

## ***Shigeko Uppuluri***

*April 9, 1931 to June 8, 2023*



Shigeko was born on April 9th, 1931 in Kyoto, Japan. She lived in Shanghai, China during WWII, and returned to Kyoto in 1954 to complete high school and college. She met her husband Ram Uppuluri when she was doing graduate work at Indiana University in the late 1950s.

Shigeko and her husband moved to Oak Ridge in 1963 and raised their son, Ram, here.

She was an advocate for peace and was instrumental in bringing the International Friendship Bell to Oak Ridge in 1993 as part of the 50th anniversary of the founding of Oak Ridge (<https://www.nps.gov/.../international-friendship-bell.htm>). She helped establish Oak Ridge's Sister City cultural exchange program with Naka, Japan. In 2016, the Consul-General of Japan presented her with the Foreign Minister's Commendation Award, recognizing her contributions to the friendship and understanding between Oak Ridge and Japan.

A strong advocate for Japanese-American friendship, she was a founder and past president and had been an active member of the Oak Ridge Sister City Support Organization. She assisted Oak Ridge middle school students and teachers with language and cultural information to prepare them for the exchange program each summer in Naka,.

A Celebration of Life will be held on August 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. The service will be at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church (809 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37830) and all are welcome.