



Popoki's Hot News!



7.24 is the Tosabori YMCA Summer Seminar.
Popoki and his friends will be there.
We hope you will be there, too!
See 'Please join us' (page 7) for details.

Pieces of Peace



One of Popoki's friends, Marie-san, sent a piece of peace:
"When I come home, the scent of my house makes me feel safe."
Please contribute a bit of peace! What sort of 'peace' did you encounter today? Please let us know by sending a message to Popoki's e-mail: popokipeace@gmail.com



Popoki Friendship Story Project has its own page on Popoki's URL:

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

Follow the progress of the Popoki Friendship Story Project, watch new videos and look at photos:

Popoki Friendship Story Project/ポーポキ友情物語プロジェクト

You can help by making a panel!

Let's connect ourselves to one another with a long cloth! Popoki is supporting the earthquake areas using everyone's strength and caring. The cloth began in Kobe, traveled to Miyagi and Iwate Prefectures, and is now in Kobe.

How about making a section?



詳しくはポーポキにメールへ。 Information: popokipeace@gmail.com

次のリンクで最近のプロジェクトを見ることができます。Link for more information:

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

Length/長さ: ≤ 5 meters(つないでい

We will connect the sections

Width/幅 45cm

* Hem the edges/へり縫いをする

Fabric : cotton broadcloth/

素材：綿ブロード。

Color: Very light pink, or as you like

色：薄いピンク、又は好きな色



出来上がった布をポーポキ・ピース・プロジェクト宛(657-8501 神戸市灘区六甲台町 2-1 神戸大学大学院国際協力研究科 ロニー・アレキサンダー方)へお送り下さい

Please send finished sections to: Popoki Peace Project, c/o Ronni Alexander, GSICS, Kobe University, Rokkodai, Nada-Ku, Kobe 657-8501 JAPAN



Popoki's Earthquake Support Interview (3) Okome

* I am Okome (kome), a member of Po-kai. I had an interview with Nagai Michiko, a staff member of Kobe

YMCA (N) and Sakuma-san, a staff member of the National Council of YMCAs (S). Nagai-san went to Sendai twice. The first time she went to as a volunteer bus member from April 9-12. They went to a volunteer center at Wakabayashi area, Yamamoto local government office, and Yamamoto-cho elementary school. The second time was from May 15-16 to Sendai YMCA to hear about the situation. Then she visited Miyagi Gakuin and Irimae elementary school. Sakuma-san went to Morioka YMCA and worked at Miyako volunteer center from late March to the beginning of April. He went there again from the middle of April for two weeks.

Let's start the Interview!!

Kome: Where is the place you visited that most impressed you?

N: The view from the schoolyard of Irimae Elementary school to the town.

Kome: Why?

N: Because the school is located in a high place. It's about 26 meters high. Even at such high place, the tsunami came into the first floor of the school. So, the town located below the school has all disappeared, and all that is left is lots of rubble. There is a lot of rubble on the way of the school. I could not believe that under such a terrible situation, the kids spend their daily life, like having classes as normal.



S: For me, it is the Taro area. They had the biggest sea wall in the world. But it did not help. Here also the entire town disappeared. I was surprised at the strong power of the tsunami which destroyed that huge wall.

Kome: What do you remember with your senses? How about smell?

N: The road was full of dried mud. So the smell was dried mud and dusty. As the area is right on the shoreline, we saw alternating scenery with damaged areas and those that had no damage. Depending on the area, there was the smell of nature like greenery and mountains, and then there was the smell of dust.

S: Well, what I saw had the most impact on me. We drove the car along the coast. We saw the endless scene of destroyed towns. After driving for about one hour, that scene was still the same. My heart became broken after one hour, because I saw the scene of such massive destruction again and again. I noticed that tears were running down my face. I faced such experiences several times.

Kome: What color is that place?

N: A rotten color.

Kome: Rotten... so, like the food that has rotten in the refrigerator?

N: No, no, not like food.... Haven't you seen things that have become rotten? Like a dull-colored piece of concrete or wood.

S: The black sludge with a hint of green.

Kome: What is the smell of sludge like? Is that similar to the smell of sewage?

S: It mixed with sewage and seawater. The smell covered the entire town. I smelled it everywhere, even inside houses.

N: I did not smell it, because I did not work in the town.

Kome: What did you realize when you saw the real conditions in the area?

N: I realized the scene was 360 degrees around. Until I went to the actual place, I could only know the information on TV. It was one cut scene. But after the visit, I could imagine 360 degrees of visibility, even though the TV only showed certain angles.

Kome: I understand that feeling. I've felt that watching TV; I don't understand exactly or completely because I can only see one cut scene. How about Sakuma-san?

S: I understood the characteristics of the tsunami.

Kome: What is that?

S: In the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, all areas were destroyed at the same level. However, the tsunami has a clear boundary line between damaged and not damaged places. It clearly separated the people who suffered and did not suffer. So in Hanshin it was easy to co-operate and cheer up each other because everyone was in the same situation. But this time, it might be hard to do that the way we did after the Hanshin earthquake.

Kome: What do you want to tell people who have difficulty imagining the situation because they have not experienced earthquakes and tsunamis, and not visited the actual place?

S: I think that since it could happen everywhere and anytime, it is important to make connections with people close to you, such as family, friends, colleagues, and the people who live in same area. This is a good time for you to think again about your everyday life and relationships.

Kome: Thank you so much for talking about your experiences.

Kome: I also heard reports from Sendai YMCA and Morioka YMCA at the committee of the National Council of YMCAs held on Jun. 18-19.

Since it was the first time for me to hear a firsthand story, it made me shocked again. On the day of the earthquake, Sendai YMCA Career College held its graduation ceremony.

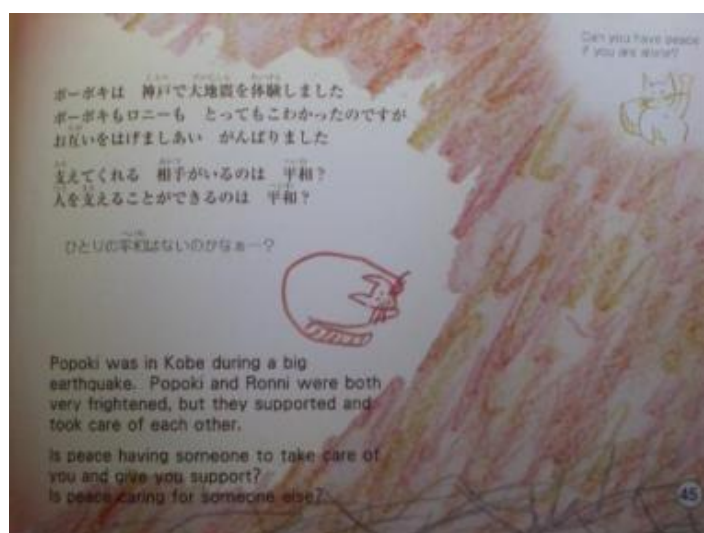


Students and their parents escaped to Sendai YMCA. That night the electric power was down, and they used the heat in YMCA vans to stay warm. The only light in the area was at the YMCA, so people gathered there. YMCA became an emergency shelter spontaneously. How good the light in the dark and cold night must have seemed to the suffering people!

Morioka YMCA staff reported on their activities after Tsunami. They contacted or went to the homes of each of the children who were YMCA members to see if they were OK. This story overlapped the Popoki Friendship Story play at Nada-challenge. In the play, Popoki goes from Kobe to Tohoku to meet his friends and support them. It is not just a story in a play, but the true story from Morioka YMCA.

The report ended with a DVD made by Morioka YMCA staff. It shows a lot of smiles. I noticed that there were no sad faces at all. I can see that they work together to face up the reality and support each other with tender and happy faces.

Now it is my and our turn. How do I/we face up these situations? We also think about the people who are in fear of radioactivity. The fear that we sense is immeasurable, but how about the fear of something that you cannot detect with your senses? Popoki values how people feel, but I wonder how we can measure the fear we feel from something we can't sense. We can't feel or sense radiation, but it is harmful for us in reality. Through this interview, I have a chance to know and think about the possibility of "to feel"



From *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1*

Nada Challenge Festival

Mayumi Imahori

Hello, my name is Mayumi Imahori. This is the first time for me to join a Popoki Peace Project event.



Nada Challenge began in 1995, after the Great Hanshin earthquake. It is a festival organized and run by Kobe University students and local residents. It was begun by students and residents who helped each other after the earthquake. One purpose is to keep the memory of the earthquake alive. This is the seventeen time to hold it. People who live near this area join this festival.

The day of Nada Challenge, a big Popoki was made by a very great artist, Ronni, and we prepared to sell postcards, *Popoki's Peace Books*, small soft toys made by Marie called "Marie neko (cat)."

There were a lot of cute and young Popoki friends. They drew many flowers and smiles of animals on the ground with chalk. They looked cheerful.

We performed 'Popoki Friendship Story' on the stage. Then we asked young Popoki friends "What color is friendship?" They answered "Light blue!" "White!" and so on, and were full of smiles. Many young Popoki friends joined Popoki Friendship Story project and they wrote their hope that they want to live next to friends who experienced the earthquake and tsunami and



they want to overcome it.

The message from Tohoku and the cute young Popoki friends gave me a lot of happiness. This was a very good opportunity for me to think how to live better. Thank you very much.



* You can see the stage performance at the following site:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ggZHm7qCXo>

Kodomo no Sato Workshop

Text: Shiro Nagashige

Photos: Satoko



The Popoki Peace Project held its annual workshop at Kodomono-sato (in Osaka-Kamagasaki) on Saturday, June 11, 2011. There were 23 members from the Peace Project and 16 children (1.5 years old – 16 years old). We began with a warm-up, playing with balls. The workshop was led by Nishiyama-san and Tada-san.

After asking “What’s peace?” the children read from *Popoki’s Peace Book 1*. Everybody read very well (the best so far?). Then we were divided into four groups and made a picture puzzle using the theme of things which are “important” or “peaceful”. Popoki’s pictures were completed and will be attached to Popoki Friendship Story cloth.



At this workshop, the children used two valuable words. The words are “collapse” and “life”. When asked, “What’s peace?” the immediate answer was “is it not peace”. I was surprised. It is common to answer that question with, “I don’t understand”. It is difficult for even an adult to answer immediately. But I was surprised at the word “not peace”. Next, when

we suggested that peace might be a “castle of cake,” the children said it would “collapse”. Obviously, they have been influenced by the Eastern Japan great earthquake disaster. Probably they have seen and heard information on TV, showing photos of destroyed towns and lost life. It must be printed into their minds. It is the reason why they become sensitive to the words like



“collapse” and “life”. However, it is sad to hear those words from children. I wish they could say more carefree things.

I am always impressed that the children at Kodomo no Sato are so friendly. Do they want the warmth of other people? Conversely, adults may be observed by them. I feel that is what is happening. We were able to finish with smiles this time. What kind of words will they give us to “What’s peace?” next year?



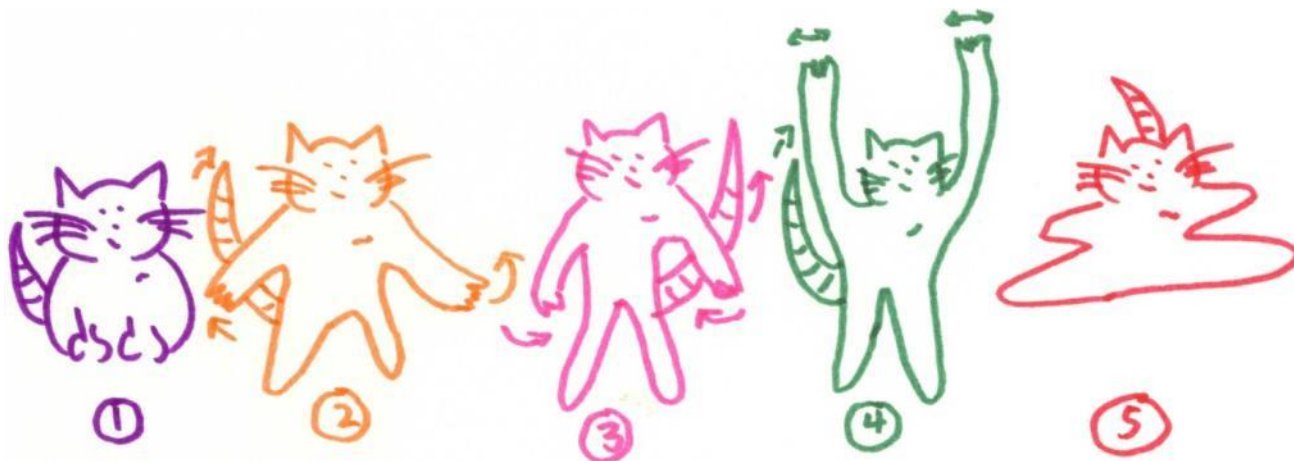
After Kodomo no Sato, we visited with the Kamishibai Story Group, Musubi. Popoki's friends drew pictures for the Popoki Friendship Story.



Popoki's Easy Poga

Lesson 37

This month's theme is stretching our hands and fingers. We hope it makes you feel better!



1. As always, begin with sitting up straight and making yourself look thin.
 2. Next, stand up and spread your fingers. Now rotate your hand to the outside...
 3. And back to the inside. Remember to rotate your tail, too!
 4. Now raise your arms over your head and stretch your fingers....
 5. Did it? Good for you! Time for the "I did it!" pose!
- Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 37. Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.

Please join us!

Next Po-kai: 2011.7.22 (Thursday) Kobe YMCA 306 19:00-

7.24 Tosabori YMCA (Osaka) Summer Seminar 2011 Workshop 10:30-12:30

Staff: meet at 10:00

8.8 Multicultural Seminar (JICA Hyogo). "Making Peace Together with Popoki the Cat" (in Japanese). Instructor: Ronni Alexander. For teachers of primary school

9-16 September Popoki in Guam!?!

17-20 September Popoki in Iwate and Sendai Popoki program for Northeastern Japan earthquake support

September/October Popoki at 'Remembering Hiroshima Imagining Peace' in Pittsburgh, PA, USA?

11.12 Peace & Health map practice and program in Port Island with Semester at Sea students from US

11.26 Popoki Mini Peace Film Festival with Kobe YMCA. All day (Tentative)

Popoki in Print

- R. Alexander. (2010) "The Popoki Peace Project: Creating New Spaces for Peace in Demenchonok, E., ed. *Philosophy after Hiroshima*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, pp.399-418
- 省窓: Column in *Kobe YMCA News*, No.606, 2011.1, p.1 (In Japanese)
- "What is Behind 'Popoki, What Color is Peace?' 1st in a series in "Tosabori Life" No.19 2010.10:4 (In Japanese)
- HORIKOSHI Takeshi. "Kokusai no mado" (article about Palestine) *Kobe YMCA News* No.604 2010.9-10, p.3
- "If we all participate, something will change! Reflecting on Palestine" THE YMCA No.607 June 2010, p.1 (YMCA Japan Monthly Newspaper)
- Hiroshima and the World: What Color is Hiroshima? Chugoku Shimbun Peace Media Center, 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: blrhgy@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)
- *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.)



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



What Popoki Means to Me



Satoshi Ariyama

Um...., it is rainy again today.... (; _ _)

It is humid, and my hair curls....

Yes, it is the rainy season today without my even noticing it.

More than two months have passed since I first met Popoki.

Two months ago, my new life began. After this, I experienced so many things I had never done. During this time, I have lived a full life, but recently I also feel a little tired.

Sometimes I cannot communicate well, and I cannot answer well for my test.

Sometimes I regret that I don't practice the guitar these days, and that there isn't a holiday in June in Japan.

It is likely that everybody feel same things, too.

One day, I go to school, but then I notice "Oh, is he absent today?"

We have used up all our energy, haven't we? I see, we don't want to go out on rainy days, so on these days, it is a good thing that we take a rest in our houses. We can feel peace in these carefree times.

However, in these times I also wonder whether or not we can keep being peaceful, and whether we can create our or everyone's peace without looking outside, and not doing anything.

When I wonder these things, Popoki takes me out of my house.

Possibly I can change what I can't change by merely reading textbooks.

Possibly I can live a life with people who are distressed or are sad.

It has not been long since I have made friends with Popoki, but Popoki already lets me know about such a peace, and act with me to make it.

This is why I try to go out, and do my best for the moment. Well, I know that if I go out, I will understand I also have many things to study in my house. (^ _ ^;

Finally, I don't dislike the rainy season. This is because I don't care about getting wet, and there are things that look good when we look them on rainy days.



←These are hydrangea blooming near our school.
Well, it is beautiful.

This is my guitar.→
I don't get to spend much
time with it these days.



http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/index_e.html
[popokipeace \(at\) gmail \(dot\) com](mailto:popokipeace@gmail.com)

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 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(at)gmail(dot)com))

Contributions are always welcome!

Popoki Peace Project 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
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Thank you!

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