

## RE-LAUNCH OF GOLDEN RULE: An Inspiring Community Event Against Nuclear Weapons

By Dr. Bob Gould, SF Bay Area PSR President



When Peter Aronson of Humboldt Veterans for Peace invited me a few months ago to speak at an event celebrating the re-launch of the *Golden Rule*, I immediately recognized that I knew absolutely nothing about a groundbreaking act of resistance against the global scourge of nuclear weapons.

And what a story it was!

When the US in 1958 started testing atomic weapons in the Pacific, dedicated activists, including former US Navy Commander Albert Smith Bigelow, William Reed Huntington, George Willoughby, Orion Sherwood and James Peck, resolved to sail the 30 foot *Golden Rule* towards the Marshall Islands testing area to protest, informing the U.S. government and the world community in advance of their plans. [1]

When arrested en-route and jailed in Honolulu, they were unable to continue their journey for peace. However, while awaiting trial, members of the crew became engaged in conversation with Earle and Barbara Reynolds. Earle was a government scientist who had studied the effects of the atomic bombs on Japanese children, and the Reynolds were so inspired by learning about the *Golden Rule* that they sailed with their family in their own *Hiroshima Phoenix* to fulfill the aims of the aborted voyage. The

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## HEALTHIER FOOD: WORKING ACROSS SECTORS FOR REAL CHANGE

by Kendra Klein, Senior Program Associate

Just recently, San Francisco Bay Area PSR took part in a historic gathering, the California Poultry Procurement Summit, working across sectors to create a healthier, sustainable, and more equitable food system. The Summit brought together people from schools and hospitals in four regions of California (Bay Area, Riverside, San Diego, and the San Joaquin Valley), chicken producers, distributors, and other supply chain partners. The gathering was hosted by School Food FOCUS and Health Care Without Harm with the support of our chapter and with funding from Kaiser Permanente.

The participants, part of a joint effort known as the Ed-Med Collaborative, focused on a specific, attainable goal: increasing institutional purchasing of chicken raised without the routine use of antibiotics. Some of the participating

institutions are just starting out on their sustainable meat journey while others are already sourcing up to 60% of all meats raised without routine antibiotics. Participants shared best practices, inspiration, and ideas for how to implement cross-sector collaboration.

All participants were united to address the growing crisis of “superbugs” associated with the overuse of antibiotics. Four times the amount of antibiotics are used for industrial animal agriculture (29 million pounds) than for human medicine (7 million pounds). By working together, participating institutions will have greater power to influence their supply chain partners, support regional producers, and shift national suppliers toward more sustainable practices. They will also be able to leverage another form of currency—their moral authority, moving toward healthier hospitals and schools all across the state. If you would like to hear more about our healthier foods work email us at [action@sfbaypsr.org](mailto:action@sfbaypsr.org).

## Golden Rule ...

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Reynolds family penetrated the US-declared exclusion zone about 65 nautical miles into the Bikini Atoll testing site, and were detained by US military authorities, with Earle sentenced to six months in prison.

These courageous voyages inspired the anti-nuclear movement throughout the world, kicking off other naval protests that continued until the US and Soviet Union agreed to the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963. This historic Treaty forbade the atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons that had led to extensive radioactive fallout which poisoned communities and ecosystems throughout the world.

Following this distinguished history, the *Golden Rule* itself faded into oblivion, and after a series of owners, ultimately became wreckage in Humboldt Bay before its loving restoration over the last five years.

On June 20, upon approaching the re-launch at the Zerlang & Zerlang Boat Yard in Samoa, Calif., my partner Patrice Sutton and I were quite blown away to see hundreds of locals enthusiastically gathered for the festivities. With commemorative champagne glasses in hand, we all were treated to the amazing story behind the restoration and re-launch, as told by family members of the crews, local veterans and historians of events now over a half century old.

Leading off the public celebration, boatyard owner Leo Zerlang, who with his wife Dalene and Restoration Coordinator Chuck De Witt were particularly honored for their efforts, told the crowd how he became informed of the historic importance of the vessel by members of Veterans for Peace and others in the community, and how the long and arduous rebuilding of the *Golden Rule* had been sustained through the generous donation of funding and hands-on work of dedicated individuals throughout the community. [2]

Many of those involved in the effort, as well as children of crewmembers of the *Golden Rule* and the *Hiroshima Phoenix* furnished additional fascinating details of the project. In



addition, we all were honored by the presence of Shigeko Sasamori, one of the original “Hiroshima Maidens” who, in the 1950s, received reconstructive surgery for disfiguring injuries caused by the atomic detonations of 1945. The Maidens became international symbols of the horrors of nuclear war, and directly inspired crewmembers of the *Golden Rule* to undertake their mission.

As such, it was a thrill for all of us to witness Shigeko Sasamori smashing the champagne bottle that officially marked the re-launching of the *Golden Rule*, [3] which, accompanied by a local flotilla, then crossed Humboldt Bay to dock at the Maritime center in Eureka where the celebration continued at a series of evening events. [4]

It was quite an honor that evening for me to share the stage with local and national activists including Barry Ladendorf, National President of Veterans for Peace, who outlined the continued destructive policies of nuclear rearmament and modernization undertaken by the US government and other nuclear powers.

In my own remarks [5] I was happy to be able to include the story about one of my own personal PSR heroes, the late Dr. Gregg “Monte” Steadman, a Kaiser physician who with two other crew members sailed the *Everyman II* in 1962

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## Golden Rule ...

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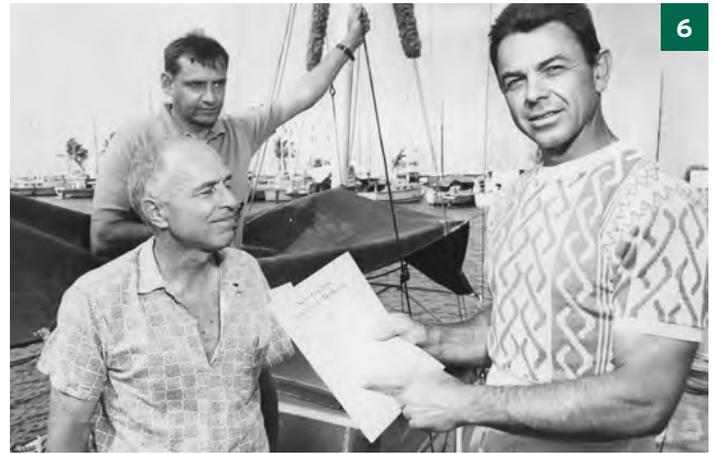
to carry on the *Golden Rule* tradition in their own protest against nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific. When preparing my own talk, I noticed for the first time that in the picture I had of Monte, he was pointing to the historic 1962 edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine* that featured PSR's seminal articles on the dangers of thermonuclear war that kicked off our own organization's contribution to the anti-nuclear movement [6]. This was, to say the least, an amazing and powerful revelation for me!

Mary Sweeters of Greenpeace also gave a great talk about how the *Golden Rule*, and all the naval protests that followed, provided the inspiration for the founding of the Vancouver-based Don't Make a Wave Committee, which transformed into Greenpeace in 1970, spurring its own luminous history protesting nuclear weapons, rapacious oil drilling, etc.

As part of the celebration, there was a remarkable display of placards and other memorabilia commemorating the people and background events that inspired the voyage of the *Golden Rule*, and which provided the backdrop for a number of enlightening oral histories offered by participants. For me, the displayed quote of William Reed Huntington probably best captured the spirit of the voyage, the re-launch, and our movement:

*“What better way for calling the world’s attention, not only to the risks of these particular blasts, but also to the frightful course towards atomic warfare and total destruction which the experiments were leading mankind?”*

Now that the *Golden Rule* is once again seaworthy, its organizers are planning on sailing to San Diego in time for the Veterans for Peace, National Convention



in early August, and back up the coast as far as Seattle, as part of the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the horrific nuclear detonations in Japan.

For information about upcoming events around the *Golden Rule*, please check out the Veterans for Peace Golden Rule Project site at: <http://www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org>, and for more complete information about the history of the *Golden Rule*, and the relaunch, please check out the great article from the summer 2015 Veterans for Peace publication “Peace in Our Times” available at: <http://www.classwars.org/PeaceTimesSummer2015.pdf>.

I expect that you will be as inspired as we are to continue to spread the word about the horror of nuclear weapons, and the plans of our government and all other nuclear weapon states to continue building these threats to all of our futures, so we can fortify the movement needed to stop them once and for all. [7]



### DON'T MISS A THING!

Every month, SF Bay PSR sends out an eNewsletter, connecting our supporters to events, issues and actions. If you haven't signed up, please do so on our website at [www.sfbaypsr.org](http://www.sfbaypsr.org) and look along the side to see “Sign up to receive e-news.” No spam, no email deluge, just great information about what we're doing and how we can connect with you!

# CONVERGING ON THE STATE CAPITOL

## SF Bay Area PSR Protects Our Health and Future

by Catherine Porter, Policy Consultant

**O**n June 16, twenty individuals from all three California chapters of PSR—Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Francisco Bay Area—converged in Sacramento to meet with legislators and their staff. The group urged “yes” votes for bills that would mandate right-to-know about chemical exposures, slow down climate change, and reduce gun violence. Please see SF Bay Area PSR’s blog for more information on the bills we supported.

“This was an incredibly well-organized and effective day of advocacy and environmental justice in Sacramento. I was thrilled to be able to meet key policy-makers, and have the opportunity to lobby for legislation that would undoubtedly save lives for California communities affected by gun violence, pesticides and the consequences of climate change,” said participant Dan Schwartz, second-year medical student in the UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program.

This event follows up on what we’ve been doing all year—the chapter has submitted letters in favor of twenty-one state bills. Issue areas range as widely as reducing gun violence, to improving hazardous waste permitting and enforcement processes to expanding access to health care. We’ll also be watching our key issues throughout the coming year, including

ones that focus on safe cleaning products, and greater oversight for PG&E’s seismic studies at Diablo Canyon is completed.

In addition to support letters, SF Bay Area PSR submitted five letters opposing bills that would have weakened Proposition 65, which is a landmark law requiring notification of exposures to significant amounts of carcinogens or reproductive or developmental toxicants.

We encourage you to engage with the legislative process, too. Please contact us at [action@sfbaypsr.org](mailto:action@sfbaypsr.org) and we will connect you!

### SUPPORT SF BAY AREA PSR!

Along with this newsletter, you received a letter asking for your donation! We hope you’ve seen it! We are asking our donors for a general gift (and remember, once you’ve given, we won’t ask you for the rest of the year!) and a special gift to advance our student organizing. Thanks in advance for your inspiring support!

We are so thankful for all of our donors—please see our website (<http://www.sfbaypsr.org>) for a list of our 2014 supporters!

### YES! I AM HAPPY TO SUPPORT SF BAY PSR AND WORK TOWARD A HEALTHIER WORLD FOR US ALL!

I have enclosed my annual general support donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I have also enclosed a special donation to the student fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Matching Gift: Enclosed is my company’s matching gift form.

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**Please make checks payable and sent to: PSR, at 2288 Fulton Street, Suite 309, Berkeley, CA 94704**

For donations by credit card please go to our secure online donation site at: <http://sfbaypsr.org/donate-to-the-chapter>.

Please note what portion of your gift should support the general fund and/or the student fund.