## VFP Golden Rule Project to VFP Board of Directors 2023 Jan - May 14 Report



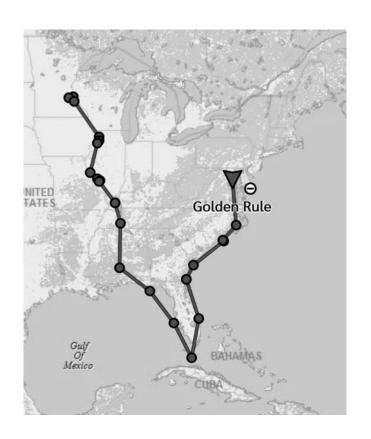
**Veterans For Peace Golden Rule Project** 

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## "The Great Loop" - over 1/2 way through! Started 9-22, to Chicago 9-23





- 10,300 miles
- 28 big cities, 68 small towns
- 480 presentations reach 12,400 people directly
- 100,000s through press

2023 Q1 Program - Started with the voyage to Cuba!



## 2023 Q1 (Jan, Feb, Mar) Program

Jan1 - 12: CUBA!

Six Golden Rule representatives went by sea and five by air to Cuba for an "Arts & Cultural" visit.

We were on international and local TV and learned that Cuba is not a state that supports terrorism and does not supress religious freedom.

The group visited Pinar del Rio, where 10,000 homes were lost to Hurricane Ian - we gave personal hygiene gifts and \$2,500 to support the efforts to rebuild the homes.







Zoe Byrd, Captain James Akau, Cindy Boyum, Captain Kiko Johnston-Kitazawa, Captain Chris Appleton, Enya Anderson next to a tile mural of "Gramma" boat

# The VFP delegation arrives back from Cuba! Gerry Condon, James Akau, Enya Anderson, Chris Anderon, Zoe Byrd, Kiko Johnston-Kitazawa





January - Miami, New Smyrna
The Raging Grannies sang and Citizens welcomed the Golden Rule

We interacted with groups of faith:

Friends Meetings, Soka Gakkai Buddhists, Buddhist Mahayana sect from Vietnam Retreat Center,

Activists: Hands Off Cuba!, Raging Grannies, CodePink

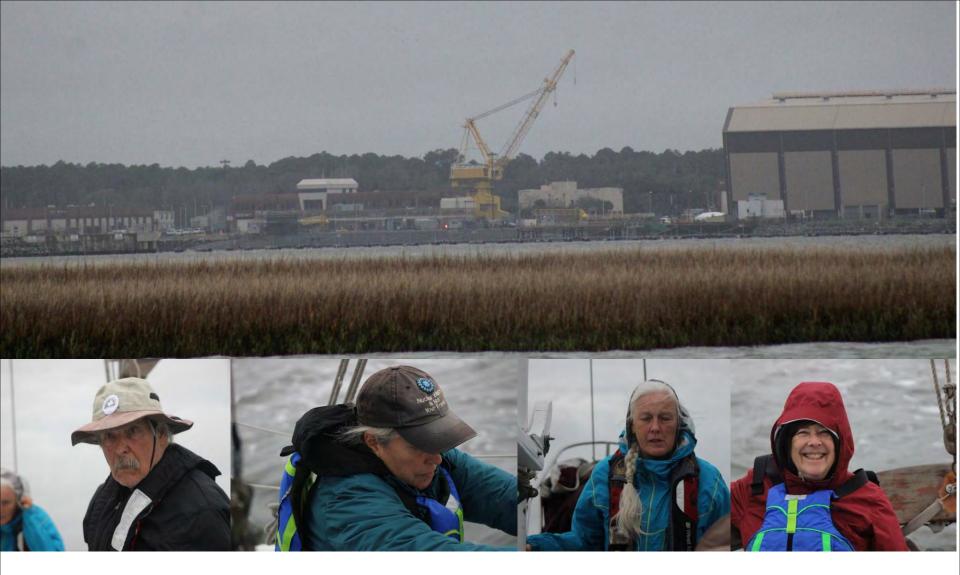
Golden Rule Reps joined Miami activists to call for the end of the Cuba Blockade



#### February: Jacksonville, FL, coast of Georgia

Nuclear Watch South, Sail-by and Protest at Kings Bay Nuclear-Armed Trident Submarine Base!





Art Roche, Joanne Swenny, Teresa Grady and Glenn Carroll were aboard to see the Trident Nuclear submarine base from the water

# Feb 14 - 21: New Brunswick, GA Catholic Worker Teresa Grady lives there and helped connect the Golden Rule Project with local Racial Justice advocates!

- Black high school classes visited the Golden Rule
- We joined a youth bike ride
- Showed Crimson Tide, starring Denzel Washington and Gene Hackman
- Attended Athanaxius Episcopal church
- Met with "Better Glynn" environmental organization

Feb 20 - 22: Savannah, Georgia Upriver is the infamous Savannah River Site Constructed during the early 1950s to produce the basic materials used in the fabrication of nuclear weapons, primarily tritium and plutonium-239. It is now an EPA superfund cleanup site



#### Black high school students visited the Golden Rule



### Peace picnic in the park!



Feb: Brunswick and Savannah, GA and Charleston, SC Commemorating March 1, 1954 Castle Bravo destruction in the Marshall Islands



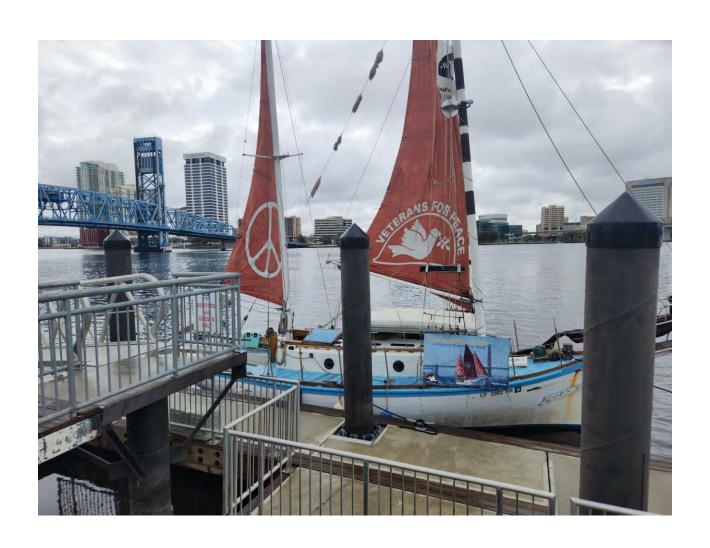
#### Activist Joanne Sweeney entertained us with peace folk music



#### Captains Jan Passion and Holly Clements, front Deck hand Art Roche, activist Teresa Grady and high school students took a ride



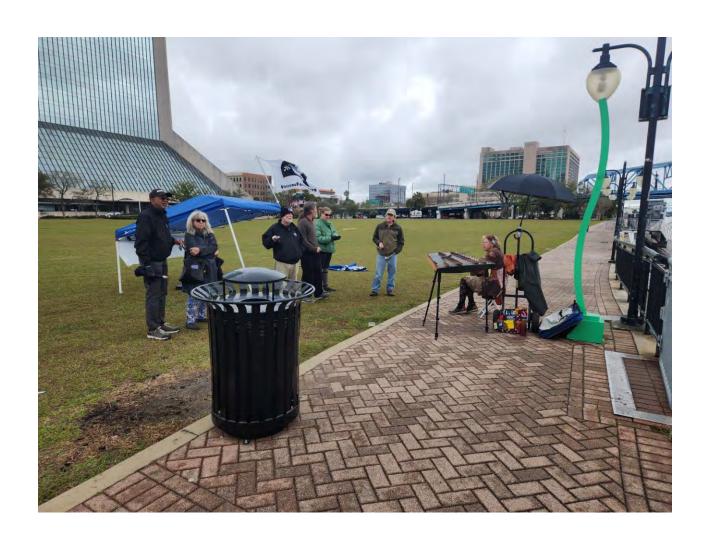
#### We fly the sails whenever possible!



#### Crew Michael Torbert, Wayne Heins and Captain Kiko Johnston-Kitazawa



Gloria Hays plays the hammered dulcimer for supporters in Jacksonville, FL



At least 14 Mayors and City Councils have given the Golden Rule a warm Proclamation of Welcome!



#### Making a peace sign out of ribbons messages Art plays an important role in reaching people



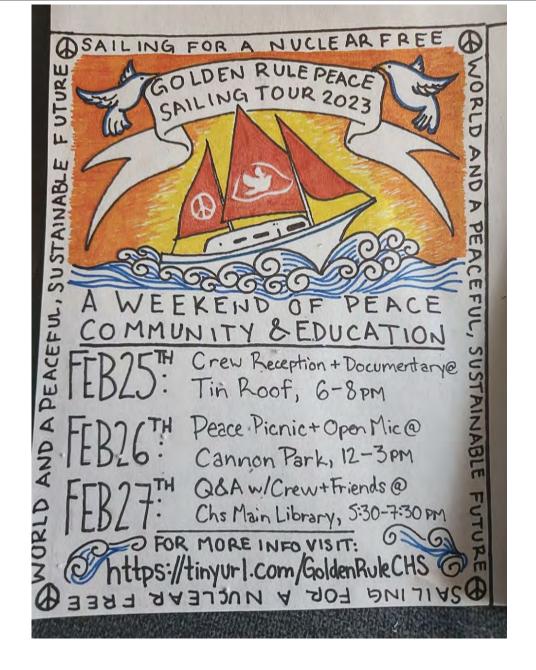
#### Many fires off of the coast of Georgia, often caused by military firing ranges





Beautivul hand-drawn flyer announces events in Charleston, SC

This flyer was used by several other cities to announce events!



More trouble with the RV than with the Golden Rule!



#### The old-fashioned compass froze - but it thaws just fine!

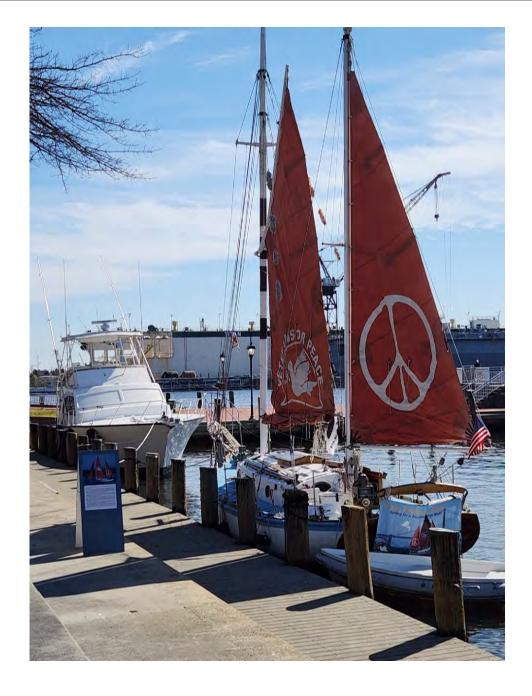


#### Cultural events for elimination of Nuclear Weaons



Norfolk, Virginia - home to all branches of the military

The Golden Rule with a huge navy ship in the background



#### Feb 27 - Mar 5: Wilmington and Beaufort North Carolina

Skip Oliver gave a presentation at the Beaufort National Maritime Museum

#### March 18-22 (A typical VERY busy schedule!)

Norfolk, VA and nearby Hampton Roads communities

Official Welcome and Press Conference

Visit and Tour Golden Rule sailboat

Party at the Plot

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula

Coastal Virginia Unitarian Universalists

Croc's 19th Street Bistro Celebration and Fundraiser

# Alexandria, VA and Washington, DC March 26 - April 16

On April 12 & 13 Golden Rule crew and representatives walked the halls of Congress!

## **Every member of Congress and the Senate received a VFP Nuclear Posture Review!**

The challenge - digitize hundreds of business cards and contact the Defense aids



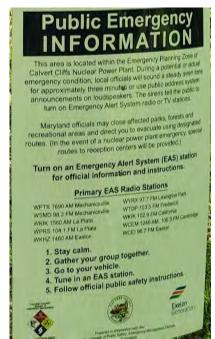


## Potomac River, Piscataway Creek, Chesapeake Bay Military Poisons tour

Julie Tayak Yates talks about the poisoning of her ancestral lands by the US military



The Golden Rule sailed past the Calvert Cliffs NPP, 3 miles from an LNG export facility



Baltimore 4/29 to 5/3

Puppets and music made the day at a very special event!



#### Philadelphia - Escort to the harbor by the North Wind



VFP Golden Rule Project Stop and Event Summary 2023 Q1 only

Stops Events Attendees

Towns: 10 23 865

Cities: 3 31 625

Total: 13 54 1,490

#### = The Virginian-Pilot



The Golden Rule & Veterans for Peace The Golden Rule, a historic sailboat, is docked at the High Street Landing in Portsmouth on Monday, March 20, 2023. Since 2015, Veterans For Peace has sponsored the boat on voyages calling people to action to abolish nuclear weapons, war and to work for an environmentally sustainable future. (Kendall Warner/The



Paper 21 TV **eNews** 

A https://thebrunswicknews.com/news/local\_news/nuclear-peace-ship-to-host-di

Art Roche has a very specific reason for joining the crew of the Golden Rule just a few days ago to begin

after nuclear weapon testing there in the 1950s. He told the story of one Marshallese friend who

Media Coverage along the Great Loop

Roche is from Dubuque, Iowa, where there are roughly 1,000 people who emigrated the Marshall Islands

remembers as a little girl seeing what she thought was snow in the tropical paradise where she was born.

"It was ash fallout from one of the 67 nuclear blasts that had blown over from the northern part of the

salling with the purpose to work toward global nuclear disarmament.

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as of 4/1/23:

Radio

Recent coverage: Baltimore Sun, Philadelphia Inquirer!

#### WELCOMES! Mayors, City Councils, even States!



Mayor Shannon Glover welcomes the Golden Rule to Portsmouth, Virginia

There have been 15 of these so far along the Great Loop!

### Great Looop Voyage Co-Sponsored by:

CodePink Women for Peace

Back from the Brink

World BEYOND War

RootsAction

Earth Quaker Action Team

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom

NuclearBan.US

United for Peace & Justice