

# Rabbi Israel Meir Lau



More than 30 years ago, the respected philanthropist, Mordechai David (Marcos) Katz and his wife Adina established a charitable fund named for his mother, Mrs. Golda Katz, *a”h*.

The fund’s purpose is to grant awards of esteem and encouragement to individuals and institutions that promote the application of halacha in modern life. The recipients of the awards and scholarships include impressive institutions and prominent Torah scholars from among the most eminent of Israel’s and the world’s halachic authorities who have left an indelible mark on the world of Torah.

This year I have the honor to chair the Katz Award selection committee for 5774 alongside my honorable colleagues, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz and Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson. As in the past, this year we selected rabbis of true Torah greatness. Rabbi Yehoshua Neuwirth *zt”l*, who has passed away, along with Rabbi Zalman Nehemiah Goldberg, Rabbi Lord Dr. Jonathan Sacks and Rabbi Tzvi (Hershel) Schachter – may they all enjoy good lives. Each of them has had an enormous impact on the world of halacha and Judaism.



I would like to wish the award-laureate rabbis many years of teaching Torah to those able to appreciate their lessons. I also wish my vigorous friend, Mordechai David (Marcos) Katz – who, since narrowly escaping the Nazis, decided to devote his life to charity and good deeds – many more years of activity alongside his dear wife, Adina. May the love of Torah and Israel that is burning in their bones be a source of blessing from on high, and may they live the text – “It is a tree of life for those who grasp it, and those who draw near it are fortunate” – ad 120.

With respect and esteem,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rabbi Israel Meir Lau' in a cursive style.

Rabbi Israel Meir Lau

