

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

Tzili Charney

the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa

In recognition of her contribution to strengthening and promoting the arts in Israel and the United States; for her involvement and support of initiatives and activities that foster dialog and understanding between Jewish and Arab families; for her great devotion and dedication to preserving the legacy of her late husband, Leon H. Charney, by focusing on educating students in the fields of conflict resolution, the art of negotiation, entrepreneurship, sustainability and striving for world peace; for her support of social organizations in Israel that work on behalf of people with special needs; for her contribution over many years to the University of Haifa which allows the University and its researchers to excel and move beyond academic boundaries.

Conferred on 22 Sivan 5778/June 5, 2018
Haifa, Israel



Mooly Eden

Chairman of the Executive Committee



Prof. Ron Robin

President



Prof. Gustavo Mesch

Rector



TZILI CHARNEY

Tzili Charney was born and educated in Tel Aviv. After her military service, she studied at the Midrasha Art School. Upon completing her studies in 1981, she started to work as a costume designer. She worked with leading theaters in Israel, including Habima, Israel's national theater company, and the Cameri, Tel Aviv's municipal theater company. She also worked with the Jewish Repertory Theater in New York. In 1991, Tzili married Leon Charney – a true friend of the University of Haifa in his lifetime, and a former Chairman of its Board of Governors – and moved to New York where, in 1999, their twin sons Mickey and Nati were born. In New York, Tzili continued designing theater costumes and also started to work independently as a well-regarded art curator (Art Basel, among others) and as an artistic consultant. In this area, she works extensively to promote Israeli art and culture. In 2008, Tzili joined the National Laboratory for New Jewish Culture (LABA) in New York's East Village and became a member of the Board of Directors of New York's Museum of Art and Design (MAD).

In 2010, when Leon fell ill, Tzili dedicated herself to tending to her husband, while also starting to act as Chairperson of the real estate company L.H. Charney Associates, Inc. She also took upon herself to continue Leon's legacy in the cultural arena and produced the television interviews program *The Leon Charney Report* in which distinguished personalities such as Shimon Peres, David Grossman, Eli Wiesel, and many others were interviewed. She also assisted in the production of the documentary film *Back Door Channels: The Price of Peace*, which is based, among others, on the important role that Leon Charney played in setting up the historic peace accord between Israel and Egypt, which was signed at Camp David in 1979.

Tzili Charney is an Ambassador of Goodwill and works diligently to maintain the legacy of her late husband Leon. Thanks to her donation, the Leon Charney Center was established at Beit Hatfutsot – the Museum of the Jewish People. This digital facility is home to the collection of articles, writings and publications about Leon, his musical legacy, and the television programs, films, books and recordings in which he had a hand.

Tzili works tirelessly to create understanding and dialog between Jewish and Arab Israeli families. Inspired by the work and vision of her late husband, Tzili established in 2014 the Leon Charney Resolution Center at EMIS (the Eastern Mediterranean International School). The Center focuses on educating toward conflict resolution, negotiation management, promotion of initiatives, stability and global peace. Tzili Charney is known for her great support of Israeli organizations, among others, in assisting people with special needs and improving mechanisms for coping with multiple casualty situations.

Tzili Charney supports various programs in the United States – the Diplomacy Program of Florida Atlantic University, the Program for Israel Studies at Yeshiva University, and NIAD, a center for people with special needs in California. In December 2017, she founded ZAZ10TS – an art initiative that integrates art forms into office buildings at 10 Times Square.

In 2017, Tzili Charney awarded with an Honorary Doctorate from Yeshiva University.

Tzili, Vice Chair of the University's Board of Governors, is one of the most long-standing and dedicated friends of the University of Haifa, she, and her late husband Leon, were the driving force behind the development of marine sciences at the University of Haifa, and today she is involved in a new project - The Leon H. Charney Center for New Diplomacy. With her great generosity she continues to help the University to move forward and lead in many and diverse fields of research.