

# JUDEO-IRANIAN

## FACT SHEET

### Variety of Languages

Besides Persian, the official language of Iran, almost every small community in Iran has their own dialect. Today, Persian is the dominant language, and smaller languages are becoming increasingly endangered.

Most non-Persian dialects spoken by Iranian Jews are nearly extinct, due to massive emigration to Israel, the United States, and Tehran (intra-national migration). Judeo-Iranian languages, though grouped into the larger category of Judeo-Iranian, are extremely distinct from one another and often mutually unintelligible. The Judeo-Iranian dialects are listed below:

- Judeo-Shirazi
- Judeo-Kashani
- Judeo-Esfahani
- Judeo-Yazdi
- Judeo-Kermani
- Judeo-Hamedani (Tuyserkani, Nahavandi)
- Judeo Borujerdi

### Lutera'i

Iranian Jews also had a jargon, called Lutera'i, which allowed them to speak comfortably without being understood by strangers.

Lutera'i consists of a Hebrew and Aramaic vocabulary spoken with a Persian (or local dialectic) syntax.

Lutera'i's name changes from region to region: often called Lutera'i or Lotera'i, it is also called Lufla'i in Kashan, Lutra'i in Golpaygan, and Lutru'i in Kermanshah.

### Names of Language

Judeo-Shirazi, Judeo-Kashani, Judeo-Esfahani, Judeo-Yazdi, Judeo-Kermani, Judeo-Hamedani, Judeo-Borujerdi.

### Territories Spoken

Originated: Iran, specifically from the respective cities that each language is named after.

Today: Israel, United States

### Holiday Names

Judeo-Iranian languages have different names for Jewish Holidays like Tu Bishvat and Shavuot! Judeo-Persian calls Tu Bishvat "Ilanoot" or "Mooedeh Illanoot," meaning "Holiday of Trees," and calls Shavuot "moed-e-gol," meaning "Festival of Flowers."

### Documentation

Judeo-Iranian languages are currently moribund, and the small number of Jews who still speak a Judeo-Iranian language are elderly. There is very little existing documentation of these languages and their speakers.

The Jewish Language Project, in conjunction with the Endangered Languages Alliance, Wikitongues, the Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages, and Y&S Nazarian Iranian Young Leadership Initiative of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, is working to document these languages.

Do you speak or know someone who speaks a Judeo-Iranian language? If so, please fill out [this form](#), also available on the Jewish Language Project's page on Judeo-Iranian languages.

To learn more about Judeo-Iranian languages, check out [jewishlanguages.org/judeo-iranian](http://jewishlanguages.org/judeo-iranian), or head to the Jewish Language Project on YouTube, Instagram, or Facebook.