



## SCoJeC E-news January 2019

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Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation presents...

### **An Evening of Opera Classics II**

**Sunday 31st March 2019**

**The Grand Synagogue,  
4a Salisbury Road, Edinburgh EH16 5AB at EHC**

Includes a distinguished array of singers and musicians, including soprano Emily Mitchell and musical director Alistair Digges. Complimentary Prosecco and Pralines will be served at the interval and there will also be the opportunity of having a pre-Opera delicious meal.

**NB: Early early bird tickets only available until 31<sup>st</sup> January**

Booking and more details at <http://www.tinyurl.com/ehcoperaii>

## **Muriel Spark 100: Response to The Mandelbaum Gate**

*Author event & writing workshop with Tracey S. Rosenberg*

**29 & 30 January in Portree, Isle of Skye**

As part of the celebrations of Muriel Spark's centenary, Tracey was awarded an *Endless Different Ways* grant from Creative Scotland, and travelled to Jerusalem to write the story.

**Tue 29 Jan, 7–9pm: Edinbane Community Hall, Portree, IV51 9PW**

Tracey will read and discuss her story *The Western Wall*, a fictional response to Spark's award-winning novel *The Mandelbaum Gate*, that depicts three modern young women whose personal identities conflict with their shared religious history.

**Wed 30 Jan, 7–9pm: Parish Rooms, St Columba's Church, Portree, IV51 9EH**

Tracey will lead a writing workshop.

These events are free and all are welcome – Jewish and non-Jewish. This will be a friendly open event, suitable for adults and families.

To attend, simply turn up on the day. There is no need to book.

The events have been organised by the **Skye Reading Room**, who have jointly funded the event with the **Scottish Book Trust's Live Literature Fund**. Tracey led a well-received event for SCoJeC in Aberdeen supported by the Scottish Book Trust's Live Literature fund last year.

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## **Book Launch**

***Candles, Conversions, and Class:  
Five Generations of a Jewish Family***  
**by Fiona Frank**

**Sunday 3rd February, 6.30pm**

Glasgow University Memorial Chapel (*entry from The Square*)  
Glasgow University, Glasgow, G12 8QQ

Rabbi Zvi David and Sophia Hoppenstein arrived in Edinburgh in the 1880s and had nine children. Author Fiona Frank (SCoJeC's Projects and Outreach Manager) tracked down and interviewed their descendants throughout Scotland, England and as far as Cape Town, as part of her PhD research at the Scottish Oral History Centre, University of

Strathclyde. In the 21st century, some of the family live fully observant Jewish lives, others consider themselves Jewish but secular; still others have completely lost the connection with the Judaism of the first immigrant generation.

The launch includes speakers Kenneth Collins of SJAC, and oral historian/writer and broadcaster Billy Kay, a kosher buffet sponsored by SCoJeC, and Klezmer music by Glasgow's The Bunch of Klezmer.

**Free: all welcome. Book at: [www.trybooking.co.uk/4826](http://www.trybooking.co.uk/4826) - where you can also pre-order a copy of the book at £10 (RRP £12.50).**

*Candles, Conversions and Class* is published by the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre (SJAC) The launch coincides with the last weekend of the Hannah Frank art exhibition at Glasgow University Chapel - which runs to Wednesday 6 February and is open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**More information:** [www.hannahfrank.org.uk](http://www.hannahfrank.org.uk)

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## Book Tour

### **Uprooted: How 3000 Years of Jewish Civilisation in the Arab World Vanished Overnight**

**by Lyn Julius**

**Glasgow:** Sunday 3rd March

**Inverness:** Monday 4th March

**Edinburgh:** Tuesday 5th March

**Dumfries:** Thursday 7th March

Until the mass exodus of Christians and Yazidis, the post-1948 displacement of more than 850,000 Jewish refugees was the largest population movement of non-Muslims from the Arab Middle East and North Africa, yet the subject is hardly ever discussed.

*Uprooted* address this topic and author Lyn Julius is coming to Scotland on a week-long SCoJeC-organised book tour to explore this fascinating period of Jewish history.

Full details have yet to be finalised and will be available from next month, but please visit this link for updates: <https://scojec.org/whats-on/whats-on.html>

The book can be purchased [here](#)

This event is supported by Jewish Renaissance, Charity Number 1152871

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## Help design Scotland's next census

As part of their planning for the next census in 2021, National Records of Scotland (NRS) have requested SCoJeC's assistance by asking members of the Jewish Community to test different versions of questions of particular relevance to us.

**Most significantly, they are considering whether to include "Jewish" as an option for the Ethnicity question (as well as for Religion, as previously). We believe this is important,** because we know from research after previous censuses that around 1 in 3 people who identify as Jewish, and may therefore wish to use culturally specific communal welfare and social facilities, did not tick "Jewish" under the Religion question.

In Scotland the Religion question asks "What religion ... do you belong to?" (in England it is "What is your religion?"), so people who do not belong to formal Jewish organisations, as well as people who feel an ethnic or cultural affinity but are not religious, may not feel that it is appropriate to answer to "Jewish" to that question. We have therefore argued for including the option under Ethnicity too, in order ensure that everyone who identifies as Jewish in any way is able to do so.

In response to our submissions, NRS have now decided to test a version of the Ethnicity question that includes a tick box for "Jewish". You can help by taking part in their survey at [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NRS\\_Qtesting\\_EGR](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NRS_Qtesting_EGR)

(Note that this also includes the 2011 version of the question as well as other questions for comparison.) The survey should take around 10 minutes and is **open until 8th February**.

Please do work through the survey to the end, and forward this message to anyone else you think might be interested, as including this question in the next census will help determine resource allocation to communal services and facilities for the next decade.

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## Limmud

A Day Limmud is being planned for Edinburgh in November 2019, and will be a wonderful opportunity for the Jewish community in Scotland to explore our culture, traditions and future together.

A key element of Limmud is volunteering, and a committee is being formed, bringing people together from Edinburgh and Glasgow and further afield. They are also seeking volunteers to help with the organisation over the next 11 months and on the day itself, and are really keen to discover what everyone wants to get out of Limmud. So whether you want to volunteer, come along on the day, or are just curious at this stage, please contribute your views by clicking [here](#) to complete a brief survey.

SCoJeC is pleased to be supporting Limmud by covering travel expenses for people coming to the event from outwith the central belt.

To contact the Limmud team e-mail [scotlandlimmud@gmail.com](mailto:scotlandlimmud@gmail.com)

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## Local Links

SCoJeC often receives requests from people who want to connect with other Jewish people in their local area. And after meeting at our events, people often wish to keep in touch. We thought it might be a good idea to help facilitate those connections by creating a database of such people who would like to link up.

We wouldn't ever share contact details without your permission, so rather than contacting you separately each time anyone asks us, we think it's worth asking if you are happy for us to share your email address with other people from our mailing list who live in your area, whenever there is a match.

If you would like your details to be shared with other Jewish people in your area, please fill in and return the form at [www.scojec.org/local-link.html](http://www.scojec.org/local-link.html)

If you'd like to know more please email Fiona ([fiona@scojec.org](mailto:fiona@scojec.org)) our Projects and Outreach manager, or Melissa ([melissa@scojec.org](mailto:melissa@scojec.org)) our Marketing and Social Media officer.

**For more information on all of the events featured here and more, visit:**

<https://scojec.org/whats-on/whats-on.html>

If you're organising an event of interest to the Scottish Jewish community, please send us the details for our community calendar.

We're currently planning activities around the country for the rest of 2019, so if there's anything you'd like to see in your area, please let us know!

That's all for now.

Best wishes from our Events team

Melissa and Joanne

Melissa Eisenberg  
Social Media and Marketing Assistant  
Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)  
222 Fenwick Road, Glasgow, G46 6UE  
email [melissa@scojec.org](mailto:melissa@scojec.org) Office 0141-638 6411

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