



It is hydrangea season! Today, as I was walking to the station, I met a cat who was busy observing the hydrangea blossoms. I said hello, but the cat was too busy watching the flowers, and didn't respond. On the way to the station I met six cats - 5pm must be the time the station cats go for their walk!

## Popoki's Hot News



Summer. It is a time to hang out with friends and in Japan, it is a season to think about peace.

Some people might not know that *Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2* went on sale on 20 April.



If you are looking for a gift this summer, Popoki's Peace Books might be just the thing! We are looking forward to hearing from you.



Please listen to *Popoki, What Color is Friendship?* on web radio. Kiyo HARA reads Popoki on KIZZNA on her show on KIZZNA FM. She introduced Popoki's first book, and this time she has devoted two programs to reading from *Popoki's Peace Book 2*. Listen on demand at the following site:

17 June Broadcast:

[http://www.kizzna.fm/php/ondemand\\_pop.php?fid=956&refid=40&chid=6](http://www.kizzna.fm/php/ondemand_pop.php?fid=956&refid=40&chid=6)

10 June Broadcast:

[http://www.kizzna.fm/php/ondemand\\_pop.php?fid=951&refid=40&chid=6](http://www.kizzna.fm/php/ondemand_pop.php?fid=951&refid=40&chid=6)



Actually, reading aloud can be very difficult. The other day, I suggested to Po-Kai volunteers that they should listen to Ms. Hara's program and practice reading aloud. Ms. Hara sent the following message:

I read your mail and it made me very, very happy. I think that through reading aloud, you will discover something new in the text. Maybe you will have more concrete images.... Please give my best to everyone.

Kiyo HARA



Popoki and Mimi are going to take another Peace Machine Journey!

The newest volume in the Iwanami series *Iwanami DVD Book Peace Archives Tokyo/Guernica/Chongqing: Learning Peace from Air Raids* will go on sale soon. Like the others in the series, this DVD (about 15 min.) will also have English subtitles.

## Nada Challenge 2009 Festival!

Text: Masato YOSHIWA

Photos: Satoko



Setting up the booth

On June 07th, the Popoki Peace Project's members took part in the 15<sup>th</sup> annual "Nada Challenge 2009" which was held in Togagawa Park. "Nada challenge" is a festival which has been organized by students and volunteers since 1995. It was begun in order to encourage people after the Great Hanshin-Awaji

Earthquake. This year's theme was, "We will

never forget, nor allow the past to be forgotten." There were many booths and events, and the Popoki Peace Project members enjoyed themselves, especially with the neighboring booths: Japanese Chindonya (street musicians) and a junior high school juggling club. Thanks to everyone's cooperation, I think that the festival was very heartwarming and a big success.



We made a BIG POPOKI!

At this festival, the main purpose of Popoki Peace Project was to sell *Popoki's Peace Book 2* which was published last month. Fortunately, however, Project members also engaged in an interactive activity, asking local people the color of peace. Therefore there were a lot of peace colors around the Popoki Peace Project booth and thus I think that BIG-POPOKI was also satisfied with it. In addition, Project members could talk to local people about a lot of things and had a rare chance to learn about their experiences not only in the earthquake but also in the war.



Participants wrote their 'peace colors' and posted them on BIG POPOKI

Participating in Nada Challenge made me reconsider the meaning war and the threat of earthquakes, and the meaning of peace. Moreover, I realized that it was important to pass on memories to the next generation through this festival. Even though we could not sell very many books, "Nada Challenge 2009" gave us a good opportunity to learn many things, so I think that it succeeded overall. Finally, I would like to say thank you to everyone for their kindness and cooperation.



Po-kai members on



Popoki Peace Project members with our street musician

BIG POPOKI has taken up residence at Kobe University



## Workshop in KODOMO no SATO (Kid's Village)

Text: Atsushi IWANAGA

Photos: Mathías Valdez Duffau

We held a workshop at the KODOMO no SATO in Nishinari-ku on June 19. More than ten Popoki Peace Project members participated and did reading aloud and drawing with nearly 20 children. KODOMO no SATO is a center for children and mainly offers a place where children can play in peace and consult staff about their life and problems.

After arriving at about 16:00, we played with the children and then read *Popoki's Peace Book 2* aloud with them from 17:00. Many children were shy, but they read many pages. When Sofia-san read in Spanish, they were interested.



Photo:  
Children  
reading



Next, they made groups of four or five and drew pictures as a group about games they wanted to play together.



The children who were tired from reading got better when they started drawing.

Photo: Children drawing

After drawing, each group described their picture.



Some groups chose games like "TENKA" games or "Kick Baseball," and others chose "Anpan-Man" or "Pikachu" to with their friends

Photo: Children present their work

Finally, we all promised to

solve problems by talking rather than fighting.

The KODOMO no SATO children are very cheerful. They gave me energy. The concept of "friendship" may have been difficult for some of them, but I hope the book gave them a chance to think about friends and peace. They may have various problems, but I hope that they grow up cheerfully.

Thank you for coming that day!



Photo: At the entrance of KODOMO no SATO

## Popoki Continues to show Commitment to Palestine...



On 20 June, a showing of the film 'NAKBA 1948' and a talk by Ronni Alexander entitled "Popoki, What is the 'Palestinian Problem'?" were held in the Briefing Room at the JICA Hyogo Plaza. I wanted to provide some background for viewing the film, but in preparing for the talk, I again realized the complexity of this issue, and also how much more I still have to learn. I appreciate having had this opportunity. Thank you to the JICA Hyogo staff! (Ronni)

Photo: Viewing photos from 'Popoki in Palestine 2008'



← \* I drew a picture for this event



Please look forward to the next issue of Popoki News which will include a report of a film showing and Popoki in Palestine presentation held on 28 June.

### Peace for Palestine and Israel! 2009.6.1

At the invitation of the Kobe YMCA, some members of the Popoki Peace Project joined in the WCC 'Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine and Israel.' 'We pray that day will soon come that the lives of all the people of Palestine and Israel will be filled with the colors, flavors and smells of peace...'

--- Popoki and his friends in Japan

# Please join us!



- 7.7 Po-Kai at Kobe YMCA 19:00-21:00 Room 304  
All Welcome! We will talk about plans for the next few months
- 7.26-8.2 July Popoki in Hungary
- 8.11 "Popoki, What Color is Peace? Can We Make it Together?" Seminar for International Understanding and Development, JICA Hyogo (8/10-11). Open to anyone interested in development education (in Japanese).  
For information and reservations contact: 078-261-0342. e-mail:jicahic-event@jica.go.jp  
<http://www.kobeymca.or.jp/kobe/inter/200908kaihatsu/pdf>
- 8.20-21 Kengaikyo (Hiroshima)?
- 9.26 "Popoki and Japanese Literature" !?! (Osaka Sangyo University Umeda Satellite Campus Lecture Room) 13:30-
- 9.26-27 Peace Education Symposium (Hiroshima) (Kasumi Tamura)
- 10.25 'Kobe Kita-ku Mothers' Conference' Meeting, Shiawasenomura
- 12.23-31 Popoki in Palestine/Israel Part 2?

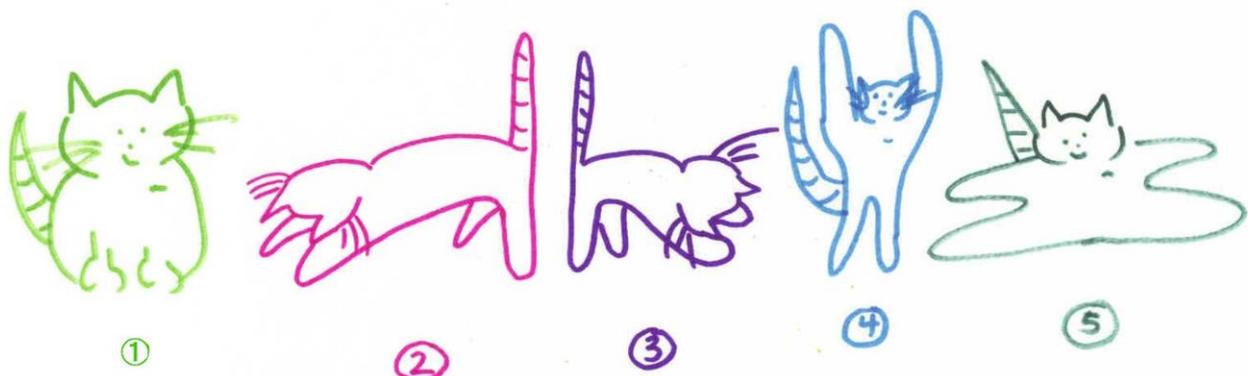
## Popoki's Easy POGA

### Lesson 13

How are you? No influenza? How about stress?

It is time to relax with a little Poga.

1. As usual, sit up straight, making yourself look thin.
2. Now extend your arms and stretch your back, just like a cat.
3. And to the other side...stretch!
4. And finally raise your arms and stretch way up!
5. Good, you did it! You don't need a mask after all. Time for the 'success pose.'



Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 13. That was easy, wasn't it! Remember to practice every day for at least 3 minutes. See you next month for lesson 14!

\* Summer is almost here, and it is HOT! Please keep yourself healthy by eating well, getting enough sleep, and washing your hands

# Popoki in Print

- 'New Books: *Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2* ' (Rebecca Jennison) "Cutting-Edge," Vol.35 2009.6, p.3
  - 'Thinking about Peace with a Cat: Second Peace Book Published.' (SAITO Masashi) *Kobe Shimbun*, 2009.4.21
  - 'Popoki, What Color is Peace?' Kobe YMCA News, 2009.3.1. No.593. p.2
  - 'Popoki, What Color is Trash?' Kobe YMCA News, 2009.1.1. No.592. p.2
  - '*Tomodachi ni Natte Kuremasenkai*,' *RST/ALN*, 2009.2.22
  - 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: blrhg@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, Oct. 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](http://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](http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html)





# What Popoki Means to Me

Shiro Nagashige

On June 19 2009, thirteen members of the Popoki Peace Project held a reading of *Popoki's Peace Book 2* at a children's center called 'Kodomo no Sato' in the Osaka AIRIN district.

Twenty-two children, the youngest of whom was two years old, and two staff members gathered and took turns reading from the book. We were all very impressed and inspired by the children's reading ability and enthusiasm. We were also surprised by how well behaved the children were. I felt rejuvenated and moved by my interactions with the children and their world. To me, that world felt much larger than the five square meter room in which we played.

Generally, society is interconnected and communication grows from there. However, the relationships and communication exhibited by children in the last 20 or so years has been of a superficial nature and lacking in depth. But at Kodomo no Sato, both the superficial and deeper aspects came together. Why do I feel this way? I believe a hierarchical social order is necessary and that communication is bred in the interaction between people within this hierarchy, as in the five square meter world of the Kodomo no Sato. In other words, people grow and become stronger through their interaction with each other, making the world a better place.



Each child brings something different to the world, different color and light, and when different personalities come together new colors are created and each child is changed and grows and becomes stronger. Those colors are not always the same and are constantly changing. I believe this leads to a more open society with more variety and whose members can



accept each other. When these children go out into the world, I hope that they will take what they have learned in this place and enlarge the world by living in space with all kinds and varieties of people, just like drops of water in a larger pool. *This can happen if we all work together.*

## 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](mailto: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.

***Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2* is not yet available at these bookstores.**

### Some Ways to purchase *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1* and *Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2* from inside Japan

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\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:popokipeace(at)gmail(dot)com))



Thank you!

**Contributions are always welcome!**

Popoki Peace Project [popokipeace-at-gmail.com](mailto:popokipeace-at-gmail.com)

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>



From within Japan, please use our Postal account or Postal bank account:

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THANK YOU FROM  
POPOKI!!

