Golden Rule’s Voyage Delayed by Coronavirus

As the Golden Rule crew worked hard here in Honolulu, preparing for our upcoming Pacific voyage, the coronavirus has spread around the world, including here in Hawaii. The coronavirus pandemic and related restrictions are affecting all of the Pacific Islands we are planning to visit.

Therefore the Golden Rule Committee and Veterans For Peace have decided to delay the Golden Rule’s voyage to the Marshall Islands, Guam, Okinawa and Japan. We had planned to depart from Hawaii by April 1. Instead, we are now hoping to begin the voyage in November or December.

Thank you for the concern that many of you have expressed about the health and safety of the crew! We have been living and working together closely every day, but otherwise trying to limit our social contacts. We have cancelled our remaining events here in Hawaii. We are all healthy at this time.

For the past two weeks, Helen Jaccard, Captain Milosz Kaczorowski and crew members Zoe Byrd, Gerry Condon, Keith Oney and Jakub Dobrosielski have been working very hard in Honolulu, preparing for our much anticipated Pacific voyage. It was a huge disappointment to all of us to have to delay the trip. We have overcome many obstacles to get to this point, however. We will do our best to overcome this one as well.

We remain committed to the mission of the Golden Rule - to educate people about the growing danger of nuclear war and to advocate for total nuclear disarmament – an imperative for the survival of human civilization. We are holding on to our collective vision of a powerful voyage to the Marshall Islands, Guam, Okinawa and Japan. The winter of 2020/21 might be the perfect time.

Thanks to your very generous continuing support, there is enough money in the Golden Rule bank account – almost $30,000 – to cover the costs of the voyage to Japan. We will conserve those funds for that purpose. We hope to be on our way before the end of the year.

In the meantime, we are not oblivious to what is happening around us in the world today. This may be the largest and most fatal pandemic in our lifetimes. By all responsible accounts, it will get worse before it gets better, and there will be many dire consequences.

The threat of nuclear war will certainly not disappear, but may actually become heightened by this global crisis. This is a time for people all over the world to come together as never before, and to push our governments to do the same. The Golden Rule peace boat will certainly have a role to play.

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

Helen Jaccard, VFP Golden Rule Project Manager
Gerry Condon, President, Golden Rule Committee

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