



WRITER'S TALK

Dr Agnes Kaposi

Thursday 11 February 2021 at 5pm

Yellow Star – Red Star



Born in Hungary to a Hungarian-Jewish Socialist family a year before Hitler came to power, Dr Agnes Kaposi survived the Debrecen ghetto and labour camps in Austria but most of her family perished. After the war she studied engineering which she loved and at which she excelled. She was involved in the development of the phone and television system in Hungary and also met her future husband, another engineer. On their wedding day she received an order to join the military. They left Hungary aiming to come to Britain and managed to escape to Paris where they were forced to stay but as what Agnes calls one of her "three miracles" they were interviewed and invited to live in Cambridge where they joined the academic community.

Agnes went on to have a brilliant career in England, raising a loving family. She became a Chartered Engineer, and Emeritus Professor of electrical engineering and in 1992 she became only the third woman to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. She investigated the role of women in engineering as a Churchill Fellow and worked on the advancement of engineering education in this country and abroad.

Her memoir, Red Star-Yellow Star is written with passion and vivid recall but without sentimentality. It is illustrated by several maps and more than a hundred archival images and family photographs. There are contributions by Dr László Csösz the Hungarian historian and Senior Archivist of the National Archives in Hungary and Research Fellow of the Wiener Holocaust Library, London. The two are an exciting combination of eye-witness with "Historian's Voice" at the end of each chapter. Dr Csösz will also be contributing to this event.

This is the first of a group of Writers' Talks in 2021 featuring Inspirational Woman.

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