



Summer is the season for fireworks in Japan!  
Popoki likes the patterns but is afraid of the noise.

## Popoki's Hot News!



**More Popoki T-shirts!**  
We ran out of adult sizes in we made some more. This time, light yellow, light blue, gray and SS-LL. There are children's T-shirts cost ¥1500.



Popoki T-shirts so we have purple, white in sizes sizes, too. The

### Pieces of Peace



One of Popoki's friends, Suehara-nyan, sent the following piece of peace: "I feel peace when everyone in my family is fine and we have a meal together." 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.



NEW



### Seasonal Special Popoki Fans!

This year, we tried something new. We made fans with Popoki, and sold them for 300 yen apiece. The reaction has been favorable and we have just about sold out. We want to try it again next year, too.



Thank you for your continuing help!  
*Popoki's Friendship Story - Our Peace Journey Born out of the Great Northeastern Japan Earthquake* is getting a good reception, thanks to help from his friends. Please help to let more people know!

More information about the book at: <http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/monogatari.html>

# Popoki Meets Global Teens

Sato-nyan & Ro-nyan

On 20 July, Ronni, with the help of Sato-nyan and Airpan-nyan, did a workshop on peace and friendship for teens (14-18 years old) visiting Japan as part of a youth exchange between Kobe and Seattle YMCAs. 'Sound' was an important key word at this workshop, and we expressed our own feelings, sounds and of course, the sound of peace. One small friend, about two years old, enthusiastically made sounds, too! We also included sounds of peace in our group drawings on the theme of 'peace gardens to enjoy with Popoki.' It was interesting to hear all of the different sounds, and ways of expressing sound when the groups presented their work.

This workshop provided opportunities for all of us to discover and share new or different sides of ourselves. We enjoyed it, and we think everyone else did, too. Thank you!





## Thinking of Hiroshima through My Body

On August 6<sup>th</sup>, Alexander sensei and Satoko san came, holding a bucket and huge pieces of chalk. When everyone came, we lay down on the white cement tiles in a park in Kobe. Seen from the ground, sky was wide, blue and calm.

We were ready to do “shadowing”, to bodily imagine the experience of Hiroshima.



## Kasumi Nishida



We took turns and traced each other's body on the ground. Some shadows had bent knees, and the shadow I drew looked different from the one someone else did. Popoki was stretching wide on the ground, and then he also became one of the shadows. It was cooperative, and it was fun. However, when I stood up and saw our shadows left on the ground,

Staying still,

I felt a chill, as if I just crossed the border from ordinary days to unimaginable fear. Are these shadows... us?? How could our presence, memories, and distinctiveness be reduced to these shadows...?

Although we still live in the atomic age, what happened 67 years ago in Hiroshima and Nagasaki is often 'unimaginable' to me. Imagining the unimaginable fear with using our bodies, We thought of our past and the future with the shadows on the ground.



## Remembering Hiroshima Day

## Shiro Nagashige



For the second year, we gather at 8:15 to remember the bombing of Hiroshima and then engaged in a conversation about nuclear issues with activists from the Remembering Hiroshima, Imagining Peace network in Pittsburgh, USA. Last year, both groups met outdoors, but this year, Popoki Peace Project met inside and projected the conversation on the wall. In Pittsburgh, people had just watched a film, 'Nuclear Savage,' about US nuclear testing and they used the screen in the theatre for the skype. The Popoki Peace Project members introduced themselves and gave their opinions about nuclear issues,

or asked questions. People from Remembering Hiroshima, Imagining Peace responded to the questions. The following is some points from the conversation and reflection meeting held afterwards, written by Shiro-nyan. Most of the Po-kai members want to stop nuclear power, but they differ as to how it should be done and what the timing should be. (Ro-nyan)

### From the Popoki Peace Project

- Since the disasters, there has been an increase in debate in Japan about safety and ethical issues of nuclear power because of the nuclear power plant meltdown. How has this news been reported in the United States?
- Is it possible to separate peaceful uses of nuclear power from nuclear weaponry?
- Regarding the continuation or abolition of nuclear power, are there differences among the positions of the government, companies and citizens? If so, what are they?
- I'm experiencing an internal conflict between my thoughts and actions with regard to the use of nuclear power. I want to stop using it, but am dependent on electricity.
- The radioactive contamination from the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant made my fears reality.
- It is not good to act senselessly. We should not act without full understanding. It is important to contemplate the subtleties of the situation. For example, it is not enough to state categorically that nuclear power is wrong because there have also been positive contributions to medicine and industry.

- If children go to Hiroshima or Nagasaki in Elementary School, Junior High School, and Senior High School they can come to understand what happened in the past and will be able to think about contemporary problems, too.
- This Skype exchange is meaningful and it would be good to continue it.

### From Remembering Hiroshima, Imagining Peace

- (In response to the question, “What do you think about nuclear weapons?”) As American citizens, we must take responsibility for the use of nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and nuclear testing. As citizens of the country with the most weapons, we have a responsibility to work toward their elimination.
- Our work, including the Shadow Project, calls for the elimination of nuclear weapons, but we are also conscious of all the issues relating to war. Of course we are also interested in chemical weapons and how these weapons affect people and the environment. We want to raise public interest in these issues.
- Unfortunately, the level of knowledge and interest in nuclear issues is quite low.
- It might take time, but if we work together we believe we can make a better future.

Thank you very much!



### Peace Message and Workshop at the Higashi Kobe Church



On 5 August, Ro-nyan was invited to Higashi Kobe Church to read some of Popoki's book and give a peace message at the Peace Service. After the service, we held a workshop with members of the congregation, including children. Popoki was able to make many new friends. It was an important chance to think not only

about the anniversaries of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but also a broad definition of peace. Thanks to all the members of the congregation!

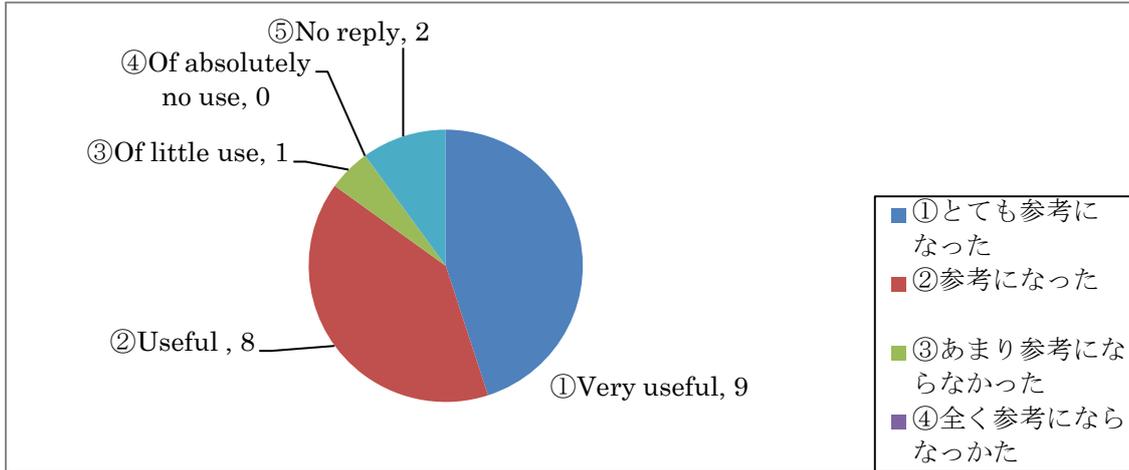


## 9<sup>th</sup> Seminar on International Education and Development Education for Living Together (Photos, info: JICA Kansai)

On 7 August, Ro-nyan gave a workshop at this seminar. Most of the participants were school teachers, and the workshop was geared to using Popoki in elementary schools. It was a very interesting day. The following are evaluation comments from the participants.

### I. Making Peace with the Cat, Popoki

〈Response:20 people〉



#### 〈Reasons〉

##### ① Very Useful

- I was able to think about 'peace' deeply in the quiet and calm atmosphere. (It was a short time, but I could think very deeply, surprising myself).
- I wanted to hear more opinions from others, but having experienced the activities using the five senses to think about peace made me want to spend more time and think about it.
- I think it is very important to learn about peace from the perspective of one's own activities.
- I was able to discover differences in the ways people think about peace.
- I like Ronni very much. Difference is good.
- Since this program emphasizes diversity, participation does not require knowledge or preparation in advance. I think it can be used in many ways.
- It made me think about many things, including use of the senses.
- I found it useful as an approach to "peace" which is very abstract. I am looking forward to thinking about how it can be used with children in different grades.
- Because it is an approach that can actually be used.
- I thought that in thinking about 'peace,' instead of talking about it with theory or words, it demonstrated that there are many different ways to express it.



##### ② Useful

- I was interested in the use of Popoki to convey ideas about peace and friendship.
- Because I am interested in peace.

- I am going to take a school trip to Hiroshima, and maybe I will use part of what I learned.
- There was a lot packed into a very short time.
- I thought it was important to recognize and understand diversity.

### ③ Of little use

- I thought there was confusion between peace and happiness, making them equivalent.



# Popoki's Easy Poga

## Lesson 51

This month's poga is about strong legs. It can help you feel stronger and better in many different ways!



1. As always, begin with sitting up straight and making yourself look thin.
2. Next, stand and bend your left knee, extending your right leg back. Be sure to raise your tail.
3. Now, switch legs.
4. Next, Give yourself a reward. Exhale deeply as you stretch toward your toes.
5. Did it? Time for the 'success pose'.

Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 51. Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.

## Please join us!

- Next Po-kai: 8.29 Kobe YMCA 19:00-20:50**
- 9.8-9 Popoki's Friendship Story in Otsuchi-cho
- 10.13-14 Popoki's Friendship Story in Otsuchi-cho
- 10.18-21 Popoki at Pittsburgh Children's Museum
- 11.10 'Peace and Health Event' HUHS
- 11.23 Popoki's Friendship Story at IPRA Conference (Mie University)
- 2013.3.21 Popoki at International Rotary Conference



# Popoki in Print

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- S. McLaren. "The Art of Healing"(Popoki Friendship Story Project) *Kansai Scene*. Issue 133, June 2011, p.10. kansaiscene.com
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- 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/>)
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- '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
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- 'Thinking about Peace with a Cat: Second Peace Book Published.' (SAITO Masashi) *Kobe Shimbun*, 2009.4.21
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- "An Interview with Dr. Ronni Alexander." *The Newpeople*, Pittsburgh's Peace and Justice Newspaper, Vol.38 No.9, October 2008, p.5
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- human 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
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- \* **Back issues of Popoki News:** [http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives\\_e.html](http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/archives_e.html)





# What Popoki Means to Me

## Popoki's Friendship Story

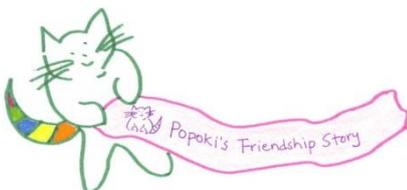
Kazuyo Yamane in Kyoto

I got to know about this book at the conference of the Peace Studies Association of Japan and enjoyed reading it very much. First, I bought this for my granddaughter who is 9 years old, but I began to think that this should be shared at peace museums in various countries. Since it is also written in English, I sent it to a Peace Museum in Bradford, England. Many children go there to think of peace, so the director was very happy to receive it.

I am sure that many people in Fukushima and other places were encouraged to write their messages and illustrations. The big cloth has many stories of various people in the world and it is a precious record for peace and friendship. I hope that the cloth will be exhibited at peace museums in various countries. There is the International Network of Museums for Peace (INMP): <http://www.museumsforpeace.org>. I also hope that many people will read this inspiring book.



The INMP board members in The Hague, Netherlands



## 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](http://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](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!

