



It's August! Popoki is a cat, but when it is hot, he likes to cool off by eating ice cream, drinking lemonade and snoozing under a tree. What do you do to cool yourself down in the summer?

Popoki's Hot News!



Coming up!

28 September "Popoki, what does it mean to not be able to go home? Thinking about the right to evacuate from the perspective of the world, Fukushima and our lives," KATO Yuko "My tough decision to evacuate," Kobe YMCA Sannomiya Center (See p.8 for details)!

12 October! "Thinking about peace and health with Popoki" Hyogo University of Health Sciences, Community Outreach Center

How about joining us to think about peace, evacuation and health?

Piece of Peace



One of Popoki's friends, Muro-nyan, sent the following piece of peace.

"I went to my grandmother's grave with my family and recalled my grandmother's struggles during the war."

What sort of 'peace' did you encounter today? Please contribute a bit of peace! Please let us know by sending a message to Popoki's e-mail: [ronniandpopoki \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:ronniandpopoki@gmail.com) !

We received a donation!

Recently, Popoki Peace Project received a donation from The mission to Seafarers Kobe. We are most grateful and asked the chaplain, The Reverend Paul Tolhurst, to share with us about the Center and its work. Here is what he sent.



A home away from home in Kobe

If we think about our lives, every day we eat delicious food from around the world; we wear the latest fashions from Europe and use smartphones assembled in China. All of this comes to us by sea, together with the fuel and minerals which power this country's industry. The ships transporting all of this which criss-cross the globe bringing us over 90% of our daily goods, are operated by seafarers – men and women – whom we will probably never see, and who give up so much – spending months from home – sacrificing their comfortable lives so that we can enjoy ours.

They are often – as the saying goes – ‘out of sight, out of mind.’ The Mission to Seafarers – part of the Anglican Church – exists to make sure that seafarers don't stay that way. In over 200 ports around the world, including Kobe – through a network of chaplains and volunteers – we try to provide a ‘home away from home’ for those doing this hazardous work far from their families and loved ones; we try to offer them the things that we on land all take for granted.

We visit the crews, taking newspapers and magazines in their own language; we give information about the city and our facilities, and most importantly we talk with the crew: hear their stories, celebrations and worries. Talking with somebody different, even for a short time, can diffuse the stress of a 10-month or longer contract onboard when every day you are inside a small box with the same 20 people.

Most ships nowadays stay in port only a few hours, but if they have time we will also try to help seafarers get ashore to refresh themselves, go shopping and contact their families (there is still not much internet access onboard). We can welcome them to our Centre in downtown Kobe where they can chat with their families via Wi-Fi, pray quietly in the chapel, have fun playing pool, browse through our second-hand books and clothing, or just relax with a cold beer.

Seafarers need to access some of the normality they miss when they are out at sea, and talking with

different people, doing different things or spending a few hours ashore can be a great boost to their mental and physical well-being and ability to get on with their jobs. Which means safer seas.

Imagine being a stranger in Japan – not knowing the language or where anything is and not knowing anybody – it might be a lonely or frightening place. The Mission to Seafarers has been trying to ease this loneliness for visiting seafarers to Kobe – regardless of nationality or religion – since 1895, and whilst some things have changed – seafarers rarely write letters or make international phone calls these days, rather they want to update their Facebook statuses or ‘tweet’ – they are still in need of a ‘home’ and that is what we try to provide. And when you are far from your own country, that can make a lot of difference.

Paul Tolhurst
Chaplain
The Mission to Seafarers, Kobe



Popoki in Malaysia!

On 6-7 August, Ronyan and Popoki joined the International Humanitarian Conference hosted by MERCY Malaysia in celebration of its 20th anniversary. The three-day conference had an impressive array of panels and plenaries, featuring NGOs, academics, practitioners as well as local, national and regional government officials. Ronyan made presentations at two sessions on the theme of “Building Resilience, Climate Change Adaptation, and Disaster Risk Reduction.” The first was entitled, “Addressing invisibility and Fear: Strategies for Risk Reduction from the Perspective of Peace and Social Inclusion,” and of course, Popoki was there, too. The second presentation was entitled “Social Resilience: Stories from the Great Hanshin Earthquake.” The discussions in the panels and plenaries were very interesting and underscored both the importance and the difficulty of humanitarian assistance in our changing world. Thank you to MERCY Malaysia for the opportunity to attend such an important event.



Skype Discussion on Nuclear Issues

Ronyan

Our annual Skype discussion about nuclear issues was on 9 August. The participants were Ann Rosenthal from Remembering Hiroshima, Imagining Peace (Pittsburgh, U.S.) and people who had attended a film showing by that organization, Michael Lujan Bevacqua from University of Guam and Tiara Na'Puti from University of Colorado who are actively working on issues concerning Guahan/Guam, and Popoki Peace Project members Aasthanyan, Nagisanyan, Kazunyan, Tainyan, and Ronyan.



写真 : Bevacqua 先生 (左) ; Ann さん(右上)、Na'Puti 先生(右下)

The Skype began at 10:00 a.m. on 9 August. JST. First, we all introduced ourselves. There were problems with not being able to see well or hear well, but in spite of that we were able to talk about many things and have an interesting discussion. The first question was about what people in Japan and Guam think about President Trump. Looking from Japan, Trump's nuclear policies are frightening, but looking from Guam it is even more complex. As Guam is a territory of the U.S., it both needs to be protected as America's home front, and at the same time is on

the front line and can be sacrificed for America's protection. It was pointed out the it is important to think about whether the U.S. presence on Guam makes Guam more, or less, safe.

We also discussed the effects of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident. Not only has radiation from the accident has spread around the world, but the U.S. military is the world's worst polluter, spreading radioactive and toxic substances. We also discussed green washing, and how the U.S. military claims to be protecting the environment in Guam and the Northern Marianas while in fact it is planning to build bombing and live fire training sites that will destroy the environment and threaten the lives and livelihoods of people in nearby communities.

At the end, Aasthanyan asked a good question from the perspective of Nepal, a small country surrounded by nuclear powers. She wanted to know how we can help people to understand that nuclear security is not safe. Dr. Bevacqua suggested that we need to reconsider whose security we are thinking about, and to re-imagine the meaning of peace. Dr. Na'Puti suggested that it is important to help student to imagine new futures and said that she finds poetry to be very effective in her classrooms. Ann spoke about the importance and impact of eco-art.



Photo: Nyans engaged in the discussion. From left: Tainyan, Aasthanyan, Kazunyan, Ronyan. Nagisanyan took the photo.

Kazunyan and Nagisanyan sent comments reflecting on the conversation. Kazunyan said, “The other day, I participated in an online discussion on nuclear issues. On August 9, the 74th time since the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, I appreciated being able to connect with the world and discuss nuclear issues at the very time when the atomic bomb exploded. However, while the rhetoric and the shape of the problem may have changed, nuclear damage continues to undermine our security. That is why sharing ideas

about the issues we are each facing is important and I think it helped to broaden our perceptions. I think it is important to continue such discussions on a daily basis. I look forward to being part of the discussion next year. With prayers for progress at the NPT Review Conference next year....”

Nagisanyan said that, “In this Skype session, I was impressed by the fact that ‘the world is connected’. For instance, radioactivity from Fukushima contaminates not only Japan, but also the world through air and water. A problem that happened in one country could have a bad influence on somewhere else in the world. I felt that when we think about nuclear issues, even it is the ‘peaceful use’ such as nuclear energy, we have to consider the negative influence in the global perspective.

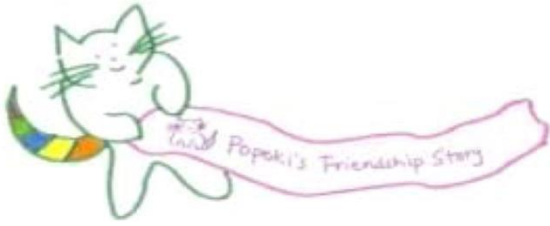
Aasthanyan sent the following comment. “After several years, on August 9, 2019, I had the opportunity to participate in a collaborative Skype session organized by Popoki Peace Project, Remembering Hiroshima, Imagining Peace and their friends. It was great to discuss topics of current significance with the group, be it US militarization, nuclear weapons, nuclear power, climate change, Tokyo Olympics, and Fukushima. I was happy to hear how Popoki's friends: Ann (In Pittsburgh), Prof. Bevacqua (in Guam), and Prof. Tiara (in Colorado) were making a difference in thinking about peace, especially with their work and their students. I think the Skype session, which to me is a transnational engagement, is extremely important in imagining and spreading awareness about peace.”

Tainyan sent a comment, too. “We talked about nuclear. But Guam has some problems. I was sorry that I did not talk about nuclear. People in Guam do not agree with America. According to the person from Guam, there is damage to Guam from military bases. If I have a chance, I want to know about these, because I have a lot of things that I do not understand. I understand that it is hard for everyone to think about world peace because other people have different views.”

Dr. Bevacqua’s final comment left an impression on me. He suggested that we have to uneducate the students about what is important in their lives. They do not necessarily have a place in the stories of their friends or the United States, and they need to think about where their place might be. Popoki hopes that in his stories, there is a place for everyone.

Our Skype conversation ended just at 11:02, the moment that the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Thank you to all those who participated. See you next year!





Popoki's Interview

Interview: Kazuto Yoshida san

Interviewer: Ronyan

This time I want to share a written interview with Mr. Kazuto Yoshida. Some of the questions are quite vague and he says he had trouble responding to them. I am so grateful that he did. Thank you, Yoshida san! His responses are below.

1. You must often be introduced as “a hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor) from Nagasaki,” but please tell us something about yourself.

◆ I have lived as a “hibakusha from Nagasaki”. In 1956, the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations was founded, and the next year, 1957, 12 years after the end of the war, the first law regarding hibakusha, “Atomic Bomb Medical Care Law” was enacted. This law provided a legal definition of “hibakusha” and hibakusha organizations were started all over Japan. In 1958, *Toyukai* (literally Eastern Friends Association) was founded. I became involved in the hibakusha movement at this time, and have been involved ever since. One can never retire from being a hibakusha, so I remain involved.

2. I know you have been involved in the anti-nuclear movement for a long time. What have been your activities? Probably there are a lot of disappointments in working for the abolition of nuclear weapons, so what is it that keeps you going in spite of the setbacks?

◆ In the early days of the hibakusha movement, the main activities were to set up district associations, look for hibakusha (find people who were in Hiroshima or Nagasaki at the time of the bombing and eligible for the Atomic Bomb Medical Care Law, helping them to get registered and receive a ‘hibakusha card’) and inviting hibakusha to join our organizations. We also lobbied local government about the situation of hibakusha and urged them to give money to support hibakusha organizations. In terms of movement activities, of course we campaigned for the abolition of nuclear weapons and demanded national compensation for those suffering as a result of the atomic bomb.

With regard to the abolition and elimination of nuclear weapons, those nuclear weapons or weapons of the devil were made by human hands. If they were made by humans, then humans should be able to eliminate them. People who say that “it is too late to rid the world of nuclear weapons” represent the epitome of human distrust. That is the motivation for continuing to work to ban nuclear weapons.

3. Popoki uses the five sense to think about peace. If you were to use the senses to describe your atomic bomb experience, how would you express it?

◆ Light (sight); heat rays (body experience); blast wind (buoyancy); radiation (lack of sensation); mass death.

4. At the workshop last year, everyone drew pictures. Please share your impressions.

◆ Suginami Koyukai (Hibakusha Association) held its 31st (and final) “Exchange Seminar to link Hibakusha and Local Residents”. This seminar was the first time that those attending became active participants and enjoyed feeling peace together. It was a unique experience and I was very happy. As our final seminar, it was fantastic! (*The seminar consisted of a testimony by a hibakusha followed by Ronyan as the invited speaker).

5. In the Marshall Islands, I asked a person who has been unable to return to her home (Bikini Island) due to U.S. nuclear testing to draw on Popoki’s Friendship Story cloth. When I explained our project and told her about the Fukushima nuclear plant accident, she became very angry saying, “first Hiroshima and Nagasaki, then us, then Chernobyl and now again?! Why haven’t they learned?” She drew a picture of her lost island home. She did not seem to distinguish between the atomic bomb, nuclear testing and nuclear power accidents, but in Japan many people consider them to each be different. How do you think we should address them?

◆ I think the situation of the damage to the Marshall Islands from nuclear testing is very serious. Because so many tests were held, some Islanders are still unable to go back to their homes. The Chernobyl nuclear accident has also prevented people from going back to their homes because of damage from radiation. And people whose homes were exposed to radiation from the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident have also lost their home towns and are unable to go back. Even in Japan, the memory of even Fukushima is beginning to fade from people’s memories.

Along with Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the people in these other places have all suffered serious damage from radiation. I think we need to expand our solidarity with them more. Hiroshima and Nagasaki are unique in that they suffered “damage caused by the use of nuclear weapons on local communities during a war”. That is different from only damage from exposure to radiation. The Japanese government limits damage from the atomic bombs to just radiation exposure. This is a problem with the government’s hibakusha policy, as well as the fact that it does not accept any responsibility for the damage caused by the atomic bombs.

I think it is important to continue to spread knowledge of the reality of damage caused by nuclear weapons and nuclear power, while at the same time identifying the similarities and the differences among the different types.

6. Message for Popoki

Popoki, please tell the world of the reality of war. Please tell the world the realities of nuclear damage from nuclear war, nuclear testing and nuclear power. War “makes a mockery of life”. Murder is a criminal offense, but in war, killing a lot of people is considered to be an “achievement”. Nuclear weapons are weapons of mass destruction, but in spreading radiation they are “weapons of madness” that wreak havoc on future generations. Popoki, you and your friends and all of us should work together to protect peace and eliminate nuclear weapons.

2019. 8 .14

Kazuto Yoshida

Yoshida
san

Photos from the 2018.11.17 workshop



POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 135

This month's theme is staying cool!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Now, holding a fan, fan yourself using your wrist and also moving your arm up and down. Finished one side? Try the other one, too!
3. Next, with a fan in each hand, try fanning your face and the back of your head!
4. Now, with a fan in each hand, try to bend your arms and wrists and fan your back, too.
5. Did it? Even if you didn't succeed, you tried! It is time for the 'success pose.' Congratulations! Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.

Please join us!



Next Po-kai: 2019.9.20 Nada Yakuzaishikai 19:00~

8.19-30 Popoki @ UNESCO Chair Summer Program, Gadjadara University, Indonesia

9.28 Popoki Salon to think about lots of things: Seminar to discuss Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Accident refugees with Yuko Kato! 14:00~16:30 @ Kobe YMCA Sannomiya Center. See p.10 for details.

10.12 Peace and Health Workshop @ Hyogo University of Health Sciences, 14:00~16:00 (Saturday)

Picture Book Suggestion from Popoki's Friends

Riokun no susumu michi - Gakko ni ikenai kimitachi he -(Rio-kun's path: To those of you who can't go to school). Text & illustrations: Miyuki Kaneshiro. Gakken.

ポーポキといろいろなことを考えるサロン

「ポーポキ、おうちに帰れないって、どういうこと？」

～世界・FUKUSHIMA・私たちの生活から避難の権利を問う～

Popoki, what does it mean to be unable to go home? Thinking about the right to evacuate from the perspective of the world, Fukushima and our lives

Special guest
特別ゲスト 加藤裕子(KATO Yuko)さん

(福島第一原子力発電所事故被災者、原発賠償関西訴訟原告)

(Refugee from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear plant accident; Nuclear compensation lawsuit plaintiff)

いつ/When 2019年9月28日(土) 14:00～16:30

どこで/Where 神戸YMCA 三宮 会館

神戸市中央区加納町2丁目 7-7-11

問い合わせ先/Information 神戸YMCA 国際・奉仕センター
078-241-7204 <https://www.kobeymca.org/program/sannomiya/index.html>



参加費/Fee 無料/Free どなたでも参加できます/Everyone is welcome

プログラム/Program

14:00 スタート

14:10 動画鑑賞 Video

14:20 ディスカッション・共有
Discussion Sharing

14:50 加藤裕子さん!
KATO Yuko

「避難～大切な命を守る～わたしの決断、ペットとともに」

“Evacuating: Protecting important lives – My decision to leave, and take my pets, too”

15:30 ディスカッション
Discussion

16:20 共有
Sharing

16:30 おわり
End



主催/Sponsors: Popoki Peace Project 神戸YWCA 被災者

支援プロジェクト、神戸YMCA 国際・奉仕センター
Support Project Kobe YWCA International Community Center

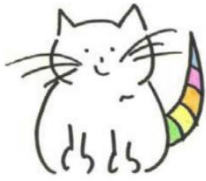
Popoki in Print * Back issues of Popoki News:



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- Popoki in Pittsburgh. Check out the Remembering Hiroshima/Imagining Peace URL: <http://www.rememberinghiroshima.org/>



What Popoki Means to Me

Yukinyan

When I was asked to write this piece, I thought what to write about and re-read *Popoki, What Color is Genki?* and *Popoki Friendship Story*. And I thought I would write a bit about myself. I live with two brown tiger rescue cats. The first, "Kinako" (female) is very wise. The second, Sakura (male) came two years later and immediately acted as if this had always been his home. Last month, I was hospitalized for the fourth time and had an operation. When I am not feeling well, the cats are always at my side (Popoki is too). And when I am feeling just a little bit better, they are still with me. When I'm feeling very fine, I don't pay the two cats much attention. But when I'm not well, the two cats play are very important for me. If I'm feeling sick and resting in bed, the two cats nestle close to me. The cats don't speak Japanese, but we are able to understand each other. It makes me feel happy that they respond so well to how I am feeling. This makes me feel peace. It is peaceful.

It has been 24 years since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and 8 years since the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake. There are some disasters that humans do not have the power to stop, and others that are caused by humans. I always think that humans have to become more humble. Popoki always says that, too. We should think about how wonderful it is to have food to eat, a place to work, and to not have to send friends and family off to war.

When August comes, I remember my father. My father was drafted as a soldier just two weeks before the end of World War II. He was taken prisoner by the Soviet forces at the end of the war and spent six years doing hard labor in Siberia. But he never spoke to the family about his time in Siberia. Popoki loves genki and peace, and I hope from the bottom of my

heart that nothing happens again that would make him feel sad, and that the Nankai Trough big earthquake doesn't happen. And also that my cats stay genki, too.



L: The clever girl, Kinako (age 7)
R: The playful boy, Sakura (age 4)

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE POPOKI PEACE PROJECT!

The Popoki Peace Project is a voluntary project which uses Popoki's peace book and DVD to promote peace through various activities such as peace camps, peace workshops, seminars and other activities. Since the March 2011 earthquake, we have also worked in the disaster area and in 2012 published a book about that work: *Popoki's Friendship Story - Our Peace Journey Born Out of the Great Northeastern Japan Earthquake. Popoki, What Color is Peace?* has been translated into Thai, Chinese, Korean, Khmer, Indonesian, Tetun and Bengali, Vietnamese, Arabic and Hebrew. Spanish, Farsi, Lao, Swahili, translations are underway. If you would like to translate Popoki, or have a way to have the book sold at your local bookstore, please let us know.

How to purchase Popoki's books: *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1, Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2, Popoki, What Color is Genki? Popoki's Peace Book 3 and Popoki's Friendship Story*

From outside of Japan

1. Go to your local Japanese bookstore: Kinokuniya, Maruzen, etc. (or their website)
2. Write to us at ronniandpopoki@gmail.com and we'll figure it out!

From Inside Japan

From the publisher, Epic: TEL: 078-241-7561·FAX: 078-241-1918

From Amazon.co.jp or your local bookseller

From the Popoki Peace Project ronniandpopoki@gmail.com



Contributions are always welcome!

Popoki Peace Project popokipeace-at-gmail.com

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>



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THANK YOU FROM POPOKI!