

"Come as You Are"

Dancing about Displacement

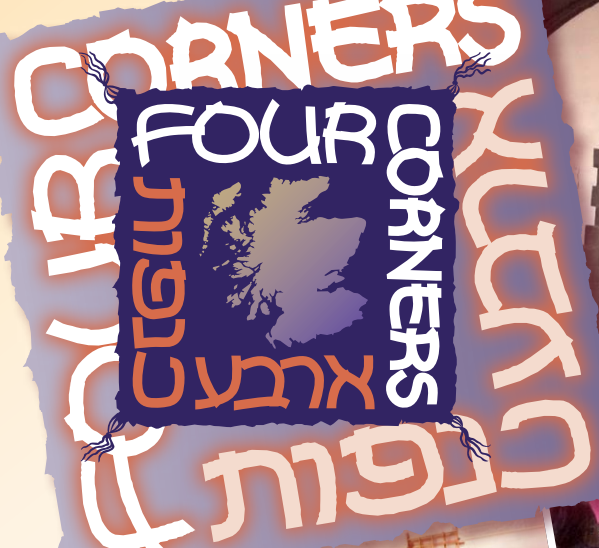
SCoJeC's ambitious collaboration with the Scottish Refugee Council to bring a mixed group of dancers, including Syrian refugees with an Israeli choreographer/director, Nir de Volff, to Scotland as part of Refugee Festival 2019 went ahead despite visa issues: some of the dancers had problems entering the UK (though it gave them an opportunity to teach some dance steps to airport immigration officers!)

In 2015, at the height of the refugee crisis in Berlin, Nir recognised how dance could be used to help migrants deal with the emotional and physical stress they may have gone through during their harrowing trip to Germany. The training he developed at that time led to the show *Come As You Are #Berlin*, which is a collaboration with three Syrian refugee dancers.

Nir led workshops in schools and a community centre, and a full-length film of the show was followed by animated discussion with Nir answering questions about the choices of music, the nature of the improvisation, how the show came about, where it had been performed, and whether it could help promote peace in the Middle East! He first met the Syrian dancers while he was volunteering at a refugee organisation, teaching dance to non-dancers. "I started to work with them, helping them to see how a contemporary dance show is created, and showing them a new physical language of improvisation." He also said that the group had twice been invited to perform at prestigious events in Israel, but were unable to accept because of fears for the safety of the dancers' families in Syria if it became known that they had performed in Israel.

There was also a public dance workshop including Syrian, Israeli, and Klezmer dances, which brought together people from many backgrounds. As Gary Christie, Head of Policy, Communications, and Communities at the Scottish Refugee Council, commented, "Refugee Festival Scotland ... strengthens connections between people from different backgrounds, and gives them opportunities to meet and get to know each other better. We believe this is so important as a way to fight back against racism, anti-migrant rhetoric, and hostility. It is a festival for everyone."

SCoJeC Director Ephraim Borowski added, "One of SCoJeC's objectives is promoting dialogue and understanding between the Jewish community and other communities in Scotland. We are proud to have been founder members of Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees, and are delighted to have joined forces with the Scottish Refugee Council to present this exciting and moving collaborative show as part of Refugee Festival Scotland."



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ROSH HASHANAH 5780

Shanah
Tovah!

שנה טובה

The
Scottish Council
of Jewish
Communities
www.scojec.org

THE UMBRELLA REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATION
OF ALL THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN SCOTLAND



Scottish
Government
gov.scot

New Year message
from the First Minister
THE RT HON NICOLA STURGEON MSP

Warmest greetings to everyone in Scotland's Jewish communities as they begin to celebrate Rosh Hashanah and mark the holy day of Yom Kippur. At this special time of contemplation, I send my best wishes for the year ahead.

We deeply value the contribution made by Scotland's Jewish communities as we continue to work together to build a safer, stronger and fairer Scotland. Celebrating the cultural and religious identity of our faith communities is more important now than ever, as we work to tackle the hatred and prejudice that unfortunately still exists within society.



As this year coincides with SCoJeC's 20th anniversary, we also celebrate the contributions they have made, and continue to make, to represent, connect, and support our Jewish communities in Scotland. I am grateful for the work you do and look forward to another successful 20 years.

Wishing you good health, happiness, peace, and prosperity, today and all through the year. On behalf of the Scottish Government and the people of Scotland, I wish you *Shanah Tovah!*

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS of SCoJeC

Micheline Brannan CHAIR, SCoJeC



SCoJeC was set up 20 years ago to be the organisation representing Jewish people across Scotland in all their diverse communities, as well as those thinking themselves quite isolated.

This remains our mission and our uniqueness. We are not only special for the Jewish community, but we provide a model of representation for Scotland's other ethnic communities.

I am proud to have been associated with SCoJeC from its inception, first of all as a well-wisher in the Scottish Government, where one of my roles was Faith-State relations. Rather than being the 'go-to Jew' in the civil service, we then had a 'go-to' organisation to consult and obtain a definitive view. SCoJeC seeks to achieve consensus where possible, but if our community is not of one mind we make that clear: everyone's view is respected. We have responded to hundreds of consultations over the 20 years, thus achieving special recognition for key issues, particularly concerning life events and the status of the person.

The constant feature of this history has been Ephraim's Directorship. Without his consistent, and unpaid, hard work, his vision of what SCoJeC can and should be, the story would never have been told.

I became Chair at the same time as Nicola Livingston and Evy Yedd became Joint Presidents of the Rep Council. Later Danielle Bett came on board as the Jewish Leadership Council's Public Affairs Manager in Scotland. Our leadership brought unprecedented harmony, bringing together the efforts of three organisations, making them more than the sum of their parts. The Jewish Community in Scotland can only benefit from this. As I reach the close of my own chairmanship, I am pleased that the new President of the Rep Council is also committed to collaboration, and I am sure that he, Danielle, and my successor will continue in that same vein.

I wish SCoJeC another 20 years of recognition and success.

SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting
Jewish people in Scotland

1999

Standing Committee of
Scottish Jewry re-forms
as SCoJeC



2000

SCoJeC registered as charity

2001

SCoJeC invited to join
Scottish Executive's Race
Equality Advisory Forum



2002

Chief Rabbi Jonathan
Sacks at the Scottish
launch of the interfaith
Respect project



2003

Chanukah in Dundee and
Lochgilphhead



2004

SCoJeC launches website



2005

Nostra Aetate anniversary



2006

Supporting teenagers to
deal with antisemitism



2007

First Minister visits
the community



2008

Multifaith Pilgrimage
to Israel



2009

Kosher Ceilidh events
throughout Scotland



2010

Symposium with
international faith leaders



2011

Chief Rabbi's visit to the
Scottish Parliament



2012

Nationwide events for
"Being Jewish in Scotland"



2013

"YaCHaS" - Israelis
Together in Scotland



2014

Judah Passow's
photographic essay on
Scottish Jewry



2015

"What's Changed About
Being Jewish in Scotland"



2016

MEMO's 500th issue



2017

JOES Boxes
Educational Resource



2018

Joint declaration on
combatting antisemitism
and islamophobia



2019

20 years of SCoJeC!

MEMO 500
Jewish Encyclopedia Online

MEMO is produced by the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities in partnership with the Jewish Leadership Council, the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, and the Scottish Jewish Community. It is a collaborative project between the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and the Jewish Leadership Council. It is a collaborative project between the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and the Jewish Leadership Council. It is a collaborative project between the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and the Jewish Leadership Council.

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS of SCoJeC

Paul Edlin

PRESIDENT, GLASGOW JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

SCoJeC was established after devolution of government to Scotland to address the legislative issues that would arise that were previously largely dealt with by the national Westminster Government through the Scottish Office.

Glasgow, which has the largest Jewish population in Scotland with associated services and infrastructure, has issues relating to this larger population group that do differ from the smaller communities and groups that SCoJeC largely represents.

The twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities is indeed something for all of Scotland's Jews to celebrate. In a transient world this organisation has gone progressively from strength to strength and this is a noteworthy achievement.

I would rate SCoJeC's greatest achievement to be its outreach work which has helped diverse small groups of Jewish people and communities to celebrate their Jewish heritage from across the whole of Scotland from Arran to Lerwick in the Shetlands. I don't think that was ever done before. Most of these people live either alone or with their families or in very small groups without a Jewish community network as in larger communities like Glasgow. This outreach work has allowed these people to develop their links to their cultural, traditional and religious roots.

SCoJeC has also worked well with the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council to deal with political issues together. The Jewish Leadership Council now funds a political engagement officer who helps SCoJeC and the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council to deal jointly with political and defence issues. This continues to go from strength to strength.

SCoJeC together with the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council work well with the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Jewish Leadership Council on UK national issues.

Going forward, both organisations want to work more closely together, and I believe the next few years will see this cooperation moving even closer, with much more integration of facilities, personnel, and even Honorary Officers.

Of course there will be challenges, but with continued goodwill, both SCoJeC and the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council will achieve this.

The outlook is optimistic for this and both organisations have much to look forward to in serving the Jewish Communities of Scotland.



John Danzig

CHAIR, EDINBURGH HEBREW CONGREGATION

SCoJeC is so integral to our Jewish life here in Scotland that it feels like we should be celebrating its centenary rather than a mere 20 years!

That is because it has become so accomplished under the leadership of Ephraim, Micheline, Fiona Frank and now with the conspicuous addition of Danielle Bett to the team.

However in another sense, I feel that SCoJeC is only scratching the surface of its potential. Its outreach and political monitoring remits are second to none, and no doubt that will continue to be needed well into the future.

But Scotland is changing, not least because of the impact of Brexit. I predict that we will continue to have more Jews moving (or returning) to Scotland, whether due to the excellent educational system, the vibrancy of economic sectors like technology and finance, or the quality and price-competitive nature of housing; and that's before one contemplates the ease of access to the magnificent Highlands!

But SCoJeC must rise to these new challenges. It needs to internationalise its marketing and quantify its successes, annualising the markers it wishes to achieve. Jewish Scotland is so much more attractive and effective when it recognises the value of its constituent parts working together. The whole becomes so much greater than the sum of its parts. In these politically volatile times, there is just no room for myopia – we must build bridges, not walls, not only between our different regional communities here in Scotland, not only across borders, but also, through education and cultural links, between ourselves and the wider non-Jewish community, in order to mitigate ignorance and prejudice.

So deeply-felt congratulations for the heights that SCoJeC has achieved to date, and a wee toast from your Edinburgh friends to the great plans and successes that will be attained through vision and foresight during the next 20 years.



Paul Spicker

CHAIR, TAYSIDE AND FIFE JEWISH COMMUNITY

SCoJeC does something rather special. Although it was formed initially as a representative organisation, it has become much more, combining its representative role with communications, information, networking, and communal activities around Scotland.

Scotland's Jews are scattered, and the few community organisations are not in a position to help them. Traditionally, Jewish communities have been located around a narrow geographical area – ideally, the distance that someone can walk to shul. For many Jews in Scotland, that model simply doesn't work any more. People live where they can or where they must. In the Tayside and Fife community, we have kept a shul going because without it, there would be nothing between Edinburgh and Aberdeen. We have had regular contact with people in Perth, Angus, and Fife – a radius of more than twenty miles – as well as recurrent requests for help from visitors and temporary residents. This is the way the world is.

The change in SCoJeC's role began, as it happened, after a contact in rural Perthshire. A woman phoned us to explain that the village where she lived was fifteen miles from Perth, that she was the only Jewish person for miles around, and that she was contacting us as the nearest people to her. And only 20 minutes later, another Jewish woman phoned, saying much the same thing. The two people live only a few streets from each other.

SCoJeC decided to test the water, and arranged a series of events in distant, isolated, and rural areas. In a range of locations – such as Skye, Inverness, or Dumfries – people turned up diffidently, explaining that they were the only Jewish people in that area. They weren't. Now SCoJeC engages with Jewish people around the country.

A community of people is a group who are in contact with each other, who have interests in common, who share activities. If people in Scotland want to live as Jews, they need to be in contact with SCoJeC. This is a model for a different kind of approach to Jewish life. SCoJeC doesn't just represent Jewish communities in Scotland – it is the Jewish community.



Tishrei *and Being a Scottish Jew*

RABBI DAVID ROSE

We are entering into the most intense period of the Jewish year. The month of Tishrei contains within it four major festivals. Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Succot, and Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah are all major festivals, each with its own distinct character, practices, and underlying idea. One way of understanding their similarities and differences is to look at them through the lens of our relations with the outside world. Judaism is both particularistic and universal. We both share a basic humanity with the rest of the world and have our own particular history and destiny.

The four Tishrei festivals reflect this idea. Rosh Hashanah, as the anniversary of the creation of the world, is a universal festival. Not only Jews, but all humans, have their lives evaluated and their fate decided on that day. In our prayers we reflect on our connections to the whole of humanity as children of one Father and subjects of one King.

Yom Kippur, by contrast, is rooted in Jewish history and experience. The sin of the Golden Calf and the Israelites reconciliation with G-d form the basis for our forgiveness on Yom Kippur. The liturgy refers to both the specific Divine Attributes revealed to Moses and the Temple service on that day, aspects particular to Judaism.

Four days later, however, we again connect with the rest of the world. Succot is probably the most universalistic of the Jewish festivals. The seventy bullocks sacrificed in the Temple were regarded as being offered on behalf of the nations of the world. The scriptural readings on Succot look forward to a time when all humanity will worship G-d, and make pilgrimage to Jerusalem on Succot. The Succah itself is open to all, and many communities use this opportunity to invite in their non-Jewish neighbours.

Finally, we return to our homes and to a focus on our people on Shemini Atzeret. The Sages conceived this day as an intimate feast between G-d and Israel after the universal celebration of Succot. We celebrate Simchat Torah, rejoicing with the Torah, the particular inheritance of the Jewish people. Thus during this month we alternate between the universal and the particular, our relations with the wider world and our ties to the tribe.

As Scottish Jews, well integrated into our society yet proudly Jewish, this has a special resonance. It teaches us that being both good Jews and good Scots is not some sort of accommodation that compromises our Judaism. Rather it expresses the essence of Judaism as both a particularist and universal faith, an idea that is at the heart of the work of SCoJeC itself over the last twenty years. A concept that far from being an add on to Judaism is written into the very structure of our calendar.

FESTIVAL CALENDAR

- **Rosh HaShanah** 29 SEPT - 1 OCT
Sun evening to Tues night
- **Fast of Gedaliah** WED 2 OCT
- **Kol Nidrei** TUES 8 OCT
Tues evening
- **Yom Kippur** 8 - 9 OCT
Tues evening to Wed night
- **Succot** 13 - 15 OCT
Sun evening to Tues night
- **Chol HaMoed** 15 - 19 OCT
Tues night to Sat night
- **Hoshanah Rabbah** 19 - 20 OCT
After Shabbat to Sun night
- **Shemini Atzeret / Simchat Torah** 20 - 22 OCT
Sun evening to Tues night

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- **Yiddish Song Concert and Klezmer Ceilidh**

EDINBURGH SAT 23 NOV 19:00
with Michael Alpert, the Yiddish Song Project featuring Stephanie Brickman & Phil Alexander, and other gems.
www.scojec.org/events.html

- **Scotland Limmud**

EDINBURGH SUN 24 NOV FROM 10:00
a day of celebration and Jewish learning including discussions, study sessions and presentations – and a Klezmer & Yiddish Song strand.
SCoJeC is providing a coach from Glasgow and supporting other travel.
www.limmud.org

Edinburgh Fringe OPEN DAY

Well over 100 people flocked to Edinburgh Synagogue's community centre for a bagel lunch followed by their Festival Open Day. This annual event in Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation's landmark building, is produced and compered by David Ian Neville, and was an opportunity for a dozen Jewish performers at the Fringe to show off their acts.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
DAVID KILMICK - 'THE HONEST RABBI'
MELINDA HUGHES - 'OFF THE SCALES';
DANIEL LOBELL - 'TIPPING THE SCALES'; JESS ROBINSON - 'THE JESS ROBINSON EXPERIENCE';
MARLON SOLOMON - 'CONSPIRACY THEORY, A LIZARD'S TALE'; RACHEL CREEGER - 'HINAYNI!'



Join our Volunteer Ambassadors!

This year SCoJeC's Volunteer Educational Ambassadors visited schools from Sanquhar to Shetland, and we're now looking for others to join the team.

We provide an accredited training course, and the experience is rewarding and can be challenging. Ambassador Joe Goldblatt reported after one visit: "The questions were amazing and included "What language do Jews speak when they get together?" and "How long do you have to sit in religious services?" I explained that Jews speak many languages, but Hebrew is most prevalent in Israel and some older people speak Yiddish. And when I said that Yom Kippur services can last all day, there was a loud groan from the class!"

Feedback from schools is uniformly positive. One teacher told us: "This was our fourth visit by VAs and the pupils were very keen to meet them having heard such enthusiastic reports about past visits. Very engaging and interesting as usual. The day after other pupils who weren't there asked me: why didn't you take us out of other classes to attend the lesson?! Also lovely to have new VA who took an excellent lesson with an S1 class - very interesting and well supported with PowerPoint and artefacts."

If you would like to help, please contact us at education@scojec.org





New Student Chaplains

We are delighted to welcome the new Jewish Student Chaplains, the Lemberger family, to Scotland.

Aharon, Hodaya, Amichai (6), Roie (4), and Shvut (1) were all born in Jerusalem. Hodaya has a degree in Psychology and Communications and a teaching Diploma. During her National Service, she was a counsellor in a girl's high school, a Bnei Akiva branch director, and a teacher of Judaism, and for the past few years she has worked as a remedial teacher in Efrat, helping special education students improve their reading and writing skills.

Aharon grew up in Efrat and studied in yeshiva in Sderot and Tel Aviv before joining the army, where he served in Yahalom, the bomb disposal unit. He then studied for his Law degree at the Hebrew University, did his internship in the Jerusalem prosecutor's office, and worked as a lawyer at Israel's Ministry of Justice, overseeing criminal legislation.

Hodaya and Aharon graduated from Ohr Torah Stone's Machon Amiel program that trains educators and rabbis for positions in the Diaspora, and Aharon also took part at Machon Amiel's Torat Yosef kollel, where he studied to become a rabbi. Hodaya and Aharon are excited to meet all Scotland's Jewish students, hear their different thoughts about Judaism, and raise questions about Jewish Identity in the 21st century. Needless to say, all that can't be done without good food and a lot of fun!

Jewish Govanhill

FIONA BRODIE

In early August, Harvey Kaplan and Fiona Brodie of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre led a walk around the Govanhill/Crosshill area of Glasgow, as part of the Govanhill International Festival and Carnival. A group of nearly 40 people set off in changeable weather for a two-hour exploration of the history, giving a flavour of what the community was once like, based on material in the Archives Centre's collections.

This was an area where many Jewish people lived for much of the 20th century as they moved out of the city centre and the Gorbals. They formed a tight-knit community with synagogues, educational organisations, social groups, youth groups, and shops. The first services of the Govanhill Chevra were held in 1901, and information from the 1911 census shows at least 500 Jewish people residing in the area. In 1914, cheder classes and Shabbat services were being held in a former shop at 355 Langside Road, leading to the building of Langside Synagogue in Niddrie Road. Opened in 1927, this synagogue was in use until 2015. The tour also took in the former Progressive Synagogue opened in 1936 in Albert Road, as well as the first and second Crosshill Synagogues located in Dixon Avenue and Belleisle Street. Other former communal buildings included the Jewish Nursery in Queen Mary Avenue, later used by Hahonim in the mid-1950s, and the Bnei Akiva building next door, which became a Hillel House for Jewish students. The former JLGB building in Albert Road and Scout Hall in Queens Drive also featured.

Participants also heard about former residents of the area, some of whom served in the World Wars and some of whom came as refugees from Nazi Europe, and many shared reminiscences about the popular shops in the area, and commented that it was "a most informative and enjoyable tour."



The BIRTHRIGHT Challenge

DANIELLE BETT

This summer I was asked to join BIRTHRIGHT Israel UK for ten days as a *madrichah* (group leader) for a group aged between 27 and 32.

BIRTHRIGHT Israel is a ten-day educational programme, travelling across Israel, experiencing its culture, history, politics, and more. The tour aims to give young Jewish people a taste of the country and an opportunity to explore their Judaism (however they define it). It is described as the gift of a free trip to Israel, and is for young Jewish people aged 19 to 32 who haven't been on an organised tour of Israel.

The trip is incredibly intense. The days are long, with museum visits, hikes, visits to towns and cities from south to north, and free time to explore. The programme was diverse and covered a colourful spectrum of topics and culture in a short space of time. The intensity of the trip lends to the experience of immersing in a new culture and experiencing different versions of Israel – beaches, deserts, complex history and politics, delicious foods, and more.

I was struck by the diversity of the participants, too. It was particularly inspiring to see such a wide range of Jewish people from all over the UK explore what being Jewish means to them, and accepting one another's different experiences and identity.

The tour was made particularly successful by our incredible guide, Ilan, who gave a fair and balanced commentary, addressing the nuances of complex matters. It was a pleasure to get to meet and work with him and my wonderful co-leader and new friend, Jonathan, who works for UJIA in London. Dealing with unexpected situations on very little sleep is no easy feat, but the team made the challenge fun!

BIRTHRIGHT Israel UK trips are jointly funded and supported by UJIA, and registration for the winter trip is now open. For more information see www.birtherightisrael.com





SCoJeC IN THE Northern Isles

When Ethel Hofman, author of *Mackerel at Midnight: growing up Jewish in the Shetland Isles*, who now lives in the USA, told us that she was going to be in Lerwick to visit her brother, we thought it would be a good idea for her to give a talk about her book in the local library. Then to make a "Book Week" of it, we added two talks by Fiona Frank, SCoJeC's own Projects and Outreach Manager, about her own recently-published book, *Candles, Conversions and Class: five generations of a Scottish Jewish family*.

SCoJeC doesn't have up to date information about how many Jewish people there are on Orkney and Shetland, so we weren't sure how much interest there would be, but the response to our programme exceeded anything we could have imagined. The library shelves had to be pushed out of the way to make room for the 70 people who came to Ethel's talk, 25 people crowded into a small room to hear Fiona in Shetland, and another dozen came to Orkney library in Kirkwall.

In a stark contrast to Ethel's experience of being the only Jewish family on Shetland in the middle of the 20th century, there were lots of Jewish links! As well as Jewish American visitors, we met a Jewish American musician, who had just moved to the island permanently; a widow whose husband had been Jewish, once they started looking at their family histories; and two Jewish families on Orkney whose children went to the same school, but had never met before, and who had started planning a joint Passover *seder* by the end of Fiona's talk!

While in the islands Fiona was also able to meet the head of education on Orkney Islands Council, for a very fruitful discussion on planning our future input on Jewish education activities in Orkney and further afield, and she also spoke to the coordinator for Shetland Health Council about how our organisations could support each other.

So it was a very productive five day trip which has planted a lot of seeds. It was well worth venturing out of the central belt, and proved yet again that there are Jewish people far from the organised communities who are looking for Jewish connections.

Musical House Party ON ARRAN

SCoJeC was delighted to support the new Arran Jewish Group to stage a concert by Russian-born virtuoso, Lev Atlas. So, on a glorious sunny evening, more than 60 people, including Arran residents and visitors from England, the US, and Israel, as well as Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Glasgow, gathered in Whiting Bay to hear the Russian-born virtuoso, Lev Atlas, playing a wide range of classical music, klezmer, folk, and jazz.

Lev charmed the audience with stories of growing up Jewish in the Soviet Union, where it was almost impossible for Jews to attend university, so parents anxious to obtain opportunities for their children handed them a violin. Lev told how one day he sneaked out to play with local children, and broke his collarbone. His father informed him that the rest of his bones would also be at risk if he didn't manage to practice at least four hours a day. Lev practiced!

When asked why there were so many Russian Jewish violinists, Lev explained that in 19th century Czarist Russia, Jews were not permitted to own land or practice a profession, and were restricted to working in menial jobs such as shoemaking. When the St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music was established in the middle of the 19th century, it opened its doors to Jewish students, and almost every Jewish family sent a son to study there as it was an opportunity to have a career. A significant number excelled and developed international careers as soloists.

Although his main instrument is the viola, it was his vintage violin that Lev played, and he held it up, inviting us to see how the top was mottled and bumpy with wear. "It looks like lizard skin," he said. Clearly, that violin had been played outdoors in all weathers, an essential accompaniment to weddings, funerals, and other life events.

The enthusiastic audience had an added treat when local musician Tim Pomeroy, who is also a world-class sculptor, ended the evening by singing a number of folk ballads, and explaining their history.



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12 September 2019

Dear Friend,

As the recently elected Treasurer of SCoJeC I am seeking your support to maintain SCoJeC as the democratic representative body of the whole Scottish Jewish Community.

For 20 years SCoJeC has been representing, connecting and supporting Jewish people in Scotland. Amongst our many achievements:

- we have participated in more than 200 public consultations;
- we provide educators and materials for schools to have sessions on Judaism;
- we raise awareness of antisemitism and seek to have it denounced by public bodies;
- we have been able to avoid delays to burials that have caused such distress in England;
- we have gained protection for parties refused a Jewish divorce or 'get' in our civil law;
- we arrange authorisation for overseas rabbis of all denominations to solemnise marriages;
- we support small and emerging Jewish groups and isolated Jewish people, hold events in remote parts of the country, and publish our quarterly newsletter *Four Corners*;
- we have embarked on a dialogue with the Church of Scotland on issues that unite and divide us. As a result, this year's General Assembly adopted the international definition of antisemitism, then acted on it by censuring an antisemitic contribution from the floor.
- we publish a number of digests of current information for the Jewish Community and other minority communities;
- we maintain an informative web site and operate a 24-hour help line that responds to an average of 50 enquiries a week from members of the Community and the public.

These activities take resources. We have one full time staff member and much of our work is carried out by volunteers. This is not sustainable. We have very little funding this year to employ sessional workers to lay on our programme of events. The Scottish Government's support has been frozen for the last 3 years and is not guaranteed to continue at all after 2020.

At our recent 20th anniversary meeting Ken Macintosh, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament said: "*SCoJeC has made a huge difference in the past 20 years. It has acted as the point of contact, as the way in to the Community. It is a very effective organisation, doing a very difficult job.*" Clearly if SCoJeC did not exist, the Scottish Government, the Scottish Parliament and other public bodies would not be able to obtain representative views on issues affecting the Jewish community. Nor would we have arrangements to connect the widespread and scattered communities and Scotland would become a much lonelier place for its Jewish residents.

Against that background I would ask you to make a donation to help SCoJeC to maintain our activities and benefit the whole Jewish Community in Scotland.

Thank you very much for your support.

Yours sincerely



Philip Mendelsohn
Treasurer

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