

Popoki



Newsletter

No.174 2020.2.25

ronniandpopoki (at) gmail.com

http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/index_e.html

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>



It's February! Where Popoki lives in Kobe, many people are worried about getting the flu or COVID-19. Popoki wears a mask and even though he doesn't like getting wet, he washes his paws well and often. We hope you are healthy and taking care to stay that way!

Popoki's Hot News!



Coming up!

8 March Reading Popoki

at Kobe City 23rd Chuo-ku Volunteer Gathering!

17 March Pot Luck Party #3 -

Chat and decorate salmon (SHAKE HAND) with Kawarahata Yoko and others @ Us Park, Nada-ku, Kobe

10 April Report on Popoki Friendship Story activities in Tohoku!

Hope to see you there!

Piece of Peace

One of Popoki's friends, Cole (Aastha-nyan's partner) sent the following piece of peace. "I feel at peace when I lay down at night after an honest day's work, knowing I've done everything in my power to be the best possible husband, son, dog parent, and neighbor. All while doing whatever I can to make my little sliver of this planet, a better place".

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 !



The 20th Central Japan YMCA Global Education Forum

Osaka YMCA Global Department



The 20th Central Japan YMCA Global Education Forum was held over the two days from February 1st to the 2nd. We had the pleasure to welcome Ronni Alexander from Kobe University as the main facilitator, conducting several workshops for the theme [Gender and Peace]. Our participants came from various places of origin and age range, which contributed to the depth of conversation throughout the conference.

During the first and second sessions, our participants spent time getting to know one another with several ice breaking activities and presentations and reports about several recent events from several YMCAs.

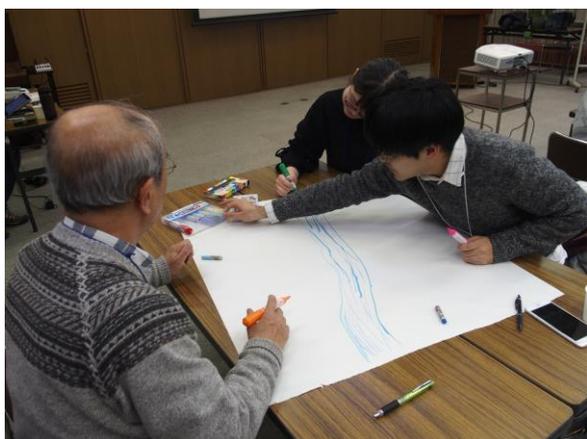
Session 3 started off with a workshop using Ronni's picture book "Popoki" (Popoki means cat in Hawaiian). Participants were split into groups and discussed why Popoki was sad and why no one was helping to make Popoki feel better. The group was diverse with different personalities and age ranges, but that didn't stop the participants who were actively engaged and voicing their opinions. This was particularly true for the second-year high school participants and international students studying Japanese, as they provided input that is from the perspective of the youth.



In the second half of the workshop, participants also had to determine different occupations and gender of 10 cats which were displayed in different colors and with different physiques. Each group was given the same 10 career paths to choose from, along with having to select 5 career paths being a male profession and 5 being a female profession. All the group members had to agree with the final conclusion, which prompted discussions of whether it is right to judge based on just visual appearances. Everyone got to compare the

results from the different groups and listen to their report on what approach and perspective they used to come to their conclusions.

Ronni facilitated from session 4 onwards. During session 4, participants had to draw a river portraying their life and write down anything they have encountered that is related to sex or gender. As each group had members of various age range and genders, participants were able to contribute their opinions to the extent they felt comfortable. In doing so, it created a welcoming and safe atmosphere for participants to open up and talk about sex and gender as it is something uncomfortable to do with unfamiliar people. Ronni ended this workshop connecting the river activity with the concept of "unconscious bias." This made our participants think about how we have been creating opinions based on our unconscious bias.



Session 5 started with Poga (Popoki's Yoga).

Ronni

first broke the ice with an exercise asking us to use five photos to express our sex and gender. She continued with a lecture on sex, gender and difference. To apply this concept to our everyday lives, she asked participants yes-or-no (or maybe) questions related to sex and gender (eg. should we accept genderless bathrooms?). On the question "Have you ever wished you were a different gender?" most of the participants who answered "no" were men. To this, Ronni analyzed, "People who feel content with their place in society and fit into the social norms (majority) do not have a sense of discomfort or disagreement, but those who are not content with the social norms and feel disadvantaged (minority) have a sense of discomfort, which is why they raise their voice for their rights. In a man-based society like Japan, women are at such a disadvantage. This is why in Japan, when the topic "gender issue," is discussed, people assume it is an issue focused on women.

After that, we deepened our understanding of LGBTQIA+ and SOGI, and continued to explore homosexuality, sexual minorities and its current state in Japan. While gender and education are closely related, the world is still in need of education for girls and women, as well as women's empowerment. Even though Japan is doing well for equality in education, (because of other factors such as economic and political factors), Japan is not ranked in the top 100 in the gender equality ranking. In countries with wars and conflicts, shocking content was shared: rape and sexual violence against women are being used as a weapon in war, and stories of young girls being sold off as wives and giving birth at such a young age. We also got a chance to go around the Rokko facility to discover "sex and gender" hidden around us.

In Session 6, each group discussed and expressed their degree of anxiety on social issues using pipe cleaners. Using this activity, Ronni gave a lecture on diversity and inclusion, and expressed the importance of respecting differences.



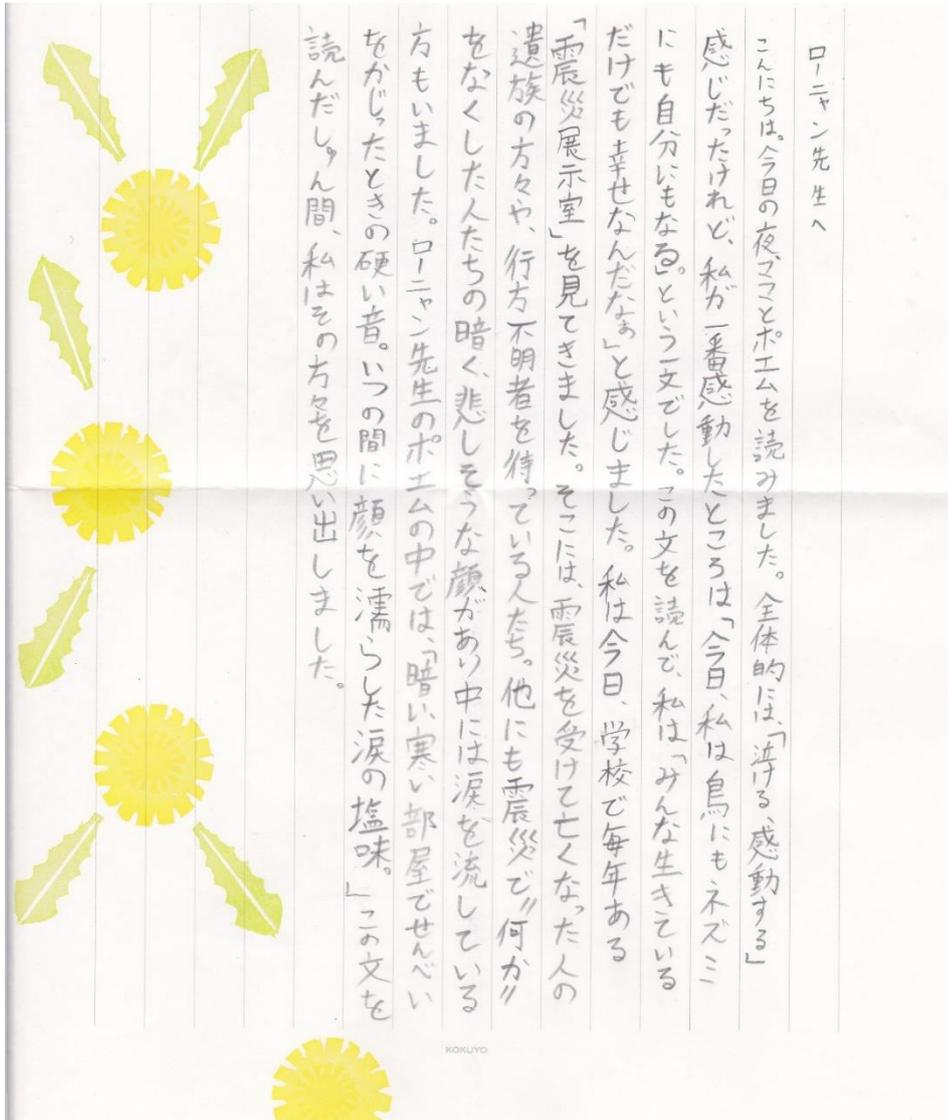
To conclude this workshop, each group was assigned to create their own pictorial story on 1 large poster paper split into 5 frames based on a crying Popoki. The stories reflected what we had learned in the past two days.

By conducting these workshops with diverse participants, we learnt how important it is to accept, understand and respect differences and to deepen our understanding of gender and peace.



Reading Ronyan's Poem about the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

A friend of Popoki's, Shiorinyan, read Ronyan's poem and sent her a letter. It was such a nice letter that we decided, with her permission, to share it. The poem was in Popoki News No.173 and can be seen on Popoki's website: http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/pdf/Popoki_News_No173%202020.1.pdf Shiori-nyan's 2-page letter, and an English translation, are below.



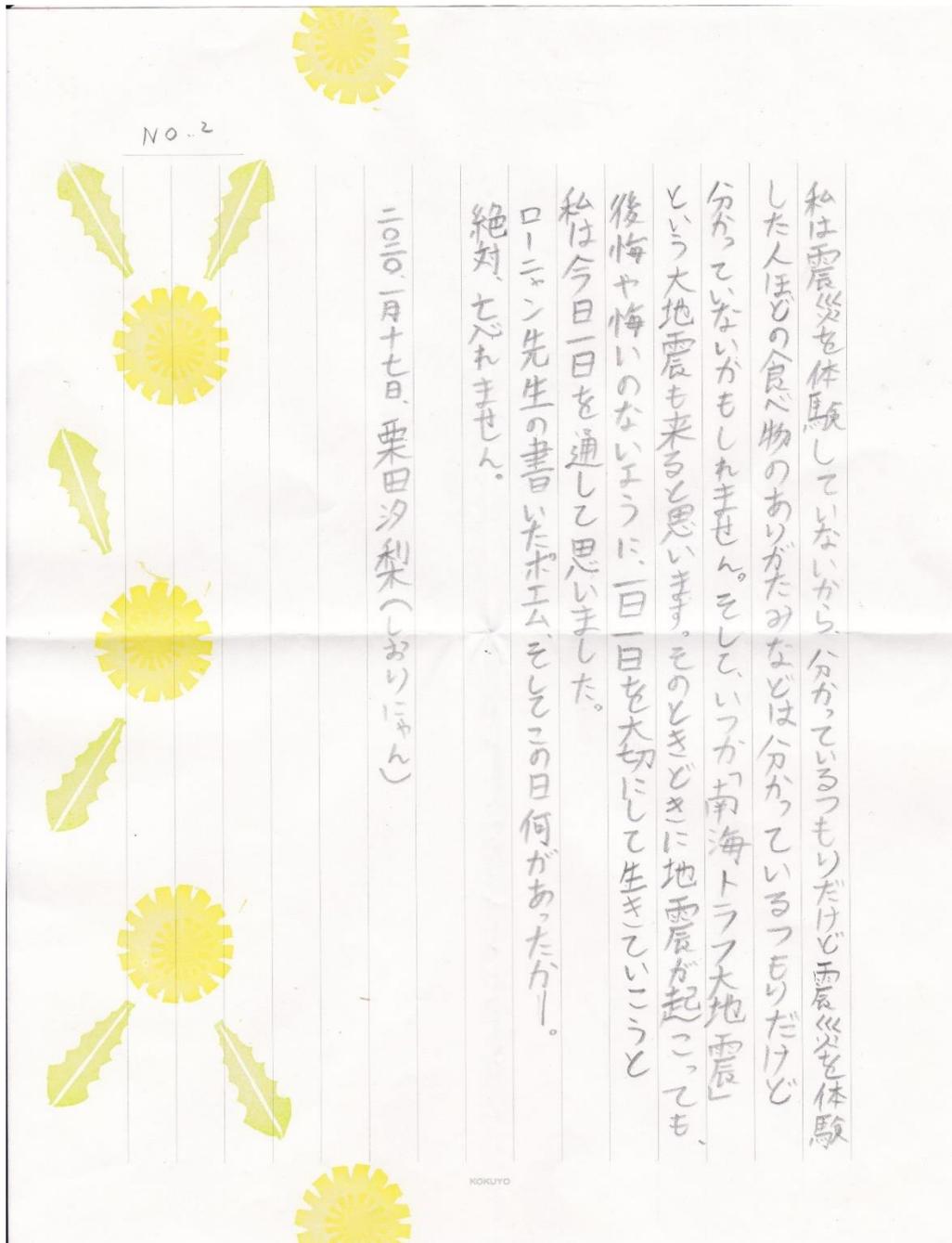
Dear Ronyan,

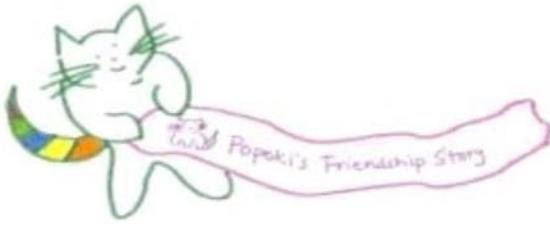
Hello. This evening, I read your poem with my mother. Overall it felt “tearful and moving,” but the part that moved me most was the sentence, “Today I will be a bird and a cat and a mouse and me, too.” When I read it, I felt that “everyone is alive.” Today at school, we had our annual visit to the “Disaster Exhibition Room.” There were photos of relatives of people who had been killed in the earthquake. There were also other photos, all of people who had lost “something” in the earthquake. All their faces were dark and sad, and among them were people who were crying. In your poem you

talk about, “The sharp crack when, sitting in a cold, dark room, I bit into a cracker. The salty tang of the tears that appeared out of nowhere on my cheek.” When I read that part, I thought of those people.

I have never experienced disaster so even though I think I understand, I don't know if I can really understand how much people who have experienced disaster appreciate food. And I think that someday, the “Nankai Trough” earthquake will happen. My experiences today made me think even if an earthquake happens, I want to live to the fullest and make every day count.

I will never forget Ronyan Sensei's poem or what happened on this day.





Popoki's Interview

*Two of Popoki's friends, Lauren (2019) and Minami (2018), attended the Kobe University UNESCO Chair Summer Program on Gender and Vulnerability in Disaster Recovery Support held at Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia. This month, they have interviewed each other about their experiences.

The 2018 UNESCO Chair Summer Program in Indonesia

Interview: Lauren Peng san Interviewer: Minami

1. Why did you attend this summer program?

At that time, I needed to choose from the two options. One was to have an internship in a private company and the other is to attend this program. I chose the latter, because I never had a chance to learn this kind of important issue in Taiwan before. So, it was an opportunity for me to learn. From some angles, it was like a way to connect with the world.

2. During the time in Indonesia, how did you spend the time with the local and Japanese students?

We basically knew nothing about the relationship between gender and disaster management so it was a little bit difficult for us to learn it. However, the local and the Japanese students helped us understand the presentation. We were grateful that all of the students and professors were all willing to teach us and it was easier to get to know what the class was talking about after their explanations. Also, after class, all of the students arranged a party together. We shared our country's special cuisine and then we talked about cultural differences. Everything was so fun at that time.

3. After spending two weeks in that program, what do you think was the most unforgettable session for you?

Although some of them were difficult or complex to learn, I would say that I learned a lot from all of the sessions there. I slowly understood the issues being tackled. If there was a class that stood out for me though, it would be the speech of professor Hafiz. It was not easy but he used a simple way to describe a complicated thing and that was really impressive.

4. How will you use the learning experience in Indonesia for the benefit of Taiwan?

Although there is no volcano in Taiwan, I still think disaster management is important. Indonesia got a well-organized way for us to learn so maybe we could try to devise our own and then use to prepare the people for any upcoming environmental disaster in Taiwan.



2018/09/11
Cultural performance



2018/09/13
The role play



2018/09/16
After class party

The 2019 UNESCO Chair Summer Program in Indonesia

Interview: Minami san

Interviewer: Lauren

1. Why did you attend this program?

I attended this program because I am interested in gender and disaster. I just thought that it would be great to learn more about these issues. Moreover, I had never been to Southeast Asia before so it was also a good chance to go there and learn about the program.

2. What was the most impressive thing you learned?

I learned a lot of things there actually. I learned not only about the gender and disaster issues, but also the culture and the different infrastructures in the country. In fact, I was really surprised by the Indonesian culture and lifestyle. They have the application in Indonesia called GO-JEK, it is like Uber in Japan but much cheaper and faster. Everything was new and interesting for me!

3. What do you think are the learnings that can be gained by Japan from the Summer Program in Indonesia?

In Indonesia, they have sister villages which can help to evacuate a village more efficiently and quickly. They usually evacuate villages as a group. This helps Indonesians build a strong relationship in the local area. I think these ways might be used in Japan too for tsunami, and other natural disasters.

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 2019/08/23 Popoki activity | 2019/08/27 interview | 2019/08/27 communication with children |
| | | |

POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 142

This month's theme twisting!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Now, stand up and cross your arms. Now, press your arms together evenly, and turn your upper body to the right, and then to the left.
3. Next, cross your legs, too. Pressing your arms and legs together, bend to the right and then to the left.
4. Now, get on your knees, crossing your arms in front of you. Stretch your right leg out behind you. Bring it back, and then stretch out your left leg.
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: 2020.3.17 16:30 @ As park (after the event)

3.8 Kobe Chuo-ku 23rd Volunteer gathering. Reading Popoki. 10:00~ Kinrokaikan 2F 317 10:00~11:30 Reading Popoki at Hatopoppo Nursery School (Kobe University Medical School) Popoki's time is 10:30-10:40.

2020.3.17 Pot luck Party with Drawing, Pictures Books, Disaster and Medical Care, Part 3. 14:30-16:30, 'As Park,' Nada-ku.

4.10 Report on Popoki Friendship Story Activities in Tohoku @ Kobe Student Youth Center 18:00~20:00

*** Please note that these activities may be cancelled in order to prevent further spread of the Corona virus.**

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, 2019.

Otsuchi-cho (July, 2019). *"Ikiru Akashi – Iwateken Otsuchi-cho Higashi nihon daishinsai kirokushi"* (Testimony of Living: A Record of the Great East Japan Earthquake in Otsuchi-cho, Iwate Prefecture). Editorial Supervision: Otsuchi-cho Board of Education, others.



絵と絵本と医療と災害の持ち寄りパーティ Part 3
Pot Luck Party with Drawings & Picture Books & Medical Care & Disaster

Making thoughts into shapes
「思いを形にする」

岩手県大槌町「おばちゃんくらぶ」代表 ^{Kawahata Yoko} 川原畑洋子さん トーク &
^{Otsuchi Obachan Club} おおつち「おばちゃんくらぶ」SHAKE HANDワークショップ ^{Workshop}

日時 2020年3月17日(火) (14:00~16:30)

場所 あすパーク(灘区大和公園南側内) As Park (Yamato Park, South Side, Nada-ku)
〒657-0032 神戸市灘区中郷町5丁目1大和公園南側内

<http://www.cskobe.com/aspark/>

Tel (当日・会場) 078-200-5293

information
問い合わせ先

^{Popoki} ポーポキ・^{Peace} ピース・^{Project} プロジェクト FAX 078-304-2790.

e-mail ronniandpopoki@gmail.com

Fee
参加費

200円 (ヌードサケ代) ¥200 (for nude salmon)



メッセージ・Message

私たちは日常生活の中で「不安」になるきっかけが多数あります。災害が起これば不安になりますが、どうすれば自分や周りの人を落ち着かせることができるのか。我々は、創造的な活動を通して「安心」をつくる可能性を探ってきました。

阪神・淡路大震災から25年、東日本大震災から9年が経ちました。手作りの白いヌード鮭に様々な人が、東北への想いを込めて自由にデコレーションし、メッセージと一緒に大槌に帰します。そのデコレーション鮭が展示販売されることで、人と人の新たな繋がりができます。「不安」に思うだけではなく、より安心できる生活について語り合しましょう。



プログラム・Program

- 13:30 受付開始 Registration
- 14:00 あいさつ Greetings
- 14:05 ^{Kamishibai} 紙芝居「^{Popoki}ポーポキ、^{can you draw safety}安心って、描ける？」
- 14:15 川原畑洋子さんによる「おばちゃんくらぶ」の活動、震災後の経験などのお話
Kawahata Yoko "Obachan Club activities and Great Northeast Japan Disaster,
- 14:30 「ヌードの鮭に飾りをつけよう」Decorate 'nude' Salmon
参加者各自が「自分の鮭」を作りながら、自由に語り合います
- 15:30 作ったばかりの「自分の鮭」への思いを交換しましょう Share our work!
- 15:50 まとめ Concluding remarks
- 16:00 自由交流、トークタイム Talk time (16:30 解散)

主催：アート・災害・安心研究会(神戸大学社会システムイノベーションセンター)・共催：神戸大学ヒューマン・コミュニティセンター・協力：ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト、コミュニティ・サポートセンター神戸



絵と絵本と医療と災害の持ち寄りパーティ Part 3
Pot Luck Party with Drawings & Picture Books & Medical Care & Disaster

ゲスト紹介・Special guest

川原畑洋子 (かわらはた ようこ)



おおつち「おばちゃんくらぶ」代表。東日本大震災後、大槌町の被災女性たちと共に「おばちゃんくらぶ」を立ち上げ、手作り品の制作・販売を通して、被災地と全国各地を結ぶ活動を展開している。横浜、京都、神戸、岡山、沖縄などの方や世界中の方が、「白いヌード鮭」にさまざまな装飾を施し、チャリティイベント「Shake Hand」デコ鮭を主催し、3.11に展示販売会を開催。昭和30年8月生まれ。岩手県大槌町在住。

おおつち「おばちゃんくらぶ」

東日本大震災後、関西のデザイナーグループ(現 adu)と知り合い、「いつか生まれた川に必ず戻る鮭のように故郷へ帰って暮らしたい」「世界中の人が鮭と手仕事とデザインを通して手と手をつなぎ輪ができるように」「手仕事でおばちゃんたちが元気になるように」そんな思いの下に「おばちゃんくらぶ」ができ、Shake Hand プロジェクトが生まれました。Shake Hand は①Shake: ローマ字読みで大槌とかかわりが深い鮭、シャケ、②Hand=手、手仕事、③Shake Hand=2つを掛けて「握手」を意味しています。Shake Hand は、2014年に始まり、2017年から鮭の故郷である岩手県大槌町「おばちゃんくらぶ」が主催する「デコ鮭」活動がスタートしました。手作りした白いヌード鮭に様々な人が、東北への想いを込めて自由にデコレーションし、メッセージと一緒に大槌に帰します。そのデコ鮭が展示販売されることで、人と人の新たな繋がりができることや、手作りの楽しさが広がることを願っています。



デコ鮭の写真は、左から「ヌード鮭」、「Shake Hand 大賞」、「Shake Hand 賞」。

**各地でヌード鮭に、各自が自由に飾りをつけて、メッセージも添えて、大槌町にもどします。

***おばちゃんくらぶの手作りの品<バック、小物入れ、デザイン手ぬぐい等>は神戸「あすパーク」で展示販売。メール・電話にて注文販売



ポーポキ・Popoki

神戸生まれの平和が大好きなねこ。みんなと友だちになって、仲良くしたい。

A cat born in Kobe who loves peace who wants to be everyone's friend.

アート・災害・安心研究会

神戸大学社会システムイノベーションセンターの研究プロジェクト:「様々な表現方法を用いた災害コミュニケーションの発展可能性に関する学際研究~安全安心を軸に~」(2017年~2019年)。

研究代表:アレキサンダー・ロニー。

Popoki in Print * Back issues of Popoki News:



http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html

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- ESD Digital Archives, Kansai Council of Organizations for International Exchange
<http://www.interpeople.or.jp>
- “Peace Picture Book Published – linked to disaster support in East Japan” *Kobe Shimbun* (2014.3.25) KIHARA Kana
- “Awards given to 37 groups Daiwa Securities Foundation” *Kobe Shimbun* (2013.8.23 p.8)
- “Reproducing ‘human shadows’ and asserting no nukes” *Kobe Shimbun* (2013.8.7 p.22)
- ‘Draw inner thoughts about disaster’ *Yomiuri Shimbun* 2013.2.16:4 (evening edition; Japanese)
- “‘Safe’ and ‘Secure’ Society is from the bottom-up”, *Mainichi Shimbun Interview with Ronni Alexander*, 2012.10.29, p.1 (evening edition; Japanese)
- R. Alexander. “Remembering Hiroshima: Bio-Politics, Popoki and Sensual Expressions of War.” *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. Vol.14:2:202-222, June 2012
- “Article 9 is at the base of Peace with Popoki” *Kodomo to Mamoru 9 jono kai News*, No.66, 2012.5.12
- “Hope on 60 meters of cloth” Etsuko Akuzawa. (In Japanese) *Asahi Shimbun* 2012.1.21
- “Voice for Peace made into a book” Masashi Saito. (in Japanese) *Kobe Shimbun*, 2012.1.19
- K. Wada. “Conversations with Ronni Alexander: The Popoki Peace Project; Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki, What Color is Friendship?” *International Feminist Journal of Politics* Vol.13, No.2, 2011, 257-263
- S. McLaren. “The Art of Healing”(Popoki Friendship Story Project) *Kansai Scene*. Issue 133, June 2011, p.10. kansaiscene.com
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- 省窓: Column in *Kobe YMCA News*, No.606, 2011.1, p.1 (*In Japanese*)
- “If we all participate, something will change! Reflecting on Palestine” *THE YMCA* No.607 June 2010, p.1 (*YMCA Japan Monthly Newspaper*)
- Hiroshima and the World: What Color is Hiroshima? Chugoku Shimbun Peace Media Center, http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/mediacenter/article.php?story=20100312140608602_en 2010.3.15
- FM COCOLO 76.5 ‘Heart Lines’ 2010.1.9 Japanese Interview: Ronni on Popoki in Palestine
- “Human Rights, Popoki and Bare Life.” *In Factis Pax Journal of Peace Education and Social Justice* Vol.3, No.1, 2009, pp.46-63 (<http://www.infactispax.org/journal/>)
- Nishide, Ikuyo. “Popoki, What Color is Peace? Lecture by Ronni Alexander.” “PPSEAWA” (Pan-Pacific and south-East Asia Women’s Association of Japan), No.63, 2009.12, p.5
- ‘Friendship’ No.2 2009.11 Itami City International/Peace Exchange Commission, Annual Events, p.1-2.
- ‘Not for But With...’ No.79, 2010.1 Notice of the Popoki Peace Challenge event. P.12
- ‘Nada’ notice of the Popoki Peace Challenge event, 2009.12, p.2
- ‘Yujotte...Kangaeru Ehon.’ *Asahi Shimbun* 2009.7.2 AKUZAWA Etsuko
- ‘Yujo wo kangaete – Ningen to, Neko to, soshite Jibun to,’ *RST/ALN*, No.259 2009.6.28, p.11
- ‘New Books: *Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki’s Peace Book 2*’ (Rebecca Jennison) “Cutting-Edge,” Vol.35 2009.6, p.3
- ‘Thinking about Peace with a Cat: Second Peace Book Published.’ (SAITO Masashi) *Kobe Shimbun*, 2009.4.21
- ‘Popoki, What Color is Peace?’ *Kobe YMCA News*, 2009.3.1. No.593. p.2
- ‘Popoki, What Color is Trash?’ *Kobe YMCA News*, 2009.1.1. No.592. p.2
- ‘Tomodachi ni Natte Kuremasenkai,’ *RST/ALN*, 2009.2.22
- Popoki on the radio. <http://www.kizzna.fm/> Click on 6CH to hear the program and reading of Popoki in Japanese (No longer available)
- *Yasashii kara hito nann desu* Exhibition Organizing Committee ‘Universal Declaration of Human Rights.’ Hyogo Buraku Liberation and Human Rights Institute. 2008.10. ¥500. For information contact: blrhyg@osk3.3web.jp
- “KFAW College Seminar: What Color is Peace for Women? Thinking about Peace, Violence and Gender with Popoki.” *Asian Breeze* No.54 October 2008, p.8 (Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women)
- *Kobe Shimbun* “Human Rights Declaration Exhibition Panels: 6 Local Hyogo Artists Illustrate all 30 Articles” 2008.10.8. p.10
- “An Interview with Dr. Ronni Alexander.” *The Newpeople*, Pittsburgh’s Peace and Justice Newspaper, Vol.38 No.9, October 2008, p.5
- Human Security – Dr. Ronni Alexander speaks about Hiroshima and Nagasaki.” *The Newpeople*, Pittsburgh’s Peace and Justice Newspaper, Vol.38 No.9, Oct. 2008, p.4
- Popoki in Pittsburgh. Check out the Remembering Hiroshima/Imagining Peace URL: <http://www.rememberinghiroshima.org/>



What Popoki Means to Me

Toyoko Morita (Kagoshima University)

I went to Iran for the first time in 1989 with my classmates. We were taking Persian and Iranian Studies together at the university. The Iran-Iraq war had just ended in August of the previous year. In Tehran, we stayed at an Iranian's home. I remember we put a lot of thing in our luggage, because they had asked to us to bring some disposable diapers, powdered milk and so on for a newborn baby, and Iran had no supplies just after the war.

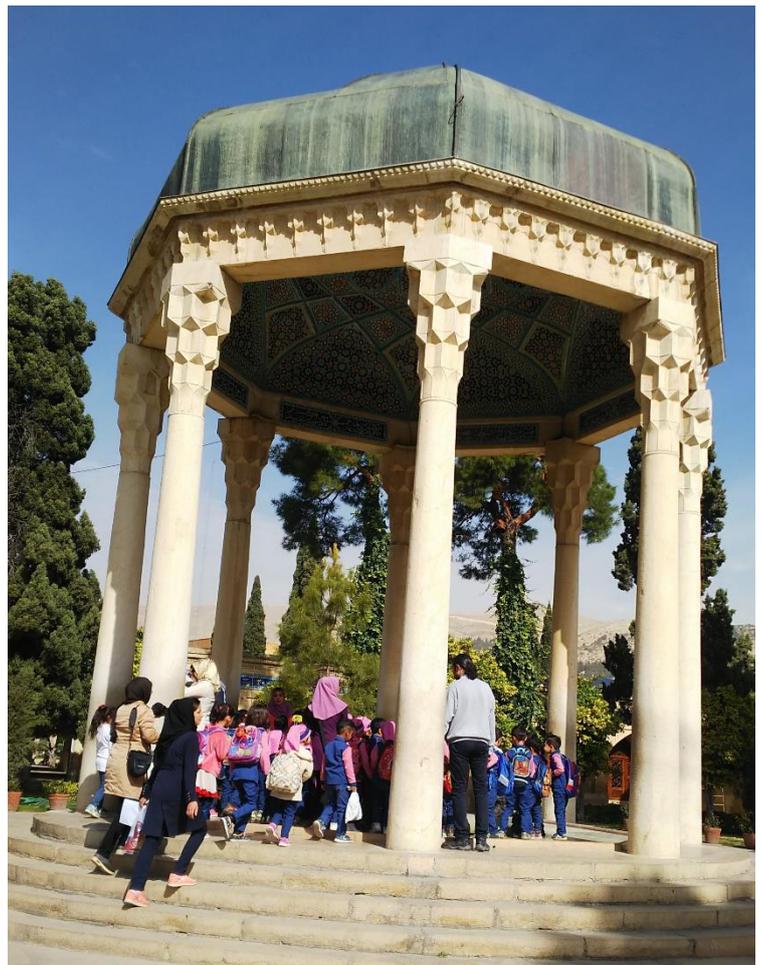
We witnessed the traces of bombing everywhere in the city. Behind a gate, there was a big hole in the place where the house had been. Cars without doors and windows were running normally, and no matter what we bought, they wrapped it in newspaper. Iranians were very kind to us in spite of the situation. They gladly welcomed us, sharing what small pieces of sweets and fruits they had. "We are really in a bad situation, but it's better than the days when we heard bombing warning sirens every day."

Iraq used banned chemical weapons during the war. However, no matter how raised the issue, no country was sympathetic or supportive because Iran did not have a good relationship with Western countries.

Thirty years later, the city of Tehran has no signs of war. It is overflowing with goods, even under economic sanctions. But I think Iranians still remember how difficult it is to fight in international isolation. In an international community where the "rightness" of a strong country is prioritized, it is important not to choose war as a way to solve problems.

I hope there will not be a war with Iran.

Photo: Tomb of poet Hafez and children



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

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