



Did you know that 3 September is Popoki Day! It is the day that Popoki and Ronni first met. Popoki was a tiny kitten and had been thrown in a trash can in a small park. It had been raining for several days, and he was wet and cold and dirty. Ronni found and took him home. What a lucky day for both of them!

Popoki's Hot News



It is still a ways away but...Popoki has gotten a grant for a Photo Exhibit and Peace Map-Making Event. We will have photos and a talk by photo-journalist MORIZUMI Takashi, and Morizumi-san will help us with map-making, too. Mark your calendars for 8 and 9 January 2010 and join us!



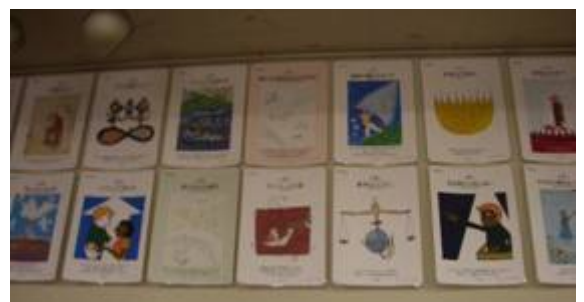
Popoki and Mimi are taking another peace journey on DVD! The latest in the Iwanami DVD Book Peace Archives Series, *Tokyo/Guernica/Chongqing: Learning Peace from Air Raids*, has just been released! The new 'Peace Machine Journey' is a 17-minute documentary about aerial bombardment. Like the others in the series, this DVD (about 17 min.) also has English subtitles.



The poster exhibition commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is on display in the library at Kyoto Seika University from Sept. 28- Nov. 5th!!! Everyone is welcome. Open weekdays,

8:30-20:30, Saturdays 8:30-18:00

http://johokan.kyoto-seika.ac.jp/modules/contents/index.php?content_id=19



(Photo: Posters on display at Kobe YMCA)



NPO W·I·N·G-Michiwo Hakobu- workshop at Tamariba

Urai Kana

On September 5th, a still hot and sunny day, we had a workshop at a free space “Tamariba”, which is in Nishinari-ku of Osaka city and is one of the places of NPO W·I·N·G-Michiwo Hakobu. The participants were Alexander-sensei, the 4 students of Kobe University and me. NPO W·I·N·G-Michiwo Hakobu is for people who have serious physical and mental disabilities. People who joined in this workshop also have serious disabilities, and have difficulty using their bodies and communicating with other people.

When we arrived at Tamariba, everyone was having lunch, so we had lunch with them. After that, the workshop began!



For this workshop, we used *Popoki's Peace Book 2*, and tried to think about the friendship with them. The Popoki members transformed themselves into animals like a cat, a mouse and a rabbit! We read and acted out the peace book, asking the audience the questions like “Does friendship feel like this?” The audience of Tamariba also joined in the play, shaking instruments made from empty cans and filled with beans or other things! At first, we were a little nervous, but gradually we

relaxed and got to be friends.

After the play, we decorated a big Popoki with everybody's handprints and footprints. Tamariba members seemed to enjoy the feeling of painting on their hands and feet. At the end, the Tamariba members sang “Tsubasa wo Kudasai” as a surprise present for us! We were very pleased with it.

Communication with seriously disabled people is sometimes difficult. The words and gestures which we use in our everyday life are not enough, and sometimes are distasteful to them. I am not sure they could understand what we were trying to do in the new activity, but still I am happy if they got “something” from our workshop.

Here are the feelings of the other Popoki members.

Today I had a really good time. I had been worried about whether we would be able to become friends, so the best part of today's program was that with the help of everyone, we were all able to enjoy ourselves. The



performances by the Popoki Peace Project members were so good I was able to do just whatever felt good. Of course, there are many things we need to keep working on. For example, we need to think not only about the content of the programs, but also the beginnings and endings. Most of all, I just want to say thank you to everyone involved, especially to Urai-san! (Alexander-sensei)



The workshop with W.I.N.G. staff and members was really important for me, because it was my first experience with people with disabilities. Soon I understood that we can share our happiness and learn a lot from their own willingness. I enjoyed being a rabbit with my friends and I am grateful for the opportunity to meet such admirable people. (Sofia-san)

Through the workshop on 5th September, I realized not only the fun but also the difficulty of communication. The reasons why I realized it are that I learned how difficult and important showing our own feelings without words and facial expressions is through this workshop. Although I do not know how much the people who joined this workshop understood what we were trying to communicate, I really had a great time with them so I really would like to say thanks to them. (Yoshiiwa-san)

I was very interested. We performed a drama for the first time. I think that we are able to manage to be good. But I felt if we had made a script, we would have been able to perform more easily. Although I don't know that I was able to make friends with everyone, when we heard the song "give me a wing (TUBASA WO KUDASAI)", I was excited. I thought that it was good to participate. Thank you, everyone. (Atsushi)

"I had a very good time!" This is my straight impression. Although it was the first time to do a workshop with acting, and I was worried about that, I think it was good to cooperate with everyone. In addition, I was certain that the workshop is going to be good through this experience. Thank you very much everyone. (Takeshi)



Thank you to all our friends at TAMARIBA!

Workshop: Popoki, What Color is Peace?

Shiro NAGASHIGE

On the afternoon of 7 September 2009, Ronni was invited to the regular meeting of PASSEAWA.¹ Satoko and I joined her in giving a workshop. The workshop began with Sato-nyan leading Poga, helping everyone to relax. Using a power point presentation entitled, 'Popoki, What Color is Peace?' and Popoki's DVD, the workshop lasted for about an hour and a half. The 21 participants were all socially active women who participated enthusiastically. They were particularly moved by the DVD version of Popoki and Ronni's story, 'Popoki's Peace Message.'



When given a list of concepts important for peace and asked to choose the most important, a variety of terms were suggested by groups at each table: basic human needs (food, shelter and clothing), diversity and life. When asked if there was a difference between peace for men and women, I was sure there was a difference, but most participants felt there was none. That in itself shows diversity.

"What color is war? What does it taste or smell like?" There were different responses to these questions, too. Colors included, for example, black (a negative feeling), red (associated with blood?) and white (bandages). As for the smell, some people said it smelled like gunpowder, and other said that the air raid shelters smelled of mold or dirt.

Many people shared important stories of their lives during the war.

- Air raid shelters were dangerous because you could be buried alive
- We took up the tatami mats and slept in the spaces below
- At the time of air raids, everyone thought about whether they would still be alive tomorrow
- The sound made by B-29 bombers is impossible to forget. It is completely different from the sound of planes today. The B-29s flew in huge formations and the sound was like the earth rumbling.
- We dug up our backyards and grew sweet potatoes and squash (because they are filling)
- There were no seasonings, so the taste of war was very bad.
- We made salt from sea water, and washed potatoes in sea water to give them flavor.



¹ PPSEAWA is the Pan—Pacific and South—East Asia Women's Association of Japan

http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/index_e.html

[popokipeace \(at\) gmail \(dot\) com](mailto:popokipeace@gmail.com)

- For protein, we ate locusts. At school, we were told to go out and collect locusts for everyone to eat.

For those of us born after the war, it is hard to really understand how life was, but we could feel the hardship and fear, and the importance of life from their stories.

Story-telling is a method of expressing one's experience and ideas to others and sharing ideas about peace. If you are asked, "What is peace?" it is hard to respond concisely. There is not a correct or incorrect answer to this question, and each person has her or her own ideas and feelings. Story-telling is a way to identify shared aspects of experience and to apply the same questions to our own lives. The Popoki Peace Project hopes to continue to make new friends and seek the 'color of peace' together. We were delighted to hear from one of the participants that Popoki had given her lots of things to think about.

Finally, I would like to express our gratitude to Prof. Ikuyo Nishide for arranging for us to attend this meeting. We also want to thank Mrs. Yumiko Inoue-Backes and the other PSSEAWA members. Thank you!



Some views of recent Po-kai Meetings



Gathering in Hiroshima with *A Fruitful Life* staff and Numata-san

Recently, the staff who helped with the publication of Marie Tsuruda's autobiography, *A Fruitful Life*,* gathered in Hiroshima. The Japanese translation was made by Yuji Tamura, with the help of Hideyasu Tanimoto, Kumiko Tanimoto, and Ronni! After lunch, we visited Popoki's friend, Suzuko Numata. About 30 years ago,



Numata-san talked about her A-bomb experiences at an exchange program for American and Japanese high school students at the



Hiroshima

YMCA. Ronni was in charge of the program and Tanimoto-sensei was the interpreter. Numata-san greeted him with a huge smile saying, "You've grown up!" Numata-san and Marie-sensei talked about experiences in Hiroshima after the war and

their views of the meaning of peace. It was a very powerful experience for all of us. Numata-san uses Popoki when she gives talks to children about her experiences and peace. (Ronni)

**A Fruitful Life (Epic 2009).*



Front row from left: Marie Tsuruda, Hideyasu Tanimoto, Kimiko Tanimoto

Back row: Ronni, Yuji Tamura



Update from a friend of Popoki's in Tokyo

Kayoko Uruga

The Inagin City Central Library (Tokyo) held a month-long exhibit in August entitled "The Pink Cloud and Exchange between Russian and Japanese Children." Popoki was there, too! Only 6 copies of his book were sold, but I hope that the children of Inagin are gradually getting to know Popoki.



(Thank you Uruga-san!)





What color is a total solar eclipse?

Masashi SAITO

On July 22nd, a total solar eclipse lasting for almost 6 minutes and 40 seconds was observed in Japan after an interval of 46 years. It was said to be the biggest heavenly body show in the 21st century. I was sure that not only astronomy fans but also many other people were excited to see the show.

The University of Hyogo planned an observation tour to view the total solar eclipse from a ship. The destination was the coast of North Ito Island where we could observe it for the longest time in Japan. Another reason was that the weather is stable in that area. Fortunately I was able to get a ticket, although applicants poured in.

On July 20th, over 500 people from throughout Japan embarked on the big passenger ship named Fuji-Maru and sailed from the port of Himeji for a destination 1200km from Hyogo prefecture. Although Akuseki Island, located in the Tokara Islands, and Amami Ōshima were considered as observation points, we were able to get great total solar eclipse views from the coast of North Ito Island. Since we could move freely in search of patches of blue sky and sun to view the solar eclipse, our ship was a “moving observation point”.

All of the images of the total solar eclipse in the media, photos in newspapers and images broadcast on TV, were in black and white. But actually, when looking at it directly you could see the colors.

Well, what color is a total solar eclipse? Is it red like the color the sun? Is it yellow like the full moon? Or, is it orange, because the sun and moon come in succession? Is it beautiful or eerie? I saw that the black sun emitted gold light. That was very beautiful and mysterious. At the same time, I wondered suddenly how a person who knew nothing about the total solar eclipse would feel if they were watching. Would they be impressed like I was, or would the darkness, almost like night, and the black hole in the middle of the sun be frightening? It might seem like it was the end of the world!

I think this is what happens when we have a lack of knowledge. When we don't know much about a country or a religion or a culture, we sometimes leave things to our imagination and come to hasty conclusions. It might be easier to live in ignorance, but that will not necessarily lead to a happier life. I think that knowing about others is essential for world peace and our own happiness.

It is said that after seeing a total solar eclipse for the first time, some people will get “total solar eclipse disease” and spend their time searching for solar eclipses all around the world every year. Would you choose to devote yourself to making enough money and time to see eclipses, or the indifference resulting from insufficient knowledge about them? Which leads to happiness for us? I don't know the answer to this question!

Anyway, the next total solar eclipse in Japan will be observed on September 2, 2035, in the area from Hokuriku to North Kanto.

Photos (all taken off the coast of North Ito Island) : 1: The total eclipse of the sun; 2: The ‘diamond ring’ appearing directly after the eclipse; 3: People observing the eclipse from the deck of the Fuji-Maru.





(When I saw Saito-san's photos, I really wanted to share them with 'Popoki News' readers. Saito-san and Popoki are old friends and when I asked him, he sent this article. Thank you!)



Popoki's Easy POGA

Lesson 16

How are you? How about stress? This month, relax with a sitting Poga.

1. As usual, sit up straight, making yourself look thin.
2. Stretch your neck, tail, eyes and ears all the way to the right.
3. And now to the left!
4. And now forward!
5. Good, you did it! It's time for the 'success pose.'



Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 16. Remember to practice every day for at least 3 minutes. See you next month for lesson 17!

Please join us!

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?

2010.1.8-15 'Popoki Peace Challenge' MORIZUMI Takashi Photo Exhibit and lecture (1/8); Peace Map-making event (1/9) at Kobe Seinen Gakusei Center, Hankyu Rokko.

Popoki in Print



- 'Popoki, What Color is Friendship' (In Japanese) Mitsuko Okuda. THE GAIDAI 2009.7.17 No.243
- 'Yujotte...Kangaeru Ehon.' Asahi Shimbun 2009.7.2 AKUZAWA Etsuko
- 'Yujo wo kangaete – Ningen to, Neko to, soshite Jibun to,' RST/ALN, No.259 2009.6.28, p.11
- '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: 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)
- "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.)

* Back issues of Popoki News: http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html



What Popoki Means to Me

by Sofia Villacorta

I was fortunate to hear about Popoki one year ago, and since then I have had the opportunity to meet new people with different origins and experiences but with a common goal: to think carefully about the peace in the world and act in favor of the people.

The members of Popoki's Peace Project and people interested in the initiative have welcomed my ideas with open arms. In spite of the challenge of language, sharing our experiences about peace and friendship has been important because I understood that both concepts are not necessarily the same in each culture.

I come from El Salvador, the smallest Central American country, in which the violence and repression have shaped the history of my people. With that background, thinking about peace has a special meaning for me. Each activity with Popoki helps me to figure out the way people think about concepts like violence, war, identity and peace. And in the process, I feel more comfortable sharing my experiences and learning from others. I always will be grateful to my friends because they showed me their own ideas around those concepts; and patiently they also taught me how to read and write the kanjis (Chinese characters) of peace: 平和!

The road is still long and I am still trying to understand how peace should be constructed. And more specifically, I want to learn what I can do to contribute in the process of peace. But meanwhile, I will enjoy sharing this project with my friends and learning from them.

¡Muchas gracias por esta oportunidad!



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.

***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

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>



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