



Executive Director, Katz Prize

This year, with great sorrow, the Katz Prize is being granted for the first time without its founder, Mordechai David (Marcos) Katz, who passed away last July, at the age of 89.

Marcos began his professional life as a young teacher in the Jewish school in the city of Monterrey in Mexico. Ever since then, he and his wife Adina, may she live long and may God bless her with health, invested much of their spirit, time and resources in Jewish education, the Jewish community in Mexico and the friendship between Mexico and Israel.

In 1975, Marcos and Adina founded the Katz Prize in Memory of Marcos' beloved mother, Golda Katz, bestowing the honor upon individuals and enterprises engaged in applying the Halacha to modern-day life through their written works and practical endeavors.

I knew Marcos for 20 years. He was a real mensch. His wisdom and vast knowledge, which he generously shared with me in our many conversations, taught me a great deal and enriched my life. In recent years I have been managing the Katz Foundation and the Katz Prize, a position that exposed me to the values, love of Torah and acts of charity and kindness that so characterized Marcos.

The well deserving recipients of this year's Katz Prize are Rabbi Shlomo Dichovsky, Rabbi Mordechai Halperin, The Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel and the Mishpatei Eretz Institute. All of them, in their respective fields, are guiding lights for those who wish to live by the Halacha despite the constant winds of change felt in our generation. I wish to thank the honorable Prize Committee; Chairman Prof.



Menahem Ben-Sasson, Rabbi Haim Sabato and Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, for undertaking this endeavor and coming to their conclusions after careful consideration.

I especially wish to thank the Katz family, for trusting me and allowing me to be part of this wonderful and essential project.

Meirav Catriel Shtarker