

THIS IS MY STORY
Years in dushi Kòrsou

350

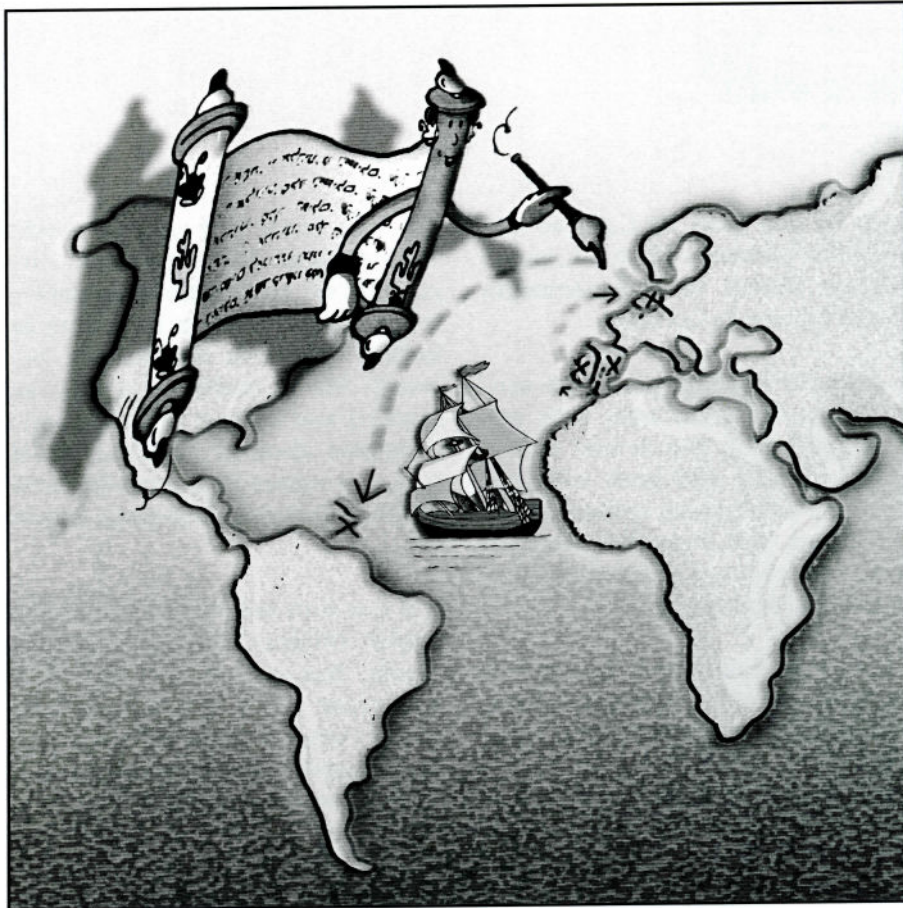


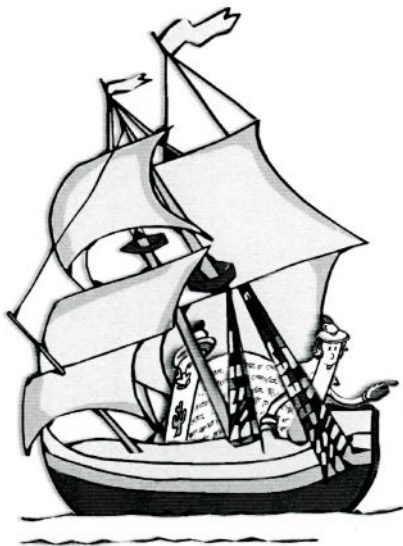
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Dear teacher,

This short history of the Jews of Curaçao has been written for the children of the Curaçao Community Hebrew School to commemorate 350 years of Jewish history in Curaçao.

The narrator, a very old *Torah* scroll, which arrived in Curaçao three centuries ago, tells our story. The story begins with the arrival of the first Jewish settlers in 1651 and ends with our present day situation. A separate section about customs and traditions, old and new, has also been added for the enrichment of our children's Curaçao-Jewish cultural knowledge.

This project has been divided in four age groups and levels. Suggested time for inclusion of this project in the curriculum would be for the eight weeks after *Pesach*.

Each group is presented with a specific period in time, of the history of the Jews of Curaçao. To this we have added field trips, projects and activities so that our children might learn in a playful, exciting way to love their own special history.

We have tried to combine an ample variety of fun-learning techniques in this project, such as games, excursions, role playing, discussions, cooking, arts and crafts, etc. The drawings and exercises in the leaflets for the teachers are to be copied and used by each student individually. Sufficient material has been provided to make it possible not to be repetitive in the two-year span for each age group level. Visuals have been added to enhance this material.

It is our hope that you as teachers will enjoy working with this interactive project and that you will be able to develop your own creativity when using these special lessons and stories. We believe that this should not be too hard as Jewish life in multi-cultural Curaçao has left a marked and distinct imprint in all areas. Examples abound: families, life-style, architecture, our native language *Papiamentu*, business, finance, shipping, cooking, customs, traditions, etc.

It is our firm belief that it is important to teach Jewish children the Bible, Hebrew and Jewish rituals, but we also believe that it is equally important to teach our children about their roots, customs and traditions in order to form well-rounded and involved Jews who are proud of their unique heritage.

In as much to date the history of the Jews of Curaçao has yet to be taught as a subject in history classes in our local elementary schools, it is up to the Community Hebrew School to provide our children with their own history.

We therefore hope that this special project will be included not only in this commemorative year, 5761/2001, but also in the years to come in the curriculum of our Curaçao Community Hebrew School. It has been a pleasure compiling this for you and we are certain you will make good use of it.

Shalom,
350th Interactive Project Committee
Curaçao, April 2001

350 YEARS OF JEWISH HISTORY IN CURAÇAO

CURAÇAO COMMUNITY HEBREW SCHOOL INTERACTIVE PROJECT

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Colophon

This is my Story: 350 years in dushi Kòrsou, is written and produced by the Curaçao Community Hebrew School Interactive Project Committee on the occasion of the 350th anniversary of Congregation Mikvé Israel-Emanuel in Curaçao 1651 - 2001.

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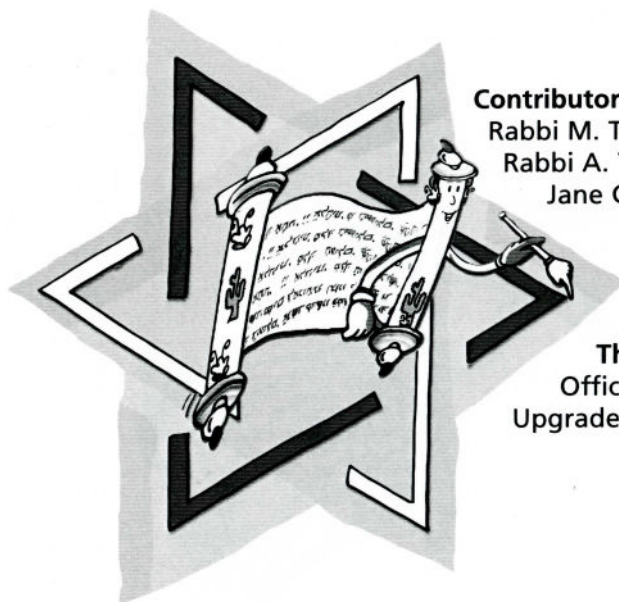
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