Larry and Dulcie Kugelman

Global Citizen Peacebuilders

Dulcie Kugelman received her BA in Peace Studies at Chapman University in 1996. Larry Kugelman had majored in Philosophy and English Literature and served in the Peace Corps, teaching English in Iran, before embarking on a long and distinguished career in healthcare. Upon his retirement, Larry and Dulcie traveled to Northern Ireland where both pursued Master of Arts degrees in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Ulster. There they helped develop and support innovative grassroots peacebuilding projects such as:

- **Seeds of Hope** fostering reconciliation between former combatants and their victims
- **Picturing Peace** teaching elementary and middle school Protestant and Catholic children to communicate their feelings, values and understandings of peace through photography
- **Cirque de OC** bringing children affected by the Northern Ireland violence to stay with host families in Orange County and learn esteem building techniques through performance art.

Supporting Research and Experiential Learning

At Chapman University, Larry and Dulcie established the Kugelman Family Peace-Builders Fellowship Endowment providing funds for undergraduate students to travel and study conflict analysis and resolution, peacebuilding, and the general promotion of global understanding, as well as to attend and present research at international conferences. As esteemed members of the university community, both serve on the Dean’s Council for Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and they support academic excellence through the annual Kugelman Awards Ceremony for Arts & Humanities.

At the University of California, Irvine, the Kugelmans are founding board members of the Center for Citizen Peacebuilding and support UCI faculty and graduate student research on regions and issues of conflict around the world through the Kugelman Peacebuilding Fellowships.

“It’s essential that we are not only motivated to make a difference, but that we also learn how to make a difference. Supporting research is key to adding to the body of knowledge about peacebuilding.” — Dulcie Kugelman

Olive Tree Initiative

The Kugelmans have played a pivotal role in the student-led Olive Tree Initiative since its inception, providing initial funding and encouragement for UCI students seeking to establish an open forum for discussing cultural and religious differences surrounding the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The aim of the Olive Tree Initiative is to foster global engagement through experiential education. OTI promotes conflict analysis and resolution through rigorous academic preparation, experiential education and leadership development, providing students, faculty, and community participants with the education, training and experiences needed to better understand, negotiate and resolve conflicts.

With Dulcie and Larry’s continued support and leadership, the program has now grown to include chapters on multiple UC campuses as well as Chapman University and the University of Glasgow, with ongoing campus and community programs and more than 400 alumni who have participated in some 17 experiential educational trips to the Middle East or the South Caucasus region.

Larry and Dulcie Kugelman have been widely recognized for their dedication to community service and peacebuilding work. Dulcie received the Interfaith Peace Ministry of Orange County’s Paul Delp Award, and Larry was honored by the Orange County Human Relations Commission with the 2009 Community Leader Award, for his service on the board of Share Our Selves, a healthcare nonprofit in Orange County with multiple clinics providing medical and dental services for the homeless. The Kugelmans also received the UCI Alumni Association’s 2010 Lauds and Laurels Outstanding Community Members Award. Larry and Dulcie truly exemplify transformative leadership in their work for positive peace, a labor of love in which they have indeed invested their humanity and their lives.