

# Popoki



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## Popoki's Hot News!



The fourth printing of *Popoki, What Color is Peace, Popoki's Peace Book 1* is on the way! It should be available by early April. Please tell your friends and help us to sell this printing, too!  
\*All proceeds go to support the Popoki Peace Project



### Popoki at ISA!

Popoki appears on a painting made in conjunction with a special innovative panel at the International Studies Association Annual Convention in New Orleans in February. He was part of a display on "Painting a Voice: Creating a Culture of Peace Through Symbolism, Art and the Olympic Ideal." He also showed up on a panel of the same title where Ronni presented a paper about his work for human rights. He did not have time to listen to jazz, but Popoki made lots of new friends.



It is a new semester in Japan!

Popoki and the Popoki Peace Project want to extend a warm welcome to all our new friends!



Popoki is happy to announce Ronni's new website:

<http://www2.kobe-u.ac.jp/~alexroni/index.html>

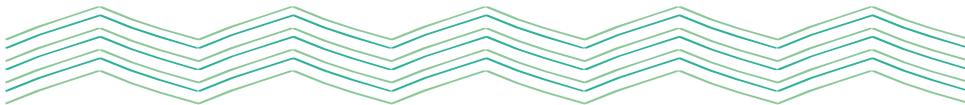
## Popoki Peace Workshop in Sanda!

YASUYUKI Matsuda



On 11 February, Popoki made his first appearance in Sanda. The occasion was an Intercultural Day sponsored by the Sanda City International Association. A lot of people gathered and participated in such events as a Japanese speech contest, world cooking, fair trade café, and others. Popoki was very busy holding a workshop for parents and children. The atmosphere was lively, with about twenty people of all different ages. The children began with making a cat from blocks and soon

everyone was making suggestions about how to proceed. It was really interesting how nobody said, “Don’t do it that way!” but instead expressed their recognition of, and appreciation for the efforts of others with comments like “That’s an interesting way to do it...” or “Look at that tail!” Later, when we divided into small groups to make drawings, the room was filled with images and words...What color is peace? What does it smell like? Is it warm? Cool? It was a day when the city of Sanda became just a little bit more gentle.



### **Central Japan District YMCA Global Education Seminar A review of the objectives, content and reflections of the participants**

**“Making Peace” The 10<sup>th</sup> Central Japan District YMCA Global Education Seminar  
Shiga YMCA Takeichi Takeshi**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Central Japan District YMCA Global Seminar was held at the Mt. Rokko YMCA on 26-27 February. There were 38 participants, including International and outdoor recreation volunteers from the Kobe, Wakayama, Kyoto, Okayama, Osaka, Nara and Shiga YMCAs, participants in the Kobe YMCA Thai work camp, and YMCA staff and invited lecturers.

The theme of this year’s seminar was “Making Peace,” and we understood it to refer to everything from ourselves to global events. I was able to find hope, as I shared thoughts, ideas and feelings about peace with seminar participants.



The lecture on the first day was on the theme of “Thinking about Peace with our Entire Body” (Lecture: Ronni Alexander). We thought about our own peace, through group work and other activities. What is peace and what is non-peace? We all faced questions of how we should be involved. Using *Popoki’s Peace Book*, we were able to feel close to Popoki and to think about peace in the context of our own lives. We discussed episodes from our own lives and in the process, we grew closer as a group and were able to talk freely and openly. Using words from Popoki’s basket, we discussed what is important to us, and shared stories of painful and other experiences. These discussions allowed us to imagine and discuss ways we would like to change and grow.



The theme for the second day was “Where is there peace? Living together” (Lecture: Shuichi Nakao). Using maps of the world, film and other media, we discussed what we saw and how we felt. Using examples such as Vietnamese refugees and boat people and issues such as prejudice and discrimination, we were able to discuss peace in a more concrete way.

Through participating in this seminar, I was able to meet many people and learn many things. We ended with renewed commitment to not only spreading knowledge, but particularly to helping others to want to learn about others and to be interested in what is happening around them.



Happy Land Day 30 March 2010

Popoki and the Popoki Peace Project support their friends in Palestine in their struggle to end the occupation  
and to recover their rightful lands.

What will you do today to show your support?

How about sending us a message to send to our Palestinian friends?



パレスチナでは、3月30日は「土地の日」です。  
多くのパレスチナ人は、占領によって、土地を奪われています。  
占領が一日も早く終わり、  
パレスチナ人の土地が彼らへ戻されるように祈っています。  
ポーポキとポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクトは、  
パレスチナの友人たちの戦いを支持しています。

今日、あなたは何をしますか？  
パレスチナ人の友だちへのメッセージを書いて、  
私たちに送ってみませんか？

I wish all of you can live safely as soon as possible!

パレスチナ人すべての人が、一日でも早く安全に暮らせませうように。



I pray for you from Japan.  
日本からお祈りしています。

2010.3.30 Misato SASAKI  
佐々木美智

Many other Popoki Peace Project members sent their prayers and best wishes, too!  
他にたくさんのポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクトのメンバーが思いやお祈りを贈りました。

Thank you all very much  
みなさま、ありがとうございました

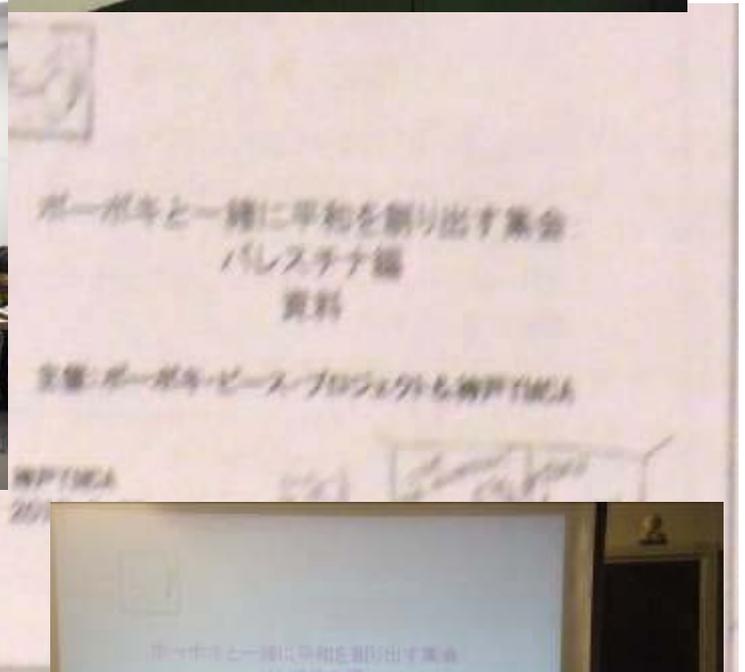
# Popoki's Peace Making Meeting: Thinking about Palestine

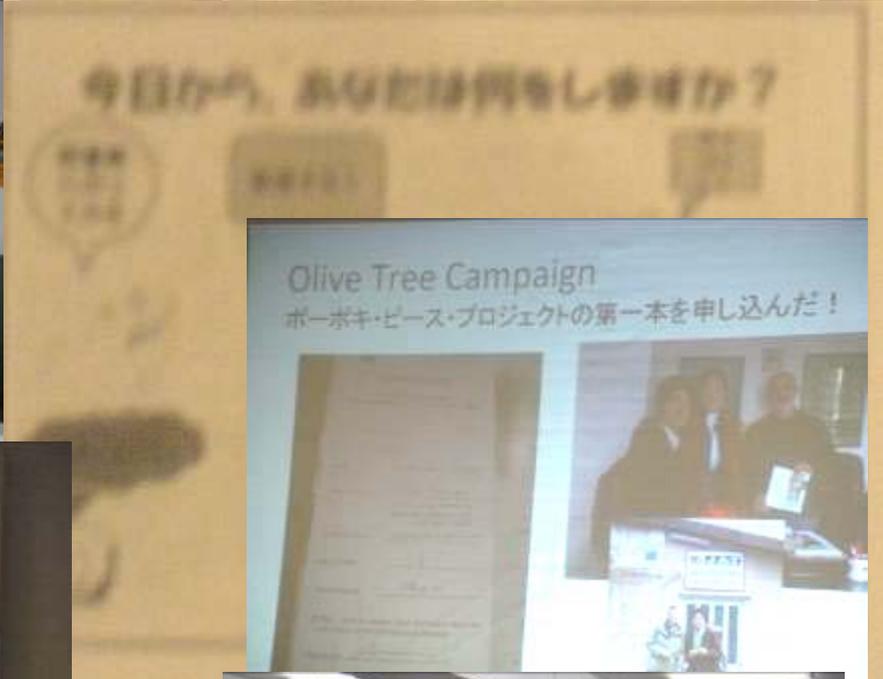
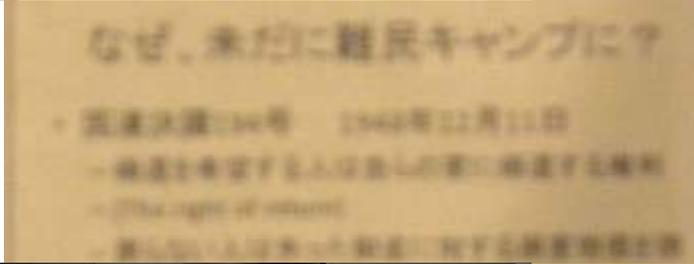
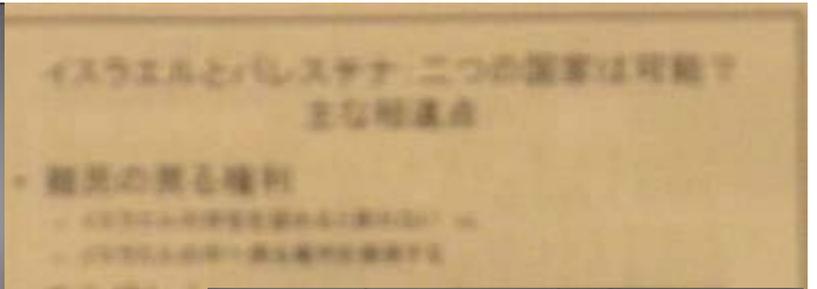
Photos & Text: Shiro NAGASHIGE

Date & Time // Tuesday, March 23. 19:00—20:30

At Kobe YMCA

Participants// Guests: 8, Staff: 8





After the report, guests and staff formed groups to discuss the situation in Palestine and the visit.  
☆☆ First, we have to learn about the situation...

A comment from one of the participants...

I was looking forward to the report about the second trip of Popoki members to Palestine. Because I joined the first trip, I was happy to hear the names of the people that I met there.

It was reported that in front of the Wall, even an ambulance is requested to stop and the patients need to be transferred to the Israeli ambulance. Some patients die while they wait for it.....

When I went to Palestine, I was shocked by the Wall. But after I listened to the report this time, I felt that it is bigger and more difficult problem than I thought, and that the question, which is "What on earth can be done after the Wall is made?"

And also, as the last trip, I was thinking that "There are many olive trees planted in this area." I learned from the report that olive trees are also a way to insist on Palestinian rights to the land. It was surprising to me. It is their way to object to the settlers. One of the movements is the "Olive Tree Campaign," which is a campaign where people donate \$20 to on plant an olive tree on Palestine land. I thought I can try to join that campaign. (Urai Kana)



## Popoki, What is a Volunteer?

On 11 April, Popoki and Ronni helped to greet incoming Kobe University students interested in being volunteers. Popoki hopes they will all become friends with him and join in his activities, too. Here are a few photos, taken by Taizo Hayashi.



# Popoki's Easy Poga

## Lesson 23

School has started here, and I am spending too much time in front of my computer. How about you? Here's a bit of poga to make us all feel better.



1. As always, sit up straight making yourself look thin.
2. Place your right hand on the side of your head, and gently use the weight of your hand to stretch your neck to the left side.
3. Now switch hands and stretch to the right side.
4. Feeling better? OK, stand and stretch u----p! Don't forget your mouth and tail!
5. Did it? Good for you! Time for the "I did it!" pose!

Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 23. Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.

## Please join us!

5.6 Po-kai 19:00-21:00 Kobe YMCA, Rm.304 All welcome!

4.18 "Popoki, What Color is Peace? Traveling the world with Popoki" Association to protect article 9 with children. 13:30 Kobe Kinro Kaikan (Japanese)

4.28 "Popoki, What Color are Humans: Thinking about gender and sexuality." Kobe University, Dept. of Cultural Studies campus, B-402. 17:30-19:30 (Japanese)

5.21 Reading of Popoki at Kodomo no sato, Nishinari-ku, Osaka 16:00-

6.6 Nada Challenge Festival participation

6.13 Nishinomiya Hahaoya Taikai. Afternoon. Details soon.

7.25 Workshop at Tosabori YMCA summer seminar. Details soon.

Mid-August: Popoki in Palestine 3!?!

From Popoki's friends:

5.11 Special lecture on the Homeless Issue by Takeshi Ikuta, 17:30-19:30 Kobe University Faculty of Cultural Studies B102 Information: Tel: 078-803-6256; Fax: 078-803-6028, e-mail: [svs@port.kobe-u.ac.jp](mailto:svs@port.kobe-u.ac.jp), URL: <http://www/org.kobe-u.ac.jp/svsc>

# Popoki in Print

- **Hiroshima and the World: What Color is Hiroshima?** Chugoku Shimbun Peace Media Center, [http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/mediacenter/article.php?story=20100312140608602\\_en](http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/mediacenter/article.php?story=20100312140608602_en) 2010.3.15
  - FM COCOLO 76.5 'Heart Lines' 2010.1.9 Japanese Interview: Ronni on Popoki in Palestine
  - "Human Rights, Popoki and Bare Life." *In Factis Pax Journal of Peace Education and Social Justice* Vol.3, No.1, 2009, pp.46-63 (<http://www.infactispax.org/journal/>)
  - Nishide, Ikuyo. "Popoki, What Color is Peace? Lecture by Ronni Alexander." "PPSEAWA" (Pan-Pacific and south-East Asia Women's Association of Japan), No.63, 2009.12, p.5
  - 'Friendship' No.2 2009.11 Itami City International/Peace Exchange Commission, Annual Events, p.1-2.
  - 'Not for But With...' No.79, 2010.1 Notice of the Popoki Peace Challenge event. P.12
  - 'Nada' notice of the Popoki Peace Challenge event, 2009.12, p.2
  - '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)
  - *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.))
- \* **Back issues of Popoki News:** [http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives\\_e.html](http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html)





# What Popoki Means to Me

Misato SASAKI

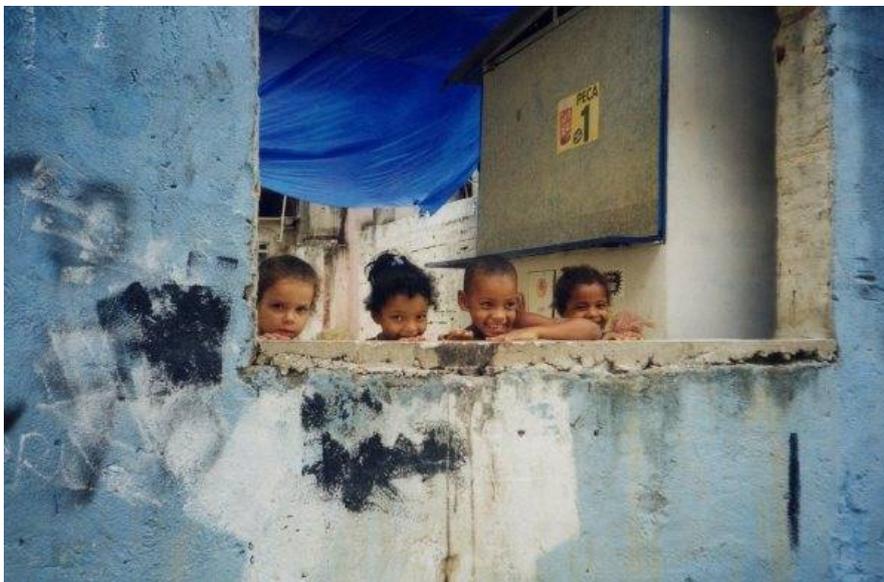


This is my second contribution to “What Popoki means to me”. This time, I would like to talk about Brazil, the field of my research. Brazil is one of the countries with great economic growth called BRICs (Brazil, Russia, India and China), but the truth is, it is also one of the countries with big earning differentials<sup>1</sup>.

The other day, 5th of April, there was a local heavy downpour which the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil has not had for several decades. More than two hundred people have died and several thousands of people are still taking refuge at shelters. Rio de Janeiro is a city which is surrounded by mountains and seas, somewhat similar to Kobe, where Popoki was born. The difference is that the slum areas are concentrated on the sides of the mountains and wealthy people reside near the ocean where it has been developed for resorts. This time, most of the victims were those who lived in slums on the sides of the mountains. The wealthy people live in buildings of steel reinforced concrete and slum people live in fragile barracks. There is also a large gap of damage caused by natural disaster between them.

Presently, the reconstruction of the town is in progress, and I truly wish the plan of reconstruction will take into consideration the poor who would be living on the streets. I express my sympathy to the more than two hundred victims and their families and I wish the thousands of people who are at the shelters will be able to return to a better life soon.

Next month, I will be going to Brazil for the first time in more than 10 years. I also want the Brazilians to know about Popoki and it may be a small step toward correcting the gap.



**Photo:** The children I met in Favela (means slum in Portuguese) in Rio de Janeiro in 1998. I hope they have been able to keep on smiling like in this picture, even after more than 10 years

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank, World Development Indicators 2007. Brazil is on the 11th place of 126 countries with valid data.

## 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. *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.

***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@gmail.com))

***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:

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!



Thank you!