

Facts about Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron, and Yom Ha'Atzmaut

Yom HaShoah

Yom HaShoah is the day when we commemorate victims of the Holocaust. It's abbreviated from the full name for the day: "Yom Hashoah Ve-Hagevurah"— in Hebrew, this is literally translated as the "Day of (remembrance of) the Holocaust and the Heroism." It is observed on the 27th day in the month of Nisan — a week after the end of the Passover holiday and a week before Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day for Israel's fallen soldiers - see below). Yom HaShoah marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, an act of Jewish resistance during the Holocaust in 1943. The date was selected in a resolution passed by Israel's Parliament, the Knesset, on April 12, 1951. Even though the date was established by the Israeli government, it has become a day commemorated by Jewish communities and individuals worldwide.

Yom HaZikaron

The fourth day of the month Iyar (1 week after Yom HaShoah and the day before Israel's Independence Day) was chosen by the Israeli Knesset (Israel's government) as the Memorial Day for those who lost their lives in establishing the state of Israel. We honor the sacrifice they made for helping all Jews have their own homeland.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut

Yom Ha'Atzmaut is the national day of Israel, which celebrates Israel signing its Declaration of Independence in 1948. It is celebrated on the 5th day of the month Iyar. It was declared in Tel Aviv by David ben Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel and the head of the World Zionist Organization.