

PROFESSOR ALEX LUBOTZKY

Alex Lubotzky was born in 1956 in Ramat Gan, Israel. While still in high school, he began studying at Bar-Ilan University where he received his B.A. only one year after graduating from high school. He then participated in a special Israel Defense Force (IDF) academic program and received his Ph.D. in mathematics at the age of 23. After five years of military service as an officer in the IDF's research and development division he joined the Faculty of Mathematics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Dr. Lubotzky was promoted to associate professor in 1985 and to full professor in 1989. He served as the head of the Department of Mathematics at The Hebrew University from 1994 until 1996.

Professor Lubotzky was a Member of the 14th Knesset (1996-1999) as a member of the *Third Way (HaDerech HaShlishit)* party. He served as a member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee; Constitution, Law and Justice Committee; Status of Women Committee and the Science and Technology Committee. As an MK, Prof. Lubotzky was mainly known for his compromise proposals on religious issues and pluralism. He was actively involved in setting up a solution to the conversion bill crisis via the Ne'eman Commission, working to avoid a conflict between Israel and the Jewish Diaspora. Prof. Lubotzky also co-drafted a comprehensive proposal for a new covenant for religion-state affairs in Israel with MK Yossi Beilin.

Professor Lubotzky is the author of the book "Discrete Groups, Expanding Graphs and Invariant Measures," which received in 1992 the highly acclaimed Ferran Sunyer L. Baloger prize for research books in mathematics. He received again the prize for his third book "Subgroups Growth" with prof. D. Segal from Oxford. In addition, he was awarded numerous Israeli and foreign awards, including the Erdos Prize and the Rothchild Prize. He has served as visiting professor at Stanford, Chicago, Columbia and Yale Universities. He has authored more than 80 articles and serves as editor at six international scientific journals. In addition to this, Professor Lubotzky has published numerous articles in the Israeli press dealing with the peace process and the relationship between religion and state in Israel.

He lives with his wife and six children in the community of Efrat, of where he is a founding member.