

Prof. Menachem Ben Sasson

Chairman, Katz Prize Committee

The Katz Prize for the Application of Halacha in Modern Life, was founded in 1975 by the late Mordechai David (Marcus) Katz, together with his wife Adina, in memory of his mother Golda Katz.

The purpose of the award is to encourage the practical application of halachah to our modern, dynamic life.

The task of selecting the winners from among all the individuals and institutions that submitted their candidacy was not easy, as many of the candidates are deserving of recognition and each one embodies in his or her way the application of halachah in our lives.

The distinguished members of the Prize Committee and I selected two individuals and two institutions: Rabbi Yaakov Epstein, Professor Ely Merzbach, the Institute for the Study of Agriculture According to the Torah and Chabad Shluchim - Merkaz L'Inyinei Chinuch. The committee found that they had left a huge impact on the Torah world, daily life and the interrelationship between them.

We greet the winners of the award and wish them many more blessed years of creativity and leadership in spreading Torah and pioneering practical initiatives.

A special thank you to my esteemed colleagues, members of the award committee, to the rabbi and acclaimed author Rabbi Haim Sabato and Rabbi Shlomo Dichovsky, for accompanying the selection process in a pertinent and astute way. The director of the Katz Award, Ms. Meirav Katriel Starker, works alongside us tirelessly. She is highly professional, diligent and a pleasure to work with.

Our gratitude goes to dear Adina and the honorable Katz family for continuing this important enterprise and fulfilling the testament of the award's founder, Mordechai David (Marcus) Katz of blessed memory.

Regards,

Menachem Ben-Sasson