



FROM THE PRESIDENT

22 June 2026

To : Friends of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

Dear Friends of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies,

As Friends of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, we are turning to you for financial support. Some of you will be students and alumni of the **Oxford School of Rare Jewish Languages (OSRJL)**.

We are inviting donations which will allow OSRJL to continue its mission through research and teaching, which is offered free of charge, to preserve the very precious heritage of the Jewish people – **their different languages**.

We will be very grateful for general donations to the OSRJL as well as longer-term Endowments for specific Jewish languages.

For 50 years, the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies has been at the forefront of research and teaching, fostering innovative projects on Jewish history, culture, and languages from antiquity until today.

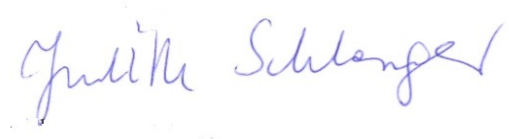
The Oxford School of Rare Jewish Languages (OSRJL) is the newest and the most daring initiative of the OCHJS. This is a unique international programme which offers online teaching of no less than **eighteen endangered or extinct** Jewish languages. The teaching is free of charge for students and is offered online by experienced university teachers from Oxford and other leading Universities in Europe. For the past four years, and in this current academic year 2025-26, hundreds of students from fifty countries across the world benefited from the online lessons and tailored resources including digital language tutorial with auto-correcting exercises and an array of audio and video recordings, a series of online lectures on Jewish Languages, a research blog on manuscripts, books, and documents in various Judeo-languages (the Jewish Languages Bookshelf). The new teaching methods elaborated by our instructors are published as a series of 'Handbooks of Jewish Languages' by the UCL Press, London.

Created as a pilot project in 2021-2022, the Oxford School of Rare Jewish Languages proved to be an astounding success. It was made possible by the initial support of the Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe, the David Berg Foundation, Taube Philanthropies, the MBS Family Fund and other donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Every year, we have received hundreds of applications for a limited number of 350 places. Convinced of the need for this project and its role in preserving endangered languages, we are now working on establishing a firm foundation for the future of the OSRJL.

We will be grateful for your support and look forward to hearing from you! Below you will find a link to the "Support" page on our website where you will find an option to donate via PayPal, as well as by bank transfer or cheque.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith Olszowy-Schlanger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a checkmark at the end.

Judith Olszowy-Schlanger, FBA
President of the OCHJS, University of Oxford
Professorial Fellow of Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford

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