Village residents with the needs of our congregation. We also are very grateful to the Village Police who have been quick to respond and extremely helpful when we have requested advice or needed assistance. We are very pleased to be members of this wonderful community."

ST. EUGENE CATHOLIC CHURCH

7600 N. Port Washington Road



Established in 1958, St. Eugene's currently serves more than 1,000 registered families and supports more than 50 ministries, programs and organizations. The congregation also serves 300 students in its school, religious education programs, and high school youth group.

The congregation is currently led by Reverend Jerome Herda, associate pastor Reverend Paul Fliss, and pastoral associate Monica Cardenas.

Sacrifice and service reflect the ideals of the congregation. It is enhanced by a strong music program and several choirs. Many parishioners serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, greeters, altar servers, and ushers.

Herda shared this bit of unknown information about St. Eugene: "When the church was being established, Fr. William Mackin was named as the first Pastor even before a name was given to the congregation. Fr. Mackin thought the name of the church would have to pass the desk of the Pope to get approval and he figured the Pope would not turn down his own namesake; Pope Pius XII had been Eugene Pacelli. Thus the congregation was named St. Eugene."

Douglas H. Frazer is a trustee on the Fox Point Village Board. The views expressed are his own and not necessarily those of the Village, the Village Board, other Village Board members, or Neighborhood Communications, LLC.