



Judah Passow set off to Shetland in January accompanied by SCoJeC Outreach Worker Fiona Frank, as part of his project to create a photographic record Jewish life in Scotland.

We had previously been in touch with Roy Greenwald, the last surviving member of Shetland's oldest Jewish family. A tour guide, musician, and accomplished dancer, he was a perfect host, showing us round the island and telling us about events we wouldn't otherwise have heard about.

Holocaust Memorial Day, which fell during our visit, was marked by a poignant ceremony outside Lerwick Town Hall, organised by Shetland Interfaith Association. Children from Bell's Brae Primary School gave a presentation about the Holocaust and why it must never be allowed happen again.

We also visited Hilary Franklin, who lives with her son Daniel on the island of Yell, north of Shetland mainland, making them (we think) Britain's most northerly Jewish family. While Judah Passow took photos, she baked challot for our Friday night dinner in Lerwick, where Roy was able to use the candlesticks his mother had brought from Glasgow many years ago.

The final day of our trip was the opening of an exhibition of the art of Glasgow Jewish artist Hannah Frank with a kosher buffet sponsored by SCoJeC. We expected to meet one more Jewish Shetlander - but were delighted when two other islanders came over to tell us about their Jewish heritage.

We're certainly proving that the census is right - there are Jewish people in every part of Scotland!

TOP TO BOTTOM: JUDAH PASSOW, EVIE BERLOW, FIONA FRANK, ROY GREENWALD, NORMAN SHULMAN AND SARAH THOMAS ON A BLUSTERY SHETLAND AFTERNOON, ST NINIAN'S ISLE IN THE BACKGROUND; JUDAH PASSOW PHOTOGRAPHING ROY GREENWALD PLAYING HIS ACCORDION; HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE, LERWICK; HILARY FRANKLIN AND HER SON DANIEL OF YELL, SHETLAND, SHOW OFF HILARY'S FRESHLY BAKED CHALLAH TO PHOTOGRAPHER JUDAH PASSOW.

ISSUE 37 · MAR 2013 · PESACH 5773

Scottish Council of Jewish **Communities**

www.scojec.org

THE UMBRELLA REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATION **OF ALL THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN SCOTLAND**

Volunteers **WANTED!**

INTRODUCING SColeC'S 'LOCAL AMBASSADORS'

Does helping to arrange a klezmer concert or other event sound like fun? If so, perhaps you'd like to become one of SColeC's new 'local ambassadors' enthusiastic volunteers who will act as

a contact for Jewish people outwith the established Jewish communities, and help us to organise events in their local area.

Our first Volunteer Local Ambassador is Linda Martin, who moved from Preston to build a house in Lochaline in the Highlands, where she has links dating back 40 years. Over the last year she has attended and assisted with SCoJeC events in Dundee, Skye, Inverness, Pitlochry, and Oban, and has visited several local schools to talk to pupils about Judaism.

To find out more about what's involved please contact Fiona Frank: 07779 206 522 or fiona@scojec.org





ABOVE: MEG'S GRANDPARENTS GRETA AND JAN DEY; RIGHT: MEG WITH HER ADOPTED SON, PERFORMERS JENNA AND BETHANY REID AND SCOJEC'S FIONA FRANK



I've always known about my family's connection with the 'Shetland Bus', and that my German-speaking grandmother WALKED from Poland to Norway during the war, accompanied by her two young children. Greta took her sewing machine with her, and got round restrictions on her movements by telling people she was just going to the next village to get it fixed. She was determined to get to safety in Scotland to wait for her husband, who was fighting in Poland, and it was heroic fishermen who took her and her children to safety.

This clandestine route in and out of Nazi-occupied Norway between 1941 and 1945 was known as the 'Shetland Bus'. It used fishing boats from Shetland to help Norwegian resistance fighters transport arms and equipment, and the operation also brought some Jewish and other refugees to safety in Britain.

Listening to Jenna and Bethany Reid's musical dramatisation of the 'Shetland Bus' at Glasgow's Celtic Connections festival, I felt very moved. I now understand even more clearly the amazing courage of my grandmother and the Norwegian fishermen who rescued her and her young children, my mother and my aunt. My children are very aware of their heritage, and of the role that the 'Shetland Bus' played in our family's survival – and my new grandson will soon no doubt be very aware of it too!

Remembering SCOTLAND AT WAR

IAN LOWIT, AS TOLD TO LORNA SCHEIER

lan is a fascinating man, a wonderful inspiring person, with incredible memories - and you'd never believe that he's 93!

He lost his father at the age of 6; he was very close to his grandfather; his mother was a teacher whose boyfriend was a leading European psychologist. Ian started Medical School in Vienna, but then Jews were thrown out of the University, and after Kristallnacht he and a friend decided to leave. His mother got a job as a housekeeper in Aboyne, and he followed as butler and handyman.

Ian travelled via Belgium, where his passport was taken from him and he was locked up in a small cell with six others. He was taken to see an SS officer who held out his hand. But Ian was afraid he would be shot if he touched it, and didn't know what to do. He told the officer that he was Jewish – and the officer simply replied that that was not a problem, shook his hand, wished him well, and gave him back his passport!

When he arrived in Britain he was interned like many other 'enemy aliens', and then sent to a camp in Canada where he worked as a plumber. It was so cold that when they were taken out to chop wood, the guards would borrow their axes to warm up, and give them their cold guns to carry!

Eventually Ian was offered the chance to join the light tank division, but by the time he got to France, the allied invasion was well under way.

After the war he returned to Scotland, and married the cook on the farm where he worked. He then went to medical school in Aberdeen, and became a child psychiatrist.

lan's story is in the "Remembering Scotland at War" archive – see http://tinyurl.com/ianlowit

Holocaust Education

FLORA SELWYN

I was honoured recently to be invited to talk to the children of Dundee High School about my wartime experiences, as part of their Holocaust Memorial studies. It was emotional for me, since all my life I kept a low profile, seldom discussing with anyone that I am Jewish. Don't get me wrong, I am immensely proud to be Jewish, it was simply that I was not prepared to have to defend myself. The children were more respectful, more interested, more involved than I had expected. Attendance was voluntary, yet the room was packed; they listened in complete silence, and asked thoughtful questions. I was given a huge basket of flowers (which a member of staff brought to St Andrews for me later,

because it was too big to take home on the bus).

My next invitation was to St Vincent's Catholic Primary School, in a deprived area of Dundee. Again, the young children were respectfully attentive, with interesting questions to follow, and I was astonished by the quality of their artwork. I was surprised, and most deeply touched to receive a box of individually made thank-you cards, each one lovingly crafted, without a grammar or spelling mistake. I shall keep all of them for my grandchildren!

Finally, I was invited by the History Society of Dundee University to talk in the vast auditorium of the Dalhousie Building. Again, to my surprise there was a good turn-out, which included local residents. Once more I was treated with the utmost courtesy, and kindness.

Now I can't call myself a Holocaust survivor, because my mother, brother, and I mercifully got out from Vienna in the nick of time, though my father was interned in Buchenwald, from where he escaped, spending the war in Israel, but what can I conclude from the experience of talking to these young people of different ages? All of them showed real interest. Can it be that our Jewish leaders are missing something here? With all the misinformation in our media and on the BBC, I get frustrated by what seems to me to be an absence of support from our leaders in countering the lies. Can these young people show us that truth has a ready audience? Can we capitalise on it, write more letters to the press, give more published interviews, visit more schools? Are these young people from such diverse backgrounds the seed we need to turn round antisemitism, and anti-Israel bias? I leave it to you to decide.





Tayside & Fife SHARON LEVY

Around 50 people came to the synagogue in Dundee on Chanukah, to hear SCoJeC Outreach Officer Fiona Frank present some of the findings from Being Jewish in Scotland, and Harvey Kaplan of the Scottish Jewish Archive Centre, whose talk provided a humorous insight to the history of the Dundee Hebrew Congregation. This was followed by a personal reflection on the meaning of Chanukah from Bill Shackman, Chair of Tayside and Fife Jewish Community, and then we all moved to the main hall to light the Chanukah candles and enjoy latkes and doughnuts.

Special thanks to SCoJeC, SJAC, and everyone else who helped make our party a successful, informative and extremely tasty event!

BELOW (L-R): PARENTS AND CHILDREN ENJOY CHANUKAH TOGETHER AT EDINBURGH'S SUKKAT SHALOM.







Lochgilphead, Oban, and Inverness For Chanukah, SCoJeC's Outreach

Worker Fiona Frank took a 'Latke Tour' around the Highlands. With a suitcase crammed full of doughnuts, latkes, smoked salmon, cream cheese, and bagels, and her mum's amazing musical chanukiah, her first stop was in Lochgilphead, where local sheep farmer Dee Lyon and political campaigner Jean McGavin were happy to light the chanukah candles and share in hot latkes and doughnuts.

Travelling to Oban that night, she met Meg McLean, who had grown up in one of the very few Jewish families in Coatbridge after her mother and grandmother arrived in Scotland on the Shetland Bus (see page 2).

At the party the next afternoon in Oban Library, Fiona and Meg were joined by new SCoJeC Volunteer Local Ambassador Linda Martin and other local Jewish residents. Our host, the library supervisor, and a Christian minister who also joined us, were fascinated to hear everyone's family stories of exile, movement, and immigration. Three of the guests had brought their chanukiot - these are so often handed down through the family, and have their own tales to tell!

For the third stop on the Latke Tour, Fiona took SCoJeC's new sandwich grill (our weapon' for perfect hot latkes on the go) and the last of the doughnuts and kosher goodies to Inverness, where a group of twelve Jewish people and friends and family gathered again for stories of exile, travel, and wandering and excellent food and drink! We're always very happy to return to Inverness Library, where the librarians have the knack of making the local Wandering Jews most welcome. Here, too, several of the guests brought their own chanukiot.

Edinburgh

Humza Yousaf MSP, Minister for External Affairs and International Development, attended Edinburgh's public Chanukah event in St Andrew Square, where he welcomed the Jewish community on behalf of the First Minister. A Muslim himself, he grew up in East Renfrewshire, home to the largest Jewish community in Scotland.

The event was also attended by a representative from the US Consulate, and by former Lord Provost Eric Milligan, but the star of the show was Olivia Barnett, who had recently celebrated her Bat Mitzvah, and who made a confident speech on the symbols of Chanukah - dreidls, latkes, candles, and the miracle of the oil.



Roots KITCHEN

SHARON LEVY

In December, Sharon and Susan Levy responded to a call by the Board of Deputies of British Jews and SCOJeC for regional representatives to take part in 'GROW Tatzmiach', a collaborative project between the Board of Deputies and Oxfam. This is a food justice campaign which we hope will make a difference at a local and global level to what we eat and how we think about the food we eat (see

http://tinyurl.com/food-heroes).

Their interest in developing Roots Kitchen was inspired by two recently completed projects. The first was SCoJeC's Being Jewish in Scotland project, which has focused attention on connecting and creating a sense of belonging for Scotland's geographically dispersed Jewish communities. *Roots Kitchen* will explore how food can be used to build these connections through the weaving of Jewish identity, roots, and food in Scotland. It will explore what people are eating, the narratives associated with traditional recipes (how have they been passed down through different generations and countries), and how people are adapting traditional recipes and foods through the use of local ingredients. The second inspiration was 'Oxfam's Culture Kitchen Relay during which three women travelled around Scotland offering an insight into how local people are using local ingredients and regional recipes to reclaim Scottish food culture and build relationships between communities.

A Roots Kitchen website is being set up to share information, and future issues of Four Corners will include a 'food corner' to connect Jews across Scotland through food with a focus on identity, community, local ingredients, and Judaism; for example by sharing recipes, uncovering the hidden links to food in weekly Torah readings, and much more (suggestions welcomed!).

If you would like to get involved, please send us:

- Traditional recipes that you associate with being Jewish (these can be everyday foods or foods reserved for holidays).
- The history and stories associated with your recipes. Do you, for example, have specific memories associated with certain foods? Or have the recipes been passed down through your family?
- ◆ Use of ingredients. Can you source the ingredients that you need locally, or have you changed or adapted recipes based on the availability of local ingredients, and if so how have you changed recipes?

email: sands.levy@btinternet.com or tel: 01334 850868

Shir HaShirim

Laura looked up from her phone in frustration. I put on my best sympathetic friend face, got myself comfortable on the sofa, and settled in to listen. "Another message from what's-his-name?"

"'Ilove you,'" she quoted, staring back at the screen. "Why does he always put that on texts? I'm not ready for that, we've only just started going out. He's too intense!"

"Remind me, where's he from?"

"He's Israeli. Moroccan parents. And he's very nice and all that, but – 'I love you'? Does he want me to text that back to him?"

I shrugged supportively, but let no words of wisdom escape my lips. Laura just needed to talk it through while I let my mind wander.

SPRING CALENDAR

Pesach:

Bedikat chametz (search for chametz): evening Sun 24 March

Biur chametz (burning the chametz):

morning Mon 25 Mar First Seder night: evening Mon 25 Mar

Yom Tov: evening Mon 25 Mar till night Wed 27 Mar

Chol HaMoed: (middle days) continue till

Yom Tov: evening Sun 31 Mar till night Tues 2 Apr

Lag b'Omer

Lag b'Omer: After Shabbat 27 April till night Sun 28 April

Shavuot

Yom Tov: evening Tue 14 May till night Thu 16 May

My favourite slogan from those I've seen on social networking sites reads: "You don't know how I feel. I'm British. Even I don't know how I feel." It never fails to rouse an inner chuckle, because, like all the best jokes, it's just so true.

Scots may be slightly more in touch with our emotions than the stiff upper lips south of the Border, but we still don't express our emotions as freely and publicly as they do in Israel. Here, everyone is proud to wear their hearts (and their strong opinions!) on their sleeves. From kvetching about their place in the queue to flamboyantly exhibiting their religious and political affiliations, Israelis share how they feel. Maybe it's the Middle Eastern sun.

The Sages disagreed whether Shir haShirim should be included in the books of the Bible. But Rabbi Akiva declared: the entire Bible is holy, but Shir haShirim is the holy of holies! (*Mishna Yadayim* 3:5, loose translation). Shir haShirim, the Song of Songs, is a passionate love epic; the protagonists are G-d and the Jewish people. Clearly, a book of Scripture that is easily misunderstood.

But Rabbi Akiva affirmed it as the height of holiness, and we read Shir haShirim every Pesach, the time of year when we commemorate both the miracles Hashem did for us and the daring act of commitment the Jewish people undertook for G-d. Sefardim even read Shir haShirim in shul on Friday afternoon, as the mystical marriage of the Jewish people and Shabbat approaches.

As poetry, every line in Shir haShirim is laden with symbolism and allusion. (English translations almost always incorporate these into the main text. It's interesting to read the original Hebrew so as to compare the literal and metaphorical levels.) But what I find most compelling is the overall theme of the book. In a culture where religion and belief are barely discussed in polite company, and sincere declarations of faith are embarrassing, the Song of Songs proclaims that our Judaism – and our relationship with G-d – should be not only personal, but passionate.

Tub Sheyat Aberdeen

A Tu b'Shevat seder took place in Aberdeen Synagogue

Aberdeen Synagogue where local children learned about the significance of the seven different types of fruit, the 'four worlds', and the 'four levels of meaning' – and enjoyed a feast of fruit and other goodies.

HAGAR LIBMAN AT THE SEDER

Sukkat Shalom GILLIAN RAAB

The New Year for Trees has its origins in the agricultural tithes in Talmudic times. Over the centuries, observances such as eating fruits of many different trees became associated with this festival, and in modern times it has become associated with ecological ideas of *Tikkun Olam*, maintaining and caring for the world.

This year Tu b'Shevat fell on Shabbat, and Sukkat Shalom continued their tradition by holding a 'seder' after the service, using a short 'Haggadah' that discusses the symbolism of the different kinds of fruits, and four cups of wine: what seder would be complete without these?

Antisemitic Incident Statistics

Scotland is generally a welcoming place for Jewish people, as the findings of our Being Jewish in Scotland project showed, and the Community Security Trust's recently released Antisemitic Incident Report for 2012 confirmed that there are proportionately fewer antisemitic incidents in proportion to England.

However, it is important not to be complacent, as was apparent from a recent question in the Scottish Parliament about the pattern of religious hatred. The media headlined 509 incidents "derogatory to" Catholicism, compared with 353 against Protestantism. But the pattern changes significantly when the size of each community is taken into account:

	SIZE OF COMMUNITY (2001 CENSUS*)	NUMBER OF CHARGES	RATIO	CHARGES PER 10,000 MEMBERS
Church of Scotland	2,146,251	353	1 in 6,080	2
Roman Catholic	803,732	509	1 in 1,579	6
Muslim	42,557	19	1 in 2,240	4
Jewish	6,448	14	1 in 461	22

* 2011 CENSUS FIGURES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL LATER THIS YEAR.

These figures need to be qualified because they do not reflect the religion of the victim but the religion targeted by the offender, so the final column does not show the likelihood of any individual having been a victim. Nonetheless, it is a matter of concern that the disparities remain so large. Of course, not all incidents are reported, and not all reported incidents result in a charge, and, as the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) put it, "Whilst all crime can increase the fear of being targeted in people other than the victim, fear of hate crime escalates dramatically in those who share with an immediate victim, the same group identity that has made a victim a target." So the number of people who have been affected by an antisemitic incident is likely to be very much higher than the table shows. That was evident in many of the responses to Being Jewish in Scotland, such as the man who told us that he "wouldn't wear a kippah in the street because I've seen what happens to people who do, and that would be asking for it."

That's why SCoJeC continues to work with the Scottish Government and others to raise awareness of the experience of Jewish people in Scotland, and ensure that Scotland remains, in the words of another Being Jewish in Scotland participant, "a darn fine place to be a Jew".

Tayside & Fife Jewish Community Online!

As a small community with a very limited pool of active members, we are often overwhelmed with requests for input. Local people, schools, and organisations from across Scotland and beyond seek information about our current activities, history, and faith, and we are also approached by people from all over the world who are researching their family history or want to visit Tayside and Fife. Our new website will help us to signpost people to the right information, and support our efforts to celebrate the achievements of so many people who served the community for many years. If you have photos or stories from Dundee that you would like to share with us, we would be delighted to receive them!

For our contact details, please visit www.scojec.org/communities/tfjc



Glasgow Jewish Community Futures

Fiona Frank, SCoJeC's Outreach and Projects worker, has been seconded to the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council to assist with the Community Futures consultation - a project designed to help to plan the future of the changing community. Funding from the Scottish Government through 'Adopt-an-Intern', and from the Jewish Youth Fund (Scotland) and Netherlee and Clarkston Trust, enabled us to recruit two interns, Shani Zour and Conrad Cohen, who have been listening to the views of young people, youth workers, and student leaders. The consultation has also included visits to shuls and Jewish gatherings, an open meeting, and 'parlour conversations' in people's houses, as well as two events for Ivrit-speakers to encourage the participation of Israelis who are living in Glasgow.

FIONA FRANK AND SHANI ZOUR WITH UJIA YOUTH WORKER MATTHEW GOLDRING, AND PAUL MORRON, VICE PRESIDENT OF GLASGOW JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL, WHO IS OVERSEEING THE GLASGOW JEWISH COMMUNITY FUTURES CONSULTATION



It's a hit! — in fact, half a million hits!

Did you visit SCoJeC's website last year, perhaps to read back issues of *Four Corners*, participate in our *Being Jewish in Scotland* project, find out about events taking place around Scotland, use the interactive *Jewish Way of Life* teaching resource, or look something up in the *Guide to Jewish Facilities in Scotland?* If so, you weren't alone, as the website received more than half a million hits in 2012 (557433 to be precise!), and, we're delighted that you've taken the time to tell us, amongst other praise, that it's "very interesting and impressive", "superb!", and "comprehensive and easy to use".

Many people have the site bookmarked, but others find their way there through a wide variety of searches ranging from "Jewish community in Scotland" and "Jewish way of life" to "Jews in Kirkgunzeon", and even "why do scottish jews only have irn bru till 13"! (honestly!! – but don't worry; we know of many Jewish people who continue to enjoy it much later in life!!).

Others keep up with new information by keeping an eye on New on Site, signing up for our rss feed http://www.scojec.org/rss/rss.html, 'liking' our Facebook page, or following us on Twitter.

Popular pages include:

- MEMO, our weekly overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports,
- the wealth of information available on our *Resources* page, which, amongst other publications, includes *Scotland's Jews*, a five-year calendar of Jewish festival dates, *Scottish Jewry in the 2001 census*, and a *Practical guide for employers and*
- Jewish employees.

 the News pages
- the Noticeboard of events of Jewish interest taking place all over Scotland - do let us know if you're putting on an event, and we'll be pleased to add it to the list!
- and, of course, Four Corners!

So, whether you're a frequent visitor, or have never ventured there before, take a look at our website now, and let us know what you think!



SCOJEC's Being Jewish in Scotland project last year confirmed something we were already aware of - that many older people in Scotland are far from their families, often having children and grandchildren overseas in Israel or America, or else in Manchester or London. We also found that Jewish students are keen to make links with the local communities. Our new project aims to improve inter-generational links both within Scotland between young Jewish students and older people, and, through the internet, between older Jewish people in Scotland and their children and grandchildren, and has the potential to change people's lives substantially.

This new project, funded by the Volunteer Action Fund, is based on ACE IT's award-winning programme 'The Moose in the Hoose', where volunteers run ICT training sessions with older people in residential care homes. They provided training for six students from Glasgow and Edinburgh Jewish Student Societies, and a school student from Fife, to help them to think about how they might go about taking the internet to older Jewish people around Scotland.

All our students have now found older people to work with, most in their own homes and one in a residential care home. One of this first group of participants hopes soon to be able to watch her new Israeli great-grandchild growing up; others want to get to know how to use Facebook or else just to listen to music. We have had requests from the Highlands as well as the cities for computer training as part of this project, and we hope that this pilot project will facilitate links across the generations and the miles!

CENSUS FOLLOW-UP

The results of the 2011 Scottish census are due to be published shortly, and SCoJeC would be grateful for your help. The religion question ("What religion, religious denomination, or body do you belong to?") was not compulsory, so we hope you can help us improve our understanding of the results.

Did you answer this question? Yes/No
If you answered this question, did you
tick "Jewish"? Yes/No

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the census or the answers you gave?

Please email your response to scojec@scojec.org. All personal details will be kept confidential, and nothing we publish will identify respondents individually.



SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE,
222 FENWICK ROAD, GLASGOW G46 6UE
scojec@scojec.org 0141-638 6411 07887-488 100

OUTREACH & EVENTS FIONA 07779-206 522 jewishinscotland@scojec.org
POLICY & RESEARCH LEAH 0141-638 6411

Contacts in the Corners

info@scojec.org

GLASGOW IULIA 0141-577 8200 office@glasgowjewishrepcouncil.org **EDINBURGH IACKIE** 07734-291 836 secretary@ehcong.com **TAYSIDE & FIFE** 07503-188 987 taysideandfife@scojec.org ABERDEEN **FHUD** 07810 - 024 456 info@aberdeenhebrew.org.uk **SMALL COMMUNITIES** SHARON 0141-638 6411 communities@scojec.org STUDENTS YOSSI & SARAH 07791-292 790 vossi@mvchaplaincv.co.uk

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN FOUR CORNERS ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR, NOT NECESSARILY OF SCOJEC

© SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION NO SCO29438