



The end of the year is just around the corner! Did you have a good year? Popoki's year has been very busy. In fact, he has been so busy that instead of reviewing the whole year as originally planned, this edition of *Popoki News* will just cover the last month. Next time, we will review the old year and greet the new one! In the meantime, our best wishes for a very happy holiday season and a joyful and peaceful new year.



Popoki's Hot News!

We are moving rapidly on Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2 which will be out in March! Please join us at Po-kai to be involved in the process! The next meeting will be on 12 January at the Nada Pharmacist Association Office, just 2 minutes from Rokkomichi Station.



News from Popoki's Friends...

'Citizens Launching Peace in Kawaguchi – Making a Culture of Peace'

Workshop by the Peoples' Theatre Rikoriko using Popoki

A 'Citizens Launching Peace in Kawaguchi – Making a Culture of Peace' Workshop was held by the Peoples' Theatre Rikoriko (co-sponsored by the Saitama Decade for Education for Sustainable Development Eco-peace Club) at the Kawaguchi Partners Station on 30 November.* At the 'Lunch Café,' people brought and shared food, and while eating their lunch, everyone, children and adults, watched the story of the peace cat Popoki (Popoki Peace Project). The workshop by the Peoples' Theater Rikoriko which followed had people using theatrical techniques to express their feelings about peace in their own lives, and to share experiences with others. (Facilitator: Motohiko NAGAOKA)

* This was the second such workshop. The first was held on 11 March 2007, as part of the Decade for ESD Block Meeting (Facilitator: Kazuya ASAKAWA).

The 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Poster Exhibition in the 35th 'GEN-YA Sai' (Kobe University school festival)

Tsubota Takumi

Chair, 35th Gen-ya Sai Organizing Committee

The exhibition was held from the evening of November 8 to the morning of the 9th as part of the school festival "GEN-YA Sai (the festival of severe cold night)." It is very rare in Japan to have an all-night festival. As one of the activities which was proposed by Professor Alexander and conducted with the cooperation of the "Yasashii kara hito nan desu ten part 20" executive committee, I borrowed the panels of the poster exhibition celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and held an exhibition. This was the 35th 'GEN-YA Sai,' a festival which was begun by students in the night course at Kobe University and in which they have taken a leading role. The history of this festival includes not merely making noise but also tackling various problems such as the issue of national security, the problems of disabled persons, etc. Now, although the scale is small compared with 'Rokko-Sai' (the school festival of daytime students), it is event at which not only night course students but also daytime student, international students and people from the community can come together once a year and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and communicating with one another.

I think this exhibition, with its simple illustrations, gave people a chance to consider "peace" and "human rights," if only for just for a moment. At this festival people of various backgrounds can gather and talk together all night long, and meet new people.

Through holding this exhibition, I realized afresh that this might be

one place to think about and build "peace." .



Report to the KOBE Cinema Circle Association

Urai Kana



We gave a report about our Israel-Palestine Trip to the KOBE Cinema Circle Association on Dec.2 at Astep KOBE. Our reporters were Ronni-sensei, Satoko-san, Mori-san, Iwanaga-kun, and me (Urai).

Our report was a part of the workshop about "THE BAND'S VISIT", which is a movie

shot in Israel. This movie is not focused on the Middle-East issue, but it is about the spiritual exchange between Israeli people and an Egyptian band which visited Israel. But still, each member of the circle showed great interest in our report.

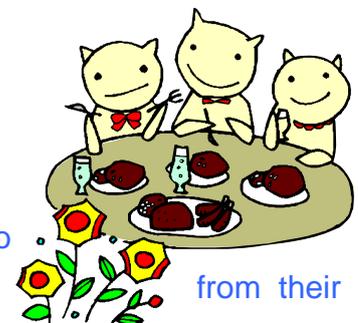
"What language do Palestinians use when they talk with Israelis?" "Does Palestine have a self-sufficient economy? Even if the peace process succeeds, won't it be difficult for Palestine to stand on its own two feet?" "It is very nice that Palestinians invite someone to their house with a full smile. It might be something that



Japanese forget..." They gave us many comments and questions. And I realized that there are a lot of things that I don't know and a lot of things that I need to try to keep in my memory. This was a good opportunity for me to look back on the trip and to think about Palestine itself.

(P.S)

After the workshop, the members of the circle invited us to have dinner, and 3 Popoki cats joined in! We learned a lot from their broad perspective and knowledge. We really appreciate it.



Looking at 'self' from the viewpoint of sexual minorities

UDDIN Bashir



A lecture by Prof. Ronni Alexander in Kobe University

On December 10, 2008, Alexander Sensei gave a lecture on the issue of Sexual Minorities. The lecture was sponsored by Kobe University Students Earthquake Relief Corps. A lot of people participated there.

The lecture began with a cheerful POGA exercise which made the participants more relaxed and interested in listening. After then everyone tried to perform the character of a cat in order to see whether there were different (gendered!) positions posed by all. And indeed, there were different positions and explanations by everyone that came out through a spontaneous performance and we understood that performance is important in order to know the 'self' and 'others'.



The main lecture then began with how to look at oneself from different angle, for example, as a human being, as a social activist or as queer. The discussion went on regarding different perspectives of queer such as intersexuality, trans-sexuality, bisexuality or homosexuality (lesbian/gay). Simultaneously, there were discussions on peace and violence. People were divided into groups in order to discuss their perception about 'queer' through a symbolic interaction. Questions were raised regarding how to treat homosexual people. Some people said they don't know how to treat them. Others said that it is better to keep silent on such issues. And many other people suggested treating homosexual people as a human being instead of bullying



them. Discussions were lively and interesting but a few questions rose in my mind during that time such as how we should treat such people in our neighborhood, or what happens to children who are born queer? How does society (e.g., in school) treat them? Is it possible to achieve peace without embracing them? Can there be peace if they are stigmatized? Finally, can we

hope for a peaceful society without them? I guess many other people have these same questions.

Part of the discussions was also regarding peace and violence. The group discussion started through the question, "What are the most important elements of peace?" Some people said law, social justice and education are important elements for peace. Some other



expressed their views that life, love, imagination and creativity are important. And many others stressed freedom, safety and daily basic needs as necessary elements



for peace. Indeed, it could be a difficult task to exemplify the indicators of peace. May be freedom is important or social justice could be a necessity. May be hope is the most important element as nothing can be started without hope. Or, may be non-violence is important for peace. There are many types of violence such as direct, structural or cultural in our daily lives and in the society. Is

peace the absence of all these types of violence? Same sex marriage is prohibited in many countries. Same sex people are victims of physical attack, harassment and discrimination in many societies. Is prohibition of same sex marriage a form of violence? Can we have peace if they are not in peace? It could be hard to answer these questions but we learned how to think about peace and violence in terms of how we think about ourselves and others from the lecture.



(Photos: Teruo Sato)

Please join us!



- **Po-Kai 2009.1.12 14:00- Nada Yakuzaishikai**
Nada-ku Fukada-cho 4-1-1 Welb Rokkomichi 2 Bangai 651 Rm.2
- **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 We Love Peace: YMCA Traveling Children's Drawings for Peace Exhibition Opening Event** (Chinese dance, Korean dance, Gift from God – songs from YMCA4CD, peace workshop, etc.) 15:00-16:30 Harada no Mori Gallery (Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art Oji Annex). Information: Kobe YMCA International Community Plaza, Tel:241-7204. (The exhibition runs from 2/7 – 15. Admission: free).
- **09.02.28 Thinking about the world and regions meant by the term “international”** Lecture Series, Part 3: “What Color is Peace? Thinking about World Peace with Popoki.” Hyogo Prefectural Council of Youth Organizations 13:00 - 1600 Kobe YMCA Sanomiya Center, 1F Chapel. For information and reservations contact: ymatsuda@kobeymaca.or.jp or fax 079-559-0076 by 2/14.

Event by Popoki's Friends

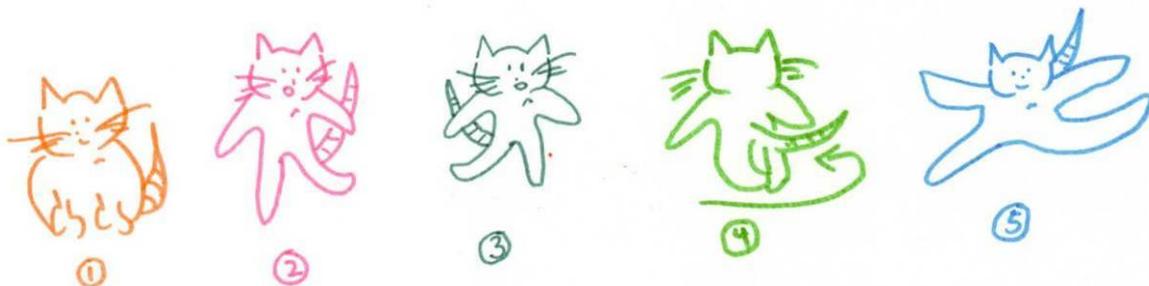
- **Kansai Queer Film Festival 2009.1.23-1.27 HEP FIVE 8F** <http://kansai-qff.org/>

Popoki's Easy POGA

Lesson 7

It is time to relax with our next easy Poga lesson! Have you been practicing?

1. Sit up straight, and make yourself look thin.
2. Stretch your left leg and tail out behind you, with your mouth forming a big OOOOOH!
3. Now switch legs, keeping up that OOOOOH!
4. And spin!



5. You did it! Very good! Celebrate with the 'success pose.'
Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 7.

That was easy, wasn't it! Remember to practice every day for at least 3 minutes.
See you next month for lesson 8!

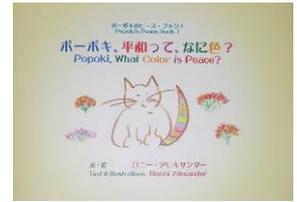


Popoki in Print

- “Popoki, What Color is Peace? Exploring Critical Approaches to Thinking, Imagining and Expressing Peace with the Cat, Popoki. In *Factis Pax*, on-line journal http://www.infactispax.org/Volume_special_IPE/Alexander.pdf Vol.2, No.2 2008
 - 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

YAMATO Nao



I met Popoki through YMCA volunteer work that I am involved in. In that work, we often use "Popoki" to think about "peace" with many people. Popoki gave many chances to think about "peace" to all people who joined us in our work. Every time I meet Popoki, I love him much more (unilaterally?!). Popoki teaches me about the



importance of diversity, love, living together with others, and freedom. These are things that I cannot express in words easily. I always forget those things when I'm very busy. However I can remember them thanks to Popoki even on busy days.

It is difficult to always be conscious of the need respect diversity and create a place where people can live together in harmony in my every day life. Now I cannot do it, even though I think it is important. I feel compelled to think and behave in a self-centered way. When I find myself doing that, I think of Popoki and I feel that Popoki gives me direction. When I

think of



Popoki, he makes feel relaxed and giving, and I feel that I want to be caring with people who are close to me. That is why I have a special attachment to that cute cat, 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, 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, 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 the US, 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. It is also available at Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Pittsburgh, PA and Read For You Life Book Shop, Waterloo, ON, Canada.

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-at-gmail.com



<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!