



It is finally spring and cats are sleeping happily in the sun. Humans have to deal with the new school and fiscal years.... Hopefully this 'Popoki News' will make you smile in spite of everything!



Popoki on TV

I'm going to be on TV, along with Ronni and her seminar students!

2 May; Sun TV (Channel 3); 17 : 00-17 : 45; a 9-minute interview

on the news program 'Signal.' The topic is the Article 9 Global Conference to be held next week. Please have a look....but only people in Kansai. Sorry about that!

—— Popoki



Popoki Goods!

Last week, we gathered in Ronni's office to make postcards and seals to sell at the Article 9 Global Conference. It is a really messy office!



"Art is difficult!" →

←Very serious!



The person hiding in the background is Sanada-san →



Comments from Theatre 9 Participants

(In the last issue of Popoki News we had an article about a Theatre Nine Workshop on 8 March. The participants sent their comments. Please have a look).



- ◇ I enjoyed myself and had a chance to think again about peace. Maybe being able to think about peace like that is peace... N. 40's Female
- ◇ This was possible because our theatre group is so diverse in age. Thank you. A. 60's Male
- ◇ If I have a chance, I'd like to hear Ronni speak again. M. 50's female
- ◇ I think it was the first time I have ever thought about 'non-peace.' It was refreshing. Y. 50's Female
- ◇ It is hard to define 'peace' in simple terms. When we were asked, "Is Japan peaceful?" I chose the 'no' side, but when I was asked "What about Japan isn't peaceful?" it took a long time to answer so I really felt how difficult it is to define. T.Y. 40's Male
- ◇ I was able to think about 'peace' close to me rather than as something large and removed. K. 50's Female
- ◇ I was impressed at the end when you said, "I want to be seen just as me." You have a nice smile, and it made me smile and feel good. Thank you. S.O. 30's F
- ◇ I could enjoy thinking about peace. Thank you. U. 20's Female
- ◇ I learned many new things. M. 40's Female
- ◇ Up until now we always had lectures, so I felt a bit uncomfortable with the format. G.K. 54 Male
- ◇ I was surprised that peace could feel so close, but when I tried to express it in the drawing I had a really hard time. I really felt my lack of imagination. T.Y. 60's Male





12.04.2008

“Peace Book Workshop” Report

Youth Plaza KOBE • EAST

MATSUZAKI Hiroki

Date/Time : 12 April 2008 10 : 30~12 : 30

Venue : Youth Plaza KOBE • EAST (Mikage Glasse 4F)

Instructor : Ronni Alexander (Kobe YMCA International Committee member & professor, Kobe University)

Content : Workshop using Ronni Alexander's book, *Popoki, What Color is Peace?*



Participants : 15 people (M:F 6 : 9)

Comments from participants :



- I thought about peace with Popoki. I don't usually think about these things, but I felt that I want to become someone who can go out in the world and try to help others.
- I really enjoyed myself. I don't like drawing, but it was fun anyway. I really felt how difficult it is to define peace in words.... But I thought it would be good if many different people were able to use their five senses to feel peace.
- I felt like I was young again and thinking about a difficult subject like peace. The two hours passed in a flash. If we had also learned about the serious conditions in other countries perhaps I could have felt more serious about what I was doing.
- It was very interesting. I was surprised about the approach to the concepts of peace and peace in local areas. Also, I like Popoki's book.... I learned how to make a mobile. Maybe I'll try one at home on my own.
- I was impressed with the methodology which allowed everyone to think about peace rather than forcing it on us.



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I want to try it at the Youth Plaza KOBE WEST too. I hate war!



- It was a short time, but I was grateful for this opportunity to think again about peace. We've become used to living in peace, and I thought I need to be more aware of it in my everyday life.
- It was a very meaningful seminar, where we could learn from other participants, work together and learn about 'peace' from the book. Thank you. I hope there will be more fun seminars like this in the future....
- I enjoyed spending a peaceful time. Thank you. I hope you do many more workshops. The atmosphere is good and it is easy to speak, regardless of age, so you can hear a lot of different opinions. People can express their own thoughts, even though Japanese people don't like to give their opinion.



• When we each read from the book, we were in a circle around Prof. Alexander. I don't know why, but I became really excited. I remembered being a child. My group did not make the mobile, but it looked like a really interesting project. It has been a while since I've participated in one of Prof. Alexander's workshops, and it made me remember how much I enjoy them.

- The time was over in an instant. I could feel peace in a relaxed way. I hope that young people such as junior high or high school students will have a chance to experience this workshop.
- It was a really good workshop, where we could think about peace together with Popoki and experience trying to think of how to make a contribution to peace. This workshop must be the result of Ronni's diverse life experiences, meeting different people in different countries. It was a good workshop for a place like this Youth Plaza Kobe East, which is not a school. I hope there are more workshops like this. Let's work together for peace!
- This was the first opportunity I've had to think about peace and it was very good. Thank you. I enjoyed myself. Recently I have been only thinking about what is right in front of me, but this workshop let me think about lots of things! I liked the idea of having everyone read from the book. I enjoyed reading aloud rather than just reading to myself.





Popoki in Itami City



City

flower:



azalea

On 25 April, 30 people from local international exchange groups came together for a workshop sponsored by the Peace and International Affairs Section of the Itami City Municipal Office. Using “Eight Famous Sights of Itami,” participants were asked to think about how to make Itami a place that is international and peaceful for Popoki and everyone else. At the beginning,



rather than being a lecture was a participatory workshop.



When the activity began, one group which consisted entirely of men called out for help! But then, they showed us the fruit of their varied life experiences.

←

‘Non-peace’!?!

Everyone made talents. At first everyone The room was laughter as we It was really an enjoyable experience.



a contribution, using their they were shy, but gradually became more outspoken. filled with smiles and examined each group’s work.



← Itami children make food for Popoki

Is peace having things the way they used to be? ↑



Popoki is sitting on top of the Torii gate, a symbol of peace

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

What Popoki Means to Me

Recently, one of Popoki's friends, Rebecca, sent the following e-mail. It was a bit surprising to learn that children in pre-school in the Eastern US are learning Aikido and Japanese! (Ronni)

I shared Popoki with a friend and she gave it to her 4 year old grandson. He and his mother live in western Massachusetts. On a visit, his mother read him the book and in his pre-school, where they do aikido and practice counting in Japanese, it was a great success and much appreciated! Thank you.

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

- 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!
- 5.14 Po-kai Planning future activities. Kobe YMCA 19:00-

- 5.17 6th Kobe YMCA International Volunteer Seminar : Why do we hurt the earth so much ? Popoki will put in an appearance. Info : Kobe YMCA
- 5.31 Workshop on Reading Aloud with Rev. Masada (using Popoki !) 13 :00- Location : Youth Plaza KOBE EAST (North of Hankyu Mikage station)
- 5.23 Reading with children at *Kodomo no Sato* [Nishinari-ku, Osaka] 17 :00-18 :30
- 6.28 Popoki in Kitakyushu !



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.

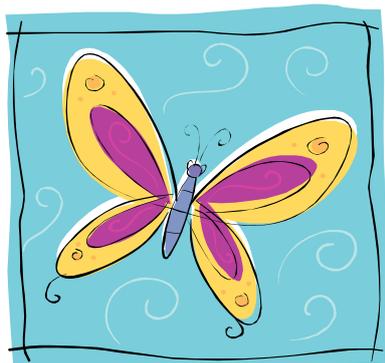
How to purchase *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1* from inside Japan

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 !