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It's May! Popoki is excited to see the new growth and flowers! But soon it will be the hot and humid rainy season. When Popoki takes his walks in May, he notes places that will keep him cool. We hope you can find cool places, too.

Popoki's Hot News!



Coming soon*

This year's Nada Challenge will be on 2 July!

Popoki will have a booth and exhibit.

And he has invited a special guest!

Yoko Kawarahata from Otsuchi-cho!

Please come and see us. We'll be waiting for you!

(Please see page 9)

Piece of Peace

One of Popoki's friends, Morinyan, sent the following piece of peace:

"My husband and I moved to a new town and started our new life in a very old Japanese style rental house! We really enjoy the view of our new town from our house. We can see the sea! It might be peace that we can enjoy new situations regardless of how old we become."



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

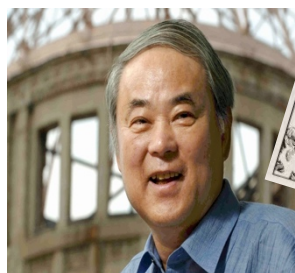
Gathering for Peace with Popoki
~Popoki's Mini Peace Film Festival No.7~
"Thinking about Peace in the Spring"

Mako nyan

On Saturday, May 13, 2017 a "Peace Creating Meeting" was held at the new Kobe YMCA building. We watched two videos. First, we saw "Hiroshima Witness" (National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims in Hiroshima and Nagasaki). This film is the story of Shigeko Sasamori. She is an A-bomb survivor and she was 13 years old at the time of the bombing. At the end of this film, she said "Love is most important. If everyone has love like parents love their children, war and conflict will disappear". After this video, we shared our feelings and opinions.



Ms. Shigeko Sasamori



Mr. Keiji Nakazawa



Next, we watched the film of "Barefoot Gen's Message". Barefoot Gen is the main character of a comic written by Keiji Nakazawa. Gen is modeled on Nakazawa and this film focuses on his A-bomb experience. Keiji Nakazawa was in the first grade of elementary school when the bomb fell. He lost his father, old sister, and young brother. In the comic, "wheat" appears many times. "Wheat" is a key point. "Wheat will rise again even if it is stepped on many times, so live like wheat." This is his important message.

After this film, we shared our impressions. "It was painful to hear the experience of A-bomb survivors". "I know about Hiroshima as history, but this is my first time to hear the real experience of A-bomb." These comments were impressive to me.

I am from Hiroshima. My home is 20 minutes by bicycle from the A-bomb dome. I heard A-bomb survivor's stories and interviewed them many times. I have also met Mr. Keiji Nakazawa, the author of "Barefoot Gen". That opportunity was about six months before he died. I thought about him as I watched the film. How can we pass down the A-bomb survivor's thoughts and experiences? I think it is important to hold events like this in places other than Hiroshima. We talked about peace and nuclear issues with friends from various backgrounds. I want to talk about this more and more. And, please come to Hiroshima. I can guide you around the peace memorial park and give you the opportunity to hear and talk with A-bomb survivors!



Popoki's New Activity – Thinking about Disaster Risk Reduction in Many Languages with Popoki

Ronyan

On the first Monday in May, Popoki began a new activity. Every Monday, I will upload one word having to do with disaster and an example of how it is used in a sentence onto Popoki's Facebook page. Then, I ask Popoki's friends to translate it. Thanks to them, we soon have not only Japanese and English but many other languages, too. There are some difficulties – I don't know how to read some of the translations, or how to pronounce others. But I thought, "This is how people talk about this in other places." If I memorized just one word or sentence, it might come in handy someday.

The first week's word was 'disaster'. Then next was 'earthquake,' followed by 'tsunami' and then 'fire'. Next week is the last Monday in May. That day, I'll post a simple story using the words from this month. I hope that Popoki's friends will not only translate, but that they will contribute their own stories, too. Please include a translation in English or Japanese so that others can understand it, too.

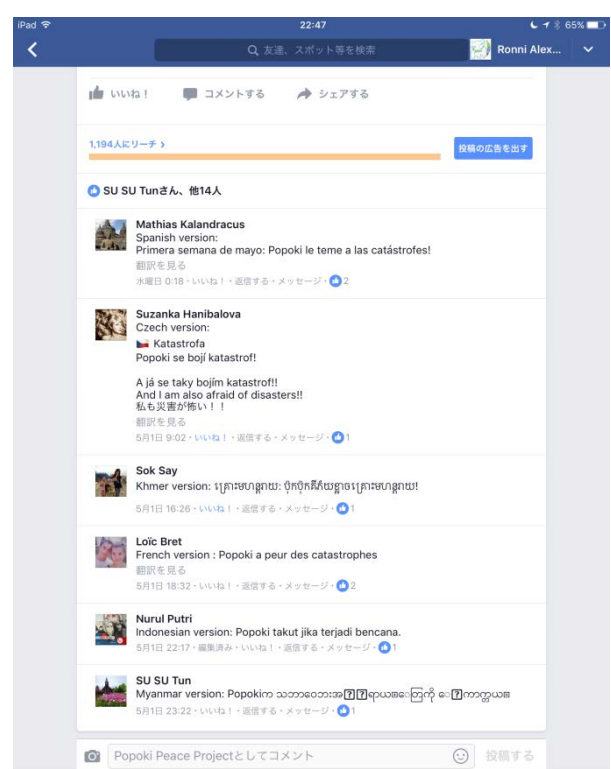
My first impression was that Mondays come very quickly! But I also realized that thinking about the words and sentences and making up stories made me think about disaster from a somewhat different perspective. It was a bit surprising. Looking at languages I don't understand was of course interesting, but also made me feel connected with Popoki's friends in faraway places. It made me feel how important they are, and also grateful to them. And that makes me happy.

If we continue for six months, then we will have a collection of many words, sentences and stories. Of course I will share them with Popoki's friends who don't use Facebook by putting them in Popoki News and elsewhere. And of course, your comments and suggestions are most welcome! I hope we can think together what to do next we go along.

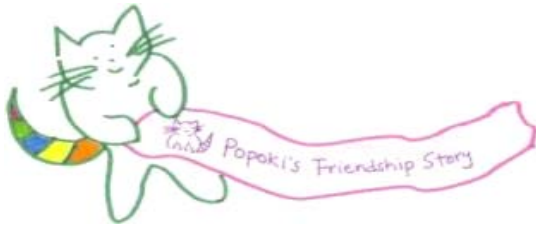
As I write this on Sunday night, I am thinking, "Tomorrow is another Monday! You can look forward to a new word."

P.S.: To tell the truth, I made a mistake on week 3. I wrote, "Next Monday is the last Monday of May...". But this month has five Mondays. So on the 22nd I will post another word and sentence, and on the 29th I'll post a story. My apologies!









Popoki's Interview

Short Conversations With People During Popoki's Friendship Story Project

By: Putrinyan

At first, I did not know what to talk about and felt a little bit awkward, especially with my limitation in Japanese. But when it comes to their drawing, they are really happy to share.

“Ja..E okakishimasenka?”

Obachan (80 years old)

She came with her daughter in law. She is in her eighties and suffering from dementia. However, she remembered the time when she went to Indonesia. She was so excited about the ocean and had an Indonesian girl, she particularly mentioned, who accompanied her during her visit. She is so optimistic about her life and guess what, she really likes snake!



A Junior High School Girl

She came with her friend after school. They seemed curious about what we were doing that day. We talked for a while, and I asked them about their activities at school that day. She said the schedule was very busy and exhausting but she wanted to continue school until university. I then asked whether she was there when the tsunami hit. She told me that at that time she was in school but she was safe from tsunami because the school on the hill so she could escape, but she saw her school on fire. She spoke in very good English. She talked while drawing a picture of an Anpanman doll that sat next to the cloth. She said Anpanman was popular in Japan and everyone in Otsuchi loved it.

Little sister (5 years old)



She came with her mother and sister. She was confused about what to draw, so I said why not to draw your own hand and she agreed (the one with red-circle mark). She was very quiet and just glanced at me. In contrast to her big sister who was very chatty while drawing. Confused with this little girl, I encourage her to continue

drawing. I then added nail art, but she did not seem happy and showed a disappointed face. I was so embarrassed and apologized to her (ToT). I really really apologize.

From this, I learned not to repeat the mistake the next day. This was not just a picture, but this is a medium to deliver the feeling of your heart. It is the prerogative of the artists, and we should not bother them.

Ito-san

She has liked photography for years. She was in junior high school when she took her first photograph, the portrait of her little brother. Since then she brings the camera wherever she goes. She took pictures of her neighborhood without knowing that it would disappear. When the earthquake rocked the area, she lost her home, business and family members. She managed to record how the water swept her city and how devastated it was after the disaster. Her works became popular and she held exhibitions in several places, including overseas. Actually she did not want to commercialize them or profit from the disaster documentation. All she wants to do is just to record the event to show the world that it really happened. It was so sad knowing that news from mainstream media mostly covered the case of Fukushima nuclear leakage back then and not Otsuchi-cho.

She heard that Indonesia is a beautiful country and would like to take some pictures of it. I wish her for the best future and that all her dreams come true.

Hinata-chan (4 years old)

Hinata-chan's favourite cartoon character was Doraemon. She showed me that her doraemon had a big pocket containing many miracles. She was not confident with her drawing but her mother encouraged her so she could finish it.



POPOKI'S EASY POGA

Lesson 108

This month's theme is stretching our sides!



1. First, as always, sit up straight and look beautiful.
2. Now, stand and stretch as tall as you can.
3. Next, relax forward. Now, look up through your arms and legs. Can you see your bottom?
4. Finally, try looking back from under your right arm, and then your left.
5. Did it? Even if you didn't succeed, you tried! It is time for the 'success pose.'
Congratulations! Do you feel refreshed? Please remember to relax, breathe, laugh and practice for 3 minutes every day.

Please join us!



Next Po-kai: 2017.6.21 19:00~ Nada Yakuzaishikai Office!
1-1 4-chome, Fukadacho, Nada-ku (Werubu Rokko 2 bangai). Welb Rokko Bldg.2
6F. Nada Yakuzaishikai Jimusho. Just a few minutes walk from JR Rokkomichi.

5.27 Popoki at Kio University

7.2 Popoki at Nada Challenge!

- ✧ This year we will have a booth and exhibition!
- ✧ Our special guest from Otsuchi-cho will be Yoko Kawarahata san! She will do some SHAKE HAND activities, too.

7.15 Popoki at Kodomo no Sato

8.6 Hiroshima Day Skye (tentative)

From Popoki's friends:

New booklet* "Voices of evacuees from 11 March: Collected by the affected people themselves" (in Japanese) 2017.3.11.. Information: Thanks & Dream, sandori2014@gmail.com

Popoki in Print

ESD Digital Archives, Kansai Council of Organizations for International Exchange <http://www.interpeople.or.jp>

- “Peace Picture Book Published – linked to disaster support in East Japan” *Kobe Shimbun* (2014.3.25) KIHARA Kana
- “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 (No longer available)
- *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

Keinyan

I read a book about refugees. The following is an experience of a person who escaped from a war and walked his way to Europe.

My town is a peaceful place. I can remember the calm atmosphere with some relics. There were five in my family. I sometimes went for a picnic with them on the weekend and spent family times there under the apricot trees there. It was before the war broke out. After the battle had begun, I was caught by an army in front of my family, and I was in custody for months. They sometimes tortured me there. After the accident, I had no choice, but to evacuate to Europe for “my family’s” peace (Patrick Kingsley 2016:2-12*).

The following is an experience of my friend in Paris.

I was born in a small and peaceful village in France. It is one of my childhood memories. A few years later, many foreigners moved there, and now the place is a dangerous place where there are many smugglers of drugs. Now, in Paris, sometimes I’m insulted by foreigners, once by more than five of them. It is because I am a person who was born in France. It is natural that “my” peace was broken and I was scared of them, isn’t it? Or do I have no choice, but to endure this dangerous condition here, thinking “*shogana!*” (Japanese for ‘what can I do?’)” (Laura Grego April 15, 2017)

Does **your** peace mean peace to **others**?

How can everyone in the world achieve their own peace?

Let’s think about these questions!



* Kingsley, P. (2016). *Syrian refugees -The worst problem in the 21th century-*. Diamond Company.

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 in 2012 published a 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, Popoki, What Color is Friendship? Popoki's Peace Book 2, Popoki, What Color is Genki? Popoki's Peace Book 3* 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(at)gmail(dot)com))



Contributions are always welcome!

Popoki Peace Project popokipeace-at-gmail.com

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