



Golden Rule News



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VFP Golden Rule Project

A National Project of Veterans For Peace

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Mission Statement

The original nuclear protest boat, the Golden Rule will sail again to promote a nuclear free future, to educate about the dangers of radiation to humanity and the environment, and to support peaceful alternatives to war.

Golden Rule Sails for a Nuclear Free, Peaceful World

December 2016



Photo : Sara Kirschenbaum

In 1958 four Quaker activists sailed the Golden Rule toward the Marshall Islands in an attempt to halt atmospheric nuclear weapons testing. The US Coast Guard boarded her in Honolulu and arrested her crew, causing a nationwide public outcry.

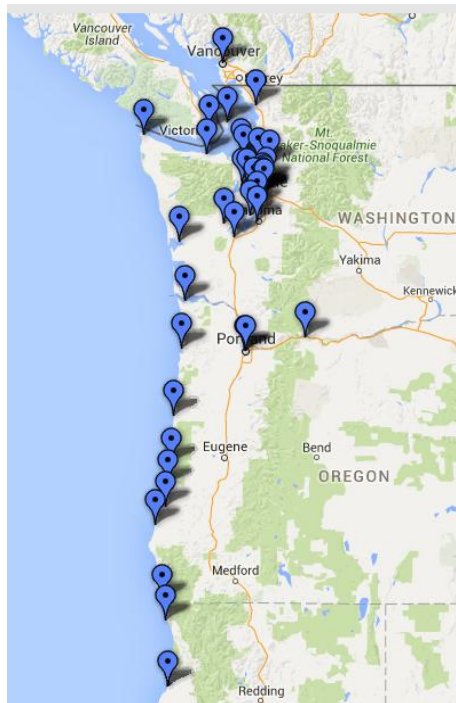
The *Phoenix of Hiroshima* completed the journey and entered the atomic bomb test zone.

As a result of public awareness and demand, President Kennedy signed the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty with the U.S.S.R and the U.K. in 1963.

After the Golden Rule sank in a gale in Humboldt Bay in Northern California, Leroy Zerlang lent his boat yard to Veterans For Peace and dozens of volunteers for her restoration. She was rebuilt from 2010 to 2015.

Golden Rule now sails for a nuclear-free world and a peaceful, sustainable future.

The Golden Rule's 2016 Voyage took the sail boat and her crew throughout the waterways of the Pacific Northwest.



We held 36 events in 19 cities, including four wooden boat shows, four demonstrations against military activities and support of the Indigenous Canoe Journey.

Thousands of people saw the *Golden Rule* this year; thousands more read about us in local newspapers and heard us speak on the radio!

Fleet Week in Portland

The *Golden Rule* provided a message of peace, on the water and land, in contrast to the Navy War Ships that invade our cities each year during "Fleet Week".



Photo: Sara Kirschenbaum

Gerry Condon says that Navy personnel were very receptive to the message on the flyers.

During Portland's Fleet Week the Washington County (Oregon) Sheriff's boat struck the Golden Rule during a reckless, aggressive and negligent approach. Several inches of a plank were splintered.

We have filed a claim for the damage and they have denied the claim, so we must pursue this in court.

Volunteers Needed

We need help to maintain our web site and social media, plan events, write articles, speak to the public, and ready the boat for sailing.

Please contact

Helen Jaccard at 206-992-6364 or

Chuck DeWitt at 707-445-4790 or

send an email to

vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com

Crew Needed!

Come join the crew for a week or a month.

Be an ambassador for peace, nuclear disarmament, and an end to fossil and nuclear fuels.

We especially encourage veterans, women, youth, Indigenous people, people of color and various nationalities to apply.

Apply at

vfpgoldenruleproject.org/crew-application/

Fleet Week in Seattle

In Seattle the annual Peace Fleet included the *Golden Rule*, five kayaks, a 24-foot sailboat, and a 16-foot skiff.



About 35 Peace Fleet supporters, including Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhists, the PNW Interfaith Peace Walk, and VFP, met on the rooftop of Pier 66 to cheer us on.



Flotilla of sailboats against Indian Island Munitions Transfer Station



On June 23 a Peace Flotilla of four sail boats protested at the Indian Island Munitions Transfer Station, which is within sight of Port Townsend. If a fire or explosion should happen there, the townspeople would be exposed to the blast, explosive chemicals and depleted uranium.

“Boats by Bangor”



The largest action of the 2016 voyage was “Boats by Bangor”, held on August 9, Nagasaki Day.

The Bangor Trident Nuclear Submarine Base, just 25 miles from Seattle, is home port to eight of the nation’s nuclear-armed submarines and has the largest stockpile of deployed nuclear weapons in the U.S.

In this first water-based action since 1982, the Golden Rule was joined by another sailboat “The Silent” and 14 kayaktivists.

This protest was organized by Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, whose center borders the Bangor Submarine Base. Most of the protesters are associated with GZ Center, and they helped the Golden Rule team in many ways throughout the summer!

They are already planning next year’s water action.

Presentations, Boat Shows, Adventures

June 8, [Portland](#): Our first educational presentation of the season was at First Unitarian Church. Rev. Genko Rainwater, of Dharma Rain Zen Center, led a meditation.

Harvey Wasserman of [Solartopia](#), long time advocate for renewable energy, spoke and international favorite progressive singer/ songwriter David Rovics sang his new [song](#) about the Golden Rule.



Harvey Wasserman



David Rovics

Fred Schafer of the [National Association of Atomic Veterans](#) spoke of his experience being exposed to radiation while in the military.

Mimi German of Nuclear Free Northwest ([NFN](#)) and Chuck Johnson of Physicians for Social Responsibility ([PSR](#)) talked about nuclear issues today.

Both NFN and PSR are working hard for Columbia Generating Station closure and cleanup. Located on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Eastern Washington and selling power to over 90 public and private utilities, it is the last remaining commercial nuclear power plant in the northwest and is the same design as the Fukushima-Daiichi plants.

Kianna Juda-Angelo of [Living Islands](#) spoke about her native country, the Marshall Islands, and the traditional outrigger canoe they are building to keep Marshallese values and skills alive, even as their islands sink into the rising seas due to climate change.



Kianna Juda-Angelo presented the Golden Rule with a Marshall Islands flag and expressed her gratitude that we are educating people about the Marshall Islands

June 10, [Portland](#): Carol Urner of [Women's International League for Peace and Freedom](#) was our guest



speaker at the Multnomah Friends Meeting potluck. She spoke about the *Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act, [H.R. 1976](#)*, which provides for nuclear weapons abolition, environmental restoration, and energy and economic conversion. [Let your representative\(s\) know you want them to support it.](#) Peter Ford provided our music.

June 16: [Stevenson, WA](#) Chuck Johnson and Loyd Henion were the guest speakers and David Rovics again sang about peace and nuclear issues. Crew member Tom Rogers told of his experience operating a nuclear submarine.

June 15, [Hood River](#): The Golden Rule was almost to Hood River, wind surfing capital of the world, when a strong gust of wind broke the tiller in half. Thanks to quick thinking by Captain Geoff Burke, who used the throttle to move the boat forward when it was going the right direction and Michael Gonzalez, who sawed off the broken end and placed the stump into the bracket. The crew made it safely to harbor.

Fortunately, a new tiller was quickly found in Vancouver and Chuck Johnson brought it to us.



Tom Rogers shows off the new tiller

The Golden Rule arrived in Hood River just days after an [oil train derailed](#) and caught fire in Mosier, Oregon, only seven miles away. A guest speaker was a fire fighter who talked at the presentation about what happened. The VFP Golden Rule Project supports transition to nuclear-free, carbon-free energy, and exploding oil trains is one reason why. People in the Pacific Northwest are resisting new fossil fuel infrastructure – oil and coal trains, huge port terminals and natural gas plants.

At the Riverside Community Church we were joined by Chuck Johnson, Loyd Henion of Living Islands, and Lauren Goldberg, Staff Attorney at [Columbia Riverkeeper](#). Scot Bergeron and Rebecca Stonestreet provided the evening's music.



Dan Shea of VFP Portland Chapter represented the Golden Rule at the unveiling of the Marshallese outrigger canoe.

June 28, Poulsbo: Mary Glysteen of [Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action](#) did a beautiful job of planning our Kitsap Regional library event. Tom Rogers spoke about the Bangor Trident Nuclear Submarine base and Michael Gonzalez spoke about increasing our activism.

July 2 – 4, Lake Union Wooden Boat Show: We gave people tours and talked about the Golden Rule dockside while VFP members passed out thousands of leaflets in the park and all over the boat show.

July 2 – 4, Seabeck on the Washington coast: Helen Jaccard attended the Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation (WWFOR) conference and gave a talk about the Golden Rule. Several WWFOR members helped organize events this year.

July 10, Lake Union: We took people sailing all day! There were six sailings, each with several people aboard. Everyone had a great time!

July 15, Bainbridge Island: [Mike Stern](#) crewed from Shilshole Marina in Seattle to Eagle Harbor / Winslow on Bainbridge Island.



Mike played "The Phoenix and the Golden Rule", our theme song that he wrote and recorded with a band, as well as some other cool peace songs.



Organizer and host Reed Price interviewed Helen in the community radio studio and Rich Gile and Michael Gonzalez at the [boat](#).

The people of Bainbridge Island gave us a huge welcome – there was a picnic and a well-attended educational event. We were treated to music and dance from: The Raging Grannies, Rick Barrenger and "Dances of Universal Peace".



July 24 – 30, Indigenous Canoe Journey: The crew did a lot of preparation to be a support boat for the "[Paddle to Nisqually](#)". Our skipper, Rick Bender, did a great job of preparing the boat and crew for this adventure.



We practiced pulling Helen from the water using the life sling.

On July 24 we caught up with the Indigenous Canoe Journey. We were able to provide food, water, rest, and towing to three canoes the first three days.

We supported *Itar* starting July 27. L. Frank, of the Tongva-Acjachemen tribe did extensive research to figure out the design. *Itar* was made in L. Frank's back yard in Santa Rosa.



L. Frank



Itar is the first canoe of its kind to be made in over 200 years! It has planks that are sewn to each other with the stitches and seams covered in pitch. It holds 4 pullers and a bailer – and that's the way it's always been!



We supported the "Umiak" Carver's on a beautiful day with Mount Rainier in the background!

Michael G, Helen and Theodora Tsongas attended evening potlatches.

Finally on July 30, it was time for the official landing and welcoming ceremony for over 100 canoes into Olympia. L. Frank was aboard the Golden Rule for the first time that day. We put up the mizzen peace sail and were honored to carry 5 *Itar* pullers including 2 elders, who of them traded into the canoe to finish paddling into Olympia to a welcoming crowd of thousands.



Itar and dozens of canoes wait for their official welcome at the landing site in Olympia.

August 6 Lantern Ceremony

Hiroshima Day: The Golden Rule crew commemorated Hiroshima Day at the annual Lantern Ceremony, “From Hiroshima to Hope” at Green Lake in Seattle. We shared table space with Seattle VFP and Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. Many moving speakers, drummers, indigenous singers, and dancers participated. Michael, Barry Binks and I each had a message written in Japanese on our paper, put them onto our lanterns and walked them out to the water to be placed with the others.



The lake and lanterns formed a beautiful peace symbol!



There was a huge turnout, 3 times the record last year of 1000.



This lantern held by Michael Gonzalez reads “Golden Rule”

August 17, Coupeville: The potluck and presentation were well attended; around 35 people came to hear about the Golden Rule and to get an update about the “Growlers” dispute. Growlers are the loudest airplanes in the world, and Coupeville and the Ebey Island Nature Reserve are right in their very low flight path, close to the take-off and landing zone. They

fly at all hours of the day and into the night. Gerry and I observed them as many of them flew right over us. The sound hurts your ears, yet the health board stated, despite overwhelming evidence, that there is no physical harm that come from loud noise.

On August 19, Terry Lush became our captain. His dad owned the Golden Rule in the 1970s and 1980s, and so Terry spent about 15 years sailing her back then.

August 20-22, Bellingham:



On Saturday we took people sailing four times, with nine passengers on each trip. Everyone had a great time and the weather was perfect!

Sunday was very windy, so we didn't sail at all. However, we were still able to get to the day use dock in Bellingham, which was an excellent place for showing off the boat.



The potluck Sunday just up from the dock was very well attended, despite the wind – we had at least 30 people there from Veterans For Peace, Whatcom Peace & Justice Center, Quakers, the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, and other supporters.

The presentations at the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship Monday night were wonderful and around 40 people came. Ellen Murphy and Beth Brownfield worked very hard to organize the whole weekend. In addition to the Golden Rule presentation, Shar Abreu talked about the dangers of nuclear power and the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons. She and

her partner Mike Hurwicz, (together the “Irthlingz”), provided great music for us.

August 25 – 28, Vancouver Wooden Boat Show:

We talked to and gave brochures to hundreds of people! Mary Ann Percy, Helen, Michael and Terry all had a great time and many people learned about the Golden Rule's history and mission.

August 31, Friday Harbor: Terry and Linda Lush organized a lasagna benefit dinner for the Golden Rule! People from the San Juan Yacht Club and many others came from San Juan Island, Orcas Island, and Bellingham to participate. Thank you, Terry and Linda!

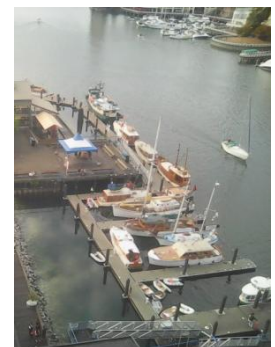
September 2 – 4, Victoria Classic Boat Show:

Just as in Vancouver, we met hundreds of people, all very supportive of our mission!

We even won the prize for the Best Work Boat!



We had an excellent place on the dock.





Helen Jaccard and Caroline Wildflower gave a presentation on Friday Sept 2 at the World Federalist Society – over 20 people came. Bill Pearce, in the middle, arranged for the talk.

On Saturday Sept 3, Helen attended a concert by the Doukhobor Choir.



The Doukhobors were Russian Christian peasants resisting the excessive opulence, elaborate rituals and authoritative practices of the Orthodox Church. They burned their weapons and refused to pay war taxes or participate in the military. Many came to Canada in the early 1900s.



The concert was followed by a Golden Rule presentation by Helen Jaccard and a talk by Tamara Lorincz about the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

While at the Victoria Classic Boat Show, we met Kjell Kessell, who built *Ruggen* in just 24 years, the only known Colin Archer design built in North America!



This gaff-rigged boat that shows the idea of how the Golden Rule's main sail can work.

There is leather on the shoe and the boom's throat curves up.

September 9 – 11, Port Townsend Wooden Boat Show: It was great fun to return to Port Townsend and the Friends took great care of us in June! Caroline Wildflower, Clint Weinmeister, Doug Milholland, and many others helped pass out brochures and tell the world about the history and mission of the Golden Rule.



On the last day, the sail-by was the most amazing experience ever! Hundreds of sail boats were on the water and dozens approached the Golden Rule with peace signs flashing and telling us how much they appreciate our boat and mission!



Captain Norm Petersen and crew member Peter Crispell (from North Carolina) really got into their roles. Argh, Matey!



Some of the bigger sail boats were also gaff-rigged and beautiful!



Michael Gonzalez, Caroline Wildflower, Peter Crispell, Norm Petersen, Mike Hackett and Helen Jaccard all crewed during the sail-by.



The Lady Washington

September 14, Seattle: A Gala Benefit for the Golden Rule at the Center for Wooden Boats on Lake Union brought out lots of people. We gave an educational presentation and the Seattle Labor Chorus and Mike Stern provided the entertainment. A special thanks to Greater Seattle VFP for organizing this very successful event!



Nuclear News

UN Nuclear Weapons Ban: On October 27, 2016 the United Nations First Committee of the General Assembly voted to negotiate a “legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”. The negotiations begin in March 2017.

Most nations voted in favor of the resolution, including North Korea and Iran. The U.S., U.K, France, Russia and Israel voted against. Pakistan, India and China abstained.

This ban will be similar to the bans on chemical and biological weapons, land mines and cluster bombs, which are all weapons of mass destruction.

This resolution, L.41, implements the key recommendation of the *UN open-ended working group on nuclear disarmament*, following conferences examining the **humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons**.

Setsuko Thurlow, a Hibakusha (Hiroshima bomb survivor) said, “This is a truly historic moment for the entire world. For those of us who survived the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is a very joyous occasion. We have been waiting so long for this day to come.

“... It is all of our responsibility to make sure that such suffering never happens again.”

We at the VFP Golden Rule Project heartily applaud this UN effort!

OLLI Class about the Golden Rule and Nuclear Issues

A few members of the VFP Golden Rule Project are giving a 6-week class through Humboldt State University’s Osher Lifetime Learning Institute on Wednesdays April 5 to May 10 with a field trip to see the Golden Rule and possibly go sailing. We will discuss the Golden Rule history and all nuclear issues today.

Nuclear Power Faces Increasing Challenges

Nuclear power plants in the U.S. are closing as they reach their designed end of life and because other forms of energy are more cost-effective. Nuclear power accounts for about 20% of US energy needs. The price of uranium is at an all-time low, and the mining, milling and fuel-rod-making industries are having a hard time making a profit – if it weren’t for big government subsidies, this side of the nuclear equation might well not survive.

The Fukushima disaster had an impact on many country’s desires for nuclear power, and except for China the industry might be faltering worldwide.

A third of the nuclear power plants in the U.S. are approaching the end of their operating licenses at 40 years old. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is granting 20 year extensions against the advice of their scientists. This is a dangerous policy, as the concrete, steel and other components of the containment vessels break down under the neutron bombardment. Massive maintenance costs and cheap alternate fuels are making these power plants unprofitable.

The combination of solar and wind power with battery or other energy storage devices will ultimately lead to a nuclear-free, carbon-free energy system.

WIPP Plant May Reopen in 2017 Despite Collapsing Ceilings

Several roof collapses in the salt formation where radioactive waste has been stored seems to be of little concern at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant where some of the nation’s worst nuclear waste is stored. The collapses are in areas that have been sealed and are off-limits to people.

The damage has been repaired from the underground explosion of February 2014 caused by incorrect kitty litter packing. Additional safety measures are mostly complete. “Business as usual” will begin after an additional 21 issues are resolved.

Fukushima Cleanup Problems Persist but Slow Progress is Made

Thousands of one-ton bags of radioactive debris litter the landscape, degrading and spilling their contents. Huge tanks to hold contaminated water can’t be built fast enough. The ice wall that was to block ground water from running through the destroyed reactors is a failure.

However, the protective walls around the Unit 1 reactor have been removed in preparation for removing the spent fuel rods.

“End the Entire Nuclear Era”

A subcommittee of Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom is launching a campaign to bring the entire nuclear industry to an end including mining, milling, processing, bomb-making, depleted uranium weapons and nuclear power plants.

They will be inviting many other organizations to join in this effort in a coalition.

Hanford Worker Exposures Mount

On October 18, fifteen workers were exposed to radioactivity at the tank farms, where over 100 huge buried tanks containing millions of gallons of highly radioactive, toxic waste into the ground.

You can Help Keep the Golden Rule Afloat

As you can see from the Golden Rule News, we are reaching thousands of people per year. Next year promises to be the best yet – we will not only make more stops, but each stop will involve a better program to reach beyond the choir. By offering public speakers and education to churches, clubs and many different kinds of organizations, we are taking our message to where people meet, encouraging them to see this famous sail boat and to go for a ride.

So please send a generous check to:

VFP Golden Rule Project
PO Box 87
Samoa, CA 95564

Or donate online at:

www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org

The Golden Rule only sails with help from our supporters!

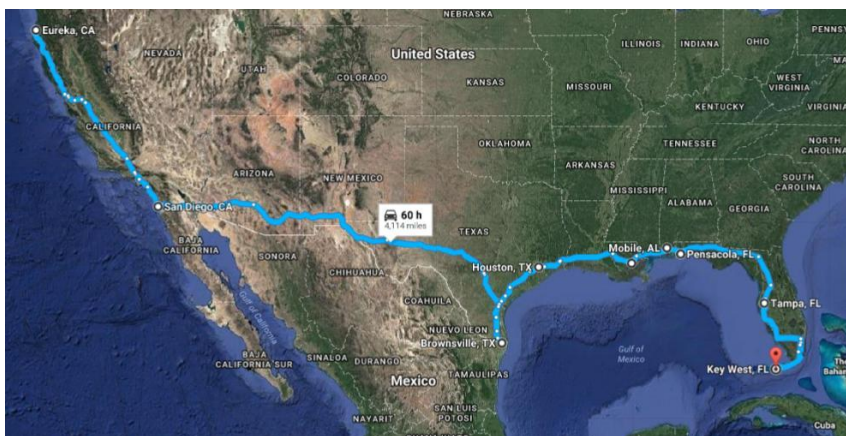
We need funds for repairs, maintenance and upgrades, including:

- New mizzen mast.
- Electrical and galley improvements
- Heating and ventilation
- Propeller shaft seal repair

The Exciting 2017 Voyage: Along California and to the Gulf States

The 2017 sailing season will be very exciting! We will sail from Humboldt Bay to San Diego and truck the Golden Rule to Texas, then sail the Intracoastal Waterway to Florida.

If you live on the coast of California or any of the Gulf States, we also need help to organize events and seed money for each stop. Contact Helen Jaccard at 206-992-6364.



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