



Golden Rule News



Mission Statement

The original nuclear protest boat, the Golden Rule will sail again to promote a nuclear free future, to educate about the dangers of radiation to humanity and the environment, and to support peaceful alternatives to war.



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History

In 1958 four Quaker activists sailed the Golden Rule toward the Marshall Islands in an attempt to halt atmospheric nuclear weapons testing. The US Coast Guard boarded her in Honolulu and arrested her crew, causing a nationwide public outcry.

Another sail boat, the Phoenix of Hiroshima, completed the journey and entered the atomic bomb test zone.

As a result of public awareness of the radiation dangers and demand to stop these tests, President Kennedy signed the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty with the U.S.S.R and the U.K. in 1963.

After the Golden Rule sank in a gale in Humboldt Bay in Northern California, Leroy Zerlang lent his boat yard to Veterans For Peace and dozens of volunteers for her restoration. She was rebuilt from 2010 to 2015.

The Golden Rule sails for a nuclear-free world and a peaceful, sustainable future.

Join us in San Diego!

Sailing

We sail 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 10 am and 2 pm from the Shelter Island Harbor Police Dock.

Presentations

Invite us to give a presentation at your school, club, church or other group.

Email vfgoldenruleproject@gmail.com to go sailing or request a speaker.

High Tide for Nuclear Disarmament Movement

When the restored *Golden Rule* began sailing in June 2015, the nuclear disarmament movement was at a low ebb. Despite the years-long efforts of many dedicated anti-nuclear activists, the growing threat of nuclear war was not at the forefront of public consciousness, or even a priority for peace activists. Two-and-a-half years later, the anti-nuclear picture is very different.

UN Votes to Ban the Bomb!

On July 7, the United Nations overwhelmingly passed the historic UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Once ratified by legislative bodies in 50 countries (it was approved by 122 countries) the UN Treaty will make it illegal to possess, use, or threaten to use nuclear weapons.



Nobel Peace Prize Awarded to Anti-nuclear Activists



In early October, the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), in large part because of its work to support the UN treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

ICAN accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of all who have been campaigning for so many years for nuclear disarmament. The VFP Golden Rule Project is relatively new on the scene, but many longtime disarmament activists tell us that we have put wind in their sails. So we will gladly (but not so humbly) accept our little part of the Nobel Peace Prize. After all, the intent of the Nobel Committee is to encourage urgent efforts to rid the planet of these weapons of self-destruction.

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High Tide for Nuclear Disarmament Movement

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While the UN Treaty and the Nobel Peace Prize are very encouraging, neither the U.S. nor any of the nine nuclear powers (U.S., Russia, China, United Kingdom, France, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea) have signed it. Instead of “negotiating in good faith to reduce and eventually eliminate all nuclear weapons,” as required by the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, the nuclear powers, led by the U.S., are developing their nuclear capacities and building new generations of more “usable” nuclear weapons. As Donald Trump infamously stated, “If we’ve got them, then why not use them?”

“Ban Nuclear Weapons!” and support for the UN Treaty was the primary theme of the *Golden Rule’s* 2017 voyage throughout the waterways of California on the way to San Diego, where the *Golden Rule* is spending the fall and winter.

Trump Threatens Nuclear War

Upping the nuclear ante, Donald Trump has alarmed the entire world by threatening to “totally destroy” North Korea if its leaders do not abandon their own nascent nuclear weapons program. North Korea’s development of nuclear weapons and missiles, while certainly disturbing, is said to be for defense from the threat of an attack by the United States. The U.S. has refused North Korean requests to negotiate a peace treaty finally ending the Korean War, and regularly conducts large, menacing military maneuvers near the Korean Peninsula. Its policy of regime change wars in the Middle East, Afghanistan and elsewhere, certainly gives the North Korean leaders a reason to want a deterrent.

Veterans For Peace sent a letter to both President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, encouraging de-escalation of bellicose rhetoric, avoidance of a catastrophic war, and diplomacy leading to peace treaty ending the Korean War. VFP is also promoting the People’s Peace Treaty with North Korea, and we have signed a letter from activists in the U.S., Japan and South Korea, calling on all three governments to pursue diplomacy rather than military confrontation.

Whither the *Golden Rule*?

The overt threat of nuclear war has caused an urgent rethinking about where the *Golden Rule* should sail next. Currently in San Diego Bay, the *Golden Rule* was poised to head to the Gulf States of the U.S., up the Atlantic coast, through the St. Lawrence Seaway, into the Great Lakes and down the Mississippi River, on a multiple year voyage throughout the navigable waterways of the United States. Now, however, *Golden Rule* activists and supporters are suggesting that it may be time to sail across the Pacific.

Following the lead of the original crew in 1958, we could sail to Hawaii and the Marshall Islands, then on to Japan in 2020 for the 75th anniversary commemoration of the U.S. nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Many Japanese peace activists, including Japan Veterans For Peace, are eager to see us in Japan. The *Golden Rule* Committee and the VFP Board of Directors have expressed interest in such a voyage and are awaiting a detailed proposal. Such a bold undertaking will require very experienced captains, a well-trained crew, and lots of organizing and fundraising. Please stay tuned and keep involved. Wherever we may go in the coming years, your continuing support for the *Golden Rule* peace boat will keep her sailing for a nuclear-free future.

2017 Voyage

The *Golden Rule’s* 2017 voyage took the sail boat and her crew down the California coast. This year we held 25 events in 16 cities including two Fleet Week protests. A large number of events this year were energizing the choir, which is starting to re-awaken.

Fort Bragg

After storms caused an initial departure delay, the *Golden Rule* departed Humboldt Bay on June 14. Although the boat was not present, we had a great potluck hosted by Ocean Protection Coalition and Occupy Mendocino, which started a new Facebook group *Nuclear Free Mendocino*, and then a very successful dinner and presentation by Lynda Williams at Silvers At the Wharf. Lynda, a Professor of Physics at Santa Rosa Junior College brought immense enthusiasm and energy and fired up the crowd. We were also well received by the Ft. Bragg Rotary club.

Bodega Bay and Santa Rosa

Bodega Bay and Santa Rosa saw the *Golden Rule* finally caught up with shore support and presenters. Our visit featured a discussion at Bodega Marine Laboratory about “Hole in the Head”, a nuclear power plant project that was canceled because the site is right on the San Andreas earthquake fault. At a second event, nationally-known author and activist Norman Solomon spoke about the current nuclear warfare state and what the world can do to stop nuclear war before it starts.

You’re invited to a PARTY to support the mission of the *Golden Rule*!

Come see the *Golden Rule* and enjoy conversation with the crew, wine and snacks and a silent auction!

See the premier of a new documentary about the *Golden Rule*, 1958 and Present!

Sunday February 25 3 pm to 5 pm

Boy Scout Sea Base

1931 West Coast Highway, Newport, CA

Tickets \$30

RSVP: vfggoldenruleproject@gmail.com

Or call 206-992-6364

San Francisco

The San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, once home to Greenpeace, hosted a discussion.

Thank you, Jean Morris, Janice Tong and Bill Creighton and VFP San Francisco for hosting our event in the Veterans Building! The panel of presenters included Robert Gould, MD of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Mary Sweeters of Greenpeace, and David Hartsough, a long-time non-violence trainer.

Peace Action and Sailing Camp



Andrea Martinez, Dominic Hall, Pete Peterson, Bob Philips and Hassan Clement joined us from Tucson. Dan Saint joined us from Charlottesville, Virginia. Captain Norman Petersen gave sailing instruction on the *Golden Rule*. We talked about nuclear issues today and non-violence and had lots of fun at a Summer of Love concert and the Gay Pride Parade. Paul Cox and Margo Schuler hosted us while we gave a presentation at the Berkeley Friends church.

Sacramento

Our stop in Sacramento was jam-packed with three of our largest events in only four days. The August Peace Event committee, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Sacramento Friends Meeting, Ben Franklin Foundation for Peace and Justice, the Raging Grannies and the Freewheelers band helped us make this one of our greatest successes.

Redwood City

In Redwood City we were lucky enough to have Andrew Lichterman of Western States Legal Foundation speak about the UN Nuclear Ban Treaty and how we can build a movement for social change that will include eliminating nuclear weapons.

Golden Rule and Phoenix of Hiroshima Reunited After 59 Years



On July 8, the *Golden Rule* reunited with her sister sailboat the *Phoenix of Hiroshima* for the first time in 59 years.

The *Phoenix* peace boat carried on the *Golden Rule's* protest voyage to the Marshall Islands to interfere with atmospheric nuclear bomb testing.

Both boats sank in 2010 and although the *Golden Rule* was rescued and restored, the *Phoenix* was not so lucky.

At the reunion, we held a touching and inspirational ceremony and the crew scattered rose petals from the *Golden Rule* over the *Phoenix*, still sitting at the bottom of the Sacramento River Delta.

The *Golden Rule* was joined by Jessica Renshaw Reynolds, original crew member and daughter of Captain Reynolds; filmmakers Brian Cowden and Mikal Jacobal; *Golden Rule* Restoration Coordinator Chuck Dewitt; boatyard owners Leroy and Dalene Zerlang; reporter Jane Braxton Little (who got a piece published about the *Golden Rule* in the Sacramento Bee); a dive team and other friends.

VFP Japan Visits Golden Rule



Yukiko Takei, a founding member of Japan Veterans For Peace, the newest VFP chapter, was able to visit the *Golden Rule* peace boat in Redwood City, California.



Yukiko's daughter Karin enjoyed the crew and kayaking around the Redwood City marina.

Santa Cruz

We had three great events in Santa Cruz. The Mayor of Santa Cruz and a representative from the county Board of Supervisors attended the press conference when the *Golden Rule* arrived. The Mayor read a proclamation of support for the *Golden Rule* and declared August 4, 2017 to be *Golden Rule Day*! We participated in the city Commemoration of Hiroshima Day and in the evening met at the Peace & Justice Center to see the *Phoenix of Hiroshima* film.

2018 Calendars \$15

Shopping Bags \$10



To place an order, email
vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com

Monterey

After a short break to attend the Veterans For Peace Conference in Chicago, it was back to sailing with our new captain Wil Van Natta. We dove right back in and enjoyed having our wonderful friend Col. Ann Wright (Ret.) speak at our event at the Monterey Peace and Justice Center with Monterey Veterans For Peace.

Ann was a crew member from Monterey to Morro Bay, a 24-hour voyage.



Helen Jaccard, Wil Van Natta,
Bullitt D. Bourbon and Ann Wright

Morro Bay

After our arrival in Morro Bay, the *Golden Rule* crew were lucky to have breakfast with Veterans For Peace Board member Monisha Rios, and also had a visit from our wonderful Santa Cruz friend "D" Nunns, who interviewed the crew for a cable TV show. We had a great potluck dinner event that evening in San Luis Obispo (near Morro Bay) with wonderful presentations from Mothers For Peace, People of Faith for Justice, and the Friends Meeting.

Ventura

The end of August saw us arriving in Ventura where we shared our dock with a whole crew of sea lions. Ventura Veterans For Peace and all our wonderful friends (old and new), welcomed the *Golden Rule* and her crew with warmth and organization. We also had the privilege to listen to Dr. Robert Dodge of Physicians for Social Responsibility talk about current efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.

Speaking Truth to Students

Two high schools in San Pedro have Peace Clubs!

Pat Alviso of Military Families Speak Out took Helen Jaccard and *Golden Rule* skipper Wil Van Natta to talk at the September 5 lunchtime meeting of San Pedro High School Peace Club. Over twenty students and several adults attended. We discovered that high school students today don't really know anything about nuclear bombs – we have a lot of educating to do! Another group of students from a different high school peace club came to visit the *Golden Rule* at her dock that same afternoon. We talked about nuclear weapons and war and the need to rid the world of these terrible weapons of mass destruction.

Our first presentation to grade school children was a lot of fun!



In October, Helen Jaccard spoke to Rowan Elementary School students at an after school program at San Diego First Church of the Brethren. Helen cleverly modified her presentation to help students see the similarities between nuclear weapons and the planet-destroying weapon used in Star Wars. She explained how a small group of rebels was able to take action to reduce that threat. The students were fascinated, and asked lots of questions. Afterwards, they made drawings and paper sailboats as their way to speak to the world about getting rid of these horrible weapons!

San Diego

As was the case two years ago, the San Diego chapter of Veterans For Peace gave the *Golden Rule* a warm welcome! After meeting us at the dock, they threw a big potluck picnic in the park. The chapter's *Golden Rule* Committee has provided much-needed support including crewing, setting up a schedule of winter events and getting press for our actions. They were fantastic at getting crew and people to flyer during Fleet Week and connecting us with Rowan Elementary students.

While in San Diego, we've held two crew trainings and are offering extensive all day and multi-day trainings and sailing practice for those who want coastal and ocean experience.

Found: More *Golden Rule* Family

We are sad to report that original 1958 crew member David Gale died in November 2016. Sadder yet, we didn't hear of his whereabouts until his niece, Porter Gale, contacted us after hearing about the *Golden Rule* at David's funeral.

We are now in contact with David's sons Andrew, Steven and Tim.

Designer's Son discovers original plans

The *Golden Rule* was designed by Hugh Angelman and Charles Davies. Charles' son Brad was kind enough to give us a complete set of "Alpha 30" ketch plans from his father's collection!

He shared with us the story that a few Alpha 30 designs were built in Costa Rica, the *Golden Rule* being one of them. They were finished in San Pedro near Los Angeles, which is where Bert Bigelow bought the *Golden Rule*!



How to Get Involved

The *Golden Rule* has had three successful seasons reaching tens of thousands of people at over fifty locations with her message of peace, nuclear disarmament and conversion to nuclear-free, carbon-free energy!

We need your help now more than ever before to ensure a successful voyage across the Pacific Ocean.

Crew:

We will need experienced crew! Please submit an application form at vfgoldenruleproject.org/crew-application

Financial:

Visit vfgoldenruleproject.org/donate or send us a check. We need ocean-going sails, a 12V refrigerator, solar panels, water tanks and items. If a few of you can kick in \$1000 each, we could do the necessary work and pay the equivalent of one staff person.

Organizers:

Help us plan an educational or fundraising event or table at county fairs, street fairs, concerts and other public gatherings. Are there peace and anti-nuclear events scheduled in Hawaii that we can participate in?

Help contact media, local businesses, politicians, churches, schools, indigenous tribes, Asian-American societies, Rotary and other service

clubs, veterans' organizations and other groups that care about peace.

Liaisons:

Are you part of an anti-nuclear or peace group? Do they know about the *Golden Rule* yet? Help us be connected with the broader national and international communities.

Authors:

Write a petition, article or letter to the editor about nuclear disarmament, nuclear energy, or peace and share it with us so that others can use it as an example for their own letters.

Speakers:

Become a *Golden Rule* Ambassador! We need people to speak about the *Golden Rule*, Nuclear Disarmament, Nuclear Energy and Peace. Use our PowerPoint presentation as a starting point or share yours.

Other speakers:

If you would like to participate in a panel discussion or conference or hold a seminar or workshop, please let us know!

Photographers, Videographers and Film Makers:

Can you show up at events to help document and publicize our work?

Graphic designers:

We need well designed banners, posters, T-shirts, shopping bags, mugs, calendars and picture books.

Boat Construction:

We will sand, paint and varnish the boat. The running gear and rigging will be made ship-shape. The galley and head need some attention. We want to install solar panels.

Shore support and advice:

We need to know where to dock and help to greet the *Golden Rule*, plan events, feed the crew or help us get groceries onto the boat.

Advance Road Trip help:

It normally works best if a couple of the *Golden Rule* organizers come to where the *Golden Rule* will travel to help coordinate events, docks, local organizers and others. If you are well connected with a community in Hawaii, please let us know.

Web Site and Facebook Editor: These pages need to be fresh and well organized.

Songwriters, musicians, artists, poets:

Change doesn't happen and movements aren't built without art, music and FUN!



Peace Fleet Actions in Los Angeles and San Diego

The Golden Rule and her crew love to sail during Fleet Week actions. We bring a colorful message of peace to what would otherwise be an unchallenged grey glorification of war. During her first two years "Goldie" sailed alongside Navy Fleet Week parades in San Francisco, Portland and Seattle.

This year she sailed during Fleet Weeks in Los Angeles and San Diego. These are always fun and festive occasions, involving lots of local support, both on board the Golden Rule, and onshore, passing out flyers and speaking to the gathered public.

In September in San Pedro harbor, Los Angeles, the departure port for the original 1958 crew, the Golden Rule was joined by *Playtime*, a yacht owned by Jeff Merrick and Pat Alviso of Military Families Speak Out, as well as the *Playtime's* skiff. We received a lot of supportive waves, even from people who were touring the Navy ships.



In October in San Diego, the Golden Rule sailed in the midst of the Fleet Week Sea and Air Parade, accompanied by another sailboat. San Diego Veterans For Peace deployed ten members and supporters on shore with flyers to interact with people coming to see Fleet Week.

San Diego VFP has received a lot of positive newspaper coverage of their No Miramar Air Show (No MAS) actions recently, which carried forward to the Fleet Week action.

Golden Rule Committee president Gerry Condon was quoted extensively in a Fleet Week article in the *Union Tribune*, San Diego's main daily newspaper. Golden Rule Project Manager Helen Jaccard had a great interview in the *Reader*, a widely-read weekly paper. The best photo of the action came from Chris Stone of the online *Times of San Diego*. It shows the sailors lining the deck of their ship to salute the Golden Rule!

Thank you to our 2017 Crew!!

We could not accomplish these voyages without a LOT of help from our volunteers, crew and hosts. Thanks to all of you who have helped to make this voyage possible!

Skippers / Captains

Dan Mathes
Jan Passion
Norman Petersen
Jeff Stump
Wil Van Natta
Eric White

Crew

Holly Anderson
Beverly Beschaux
Bullitt Bourbon
Gary Butterfield
Zoe Byrd
Nelson Camp
Gerry Condon
Apryl DeLancey
Beth Evans
Sylvia Fain
Samantha Ferguson
Mike Hanes
Kathleen Hernandez
Helen Jaccard
Sam Jones
Carolyn Keys
Barry Ladendorf
Michael Mathay
Dianna "D" Nunns
Dave Paterson
William "Pete" Petersen
Fred Ptucha
John Reidy
Dan Saint
Diana Salter
Victoria Sheldon
Mark Stafford
Diana Torres
Tom Trout
Theodora Tsongas
Chris Wilder
Ann Wright

Donations may be sent to:

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Samoa, CA 95564

Visit vfpgoldenruleproject.org/donate