

Minute Supporting the Mission of the *Golden Rule* Project to Promote a Nuclear Weapon Free World

The *Golden Rule* was an international catalyst for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

From 1946 to 1958 the U.S. tested 67 nuclear bombs in the Pacific Marshall Islands, displacing the indigenous inhabitants and spreading radiation around the globe. Efforts to stop this testing were unsuccessful. Finally in 1958 four Quaker peace activists attempted to prevent the testing by sailing the *Golden Rule*, a 34-foot wooden ketch, into the U.S. test area in the Pacific. Although the crew was arrested and their goal aborted, their endeavor drew worldwide attention to the dangers of nuclear radiation. As a result, in 1963, President Kennedy and leaders of the United Kingdom and USSR signed the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, banning testing of nuclear weapons in the air, water or space. Testing was allowed to continue underground for some years. Currently most testing of nuclear weapons is conducted through computer simulation.

The *Golden Rule* currently is sailing throughout the United States for a nuclear free world and a peaceful, sustainable future. The *Golden Rule* is scheduled to visit four Connecticut cities in 2023.

Hartford Monthly Meeting of Friends supports the mission of the current *Golden Rule* Project by participating in Connecticut initiatives for educating the public about the need to abolish all nuclear weapons.

Between 2010 and 2015 members of Veterans for Peace, Quakers, and other volunteers restored the *Golden Rule*, which had sunk in Northern California. In 2015, through the sponsorship of Veterans for Peace, Quakers and other Peace advocates, the *Golden Rule* began a new 15 month, 11,000 mile journey to generate awareness and advocacy for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Between 2015 and 2022, it sailed the West Coast between British Columbia and San Diego and replicated its original voyage across the Pacific to Hawaii. Beginning in September 2022 it continued its mission with a journey from Minneapolis/St. Paul down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico and continuing up the East Coast of the United States.

It is anticipated that the *Golden Rule* will arrive in Connecticut in late May 2023, initially docking in Bridgeport. Between June 3rd and June 11th, the *Golden Rule* will dock in New Haven, Hartford, and New London.

To support the mission of the *Golden Rule* Project, Friends are encouraged to take action:

- Urge your congressional representatives and senators to sponsor and support the “Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act” (HR 2850).
- Encourage your town or city council and representatives to the state legislature to pass a resolution in support of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as well as other measures to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the possibility of nuclear war.
- Coordinate and support the initiatives of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) to promote nuclear disarmament.
- Inform the local media about the *Golden Rule*’s mission to abolish nuclear weapons and encourage local media to publicize its scheduled visits in Connecticut.
- Arrange for press and local radio and television interviews with members of the *Golden Rule* crew.
- Write letters to the editor calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons.
- Welcome the *Golden Rule* to the four ports in Connecticut by contributing to and organizing local educational events.