

Katz Family

Six years have passed since the death of my dear husband and the father of our family, Mordechai David Katz.

Mordechai was a visionary due to his rare ability to integrate being a learned educator with the world of business and industry.

He began his career in education when he was only twenty years old upon being appointed the principal of the Jewish school in the city of Monterey. Later, and parallel to his teaching position, he became a leading industrialist and businessman who successfully integrated the spiritual world with the material world.

We founded the Katz prize in 1975 in memory of Mordechai's dear mother. Mordechai's parents during their lifetime nurtured in us the pre-eminence of practically applying Jewish law to modern developments and finding the point at which they converge.

For over forty years we have had the privilege and pleasure of awarding the prize to individuals and institutions who have utilized their lives to fulfill the mandate of my deceased husband's parents, myself and our family in Mexico, the USA and Israel.

This year we are honored to present the award to two individuals and two institutions who were found exceptionally worthy: Rabbi Yaakov Epstein, Professor Ely Merzbach, the Institute for the Study of Agriculture According to the Torah and Chabad Shluchim - Merkaz L'inyinei Chinuch. Their life-long achievements all involve devotedly, unswervingly and professionally applying Jewish law in the modern age.

We would like to thank the members of the award committee, the chairman, Professor Menachem Ben Sasson; and the other members, the dayan Rabbi Shlomo Dichovsky, and Rabbi Chaim Sabato, the head of the Birkat Moshe Hesder Yeshiva in Ma'aleh Adumim, for their excellent selections that led to the awarding of the Katz prize on this illustrious evening.

May the memory of the head of our family be a blessing.

Adina Katz and the Katz family