



Autumn weather is gradually coming to Kobe.
It's a good time to eat a lot, move around a lot and sleep a lot.
But don't forget to also be curious, just like a cat.

Popoki's Hot News!



POPOKI'S FRIENDS TO BE ON THE RADIO!

Popoki visited Guahan/Guam in September with a group of students from Kobe University. They were interviewed for a radio program called "Beyond the Fence." It will be aired on 27 September. Please tune in by accessing KPRG Radio, Guam at <http://www.kprgfm.com/main/index.php>

PIECES OF PEACE

One of Popoki's friends, Taro-nyan, sent the following piece of peace: "I feel peace when I warm myself in a kotatsu (Japanese style heater), in spite of severe cold and no sun showing up in the sky outside the house. Similarly, I wish I could have a place that makes me feel peace regardless of the harshness of the environment."

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.



YMCA INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR!

The Kobe YMCA Sannomiya Center will have an International Cooperation Bazaar on 20 October from 10:00-14:00. This year's theme is "Thank you!" Popoki and some of his friends will participate. There will be food, flea market, raffle and lots of fun programs. Hope to see you there!



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!

Award Ceremony for Recipients ♪ ♪

Ari-pan-nyan

As you saw in the last 'Popoki News', Popoki Peace Project has been selected as a recipient for a small grant for Disaster Volunteer Work from Daiwa Securities Foundation!! And we will be able to continue Popoki's Friendship Story Project. On 22 August, we participated in an award ceremony for the recipients. Because the ceremony had a much more solemn ambience than we had expected, we were very nervous!



“We should continue our activity in northeastern Japan.” We sent in the application with such a will in May, and knew that we were selected in July. At the beginning, I couldn't feel the reality and the value. However, in the ceremony, we heard the thoughts of the Foundation chairperson Ishihara-san and Kobe Securities Branch manager Maeda-san, like “we want to give chances to small groups,” and “we want you not only to go to northeastern Japan but also to do something for victims.” I realized then for the first time the great meaning and value of this grant.

Two and half years have passed since the disaster. We have been assigned an important task. We'll try to accomplish it with victims to revive the victimized areas and live up to the expectations of the people belonging to Daiwa Securities Foundation.



Popoki in Otsuchi-cho 2013.8.10

Ronyan



On 9-11 August, Satonyan and I went to Otsuchi-cho. We did not have any special objective, but since our funding ran out last March, we have not been able to do any work in the disaster area. We wanted to see for ourselves what was happening, so we used our summer holiday to make a short trip.

On the 10th, we participated in a discussion group held on the 11th of every month (because the disaster was on 11 March) sponsored by NPO Tsudoji. The theme for that day was, "Living in the mountains, living near the sea," but since the Obon holiday was imminent, we talked about the traditional dish we had eaten for lunch, *azukibatto*, and other regional Obon customs. Although Japan is not really a very big country, the food and customs for a holiday like Obon vary so much! We talked about life, culture, origins of different words, and different lifestyles. NPO Tsudoji holds this meeting monthly to record memories of Otsuchi-cho and to build a new community. It is a great project, and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Of course, Popoki was there, and make some new friends, too.

Yoko Itoh holds a Photo Exhibit in Kyoto

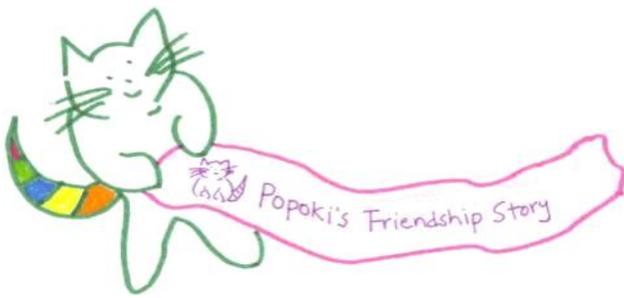
Ronyan

Popoki's friend Itoh-nyan gave a photo exhibition and lecture at the Kyoto City International Community House from 16-20 September. I could not attend the lecture, but went to see the photo exhibit. The exhibit consisted of 250 photos of Otsuchi-cho before and after the disaster! There were some photos I had not seen before, but even after seeing them many times, I continue to feel my own lack of imagination. It is so hard to envision the horror of that day, or the colors and fragrances of the town that has disappeared.... Thanks to Itoh-nyan's explanations, I am beginning to get an idea of how things might have been, but I am far from really understanding.



Wherever you are in the world, you can look at Itoh-nyan's photos and other materials, or listen to peoples' stories, and help to keep the memory of the disaster alive. Popoki asks about what happened to other cats! (Many cats died in the tsunami, and many of those who survived found that their houses had washed away and they could not be reunited with their people. I understand that some kind people have adopted many of those cats).

One of Popoki's friends from Kyoto wrote, "I went to the exhibit. It wasn't an exhibit by a 'professional' photographer, but I could feel that it was the work of people who wanted to share what happened to their town. I went with my friend, and she was totally absorbed in the photos!" Itoh-nyan, thank you!



Popoki's Interview

一期一会 (Enjoy every encounter! It might be the first and the last...)

Interview with Komukai Norio-san (No.2)

suzanka-nyan

English translation by Shougo-nyan

2013/9/19

*(Suzanka) Popoki !

~It is getting cool and is a nice season. What is going on with our friends in Tohoku ?

*(Popoki) I hope they are doing fine... I miss them!~。

*Me too. We can't meet now, but let's talk on the phone.

*Great! Let's do it !

Popoki and Suzanka asked Mr. Norio Komukai, who lives in Miyako-shi, Iwate Prefecture, about autumn in Miyako and the recent situation of recovery from the Great earthquake.

* In Kobe it is cool in the morning and at night. We can sense the coming of autumn. How about in Miyako!? (please describe with five senses)

My favorite colors of autumn are red and yellow. Autumn leaves are the color of nature in Miyako. It is fantastic to sit in a hot spring in the harmony of colors. The contrast of autumn leaves and blue sea is wonderful. The golden color of rice ready for harvest is also beautiful.

* Sounds nice, I would like to see it. The sea in autumn must be beautiful too.

The sea in autumn is clear and we can see the endless horizon. The smell of salt on the sea breeze gently touches our faces.

*The smell of autumn... How about the taste ?

Fall is the season for appetites. Grapes, apples and pears are best in this season. Miyako is also famous for fishing. In autumn we can fish for saury, mackerel and squid.

* Hmh.. Popoki and I love fish. How about the sound of autumn in Miyako?

Well, the sounds of autumn in Miyako are definitely sounds of festival flutes and drums.

* Wow. Do you have Danjiri festival in Miyako ?

No, I guess it is only done in Osaka. In Miyako in this season on 15th to 16th we have Miyako autumn festival. We have a lot of fun with floats and dancing.

* I wish I was there.

By the way, in July you told us about the recovery in Miyako. What is going on now? It is September, but there is still a big delay in reconstruction of housing. They have to bring the dirt for land fill and then use it to make the land high enough, secure the sites for housing, and complete the plans by the city office. They say it will take at least two years just to get the site ready.

* Two years! That is so long. People living in temporary housing must be uneasy. Temporary housing is small and you can hear your neighbors through walls. The conditions are very tough. Basically, the delay in reconstruction is our main concern.

Reasons for the delay are that there is not much flat land along the coast, therefore to build houses we need to carve out the mountains. This construction takes two years. This has just begun. After the construction we start building houses.

Implementing the city council plan, reorganizing houses and shops will also take two years. Lack of workers and materials is another reason.

* Lot of tasks remain unsolved, I hope those who suffer from the disaster will be living in their own houses soon.

I hope so too.

Popoki, Suzanka, thank you very much,
I appreciate that people in Kobe come here to volunteer and help with recovering,
even though they live far away.
I realized how important Kizuna (bonding) is.
Kizuna was disappearing, but I hope it will stand strong in us after this disaster.

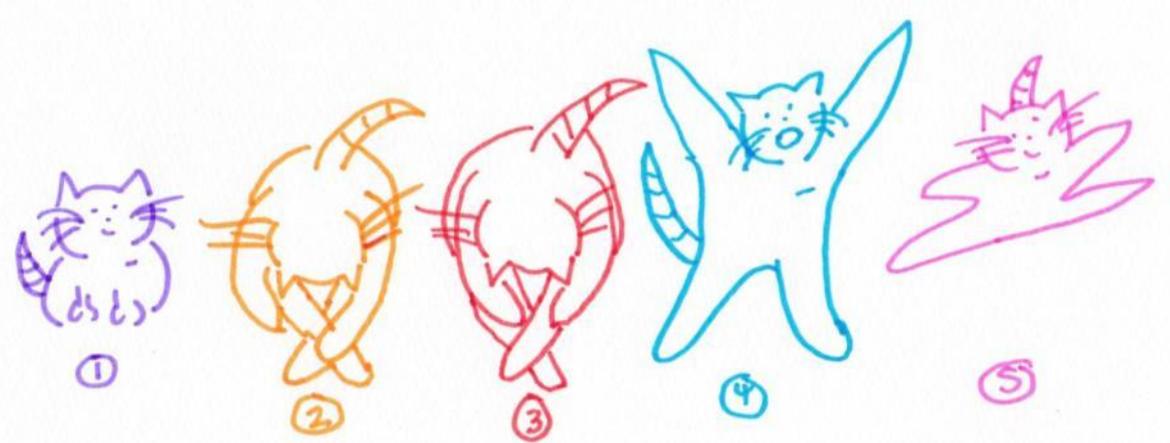


* Mr. Komukai, we are the ones who would like to say thank you.
Thank you for reporting on what is happening in disaster area every time.
We love Tohoku!! We are going to keep interest in Tohoku and keep on our mind the importance of 'Kizuna.'
これからも、どうぞよろしくお願ひしま〜あ〜す

POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 64

This month's Poga is about stretching our backs and legs!



1. As always, begin with sitting up straight and making yourself look thin.
2. First, stand and cross your legs. Then bend forward and try to hold your ankles.
3. Now cross your legs in the opposite direction.
4. Next, stand up tall, bring your arms way up, and stretch! Stretch your mouth, too!
5. Did it? It is time for the 'success pose.'

Congratulations! You have successfully completed Lesson 64. Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.

Please join us!

Next Po-kai: 10/ Kobe YMCA 19:00-

- 10.14 World Article 9 Conference in Osaka. Visit Popoki's booth! 10:00-16:30
- 10.20 Kobe YMCA Sannomiya Center Bazaar. Let's all go! 10:00-14:00
- 11.16 Popoki's Health and Peace Event, Hyogo University of Health Sciences
- 12.7-8 Popoki in Otsuchi-cho

Popoki's Friends

- 10.1-6 Free Embroidery Exhibit – AOI Kashiko and friends. Gallery Hana Rokko, 11:00-17:00 (last day 16:00). For information call 090-7766-8765
- 10.13 World Article Nine Conference 2013 – International Conference, Pre-registration is required. Kansai University. 10:00~
- 10.14 World Article Nine Conference, Kansai 2013 <http://9jou-kansai.com/uttae02.html> Osaka Chuo Taikukan, 10:00~

Popoki in Print

- **“Awards given to 37 groups Daiwa Securities Foundation” *Kobe Shimbun* (2013.8.23 p.8)**
- **“Reproducing ‘human shadows’ and asserting no nukes” *Kobe Shimbun* (2013.8.7 p.22)**
- ‘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*)
- “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
- 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
- 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

Masaaki Satake

I love cats because, for one reason, I used to have a black cat as a pet until I was in 5th grade of elementary school. His name was Koro. Then, I acquired a skill of making a “chi-chi-chi” sound by moving my tongue quickly in my mouth to call the attention of cats. Even now I greet cats with such a sound whenever and wherever I see them. Occasionally I do not get any response from them, but many of them do respond and some friendly ones utter “meow” to me in an apparent gesture to return my greeting.

Thus I found it interesting to read *Popoki, What Color is Peace* written by Prof. Ronni Alexander because the book reflects on the concept of peace from various angles, which includes the perspective of a cat, Popoki, who was beloved by Prof. Alexander. I appreciate a passage which says as follows: “Popoki loves to go for walks outdoors....I wonder if the smell of peace is the smell of the earth and the trees and all of nature (p.24).”



I must remind you here about the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011 caused an accident at the Fukushima I (Daichi) Nuclear Power Plant, and the subsequent enormous leakage of radiation from the Plant. In the affected areas in Fukushima Prefecture, the alarmingly high level of radiation made it impossible for humans and other creatures to live safely. Pet animals such as dogs and livestock like cows lost their masters and live on their own as strays. The nuclear power plant which had been conceptualized and constructed on the assumption that humans can conquer nature and hurdle the technological difficulty associated with

nuclear energy did not survive the massive tsunami tidal wave. Such human arrogance lies beneath the technological optimism that has accelerated the proliferation of nuclear power plants in Japan and other parts of the world. However, when accidents happen, not only humans, but also many other creatures and the natural environment are affected.

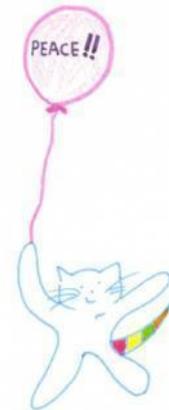
Wars have a similar nature. Arrogant confrontations among humans result in armed fighting among nation states. Acts of massive destruction have continued to ravage humans, animals, plants as well as natural environments.

Hence, it is of the utmost importance that we keep on solidifying the bonds of peace as vividly described in *Popoki's Friendship Story*, another work by Prof. Alexander. Let us walk the path of peace together with 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!!