

## University of Haifa

The Senate of the University of Haifa, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the constitution of the University and in accordance with the recommendations of the President and the Executive Committee

hereby confers upon

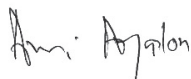
**Felix Posen**

the degree of

### **Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa**

In recognition of his great contribution to strengthening Jewish culture through education, instruction, and knowledge; for enabling Jews around the world to connect to Judaism through a shared culture and history, while raising pluralistic values of acceptance of others and listening to other voices; on his contribution to the fight against anti-Semitism; on his enormous assistance to the higher education system in Israel; on his contribution to the University of Haifa in establishing programs for teaching the Jewish tradition, and for establishing the Posen Forum for the Study of Jewish, Israeli and European Political Thought.

Conferred in 15 Sivan 5775/June 2, 2015  
Haifa, Israel



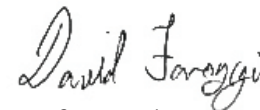
**Ami Ayalon**

Chairman of the Executive Committee



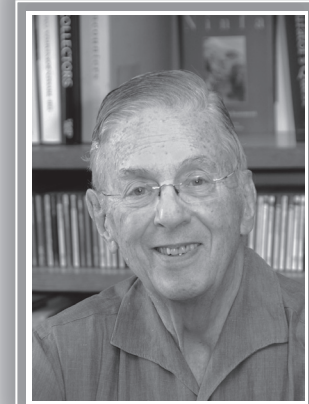
**Amos Shapira**

President



**Prof. David Faraggi**

Rector



## FELIX POSEN

Felix Posen was born in Berlin in 1928. In 1938, after Kristallnacht, his family fled from Germany, first to Britain and then to the United States, where he grew up.

Posen graduated from John Hopkins University and went on to serve in the US Army during the Korean War. Following his army service, he started his business career, setting up a company trading in oil, metals and minerals. In 1992 Posen retired from business, but to this day the company he founded is considered one of the largest in its field in the world.

From an early age Posen was attracted to Jewish culture and to the idea that Judaism is not just a religion, but is in fact a group having common cultural, historical and lifestyle characteristics.

Over the years, Posen has worked extensively to strengthen the perception of Judaism as a culture. He donated to the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Oxford University, and partnered in the creation of the Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism at the Hebrew University.

In the early 1980s Posen founded the 'Posen Foundation', which is dedicated to supporting Jewish education as a culture, in keeping with his point of view. The Fund has a deep commitment to Jewish culture. It also has faith in the power of education to bring about significant change in Jewish life, providing opportunity to deepen and enrich the study of the historical and cultural heritage of the Jewish people from a secular perspective.

Since its inception the Foundation has supported, among others, the School for Educational Leadership in Jerusalem (in the early 1990s) and an academic program launched in 2000 to study secular Jewish history and culture, which led to the opening of courses on the subject in approximately 40 institutions of higher learning in Israel, the United States and Europe. These courses focused on changes in the life patterns of secular Jews, from the end of the European enlightenment and up to the present day.

Today the Posen Foundation is engaged in The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization, a landmark ten-volume series that collects 3,000 years of Jewish literature, artwork, and artifacts, presenting the best of Jewish culture in its historic and global entirety, for which more than 120 researchers from around the world are collecting materials.

As noted, Posen has contributed to many research institutions in Israel, including the University of Haifa, where, in 2003, the Posen Forum for the Study of Jewish, European and Israeli Political Thought was launched. The Forum's main sphere of interest is the intellectual history of politics and law, and the reciprocal influences between cultures, with particular emphasis on Jewish culture, heritage and modern political thought, and its importance as a basis for Israeli-European dialog in our time. Posen has contributed to other projects at the University on Jewish tradition and culture, including a graduate program for teachers of Israeli culture, established jointly with the Foundation, which provides certification for teachers who have been teaching this subject in the education system for more than five years.