

# ADAS YOSHEURON SYNAGOGUE



1911-1987

# **Congregation of Adas Yoshuron Synagogue**

P. O. Box 1250      Willow Street  
Rockland, Maine 04841

## **THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Congratulations to the Adas Yoshuron Synagogue on the occasion of our "Seventy-Fifth Anniversary". I would like to extend my best wishes to all our members and friends.

Our Congregation has prospered and grown, and has played a vital role in the history of Rockland. Today, we can proudly state that children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren of our founders are taking an active interest and role in the life of our Congregation. We are pleased to be joined by interested and energetic newcomers, and together we are working to keep our Jewish heritage in Rockland alive.

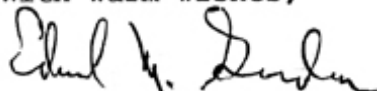
This Anniversary effort would not have been possible without the invaluable assistance of our able committee members: Joel Fishman, chairman, Barbara Fishman, Barry Faber, Adele Faber, Barbara Amundsen, Sue Nochumson, Judy Grossman, and Edward Gordon.

Special thanks to Saul Zwecker for his photographic expertise, Joseph Faber for his computer work in putting this book together, and Ruth Small for researching our history in the library.

In addition to the committee, our thanks to the following who helped to sell our advertisements: Sam Small, Jim Brickel, Allen Gordon, Bob Rosenberg, and Mona Shafter.

May the next Seventy-Five years be a continuation of the same high standards which have inspired our growth and character as a community.

With warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Edward M. Gordon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "G".

Edward M. Gordon, President

# CURRENT OFFICERS



front l. to r., Judy Grossman, Secretary; Edward Gordon, President; Joel Fishman, Vice President; Robert Rosenberg, Treasurer. back l to r., Board of Directors, Meredith Dondis, Carol Miller, Leslie Swift.

# 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE



front l. to r., Barbara Fishman, Judy Grossman, Adele Faber, Susan Nochumson. back l. to r., Edward Gordon, Joel Fishman (chairman), Barry Faber.



# OUR PRESIDENTS



Thomas Shapiro, 1912



Hyman Dondis, 1912

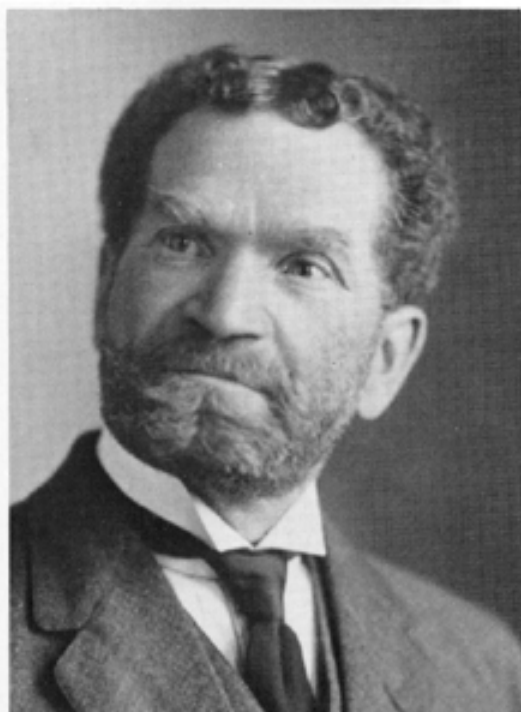


Benjamin Miller, 1913



Harry Bradbury, 1914-16, 1917-19

# OUR PRESIDENTS



Simon Alperin, 1916



Harry Carr, 1919-21

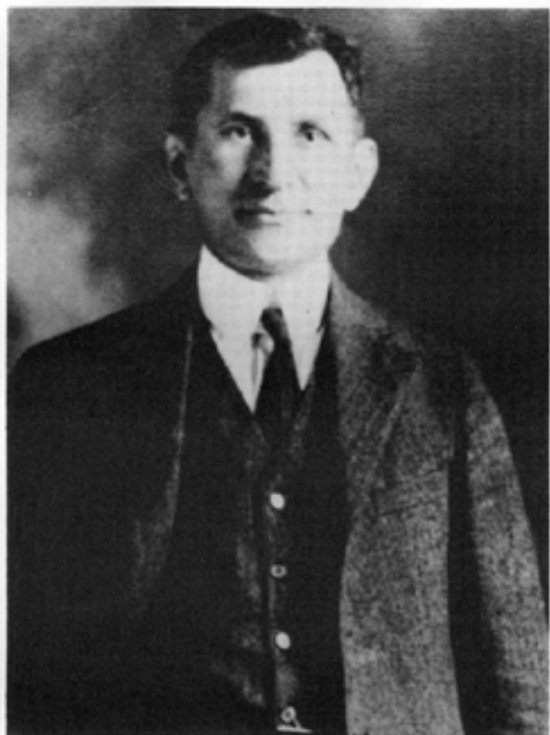


Isador Gordon, 1932, 1938-42



Isaac Berliawsky, 1932

# OUR PRES



Michael Goldberg, 1933-37



Samuel Shafter, 1943-49



Sam Savitt, 1949-53



A. Alan Grossman, 1953-75



Barry Faber, 1975-79



Edward Gordon, 1984-87



Ruth Small, 1979-81  
E. Allen Gordon, 1981-84



# A VIEW FROM THE PAST

In our review of the seventy-five year history of Adas Yeshurun Synagogue, we were very fortunate to obtain a letter, dated June 22, 1977, from Bernard Alperin of Los Alamitos, California, grandson of one of our founding fathers. It contains newspaper articles and comments which we found expressive and illuminating of our Synagogue's colorful past, and these are recorded below:

The first Jewish settler arrived in the Rockland area before 1790 and the first Jewish community gathered before 1875. In 1879, the community began a tradition of High Holy Day observance that continues unbroken until today.

These are the words that the Rockland Opinion spoke about that first service in Rockland:

October 8, 1875

The Hebrew year 5636 commenced on Thursday of last week, and New Year services were conducted by the Jewish Church that and the next two days, business being suspended with them until Saturday night. There are but few disciples of the Hebrew faith in this city, and heretofore they have gone to Portland to take part in these annual observances. This year, however, they fitted up a room in the house of one of them, and services were conducted by Rev. K. Friedburg, of New York. The rites differ considerably from those of Christian churches. Only the men attend and they remain with their hats on during the service, which is chanted in Hebrew by the officiating clergyman. He stands in front on a shrine in which is a roll of the Ten Commandments; a curtain in front of this is alternately opened and closed during the ceremonies. Occasionally the clergyman pauses, and the congregation repeat prayers in an undertone. At intervals the traditional ram's horn is loudly blown. The clergyman wears a white robe and over that a dark-colored wrapper. Four subordinate officers wear heavy scarfs or shawls over their shoulders, and assist in the ceremonies. A translation of the service which is by the side of the Hebrew in the prayer-book, shows it to be written in a style similar to that of the Catholic and Episcopal churches.

Three years passed before the young community was again able to raise a minyan on the Holy Days and they were forced to go to Bangor or Portland in the meanwhile. New Years 5640, Sept. 1879, the Rockland Opinion gave wishes for a joyous year to "our Hebrew neighbors who celebrated their holiday of Rosh Hashona in Rockland this week", a custom local newspapers continued through the years.

Notices of our religious life are usually no longer than that brief entry, but some years received more attention. The Rockland Opinion of 1901 describes that year's service:

September 27, 1901

Last Monday was one of the most solemn and impressive holy days in the calendar of the Hebrew people. It was "Yom Kippur," the Day of Atonement, closely following "Rosh Hashana," the Jewish New Year, which was everywhere observed by them according to the ancient ritual and custom. On the Day of Atonement, when the people are commanded to penitently confess their sins to God and abjure them for the future, services are held in the synagogues all day, and every Hebrew over the age of 13 years and in a state of health that permits it, is required to fast - actually and literally, tasting no food or drink - from sunset to sunset.

In this city, the resident Hebrews and those from neighboring places assembled in their pleasant and well appointed synagog in Berry block (the old Common Council room). Services were conducted by Rabbi Israel of this city, and Rabbi Borowitz of Boston. The last named clergyman has been here through the entire Holy Week, beginning at Rosh Hashana, assisting the local pastor. The service on Monday consisted of discourses by the Rabbis, in which they explained and expounded the meaning and lessons on the day, alternated with reading of the Law from the parchment scrolls. All the services, including the preaching, are in Hebrew, and are intoned or chanted by the rabbi and cantors or readers.

The rabbis, when officiating, wear robes of white and all male worshippers wear the tallith, or praying-shawl, some of them of silk and handsomely embroidered. The ladies wear their usual costumes such as they would don for parties or other dress occasions, and are accompanied by the smaller children, the larger boys sitting with the men. The women and girls are separated from the men and boys by a ceiling some three feet high surmounted by wooden bars, which does not prevent them seeing and hearing all that occurs in the synagog itself, which contains the ark, where is kept the scroll of the Law, the platform for speaking, and the raised and railed-in platform from which the Law is read by one of the congregation appointed by the Rabbi, but on the Day of Atonement by the Rabbi himself.

The 'Jewish Colony' as we were called then came to be the focus of Rockland news in 1912. A warm tribute was given by local newspapers in memory of the congregation's leader, Rabbi Arthur Perlstein:

June 21, 1912  
Rabbi Izar Perlstein

By the death of Rabbi Izar Perlstein which occurred at a hospital at Tewksbury, Mass., Saturday, Rockland loses a man of high abilities and character. Since 1904 he has been at the head of the Jewish synagogue in this city and has proved himself a worthy leader. In every department of his religious and charitable work he has endeared himself to his people. His imperfect command of the English language prevented, to some extent, his wide acquaintance with the citizens at large, but all who came in contact with him were impressed by his sincerity and devotion to his work.

Izar Perlstein was born in Prusins, Russia, September 15, 1863. He was for 18 years chief cantor in Derenshin. In 1904 he came to America to serve the Rockland synagogue as rabbi, having been ordained a short time previous. He is survived by a wife and six children, all of whom live in this city.

Rabbi Morris Ordman of Dover, New Hampshire, replaced Rabbi Perlstein and a very persuasive man he must have been. Or perhaps the time was simply right. The following two articles less than four months apart seem to prove one or the other:

September 19, 1912  
To Build a Temple

Association of Rockland Hebrews formed for the purpose. Expected within a year.

Before another year has rolled around, unless plans go astray, the Hebrews of Rockland and vicinity will be the proud owners of a new and handsome temple to replace the crowded and unattractive quarters where the synagogue is now held. At a largely attended meeting last week, an association was formed under the leadership of Rabbi Ordman, and work is actively in progress. A large sum has already been pledged and the question of a suitable location is now in course of settlement.

The officers of the building association are: Treasurer-Benjamin I. Segal, secretary-J. Cohen, executive committee-S. L. Alperin, chairmen-Benjamin Miller, A. Block, J. Cohen, A. Koritsky, T. Shapiro and Miah Ross.

The movement has as its head and prime mover, Rabbi Ordman, who has been earnestly advocating a new temple during his service in the Rockland synagogue. The plans contemplate a typical modern temple of the smaller type, that will be a credit to the city from an architectural standpoint and capable of caring for the large Hebrew population without crowding. As there are now more than 250 Jews in the city it is evident that some such action had become urgent, and the enthusiasm with which the project is taken up leaves little doubt of its success.

January 23, 1913  
Adath Yoshuron  
Rockland Jewish Congregation Occupy  
New Synagogue

The Jews of this city, recently incorporated under the laws of this state as Adath Yoshuron, last Sunday afternoon, bade farewell to their old synagogue in Berry block, Main Street, where they have worshiped for several years past, and took possession of the handsome new synagogue on Willow Street, formerly the Advent Christian Church, which they dedicated to Jewish worship with appropriate and interesting ceremonies.

The officers of synagogue and parish met at two o'clock in the old hall and held a brief business meeting and made arrangements for the transfer of the sacred scrolls, etc. By appointment of Mr. Joseph Cohen, president of the Synagogue, Messrs. Abraham Bradbury, Abram Koritsky and Maurice Krokyn were accorded the honor of removing the scrolls and conveying them to a carriage in waiting, where they delivered them to Messrs. Isaac Rosenbloom, Thomas Shapiro and H. Alperin. Preceded by a carriage in which a handsome American flag, held by Mr. Jacob Green, was displayed, the carriage in which the scrolls were carried proceeded to the Willow Street Synagogue, followed by several carriages containing members of the society.

Arrived at the destination, a novel and to Gentile eyes, curious ceremony was observed. President Cohen, standing on the synagogue steps, held an auction, awarding to the highest bidders the honors and privileges of taking the various parts in the dedicatory ceremonies, which were highly prized. For the honor of taking charge of the key and opening the door of the synagogue, Mr. Philip Crockett of Stonington paid \$12. The three scrolls were carried, beneath a canopy of white silk, by Rabbi Ordman and Messrs. W. Small and A. Koritsky. President Cohen awarded this honor to the Rabbi without calling for bids and without compensation, the other gentlemen bidding in theirs for \$6.00 and \$2.00 respectively. Mr. Alperin recited the first prayer in the new synagogue, which distinction cost him \$5.50. The first prayer for the dead recited there was made by Philip Crockett, who came from his home in Stonington for this pious purpose and paid \$5.00 for the privilege. It is a law or custom of the Jews to offer a prayer in a synagogue on each succeeding anniversary of the death of each parent. Sunday was the second anniversary of the death of Mr. Crockett's mother, and he recited the prayer from the ritual composed for such an occasion. We understand that Mr. Alperin's prayer was of a similar nature.

All the parts having been assigned, Mr. Crockett received the key and opened the door and the sacred rolls were solemnly borne down the main aisle and deposited in the receptacle provided for them in the rear of the altar. In every Jewish place of worship, are deposited in a like manner three rolls of parchment on which are written in the Hebrew language the five books of Moses and prophets of the Bible. The dedication was not a service in nature, so the rolls were left in their place of deposit.

The women and children of the audience also sat with the men in the pews, which they are not permitted to do at a religious service, a separate apartment being provided for them at such time, which however opens into the synagogue so all may see and hear the service. In the new synagogue, the apartment for the women is at the northern end of the building and separated from the auditorium only by sliding panels, glazed, but which may be opened at will, making the whole practically one room.

The president of Adath Yoshuron presided over the dedicatory ceremonies. He introduced Hon. Merritt

A. Johnson, the attorney who secured the articles of incorporation, who made some very interesting remarks, in which he gave a history of the progress of the Jewish congregation, in this city and of the movement that has resulted in the incorporation of the parish and the purchase of the synagogue building. Mr. Johnson has evidently made himself very popular with his Jewish clients, for he received a hearty round of applause. The dedicatory address was delivered by Rabbi Maurice Ordman. He spoke in Yiddish with recitals from the Jewish ritual in Hebrew. The congregation listened with deep attention, and it was plain that they all have the highest respect and regard for their religious leader. Mr. Ordman is not, strictly speaking, a rabbi, not having by age and experience attained that honorable title, but he, as a cantor, performs all the duties of rabbi for this congregation, conducting the service of prayer on all proper occasions, killing the beasts to furnish kosher meat, performing the rite of circumcision, etc. To be precise, he is cantor and acting rabbi. He is a young man of education and culture and very devout and devoted to his pastoral work. At the close of the address, Mr. Oliver Otis was invited to speak to the congregation from the point of view of a gentile, and responded briefly, congratulating the people on their achievement. Mr. Shapiro then read many texts from the Talmud, of which book he is a profound student, and expounded them to the company in Yiddish. The exercises were concluded by a thoughtful and eloquent address by Mr. Al V. Rosenberg.

At the close of the service, refreshments were served, including the distinctly Jewish dish fried fish, bread in large loaves, and lager beer. The attendance was large, nearly every member of the congregation - men, women and children - being present, and a few gentiles were there.

Services will be held at the new synagogue, conducted by Rabbi Ordman, every Saturday - the Jewish Sabbath - morning and afternoon beginning at 8:30 a.m. and again at 2:00 p.m. Later on, it is expected arrangements will be made for a service of prayer each morning. At present this is not practicable. By the rules, a formal service cannot be held unless at least 10 men are present, and this attendance could not now be relied on each morning.

The following are the officers of the Rockland Synagogue: President-Treasurer, Joseph Cohen; Vice President, Abram Koritsky; Secretary, Thomas Shapiro. Officers of Adath Yeshurun, the parish organization: President, Simon I. Alperin; Clerk, Harry Bradbury; Treasurer, Benjamin Segal; Directors - Joseph Cohen, Benjamin Miller, M. Ross, Thomas Shapiro, Abram Koritsky. The congregation numbers 35 families, averaging four members each, a total of about 140. The synagogue building was purchased December 23.

The services of Sunday were of a somewhat informal nature. The building may be used for worship as it is - same as halls have been heretofore - but it cannot be officially recognized as a synagogue until certain structural changes are made to comply with the Jewish laws. When this is done, an ecclesiastical dedication ceremony will be performed, much more impressive and dignified. Rabbis and distinguished speakers from other cities and states will be present and take part, and it is anticipated that the event will be a notable one.

After nearly forty years of renting, the Congregation had its own Temple. Previously they had been in the Berry Block at 406 Main St., at a hall on Sea St., at 273 Main St. and other places with the Berry Block being the longest held. This was a vibrant community with a lively participation in activities in the Rockland area. Hadassah and B'nai B'rith are active chapters today, but the generation previous had its activities with the Order of Brith Abraham and the Sons of Judah.

December 12, 1912

Deputy Grand Master Goldberg, of Boston, of the Jewish Order of Brith Abraham, has been in this city, the past week, and a branch of the order has been established here, with 50 members. The society has quarters in Rankin Block. Officers are: Hyman Dondis, president; James Dondis, recording secretary; Joseph Cohen, vice president; Isador Gordon, financial secretary; Meyer Ross, treasurer; Louis Cohen, inside guard; Simon Briggs, outside guard, Abraham Levi, A. Block and Samuel Cohen, Trustees.

Almost invariably, the members of the community had arrived in the United States with little or no funds, yet through a sustained effort, built themselves businesses. If a man was a peddler when one census was taken, often the next found him a storeowner or the operator of his own business premises. In 1913 when the Willow Street Synagogue was bought, the local Jews were employed in such diverse activities as seen in the City Directory:

# ROCKLAND JEWISH COMMUNITY FROM THE 1912 - 13 CITY DIRECTORY

Abrams, Jacob  
Alperin, Simon  
Belofski, Hyman  
    Isaac  
Benovitch, Harry  
Block, Abraham  
Bradbury, Abraham  
Bradbury, Harry  
Briggs, Simon  
Cohen, David  
    David  
    Harry  
    Joseph  
    Leibman  
    Lewis  
    Morris  
    Samuel  
    Samuel J.  
Dane, Hild  
Davis, Harmon  
Dondis, James  
Dondis, Joseph  
Finegold, Max  
Frankel, Ida  
Frankel, Morris  
Gordon, Isadore  
Gordon, Morris  
Koritsky, Abram  
Krokyn, Harris N.  
    Charles I.  
    Simon  
Levy, Abraham  
Miller, Benjamin  
Pearlstein, Izer  
Pollock, Morris  
Rosenbloom, Isaac  
Rosenberg, Albert  
    Jesse  
    Philip  
    Simon  
Rubenstein, David  
    Morris  
    Annie  
Segal, Benjamin  
Shapiro, Morris  
    Simon  
    Thomas  
Sharock, Abram  
Silverman, Hyman

peddler  
junk dealer  
manager  
peddler  
peddler  
junk  
junk  
shoes  
driver  
grocer  
junk  
clerk  
junk  
junk  
butcher  
clerk  
peddler  
peddler  
(Dane Credit Co.)  
variety store  
clerk  
manager  
junk  
fancy goods  
dry goods  
dry goods peddler  
junk  
  
clothing  
clothing  
  
peddler  
peddler  
rabbi  
junk  
peddler  
manager  
  
clerk  
clothing  
peddler  
peddler  
variety store  
clothing  
junk  
junk  
junk  
junk  
dry goods

8 Sea St.  
509 Main St.  
444 Main St.  
4 Linden St.  
6 Cedar St.  
7 Willow St.  
26 Rankin St.  
354 Main St.  
25 Sea St.  
71 Sea St.  
15 Willow St.  
405 Main St.  
50 Union St.  
9 Willow St.  
14 Pearl St.  
71 Sea St.  
15 Willow St.  
10 Rockland  
406 Main St.  
333 Main St.  
Main St.  
92 Sea St.  
20 Holmes St.  
502 Main St.  
85 Willow St.  
49 Sea St.  
49 Sea St.  
14 Tea St.  
115 Main St.  
115 Main St.  
115 Main St.  
75 Sea St.  
26 Rankin St.  
14 Holmes St.  
61 Sea St.  
18 Leland St.  
18 Leland St.  
172 Broadway  
172 Broadway  
360 Main St.  
10 Cedar St.  
47 N. Main St.  
220 Main St.  
371 Main St.  
8 Pink St.  
8 Pink St.  
13 Pearl St.  
15 Rockland  
313 Main St.



Politically they were diverse. The 1912 campaign for president had some of our founding fathers as divided as the rest of the country. The Bull Moose party of Teddy Roosevelt and the parties of Woodrow Wilson and President Taft fought it out on the front pages of the local newspapers and some congregants fought it out in the synagogue. For all their differences, it was as a group the Rockland Jewry acted when early twentieth century legislation was enacted that threatened their peoples' ability in Europe to escape the coming chaos of the First World War and the pogroms. The Courier-Gazette noted in its Folk of the Town column in February 1913, "Rockland Hebrews are presenting to President Taft a memorial urging him to veto the Burnett-Dillingham bill, which they argue does not prove the character of the immigrant. The resolution is signed by Simon Rosenberg, chairman; A. Koritzky; A. Block; M. Ross; H. Davis; I. L. Rosenbloom; Harry Bradbury, secretary. Copies will be sent to Congressman McGillicuddy and Senators Johnson and Gardner."

GET MARRIED

by

HARRY B. BRADBURY

Justice of the Peace

—Only Hebrew Justice in Knox County—

Residence, 18 Rankin Street  
Shoe Store Opposite Waiting Room

—Try a—

KIRSCHBAUM GUARANTEED SUIT

They are strictly all wool

PRICES \$15.00 \$18.00 \$20.00

We have an up-to-date line of

Shoes, Hats, Shirts, & Neckwear

Our Straw Hats Have Arrived

B. L. SEGAL, Rockland, Me.

**ROCKLAND THEATRE**

AL. V. ROSENBERG, MANAGER

EVERY DAY AT  
7:00, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30

PRICES 5 & 10c

SEATS FREE

5 REELS SELECTED HIGH GLASS MOTION PICTURES  
AND A REFINED ORCHESTRA AFTERNOON AND NIGHT

**TODAY!**

The Great Hudson Theatre New York Success

**"The Third Degree"** By Charles Klein

From his Famous Play of the same name in Five Big Parts produced  
by the Famous Lubin Picture Company

THE PICTURE EVENT of the SEASON

SPECIAL For FRIDAY and SATURDAY

**"The Perils of Pauline"**

The most beautiful picture production produced by the Pathé Company, the story  
now running in the "Boston American" \$25,000 in prizes offered by the  
Americans. DON'T FAIL TO SEE THIS WONDERFUL PRODUCTION

2 NEW REELS EACH DAY In Connection with the  
"PERILS OF PAULINE"

**COMING MONDAY** Geo. M. Klein's Famous Master-  
piece in Five Parts

"FOR NAPOLEON AND FRANCE" The Big \$150,000 Production

CUT PRICE LIST FOR SPRING AND SUMMER

Men's \$7.00 Shoes \$4.50

Men's \$6.00 Shoes \$3.50

Men's and Women's \$4 00 Shoes \$2.98

Women's \$5.00 Shoes \$3.50

Women's 3.00 Shoes \$2.49

A Full Line of WALTON and J. P. S. SHOES  
for the Children . . . (All First Quality)

**BRADBURY'S CUT PRICE SHOE SHOP**

ONLY SHOP OF ITS KIND IN THE CITY

S. L. ALPERIN

DEALER IN

Old Iron, Metals, Paper Stock, Rubber

COTTON AND WOOL BAGS

BOTTLES, BAGGING AND MILL STOCK

507 and 509 Main Street

Rockland, Maine

**Daily Trips Guaranteed as I Keep Another Special Car in Reserve**



**SAFETY, NOT SPEED, THE FIRST CONSIDERATION**

# CARR'S Transportation Service

## Between ROCKLAND, BELFAST and BANGOR

**BEGINNING THURSDAY, JULY 27**

Car will leave the Rockland Hotel at Rockland at 7 A. M., passing all the hotels in Rockland and Camden and Northport Inn arriving in Belfast about 8.50 A. M., stopping at the Windsor Hotel, leaving for Bangor at 9 A. M. by way of Searsport, Stockton Springs, Winterport and Hampden, arriving in Bangor about 11 A. M., passing the Bangor House and Windsor Hotel going as far as the Penobscot Exchange.

Leaves Bangor at 3 P. M. sharp over the same route, arriving in Belfast about 5 and Rockland about 7 P. M. This schedule will be continued daily, Sunday included.

One Way Trip Fare	Rockland	Belfast	Winterport	Hampden	S. Springs	Searsport	Belfast	Northport Inn	Northport P.O.	Lincolnville	Camden	Rockport	Rockland
The Price is the Same Up Here as Down Here													
A. M.													
7:00 Rockland	\$1.50	1.40	1.30	1.20	1.00	.90	.75	.75	.50	.35	.15	.10	
7:25 Rockport	1.45	1.30	1.20	1.10	.90	.80	.65	.60	.40	.25	.05		
7:50 Camden	1.40	1.25	1.15	1.05	.85	.75	.60	.50	.35	.20			
7:55 Lincolnville	1.35	1.20	1.10	1.00	.80	.70	.60	.40	.35	.15			
8:15 Northport P.O.	1.30	1.15	.85	.70	.60	.45	.25	.20					
8:30 Northport Inn	1.00	.90	.80	.65	.45	.35	.15						
8:50 Belfast		.90	.80	.65	.35	.30	.20						
9:00 Searsport		.75	.70	.45	.35	.15							
9:30 S. Springs		.50	.50	.35									
9:50 Rockport		.40	.35	.10									
10:15 Winterport			.30										
10:30 Hampden				.10									
11:00 Bangor													

After October 1st will not drive  
in to Northport Inn

Round Trip Fare	Bangor	Hampden	Winterport	Frankfort	S. Springs	Searsport	Belfast	N. P. Inn	N. P. P. O.	Lincolnville	Camden	Rockport	Rockland
Rockland	\$2.75	2.70	2.50	2.25	1.90	1.75	1.40	.10	.90	.65	.30	.20	
Rockport	2.70	2.50	2.30	2.05	1.70	1.50	1.20	.10	.75	.45	.10		
Camden	2.65	2.40	2.25	2.00	1.50	1.40	1.00	.90	.65	.35			
Lincolnville	2.50	2.40	2.10	1.75	1.30	1.10	.75	.65	.45	.35			
N. P. P. O.	2.30	2.00	1.60	1.30	1.10	.95	.45	.35					
N. P. Inn	1.75	1.75	1.50	1.20	.90	.65	.25						
Belfast	1.50	1.40	1.20	1.00	.50	.35							
Searsport	1.00	1.00	.80	.65	.35								
S. Springs	.75	.90	.65	.45									
Frankfort	.60	.65	.20										
Winterport	.50	.45											
Hampden	.20												
Bangor													

1<sup>st</sup> Special for Farmers and Small Towns passed through, and where I will not stop. To signal, wave hand and I will stop. Will let you on or off anywhere at your door if on my route.

**HARRY CARR, Proprietor**

## WANTED

Applicants for  
**PARADE of HORRIBLES on July 4th**

~~PRIZES~~ **WORST DRESSED** \$10.00

**FUNNIEST DRESSED** \$7.00

**2nd FUNNIEST DRESSED** \$3.00

Applicants Register Names At

**H. R. MULLEN'S**

or

**LOUIS ROSENBLOOM'S**

**FRUIT AND CONFECTIONERY STORES**

# OUR PATH TO THE PRESENT

Seventy-five years ago, nineteen of our founding fathers had a vision - a purpose in life. They wanted a place for their families and themselves to worship - a place that would be their own. They did not want to climb three flights of stairs, to a hall at 406 Main Street, without the benefit of an elevator. These nineteen men signed their names to a document which resulted in all of us being able to worship in our synagogue today. (See original application for organization of a Parish.)

On November 6, 1912, the by-laws were written and at this point the "Jewish Religious Society" became Adas Yoshuron, Inc. The first officers elected were: president, T. Shapiro; treasurer, B. L. Segal; clerk, Harry Bradbury; directors, Hyman Dondis, Benjamin Miller, M. Ross, A. Koritsky, and Joseph Cohen. Information was brought to this meeting that the Advent Christian Church at 50 Willow Street, Rockland, was going to be sold. A committee was appointed to inquire and to return with the selling price, availability and terms. At the meeting of December 19, 1912, the Committee reported that the Advent Christian Church would sell their building, lot, and contents, excluding the books and organ. The price was eighteen hundred dollars, with the terms of three hundred cash upon receipt of the deed and assignment of insurance, four hundred dollars, to be paid in three months, and a note of eleven hundred dollars, to be paid in nine months, without interest. The directors voted unanimously to accept, in the name of the Parish, the terms. The President was authorized to accept the deed and assignment of insurance.

They began by writing the by-laws and establishing payment of dues at seventy-five cents per month payable at the monthly meetings. With the purchase of the building, it did not immediately become a "move-in" synagogue. The building was one story. It was necessary to build a balcony to conform to Orthodox laws. A mikvah was added in the basement. Heating and plumbing had to be addressed, they were in a separate building. A lot of funds needed to be raised. Building and Finance Committees were established. The Finance Committee was set up to solicit contributions from local members, other cities, islands, and even out of state. Our records show contributions coming from relatives of our local members, wholesale firms with whom our local members did business, and even a contribution from the Honorable Jacob Schiff of New York. The pews were auctioned, bringing from \$101. to \$195.

Being Orthodox was not easy in a small community where kosher food was either sixty or eighty miles away; so it was necessary to engage a rabbi who had to "wear many hats", doing various jobs to exist. He had to slaughter animals and kill fowl, sell meat, lead religious services, teach the children to read and write Hebrew, conduct Bar Mitzvahs, weddings, and perform circumcisions. Some of the early rabbis, in the first ten years were: M. A. Ordman, M. Freedman, R. Ulman, B. Yelin, H. Katz, H. Shenberg, and M. Gladstein. (See contracts.) In between, butchers filled in and some led services.

The course was rocky. Resignations of officers were not uncommon, but things kept moving forward. Presidents that followed T. Shapiro were Hyman Dondis in 1912, Benjamin Miller in 1913, Harry Bradbury in 1914-1916, 1917-1919, S. L. Alperin in 1916, and Harry Carr 1919-1921. By perusing the minutes, we find various synagogue expenses. The cost of remodeling was two thousand dollars. One thousand tickets were printed to raffle a piano at fifty cents each. It was voted to allow the Independent Order Brith Abraham of Rockland to meet downstairs in the synagogue and charge them thirty dollars per year. The Building Committee was instructed to engage someone to put up a wood shed, large enough for needs, not to exceed thirty-five dollars. The charge for the use of the mikvah was one dollar per month "to those that need it". On April 30, 1916, bills were paid in the amounts of: cleaning halls, eight-five cents; postage, twelve cents; and plumber, one dollar and twenty-two cents. The rabbi was not to kill any chickens for delinquent (in dues) members and would charge five cents extra for meat to delinquent members.

From 1922 until March 6, 1932, no minutes have been found. Corporate records indicate that on December 9, 1930, some dissatisfied members broke away from Adas Yoshuron and formed a corporation called Congregation Sharajehdek with its own cemetery. On June 9, 1931, Isaac Berliawsky donated land on Upper Park Street for use as their cemetery.

On March 6, 1932, members of Congregation Sharajehdek rejoined Adas Yoshuron Parish. At this time, membership dues continued at seventy-five cents per month through November 20, 1938 when the dues increased to one dollar per month. Also, a donation fund of twenty-five cents was voted for poor travellers coming to town. In May 1932, an agreement with Reverend Gladstone was unanimously voted with the following conditions: the rabbi shall sell meat at twenty-eight cents per pound, kill fowl at twenty-five cents each, teach the children, conduct services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur for one hundred twenty-five dollars and operate a grocery store. At a directors' meeting in September 1932, it was voted to charge five dollars to married couples and three dollars to a single person for a seat.

Isidor Gordon was president of the synagogue in 1932, and from 1938 through 1942. Isaac Berliawsky was also



president in 1932 followed by Mike Goldberg in 1933 through 1936. In January 1933, it was approved to accept a sink from Morris Gordon and to have same installed in boiler room with cost not over three dollars. In September 1933, Rev. Karland was retained, followed by Rev. Sherr. In March 1934, "it was finally decided that any member shall be eligible to lead in prayers on Sabbath."

On October 7, 1934, in reference to the United Jewish Appeal for German Jews, it was decided to raise funds privately rather than have the synagogue pay. It was also voted to pay Max Feingold twelve dollars per year as shumash. On March 31, 1935, it was agreed that Sam Shafter should read the Toran in absence of Rabbi. On September 21, 1937, Reverend Klachstein was hired for two years at one hundred twenty-five dollars per year for all services during the year including holidays and twenty-five cents for killing each fowl.

The congregation voted in October 1937, that (1) no one shall lead in the dovaning on holidays or Sabbaths who works on Sabbaths, (2) the buyer of aliyahs on holidays shall be entitled to an aliyah on minor holidays, (3) the synagogue would be kept fully insured to ten thousand dollars. The following year, the Rev. Klachstein appealed to the congregation complaining that he did not make a living. After considering this matter, it was decided to pay the rabbi one dollar per week and that dues would be one dollar a month beginning at once. In June 1940, the synagogue received the following bids to repair synagogue: Andersons \$10.06, Spears \$9.35, Glovers \$7.91. The contract was given to Glover Company as the lowest bidder.

Sam Shafter became president in 1943. He held this position until 1949 when a new office was added naming him as honorary president. Sidney Segal became secretary in 1943, serving in this position and typing the minutes for nearly 30 years. From 1949 until his untimely death in 1953, Sam Savitt served as president. In January 1944, "discussion was had concerning a new rabbi, especially one who would make a good impression in the community." At that time the treasurer reported, "Total amount on hand in cash is \$479.99, and \$200. in bonds."

On March 19, 1944, the first mention is made of the presence of women at a special community meeting. These meetings were formerly attended only by men. It was held to discuss the matter of a rabbi for the community and to determine how much money could be raised to support a rabbi. Pledges were made and members not present were contacted. For the next two years, a man from Chelsea, Massachusetts, was hired for the high holidays for \$110. per year. In 1947, a rabbi was hired for the holidays for \$310. plus hotel room. "It was voted to have seats for the holidays at \$5.00 each including women and single women over 13 year old, the seat charge to apply regardless of number of days of attendance." Dues for the year were raised to \$18. In 1948, "it was decided the seats for the holidays including assessment be twenty-five dollars for members owning seats and thirty dollars for other members. Non member heads of families will pay thirty dollars regardless of the number of days attendance. Outsiders will pay five dollars. It was decided to hire a young rabbi from New York who had just graduated from rabbinical school for four hundred dollars plus travelling and other expenses. He will bring along an assistant at his own expense." The same arrangements were voted on the following year.

In 1949, reference is made to work being done by the new Sisterhood. "Mrs. Sarah Rubenstein spoke on a rabbi for Sundays to teach the children. She and her committee were considering a man in Portland and Bangor." Mr. Weinstein of the Portland Hebrew School was hired on a week to week basis. In 1950, the members voted: (1) to "accept the offer of the sisterhood to make an archway in Mikvah Room at no cost to synagogue", (2) to "give Jake Smalley an Honorary Life Membership in the shul as he was moving to Lewiston", (3) "that twenty-five dollars be paid for a seat by all family men living in Knox and Lincoln County for the High Holidays, or given the chance of becoming a member", and (4) "to allow a budget of twenty dollars a year for the tramps that come through".

It was decided to discontinue charging rent to Hadassah, Sisterhood, and B'nai B'rith, in 1952. Four hundred fifty dollars for services and fifty dollars for travelling expense was allowed for the rabbi. Plaques were sold at twenty-five dollars each with money turned over to the Sisterhood for installation of seat covers and other interior decorations.

From 1953 until his death twenty-three years later, Alan Grossman served as president of the synagogue. During his tenure, he opened the synagogue to other Mid-Coast religious communities, by frequently speaking on the Jewish religion, as well as joining in ecumenical programs with the local clergy. He helped the Morman Church by renting them the downstairs of the synagogue until they built-up enough membership to build their own church. In 1953, the treasurer reported net cash assets at \$2381.47. A year later cost for operating the shul for a year including insurance and rabbi was about \$1800. A policy of charging for seats ended in 1955, when dues for the year were set at twenty-five dollars which included seats for the family. Another change was that all aliyahs and honors be given free during the holidays to members of the shul followed by a general appeal for funds. The ten men present indicated a willingness to contribute amounts ranging from one hundred dollars to two hundred fifty dollars toward this. Isador Gordon was appointed to be in charge of aliyahs. On October 7, 1958, a committee was appointed to consider allowing women to sit downstairs. Women had sat upstairs in the balcony to worship, while only men were allowed to pray on the main floor of the sanctuary. This was an



Orthodox Jewish tradition. In 1966, it was voted to have the Torahs repaired at a cost of five hundred dollars. In 1970, a new hot water heating system was installed. Major renovations occurred in 1972. Members approved plans submitted by Edward Gordon to repair the basement walls, floors and ceilings, hall, bathroom; and a stairway was removed. The Sisterhood contributed to the cost. At that time, the treasurer reported that the amount raised each year is "just a bit ahead of breaking even" with expenses about two thousand dollars a year. The April 4, 1972 minutes reveal that the synagogue had 18 families. A rabbi or student rabbi from the Jewish Theological Seminary was hired each year for the High Holidays.

In 1975, Barry Faber became president of the synagogue, followed by Ruth Small in 1979, Allen Gordon in 1981, and Edward Gordon in 1984. Each president experienced some major on-going improvements and repairs to the synagogue building including: a new roof, new windows, foundation repair, sanctuary and exterior painting, walls and ceiling repairs, lawn seeding and shrubbery plantings, railings on the balcony, new locks on the doors, burglar and smoke alarms installed, kitchen updated, a fire-proof Torah-vault installed, and stained glass windows installed in the sanctuary. A committee headed by Joel Fishman, was responsible for adding a parking lot on the property adjoining the synagogue. Marion Carr donated land for use of this parking lot.

In 1976, the Chief of the Conservative Synagogue stated that women would be counted in the minyon in all Conservative Synagogues. In an unanimous decision, the members formally declared themselves a Conservative Synagogue, thereby allowing women to be counted in a minyon. The following year, Barry Faber called the first woman to the bema. Ida Mae Dondis, the oldest matriarch in the synagogue, was given the honor of opening the ark. Ecumenical activities expanded and continued throughout the county. In 1979, a By-Law Committee was formed and the members voted to pay fifty percent of the Hebrew School expenses. Ruth Small, the first woman president, was elected in December 1979.

A young rabbi, Joseph Schonberger, later to become the rabbi in Bangor, was hired in 1980 for two thousand dollars to perform the High Holiday Services. Dr. Hugo Weisgall was asked to assist. The members asked Dr. Weisgall, in 1981, to continue performing the High Holidays Services along with members of the synagogue. Without a rabbi for the past nine years, the synagogue has been fortunate to have Dr. Weisgall. Assisting him over these years have been his children, Debra Trustman and Jonathan Weisgall with the service; Joseph Faber and Cyrille White in reading the Torah; Meredith Dondis, Ida Faber, Marc Schnur and Kal Weiner in reading the Haftorah; and Jeffrey Fishman in blowing the Shofar. A donation has been made to the Jewish Seminary each year in honor of Dr. Weisgall. Meredith Dondis, Joseph Faber, and Ida Faber have led the yahrzeit services held at various times during the year. On October 31, 1981, Diane Renee Miller became the first young woman to become a Bat Mitzvah in the synagogue.

In 1982, Allen Gordon was elected as president. A newsletter committee was formed and a newsletter was sent to all Jewish families in the area. Jean Chalmers worked out details for incorporation of the synagogue. Edward Gordon was elected president in 1984 and is still serving in this anniversary year. The lack of a rabbi and need for spiritual guidance was again addressed. Letters were sent out to all members asking for their ideas on hiring either a full time rabbi or sharing one with another synagogue, perhaps Augusta. Out of forty-three members, sixteen responded with one hundred per cent wanting to have a rabbi or willing to share a rabbi. During the annual meeting, November 1985, a vote was taken on raising the dues to support a rabbi. Dues were one hundred dollars per family and seventy-five dollars per single membership. The members voted two to one not to raise the dues, thus defeating any further action at that time on hiring a rabbi.

In 1986, a seventy-fifth anniversary committee was formed. Plans were made for a yearbook, special services and a dinner dance to be held in October 1987, to celebrate the occasion. A motion was made and passed that no smoking be allowed in the synagogue. Another committee was formed to hire speakers for services during 1987 and funds were earmarked for that purpose.

From a small group of immigrant settlers in the early 1900s, the families of Adas Yeshuron for the past seventy-five years have distinguished themselves in the Rockland community in academics, in the professions, in business, and in the general social welfare of the community. While a small group in over-all population, the percentage of success that resulted, far exceed their representation in the community. There were Salutatorians, Valedictorians, a Presidential Scholar, honor graduates, and military college appointees. Jewish Rockland graduates attended such schools as: MIT, Harvard, Bowdoin, Wellesley. They were and are in all professions: authors, lawyers, physicians, Drs. of letter, most famous woman sculptor in the world, college professors. Members of the Jewish community over the years have gone on to excel in business, state, county and local government, including state senate, city council, school boards, Judges of Probate, mayor, chairmen of the school board, city attorneys; first Chief Justice of the Maine Probate Assembly, and presidents of the Rockland Chamber of Commerce. The entire Jewish community has contributed to not only Jewish but other ecumenical causes. It is the hope and aspiration of all forty families, that Adas Yeshuron shall continue to grow and remain an active contributing presence in the Mid-Coast Maine Community.

# UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

Nearly fifty years ago, the United Jewish Appeal was formed. Funds, food, clothing, farming implements, and other items were collected and distributed to numerous Jewish communities devastated by World War II, to survivors of continuing pogroms, to people all over the world suffering from the ravages of the depression, and to survivors of the Holocaust.

From the ashes of the Holocaust and the destruction of thousands of age old communities, a dream of almost two thousand years became a reality. The State of Israel was created in 1948. Since then, much of the funds collected through the annual UJA drives in communities such as Rockland have gone to Israel for farming projects, housing, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, day care centers, and economic projects.

The Jewish people have a proud history of helping their own, and the United Jewish Appeal has carried on this tradition. For the past twelve years, Barry Faber has been the local UJA chairman and in charge of local fund raising, a position held previously for several decades by Alan Grossman.

## Partners For Life

### Faber Is Recipient Of Anniversary Award From National UJA

A 40th Anniversary Award from the national United Jewish Appeal has been awarded to Barry M. Faber, president of the local Jewish community, and campaign leader for UJA fund drives. Faber said that the UJA drive locally is conducted each year in May and June.

The national organization was formed 40 years ago in an attempt to assist Jews of Europe who were being exterminated in World War II. In recent times, Faber said, efforts have been made to help Jews leave Europe, Russia, and Arab countries where they were being persecuted, and relocate them in the State of Israel.

A matter of present concern is the plight of 60,000 Jews during the upheaval in Iran.

At the local level, almost everyone in the Jewish community contributes to the annual UJA campaign, with donations also made by Christians. Faber said the award is for everyone involved, who recognizes human dignity and religious freedom.

reprint from  
Courier-Gazette,  
March 3, 1979

## SISTERHOOD

The Sisterhood of Adas Yeshurun was organized in 1949 to assist the synagogue in various ways. The members order the memorial plaques, purchase needed equipment, sponsor Hebrew School activities, see to it that the synagogue is kept clean and the kitchen stocked, and sponsor the Oneg Shabbat on the Sabbath, the Break the Fast after Yom Kippur, and the Seder on the second night of Passover. This group also acts as a liaison to the rest of the community by placing books on Jewish subjects in the Public Library and by speaking to civic groups when asked.

Many women have held offices in this organization but in recent years Barbara Swift has served as Sisterhood president, Charlotte Gordon as Vice-President, and Dorothy Gordon as Treasurer.

The Sisterhood has played an important role at Adas Yeshurun for the past 37 years, and will continue to do so with the support of its dedicated members.

# HADASSAH

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, was founded by Henrietta Szold in 1912, and now boasts a worldwide membership of 385,000 women. The Rockland Chapter has been a part of this 75 year old organization since 1920 when Ethel Block Gordon, wife of Isidore Gordon, attended a meeting in Boston and brought Hadassah back with her to Rockland. The Chapter was officially formed on November 23, 1920, with Sarah Rosenberg as the first president.

Throughout the 67 years of Hadassah affiliation, the members of the Rockland Chapter have worked to help support Hadassah's amazing projects: The Hadassah Medical Organization which supplies the Mid-East with the most modern medical facilities available in the world, the Youth Aliyah Program which was started in the 1930's to rescue children from the Holocaust in Europe, the Jewish National Fund, a project which has turned wilderness and desolation into flourishing fields and communities in Israel, educational services of all kinds, and various other Hadassah projects in the U.S. and in other parts of the world.

In March 1945, the Rockland Chapter of Hadassah celebrated its 25th Anniversary. The small, yet active chapter of 24 members, held a silver anniversary dinner at the Thorndike Hotel on Main St.

## Silver Anniversary

Is Observed By Rockland  
Hadassah—Mrs. Rossyn  
Guest Speaker

Rockland Chapter of Hadassah celebrated its silver anniversary Tuesday night at the Thorndike Hotel with many members and guests present. The tables were decorated in keeping with the Zionist colors—blue and white.

Numbers on the program were: Opening, "Star Spangled Banner"; greetings by acting president, Mrs. Ida Mae Dondis; blessings, Mrs. Rose Small; history of Hadassah, Mrs. Dondis; guest speaker, Mrs. George Rossyn; closing song, Hattikvah; piano selection, Miss Ruth Goldberg.

## ROCKLAND CHAPTER of HADASSAH

1944-1945

Honorary President .....	Mrs. Joseph Dondis
President .....	Mrs. Samuel Small
Vice President .....	Mrs. Joseph Dondis
Treasurer .....	Mrs. Isidore Poust
Financial Secretary .....	Mrs. Jack Green
Recording Secretary .....	Mrs. Sidney Segal
Youth Aliyah Chairman .....	Mrs. Harry Gerrish
H. M. O. Chairman .....	Mrs. David Goldberg
Jewish National Fund .....	Mrs. Isidore Gordon
Palestine Supplies .....	Mrs. William Small
Child Welfare .....	Mrs. Alan Grossman

## MEMBERS OF ROCKLAND CHAPTER OF HADASSAH

Mrs. Lena Shafter, Mrs. Diane Shafter, Mrs. Rose Small, Mrs. Nettie Shapiro, Mrs. Ida H. Dondis, Mrs. Lena Green, Mrs. Fannie Povich, Mrs. Ida F. Dondis, Mrs. Sara Cohen, Mrs. Ethel B. Gordon, Mrs. Rose H. Poust, Mrs. Marion G. Miller, Mrs. Constance M. Grossman, Mrs. Ida Mae Dondis, Mrs. Ruth D. Small, Mrs. Bertha O. Gerrish, Mrs. Frances B. Savitt, Mrs. Pearl Levinthal, Mrs. Sarah Goldberg, Mrs. Florence D. Segal, Mrs. Dora Cohen, Mrs. Celia Crockett, Mrs. Esther D. Goldberg, Mrs. Nettie Smalley.