



# Golden Rule News



Fall 2021

## Golden Rule arrives in San Francisco Bay!



*Kanoelehua (Michelle) Masonette, Nolan Anderson, Captain Kiko Johnston-Kitazawa and Captain Malinda Anderson arrive at Schoonmaker Point Marina in Sausalito*

**The *Golden Rule* crew and supporters were greatly relieved on June 1 as the historic anti-nuclear sailboat arrived safely into San Francisco Bay.** It was a grueling 29 days at sea and a difficult night at Drake's Bay, just outside the Golden Gate Bridge.

**"We are so grateful to this brave crew of two women and two men," said Col. Ann Wright,** who saw the crew off in Honolulu and welcomed them upon their arrival in Sausalito. "A cross-ocean voyage in a small wooden sailboat takes courage, sacrifice and sustained effort, which is just what it will take to end the threat of nuclear war."

Captain Kiko Johnston-Kitazawa agreed: "We were weeks out at sea without any sign of land, and then suddenly we are here. This is a good metaphor for the struggle to abolish nuclear weapons."

There was great press coverage of *Golden Rule's* arrival in the San Francisco Chronicle and on KPFA radio's Flashpoints show.

### Donations needed for upcoming programs

In order to make the most of the upcoming voyages, particularly the Great Loop, we need to put \$50,000 in the bank.

Please make a tax deductible donation online ([vfpgoldenrule.org](http://vfpgoldenrule.org)) or by check to:

VFP Golden Rule Project  
PO Box 87  
Samoa, CA 95564

Or call Helen Jaccard, 206-992-6364 with credit card information



© Noah Berger, *San Francisco Chronicle*

*On June 3 the crew sailed past the Golden Gate Bridge and across the Bay to the Berkeley Marina, Golden Rule's summer home.*

## Sailing, Presentations Continue!

We had visitors and sailed five times while at Berkeley Marina in San Francisco Bay. The Greenpeace National Office came for a pizza party!. Many of them had not yet met, as they are working remotely due to Covid.

David Hartsough, a life-long peace and anti-nuclear activist, brought his family and friends sailing. Veterans For Peace, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom and CodePink Women For Peace also sailed with us.

We gave presentations in California to Rotary and other clubs and Captain Kiko is talking with groups in Hawai'i! We're giving many zoom presentations as well, including Friends (Quaker) Meetings in Minneapolis.

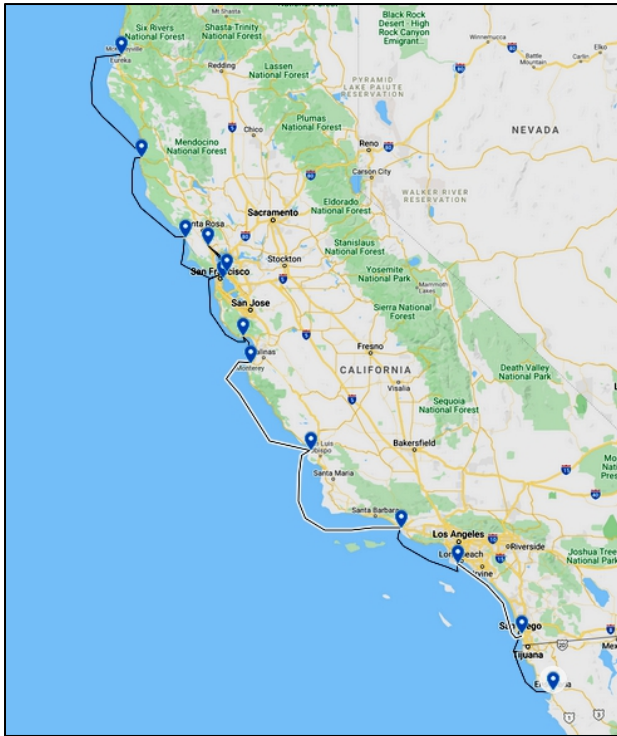
Thanks to VFP Santa Rosa chapter member Fred Ptucha, the Santa Rosa Press Democrat ran a great article about the Golden Rule and Veterans For Peace!

The Golden Rule will soon sail into Humboldt Bay, her home port. Come see *Golden Rule* and volunteer to maintain the boat. We'll sail as often as possible, too!

Contact project manager Helen Jaccard at [vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com](mailto:vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com) or 206-992-6364.

**Helen will also be happy to arrange a presentation for your organization, school or church.**

## 2021-22 California Coastal Sail



After *Golden Rule* maintenance in Humboldt Bay, we'll sail the West Coast of California starting in December or January.

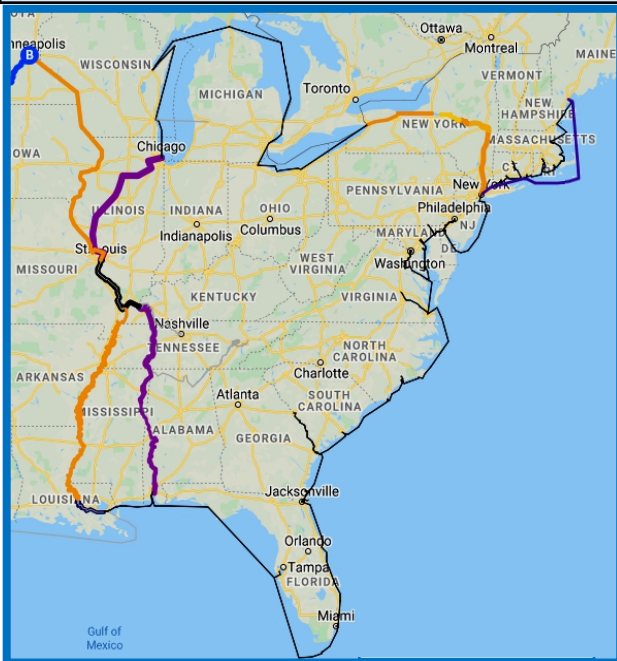
The Golden Rule team will reach a broad audience and strive to deepen our connection to the communities we visit. Some of the presentations will be online, as Covid is still raging. We'll also invite many guest speakers from the community, around the country, and around the world.

If you live on the California coast, please invite us speak with groups in your area, such as:

- Quakers, Unitarians, Buddhists, other faith groups
- Schools with students of all ages
- Indigenous tribes
- Environmental, climate change groups
- Peace & justice & anti-nuclear groups
- Rotary
- Politicians, political parties, and local governments

Let us know if you would like a boat tour, a chance to sail, or if you can participate in educational events.

## The Great Loop Postponed



Given that the Great Loop involves over 100 stops in 10,000 miles and 15 months, the Golden Rule Committee has decided to postpone the voyage for a year. We don't yet have the funds and staff needed to do justice to this wonderful opportunity to educate the public in the Eastern and Central United States. The Committee will work hard for the next six months to raise funds and recruit volunteers and partner organizations.

Please help us reach our goal of \$50,000 to get started on this epic voyage!

### PRELIMINARY Schedule

Start	End	Stop
	9/8/22	West Coast
9/9/22	9/14/22	Unstep masts, load on trailer
9/15/22	9/21/22	Drive to Minneapolis
9/22/22	10/4/22	Minneapolis: Step masts, launch
10/5/22	11/8/22	Upper Mississippi: Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri (St. Louis)
11/10/22	12/1/22	Lower Mississippi: Tennessee (Memphis), Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana (Baton Rouge, New Orleans)
12/2/22	2/5/23	Alabama (Mobile), Florida (Pensacola, Panama City, Tampa, Miami, Ft Lauderdale, Jacksonville)
2/6/23	4/3/23	Georgia, S Carolina, N Carolina, Virginia
4/4/23	5/18/23	Virginia, DC, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York
5/19/23	7/19/23	New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine
7/20/23	9/20/23	Great Lakes - Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois
9/21/23	12/1/23	Illinois, Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, Tombigbee rivers to Mobile, Alabama

If you live along our upcoming routes, please contact Helen Jaccard at [vfgoldenruleproject@gmail.com](mailto:vfgoldenruleproject@gmail.com) or 206-992-6364. We need event planners and crew. There are many other ways you can help!

You can also let us know your interest by filling out our volunteer form at [www.vfgoldenruleproject.org/volunteer/](http://www.vfgoldenruleproject.org/volunteer/).



# Taking Action against Nuclear Weapons!

## VFP Nuclear Abolition Working Group

With the help of Golden Rule Project members Helen Jaccard, Gerry Condon and Ann Wright, Veterans For Peace has rejuvenated its Nuclear Abolition Working Group!

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month at 6 pm Eastern. We invite guest speakers on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays. To join, email [vfp-nonukes@gmail.com](mailto:vfp-nonukes@gmail.com).

### Statement of Purpose

**(Summary of preamble) - This working group will implement the VFP goal - *To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons.***

The working group does hereby commit to work with others both within and beyond Veterans For Peace to use our veteran's voice and influence the US Government to:

- 1. Adopt and announce a policy of "No first Use"** of nuclear weapons and make that policy credible by publicly decommissioning U.S. ICBMs that can only be used in a first strike;
- 2. Reduce the probability of an accidental, unauthorized, or unintentional nuclear exchange** by taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert and storing warheads separately from delivery systems;
- 3. Cancel plans to replace the entire US arsenal with enhanced weapons** at a cost of more than \$1 trillion over the next 30 years;
- 4. Redirect the money thus saved into environmentally and socially sound programs**, including the accelerated cleanup of highly toxic and radioactive waste left during eight decades of the nuclear cycle;
- 5. End the sole, unchecked authority of any president** (or his or her delegates and their delegates) to launch a nuclear attack and require Congressional approval of any use of nuclear weapons;
- 6. Comply with our obligations under the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)** by actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states *to eliminate their nuclear arsenals*;
- 7. Sign and ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**;
- 8. Phase out nuclear energy, stop producing depleted uranium weapons**, and stop uranium mining, processing and enrichment;
- 9. Clean up radioactive sites from the nuclear cycle** and develop an environmentally and socially sound nuclear waste disposal program; and
- 10. Fund health care and compensation for victims of radiation.**

The Working Group works with NuclearBan.US, Back from the Brink, Beyond the Bomb, and other organizations to bring the Veterans' Voice to the anti-nuclear movement and lend support.

We recently sent an [open letter](#) to President Biden calling for peace and disarmament groups to have a seat at the table of the Nuclear Posture Review.

## Commemorating International Days for Peace and Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons



Photo: Glenn Milner, Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action  
Article by Leonard Eiger, Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action

Peace activists from grassroots organizations around the Puget Sound in Washington State held banners for the International Day of Peace (September 21st) and the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (September 26th).

The [International Day of Peace](#) was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire. The 2021 theme for the International Day of Peace is "[Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world](#)."

The UN General Assembly commemorates September 26th as the [International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#), an occasion for the world community to reaffirm its commitment to global nuclear disarmament as a priority. It provides an opportunity to educate the public - and their leaders - about the real benefits of eliminating nuclear weapons, and the social and economic costs of perpetuating them. It addresses one of humanity's greatest challenges; achieving the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.

## Kings Bay Plowshares



The **Kings Bay Plowshares** are a group of seven Catholic peace activists who broke into the [Kings Bay Submarine Base](#) and carried out a symbolic act of protest against nuclear weapons. The name of the action and the wider anti-nuclear [Plowshares movement](#) comes from the prophet Isaiah's command to "beat swords into plowshares."

On April 4, 2018, the group, dressed in black, cut a hole in a security fence and entered the naval base while singing and praying, and recording the action with body cams. They hung a banner that read "The Ultimate Logic of Trident: Omnicide", attached a poster of Martin Luther King Jr. to a model of a Trident II D5 ballistic missile, festooned the area with crime-scene tape, spray-painted "Love One Another" on the pavement, pounded a display of a Tomahawk missile with a hammer, and poured their own blood on an official seal of the base.

On September 10, 2021 the last of the seven was released from custody. All are now either at home or in half-way houses and face three years of supervised probation.

There are two home ports for the US nuclear-armed submarine Fleet - Kings Bay, Georgia only 38 miles from Jacksonville, FL and Bangor, Washington, only 25 miles from Seattle. Each of the 14 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines carries 24 Trident II nuclear missiles (336 in all, enough to produce nuclear autumn if they were all used).

Since 1980, Plowshares activists in many countries have breached the fences of nuclear arms bases and manufacturing facilities over 26 times! These are powerful and dangerous actions. They carry out Plowshares actions because they believe it is their duty to nonviolently and symbolically disarm weapons of mass murder that can end all life and civilization, and incinerate the planet.

For more information on the Plowshares 7, visit [kingsbayplowshares7.org/plowshares-history/](http://kingsbayplowshares7.org/plowshares-history/)

## Nuclear Ban Treaty Updates, Actions

Currently, 55 countries have ratified the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which went into force January 22, 2021. And 86 more countries have signed the treaty - meaning their legislative bodies must still ratify it.

On September 4, The US Conference of Mayors (Mayors for Peace) called on the United States to Welcome the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to Act Now to Prevent Nuclear War and Eliminate Nuclear Weapons. In their resolution, they noted:

- The nine nuclear-armed nations spent over \$72 billion on nuclear weapons in 2020.
- The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists Doomsday Clock is now 100 seconds to midnight, the closest we've ever been to nuclear annihilation.
- Tensions between the US and China and Russia has increased dramatically.
- President Biden's FY2022 budget continues to fund all nuclear "modernization" programs in violation of the 1970 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

In addition to supporting the TPNW, the mayors welcomed the June 16, 2021 Joint Statement by President Biden and Russian President Putin in which they "reaffirm the principle that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought"; called on the Biden Administration to reduce nuclear tensions through intensive diplomatic efforts with Russia and China, and urged the US to actively pursue a verifiable agreement to eliminate nuclear weapons.

### Calls to Action

- If your city is not yet a member of Mayors for Peace, encourage the City Council to join!
- Publish the above important information in a letter in your local newspaper.
- Call on your city government to pass a resolution in support the TPNW and other measures to bring the world "back from the brink" of nuclear war. See [vfpgoldenrule.org/resources-2](http://vfpgoldenrule.org/resources-2) for examples of great wording for these resolutions!

## AUKUS and Nuclear Submarines

Peace and disarmament organizations are expressing great concern over the new military alliance of the US, Great Britain and Australia against China. The new agreement with Australia continues the US encirclement of China and heightens the possibility of nuclear war.

The US will sell nuclear technology and nuclear powered submarines to Australia, which could potentially be used to carry nuclear weapons, a violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.