



Golden Rule News

Golden Rule
PROJECT

Summer 2023

Wonderful Progress on the Great Loop! Golden Rule Reaching Thousands of People in the Eastern US!

The *Golden Rule's* voyage around the "Great Loop" of the Midwestern, Southern and Eastern states has been successful beyond our wildest dreams. After sailing from Minneapolis to the Gulf of Mexico, the *Golden Rule* visited Cuba and then 50 cities up the East Coast, from Miami, Florida to Bath, Maine. The historic wooden ketch then sailed back to New York City and up the Hudson River, through the Erie Canal, over to Toronto, Canada, and back to Buffalo, New York. "Goldie" is now sailing throughout the Great Lakes, making 18 port stops in Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin before finishing her epic journey in Chicago in mid-September.

We've had great reception from local peace activists, politicians, and people of faith. Brass bands, Raging Grannies, musicians and artists have welcomed us in many towns. We have had over 350 events in 92 cities, with more to come. Media coverage has been outstanding, with frequent interviews on local radio, TV and newspapers. Twenty Mayors, City Councils and State Legislatures welcomed the *Golden Rule* with Proclamations supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Thousands of volunteers helped with events, hosting and crewing the *Golden Rule*!

Sailing to Cuba with Love and Solidarity

From Dec 31, 2022 to Jan 10, 2023 the *Golden Rule* was in Cuba, with six crew and six supporters who flew in to join them for an Arts & Culture visit, organized by Proximity Cuba. Cuba is rich with a wide variety of arts and culture – including wonderful music and dance, and we very much enjoyed experiencing that. We also delivered humanitarian aid to Pinar del Rio, which had been devastated by Hurricane Ian, with 10,000 homes destroyed.



VFP Board member Enya Anderson was at the helm as the *Golden Rule* approached Marina Hemingway



Workers were pleased to show off their work in Pinar del Rio, where ten thousand homes are being rebuilt after hurricane Ian.



One purpose of our visit was to remember that the world came very close to a nuclear war in 1962, during the "Cuban Missile Crisis." The Soviet Union had placed nuclear missiles in Cuba after several US attempts to overthrow the Cuban Revolution.

Sixty-one years later, the US continues its hostile policy toward Cuba, maintaining a cruel blockade that harms the Cuban economy and causes great suffering to ordinary Cubans. In recent years, the Trump administration doubled down on US sanctions against Cuba, declaring it to be a "state sponsor of terrorism." Although President Biden could reverse it with a stroke of the pen, he has allowed this harmful designation to stand.

Protesting Against Weapons of Mass Destruction

The *Golden Rule* and her intrepid crew sailed by and protested at several facilities that harbored or manufactured devastating nuclear weapons. These included the Trident Nuclear Submarine Base at King Bay, Georgia; the General Dynamics Electric Boat plant that builds nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed submarines at Groton, Connecticut; Bath Iron Works that builds nuclear-capable war ships at Bath, Maine. Earlier, while on the Tennessee River, we sailed by the Paducah, Kentucky gaseous diffusion plant – now closed -- where uranium had been separated for nuclear bombs and fuel for nuclear power plants. It is now an EPA “Superfund” cleanup site.



Joanne Sweeney, Art Roche, Holly Clements and others protested near the Kings Bay Trident Nuclear Submarine Base and the Golden Rule sailed past these weapons of mass destruction



*Fleet Week Parade of War Ships
Hudson River, New York City*



The ship of peace sails in protest of Bath Iron Works, makers of nuclear-capable war ships



The Golden Rule was welcomed by New Haven, Connecticut activists, and took several groups out to sail by Electric Boat in nearby Groton, manufacturer of nuclear-armed submarines.

Indigenous Leaders Welcomed the Golden Rule and Crew



Pokanoket Tribal leaders Sagamore and Sachem with Tribal Council members welcomed the Golden Rule to India Point Park in Providence, Rhode Island.

"Welcome to the Ancestral Land of the Pokanoket Tribe. We are the direct descendents of the Massassouit Ousa Mequin who signed the 1621 Peace Treaty with the Pilgrims"... , "we extend our deepest appreciation for what you are doing. We all share Mother Earth and have to live here together. It is up to everyone to take care of Mother Earth. To do our share -- to leave it better for the next Seven Generations."



Pokanoket Tribal leaders Sagamore and Sachem with Tribal Council members welcomed the Golden Rule to India Point Park in Providence, Rhode Island.



Photo by Honey Sweet Harmon

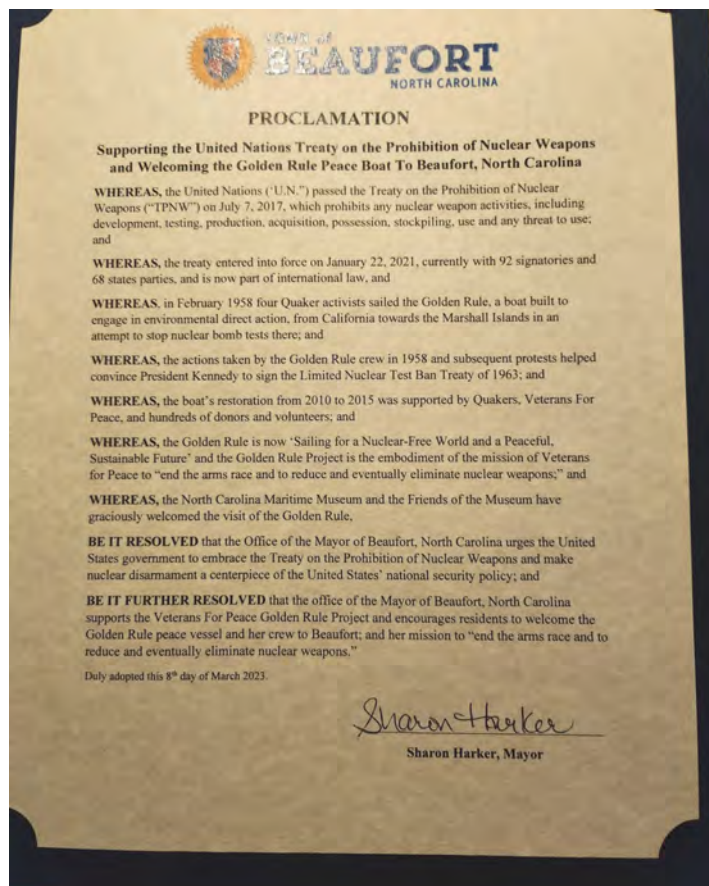
On July 8 we gathered with Rev. Liz Estes, Rob Sweeny of The Old Dutch Church, and Turtle Clan Chief Vincent Mann of the Ramapough Munsee Lunaape Nation for a Peace Tree Planting and Ceremonial gift exchange and celebration.



Indigenous welcome in Plymouth, MA

Educating Politicians and the Public: Welcomes from Cities and a State

The Golden Rule received Proclamations of Welcome from 20 cities, including Mayors for Peace U.S. Vice President Mayor Frank Cownie of Des Moines, Iowa. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts House, Senate AND Governor as well as the City of Boston welcomed the Golden Rule!



Proclamations of Welcome and Resolutions in support of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons serve to educate local political leaders, the press and the public.

Many of the Welcome Proclamations talk about the history and current mission of Veterans For Peace and the Golden Rule Project. They also often declare support for the “Back from the Brink” measures:

- A time-bound, worldwide treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons
- Declare a policy of No First Use of nuclear weapons
- Take all weapons off of hair trigger alert by removing the warheads from the missiles
- Remove the President’s sole unchecked authority to launch a nuclear strike
- Use the \$2 trillion in new advanced nuclear weapons for human needs and decontamination



Mayor Shannon Glover of Portsmouth Virginia reading Proclamation of Welcome to Helen Jaccard



*(l-r) Golden Rule crew members Steve Baggerly, River Pember, Bristol Town Councilman Aaron Ley, crew member Bill Good and Councilman Tim Sweeney pose with a **doctrine** that states Bristol, Rhode Island is in favor of a ban on nuclear weapons.*

Actions you can take!

*** Ask your Representative to support H. Res 77 (“Back from the Brink” bill) and HR-2775 to direct the US to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and convert nuclear weapons industry resources and personnel to purposes relating to addressing the climate crisis, and for other purposes.**

*** Participate in the Global Mobilization for Peace in Ukraine, September 30 - October 8 for an immediate ceasefire and negotiations to end the war. See www.peaceinukraine.org for more information.**

Music, art, and poetry - the way to change the world!



The Extraordinary Rendition Band played rousing music on the dock!



A youth brass band was part of an afternoon of music in Baltimore



Several Raging Grannies groups sang peace songs to old familiar tunes - this one in New Smyrna, FL



North and South Country Peace Groups held a concert in Port Jefferson on Long Island



Supporters in Charleston, South Carolina gathered in the local park for a folk music concert

Students visited the *Golden Rule*



Montessori students in Havre de Grace



*Students from historically-black
Burke High School in Brunswick, Georgia*



The first Captain of the *Golden Rule*, Albert Bigelow, was later a Freedom Rider supporting voting rights for African Americans in the South.

The *Golden Rule* crew was led in a bike ride around Brunswick, Georgia by the "Gullah Geechee Dream Team", Black youth who ride monthly to remember the racist murder of Ahmed Aubrey

Many Boats Accompanied the *Golden Rule* on the water



Philadelphia - Escort to the harbor by the North Wind, an older wooden boat which sails for environmental education. Golden Rule supporters filled the North Wind to capacity on this cruise around the harbor!

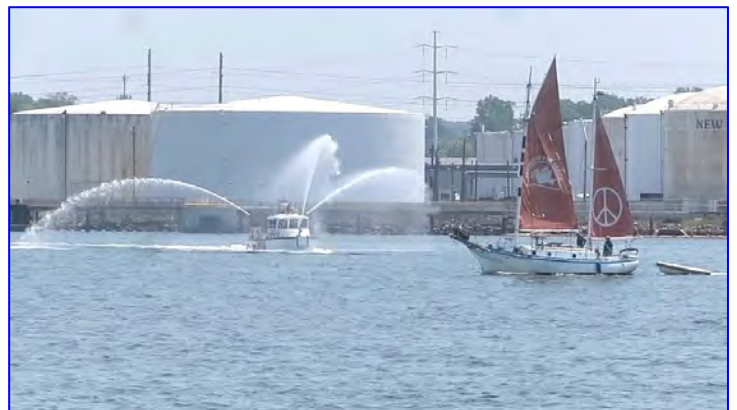


Photo by Henry Lowendorf

Fire boat welcome in New Haven, Connecticut

Sailing to bring environmental awareness

In Beacon, New York, the Golden Rule crew was given a tour of Pete Seeger's boat, the Clearwater, which anchored the successful campaign to clean up the Hudson River.



Photo by [Adam Lusha](#)

*On the Hudson River, July 8: The Woodie Guthrie, Pete Seeger's other boat, and the Golden Rule
Both of these boats are icons for a peaceful, sustainable world.*

The Toxic Legacy of Militarism on the Eastern Seaboard



Piscataway leader Julie Tayak Yates talks about the military poisons and cultural damage the US has done to her tribe. She's very concerned about the proposed military takeover of Chopawamsic Island, Virginia which is located 300 yards off-shore of Marine Corps Base Quantico. "Although I have never been on it, I feel like there's an evil spirit over Chopawamsic Island," she said. "The place will never be at peace until it is given back to its native owners,"

The Golden Rule sailed on the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River of the most toxic areas in the United States, a result of more than a century of military activities that poison the land and water and bio-accumulate in the fish and other wildlife. The Potomac River is used as a "firing range" by the US military, resulting in heavy metal, chemical and radioactive contamination. The military dumped huge quantities of PFAs from engine cleaners and fire fighting foam into the water.

The military took over territory of the Piscataway and other indigenous peoples, destroying their land, water, ability to eat the food, and live off of the land - which has a huge impact on their culture.

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States and comprises one of the most productive fisheries. Few people realize the extent to which the fish is toxic, so they eat the fish. There is also a history of radiological contamination at the ninety military sites on the Chesapeake Bay!



Pat Elder joined the Golden Rule at several locations to give us the lowdown on PFAs and other contamination of the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River. Pat is a peace and environmental activist and the director of Military Poisons.

Washington DC - VFP NPR to Congressional and Senate Aides



The *Veterans For Peace Nuclear Abolition Working Group* wrote an 11-page Nuclear Posture Review, that can be downloaded at www.tinyurl.com/VFP-NPR2.

We analyzed the relationships between the US and all of the nuclear-armed countries, plus Iran, and demonstrate that diplomacy and negotiation could reduce the threat of nuclear war and potentially lead to full elimination of nuclear weapons. Such a contrast to President Biden's recent Nuclear Posture Review, where nuclear deterrence is the centerpiece of US Full Spectrum Dominance.

On April 12 & 13, the *Golden Rule* crew and supporters walked the halls of Congress! Every member of Congress and the Senate received a VFP Nuclear Posture Review! We included a greeting card with a great photo of the *Golden Rule* on front, a description of the Golden Rule Project on the back, and in the middle talked about H Res 77 (Back from the Brink Bill) and H.R.2775 - Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Conversion Act of 2023.



Ren Jacob, Ed Mays, David Barrows and Gerry Condon walked to Senate buildings with the VFP NPR in Hand



Helen Jaccard, and Anthony Donovan discussed the VFP NPR with Cindy Buhl, Legislative Director for Rep. Jim McGovern of Massachusetts who introduced H Res 77.



Golden Rule Ambassador Barbara Cooney, Helen Scheitinger and Ellen Barfield canvassed the Senate buildings.

Visiting UN Missions in New York City



Veterans For Peace and the Golden Rule team met with 13 UN missions, including Mexico, New Zealand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cuba, South Africa, Austria, Indonesia, Ireland, Costa Rica, Kiribati, and the Vatican



Gerry Condon, Susan Schnall, Marshall Islands Ambassador Amatlain Elizabeth Kabua, Ellen Barfield, Helen Jaccard, Caleb Christopher (Legal Advisor), Ren Jacob and Anthony Donovan in the office of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Permanent Mission to the United Nations



Cuba's Permanent UN Representative and Deputy Permanent Representative came to Chelsea Piers to visit the Golden Rule. Ambassadors Gerardo Penalver Portal and Yuri A. Gala Lopez thanked the Golden Rule crew for sailing to Cuba in January," and for calling for an end to 61-year old U.S. blockade of Cuba.

THANK YOU, Golden Rule Captains and Crew!

This issue we feature **some** of our captains (*) and crew - without which this boat could not sail anywhere, let alone 11,000 miles! There are many other crew, including Dick Ochs, Ed Mays, Larry Orr, Michelle Hrabar, Steve Easley, Chris Appleton, Cindy Boyum, Mike McDonald, Steve Gates, Mary McNellis, Bill Habedank, Lyn Pegg, Enya Anderson, Jeff Sanders, and many who sailed for one transit.

Thank you, one and all for your service to the Golden Rule Project!



Kiko Johnston-Kitazawa *



Debbie Weeks *



Steve Buck *



Bill Good *



Ren Jacob



Mary Ann Van Cura



Zoe Byrd



River Pember



Jan Passion *



Holly Clements *



Art Roche



Gina Miranda



Rhonda Reep



James Akau



Walter Heins



Michael Torbert



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August 1, 2023

Dear Golden Rule Supporters,

They said it couldn't be done. But what a ride it has been! The historic *Golden Rule* peace boat, a national project of Veterans For Peace, has sailed most of the way through the "Great Loop" waterways of the Midwestern, Southern and Northeastern U.S. The impact has been very large and continues to snowball. Our message of peace and nuclear abolition has reached hundreds of thousands of people. Thousands have visited the boat. Thousands more have organized local events in over 70 towns and cities. Our captains, crews and coordinators have been interviewed scores of times on radio and TV, in newspapers and online.



The Golden Rule in Baltimore Harbor

The response in local communities has been overwhelming. People are *so happy* to see this legendary boat and to meet her amazing crew. They thank us profusely – "*Thank you, thank you, thank you!*" There can be little doubt that this little boat inspires people and gives them *hope*. We are constantly reminded just how much people need and want hope and inspiration.

Of course, the story of the original crew's courageous actions in 1958 resonates strongly. Imagine deliberately sailing into a nuclear test zone, regardless of the personal consequences! Many Quaker and nonviolence activists with ties to the original crew – and to the sister ship *Phoenix of Hiroshima* – appear regularly at *Golden Rule* events. Family members, too. This *living history* continues to unfold.

The *Golden Rule* is making an international impact as well. We sailed to Havana, Cuba and to Toronto, Canada. In New York City, we met with thirteen UN missions and had a good discussion about how to move forward with the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The South African representative told us, "*We are accustomed to dealing on a state-to-state level. It is a breath of fresh air to be meeting with citizen activists.*"

We also had a very special meeting with the UN representative from the Marshall Islands, which is still dealing with the health and environmental impacts of the 67 nuclear bombs exploded by the US between 1945 and 1958. We learned a lot and promised to keep in touch.

Cuba's two UN representatives came to visit the *Golden Rule* at Chelsea Piers in New York. They thanked us for sailing to Cuba and for calling for an end to the 62-year US blockade of Cuba.

The possibility of nuclear war is no longer a theoretical issue. Many people are rightfully concerned about the Ukraine showdown between the two nuclear superpowers, Russia and the US. Experts believe we are closer to nuclear war now than at any time since the “Cuban Missile Crisis” of 1962. Veterans For Peace is calling for a ceasefire and negotiations to end that terrible war before it gets totally out of control.

Everywhere the *Golden Rule* sails, we tell people about the UN *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*, about the *Back from the Brink* recommendations. We encourage support for legislation in Congress that would abolish nuclear weapons and instead put billions of dollars into sustainable energy and jobs. In Washington DC, the *Golden Rule* crew and supporters visited every single Congressional office to deliver the *Veterans For Peace Nuclear Posture Review*, with 16 specific recommendations for preventing nuclear war and negotiating to abolish all nuclear weapons.

Many thanks to the many Veterans For Peace chapters and members who have supported the *Golden Rule*’s voyage in so many ways. We are so happy to be greeted by VFP flags at almost every port stop, and to meet with many new VFP friends who have embraced the *Golden Rule* as their own.

Our “Great Loop” voyage is not finished yet. The *Golden Rule* is now sailing throughout the Great Lakes, making stops in Buffalo, New York; Erie, Pennsylvania; Cleveland, Sandusky and Toledo, Ohio; Detroit, Ann Arbor, Lansing, Traverse City and South Haven, Michigan; Sheboygan, Milwaukee and Racine, Wisconsin; and ending up in Chicago for a week of events and celebration, Sept. 11-18.

You have absolutely made this epic voyage possible. Your generous support has been a big part of this miraculous collective effort. As we like to say, “You are the wind in our sails.”

Please help us make a strong finish to our year-long voyage for nuclear disarmament and peace. And help us bring the *Golden Rule* – by truck, which is expensive – back to California. In her homeport of Humboldt Bay on California’s north coast, “Goldie” will receive the tender loving care she will require before embarking on a future mission (yet to be determined). She and the entire *Golden Rule* crew will take a well-earned rest. We will be keeping in touch with the *Golden Rule*’s many new friends as well as our faithful old friends. Thanks to you all!

***Sailing for a Nuclear-Free World
and a Peaceful, Sustainable Future!***

Helen Jaccard & Gerry Condon
Project Manager President

VFP Golden Rule Project
www.vfpgoldenrule.org

