

## IYAR

### 1 Iyar

Traditional hillula of the Talmudic sage Abba Sha'ul, gravesite pictured at right. Abba Sha'ul, a younger contemporary of Rabbi Akiva's, was reported by the Babylonian Talmud (*Niddah* 61a) to have been very tall. It was he who abolished the tradition of "levirate marriage," the requirement that the surviving brother of a married man who died childless marry his widow to father children in the name of the deceased brother, ruling that there were no longer any who could fulfill the obligation without self-interest, that is, purely for the sake of giving children to the deceased brother, rather than out of desire for the widow. (1 Iyar)



Hillula of Spanish-born Rabbi Jacob Berab, born Jacob Marmaran. "Berab" was added to his name as an honorific. A disciple of Rabbi Yitzhak Aboab II, he lived in Spain until the expulsion of 1492. Then, after sojourns in Tlemcen (Algeria), Damascus, and Cairo, he became Chief Rabbi of Tz'fat, where he reinstated the institution of *s'mikha*. (1 Iyar 5306, 3 April 1546, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Rabbi Nassan Nata Shapira I (1 Iyar 5337, 18 April 1577, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Rabbi Nassan Nata Shapira III (1 Iyar 5426, 6 May 1666)

Hillula of Rebbe Menahem Mendel of Vitebsk, disciple of Rebbe Dov Baer, the Maggid of Mezeritz. Rebbe Menahem Mendel accompanied Rebbe Schneur Zalman of Lyadi in approaching the Vilna Gaon to ask him to withdraw his ban on Hassidism. The Vilna Gaon refused even to meet with them. Rebbe Menahem Mendel later accompanied Rebbe Avraham of Kalisk in leading a group of some three hundred Hassidim to settle in Eretz Yisrael, founding the Hassidic communities of Tz'fat and Tiberias. (1 Iyar 5548, 27 April 1788, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

***All my life I have struggled in vain to know what a person is. Now at last I know. A person is the language of G\*d.***

***—Menahem Mendel of Vitebsk***

Hillula of Sarah Aguilar, née Dias Fernandes, mother of English writer Grace Aguilar (1 Iyar 5614, 29 April 1854)

Birth of Rabbi Shmuel Engel of Radomysl (1 Iyar 5618, 15 April 1858)

Hillula of David Stoliar, pictured at right. Stoliar was the sole survivor of the sinking, on 24 February 1942, of the Holocaust refugee ship *Struma*. The *Struma*, a converted cattle boat, carried about 800 Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi Iron Guard regime in Romania, along with a ten-man Bulgarian crew. The ship's engines failed about ten miles out to sea, and a passing tug-boat captain agreed to make repairs in exchange for the passengers' wedding rings, their last remaining valuables. The engines failed again a few days later, and Turkey interned the vessel a few miles offshore for seventy-one days. Britain, which governed Palestine, refused to allow the refugees to proceed further without visas, and Turkey cut the ship loose in the Black Sea. A Soviet warship, under orders to destroy any neutral vessels in the Black Sea (in order to avoid allowing supplies to reach the Germans) fired a torpedo which blew the *Struma* apart. Stoliar was the only survivor. (1 Iyar 5774, 1 May 2014)



***When a poor person asks you for aid, do not use his faults as an excuse for not helping. If you do, then G\*d will look for your offenses and will certainly find them. Remember that the poor person's transgressions have been atoned for by his poverty, while yours still remain with you.*** —Shmelke of Nikolsburg

### 2 Iyar

Hillula of Rabbi Shmelke of Nikolsburg. Rebbe Shmelke was the brother of Rebbe Pinhas of Frankfort and of Yehoshua Heschel Horowitz. He was a disciple of Rebbe Dov Baer, the Maggid of Mezeritz, and was the mentor of Ya'akov Yitzhak (the Seer) of Lublin, Menahem Mendel of Rimanov, Yisrael of Kozhnitz, Mordecai Benet, and Moshe Leib of Sassov. He was the ancestor of the Nikolsburg and Bostoner Hassidic dynasties. (2 Iyar 5538, 29 April 1778)

Birth of Rebbe Shmuel of Lubavitch, the fourth Lubavitcher Rebbe (2 Iyar 5594, 29 April 1834, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Liberation of Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp (2 Iyar 5705, 15 April 1945)

Hillula of Paul Spiegel, president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, pictured at near right (2 Iyar 5766, 30 April 2006)



### 3 Iyar

Hillula of Mordechai Anielewicz, pictured at far right, a leader of Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa, often translated into English as the "Jewish Fighting Organization," a World War II resistance movement in occupied Poland that was instrumental in engineering the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Anielewicz was posthumously awarded the Cross of Valour (1944) by the Polish government in exile and the Cross of Grunwald (1945) by the Polish People's Army. (3 Iyar 5703, 8 May 1943, at 18 Mila Street, in the Warsaw Ghetto)

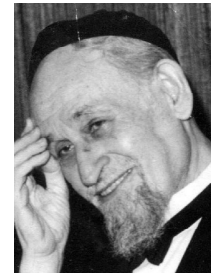
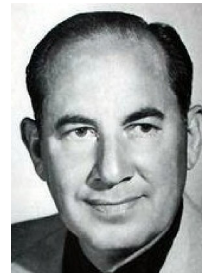
Hillula of Rabbi Joseph Perlow of Novominsk, who perished at Bergen-Belsen, the day after the camp was liberated (3 Iyar 5705, 16 April 1945)

Hillula of U.S. comedian and theatrical agent Milton (Gummo) Marx, pictured at near right, the only one of the five Marx Brothers who did not appear in their act (3 Iyar 5737, 21 April 1977)

Hillula of Hungarian-born U.S. Orthodox Rabbi Joseph Breuer, pictured at far right, grandson of Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, founder of K'hal Adat Jeshurun (KAJ, often called simply "the Breuer Shul") in the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York (3 Iyar 5740, 19 April 1980)

Hillula of Carmen Weinstein, president of the Jewish Community Council of Cairo, Egypt, who presided over the restoration, in 2010, of the synagogue and yeshiva that had been led by Maimonides (3 Iyar 5773, 13 April 2013)

Hillula of U.S. economist Gary Becker, pictured at right. A student of Milton Friedman's, Becker was one of the first economists to branch into what were traditionally considered topics belonging to sociology, including racial discrimination, crime, family organization, and drug addiction. Becker was elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1965 and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1972. He was awarded the John Bates Clark Medal in 1967, the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1992, the National Medal of Science in 2000, and the United States Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2007. (3 Iyar 5774, 3 May 2014)



#### 4 Iyar

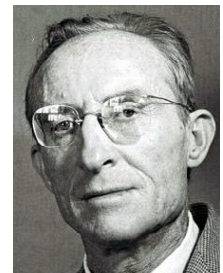
Hillula of Algerian-born Rabbi Jacob Sasportas. Born in Oran, Sasportas served as rabbi in Tlemcen, Algeria, and in several cities in Morocco. Forced to flee to the Netherlands in 1653, he was called back by Sultan Ahmad el Abbas of Morocco and sent as an envoy to the court of Spain to ask for aid against the rebels led by Mohammed al-Hajj ibn Abu Bakr al-Dila'i. (The rebellion succeeded, and Mohammed al-Dila'i became the sultan, only to be overthrown himself four years later.) After serving briefly as rabbi of the Portuguese community in London, Sasportas went to Frankfurt and then to Amsterdam, to Livorno, and, in 1680, back to Amsterdam permanently, where, in 1693, he was chosen to lead the Portuguese community. Sasportas was one of the most strenuous opponents of Shabbetal Zvi, writing anti-Sabbatean letters to Jewish communities throughout Europe, Africa, and West Asia. He was the author of *Toldot Ya'akov* (an index of Biblical passages found in the haggadah of the Jerusalem Talmud), *Ohel Ya'akov* (a collection of responsa edited by his son), and *Tzitzat Novel Zvi* (a collection of his anti-Sabbatean letters, also edited by his son). Only the first was published in his lifetime. (4 Iyar 5458, 15 April 1698)

Hillula of Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik of Brisk, the *Beit haLevi*, pictured at near right, great-grandson of the Vilna's Gaon's chief disciple Hayyim of Volozhin and great-grandfather of Rabbis Joseph B. and Aaron Soloveitchik (4 Iyar 5652, 19 April 1892, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Galician-born Hebrew and Yiddish poet Uri Zvi Greenberg, pictured at far right (4 Iyar 5741, 8 May 1981)

Hillula of Rebbe Shmuel Eliyahu Taub, the Modzitzer Rebbe in Tel Aviv (4 Iyar 5744, 6 May 1984)

Hillula of German-born U.S. Orthodox Rabbi Walter S. Wurzbarger, student of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik (4 Iyar 5762, 16 April 2002)



#### 5 Iyar

Hillula of Rabbi Zvi Hirsch Ashkenazi, pictured at right, father of Rabbi Ya'akov Emden (5 Iyar 5478, 6 May 1718; some sources say 1 Iyar)

Hillula of Rebbe Hayyim Me'ir Yehiel Shapiro, the "Seraph" of Moglienitza. Rebbe Hayyim me'or Yehiel was raised by his maternal grandfather, Rebbe Yisrael (the Maggid) of Kozhnitz, and was a student of Rebbes Ya'akov Yitzhak of Lublin, Ya'akov Yitzhak of Pshis'cha, Avraham Yehoshua Heschel of Apt, and Israel of Rizhin. His wife was the granddaughter of Rebbe Elimelekh of Lizensk. (5 Iyar 5609, 27 April 1849; some sources say 15 Iyar, 7 May)

Hillula of Polish-born Rabbi Meir Auerbach, the first Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem (5 Iyar 5638, 8 May 1878)

Hillula of U.S. poet Louis Zukofsky (5 Iyar 5738, 12 May 1978)

Hillula of Romanian-born Rebbe Yisrael Shalom Yosef Friedman Ben-Shalom, the Pashkan Rebbe. Rebbe Yisrael Shalom Yosef was the last surviving great-great-grandson of Rebbe Yisrael of Rizhin. Both his parents were descended from the Rebbe of Rizhin; his mother's father was Rebbe Menaḥem Mendel of Bohush. Rebbe Yisrael Shalom Yosef survived the Holocaust in Bucharest, Romania. In 1944, he met his distant relative, Rebbe Hayyim Me'ir Hager of



*The best way to find out about poetry is to read the poems.*  
-Louis Zukofsky

Vizhnitz (also a descendant of the Rizhiner Rebbe), and, perhaps more significantly, the Vizhnitzer Rebbe's youngest daughter, Zipporah. In 1946, after both had managed to smuggle themselves to Palestine, Rebbe Yisrael Shalom Yosef married Zipporah. Neither was able to have their parents present; rather than having a full-fledged Hassidic wedding, they were married by a Yemenite rabbi who was on hand at the time. Unlike most Hassidic rebbes, Rebbe Yisrael Shalom Yosef was always a strong supporter of Israel. In June 1948, he and Zipporah joined with a group of Romanian and Bulgarian survivors of the Shoah to form a secular kibbutz, Reshafim, in the Beit She'an Valley. All religious observances on the kibbutz were held in their home. (5 Iyar 5777, 1 May 2017)

### 6 Iyar

Hillula of Rabbi Levi ben Gershon, Gersonides, the *Ralbag*, an Aristotelian philosopher whose *Sefer Milhamot ha'Shem*, while following the plan of Maimonides' *Guide for the Perplexed*, adheres even more strictly to Aristotelian thought than does Maimonides (6 Iyar 5104, 20 April 1344, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

**The most vital right is the right to love and be loved.**

—Emma Goldman



Hillula of Polish Rabbi Abraham Katzenellenbogen (6 Iyar 5397, 30 April 1637)

Hillula of Rabbi Moshe of Sambor (6 Iyar 5600, 9 May 1840)

Hillula of Rabbi Yosef Meir Weiss of Spinka, a disciple of Rebbes Yitzhak Eisik of Zhidatchov and Hayyim of Tzanz (6 Iyar 5669, 27 April 1909)

Hillula of Russian-born (in Kovno, in the Russian Empire, now Kaunas, Lithuania) U.S. anarchist philosopher Emma Goldman, pictured at right, life partner of Alexander Berkman (6 Iyar 5700, 14 May 1940)

Hillula of U.S. screenwriter, director, producer, playwright, and novelist Ben Hecht, pictured at near right, the first screenwriter to receive an Academy Award for Original Screenplay, in 1927, for *Underworld* (6 Iyar 5724, 18 April 1964)

**Trying to determine what is going on in the world by reading newspapers is like trying to tell the time by watching the second hand of a clock.**

—Ben Hecht



Hillula of German-born Swedish poet and playwright Nelly (born Leonie) Sachs, pictured on German stamp at far right. Because of her frailty and ill health, Sachs was home schooled. She grew up as a very sheltered and introverted young woman and never married. She maintained an extensive correspondence with Selma Lagerlöf and Hilde Domin and, later, with Paul Celan. As Nazism grew in Germany, Sachs became more and more fearful, at one point even becoming mute. Her friendship with Lagerlöf saved her life; in 1940, shortly before Lagerlöf's death, Lagerlöf interceded with the Swedish royal family to arrange for Sachs and her mother (her father had passed some ten years earlier) to be admitted to Sweden, and they fled Germany on the last flight to Sweden. Her mental health remained always fragile, and she was confined for several years in a mental institution, even while continuing to write. In 1961, she was the inaugural winner of the Nelly Sachs Prize, given biennially to authors who have made outstanding literary contributions to the promotion of understanding between peoples. In 1966, she shared the Nobel Prize in Literature with Shmuel Yosef Agnon. (6 Iyar 5730, 12 May 1970)

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**How long have we forgotten how to listen!**

—Nelly Sachs

Hillula of Lithuanian-born U.S. Yiddish theater star Luba Kadison Buloff, pictured at right (6 Iyar 5766, 4 May 2006)



### 7 Iyar

Day Twenty-two, making three weeks and one day, of the Omer

Hillula of Rabbi Yitzhak Adribi of Salonica. Rabbi Adribi (sometimes spelled Adarbi) was a disciple of Rabbi Yosef Taitatzak. His writings include *Divrei Rivot*, a collection of some four hundred thirty responsa interspersed with discussions on halachic issues occurring in the Talmud and its commentaries, and *Divrei Shalom*, a collection of thirty *divrei Torah* and homiletic commentaries on the weekly parshayot. (7 Iyar 5340, 22 April 1580, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

### 8 Iyar

Day Twenty-three, making three weeks and two days, of the Omer

Hillula of Polish-born Arizona Jewish pioneer Anna Freudenthal-Solomon, pictured at right (8 Iyar 5693, 4 May 1933)

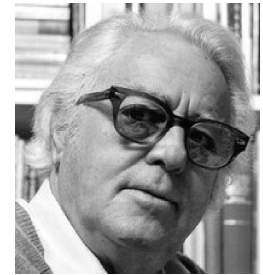
Hillula of Rabbi Moshe Mordecai Twersky of Trisk (8 Iyar 5703, 13 May 1943)



### 9 Iyar

Day Twenty-four, making three weeks and three days, of the Omer

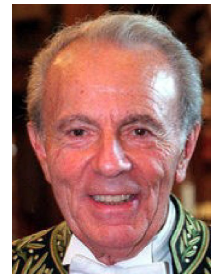
Hillula of Rabbi Avigdor Kara of Prague, grave marker pictured at near right, composer of many *piyyutim*. It is said that King Wenceslas IV of Bohemia (ruled 1378-1419) frequently engaged Rabbi Kara in conversation on religious matters. (9 Iyar 5199, 24 April 1439, according to the Julian calendar then in use)



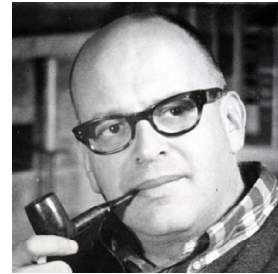
Hillula of Rebbe Hayyim Friedlander of Liska (9 Iyar 5664, 24 April 1904)

Hillula of U.S. poet and critic Karl Jay Shapiro, pictured at far right, recipient of the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry in 1945, Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress (position later retitled "Poet Laureate of the United States") in 1946-1947 (9 Iyar 5760, 14 May 2000)

Hillula of French surgeon and geneticist François Jacob, pictured at right. He was the recipient of the 1962 Gran Prix Charles-Leopold Mayer of the Académie des Sciences; the 1965 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, jointly with André Lwoff and Jacques Monod; and the 1996 Lewis Thomas Prize for Writing about Science. In 1996, he was elected to the Académie française. During the German occupation, Jacob left France for Great Britain to join the war effort. He had completed only his second year of medical studies, but he joined the medical company of the French Second Armored Division. He was injured in a German air attack in 1944 and returned to now-liberated Paris. For his wartime service, he was awarded the Croix de la Libération, France's second-highest honor, after the Légion d'Honneur (which he also received). Unlike the Légion d'Honneur, the Croix de la Libération was awarded only for World War II actions. Jacob was also awarded the Croix de Guerre. (9 Iyar 5773, 19 April 2013)



Hillula of German-born U.S. novelist and film and television writer Don Mankiewicz, pictured at near right (9 Iyar 5775, 28 April 2015)



### 10 Iyar

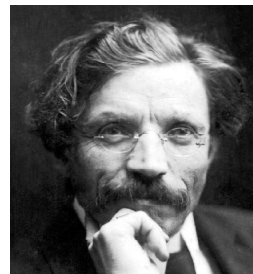
Day Twenty-five, making three weeks and four days, of the Omer

Traditional hillula of Eli, the High Priest of the Books of Samuel (10 Iyar 2870, 890/891 BCE, according to *Megillat Ta'anit*) Because of an anomaly in designating dates BCE, there are two possible year designations. Some systems (based on the work of the venerable Bede) do not use zero as a year designation and so number the year preceding 1 CE as 1 BCE. This is customary in retrojecting the Julian calendar. Gregorian calendar dates, influenced by mathematical and scientific convenience, typically include a year numbered zero. Thus, 891 BCE Julian is 890 BCE Gregorian. Either is anachronistic, of course, as neither calendar had been established at that time.

Hillula of Moroccan Rabbi Yitzhak ben Ya'akov Alfasi, the *Rif*, pictured at far right above. A student of Rabbis Nissim ben Ya'akov and Hananel ben Hushi'el, he relocated in 1088 to Lucena, Spain, at age seventy-five. He was the teacher of Rabbi Yehudah ha'Levi (author of the *Kuzari*) and of Rabbi Yosef ibn Migash, who was in turn a teacher of Rabbi Maimon, father and teacher of Maimonides. The *Rif* was the author of *Sefer ha'Halachot*. (10 Iyar 4863, 20 April 1103, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Rebbe Yitzhak Isaac of Komarno (10 Iyar 5634, 27 April 1874)

Hillula of Rebbe David Twerski of Tolna. Rebbe David was the son of Mordecai of Chernobyl and his second wife, the daughter of David Leikes. He was the author of *Magen David* (10 Iyar 5642, 17 April 1882)



Hillula of Rabbi Hillel Lichtenstein of Kolomya (10 Iyar 5651, 18 May 1891)

Hillula of Ukrainian-born Yiddish author Sholem Aleichem, pictured at near right. He was born Sholem Ya'akov Naumovitch Rabinovitch in Pereyaslav, a town in the Poltava Governate of the Russian Empire, now in the Kiev Oblast of central Ukraine. The town was renamed Pereyaslav-Khmelnytskyi in 1943 as the Soviet Union's way of emphasizing the subordination of Ukraine to Russia by the 1654 Treaty of Pereyaslav and Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky's role in establishing that relationship. Sholem Aleichem had a mortal fear of the number 13. His manuscripts never have a page 13; he numbered the thirteenth pages of his manuscripts as 12a, and his gravestone carries the date of his death as "May 12a, 1916." (10 Iyar 5676, 13 May 1916)

Hillula of Belarussian-born U.S. violinist Zvi Zeitlin, pictured at far right above, the youngest scholarship recipient (at age eleven) of the Juilliard School of Music (10 Iyar 5772, 2 May 2012)

*Life is a dream for the wise, a game for the fool, a comedy for the rich, a tragedy for the poor.*  
—Sholem Aleichem

### 11 Iyar

Day Twenty-six, making three weeks and five days, of the Omer

Hillula of Rebbe Naftali Tzvi Horowitz of Ropshitz. A disciple of Rebbe Elimelekh of Lizensk and, after the latter's passing, of Rebbe Menahem Mendel of Rimanov, Rebbe Naftali was the mentor of Rebbe Hayyim of Sanz and the ancestor of the Hassidic dynasties of Ropshitz, Dzikov, Glogov, Melitz, Stitshin, and Strizov (11 Iyar 5587, 8 May 1827)

*Life is given to humanity to be lived.*  
—Naftali of Ropshitz



Hillula of Rebbe Yehudah Tzvi I of Strettin (11 Iyar 5604, 30 April 1844)

Hillula of Judah P. Benjamin, pictured at right. Benjamin was the first Jewish member of the U.S. Senate and the first Jew proposed as a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1856, President Franklin Pierce offered to name Benjamin to the Supreme Court, but he declined the nomination. A staunchly pro-slavery Senator from Louisiana, Benjamin was denounced on the Senate floor by anti-slavery Senator Senator Benjamin Wade of Ohio as “an Israelite with Egyptian principles. After Louisiana seceded, he joined the Confederacy and became the Confederate Attorney General and Secretary of War (11 Iyar 5644, 6 May 1884)

Hillula of German physician Magnus Hirschfeld, pictured at right, one of the earliest advocates for the rights of sexual minorities. Some of his attitudes, advanced as they were for their time, are considered rather benighted today. He proposed that homosexuals be treated as disabled individuals, with the same rights as other disabled people, certainly an improvement over the criminalization of homosexuality that was part of the law in the Germany of his era. He also believed that homosexual men are by nature effeminate. Still, he was one of the first advocates for sexual minorities, striving for decades to repeal Paragraph 175 of the German law, the paragraph that criminalized homosexuality, even going so far as to “out” several closeted lawmakers. His Scientific-Humanitarian Committee gathered over 5000 signatures urging the repeal, including such luminaries as Albert Einstein, Hermann Hesse, Käthe Kollwitz, Thomas Mann, Heinrich Mann, Rainer Maria Rilke, August Bebel, Max Brod, Karl Kautsky, Stefan Zweig, Gerhart Hauptmann, Martin Buber, Richard von Krafft-Ebing and Eduard Bernstein. (11 Iyar 5695, 14 May 1935)

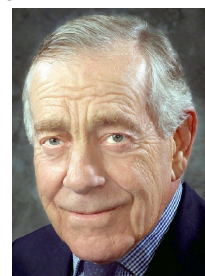
*The woman who most needs to be liberated is the woman in every man, and the man who most needs to be liberated is the man in every woman.*  
—Magnus Hirschfeld



Hillula of Viennese-born Hungarian-Canadian economist Karl Polanyi. Polanyi was born Pollacsek Károly (with the family name preceding the individual name, in the Hungarian style), the son of Pollacsek Mihály, a railroad magnate, and Cecilia Wohl, the daughter of Lithuanian Rabbi Asher Leyzerovich Wohl. Karl and his brother Michael (originally Mihály) and their sister Laura (later Laura Polányi Striker, the mother of ceramicist Eva Striker Zeisel) changed their family name to Polányi, then dropped the acute accent when they came to the West. From 1940 to 1943, Polanyi taught at Bennington College; in 1947 he joined the faculty of Columbia University, remaining on the Columbia faculty until 1953. Because his wife, Ilona Duczynska, had been a member of the short-lived Communist government of Hungary under Kun Béla, Polanyi and Duczynska could not obtain immigrant visas to the United States. They settled in Pickering, Ontario, on the north shore of Lake Erie, and Polanyi commuted to Columbia. (11 Iyar 5724, 23 April 1964)

Hillula of British historian of Judaism and early Christianity Hyam Maccoby, pictured at near right (11 Iyar 5764, 2 May 2004)

Hillula of Canadian-born U.S. television journalist Morley Safer, pictured at far right, recipient of twelve Emmys (including a Lifetime Achievement Emmy), three Overseas Press Awards, three Peabody Awards, two Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards, and the Paul White Award (11 Iyar 5776, 19 May 2016)



### 12 Iyar

Day Twenty-seven, making three weeks and six days, of the Omer

Hillula of Rabbi Tzvi Hirsch ben Ya'akov Ashkenazi (the *Hacham Tzvi*), pictured at right, father of Rabbi Jacob Emden, great-grandfather (through his daughter Miriam) of Solomon Heschel (the first Chief Rabbi of the British Empire), fierce opponent of Sabbateanism (12 Iyar 5478, 2 May 1718, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of U.S. labor leader Sol Stettin (12 Iyar 5765, 21 May 2005)



### 13 Iyar

Day Twenty-eight, making four weeks, of the Omer

Hillula of Netherlands-born U.S. physician Daniel Levi Maduro Peixotto. Dr. Peixotto's father was Hazzan Moses Levi Maduro Peixotto of New York's Sephardic Congregation Shearith Yisrael; his wife, Rachel, was the daughter of

Rabbi Gershom Mendes Seixas; their grandson was U.S. newspaper publisher Arthur Hays Sulzberger. Dr. Peixotto was active in politics as a Jacksonian Democrat. (13 Iyar 5603, 13 May 1843)  
 Hillula of Masoud bar Ya'akov Abuhatzeira, father of the Baba Sali (13 Iyar 5668, 14 May 1908)



### 14 Iyar

Day Twenty-nine, making four weeks and one day, of the Omer

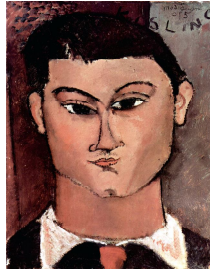
Pesaḥ Sheni. Described in Numbers 9:6-14, Pesaḥ Sheni is a "second chance" festival. Those who were unable to partake of the Pesaḥ offering because of *tumah* (ritual "impurity") or because of distant travel were obligated to perform a "make-up" Pesaḥ offering a month later.

Hillula of Talmudic sage Rabbi Me'ir *Baal ha'Nes*, pictured at right. Rabbi Me'ir, said to be the son of a descendant of the Emperor Nero who had converted to Judaism, was a disciple first of Rabbi Elisha ben Abuyah ("*Aher*") and then of Rabbi Akiva. His wife, Bruriah, daughter of Rabbi Ḥananiah ben Teradyon, was one of the few women whose opinions are cited in the Talmud. Rabbi Me'ir is the third most frequently cited sage in the Mishna; the Talmud further declares (*Gittin*, 4a) that all anonymous Mishnayot are to be attributed to him. It is thought that Me'ir (*Illuminator*) is a sobriquet given to him because he enlightened students and scholars alike; his real name is said to have been Nehorai or Misha, but the Talmud (*Eruvin* 13b) says he is the same person as Rabbi El'azar ben Arach, a disciple of Rabbi Yoḥanan ben Zakkai who mastered all the mystical revelation of the *Ma'asei ha'Merkabah*. (14 Iyar 3881, 19 April 121 CE, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Rebbe Yehudah Tzvi II of Strettin (14 Iyar 5667, 28 April 1907)

Liberation of Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp (14 Iyar 5705, 27 April 1945)

Hillula of Polish-born French painter Moïse Kisling, born Mojzesz Kisling, portrait by Amedeo Modigliani at near right (14 Iyar 5713, 29 April 1953)



Hillula of U.S. novelist Irwin Shaw, born Irwin Gilbert Shamforoff, pictured at middle right (14 Iyar 5744, 16 May 1984)

Hillula of Lithuanian-born U.S. thereminist and violinist Clara Rockmore, née Reisenberg, pictured at far right. She was the younger sister of pianist Nadia Reisenberg and a student of Leopold Auer (in violin) and Léon Theremin (in theremin). She entered the Imperial Conservatory of St. Petersburg at the age of five, and she remains the youngest student ever admitted to that august institution. Shortly before she was to make her American debut as a violinist, she developed an arthritic problem with her bow arm, and, having to give up the violin and having met Léon Theremin, the inventor of the world's first electronic instrument, she took up the theremin. She made several suggestions (accepted by Theremin) for improving the instrument, and he proposed marriage to her, but she declined and married attorney Robert Rockmore, thereafter using his surname professionally. (14 Iyar 5758, 10 May 1998)

Hillula of Russian ballerina Maya Plisetskaya, pictured at right, *prima ballerina assoluta* of the Bolshoi Ballet and president of the Imperial Russian Ballet (14 Iyar 5775, 2 May 2015)

*People who light up like Roman candles come down in the dark very quickly.*  
 -Irwin Shaw

### 15 Iyar

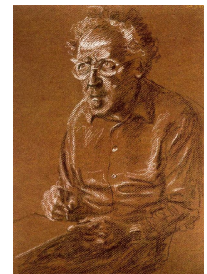
Day Thirty, making four weeks and two days, of the Omer

Hillula of Ḥannah, daughter of Rabbi Emanuel Weltfreind of Pabianice and Rozprza and first wife of Rebbe Moshe Yehiel Epstein of Ozarow, known as Zisse (Sweet) Ḥannah, who contracted a fatal case of typhus while caring for patients stricken with the disease (15 Iyar 5679, 15 May 1919)

Hillula of U.S. entertainer Gilda Radner, pictured at near right (15 Iyar 5749, 20 May 1989)

Hillula of Romanian-born Israeli-French artist Avigdor Arikha, self-portrait at far right (15 Iyar 5770, 29 April 2010)

*Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next.* -Gilda Radner



### 16 Iyar

Day Thirty-one, making four weeks and three days, of the Omer

Hillula of Rabbi Me'ir ben Gedaliah, the *Maharam* of Lublin (16 Iyar 5376, 3 May 1616)

Hillula of Ukrainian-born Israeli poet Avraham Shlonsky, pictured at near right, brother of composer/pianist Verdina Shlonsky and mezzo-soprano Nina Valery (16 Iyar 5733, 18 May 1973)



Hillula of U.S. poet Stanley J. Kunitz, pictured at far right, recipient of the 1959 Pulitzer Prize for poetry, named in 1974 to a two-year term as Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress (title of position later changed to "Poet Laureate of the United States"), awarded the Bollingen Prize in poetry in 1987, appointed in 1987 to a two-year term as the official New York State Poet, recipient of the National Medal of the Arts in 1993 and the National Book Award in 1995, named in 2000, at age ninety-five, to a one-year term as Poet Laureate of the United States (16 Iyar 5766, 14 May 2006)

Hillula of U.S. children's book writer and illustrator Maurice Sendak, pictured at near right (16 Iyar 5772, 8 May 2012)

*I can hardly wait for tomorrow; it means a new life for me each and every day.* —Stanley J. Kunitz



### 17 Iyar

Day Thirty-two, making four weeks and four days, of the Omer

Hillula of Polish-born Rabbi Yehezkel Landau of Prague, pictured at far right, a descendant of Rashi's (17 Iyar 5553, 29 April 1793)

Hillula of Rebbe Moshe Hayyim Ephraim of Sudilkov, grandson of the Baal Shem Tov, brother of Rebbe Baruch of Medzibozh, uncle of Rebbe Nahman of Breslov, student of Rebbes Dov Baer of Mezeritz and Ya'akov Yosef of Polnoy (17 Iyar 5560, 30 April 1800, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Rebbe Mordecai Twersky of Rachmistrevka, grandson of Rebbe Mordecai of Chernobyl (17 Iyar 5681, 21 May 1921)

*When the water reaches your neck, do not worry if it is not drinkable.*

—Stanislaw Lec

Hillula of Polish poet and aphorist Stanislaw Jerzy Lec, pictured at near right (17 Iyar 5726, 7 May 1966)



Hillula of Russian-born U.S. scholar of the Dead Sea Scrolls Samuel Iwry, pictured at far right. Iwry was born in Bialystock, then under Russian rule, now within Poland. A direct descendant of the Baal Shem Tov, he escaped the Holocaust by fleeing to Lithuania, then to Kobe, Japan, and finally to Shanghai, where he was imprisoned and tortured by the Japanese authorities; he came to the United States in 1947. Iwry received his PhD from Johns Hopkins University, studying under William Foxwell Albright. He and his mentor were the first scholars to identify and authenticate the Dead Sea Scrolls, their antiquity, and their significance. His doctoral dissertation was the first on the scrolls. (17 Iyar 5764, 8 May 2004)

Hillula of Polish-born Chinese journalist and author Israel Epstein. Epstein was one of the few foreign-born Chinese citizens of non-Chinese origin to become a member of the Communist Party of China. When Epstein was born, Poland was under Russian imperial hegemony. His father had been imprisoned for leading a labor uprising and his mother exiled to Siberia. When Epstein was an infant, his father was sent by his employer to Japan; Epstein's mother brought the baby to join him soon after, and they eventually found their way to China, settling in Tientsin (now known as Tianjin). Epstein entered journalism at age 15, writing for the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, an English-language newspaper based in Tientsin. He also covered the Japanese Invasion of China for the United Press and other Western news agencies. In the autumn of 1938, he joined the China Defense League, which had been established by Soong Ching-ling, Sun Yat-sen's widow, for the purpose of publicizing and enlisting international support for the Chinese cause. In 1941, he faked news about his own death as a decoy for the Japanese, who were trying to arrest him. The misinformation even found its way into a short item printed in the *New York Times*. In 1944, Epstein visited Britain, then emigrated to the United States. He worked for Allied Labor News and published his book *The Unfinished Revolution in China* in 1947. (His book was enthusiastically reviewed in *The New York Times* by Owen Lattimore.) In 1951, Communist defector Elizabeth Bentley accused him before the U.S. Senate Internal Security Subcommittee of having been a member of the Soviet secret police for many years in China. Soong Ching-ling invited him to return to China to edit the magazine *China Reconstructs*, later renamed *China Today*. He remained editor-in-chief of *China Today* until his retirement at age 70, then became editor emeritus. He became a Chinese citizen in 1957 and a member of the Communist Party of China in 1964. In 1955, 1965, and 1976, Epstein visited Tibet; based on these three visits, he published in 1983 an apologium for the Chinese Anschluss of Tibet, titled *Tibet Transformed*. (17 Iyar 5765, 26 May 2005)

Hillula of Ruth Kepecs Feyer, pictured at right. Born Ruth Weinberger, she was adopted by her mother's second husband, Eugene Kepecs. She was the mother of this calendar's editor. (17 Iyar 5769, 11 May 2009)



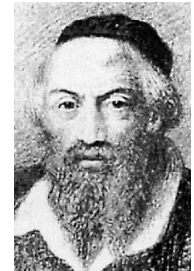
Hillula of U.S. biologist Gerald Maurice Edelman. Edelman shared the 1972 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for work with Rodney Robert Porter on the immune system. He also proposed that the way the components of the immune system evolve over the life of the individual is analogous to the way the components of the brain evolve in a lifetime. There is thus a continuity between his Nobel-winning work on the immune system and his later work in neuroscience and in philosophy of mind. In his later career, Edelman was noted for his theory of consciousness, documented in a trilogy of technical books and in several subsequent books written for a general audience, including *Bright Air, Brilliant Fire* (1992), *A Universe of Consciousness* (2001, with Giulio Tononi), *Wider than the Sky* (2004), and *Second Nature: Brain Science and Human Knowledge* (2007). (17 Iyar 5774, 17 May 2014)

### 18 Iyar

Day Thirty-three, making four weeks and five days, of the Omer

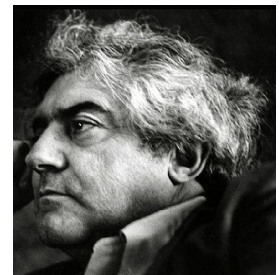
Lag b'Omer. This day marks the hillula of Rabbi Shim'on bar Yoḥai and the day on which he revealed the Zohar. The day is celebrated with picnics and, in the Land of Israel, pilgrimages to Rabbi Shim'on's grave in Meron and the lighting of bonfires (symbolizing the light revealed with the Zohar).

Hillula of Rabbi Shim'on bar Yoḥai, pictured at near right, student of Rabbi Akiva and traditionally credited as being the author of the *Zohar* (18 Iyar)



Hillula of Polish Rabbi Moshe Isserles (the surname being a patronymic; his father, Yisrael, was known as Isser'l), pictured at far right; ancestor of composers Felix Mendelssohn and Giacomo Meyerbeer; author of the *Mappa*, a gloss on the *Shulḥan Aruch* delineating the Ashkenazic practice where it differs from the Sephardic practice of the *Shulḥan Aruch* (18 Iyar 5332, 1 May 1572, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Hungarian-born U.S. photo-journalist Cornell Capa, pictured at right. Born Friedmann Kornél, with the family name preceding the individual name, in the Hungarian style, he was the younger brother of photo-journalist Robert Capa. (18 Iyar 5768, 23 May 2008)



Hillula of German-born Holocaust survivor and human rights advocate Hedy Epstein, born Hedwig Wachenheimer. Epstein escaped from Germany to England in 1939 on a *Kindertransport*. Raised by foster parents, she dropped out of school at age sixteen to work in a munitions factory. She returned to Germany in 1945 as a translator and researcher for the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal and immigrated to the United States in 1948. She worked all her life on behalf of refugees and was the Executive Director of Freedom of Resistance, a fair-housing organization. A founder of the Palestine Solidarity Committee's Saint Louis branch, she went to the West Bank several times with the International Solidarity Movement. On 18 August 2014, three days after her 90th birthday, she was arrested for demonstrating against the calling out of the National Guard in response to the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. (18 Iyar 5776, 26 May 2016)

### 19 Iyar

Day Thirty-four, making four weeks and six days, of the Omer

Hillula of Rabbi Meir ben Baruch, the *Maharam* of Rothenberg. The Maharam was a major contributor to the *Tosafot*. In 1286, he was imprisoned by order of King Rudolph I of Germany, the first Habsburg king of Germany and founder of the Habsburg dynasty. His followers raised 20,000 marks to pay his ransom, but he ordered them not to pay it, fearing that payment of his ransom would put all other German rabbis at risk of imprisonment for ransom. He remained in prison for the rest of his life. (19 Iyar 5053, 27 April 1293, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Rebbe Menahem Mendel of Rimanov. When he was but eleven years old, Rebbe Menahem Mendel was introduced to Ḥassidism when he met Rebbe Dov Baer, the Maggid of Mezeritz. He studied under Rebbes Shmelke of Nikolsburg, Ya'akov Yitzḥak of Lublin, and Israel of Kozhnitz, but he was a disciple of Rabbi Elimelech of Lizensk. His students included Rebbes Naftali of Ropshitz and Tzvi Elimelech of Dinov. His teachings were collected in *Menaḥem Tzion*, *Divrei Menaḥem*, and *Be'erot ha'Mayim*. (19 Iyar 5575, 29 May 1815)

Hillula of Hungarian-born U.S. Rabbi Alexander (born Hanoch Yehudah) Kohut, pictured at right. Kohut was born into poverty; his father, Jacob Kohut, although a renowned linguist, could not afford to send Alexander to the village school, and there was no ḥeder in their home town of Kiskunfélegyháza (also the home town of Hungary's national poet, Petőfi Sándor), so Kohut reached his eighth year without having learned even the rudiments of Hebrew or Hungarian. It was only when the family moved to Kecskemét that he began his studies, attending gymnasium





and learning Talmud under Rabbi Gershom Lövinger. An apt student, he moved to Budapest to continue his studies, then to Breslau, where he earned his rabbinic ordination. He also earned a PhD from the University of Leipzig; his dissertation, on Jewish angelology and demonology and their dependence on Zoroastrianism, was published by the Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft in 1866, the first Jewish work issued under the auspices of that society. In 1885, he came to New York as rabbi of Congregation Ahavath Chesed. With Rabbi Sabato Morais, he was a founder of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In 1891 he was appointed examiner in rabbinics at Columbia College. In March 1894, while delivering a stirring eulogy on Kossuth Lajos (the leader of the 1848 Hungarian revolution, known in the West as Louis Kossuth), he collapsed; he passed from this world a few weeks later. In 1915, his son, George Alexander Kohut, established the Alexander Kohut Memorial Collection of Judaica at Yale University. His widow (his second wife) was social worker, educator, and philanthropist Rebecca Bettelheim Kohut. (19 Iyar 5654, 25 May 1894)

Hillula of Bavarian-born Oscar Solomon Strauss, pictured at right. As Secretary of Commerce and Labor under President Theodore Roosevelt, he was the first Jewish U.S. Cabinet member. (19 Iyar 5686, 3 May 1926)

*The Glory of the blessed Creator fills all the worlds. There is no place that is devoid of G\*d. When you look at the world, you are looking at the Creator, Whose Name is blessed. When you are speaking with a person, you are addressing the soul within that person.*  
*—Mordecai of Chernobyl*



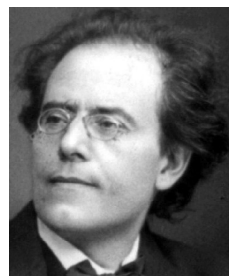
**20 Iyar**

Day Thirty-five, making five weeks, of the Omer

Hillula of Rebbe Mordecai of Chernobyl, son and successor of Rebbe Naḥum of Chernobyl and son-in-law of Rebbe Aaron I of Karlin (20 Iyar 5597, 13 May 1837, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of U.S. playwright, diplomat, and journalist Mordecai Manuel Noah, pictured at near right below. In 1811, President James Madison appointed Noah U.S. consul to the Kingdom of Tunis, where he was able to rescue many U.S. citizens who were being held as slaves by their Moroccan masters. (There seems to be no evidence that he realized the irony of the U.S. official working to free enslaved Americans while the United States still accepted slavery within its borders.) In 1815, Secretary of State James Monroe removed him from his position, declaring that his religion was “an obstacle to the exercise of [his] Consular function.” (20 Iyar 5611, 22 May 1851)

*Anyone who considers protocol unimportant has never dealt with a Cat.* *—Robert Heinlein*



Hillula of Austrian composer Gustav Mahler, pictured at far right (20 Iyar 5671, 18 May 1911)

Hillula of U.S. archaeologist Hetty Goldman, pictured at near right, the first woman to join the faculty of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (20 Iyar 5732, 4 May 1972)

Hillula of Romanian-born U.S. writer Maurice Samuel, who was briefly married to Swiss-born U.S. educator Marie Syrkin. They eloped when he was twenty-two and she eighteen, but her father had the marriage annulled on the grounds that she was too young. (20 Iyar 5732, 4 May 1972)



Hillula of U.S. entertainer George Jessel, pictured at far right, who starred in the original stage production of *The Jazz Singer*, but who was dismissed by Warner Brothers from the film production and replaced by Al Jolson (20 Iyar 5741, 24 May 1981)

**21 Iyar**

Day Thirty-six, making five weeks and one day, of the Omer

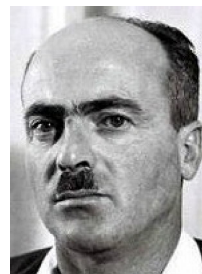
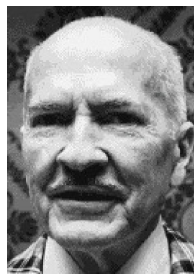
Hillula of Russian-born U.S. Yiddish folk singer Anna Shomer Rothenberg (21 Iyar 5720, 18 May 1960)

Hillula of U.S. science-fiction author Robert Heinlein, pictured at near right (21 Iyar 5748, 8 May 1988)

Hillula of U.S. entertainer Sammy Davis, Jr., pictured at middle right (21 Iyar 5750, 16 May 1990)

Hillula of Bukovina-born Israeli labor leader Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, pictured at far right, who first opened the Histadrut to Arab workers (21 Iyar 5766, 19 May 2006)

Hillula of U.S. labor lawyer Morris P. Glushien, general counsel of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union for twenty-five years (21 Iyar 5766, 19 May 2006)



## 22 Iyar

Day Thirty-seven, making five weeks and two days, of the Omer

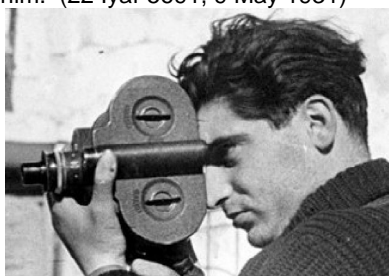
Hillula of Rabbi Kalman Vermaisa of Lvov (22 Iyar 5320, 18 May 1560, according to the Julian calendar then in use; some sources say 2 Iyar)

Hillula of Rebbe Mordecai Friedman of Husyatin, youngest son of Rebbe Yisrael of Rizhin (22 Iyar 5654, 28 May 1894)

Hillula of Rabbi Shlomo Eliezer Alfandri of Istanbul, author of *Saba Kadisha*, regarded by Rabbi Eliezer of Munkacs as the *gadol hador*, the outstanding rabbi of the generation (22 Iyar 5690, 20 May 1930)

Hillula of Prussian-born (in Strelno, now Strzelno, Poland) U.S. physicist Albert A. Michelson. Michelson was brought to the United States by his parents when he was two years old. The family lived in mining towns in California and Nevada; he moved in with his aunt Henriette Michelson Levy in San Francisco, where he attended high school. (Henriette Levy's daughter, Michelson's cousin, was the author Harriet Lane Levy, a close friend of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas.) Michelson is known for his work on the measurement of the speed of light and especially for the 1887 Michelson-Morley experiment, which provided the first strong evidence against the then-prevalent ether theory and initiated a line of research that eventually led to Albert Einstein's Theory of Special Relativity. In 1911, Michelson received the Nobel Prize in Physics, the first American to receive a Nobel prize in the sciences. He also won the Copley Medal in 1907, the Henry Draper Medal in 1916, and the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1923. A crater on the Moon is named for him. (22 Iyar 5691, 9 May 1931)

Hillula of Hungarian-born U.S. photo-journalist Robert Capa, pictured at near right. Born Friedmann Andrei, with the family name preceding the individual name, in the Hungarian style, he was the elder brother of photo-journalist Cornell Capa. (22 Iyar 5714, 25 May 1954)



Hillula of French-born Canadian opera singer Sarah Fischer, pictured at far right (22 Iyar 5735, 3 May 1975)

Hillula of Gertrude Schimmel, née Tannenbaum. She and Felicia Shpritzer were the first women to become sergeants in the New York City Police Department. Schimmel was the first woman to rise to the rank of captain and the first to rise to the rank of Deputy Commissioner in the NYPD. She was the author of the semi-autobiographical novel, *Joan Palmer, Policewoman*. (22 Iyar 5775, 11 May 2015)

***If your photographs aren't good enough, you're not close enough.***  
-Robert Capa



***Let the world know you as you are, not as you think you should be, because, sooner or later, if you are posing, you will forget the pose, and then where are you?***  
-Fanny Brice

## 23 Iyar

Day Thirty-eight, making five weeks and three days, of the Omer

Hillula of Hungarian-born violinist and composer Eduard Reményi, pictured at right above. His birth name was Reményi Ede, with the family name preceding the individual name, in the Hungarian style. He was exiled from Austria-Hungary for his participation in the 1848 Kossuth Revolution in Hungary. In 1860, having been pardoned, he was appointed soloist in the court of Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Joseph. He was a mentor of Johannes Brahms. (23 Iyar 5658, 15 May 1898)



Hillula of U.S. comedienne Fanny Brice, pictured at near right (23 Iyar 5711, 29 May 1951)

Hillula of U.S. pianist Irene C. Jacobi, pictured at far right above (23 Iyar 5744, 25 May 1944)

Hillula of British scholar of Jewish studies Raphael Loewe, pictured at near right (23 Iyar 5771, 27 May 2011)



Hillula of German-born U.S. historian Peter Gay, born Peter Joachim Fröhlich, pictured at middle right (23 Iyar 5775, 12 May 2015)

Hillula of U.S. poet and translator Chana Bloch, born Florence Ina Faerstein, pictured at far right. She received a bachelor's degree in Semitic Studies from Cornell University in 1961; it was soon thereafter that she adopted the Hebrew form of her name, Chana. She

earned two master's degrees from Brandeis University – in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies in 1963 and in English Literature in 1965 – and a doctorate in English from the University of California at Berkeley in 1975. While at Berkeley, she married Semitic linguistics scholar Ariel Bloch. In 1973, she began teaching at Mills College in Oakland, California, where she helped found and for many years directed the creative writing program. She and her husband produced a well-regarded translation of the Song of Songs. (23 Iyar 5777, 19 May 2017)

### 24 Iyar

Day Thirty-nine, making five weeks and four days, of the Omer

Hillula of Rabbi Me'ir ben Baruch ha'Cohen, the Maharam of Rothenberg. Rabbi Me'ir was a major contributor to the *Tosafot* and was the mentor of Rabbi Asher ben Yehiel (the "Rosh"). He witnessed the burning of twenty-four wagon-loads of Talmud volumes in Paris in 1244, after which he moved to Rothenburg ob der Tauber. After his father's passing in 1281, Rabbi Me'ir settled in Worms. In 1286, Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf I instituted a new persecution of the Jews. Rabbi Me'ir left Germany with his family and followers, but he was captured in the mountains of Lombardy, having been recognized by a baptized Jew named Kneppe. He was imprisoned in a fortress near Ensisheim in Alsace. Tradition has it that a large ransom of 23,000 silver marks was raised for him, but Rabbi Meir refused to permit it to be paid, for fear of encouraging the imprisonment of other rabbis. He died in prison after seven years. Fourteen years after his death, the ransom was paid for his body by Alexander ben Salomon Wimpfen, who was subsequently laid to rest beside Rabbi Me'ir in the Jewish cemetery of Worms. (24 Iyar 5053, 2 May 1293, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Rebbe Eliezer Tzvi of Komarno. Rebbe Eliezer Tzvi was the son and successor of Rebbe Yitzhak (Yitzhak Eisik Yehuda Yehiel Safrin) of Komarno. He was in turn succeeded as Rebbe of Komarno by his son, Rebbe Alexander Sender Safrin. Rebbe Hayyim El'azar Spira of Munkacs was his son-in-law. Rebbe Eliezer Tzvi wrote a multi-volume commentary on the Zohar. (24 Iyar 5658, 16 May 1898)

Hillula of Lithuanian-born French sculptor Jacques Lipchitz, pictured at right (24 Iyar 5733, 26 May 1973)



Hillula of Kivie Kaplan, president of the NAACP and member of the Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (24 Iyar 5735, 5 May 1975)

Hillula of Rebbitzin Adele Ginzberg (24 Iyar 5740, 10 May 1980)

Hillula of French journalist Louise Weiss, pictured at right. Weiss was an early pacifist (who grew disenchanted with pacifism when faced with the inability of the League of Nations to stem the Nazi threat) and feminist. She was a staunch advocate of women's rights and especially women's suffrage. Weiss was the founder, in 1934, of *La Femme Nouvelle*, which quickly emerged as the most energetic and activist of feminist organizations, and the editor of *La Nouvelle République*, a resistance newspaper in Vichy France. She was a co-founder and, from 1964 to 1970, secretary general of *L'Institut de Polémologie* (Peace Studies Institute). At age 86, she was elected to the first European Parliament, where she served until her passing four years later, the oldest member of the Parliament. (24 Iyar 5744, 26 May 1984)



Hillula of U.S. satirist Shel Silverstein, pictured at near right (24 Iyar 5760, 10 May 1999)



Hillula of Russian-born Hungarian and USSR chess grandmaster Andor Lilienthal, pictured at far right, the last survivor of the original twenty-seven grandmasters (24 Iyar 5770, 8 May 2010)



### 25 Iyar

Day Forty, making five weeks and five days, of the Omer

Hillula of Rabbi Hayyim Hager of Kossov. Author of *Torat Hayyim*, Rabbi Hayyim was the son of Rabbi Menahem Mendel Hager of Kossov and the father of Rebbe Menahem Mendel Hager of Vizhnitz. (25 Iyar 5614, 19 May 1854)

Hillula of Russian-born U.S. Yiddish theater actress and singer Nellie Casman (25 Iyar 5744, 27 May 1984)

Hillula of Viennese-born U.S. actor Leon Askin, born Leon Aschkenasy. Askin came to the United States in 1940. He served in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II and, after the war ended, went on to a career in Hollywood, portraying foreign characters who spoke English with heavy accents. In his later years, he returned to Vienna, where he passed from this life and where he is buried. He was best known for portraying General Burkhalter in the television series *Hogan's Heroes*; he appeared in 67 of the show's 168 episodes. Curiously, the four Nazi military characters who appeared regularly in *Hogan's Heroes* were all portrayed by Jewish actors – Werner Klemperer as Colonel Klink, John (born Johann) Banner as Sergeant Schultz, Leon Askin

*I will not play tug o' war. I'd rather  
play hug o' war,  
Where everyone hugs instead of  
tugs,  
Where everyone giggles and rolls on  
the rug,  
Where everyone kisses, and everyone  
grins, and everyone cuddles, and  
everyone wins. –Shel Silverstein*

as General Burkhalter, and Howard Caine (born Cohen) as Gestapo Major Hochstetter. Among his awards were the Austrian Cross of Honor for Science and Art (1988), the Silver Medal for Service to the City of Vienna (1994), the Austrian Cross of Honor for Science and Art, 1st class (2001), and the Gold Medal of Honor for Service to the City of Vienna (2002). In 2007, to mark the centenary of Askin's birth, Leon-Askin-Platz in the Penzing district of Vienna was named for him, a plaque in his honor was unveiled at Hütteldorferstrasse 349, also in Penzing, and a bust of Askin was placed in Türkenschanzpark in the Währing District of Vienna. In 2010, Leon-Askin-Park at Grundsteingasse in Vienna's Ottakring District was also named for him. (25 Iyar 5765, 3 June 2005)

### 26 Iyar

Day Forty-one, making five weeks and six days, of the Omer

Hillula of Sa'adya Gaon (Rabbi Sa'adya ben Yosef al-Fayyumi), who claimed descent from Shelah, the son of the patriarch Judah, and from the first century ascetic Hanina ben Dosa. Born in Egypt, he was the first major Jewish scholar to write extensively in Arabic and is considered the founder of Judeo-Arabic literature. His *Sefer ha'Emunot v'ha'Deyot*, written in Arabic and translated into Hebrew by Yehuda ibn Tibbon, is considered the first book of Jewish philosophy. His Arabic translation of the Torah is standard among the Jews of Yemen. At age twenty-three, Sa'adya wrote the earliest known polemic against Karaism. In 928, he became the first non-Babylonian to be named Gaon of Sura; his son, Dosa, born just seven years before Sa'adya's passing, was also Gaon of Sura, from 1013 to 1017. The Baal Shem Tov regarded himself as Sa'adya's reincarnation. (26 Iyar 4702, 16 May 942, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Rabbi Aaron Lapapa, removed as Rabbi of Izmir by Shabbetai Zvi (26 Iyar 5427, 10 May 1667, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Italian Rabbi Moshe Hayyim Luzzatto, the *Ramhal*, gravesite pictured at right. Rabbi Luzzatto left his native Italy in 1735 and settled in Amsterdam. He emigrated to Palestine in 1743, settling in Acco. Just four years later, he, his wife, and their son perished in a plague. The Vilna Gaon declared that the *Ramhal* had the greatest understanding of Judaism that it was possible for a mortal to attain and said that, if the *Ramhal* had been alive in his generation, he would have walked from Vilna to Italy to study at his feet. It is said that the *Ramhal* was a reincarnation of Rabbi Akiva; he lived for only forty years, in order, it is said, to make up for the first forty years of Rabbi Akiva's life, before he began learning. (26 Iyar 5507, 6 May 1747)

Hillula of Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu of Zvolin, son of Rabbi Yehezkel of Kozmir (26 Iyar 5648, 7 May 1888)

Hillula of U.S. actor John Garfield, born Jacob Julius Garfinkle, pictured at near right, who suffered a fatal heart attack at age thirty-nine after being blacklisted during the McCarthy era (26 Iyar 5712, 21 May 1952)

Hillula of Hungarian-born U.S. businesswoman Anna M. Rosenberg Hoffman (née Lederer), pictured at far right. Mrs. Hoffman (then Mrs. Rosenberg) was appointed Assistant Secretary of Defense by President Harry S. Truman – she was the first woman to hold so high a position in the Department of Defense – despite the virulent opposition of Senator Joseph McCarthy, and she became a major force behind the racial integration of the U.S. military. (26 Iyar 5743, 9 May 1983)

Hillula of U.S. tennis player Helen Hull Jacobs. Jacobs had a lengthy rivalry with Helen Wills Moody. They met twelve times; Moody won all but one of their matches. Long before the Open Era, Jacobs reached the finals of sixteen Grand Slam singles tournaments, winning five. She was a finalist in nine women's doubles Grand Slams, winning three, and two mixed doubles, winning one. In 1934, she won the singles and women's doubles titles in the Italian Championships. Jacobs was ranked in the world top ten from 1928 through 1939, reaching a career high of world number one in 1936. She was on the U.S. Wightman Cup team from 1927 through 1939, with the exception of 1938. In 1933, Jacobs broke with tradition, becoming the first woman to wear man-tailored shorts at Wimbledon. She was named Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year in 1933. She was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1962 and into the National Gay and Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame in 2015. (26 Iyar 5757, 2 June 1997)

***The wise fix their attention on the realities of things and adapt their beliefs to them. Fools make their beliefs the standard and declare that the realities of things must follow their beliefs.*** –Sa'adyah Gaon



***Lovingkindness requires that we not inflict pain upon any living being, even an animal. We should be merciful and compassionate toward animals. . . . The sum of the matter is that in the saint's heart compassion and benevolence must be firmly rooted, striving always to increase the happiness of the world's creatures, and never to cause them any pain.***

–Moshe Hayyim Luzzatto, *Derech Hashem*



Hillula of Romanian-born U.S. cartoonist Saul Steinberg, self-portrait at right, refugee from Italian fascism, renowned for ninety covers and more than 1,200 drawings that appeared in *The New Yorker* over a span of nearly six decades (26 Iyar 5759, 12 May 1999)



Hillula of Russian-born Belgian physical chemist Viscount Ilya Romanovich Prigogine. Prigogine was born in Moscow a month before the February Revolution. His family being critical of the new Soviet system, they left Russia in 1921, going first to Germany and in 1929 to Belgium. Prigogine became a Belgian citizen in 1949. He taught at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. In 1959, he accepted a position at the University of Texas in Austin, and he remained in the United States, affiliated with UT and with the Enrico Fermi Institute at the University of Chicago until his return to Belgium in 1967. In his career, Prigogine received fifty-three honorary degrees. In 1955, he was awarded the Francqui Prize for Exact Sciences. For his study in irreversible thermodynamics, he received the Rumford Medal in 1976 and the 1977 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. In 1989, he was awarded the title of Viscount in the Belgian nobility by King Baudouin I. (26 Iyar 5763, 28 May 2003)



Hillula of U.S. medical physicist Rosalyn S. Yalow, née Sussman, pictured at right. The daughter of parents who never completed high school, she was Hunter College's first physics major, graduating *magna cum laude* at age nineteen. When she applied to Purdue University for a graduate assistantship to study physics, the university refused her, writing to her professor at Hunter, "She is from New York. She is Jewish. She is a woman." World War II and the draft, however, created academic opportunities for women, and she was awarded a teaching assistantship at the College of Engineering at the University of Illinois, where she became the first woman in twenty-four years to join the engineering school's faculty and where she received her doctorate in nuclear physics in 1945. In 1975 she was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. She received the Albert Lasker Medical Research Award in 1976. Yalow, with her colleague Solomon Berson, developed radioimmunoassay, a very sensitive *in vitro* assay technique used to measure concentrations of substances, usually measuring antigen concentrations (for example, hormone levels in blood) by use of antibodies. For this, she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1977, only the second woman to receive that honor, the first since Gerty Theresa Cori in 1947. Berson could not be included in the Nobel citation, as he had passed from this world in 1972, and Nobel Prizes are not awarded posthumously. (26 Iyar 5771, 30 May 2011)

***Initially, new ideas are rejected. Later they become dogma, if you're right. And, if you're really lucky, you can publish your rejections as part of your Nobel presentation.*** –Rosalyn S. Yalow

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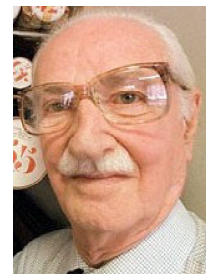
## 27 Iyar

Day Forty-two, making six weeks, of the Omer

Hillula of Rebbe Shlomo Zalman Schneersohn of Kopust. Rebbe Shlomo Zalman's father and predecessor as Rebbe of Kopust was Rebbe Yehuda Leib Schneersohn, the second son of the Tzemaḥ Tzedek, Rebbe Menaḥem Mendel of Lubavitch. After the passing of the Tzemaḥ Tzedek, Yehuda Leib contested the succession. When the Tzemaḥ Tzedek's youngest son, Shmuel, was chosen as rebbe, Yehuda Leib established himself in the town of Kopust, to be succeeded at his passing about a year later by Rebbe Shlomo Zalman. After Shlomo Zalman passed from this life, he was succeeded by his brothers, Shalom Dovber of Rechitsa and Shemaryahu Noah of Bobruisk. The latter passed from this world in 1924, and most of Kopust Ḥassidism returned to Habad/Lubavitch. (27 Iyar 5660, 26 May 1900)

Hillula of U.S. theatrical producer and playwright David Belasco, pictured at near right (27 Iyar 5691, 14 May 1931)

Hillula of Italian-born U.S. architect Giorgio Cavaglieri, refugee from Italian fascism, pictured at far right, whose restoration of the Jefferson Market Library in Greenwich Village in the mid-1960s is regarded as the first real instance of successful historic preservation in New York City (27 Iyar 5767, 15 May 2007)



***Time is the stuff life's made of.***  
–David Belasco

## 28 Iyar

Day Forty-three, making six weeks and one day, of the Omer

Hillula of French Tosafist Rabbi Yitzḥak ben Yosef of Corbeil. He was the student and son-in-law of Rabbi Yehiel ben Yosef of Paris, and he also studied under Rabbi Samuel of Évreux. His students included Peretz ben Elijah of Corbeil, Baruch Hayyim ben Menaḥem of Niort, and Yosef ben Avraham. In 1277 he published an abridgment of Moses ben Jacob of Coucy's *Sefer Mitzvot Gadol* under the title *Ammudei ha'Goloh* or *Sefer Mitzvot Katan*. (28 Iyar 5040, 29 April 1280, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Rabbi Peretz Chein of Chernigov, a Lubavitcher Hassid who saw with his own eyes six generations of Lubavitcher rebbes, from the Alter Rebbe to the infant Yosef Yitzḥak Schneerson (28 Iyar 5633, 13 May 1873, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Netherlands pianist and composer Rosalie Marie Wertheim, pictured at right. From 1921 to 1929, Wertheim taught at the Amsterdam Music Lyceum, composed songs and choral works, and led children's and women's choirs. In 1929 she moved to Paris, where she lived for six years, studying composition and instrumentation under the composer Louis Aubert. She was also a Paris correspondent for the Amsterdam newspaper *Het Volk*. In 1935 she moved to Vienna, where she studied counterpoint with Karl Weigl. In 1936 she traveled to New York City to give lectures and arrange performance of her works. Wertheim returned to Amsterdam in 1937. During the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, she gave secret concerts in a cellar, playing music by banned Jewish composers. After September 1942, she went into hiding to escape deportation. (28 Iyar 5709, 27 May 1949)



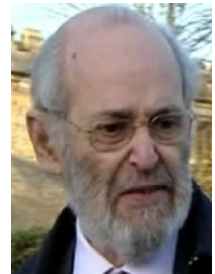
Hillula of U.S. social critic Dorothy Parker, pictured at right (28 Iyar 5727, 7 June 1967)

*Love is like quicksilver in the hand. Leave the fingers open and it stays. Clutch it and it darts away.* -Dorothy Parker



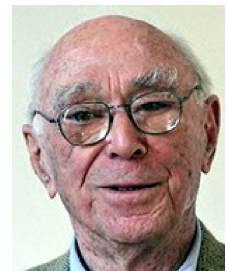
Hillula of Rebbe Yerahmiel Yehudah Me'ir Kalisch of Amshinov. Rebbe Yerahmiel Yehudah Me'ir's grandfather and teacher was Rebbe Menaḥem Kalisch of Amshinov, son of Rebbe Ya'akov David, founder of the Amshinover dynasty. Rebbe Yerahmiel Yehudah Me'ir's father, Rebbe Shimon Sholom of Otwotsk, was a major force behind the exodus of thousands of students in Mir, Kletzk, Radin, Novhardok, and other yeshivas via Japan to Shanghai at the outbreak of World War II. After the war, Rebbe Shimon Sholom move to the United States. Upon his passing from this world in 1954, Rebbe Yerahmiel Yehudah Me'ir brought his body to Tiberias for burial and remained there, eventually establishing the Amshinover court in Jerusalem. (28 Iyar 5736, 28 May 1976)

Hillula of Jerusalem-born U.S. Rebbitzin Tamar de Sola Pool, wife of Rabbi David de Sola Pool and sister of Tehilla Lichtenstein (28 Iyar 5741, 1 June 1981)



Hillula of Hungarian-born British Dead Sea Scrolls scholar and former Catholic priest Géza Vermès, pictured at right. Vermes was born into a Jewish family but was baptized, with his parents, when he was seven years old. He lost his parents in the Holocaust. After World War II, he entered the priesthood; then, in 1957, he left the priesthood and the Church and re-asserted his Judaism. Vermes was the first professor of Jewish Studies at Oxford University. (28 Iyar 5773, 8 May 2013)

Hillula of New York Civil Court Judge Ira Harkavy, pictured at near right, best known for sentencing a slumlord to live in his own building for fifteen days before correcting its more than four hundred code violations (28 Iyar 5775, 17 May 2015)



Hillula of U.S. psychologist Jerome Bruner, pictured at far right. Bruner was a pioneer in the field of cognitive psychology; his 1956 book, *A Study of Thinking*, formally initiated the study of the field, and he was one of the founders of the Center of Cognitive Studies at Harvard University. In the 1960s, Bruner turned his attention to developmental psychology and learning theory, concluding that a student, even one of a very young age, is capable of learning any material, provided the instruction is organized appropriately. (28 Iyar 5776, 5 June 2016, at age 100)

Hillula of U.S. author and playwright Leah Napolin. Born in Brooklyn, Napolin attended Alfred University, in western New York State, graduating in 1956. For a time, she taught music at a school in Venezuela. In 1958, Napolin married artist Bertram Katz; they both taught at Ohio State University. They were the parents of two daughters, Margo and Jessica. Napolin and Katz divorced in 2000; in 2013, Napolin married Barbara L. Murphy. Napolin's best-known work was her very first play, an adaptation of Isaac Bashevis Singer's short story "Yentl the Yeshiva Boy" as a stage play titled "Yentl." Starring Tovah Feldshuh, it ran for 223 performances on Broadway in 1975 and 1976. Very different from the Barbra Streisand's better-known film adaptation of the same name, Napolin's Yentl concludes with the title character, still disguised as a man, marrying the woman loved by her study partner (and love interest in Streisand's film version) Avigdor. Singer endorsed her interpretation – he expressed dismay at Streisand's – and even insisted on equal billing as playwright, although he had only minor input and did none of the writing. Napolin's subsequent plays included "The Dogs of Pripyat," which tells the story of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident from the point of view of the pets left behind. The play was adapted into a musical that was included in the 2012 Goodspeed Festival of New Artists in Connecticut. (28 Iyar 5778, 13 May 2018)

## 29 Iyar

Day Forty-four, making six weeks and two days, of the Omer

Hillula of Rabbi Meir (the younger) of Premislan, a direct disciple of the Baal Shem Tov, who, living in abject poverty all his life, exerted himself tirelessly for the poor and suffering (29 Iyar 5610, 11 May 1850)

Hillula of Rebbe Shmuel Shlomo Leiner of Radzin, martyr of the Shoah (29 Iyar 5602, 16 May 1942)

Hillula of Polish-born U.S. actor Menasha Skulnik, pictured at near right, star of Yiddish and Broadway theater (29 Iyar 5730, 4 June 1970)

Hillula of English playwright Peter Shaffer, pictured at middle right. Shaffer, the twin brother of playwright Anthony Shaffer, was best known for *Equus* and *Amadeus*. He received Tonys for both and an Academy Award for his film adaptation of *Amadeus*. (29 Iyar 5776, 6 June 2016)

Hillula of U.S.S.R.-born Swiss chess international grandmaster Viktor Korchnoi, pictured at far right. Always at odds with the U.S.S.R. government, Korchnoi chose not to return home after a chess tournament in the Netherlands in 1976, settling in Switzerland. He played for the World Championship twice, in 1978 and 1981, losing both times to Anatoly Karpov. In 2006, at age seventy-five, he was ranked 85th in the world by the Fédération Internationale des Échecs, the oldest player ever to be ranked in the top 100. In Korchnoi's obituary in *The Guardian*, English chess master and commentator Leonard Barden called him "the greatest player never to have been world champion." (29 Iyar 5776, 6 June 2016)

