

It is already February!
Here is a little bit of good news.
The plum trees have started to blossom!



Popoki's Hot News

- **Popoki's Peace Book 2** *Popoki, What Color is Friendship?* is well on its way to completion! Please help by placing orders for yourself and for your friends. For information, please contact: [popokipeace \(at\) gmail \(dot\) com](mailto:popokipeace@gmail.com)

Epic's Naoko Kagawa and Ronni selecting illustrations →



There has for the moment at least been a ceasefire in the Gaza, but the road to peace will be a long and hard one. What can we do? Why doesn't peace seem possible? How about thinking about it with Popoki?

Making Peace with Popoki: Thinking about Palestine

- **Date : 2. 1 2 (Thursday) 18:30-20:30 Kobe YMCA ¥500**
- Information/reservations: Phone, fax or e-mail
- Sponsors: Popoki Peace Project and Kobe YMCA
- Content: Mini workshop and showing of the film 'Rainbow'



Rainbow: (41min/Palestine/Dir:Abdalsalam M.A Shehada/Prod:Ramatan Studies Company)

The film describes how the lives of Palestinians were destroyed and lost under occupation. The pain and sorrow were burned onto the lens as the camera rolls. Earth Vision Grand Prize winner at the 14th Tokyo Global Environmental Film Festival (2005)



For Information & Reservations
Kobe YMCA International Community Plaza
(Ms. Nagai)

〒655-0001 Kano-Cho 2-7-15, Chuo-ku, Kobe
TEL (078) 241-7204
e-mail mngai@kobeymca.or.jp

ANZAI Ikuro and Ronni ALEXANDER 'PEACE TALK'

SATOKO

This day, it snowed heavily in Kobe in the morning but Kyoto had warm and calm weather, just right for the 'Peace Talk.' However, the photograph exhibition of Gaza on the first floor of the Peace Museum was completely different from the calm climate on the outside.



A variety of people came to The Peace Talk. For instance, some participants serve as volunteer docents at the museum, and others belong to an NGO that works on peace issues. Still others give lectures about their war experience at different elementary schools. Tina, a peace researcher and friend of Professor Alexander's also participated.

The free talk of the two professors was on a large scale and was very interesting. Of course, Professor Alexander began with Popoki! The questions from the floor were numerous and varied. They included comments about being surprised at finding out things they had not previously known in news reports related to Gaza, and discussion of how to view such news critically. Everyone discussed their concerns and doubts that arise in their work for peace every day. Crossing lines of age and gender, it was clear that everyone thinks about peace in their own way. I thought that this was very important. Finally, we were able to sell 11 copies of *Popoki, What Color is Peace?* and advertise *Popoki's Peace Book 2*.

* The afternoon included not only talk but also poga and activities requiring participation by all who attended. Here participants are expressing their image of 'peace.'



Peace Walk in Sannomiya

Urai Kana

On January 25th, Popoki members joined a Peace Walk ~ Israel should stop killing people in Palestine! ~ organized by Kobe peace-i-net and Kobe YMCA, and Kobe YMCA. About 50 people joined this walk and protested against the Israeli government and demanded the Japanese government take some action. Before we walked, we had a gathering and two students who are studying in Japan, one of them from Egypt, and the other from Palestine, made speeches to tell us the history of the massacre by Israel and the situation in Gaza now. And after that, we walked in Sannomiya center-gai, singing peaceful songs like “Imagine” by John Lennon led by a guitar player. Each of the participants had a board to appeal to people, so they must have understood that this was a walk to protest against Israel.

The attack by Israel has now stopped, except some small ones. We cannot know if this was brought about because of a lot of protesting action was taken all over the world. But if we do nothing, this means “YES” to the attacking. People tend to think that “Nothing is going to change if I do something.” (At least, I sometimes become that way). But even if it is small or even if it might not bring a good result, raising our voice and taking some action is very important. Each of the participants of this walk had their energy.

At the gathering, some people said, “Attacking by Israel will happen again.” It is really sad and exasperating, but we could see that this is the reality of the Israel and Palestine from the attack this time. This will also mean that it is necessary to unite and show our will, not to be discouraged like, “Nothing is going to change if I do something.” I could feel the power of the solidarity from this walk.



Thai Report and Sri Lankan Report (1)

Hiroshi Endo

Doshisha University Graduate School of Theology (M1)

Former staff of the Kobe YMCA

I apologize for the long silence. Also I am very sorry that I have disappeared without any greetings, even though you were all very considerate of me while I was working at the Kobe YMCA. I resigned from Kobe YMCA at the end of last March and now I am a student at the Doshisha University Graduate School of Theology, so I am spending a season of learning again for a while.



Since the moment I passed through the gate of Doshisha after an interval of more than 20 years, I have been faced with a lack of knowledge and of ability in myself, the difficulty of my studies, and also with uneasiness about my future. But at the same time I have gradually been tasting happiness that I can learn what I had truly wanted to learn. As my weekday residence, I live in the Kansai Director's House which is owned by the National Council of YMCAs of Japan, close to Kyoto University. It is Volies' architecture from 95 years ago! I go to Doshisha at a distance of 12 minutes by bicycle. Unlike Kobe, here in Kyoto there are almost no slopes, so it is quite comfortable. I return to Kobe every weekend and attend the worship at the Kobe church, and return to Kyoto after taking care of some private affairs. That is my recent life pattern.

By the way, I participated in the 'Thai Study Tour 2008' led by Professor Makoto Hara, dean of the Doshisha University Divinity School, last summer. In addition, I left the tour at the end and went on my own to visit Sri Lanka, something I wanted very much to do. In Thailand, I visited the various churches and theological colleges in the Thai society, and was given so many opportunities for interchange and learning. In Sri Lanka, I revisited the NCY of Sri Lanka and the East Coast where I had visited after the Tsunami suffering of 2004. I was able to renew my old friendships and had great occasions for learning together a lot.

Maybe some of you are wondering if there is any relation with Popoki in my experiences abroad. I will report them as follows.

Thailand is a kind of multiracial nation. The majority is a Thai tribe, but a lot of

minority races live in the northern and northeast regions of Thailand, each forming their own particular communities, so it is like a mosaic. In addition, in recent years there are quite a few Japanese around Bangkok and Chiang Mai, both for the reasons of their work and for their life designs after their retirement. Some of those people have Christianity faith, so there are several Japanese churches and a lot of churches of the minority races in Thailand. We participated in Sunday service at Bangkok Japanese church on August 31, and at the church in the village of the Karen tribe in the mountainous district on September 7.

My assignment, as a theologian, was to give 'a sermon' at the worship for children to precede the worship for adults at the Bangkok Japanese Church. All through the time of preparation, I was inspired by vivid images of the 'Color of Peace' that I



At the Bangkok Japanese Church

learned from Popoki. Also, I aimed some form of a two-way workshop. Because I felt 'the Kingdom of God' preached by Jesus in the Bible was synonymous with 'Peace' by Popoki, I wanted to think about what kind of thing is 'the Kingdom of God' = 'Peace' through 'difference in color' with the Japanese children. These children face difficulties and problems as a minority in Thailand, in the context of the Thai community as a multiracial society.

Even today, church sermons almost always take a one way approach toward the believer. The sermons by most ministers or priests almost seem like lectures. This is in some aspects excusable for the purposes of formation of the worship for adults, but I think the worship for children should have more variety and we must try harder to provide more chances for children to think and be challenged. Therefore I was determined to prepare a slightly odd 'sermon' at the church, taking reactions from children and making use of them.

Showing various colored papers, and I asked, "Which color do you like best?" One after another, the children gave me their answers, and I put the colors on the white board. It seemed to become a mosaic. With that in mind, I said "this color is no use" and tore it off. Naturally protest calls were given. So I said "OK, I will put this back. But instead of that, this next one is no use." A lot of arguments arose from the children. After the exchanges, they said, "there is no useless color at all!"

I had made them think about whether there is something similar among all the

'other colors' around us. I spoke the words of Jesus, "For indeed, the Kingdom of God is within you," recorded in the Bible. In other words, I stated that the realization of similarity depends on us, and means we have to create the peace between 'me' and 'you,' and also that among 'me/we' and my/our 'neighbors,' together.

In the history of Christianity there are, in fact, times that it chased away 'other colors,' and enlarged itself all over the world, even though 'Christianity' is only a single 'one of the colors.' Unfortunately there was not time or a chance for me to share about that kind of issue with the children. But I pray that I will be able to lead to such a thing someday.



At the church in the village of Karen tribe

Also I regret I could not make any appearance of Popoki in my sermon, but Popoki was certainly connected well to Jesus within me. Fortunately I was able to have a comparatively good reaction from the children and their parents. "We enjoyed today's talk," the children said. "The content was very fitting to the situation of our children. I

want to talk about it with my child from now on," some mother said. As I think about them, I feel they responded because there were the suggestions given by Jesus and Popoki. I thank you both.

I left for Sri Lanka alone after my learning of 'diversity of colors' deepened through many encounters with minority races during my two weeks in Thailand.

I have run out of time and space. I am so sorry! I will send the Sri Lankan report when I have written it!



Please join us!

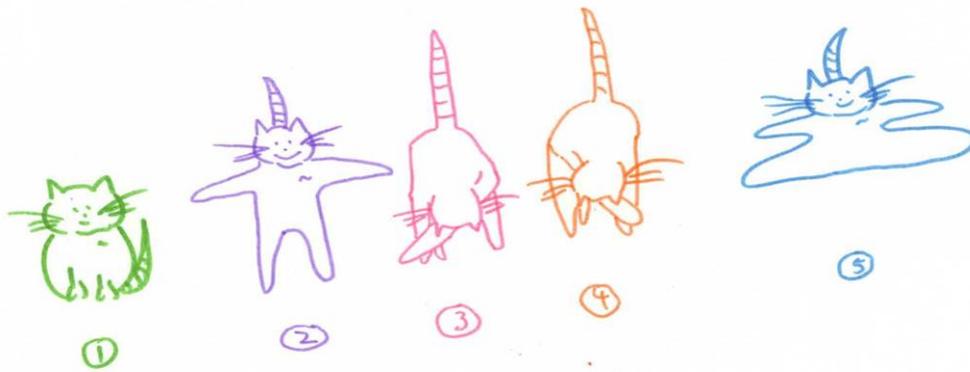
- **2.03 Po-Kai at Kobe YMCA 19:00-21:00 All Welcome!**
- **2.07 We Love Peace: YMCA Traveling Children's Drawings for Peace Exhibition Opening Event (Chinese dance, Korean dance, Gift from God – songs from YMCA4CD, peace workshop, etc.) 15:00-16:30 Harada no Mori Gallery (Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art Oji Annex). Information: Kobe YMCA International Community Plaza, Tel: 241-7204. (The exhibition is from 2/7–15. Admission is free).**
- **2.12 Peace with Popoki: Palestine; Mini-workshop and Film: The Rainbow; 18:30-20:30, Kobe YMCA. Information: 078-241-7204 (Kobe YMCA) ¥500**
- **2.28 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.**

Popoki's Easy POGA

Lesson 9

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 your 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, What Color is Trash?' Kobe YMCA News, 2009.1.1. No.592. p.2
- 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

Mari Kikuchi

I remember that summer I stayed with Popoki for a few days at Prof. Alexander’s house when she was away on summer holiday. It has been six years since then. Popoki has been working on his peace projects to think about, discuss and act on peace with many people.

For last several years, I encountered terror attacks during my study at London in 2005, and I saw the hard reality that many people died by poverty and killed by natural disasters and terror attacks when I work in Pakistan. I despaired of human nature and felt powerlessness.

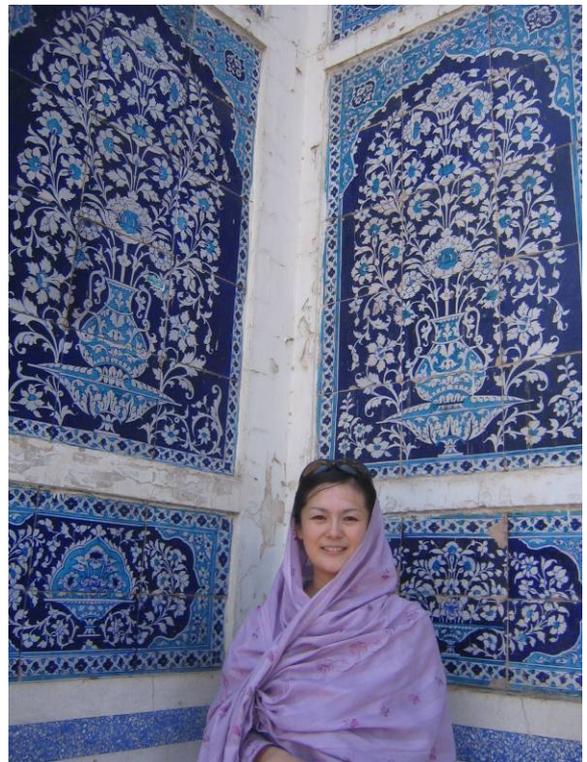


If all meetings have messages, what does the meeting with Popoki convey to me? What should I learn from it? I believe that Popoki is a messenger to promote peace in this world. So as he was born, lived with Prof. Alexander and continues to meet many people. Now I believe that I have met Popoki in order to be given courage and hope to follow my belief in peace.

When we face terrible reality of conflicts, violence and starvation which ravage people's hearts, and ruin mutual trust and dash hope for peace, it might look too small to continue to talk about and work for peace. However, I believe that "true message" of peace reach to all people and animals from different societies. So, it is my dream to act as a messenger of peace as Popoki.

The following is my favorite passages from prayers of peace by St. Francis of Assisi (1182~1226).

"Lord, make me a channel of your peace,
That where there is hatred, I may bring love,
Where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness;
Where there is discord, I may bring harmony;
Where there is error, I may bring truth;
Where there is doubt, I may bring faith;
Where there is despair, I may bring hope;
Where there are shadows, I may bring light;
Where there is sadness, I may bring joy;
Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted;
To understand than to be understood;
To love than to be loved;
For it is by forgetting self that one finds,
It is by forgiving that one is forgiven.
It is by dying that we are born to eternal life."



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 or postal bank account:

Account Name ポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト神戸

Postal Account number: 00920-4-28035

Postal Bank (Yuucho Ginko) account number: Branch No.:099;

Branch name: 009 店、special account(当座) 0280350

THANK YOU FROM POPOKI!