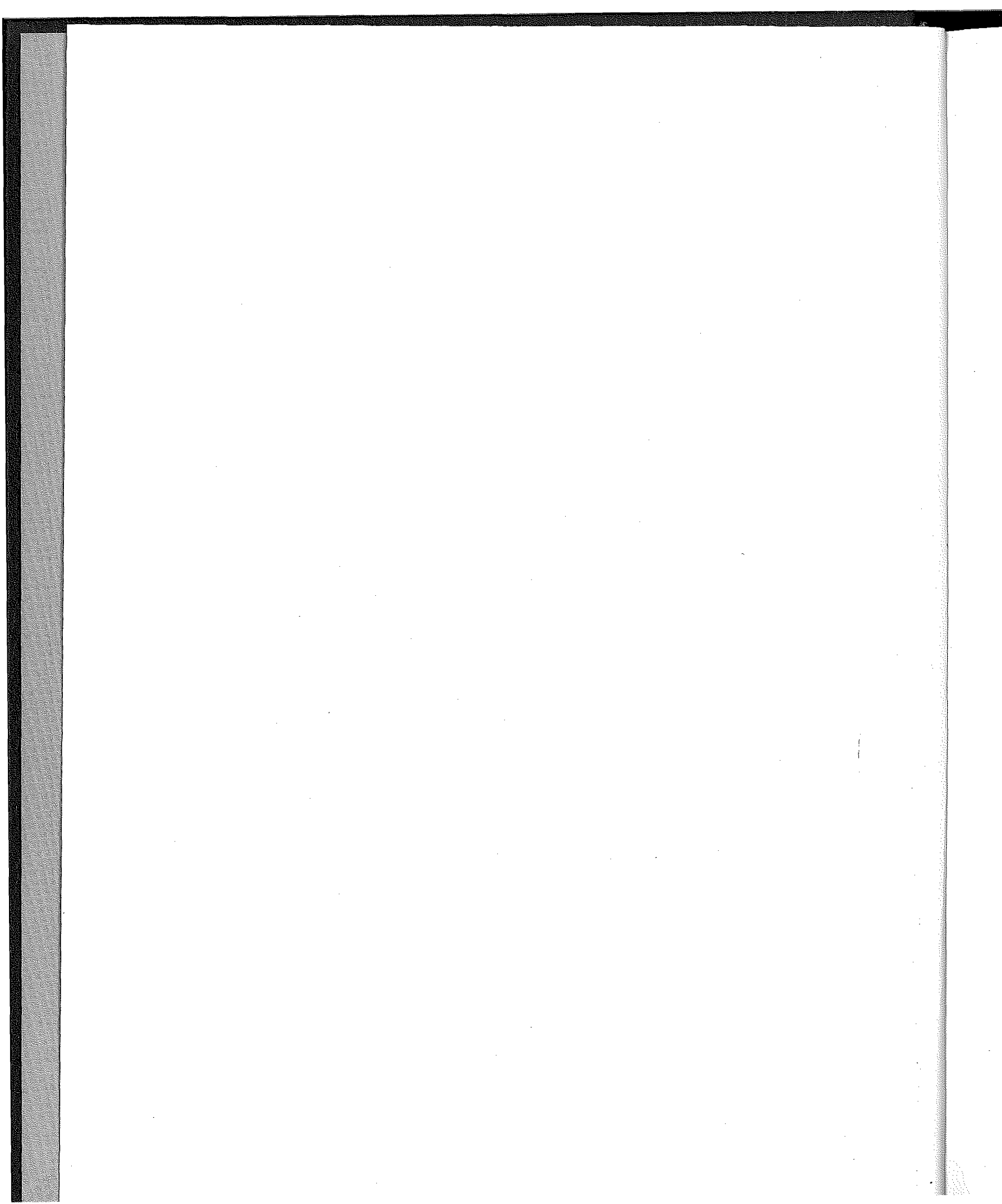




**CONGREGATION  
BETH ISRAEL'S  
CENTENNIAL HISTORY**



# Congregation Beth Israel

BANGOR, MAINE

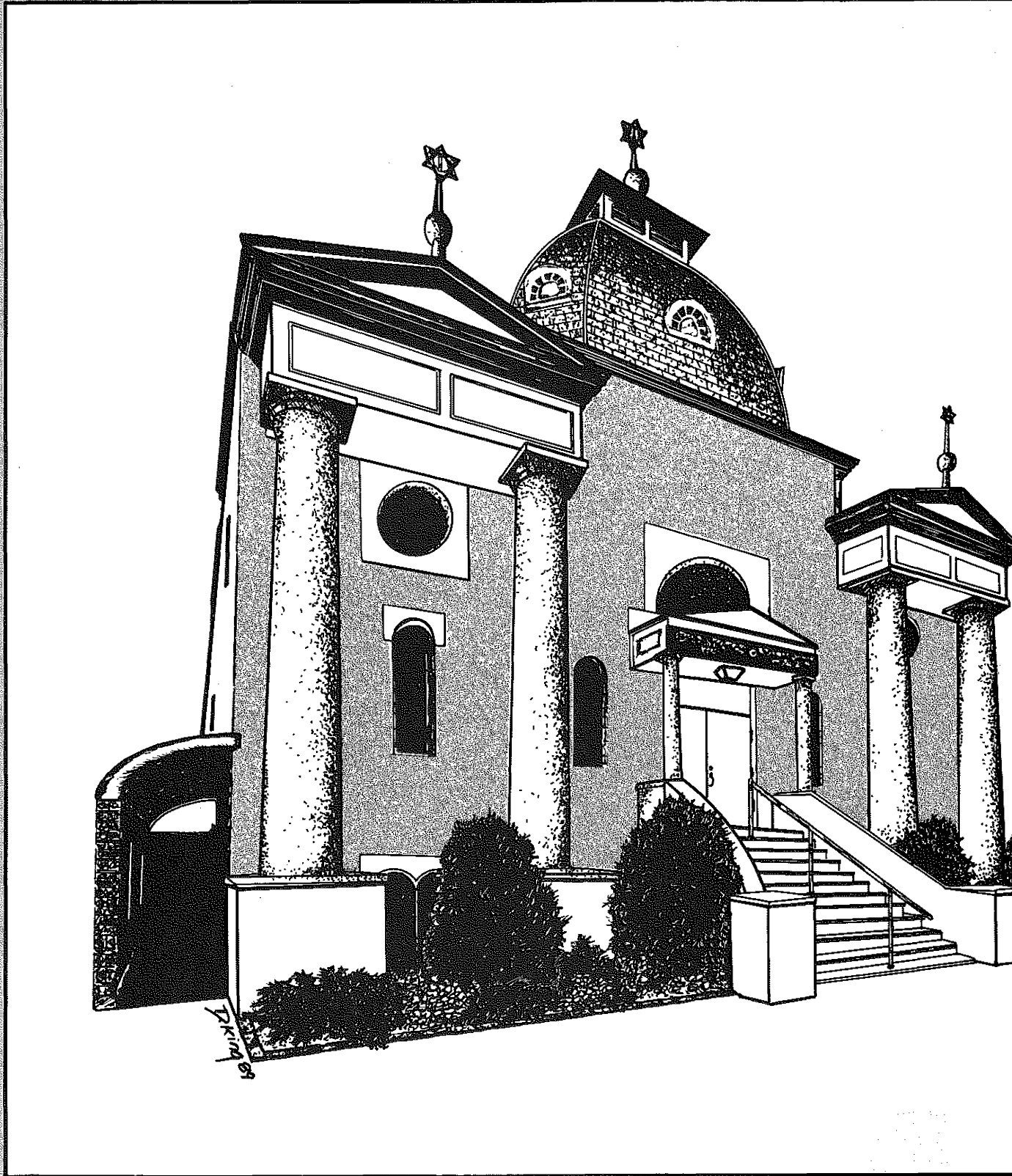


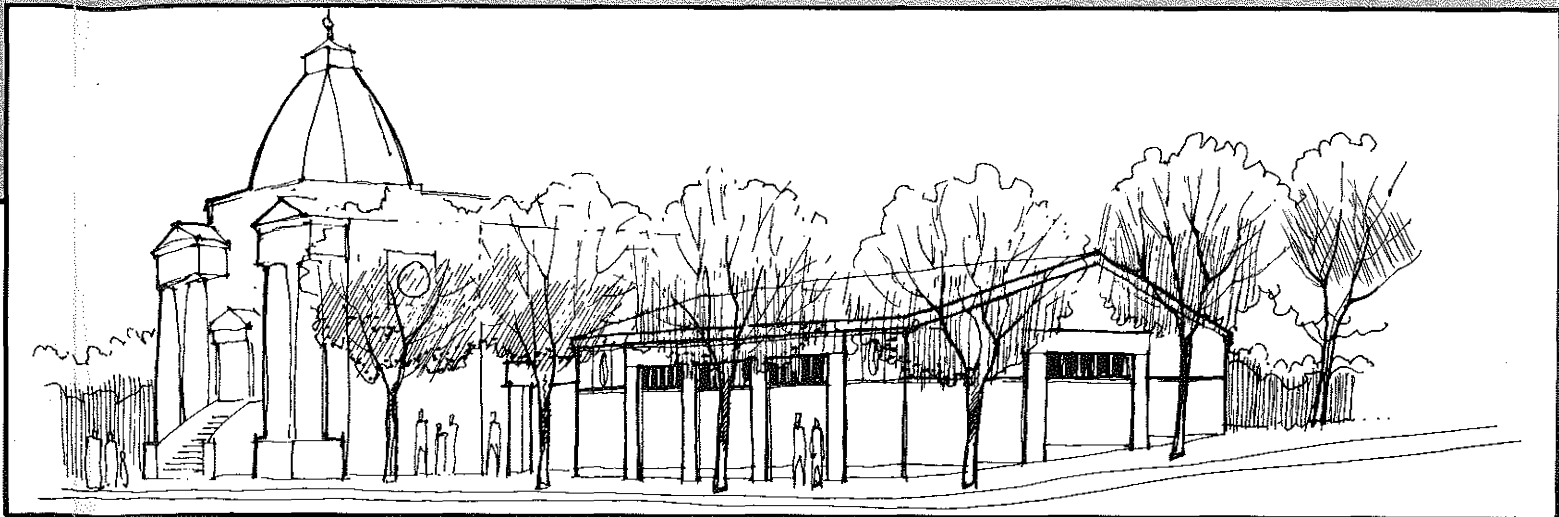
PRINTED FOR CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

BY

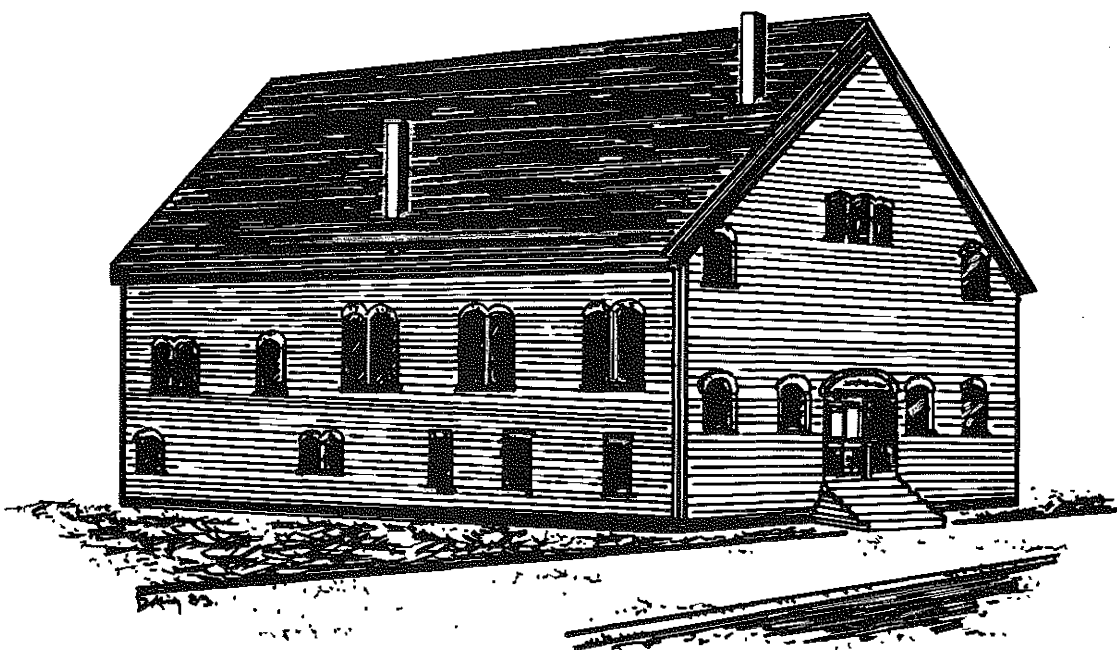
BACON PRINTING & PAPER COMPANY, BANGOR, MAINE







Over the years, the members of Congregation Beth Israel have placed great importance on having a place in which to pray. Our first shul on Center Street (bottom drawing) was dedicated in 1897 and was destroyed in the 1911 fire. Our current synagogue on York Street (at left) was dedicated in 1913 and has undergone many renovations over the past 75 years. Construction of a 4,000-square-foot addition (top drawing), a gift of Sidney and Helen Epstein of Bangor, is expected to begin in 1989.



## Book Dedication



Harry Epstein



Paula Adelman

During this centennial year Congregation Beth Israel reviews its history and remembers the many people who have made synagogue life special. Among the many people who have faithfully served our congregation two members stand out in our minds — Paula Adelman and the late Harry Epstein.

Without their hard work throughout the years, our celebration might not have been so grand or meaningful. Their contributions have been above the call of duty and have touched upon every facet of Jewish life. We appreciate their dedication and service to our synagogue

For their work, friendship and loyalty, this book is dedicated to them.

# Contents

	Page
Book Dedication	2
Letters To The Congregation	4-7
Congregation Beth Israel - 1988 Picture	8
Introduction	9

## Part I

<b>Chapter 1</b> - Forces Influencing Our History	10-12
<b>Chapter 2</b> - Founders Of Congregation Beth Israel	13-16
<b>Chapter 3</b> - Building Of The First Synagogue	17-20
<b>Chapter 4</b> - The Formative Years	21-24
<b>Chapter 5</b> - Congregational Life	25-30
<b>Chapter 6</b> - Bangor Fire Destroys Synagogue	31-33
<b>Chapter 7</b> - Building Of The Second Synagogue	34-39
<b>Chapter 8</b> - In War And Peace	40-44
<b>Chapter 9</b> - Dedication To The Nation's Cause	45-46
<b>Chapter 10</b> - The Move Toward Conservatism	47-63
<b>Chapter 11</b> - Beth Israel's Centennial Celebration	64-69

## Part II

The Rabbis Of Congregation Beth Israel	70-77
The Presidents Of Congregation Beth Israel	78-80
The 1988 Officers And Directors Of Beth Israel	81
Bangor's Early Role In Zionism	82
Congregation Beth Israel Honors Six Members	83-89
Cemetery Committee And Chevra Kadisha	90-92
The United Jewish Chapel	93
Congregation Beth Israel Sisterhood	94-95
Violinist David Rubinoff Married At Beth Israel	96-97
A Story Of Two Synagogues	98
B'nai B'rith Pine Tree Lodge No. 817	99