



It is turning cold. Popoki hopes that everyone has a nice heated carpet to keep them toasty! If not, at least you have this issue of Popoki News!



Popoki's Hot News!

Work starts in earnest on Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2! Please join us at Po-kai to be involved in the process!

Popoki in bookstores in North America! Popoki is now available in two more bookstores in North America: We are grateful to the proprietors and staff of these stores for giving Popoki a chance to make to new friends!

*** Joseph-Beth Booksellers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA**

<http://www.josephbeth.com/Default.aspx?StoreId=9&TabIndex=0&TabId=1&p=y>

*** Read for Your Life Book Store for Children in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
48 King St. N, Waterloo, ON; 1-519-342-0512**

Popoki joins in a series of posters illustrating the World Declaration on Human Rights sponsored by the Buraku Liberation Institute of Hyogo. The posters are available for use by interested groups. In addition to the posters, the Institute has also published a small book (¥500) of the posters and postcards (¥60/card). For more information see:

<http://www3.osk.3web.ne.jp/~blrhyg/sekaijinkensengen/paneru2.html>

Popoki on the radio! Kayoko URUGA, a friend of Popoki's has introduced Popoki's book on the radio. Click on <http://www.kizzna.fm/> (6CH)! (The broadcast is in Japanese).



Popoki and Human Rights!

29th Buraku Liberation Research Hyogo Prefecture Conference (2008.11.16)

Rebecca Jennison

For Greta Cramer

500 people? A “participatory” keynote lecture? I knew that Ronni-sensei would be giving the keynote address at the Hyogo Prefecture Human Rights conference, and that it would be on the morning after she had returned from Canada (and her mother’s funeral). I admit that I was worried about how Ronni-sensei would be holding up and how the day would go. But when I walked into the packed hall and finally found a seat next to Mori-san, I could see that all was going well and that there were 499 people around me listening attentively and ready for action.



While using her wonderful “Po Human Rights Posters” to remind us of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Ronni-sensei impressively interwove comments that showed the relevance of the concepts embraced in the Declaration to the lives and actions of all of us sitting in the room. Around me, teachers and activists, many of whom have struggled for decades against barriers—both visible and invisible—that block discriminated-against *Buraku* people and other minorities from full participation in Japanese society, listened as Ronni-sensei talked about the challenges so many face in trying to find a safe and peaceful place in society.

Just as I was settling into my seat, enjoying the power point and soaking up the words and ideas, Ronni-sensei announced that it was time for *us* to get involved and talk with each other about what things we think are necessary for creating a peaceful and secure world. Soon, she was walking down the aisles in the audience, ready to hand over the microphone to participants. ‘Oh no,’ I thought, ‘another Po-Question that makes me want stop and think for at least fifteen minutes, but we only have three!’ The man sitting next to me looked a bit nervous too, and I doubt that he has had many opportunities to speak to a foreigner, but there we were. As the scattering of soft voices around us turned into a quiet hum of conversations, we too began to talk and toss around thoughts and ideas, and came to a couple of tentative conclusions of our own—in three minutes!



Each time I hear Ronni-sensei speak or give a workshop, I am amazed at the way she can touch “a personal nerve” (for me this time, it was being a female, foreign worker in a Japanese university), and then connect individual concerns to works and struggles going on around the world. This time too, we traveled through words and images with Popoki to Israel, Palestine and East Timor, trying to imagine the different colors and shapes of peace in each place.

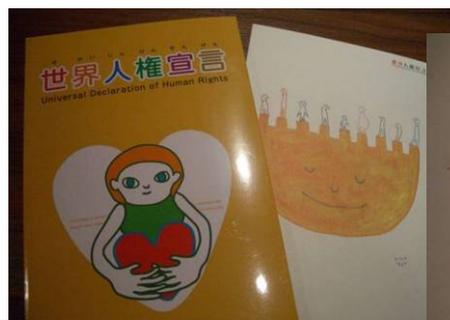


After the lecture, Popoki Peace Project books were selling fast. I was sure that after the long and difficult journey she had made the day before, and the keynote lecture for 500 people, Ronni-sensei would be ready to sit down. But no, there she was, standing with many-colored pens in hand, ready to sign books. I think some of us were amazed that there were so many men of a respectable age and in suits, lining up for her signature—and that so many of them wanted their books to be signed in bright, soft colors like purple. A good number of books were sold which must mean it's time to get down to work on Popoki's Peace Book 2!



I regret not having had the chance to meet Greta and tell her in person about the wonderful work Ronni-sensei and the Popoki Peace Project are doing. But then I somehow feel she might have been there in that hall, beaming at the sight of so many teachers and activists whose hearts and minds were touched by Ronni-sensei's “Sankagata (participatory) Keynote Lecture.”

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The ‘Universal Declaration of Human Rights’ poster collection in which Popoki appears has been made into a small book which was on sale at the conference (¥500). For more information contact: blrhyg@osk3.3web.ne.jp

http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/index_e.html
popokipeace@yahoo.co.jp

Israel-Palestine Report in KOBE PORT Y'S MEN'S CLUB

MORI Kyoko



We gave a report about our Israel-Palestine Trip to the Kobe Port Y's Men's Club on Nov.13 at Kobe YMCA. The participants included around 10 members of the club and two guests. Our reporters were Satoko-san, Iwanaga-san and me (Mori).

Our report was around one hour, and everyone was listening with rapt attention. Among the questions was one question about the weather, such as how hot it was. That question brought back to me some memories of before I went left for Palestine. It is true that I also worried about the weather.

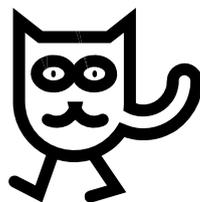
When giving this report, there was one thing that surprised me. I realized that my memories and my emotions have been fading away little by little in the three months since our trip. Of course the speed of the fading is different for each person. And also we can not feel the same now as we felt at the time we were there. Every



time I confront an issue, I wonder how I can connect with it in my every day life. This time was a good opportunity for me to think about that question. It is surely hard to



connect the situation in Israel and Palestine to my daily life, but giving this report was good for me because it gave me a good chance to think about it. It is difficult to not just be too involved in my every life, but I think maybe one thing I can do as a start is to keep thinking about those experiences in the back of my mind, even when I am busy with other things.



Po-kai Report for November



SATOKO

We met twice, on Sunday, November 16 and Tuesday, the 25th. On the 16th, we met at the Nada Ward Pharmacist Association Office, after the lecture meeting of Prof. Alexander and Po book sales. On the 25th we met at Kobe YMCA.

Why did we meet twice when usually we only have one regular meeting a month? Why did we meet after a big event? If you know the answer, you must be a considerable Po expert.

Yes!!! The moment we have all be waiting for! Peace Book 2!!!

In order to finish up within the year and have it released by the end of March, we began work in earnest. The title is: *Popoki What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2.*

First the people who gathered on the 16th talked about what we associate with the word "Friendship." For example, "Someone with whom you can share your worries," "Someone with whom you want to share a meal," "Someone with whom you can talk about your hopes and dreams," or "Someone with whom you can talk about what you really think or feel." Do



these illustrate a best friend? 'Friendship,' 'best friend,' 'peace,' and 'happiness'.... It is hard to define these, but gradually somehow we will find a way. Popoki, help!

On the 25th, some other people also joined us. We had an outspoken and uproarious time. The meaning of what we discussed is really deep. There is no doubt that it is going to be an exciting book. It is already exciting!

Won't you join us?

Is being able to act together friendship? A difference of opinion is not a problem if there is friendship? Is peace being able to think together?

I'm looking forward to being joined



by more new members at the next meeting of Po-kai.

Please join us!



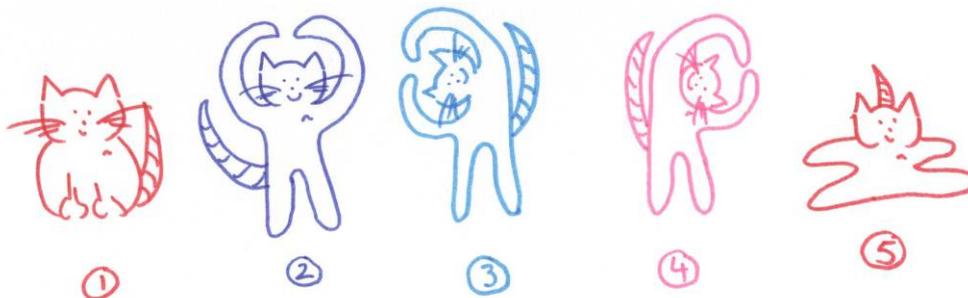
- 12. 2 'Popoki in Palestine' Report. Kobe Eiga Circle, 18:40 ~20:30
Venue: Asteppe Kobe 2K Room 3
- 12.10 Ronni Alexander. 'Sexual Minorities' (Popoki will no doubt put in an appearance).
Kobe University Student Earthquake Rescue Corps, 17:30-19:30 Venue: Kobe University Faculty of International Cultural Studies, Room B101
- 12.16 Po-kai 18:00~ Kobe YMCA 304
Part 1 18:00 Working together on Popoki's Peace Book 2!
Part 2 20:00 Po-enkai (restaurant near the YMCA)
- 09.01.25 ANZAI Ikuro & Ronni ALEXANDER Peace Talk Venue: Ritsumeikan University International Museum for Peace, 2F. 13:30 Information: 平和友の会 (Heiwa Tomonokai) (075-801-1990). ¥500
- 09.02.07~ YMCA Traveling Children's Drawings for Peace Kobe Exhibition
Event by Popoki's Friends
- Kansai Queer Film Festival 2009.1.23-1.27 HEP FIVE 8F <http://kansai-qff.org/>

Popoki's Easy POGA

Lesson 6

Time to relax with our next easy Poga lesson! Have you been practicing?

1. Sit up straight, and make yourself look thin.
 2. Standing up straight, raise your arms and curve them above your head. Smile!
 3. Now bend to one side, still keeping your arms in the same position. Raise your tail straight up on the side opposite your arms, and smile on that side, too!
 4. Now switch sides, keeping yours arms in the same position. Remember to keep your tail straight up on the other side, and to switch your smile, too!
 5. You did it! Very good! Time for the 'success pose.'
- Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 6.



That was easy, wasn't it! Remember to practice every day for at least 3 minutes. See you next month for lesson 7!

Popoki in Print



- Popoki on the radio. <http://www.kizzna.fm/> Click on 6CH to hear the program and reading of Popoki in Japanese
 - *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)
 - "Peace Seminar in Kumamoto: What does 'peace' mean to you?" *Kumamoto YMCA News* 10 Vol.437 October 2008, p.1 (Japanese)
 - *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
 - "Nuclear Security is Inhuman Security – Dr. Ronni Alexander speaks about Hiroshima and Nagasaki." *The Newpeople*, Pittsburgh's Peace and Justice Newspaper, Vol.38 No.9, October 2008, p.4
 - Popoki in Pittsburgh. Check out the Remembering Hiroshima/Imagining Peace URL: <http://www.rememberinghiroshima.org/>
 - Global Campaign for Peace Education News #57 August 2008 (The Global Campaign for Peace Education (GCPE) e-newsletter. Sign-up to receive the newsletter and review back issues online at www.tc.edu/PeaceEd/newsletter.)
 - Editorial "The Anniversary of the End of the War" *Kobe Shimbun* 2008.8.15
 - "Looking toward the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons." *Chugoku Shimbun* 2008.7.27 (A three-hour interview about nuclear deterrence. Even though I spoke a lot about Popoki, he wasn't included!)
 - *Hyogo Buraku Kaiho*, 2008.6 (Autumn). Buraku Liberation Research Institute of Hyogo. This features some of the Human Rights Posters.
 - *Hyogo Buraku Kaiho*, 2008.6 (Summer). Buraku Liberation Research Institute of Hyogo. This features some of the Human Rights Posters.
- * **Back issues of Popoki News:** http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html

What Popoki Means to Me

Uddin Bashir

I came to know about Popoki in 2006 when the Popoki Peace Project first began. As a part of this project, *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1* was published in 2007. The book explores a range of diverse and dynamic ways to think about peace. The idea of peace is a highly abstract one. It has been said that there are various meanings of peace and it cannot be curtailed to *only one* sense. Thinking about peace from different angles is the central premise of *Popoki, What Color is Peace*. Popoki shows us how to imagine peace by raising different and simple questions like: what color is peace? What does it taste like? Or, what does it feel like? Indeed, these are the questions which may be really difficult to answer but they reveal the way to think more deeply about peace.

For me, Popoki is a messenger who provides us with the message of peace and brings all kinds of people together to the same table beyond their nationality, race, class or gender. He gives us the message through questions and imagination so that we can understand the positive meaning of peace. Positive peace, which is achieved through inclusion of the excluded, participation, empowerment and equality, is one of the important messages that I receive from Popoki. Popoki shows how to make peace through one's own imagination and embodiment of his/her life experience.



A farmer, in a village of Bangladesh, plowing in a winter morning lives with the imagination of a golden harvest every day. Hope for food-grains from this harvest may be peace in his daily life!

Rather than focusing on peace in conventional terms, Popoki tells us how we can create peace in our everyday life by using our own ideas and creativity. Finally, achieving peace through the negation of all kinds of violence is the most important message for me from Popoki.

As a student of Transnational Relations, I have a keen interest in peace and security studies. As there are a lot of debates and contradictions in this field, I find it is hard to theorize them in one absolute direction. But when I read through Popoki, I find a rather simpler way to think about peace. Popoki helps me to understand peace by starting to think from the beginning. He helps me understand peace as achieving human rights and social justice through non-violent means.



Smiling children! These children's smiling faces may show that they are happy or they are in peace. But many of these children work for long hours in a dangerous and inhumane situation and their rights are not protected. Maybe protecting child rights is necessary for peace!

Popoki encourages me by making questions and finding answers through participation in discussions, workshops, meetings and other activities. Through all these means mentioned above, Popoki contributes to my thinking about peace in a more meaningful way. I am glad to be associated as a fan of Popoki.

Thank you Popoki!





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, Swahili, Arabic and Hebrew 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: 00920-4-28035



THANK YOU FROM POPOKI!