

Exhibit Brief

It's time to gather information about your exhibit

1. Exhibit Title

Paramaribo: Jewish Excellence in the Face of Adversity

2. Era(s) Exhibit Covers

Check all that apply.

1492-1762

1763-1835

1836-1912

1913-1945

1946-present

Other: _____

3. Geographic Location

Paramaribo, Suriname

4. Target audience

Ideally, I would love to create an exhibit that appeals to people who know very little about the Jewish community in Suriname and wish to learn more (kind of like where I was at the start of the semester!).

5. Thesis statement--what is the "so what" of your exhibit?

Despite being constantly targeted in the context of race and religion, the Jewish residents of

Paramaribo remained devout to their faith whilst also contributing to Jewish culture and greater

society. Paramaribo is important to study because it tells a story of a diverse community of Jews

who persevered in the face of discrimination, ultimately producing excellence in multiple fields.

6. Three themes that support your thesis

1. Race and discrimination in Paramaribo

2. Involvement in and contributions to Jewish culture

3. Exceptional Surinamese Jews + their contributions to greater Jewish society and the world!

7. What are 1-4 key things you want visitors to learn from your exhibit?

1. Paramaribo is a racially diverse community and reminds us that there is no one Jewish 'look.'

2. Internationalizing Jewish academia can be a means to better recognizing different cultures and their respective approaches to Judaism and Jewish tradition.

3. Surinamese Jews were essential to progress and discovery in multiple fields, such as medicine and art.

8. Why do you think this exhibit will be popular?

At the beginning of this semester, I knew absolutely nothing about Paramaribo, but I came to learn so much about the various accomplishments and contributions that Surinamese residents made throughout the history of the Americas. Similarly to how this class introduced me to Jewish activity in Suriname, my exhibit will allow attendees to be introduced to and become familiar with a wonderfully rich and diverse community that is oftentimes underrepresented as a Jewish hotspot.

I think that if I present my information in an accessible way, Jews and non-Jews alike will flock to my exhibit to learn more about Suriname! Also, this exhibit will not only be a unique learning experience but a way to further internationalize the Jewish academic canon and allow for extra recognition of Caribbean Jews.

9. Do you have a range of types of objects. Check all you have included (aim for at least 3)

Check all that apply.

- Portraits
- Typed Documents
- Manuscripts
- Newspaper column or advertisement
- Photographs
- Map

Other: Academic article excerpts (not sure if this would fall under a different category)

10. What is the mood or tone of your exhibit?

I will be addressing the challenges and discrimination that Surinamese Jews faced on the basis of both faith and race, but I would also like to highlight the accomplishments and general excellence of the Paramaribo community. Therefore, I hope my exhibit comes off as being enlightening, honest, and ultimately uplifting.

11. Complete List of Items that Will Be Included

1 point

1. Neve Shalom Synagogue photographs, 2. David Rumsey Paramaribo maps, 3. Surinamese marriage contracts, 4. Alexander de Lavaux's map of Suriname, 5. "The Binding of Isaac" image, 6. excerpt from John Gabriel Stedman's "Narrative", 7. Judah Eleazer Lyons miniature, 8. Augusta Curiel background + photographs, 9. Surinamese slave advertisement, 10. Surinamese citizenship advertisement, 11. excerpt from "Purim in the Public Eye: Leisure, Violence, and Cultural

12. ~~Eighteenth Century Americas~~
Theme One & How It Supports Your Thesis

My first theme addresses race and religious based discrimination expressed towards Surinamese Jews not just in Paramaribo, but throughout the Americas. I wanted to include this theme mainly because it addresses the first aspect of my thesis statement, which suggests that Jews in Paramaribo faced adversity because of their oftentimes diverse identities as Jews of color. This allows me room to discuss the complexities of race within the context of Judaism as well as a means to outline how Paramaribo was set up to be such a racially diverse community of Jews. This theme will also be a great contrast to my two other more uplifting themes, which address the success and progress that Paramaribo Jews made as a result of rising from this discrimination.

13. Items that go with Theme 1

Check all that apply.

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- 4
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- 6
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- 8
- 9
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- 11
- 12

14. Theme Two & How it Supports Your Thesis

My second theme directly addresses the broader Jewish culture within Paramaribo and Suriname as a whole. This supports my thesis primarily because it displays how Jews in Paramaribo managed to profess their devotion to their faith through means such as art, literature, architecture, and even the construction of their own towns. This theme would pay special attention to how citizens of Paramaribo functioned as Jews and the great lengths they would go to to connect with their faith and interfaith community despite the discrimination they faced in day to day life.

15. Items that go with Theme 2

Check all that apply.

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16. Theme Three & How it Supports Your Thesis

My third theme asserts that Surinamese excellence was not only present in the religious sphere but also had a large impact on greater Jewish culture. This theme supports my thesis because it provides direct examples of the ways in which Paramaribo Jews proved themselves to be masters of innovation, entrepreneurship, medicine, creativity, and so much more! I believe that this will be a means to share more about Surinamese culture and highlight the exceptional strides that this community made despite facing so many hurdles as Jews, and even beyond that, as Jews of Color. It is also a great reminder that despite Paramaribo being an underrepresented community in wider Jewish academia, its community members have had a massive impact when it comes to helping fellow Jews survive and thrive.

17. Items that go with Theme 3

Check all that apply.

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- 12

18. Sources for Your Objects (put items numbers in parenthesis after each source) 1 point

www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/suriname-virtual-jewish-history-tour (1)
www.surinamejewishcommunity.com/synagogues (1)
rdc.reed.edu/c/jewishatl/home (1)
https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/view/search?sort=Pub_List_No_InitialSort%2CPub_Date%2CPub_List_No%2CSeries_No&q=paramaribo&search=Go (2)
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Qyt2UM66wQJgFg-v4lpBLOspB6Eb6UWL6d3ye4zMHZA/edit> (3 + I plan to cite the actual document in my exhibit, but I figured the Drive address would work okay)
<https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/nl/collectie/NG-478> (4)
<https://archives.cjh.org/repositories/3/resources/850> (5)
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/reed/detail.action?docID=5024450> (6)
loebjewishportraits.com/biographies/judah-eleazer-lyons/ (7)
jewsacrossamericas.com/interactivities-5/image-analysis/beginning-image-analysis/analyzing-photographs/ (8)
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZdQpLMENq7xAZtJfPWF6VJFOk5KK8VF5> (9, 10)
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/jewisocistud.20.1.32> (11)
<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/774653> (12)

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Apologies for how this just looks like a huge chunk of text; please let me know if you'd rather I submitted my sources in a different format!