



Fall 2022

## Great Start on the Great Loop!

### Golden Rule Reaching Thousands of People Along Mississippi River!

The first seven weeks of the Golden Rule's "Great Loop" voyage have been amazing, and give us great confidence in the viability of this ambitious undertaking. We have had 41 events in 20 cities, with prominent articles and photos in local newspapers, radio and TV interviews. There has been lots of education, excitement and participation, many volunteers working on and crewing the *Golden Rule*, and \$11,000 in donations.

### Preparing the Golden Rule to Splash Into the Water and Sail

In August we successfully trucked the Golden Rule from Richmond in San Francisco Bay to Hudson, Wisconsin, near Minneapolis. We removed the masts in California and maintained/reinstalled them in Wisconsin. We had a lot of volunteer assistance from members of VFP Chapter 27 in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.



*Volunteer Mike McDonald, Minneapolis VFP, helping ready the Golden Rule to launch at Hudson, WI to start the Great Loop*



*Preparing to "step" the masts back onto the Golden Rule  
The masts rode atop the cabin to the hand-operated crane dock*

Many volunteers from VFP Minneapolis and others showed up to sand, paint, and step the masts onto the Golden Rule, including Mike McDonald, Gil Maguire, Vern Hall, Tom Bauch, Steve Gates, Steve McKeown, Collin Mueller, Justin Farner, Dale Opsahl, and Mary McNellis.

Special thanks to Mary McNellis & Steve Gates for shore support, a fun birthday party for Captain Kiko, and for organizing three events! Thank you Gil Maguire for the beautiful, big compass!

And thank you Craig Wood for the use of your house and truck for a month!

**Several national groups are now Co-Sponsors of the Golden Rule "Great Loop" Voyage.** They will help arrange events, provide literature and speakers and do outreach for the events. If your organization would like to co-sponsor this voyage, please send an email to [vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com](mailto:vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com).

CodePink Women for Peace

Back from the Brink

World BEYOND War

RootsAction

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom - US

NuclearBan.US

United for Peace & Justice



Mary Ann Van Cura, Captain Kiko Johnston-Kitazawa, Gina Miranda and First Mate Steve Buck

## Our Fantastic Crew

There have been several crew members since we launched in September, including Mary McNellis, Steve Gates, Larry Orr and Mike McDonald from VFP Chapter 27, Minneapolis. This crew has been with us since October 10.

**Captain Kiko Johnston-Kitazawa** lives in Hawaii and was asked if he would like to “help with this nuclear disarmament-supporting vessel” when the *Golden Rule* visited there. He noted that he’s been interested in world peace, nuclear disarmament, sailing, and boat building since the age of 14 and thinks making this journey is a way to demonstrate that you don’t have to be a diplomat or a physicist in Geneva or the United Nations in New York to do something about this.” Captain Kiko sailed the *Golden Rule*, with three other crew, from Hawai’i to California in June 2021.

**Steve Buck**, a Vietnam-era veteran, stated that his reasons for participating are “not grand or noble.” His goal is to “help keep the vessel operating. That’s my talent and I enjoy it. Somebody’s got to carry the bucket of water from the well.” Steve has been the *Golden Rule*’s skipper along the West Coast and lives near where she was rebuilt.

**Gina Miranda** is making the voyage with a wish that “the world would be a better place and that we respect Mother Nature. A wish for peace for the whole planet.” Her uncle was a Vietnam veteran from Guatemala who was forced to fight in the Vietnam War to become a citizen. “The only way to become a citizen was to go to the war.” He was injured in the war and she is the widow of a Vietnam veteran. Gina is a keeper of the Mayan Calendar and has written two books.

**Mary Ann Van Cura** is journeying with the *Golden Rule* to “stand with our veterans and community to seek safety and peace. There are alternatives to nuclear arms. There are ways to avoid harm to land, water, and people. Let’s work together to benefit the public good.”

The crew is encouraged by the support they have received as individuals and for their stated mission to advocate for a “nuclear-free world and a peaceful, sustainable future.”

## You Are the Wind in our Sails!

With your help, the Great Loop voyage will allow the *Golden Rule* to visit 28 large cities and 68 small towns, bringing awareness of nuclear issues to thousands of people at a moment when more people than ever are concerned about the possibility of nuclear war.

Please make a tax deductible donation

- Online at [vfpgoldenrule.org](http://vfpgoldenrule.org)
- By check to: VFP Golden Rule Project  
PO Box 87, Samoa, CA 95564
- Call Helen Jaccard, 206-992-6364 with credit card information.



## The Mississippi River Voyage - Reaching Tens of Thousands of people!

We began our presentations off-river in Duluth, Minnesota, where Duluth VFP organized four days of events. We had a press conference with the mayor of Duluth, the mayor of nearby Superior, Wisconsin, and a Minnesota state senator, all of whom spoke eloquently about the urgent need for nuclear disarmament. Project Manager Helen Jaccard and Captain Kiko Johnston-Kitazawa spoke to six high school classes and we made presentations in two churches. We tabled all day at the Riverfront Harvest Festival where we talked with scores of curious and supportive folks. We received good coverage in two newspapers.

Minneapolis Veterans For Peace and others have had a widespread petition campaign to urge the US government to ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. At the Riverfront Harvest Festival in Duluth, many new people signed the petition.

The Golden Rule Project is also asking people to sign petitions in favor of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, a No First Use policy, No unilateral Presidential authority to launch a nuclear strike, elimination of the \$2 Trillion nuclear "modernization" program and the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act" (HB2860)



VFP, Grandmothers for Peace, and the Golden Rule project tabled at the Harvest Festival



VFP member Phil Anderson, who organized our stay in Duluth, MN, has a Nuclear Disaster roulette wheel. Each number corresponds to a time when a nuclear accident or miscalculation could have resulted in a nuclear exchange or "dirty bomb" (radiation release from a dropped nuclear weapon). Spin the dial, then read about that incident.

On Sept 15 we had an event at the Phipps Art Center in Hudson, Wisconsin, attended by VFP members from Wisconsin and Minneapolis, and others who read about the event in the local newspaper. On Sept 17 and 18 Stillwater, MN – were events at the library and at the riverside park, with live music and food.



VFP members from the Twin Cities came to the Phipps Art Center in Hudson, WI to ring the bells for all of the victims of war



The String Beans - Refried, Chick Pea and Garbanzo – performed at Stillwater Park 9-17-22 and followed us to Red Wing and Dubuque to continue to entertain Golden Rule supporters. Also in the photo at right, Twin Cities VFP President Dave Logsdon in conversation with an Indigenous Minnesota drummer, Tony Frank, who performed at several Golden Rule events.

**On Sept 19 We sailed the Golden Rule to St. Paul, Minnesota,** and began a series of events in the Twin Cities, sponsored by VFP Chapter 27 and Women Against Military Madness. We had several well-attended events, including another outdoor park event with live music. A terrific and prominent article in the Star Tribune, Minnesota's largest newspaper, brought many people to visit and tour the Golden Rule peace boat. Helen Jaccard was also interviewed on KFAI, community radio with a large audience. Donations were generous, including a check for \$1,000 from an activist with Back from the Brink.



*Craig Wood, Penny Gardner and Mike McDonald visit with Tom Bauch at the Watergate Marina in St. Paul.*



*In Des Moines, we received a great proclamation from the mayor, Frank Cownie, who is vice president of Mayors for Peace.*

**Mayoral Proclamations of Welcome:** We received Proclamations of Welcome from the mayors of Des Moines, IA; Keokuk, IA; Davenport, IA; La Crosse, WI; Red Wing, MN; Burlington, IA and St. Louis, MO

**On Sept 29 we arrived in Red Wing, Minnesota,** where the Golden Rule and crew were the stars of this year's **Peacestock festival**. We raised over \$1,000 there. As with several previous events, we were welcomed by local Indigenous leaders with speeches and cultural performances.

Bill Habedank, Red Wing VFP was the MC

Speakers/performers were:

Helen Jaccard (Golden Rule Project)

John LaForge (Nukewatch)

Strong Buffalo (Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota indigenous poet, performer, speaker),

Colleen Rowley (Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity)

Steve McKeown (Minneapolis VFP)

David Logsdon (Minneapolis VFP)

Bill McGrath (folksinger)

The String Beans (folksingers)



*Strong Buffalo tells his story and sings at Peace Stock in Red Wing.*

**Continuing to sail down the Mississippi River, we made stops and held events in Minnesota (Wabasha, Winona), Wisconsin (La Crosse and Prairie du Chien) and Iowa (Dubuque, Clinton, Davenport, Muscatine, Burlington and Keokuk).** We tabled at the Clinton Community Public Safety Forum. We made side trips by road to Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Ames and Des Moines. We had enthusiastic participation and good media coverage – radio and TV interviews, and mainstream newspaper articles in several more cities. In Des Moines, we met with religious leaders for lunch, and our evening event, organized by Catholic Peace Ministries, was very well attended.



**Marshallese gathering in Dubuque, Iowa - On October 9,** Sailboats escorted the Golden Rule into the harbor for a grand entrance. Marshallese women, in traditional dress, sang sweet harmonies of welcome. The Golden Rule crew and many observers were in tears. The 1958 crew of the Golden Rule was trying to stop nuclear weapons testing in the Marshall Islands. The US exploded 67 nuclear bombs there, leading to many cancers, and rendering many of the islands uninhabitable, which is why there are Marshallese communities in the U.S.



*The crew enjoyed showing off the Golden Rule to the Marshallese visitors!*



*It was quite the celebration - Marshallese women, Captain Kiko Johnston-Kitazawa and Cindy Boyam danced on the dock!*

[KCRG TV](#) and the [Dubuque Telegraph Herald](#) gave the event great coverage! "The voices of Noreen Akeang and the other singing women rose in intensity as the ship passed through the gates of Dubuque's Ice Harbor. The visit of the Golden Rule to Dubuque carried great significance to Akeang and other members of the city's Marshallese community. "We want to tell them how much we appreciate them," Akeang said. "We want to thank them for what they tried to do so long ago."



Sally Willowbee, daughter of 1958 crew member George Willoughby, greets a Marshallese man.

Maitha Jolet said, "We never knew about it (in the Marshall Islands). Many people didn't know that a crew of people were supposed to come to the Marshall Islands and do something to protest and try to stop the nuclear testing."

*Photo and interview by Erik Hogstrom, Dubuque Telegraph Herald*



On October 10, the Golden Rule was visited by a group of home-schooled children and parents, who toured the boat, made and flew kites, and colored a picture of the Golden Rule, produced by VFP member Steve Gates.

Many Marshallese joined us for speeches, music, traditional dances and food. Also joining us were the wife and children of David Gale, one of the original 1958 crew. VFP members from several chapters, including a whole gang from the Twin Cities, converged on Dubuque for this wonderful event.

In the evening, Captain Kiko Johnston-Kitazawa gave a wonderful presentation at the Mississippi River Maritime Museum, well attended and well received.

**Keokuk** was another great stop, as reported in the [Daily Gate](#) by Deborah Callaghan.



Keokuk Mayor Kathie Mahoney issued a proclamation in support of the Golden Rule, Veterans for Peace and a "culture of peace".



Hailstone Society Becky Whitefeather Riney and Karen Sparrow and Mike Beall of Standing Bear Council drummed while singing Native songs.



First Mate Steve Buck, deck hand Gina Miranda, and shore support member Sally Willowbee gathered with Standing Bear Council members at Chief Keokuk's Monument in Rand Park.



A National Project of Veterans For Peace

[VFPGoldenRule.org](http://VFPGoldenRule.org)  
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206-992-6364



November 13, 2022

**A Message from Col. Ann Wright (Ret.)**

Dear Golden Rule Supporters,

We hope you and your families are doing well and staying safe!!!

The *Golden Rule* is on the move, reaching people all along the navigable waters of the eastern half of the United States. In just the first two months of the planned 15-month voyage, we have reached thousands of people in big cities and small farm towns along the Mississippi River. Front page newspaper articles and radio interviews are spreading the word and bringing people to tour the boat and attend educational events. New supporters greet the *Golden Rule* and her crew every day!

I believe the Golden Rule Project is a uniquely effective way to “reach beyond the choir” and educate the public about the growing danger of nuclear war and the importance of speaking out for peace.

**We must continue to raise funds to keep this amazing voyage going. We are able to raise some money at our community events as we travel, but we very much rely on support from continuing donors like you!**

As one of the Golden Rule’s long-time donors, I am asking you to consider making a substantial donation to help us raise \$20,000 to continue the Great Loop voyage for the next few months.

We know you love the Golden Rule Project, as you have already made a generous donation. For those who can afford it, please consider making a donation of \$500 or more. Of course, we will be very grateful for donations of any amount.

**You may make an online tax-deductible donation at [vfpgoldenrule.org](http://vfpgoldenrule.org).**

**Or send a check to:**

VFP Golden Rule Project  
PO Box 87  
Samoa, CA 95564

Thank you for your continuing support for the *Golden Rule*! You are helping us sail for a nuclear-free world and a peaceful, sustainable future!

Sincerely,

*Ann Wright*

Golden Rule Advisory Board member



*Helen Jaccard, Wil Van Natta, Bullitt Bourbon and Ann Wright sailed the Golden Rule on the California coast in 2017.*