



Summer-Fall 2022, volume XXVI, issue 2-3

# VETERANS FOR PEACE NEWS

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL VETERANS FOR PEACE, CHAPTER 27

*Veterans For Peace News* is published quarterly by Mpls./St. Paul Veterans For Peace, Chapter 27.

Veterans For Peace works to increase awareness of the costs of war, restrain our government from intervening in the internal affairs of other nations, end the arms race, reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons, seek justice for veterans and victims of war, and abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

We pledge to use democratic and non-violent means to achieve our purpose.

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*"There won't be any trumpets blowing come the Judgement Day — on the bloody morning after, one tin soldier rides away..."*  
(Potter & Lambert)



*The Golden Rule in San Francisco Bay.*

## Historic Golden Rule starts 11,000 mile peace voyage in Minnesota in September

by Helen Jaccard

### *Golden Rule: A storied history*

The Golden Rule is a small wooden boat with a big mission: to educate people about nuclear issues and what they can do to stop the possibility of nuclear war.

On Sept. 2, the 34-ft. Angelman A30 ketch will arrive by truck at the St. Croix Marina in Hudson, WI, after a four-day trip from San Francisco Bay. Events in Stillwater will be Sep. 16-18, and she will be in the Watergate Marina in St. Paul Sep. 19-26.

Then begins an 11,000 mile, 15-month voyage, with stops at over 100 cities and towns in the eastern half of the U.S. At each port-of-call, Golden Rule Ambassadors will give presentations with local business, political, environmental and faith-based leaders.

From 1946 to 1958, the United States dropped 67 nuclear bombs on the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean. The people and environment there still suffer from the radiation these bombs left behind. Dr. Benjamin Spock, the famous pediatrician, wrote about the radioactivity getting into mother's milk and baby's teeth and bones. The public was alarmed. Activists were frustrated after years of writing, speaking and protesting against the nuclear weapons tests to no avail; so four Quaker activists decided to sail into the U.S. nuclear test zone in the Marshall Islands and put their lives at risk to stop the nuclear tests.

The captain, Albert Bigelow, had quit his commission as a Navy Commander to protest the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and

Peace Voyage, Cont'd on page 2

## Peace voyage, from page 1



*The Golden Rule will be stopping at over 100 towns in the eastern half of the U.S. Graphic by Helen Jaccard from Google Maps.*

Nagasaki.

As captain of the Golden Rule, he was charged with leading a difficult ocean crossing. In 1958 this was no easy

feat. The Golden Rule is small - 30 feet at the waterline - and was designed for coastal cruising. The boat had no modern communication, navigation or satellite weather forecasting equipment. In fact, the first time they sailed out of Los Angeles, 700 miles offshore, a gale broke the mainsail's top boom and forced their return to California. One crew member, David Gale, was so seasick for so long that he almost died. The Coast Guard described the storm as one of the worst in 20 years.

The project nearly died, and Bigelow was hesitant to try again. His determination was remarkable. He said, it was "time to do something about peace, not just talk about peace." So they made repairs and brought on Orion Sherwood to crew in Gale's place. Captain Bigelow, George Willoughby, Bill Huntington and Orion Sherwood set off, arriving in Ala Wai Harbor in Honolulu to great fanfare. Hundreds of people had helped with this voyage.

Honolulu, being half way to their destination, was where the crew resupplied and headed out towards the Marshall Islands. But the Coast Guard brought them back and arrested Bigelow on felony conspiracy charges. Bigelow refused to be released on his own recognizance.

Bigelow was in jail when first mate Bill Huntington returned from a trip to the mainland. Huntington found out about the legal situation and said, "What are we waiting for?" Five minutes later, Huntington, Sherwood, Willoughby and long-time activist Jim Peck made a second attempt. Although they made it to international waters, the Coast Guard

Continued on next page

## Golden Rule will launch on St. Croix River

by Mary McNellis

The Golden Rule "Great Loop Voyage" begins its epic journey this September on the St. Croix River. I naively got involved in the planning when I heard a year ago that "Goldie" (as she is affectionally called) was to launch in Bayport, three miles downstream from my residence of 28 years. Stillwater, besides being my adopted hometown, was the first territorial capital of MN. Owing to its historic architecture and placement on the beautiful St. Croix

River, it is also a premiere tourist destination.

With all this in mind a light went off in my head; along with an authentic Venetian Gondola, various yachts and paddle-wheel boats, I could picture Golden Rule sailing under the historic lift bridge, hundreds of eyes upon her. Even though I know better than to volunteer, I decided if Goldie was so close to Stillwater it was my civic duty

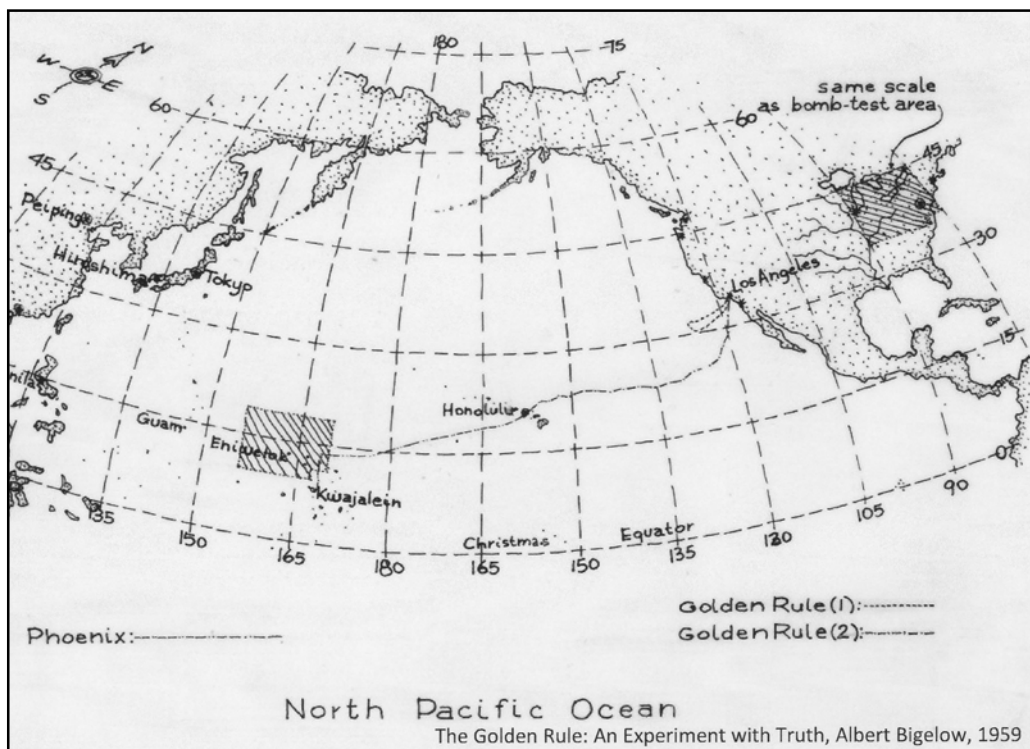
Golden Rule Launch, Continued on next page

again forced the crew back to Honolulu. The five spent two months in the Honolulu City jail.

Another sailboat docked at Ala Wai Harbor while the crew was in jail. The Phoenix of Hiroshima was captained by Dr. Earle Reynolds, who had spent three years studying the effects of radiation on children in Hiroshima. Reynolds, his family and a Japanese crewman were finishing a circumnavigation of the world and headed back to Hiroshima. They soon learned about the Golden Rule and attended the trial of the crew. They were so inspired by the bravery of these men that they decided to take the baton and sail into the testing zone themselves.

The Marshall Islands testing zone was directly in the path of their return to Hiroshima. It would have been difficult to go around such a huge area, but they gave ambiguous answers when the Coast Guard asked about their intended route. The Coast Guard didn't stop them, until they were 65 miles into the testing zone. At that point, Dr. Reynolds was arrested. His daughter Jessica Reynolds said that as they turned and sailed towards Kwajalein, she saw a bright flash of light in the night sky. It was probably a nuclear test.

The voyage of the Golden Rule had been well publicized and the crew's arrest sparked protests to "Free the



*Routes of the Golden Rule and the Phoenix in the 1950s.*

Crew of the Golden Rule" and "Stop Nuclear Tests" all over the world. Out of that grew an anti-nuclear movement large enough to convince President Kennedy to sign the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963. The tactic of using a boat for protest later inspired the founding of Greenpeace.

The Golden Rule was sold into private hands in 1958

**Peace Voyage, Continued on page 7**

## Golden Rule launch, from previous page

to make sure she received a grand St. Croix welcome.

Planning this momentous project began in earnest last March. Event planners (mostly VFP members) living along the 11,000-mile route have been meeting weekly via Zoom, coordinated by project manager, Helen Jaccard. There have been a few tense moments along the way. In June, while on vacation in Europe, Helen found out Goldie's insurance would not be renewed. Finding another

policy was not as easy as one would think; the pandemic, fires, floods, and hurricanes have made many insurance companies risk averse. Happily, after a month of frantic searching (during which all event planners were holding their breath) and hampered by spotty internet connection, Helen managed to secure a new policy. (The price, unfortunately, was double that of last year, throwing the budget off just a little bit.)

The second, more critical issue, was finding a marina that was willing to launch an antique wooden boat and

**Golden Rule Launch, Continued on page 5**

## Prez Says...

by Dave Logsdon (dlvfp27@gmail.com)

*"Gonna take us all to win the peace,  
all in the streets,  
gonna take us all..."*  
Jon Fromer

The late Jon Fromer was part of the musical collective that performed at the annual School of the Americas demonstration at the gates of Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia. Veterans For Peace, along with many other legacy peace and justice groups are losing too many stalwarts. The recent passing of Women Against Military Madness giant, Marie Braun and the passing of our own John Sherman has reinforced the urgency within the peace and justice groups like WAMM (Women Against Military Madness) and VFP to get younger and more diverse.

*"Both Optimists and pessimists contribute to society. The optimist invents the airplane, the pessimist the parachute."*  
George Bernard Shaw

I can't decide if I'm an optimistic pessimist or pessimistic optimist! It's easy to get down with the news all around us, mostly bad, but we really have no choice but to fight for climate justice, point out our country's continual mingling with other country's affairs, and a myriad of causes, a full plate of fires to put out. What we can do is get involved, amplify our voices, and try not to burn out in the process. We have a small but dynamic group in VFP and we

will do the best that we can for world peace.

### VFP position on the Conflict in Ukraine

Our National VFP leadership has a definitive statement on the Russia/Ukraine conflict ([veteransforpeace.org](http://veteransforpeace.org)) which most members of Chapter 27 agree with, that while we condemn any invasion of a sovereign nation by a hostile nation is wrong, we also believe throwing \$45 billion in weapons at the situation is not a good plan. We might have better use for that money right here. The US and it's NATO allies must use all their collective power to bring these two combatants to the negotiating table. There is no "Just War." It is, after all, just war. It is not wrong for critics to point out our own military's "(mis)adventures." When we try to point out how NATO's (with our support) interfering in Ukraine has helped get us to this point, I would hope people would not call us "Putin apologists".

*"The woods are lovely and deep'  
but I have promises to keep,  
and miles to go before I sleep"*  
Robert Frost

Our local chapter has had a powerful collective experience this summer. A lot of folks have stepped up to the plate, handed out stickers, peace buttons, traveled many a mile in the Peace Bus, and have shared the camaraderie and joy of this work. Thanks to all who have supported us in this mission. See you in the streets!

## Peace Bus joins Harmony 4th of July parade



by Mike McDonald

The Peace Bus finally made it to Harmony MN for their 4th of July parade. VFP member Harvey Benson has invited us down for several years. Because of COVID and other complications we were unable to attend until this year. This small town puts on quite a show. I think every kid within 100 miles was there because they give out candy. Our peace buttons and stickers were popular too. We were very well received and hope to make it back again.

Pictured: Harvey Benson and Duane Teschler lead the Peace Bus in Harmony's 4th of July parade.





*Golden Rule prior to restoration.*

## Golden Rule launch, from page 3

able to step the masts. That and one other minor detail – it needed to be deep enough to accommodate Goldie’s 5-foot draft. River levels in September are low. After frustrating negotiations with numerous local marinas, Captain Kiko and Helen found the St. Croix Marina in Hudson WI, which was deep enough to launch her.

Goldie arrives in Hudson by truck on Friday, September

2. It will be in dry dock for a few days getting ready for her 15-month journey. Volunteers are welcome to come lend a hand sanding, painting, and oiling. A presentation at The Phipps Center for Arts (109 Locust St, Hudson, WI) is scheduled from 6:00-7:30 pm on Thursday Sept. 15. Goldie will remain docked in Hudson through September 15th.

Anybody wanting to keep tabs on “where in the world is Goldie?” can use this app: [share.garmin.com/goldenrule](https://share.garmin.com/goldenrule) to get a map with a dot every 10 minutes, showing the location and speed! Pretty cool!

## Golden Rule Schedule of Events

### In Duluth

#### Thursday Sept 8

**12–1 p.m.**, UMD. Brown Bag presentation by Golden Rule Team. Topic: “Sailing for a Nuclear-Free World and a Peaceful, Sustainable Future.”

**2:30–3 p.m.** Press Conference and Welcoming Golden Rule to the city, City Hall steps (tentative time)

**4:30–5:30 p.m.**, UWS International Studie. Student Association. Topic: “The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”

**6:30–8 p.m.**, League of Women Voters Meeting, Harbor City School, 325 W. Michigan. Table and attend pre-meeting social time.

**Helen Jaccard**, Golden Rule project manager, will be speaking in Duluth Sep. 9. FFI contact Phil Anderson.

#### Friday Sept. 9

**9–10 a.m.** School class visit East High School, Contact Rich Upthegrove

**10–11 a.m.** School Class visit Rich’s second hour (tentative).

tative).

**Afternoon:** Tentative school visits or Canal Park petition derive/leafleting

**5:30–6:30 p.m.**, Pot Luck, Peace Church, 1111 N. 11th Ave E., Contact Penny Cragin.

**6:30–7:30 p.m.**, Public Presentation in Sanctuary. Topic: “Sailing for a Nuclear-Free World and a Peaceful, Sustainable Future.”

#### Saturday Sept. 10

**10 a.m.–4 p.m.**, Table and petition signing at Harvest Festival, Bayfront Park.

**6–8 p.m.**, Tentative Round table discussion with other community and activist groups and local politicians. Discussion topics: Why are nuclear weapons issues important locally? How can we work together for peace and justice in the Duluth area?

Golden Rule Schedule, Continued on page 6

## Golden Rule Schedule, from page 5

### Sunday Sept. 11

**9:30-10:30 a.m.,** Presentation at Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 835 College St. Duluth.

### Stillwater

The Golden Rule will arrive in Stillwater around 5 p.m. on Friday, Sep. 16, docking at St. Croix Dock & Packet, (525 Main St S), departing Sep. 19. Come by and see this historic peace boat from shore and attend one of two opportunities to learn about the boat, meet the crew, and hear about the growing danger of nuclear war and ways to build support for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

**Sat. Sep. 17, 3-5 p.m.,** Stillwater Library, 224 3rd St N, Margaret Rivers Room and Terrace.

**Sun. Sep. 18, 2-4 p.m.,** Lowell Park South, (just south of the Lift Bridge), Stillwater MN

Presenters invited include speakers from the crew, local dignitaries, musicians, Indigenous dancers, singers, drummers, storytellers, poets. Please check the Golden Rule website [vfpgoldenrule.org](http://vfpgoldenrule.org) for the latest info!

### Twin Cities

**On Sep. 21, from 7-9 p.m.,** International Peace Day will be celebrated at St. Paul Unity Unitarian Church, 733 Portland Ave. St. Paul

**On Sept 23rd,** Veterans For Peace will host a celebration of the launching of the Golden Rules's Great Loop journey. This celebration will begin with a 6 p.m. meet and greet with food and beverages to be followed by the short documentary about the history of the ship, discussion, music and bell ringing. Open to all, free-will donations for the Golden Rule Project appreciated. Come join us at the VFP and WAMM offices, 4200 Cedar Ave., Mpls.

**On Sun. Sep. 25,** Golden Rule will have an Open Boat and Potluck picnic in Crosby Park, located on River Road in St. Paul just south of the Hwy. 5/W. 7th St. bridge over the Mississippi. It will be a family-friendly day of music, food, poetry, crafts, education and action, speakers, street theater and whatever people want to do from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Golden Rule will be docked at the Watergate Marina, a five-minute walk from the park.

### Other cities

The Golden Rules sails into **Red Wing Sep. 29 to Oct. 1.** There will be a presentation at the Central Park Bandshell Thur., Sep. 29 from 3-7 pm. as part of this year's

Peacestock.

Then it will depart Red Wing and make more stops at Lake City, Wabasha, Winona and LaCrosse on its way downriver and to East Coast cities and Great Lakes ports.

Included is a stop in Dubuque, Iowa, home to the largest community of people from the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The Mayor of Dubuque will welcome the boat on Oct. 9th at 3 p.m. On Oct. 10th at 3:30, the crew will meet with that community at Freedom Plaza.

*Visit <http://www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org/> for updates.*

## Golden Rule Peacestock events

by Bill Habedank

The last time I saw the Golden Rule boat was back in March, 2015, in Eureka, CA when it was still in dry dock being prepared for its mission of peace and nuclear disarmament. I have been anxious to see the Golden Rule again and I never imagined that it would come to me!

All of us here in the upper Mississippi are very excited about the Great Loop Voyage, and many of us are busy making plans for its visit. Here in Red Wing, we have contacted churches, civic groups, City of Red Wing and people in the area to come out in support of the Golden Rule and its mission.

The Golden Rule will arrive in Red Wing around 6 p.m. on Sep. 29th and will sail past downtown Red Wing along the new Levee. It will dock near the new high bridge, where there will be a welcoming ceremony. We are hoping many people are present, including the Mayor of Red Wing. On Sep. 30th, Helen Jaccard and the Golden Rule crew will be busy talking about the boat and its important message of a nuclear-free world.

In conjunction with their events, Peacestock's theme will be "Sailing for a Nuclear Free World" and will be held in Red Wing's Central Park on West Ave. from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Speakers include Golden Rule staff, John LaForge of Nukewatch and representatives from the Kessel Peace Institute. Music provided by Bill McGrath and Strong Buffalo. Food trucks will be present. Hope you can plan to attend and bring your own comfortable chair. The event is free, but we are asking for donations. For more info, go to [www.peacestockvfp.org](http://www.peacestockvfp.org)

On Saturday morning, October 1st, we will give the Golden Rule its send-off down the Mississippi River. Stay tuned!

## Peace Voyage, from page 3

and it disappeared from public consciousness.

Restoration! In 2010 the Golden Rule was re-discovered by peace activists in Northern California. She was in terrible shape, without masts or an engine. When she sank in a gale, Leroy Zerlang dragged her into his boatyard. He called his friend Chuck Dewitt, a Veteran For Peace member, and said, "Hey Chuck, come on over, let's use the wood from the Golden Rule for a bonfire!" Chuck drove over and said, "What the hell is the Golden Rule?" Leroy pointed to a sorry shell of a boat. Two VFP chapters learned about the Golden Rule's history and asked if they could use the boatyard to restore her. Golden Rule had just escaped a watery grave, then a fiery grave. Zerlang said yes to the rebuild and acted as Project Manager; Dewitt was the Restoration Coordinator. For five long years, a few professionals and dozens of volunteers worked to bring the Golden Rule back to life. Veterans For Peace, Quakers and wooden boat lovers did what is nearly impossible: 95 percent of boat rebuild projects are never completed.

### *Restored Mission!*

The Golden Rule "splashed down" in June 2015 and has been sailing to stop the possibility of nuclear war ever since, on the west coast and throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

Now Veterans For Peace is preparing for one of the most important actions of our time - to bring this inspiring little boat to the rest of the United States and to sail for peace in this time of war! Retired Colonel Ann Wright said, "Now, with the threat and awareness of nuclear war greater than ever, is the time to bring this boat - an icon of peace - to the rest of the country and give people hope by taking action. Let's show people what they can do to stop the possibility of nuclear war!"

"We will have events in 28 big cities and 68 smaller towns along the way," said Gerry Condon, President of the Golden Rule steering Committee and former National President of Veterans For Peace. "Dozens of people are volunteering, as organizers and crew. People are excited to host the Golden Rule peace boat and to spread her message of nuclear disarmament, peace and sustainability."

The Golden Rule Project advocates for the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and supports local initiatives to press the US government to join the 86 countries who have either signed or ratified the



*Helen Jaccard and Gerry Condon on the Golden Rule.*

Treaty.

The Golden Rule Project supports a negotiated plan for multilateral, time-bound, verifiable and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons.

At each port-of-call, Golden Rule speakers pair with local organizers to plan events and actions. There are plans for Peace Poles, city resolutions in favor of nuclear disarmament, petitions, articles and letters to the editor.

There will be opportunities to schedule presentations, potlucks, gala dinners, music, dancing, poetry, day sails and boat tours for any group that would like to participate.

"There is lots of excitement about the next phase of the storied history of the Golden Rule," said Condon "This is a positive-energy communal effort - just what we need at this time."

View the sailing schedule of the Golden Rule's epic voyage around the Great Loop ([bit.ly/GRStops](http://bit.ly/GRStops)) and Volunteer ([vfpgoldenrule.org/volunteer](http://vfpgoldenrule.org/volunteer)) as an organizer or crew ([vfpgoldenrule.org/crew-application](http://vfpgoldenrule.org/crew-application)) on Golden Rule.

*Helen Jaccard is the Project Manager of the Golden Rule peace boat and a member of the Disarm Committee of Women's International League for Peace & Freedom. She writes about the effects of militarism on health, culture and the environment.*

**"When we Glorify War,  
we are not honoring the dead, we are  
enticing the living to join them."**

**Smedley Butler  
Four-Star USMC General**

# War vs Climate Crisis

by Barry Riesch

When we begin to look at the consequences of war in its relation to the Climate Crisis, the largest injury is to the long-term catastrophic damage sure to be caused by the collapse of global efforts to slow the pace of the climate crisis. The world's ruling elites have chosen to place their geopolitical rivalries above all other critical concerns, including planetary salvation. As a result, global climate is indeed likely to surpass two degrees Celsius average temperature increase sometime during this century. It's a given that almost unimaginable calamities will ensue, including rising ocean waters and the flooding of coastal cities, monstrous wildfires, and the collapse of agriculture in many parts of the world.

We are already seeing the beginnings of these catastrophes.

Western capitals, "great-power competition" (as the Pentagon calls it) has overtaken all other considerations. Not only has diplomatic engagement between Washington, Moscow, and Beijing essentially ground to a halt, making international cooperation on climate change (or any other global concern) nearly impossible, but an all-too-militarized competition has been launched that's unlikely to abate for years to come.

Although far from over, the fighting (in Ukraine) has already resulted in widespread habitat and farmland destruction. Attacks on fuel-storage facilities (crucial targets for both sides) and the wartime consumption of fossil fuels have already released colossal amounts of carbon into the atmosphere.

But however detrimental this may be, those events should be thought of as relatively minor injuries when compared to the long-term catastrophic damage sure to be

caused by the collapse of global efforts to slow the pace of global warming. In short, such international cooperation, the only means to which we can help solve this crisis, now appears to have reached a deadend.

Take, for instance, the \$840.1 billion budget request that the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) submitted this April for fiscal year (FY) 2023. According to the DoD's budget documents, \$56.5 billion is being sought for new combat aircraft, \$41 billion for new ships, \$34 billion for the "modernization" of America's nuclear arsenal, \$25 billion for missile defense, \$20 billion for artillery and armored vehicles, and \$135 billion for "combat readiness" and training activities.

Ironically, \$3 billion is being sought to address the effects of climate change on the U.S. military (concerns about damage to their almost 800 bases around the world).

The world's biggest oil and gas companies are projected to spend \$932 billion by the end of 2030 developing new oil and gas fields, according to a new analysis and by the end of 2040, this figure grows to an even more staggering \$1.5 trillion. But what if that same \$1.5 trillion was spent on renewables and mitigation measures, e.g., retrofitting buildings to maximum energy efficiency or sustainable public transportation or enhancing carbon sinks?

To have any chance of success in limiting the climate crisis to tolerable levels, the climate-action movement will somehow have to overturn an elite consensus on the importance of geopolitical competition — or else.

The climate crisis itself has been labeled a threat to global security, but ending war and securing peace is the surest way to protect both ourselves and the planet.

## Speakers Available!

We have a stable of capable speakers on a variety of topics relating to a veteran's perspective.

Email [dlvfp27@gmail.com](mailto:dlvfp27@gmail.com)



# Hiroshima Commemoration

by Joan Johnson

Strolling through the colorful flowers, shrubs and trees of picturesque Lyndale Park Peace Garden near Lake Harriet, my husband Steve and I felt a deep sense of serenity. The lovely harmonies of "Stringbean" ensemble's instrumental music beckoned people encircle the stunning green Origami crane sculpture entitled "The Spirit of Peace." The beauty and tranquility of this August 6th day in Minneapolis, MN stood in sharp contrast to the chaos and all-encompassing destruction, death, and pain experienced by residents of Hiroshima, Japan, exactly 77 years ago. That's what we came here to remember. After event organizer JoAnn Blatchley, welcomed our gathering of 77+ people, she introduced Peace Ribbon People, who stood in back, holding banners with colorful messages of peace. Then our music trio sang "Eclipse," written specifically for this event by VFP member Roger Cuthbertson. The song's refrain "day turns into night," describes the horrors which ensue when a nuclear bomb is dropped, lives are lost, and all-encompassing darkness descends, as hundreds of thousands of civilians in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki experienced in 1945.

Once again the heart-breaking story of young Hiroshima resident Sadako Sasaki was brought to life by Larry Johnson. She had contracted leukemia caused by exposure to radiation, and we were reminded of how she folded the 1,000 paper cranes while in the hospital, the daily struggles and fears she had faced, and ultimately, her expressed desire that "no country should bomb another country ever again."

Sadly, she lost her fight against the disease and died at age 12, but her short life became very impactful to people around the world. A statue of Sadako holding a golden crane stands in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park with a plaque that reads "This is our cry. This is our prayer. Peace in the world."

Later in the program, we remembered peacemakers who had recently passed on. Larry paid tribute to his good friend **Walter Enloe**, Golden Valley, MN resident, who had been Principal at Hiroshima International School back in the 50s. He was instrumental in helping students raise funds to erect the Sadako statue, so that the world would never forget this monumental tragedy, nor her message of hope for peace between nations. From Caren Stelson, we were read

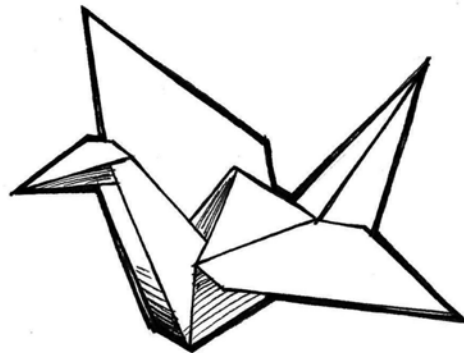
a tribute to **Sachiko Yasui**, who died in September 2021 at age 83. She was a survivor of the Nagasaki bombing, later becoming a peace activist. Throughout her life, Sachiko adamantly maintained that "What happened to me must never happen to you" and she worked feverishly to that end. Two children's books have been written by Stelson about Sachiko's experiences and her life: "A Bowl Full of Peace: A True Story" and "Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story" — they come recommended for adults to read as well! Standing in for Jay Kvale, Steve McKeown read

from Jay's tribute, and added his own words about our dear friend **Marie Braun**, who passed away this past June, as one of the backbones of the Twin Cities peace community. Having protested with her at Honeywell and Alliant Tech, Steve worked with her on hundreds of projects, including tabling at the Hiroshima remembrance services. He said that he never ceased to be amazed by her organizing abilities

and her persistence. These qualities helped her get much accomplished in working to stop war and weapons manufacturing, among so many other endeavors she undertook to promote peace in the world. (See page 12 for Marie's Memorium) **Marjorie "Marj" Wunder** was remembered by Katie Fournier, who described how Marj was the driving force for many important changes at Lyndale Park Peace Garden, including its name! Starting in 1983, after traveling to Japan with a binder of well-wishes from peace-loving Minnesotans, she facilitated many more exchanges with the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, including the installation of a memorial rock from the Hiroshima blast at the Peace Garden. She orchestrated the construction of a new bridge at its center and worked on many other beautification projects throughout the decades. Marj was adamant that there should be no nuclear weapons or cluster bombs in the world and joined many a protest against them, even getting arrested for her convictions.

Names of other peacemakers who had died in the past year were said aloud by different people. After each person was recognized, we said in unison, "We honor them by continuing their work." At the conclusion of the service, Veterans for Peace members rang bells 11 times in remembrance of the bells that rung out at the end of World War I, which was supposed to be "the war to end all wars."

The stormy weather did not allow us to take the processional path down to the bridge, but we were grateful that the rain held off for most of the service.



# Playing with fire

by Craig Wood

**I**t's time to check what time it is on the Doomsday Clock again due to tensions between the East and West.

This metaphorical clock was created shortly after World War II to predict the end of the world, based on current nuclear war threats, changing environmental conditions and new technologies. Each year the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists resets the hands on the clock backwards or forwards to show how close humans are to a global apocalypse. In 1947 we had seven minutes left until doomsday — this year we're down to 100 seconds.

While no one can guess who would initiate the use of nuclear weapons, there's widespread agreement that a nuclear war would probably be started by mistake. There have already been 14 nuclear close calls (that we know of), which are defined as incidents that could have caused an unintended nuclear explosion or detonation.

So far, the world has been lucky with false alarms triggered by bad circuits, radar failures, solar flares, computer chip malfunctions, sunlight reflections and birds. These are great success stories when one considers what's at stake, and that decisions to launch missiles must be made within minutes.

Human fallibility is impossible to predict though. A nuclear catastrophe between Russia and the U.S. was averted in 1983 when a lieutenant colonel stationed near Moscow decided against a counter-attack after receiving wrong information from early-warning satellites. A person with a different temperament might not have questioned the possibility of a missile-detection error and opted to follow the mutual-assured-destruction protocol. This shouldn't sur-



*I came across this young girl in New York City's Bryant Park last summer. After getting parental consent, she agreed to be photographed for our newsletter. I thanked her for helping us do our job.*

prise to anyone who understands that following orders is what lubricates the military.

In the U.S., the documentary *Command and Control* (2016) detailed what happened in Arkansas after an eight-pound socket from a three-foot wrench fell about 70 feet in a silo from where a 21-year-old technician was working on a missile equipped with a nuclear warhead 600 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The ensuing explosion nearly caused the missile to launch. Who would have thought?

By any reasonable standard, adults still aren't doing enough to ban nuclear weapons or at least reduce the chances of a nuclear war. Perhaps now that the world is getting so close to doomsday, the young will step up and make themselves seen or heard. After all — they only have a hundred seconds left.

# It's All Interrelated

by Mike McDonald

Capitalism, militarism plus environmental destruction have us on the precipice of extinction. Unless we get a handle on each of these factors we all may be doomed.

Let's start with what many call hyper-capitalism. For some 40 years, corporations have had less and less regulations and have gained too much power. The cherry on the top was Citizens United (a misnomer if there ever was one). This was the 2010 Supreme Court ruling that said corporations are people and removed campaign contribution limits. Our very democracy is in danger with that decision. Political corruption has been unleashed completely. Money talks! Too many corporations have raped the environment in the name of profits.

General Smedley Butler pointed out nearly 90 years ago that war is a racket. He admitted to being a gangster for capitalism. The U.S. military has been called on time and time again to come in and protect American corporate interests. This is happening to this very day. With some 800 bases in 80 countries, the Empire has a stranglehold on much of the world. "Join us or suffer the consequences."

Noam Chomsky states it clearly: "The message has always been that if you get out of line and attempt to control your own resources, the U.S. will murder your people and decimate your land." Both capitalism and militarism have our environment at a tipping point.



For thousands of years Native peoples lived in harmony with nature, taking only what they needed. According to Our World in Data, the U.S., with less than five percent of the world's population, has contributed 25 percent of the accumulated carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Should we not be responsible to lead the way in fixing this problem since we are its main cause? The climate emergency must be addressed now to avoid irreversible damage.

With the pathway we are on, extinction is inevitable. It's just a matter of when. Bottom line: we need nature, nature doesn't need us. The U.S. holds most of the cards in this critical game. Will we continue this death march, or be a leader in the solution. The clock is ticking.

**U.S. MILITARISM  
FUELS  
CLIMATE CRISIS**



[www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis](http://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/climatecrisis)



## In memorium Marie Braun

by Steve McKeown

I first met Marie in 1985, when I was in a small group with her and her husband John for a jury trial that lasted four days. We were being tried for being on Honeywell property, protesting their design and manufacture of nuclear weapon components. Afterwards our group met a number of times, with Marie being one of the persistent advocates of trying to get more people involved to come to Honeywell and join us. By regular mail we wrote three times to all 523 Catholic priests in the Minneapolis-St Paul Archdiocese to do just that. Some came, and a few were arrested. In the hundreds of times I have worked with Marie, this is one example of her persistence, creative insight, and a flair for organizing towards the goal of ending war. Fittingly she chaired the END WAR Committee as part of her involvement with Women Against Military Madness up until her death.

In the 60's, she was at Selma, Alabama, for the Civil Rights March, and was a member of Clergy and Laity, who were working to end the Vietnam War. In the 80's, she promoted the Nuclear Freeze, demonstrated and was arrested protesting the U.S.-funded Contra War. She and husband John (who died in 2018) were regulars at our VFP chapter's daily vigil at the MN State Capitol Rotunda against our Air Guard sending this aid. She resisted the First Gulf Massacre, and became heavily involved after visiting Iraq in the 90's, witnessing the horrendous effects of the U.S. sanctions on the Iraqi people. When she returned from that trip, she spoke at over 100 different venues about the genocide and horrors of the sanctions, and when she wasn't speaking, she was driving activists Kathy Kelly and Sami Rousali around the state to do likewise at many different events, which she often had a hand in organizing. Every year on Dec. 28th, "Holy Innocence Day," she organized a service at St. Joan's Church to remember the children who had died and to encourage participants to keep speaking out against



*June 16, 2006 on University Avenue John and Marie Braun outside Senator Coleman's office. (photo by Tom Bottolene)*

these hateful policies.

There were the weekly vigils at Alliant Tech (Honeywell spin-off company), and Marie and John were faithfully present each week there too, sometimes getting arrested for their actions. They travelled to the SOA training camp in Georgia many years in a row to protest the notorious training school that turned soldiers into terrorists, who would return to their Latin American countries to wreak havoc on the people. Marie tabled, petitioned and met with legislators and church officials on so many different occasions, tackling so many different subjects, that space doesn't permit me to list them all!

Marie and John are local legends for helping to start the Peace Vigil on the Lake Street/Marshall Ave. Bridge that connects Minneapolis and St Paul. This is a weekly Wednesday vigil which is still going strong today, that challenges U.S. military intervention in a myriad of countries, and has been doing so for over 23 years. Both of them were largely instrumental in keeping that vigil going all these years.

Through all of their anti-war/peace activism, they also worked as counselors in their own family counseling center, raised their two children and became super-involved grand-

Marie Braun, continued on next page



## In memorium John Sherman

by Dave Logsdon

After eight years of struggle from complications stemming from his stroke of August 2014, John Sherman died on Tuesday, 6/7/22, at the age of 83. John was a long-time peace activist and key member of our local chapter of Veterans For Peace. He was always the guy that showed up at our VFP office at St. Stephens and the on the West Bank.

One of the reasons we picked the West Bank location was to make it easier for John to bike to “work.” John was a lifelong West Banker, worked for years at the now-closed North Country Co-Op and was a board member of the West Bank Improvement Association.

His dogged determination resulted in the Minneapolis School Board granting VFP the chance to table at Career Days in the high schools. That led to hundreds of opportunities for our members to counterbalance the story military recruiters enticed the students with, by telling other, less glorious, aspects of military service based on personal experience.

Anybody doing any kind of non-profit, all-volunteer organizing will tell you how they appreciate people who show up, roll up their sleeves, and get to work. This is John’s legacy.

Special thanks to VFP member Ray DeVogel for checking in on John on a weekly basis, taking him for drives and walks over the eight years that John slowly declined from the effects of his stroke.

Presente!



## Marie Braun, *from previous page*

parents. They spent lots of quality time with both family members and friends, of which my own family and I were honored to be included in.

It wasn't long before Paul Wellstone was killed that she, John, Bill Barnett, and I met with the Senator regard-

ing Iraq. Politically on the Progressive side, it has often been said “What would Wellstone do?” While Marie's shoes cannot be filled, the same can be said about Marie for us in terms of “fighting the good fight.” In a recent Star-Tribune Tribute to Marie, Jess Sundin, who traveled to Iraq with Marie is quoted as saying “Marie was trusted absolutely.” And to that I say “Amen!”

# “Catch-22” again

by Ron Staff

“What’s the catch?” is still the often-heard term used for an opportunity that is too good to be true. “Catch-22” has replaced it in the Department of Defense here in US of A. The book’s 50th anniversary edition and all earlier printings were (unfortunately) not on Vladimir Putin’s reading list before, during, or after his training for the KGB.

In the novel Joseph Heller’s principle character, Yossarian (who’s name echoes Armenian heritage) does not want to fly any more bombing missions over Germany because “someone is trying to kill me.” His desire to avoid such “combat” has good reasoning behind it. Those high flying aircraft dropping bombs from very high up also flew on absolutely straight, level flight courses to do the most that could be done to make the bomb-sighting mechanisms work correctly AND at the same time, made each plane perfect targets for ground fire, which could ignite a bomber’s full load of bombs and obliterate the plane and everything on board, people included.

Their casualty rate was higher than that for infantrymen.

And poor Yossarian hiding in the infirmary trying to avoid the next mission, which, if he was on board would be a bombing mission whereas, if he was not on board would be a “milk run” (pick-up or delivery) mission to Rome or Cairo or some other more exotic place. If one was crazy, one could not fly bombing missions as one would have to be crazy to want to fly bombing missions. However, if one did not want to fly bombing missions because it was dangerous; that would be logical and could clearly indicate one was not crazy and thus needed to be on board bombers during bombing missions.

Such “war logic” seems akin to Vlad’s bombing of Ukrainian buildings to prove to the Ukrainians that they should have him protecting them from being bombed.

Zapping one’s brain moves it into discontinuous war logic. This is disinformation brought to scale for the masses to feed on thinking there may be logic in the mountain of data points which yield nil. But a solid nil at that (with blood).

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### ONGOING EVENTS

**5-6 pm Mondays.** Stop Line Three Vigil. In front of Governor’s Mansion on Summit Ave., St. Paul.

**5-6 pm Mondays.** White Bear Lake Peace Vigil, Hwy. 61. and 4th Ave.

**5-6 pm Wed.** Lake Street/Marshall Ave. Peace Bridge Vigil.

**4:45 pm Wed.,** 50th and Halifax, Mpls., Grandmothers for Peace Vigil. (FFI call 612-927-7607)

**Monthly VFP chapter meeting,** 2nd Sun., 6 pm. 4200 Cedar Ave. S. They are now hybrid meetings (subject to change because of future pandemic situations). Contact VFP at 612-821-9141 for information on how to connect.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sep. 23, 6 pm** A Celebration of the Golden Rule @ 4200 Cedar Ave. Minneapolis. Meet and greet with food and beverages followed by a film about the Golden Rule’s Great Loop journey!

**Oct. 1, 11 am-5 pm.** OPEN STREETS Minnehaha Ave., Location TBD.

**Oct. 10, 10:30 am.** Indigenous People’s Day. A solemn ceremony at the memorial for the Dakota 38 in Mankato with bell ringing, reading of the names.

**Nov.11, 10:30 am.** Armistice Day at Victory Memorial Park in North Mpls.

**Nov.11, 6 pm.** Armistice Day at Brit’s Pub (across the Nicollet Mall from Orchestra Hall). Social Hour followed by program at 7 pm.

**Nov.12. Shows at 7 & 9 pm.** Dakota Bar. Associate VFP member Larry Long presents a special Armistice Day presentation of his Roots Revue.

# The Art of Waging Peace by Paul K. Chappell

A Book Review By Paula C. Staff

(pp. 271-272)

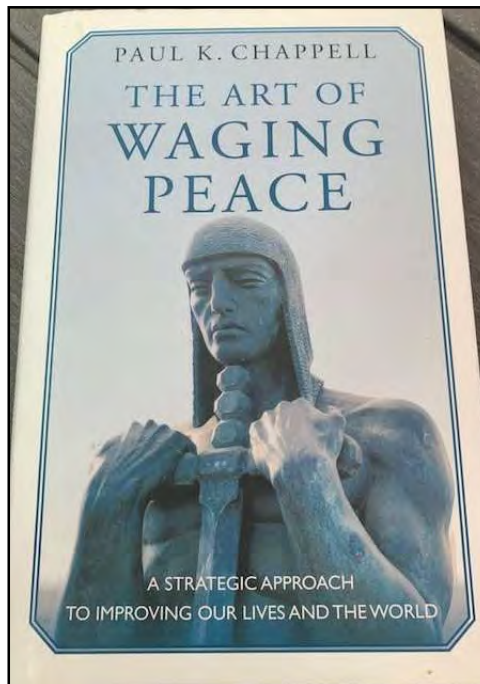
The subtitle to Chappell's book is "A Strategic Approach to Improving Our Lives and the World." He strives to articulate a path to peace. Yet, unfortunately, he writes with military terms and justifies the use of such language by noting Martin Luther King and Gandhi as others who did so. I suggest that it was not necessary nor needed support by well-known people. It would have been preferable if he found language based in peace metaphors rather than using phrases, such as soldiers of peace. Why not simply peacemakers?

He distinguishes between waging war and waging peace in his book. On page 87 he writes, "Waging war and waging peace have a lot in common. They both require courage, commitment, determination, teamwork, discipline, camaraderie, strategic thinking, sacrifice, and other effects. But there are two major differences between waging war and waging peace. The first is the use of violence. Waging war tries to turn the human beings who oppose you into corpses, while waging peace tries to turn human beings who oppose you into friends." Another difference, in my opinion: waging war is based on deception; whereas, waging peace is based on truth.

His book is filled with diagrams outlining the principles of waging peace. Sometimes it seems too complicated and unnecessary; other times it is enlightening. Chappell emphasized that maintaining a large military budget does not make our nation safe. He proposes an alternative to national security in four steps. Step one promotes a foreign policy that has as its underpinnings based on respect. He notes, "Our country will be much safer if we, the American people, force our politicians to end their hypocrisy and fully embrace the American ideals such as democracy, freedom, and justice." (p. 270) He articulates, "The second step to create a more effective security paradigm is for Americans to wage peace, not war. Waging peace rather than war allows us to heal the underlying problems that cause conflicts. Problems such as poverty, hopelessness and lack of opportunity create conditions that make people more likely to resort to violence."

Briefly, the third step promotes strengthening international laws against dictatorships and corrupt governments. Chappell proposes, "The third step is important, because many of the dictatorships around the world are supported by influential countries like the United States. If the most powerful country on the planet, the United States, no longer supported brutal dictatorships, it would be an important step toward strengthening international laws against oppression, especially when we consider the effectiveness of leading by example." (p.274) It is interesting that he advocates for an international police force when he notes, "The greatest threat to our country is from within." (p. 282) And why not the Non-Violent Peace Force instead? It exists worldwide and is headquartered in Minneapolis.

Chappell is articulate and relatively easy to read. The book has a lot to offer and is recommended.



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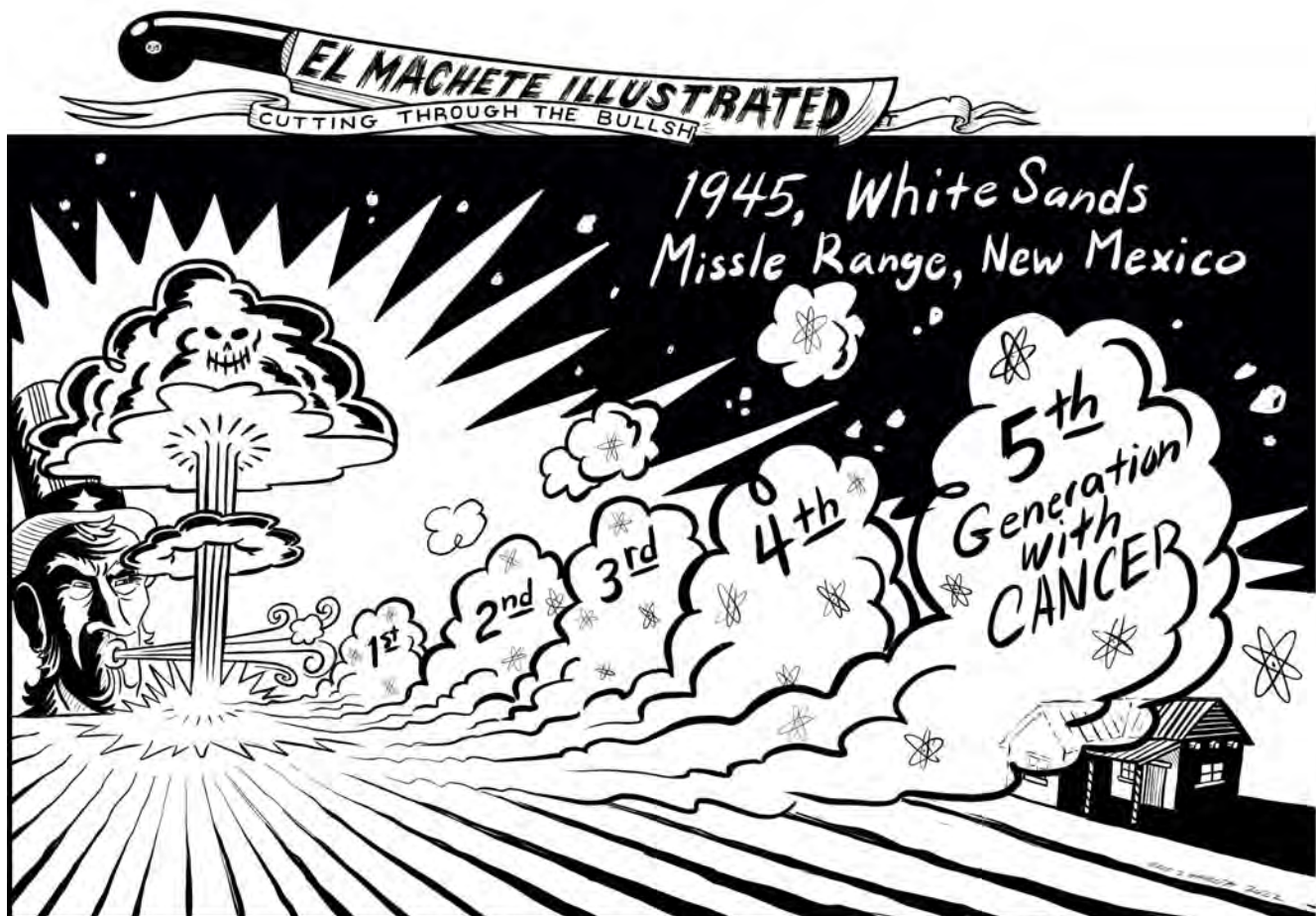
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An estimated 22 veterans die from suicide each day,  
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