



It is only May, but already it is HOT in Kobe. It is the season when cats find a shady spot under a tree to nap. We hope you find a good tree, too!

Popoki's Hot News!



POPOKI AT NADA CHALLENGE 2013!



The festival begun by Kobe University students and Nada community members after the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake will be held this year, too!

Please come and see Popoki's booth and stage performance.

WHEN: 2 June 10:00~ WHERE: Tokagawa Park, Nada-ku, Kobe

PIECES OF PEACE



One of Popoki's friends, Satoshi-nyan, sent the following piece of peace:

"Peace, it's a doze in the sun.

Peace, it's finding relief on the breast of a beloved person.

Peace, it's the scent of a favorite food when you're hungry.

Peace, it's a wish that everyone can be guaranteed such a life."

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.



INTERESTED IN INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING?

The 9th National Forum in Solidarity with Migrants in KOBE, 2013

WHEN: 2015.6.15-16

WHERE: Konan University (see page 7 for details)

Thank you for your continuing help!

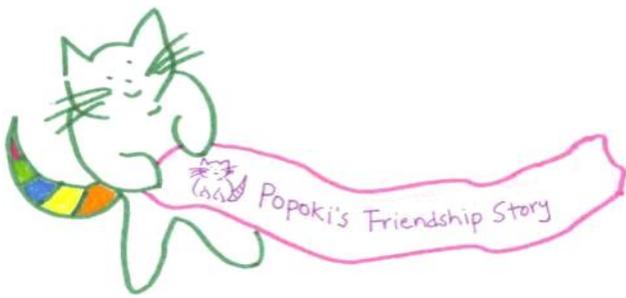
Popoki's Friendship Story - Our Peace Journey Born out of the Great Northeastern Japan Earthquake is getting a good reception, thanks to help from his friends. Please help to let more people know!

More information about the book at:

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com/monogatari.html>

* You can purchase a copy at the Kobe YMCA!





Popoki in Otsuchi-cho 2013.2 (No.3)

By Tex-nyan

Two months ago, Aripa-nyan explained the general flow of the trip, and last month, Taro-nyan told us about people in Otsuchi. Therefore, I am going to write about how we felt in Otsuchi in February.

Tex-nyan: What did you feel in Otsuchi-Cho?

Hyun-nyan: I saw videos and photos before I went, but I felt different.

I would like to support the people of Otsuchi who took care of me, and the friends of Popoki who have done various activities towards reconstruction.

Tex-nyan: It was my first time to visit Otsuchi. I also felt close to people there, and I would like to continue to work together with friends of Popoki in Otsuchi.

Tex-nyan: Aripa-nyan has visited Otsuchi many times. Is there anything different?

Aripa-nyan: I felt the numbers of houses, ATMs and convenience stores in the city have increased. I also felt the form of volunteers seems to have changed. There used to be many volunteers, both groups and individuals. Now unfortunately the number of volunteers has decreased but I think present volunteers are based on a relationship of mutual trust and think a great deal of living together.

Tex-nyan: You have something worrying, don't you?

Yusuke-nyan: I am worried about dissatisfaction among people in Otsuchi because there are some differences in reconstruction assistance and volunteers. I think that we should think together how to balance things.

Tex-nyan: You love Otsuchi. Is it right?

Suzanka-nyan: Yes! More than disaster area! More than victims! It is the Otsuchi town and local Otsuchi people. I love Otsuchi with new dreams and hopes!

Tex-nyan: Suzanka-nyan, you are just a fan! lol

Tex-nyan: Were you thinking about action of Popoki, Taro-nyan ?

Taro-nyan: Yes I was. I would like to think about what we can do and what we should do more and more.

Tex-nyan: I think it is time to stop. Thank you guys!

We feel differently sometimes, even though we go together. However we can share what we feel. That is a nice point of Popoki.

I hope this circle of friends will spread from Otsuchi!



Ronyan's workshop was entitled, "How Can We Increase the Number of Friends Opposing the Amending of the Constitution? – A Workshop to think about Article 9 with Popoki." The following are some of the comments from the audience, as reported in the newsletter of the Committee to Spread Article 9.

I spent a long time working as a teacher, and I thought that militarization was gradually creeping into the schools. For example, superficial discipline and conformity are forced on children and efforts to control teachers based on their performance evaluations is gradually increasing. And the number of people who refuse to raise objections with their supervisors or with the Education Council is increasing. It is important to have the courage to voice your questions. The young teachers are very 'humble,' hard working and faithfully fulfill their duties, and the top-down system is progressing more and more. So I really would like the young teachers to be able to participate in a workshop like this. Thank you. (Self-employed, age 60, male).

Ronni, thank you for a unique talk today. Generally lectures are one-way, but today I used my senses and could participate. The reason for amending the Constitution is to create a country that can go to war. I think we must not let that happen. What do we need to stop militarization? I think it is the ability to act. Let's work together. (Retired, age 65, male)

I felt the importance of the ideal of non-violence. I felt that tools such as picture books that appeal to our sense of sight or sound are also important. I reconfirmed the difference between working for peace and against war. She spoke in a gentle way that was easy to understand, but made us think about the points that are necessary for consideration. It was very good. (City Council member, age 48, male).

The talk really made me think. Thank you very much.

The video (Isao Hashimoto) used sound to convey the history of nuclear testing, and the use of questions to get people to give and share their opinions helped me to solidify my feeling that the Constitution must not be changed. Also, Ronni said that her peace work began with a feeling of despair about the peace movement, and that really made me think. Also the comments from the teacher really moved me. The fact that high school students are thinking about war as their own problem left a deep impression on me. I thought that it must be because of their teacher. I resolved to not get caught up in my everyday life, but to refresh my senses every day. (Resident, Age 30, female).

I found Ronni's approach to peace using examples close to us very refreshing. Also, I thought that the idea of using the senses to think about peace is not 'superficial' or 'theory'

but human and very important and real. In response to her last questions about what is important for eliminating war, I thought that it must be the ability to act. I think that the ability to act against war (policy) is extremely important. (Firm employee, female).

It was interesting to use my senses to create my own image of important things. I thought it would be good if we could do this and think together with people who talk about the threat of foreign countries. (Government worker, age 48, female).

Through this workshop, I was able to look at my own thoughts and approach and make some discoveries. I learned that there are many ways to share the importance of Article 9. I want to share this with lots of other adults and children. Thank you. (Public junior high school teacher, age 42, female).



I think this was a different sort of workshop. I was happy to hear the unique approach of a foreign person. If I had to say in one word why war does not stop, I would say it is because people 'profit' from it. So therefore we need to go beyond capitalism. I think that the love of peace is sufficient to join the people of the world. (Contract worker, age 24, male).



*Just to be sure, here is the text of Article 9 (official translation).

ARTICLE 9

Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

(2) To accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.

POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 60

This month's Poga is about stiff shoulders!



1. As always, begin with sitting up straight and making yourself look thin.
2. First, bend your arms, keeping your hands on your shoulders, and bring your elbows up past your ears and down to your back.
3. Now bring your back forward again.
4. Finally, stretch your elbows out to the sides and move them slowly up and down!
5. Did it? It is time for the 'success pose.'

Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 60. Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.

Please join us!

Next Po-kai: 6/25 Kobe YMCA 19:00-

- 5.25 Popoki Workshop at Kio University, Nara
- 6.2 Nada Challenge festival!
- 6.8 Popoki at Kodomo no sato, Osaka!
- 6.29-30 Hiroshima Jogakuin College again!
- 8.6 Remembering Hiroshima
- 8.6 Popoki at Seminar for international understanding, JICA Kansai, Kobe

Popoki's Friends

3.6.15-16 9th Solidarity Network with Migrants Japan Forum – Kobe 2013, Konan University. Hope to see you there!

Popoki Recommends!

- Let's Build the Road to Multiethnic and Multicultural Coexistent Society
The 9th National Forum in Solidarity with Migrants in KOBE, 2013

Date

June 15th(Sat.)&16th(Sun.)

Venue

Konan University, Okamoto Campus (8-9-1 Okamoto Higashinada-ku, Kobe city, Hyogo, 658-8501)

Access

12-minute walk from Settsu-Motoyama St. (JR Kobe line), or

10-minute walk from Okamoto St. (Hankyu Kobe line)

* No parking space. Please use public transportation.

Price

Adults ¥2000, Students ¥1000, Under High school student is FREE.

(Anyone who wishes to participate in the party will need another ¥2000)

Apply

Please FAX or E-mail to below numbers.

*Deadline is May 31st.

TEL:078-851-2760 FAX:078-821-5878

Email:2013kobeforum@ksyc.jp HP: <http://ksyc.jp/2013kobeforum/>



Popoki in Print

'Draw inner thoughts about disaster' *Yomiuri Shimbun* 2013.2.16:4 (evening edition; Japanese)

- "'Safe' and 'Secure' Society is from the bottom-up", *Mainichi Shimbun Interview with Ronni Alexander*, 2012.10.29, p.1 (evening edition; Japanese)
 - R. Alexander. "Remembering Hiroshima: Bio-Politics, Popoki and Sensual Expressions of War." *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. Vol.14:2:202-222, June 2012
 - "Article 9 is at the base of Peace with Popoki" *Kodomo to Mamoru 9 jono kai News*, No.66, 2012.5.12
 - "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
 - 'Ujuo 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
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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
- Program
- 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

Mayu FURUOKA

I first met Popoki in April last year. I have participated in various events, and went to Uganda in Africa last summer with Popoki. Tohoku, America, Philippine, Czech, Cambodia... Popoki has visited many places!!

Although there were only a few opportunities to think about “peace”, Popoki gave me an opportunity to think about “peace” with people who are Popoki’s friends and whom I met in Popoki’s events. “Peace” itself is difficult to think about because of the abstractness. However, we can express our own shape of “peace” by drawing, and everyone from children to adults can understand what it is, even if their nationalities are different. Popoki made me aware of that.

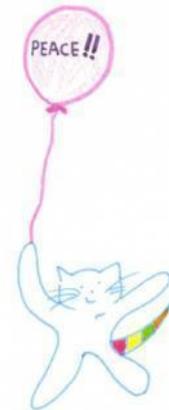
Popoki always give me new awareness. A child who I met in Uganda drew a picture of rain on Popoki’s cloth and told me “My friend is rain. It’s because when it’s raining we can drink water and crops can grow.” Although we tend to think of rain as negative such as rain is annoying, they made me aware that we can feel gratitude to think of rain as positive. Thanks, Popoki!!

I’m looking forward to getting new awareness through Popoki.



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's books 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.

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* and *Popoki's Friendship Story* 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

<http://popoki.cruisejapan.com>



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THANK YOU FROM
POPOKI!!