



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AUGUSTA



JOHN H. REED  
GOVERNOR

Congregation Beth Israel  
Bangor  
Maine

Greetings:

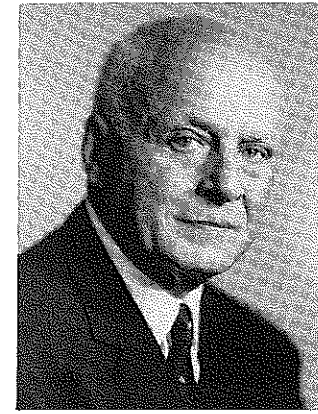
It gives me great pleasure to extend official greetings as well as my own personal best wishes to Congregation Beth Israel on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee Anniversary on June 2, 1963.

For 75 years Congregation Beth Israel has fulfilled a vital role in the spiritual life of the City of Bangor. Through the influence of Congregation Beth Israel religious and moral values have been strengthened, the words of the Creator brought into the lives of more citizens.

On this historic occasion in Jewish community, I wish Congregation Beth Israel many more successful years. May its members be strengthened in their faith and may the Congregation continue to grow and prosper.

Sincerely,

*John H. Reed*  
John H. Reed  
Governor



STATE OF MAINE  
SUPERIOR COURT  
BANGOR

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

GREETINGS:

It is with great pleasure that I join with my fellow members in celebrating this important anniversary in the history of our Congregation.

We do not always realize how great a part the Synagogue plays in our lives; how closely connected with all the milestones that mark off the span of human existence.

It is to the Synagogue we turn for spiritual inspirations, and to bring our joys and sorrows. It is from the Talmud that we learn the cardinal virtues of faith, courage, understanding, love, justice, charity and hope.

The books of Moses taught and read in the Synagogue, in which we take pride, are the source of all law governing human behavior in the free world.

Cordially,

*Abraham M. Rudman*

July 8, 1963

# Message of Hon. Edward I. Gross

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BANGOR



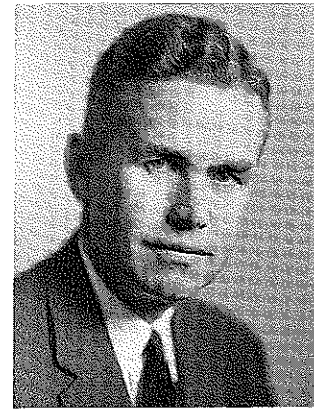
It is a splendid endeavor to undertake the recording of the "Beth Israel Story." History is so fleeting that it is difficult to capture its full meaning, to translate it in terms of the present, or to use it as a guide for future goals unless scribes of the pertinent periods made adequate historical accounts.

Religion has played an important role in the development, and in the cultural and spiritual growth of the City of Bangor. The many houses of worship of all religions attest to the importance the citizens of this area attach to the belief in the Almighty.

The "Beth Israel Story" is but one segment of the Jewish history of the City of Bangor. Without doubt, it parallels the account of Jewish history in many other cities throughout this wonderful country of ours. The difference is, of course, it is ours. Some of us can fondly recall the historical events related herein, and feel touched with a special warmth, or pause for a moment of quiet reflection.

Bangor has emerged from its tumultuous, robust, log-driving days, and now throbs with new vitality and growth. The Jewry of Bangor has done its share in the development of the Queen City, and I know they will continue to contribute to its growth. A static life is not that of any Jewish person, nor has it ever been. The restlessness and impatience of achievement, not the acceptance and contentment of mere accomplishment, have been the distinguishing features of our predecessors. The importance of education, and continued adult education, was well understood by our parents and is a heritage which also is part of our history.

The "Beth Israel Story", because of the many details and collectors' items, will be a treasure house of information and interest to all. It will undoubtedly be a source of information and inspiration to our children. I feel we owe a debt of gratitude to those who have undertaken this historical endeavor.



BANGOR  SEMINARY  
THEOLOGICAL  
BANGOR, MAINE

July 3, 1963

Rabbi Avraham H. Freedman  
Congregation Beth Israel  
Bangor, Maine

My dear Rabbi Freedman:

On behalf of the whole family of Bangor Theological Seminary--trustees, faculty, and students--permit me the honor and pleasure of extending to all the members of the Congregation Beth Israel hearty congratulations and warm good wishes as you celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of your religious community.

The Synagogue and the Seminary are living symbols among us of the Jewish-Christian tradition which has shaped our destiny in city, state, nation, and world. The Seminary is happy to salute the Synagogue on this historic occasion, to praise the Congregation for its witness in faith and works, and to acknowledge with gratitude the Seminary's debt to the heritage of Judaism.

May the God of our Fathers continue to bless and to keep you!

Most sincerely yours,

*Frederick W. Whittaker*

Frederick W. Whittaker, President

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY  
AMSTERDAM AVENUE & 186TH STREET  
NEW YORK 33, N. Y.



June 19, 1963

Mr. Henry H. Segal  
Jubilee Publication Committee Chairman  
34 Hammond Street  
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mr. Segal:

I am happy to extend my warmest congratulations on your celebration of a joyful milestone--the 75th anniversary of Congregation Beth Israel. The significance of this occasion transcends the immediate boundaries of your locality, for vibrant traditional congregations are essential to the further strengthening of Judaism.

The entire Jewish concept of the community finds its origin, as well as its vitality in the synagogue. Whenever a Jew joins his fellow Jews in synagogue worship, he affirms the brotherhood of Israel and demonstrates the unity of belief and observance that transforms us into an integrated community.

May the Almighty grant you the strength and vigor to carry on with increased inspiration and dedication.

Sincerely yours,

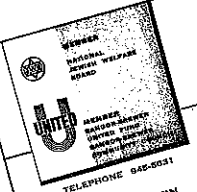
*Samuel Belkin*  
Samuel Belkin  
President

SB:ml

## Greetings From The Jewish Community Council



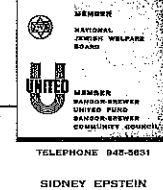
SIDNEY EPSTEIN

  
MEMBER NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD  
TELEPHONE 842-5651  
SIDNEY EPSTEIN  
PRESIDENT

**JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
28 SOMERSET STREET - BANGOR, MAINE  
MILTON LINCOLN, ACSW  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am happy to extend my greetings and best wishes to Congregation Beth Israel as it celebrates the Diamond Jubilee of the Congregation.  
Our parents and grandparents built wisely when they established, as one of their first acts, a House of Worship. The role of the Synagogue, as the heart beat of Judaism, is central to the survival of our Jewish people.  
Our community shares with you the joys of this happy milestone in the history of Bangor Jewry.

Sidney Epstein  
President  
Jewish Community Council

  
MEMBER NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD  
TELEPHONE 842-5651  
SIDNEY EPSTEIN  
PRESIDENT

**JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
28 SOMERSET STREET - BANGOR, MAINE  
MILTON LINCOLN, ACSW  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Diamond Jubilee, now being celebrated by Congregation Beth Israel, is a momentous event in the history of our Jewish Community. The men and women, who in the 1880's, settled in Bangor, brought with them a zeal and love for Judaism which has been transmitted down to our present generation.

I have personally enjoyed the warm relationship which exists between Congregation Beth Israel and the Jewish Community Council. The mutual understanding and appreciation of our respective roles in Jewish life and the willingness to work together for the welfare of Bangor Jewry have forged strong links in the chain of Jewish survival.

I extend my best wishes and heartiest congratulation to Congregation Beth Israel and sincerest hopes that the years ahead will be blessed with peace and happiness.

Milton Lincoln  
Executive Director  
Jewish Community Council

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA  
NORTHEAST CORNER, BROADWAY AND 122ND STREET  
NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

CABLE ADDRESS: "SEMINARY" NEW YORK

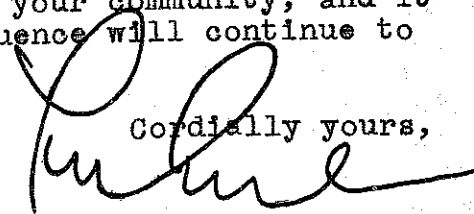
April 2, 1963

Dear Mr. Epstein:

Please extend my warm congratulations to all members of your congregation on the occasion marking the 75th Anniversary of Congregation Beth Israel.

The long history of this religious institution is evidence of its success in serving the spiritual needs of your people. I know, moreover, that the influence of this synagogue has reached far beyond the boundaries of your community, and it is my hope that this beneficial influence will continue to exert itself for many more years.

Cordially yours,



Harold R. Epstein  
Congregation Beth Israel  
Bangor, Maine

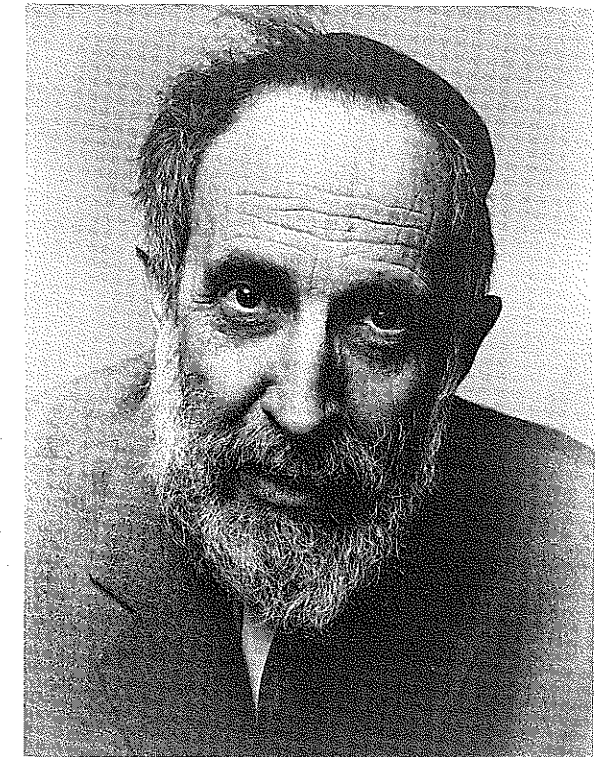
## Judaism As A Contribution To A Better World

In speaking of a better world, we must always remember that such a world can only be brought into being by better people—or by people aspiring to be better. We Jews are fortunate indeed to have inherited a tradition which is one of the greatest systems for character education which the world has ever known. We have but to cleave to our tradition to give expression to the nobler side of human nature, that divine spark which is part of all of us.

Judaism is inherently an ethical system. All its minutia are part of a system directed to the improvement of character. Hillel clearly considered such commandments as not to speak falsehood, not to injure one's neighbor, not to insult him, or pain him, or degrade him, or malign him no less integral to Torah than any ritual. And, in the Hillelite tradition, Judaism, when it has to make a choice is even more concerned with the problem of character than it is with that of ritual devotion. Devotion to ritual may come to a person disciplined to right behavior to his fellows. Right behavior to one's fellow—harder to achieve than observance of any of the ritual commandments—has to be stressed day in and day out.

In our time, it is a *kiddush ha-shem* to stress the ethical content and character of Judaism, and a *hillul ha-shem* to overlook them. For if Judaism is recognized for what Hillel says it is, our youth will understand its relevance. If our youth comes to believe that Judaism is, like primitive religions, nothing more than a system of rituals, they will flee from it.

It is to the genius of Professor Solomon Schechter, Professor Louis Ginzberg, Professor Alexander Marx and Professor Israel Friedlander—to mention only those who have passed to their eternal reward—that we, in America, owe the re-discovery of the totality of Judaism.



DR. LOUIS FINKELSTEIN

In this interpretation of our heritage it is implicit that we share an obligation to explore the wisdom of our faith, so that its insights can be made available for the guidance of modern man.

How can this obligation "to explore the wisdom of our faith" be fulfilled better than within the structure of the synagogue. For two millenia, the synagogue has proven to be a bulwark of our faith, indispensable as house of worship, as house of assembly, and as house of study. As your congregation attains this important milestone in its history, I am sure that each of you will think through how your synagogue can be strengthened so that it will always continue to afford increasing opportunities to its leaders and congregants to fulfill the obligations imposed upon us by our heritage.