

Rabbi Gabriel Goldman

The Prize Committee found Rabbi Gabriel Goldman deserving of the 2021 Katz Prize due to his diverse activities aimed at implementing halacha in modern life, both in the works he wrote and the programs he ran.

Rabbi Gabriel Goldman was born in Argentina in 1942, and immigrated to Israel with his parents in 1963.

He married in the summer of 1981, and was appointed the rabbi of Kfar Adumim. He studied at the Birchat Moshe Yeshiva and in the Kolel L'Rabbonut in Ma'aleh Adumim, where he received rabbinical certification. He studied for Dayanut in the Eretz Chemdah Kolel in Jerusalem. He received a fellowship in the Givunim program to develop pluralistic Jewish leadership and the annual program of the Beit Midrash L'Hitchadshut, as well as the Makor Baruch Yeshiva, the Beit Midrash Chevrat, and the Beit Morasha in Jerusalem in cooperation with Ma'aglei Tzedek. He also completed M.A. studies in Jewish philosophy at the Herzog College in 2013, and received a research fellowship at Harvard University focusing on fertility and Jewish law.

His extensive activities include, among other things:

- The publication of **Mei'Olam Ad Olam** - a halacha book giving practical guidance to mourners. It was published in four editions by Magid Koren Publishing House, and was even translated into English.
- The publication of **Sefer Pu'ah - A practical legal guide** whose three volumes were published in several editions. Two additional volumes are in advanced editing stages.
- Many halachic articles written and published in legal books, periodicals and memorial books.
- Teaching at the Mitzpeh Yericho high yeshiva.

- Daily guidance and activities on behalf of his town Kfar Adumim and other places.
- Lectures in halacha at colleges, pre-military academies and other forums.
- Training young rabbis on practical halachic issues, in the framework of Tzohar Rabbinical Organization, the Pu'ah Institute and the Mitzpeh Yericho Yeshiva Gedolah.
- Providing answers daily to many halachic questions coming from both Israel and abroad.
- Rabbi Goldman is the head of the Tzohar Marriage Initiative.

Rabbi Gabriel Goldman has served as the official rav of Kfar Adumim for more than thirty years with great success.

Over the years, he has been accepted as the rav and community leader of Kfar Adumim's general public, both observant and unobservant, dealing with this special and sensitive community's complex issues. With the help of heaven, has managed to lead this community in a straight-forward and peaceful way.

His comprehensive book **Mei'Olam Ad Olam** is a 600 page practical guide for mourners that applies the laws of mourning to modern life today, while providing both short-term and long-term spiritual assistance to people in pain from the loss of a relative. The book was printed for the first time by Milta Press, and has seen four additional editions by Magid Koren Publishing House. The book was translated into English with a focus on the North American population, and is currently being printed by Magid Koren.

The book is characteristic of Rabbi Goldman's extensive activity in adapting and applying halacha to modern life. One of the main purposes in writing the book was to bridge between the ancient sources of halacha and its implementation in modern life, without giving in on the slightest point.

The book supports the mourner who is suddenly faced with the harsh reality of pain and loss, and provides him comfort and mental assistance. In a special chapter in the book, he describes the long-term mental process that helps a person understand how the laws themselves assist the mourning process, thereby enabling the mourner to eventually return to his daily routine. The mourning process and the halacha guidelines parallel the mourner's mental process, and themselves provide healing. Fourteen years after it was published, the book remains highly popular.

Pu'ah - A Practical Halachic Guide for Family Life, Fertility, Women's Medicine, Pregnancy and Childbirth is a five volume guide dealing with the convergence between medicine and halacha. The first volume came out six years ago in 2014, and deals with family purity laws. A second edition was published in 2015 and a third edition in 2016.

The second volume dealing with fertility issues was published three years ago in 2017. The third volume discussing pregnancy and childbirth was published a year ago in 2019. The fourth volume dealing with gynecology, diseases, society and research, was completed and is now undergoing copywriting. The fifth volume is a lexicon which includes 900 halachic and medical concepts related to the above issues. It has already been written, and is undergoing a final editing by its editor Rabbi Aryeh Katz, and Rabbi Menachem Burstein, the head of the Pu'ah Institute.

Rabbi Gavriel Goldman began writing **Sefer Pu'ah** more than fourteen years ago and he hopes to finish the project in about two years. The first two volumes of **Sefer Pu'ah** won the 2018 Deputy Minister of Health Prize.

The book provides not only halachic rulings but also offers practical solutions to problems that had no solution in the past. Part of this large project required conveying and translating modern medical questions into halachic terminology so they could be presented to halachic authorities

for deliberation. The book also summarizes the Pu'ah Institute's extensive practical experience and its many discussions with halachic authorities and doctors.

Halachic-medical guidance booklets for cancer patients is a new, innovative project in great demand in which Rav Gabriel Goldman has partnered in recent years. These halachic-medical guidance booklets for cancer patients and their families deal with their special circumstances on such issues as a chatzitzta when immersing in the mikvah, and intimate relations.

This initiative was done in cooperation with the Israel Cancer Association. The Association reached out to Rav Goldman because of the need to include Jewish law and philosophy in its guidance booklets for the religious public. The booklet was written by Rabbi Gabriel in cooperation with Rabbi Menachem Burstein - the head of the Pu'ah Institute, Rabbi Aryeh Katz - a rabbinical judge who answers queries at the Pu'ah Institute, and heads the Kolel L'Dayanut in the Birchat Moshe Hesder Yeshiva in Ma'aleh Adumim, Dr. Anna Waleski-Roble - a consultant on sexuality and intimacy (AASEC) at the Hadassah and Hebrew University Nursing School, and Mrs. Livia Kislev - the Chief Nurse in the Israel Cancer Association. Different versions of the booklet were printed and are listed below.

Rabbi Gabriel Goldman is amiable to every person, acceptable and beloved to his fellow man, and sanctifies the Name of heaven by his deeds. For all of these reasons, the 2021 Katz Prize Committee decided to award him the Katz Prize for implementing halacha in modern life.

In consideration of all the above, the selection committee has decided to award Gabriel Goldman the Katz Prize for 2021.

Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson Rabbi Shlomo Dichovski Rabbi Haim Sabato

