



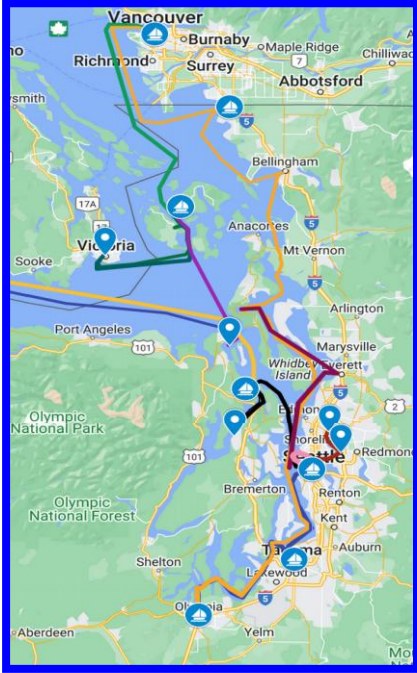
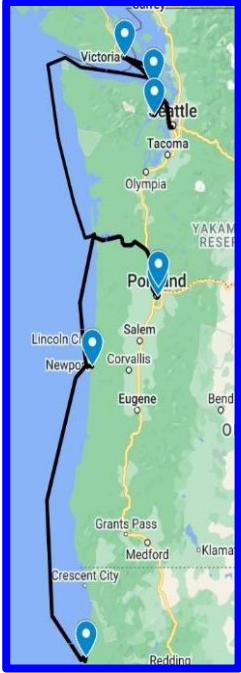
Golden Rule News



July 2024

Sailing for a Nuclear-Free World!

2024 Pacific Northwest Voyage: Oregon, Washington, British Columbia



The Pacific Northwest Voyage will be an exciting summer of protest, education and action. Kayakers will join the Golden Rule to protest against the Trident Nuclear-Armed Submarines on Hood canal on July 27 for “Boats by Bangor”. Then the “Peace Fleet” will protest against the “Parade of (war) Ships” coming into Seattle for Fleet Week on July 30. The Golden Rule will sail in Elliott Bay during Fleet Week and in Lake Washington during the Military Air Show (Blue Angels). We represent a “Weapon of Mass Education” in contrast to normalizing the weapons of mass destruction visiting Seattle. Activists ashore will pass out fliers and engage the public.

There will be lots of opportunities for guests on day sails and one-day transits as well as chances to see the *Golden Rule*.

Representatives will speak at Quaker meetings in Seattle, Tacoma and Portland. And there will be “Peace Parties in the Park” in Tacoma, Olympia, Peace Arch Park and Portland.

Some of our favorite musicians, including Jim Page and the Raging Grannies will provide music, and many wonderful activists will speak at Golden Rule events.

The Golden Rule will visit at least 16 cities, from northern California to Victoria and Vancouver, BC. The above maps show the overall voyage and more detail about the Puget Sound and Salish Sea stops. Please see the current schedule at vfgoldenruleproject.org

Many groups are organizing events, including Veterans For Peace, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Quakers, Unitarians, Raging Grannies, Washington Against Nuclear Weapons, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Nuclear Abolition Now, Ground Zero Center for NonViolent Action, Mobilization Against War and Occupation and the Vancouver Peace Fair.

Popular events during our 2016 Pacific Northwest Voyage will repeat this year, including “Boats by Bangor”, “Peace Fleet”, and the Victoria BC and Port Townsend Boat Shows.



Boats by Bangor 2016 - Photo by Leonard Eiger

Peace Fleet 2016

Introducing Michelle Marsonette (Kanoë-Lehua)



The VFP Golden Rule Project is delighted to announce that Michelle Marsonette has joined our team as Project Co-Manager! This much-needed organizational boost is made possible by the generous donations of the *Golden Rule's* loyal supporters. Thank you! The job of coordinating boat repairs, captains and crews, organizing events, producing a newsletter, fundraising and much more is way too big for one person. We now have two half-time Project Co-Managers, but we all know this is no half-time job. Helen Jaccard, who has been Project Manager for almost ten years, is VERY happy to have Michelle aboard.

Michelle is no stranger to the *Golden Rule*. She is niece of our Hawaiian captain, Kiko Johnston-Kitizawa, and was part of the 4-person crew that sailed the *Golden Rule* from Hawai'i to California. In recent years Michelle has been "piecing my lineage together and found a watery connection to Hawai'i." Her Hawai'ian name is Kenoe-Lehua.

Michelle is a talented organizer who is already making Helen's job much easier. She is a woman with much heart and many roles. She is the mother of three children, an ordained minister in the Universal Life Church, a technology entrepreneur, office manager of a law firm, and volunteer to many good causes. Michelle is highly intuitive and says she always knew she would "Sail for World Peace." Oh yes, she is a sailor too.

Welcome aboard, Michelle! We are so excited that you have joined our team!

Jeju Island woman Kim A-Huyn Joins *Golden Rule* Crew



We often like to mention that the original *Golden Rule* voyage in 1958 inspired *Greenpeace* to get its first boat. That is true. In 1972, several peace activists in Vancouver, British Columbia had a meeting around the kitchen table, and one of them said, "Hey, let's get a boat like the *Golden Rule* and sail it to Alaska to protest underground nuclear testing there." And so they did. They decided to call themselves *Greenpeace*, and so began a truly remarkable history of bold activism on the high seas.

We are very proud of that connection. And now there is another. South Korean activists resisting the expansion of a U.S. military base on Jeju island were inspired by the prospect of the *Golden Rule's* planned 2020 visit to Asia. Covid stopped us from making that voyage, but it didn't stop them. They decided to restore another boat, *Jonah's Whale*, and they sailed from Jeju to Okinawa, Taiwan, and several other island nations. Last year they completed a 107-day voyage, with the mission to unite the various struggles against the militarization of their islands.

The VFP Golden Rule Project is delighted to announce that a *Jonah's Whale* crew member, Ms. Kim A-Hyun (her nickname is Shikcho) has arrived in California and will be on the *Golden Rule* crew for our Pacific Northwest voyage. Shikcho is a young university student and avid peace activist who lives on Jeju island. Her presence is already strengthening our international solidarity. We are very happy to have her on board.

Mid-Atlantic musings from a Hawai'i Golden Rule fan

Barbara Leigh Cooney, Golden Rule Ambassador and former faculty in Peace Studies, Kobe College, Japan wrote a wonderful article with Haiku poetry and pictures about her 2023 voyage with the *Golden Rule*. Barbara joined us in her home state of Maryland. She helped distribute the VFP Nuclear Posture Review to all members of the US House and Senate. From Chesapeake Bay and the Delaware River, she sailed to Havre de Grace, Baltimore, Annapolis and Philadelphia. You can read her engaging story at <https://bit.ly/BC-GRArticle>.

Golden Rule Speakers Continue through the Winter, Spring

Golden Rule speakers are in high demand. We've given ten presentations by zoom and given three interviews for radio. We spoke in person at three International Uranium Film Festivals, a Quaker meeting and a Bon Voyage fundraiser in Eureka (our home port in northern California). Please let us know if you would like a presentation for your group!

Preparing for the 2024 Voyage



The *Golden Rule* was out of the water for her annual maintenance and bottom paint at Leroy Zerlang's boat yard in our home port of Humboldt Bay!

Many volunteers, including Gordy Anderson, Jim Truitt, Steve Buck and the crew are working hard to prepare the *Golden Rule* for her voyage to the Pacific Northwest!

Jack Irvine and Peter Aronson organized a Bon Voyage sail in the Bay with guests aboard the Madaket and Leroy himself at the helm. Thank you all for your time and dedication to this boat and Project!

Veterans For Peace Says "No Money for Nuclear Weapons"

Joins ICAN Global Week of Action, September 16-22

[Veterans For Peace](#) has really upped its game against the growing threat of nuclear war. For the last 10 years, Veterans For Peace has sponsored the voyages of the historic *Golden Rule* sailboat, which it owns. The tremendous enthusiasm that has greeted the *Golden Rule* spurred VFP members to form the *Nuclear Abolition Working Group*. The group has been meeting twice a month for the last 3-1/2 years, hosting many expert speakers on nuclear topics.

The "No Nukes" working group, as it likes to call itself, has organized two major webinars in 2024 – *Warheads to Windmills* and *Nuclear Power* with Ivana Hughes and Timmon Wallis, and *Nuclear Power and Weapons in a Time of Rising Tensions*, with Linda Pentz Gunter, William Hartung and Greg Mello.

Next on the calendar of the *Nuclear Abolition Working Group* is organizing a series of actions during the [ICAN Global Week of Action, September 16-22 – No Money for Nuclear Weapons](#). Weapons manufacturers, banks and politicians supporting the nuclear weapons industry and pushing us toward nuclear war will be the targets for a week of nonviolent protest, education and direct action. Veterans For Peace chapters, friends and allies are invited to make this a profound week of education and resistance to nuclear weapons and war.

Nuclear War Is Imminent

Unless the U.S. Embraces Peace – and Soon! by Gerry Condon

The world is headed toward nuclear war. The horrific nightmare of global destruction that has haunted humanity ever since Hiroshima and Nagasaki is nearly upon us. For decades, peace activists and nuclear experts have warned about the "growing danger of nuclear war." The *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* has moved the hands of their *Doomsday Clock* all the way to 90 seconds! How much closer can we get? Are these dire warnings being dismissed like the man with the sign shouting "The End Is Near?"

The original nuclear powers, the U.S., Russia, China, France and the UK – the five permanent members of the UN Security Council – never followed the commitment they made when they signed and ratified the 1970 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), which required them to "begin good-faith negotiations for the total elimination of nuclear weapons." Instead, they have poured billions of dollars into "modernizing" nuclear weapons. In the meantime, four more countries have joined the nuclear club – India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel.

After the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact military alliance of the Soviet Union, there was an opportunity for a broad peace in Europe. NATO, an anti-Soviet military alliance, should have disbanded at that point. Instead, it pursued an aggressive policy against a weakened Russia, surrounding it with hostile military forces, including nuclear weapons.

In 2002, President George W. Bush unilaterally removed the U.S. from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, while placing a U.S. missile base in Romania. In 2019, President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty that had lowered nuclear tensions in Europe, while placing another U.S. missile base in Poland. What were the Russians to think? The U.S. is clearly seeking a dominant nuclear position.

Neoconservative war hawks – or “Neocons” – have captured the foreign policy machinery of Democratic and Republican administrations. Given the declining economic power of the U.S. vis-à-vis a rising China, the Neocons believe the U.S. must aggressively employ its military superiority to maintain global dominance. The U.S. maintains 850 foreign military bases in over 80 countries (compared to a handful each for Russia and China).

Western politicians and pundits frequently accuse Russian president Vladimir Putin of making “nuclear threats.” Indeed, Putin keeps reminding the world of Russia’s nuclear rules of engagement. Russia reserves the right to use nuclear weapons first if it is attacked by the superior conventional forces of NATO. The U.S. has a similar nuclear posture – it will use nuclear weapons first, even against non-nuclear threats such as a cyber-attack. As Daniel Ellsberg reminded us, to possess nuclear weapons is to use them every day, like a gun pointed at someone’s head.

Apparently oblivious to the imminent threat of nuclear war, President Biden continues to pour billions of dollars of weapons into its proxy war against Russia in Ukraine, while blocking peace negotiations. The Biden administration is simultaneously sending billions in weapons to Israel as it commits a horrific and ongoing genocide in Gaza. Israel threatens other Middle Eastern countries with its U.S.-backed military, including nuclear weapons. Can anybody now doubt that they would use them? The threat of nuclear war does not exist in a vacuum. It is directly related to aggressive military competition, much of it being driven by the U.S.

If we are serious about avoiding a nuclear war, we must demand that the U.S. stops sending weapons to Ukraine and Israel, and instead supports ceasefires and negotiations to stop the killing. We must call for an end to the reckless U.S. confrontation with China and North Korea. It is critically important that these conflicts are ended as soon as possible and replaced with negotiations for peaceful co-existence.

In the longer run, as detailed in the [Veterans For Peace Nuclear Posture Review](#), the U.S. must make a sea change in its foreign policy. We must stop intervening in other countries. We must stop playing “nuclear chicken.” We must demand a peaceful U.S. foreign policy that respects the sovereignty of all nations and the human rights of all people.

The U.S. should sign the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and reach out to the other nuclear powers, saying “let’s all get rid of our nuclear weapons together.” Let’s pursue the interests of all humanity by replacing competition with cooperation. Let’s stop spending precious resources on the military and take care of our peoples’ needs instead. Let’s work together to stop global warming, the other imminent existential threat. In order to avoid nuclear annihilation – and climate catastrophe too – we must abolish war once and for all.



**Please Support the
Pacific Northwest Voyage**

We need your help to Keep the Wind in the Sails of the Golden Rule. Make a donation!

- Go to our website, www.vfpgoldenrule.org and click on *Donate*.
- Send a check to: VFP Golden Rule Project, PO Box 87, Samoa, CA 95564
- Or phone Helen Jaccard at 206-992-6364 with credit card information.