

UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

The President's Award

is hereby presented to

Bernard Och

in appreciation of his many years of activity in furthering the spiritual, social,
and cultural needs of Israeli students and for his contribution to the integration
of new-immigrant students into the community.

23 Iyyar 5760

May 28, 2000



Prof. Yehuda Hayuth

President

Bernard Och

Bernard Och was born in New York (1933) and grew up in Boston. He earned a B.A. degree (1954) at Harvard College, where he concentrated in Political Philosophy, and a B.J.Ed. (1954) at the Hebrew (Teachers) College of Boston. He then studied at New York University for an M.P.A. degree (1958). In 1960, he received both an M.H.L. degree and Rabbinical Ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of New York.

With the completion of his studies, he went to work for the Maritime Overseas Shipping Corp. In 1962, he came on aliya and began to work for El-Yam Cargo Ships Ltd. as operations manager. In 1970, Rabbi Och was appointed director of the University's and Technion's joint Hillel House, in which position he served for the next thirty years. Concomitantly he was Rabbi of the Conservative Moriah Congregation in Haifa (1967-1970) and Dean of Students at the University (in the late 1970s). He also taught Jewish ideology in the University's Overseas Students Unit and in the Pre-Academic Preparatory Unit's section for new immigrants.

In accordance with the mission of Hillel House, which is concerned with the social-spiritual needs of Jewish students in the United States, Canada, Russia, and elsewhere, the center that Rabbi Och directed supplied a meeting place for a range of social and intellectual events held in cooperation with members of the University faculty as well as public and religious figures. *Bet Hillel*, through the *Martef 10* club that he set up, became an important link between University and community as well as a cultural home for all students, both new immigrants and veteran Israelis.

