

Veterans For Peace #161 2022 Summary

- The year began with a gathering of 20+ folks on a frigid January 6th evening, a Rally For Democracy. Open mic, lots of passion.
- In February, the Iowa City theater, Film Scene, showed the movie about Vietnam war resisters, "The Boys Who Said No!" 4 VFP members(John Jadryev, Vietnam vet, John Christenson, Cold War vet, Dave Hempel and Art Roche, conscientious objectors) led an in-theater discussion after the film. Then the same VFP members participated in a discussion after the play, "Eden Prairie, 1971" was presented at Riverside Theater.
- In March, we organized the visit and presentations, "War is Never the Answer", by Kathy Kelly at St. Ambrose University in Davenport and at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Coralville. She also presented at Old Capitol in Iowa City in April. Total of all attendees approx. 120.
- On April 4th, we organized a community serial reading of Martin Luther King's "Beyond Vietnam" speech and his last speech in Memphis. Outside of Congregational Church, Iowa City. 36 eloquent readers.

- We were one of the units in the June 18th Pride Parade in Iowa City.
- Our annual cooperation with other community allies in the Coralville 4th of July parade was called off with the onset of a terrific rain storm. We did participate with the same group (100 Grannies, PEACE Iowa, Iowa Physicians for Social Responsibility) in a booth at Johnson Co. Fair. July also saw the 1st year in 12 in which VFP did not greet RAGBRAI riders. We'll be there in 2023.
- In August, we organized and hosted an event at Old Brick in Iowa City, featuring background on nuclear issues by Maureen McCue, the Golden Rule video Making Waves, and a preview by John Jadryev of the Golden Rule Mississippi voyage. Raised funds for the Golden Rule Project.
- On International Day of Peace in September, we joined with aforementioned allies and the Johnson County United Nations Association in Peace Day observance at Mercer Park. Family Folk Machine members provided music. VFP donated a peace pole to the city of Iowa City.

- October saw a lot of VFP involvement with the Golden Rule. Helen Jaccard spoke to a class at Kirkwood Community College and we held an outdoor potluck at City Park. Many members helped organize GR events in 6 Iowa cities (Dubuque, Clinton, Davenport, Muscatine, Burlington, & Keokuk). The work of Art Roche, Dan Clark, Robert Mueller, Dan Clark, Rob Fiedler, Pat Cummings, John Jadryev and Ed Flaherty especially noted.
- On November 11th, we hosted an Armistice Day Observance in the Iowa City Ped Mall, with 50 attendees braving hostile weather. The observance was followed by a meal and social hour at the Iowa City Public Library. That evening, Film Scene showed the movie, "Slaughterhouse 5" in cooperation with Kirkwood Community College and VFP #161.

Throughout the year, meetings were held virtually and in person on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. VFP #161 led the weekly Friday peace vigil at the Pentacrest in Iowa City. Former members Verne Kelley, Carl Beyerhelm and Rose Hanson passed away during the year.