



Photo by Yehuda Inbar



RABBI ISAACS REMEMBERS ...

During the 23 years as Rabbi in Bangor, I have heard the Synagogue at 145 York Street referred to as the "small shul, russisheh shul, cattle dealers shul, orthodox synagogue and Beth Abraham Synagogue." Though all these nomenclatures may be correct, they fail to describe a most important component and that is the awareness of the Beth Abraham Synagogue.

Upon entering the Synagogue, one immediately senses the hominess. One sees children, teenagers, men and women of all ages with a friendly atmosphere permeating the entire synagogue like one large family.

Over the past twenty years the Beth Abraham Synagogue has not only been a "BEIS HAKNESSESS", a "house of prayer", but also a "BEIS HAMEDRASH", a "house of learning". On Saturdays and holidays for example, one can enter the synagogue and participate in Torah learning.

However, the greatest and most important aspect of the Beth Abraham Synagogue, is that of a spiritual catalyst. Over the years, the Beth Abraham Synagogue together with the Hebrew Academy have re-oriented the Jewish behavior and weltanshaung of a number of individuals and families.

The Beth Abraham Synagogue may be small in its physical structure, but it stands tall in stature.

Serving as Rabbi of the Beth Abraham Synagogue for the past 23 years has not only been a challenge, but a privilege.

On behalf of my dear wife Roz and my entire family I extend a hearty Mazel Tov to the past and present officers and entire membership of the Beth Abraham Synagogue on this golden anniversary celebration.

Rabbi Henry J. Isaacs



A MESSAGE FROM THE SYNAGOGUE PRESIDENT

For fifty years the Beth Abraham Synagogue has stood as a testament of faith, love and devotion by its congregants to the Almighty. They have adorned the Synagogue with all the worldly fineries both inside and out.

The Synagogue is filled with the prayers of its congregants on a daily basis. For surely within the walls of Beth Abraham, orthodox Jewry in the state of Maine has found a strong and safe haven.

We pray that future generations will continue on and that our Synagogue, Beth Abraham, may enjoy eternal life.

Sam Nyer, President
Beth Abraham Synagogue

**A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE HEBREW ACADEMY OF BANGOR**

With the strong feeling of Judaism and community obligation inspired and endowed by James Gimpel Striar and Sarah Striar, parents of Louis, Bernard, Sylvia, Mildred, and Max, with the assistance of leadership of Rabbi Henry Isaacs, the necessity of a Day School was considered.

Inspired by the desire and need that the children of the community receive a Jewish education in depth and a secular education on a par and better than our public schools, immediate action was taken. The Hebrew Academy of Bangor was founded in the Spring of 1963 by a handful of people with the dream to add to our glorious Jewish heritage passed down to us by our forefathers through the ages.

Rabbi Isaacs was chosen as supervisor of the Hebrew Academy and given the Herculean and arduous feat of having everything in preparedness for the fall academic year, less than six months away. This involved many days and nights of hard work. With the L-rd's help, the door to the Academy classrooms opened smoothly and on schedule and has been in operation for twenty years.

Though small in quantity, but large in quality, these children have been inspired with love and understanding of our Torah and traditional Jewish and secular life. They are being provided with a more intensive program of instruction so as to make them the intelligent self-respecting Jewish leaders and American citizens of tomorrow.

This training given to the students has kept the Beth Abraham Synagogue functioning as a house of prayer should be. They have helped to conduct the services on weekdays and on the Sabbaths, volunteered for the minyans both in the early morning and evening prayers. Essentially, they have brought into this institution of worship a strong spiritual feeling of real, true traditional Judaism.

Max Striar

DEDICATION

The Journal Committee could think of no more fitting tribute than to dedicate this book, this history, to our original founders. These men who finally realized their dream in the formation of the Beth Abraham Synagogue, would settle for nothing less than the fulfillment of their commitment to establish an Orthodox synagogue in Bangor, Maine. We salute their courage and convictions.

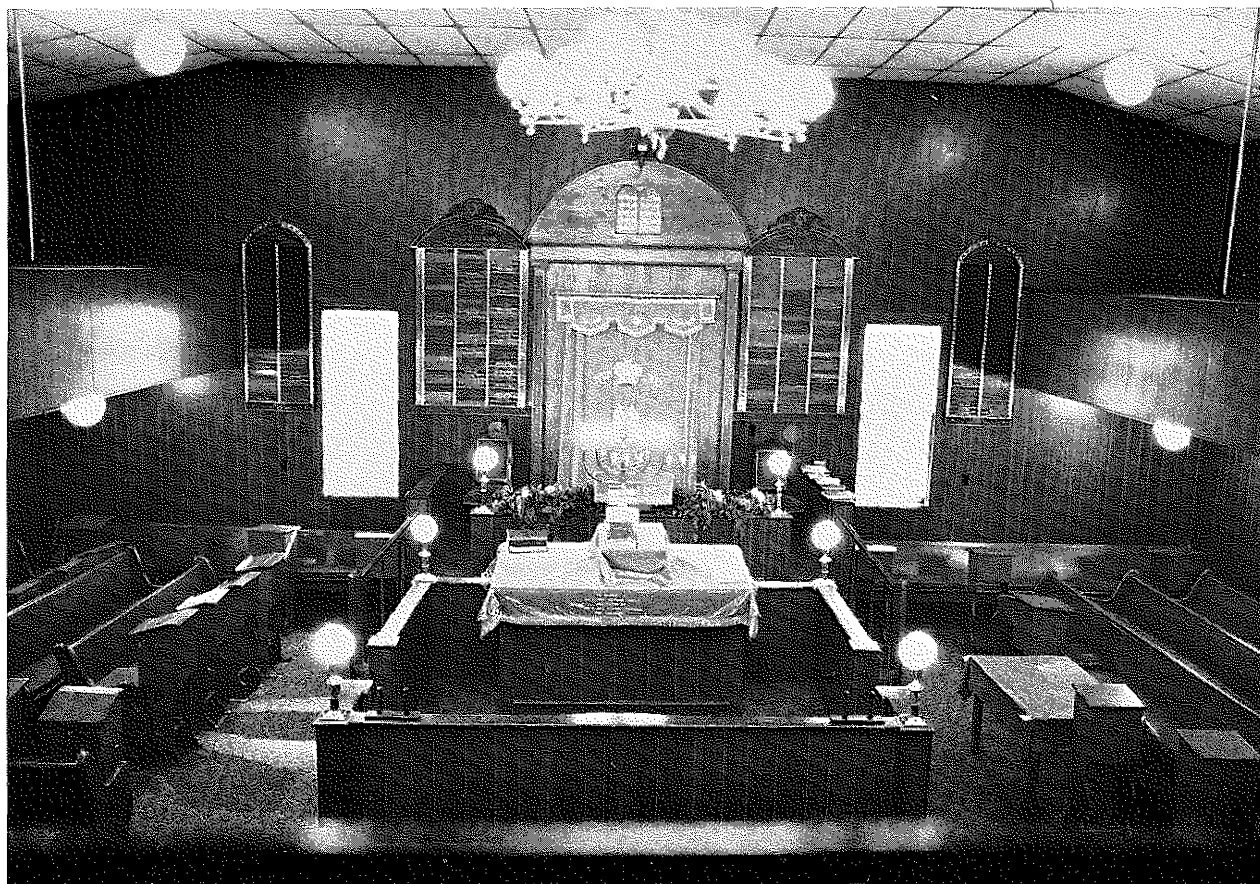


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THE ORIGINAL FOUNDERS OF BETH ABRAHAM SYNAGOGUE

Eli Striar

Eli Striar was born in Russia in 1827. Eli was married six times and had five children. After he came to Bangor, he was a cattle dealer. He died in 1935.

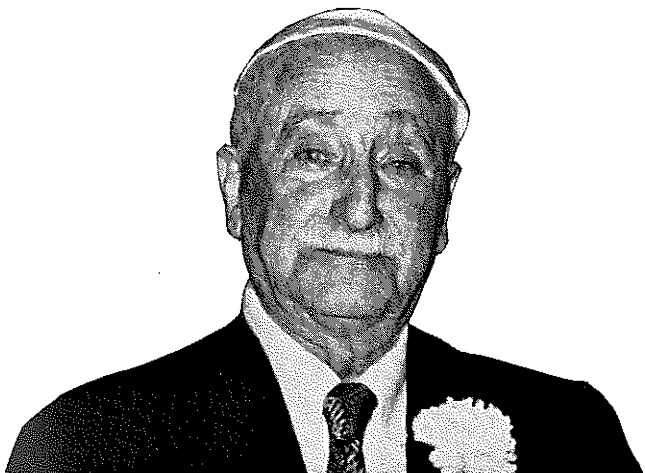
David Pinchas Striar

David Pinchas Striar was one of Eli Striar's sons. He was born in Russia in 1871 and came to Bangor in the early 1900's. David Pinchas and his wife, Annie, had five children. He founded a barrel business and was very active in the group who left Beth Israel to start Beth Abraham. He died in 1917.



Hyman Striar

Another son of Eli Striar, Hyman was born in Russia in 1875. He came to Bangor in 1902. Hyman and his wife, Bessie, had seven children. He was in business and sold burlap bags. Hyman died in 1946.



Barney Striar

Barney was also a son of Eli Striar. He was born in Russia in 1890 and came to Bangor in 1902. He and his wife, Shifra, had six children, and Baruch was in the cattle business. He also served as Gabbi Rishon of the congregation for many years. He died in 1981 at the age of 91.

Sam Smith

Sam was born in Russia in 1886. He arrived in Bangor in 1908 and became a cattle dealer. Sam and his wife, Gussie, had six children. He died at the age of 87 in 1973.



Shel David Striar

Shel David Striar was born in Kovna, Russia in 1858. He came to Bangor in the early 1900's where he was a cattle dealer. Shel David and his wife, Sarah, had nine children. He died in 1936.



Harry Viner

Harry Viner was born in Russia in 1878. He arrived in Bangor in 1898. Harry and his wife, Gitel, had ten children. After starting his career with a small shoe repair shop, he later founded the Viner Shoe Company a nationally known shoe manufacturer. He died in 1934.

FOUNDERS OF BETH ABRAHAM SYNAGOGUE ON YORK STREET

Joseph Cooper

Joseph Cooper was born in Poland in 1880 and came to Bangor in 1911. He and his wife, Sarah, had one son. Joseph founded the Penobscot Beef and Provision Company. He died in 1945.



Harry Cohen

Harry Cohen was born in Russia in 1898. He came to Bangor from New York in 1924. Harry and his wife, Rebecca, had two daughters. He worked in the retail and wholesale meat business. Harry died at the age of 85 in 1983.

Harry Rabin

Harry Rabin was born in Russia in 1890. He arrived in Bangor in the early 1900's. Harry and his wife, Jenny, had two sons. They owned a meat market on Hancock Street. Harry died in 1973.



Barney Cooper

Barney Cooper, Joseph's brother, was born in Poland in 1893. He came to Bangor in 1911. He and his wife, Martha, had one son. Barney founded the United Beef Company and established the first kosher meat market in Bangor. He died in 1973.