

DINA B. CHARNIN**Director, Israel Policy and Programs**

Dina B. Charnin is the Director of Israel Policy and Programs at the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who, inspired by Jewish values, turn progressive ideals into action. NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families, and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. In Israel, NCJW empowers women, advances gender equality, and supports the strengthening of civil liberties, democracy, and peace efforts.

Charnin has extensive experience in Israel over the past 35 years. One of the early leaders of conflict resolution and bridge-building work between the Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel, Dina lived for 2 years in a Muslim Palestinian Israeli town, working for Interns for Peace (IFP), a pioneering grassroots organization dedicated to building cooperative projects between neighboring Jews and Arabs. As Education and Recruitment Director of IFP, and later as Acting Director, Charnin traveled around the U.S. lecturing, fundraising, and recruiting on the topic of Jewish-Arab relations in Israel. Charnin continued her Israel-related work as advisor to philanthropist Joy Ungerleider Meyerson of the Dorot Foundation, creating and becoming the founding director of the prestigious Dorot Fellowship in Israel for future Jewish American lay leaders; the one-year fellowship pairs Jewish study with multi-dimensional experiences of Israel. Charnin has worked for various Jewish foundations and philanthropists, including the Slifka Foundation and the Saul Z. and Amy Scheuer Cohen Family Foundation, where she worked on topics such as environmental justice and religious pluralism in Israel.

Charnin received her BA from Brown University and her MA from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Charnin speaks Hebrew fluently and is conversant in Arabic, French, Spanish and Russian. Charnin was president and board member of Partners for Progressive Israel, and has been a leader for 21 years of the Bavli-Yerushalmi study project, a group of Israelis and Americans who learn about each other through the study of ancient and modern Jewish texts. Charnin is also a classically trained flutist playing in chamber ensembles whenever possible.

