



**Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday 20th June 2021 at 11.00 am**  
**by Zoom**

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome, sederunt, apologies
2. Minutes of AGM of 28 June 2020 and Council of 23 May 2021 (attached)
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. Report from the Chair
5. Financial Report and adoption of accounts (circulated)
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Election of office-bearers
8. Reports on current activities
9. Date of next meeting:  
Sunday 29 August – venue tbc.
10. AOCB



# Annual General Meeting

## Sunday 28th June 2020

### by Zoom

#### 1. Welcome, sederunt, apologies

Micheline Brannan (Chair), Danielle Bett, Ephraim Borowski, Fiona Brodie, John Danzig, Simon Dover, Paul Edlin, Hilary Franklin, Alan Kay, Carol Levstein, Nicola Livingston, Henry Lovat, Philip Mendelsohn, Paul Morron, Gillian Raab, Hilary Rifkind, Susan Siegel, Paul Spicker, Mia Spiro, Mark Taylor, Raymond Taylor.

Staff: Fiona Frank, Leah Granat, Joanne Gabbay, Gean Beres.

Apologies: Mark Robertson, Linda Martin

Observers: A total of 56 devices were logged in: Derek Livingston, Debby Taylor, Brian Mark, Fiona Campbell, Lesley Danzig, Leatrice Bailey, David Bleiman, Des Shanko, Judy & Anthony Gilbert, Sandra Silverdale, Vivian Andersen, Kirsty Robson, David Rose, Diane and Jack Kay, Jonathan Danzig, Bill Shackman, Emily Michelson, Natalie Hurwitz, Jo Thor, Myer Green, Lewis Stevens, Ruby Katz, Kirsty Robson, Ruth Fishkin, Amy Troner, Janice Eddy, Francoise Robertson, Ruth Fry, Savannah Dable, Janet Mundy, Elaine Samuel, Philip Wadler, Evy Yedd. Board of Deputies: Anthony Silkoff and Sara Radivan,

#### Guest speaker

Micheline welcomed Stephen Bush, political editor of the *New Statesman*, who has been appointed to chair the Board of Deputies Commission on Racial Inclusivity within the Jewish community, addressed the meeting. He said that he was initially nervous about the appointment but had accepted the Board's invitation because of the importance of the issues and because the UK Jewish community is the only one internationally that has responded to the outrage of George Floyd's murder in this way. Mr Bush acknowledged that the Black Lives Matter movement is led by self-appointed and unrepresentative individuals who are not sympathetic to the Jewish community, so it would be easy for the Jewish community to turn away, but the Board has had the courage to hold the mirror up to the community and ask what we can do better.

He said he has been given 6 months to report, but he intends to continue to check on the implementation of his recommendations. The first phase of the enquiry is consulting as widely as possible within the Jewish community, and asking for people who have been affected by discrimination to have to a say.

Fiona Frank then moderated a lively discussion. Participants spoke movingly about their own experience of discrimination, rejection, and stereotyping. Ideas started to flow, including changing the standard images of Jewish people to include their full diversity, improving Jewish education about the diversity of the Jewish people, and ensuring that anyone doing security duty at a Jewish venue has been trained on the diversity of the service users they may encounter.

Micheline thanked Stephen Bush for his participation and encouraged everyone affected, or who knows someone affected, to make contact with him through the Board to make their voices heard.

## **2. Minutes of AGM of 2 June 2019**

The minutes were proposed by Gillian Raab and Hilary Franklin, and approved *nem con*.

## **3. Matters arising from minutes**

There were no matters arising.

## **4. Cooptions and confirmation of membership**

Membership was confirmed as shown in the circulated papers, and cooptions were approved with the addition of Philip Mendelsohn.

## **5. Report from the Chair**

Micheline said she had very much enjoyed her four years as Chair of SCoJeC. She took particular delight in the remarks of Presiding Officer Ken Macintosh MSP at our 20th anniversary meeting last year, comparing SCoJeC's reputation for "common sense, balance, ... authority, and accuracy" with that of the Law Society!

Micheline referred to her circulated report and said that she wanted to take this opportunity to express her thanks to everyone who had contributed, and in particular the leaders of all the individual communities whom she had got to know better through the fortnightly meetings during the lockdown.

She began by expressing her thanks and admiration for Ephraim, who had led SCoJeC for 20 years, unpaid in any way, editing *Four Corners*, collating consultation responses, appearing in Parliamentary committees, and much more. She expressed appreciation of Leah Granat's excellent work keeping track of public affairs literally every single day and producing MEMO, PAD, and other outward facing publications. She also thanked Fiona Brodie for supporting her as Vice Chair and standing in as necessary, Philip for his work as Treasurer and Daniel Clapham for keeping the books, Simon Dover and Nicola Livingston who as Hon Secretary had brought good sense to Council. She thanked Fiona Frank for running our events with the support of Joanne Gabbay and Gean Beres, all the volunteers, Debby Taylor, Margalit Borowski, Joe Goldblatt, Diane Kay and Bill Shackman, and Hilary Rifkind for taking over administration of the PVG scheme. Finally, she welcomed Sara Radivan, the Board of Deputies' new community support worker, and thanked Danielle Bett, the JLC Scotland Manager, for the enormous amount of work and the excellent advice she gives to support the Jewish Community.

In conclusion she said she had had wonderful time as Chair, had really enjoyed it, and wished her successor all the best.

## **6. Financial Report and adoption of accounts**

Philip spoke briefly to the circulated Annual Report and Accounts, which were then moved by Nicola, seconded by Fiona Brodie, and approved *nem con*.

## **7. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Micheline proposed the reappointment of Lewis Osborne as Independent Examiner. This was seconded by Philip and agreed *nem con*.

## 8. Reports from Director

Ephraim began by thanking all the staff for their excellent work for SCoJeC and the Jewish Community. He said SCoJeC had always had remarkably good luck with staffing, taking people on for one task who rapidly show their talents in other ways too. That had been particularly the case with Fiona, and he thanked her for all she had done for SCoJeC and Jewish people in Scotland for the past nine years and wished her well in retirement.

He also thanked Micheline and the Executive and Council for their advice and support, and expressed his good wishes to all who are now stepping down.

Turning to his circulated report, he reiterated how valuable the strapline is as a way of analysing SCoJeC's objectives and activities, and thanked Fiona and Shayna Conn for helping devise it. It also draws attention to the linkage between its three parts: connecting with Jewish people in Scotland in order to hear their concerns is a prerequisite of representing and so of supporting them. As Ken Macintosh told our 20th anniversary meeting, SCoJeC has "a reputation out of proportion to the size of the Community ... and people trust SCoJeC for its authority and accuracy" and that is built on connecting both inwards and outwards. Thanks to our networking, SCoJeC is seen as part of the Scottish civic and political community – and "not only," as Ken put it, "as a familiar presence in the Garden Lobby!" For that Ephraim expressed thanks to Leah and now to Danielle, to Micheline as Chair of Bemis and Alan and Convener of Interfaith Scotland, and to all the Executive and Council members who assist with representing the Community.

Fiona Frank then spoke about how she had originally been engaged to carry out the *Being Jewish in Scotland* research, but this had rapidly expanded into other projects, connecting with remote and isolated people, providing IT training, and connecting the hidden Israelis in Scotland. She said she had been "hitting ground running for nine years": most recently she had the idea to replace a Klezmer tour with an on-line event, and it turned out to be the first there was, so people joined from all over the world – and now she's become a Zoom expert! She thanked Ephraim, Gean, and all of SCoJeC for their support, and said she had had a fantastic time in this role.

Fiona Brodie said that the regular meeting with the various communities during the crisis were very useful in understanding what's been going on. Zoom is an excellent tool, and she is very proud of how our communities have been using it. Ephraim added that next year's census may well show that the majority of Jewish people in Scotland are no longer at either end of the M8, and it may turn out to be one of the silver linings of the current situation that no-one is now more remote than anyone else, although that could bring challenges to people's identification with their own community.

John Danzig commented that SCoJeC is only scratching surface of this potential, and Carol Levstein added that since we don't know what's round the next corner, we need to find more ways to communicate and support one another.

Micheline cautioned that holding live meetings with Zoom for remote participants does not work well. Carol Levstein added that there are also many people who lack the necessary technology or skills, and Micheline said that many organisations are now providing equipment and training. Fiona added that many people say they never before felt so connected.

## **9. Election of office-bearers**

Micheline nominated Alan Kay for Chair, seconded by Fiona Brodie. There being no other nominations, she then declared Alan elected and demitted office.

The following were then also proposed, seconded, and elected unopposed:

Vice-Chair:	Mark Taylor	proposed Alan, seconded Micheline
Hon Treasurer:	Philip Mendelsohn	proposed Alan, seconded Micheline
Hon Secretary:	Nicola Livingston	proposed Alan, seconded Hilary Franklin

## **10. Dates of next Council meetings:**

The following were agreed, subject to confirmation:

Sunday 30 August (in Aberdeen, if live meetings are permitted)

Sunday 13 December (with Chanukah party) – venue tbc.

Fiona Brodie drew attention to the new Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre and it was agreed that Council should meet there when it opens next year.

## **11. AOCB**

Alan reported that interviews had been held to fill Fiona's post when she retires in September, and the job had been offered to the preferred candidate. He was unable to say more at this time but hoped that a public announcement would be made soon.

Finally Alan expressed his, and the Council's, thanks to Micheline for chairing the meeting and for steering the Council so successfully for the past four years.