

Making History Again in 2017 (Oak Ridge International Friendship Bell)

(As published in The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking column on February 22, 2017)

In the early 1990s when the Committee of 50 explored the question of who Oak Ridge was, they made a bold statement. They created a remarkable monument for the town. They made history!

Now, in 2017, we are making history again. We are reaching out to each one of our Oak Ridge families and each one of our businesses in Oak Ridge to stand up and be counted in this history-making year. 2017 is the 75th anniversary of the beginning of Oak Ridge, a fitting time for again making history!

We want to see your name engraved on the stone tablets that will be part of the plaza of the Peace Pavilion and International Friendship Bell. Construction begins very soon. Your donations early in 2017 will ensure the necessary funding is in hand and your name is engraved in history.

How can you be a part of making history in 2017? We'll tell you how to do this below but first, let's look at the new home for the Friendship Bell and the beautiful new Peace Pavilion. It will move down the slope in Bissell Park to become the heart of the Park, a brand-new community-gathering place and our message of Peace to the world.

If you have not seen the video of the design for structure, plaza and gardens, view the extraordinary new design on the Friendship Bell web site, <http://friendshipbell.com/>. It is also on the Oak Ridge International Friendship Bell Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ORfriendshipbell/>.

Pat Postma, Co-Chair of the International Friendship Bell Advisory Committee along with Alan Tatum, came to Oak Ridge in 1943 as a small child. At the ceremony kicking off the fundraising for the Bell and Peace Pavilion, she commented on the Bell as an expression of Oak Ridge values. At our 50th Anniversary we asked ourselves who we were, what we had become and how we wanted to be known. "Born of War, Living in Peace and Growing through Science" aptly captured our history and talked about our future.

"We were a town of immigrants who sacrificed a great deal to come here. We had friends, relations and countrymen who died overseas fighting the war that we fought at home. But we were –and are - a town of science. Science reaches across borders. In fact, we joined our former enemies in developing the totally new science of Health Physics necessitated by the fact of the war. Early on we moved into providing radioisotopes for medical use around the world. That was the start of our future.

Making History Again in 2017 (Oak Ridge International Friendship Bell)

(As published in The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking column on February 22, 2017)

"Today, we ARE growing through science. ORNL has won more R&D 100 awards than any other entity in the world. A great many of these scientific breakthroughs have created large, prosperous companies that improve lives around the world. CNS Y-12 - born of war but keeping the Peace. It enables our nuclear navy; it decommissions nuclear weapons from all over the world and stores nuclear materials safely. This town has a history but boy, does it have a presence!

Our presence is about to expand greatly with the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. Park officials have estimated about 50,000 visitors a year to Oak Ridge and the Friendship Bell and Peace Pavilion will be a major stop on the tours provided by the Park Service. One of their designated themes is Peace. Our Oak Ridge International Friendship Bell and Peace Pavilion are unique among the three sites in bringing the peace message to the world.

And for Thom Mason, Oak Ridge National Laboratory Director, the International Friendship Bell is an expression of hope for peace and understanding among all people. The meaning attached to our bell goes well beyond its location in Oak Ridge, it's expression reaches throughout the world.

The design for the new site in Bissell Park is by **Demian/Wilbur**/architects in Washington DC. Demian/Wilbur are active nationally and internationally. They seek to be involved in places that touch people's lives deeply and benefit their communities. Theirs is an interactive process working collaboratively with communities to understand their objectives and bring them to reality.

It was Ram Uppuluri who brought Ziad Demian and Oak Ridge together. Ram and Ziad had worked together on a community project in Washington DC, so Ram shared our dilemma with Ziad. He was fascinated by what Ram told him about the town of Oak Ridge, and the choice of this Bell as the commemoration of our 50th anniversary.

Over the course of a couple visits in 2014 where he studied the original site, saw the Friendship Bell, met Shigeko Uppuluri and heard our stories, he committed his heart to this peace project. It was a perfect fit for **Demian/Wilbur**/architects.

When the new location was selected in Bissell Park he visited again. He walked and photographed Bissell Park countless times. He talked to us about the Bell and listened. He, too, envisioned the site as an open, inclusive community gathering place. He saw it not only as a symbol of our past but a symbol for the

Making History Again in 2017 (Oak Ridge International Friendship Bell)

(As published in The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking column on February 22, 2017)

future and his contemporary Peace pavilion design reflects the future.

Ziad sees ringing the Bell as a personal experience, but also an immense temporal experience of sound radiating outward to envelop anyone around, impossible not to participate.

Yet the Bell is also a story of two countries with a mutual resolve for reconciliation and peace. With its place in the National Park it becomes a story for the world. Every time the hammer strikes the Bell a personal experience is instantly connected to a global experience. For Ziad, this is the power of the Oak Ridge International Friendship Bell.

Our large Bell with the resonant sound is known as Bonshō. It has been said that these bells encapsulate both the science of sound and the art of beautiful design and form, allowing the heart to open to its grandeur. Alan Tatum understood that when he said that visitors who come to our beautiful Peace Pavilion and gardens to ring the Bell will “never forget that visible and emotional memory of Oak Ridge.”

Your contribution to the Bell this year will make the critical difference. It will put us over the top. We are off to a remarkable start! Our major contractors have provided a huge foundation for us to build on. UT-Battelle/ORNL has contributed \$150,000; Oak Ridge Associated Universities have contributed \$100,000. CNS Y-12 has contributed \$25,000.

The city of Oak Ridge, Roane County Alliance, Anderson County and our Sister City of Japan, Naka-shi have collectively contributed over \$100,000. A number of families wanted to step up early to inspire others. Together these supporters have put us over the \$600,000 mark on the way to our goal of \$755,000.

We need all of our families and all of our businesses to stretch as far as they can and raise the \$150,000 we need to make sure the project is completed as planned. We are almost there...help push us over the top!

Can you become Landmark Donor for \$5,000 or more this year? Can you become a Friend of the Bell for \$500 or more? Can you join the two other families who are Global Ambassadors for \$25,000? Can you become a Peace Maker below the \$500 amount? Whatever you can give will help us get there.

Contributions may be made to the Oak Ridge Rotary Community Fund with “For the Bell” on a check memo line and mailed to:

Making History Again in 2017 (Oak Ridge International Friendship Bell)

(As published in The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking column on February 22, 2017)

International Friendship Bell
C/O David Carr
Oak Ridge Rotary Community Fund
P.O. Box 6331
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6331

Contributions may also be made online on the web site <http://friendshipbell.com/>.

"I think this Bell was born under the lucky star," Shigeko Uppuluri told those attending the kickoff event. "Many people were supportive of this lucky Bell and helped bring it to this community". She is right. The Bell has been surrounded by luck and well wishes. We will get there in 2017 and we will mark our success with your names engraved on the stone tablets.



The new Peace Pavilion will be in Bissell Park (artist rendering courtesy of **Demian/Wilbur/architects**)

Making History Again in 2017 (Oak Ridge International Friendship Bell)

(As published in The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking column on February 22, 2017)



The Peace Pavilion will be a community-gathering place (artist rendering courtesy of **Demian/Wilbur/architects**)



The Oak Ridge International Friendship Bell in the Peace Pavilion (artist rendering courtesy of **Demian/Wilbur/architects**)