

"Goldie," as she is affectionately called, is truly magic. She calls to her what she needs. Skilled people, captains and crews, money, boatyards, and the kindness of strangers... all seem to appear when needed most. All of you have answered her call at some point. In fact, you have been extraordinarily loyal and generous.

Thanks to you, the *Golden Rule* has received the solid financial support she has needed to keep sailing for a nuclear-free world and a peaceful, sustainable future. We are in pretty good shape right now. We actually have enough funds to hire another half-time project manager. You cannot imagine how important that is to me, as this job of coordinating boat repairs, crews, sailing schedules, events, media, newsletter, fundraising, etc. is just too big for one person. I am so grateful that we have a wonderful new Project Co-Manager on board.

Michelle Marsonette is no stranger to the *Golden Rule*. She is the niece of our Hawai'ian captain Kiko Johnston-Kitizawa, and she was on the crew on the very challenging 30-day voyage from Hawai'i back to California. Michelle is as much in love with the Golden Rule Project as am I. She is a talented organizer and she is already making my job much easier. When I finally decide to retire from this role, we will have an experienced coordinator to take over. Yay!

Please wish us a safe and successful voyage this summer, as we head to the Pacific Northwest. Our first protest will be in the Hood Canal just outside the Bangor Trident Nuclear Submarine Base. Just 25-miles west of Seattle, this little-known Navy base is home to eight nuclear-armed submarines, each one with enough nuclear firepower to destroy all life on Earth!

The United States is currently involved in conflicts with several other nuclear-armed powers – Russia, China and North Korea, as well as with the horrible genocide in Gaza carried out by Israel, which is also nuclear-armed. Many experts believe the world is closer to nuclear war than any time since the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 – some say even closer. Peace-loving people must urgently call on our political leaders to step back from war and pursue peace with all nations.

Thank you again for being a much-valued member of the Golden Rule family. You are definitely part of the magic. I really feel that and I am constantly reminded of your presence. We are many and we are doing all that we can. We have many great experiences with *Golden Rule* supporters wherever we go, but this is no pleasure voyage. We know our work is urgent. We must educate everybody we can possibly reach about the imminent and growing danger of nuclear war, and what we can do to avoid it. We must abolish nuclear weapons and war once and for all.

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

Helen Laccard

Project Co-Manager