



It's spring! How is everyone doing? When you go for a picnic to see the spring flowers, please be sure to share with the stray cats! (Popoki)



A Popoki Workshop with a Solo-Cat Performance!

(HIGASHI Michiyo, Theatre 9)



On 8 March, we finally got our chance to have a Popoki workshop. The people who gathered in the Kobe Kinro Kaikan were members a Kobe Theatre Viewing Group called "Theatre 9," along with people who like the theatre and those who don't. The 28 participants ranged in age from a fourth grade primary school student to people in their seventies. We read Article 9 of the Constitution aloud and watched part of the DVD, 'Popoki's Peace Machine Journey.' The quiz, with questions like, "Where does Japan fit in the world military ranking?" was surprisingly difficult. In response to the question, "Do you like hamburger?" we easily found our places along a rope with one end YES and the other NO, but in response to "Is peace the absence of war?" we had more trouble. Then we were asked to think about 'non-peace,' something I had never considered before! Then, Satoko appeared with tiger-cat ears and tail and even wearing a cat nose! We joined in the solo-animal performance, laughing and thinking together about peace.



At the end, everyone danced around the room meowing. Reading aloud is nice, but performance art is fantastic! Finally, our four groups all drew pictures of walking paths in natural settings. Next time, I want to try writing a script for an 'Article 9 Performance.' Ronni, Satoko, thank you for a really wonderful workshop!



13 February

Nada Ward Article 9 Society & Union Joint Peace Workshop (Hirayama)



We invited Ronni Alexander to give a peace workshop using *Popoki's Peace Book 1*. About seventy ward office employees attended. For me, the part that had the most impact was the idea that peace is more than just the opposite of war. What does peace mean for you? What does it feel like? When do you feel at peace? Peace for Popoki is very sensory and easy to understand. I realized that until now, I have always thought about peace as something serious and far away from my everyday life.

The workshop was during our lunch break, so we did not have much time, but talking with my colleagues afterwards I discovered we had planted some good seeds. Here is a comment from one participant. "When Ronni said, 'Let's count together to ten!' I enthusiastically joined in counting, 'One! Two! Three....' I was shocked by her next words. 'In the time it took us to count from one to ten, three children died of preventable causes.' Just in that time I was counting and not really thinking...It is not fair that children who should be able to have healthy lives are dying. What can I do? I think I'll start by sharing this with people close to me."





Walking for Peace

TSUCHIYA Fumiko

Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University



I walked with Popoki on my back. It was a clear spring day. Popoki probably thought it was perfect for a peace walk, too! This peace walk left Hiroshima on 24 February and came to Kobe on 16 March. Many of the people had walked all the way from Hiroshima, but it was a Sunday and as many young people joined for the day, there were about 50 people. In the afternoon, a drum troupe performed as they walked and



someone came in a Godzilla costume so it was quite exciting. I was most surprised by a university student from Miyazaki who had run into the peace walk while traveling in Okayama and decided to walk all the way to Makuhari. "This is my only chance to do this! It seems like fun so I'm going to go all the way!" Recently, I seem to have lost my enthusiasm, but looking at him, I felt it return. Until just a few years ago, I was just like him, jumping at any chance that came along, but I have started using being



busy as an excuse to take the easy way out. Afterwards, as I was feeling just a little bit sore, I thought about how easy it is to say one will continue to enjoy being involved, but how difficult it is to do. This spring, I will start my first job. I'll try to remember this feeling and greet each day with a smile. I'll try to continue not just with the peace walk, but walking with Popoki on my back!

Popoki in Print

- Kansai Time Out, March 2008
- 'Gakuen no Mado' *Ryoso* 376, Kobe University Alumni Magazine, pp.17-18
- 'Volunteer he no Sasoi' Kobe University STYLE 2008 SPRING Vol.9 pp.9-10
- This is not really about Popoki, but ... 'Itsumade "Gaijin"? Kokuseki wo megutte kanjita "nande"' *Asahi Shimbun* 2008.1.25
- "What Color is Peace?" (KATSURAGI Satoko) *Kobeshi Yakuzaishikai Tsushin*, No. 36 'Kaiin no hiroba,' p.13



What Popoki Means to Me

This time, I asked one of the neighborhood cats to write something. (Ronni)

Talking to Myself

by nEKO

Hello, my name is Cat.

The other day, I went to help my friend Popoki do a workshop (see, I know fancy words like 'workshop')!

I'm a well mannered cat, so of course I greeted everyone. And what did they do? Their eyes grew very wide and they all laughed, even Ronni! How rude!

And that's not all. I asked a man to tell me the color of peace and he said, "The color of roses." I like flowers, so I told him that roses come in all different colors, and he said, "Pink."

So white and red aren't the color of roses?

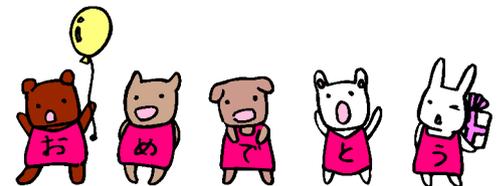
Or maybe all the roses at his house are pink....

My new young friend said the color of peace is white.

She had trouble giving a reason so her mother helped her.

She said it was because white can become any color.... Is that really so?
If you mix white paint with red paint, it doesn't turn red...it becomes pink....
A lot of strange things happened, but everyone sang with me and they did the
'cat walk' with me.

I had a really good time, so if Popoki asks nicely, maybe I'll help him again.
How about you? Would you like to join us?



Please join us!

Let's all go to the Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War!

Popoki is not Japanese but he likes Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, so in May he is going to Makuhari to discuss peace with people from around the world. Why don't you join us? 2008.5/4-6 Makuhari Messe Advance tickets: 1000 yen/day; Regular price: 1500/day. info@whynot9.jp <http://whynot9.jp>

UPCOMING POPOKI EVENTS

- 4.12 Workshop. Details to follow. Location : Youth Plaza KOBE EAST (North of Hankyu Mikage station)
- 4.25 'Peace Studies Seminar' 15 :00-16 :30 Itami Hall (3 minutes north of Hankyu Itami Station). Reservations : Itami City Hall, International Affairs and Peace Dept. Tel : 072-784-8148
- 5.5 Workshop 'Popoki, What Color is Peace ?' 10 :00-12 :30 Room 202. Global Article Nine Conference to Abolish War, Makuhari Messe. We're hoping to have a booth on the 4th and 5th, too. Volunteers welcome !
- 5.23 Reading with children at *Kodomo no Sato* [Nishinari-ku, Osaka] 17 :00-18 :30

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 including work on *Popoki's Peace Book 2. Popoki, What Color is Peace?* has been translated into Thai, Chinese, Korean, Khmer, Indonesian, Tetun and Bengali. Farsi, Lao and 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, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1* from outside of Japan

1. Go to your local Japanese bookstore: Kinokuniya, Maruzen, etc. (or their website)
2. In North America, thanks to a very satisfied customer, *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1* can be ordered from Kinokuniya Bookstore in Los Angeles. The bookstore is at www.los_angeles@kinokuniya.com and the telephone number is 213.687.4480. The price is US\$20.00 plus tax.

How to purchase *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1* from

popoki.cruisejapan.com
popokipeace@yahoo.co.jp

inside Japan

There are various ways.

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 (popokipeace.yahoo.co.jp)

Contributions are always welcome!

Popoki Peace Project popokipeace@yahoo.co.jp



<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>

From within Japan, please use Popoki's Postal account.

Account Name ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト神戸

Account number: 00920-4-280350



THANK YOU FROM POPOKI !