

Word of the Month Shabbat Parshat Tazria-M'tzora (Sh'mini in Chu"l)

we bench R"Ch Iyar, which is the following day, Sunday, and Monday.

ראש חודש אייר יהיה מחר יום ראשון וביום שני הבא עלינו ועל כל ישראל לטובה:

The molad is Sunday (first day R"Ch) 16h 37m 5p (5:16pm Israel Summer Time)

המולד יהיה מחר ביום ראשון, שלשים ושבע דקות וחמישה חלקים אחרי ארבע בצהריים.

The molad in Rambam's notation - א' כב:תרעא -

Actual (astronomical) molad: Monday (April 16th) 4:57am Israel Summer Time



Is 5 Iyar Yom HaAtzma'ut?

Not always. Not even most of the time.

The State of Israel was established on 5 Iyar 5708 (May 14, 1948). That first Yom HaAtzmaut was a Friday.

The first three annual observances of Yom HaAtzmaut were on 5 Iyar, regardless of which day of the week it fell on.

Since 1952, Yom HaAtzmaut is pulled back to Thursday if 5 Iyar is Friday or Shabbat. This was done to avoid Chilul Shabbat in preparing for official celebrations and programs.

Since 2004, if 5 Iyar falls on Monday, Yom HaAtzmaut is postponed to Tuesday and Yom HaZikaron to Monday. This too was done to avoid Chilul Shabbat if Yom HaZikaron would begin on Motza'ei Shabbat.

HEI IYAR cannot fall on Sunday, Tuesday, or Thursday. It can fall on Monday (but Yom HaAtzmaut gets bumped to Tuesday), Wednesday (the only time Yom HaAtzmaut is 5 Iyar), Friday, or Shabbat (in which cases, Yom HaAtzmaut is preponed to Thursday).

Yom HaAtzmaut can be Tuesday (32% of the time), Wednesday (28½%), or Thursday (39½%).

The powers that be could have split the

National and Religious Celebrations of Yom HaAtzmaut. BUT THEY DIDN'T. We are one nation, one people (whether everyone agrees or not). Hallel and prayers of thanks and mangals and spray-snow and squeaky hammers are different ways of expressing one's joy and gratitude for the State of Israel. May all Jews come to appreciate Yom HaAtzmaut as ZEH HAYOM ASA HASHEM NAGILA V'NISM'CHA VO. And may we all merit the GEULA SH'LEIMA ב"נ

Following up on the above, Yom HaAtzmaut will fall on 5 Iyar less than 30% of the time. Almost 40% of the years, it will be on 3 or 4 Iyar, and over 30% it will be on 6 Iyar.

That Yom HaAtzmaut is not solidly anchored on 5 Iyar should not worry us. The fact is that had Israel waited until the termination of the British Mandate to declare itself, the date would have been 6 Iyar. But the Declaration was made 8 hours earlier, to avoid Chilul Shabbat. That's the same reason for Yom HaAtzmaut's many moves through the years.

Word of the Month

With the molad of Iyar being on Sunday afternoon (first day of Rosh Chodesh), the first opportunity for Kiddush L'vana according to Minhag Yerushalayim is Wednesday night, eve of 4 Iyar (Yom HaAtzma'ut Mukdam), April 18th. **First op for Motza'ei Shabbat KL sayers is Motza"Sh, eve of 7 Iyar, April 21st.** First op for strict 7-days-after-the-molad people is Sunday night, eve of 8 Iyar, April 22nd. **Last op for KL of Iyar is Sunday night, eve of 15 Iyar, April 29th, all night.** Remember, adjusting for your locale can change some of the dates above.

Remember that saying Mashiv HaRu'ach Umorid HaGeshem or V'tein Tal Umatar now, invalidates the Amida. Daven well.