

1877-1977



One hundred years ago, families with names of Allen, Cohen, Altman, Goldman and Bernstein established a small synagogue in Bangor so that Jewish traditions and values brought with them from the villages and shtetls of the "old world" could be preserved in the "new world"-America!

A century later, men, women, and children with many different names and backgrounds, continue those traditions that gave birth to Congregation Beth Israel while at the same time they look to the future.

The present includes a variety of cultural activities which will celebrate this important milestone - 100 years.

May 15 - Rededication Service featuring Rabbi Harold S. Kuschner, author of "Why Bad Things Happen to Good People."

June - B'nai Brith Breakfast in honor of the congregation.

Sept. 18 - Inaugural Friedman Lecture, featuring David S. Wyman,

Oct. - Convocation

Nov. 5 - Robert Klein, at the Maine Center for the Arts.

But what of the future? It is critical that we set in place a necessary element, a solid financial base, to insure that there will be a Congregation Beth Israel for the next 100 years. Continued operation of our facilities, the ability to offer religious programming, and the need to do so in an appropriate environment is important. The days of the past, when a single contribution could be counted on to make up operating deficits and insure financial stability, are over. We can no longer rely on day-to-day financing to meet all the present needs of the synagogue and to plan for the future. Simply stated Beth Israel cannot exist without an endowment.

