



This year's key word is "connection!"

Popoki's Resolutions for 2012!

1. Make more new friends through use and sales of *Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki's Peace Book 1* and *Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2* and *Popoki's Friendship Story!*
2. Connect with our friends! Learn more from, and about them!
3. Continue to connect with people in Tohoku and others affected by the 11 March and other disasters!
4. Be aware and interested in situations around us (such as violence around us, Hansen's Disease, HIV/AIDS, etc.); share and follow up on our travel and other experiences!
5. Bring a little bit of joy into the lives of those around us and share our joy.



We hope you will join us this year too for more Popoki Peace Project activities.

Thank you for being our friend!



Popoki's Hot News!



Popoki's new book is finished!
Popoki's Friendship Story - Our Peace Journey Born out of the Great Northeastern Japan Earthquake is out and in bookstores!

This is the record of our 'Popoki's Friendship Story Project' which we have been doing in the disaster areas and other places. Some of the proceeds go to help recovery. Please have a look and share it with your friends. (Published by Epic 2012, color, 64 pages, A5 size, bilingual in Japanese and English, 1500 yen including tax). It is available through your local bookstore, amazon.co.jp, Epic, or the Popoki Peace Project. Please contact us for additional information.



←It is on sale at the Kobe YMCA, too!



The March Po-kai will be a study Po-kai!
Please join us to think about 'life.'

Date: 2012.3.10 14:00-17:00

Venue: Kobe YMCA Sanomiya Center

What to bring: ① Using your senses, one item that represents 'life.' (Examples: a photo, something that has a particular smell, taste, feel, etc.); ② Your own cup; ③ Some snacks to share.



A pile of 1 yen coins contributed to Popoki's fund raising! Thank you!!!



Pieces of Peace

One of Popoki's friends, Sato-nyan, sent a piece of peace:"
On the morning of January 17, I retrace many old memories. I'll continue until I become memory, too."



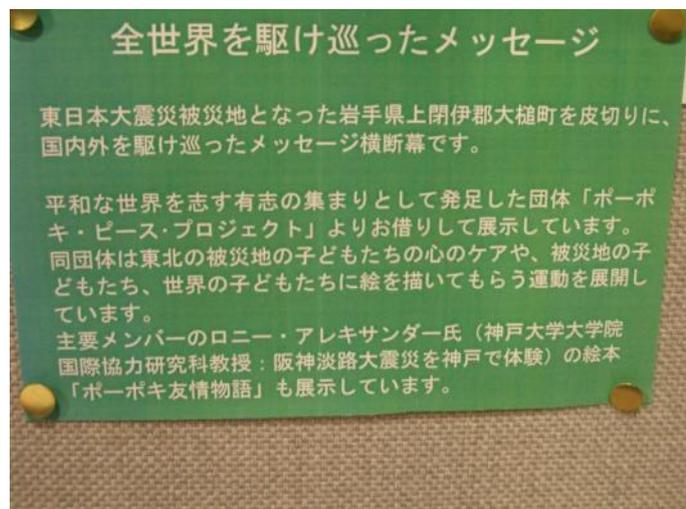
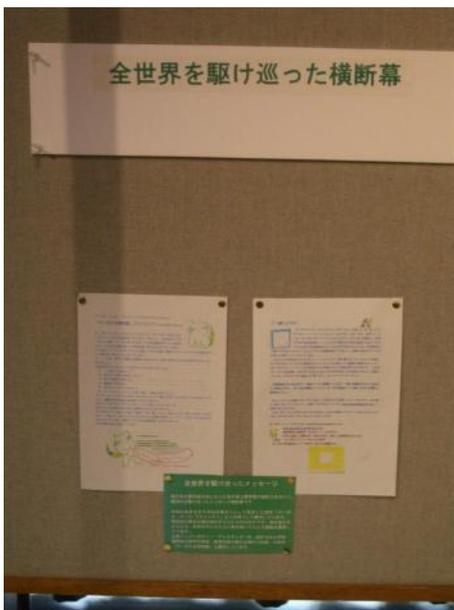
Please contribute a bit of peace! What sort of 'peace' did you encounter today? Please let us know by sending a message to Popoki's e-mail:

Popoki's Friendship Story at Kobe City Hall Gallery

An exhibition to remember the 17 January 1995 Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake was held in the 2nd Floor Citizen's Gallery at Kobe City Hall from 16-22 January. It included photos and messages from 1995, as well as messages from children over the years and information about work to help recovery from the Northeastern Japan earthquake. Popoki Peace Project contributed one panel of Popoki's Friendship Story, three explanatory panels and the new book. About 1500 people visited the gallery and I think it was a good chance to think about the meaning of life. It has been 17 years, but as I looked at the exhibition, I could not stop the tears running down my face. I'll try to live to the fullest today, too. (Ronni)



Our thanks to the hard-working people at Kobe City Hall!





(Top left) In Higashi Yuenchi Park, south of the City Hall, candles spell out 1/17. (Taken from the 24th floor of the City Hall Building)
 (Right) A The candles in the park.
 (Lower left) The mayor paid a visit and took a long look at Popoki's exhibit!



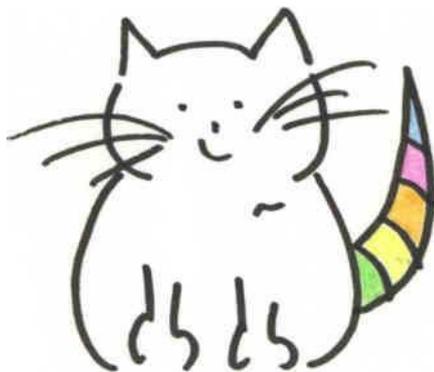
2012.1.17

Once again it is 17 January
The first time since the Northeastern Japan disaster
Seventeen years ago on that day
I wondered if the nuclear plants were OK.
Friends, family, acquaintances, students, people known and
unknown,
pets, animals, birds, fish, plants, trees...
On that day, I felt the importance of life.

Today, too
Somewhere in the world,
Somebody is crying.
It is very small, but here is my handkerchief.
Today, too
I might find myself crying
Thank you for your small handkerchief.

Tomorrow,
Even if you are crying,
I hope you can begin to smile.

Along with my small handkerchief,
I am sending a great big smile.



2012.1.17 Ronni Alexander, Popoki Peace Project

Popoki at Kenbikan

AMDA Otsuchi Health Support Center Opening!

On 18 December 2011, Popoki, Satoko and Ronni attended the opening of the AMDA Otsuchi Health Support Center – Yellow House ‘Kenbikan’ in Otsuchi-cho, Iwate Prefecture. This center will be a place for continuing work to rebuild community in Otsuchi and of course Popoki and his friends are doing their best to help. You can see a video of part of the proceeding on Popoki’s web site: http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/monogatari_e.html

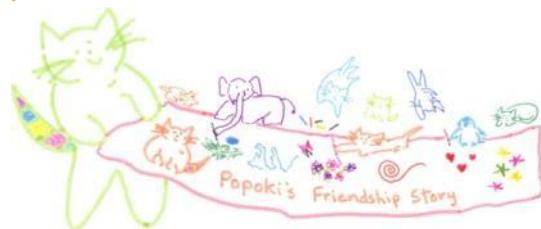


When we got there,
the deck wasn't finished!
But they managed to
complete it by the time of the
opening ceremony!!!
Popoki's Friendship Story was
on display, too. →





Popoki's Friendship Story is on display and for sale!



POPOKI and the Nuclear Power Plant Referendum in Osaka

Kyoko MORI



In two months, it will be one year since the day, 3.11, that made our lifestyle change. Crossing the dividing line of this day, we came to know the frightfulness of TSUNAMI and radioactivity by nuclear accident.

Now we use “nuclear power” or “radioactivity” as ordinary words, but it is the time for us to face our lifestyle and think about it. At the same time, we have to think about the relation with society and individuals. After the 3.11 earthquake, many people show their concern about nuclear issues through activities like demonstrations to stop nuclear power. I joined one such endeavor, a group which calls for a referendum in Osaka City to question the need for operating nuclear power plants.

The meaning of holding the referendum in Osaka regarding nuclear power is that we should be concerned about and think about it from the perspective of the power-consuming region. And also it means that voters will be involved in political decision making on an important issue. By making a direct request to government, at the very least voters will have the responsibility and duty to think about this issue and respond. Among the demands, some people might request the disclosure of more information from government or media, or to have more opportunities made for discussion, etc. It gives each voter a chance to think about what is important for them. That’s why I think it is important.

However, there are problems with the referendum. First of all, it does not include “every citizen”. Osaka has many Korean residents who do not have the right to vote. This referendum is for Japanese nationality only, and also it is only for those over 20 years old. In addition, we cannot say that the best way is just to get a majority vote. We must have more discussion.

We worked so hard on the campaign to collect signatures. The campaign was only one month long. During that time, we had to collect 42,673 signatures. It is equal to 2% of constituency in Osaka.

The difficulties were not only the short period, but also the way of collecting. For example we had to divide the lists of signature for each ward. It required 24 books. Every time we got a signature, we asked which ward the person lives in. The signature had to have an address, birth date and personal seal. Many people feel anxious about of the handling of personal information. But on the street, they responded our appeal and gave their signature. In spite of the difficulties, finally we got 61,087 signatures. Each one of these signatures is very important and significant.

Our staff also did their best all the time. They went to the market to collect signatures after finishing their job every day. During the campaign, we heard various opinions when we appealed on the street. Most people are concerned about the nuclear issue. They are thinking something in their own way. Through this action, I would like to tell the people who are living the disaster area that many people (in Osaka) are concerned about Fukushima and nuclear issues. We will never forget you!!

When I say “many people” it includes many Korean residents. They also gave support and helped our action, even though they are not considered to be part of the constituency. It is strange that although they suffer from the same the social problems, they cannot raise their voices.

In order to make a peaceful society, each person in that society has to take responsibility. To realize that, what kinds of process are effective? What kinds of social systems are required? I faced that big issue again.

Now we've just set up the starting line by collecting the signatures. The real stage is going open from now on to make our society by ourselves. I hope that to think about the nuclear issue as a starter, we can also take up other social issues in the same way. To make a wonderful society with peaceful colors, I want to keep going on my long trip with Popoki and my dear friends.



We have more than 42,673 signatures!! Campaigning on the street in Namba.

Popoki's Easy Poga

Lesson 44

This month's theme is using Popoki's Friendship Story. It can help you feel better in many different ways!



1. As always, begin with sitting up straight and making yourself look thin.
 2. Now stand and keeping your trunk and legs still, hold the book in both hands and stretch your arms to the left, and turn your head to the right. Don't forget to stretch your mouth tail to the right, too.
 3. Next, do the same on the opposite side.
 4. Finally, still holding the book, stretch your arms way out behind you! If you like, you can hold the book with your arms straight out in front of you and bring them over your head....
 5. Did it? Time for the 'success pose'.
- Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 44. Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.

Please join us!

Next Po-kai: 2012.2.2 Kobe YMCA Rm. 305 19:00-



2012.2.12-14 Popoki in Miyagi

2012.2.25-26 Central Japan District YMCA Global seminar at Rokkosan YMCA (in Japanese).

2012.3.4 Selling books at Kobe Eiko Church

2012.3.8 Lecture on Human Rights in Amagasaki (Japanese)

2012.3.10 "Thinking about Life with Popoki Workshop. All welcome.

14:00-17:00. See below for details.

2012.7.7 HIV/AIDS event in Kobe



Won't you join Popoki to talk about 'life'?



We are all alive.

What does that mean?

What color is life? What does it smell like?

Life. Living. Birth.

How about thinking about it together?

Date: 10 March 2012 14:00-17:00

Venue: Kobe YMCA Sanomiya Center

Participants: Anyone interested

Language: Mostly Japanese, but English is OK!

Sponsor: Popoki Peace Project

What to bring: ① One item which uses your senses and represents 'life.'
(Examples: a photo, something that has a particular smell, taste, feel, etc.);
② Your own cup or mug; ③ Some snacks you like to share.



Popoki in Print

- “Hope on 60 meters of cloth” Etsuko Akuzawa. (In Japanese) *Asahi Shimbun* 2012.1.21
- “Voice for Peace made into a book” Masashi Saito. (in Japanese) *Kobe Shimbun*, 2012.1.19
- K. Wada. “Conversations with Ronni Alexander: The Popoki Peace Project; Popoki, What Color is Peace? Popoki, What Color is Friendship?” *International Feminist Journal of Politics* Vol.13, No.2, 2011, 257-263
- S. McLaren. “The Art of Healing”(Popoki Friendship Story Project) *Kansai Scene*. Issue 133, June 2011, p.10. kansaiscene.com
- 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: 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)
- *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/>
- * **Back issues of Popoki News:** http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html





What Popoki Means to Me



Albie Sharpe

I remember meeting Popoki many years ago, on a cool autumn day in Tokyo. I remember thinking what a happy, healthy-looking cat Popoki was, as I looked through the pictures of him in his book. I was struck by Popoki's fear of the doctor, and of needles, but remembered how these might be important in keeping him happy and healthy.

At the time, I was beginning of my own journey of discovery. I thought that health and peace were separate things. Going to the doctor had nothing to do with peace, did it? Surely, medicine is what keeps the world a healthy place? Popoki must have his shots, I thought. But then I began to think about it a little more. Happy cats, and happy people, are more likely to be healthy. And healthy people, and healthy cats, are more likely to be happy. So health is going to be a lot more than medicine. It's Popoki's food, friends, habits, water, and access to a safe and fair environment that helps make Popoki's health – oh, and Ronni's love too. When cats (and people too, for that matter) face violence, deprivation and exclusion, this is the very opposite of health. It is also the opposite of peace..

So in order to be the healthiest cat possible, does Popoki have a right to healthcare? What about a right to health? What would that mean for Popoki, or his less fortunate friends? Do some people have a right to more healthcare than others? Or more health?

If it isn't just the doctor and the medicine that makes us healthy, but the whole environment in which we live, then we are all responsible for making a society where health is possible. If we only think of health as medicine, then we may fail to address the underlying problems that stop people from becoming healthy, and without health, it is difficult to work for our own rights and justice, and for those of others. When we destroy our environment, with pollution and waste and carelessness, this is the opposite of peace. There is not much point in giving medicine to a sick cat if she has to go back to the poisoned water that made her sick in the first place.

The work that Popoki and his friends have been doing is, therefore, not just about peace, but about making a healthier social environment for everyone, and thereby building peace.

Peace is health. And health is peace. They can't be separated.



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. Since the March 2011 earthquake, we have also worked in the disaster area and have recently published a new book about that work: *Popoki's Friendship Story - Our Peace Journey Born Out of the Great Northeastern Japan Earthquake*. *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)

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:

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!



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