

SHEVAT

1 Shevat

Traditional hillula of King Saul and his three sons, Jonathan, Avinadav, and Malkishu'a (1 Shevat)

Hillula of Rabbi Yerahmiel Yisrael Yitzhak of Alexander. (1 Shevat 5670, 11 January 1910)

Hillula of Rabbi Moshe Yehiel Epstein of Ozarow, pictured at near right (1 Shevat 5731, 27 January 1971)

Hillula of Russian-born U.S. gangster Meyer Lansky, pictured at far right. Lansky was born Meier Suchowlański in Grodno, in the Russian Empire. Grodno, now known as Hrodna, is a city in western Belarus, near the Belarusian borders with Poland and Lithuania. The Russian census of 1897, five years before Lansky's birth, recorded Grodno as a city of almost 47,000, about 48% Jewish. Lansky's father emigrated to the United States in 1909; Lansky and his mother and brother joined him two years later, settling in New York's Lower East Side. Lansky met his lifelong friend Bugsy Siegel when they were both in their teens. They became partners in the bootlegging trade, forming the Bugs and Meyer mob, one of the most violent of the Prohibition-era gangs. They formed a lasting friendship with Lucky Luciano; Lansky ingratiated himself with Luciano by arranging the 1931 murders of Mafia bosses Joe Masseria and Salvatore Maranzano, facilitating Luciano's rise to power. By 1936, Lansky had established gambling establishments in Florida, New Orleans, and Cuba. Lansky insisted that his gambling operations, unlike most others, were absolutely free of rigging; his games were always scrupulously honest; his knowledge of the true mathematical odds of the most popular games assured him a substantial profit. In the 1930s, Lansky's mob stepped outside their usual activities to break up pro-Nazi rallies in the New York area. During World War II, Lansky was also instrumental in helping the Office of Naval Intelligence's Operation Underworld, in which the government recruited criminals to watch out for German infiltrators and submarine-borne saboteurs. Lansky also brokered a deal in which Lucky Luciano would be paroled from prison in exchange for the Mafia's assuring the security of shipbuilding operations on the East Coast. In 1946, Lansky convinced the Mafia to place Siegel in charge of the development of Las Vegas, and he himself was a major investor in Siegel's Flamingo Hotel; Siegel's poor performance in managing the Flamingo led to his murder in 1974. Lansky maintained a close relationship with Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista. After World War II, Luciano was released from further imprisonment on condition that he return permanently to his native Sicily; instead, he went to Cuba, from where he continued to direct the Mafia. Lansky fled Cuba the day before Fidel Castro's ouster of Batista. In 1970, he fled to Israel to avoid tax evasion charges in the United States. Israel refused him entry and returned him to the U.S. to face the charges; he was acquitted. Despite nearly fifty years as a member-participant in organized crime, Lansky was never found guilty of anything more serious than illegal gambling. (1 Shevat 5743, 15 January 1983)



Hillula of U.S. singer, painter, and dancer Frances Gershwin Godowsky, pictured at right. Godowsky was the younger sister of George and Ira Gershwin, who would often ask her to sing their songs as they were writing them, so that they could hear how they would actually sound. She was married to violinist and chemist Leopold Godowsky, Jr. (1 Shevat 5759, 18 January 1999)



Hillula of U.S. playwright Wendy Wasserstein, pictured at right, recipient of a Tony Award and a Pulitzer Prize for her play *The Heidi Chronicles*. (1 Shevat 5766, 30 January 2006)



Hillula of German-born U.S. physician Arno Motulsky. Motulsky was born in Fischhausen, East Prussia, known since its capture by the Soviet Red Army in April 1945 as Primorsk, a town in Baltiysky District of Kaliningrad Oblast, Russia. Dr. Motulsky, then a sixteen-year-old boy, fled Germany in 1939; his ship, the ocean liner *St. Louis*, carrying 908 Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany, was refused entry at the port of Miami and sent back to Europe. England admitted 288 of the *St. Louis* refugees; all but one of them survived World War II. The other 620 refugees were admitted to Belgium, France, and the Netherlands; eighty-seven of them managed to emigrate before Germany overran most of Western Europe, but 533 were trapped. Of the last, 254 were slain – eighty-four who had been admitted to Belgium, eighty-four who had been admitted to the Netherlands, and eighty-six who were in France. Motulsky went to Belgium, but he was sent to an internment camp in France after Germany overran Belgium. In June 1941, ten days before his eighteenth birthday, Motulsky, carrying an American visa, left France and traveled through Spain to Portugal, where he boarded a ship to the United States. Had it been ten days later, he would have been detained in Spain and returned to Vichy France, as Spanish Nazi-allied dictator Francisco Franco did not permit men age eighteen and older to pass through Spain. A few months after his departure, the Vichy French turned over all their

Don't live down to expectations. Go out there and do something remarkable.

—Wendy Wasserstein

internment camps to the Gestapo. In 1943, he was drafted, and the U.S. Army, needing physicians, put him through medical school. Dr. Motulsky founded the related disciplines of medical genetics and pharmacogenetics, studying how genetics affects many medical issues, including reactions to medication. He is known as the “father of pharmacogenomics” (the study of how drug action and metabolism differ among people due to genetic variability), based on his 1957 report in 1957. One of his students, Dr. Joseph L. Goldstein, shared the 1985 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Dr. Michael S. Brown for their research on how the body processes cholesterol, work which led to the development of cholesterol-lowering statin drugs. (1 Shevat 5778, 17 January 2018)

2 Shevat

Hillula of Polish-born Rabbi Menahem Mendel Krochmal of Nikolsburg, student of Rabbi Yo’el Sirkes. (2 Shevat 5421, 2 January 1661)

Hillula of Rebbe Zusya of Hanipol. A disciple of Rebbe Dov Baer of Mezeritz and elder brother of Rebbe Elimelekh of Lizensk, Rebbe Zusya was the author of *Menorat Zahav*. (2 Shevat 5560, 17 January 1800, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Latvian-born star of the Moscow Yiddish theatre Solomon Mikhoels. Born Shloime Vovsi, he was a cousin of Joseph Stalin’s personal physician Miron Vovsi. Miron Vovsi was arrested in the Doctors’ Plot Affair and saved from execution only by Stalin’s death. The post-Stalin leadership of the U.S.S.R. dropped the matter for “lack of evidence” and, three years later, declared all the Doctors’ Plot accusations to have been fabrications. Solomon Mikhoels was the director of the Moscow State Jewish Theater and the chairman of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee. A particular target of Joseph Stalin’s anti-Semitic policies after World War II, he was murdered on orders from Stalin and Georgy Malenkov; his body was run over to create the appearance of a traffic accident. (2 Shevat 5708, 13 January 1948)

Hillula of U.S. Yiddish theater lyricist Bella Mysell. (2 Shevat 5751, 17 January 1991)

Hillula of U.S. Reform Rabbi Eugene Lipman, director of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism, president of the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (2 Shevat 5754, 14 January 1994)

Hillula of U.S. writer, photographer, musician, and academic Julius Lester. Lester was the son of a Methodist minister. At age seven, he learned that his maternal grandfather was a Jewish immigrant from Germany who had married a freed slave. As an adult, Lester converted to Judaism. From 1968 to 1975, Lester hosted a program on New York’s WBAI radio, earning a reputation as a “black militant” and accusations of anti-Semitism. Simultaneously, he taught for two years at the New School for Social Research. In 1971, he was engaged as a visiting lecturer in the Afro-American Studies Department at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. He became an associate professor in 1975 and a full professor in 1977. After his conversion to Judaism in 1982 and especially after the publication in 1988 of his book *Lovesong*, which chronicles his conversion, he became persona non grata in the Afro-American Studies department; he was then transferred to the Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies, where he remained until his retirement in 2003. During his career at UMass, Lester received three of the university’s most prestigious faculty awards – the Distinguished Teacher’s Award, the Faculty Fellowship Award for Distinguished Research and Scholarship, and the Chancellor’s Medal, the university’s highest honor. The Council for Advancement and Support of Education selected him as the Massachusetts State Professor of the Year in 1986. (2 Shevat 5778, 18 January 2018)

*I learned seven things from a thief.
What he does, he keeps to himself.
He is willing to take risks to attain his goal.
He does not distinguish between major and
minor matters, but takes equally exacting
care of each and every detail.
He invests great effort in what he does.
He is swift.
He is always optimistic.
If he fails, he comes back time and time again
for another try.* –Zusya of Hanipol

*We remember with our emotions.
The things that were important
in our emotional life, that’s what
we remember.* –Julius Lester

3 Shevat

Hillula of Rabbi Yosef Katz of Krakow, brother-in-law of Rabbi Moses Isserles. (3 Shevat 5351, 28 January 1591)

Hillula of Jeronimo Jose Ramos of Braganza, Portugal, the last known Jew to be burned at the stake by the Inquisition for practicing Judaism. (3 Shevat 5515, 15 January 1755)

Birth of Rabbi Moshe Betzalel Alter, third son of Rebbe Aryeh Leib of Ger. (3 Shevat 5629, 15 January 1869)

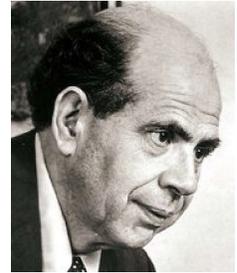
Hillula of Rebbe Yosef Yerahmiel Aaron Kalisch of Amshinov. Rebbe Yosef (the additional names Yerahmiel and Aaron were added to his name during his final illness) was the great-grandson of Rebbe Yitzhak of Vorki. Son and successor of Rebbe Menahem of Amshinov, Rebbe Yosef was succeeded as Rebbe by his son Yaakov David. (3 Shevat 5695, 7 January 1935; some sources give the date as either 5696/1936 or 5697/1937)

Hillula of Russian artist Meir Axelrod, whose painting, *The Shtetl*, is reproduced at near right. (3 Shevat 5730, 10 January 1970)

Hillula of Yiddish art theater star Celia Adler, pictured at far right, elder half-sister of actress Stella Adler. (3 Shevat 5739, 31 January 1979)



Hillula of Viennese-born U.S. pianist Walter Hautzig, pictured at right. As a youth, Hautzig studied at the Vienna Academy of Music until the Anschluss. The Academy was shuttered and seized by German soldiers, and, in the months that followed, Hautzig was arrested at least once and forced to scrub streets. In 1939, he pushed his way into an audition with Emil Hauser, director of the Jerusalem Conservatory, who had been a founder of the Budapest String Quartet. After hearing the teen-aged Hautzig play Beethoven's "Waldstein" Sonata, Hauser turned to him and declared, "No matter what it takes, I will make sure that you come to Jerusalem." A month later, Hautzig arrived in Jerusalem, where he studied under Josef Tal and Alfred Schroeder and performed as a soloist with the Jerusalem Academy Orchestra. Less than two years later, he joined his parents and his sister, who had escaped through Switzerland, in New York, then enrolled in the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. In 1943 he won the Town Hall Endowment Award in New York. A professor for twenty-eight years at the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, he also continued to perform, in dozens of cities scattered among more than a dozen nations in four continents, until he was over ninety years of age, and he recorded radio programs in at least six countries. His wife, Russian-born Esther Hautzig, was a writer of children's books. Once, a neighbor in the New York apartment building where they lived, a neighbor telephoned and said to Esther, "Your husband's practicing is driving me crazy." When Esther tried to apologize, the neighbor said, "No, no, no. I want to know the name of the piece he's practicing. I know the piece, but I can't remember what it is!" (3 Shevat 5777, 30 January 2017)



4 Shevat

Traditional hillula of Asher, son of the Patriarch Jacob and father of Serah. (4 Shevat)

Hillula of Rebbe Moshe Leib of Sassov. Rebbe Moshe Leib was a student of Rebbe Dov Baer, the Maggid of Mezeritz, and of Rebbe Elimelech of Lizensk, but his primary teacher was Rebbe Shmelke of Nikolsburg. His teachings are collected in *Likutei Ramal*, *Torat Ramal Hashalem*, and *Hiddushei Ramal*. (4 Shevat 5567, 13 January 1807)

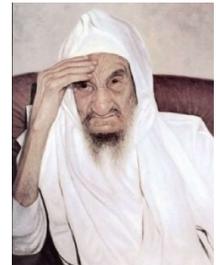
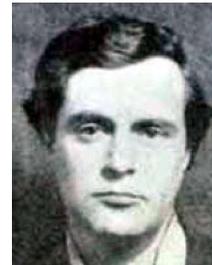
Do not be offended by one who harms you. Some of the goodness in him may be lacking in yourself.

—Moshe Leib of Sassov

Hillula of Rabbi Avraham ha'Cohen Katz of Kalisk. Originally a student of the Vilna Gaon, he visited Rebbe Dov Baer, the Maggid of Mezeritz, and soon became his disciple. In 1777, he and Rebbe Menaḥem Mendel of Vitebsk led a group of some three hundred ḥassidim to settle in Eretz Yisrael. (4 Shevat 5570, 28 December 1809, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

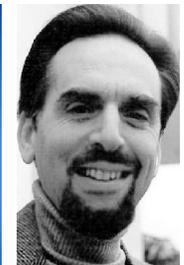
Happiness is an angel with a serious face.

—Amedeo Modigliani



Hillula of Italian painter and sculptor Amedeo Modigliani, pictured at near right. (4 Shevat 5680, 24 January 1920)

Hillula of Moroccan-born Israeli Kabbalist Rabbi Yisrael Abuḥatzeira, the *Baba Sali*, pictured at far right. He was a descendant of Hayyim Vital's student Shmuel Elbaz, and it was he who led the exodus of Moroccan Jews to Israel in 1948-1949. His grave in Netivot, Israel, is a place of pilgrimage. Interpreting G*d's "rest" on the seventh day (of the Creation cycle) as G*d resting from speaking (for G*d creates through speech), the Baba Sali refrained from speech on Shabbat, except, of course, for speech explicitly connected with Shabbat or with a mitzvah. (4 Shevat 5744, 8 January 1984)



Hillula of U.S. composer and singer of Jewish religious music Debbie (Deborah Lynn) Friedman, pictured at near right. (4 Shevat 5771, 9 January 2011)

Hillula of U.S. historian Robert Herzstein, pictured at far right, who revealed Austrian President Kurt Waldheim's hidden complicity in Nazi war crimes (4 Shevat 5775, 24 January 2015)

Hillula of German-born U.S. Reform Rabbi Herman Schaalman. Rabbi Schaalman was, at his passing at age 100, the oldest living Reform rabbi. A native of Munich, Germany, Rabbi Schaalman was one of five young men selected by Rabbi Leo Baeck to come to the United States on scholarship in 1935 to study for the rabbinate at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. In his rabbinic career, he served as senior rabbi of Chicago's Emanuel Congregation for thirty years. He was president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis from 1981 to 1983, and he also served as president of the Council of Religious Leaders of Chicago, as president of the Chicago Board of Rabbis and the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, and as a trustee of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. Rabbi Schaalman taught at both Catholic and Protestant seminaries, including Northwestern University's Garrett Theological Seminary, the Chicago Theological Seminary, the Catholic seminary of the Society of the Divine Word, and the North Park College Theological Seminary. (4 Shevat 5777, 31 January 2017)

5 Shevat

Hillula of German philosopher Moses Mendelssohn, pictured at right. Mendelssohn is counted as the “father” of the Haskalah and Reform Judaism, although his own practice and perspective were closer to what we would today call “Modern Orthodox.” Mendelssohn, whose father was named Mendel, adopted Mendelssohn as a surname because, as his son Abraham wrote to his own son, the composer Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, he “felt that the name Moses ben Mendel Dessau [Dessau being the family’s home town] would handicap him in gaining the needed access to those who had a better education at their disposal.” Dessau’s Rabbi David Fränkel taught him Tanach, Talmud, and Maimonides. When Rabbi Fränkel was called to a position in Berlin, the fourteen-year-old Mendelssohn joined him there. In 1754, Mendelssohn met Christian Enlightenment philosopher Gotthold Ephraim Lessing; they remained life-long friends and literary and philosophical collaborators. Mendelssohn’s eldest son, Joseph, established Mendelssohn and Company, a private bank in Berlin. It was one of the preëminent banking houses in Europe until 1938, when the Nazis’ Aryanization policy forced the firm to hand over its assets to Deutsche Bank. Mendelssohn’s grandchildren included pianist and Composer Fanny Hensel (born Fanny Mendelssohn-Bartholdy), composer Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, philosopher Paul Hugo Hensel, mathematician Kurt Hensel, and painter Philipp Veit. Mendelssohn’s daughter Recha married Heinrich Beer, brother of composer Giacomo Meyerbeer. (5 Shevat 5546, 4 January 1786)

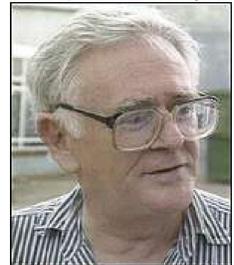
Whatever guides people to virtue in this life cannot be damned in the next.
–Moses Mendelssohn



Hillula of Rebbe Yehudah Aryeh Leib Alter of Ger, the *S’fat Emet*. Yehudah Aryeh Leib’s father, Rabbi Avraham Mordecai Alter, passed from this life when Yehudah Aryeh Leib was only eight years old, and he was raised by his grandfather, Rebbe Yitzhak Me’ir of Ger (the *Hid-dushei ha’Rim*), becoming his disciple. When Rebbe Yitzhak Me’ir passed from this life in 1866, his hassidim asked young Yehudah Aryeh Leib to lead them. Only eighteen years of age, he declined, and Rebbe Hanoch Henich of Alexander became their leader. When the latter returned his holy soul to its Source, in 1870, Yehudah Aryeh Leib could refuse no longer and became the second Gerer Rebbe. Rebbe Yehudah Aryeh Leib was married twice. His first wife, Yoheved Rivka, passed away in 1901, and he subsequently married Raizel, daughter of Rav Boruch of Gorlitz and granddaughter of Rebbe Hayyim of Sanz. He was the father of ten children, four of whom did not survive childhood. His surviving sons were Rebbe Avraham Mordecai Alter (the *Imrei Emet*, who succeeded him as Rebbe of Ger), Rabbi Moshe Betzael Alter, Rabbi Nehemiah of Lodz, and Rabbi Menahem Mendel of Pavinezh. The names of his two daughters have not been preserved; his sons-in-law were Rabbi Ya’akov Me’ir Biderman, Dayan in Warsaw; and Rabbi Tzvi Hanoch Levine of Bendin. (5 Shevat 5665, 11 January 1905)

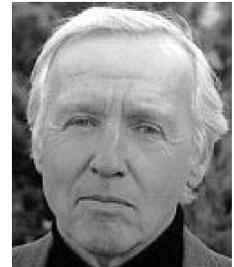
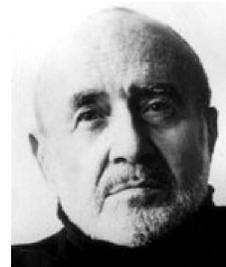
One of the greatest religious problems is that people fear having a relationship with G*d and consequently distance themselves. Just as angels serve G*d without fear . . . , so too human beings should . . . not be afraid of developing a relationship with G*d and of serving G*d. –The *S’fat Emet*

Hillula of Lithuanian-born South African lawyer and political activist Joe Slovo, born Yossel Mashel Slovo, pictured at right. Inspired by the Red Army’s battles against the Nazis on the Eastern Front of World War II, Slovo joined the South African Communist Party in 1942 at age sixteen and soon volunteered to fight in the war, joining the Springbok Legion, a multiracial radical ex-servicemen’s organization, upon his return. His wife, Ruth First, the daughter of SACP treasurer Julius First and, like Slovo, a prominent Jewish anti-apartheid activist, was assassinated in 1982. They were the parents of three daughters, Shawn, Gillian and Robyn. In 1963, Slovo and First went into exile, living in Britain, Angola, Mozambique and Zambia. Even in absentia, Slovo was elected general secretary of the SACP in 1984. A leading theoretician in both the South African Communist Party and the African National Congress, he was demonized by the right wing of South African society both as a Jew and as a Communist. He returned to South Africa in 1990 and, after the overthrow of apartheid and the elections of 1994, he became Minister for Housing in the government of Nelson Mandela, who had been one of his classmates in law school at the University of the Witwatersrand. (5 Shevat 5755, 6 January 1995)



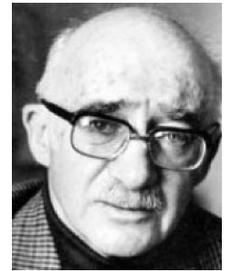
Hillula of U.S. short-story writer and novelist Harold Brodkey, pictured at near right. Born Aaron Roy Weintraub, he lost his mother in his infancy, and he was adopted by his father’s relatives, Joseph and Doris Brodkey. They changed his name to Harold and gave him their surname, an anglicization of the family’s original Russian name, Bezbo-rodko. After graduating from Harvard University in 1952, Brodkey began his writing career by contributing short stories to *The New Yorker* and other magazines. His stories received two O. Henry Awards. (5 Shevat 5756, 26 January 1996)

Hillula of U.S. civil rights worker Mendy Samstein, pictured at far right. (5 Shevat 5767, 24 January 2007)



Hillula of Russian-born (in Smorgon, Vilna Governorate, Russian Empire, now Smarhon', Belarus) Yiddish poet Avrom Sutzkever, pictured at right. Born in what is now Belarus, Sutzkever moved with his family to Omsk, Siberia, when he was but an infant; his first language was Kyrgyz. When he was eight years old, his father died, and his mother moved the family to Vilna, where he learned Polish, Yiddish, and Hebrew; his earliest poems were written in Hebrew. When Vilna fell to Nazi occupation, Sutzkever and his family were confined in the Vilna Ghetto. His mother and his new-born son were slain; at the 1946 Nuremberg trials Sutzkever testified against their murderer, Franz Murer, the "Butcher of Vilna," who established the Vilna Ghetto and who directed the killing of the Jews of Vilna, reducing Vilna's Jewish population from about 80,000 to 250. In 1947, Sutzkever and his wife, Freydke, emigrated to Palestine, settling in Tel Aviv. Sutzkever travelled widely; some of his poems were inspired by his travel to the jungles of South America and, especially, to the African savannah, where he found the sight of elephants and the songs of a Basotho chief particularly inspiring. Founder of the Yiddish literary journal *Di Goldene Keyt*, Sutzkever received the prestigious Israel Prize for literature in 1985, the first Yiddish writer to be so honored. (5 Shevat 5770, 20 January 2010)

*If you carry your
childhood with you,
you never become old.*
—Avrom Sutzkever



Hillula of U.S. advice columnist Pauline Esther Philips, née Friedman, pictured at right, known professionally as Abigail Van Buren, identical twin sister of Esther Pauline Lederer, who wrote a similar column as Ann Landers. (5 Shevat 5773, 16 January 2013)



6 Shevat

Hillula of Russian-born U.S. poet, playwright, and journalist Abraham Goldfaden, pictured at right, founder, in Iassi, Romania, of the first Yiddish theater. (6 Shevat 5668, 9 January 1908)

Hillula of Rebbe Hayyim Tzvi Teitelbaum of Sziget, brother of Yoel Teitelbaum of Satmar. (6 Shevat 5686, 21 January 1926)

Hillula of Planned Parenthood pioneer Doctor (psychiatrist and gynecologist) Lena Levine, a close associate of Margaret Sanger's. (6 Shevat 5725, 9 January 1965)

Hillula of U.S. professional boxer Barney Ross, born Dov-Ber Rosofsky. Ross was the son of an Orthodox rabbi and was expected to follow in his father's footsteps. "Jews do not resort to violence," his father told him repeatedly. When his father was killed resisting a robbery at his small grocery store, young Dov-Ber, fourteen years of age, became vindictive and bitter, rejecting his religion and running with a gang of toughs on Chicago's streets (including one other Jewish delinquent, Jacob Leonard Rubinstein, later known as Jack Ruby, the killer of Lee Harvey Oswald). His mother suffered a "nervous breakdown" and his sister Ida and brothers Sam and George were placed in orphanages. He became a street brawler, a thief, and a numbers runner, and was employed by Al Capone. Hoping to make enough money to be able to reunite his family, he turned to boxing, changing his name to "Barney Ross" in order not to embarrass his father's memory; Capone secretly provided him some support, buying multiple tickets to his bouts, with the knowledge that a portion of the proceeds would go to Barney. Ross went on to hold the world championship in three weight divisions. In eighty-one professional fights, he won seventy-two and lost only four. (He had three draws and two "no decision" fights, and was never knocked out.) He entered the Marine Corps and fought in World War II. Wounded badly at Guadalcanal, he developed a morphine addiction recovering from his wounds, turning to heroin after his release from hospital. His recovery from the addiction was portrayed in the film *Monkey on My Back*, starring Cameron Mitchell. (6 Shevat 5727, 16 January 1967)



Hillula of English Olympic athlete Harold Abrahams. Abrahams participated in the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp. Competing for Cambridge University from 1920 to 1924, he won a series of victories over Oxford in sprint and long jump events. In 1924, Abrahams began an intensive training program under the direction of athletics coach Sam Mussabini. Just one month prior to the Olympics, Abrahams set the English record in the long jump, leaping 24 feet 2½ inches (7.38 meters); the record stood for thirty-two years. He much preferred the sprint, however, and he did not compete in the long jump in Paris. At the 1924 Olympics, Abrahams defeated heavily favored American competitors, including Jackson Scholz and defending Olympic champion and world record holder Charles Paddock. His main British rival in the sprint, Eric Liddell, was a devout Christian and did not run in the 100-meter event, which was held on a Sunday; Liddell won the gold medal in the 400-meter race. In addition to his gold medal, Abrahams also shared a silver medal as a member of Britain's 400-meter relay team. Liddell's and Abrahams' experiences at the 1924 Olympics provided the subject of the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire*, which emphasized Abrahams' Judaism and portrayed his victory as a personal triumph over anti-Semitism. Abrahams suffered an injury in 1925 that ended his athletic career. He later became an attorney, radio broadcaster, and sports administrator, serving as chairman of the British Amateur Athletics Board from 1968 to 1975. He wrote widely about athletics; his books included, among others, *The Olympic Games, 1896-1952* and *The Rome Olympiad, 1960*. Abrahams had two older brothers. The eldest, Sir Adolphe Abrahams was the founder of British sport medicine. His middle brother, long jumper Sir Sidney

Abrahams, represented Great Britain in the 1912 Olympics. In December 1936, Abrahams married Sybil Evers, a singer with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. (*Chariots of Fire* misidentifies her as Sybil Gordon, also a D'Oyly Carte singer.) Unable to have children, they adopted an eight-week-old boy in 1946 and a three-year-old girl in 1946. They also fostered two children, refugees from Nazi Europe. At the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics, Abrahams was team captain of the British team and editor of the Official British Olympic Report. Working as an athletics journalist for forty years, he was a commentator on sports for BBC radio, covering, among innumerable other events, the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Later in his life, he also became president of the Jewish Athletic Association and served as chairman of the Amateur Athletic Association. Abrahams was inducted into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 1981 and into the England Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009. An English Heritage Blue plaque commemorating Abrahams was placed at his residence in Golders Green; his daughter Sue Pottle is pictured at right unveiling it. (6 Shevat 5738, 14 January 1978)



Hillula of U.S. labor lawyer Jack Sheinkman, pictured at near right, president of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union from 1987 to 1995. (6 Shevat 5764, 29 January 2004)

***Aging is not lost youth
but a new stage of opportunity and strength.***
—Betty Friedan



Hillula of U.S. feminist author Betty Friedan, pictured at far right. Friedan, born Bettye Naomi Goldstein in Peoria, Illinois, was a co-founder and the first president of the National Organization for Women. Her 1963 book, *The Feminine Mystique*, is often credited with sparking the “second wave” of U.S. feminism. On 26 August 1970, the fiftieth anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which granted women the right to vote, Friedan, after stepping down as president of NOW, organized the nationwide Women’s Strike for Equality. In 1971, she joined other leading feminists to establish the National Women’s Political Caucus. She was also a founder of the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws. (6 Shevat 5766, 4 February 2006, her eighty-fifth birthday according to the secular calendar)

7 Shevat

Hillula of Rebbe David Biderman of Lelov. Rebbe David, a disciple of Rebbe Ya’akov Yitzhak, the Seer, of Lublin, was the founder of the Lelov Hassidic dynasty and was the mentor of Rebbe Yitzhak of Vorki. It was he who brought such luminaries as Rebbe Ya’akov Yitzhak of Pshischa, Rebbe Simcha Bunam of Pshischa, Rebbe Yitzhak of Vorki, and Dr. Hayyim David Bernard to study under The Seer of Lublin. It is said that Napoleon, when he passed through Lelov on his way to Russia, heard of a holy man (Rebbe David) who could tell the future. He approached the rebbe and asked him whether he would be able to conquer Russia. Rebbe David was reluctant to reply, but Napoleon insisted, and the rebbe told him that he would suffer a crushing defeat. Napoleon then declared that he would slay Rebbe David if his prediction proved wrong. When Napoleon and his surviving army returned to Lelov, he sought out the rebbe, dismounted from his horse, bowed to the ground, and presented him with his own red velvet cloak. Rebbe David was succeeded as Rebbe by his son Moshe (son-in-law of Rebbe Yaakov Yitzhak, the “Yehudi,” of Pshischa), who, in the last year of his earthly life, moved the court to Jerusalem. He brought with him the cloak that Napoleon had given to Rebbe David and had it made into a covering for the Holy Ark in the Lelover synagogue. (7 Shevat 5574, 28 January 1814)

Liberalism is an attitude rather than a set of dogmas – an attitude that insists upon questioning all plausible and self-evident propositions, seeking not to reject them but to find out what evidence there is to support them rather than their possible alternatives.
—Morris Raphael Cohen

Hillula of Russian-born (in Minsk, Belarus, then part of the Russian Empire) U.S. philosopher Morris Raphael Cohen, portrait at near right. When he was twelve years of age, Cohen’s family emigrated to the United States. In his teens, Cohen moved away from organized religion and from belief in a personal G*d. His family’s poverty drew him toward socialism; influenced by Marx and Hegel, Cohen became a foe of authoritarianism. At Harvard, he was a roommate of the future Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, and he had a life-long interest in jurisprudence. Cohen felt that logical reasoning provided a necessary basis for all fields of thought. (7 Shevat 5707, 28 January 1947)



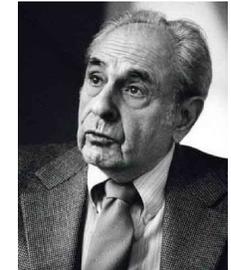
Hillula of Austrian-born U.S. actor Joseph Schildkraut, pictured at far right, the son of Rudolph Schildkraut. Joseph Schildkraut was the star of the first U.S. production, in 1921, of Ferenc Molnar’s *Liliom*, the play that was the basis for Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *Carousel*. He was awarded the 1937 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of Alfred Dreyfus in *The Life of Emile Zola*. (7 Shevat 5724, 21 January 1964)

Hillula of Russian-born U.S. poet and essayist Joseph Brodsky, pictured at far right. Born Iosif Aleksandrovich Brodsky, he and his family endured the 872-day-long Siege of Leningrad (he was only fifteen months old at the start of the Siege), in which an estimated 1,500,000 individuals, including Brodsky's aunt, perished. In school, he commented, many of his teachers were anti-Semitic, and he felt himself a dissident from an early age, declaring, in retrospect, "I began to despise Lenin even when I was in the first grade, not so much because of his political philosophy or practice . . . but because of his omnipresent images." He left school at age fifteen and engaged in a program of self-education. He learned Polish so he could translate the works of Polish poets such as Czesław Miłosz and English so that he could translate John Donne. He also acquired a deep interest in classical philosophy, religion, mythology, and English and American poetry. In 1962, Anna Akhmatova, one of the leading poets of the "silver age," introduced him to the artist Marina Basmanova, a young painter from an established artistic family. Brodsky and Basmanova started a relationship, but Brodsky's then close friend and fellow poet Dmitri Bobyshev was in love with Basmanova. Bobyshev began to pursue her and almost immediately Brodsky began to be pursued by the authorities; Bobyshev was widely held responsible for denouncing him. Brodsky was exiled to Siberia; his five-year sentence was commuted after eighteen months after intervention by such luminaries as Akhmatova, Yevgeny Yevtushenko, Dmitri Shostakovich, and Jean-Paul Sartre. Despite Bobyshev's pursuit of Basmanova, she and Brodsky continued their relationship even during his Siberian exile; their son Andrei, born in October 1967, was given her surname because Brodsky did not want his son to suffer from the political attacks that he had endured. By 1972, Brodsky, still at odds with the Soviet authorities, was pressured to emigrate, and, with the assistance of W. H. Auden and others, he made his way to the United States. In 1987, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature; in 1991, he was named Poet Laureate of the United States. (7 Shevat 5756, 28 January 1996)

The trial of a poet is an offense — one that is not merely criminal, but above all anthropological. It is a crime against language, against that which raises human beings above the animal world.
—Joseph Brodsky



Hillula of U.S. microbiologist Albert Schatz, pictured at right. Schatz grew up on a New England farm, and his research centered on soil microbiology. Seeing workers being assaulted by the authorities during the Depression prompted him to lifelong socialism and humanitarianism. As a postgraduate assistant at Rutgers University's college of agriculture under the supervision of Selman Waksman, Schatz participated in the search for new antibiotic compounds generated by microorganisms in ordinary soil. In 1943, Schatz volunteered to search for soil-born microorganisms that would kill or inhibit the growth of penicillin-resistant bacteria, including the tubercle bacillus, the bacterium that causes tuberculosis. In three and a half months, he had isolated two distinct microorganisms excreting a substance, which he named streptomycin, that stopped the growth of the tubercle bacillus and several other penicillin-resistant bacteria in a petri dish. Schatz was lead author, with Waksman, on the paper that first reported the discovery of streptomycin, and the second author, with Waksman, on the streptomycin patent application. In 1946, at Waksman's request, Schatz signed over his right to royalties from the streptomycin patent to the Rutgers Research and Endowment Foundation. He agreed to this in order to make streptomycin available as readily and inexpensively as possible, and he understood that the foundation, also, was to receive no profit from the discovery. In 1949, it was revealed that Waksman, contrary to his public pronouncements, had a private agreement with the foundation giving him 20% of the royalties — which by then had amounted to \$350,000. In March 1950, Schatz sued Waksman and the foundation for a share of the royalties and recognition of his role in the discovery of streptomycin. An out-of-court settlement awarded Schatz \$120,000 for the foreign patent rights and 3% of the royalties. Waksman conceded in court that Schatz, "is entitled to credit legally and scientifically as co-discoverer of streptomycin." Schatz, however, was never again able to get work in a top-level microbiology lab. When Waksman received the 1952 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, the Nobel Committee's citation, which originally credited Waksman "for the discovery of streptomycin," was changed, in response to letters from, among others, the vice-president of the agricultural college where Schatz was working at the time, to an acknowledgement of his "ingenious, systematic, and successful studies of the soil microbes that led to the discovery of streptomycin." Schatz received honorary degrees from universities in Brazil, Peru, Chile, and the Dominican Republic. In 1994, on the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of streptomycin, he was awarded the Rutgers University Medal. The university has also made Schatz's basement lab into a museum documenting his and other antibiotic discoveries made at the college. (7 Shevat 5765, 17 January 2005)



Hillula of U.S. physician and biologist Philip Leder. Early in his career, Leder assisted Dr. Marshall Nirenberg in deciphering the genetic code, the means by which successive units of DNA specify the order of the amino acids, the building blocks of protein. (Nirenberg received the 1968 Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology for their discovery.) Leder went on to help unravel the genetic mechanisms behind the great diversity of antibody molecules. He also discovered that the misregulation of a gene that guides the growth of cells was a major cause of cancer. In 1980, Leder moved to Harvard University as the founding chairman of the university's new department of genetics, a post he held until 2008. He received the 1987 Albert Lasker Award for his work on the genetics of immunoglobulins and

cancer. He often said that he got his best scientific ideas while listening to classical music, so much so that he would take a note pad with him to concerts. (7 Shevat 5780, 2 February 2020)

8 Shevat

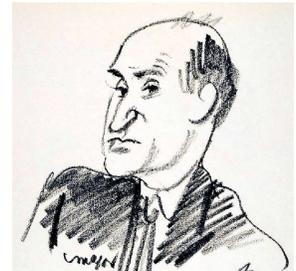
Hillula of German poet and playwright Else Lasker-Schüler, pictured at right. In 1894, she married physician Jonathan Berthold Lasker, elder brother of World Chess Champion Emanuel Lasker, and moved with him to Berlin. Their son, Paul, was born in 1899; the same year saw the publication of her first poems. They were divorced early in 1903. Later that year, she wed Expressionist artist and promoter of German avant-garde art Georg Lewin, better known as Herwarth Walden (a pseudonym given to him by Lasker-Schüler); they were divorced nine years later. Lasker-Schüler's first prose work, *Das Peter-Hille-Buch*, was published in 1906, as a memorial to Peter Hille, one of her closest friends. In 1907, she published the prose collection *Die Nächte der Tino von Bagdad*, followed by the play *Die Wupper* in 1909; the play was not performed until ten years later. A volume of poetry called *Meine Wunder*, published in 1911, established Lasker-Schüler as the leading female representative of German Expressionism. Despite her winning the Kleist Prize in 1932, she was physically harassed and threatened by the Nazis. She emigrated to Zürich but there, too, she could not work. She traveled to Palestine in 1934 and finally settled in Jerusalem in 1937. In 1938 she was stripped of her German citizenship. (8 Shevat 5705, 22 January 1945)



*When we gaze at each other,
Our eyes blossom.
We marvel so
Before our wonders –
Do we not? –
And all becomes so sweet.
We are framed by stars
And we flee from the world.
We become angels.*
–Else Lasker-Schüler

Hillula of Polish-born U.S. motion picture producer Samuel Goldwyn, born Schmuël Gelbfisz, pictured at right. (8 Shevat 5734, 31 January 1974)

Hillula of U.S. attorney Mary B. Grossman. She was the third woman admitted to the bar in Cleveland, Ohio, and one of the first two women admitted to the American Bar Association. She was the first woman to be a municipal judge in the United States. Known as “Hardboiled Mary,” she had a reputation as a severe, rigidly honest, no-nonsense jurist. When she took time off from the bench one year to observe Rosh Hashanah, it is said, several dozen bail-jumpers turned themselves in so that they would be brought before other judges. (8 Shevat 5737, 27 January 1977)



9 Shevat

Hillula of Italian-born U.S. biologist, medical researcher, and philanthropist Mathilde Krim, née Galland, pictured at right. Krim, the daughter of a Swiss Protestant father and an Italian Catholic mother of Czechoslovakian ancestry, converted to Judaism in 1950 when she married David Danon, an Israeli who was studying medicine at the University of Geneva. After his graduation and hers – she earned her PhD in biology from the University of Geneva – they, with their daughter Daphna, who later became an attorney in Washington DC, settled in Israel. At the Weizmann Institute of Science, she was part of the team that first developed a method for the prenatal determination of sex. After she and Danon divorced, she married Arthur B. Krim, a New York attorney and chairman of United Artists. The Krims were active in the U.S. civil rights movement, the gay rights movement, and numerous other civil liberties and human rights causes. Mathilde Krim had a career of more than two decades as a research scientist at the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, four years as director of its interferon lab. She held an appointment as Adjunct Professor of Public Health and Management at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health. In 1983, two years after the first cases of what would come to be known as AIDS, she established the AIDS Medical Foundation, a predecessor of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR). (9 Shevat 5778, 25 January 2018)



10 Shevat

Hillula of German-born Italian Rabbi Meir ben Yitzhak Katzenellenbogen, the *Maharam* of Padua, Italy. (10 Shevat 5325, 12 January 1565, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

*The doors of the generous may be locked;
The doors of heaven will never be.*
–Shalom Shabazi

Hillula of Yemeni Mori (the usual title for a Yemenite rabbi) Shalom Shabazi, pictured at right, a poet who wrote in Aramaic, Hebrew, and Judeo-Arabic. (10 Shevat 5480, 9 January 1720, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Emanuel Aguilar, father of English writer Grace Aguilar. (10 Shevat 5605, 18 January 1845)



Hillula of Rebbitzen Rivka Schneersohn, grand-daughter of Rebbe Dov Baer of Lubavitch and wife of Rebbe Shmuel of Lubavitch. (10 Shevat 5674, 24 January 1914, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Rabbi Yissachar Shlomo Teichtal, pictured at near right. (10 Shevat 5705, 24 January 1945, on a train going from Auschwitz to either Mauthausen or Bergen-Belsen)

Hillula of Rabbi Yosef Yitzhak Schneerson, the sixth Lubavitcher Rebbe, pictured at far right. He was known as the "Rebbe Rayatz" and is today commonly called the "Frierdiker (previous) Rebbe," with the implication that his son-in-law and successor, Rebbe Menahem Mendel Schneerson, who passed from this world on 3 Tammuz 5754 (12 June 1994), is still the rebbe of the Habad/Lubavitch movement. Indeed, the latter is still regularly referred to as "the Rebbe." Rebbe Yosef Yitzhak was the only son of his predecessor, Rebbe Sholom Dovber Schneerson. He was the husband of Nechama Dina Schneerson, who was, as was he, the great-grandchild of the Tzemaḥ Tzedek of Lubavitch. (10 Shevat 5710, 28 January 1950)



Hillula of Hungarian-born British film producer and director Alexander Korda, pictured at right. Korda was born Kellner Sándor László, with the family name, in the Hungarian style, preceding the individual name. He was the elder brother of film-makers Zoltán and Vincent Korda. (10 Shevat 5716, 23 January 1956)



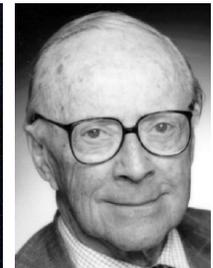
Hillula of Hungarian Stalinist Rákosi Mátyás. Known outside Hungary as Matyas Rakosi – in Hungarian, the family name precedes the given name – he was born Rosenfeld Mátyás in Ada, a village then in Bács-Bodrog County in Austria-Hungary, now in Vojvodina, Serbia. His father changed the family name in 1903, when Mátyás was ten years of age. The leader of the Hungarian Communist Party from 1945 to 1956 and de facto ruler of Hungary from 1949 to 1956, Rákosi was described by U.S. journalist John Gunther in his book *Inside Europe Today* as "the most malevolent character I ever met in political life." (10 Shevat 5731, 5 February 1971)

Hillula of U.S. Congressman Emanuel Celler, pictured at right. Celler was the fifth longest-serving member of the House of Representatives (the longest-serving member from New York), serving from March 1923 to January 1973. Celler made his first important speech on the House floor during consideration of the Johnson-Reed Immigration Act of 1924. Three years earlier, Congress had imposed a quota that limited immigration for persons of any nationality to 3% of that nationality present in the United States in 1910, with an annual admission limit of 356,000 immigrants. This national origin system was structured to preserve the ethnic and religious identity of the United States by reducing immigration from Eastern and Southern Europe, thereby excluding many Jews, Catholics, Italians, and others. Celler was vehemently opposed to the Johnson-Reed Act, which passed the isolationist Congress and was signed into law. For the next four decades, he spoke out vigorously in favor of eliminating the national origin quotas as a basis for immigration restriction. His advocacy culminated in the passage in 1965 of the the Hart-Celler Act, which ended national origins as a consideration for immigration. In the 1940s, Celler opposed both the isolationists and the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration by forcefully advocating that the United States relax immigration laws on an emergency basis to rescue those fleeing the Holocaust. In 1943, he called Roosevelt's immigration policy "cold and cruel" and blasted the "glacier-like attitude" of the State Department. In 1950, Celler was the lead House sponsor of legislation to strengthen the Clayton Antitrust Act of 1914; the bill, written with Tennessee Senator Estes Kefauver, became the Celler-Kefauver Act; it closed key regulatory loopholes, empowering the government to prevent vertical mergers and conglomerate mergers which could limit competition. At the 1952 Democratic Convention, responding to Senator Joseph McCarthy's impugning of his patriotism, Celler declared, "Deliberately and calculatedly, McCarthyism has set before itself the task of undermining the faith of the people in their Government. It has undertaken to sow suspicion everywhere, to set friend against friend and brother against brother. It deals in coercion and in intimidation, tying the hands of citizens and officials with the fear of the smear attack." The 1968 U.S. Gun Control Act was based on a bill drafted by Celler. (10 Shevat 5741, 15 January 1981)

On the one hand, we publicly pronounce the equality of all peoples; on the other hand, in our immigration laws, we embrace in practice these very theories we abhor and verbally condemn. –Emanuel Celler

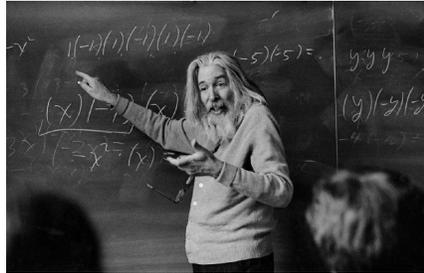


Hillula of U.S. biologist Rose Frisch, pictured at near right, aunt of Linda McCartney and discoverer of the link between low body fat and infertility in women. (10 Shevat 5775, 30 January 2015)



Hillula of U.S. physician Herbert L. Abrams, pictured at far right, pioneer in the study of the health implications of nuclear policy and founder of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, an organization which received the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize. (10 Shevat 5776, 20 January 2016)

Hillula of U.S. mathematician Raymond Smullyan, pictured at near right. In addition to his work in mathematics – his 1957 paper, published in the *Journal of Symbolic Logic*, remains the basis for the contemporary understanding of Kurt Gödel's incompleteness theorem – he was also an accomplished concert pianist, a Taoist philosopher, a stage magician, and the author of numerous books of mathematical and logical puzzles. (10 Shevat 5777, 6 February 2017)



Hillula of U.S. comedian Irwin Corey, born Irwin Eli Cohen, pictured at far right above. Corey spent seventy years perfecting the portrayal of his stock character, "Professor" Irwin Corey (the mock title was given to him by English-born U.S. folk singer Richard Dyer-Bennett), "the world's foremost authority." During World War II, Corey served briefly in the U.S. Army. He later said he had been discharged after about six months when an Army psychiatrist asked him whether he was homosexual and he replied, "That's none of your business." In 1974, he portrayed Marlo Thomas's father in Herb Gardner's Broadway comedy *Thieves*. *The New York Times*' reviewer, Clive Barnes, called him "a clown of shining absurdity" who had "manic moments of near genius." 10 Shevat 5777, 6 February 2017)

I feel more like I do now than when I first got here.
-Irwin Corey

11 Shevat

Hillula of Ukrainian-born (in Odessa) Italian teacher and journalist Leone Ginzburg, pictured at right. In his childhood, Ginzburg's family moved from Odessa to Berlin and then to Turin, Italy. He studied at the Liceo Ginnasio Massimo d'Azeglio in Turin, where his classmates included such notable intellectuals as Norberto Bobbio, Piero Gobetti, Cesare Pavese, Giulio Einaudi, Massimo Mila, Vittorio Foa, Giancarlo Pajetta and Felice Balbo, as well as many other intellectuals and political activists who would fight Benito Mussolini's Fascist régime and eventually help create post-war democratic Italy. Ginzburg taught Slavic languages and Russian literature at the Università degli Studi di Torino (University of Turin) until, in 1934, he was dismissed for his refusal to sign an oath of allegiance imposed by Mussolini. Later that year, he was arrested, with fourteen other young Turinese Jews, for bringing anti-Fascist literature into Italy from Switzerland. Briefly imprisoned, he was arrested again in 1935 for his activities as a leader of Giustizia e Libertà (the Justice and Freedom Party). In 1938, he married Natalia Ginzburg (née Levi). The Fascists' anti-Semitic racial laws stripped all Jews of their Italian citizenship, and, in 1940, he and Natalia were subjected to *confino* (internal exile) and sent to the remote and impoverished village of Pizzoli, in the Abruzzi. While there, Ginzburg founded the clandestine *Partito d'Azione* (the Action Party), a part of the democratic resistance. In 1943, after the fall of Mussolini, Ginzburg went to Rome, leaving his family in Pizzoli. When Germany invaded in September 1943, they fled and joined him in Rome, going into hiding. Ginzburg took the name Leonida Gianturco, but he was arrested on 20 November 1943 and taken to the German section of the Regina Coeli prison, where he was tortured until he died of his injuries. (11 Shevat 5704, 5 February 1944)



Hillula of Silesian-born U.S. mathematician Richard Courant. (11 Shevat 5732, 27 January 1972)

12 Shevat

Hillula of Algerian-born Rabbi Ḥayyim Kapusi of Cairo. Through his close relationship with Rabbi Yosef Bagiliar, a student of Rabbi Isaac Luria, the Holy Ari (the Hebrew word *ari*, an acronym of Ashkenazi Rabbi Isaac, means *lion*), Rabbi Kapusi was known as one of the *Gurei Ari* (literally, *cubs of the lion*), the students of the Ari. Rabbi Kapusi's book *Siftei Ḥayyim*, on the *Sifrei* and the *Mechilta*, has never been published; his *Be'or ha'Ḥayyim*, on the Torah, was published some three centuries after his passing. (12 Shevat 5391, 5 January 1631, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Everything in the Universe was as the Creator willed it - nothing superfluous, nothing lacking - a harmony.
-Rabbi Joseph H. Hertz

Hillula of Hungarian-born British Rabbi Joseph H. Hertz, pictured at right. Hertz was Chief Rabbi of the British Empire from 1913 until his passing in 1946. Born in Rebrény, Hungary (now Rebrín, Slovakia), he was educated in the United States, receiving his BA from City College of New York and his PhD from Columbia University. He was a member of the first graduating class of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, in 1894. (JTS was founded as an Orthodox rabbinic school and remained such until 1913.) In 1898, he accepted a rabbinic position in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he remained until 1911, when he returned to New York for two years, until he was chosen Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Empire. In South Africa, he survived efforts by President Paul Kruger in 1899 to expel him for his pro-British sympathies and for advocating the removal of religious disabilities of Jews and Catholics. He also taught at Transvaal University College (now the University of the Witwatersrand) from 1906 to 1908. His commentary on the Torah (the "Hertz Chumash") is still the one found in most Orthodox and many non-



Orthodox synagogues throughout the English-speaking world. (12 Shevat 5706, 14 January 1946)

Hillula of Hungarian-born British physicist Dennis Gabor, pictured at right. Gabor was born Günszberg Dénes (the family name preceding the individual name, in the Hungarian style). When he was a baby, the family changed their surname to the more Hungarian-sounding Gábor. When he was in his late teens, his family converted to Lutheranism, but religion was never a major influence in his life. He studied and worked in Germany from about 1920 on, but had to flee the Nazi regime in 1933, and he settled in England, becoming a British citizen in 1946. In 1947, Gabor invented holography, but it had no practical use until after the invention of the laser, the first coherent light source, in 1960. For his invention of holography, Gabor received the 1971 Nobel Prize in Physics. (12 Shevat 5739, 9 February 1979)



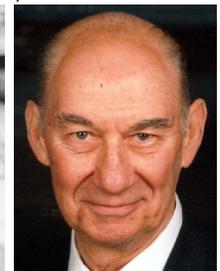
I have not been that wise. Health I have taken for granted. Love I have demanded, perhaps too much and too often. As for money, I have only realized its true worth when I didn't have it. -Hedy Lamarr

Hillula of Viennese-born U.S. actress and inventor Hedy Lamarr, pictured at right. Born Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler, she was described by Max Reinhardt as "the most beautiful woman in Europe" when she was only ten years of age. She was the star of the 1933 Czech film *Ecstasy*, a film that was notorious for Lamarr's role. It included closeups of her face during orgasm (rumored not to be simulated) and full-frontal distance shots of Lamarr swimming and running naked through the woods. At the urging of Louis B. Mayer, she chose her screen name as a tribute to silent film star Barbara La Marr, who had died in 1926 of tuberculosis. Cecil B. DeMille chose her to star in his 1949 production of *Samson and Delilah*. Lamarr was also known as an inventor. In collaboration with composer George Antheil, she invented an early technique for spread spectrum communications and frequency hopping, necessary to wireless communication from the pre-computer age to the present day. In Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, her birthday, 9 November, is celebrated as Tag der Erfinder, Inventors' Day. (12 Shevat 5760, 19 January 2000)



Hillula of British Rabbi Tzvi M. Rabinowicz, historian of Hassidism. (12 Shevat 5762, 25 January 2002)

Hillula of U.S. historian Howard Zinn, pictured at near right. Zinn was a World War II veteran, serving in the Army Air Force (then styled the Army Air Forces). In April 1945, he participated in an early military use of napalm in Royan, western France; his war-time experience led him to espouse pacifism. He is best known as the author of *A People's History of the United States*. (12 Shevat 5770, 27 January 2010)



Hillula of U.S. writer J. D. Salinger. (12 Shevat 5770, 27 January 2010)

Hillula of U.S. Reform Rabbi Eugene Borowitz, pictured at far right. Rabbi Borowitz was the founder and editor of *Sh'ma*. He was a professor for five decades at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (New York); in 2012 he celebrated his "hundredth semester" at HUC-JIR. He was the recipient of the Maurice N. Eisendrath Bearer of Light Award, the Jewish Cultural Achievement medal for scholarship, and the National Jewish Book Award. (12 Shevat 5776, 22 January 2016)

I wanted more than "objectivity." I wanted students to leave my classes not just better informed, but more prepared to relinquish the safety of silence, more prepared to speak up, to act against injustice wherever they saw it. -Howard Zinn

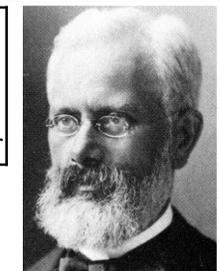
13 Shevat

Hillula of Rebbe Mordecai of Lechovitz. Rebbe Mordecai was a student of Rebbe Baruch of Medzibozh, but he was a disciple – indeed, the chief disciple – of Rebbe Aaron I of Karlin. The son of Rebbe Noah I of Lechovitz, Rebbe Mordecai was the ancestor of the Slonim and Kobryn dynasties. He was succeeded as Rebbe by his son, who became Rebbe Noah II. (13 Shevat 5570, 6 January 1810, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Judaism is a religion of historical growth, which, far from claiming to be the final truth, is ever regenerated anew at each turning point of history. -Kaufmann Kohler

Hillula of Bavarian-born U.S. Reform Rabbi Kaufmann Kohler, pictured at right. Kohler studied under Rabbi

Samson Raphael Hirsch in Frankfurt. Hirsch was his teacher but Rabbi Abraham Geiger, a founder of Reform Judaism in Germany, became his mentor. When he received his PhD in 1868, his dissertation, "Jacob's Blessing," one of the earliest Jewish essays in the field of "higher Biblical criticism," had the effect of closing off any possibility of being appointed to a pulpit in Germany. Geiger encouraged his emigration to the United States; he was chosen in 1869 as rabbi of Congregation Beth-El in Detroit and in 1871 as rabbi of Congregation Sinai in Chicago. In 1879, he succeeded his father-in-law, Rabbi David Einhorn, as rabbi of Temple Beth-El in New York City; his Chicago congregation chose his brother-in-law, Emil Hirsch, as his successor. In 1903, he was elected to the presidency of Hebrew Union College, Cin-



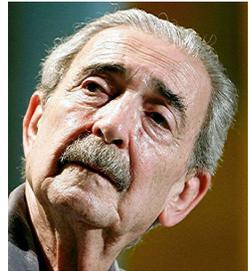
cinnati. Kohler, like his father-in-law, was in the “radical” camp of Reform Judaism. In Chicago, he instituted “Sunday lectures” as a supplement to Shabbat services, and, in 1885, it was he who convened the conference that produced the “Pittsburgh Platform,” which explicitly rejected the “ritual commandments,” such as kashrut, the priesthood, Shabbat restrictions on work, and the idea of a “Jewish homeland” in Israel. Time, however, mellowed his radicalism, as it has that of the Reform movement, which has, over the course of time, moved incrementally away from some of the positions of the Pittsburgh Platform. In 1892, he declared, “We ought not be blind to the fact that Reform, with no other principle but that of progress and enlightenment, has created a tendency to treat the past with irreverence and to trifle with the time-honored institutions and venerable sources of Judaism.” He abandoned the “Sunday lectures,” calling them a “patricide” undermining the holiness of Shabbat. (13 Shevat 5686, 28 January 1926)

Hillula of Rebbitzin Sarah Shterna Schneerson, pictured at right, mother of Rebbe Menahem Mendel Schneerson of Lubavitch. (13 Shevat 5702, 31 January 1942)



Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp. (13 Shevat 5705, 27 January 1945)

Hillula of Argentine poet Juan Gelman, pictured at right, recipient of the 1997 Argentine National Poetry Prize and of the 2007 Cervantes Prize, the most prestigious award in Spanish-language literature. (13 Shevat 5774, 14 January 2014)



14 Shevat

Hillula of Rabbi Ya'akov Yehoshua Falk, the *P'nei Yehoshua*. Rabbi Falk's name has a curious origin. Many Eastern European Jews, before the 19th century, took a second name that echoed in Yiddish their Hebrew names. The Hebrew name Yehoshua (Joshua, in English) was often echoed by the Yiddish Falk (or its varieties Valk, Walk, Wallik, or Wallich). Why so? *Falk* means a *falcon*; just as Joshua circled the city of Jericho before bringing it down, so a falcon circles in the sky, searching for its prey. This was not a surname, but a repetition of the rabbi's Hebrew name. In the early 19th century, these second names came to be used as family surnames. In 1702 – he was but twenty-two years of age – a gunpowder explosion brought down his house, killing his wife, Leah Landau, and their daughter Gittel; Rabbi Falk was trapped in the wreckage for several hours. He married a second wife, Toba; they were the parents of six children. Rabbi Falk's masterwork, the four-volume *P'nei Yehoshua*, is still considered an essential part of Talmudic study. (14 Shevat 5515, 26 January 1755)

Freiheit ist immer die Freiheit des Andersdenkenden. Freedom must always mean freedom for dissenters. –Rosa Luxemburg

Hillula of Rebbe Yehiel Danziger of Alexander. (14 Shevat 5654, 21 January 1894)



Hillula of Polish-born German Marxist theorist Rosa Luxemburg, pictured at right. For her role in support of the Spartacist Rebellion, Luxemburg was lynched by the *Freikorps*, vigilante groups of World War I veterans who defended the Weimar Republic. They had originally (1918-1923) fought against the Weimar Republic; they were responsible for the assassinations of Catholic Center Party leader Matthias Erzberger and Foreign Minister Walther Rathenau. Then, after the government had stabilized, the *Freikorps* turned to supporting the republic. They believed that the German Army had never been truly defeated in World War I, only sabotaged by leftist-sympathizing civilians. The *Freikorps* is often seen as a precursor to Nazism; Rudolph Höss, commandant of Auschwitz, was one of their alumni. They murdered Luxemburg, and Karl Liebknecht, leader of the Spartacist League, as well, by drowning them in the Landwehr Canal in Berlin. (14 Shevat 5679, 15 January 1919)

Hillula of German-born U.S. linguist and anthropologist Edward Sapir, pictured at near right, founder of the discipline of ethnolinguistics. (14 Shevat 5699, 3 February 1939)

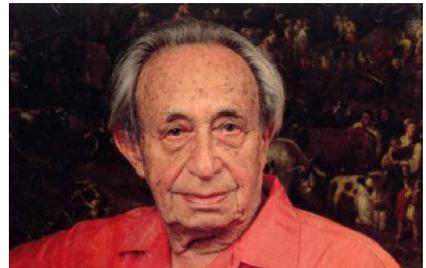
Unsolicited gifts from without are likely to be received with unconscious resentment. –Edward Sapir

The latest revelation – from no Mount Sinai, from no Mount of the Sermon, from no Bo Tree – is the outcry of mute things themselves that we must heed by curbing our powers over Creation, lest we perish together on a wasteland of what was Creation. –Hans Jonas

Hillula of U.S. Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan, pictured at middle right. (14 Shevat 5743, 28 January 1983)

Wisdom is the level above all division, where everything is a simple unity. –Aryeh Kaplan

Hillula of German-born U.S. philosopher and ethicist Hans Jonas, pictured at far right. Jonas was a student of Martin Heidegger's and a classmate of Hannah Arendt. (14 Shevat 5753, 5 February 1993)



Hillula of U.S. Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan, pictured at middle right. (14 Shevat 5743, 28 January 1983)

Hillula of German-born U.S. philosopher and ethicist Hans Jonas, pictured at far right. Jonas was a student of Martin Heidegger's and a classmate of Hannah Arendt. (14 Shevat 5753, 5 February 1993)

Hillula of British historian Sir Martin Gilbert, pictured at near right, biographer of Winston Churchill. (14 Shevat 5775, 3 February 2015)

We must learn to draw from misfortune the means of future strength.
—Martin Gilbert



Hillula of U.S. theater director Isaac (Ike) Schambelan, pictured at far right, founder of Theater for the Blind, now known as Theater Breaking Through Barriers. (14 Shevat 5775, 3 February 2015)

Hillula of U.S. physician Victor Sidel. Sidel, a specialist in public health, was a founding member of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) and of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW); the latter organization received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985. Sidel served as president of PSR and co-president of IPPNW. Acting on his belief that nuclear proliferation was a public health issue, Sidel was among 139 individuals arrested in 1986 during a protest organized by the American Public Health Association at a nuclear test site in Mercury, Nevada. A year earlier, he had been arrested while protesting apartheid in front of the South African embassy in Washington. As chairman of the department of social medicine at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx for sixteen years, he developed community health centers, trained interns and residents to study the economic and social factors that affected local residents' health, initiated a project to improve the health of children in local day-care centers, and worked on programs to address prisoners' health. (14 Shevat 5778, 30 January 2018)

15 Shevat

Tu b'Shevat. Tu b'Shevat is, literally, the 15th day of Shevat. (In Hebrew, the number fifteen is traditionally written as ט"ו, pronounced *tu*. The "natural" form for fifteen would be ט and נ, but this letter combination is one of the Divine Names and is therefore not traditionally written; hence, the substitution.) Tu b'Shevat is mentioned in the Talmud as the "new year" for planting and sowing. The school of Shammai taught that it should be on the first of Shevat, but the school of Hillel opted for the fifteenth, and the tradition, as almost always, went with the interpretation of Hillel. When the Temple stood, this was the beginning of the year for the purpose of calculating agricultural tithes. In modern parlance, it is called the "New Year of the Trees," and it is celebrated by planting trees. The mystical circle of Rabbi Isaac Luria, in sixteenth-century Tzfat, developed a formal Tu b'Shevat Seder, including the consumption of ten particular fruits and nuts and four cups of wine. This custom has been revived in Israel, among both religious and secular Jews, and in many synagogues around the world, including the formalization of publishing Tu b'Shevat Haggadot.

Hillula of Rabbenu Nissim ben Reuven of Girona, Catalonia. Rabbenu Nissim, known as the "Ran," an acronym of his title and name, was born in Barcelona. He often cites Rabbi Peretz ha'Cohen of Barcelona as "our teacher," but it is generally believed that his main teacher was his own father, Rabbi Reuven ben Nissim. Rabbenu Nissim responded to halakhic questions submitted to him from throughout the European diaspora and as far away as Eretz Yisrael and Syria. His major disciples were Rabbis Yitzhak ben Sheshet and Hasdai Crescas. No advocate of the mystical tradition, Rabbenu Nissim reproved Nahmanides for devoting too much time and energy to Kabbalah. He wrote a commentary on the Talmud, some parts of which have been published, and a commentary on the *Sefer ha'Halakhot* of Rabbi Yitzhak Alfasi. A collection of his *divrei Torah* was published under the title *D'rashot Ha'Ran*. Rabbenu Nissim was also a physician and an astronomer. (15 Shevat 5136, 7 January 1376, according to the Julian calendar then in use; some sources have the date as 9 Shevat, 1 January)

This is something the human mind cannot comprehend – how the world of multiplicity comes out of G*d's simple unity. G*d, in the Divine Wisdom, creates countless species, each different from the next, and all derive from G*d's perfect Oneness. Yet it is precisely by means of the multitude of Creation that we can come to know G*d, for the entire purpose of Creation is to bring us to a knowledge of the Creator. And this is something we cannot understand; we can rely only on our faith.
—Nathan of Nemirov

Hillula of Portuguese-born German physician Rodrigo de Castro. The Inquisition forced him to flee from Portugal and then again from the Netherlands. De Castro was personal physician to King Frederick II of Denmark, to Landgrave Moritz of Hesse-Kassel, to Archduke Adolf Frederick I of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and to John Adolf, simultaneously Duke of Schleswig-Holstein-Gottorp and administrator of the Prince-Archbishopric of Bremen. (15 Shevat 5387, 1 February 1627)

Birth of Nathan (Sternhartz) of Nemirov, also known as Reb Nosson of Breslov, chief disciple and amanuensis of Rebbe Nahman of Breslov. (15 Shevat 5540, 11 January 1780, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

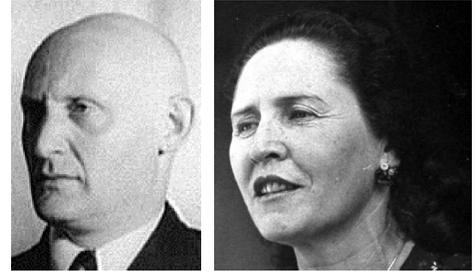
Hillula of Israeli poet, novelist, journalist, and documentary film-maker Hayyim Gouri (born Gurfinkel), pictured at right. After high school, Gouri joined the Palmach and completed a commander's course. He participated in the bombing of a British radar station that was being used to track *Aliyah Bet* ships carrying illegal Jewish immigrants to Palestine. In 1947, Gouri was sent to Hungary to bring Holocaust survivors to Mandate Palestine. Gouri's first published poem, "Day Voyage," appeared in *Mishmar*, under the editorship of Avraham Shlonsky, in



1945. His first complete volume of poetry, *Flowers of Fire*, was published in 1949. Gouri received the 1961 Sokolow Award for Israeli Journalism, the 1975 Bialik Prize for literature, the 1988 Israel Prize for Hebrew poetry, and the 1998 Uri Zvi Greenberg Award. The motion picture *The 81st Blow*, which he wrote, co-produced, and co-directed, was nominated for the 1974 Academy Award for Documentary Feature. It is part of a Holocaust trilogy that includes *The Last Sea* and *Flames in the Ashes*. In 2016, Gouri turned down an award for "Zionist works of art" from Israel's Ministry of Culture and Sport; the award would have included a prize of 50,000 shekels. (15 Shevat 5778, 31 January 2018)

16 Shevat

Hillula of Polish-born U.S. Yiddish author Israel J. Singer, pictured at near right, brother of Isaac Bashevis Singer. (16 Shevat 5704, 10 February 1944)



Hillula of Belarusian-born Israeli theater star Hannah Rovina of the Habima Theater, pictured at far right. (16 Shevat 5740, 3 February 1980)

Hillula of Yemeni-born Israeli singer Shoshana Damari, pictured at near right. (16 Shevat 5766, 14 February 2006)



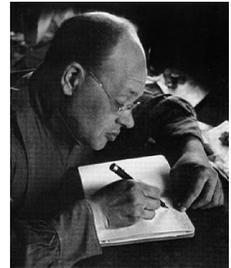
Hillula of German-born Canadian Reform Rabbi Gunther Plaut, pictured at middle right, author of *The Torah: A Modern Commentary*. (16 Shevat 5772, 8 February 2012, after sunset)

Hillula of U.S. actor Abe Vigoda, pictured at far right. In 1982 and again in 1987, Vigoda was erroneously reported to have passed from this life. (16 Shevat 5776, 26 January 2016, after sunset)

17 Shevat

Hillula of Rabbi Hayyim Bochner (17 Shevat 5444, 2 February 1684)

Hillula of Rebbe Yehezkel Taub of Kozmir. Born in Plonsk, Poland, Rebbe Yehezkel was a disciple of Rebbe Ya'akov Yitzhak, the Hoze of Lublin. His was the father of Rebbe Shmuel Eliyahu Taub of Zvolin, whose elder son, Moshe Aaron, succeeded him in Zvolin and whose younger son, Yisrael, became the founder of Modzitzer Hassidism. (17 Shevat 5616, 24 January 1856)



No iron can pierce the heart with such force as a period put just at the right place. -Isaak Babel

Hillula of Ukrainian-born (in Moldavanka, a suburb of Odessa, then in the Russian Empire) Russian language playwright, journalist, and short-story writer Isaak Babel, pictured at right above. Babel, a friend of Maxim Gorky's and mentor of Ilya Ehrenburg, was murdered in Joseph Stalin's purge of writers. (17 Shevat 5700, 27 January 1940)



Hillula of German-born U.S. musicologist Alfred Einstein, pictured at near right. The *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* describes him as a cousin of Albert Einstein's, but the *Concise Edition of Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians*, 8th edition, and Alfred Einstein's daughter Eva deny the relationship. (17 Shevat 5712, 13 February 1952)

Life isn't a science. We make it up as we go. -Al Hirschfeld

Hillula of U.S. Reform rabbi and archaeologist Nelson Glueck, pictured at far right above. Glueck was the president of Hebrew Union College from 1947 to 1971. He delivered the benediction at President John F. Kennedy's inauguration. (17 Shevat 5731, 12 February 1971)



Hillula of U.S. caricaturist Al Hirschfeld, self-portrait at near right. (17 Shevat 5763, 20 January 2003)

Hillula of Samaritan High Priest Shalom ben Amram ben Yitzhaq, pictured at middle right. (17 Shevat 5764, 9 February 2004)

Hillula of Tullia Zevi, née Calabi, pictured at far right above. Zevi, with her parents, spent the years from 1938 to 1946 in Switzerland, France, and the United States. She was the first woman president (1983-1998) of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, where she was a strong advocate of Jewish-Muslim dialogue, urging Europe's Jews to stand

in solidarity with European Muslims against racism and xenophobia. (17 Shevat 5771, 22 January 2011)

18 Shevat

Hillula of Rabbi Ya'akov Margolies. (18 Shevat 5261, 7 January 1501, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of U.S. astronaut Judith Resnik, pictured at right. (18 Shevat 5746, 28 January 1986, on the space shuttle *Challenger*)

Hillula of Yosef ben Ab-Hisda ben Ya'akov ben Aharon, Samaritan High Priest from 26 January 1987 until his passing. (18 Shevat 5758, 14 February 1998)

Study what interests you. Do all you can and don't be afraid to expand into new fields.
—Judith Resnik



19 Shevat

Hillula of Portuguese-born Luís de Carvajal y de la Cueva, Governor of the Spanish province of Nuevo Reino de León (often simplified as Nuevo León). His parents, Gaspar de Carvajal and Catalina de León, were crypto-Jews, descendants of *conversos*. At age eight, he was taken by his family to Benavente, in the Spanish Province of León, where he remained until his maternal uncle, Duarte de León, a wealthy Portuguese contractor, sent him to the Portuguese islands of Cabo Verde. In 1560, King Sebastião of Portugal named him treasurer for the assets of the deceased. In 1564, in Seville, he married Guiomar Nuñez, the eldest daughter of a wealthy slave trader, Miguel Nuñez. In 1567, he came to New Spain, and, in 1579, King Felipe II of Spain named him Governor of Nuevo Reino de León. In 1572, in a campaign to “pacify” certain Native American tribes, he became the first known Spanish subject to enter what is now the Continental United States. In 1588, he was arrested on charges of being a slave trader. Also accused of covering up his sister’s continued practice of Judaism, he was sentenced to six years’ exile from Mexico. He died while being held in prison for a year awaiting the execution of his sentence. (19 Shevat 5351, 13 February 1591)

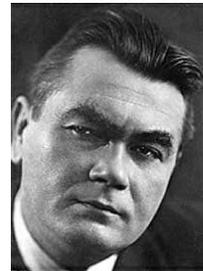
Hillula of Rebbe Elimelech Menaḥem Mendel Landau of Strikov. Rebbe Menaḥem Mendel (the name Elimelech was added about a year before his passing, when he was suffering a serious illness) was the son of Rebbe Dov Berish of Biala. Rebbe Menaḥem Mendel had a rather lengthy route to the position of Rebbe. With the passing of Rebbe Yitzḥak of Vorki in 1848, most of his followers gravitated to Rebbe Menaḥem Mendel’s father, Rebbe Dov Berish. When the latter departed this life in 1876, none of his sons felt worthy to succeed him, and the succession fell to his chief disciple, who became Rebbe Yehiel of Alexander and then, in 1894, to Rebbe Yehiel’s son, Rebbe Yisrael. The latter passed from this world in 1910, leaving no children, and the community followed Rebbe Menaḥem Mendel’s brother, Rebbe Aaron Zvi. Only after Rebbe Aaron Zvi passed did Rebbe Menaḥem Mendel establish his court in Strikov, becoming the first Strikover Rebbe. He was succeeded as Rebbe by his son, Rebbe Ya'akov Yitzḥak Dan, who would perish in the Holocaust. After World War II, Strikover Ḥassidism was reestablished in Israel by another of Rebbe Menaḥem Mendel’s sons, Rebbe Avraham. (19 Shevat 5696, 12 February 1936)

Hillula of Russian-born U.S. entertainer Sophie Tucker, born Sonya Kalish, pictured at near right. (19 Shevat 5726, 9 February 1966)

Hillula of Viennese-born British actor Oskar Homolka, pictured at far right. (19 Shevat 5738, 27 January 1978)

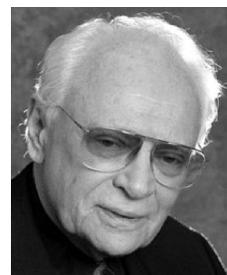
Hillula of German-born Russian-American economist Wassily Leontief. Leontief was born in Munich, Germany, the son of a Russian Old-Believer father and a Russian Jewish mother. His father, also named Wassily, scion of a merchant family that had lived in St. Petersburg for two and a half centuries, was a professor of economics; his mother was from a wealthy Odessa family. Leontief earned his master’s degree from Leningrad University in 1924. As a campaigner for academic autonomy and freedom of speech and as a supporter of Pitirim Sorokin, he was detained several times by the *Cheka* (the Soviet Secret Police). In 1925, because the Cheka believed that he was mortally ill with a sarcoma (a diagnosis that later proved false), he was allowed to leave the USSR. He continued his studies at the University of Berlin and earned his PhD in 1928. In 1931, he came to the United States; the following year, he joined the faculty of Harvard University, where he remained until he moved to New York University in 1975. Leontief received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1973. One of his doctoral students, Paul Samuelson, preceded him as Nobel laureate by three years, and three of his other doctoral students – Robert Solow (1987) Vernon L. Smith (2002), and Thomas Schelling (2005) – were also Nobel laureates in economics. (19 Shevat 5759, 5 February 1999)

Hillula of Hungarian-born Israeli humorist Ephraim Kishon, pictured at right. (19 Shevat 5765, 29 January 2005)



You have to have your heart broken at least once to sing a love song.
—Sophie Tucker

Really to enjoy the better things in life, one must first have experienced the things they are better than.
—Oskar Homolka



Hillula of U.S. Jewish Renewal Cantor Susan Wehle, pictured at near right. (19 Shevat 5769, 13 February 2009)

20 Shevat

Traditional birthday and hillula of Asher, son of the Patriarch Jacob (20 Shevat)

Hillula of U.S. showman Billy Rose. (20 Shevat 5726, 10 February 1966)

Hillula of U.S. objectivist poet Charles Reznikoff, pictured at far right.

The objectivist poets (no connection with Ayn Rand's "objectivism," despite the similar names), a loose-knit group of second-generation Modernists who emerged in the 1930s, mainly in the United States, were influenced by, among others, Ezra Pound and William Carlos Williams. They aimed to treat the poem as an object and to emphasize sincerity, intelligence, and the poet's ability to look clearly at the world. The son of Russian immigrants who came to the United States to escape the pogroms, Reznikoff wrote largely about Jewish subjects, including the Holocaust. (20 Shevat 5736, 22 January 1976)

Hillula of U.S. pianist and composer Ida Ruth Meisels. (20 Shevat 5764, 12 February 2004)

Hillula of El'azar ben Tsedaqā ben Yitzḥaq, the 131st Samaritan High Priest, pictured at right. At his burial, he was eulogized by Jibrin al-Bakri, the Palestinian Authority's governor for the Nablus area, and by Brigadier General Yoav Mordechai, head of Israel's Civil Administration of Judea and Samaria. (20 Shevat 5770, 3 February 2010, after sunset)

21 Shevat

Hillula of Rabbi Moshe (ben Yonatan) Galante II. Rabbi Galante, the namesake of his grandfather, Joseph Karo's student Moshe (ben Mordecai) Galante I, was Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem (the first to bear the title *Rishon l'Tzion*). The Galante family traces its ancestry to Mordecai Galante, a Spanish exile of the Angel family who settled in Rome after the Expulsion. Mordecai Galante was so respected by the Roman nobility that they called him Galantuomo (*gentleman, man of honor*). When the family moved to Palestine in the late sixteenth century, they retained the shortened form, Galante, as their surname. Rabbi Galante was the author of *Zevah ha-Shelamim*, a harmonization of contradictory Biblical passages and of Biblical with Talmudic statements. He was among the prominent rabbis (including such luminaries as Isaac Aboab da Fonseca, Moshe Raphael de Aguilar, Moshe Zacuto, and Ḥayyim Benveniste) who were numbered as followers of Shabbetai Zvi. Rabbi Galante's grandson, Moshe Ḥagiz, a tireless crusader against Sabbateanism, edited and published *Zevah ha-Shelamim* in Amsterdam about 1707. Rabbi Galante also wrote *Korban Ḥagigah* (Venice, 1714), a collection of original comments on halachic and kabbalistic subjects, and *Elef ha-Magen*, a work that exists only in manuscript. Another of his grandsons was Rebbe Yehudah Aryeh Leib of Ger, the *S'fat Emet*. (21 Shevat 5449, 1 February 1689, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

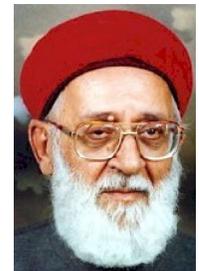
Hillula of Governor David Littleberry Emanuel, Jr., of Georgia, the first Jewish governor of a U.S. state. During the American Revolution, Emanuel served in the Georgia Militia, reaching the rank of colonel. He entered politics in 1780, serving in a spectrum of offices, including the state House of Representatives and the Georgia Constitutional Conventions of 1789 and 1795. Emanuel was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 1792, taking office in 1793 and soon rising to the position of Senate President. When Governor James Jackson, elected to the U.S. Senate, resigned as Governor on 1 March 1801, Emanuel, as Senate President, assumed the office of Governor. He was the twenty-ninth Governor of Georgia in the twenty-five years since Independence. He generally followed Jackson's policies, but he used his power as Governor to effect the repeal of the Yazoo land sale, in which millions of acres of land in western Georgia were sold to investors at a price well below the fair market value. Having accomplished this goal, he chose not to run for a full term as Governor, and, on 7 November 1801, he resumed his seat in the State Senate (albeit not as Senate President), where he continued to serve until his passing. Emanuel County, about one-third of the way from Savannah to Atlanta, was named for him. (21 Shevat 5568, 19 February 1808)

Hillula of Rebbe Yeḥiel Meir of Gostynin. Rebbe Yeḥiel Meir was a student of Rebbe Menaḥem Mendel of Kotzk and of Rebbe Ya'akov Aryeh of Radzymin. The Rebbe of Kotzak called him a *Tzaddik Nistar* a "concealed tzaddik," one of the thirty-six perfect saints who are said to exist in every generation. (21 Shevat 5648, 3 February 1888)

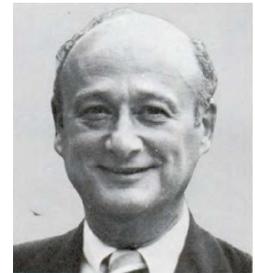
Hillula of Rebbe Yeḥiel Yehoshua Rabinowitz of Biala. Rebbe Yeḥiel Yehoshua's grandfather, Rebbe Yitzḥak Ya'akov of Biala (author of *Divrei Binah*) was the great-grandson of Rebbe Ya'akov Yitzḥak, the "Yehudi" of Pshischa. Rebbe Yeḥiel Yehoshua lost his grandfather when he was four years old and his father not long thereafter. He was installed as Rebbe of Biala in 1924, when he was only twenty-three, and he established his court in Shidlitz. His major written work is *Helkat Yehoshua*. Rebbe Yeḥiel Yehoshua was exiled to Siberia from 1940 to 1947, then moved to Israel and established his court first in Tel Aviv and then, in 1955, in Jerusalem. He was succeeded as Rebbe by his son, David Mattityahu. (21 Shevat 5742, 14 February 1982)



*The day's brightness
dwindles into stars.*
-Charles Reznikoff



Hillula of Austrian-born U.S. opera conductor Kurt Herbert Adler, pictured at near right. Adler was Arturo Toscanini's assistant at the 1936 Salzburg Festival. He served as Chorus Director, then Artistic Director, then General Director of the San Francisco Opera for a total of forty-eight years. (21 Shevat 5748, 9 February 1988)



Hillula of New York City Mayor Ed (Edward Irving) Koch. Koch served in the U.S. House of Representatives for eight years and as mayor of New York for twelve. Although a "lifelong Democrat," he supported a series of Republican candidates for mayor and for U.S. President after he left office. The last years of his third term as mayor were tainted with scandal, and he was defeated in the 1989 primary election by David Dinkins, who went on to defeat Rudolph Giuliani in the general election and become the first (and, to date, the only) African-American mayor of New York. (21 Shevat 5773, 1 February 2013)

22 Shevat

Birth of Rebbe Tzadok ha'Cohen Rabinowicz of Lublin. Rebbe Tzadok, born into an anti-Hassidic family, turned to Hassidism upon meeting Rebbe Mordecai Yosef Leiner of Izhbitza.

Upon the latter's passing from this life, Rebbe Tzadok became a follower of Rebbe Yehudah Leib Eiger of Lublin and, ultimately, his successor. He is commonly known by the title of his major writing, the *Tzidkat ha-Tzaddik*. His other writings include *Pri Tzaddik* and *Resisei Layla*, and he wrote scholarly essays on astronomy, geometry, and algebra as well. (22 Shevat 5583, 3 February 1823)

*'All the world is filled with Thy possessions.' (Psalms 104:24) All the world is filled with ways to possess a knowledge of G*d and of what G*d wants of us. It is for this purpose that G*d created the world – that from each thing we should learn how to serve G*d and to know that all is created for G*d's Glory.*
–Tzadok ha'Cohen of Lublin
Tzidkat ha'Tzaddik

Hillula of Rebbe Menahem Mendel Morgensztern of Kotzk. Rebbe Menahem Mendel

was born in Goray, a town near Lublin. His father, Leibush Morgensztern, was an opponent of the Hassidic way, but, after Menahem Mendel married (at age fourteen), his father-in-law introduced him to Hassidism, and he became an ardent follower of Ya'akov Yitzhak, the Hozeh, of Lublin, and of the latter's disciple, Rebbe Simcha Bunam of Pshischa. Rebbe Menahem Mendel isolated himself after Simhat Torah in 5600 (1839) and lived in seclusion for the remainder of his life. He was the mentor of Rebbes Yitzhak Me'ir of Ger, Hanoch of Alexander, Abraham of Sochachow (who became his son-in-law), and Mordecai Yosef Leiner of Izhbitza (who became estranged from him about the time he entered his seclusion). A few days before his soul's ascension on high, he completely ceased speaking. (22 Shevat 5619, 27 January 1859)

If love is not bread, then it is the wine of life.
–Menahem Mendel of Kotzk

Hillula of Rabbi Yehudah Aryeh Leib Eiger, grandson of Rabbi Akiva Eiger and student of Rebbe Yitzhak Me'ir Alter (the *Hiddushei ha'Rim*) of Ger. (22 Shevat 5648, 4 February 1888)

Hillula of U.S. Rabbi Morris Adler. (22 Shevat 5726, 12 February 1966)

Our prayers are answered not when we are given what we ask, but when we are challenged to be what we can be. *–Morris Adler*



Hillula of Rabbi Isidor B. Hoffman, a founder of the Jewish Peace Fellowship. (22 Shevat 5741, 27 January 1981)

Hillula of Rebbitzin Chaya Mushka Schneerson, pictured at right, daughter of Rebbe Yosef Yitzhak Schneerson of Lubavitch and wife of Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson of Lubavitch. (22 Shevat 5748, 10 February 1988)

Hillula of Italian-born U.S. microbiologist Salvador Luria, born Salvatore Edoardo Luria, pictured at right below. Luria

attended the medical school at the Università degli Studi di Torino (University of Turin), graduating in 1935. After required military service, he went to Sapienza Università di Roma (University of Rome), where he was introduced to Max Delbrück's theory of the gene as a molecule. In 1938, he received a fellowship to study in the United States, where he intended to work with Delbrück. Soon after Luria received the award, Benito Mussolini's fascist regime banned Jews from academic research fellowships. Without funding sources for work in the U.S. or Italy, Luria left his home country for Paris. As German forces invaded France in 1940, Luria fled on bicycle to Marseille, where he received an immigration visa to the United States. A Rockefeller Foundation fellowship enabled him to work with Delbrück; the Luria-Delbrück experiment, in 1943, demonstrated that inheritance in bacteria follows Darwinian rather than Lamarckian principles and that mutant bacteria occurring randomly can bestow viral resistance without the virus being present. Luria, with Delbrück and Alfred Hershey, received the 1969 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discoveries of the replication mechanism and the genetic structure of viruses. While at the University of Turin, Luria made the acquaintance of two other future Nobel laureates, Rita Levi-Montalcini and Renato Dulbecco; while at the University of Rome, he established a friendship with physicist Enrico Fermi. Five of Luria's students also went on to become Nobel laureates. (22 Shevat 5751, 6 February 1991)

Significant advances in science often have a peculiar quality. They contradict obvious common-sense opinions. *–Salvador Luria*



23 Shevat

Hillula of Rabbi Aaron ben Ḥayyim Avraham haCohen Perachia of Salonika. Named Chief Rabbi of Salonika in 1688, Rabbi Perachia was the author of *Parah Mateh Aharon*. (23 Shevat 5457, 14 February 1697)

Hillula of Rebbe Yehoshua of Belz. Rebbe Yehoshua was the fifth son and the successor, after an interregnal gap of some two years, of Rebbe Shalom (the *Sar Shalom*) of Belz. He was married to the granddaughter of Rebbe Avraham Yehoshua Heschel of Apt. Some of his discourses were published as *Ohel Yehoshua*, printed as a supplement to his father's *Dover Shalom*. Rebbe Yehoshua was succeeded as rebbe by his second son, Rebbe Yissachar Dov. (23 Shevat 5654, 18 January 1894, according to the Julian calendar then in use)



Hillula of Romanian-born U.S. actor Edward G. Robinson, born Emanuel Goldenberg, pictured at near right. (23 Shevat 5733, 26 January 1973)

Hillula of Netherlands-born Cantor Abraham Lopes Cardozo, pictured at far right. In 1939, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands sent him to lead the Sephardic community in Paramaribo, Surinam (then Dutch Guiana). The assignment saved his life, for Nazi Germany invaded the Netherlands shortly thereafter. In 1946, he became the *ḥazzan* of Congregation Shearith Israel, New York, a position in which he served for nearly forty years. He was honored for his work in preserving Dutch Jewish culture by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, who, in 2000, named him a Knight of the Order of Orange-Nassau. (23 Shevat 5766, 21 February 2006)

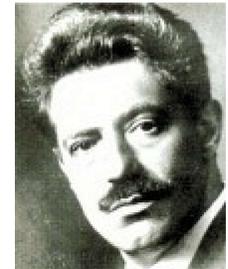
The actor has this great responsibility of playing another human being. . . . It's like taking on another person's life, and you have to do it as sincerely and honestly as you can. —Edward G. Robinson



Hillula of Israeli member of Parliament and cabinet minister Shulamit Aloni, pictured at right. Aloni was a champion of civil liberties, challenger of Orthodox hegemony, and outspoken opponent of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories. (23 Shevat 5774, 24 January 2014)

Hillula of German-born U.S. physicist Ernest J. Sternglass, pictured at near right. His research demonstrating the health risks of low-level radiation from atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons and from nuclear power plants contributed to the treaty banning above-ground nuclear testing. (23 Shevat 5775, 12 February 2014)

Genius is an overused word. The world has known only about a half dozen geniuses. I got only fairly near. —Fritz Kreisler



24 Shevat

Hillula of Viennese-born U.S. concert violinist Fritz (born Friedrich) Kreisler, pictured at far right. (24 Shevat 5722, 29 January 1962)

Hillula of U.S. novelist Fannie Hurst, pictured at right. She was one of the earliest members of the Lucy Stone League, an organization that advocated married women's right to preserve their birth names. She was active in the Urban League and was appointed to the National Advisory Committee of the Works Progress Administration in 1940. She was also a delegate to the World Health Organization in 1952. Hurst hosted a radio talk show titled *Showcase* beginning in 1958, notable for presenting some of the earliest well-rounded discussions of homosexuality and one of the few on which homosexual men spoke for themselves rather than being discussed by a panel of "experts."

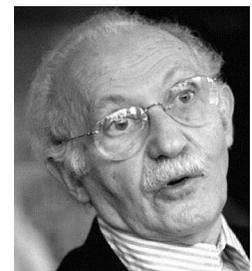
Nothing said to us, nothing we can learn from others, reaches us so deep as that which we find in ourselves. —Theodor Reik

A great actor is independent of the poet, because the supreme essence of feeling does not reside in prose or in verse, but in the accent with which it is delivered. —Lee Strasberg

Hurst was praised by the Mattachine Society and was invited to deliver the keynote address at the Society's 1958 convention. (24 Shevat 5728, 23 February 1968)

Hillula of Austrian-born U.S. Freudian psychoanalyst Theodor Reik. (24 Shevat 5730, 31 January 1970)

Hillula of Ukrainian-born U.S. theater director, teacher, and actor Lee Strasberg, pictured at right. Strasberg was the leading teacher of "method acting" in the U.S. He was the uncle of actress Susan Strasberg. (24 Shevat 5742, 17 February 1982)



Hillula of Lithuanian-born U.S. composer and musicologist Judith Kaplan Eisenstein, pictured at right. The daughter of Rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan, she was the first girl known to have had a synagogue *bat mitzvah* ceremony and was the wife of Rabbi Kaplan's disciple Ira Eisenstein. (24 Shevat 5756, 14 February 1996)



Hillula of German lyric poet Hilde Domin. "Hilde Domin" was the pen name of Hildegard Palm, née Löwenstein. She studied law, economics, social sciences, and philosophy at several German universities. Her teachers included Karl Jaspers and Karl Mannheim. In 1932, with the rise of Nazism, she and her future husband, Erwin Walter Palm, emigrated to Italy; they married in 1936. She received a doctorate in political science in Florence in 1935 and worked as a language teacher in Rome from 1935 to 1939. With the rise of anti-Semitism in Fascist Italy, they fled again, to England. They sought admission to any Western Hemisphere nation, especially the United States, Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil, but they were denied visas (or asked for exorbitant bribes to obtain them). Only the Dominican Republic accepted them unconditionally, and they settled there. In 1951, Hilde began to write, taking the pseudonym "Hilde Domin" to honor the city (Santo Domingo) and nation where she found hospitality. In 1954, they returned to Germany, where she continued to write. (24 Shevat 5766, 22 February 2006)

25 Shevat

Hillula of German physician Baruch Neḥemiah de Castro. De Castro, although he was a zealous adherent of Shabbetai Zvi's, was president of the Portuguese Jewish community of Hamburg. He was the court physician to Queen Christina of Sweden. (25 Shevat 5444, 31 January 1684, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Shabbetai, father of Rebbe Yisrael of Kozhnitz. (25 Shevat 5521, 30 January 1761)

Hillula of Lithuanian Rabbi Yisrael Salanter, founder of the Musar movement. A descendant of the Vilna Gaon, Rabbi Salanter was born Yisrael Lipkin in Żagare, a Lithuanian town near the border with Latvia, known in Yiddish as זיגאר (Zhagar). He is known as Yisrael Salanter; the cognomen is derived from the town of Salant, where he received his rabbinic education under the guidance of Rabbi Yosef Zundel. In 1848, the area around Vilna experienced an epidemic of cholera. There were many who wanted to engage non-Jews to do whatever relief work needed to be done on Shabbat, but Rabbi Salanter ruled that the preservation of life mandated that Jews set aside the Shabbat restrictions and do what was necessary. On Yom Kippur of that year, he even declared that eating, in order to maintain one's strength to resist the disease, was mandatory. He emphasized both rulings by following them personally and publicly. (25 Shevat 5643, 2 February 1883)

Writing is one of the easiest things; erasing is one of the hardest.
-Yisrael Salanter

Hillula of Viennese-born U.S. Broadway, film, and television actor John (born Johann) Banner. Banner, pictured at right. Banner had studied law at the University of Vienna, but he dropped out of law school to become an actor. He was touring with an acting troupe in Switzerland when Hitler annexed Austria, and he then made his way to the United States, learning English after he arrived. He appeared in two Broadway productions in 1939 and another in 1947; all had very brief runs. In the first two, because he was not yet fluent in English, he learned his lines phonetically. Banner appeared in more than seventy television shows and forty feature films. He is best known for his portrayal of Sgt. Schultz in the television series *Hogan's Heroes*. Curiously, the four major German military figures in that series – Schultz, Colonel Klink, General Burkhalter, and Gestapo Major Hochstetter – were all portrayed by Jewish actors. Banner's last television role was in the 17 March 1972 episode of *The Partridge Family*, after which he retired to France. Less than a year later, on his sixty-third birthday, according to the secular calendar, while visiting friends in Vienna, he suffered a fatal abdominal hemorrhage. (25 Shevat 5733, 28 January 1973)



The universe is made of stories, not atoms.
-Muriel Rukeyser

Hillula of U.S. social activist, writer, and poet Muriel Rukeyser, pictured at right. (25 Shevat 5740, 12 February 1980)



Hillula of Ukrainian-born Israeli composer and pianist Verdina Shlonsky, pictured at near right, sister of poet Avraham Shlonsky and mezzo-soprano Nina Valery. (25 Shevat 5750, 20 February 1990)



Hillula of U.S. Poet Laureate Philip Levine, pictured at middle right. (25 Shevat 5775, 14 February 2015)



Hillula of U.S. economist Kenneth Arrow, pictured at far right. Arrow shared the 1972 Nobel Prize in Economics with John Hicks; at age 51, he was the youngest Nobel laureate in economics. Five of his students also went on to become Nobel laureates in economics. Arrow had family ties to other economists; his



sister Anita, who taught at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, was married to Robert Summers, brother of Paul Samuelson, and Anita and Robert were the parents of Lawrence Summers. Arrow was known in academic circles for the broad range of his knowledge in areas far removed from economics. When he was a professor at Harvard, a group of junior faculty members tried to get the better of him. They lay in wait for him at a time and place they knew he would visit. When he arrived, they were discussing loudly the theory of a marine biologist named Turner purporting to explain how gray whales found the same breeding spot year after year. Arrow did not respond to their discussion, and they thought they had hit upon a topic outside his expertise. They were crestfallen when Arrow, just before leaving, muttered, "But I thought that Turner's theory was entirely discredited by Spencer, who showed that the hypothesized homing mechanism couldn't possibly work." (25 Shevat 5777, 21 February 2017)

26 Shevat

Hillula of Volhynian Rabbi David ben Shmuel haLevi Segal, son-in-law of Rabbi Yoel Sirkes of Brest (the *Bach*). About 1641, Segal became the rabbi of the community of Ostrog, in Volhynia. He established a well-regarded yeshiva there, and it was while he was in Ostrog that he wrote the *Turei Zahav*, a commentary on the *Shulhan Aruch*, published in Lublin in 1646. From then on, he was known as the *Taz*, the acronym of the *Turei Zahav*. The Taz escaped the Khmielnitzky massacres of 1648-49, fleeing to Moravia, but, unhappy there, he returned to Poland once order was re-established, settling in Lemberg. In Lemberg, he was named Av Beit Din (head of the rabbinical court). When Rabbi Me'ir Sack returned his holy soul to its Maker in 1653, the Taz succeeded him as chief rabbi of Lemberg. His descendants include the Russian rabbinical family Paltrowitch, which produced thirty-three rabbis over several generations. Actress Gwyneth Paltrow and former U.S. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords are descendants of the Paltrowitch family. (26 Shevat 5427, 10 February 1667, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of Rebbe Mordecai Joseph Leiner II of Radzin. Son and successor of Rebbe Gershon Hanoch Leiner of Radzin and great-grandson of Rebbe Mordecai Yosef of Izhbitza, he was the author of *Tiferet Yosef*. He was succeeded as the Radziner Rebbe by his son Shmuel Shlomo and then by his son-in-law, Avraham Yissachar England. (26 Shevat 5689, 6 February 1929)

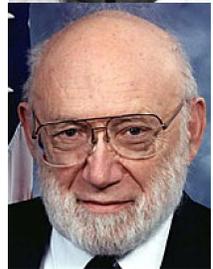
Hillula of Swiss-born U.S. educator Marie Syrkin, pictured at right. She was briefly married to Romanian-born U.S. writer Maurice Samuel. When she was eighteen, she eloped with Samuel, then twenty-two, but her father, to her everlasting resentment, had the marriage annulled on the grounds that she was too young. In 1930, she married poet Charles Reznikoff and lived with him, off and on, until his passing in 1976. The first woman professor at Brandeis University, Syrkin was a translator of Hebrew and Yiddish poetry into English. She was the founder and, for twenty-three years, the editor of the Labor Zionist monthly periodical *Jewish Frontier*. (26 Shevat 5749, 1 February 1989)

Hillula of Romanian-born U.S. mathematician Isaac Jacob Schoenberg, pictured at near right. In 1930, Schoenberg received a Rockefeller Fellowship, enabling him to come to the United States, which remained his home for the rest of his life. He is best known in mathematical circles for his work in the theory of splines, mathematical functions that can be expressed as series of polynomial functions. (26 Shevat 5750, 21 February 1990)

Hillula of Abraham A. Ribicoff, pictured at far right. Ribicoff was a U.S. Senator; Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare under President John F. Kennedy; and the first Jewish governor of Connecticut. (26 Shevat 5758, 22 February 1998)

Hillula of U.S. physician Joshua Lederberg, pictured at right, recipient of the 1958 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for his discovery that bacteria can mate and exchange genes, a process known as bacterial conjugation. From 1966 to 1971, Lederberg wrote a weekly science column for the *Washington Post*. In 1978, he was chosen as president of Rockefeller University, a position he held for twelve years. Lederberg was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine. He received the National Medal of Science, was named an honorary life member of the New York Academy of Sciences, was awarded Foreign Membership in the Royal Society of London, and was named a Commandeur of the French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. (26 Shevat 5768, 2 February 2008)

Try hard to find good at and what are, and where, and build that. ~i

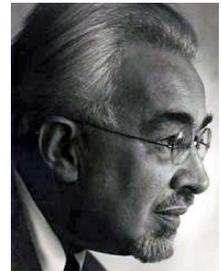


27 Shevat

Hillula of German-born Arizona Jewish pioneer Terese Marx-Ferrin, pictured at right. (27 Shevat 5671, 25 February 1911)

Hillula of German-born U.S. musicologist Curt Sachs, pictured at right. (27 Shevat 5719, 5 February 1959)

*Every day
When prayers rise
In synagogue, church, and mosque
G'd prays for [the] world.
"May it be the will of My children
To accept My gift of life
And allow Me to lead them
Toward the light." -Ben Zion Bokser*



Hillula of Polish-born U.S. Conservative Rabbi Ben Zion Bokser. After hearing Rabbi Avraham Yitzhak Kook speak in 1924, Bokser became an avid student and devotee of Rav Kook's teachings. (27 Shevat 5744, 31 January 1984)

Hillula of Rabbi David Moshe Friedman II of Chortkov, son of Rebbe Dov Baer of Chortkov, who refused to serve as rebbe because he felt himself unworthy, but who was recognized by virtually all Chortkov ḥasidim as Rebbe. (27 Shevat 5748, 15 February 1988)

Hillula of U.S. physicist Richard Feynman, pictured at right.

You have no responsibility to live up to what other people think you ought to accomplish. I have no responsibility to be what they expect me to be. It's their mistake, not my falling. -Richard Feynman



Feynman, jointly with Julian Schwinger and Shin'ichirō Tomonaga, received the 1965 Nobel Prize in Physics for their contributions to the development of quantum electrodynamics. Feynman was a keen popularizer of physics through both books and lectures, including a 1959 talk on top-down nanotechnology called "There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom" and the three-volume publication of his undergraduate lectures, *The Feynman Lectures on Physics*. He also became known through his semi-autobiographical books *Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!* and *What Do You Care What Other People Think?* and books written about him, including Ralph Leighton's *Tuva or Bust!* and James Gleick's *Genius: The Life and Science of Richard Feynman*. When Richard was five years old, his mother gave birth to another son, Henry, who died at four weeks of age. Four years later, Feynman's sister Joan was born. Joan and Richard were close, as they both shared a natural curiosity about the world. Despite their mother's disapproval of Joan's desire to study astronomy – she thought that women did not have the brain capacity to comprehend such things – Richard encouraged his sister to explore the universe. Joan eventually became an astrophysicist specializing in interactions between the Earth and the solar wind. Refused admission to Columbia University because of Columbia's Jewish quota, Feynman attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His original major was mathematics, but he later switched to electrical engineering, as he considered mathematics to be too abstract. Feeling that he "had gone too far," he then turned to physics, which he viewed as "somewhere in between." (27 Shevat 5748, 15 February 1988)

Hillula of Russian-born Italian pianist Lazar Na'umovich Berman, pictured at near right. After decades of harassment and oppression by the Soviet authorities, he emigrated to Italy in 1990, settling in Florence in 1995. He was a child prodigy. Introduced to the piano as an infant, he entered his first competition at age three; by age seven he had recorded a Mozart fantasia and a mazurka that he had composed himself, before he could even read music. He made his formal debut with the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra at age ten. (27 Shevat 5765, 6 February 2005)



Hillula of Russian-born Israeli mathematician Ilya Piatetski-Shapiro, pictured at far right. (27 Shevat 5769, 21 February 2009)

28 Shevat

Hillula of French attorney and statesman Adolphe (born Isaac Moïse) Crémieux, pictured at far right. Following the overthrow of King Charles X in the Revolution of 1830, Crémieux came to Paris, where he became a staunch defender of liberal ideas in the law courts and in the press. From 1834 until his passing, Crémieux served as vice-president of the *Consistoire Central des Israélites de France*, the administrative agency for all French Jews. He was also a founder of the *Alliance Israélite Universelle*. On 24 February 1848 he was chosen by the Republicans as a member of the provisional government; as Minister of Justice, he was instrumental in abolishing the death penalty for political offenses and in ending slavery in all the French Colonies. An early supporter of Prince Louis Napoleon, Crémieux broke with him when he realized the prince's imperial ambitions. He was arrested and briefly imprisoned in 1851, and he remained out of politics until he was elected a Republican deputy from Paris in 1869. Chosen a member of the government in September 1870, he served for five months, resigning in February 1871. He was again elected as deputy in October 1871 and as senator in 1875. (28 Shevat 5640, 10 February 1880)



Hillula of "The Four Chaplains" – Rabbi Alexander Goode, Father John Washington, Reverend Clark Poling, and Reverend George Fox – pictured on U.S. stamp at right, who gave their life jackets to others when their troop ship, the USAT *Dorchester*, was torpedoed and sunk. The *Dorchester*, a luxury liner converted to a military transport, was carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers from Newfoundland to a U.S. base in Greenland. Struck below the waterline by a German torpedo a few minutes before 1:00 a.m., the *Dorchester* took only twenty minutes to sink. In that brief time, the four chaplains moved among the men, calming them and helping them reach lifeboats and rafts. They distributed life jackets and, when there were no more, gave up their own life jackets to others. As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains – arms linked and braced against the slanting deck – joining their voices in prayer in Hebrew, Latin, and English. On 19 December 1944, the chaplains were posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart. Because their actions were not during the attack itself but in its aftermath, they could not be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor; the Congress therefore created for them a special award, the Special Medal for Heroism, with the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor. (28 Shevat 5703, 3 February 1943)



Hillula of U.S. geneticist and virologist Howard Martin Temin. While in high school, Temin participated in the Jackson Laboratory's Summer Student Program in Bar Harbor, Maine. The director of the program, C. C. Little, told Temin's parents that he was "unquestionably the finest scientist of the fifty-seven students who have attended the program since the beginning." At Temin's Bar Mitzvah, his parents donated money that would have been spent on the party to a local camp for displaced persons. During his teaching and research career at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, he discovered reverse transcriptase, for which he shared the 1975 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Renato Dulbecco and David Baltimore. Reverse transcriptase is the central enzyme in several widespread viral diseases, including AIDS and Hepatitis B. It is also an important component of several important techniques in molecular biology and in diagnostic medicine. In 1981, Temin became a founding member of the World Cultural Council. In 1988, he was elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society. In addition to his Nobel Prize, he also received the 1992 National Medal of Science. In his speech accepting the Nobel Prize from King Carl Gustav of Sweden, Temin addressed the smokers in the audience, among whose number was the Queen of Denmark, saying that he was "outraged that one major measure available to prevent much cancer, namely the cessation of smoking, had not been more widely adopted." He had also insisted that the ashtray located on the laureates' table be removed. (28 Shevat 5754, 9 February 1994)

Hillula of British-born U.S. comedian and violinist Henny Youngman. He was born Henny Yungman in London; his family moved to Brooklyn when he was a child. Youngman got his start in entertainment as the leader of a jazz combo, the Swanee Syncopaters. He often inserted jokes between songs, and, when the comedian did not show up at the club where the Swanee Syncopaters were playing, Youngman filled in. He enjoyed it and began his career as a stand-up comic. His big break came on Kate Smith's radio show in 1937. Youngman was married to Sadie Cohen for fifty-nine years, until her passing in 1957. While she was the butt of many of his jokes, their marriage was, in fact, very happy. When she contracted the illness that would eventually take her life, he had a one-bed intensive care unit built in their house so that she would not have to go to a hospital, for she was terrified of hospitals. With the exceptions of a week following his wife's death, and the month he was in his own final hospital stay, Youngman was said to have worked almost every day for over seventy years without vacations or other breaks. (28 Shevat 5758, 24 February 1998)

*Some have been thought
brave because they were
afraid to run away.*
—Henny Youngman



29 Shevat

Hillula of German-born Italian Hebrew grammarian Elijah Levita, an ancestor of British Prime Minister David Cameron. Driven out of his home city of Neustadt, near Nuremberg, he and his family went south, to Italy, settling first in Venice and then, in 1504, in Padova. He supported himself as a scribe and copyist, copying Hebrew manuscripts for wealthy clients, and as a teacher. His students prevailed upon him to write a Hebrew textbook, and he obliged with a commentary on the *Mahalach Sh'vilei Hada'at*, a Hebrew textbook by Rabbi Moshe Kimchi, brother of Rabbi David Kimchi. In 1508, when the manuscript was almost ready, an epidemic broke out in Padova. Rabbi Elijah entrusted the manuscript to one of his students, but the student published the work under his own name. When Padova became one of the centers of the War of the League of Cambrai, Rabbi Levita, having lost all his possessions to the competing armies' vandalism, moved to Rome, where he accepted an invitation from an Augustinian friar, Bishop Egidio (known in English as Giles) da Viterbo (named a cardinal in 1517 by Pope Leo X), the Friar General of the Augustinian Order, who, wishing to learn Hebrew and Aramaic in order better to understand the Kabbalistic writings of Pico della Mirandola, provided Rabbi Levita with lodging in his palace for some thirteen years. During this time, Rabbi Levita wrote a revised and corrected version of the Hebrew textbook that had been

appropriated by his student, expanding it to fifty-two chapters (fifty-two being the numerology of his name, אל"ה) and preparing it for publication as *Sefer ha'Bahur*. When Rome was sacked by the forces of King Charles V in 1527, Rabbi Levita was forced to flee once again, returning to Venice, where Daniel Bomberg, a Christian publisher of Hebrew books, published the *Sefer ha'Bahur* and others of his writings. Rabbi Levita remained in Venice for the remainder of his life. (29 Shevat 5309, 28 January 1549, according to the Julian calendar then in use)

Hillula of British-born U.S. historian of religion Theodor Gaster, son of British Sephardic Chief Rabbi Moses Gaster. (29 Shevat 5752, 3 February 1992)

Hillula of Belgian-born U.S. chess master George Koltanowski, pictured at near right. (29 Shevat 5760, 5 February 2000)

Hillula of Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon, pictured at far right. (29 Shevat 5763, 1 February 2003, aboard the shuttle *Columbia*)

Hillula of seventeen students and teachers, four of them Jewish, murdered in a mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. (29 Shevat 5778, 14 February 2018)

*In the life of the spirit
there is no ending that
is not a beginning.*
—Henrietta Szold



30 Shevat

In non-leap years, since Adar has only twenty-nine days, 30 Shevat also commemorates events of 30 Adar I.

Hillula of Henrietta Szold, honored by Israel postage stamp pictured at near right. Szold, a forerunner of Jewish feminism, was a founder of Hadassah. During the 1920s and 1930s, she was a supporter of *Brit Shalom* and its advocacy of a “two-state” solution. With Martin Buber, Judah Leon Magnes, and Ernest Simon, she was a founder of *Ihud*, a bi-national political party advocating reconciliation between Jews and Arabs in Israel. (30 Shevat 5705, 13 February 1945)



Hillula of U.S. “Ashcan” painter Theresa Ferber Bernstein, pictured at far right above. Although not formally a member of the “Ashcan” school, she shared with them a passion for realism in her painting. Bernstein was married in 1919 to William Meyerowitz, also a painter, who passed from this life in 1981; their only child, a daughter, did not survive infancy. Songwriter Laura Nyro was her niece. Bernstein’s birth date is disputed. Sources date her birth between 1886 and 1895. The most likely date is thought by most scholars to be 1 March 1890, which would make her just short of 112 years old at her passing. According to a certificate issued by the Board of Public Education of the First School District of Pennsylvania, however, Bernstein graduated from the William D. Kelley Elementary School in June 1907. If she was then thirteen, she would have been about 108 at her passing. (30 Shevat 5762, 12 February 2002)

*In order for people to get
along, they have to respect
each other's differences.*
—Alan B. Slifka

*I don't have to look at
books to find out what a
decent person is about.*
—David Hartman

Hillula of Alan B. Slifka, pictured at near right, founder of the Abraham Fund Initiatives. (30 Shevat 5771, 4 February 2011)

Hillula of U.S.-born Israeli Rabbi David Hartman, pictured at far right. Hartman was the founding president of the Shalom Hartman Institute, an advocate within Orthodox Judaism of religious pluralism. (30 Shevat 5773, 10 February 2013)

